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Kuwait Amir to visit US for routine medical checkups



Page 2

BAHRAIN CROWN PRINCE REAFFIRMS HISTORIC KUWAIT TIES

Kuwait seeks unified Gulf defenses

GCC calls for seamless cross-border security coordination

MANAMA, Nov 5, (KUNA): Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa affirmed Thursday the strong and historic ties between Bahrain and Kuwait, stressing both leaderships' commitment to strengthening bilateral relations across all fields.

During a meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Jassem Al-Najem, Prince Salman conveyed his greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, wishing them good health and Kuwait continued prosperity.

The meeting addressed enhancing economic, trade and investment cooperation, alongside continued coordination on regional and international issues of mutual concern and support for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

For his part, Ambassador Al-Najem reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to strengthening bilateral partnerships and expressed appreciation for Bahrain's role in advancing joint Gulf cooperation.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry

Continued on Page 6





KUNA photos

Left: Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa during a meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Jassem Al-Najem. Right: Meeting of undersecretaries of the interior ministries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states is underway in Manama, Bahrain. Kuwait was represented by Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib.

Al-Sumait honors team behind KD 16.5m campaign

Wider debt relief campaign for Ramadan in pipeline



Ministry of Justice photo

Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait honors ministry employees in recognition of their contributions to the success of the Debtors' Relief Campaign (Hamlat Al-Gharimeen).

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait honored several ministry employees who participated in the "Debtors' Relief Campaign" (Hamlat Al-Gharimeen), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The recognition comes in appreciation of their dedicated efforts and continued contributions throughout the campaign, as well as their vital role in achieving its objectives and ensuring its success. Their work reflects a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to serving the nation and society.

In a press statement issued by the Ministry of Justice on Thursday, Counselor Al-Sumait praised the employees' outstanding efforts, stressing that the campaign's success was the result of effective teamwork, persistent hard work, and a firm commitment to carrying out their responsibilities.

He stated that the national workforce is the cornerstone of institutional success and excellence.

Counselor Al-Sumait said the employees' contributions and sincere efforts deserve the highest

Continued on Page 6

Flood risks cloud Kuwait weekend weather outlook

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and **Agenices**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) has called on citizens and residents to follow safety protocols and guidelines throughout the rainy season, stressing the need to take preventive measures and prepare ahead to avert accidents and protect lives and properties.

KFF emphasized the importance of inspecting water pumps in basements before the rain to prevent water buildup, as well as ensuring that rainwater drainage systems are clear and functioning properly.

It advised the public to avoid flood prone areas, electrical sources, exposed wiring or damaged streetlights and the sea during unstable weather conditions.

It also urged everyone to heed the warnings issued by relevant authorities, indicating that following safety guidelines mitigates the risks and ensures the safety of everyone.

Meanwhile, Kuwait is expected to experience scattered, occasionally thundery rain, blowing dust, and possible fog over the coming days, with reduced horizontal visibility in some areas, according to the Meteorological Department. Conditions are forecast to turn hot and humid during the day and moderate and humid at night toward the end of the week.

Deputy Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that weather maps and numerical models indicate the country is being affected by the Sudanese depression. This system is expected to bring increased low and medium cloud cover, sporadic rainfall that may be thundery at times, and carried dust that could reduce visibility in some areas.

Al-Ali said winds will be variable, mainly southeasterly, light to moderate and occasionally active. Fog may form during evening and early-morning hours before horizontal visibility gradually improves.

Friday will be hot and partly cloudy. Southwest to southeasterly

Continued on Page 6

GCC targets fortified links to safeguard 'resource lifelines'

RIYADH, Nov 5, (KUNA): Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi said Thursday that strengthening Gulf integration in the electricity and water sectors represents a strategic pillar for ensuring the security of GCC countries and the sustainability of their development.

According to a GCC Secretariat statement, Al-Budaiwi made the remarks during an extraordinary meeting of the GCC Electricity and Water Cooperation Committee, held via video conference and chaired by Bahrain's Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs Yasser Humaidan, the committee's current chairman, with the participation of its members.

Al-Budaiwi said efforts to strengthen the GCC electricity interconnection network and explore the possibility of establishing a water interconnection project among member states reflect the shared vision of GCC leaders to build a more integrated, efficient and resilient Gulf system capable of addressing regional developments and challenges.

He added that such efforts would ensure the continuity of essential services and promote the common interests of GCC countries and their



KUNA photo

GCC Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi during an extraordinary meeting of the GCC Electricity and Water Cooperation Committee held via video conference.

peoples.

He stressed that the meeting builds on ongoing Gulf efforts to translate the directives of GCC leaders into joint strategic projects and initiatives, while following up on decisions issued during the 19th consultative meeting held in Jeddah last April.

These decisions focused on strengthening cooperation and integration in strategic sectors, particularly electricity and water, which are fundamental pillars of development and economic security across GCC countries.

Continued on Page 6

Closures drag into December

Highway shake-up hits drivers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Public Works, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, has announced a series of traffic changes and road closures across several areas of Kuwait to facilitate asphalt maintenance and infrastructure works, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The changes include traffic adjustments on King Fahad Expressway, effective from the night of Friday, November 6. Several lanes, entrances, and exits will be opened, while others will be closed for 15 days to allow comprehensive asphalt maintenance.

The ministry explained that the adjustments include opening the slow lane, the middle slow lane, and the right-hand emergency shoulder. The exit from the Second Ring Road onto King Fahad Expressway, the entrance from King Fahad Expressway to the southbound Third Ring Road, and the entrances and exits serving the Nuzha area will also be opened.

Meanwhile, the slow lane, middle slow lane, half of the middle lane, emergency shoulder, and the exit from the Third Ring Road onto King Fahad Expressway will be closed for 15 days to complete the maintenance work.

In a separate announcement, the General Traffic Department stated that the right shoulder, slow lane, and middle lane on Jahra Road, near Amghara, in the direction of Kuwait City, will remain closed until Friday,

Continued on Page 6

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Thursday expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the Houthi militia's attempt to target the holy city of **Madinah** in **Saudi Arabia** with a ballistic missile.

In a press release, the ministry affirmed its categorical rejection of the continuation of these terrorist attacks as a flagrant violation of the Kingdom's sovereignty, a breach of international and international humanitarian law, and a provocation to the sentiments of Muslims around the world.

It also renewed its absolute solidarity with Saudi Arabia, standing by its side and supporting all measures it takes to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and the protection of its citizens and residents on its lands.

Furthermore, the ministry commended the vigilance and efficiency of the Saudi Air Defense forces in intercepting these shameful and cowardly attacks, underlining that the Kingdom's security is an integral part of the security of the State of Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. (KUNA)



8 Gulf Bank granted CBK approval to proceed with conversion to bank compliant with Islamic Sharia'a

9 NBK organizes author Abdulrazzaq Behbehani at the first session of its 'Reading Club' in collaboration with That Al Salasil Bookstore



Ministry of Health photos

Group photo during a training workshop entitled, "Crisis Management and Public Interaction in Hospitals and Medical Centers," at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) Theater.

MoH tightens crisis response

Doctors focus on care, PR teams to handle complaints

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Health organized a training workshop entitled, "Crisis Management and Public Interaction in Hospitals and Medical Centers," at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) Theater.

Undersecretary of the ministry Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah, as well as the heads and staff in the public relations and media departments of various hospitals and specialized medical centers, attended the workshop, which is part of the continuous efforts of the ministry to raise the level of staff readiness for crises and emergency situations, while developing their communication skills with patients and their families.

He affirmed the crucial role that these departments play in handling emergencies and complaints regarding healthcare service delivery. He pointed out that this strategy protects the rights of both patients and healthcare providers, in addition to improving the quality of healthcare.

He elaborated that the ministry established an organizational framework that separates medical and



Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah speaks during the workshop.

Continued on Page 6

19 firms face tender blacklist

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: A total of 19 companies have been prohibited from participating in government tenders floated by the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) on behalf of government entities.

This ban is in line with the decisions of the Board of Directors of CAPT, in line with Article 85 of Law No. 49/2016, which stipulates the penalties that the board can impose on contractors, suppliers and service providers.

The affected companies operate in various sectors like trade, contracting, engineering, food supply, vehicle leasing and petroleum equipment.

The penalties vary, including removal from the registry within the specified period or permanent removal, disqualification from participating in tenders for up to five years, forfeiture and liquidation of final performance bonds, and formal warnings.

These penalties are part of the ongoing efforts of the board to ensure compliance with laws and regulations on the issuance and awarding of tenders for government projects to support the development agenda of the nation.

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:44	Asr	14:36
Sunrise	06:05	Maghrib	16:59
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:19

Kuwait Amir to visit US for routine medical checkups

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will leave for the friendly United States of America on Friday, November 6 to undergo routine medical checkups.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

First Deputy PM chairs civil defense panel meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Civil Defense Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chaired the committee's periodic meeting on Thursday evening.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various state entities and institutions, amid the current regional developments, to check readiness levels, monitor plans, and ensure inter-body coordination to guarantee the continuity of basic services and bolster the country's security and safety.

During the meeting, the deputy prime minister and minister of interior listened to a briefing on the readiness of military and security authorities, the phases of relevant emergency plans, and their cooperation mechanisms, aimed at bolstering performance efficiency and rapid response under various circumstances, the Ministry of Interior said in a release.

He also listened to an explanation concerning food security measures and the availability of essential commodities in sufficient quantities to meet local demand, in a bid to ensure the needs of citizens and residents are met.

The meeting also reviewed the readiness of the education and health sectors and medical centers, including the availability of necessary medical supplies, alongside the preparedness of all other relevant authorities.

He underlined the significance of coordinating efforts, maintaining joint cooperation among various state institutions around the clock, and ensuring high levels of preparedness in order to ensure available basic needs and services and safeguard public security and safety.



Ministry of Interior photo

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Civil Defense Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chairs the committee's periodic meeting.

Farwaniya Governor meets Ishbiliya cooperative board

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: On Thursday morning, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received Dr. Oujan Al-Arada, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ishbiliya Cooperative Society, at his office at the governorate headquarters.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was also attended by Mohammed Nasser Al-Murshad, the Board Secretary of Ishbiliya Cooperative Society, and Khaled Hamed Al-Mutairi, the Treasurer of Ishbiliya Cooperative Society. Discussions focused on issues related to the cooperative sector and the services provided to residents of Ishbiliya.

The two sides also explored ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination to further develop these services and improve their overall quality.



Farwaniya Governorate, Ishbiliya Co-op explore cooperation.

Officials target abandoned vehicles, unlicensed stores

Jahra Governorate panel discusses resident safety measures

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Jahra Governorate Council's Security Affairs Committee held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Director-General of the Jahra Security Directorate.

According to a press release issued by Jahra Governorate, the meeting focused on reviewing security and traffic-related issues across the governorate's various areas.

During the meeting, the committee discussed several traffic management matters, particularly proposals to establish or remove designated traffic lanes and regulate entry and exit points. These measures aim to improve road safety and enhance traffic flow throughout the governorate.

The committee also addressed several other issues, including abandoned vehicles, procedures for closing unlicensed grocery stores, and the presence of single-occupant (bachelor) housing in residential areas designated for families.

It stressed the need to strengthen coordination among the relevant authorities to address these issues in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The committee reaffirmed its commitment to continuously monitoring these matters and submitting the necessary recommendations to the concerned authorities, with the aim of enhancing security and public safety, improving quality of life, and addressing the needs of Jahra Governorate residents.



Jahra Governorate Council addresses security concerns.

Other Voices

Work dress code & depravity of society

"Nations are not built on shrines, but on laboratories and science. They are not built on miracles, but on constructive ideas." – Ibtihal Abdel Wahab

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By Ahmad alsarraf

NUMEROUS indicators in several Arab and Islamic countries suggest that efforts to awaken the Arab mind and convince it that the solutions to our problems lie not in religious extremism, but in openness, tolerance, and coexistence with others, have largely failed.



Ahmad alsarraf

This has contributed to our growing backwardness, even as our adversaries continue to make progress and achieve development.

Several Arab forces have become increasingly inclined towards complacency and religiosity, in an effort to prove that opposing the forces of backwardness, represented by the Muslim Brotherhood and other movements, does not necessarily mean hostility towards religion.

Consequently, we have witnessed a significant increase in the promotion of religious practices, particularly those associated with visiting the shrines of imams and saints, as well as individuals believed to possess miraculous powers.

The shrine of Sayyid al-Badawi, for example, attracted more than five million visitors this year, the vast majority of whom know little about the true nature of the man himself.

Muhammad Metwally Al-Shaarawi said that he had met him during a period of financial hardship and that Al-Shaarawi had helped him out of his predicament. When they met again later, Al-Shaarawi asked him to return the money.

Sayyid Al-Badawi was born in Morocco approximately 800 years ago. Dozens of similar cases can be found in Egypt, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Morocco, Iraq, and elsewhere.

In Kuwait, we have suddenly become more concerned with the clothing of more than 400,000 government employees, who make up nearly a third of the population. This is an unwelcome form of government intervention, as though, before the introduction of the "government dress code," we were a morally bankrupt, ill-mannered, and immodest society.

Government decisions may, at least temporarily, strengthen the influence of religion in society, but they cannot contribute to its progress.

This is not to suggest that the opposite is necessarily true. However, imposing a specific dress code is more a political decision than a rational or logical one.

Implementing this decision will not necessarily enhance employees' knowledge, broaden their horizons, or improve their character. On the contrary, it risks discouraging questioning and criticism while marginalizing education, culture, and the media. As a result, the majority will continue to turn to imams and saints to solve their problems rather than giving research, knowledge, and science the place they deserve.

This is what happens when the distinction between superstition and faith becomes blurred.

Professor Ibtihal Abdel Wahab says, "I don't write from a position of superiority over people, nor do I seek to undermine their right to religious practices or rituals. Rather, I write with the sadness of someone who fears for her country, lest it lose its ability to distinguish between faith and superstition. The problem is not that people celebrate the birth of a religious figure, but that superstition becomes a social authority and that questioning it becomes a crime."

It is dangerous when beliefs become immune to questioning simply because they have been passed down through generations, to the point where they attract enormous crowds. What drives large segments of society to seek refuge and meaning in folklore while rational culture remains distant from their everyday lives?

I am not referring to any particular shrine or city, but to a broader cultural crisis intertwined with the fragility of education, the weakness of critical thinking, the fear of the unknown, the search for reassurance in a harsh world, and the declining confidence in humanity's ability to change its circumstances through its own efforts.

When life becomes unbearable, weighed down by crises, and when people feel that the doors to justice and opportunity are closed, seeking a supernatural solution can seem more appealing than embarking on the long and arduous journey of learning, working, and creating change.

When institutions fail to provide convincing answers, stories promising instant salvation begin to proliferate. When people lose faith in their own ability to act, they turn to supernatural forces to accomplish what they have been unable to achieve themselves.

At this point, reassurance becomes a substitute for knowledge, and people convince themselves that supernatural powers can alter their fate. In reality, however, their circumstances remain unchanged, even though what they truly need is reform, action, and a sense of responsibility.

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Kuwait introduces new rules for housing finance & loan defaults

State to cover interest on subsidized housing loans

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Finance confirmed that Decree-Law No. 114/2026 on real estate financing for individuals, who are eligible for housing assistance, enables qualified citizens to obtain real estate financing from local banks and finance or investment firms under the supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is an alternative to the house construction and purchase loans offered by Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB).

The law shall take effect once its executive regulations are published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm'.

In a press statement Thursday, the ministry disclosed that this is a vital development in house financing due to the additional financing options for citizens and the involvement of the banking and financial sectors in the housing market.

The executive regulations are expected to be released within six months after the publication of the decree-law in the official gazette, along with the rules and guidelines that will be laid down by the Central Bank.

Ahmed Al-Ansari, who chairs the committee formed for this purpose through a ministerial decree, indicated that such financing is limited to two purposes -- acquiring a residential unit from real estate developers endorsed by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) or constructing a house on a plot allocated by the government.

He said the decree-law does not cover other uses, such as property expansion, renovation, purchase from entities other than the approved real estate developers, and construction on privately owned land.

He revealed that this financing has two complementary components. First is subsidized financing, for which the state covers the interest. It is an alternative rather than a replacement for the construction and purchase loans offered by KCB, such that citizens have the right to choose between the two.

Second is additional non-subsidized financing for those purchasing residential units from real estate developers. This is provided by financing institutions as per their credit terms, while state support is solely for the subsidized portion.

Al-Ansari explained that subsidized financing is granted on a one-time basis to individuals who meet the criteria stipulated in the real estate loan regulations of KCB for the purpose of purchasing or constructing a home, provided they have not previously benefited from state housing assistance, including loans from KCB.

He stated that this decree-law complements Law No. 118/2023 on the establishment and development of residential cities or districts by linking the expansion of housing supply with the provision of financial tools for citizens to access it.

Meanwhile, committee member Faisal Al-Muzaini indicated that this financing will be paid in equal monthly installments for a period not exceeding 25 years from the date the fund is disbursed.

Beneficiaries may be granted a grace period—included in the total term, during which the payment of the principal is deferred. This applies to those who purchase properties from real estate developers or construct a house on allocated plot. In such instances, the beneficiary remains responsible for the interest accrued during the grace period. Beneficiaries have the right to make full or partial early payments, in which interest on the portion of the debt that has been paid shall be waived.

On defaults, Al-Muzaini pointed out the decree-law mandates financing entities to issue a formal notice to the beneficiary, as per the procedures that will be stated in the executive regulations.

It also permits the rescheduling of financing for a period not exceeding five years, in accordance with the Central Bank's directives.

The regulations must provide clear guidelines for banks and financing entities to follow in the event of a default, ensuring that it does not result in the foreclosure or immediate sale of the property.

In the event of a default, KCB -- acting on behalf of the state -- is obligated to pay the remaining balance of the subsidized fund to the financing entity. CBK retains the right to seek recourse against the beneficiary for the amount paid, hence, the beneficiary remains fully liable for his obligations.

The property remains mortgaged as security for the fulfillment of financing obligations until they are fully settled. The property cannot be disposed of without approval from KCB and the financing entity.

Any individual or entity receiving the property must qualify for housing assistance, must not have a history of obtaining real estate financing, and must shoulder the existing responsibilities of the beneficiary.

KCB or any other organization appointed by the relevant minister is allowed to acquire real estate financing portfolios, fully or partially, from the original lenders. These portfolios can be securitized and made available to investors, in accordance with the regulations of the Central Bank and the Capital Markets Authority (CMA). This approach aims to ensure the necessary liquidity for ongoing financing, while assisting in the diversification of investment options and development of local financial markets.

PAFN, Interior Ministry target illegal food outlets

Two unlicensed food businesses busted in Ahmadi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has taken enforcement action against two food establishments operating illegally inside a private residence in Ahmadi Governorate without the required health licenses, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The violations were uncovered during an inspection campaign conducted by PAFN's inspection department in coordination with the Ministry of Interior. The campaign resulted in the issuance of two violation reports, which were referred to the relevant authorities for the necessary legal action.

PAFN reaffirmed its commitment to conducting regular inspection campaigns to strengthen oversight of food establishments, ensure compliance with health regulations, and protect public health and consumer safety.

MoE limits short assessments for intermediate, secondary students

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Education has announced that, for the current academic term, students in the intermediate and secondary stages, as well as those in grades four and five of the primary stage, will be required to take only one short assessment per subject, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that the policy applies to all subjects at the specified grade levels. If two short assessments have already been conducted in a subject, the higher score will be counted. The measure is intended to serve students' best interests and ensure fairness in evaluating their academic performance.

The new arrangement does not apply to students in grades one through three of the primary stage. Existing comprehensive education regulations will remain in force for these grades, requiring two short assessments per subject, with each carrying five marks.

The ministry highlighted its commitment to implementing these comprehensive education regulations and standardizing assessment procedures across all educational stages and schools.

It explained that the measures aim to ensure transparency in grade calculations, promote equal opportunities among students, and take into account individual differences and varying levels of academic achievement.

This assessment approach forms part of its ongoing efforts to improve educational and evaluation practices.

It aims to strike a balance between measuring students' academic performance and taking their individual learning circumstances into consideration, ultimately creating a stimulating educational environment that supports learning and improves overall educational outcomes.

Minister of Defense stresses importance of developing national military industries

Kuwait moves to localize defense production with new factory



Ministry of Defense photos

Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah with senior officers during a ceremony marking the launch of the first production batch at the Nayef Light Ammunition Factory, which he patronized and attended.



The minister is welcomed by officials.



Officials show the minister a sample of the ammunition.



The minister views an exhibit.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah stressed the importance of developing national military industries and enhancing their production capabilities in line with the highest quality and safety standards.

He made the remarks while patronizing and attending a ceremony marking the launch of the first production batch at the Nayef Light Ammunition Factory, organized by the General Staff's Supply and Logistics Authority.

The minister praised efforts to implement strategic military projects, stressing the importance of investing in national expertise and capabilities to strengthen defense readiness and promote sustainable development of the country's military industries.

In turn, Assistant Chief of the General Staff for Supply and Logistics, Maj. Gen. Salah Al-Azmi, said the factory was the first of its kind in Kuwait and a key strategic project aimed at localizing defense industries.

He said the facility seeks to establish a national industrial base capable of meeting military and security needs, strengthening self-sufficiency and supporting national capabilities.

Senior military and security officials attended the ceremony.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Protecting the family structure before it is too late

"IN Kuwait, a discourse has emerged around the protection of women and children, framed under such labels as "women's empowerment," "contemporary thought," "international protocols," and "domestic violence"," columnist **Bassam Fahad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"What is concerning is that some of these proposals appear to treat Western experiences as ready-made models for reform, adopting them without sufficient critical examination or consideration of differences in values, cultural traditions, and social environments.



Al-Ghanim

How can we entrust the future of the Kuwaiti family system to concepts that have not been carefully examined against the principles of our Sharia and the distinctive features of our social identity? The situation becomes even more concerning when certain women's associations seek the support of foreign organizations and Western ambassadors to advance their agendas.

These organizations are given local platforms to present their own experiences as the definitive model for progress and improved international rankings.

While benefiting from the expertise and experiences of others is both reasonable and valuable, it is entirely unacceptable to treat external parties as guardians of our society or as authorities whose influence supersedes our legislative sovereignty.

Kuwait's international standing must never be made dependent on external approval of its family laws.

The family is the cornerstone of society, and any changes to the laws governing it inevitably affect spouses, children, and future generations. Therefore, a proposal should never be considered acceptable merely because it carries an appealing title.

Rather, any proposal must be evaluated according to the justice, stability, and genuine protection from injustice it offers, as well as its ability to prevent conflict, social fragmentation, and exploitation.

Furthermore, opposing the adoption of an imported model does not mean rejecting reform. Rather, it represents a call for a thoughtful and considered approach to reform - one that protects society while genuinely addressing its needs.

Florence Bauer, Regional Director for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, has also emphasized the importance of supporting the family.

In an article published on July 11, 2025, she explained that economic barriers, including high housing and childcare costs and employment instability, prevent many people from having the number of children they would like.

She advocates for family-supportive policies, a position that aligns with our call for legislation and measures aimed at addressing the obstacles to establishing and maintaining stable families. Such measures should be assessed according to their tangible impact on people's lives.

It is unfortunate when discussions are reduced to the rights of only one party, or when men and women are portrayed as adversaries with inherently conflicting interests.

A woman is a mother, wife, daughter, and partner in building society, just as a man is a father, husband, and son with his own responsibilities.

A child needs care that preserves their relationship with both parents and protects them from parental conflict. Any approach that overlooks this complementary relationship risks transferring discord from within the family to a state of constant confrontation among its members.

Certainly, we seek to protect women from abuse and injustice and to safeguard their rights and dignity. We are equally committed to protecting children from harm and neglect.

However, these objectives must be pursued in accordance with the principles of Sharia and the fundamental values of our society, through an approach that balances rights and responsibilities while respecting the role of parents and their responsibility for raising their children.

Kuwait has its own distinct religious, ethical, and social framework, and it should not be stripped of its substance under the pressure of slogans or an unquestioning desire to replicate the experiences of other societies.

This underscores the need to review the domestic violence law and its implementation to ensure adequate protection for victims while establishing a clear distinction between abuse and legitimate parental guidance or firm discipline that does not involve abuse or humiliation.

Vague legal provisions or arbitrary interpretations must not become a source of fear for parents, discouraging them from fulfilling their responsibilities. Nor should ordinary marital disagreements become grounds for mutual accusations and escalating conflict.

An effective law must protect individuals from violence and uphold justice while preventing the misuse of its provisions and procedures. Malicious or false reports should also be addressed when proven, without undermining the right of genuine victims to seek protection and justice.

Greater emphasis should also be placed on family counseling and reconciliation in disputes that can be resolved amicably.

Furthermore, legal proceedings concerning family rights should be expedited to prevent lengthy and costly litigation from becoming an additional burden on families or a means for one party to exert pressure on the other. In such circumstances, children are often the ones who pay the highest price, suffering the loss of psychological stability and a healthy relationship with their parents.

Consequently, the proposed amendments to the Personal Status Law require careful and responsible discussion. Support should be directed toward provisions that promote family stability and ensure a fair balance between rights and responsibilities.

Regulations governing child custody, visitation, and financial support should be designed to protect children from becoming caught in parental disputes, while safeguarding women's rights and recognizing men's responsibilities and roles.

Marriage is both a religious bond and a shared responsibility. Legislation should therefore encourage its continuity on the foundations of affection and justice, while ensuring that separation does not become a gateway for personal gain or retaliation.

Women's associations, lawyers, and all other relevant parties must place the interests of the family above the promotion of any particular agenda.

They should carefully examine the proposed amendments, clause by clause, identify their shortcomings, and put forward practical alternatives.

Meaningful dialogue requires sound arguments and well-founded studies examining the anticipated impact of proposed legislation. It also requires listening to fathers, mothers, and experts in Sharia, law, and education. The ultimate objective should be to establish legislation that balances rights and responsibilities, addresses real-world challenges, and remains open to continuous evaluation and review.

Adopting Western concepts under the banner of "empowerment" without carefully examining and adapting them to our own circumstances could lead to a gradual erosion of our social fabric. True empowerment lies in developing a model rooted in our Islamic values and proud Kuwaiti heritage.

We should engage with broader human experiences thoughtfully and critically, drawing on what is beneficial while safeguarding the family, upholding women's dignity, protecting children, and recognizing men's responsibilities.

In doing so, we can build a strong and cohesive society, capable of shaping Kuwait's future with confidence, stability, and determination."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Driver flees after hitting police car

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: A police patrol vehicle belonging to the General Department of Ports and Borders recently sustained material damage after being struck by an unidentified vehicle in the parking lot of the Police Association. The driver responsible for the collision fled the scene, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, a sergeant born in 1993, who is stationed at the Nuwaiseeb border crossing, reported the incident to the South Surra Police Station.

The officer stated that his Chevrolet Tahoe police patrol vehicle was parked in the Police Association parking lot when an unidentified vehicle collided with it, causing material damage.

The driver of the vehicle fled immediately after the collision. A report was filed with the relevant authorities to take the necessary legal action.

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Raids seize 60 grams of cocaine: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) has arrested five suspects in four separate cases involving the possession of narcotics and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and personal use, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrests are part of the Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to combat drug-related activities and target those involved in distributing narcotics and psychotropic substances.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, the operations resulted in the seizure of 60 grams of cocaine, 50 grams of crystal meth (shabu), 45 sheets infused with synthetic drugs (Chemical), 10 Captagon tablets, and two precision scales.

The ministry confirmed that the suspects and seized items have been referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.



Association offers flexible educational programs for grades 1–12

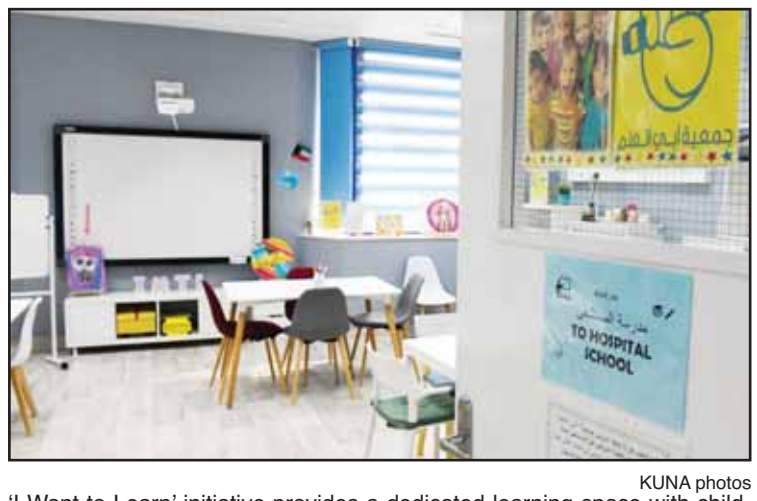
'I Want to Learn' brings education to hospitalized children



A classroom at the "I Want to Learn" initiative, equipped with child-sized tables, colorful chairs, bookshelves, educational materials, and a wall-mounted television.



Dr. Maha Bourseli, Consultant Pediatrician at NBK Children's Hospital and initiative founder, highlights the importance of education during children's treatment.



KUNA photos

'I Want to Learn' initiative provides a dedicated learning space with child-sized furniture, educational resources, books, and interactive learning facilities.

Report by Salman Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): As hospitalized children endure lengthy treatment and daily medical challenges, a humanitarian educational initiative is bringing classrooms to their bedsides, ensuring that illness does not deprive them of their right to learn and pursue their ambitions.

The 'I Want to Learn Association' provides educational services to children with cancer, chronic illnesses and other conditions requiring prolonged hospital stays. Through dedicated classrooms and remote learning, the initiative helps young patients continue their education, maintain academic progress and regain a sense of normality despite demanding treatment schedules.

The initiative operates in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and volunteer teachers from the Ministry of Education. Their combined efforts provide hospitalized children with access to approved school curricula, reflecting a commitment to safeguarding their educational rights alongside their medical and psychological well-being.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the association, Dr. Ali Al-Ansari, told KUNA that its mission is founded on the principle that every child has the right to education, regardless of health circumstances. Its slogan, "I Learn Despite My Illness," reflects its commitment to ensuring continuity of education throughout treatment.

He said the association offers flexible educational programs covering grades one through 12, delivered in dedicated hospital classrooms, patients' rooms or online platforms. Individual learning plans are developed according to each child's school curriculum, medical condition and ability to study, helping facilitate their eventual return to mainstream education.

Al-Ansari said the association operates five educational facilities, including classrooms at NBK Children's Hospital, Al-Razi Hospital and Al-Adan Hospital, whose classroom opened in February 2026. The other two facilities are: the Sinyar classroom in Maidan Hawally for recovered students and the online Ishraqa Ta'limiya program for children receiving treatment abroad.

The association served 54 students during the 2025-2026 academic year, while 51 students have registered for 2026-2027 so far, he said. The educational process begins through coordination with medical teams and parents, followed by individual assessments and tailored study programs that accommodate treatment requirements.

He added that volunteer participation has grown considerably, rising from 60 teachers during the 2021-2022 academic year to 143 in 2026-2027. Cooperation with the Ministry of Health has facilitated classroom arrangements, while coordination with the Ministry of Education supports curriculum recognition and examinations inside hospitals.



Dr. Ali Al-Ansari, chairman of the association's board of directors.

Beyond academic instruction, the association provides psychological and social support to reduce isolation and help children cope with treatment. Al-Ansari said teachers also receive training to address different medical circumstances, while educational activities help maintain children's confidence, social interaction and connection with everyday life.

Looking ahead, the association plans to expand its classrooms, develop a specialized digital platform and launch a project titled "A Teacher for Every Sick Child." The project aims to serve between 80 and 120 students annually and train 25 teachers. A national conference on empowering sick students is also planned for November 2026.

Consultant Pediatrician at NBK Children's Hospital and the initiative's founder, Dr. Maha Bourseli, told KUNA that the idea emerged from witnessing children spending weeks, months and sometimes years between hospital wards. While medical teams focused on treatment, she added, education is an equally important aspect of childhood.

She recalled that the idea was inspired by a question from a child aged around 10 who wanted to know why illness prevented him from attending school, highlighting the educational needs of hospitalized children, which prompted her to consider establishing a classroom within the hospital.

Bourseli said the initiative began taking shape in 2015 and 2016 through consultations with doctors, educators, parents and charitable organizations. The Patients Helping Fund Society provided important initial support, while Al-Najat Charity contributed teachers, helping transform the concept into a functioning educational program.

She also praised the contributions of charitable organizations and individual donors, saying their support and community partnerships had helped sustain the initiative. She stressed that cooperation between healthcare, educational and charitable institutions was essential to ensuring equal learning opportunities for children facing prolonged illness.

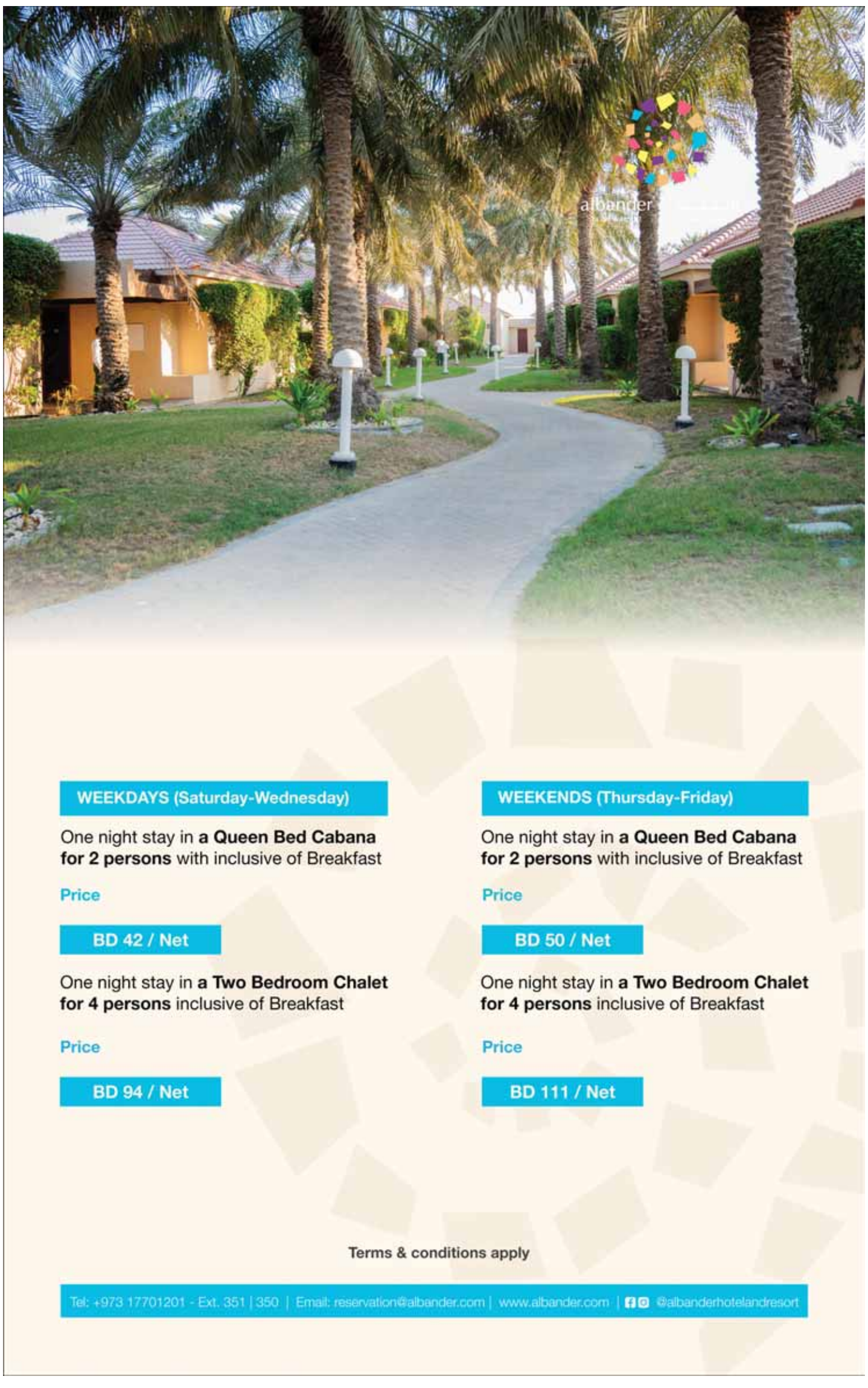
She said the association adopted online education before the COVID-19 pandemic to accommodate children unable to leave isolation rooms or attend classrooms. This approach enabled lessons to continue during the pandemic, while allowing teaching methods to be adjusted according to patients' changing health conditions and energy levels.

Bourseli expressed hope that the hospital classroom experience would develop into an officially recognized educational system in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. Such a system would cover hospitals, facilitate examinations and ensure academic recognition without exposing vulnerable children to unnecessary health risks.



The "I Want to Learn" initiative poster on display at the hospital.

The I Want to Learn Association was established following a humanitarian initiative launched at NBK Children's Hospital and was officially registered in 2017.



Sabah Al-Ahmad Center promotes technology & AI at Oman Festival

Photo feature by Mahmoud Bushehri

MUSCAT, Nov 5, (KUNA): Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity is showcasing interactive educational activities at the Oman Science Festival 2026, raising awareness of technology, artificial intelligence and engineering among young visitors.

Held in cooperation with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the center's pavilion offers workshops where students can build modular robotic units designed to perform different functions, developing their engineering thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills through hands-on activities.

One of the featured workshops, "STEM Racing," an international educational initiative accredited by Formula 1, introduces participants to science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the design, production and racing of miniature cars.

Visitors can explore the principles of aerodynamics by assembling paper car models and testing them in a wind tunnel, in an interactive experience linking physics with engineering.



KUNA photos

Children participate in hands-on robotics and engineering workshops at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) pavilion in Oman.



A presenter demonstrates an interactive device to visitors at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) pavilion in Oman.



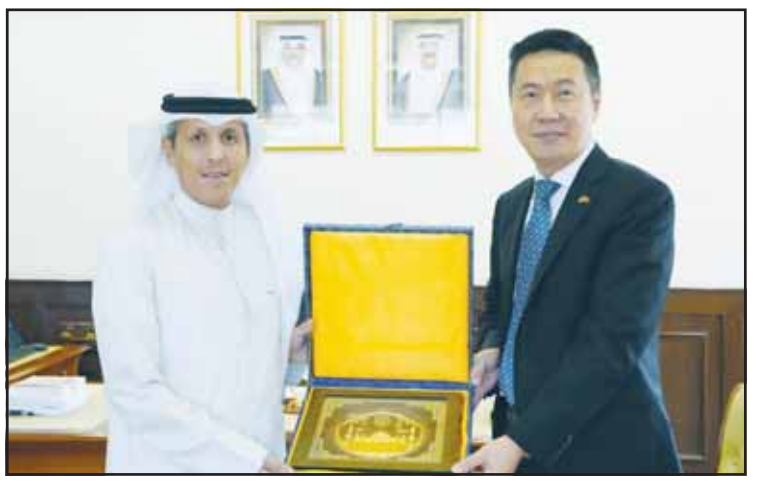
Young boy participates in a hands-on STEM activity at the KFAS pavilion in Oman.

Both sides discuss shared interests

Awqaf Minister holds talks with Chinese Ambassador



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi meets with Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin.



KUNA photos

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi presents a memento to Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi discussed cooperation and issues of mutual interest with Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin during a meeting on Thursday.

The Ministry said in a statement to KUNA that the two sides exchanged views on opportunities for cooperation in areas related to the Ministry's responsibilities, as well as ways to benefit from each other's expertise and experience to advance joint work.

The meeting also addressed prospects for cooperation in related fields, reflecting the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and China.

Kuwaiti delegation participates in seventh World Media Summit

Al-Fahad urges human control over AI

BEIJING, Nov 5, (KUNA): The seventh World Media Summit kicked off Thursday in the Chinese capital, Beijing, under the theme "Media's Mission and Collaborative Action Amid Intelligent Transformation," with the participation of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

China's Xinhua News Agency, the summit's organizer, said nearly 500 delegates representing around 330 major media outlets, think tanks, government departments and international organizations from 112 countries and regions worldwide are attending the summit, which runs until next Monday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the summit, KUNA's Arabic News Bulletin Managing Editor Hamad Al-Fahad said the event serves as an international platform bringing together media decision-makers, providing an opportunity to exchange views, bridge differences and coordinate future visions.



KUNA photo

Hamad Al-Fahad, Editor-in-Chief of the Arabic News Bulletin at Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), poses during the seventh World Media Summit, which kicked off Thursday in Beijing, China.

He added that KUNA's participation in the World Media Summit in China represents a strategic step toward strengthening Kuwaiti media's international presence and enhancing the representation of the Arab and Islamic worlds and Global South countries in major international media gatherings shaping the industry's future.

Al-Fahad stressed that humans continue to play an indispensable role in the media despite the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), emphasizing the need to maintain control over algorithms and work collectively to ensure that AI technology remains under human supervision.

He also highlighted the importance of addressing challenges associated with AI, including credibility, fabricated content, misinformation and the digital divide.

Al-Fahad affirmed that AI technologies are bringing profound changes to the global media industry, underscoring the importance of dialogue and deeper cooperation and coordination among media organizations across different countries.

He said such cooperation is essential to sharing collective responsibility in the era of intelligent transformation and ensuring that the realities of development in developing countries are conveyed to the world fairly and accurately.

Regarding Chinese-Kuwaiti media relations, Al-Fahad praised their continuous growth in recent years, citing both countries' media capabilities and genuine willingness to strengthen cooperation.

He also highlighted Xinhua's launch of an AI-powered virtual news anchor during Thursday's activities, describing it as a qualitative leap in the practical application of artificial intelligence.

Jahra Hospital achieves UHMS accreditation

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy and Diabetic Foot Center at Jahra Hospital has achieved level four international accreditation through the Clinical Hyperbaric Oxygen Facility Accreditation Program, which is overseen by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS).

This accreditation is valid until Oct 19, 2029.

Surgery Department Director Dr. Mohammad Al-Jasmi pointed out that this accreditation affirms the commitment of the center and the medical team to maintain high standards of quality and patient safety as well as improving services.

Also, Dr. Ahmed Karam, Head of the Diabetic Foot and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Unit, indicated that this accreditation motivates them to continue developing services provided to patients.

Platform streamlines services

MoCI unveils unified online platform with AI assistance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the launch of a unified digital portal bringing together all its services on a single platform, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative aims to make commercial services more accessible online, simplify procedures, and improve the user experience for beneficiaries.

In a statement posted on its official X account, the ministry explained that the portal features an artificial intelligence-powered system to help users identify the services they need and navigate procedures more easily, particularly for business owners and other users.

The new portal brings together the ministry's comprehensive range of services in one place, providing users with a more accessible, convenient, and flexible digital experience.

Officials call for wider Palestine coverage

Arab ministers urge global action to protect Palestinian journalists

CAIRO, Nov 5, (KUNA): Arab information ministers called on regional and international bodies to intensify efforts to document Israeli violations against Palestinian journalists and civilians, strengthen solidarity campaigns and press for accountability.

In a statement issued Wednesday at the conclusion of their 56th regular session, attended by a Kuwaiti delegation headed by Acting Information Minister Omar Al-Omar, the ministers reaffirmed that the Palestinian cause remained the central Arab issue and reiterated support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent state on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The ministers condemned the targeting of Palestinian journalists through killing, injury, detention and abuse, noting that more than 260 journalists had been killed in Gaza and the West Bank since the Israeli offensive began on October 7, 2023.

They stressed the need to protect Palestinian journalists, support local media institutions and intensify international efforts to hold those responsible for violations accountable.

The statement also urged Arab media outlets to expand coverage of developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, highlight violations and counter misinformation, while coordinating efforts to support Palestinian journalists and media organizations.







KUNA photos

Photos during Kuwait Cartoon Society's third Al-Barr Cartoon Exhibition and Competition, featuring a portrait tribute to late Kuwaiti astronomer Dr. Saleh Al-Ajiri as this year's featured personality.

Global cartoonists promote family values

Kuwait Cartoon Society exhibition celebrates Al-Ajiri's legacy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): The Kuwait Cartoon Society opened the third Al-Barr Cartoon Exhibition and Competition, featuring a portrait tribute to late Kuwaiti astronomer Dr. Saleh Al-Ajiri as this year's featured personality, with artists from Kuwait and around the world taking part.



Kuwait Cartoon Society Chairman Mohammad Thallab

Society Chairman Mohammad Thallab said the exhibition, held under the patronage of Ibrahim Al-Baghli, Chairman of the Board of the Ibrahim Al-Baghli Endowment for Parental Righteousness, features more than 100 artworks highlighting moral and social values, particularly honoring parents.

He said artists from more than 50 countries had submitted works, including participants from Scandinavia, Brazil, Malaysia, China and GCC states. The exhibition also includes portraits depicting Al-Ajiri in recognition of his contributions and the values he instilled in younger generations.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Al-Baghli Award's Higher Committee Ali Hassan said the event uses cartoon art to promote the values of filial piety and social responsibility, while introducing younger generations to inspiring Kuwaiti figures.

The exhibition will run for one week, with the winners of the top three places to be announced later.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait seeks

of Interior Maj. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib underlined the significance of stepping up Gulf security coordination to address changing security challenges, advance human capabilities and share expertise.

Al-Wuhaib made the remarks on Wednesday while addressing a meeting of undersecretaries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministries of interior ahead of the 43rd meeting of Gulf interior ministers.

He reiterated Kuwait's unwavering support for, and full solidarity with, Saudi Arabia regarding the Houthi attacks that targeted civilian facilities and resulted in innocent casualties.

He expressed Kuwait's emphatic condemnation and denunciation of these attacks, which pose a threat to the Kingdom's security, stability, and the security of the whole region.

The Kuwaiti official highlighted the importance of expanding digital transformation projects among the GCC Ministries of Interior, speeding up the exchange of information and data between security agencies.

Al-Wuhaib commended Wednesday the excellent management by Bahrain, the current chair of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), of the meetings of the GCC Ministers of Interior.

This came during an official reception hosted by Bahraini Minister of Interior General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, for Major General Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib at the ministry's headquarters, the Ministry of Interior said in a press release.

The reception was part of the Bahraini minister's meeting with the heads of delegations participating in the meeting of the Undersecretaries of the GCC Ministries of Interior.

According to the ministry, Major General Al-Wuhaib conveyed the greetings of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, to the Bahraini Minister of Interior, expressing his gratitude and appreciation for hospitality and warm welcome.

During the meeting, the Kuwaiti official underlined that cooperation and coordination among the GCC member countries are essential to efficiently addressing security challenges and emergencies.

The ongoing regional circumstances, security developments and challenges necessitate intensive coordination and cooperation among the GCC security agencies, Undersecretary of the Bahraini Interior Ministry Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman said Wednesday.

The Bahraini official made the statement while chairing a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministries of Interior Undersecretaries, which included the head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib.

He underlined the significance of bolstering readiness and preparedness to handle any development, thus contributing to maintaining the security and stability of the Gulf states and ensuring the safety of their citizens and residents.

He also commended the existing level of cooperation and coordination among the GCC ministries of interior and joint Gulf security achievements.

Doctors focus

technical roles from administrative, organizational and service duties. He said this structure enables doctors, allied health professionals and pharmacists to focus on their primary responsibilities without the added pressure of dealing with confrontations or issues outside their professional expertise.

He also stated that complaints or grievances of an administrative, organizational or legal nature are forwarded to the appropriate departments, including public relations. He revealed these departments immediately respond to the inquiries of patients, their families and companions, resolve issues, and ease tensions that might interfere with the operations.

He emphasized that training the staff in rapid response, tension management and effective communication is fundamental to this framework, ensuring medical personnel are protected from taking on responsibilities beyond their professional duties.

Public Relations and Media Professor at Kuwait University Dr. Fawaz Al-Ajmi conducted the workshop, covering several important topics, such as crisis management in hospitals, managing the arrival of families in emergency departments, handling emotionally charged situations and large crowds, overseeing media relations, and guaranteeing patient privacy and confidentiality.

The workshop included simulations of real-life scenarios aimed at improving decision-making skills under pressure, as well as strengthening coordination with medical, technical and security departments.

After the workshop, Al-Ajmi was given recognition for his valuable contributions.

Flood risks

winds will be light to moderate, occasionally active at 15–50 km/h, with a chance of dust in exposed areas.

Maximum temperatures are expected to range from 36°C to 38°C, while sea conditions will remain light to moderate, with waves sometimes rising to 2–6 feet.

Friday night will be moderate and relatively humid, especially in coastal areas, with partly cloudy to cloudy skies. Southeast to northeasterly winds will reach 10–40 km/h at times, with possible scattered rain and light fog in some areas. Minimum temperatures are forecast between 21°C and 23°C, with sea waves of 2–6 feet.

Saturday will be hot during the day, with partly cloudy to cloudy skies. Southwest to northwesterly winds will be light to moderate but occasionally active, reaching 12–55 km/h, with possible dust and scattered light rain.

Maximum temperatures are expected between 35°C and 37°C. Sea conditions will be moderate to high, with waves of 3–6 feet.

Saturday night will be moderate and partly cloudy to cloudy, with northwest to southeasterly winds of 12–45 km/h, occasionally active. Scattered rain, sometimes thundery, is possible. Minimum temperatures are forecast between 21°C and 23°C, while sea waves may rise to 2–6 feet.

GCC targets

Al-Budaiwi noted that rapid regional developments underscore the importance of enhancing Gulf coordination and integration in managing vital resources, improving infrastructure readiness and efficiency, and strengthening its ability to respond to various circumstances.

He affirmed that joint Gulf action in these sectors constitutes an important pathway toward reinforcing the security and stability of member states and supporting their continued sustainable development.

Al-Budaiwi explained that the meeting addresses two major strategic issues: the findings of a feasibility study on establishing water interconnection projects among GCC countries and a study on enhancing the Gulf electricity interconnection network.

He said both initiatives aim to advance Gulf integration and strengthen cooperation in vital sectors.

He pointed out that the GCC Secretariat, in cooperation with member states and relevant authorities, had worked over the past period to oversee the preparation of technical studies related to these projects.

These efforts included a series of workshops and bilateral meetings with member states and the specialized consultancy firm to complete technical data, review observations and assess the studies' findings at various stages.

The process culminated in a meeting of undersecretaries on October 20 to discuss the studies' results and recommendations.

Al-Budaiwi expressed appreciation for the efforts of member states and relevant authorities, in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat and the GCC Interconnection Authority, in preparing and following up on these studies.

He emphasized the importance of building on the technical and institutional progress achieved to develop practical recommendations that would facilitate the implementation of these vital projects before submitting them to the GCC Supreme Council.

Highway shake-up

December 18, 2026, to facilitate roadworks.

The closure will also affect the Amghara exit at Interchange 35, as well as the entrance and exit serving Al-Dhaman Hospital on Jahra Road. The two leftmost lanes will remain open to traffic.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Works announced the closure of Street 2 in Block 2 In Qortuba, beginning Thursday and continuing until 11:00 PM on Friday, November 6, to allow for the application of the final asphalt layer.

The roundabout and part of Street 120 in the same area will also be closed for eight days, from Thursday until November 12, to carry out maintenance work.

In addition, the ministry, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, announced a partial closure of the Sixth Ring Road from November 1 until December 31.

The closure will affect the middle and slow lanes for motorists traveling from Al-Messilah toward Subbiya. It will also involve the complete closure of the exit leading to Kuwait City, the exit toward Al-Mutlaa, and the exit from Al-Mutlaa Road toward Subbiya.

Wider debt

appreciation and recognition, stressing that "the success we have achieved today places an even greater responsibility on us as we move into the next phase."

He affirmed that the next campaign would undergo a comprehensive review of its organization, coordination, and operational efficiency, drawing on previous experience and expertise to achieve even better results, thanks to the dedication and competence of the national workforce.

Counselor Al-Sumait emphasized that honoring the employees is not merely an acknowledgment of their past efforts, but also an expression of pride in everyone who works with sincerity and commitment, as well as an incentive to continue contributing to the campaign's success.

He highlighted that the success of the "Gharimeen" (Debtors' Relief) Campaign is a shared achievement for every employee who devoted their time and effort to fulfilling its noble humanitarian mission.

It is worth noting that total donations to the Gharimeen Campaign reached KD 16,539,659 (approximately US$53 million), contributed by 138,328 donors.

The campaign benefited 3,807 individuals by settling all or part of the court-ordered debts against them, covering a total of 5,645 court judgments.

Last Sunday, the Minister of Justice announced that the ministry had received the approval of His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, to launch an exceptional and unprecedented campaign during the upcoming month of Ramadan.

The new initiative will feature broader eligibility criteria and more flexible conditions, with the aim of reaching the largest possible number of beneficiaries.



Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah during her meeting with the 14 graduates of the Innovartism initiative's first cohort.

Family services get closer oversight

Minister puts child safety, 'autism inclusion' in focus

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, visited the Supreme Council for Family Affairs to review its operations and assess the quality of services provided to beneficiaries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, Dr. Al-Huwailah reviewed the Council's operational procedures, inspected the shelters and the Child Protection Center, and examined the services available to beneficiaries.

She stressed the importance of strengthening supervision and maintaining continuous monitoring to ensure a safe and stable environment that provides the necessary care and protection.

The minister also praised the dedication of the Council's officials and staff, commending their efforts in handling individual cases and improving service standards.

Dr. Al-Huwailah further emphasized the need to enhance coordination among the relevant departments, address operational challenges, and streamline procedures to ensure more effective services for beneficiaries.

She reaffirmed that protecting children and families, safeguarding their rights, and providing appropriate care remain the Council's primary priorities.

Dr. Al-Huwailah also underscored the importance of regular field inspections and continuous improvements to operational procedures to enhance service quality and efficiency.

In other news, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah stressed on Wednesday the importance of rehabilitating individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and integrating them into the labor market through training, empowerment, and employment opportunities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She also praised the achievements of the "Innovartism" initiative.

In a press statement issued following her meeting with the 14 graduates of the initiative's first cohort, Dr. Al-Huwailah commended their accomplishments and the creative skills they had acquired during their training.





Ministry of Social Affairs photos

Photos during the event.

She explained that the program included training in storytelling and production using artificial intelligence technologies, conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It also covered character creation and narrative development through partnerships with the American University of Kuwait and the Gulf University for Science and Technology, with the participation of Dr. Fahad Al-Dhawai and Dr. Shahd Al-Shammari.

The graduates' projects will be screened as independent films in Kuwaiti cinemas, giving them an opportunity to showcase their talents and creativity to the public.

Dr. Al-Huwailah also praised the efforts of the initiative's organizational and administrative partner, Sheikha Fouz Al-Sabah, and its founder and creative producer, Manal Al-Gharabally, in ensuring the success of its inaugural edition. She also acknowledged the support and cooperation of the Kuwait Autism Center.

Dr. Al-Huwailah encouraged the graduates to continue developing their skills and making the most of their creative potential.

She reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting initiatives that create new employment opportunities and promote the integration and participation of people with disabilities in society.

Business

Oil price falls $1.10 to $94.35 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti oil fell USD 1.10 to USD 94.35 per barrel (pb) in Wednesday's trading compared with USD 95.45 the previous day, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude dropped USD 8.98 to USD 94.62 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate fell USD 7.97 to USD 88.12 pb.

Markets decline on fragile geopolitical situation and global market weakness

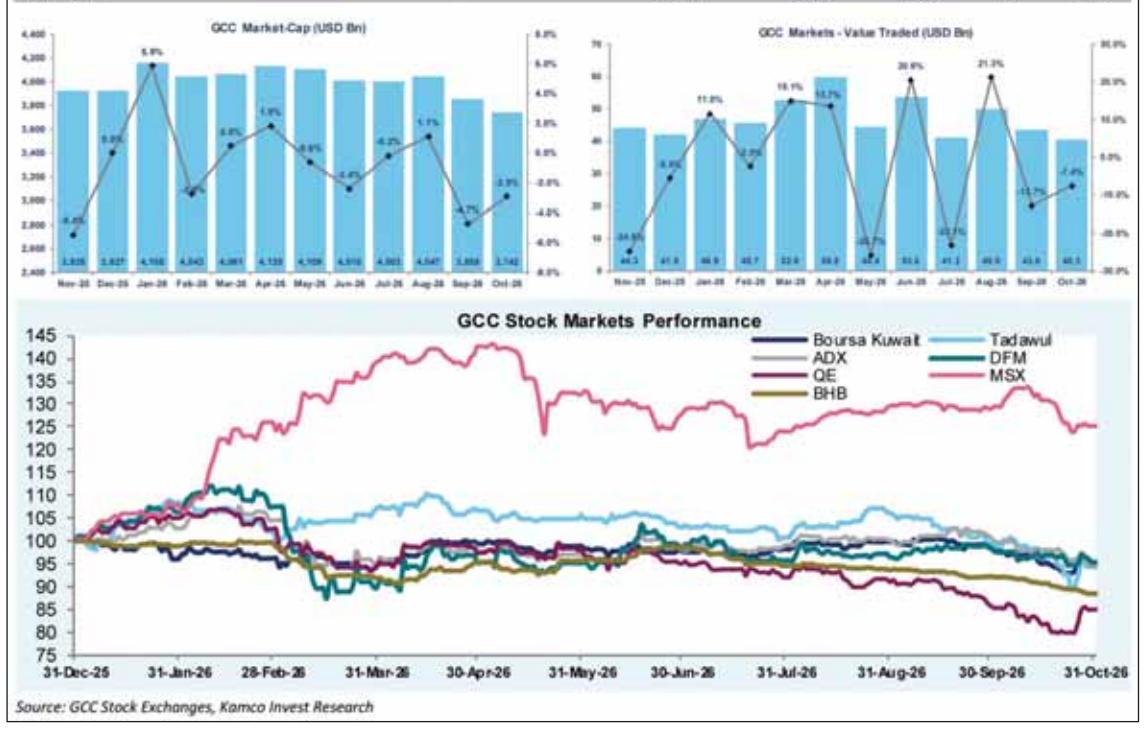
By KAMCO Invest

GCC equity markets extended their decline during October-2026, reflecting broad weakness across regional and global equities, while crude oil prices recorded another sharp increase. Brent futures closed the month at USD 117.64/b, gaining 13.6%, on the back of increasing supply tightness following renewed attacks in the Middle East. The global selloff was most pronounced across emerging markets and Asia, with the MSCI Emerging Markets Index declining 8.1% and the MSCI Asia Pacific Index falling 6.1%. The MSCI World Index declined 1.7%, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite fell 0.9% and 5.3%, respectively. In contrast, the Dow Jones gained 1.7%, while European markets also advanced during the month.

The MSCI GCC index declined by 4.3% during October-2026, extending the 3.5% decline recorded in September-2026. The decline was broad-based, with all GCC markets ending the month in negative territory. Abu Dhabi recorded the biggest monthly decline in the GCC, falling 6.0%, followed by Saudi Arabia's TASI and Bahrain with declines of 5.0% and 4.1%, respectively. Kuwait's All Share Index fell 3.7%, while Dubai and Oman declined by 3.2% and 2.9%, respectively. Qatar recorded the smallest decline at 1.0%. Following the October-2026 decline, the MSCI GCC index was down 4.6% since the start of the year.

In terms of monthly sector performance, almost all GCC sectors declined during October-2026. Capital Goods recorded the biggest decline of 10.5%, followed by Diversified Financials and Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology with declines of 8.7% and 7.6%, respectively. Consumer Durables & Apparel and Healthcare also fell by more than 7%, while Banks declined by 5.3%. The gainers side, meanwhile, included only the Energy index, which recorded a marginal increase of 0.1%.The YTD performance chart also highlighted Energy as the leading sector with a gain of 8.4% followed by Insurance and Telecom sectors with gains of 7.6% and 6.2%, respectively. On the decliners side, Food & Drug Retailing, Capital Goods and Healthcare saw declines of over 15.0%.

GCC Equity Markets	Index Closing	MTD Chg%	YTD Chg%	M-Cap (USD Bn)	Val Traded - (USD Bn)	P/E (x) TTM	P/B (x) TTM	Div. Yield
Kuwait - Premier Market Index	8,892.6	(3.0%)	(6.4%)	167.6	4.8	15.7	1.3	2.6%
Kuwait - Main 50 Index	9,423.6	(7.7%)	8.5%					
Kuwait - Main Market Index	8,454.9	(7.0%)	1.8%					
Kuwait - All Share Index	8,454.0	(3.7%)	(5.1%)					
Saudi Arabia	9,921.5	(5.0%)	(5.4%)	2,433.2	21.7	14.8	1.9	4.1%
Abu Dhabi	9,466.3	(6.0%)	(5.3%)	612.9	5.5	16.3	2.1	2.6%
Dubai	5,770.7	(3.2%)	(4.6%)	252.1	2.8	8.8	1.6	5.5%
Qatar	9,151.2	(1.0%)	(15.0%)	152.7	2.1	11.8	1.1	3.9%
Bahrain	1,830.0	(4.1%)	(11.4%)	67.9	0.02	14.5	1.2	4.4%
Oman	7,346.2	(2.9%)	25.2%	55.2	3.4	13.3	1.5	4.6%
Total GCC				3,741.7	40.3	14.3	1.8	3.9%



Source: GCC Stock Exchanges, Kamco Invest Research

Boursa Kuwait

Kuwaiti benchmarks also witnessed continued sellging during October-2026 following a broad-based decline that affected most sectors. The Main 50 Index witnessed the biggest monthly decline of 7.7%, reflecting a fall in small and mid-cap stocks. The Main Market Index and All-Share Market Index reported monthly declines of 7.0% and 3.7% respectively, while the Premier Market Index witnessed a relatively smaller decline of 3.0% during the month. In terms of YTD-2026 performance, the Premier Market Index declined 6.4%, while the All-Share Index declined 5.1%. Conversely, the Main 50 Index and Main Market Index recorded strong gains of 8.5% and 1.8%, respectively.

The monthly sectoral performance was skewed towards decliners, with the Healthcare index recording the steepest drop of 15.3% during October-2026, followed by the Technology and Insurance indices, which declined by 14.9% and 9.3%, respectively. Among the gainers, the Consumer Staples index led with a return of 1.8%, while the Energy index posted a marginal gain of 0.1% during the month. The gains in the Consumer Staples sector were primarily driven by a 2.9% increase in the share price of Mezzan Holding Co. Meanwhile, the Energy index's marginal gain was supported by a 10.8% rise in IPG and a 0.4% increase in Action Energy. The decline in the Healthcare index was primarily driven by a 23.6% plunge in the share price of ATC. The Technology index also recorded a significant decline, reflecting the negative performance of its sole constituent, ASC. Meanwhile, the Banking index came under pressure as shares of all banks declined during the earnings season. The Insurance index's downturn was largely attributed to a 26.4% drop in First Takaful Insurance Co.

In terms of monthly performance, National Real Estate Co. topped with a gain of 12.7% followed by Credit Rating & Collection Co. and IPG with gains of 12.3% and 10.8%, respectively. On the decliner's side, Al Safat Investment topped with a fall of 30.3% followed by First Takaful Insurance Co. and ATC with the declines of 26.4% and 23.6%, respectively. Trading activity declined during the month as compared to the previous month. Total volume dropped 40.1% to 5.6 Bn shares while value traded declined by 39.5% to reach KWD 1.5 Bn during October -2026 as compared to KWD 2.4 Bn during the previous month.

In terms of earnings performance, total profits for the seven listed banks that have announced their results reached KWD 1.23 Bn in 9M-2026 vs. KWD 1.18 Bn in 9M-2025. Quarterly earnings remained positive with total profits of KWD 394.9 Mn in Q3-2026, up 5.4% y-o-y. Revenue for 9M-2026 increased by 5.2%, deposits grew 10.7% and loans expanded 9.5%. NII rose 3.6% and non-interest income increased 9.6%. Impairments rose 23.3%, moderated by lower provisions at GBK, ABK and KIB.

Net operating income rose by 3.8% to KWD 1.01 Bn, while loans and customer deposits grew by 8.2% and 13.5%, respectively, reaching KWD 28.2 Bn and KWD 27.9 Bn. KFH delivered a stellar performance in 9M-2026, reporting a net profit of KWD 523.4 Mn, up by 6.2%. Net operating income increased by 11.7%, supported by growth in financing and fee income, while provisions and impairment charges rose by 58.5%.

Saudi Exchange

Saudi Arabia's TASI declined for the second consecutive month in October-2026, pressured by escalating geopolitical tensions in the region, concerns over potential disruptions to energy supply routes, continued uncertainty surrounding the US–Iran conflict, and expectations that the US Federal Reserve would maintain higher interest rates for longer. These factors weighed on investor sentiment, particularly across the Banking sector, contributing to the market's overall decline. The benchmark reached a mid-month closing high of 10,590.0 points before trending downward for the remainder of the month, ending October-2026 with a decline of 5.0% at 9,921.5 points. The monthly decline pushed the index into negative territory on a YTD-2026 basis, with losses reaching 5.4%.

The sector performance chart also highlighted the broad-based decline in the market during the month. The Capital Goods index witnessed the steepest decline of 14.2% after all the constituents of the index reported declines. The Media sector and Commercial & Professional Services indices were next with declines of 10.3% and 10.0%, respectively. The Energy sector gains were driven by a 3.8% rise in Ades Holding Co. and a 2.8% increase in Saudi Aramco shares. Aramco benefited from improved investor sentiment toward Energy stocks amid elevated geopolitical tensions and broader supply-side concerns even as supplies resumed from the East West pipeline and the Strait of Hormuz. Large-cap sectors like Banks declined by 7.1%.

In the Banking sector, most of the listed banks reported declines during the month. Shares of Bank Albilad declined by 12.1%, while shares of Alinma Bank and Saudi National Bank dropped by 10.8% and 9.8%, respectively. The Telecom Sector was dragged down by losses in all the constituent stocks including Etihad Etisalat Co. (-12.8%), Zain KSA (-9.9%) and Etihad Atheeb Telecommunication Co. (-4.0%). In the Capital Goods sector, most of the constituent stocks declined with shares of Electrical Industries Co. and Bawan Co. leading with declines of 26.2% and 23.8%, respectively, during October-2026.

The monthly gainer's chart was topped by Leejam Sports Co. with a gain of 20.0% followed by Saudi Fisheries Co. and First Milling Co. with gains of 19.5% and 12.7%, respectively. On the decliner's side, Saudi Printing and Packaging Co. topped with a decline of 28.0% followed by Electrical Industries Co. and United International Holding Co. with declines of 26.2% and 24.2%, respectively. Trading activity on the exchange strengthened in October-2026 with total value traded surging by 3.9% to reach SAR 81.2 Bn compared to 78.2 Bn in September-2026. The total volume also improved 25.4% to reach 4.7 Bn shares compared to 3.7 Bn in September-2026. Americana Restaurants topped the monthly volume chart with 298.1 Mn shares followed by Saudi Arabian Oil Co. and Al Kathiri Holding Co. at 189.8 Mn shares and 175.8 Mn shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Al Rajhi Bank topped with SAR 8.4 Bn worth of shares traded during the month followed by Saudi National Bank and Saudi Aramco at SAR 5.6 Bn and SAR 4.9 Bn, respectively.

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The FTSE ADX Index declined by 6.0% during October-2026, recording its first monthly fall after registering four consecutive monthly gains in the months until September-2026. The decline in the FTSE ADX Index was the largest among the GCC markets during the month. The monthly index decline dragged YTD performance into negative territory at -5.3%. Sectoral performance over the month was heavily skewed to the decliners, with nine out of the ten sector indices on the exchange posting declines, which underpinned the overall downward movement of the broader benchmark, while the remaining index remained unchanged during the same period. The overall negative index performance was driven by heavily weighted sectors like the Financial Sector (-6.6%), Real Estate Sector (-5.2%) and Telecom (-3.7%). The Real Estate sector indices' decline during the month was mainly attributed to share price declines of all the constituent companies in the sector, including a 15.8% share price fall of Eshraq Investments followed by a 9.2% fall in shares of RAK Properties during the month. Similarly, the drop of the Financial Index was brought about by a decline in heavily weighted companies in the sector, including a 15.0% share price decline of Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank.

In terms of stock performance, Gulf Cement topped the monthly gainers chart, with its share price surging by 23.5%, followed by United Arab Bank and Abu Dhabi Aviation Co, which recorded gains of 12.0% and 7.6%, respectively. United Arab Bank reported 5.6% y-o-y growth in net profits that reached AED 333.3 Mn in 9M-2026 as compared to AED 315.6 Mn in 9M-2025. On the decliners' side, Abu Dhabi National Investment and Development Company registered the largest drop, with its share price declining by 23.2%. Phoenix Group and GFH Financial Group were next with declines of 19.7% and 17.2%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange declined during October-2026. The total volume fell by 31.4% to 4.3 Bn shares. Concurrently, the total value traded declined by 15.3% to AED 20.2 Bn, down from AED 23.8 Bn in the prior month. ADNOC Gas was the most active stock by volume, with 0.8 Bn shares, followed by Eshraq Investments P.J.S.C and Borouge, which recorded 433.8 Mn and 315.5 Mn shares, respectively. In terms of value traded during the month, International Holdings Company PJSC led the market with AED 2.8 Bn worth of shares exchanged, followed by ADNOC Gas and First Abu Dhabi Bank with AED 2.6 Bn and AED 2.1 Bn, respectively.

In economic news, according to UAE's Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center, the UAE's real GDP recorded a marginal growth of 0.4% during 1H-2026 to reach AED 961.9 Bn. Non-oil GDP increased by 1.8% during the period, increasing the overall contribution of non-oil activities to the economy to 79.2% as compared to 78.1% during 1H-2025. In terms of Q2-2026 performance, the UAE's real GDP reached AED 476.9 Bn, recording a decline of 2.1% y-o-y as compared to the same period in 2025. UAE non-oil activities also declined by 1.%, as a result of several economic sectors, particularly tourism, transport, and trade, getting impacted by regional developments and disruptions to travel.

Dubai Financial Market

The DFM General Index witnessed a 3.2% decline during October-2026, after registering two consecutive monthly gains in August and September, to close the month at 5,770.7 points. Sectoral performance skewed towards decliners during the month, as seven out of the eight sectors registered declines during October-2026, while the one remaining index, the Communications Index, posted a gain of +3%. The 3% monthly share price growth of Emirates Integrated Telecom, the only constituent company in the Communications Sector, reflected the sector index's overall monthly growth. The Consumer Staples Index posted the biggest index drop during October-2026, falling 5.7% to close the month at 70.2 points, followed by the Real Estate sector with a decline of 4.3%. All seven companies that comprise the Real Estate Sector registered share price declines during the month, led by a 9.2% share price fall of Union Properties. In the Financials Sector, double-digit share price declines of heavily weighted companies, including Emirates Investment Bank (-17.7%) and Gulf Finance House (-18.3%), contributed to the overall fall of the index during the month.

In terms of monthly stock performance from Bloomberg, Dubai National Insurance topped the gainers' table in October-2026, with its share price rising 14.8%. It was followed by Watania International Holding and Air Arabia Pjsc, which recorded gains of 8.2% and 3.3%, respectively. On the decliners' side, Islamic Arab Insurance Company led with a share price decline of 24.1%, followed by Dubai Islamic Insurance Co and Gulf Finance House, with share price declines of 21.5% and 18.3%, respectively.

Trading activity declined strongly during the month. Total volume declined by 43.3% to 3.5 Bn shares in October-2026, while value traded declined at a relatively slower pace of 24.9%, reaching AED 10.4 Bn in October-2026 as compared to AED 13.6 Bn in September-2026. Drake & Scull International topped the monthly volume chart with 726.6 Mn shares traded, followed by Shuaa Capital and Dubai Islamic Insurance Co at 364.4 Mn and 347.8 Mn shares, respectively. In terms of value traded, Emaar Properties led the market with AED 3.9 Bn worth of shares traded during the month, followed by Emirates NBD and Emaar Development at AED 1.3 Bn and AED 0.9 Bn, respectively.

In economic news, Dubai's real GDP witnessed a 2.3% y-o-y decline to reach approximately AED 473 Bn (USD 128.8 Bn) in 1H-2026with financial services, healthcare, information and communication, and construction among the sectors recording growth. On the other hand, the nominal GDP recorded a marginal 0.2% growth to reach AED 505 Bn (USD 137.5 Bn) during 1H-2026. In terms of sectoral performance, the Financial and Insurance activities registered real growth of 8.8% during 1H-2026, with value added increasing to approximately AED 65.9 Bn (USD 17.9 Bn), as compared to AED 60.6 Bn (USD 16.5 Bn) during the similar period in 2025. On the other hand, Dubai's residential property sales values declined by 47% y-o-y during Q3-2026 to reach AED 72.6 Bn, according to Cavendish Maxwell. In context, residential sales values declined by 27% y-o-y for the first nine months of 2026 to reach AED 292 Bn, while transaction volume fell by 23% y-o-y to reach 112,580 transactions.

Qatar Exchange

The Qatar Stock Exchange declined for the fifth consecutive month in October 2026. The headline DSM Index climbed early in the month to 9,285.1 points, supported by foreign institutional buying, before retreating over the remainder of the month to close at 9,151.2 points, registering a monthly decline of 1.0%. However, the index recovered during the final week of the month, rebounding from its lows amid an improvement in the regional geopolitical climate and intensified mediation efforts, which helped ease investor concerns over regional risks. The broader Qatar All Share Index also declined 0.1% during the month, closing at 3,637.41 points. On a YTD-2026 basis, the QE 20 Index declined 15.0%, marking the largest decline among GCC markets, while the All Share Index fell 10.4%.The monthly gainer's chart was topped by Qatar National Cement Co. with a gain of 13.0% followed by Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co. and Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution with gains of 11.0% and 10.0%, respectively. On the decliner's side, Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding topped with a decline of 16.0% followed QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. and Inma Holding Co. with declines of 14.0% and 12.6%, respectively.

In terms of sectoral performance, the picture was skewed towards decliners after four out of the seven sector indices recorded declines during October-2026. The Industrials sector posted the steepest drop, falling by 5.8% during the month. The Transportation and Real Estate indices were next with declines of 2.7% and 1.4%, respectively. On the gainer's side, the Consumer Goods & Service index topped during October-2026 with a gain of 2.4% followed by Banks & Financial Services and Telecoms indices with returns of 1.7% and 1.5%, respectively.

Most of the constituents of the Industrials sector declined during the month with Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding and Estithmar Holding QPSC leading the declines with 16.0% and 10.6%, respectively. During the month, both the constituents in Telecoms sector Vodafone Qatar and Ooredoo reported gains of 5.4% and 0.3%, respectively. In the Banking sector, shares of most of the listed banks reported declines during the month. Large-cap banks like Commercial Bank declined by 4.3% while shares of Al Rayan Bank gained 3.4%. All the constituents of the Real Estate sector declined during the month with Ezdan Holding Group QSC and United Development Co. leading the declines at 6.9% and 6.2%, respectively. The Insurance sector was also under pressure, driven by declines QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co., and Damaan Islamic Insurance Co. which fell 14.0% and 4.1%, respectively. In the Transportation sector, most of the constituent stocks reported gains with shares of Qatar Navigation leading with a gain of 3.6% during October-2026.

Trading activity improved during the month as compared to the previous month. Total volume traded increased by 8.2% to 3.3 Bn shares in October-2026. Value traded was up by 2.7% to reach QAR 7.8 Bn. Al Rayan Bank topped the monthly volume chart 397.3 Mn traded shares followed by Baladna and Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding at 373.8 Mn shares and 311.0 Mn traded shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, QNB topped with shares worth QAR 961.1 Mn traded during the month followed by Al Rayan Bank and Industries Qatar QSC with value traded at QAR 696.4 Mn and QAR 529.4 Mn, respectively.

Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain Bourse All Share Index witnessed a decline of 4.1% during October-2026, recording its fourth consecutive monthly drop after a 1.5% drop in September-2026, closing the month at 1,830.0 points. The decline pushed YTD-2026 decline to the benchmark to 11.4%, the second-highest in the GCC. In terms of sectoral performance, the overall trend was predominantly negative, with five out of the seven sectors recording declines during October-2026. This included declines in the Materials and the Consumer Discretionary sectors. The Materials Sector registered the largest decline among all sectors during the period, falling by 7.6% to close at 3,445.6 points, followed by the Real Estate Sector (-4.8%) and the Financials Sector (-4.0%). Aluminum Bahrain, the only constituent in the Materials Sector, recorded a 7.6% share price decline during October-2026. On the other hand, Seef Properties in the Real Estate sector registered a 6.9% decline during the month, dragging down the overall sector index during the month. Meanwhile, the Consumer Discretionary index recorded a marginal growth of 0.2% during October-2026 to close the month at 2,705.2 points, mainly as a result of a 9.5% gain in shares of National Hotels.

In terms of share price performance, according to Bloomberg data, National Hotels Co topped the monthly gainers list with a 9.5% increase in its share price during the month, followed by Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Co and Takaful International Co, which registered 9.5% and 4.1% share price gains, respectively. On the decliners' side, GFH Financial Group led the list with a 15.5% share price decline, followed by Esterad Investment Co and Ithmaar Holding, which posted monthly share price declines of 9.6% and 8.7%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange declined during the month with total volume traded declining by 55.1% to 28.0 Mn shares. Total value traded also saw a sharp decline of 42.1% to reach BHD 8.8 Mn. Al Salam Bank-Bahrain topped the monthly volumes chart with 9.3 Mn shares traded, followed by GFH and National Bank of Bahrain with 5.4 Mn and 3.8 Mn traded shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, GFH led with BHD 2.6 Mn worth of shares exchanged, followed by Al Salam Bank-Bahrain and National Bank of Bahrain, which recorded BHD 2.0 Mn each in value traded, respectively.

On the economic front, according to the World Bank, despite the shock of the US-Iran war, Bahrain's non-oil sector improved 2.2% y-o-y during the period between March-2026 and August-2026. However, oil production in the Kingdom reached only 50% of capacity during the period as a result of the war. The World Bank projects that a prolonged war in the region might further weaken exports and deteriorate fiscal balances and the Kingdom's debt dynamics.The World Bank expects the Kingdom's deficit to widen to 12.3% of GDP in 2026, mainly due to maritime trade disruptions and the continued restrictions on transit through the Strait of Hormuz, which negatively affect hydrocarbon and aluminum exports, together accounting for two-thirds of government's revenue. Furthermore, Bahrain's public debt is expected to remain elevated over the medium term and is projected to reach 147.7% of GDP in 2026, one of the highest in the GCC.

Muscat Stock Exchange

The MSX 30 Index recorded a 2.9% decline in October-2026 to close the month at 7,346.19 points. The monthly decline reduced the YTD-2026 performance to 25.2%, still the highest among the GCC markets. In terms of sectoral performance, the overall decline was comprehensive, as all three indices recorded a decline during October-2026. The Services Index registered the largest fall at (-1.9%) to close the month at 2,950.8 points, followed by the Financial Index with a close 1.7% drop and the Industrial Index with a monthly decline of 1.0%. The decline of the Services Index was brought about by a drop in share prices of a number of significant companies that comprise the sector, including Phoenix Power (-28.6%) and Sharqiyah Desalination Company (-8.6%). Similarly, the Financials Index declined 1.7% during October-2026, mainly weighed down by significant share price declines of a number of companies such as Oman Arab Bank (-25.0%) and Taageer Finance (-7.9%), which underpinned the Financial Index's overall drop during the month. Moreover, share price declines of heavy-weighted companies in the Industrial sector such as National Aluminum Products Company (-20.0%) and Raysut Cement Company (-14.4%) drove the overall drop of the Industrial Index during the month.

In terms of monthly stock performance, National Gas Company topped the list with 35.6% share price growth during October-2026, followed by Sohar Power and Gulf Mushroom Products Co. with 34.7% and 12.8% share price appreciation, respectively. On the decliners' side, Phoenix Power Co. topped the list with a 28.6% share price decline, followed by Oman Arab Bank and National Aluminium Products Co. with 25.0% and 20.0% share price falls during the similar period.

Trading activity on the exchange increased during October-2026 compared to the previous month. The total volume of shares traded improved 24.1% to 4.2 Bn shares in October-2026, compared to 3.4 Bn shares in September-2026. The total value traded on the exchange increased by 41.3% to OMR 1.3 Bn, up from OMR 0.91 Bn in the previous month. Sohar International Bank topped the monthly value traded chart with transactions totaling OMR 229.6 Mn, followed by Oman Telecom and OQ Base Industries, with total values traded of OMR 202.2 Mn and OMR 180.7 Mn, respectively. In terms of monthly volume traded, Sohar International Bank again led the list with 1.2 Bn shares, followed by OQ Base Industries and OQ Gas Networks with volumes of 709.1 Mn shares and 571.7 Mn shares, respectively.

In economic news, Oman's real GDPincreased by 5.1% y-o-y during Q2-2026 to reach approximately OMR 9.9 Bn. In terms of sectoral performance, petroleum activities recorded a growth of 14.7% y-o-y to reach OMR 3.4 Bn during Q2-2026 as compared to OMR 3 Bn in Q2-2025. In contrast, the Sultanate's non-petroleum activities improved marginally by 0.7% y-o-y during Q2-2026, reaching approximately OMR 7 Bn as compared to OMR 6.8 Bn during the corresponding period in 2025. Oman's agriculture and fishing activities witnessed 2.3% growth during Q2-2026, reaching OMR 325 Mn up from OMR 317.8 Mn in Q2-2025. Meanwhile, industrial activities registered a fall of 1.5%, reaching approximately OMR 1.9 Bn, as compared to about OMR 2.0 Bn in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Bank to complete the remaining conversion procedures

Gulf Bank granted CBK approval to proceed with conversion to bank compliant with Islamic Sharia'a

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Gulf Bank announced today that the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has approved its full conversion to a bank compliant with Islamic Sharia'a and authorized it to proceed with the conversion process. The approval was granted on November 4, 2026.

In a disclosure to Boursa Kuwait, the Bank said it had completed the regulatory and operational requirements specified in the CBK's preliminary approval dated August 18, 2025, as previously disclosed on August 18, 2026. The Bank subsequently sought the CBK's approval to proceed with the conversion.

Upon completion of the required procedures, Gulf Bank must apply to the CBK for removal from the Register of Conventional Banks and registration in the Register of Islamic Banks. The Bank is not permitted to commence Islamic banking operations until it has been registered in the CBK's Register of Islamic Banks.



Ahmad Mohammad Al-Bahar, Gulf Bank Chairman

The disclosure was made in accordance with the requirements governing material information under Chapter Four of Module Ten (Disclosure and Transparency) of the Capital Markets Authority's Executive Bylaws, issued under Resolution No. 72 of 2015 pursuant to Law No. 7 of 2010 Regarding the Establishment of the Capital Markets Authority and Regulating Securities Activities, as amended.

Ahmad Mohammad Al-Bahar:
- Approval reflects the progress made in advancing the Bank's strategic vision and positioning its business to meet the evolving aspirations of customers and shareholders
- Bank committed to completing the conversion with the highest standards of efficiency and professionalism

Commenting on the approval, Gulf Bank Chairman Ahmad Mohammad Al-Bahar said: "This approval marks a strategic milestone in Gulf Bank's conversion into an Islamic Sharia'a-compliant bank. I congratulate our shareholders, customers, and employees as we take this important step toward unlocking new opportunities that will further enhance the value we deliver to all stakeholders and support sustainable, long term growth."



Gulf Bank headquarters

He added: "We are proud of this achievement, which reflects the progress made in advancing the Bank's strategic vision and positioning its business to meet the evolving aspirations of our customers and shareholders. The next phase calls for the highest standards of efficiency and professionalism as we work to ensure a smooth and successful conversion."

Al-Bahar expressed his appreciation to Gulf Bank's employees for their efforts and dedication, and thanked the CBK for its cooperation and professional support throughout the project.

Gulf Bank reaffirmed its commitment to complying with all applicable laws and regulatory requirements, obtaining any further approvals required for the conversion, and disclosing any material developments.

Inflation, tariffs and voter revolt: The midterm verdict on Trump's economy

WASHINGTON, Nov 5, (AP): President Donald Trump was publicly humbled by inflation in the midterm elections, as rising prices provoked a blistering set of losses for Republicans in House, Senate and gubernatorial races.

Most voters said that Trump's own policies had smothered growth and driven costs even higher, according to The AP Voter Poll, a survey of roughly 100,000 midterm voters. The president's message that the fault lay with his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, didn't land. Americans saw prices start to climb with Trump's chaotic rash of tariffs last year, and energy costs spiked after he launched a war with Iran in February.

About two-thirds of voters said Trump's own policies had fueled inflation. By contrast, only about half of 2022 midterm voters said this about Biden's policies, according to AP VoteCast.

Voters in states from California to Mississippi were broadly in agreement that Trump's taxes on foreign imports have done more harm than good.

The election results matched what voters had been telling pollsters for months, but Trump had campaigned with a decidedly deaf ear.

"I've done a great job," Trump said at one of his final midterm rallies in Iowa. "Prices are coming way down."

Democratic victories in Tuesday's midterms signaled that most voters don't believe the economy or Trump is working for them.

Consumer prices are up 3.7% over the past 12 months, compared to an inflation rate of 3% when Trump began his second term. The president told reporters on Wednesday that the Iran war "drove the gasoline up a little bit short-term," but he felt the choice to fight Iran was worth it because of its push for nuclear weapons. "If I had to do it again, I'd have to do it again," he said.

There is no guarantee that a House and Senate with a Democratic majority can fix an economy pestered by uncomfortably high inflation. Trump and Congress would likely need to work on a bipartisan basis, or simply keep the economy stable enough to allow the Federal Reserve to ratchet down inflation through its setting of interest rates.

But voters did prefer Democrats to the status quo of a president who could govern with little to no congressional pushback from Republicans.

About 9 in 10 voters said the cost of living was a "crucial" or "major" factor in their vote for Congress. And about 6 in 10 of this group backed Democratic candidates in their local House races.

The underlying economy is stronger than many Americans think, with the S&P 500 stock index up more than 10% so far this year and the unemployment rate at a healthy 4.2%. Investors greeted the news of Democratic wins as a positive with stocks up on Wednesday.

Still, the major driver of growth has been the buildout of artificial intelligence - a boom that Trump has actively stoked by refusing to codify more aggressive federal oversight.

Voters don't share Trump's optimism about AI, which he has renamed "super intelligence" in federal documents.

Instead of buying the arguments that AI would increase productivity and accelerate growth, about 6 in 10 voters said AI will do more to hurt society.

The technology could displace workers as jobs get automated or it could be a financial bubble that if popped could wreak havoc on retirement savings. Despite the anxiety, only about one-quarter of voters said AI was a "crucial" factor.

Tech billionaires such as Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, Nvidia's Jensen Huang and Elon Musk have become frequent guests of Trump, attending state dinners or jetting abroad with the president. But the growing concentration of wealth has been disconcerting for voters.

Nationwide, about 7 in 10 voters said the economy favors wealthy people, while only about 3 in 10 said it's fair to everyday Americans. The wealth gap has become so extreme that even a majority of voters with a 2025 household income of $300,000 or more in the tech-heavy state of California felt the economy was tilted toward the rich.

Still, a slight majority of voters across the country had a "somewhat" or "very" favorable impression of capitalism, compared to about one-third who "strongly" or "somewhat" favor socialism.

But the election suggested that voters believe the government should use its heft to help reduce the cost of healthcare. About 6 in 10 said they wanted the government to play a "bigger role" in addressing medical expenses. Most voters said Trump's policies have made healthcare costs worse.

How voters felt about the overall economy generally depended on the size of their paychecks. While Trump campaigned on stats suggesting record low poverty, the working poor saw their own finances as crumbling.

For those earning less than $50,000 a year, about 6 in 10 said they were worse off now than they were two years ago before Trump became president.

People with higher incomes felt better about the economy, but that created a different problem for Trump. Higher-income voters were more concerned about the state of American democracy, and voters focused on democracy overwhelmingly broke for Democrats. Without congressional approval, Trump laid off thousands of federal workers, altered federal spending and imposed hundreds of billions of dollars in new tariffs that the Supreme Court earlier this year ruled were illegal.

About 4 in 10 households with 2025 household incomes above $200,000 said that democracy was their top issue, putting the issue about even with the economy. Voters in most lower-income categories, on the other hand, clearly prioritized the economy.

Overall, a slim majority of voters said government corruption was a crucial factor for their vote, while about half said this about high prices. Higher-income voters were much less likely than lower-income voters to see high prices as a key factor.

What most voters took away from the past 22 months of Trump's presidency was that he brokered deals, took government stakes in private companies and acted in ways that put him at the center of the economy instead of America's workers.

Most voters - about 6 in 10 - said Trump's priorities were misplaced.



Photo during the event.

KPC agency ban, tender law changes explained

Kuwait business law changes in focus at AmCham–ICAI session

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The American Business Council Kuwait (ABCK–AmCham Kuwait), in collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Kuwait Chapter, hosted a legal awareness session titled "Understanding Kuwait's Commercial Concealment Law and Article 18 of Decree-Law No. 67 of 2026," addressing significant legislative and regulatory developments and their implications for businesses operating in Kuwait.

The session brought together business representatives and professionals to examine three key areas of regulatory change: Kuwait's new Commercial Concealment Law (Decree-Law No. 78 of 2026), Article 18 of Decree-Law No. 67 of 2026 concerning contracting with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its wholly owned subsidiaries, and amendments to the Public Tenders Law (Law No. 94 of 2026).

The event opened with welcome remarks by Ketan Puri, Treasurer of the ICAI Kuwait Chapter and AmCham Kuwait member, followed by introductory remarks from CA Venkata Ramana Badida, Chairperson of the ICAI Kuwait Chapter, and Dr. Arezou Harraf, Chairwoman of the Board of AmCham Kuwait.

The session was led by Aaron Dikos, Chair of AmCham Kuwait's Legal Focus Group and Partner at Al Tamimi & Company, who provided an overview of the legislative changes, their practical implications, and potential considerations for companies reviewing their existing business and contractual arrangements.

The discussion examined the scope of the Commercial Concealment Law (Decree-Law No. 78 of 2026), which introduces a comprehensive framework addressing commercial concealment, including the unauthorized use of another party's trade name, licence, approval, or commercial registration to conduct business. Particular attention was given to the increased emphasis on beneficial ownership and actual control, rather than registered ownership alone. With a six-month transition period extending to February 2027, businesses were encouraged to review shareholder arrangements, nominee structures, powers of attorney, management rights, and beneficial ownership declarations. The law also introduces significant penalties for violations, including potential imprisonment, financial fines, confiscation, business closure, and licence revocation.

The session also addressed Article 18 of Decree-Law No. 67 of 2026, which prohibits Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries from contracting through local agents or commission agents, whether at the contract formation stage or during contract performance. The discussion highlighted the potential implications for foreign suppliers, contractors, and businesses currently engaged in KPC-related activities, emphasizing the importance of reviewing existing agency, commission, and intermediary arrangements while awaiting further guidance from KPC and the relevant executive regulations.

A third area of discussion focused on Law No. 94 of 2026 amending the Public Tenders Law, which introduces restrictions on the use of local agents and commission agents throughout public contracting procedures. The amendments also introduce changes to procurement thresholds and local content requirements, alongside a preference for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). With further implementing rules to be approved by the Council of Ministers, companies involved in public-sector procurement were encouraged to assess their existing contractual arrangements and prepare for the implementation of the new requirements.

Midterms are bad for incumbents – and even worse when energy prices are high

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

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By Michael A. Mische
University of Southern California

As Democrats and Republicans look at the overwhelming results of the 2026 midterm election, it's worth remembering what has become a political axiom in America: "It's the economy, stupid." Democratic strategist James Carville famously said that to presidential candidate Bill Clinton in 1992, but he might have said "it's energy prices" instead. The cost of energy underlies much of the economy, making energy and politics inseparable, especially when gasoline prices rise.

Midterm elections have historically been difficult for incumbent presidents and often shift the balance of power in Washington, D.C.

Many factors affecting gasoline prices are beyond a president's or Congress's control. Prices for crude oil and petroleum products such as gasoline are set on global markets as the results of economic forces of supply and demand. Even the companies that produce oil don't have as much influence as people might think, because of how that oil gets to refineries: Over 60% of the world's crude oil is transported by ocean tankers, with 20% of global supplies traveling through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been closed, or nearly so, for much of 2026 as the conflict with Iran drags on.

When energy prices rise, other prices, such as food, follow. Sudden spikes in gasoline prices can contribute to higher inflation, both regionally and nationally.

Voters pay attention to those changes, and incumbents are less likely to win reelection. For the 2026 midterm election, gasoline prices were the highest of any previous election. That put Republicans in the precarious position of defending their record.

Four American presidents - Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and Joe Biden - confronted the consequences of severe inflation and high fuel prices during midterm elections.

Richard Nixon was the first modern president to truly face an energy crisis that became political. In retaliation for U.S. support for Israel during the October 1973 Yom Kippur War, Arab members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries cut oil production and imposed an oil embargo on the United States. OPEC oil production fell by 5% a month, and crude oil prices rocketed 184% from prewar levels of $4.31 to $10.31 per barrel in March 1974. Nixon's federal price controls on petroleum didn't prevent U.S. gasoline prices from increasing 32%.

When Nixon resigned over the Watergate scandal in August 1974, Gerald Ford took office. Inflation was 12.3%, and gas prices were still high.

Right before that year's midterm election, Ford launched the "Whip Inflation Now," or WIN, campaign. But Republicans lost 48 House seats and five Senate seats.

"WIN" didn't work, and by the 1976 presidential election, gas prices were over 60 cents a gallon - adjusted for inflation to late 2026, that's $3.49. Ford lost his reelection bid to Jimmy Carter.

In Carter's first two years in office, starting in 1977, the monthly average price of unleaded gasoline in the U.S. stayed high and even climbed slightly. Inflation hit 9% in 1978.

In the 1978 midterm election, Democrats lost 15 House and three Senate seats. Inflation continued to climb, and by the 1980 presidential election, gas prices were twice what they had been in 1976. Plagued by those figures and the Iranian hostage crisis, Carter lost the 1980 election to Ronald Reagan.

Reagan implemented "Reaganomics" by cutting taxes and regulations, reducing government spending, tightening monetary policy and removing the remaining price controls on petroleum. By the mid-1980s, increased oil production from U.S. and non-OPEC nations led to an oil glut, lowering the average price of crude oil and U.S. gasoline price from previous highs.

In the 1982 midterms, Republicans lost 26 seats in the House and gained one in the Senate.

Reagan won reelection to the presidency in a landslide in 1984, but the challenges for incumbents remained in the 1986 midterms. Though crude oil prices were $15 a barrel and gas had dropped to 82 cents a gallon, Republicans lost five seats in the House and eight in the Senate.

In the lead-up to the midterms during Donald Trump's first term as president, crude prices had risen about 24% from when he took office in January 2017 to October 2018. And gas prices were up 22%. In the 2018 midterms, Republicans lost 41 House seats but gained two in the Senate.

Over the course of 2020, COVID-19 restrictions slowed the U.S. economy. U.S. crude oil production fell as gasoline demand plummeted by 40%. Prices rose because of pandemic-related supply chain backups.

And from Election Day in November 2020 to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the average price of unleaded gasoline in the U.S. rose by 66%, from $2.11 to $3.52 per gallon.

Also, as pandemic restrictions lifted and the economy began recovering, demand for gasoline rebounded, straining supplies.

Upon taking office in 2021, Biden took steps to curb rising energy costs, including releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in March 2022, which the Treasury Department suggested helped prevent gasoline price increases of $0.17 to $0.42 per gallon.

But other Biden policy moves made it harder to increase energy supplies. He canceled the Keystone XL pipeline project that would have brought more petroleum into the U.S. and suspended new oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Gulf of Mexico. He also recommitted the U.S. to the Paris climate accord, under which countries have promised to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, generally meaning moving away from fossil fuels as an energy source.

In June 2022, inflation reached 9.1%, a 40-year high. And U.S. gasoline prices reached an all-time high of $4.929 per gallon; adjusted for inflation, that's $5.60 a gallon today.

The 2022 midterm election wasn't as bad for Democrats as they might have feared, though it wasn't a success: The party lost nine House seats and one Senate seat. That's a reminder that energy prices aren't the only factor in voters' minds when they are casting ballots.

During the first 12 months of Trump's second term, crude oil prices fell 4.5%, U.S. oil production rose 3.3%, from 13.3 million to 13.7 million barrels per day, and the AAA national average price of regular unleaded gasoline fell 4.5%, from $3.12 to $2.98 per gallon.

On Feb. 28, 2026, U.S. military action against Iran disrupted Middle Eastern oil production and oil tanker traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. Initially, shipment volume plummeted, though by the end of September it had recovered to 82% to 92% of prewar levels.

Overall, Middle Eastern crude oil exports are averaging around 24 million barrels a day, exceeding prewar levels in part because of increased use of pipelines out of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Because of the war with Iran, AAA's national average price of unleaded regular gasoline has increased by almost 40%, from February's $2.98 price to $4.15 a gallon as of Nov. 3, 2026.

As the preelection polling had suggested, voters held Trump accountable for high gasoline and grocery prices, as well as an unpopular war.

It was a reminder of a basic economic and political principle: When the economy is doing well, voters are more likely to support incumbents and their parties. And when voters are pessimistic about the economy's future, they are inclined to vote against incumbents and their parties. (AP)

An engaging evening explores how life experiences become literary narratives

NBK organizes author Abdulrazzaq Behbehani at the first session of its 'Reading Club' in collaboration with That Al Salasil Bookstore

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) hosted Kuwaiti author Abdulrazzaq Behbehani at the inaugural session of its "Reading Club," launched in collaboration with That Al Salasil Bookstore. The event brought together a distinguished group of literature, culture, and reading enthusiasts as part of a series of literary and intellectual discussions connecting authors and readers, aimed at promoting a culture of reading and enriching Kuwait's cultural and intellectual landscape.

Held under the title "How Is a Story Born? From Experience to Writing" the evening offered insights into Behbehani's literary journey as he explored how everyday experiences and observations can inspire ideas and evolve into compelling literary narratives. He also shed light on the creative process, tracing a story's evolution from the initial spark of inspiration through idea development and plot construction to the completed written work.

During the session, Behbehani discussed several defining moments that shaped his literary journey and shared his perspectives on creative writing. He emphasized the importance of observation and reflection in transforming everyday details into literary works that resonate with and inspire readers.

Theevening featured an interactive discussion moderated by novelist and short-story writer Jameela Sayed Ali, offering attendees an opportunity to participate, ask questions, and hear the author's perspectives on his literary experience, while exploring various aspects of storytelling and creative writing.

The session also reflected the strong audience engagement generated by the initiative, with participants exchanging ideas and impressions on the evening's theme and gaining valuable insights from the experiences and perspectives shared by the author.

Commenting on the event, Talal Al-Turki, Vice President – Head of Public Relations and Event Management at NBK, said: "The strong attendance and engagement at the inaugural Reading Club session reflect growing interest in cultural and intellectual activities. This underscores the importance of creating spaces that bring authors and readers together for meaningful discussions that stimulate thought, open new avenues for learning, and encourage the exchange of experiences. We witnessed genuine enthusiasm among attendees to learn about Abdulrazzaq Behbehani's literary journey and hear his perspectives on creative writing and the stages a story goes through, from the initial idea to the completed text."

"Through the Reading Club, we aim to offer an enriching cultural experience that promotes reading and strengthens its role in society, while providing audiences with opportunities to engage directly with distinguished authors and intellectuals. We also look forward to welcoming prominent literary and cultural figures to upcoming sessions, in coordination with That Al Salasil Bookstore, to enrich the Club's content and cater to readers' diverse interests," Al-Turki added.

The Reading Club represents a new addition to NBK's cultural programs. Over the coming months, the Bank will continue hosting a series of discussions featuring distinguished authors and intellectuals, enriching Kuwait's cultural and intellectual landscape while offering audiences an opportunity to gain firsthand insights into their experiences, ideas, and creative perspectives.

Through its community programs and initiatives, NBK continues to support cultural and educational activities that promote awareness and foster a culture of lifelong learning, reflecting its commitment to serving the community and contributing to various aspects of human and cultural development.



Talal Al-Turki, Abdulrazzaq Behbehani, and Jameela Sayed Ali, with the teams from NBK and That Al Salasil.



Abdulrazzaq Behbehani during the session.



A view of the session.

Al-Turki:

- Attendees showed genuine enthusiasm for learning about the author's literary journey and gaining insights into his perspectives on creative writing
- We look forward to welcoming prominent literary and intellectual figures to future sessions, enriching the program's content and catering to readers' diverse interests

Community colleges race to train US chip workers

TEMPE, Nov 5, (AP): For three years, Ethan Mock worked part-time at a gym to make ends meet while taking on more than $100,000 in debt to pursue a degree in business administration. Earlier this year - his fifth and final at Northern Arizona University - he began looking beyond his major for a stable career.

So in July, when he learned over the radio about a tuition-free, three-month semiconductor crash course at Rio Salado College, he signed up immediately, despite having no background in the field. The draw: the community college's new program offered students a chance to interview with major chipmakers in Arizona.

Two months later, clad in protective gear inside a lab, Mock was operating advanced machinery used to turn thin slices of silicon into semiconductor chips that power smartphones, robotics and data centers.

"I do want to be in a booming industry," said Mock, 23. "It was very exciting to get right into the meat and bones of the semiconductor manufacturing, which is really cool."

Learning alongside him were a 64-year-old middle school teacher, a software developer in his 50s who recently was laid off, gig workers without degrees, and younger students considering alternatives to a traditional college degree.

The cohort is enrolled in a highly specialized chip-manufacturing course that's part of a growing network of short-term, hands-on programs at community colleges. Their goal is to fill entry-level positions, such as technicians who maintain and service production equipment, more quickly.

The push comes as the world's leading chipmakers struggle to find workers to run new U.S. plants. Encouraged by the sweeping 2022 CHIPS Act seeking to boost domestic production, they have poured over $800 billion into new U.S. semiconductor fabrication plants.

Yet the U.S. semiconductor industry could face a shortage of as many as 157,000 full-time workers by 2030, said Shari Liss, who leads talent initiatives at the global chip industry group SEMI and manages a workforce development program funded by the CHIPS Act.

Experts warn that Texas, Ohio, California, New York and Arizona are set to encounter the most acute semiconductor labor shortages, which may stall production plans and cripple U.S. ambitions to lead in artificial intelligence.

"What keeps me up at night is: how are we going to fill all of these roles?" Liss said. "The task is daunting."

Spurred by the CHIPS Act, federal agencies like the National Science Foundation and leading producers in the field, such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Samsung and SK Hynix, are funding the partnerships.

Governments and companies setting up plants help local schools buy equipment and expand access, while also advising them on the core skills the industry urgently needs so schools can accelerate targeted training.

Rio Salado College in Tempe, Arizona, is among schools shortening courses that once spanned up to two years. After consulting with companies like TSMC and Intel, the college opened a free, 12-week program to the public this fall.

An earlier version of the training serving veterans began about 15 years ago, when no Arizona community college offered semiconductor manufacturing programs, and Intel required a two-year associate degree for its entry-level jobs, said Rick Vaughn, who manages technology and engineering courses at Rio Salado.

This fall, about a dozen students are going through Rio Salado's semiconductor manufacturing program, which introduces students to skills needed in and around a fabrication plant.

The cohort first learns fabrication procedures through virtual-reality headsets. Then, they receive about 20 hours of hands-on training in Arizona State University's clean-room labs, wearing full protective suits and lab goggles that keep dust off equipment and raw materials.

Similar shorter on-ramps to interviews at semiconductor companies are offered at Austin Community College in Texas, West Valley College in Saratoga, California and many more schools. According to SEMI, over 200 community colleges and universities nationwide have coordinated with the group to prepare workers as new manufacturing plants come online.

"These short hands-on programs lead to well-paying local jobs at the biggest tech companies," Vaughn said. "Without a four-year commitment, they're not accumulating any debt. And this becomes a really credible path into this growing industry."

Making a chip is one of the world's most complicated manufacturing processes.

Technicians at the industry's advanced fabrication plants repeat hundreds of tightly controlled steps, building microscopic layers that form tiny electronic components and connections on silicon wafers, which the community college students can practice and perfect in clean rooms, said Trevor Thornton, an ASU electrical engineering professor teaching semiconductor engineering.

"We've been able to expand the program to bring more and more of these community college students to the clean rooms, which makes it easier for the industry to train them," Thornton said.

Some choose to pursue engineering degrees at ASU. "It's good for everybody," he added.

Whether accelerated programs have grown fast enough to meet the hiring demand of the likes of TSMC, Samsung and SK Hynix remains in question.

While trying hard to scout locally, those companies are bringing hundreds of experienced engineers and technicians from Taiwan and South Korea to help operate new facilities in Arizona, Texas and Indiana.

"They are here to train Americans," said Pearl Chang Esau, an education and workforce consultant for TSMC Arizona.

TSMC's $265 billion development project in northern Phoenix - the largest foreign direct investment in U.S. history - is expected to create 25,000 jobs in the next decade or so, Chang Esau estimated, with half of them being locally hired technicians.

"Because advanced semiconductor production has really only occurred in Asia, there's an element to this that's new and unprecedented," she said. "It has to be handled with care."

That care, Rick Vaughn once told his students, begins with habits that sound simple but matter inside a fabrication plant: precision, safety and reliability.

As Mock jotted down notes on workplace expectations and clean-room protocols, he considered starting as a technician and combining the frontline experience with his college degree in a few years.

It felt increasingly tangible, he said, as dozens of cranes rise over TSMC's expanding complex near his home in a suburb north of Phoenix and a network of supporting businesses move into the metro area.

"There are so many avenues," Mock said. "It's really endless."

Bank showcases SELECT card at Pink Day

Weyay sponsors Pink Day, reinforcing its commitment to health awareness & social responsibility





Weyay Bank supports Pink Day at Al Shaheed Park.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Weyay Bank concluded the month of October by sponsoring Pink Day, held at Al Shaheed Park under the theme of breast cancer awareness. As the event's banking sponsor, Weyay's participation reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting community initiatives that promote health awareness and encourage a culture of prevention and early detection.

This sponsorship aligns with Weyay Bank's broader social responsibility strategy and its belief that its role extends beyond financial services to supporting initiatives that create a positive impact and raise awareness of important social and health-related issues.

During the event, Weyay highlighted its efforts to empower young people throughout their educational journeys by offering innovative digital banking solutions designed to match their lifestyles and future aspirations.

Pink Day featured a variety of games and interactive activities that helped engage participants while reinforcing key awareness messages in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

The event also brought together female students from different schools, providing an opportunity to connect, exchange experiences, and participate in a positive and supportive environment. This further encouraged community engagement while highlighting the importance of health awareness and self-care at an early age.

Weyay's sponsorship of Pink Day reflects its vision of supporting young people through every stage of their journey, not only through innovative digital banking solutions but also through initiatives that contribute to their personal development and well-being. The bank remains committed to playing an active role in the community and contributing to a healthier, more informed, and empowered future generation.

As part of its participation, the bank showcased its SELECT Card, a youth-focused banking solution designed to help young customers get more value from their everyday spending. The card offers access to a wide range of exclusive discounts and offers across popular brands, restaurants, and retail outlets, enabling users to maximize their savings while managing their finances more effectively.

Retreating oil prices may allow for more options ahead

BoE hikes rate for first time in 3 years

LONDON, Nov 5, (AP): The Bank of England indicated Thursday that the sharp decline in energy prices after the U.S. midterm elections - if sustained - could limit the prospect of further interest rate hikes in the coming months.

After raising its main interest rate for the first time in more than three years to 4% from 3.75%, the bank said the outlook for U.K. borrowing costs largely hinges on what happens with the Iran war.

"We've seen encouraging news in the past 48 hours," Bank Gov. Andrew Bailey said at a press briefing following the first interest rate hike since August 2023. "The best thing that can happen is to resolve the conflict in the Middle East; there's no question about it."

The heavy losses suffered by the Republican Party in the U.S. midterm elections have been followed by a sharp drop in energy prices. Many believe that it's now less likely that U.S. President Donald Trump will launch fresh strikes on Iran, with Democrats gaining control of Congress early next year following their big wins this week. Many Republicans, including Vice President JD Vance on Wednesday, blamed the war for the party's poor performance at the ballot box.

Though Brent crude is down around $15 a barrel this week, trading at $96, that is still more than $30 more expensive than it was at this time last year.

If the decline in oil and gas prices is sustained over the coming weeks, then the expected peak in inflation next summer - which the bank anticipates will reach 5% - could be lower. That could temper the need for future rate hikes, and not just by the Bank of England.

Other central banks, including the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, have raised rates recently in response to the higher inflation stoked by the Iran war, and their interest rate strategies are largely contingent on what happens to energy prices.

Bailey said Thursday's hike "shouldn't be seen as the first in an inevitable long sequence of hikes" but stressed that the outlook depends on what happens in the war with Iran.

"Unless the conflict in the Middle East is resolved, neither does it seem likely to be the last increase," he said.



Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, second left, attends the Bank of England Monetary Policy Report press conference, alongside Deputy Governor for monetary policy of the Bank of England, Clare Lombardelli, left, Head of Media and Stakeholder Engagement at Bank of England, Katie Martin, second right, and Deputy Governor of the Bank of England for Markets and Banking, Dave Ramsden, right, at the Bank Of England in London, Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026. (Alishia Abodunde/Pool Photo via AP)

For hard-pressed households facing higher mortgage rates and businesses paying more to access capital, the hope is that Thursday's rate hike will be the last for some time.

"The path for interest rates is hanging in the balance, with U.S.-Iran hostilities holding the key," said Suren Thiru, ICAEW's chief economist.

The decision to raise interest rates was unanimous given the pickup in inflation this year, though one of the nine members of the Monetary Policy Committee backed an even bigger increase, to 4.25%.

The pressure on rate-setters has grown steadily in recent months. When inflation hit an 11-month high of 3.5% in September - well above the bank's 2% target - it cemented market expectations of a rate hike this month, with potentially more to come in 2027.

The main cause of the spike in inflation this year has been the sharp rise in fuel costs resulting from the Iran war and the ensuing bottlenecks in the Strait of Hormuz, which have squeezed global oil and gas supplies and pushed prices at the pump and household energy bills higher.

"There is now enough inflationary pressure in the pipeline caused by the rise in energy prices that an increase in Bank rate is warranted," Bailey said.

Interest rates in the U.K. had been trending downward from a 15-year high of 5.25% until the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran.

'Comic and crowd-pleasing tale'

Farrelly's 'I Play Rocky' is Stallone's own underdog story

By Jake Coyle

"I Play Rocky," Peter Farrelly's comic and crowd-pleasing tale about the making of "Rocky," might seem like a one-two punch of pure nostalgia. It's been almost exactly 50 years since Sylvester Stallone's breakthrough boxing classic first arrived in theaters. You need hardly more than a few Philadelphia steps or a holler of "Adrian" to summon its still-ubiquitous cultural presence.

But while "I Play Rocky" is far from lacking in memory-lane sentimentality, it's more aimed at now than it might appear. Today's movie industry is so corporate and risk-averse that Farrelly's "Rocky" revival is most enjoyable as a reminder that the movies are a quixotic, even goofy undertaking. Some of the best of them are inherently bad ideas.

The miracle of "Rocky" is really that someone actually said yes to making it. Stallone in his mid-20s had little more to his name than some soft-core pornography. There was scant evidence of audiences clamoring for a boxing drama. And yet Stallone, despite his humble status in Hollywood and, let's say, unique manner of speech, didn't just want to sell his script; he insisted on starring in it.

That's why, while Anthony Ippolito's winning performance as Stallone may be at the center of "I Play Rocky," the movie belongs to its skeptical producers and its apoplectic executives. Tracy Letts plays United Artists boss Sandy Maddox, a composite character. "Rocky" producers Irwin Winkler and Robert Chartoff are played by P.J. Byrne and Toby Kebbell, respectively. They are all agog when Stallone, recently homeless, turns down millions, resolute with his demand: "I play Rocky."

This is Stallone's own underdog story, one that neatly mirrors Rocky Balboa's unlikely rise. But it's the film's belief in the algorithm-adverse nature of the movies that makes "I Play Rocky" a fun, if featherweight romp.

Farrelly, who spent his career making comedies ("Dumb and Dumber" and "There's Something About Mary") before transitioning into more dramatic films like the best-picture winning "Green Book," makes "I Play Rocky" with some of the same spirit. He puts punchy, almost slapdash scenes alongside each other, rejecting preciousness for screwball momentum. The movies, "I Play Rocky" suggests, should be a lark.

Stallone's stubborn rise, by now its own myth, is breezily condensed in Peter Gamble's script. It starts in New York where Sylvester is still



This image released by Amazon MGM Studios shows Anthony Ippolito as Sylvester Stallone in a scene from 'I Play Rocky'. (AP)

Mike Stallone, and making little headway in the few auditions he lands. But his showbiz dreams are earnest. That sincerity is surely part of why Sasha (AnnaSophia Robb), a box-office cashier at a theater, agrees to go out with him. She becomes Stallone's first wife and, when they move to Los Angeles, the typist of his scripts.

And there are a lot of them. Stallone wrote more than a dozen screenplays before "Rocky." Success didn't come overnight, and it's this relentlessness that makes Stallone's story endearing. How many muscle-bound leading-men wannabes in Hollywood, then or now, put in that much work?

That basis in fact benefits "I Play Rocky" since it sometimes leans toward fairy-tale. Ippolito, previously best known for playing Al Pacino in "The Offer," nails Stallone's demeanor and voice without slipping into caricature - a feat considering how many Stallone impressions have come and gone over 50 years. But the performance is too sweet and saintly. Stallone had to be more than a naive savant to pull off what he did. Ippolito plays Rocky, not Stallone.

After watching the 15-round Muhammad Ali-Chuck Wepner fight in a bar, Stallone staggers home and, in just three-and-a-half days, "Rocky" pours out of him. "That's me on the page," he says, exhausted.

"I Play Rocky" eventually gets to the making of the film, but by then it's beginning to run out of gas. The centerpiece of the movie is the negotiation over the script, with Winkler and Chartoff playing middlemen ferrying back-and-forth offers. Stallone is parking cars when he turns down $360,000 - a figure four times the initial offer - to option the script without his casting.

Byrne and Kebbell are terrific as a pair of savvy, veteran producers who can hardly believe the project they've hitched their wagon to, and yet they keep the faith. Letts' studio chief, still smarting from missing out on "The Godfather" - another 1970s smash that at the outset looked like an ill-conceived turkey - gloriously fumes his way through his scenes.

They eventually settle on a much lower number and a much-reduced budget ($1 million) for "Rocky," meaning a threadbare production that moves to Philadelphia to avoid the unions in New York. The notoriously efficient John G. Avildsen (Jay Duplass) is brought in to direct.

Once the cameras are rolling - including, the movie acknowledges, an early use of the Steadicam - "I Play Rocky" slides more into nostalgic recreation. But you can still sense Farrelly's affection for moviemaking that follows instinct. In that way, "I Play Rocky" is not so unlike a much different making-of drama: Richard Linklater's "Nouvelle Vague," about French iconoclast Jean-Luc Godard and 1960's "Breathless."

A running gag in the movie is how actors exaggerate their talents to win a role. When Carl Weathers (Stephan James) turns up to play Apollo Creed, he eventually admits not knowing how to box - a confession Stallone also has to make. That this will turn into the biggest movie of the year makes "I Play Rocky" an affectionate ode to the oft-quoted, frequently forgotten William Goldman quote: In the movies, "Nobody knows anything."

"I Play Rocky," an Amazon MGM Studios release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for strong language and smoking. Running time: 128 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. (AP)

Obituary



Swedish conductor Herbert Blomstedt directs the Gewandhaus-orchestra during the first rehearsal after Blomstedt's official inauguration for 'Gewandhauskapellmeister' (conductor of the Gewandhaus) in the concert hall in Leipzig, Germany, on Aug 25, 1998. (AP)

Herbert Blomstedt, conductor of great orchestras, dies at 99

BERLIN, Nov 5, (AP): Herbert Blomstedt, who headed the San Francisco Symphony from 1985-95 and led orchestras in Scandinavia and Germany during a career over seven decades, died Wednesday. He was 99.

Blomstedt died at his home in Gothenburg, Sweden, according to his management agency, KünstlerSekretariat am Gasteig.

His final performance was on May 15 with the San Francisco Symphony at Davies Hall, when he entered the stage in a wheelchair and struggled to get through Gustav Mahler's Ninth Symphony, which halted for several minutes during the third movement. He was replaced for concerts the following two days and canceled future scheduled appearances this year.

"An extraordinary role model," Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra music director Manfred Honeck said. "One of the greatest conductors and a beacon of humanity."

Blomstedt had performances scheduled into 2027, including with the Vienna Philharmonic next June, just shy of what would have been his 100th birthday.

"Until the very end, we had hoped to celebrate his 100th birthday with a concert together," Vienna Philharmonic chairman Daniel Froschauer said.

Blomstedt was a Seventh-day Adventist who refused to conduct rehearsals on Friday nights and Saturdays because of the Sabbath but would lead performances on those days because he considered himself a preacher of music.

"Every bar, every note is shared by us, and it's a very intense communication," he said of his conducting during an interview with "CBS Sunday Morning" broadcast last year. "It's like intense sex."

He won Grammy Awards for recordings with the San Francisco Symphony of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" in 1993 and of Johannes Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem" in 1996.

"My mission is to bring good music to as many people as possible," he said in an interview posted in 2020 by the DW Music YouTube channel. "It makes you think differently. You gave a more keen feeling for proportions and beauty."

Blomstedt was principal conductor of the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra in Sweden from 1954-63, music director of the Oslo Philharmonic from 1962-68, principal conductor of the Danish Radio Symphony from 1967-77 and the Swedish Radio Symphony from 1977-82 and then became chief conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden and Semperoper in Germany from 1975-85.

"Almost like turning an electrical switch for me," he added. "When I hear the sound, it transforms me. I'm in heaven."

Esa-Pekka Salonen, who led the San Francisco Symphony from 2020-25, said during an interview with London's Philharmonia Orchestra in 2021 that he asked Blomstedt how he was filled with joy that orchestras responded to.

"I refuse to have any stress," Salonen recalled Blomstedt telling him. "I only do things I absolutely love. I only conduct music that matters to me and I only work with people that I like and in some cases love."

After leaving San Francisco, Blomstedt was principal conductor of Hamburg's NDR Symphony Orchestra from 1996-98 and music director of the Leipzig Gewanhaus Orchestra from 1998-2005.

Also:

NEW YORK: **Tony Butala**, cofounder of the Grammy-nominated trio The Lettermen, whose lush vocal harmonies made them one of the most popular vocal groups of the 1960s, died. He was 87.

The band's media coordinator, **Tracy Clark**, confirmed Butala's death to The Associated Press. She shared an official statement from the band.

"We have lost an integral member of The Lettermen family," it read. "It is with profound sadness that we announce the recent passing of Tony Butala, founding member of the international recording artists 'The Lettermen,' and recipient of a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Our most heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with his children, grandchildren, siblings, the love of his life, the entire Lettermen organization and all who knew and loved him."

A cause of death was not pro-

Music

Pope Leo XIV welcomes legend to Vatican

Bob Dylan comes knockin' on pope's door

VATICAN CITY, Nov 5, (AP): Bob Dylan came knockin' on Pope Leo XIV' s door Wednesday, as the American singer-songwriter and poet visited with the American pope at the Vatican during a break between concert dates in Italy.

The Vatican said the encounter was brief, with Leo giving Dylan a rosary and Dylan presenting the pope with a copy of his autobiography, "Chronicles: Volume One."

Leo had quoted from an unpublished protest song Dylan penned in 1963, "Go Away You Bomb," in his 2026 book "Disarmed and Disarming: Peace Is a Gift."

Leo was warning against the race to rearm and the recourse to nuclear weapons and quoted the lyric, addressed to a hypothetical atomic bomb: "I hate you cause yer man-made and man-owned, an' man-handled."

Two Vatican officials accompanied Dylan: the Rev. Antonio Spadaro, a Vatican culture ministry official who also accompanied Patti Smith to a July audience with Leo; and Andrea Monda, the editor of the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

Spadaro said Dylan had wanted to speak with Leo, and the two met in private for a few minutes. In an essay in L'Osservatore Romano, he recalled that the former Robert Prevost, who was born in Chicago in 1955, grew up familiar with Dylan's music.

He also noted that Dylan was very familiar with St. Augustine of Hippo, the inspiration of Leo's spirituality and Augustinian religious order, penning "I Dreamed I Saw St. Augustine" for the 1967 album John Wesley Harding.

Dylan, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016, wore a black hoodie and a loose tie. Vatican photos of the encounter showed him



Pope Leo XIV, (right), and the singer and Nobel prize winner Bob Dylan, (left), shake hands during a meeting in the Vatican on Nov 4. (AP)

with the hood over his head.

It wasn't Dylan's first papal encounter: He played for Pope John Paul II, and thousands of other people, in 1997 during a concert capping a religious congress in Bologna, Italy.

Dylan, who changed his name from Robert Zimmerman, was born to a Jewish family in Minnesota. He famously became a born-again Christian in 1979 and alienated some of his longtime fans with songs like "Gotta Serve Somebody" and "Saved."

In more recent years, Dylan has been more circumspect about his religious beliefs. In a 2022 interview with the Wall Street Journal, Dylan said that he was a "religious person" who reads the scriptures, meditates and prays.

Dylan met with Leo in between concert dates in Italy. He played in Milan on Monday and is playing Rome on Thursday. In his most recent concert before the meeting with the pope, Dylan sang his 1997 song "Tryin' to Get to Heaven" that contains the lyric, "I've been all around the world, boys/ Now I'm trying to get to heaven before they close the door."

Also:

NEW YORK: It's official: The influential **New Jersey** rock outfit My Chemical Romance has the No. 1 record in the **US**, having topped the all-genre Billboard 200 for the first time in their career. It just happens to be with an album that is two decades old.

"The Black Parade (20th Anniversary Deluxe Edition)," a new reissue of their career-defining rock opera, 2006's "The Black Parade," is No. 1, Billboard announced.

Upon its initial release, the album cemented My Chemical Romance's shift from mainstays of the emo scene to mainstream recognition, becoming one of the most inventive bands of the 21st century. Twenty years on, it continues to resonate with nostalgic fans and new ones.

Competition was stiff. Back in 2006, the soundtrack to Disney's "Hannah Montana" was released the same week, selling 281,000 copies in the U.S., according to Nielsen SoundScan. "The Black Parade" debuted at No. 2 with 240,000 copies. (Compare that to their previous album, 2004's "Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge," with a best sales week of 38,000 copies, and it was a massive commercial leap for the then-still alternative band.)

"It's hard to go up against that type of a dedicated fan base, for Miley (Cyrus), Disney and pop music," says Paige Owens, author of "500 Essential Emo Albums."

"The Black Parade" is also an unusual, hyperambitious release. Back in 2006, when My Chemical Romance's contemporaries were still playing in emo tropes, the band released a rock opera for outsiders - replete with world-building, characters, narrative, costumes and spectacle, covering themes of mortality, legacy, resilience and defiance.

And sonically, it was a giant step forward: a '70s rock-inspired release filtered through the metallic noodling of guitarist **Ray Toro**, the punk rock ethos of its other guitarist Frank Iero and the unmistakable tenor of frontman and mastermind Gerard Way. Comparisons to various classic rock greats, including David Bowie and Queen, were frequent. Critical acclaim followed. "All of those things are familiar," says Jason Pettigrew, former editor-in-chief of "Alternative Press." "But they were also recontextualized with something remarkably contemporary."

There are a few reasons. "The Black Parade" was re-released with 20 physical variants and six bonus tracks last week, which inspires sales, encourages collectability and fosters a sense of exclusivity among fans.

Award ceremony for short video contest held in Auckland

13th China Film Festival opens in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, Nov 5, (Xinhua): The 13th China Film Festival held its premiere in the New Zealand capital on Tuesday evening, with several Chinese films set to be screened during the festival.

"Traces of Justice" was presented at the premiere, followed by an engaging interaction between the creative team and the audience.

"I'm particularly pleased that the film is about a police officer, because I spent 40 years as a police officer in Wellington and around New Zealand before I became a politician," Greg O'Connor, assistant speaker of New Zealand House of Representatives, said at the premiere.

The opening and premiere ceremony in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, was held on Monday evening. Five films, namely "Once Upon a Time in the Middle East," "Dear You," "Pegasus 3," "All Wishes Come True" and "Blades of the Guardians: Wind Rises in the Desert," will land at cinemas simultaneously in Auckland and Wellington on Nov. 6-8 during the festival.

The China Film Festival and the New Zealand Film Festival have been held alternately in the two countries. The 13th China Film Festival is organized jointly by the China Film Administration, the Chinese Embassy in New Zealand and the Chinese Consulate General in Auckland.



The creative team of the film 'Traces of Justice' interact with the audience at the premiere of the 13th China Film Festival in Wellington, New Zealand on Nov 3. (Xinhua)

Also:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand: The award ceremony for the 2026 "Modern China Through My Eyes" Chinese-language short video competition was held Wednesday in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

The competition attracted a total of 130 students from 24 schools and universities in the Auckland consular district, who submitted 45 videos showcasing modern China from their perspectives.

In his speech, Chinese Consul General in Auckland **Chen Shijie** said the competition provides a platform for students in New Zealand to demonstrate their Chinese language learning achievements and tell stories about China through their own perspectives, while also opening a window for people in New Zealand to experience the unique charm of Chinese culture. He encouraged more young people in New Zealand to learn Chinese and understand China, and become envoys of China-New Zealand friendship.

Also:

NEW DELHI: A Chinese film festival kicked off in New Delhi on last Friday, marking the first such event in more than a decade.

Under the theme of "Two Nations, One Screen," the two-day event features the screening of around 10 Chinese films, and is attended by a host of Indians from various fields, including art, cinema, culture, academics, as well as cinema lovers.

At the opening ceremony, the Delhi International film Festival (DIFF) President Ram Kishore Parcha said the film festival is expected to help build "a new bridge encompassing cinema, culture, traditions, and our bilateral relations."

"It will unlock fresh avenues for co-productions and artistic exchange between film-makers from both the nations," he said.

Vibrant display of sportsmanship

OWWA Cup opens in Kuwait, unites Filipino communities through sports










KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The first-ever OWWA Cup in Kuwait kicked off with a vibrant display of sportsmanship, teamwork and camaraderie as members of various Filipino communities gathered for the opening activities on Oct 23, 2026 at Argan Bedaya in Sabah Al-Salem.

Dubbed "OWWA Cup: Ang Liga ng OFW 2026," the sporting event brought together overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from different community groups to compete in cheerleading, volleyball and basketball, providing an avenue for Filipinos to showcase their athletic abilities and strengthen their bonds outside the workplace.

The opening activities began with the registration of participating teams, which had previously registered through a QR code system, followed by an opening program attended by Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Jose A. Cabrera III, newly appointed Labor Attaché Sofia E. Matote, OWWA Welfare Officers Lorna R. Obedoza and Emmanuel Santiago C. Diaz, Philippine Embassy officials and members of the OWWA On-site Welfare Office team.

A ceremonial lighting of the torch marked the official opening of the tournament, symbolizing the beginning of the sporting festivities and the spirit of unity among the participating Filipino communities.

The ceremony also featured a parade of participating teams representing the basketball, volleyball and cheerleading competitions, setting an energetic tone for the much-anticipated tournament.









Top and above: Photos from the first-ever OWWA Cup in Kuwait.

The cheerleading competition followed, with five teams taking part in the opening-day contest, showcasing their creativity, coordination, synchronized routines and team spirit before fellow OFWs and guests.

The volleyball and basketball tournaments are scheduled to continue every Friday until Nov 13, giving participating teams several opportunities to demonstrate their skills and compete for the championship titles.

The winners of the cheerleading, volleyball and basketball competitions will be recognized during an awarding ceremony on Nov 20, to be held alongside the Alagang OWWA Serbisyo Caravan, which will bring welfare services closer to the Filipino community in Kuwait.

Beyond the competitive aspect, the OWWA Cup aims to promote solidarity, friendship and active community participation among Filipinos working and residing in Kuwait. It also provides an opportunity for OFWs to connect with fellow Filipinos, nurture their talents and engage in recreational activities beyond their professional commitments.

Through initiatives such as the OWWA Cup, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration continues to strengthen its community engagement efforts and promote the welfare and social well-being of Filipinos overseas.

As the tournament progresses, participating teams and their supporters are expected to bring more excitement to the succeeding matches, all united by the event's central message: coming together through sports and building stronger Filipino communities in Kuwait.

"OWWA Cup: Sama-sama sa laro, nagkakaisa sa bawat laban."

Hayat: Equestrian Federation committed to supporting riders at home and abroad

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Equestrian Federation President Masoud Hayat said preparations are complete for the local showjumping league, which begins at Friday at Sahara Equestrian Resort, with riders from all local clubs competing in beginner, intermediate and advanced categories.

The opening day's competitions start at 8:30 am, featuring classes over heights of 60, 100, 105, 110, 125 and 135 cm. Saturday's programme will include competitions over 80, 100, 110, 120 and 130 cm, before concluding with the 140-cm Grand Prix, sponsored by UDV. The total prize money for the round exceeds KD 10,000.


Kuwait Equestrian Federation President Masoud Hayat

Hayat said the federation's main goal is to advance Kuwaiti equestrian sport and develop a new generation of riders capable of building on the country's achievements and representing Kuwait with distinction at international events.

He emphasized that nurturing riders and improving their technical abilities remain top priorities, with the federation committed to providing comprehensive support at both local and international levels. This includes creating opportunities for riders to gain experience, compete against high-calibre opponents and further develop their skills.

He added that the local league, alongside the various tournaments scheduled throughout the season, forms part of the federation's strategy to ensure regular competition and provide riders with opportunities to improve their performance.

Kuwait's first Senior Boxing Championship begins Saturday


Kuwait Boxing Federation board member Adel Abdullah

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The first Senior Boxing Championship of the 2026-2027 season will begin on Saturday, at the Kuwait Boxing Federation's hall in Sabah Al-Salem, with competitions continuing until next Wednesday and featuring boxers from local clubs.

The event is the fourth tournament organized by the federation since the current season began in September, as part of efforts to boost domestic competition, attract more participants and raise the technical standards of local boxers.

Kuwait Boxing Federation board member Adel Abdullah said the board is committed to staging tournaments that meet the highest standards while addressing any challenges that could affect the competitions. He stressed the importance of providing an ideal environment for club boxers to showcase their abilities.

Abdullah said the federation seeks to create a strong competitive platform that will help develop boxers, reflect the progress of Kuwaiti boxing and ultimately improve the performance of national teams in international competitions.

He also commended the efforts of the federation's working committees, praising their dedication to preparations and organization around the clock to ensure the tournament runs smoothly and achieves its objectives.





Liverpool's Dominik Szoboszlai, left, and Fenerbahce's Kerem Akturkoglu challenge for the ball during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Fenerbahce and Liverpool in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

Sports

'Day has come for me to hand back No. 7 shirt of our national team'

Ronaldo bids farewell to Portugal after record-breaking career

LISBON, Nov 5, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo won't play for Portugal anymore, ending on Thursday a career that spanned six World Cups and included a European title and the men's all-time international scoring record.

His announcement marked the end of a lauded career that began more than two decades ago before Euro 2004 and finished with him walking out on the national team after falling out with coach Jorge Jesus.

"To the Portuguese people, the day has come for me to hand back the No. 7 shirt of our national team," the 41-year-old Ronaldo said in a long video message on social media. "I never felt it belonged to me alone but for 23 years I had the privilege and the responsibility of wearing it, defending it and carrying it with me into stadiums all around the world.

"Today the time has come to pass it on to the future. It was not an easy decision because some decisions are not made with the mind alone. They are also made with the heart. A journey that began in August 2003 and changed my life forever has come to an end."

Ronaldo will keep playing at club level, which he is expected to finish at the end of this season with Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia.

He is in pursuit of his 1,000th career goal and sits on 985. Of those, a record 146 goals came in 234 appearances with Portugal.

While long-time peer Lionel Messi finished his career with Argentina last month after a much anticipated farewell match, Ronaldo's final appearance with Portugal has ended up being on Sept. 24 in a 1-0 home win over Wales in the Nations League.

Jesus kept him on the bench for the following match and said he didn't plan to start him in the next one, so Ronaldo decided to leave the team's training camp. Jesus later said Ronaldo would be welcome back and the decision to return was up to him.

The Portuguese soccer federation released a statement expressing "deep gratitude and immense admiration" for Ronaldo's service to the country.

"Cristiano Ronaldo has raised Portugal's profile and inspired generations of young people who dream of following in his footsteps; for many of us, he is the greatest player of all time!" the federation said.



In this file photo, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo gestures after having a goal disallowed by the VAR during the Nations League soccer match between Portugal and Wales in Lisbon. (AP)

It said it intends to organize a tribute to Ronaldo "in which the fans and the country can one more time applaud and celebrate a player who has given us so much."

Before Ronaldo debuted for Portugal by replacing Luís Figo in a 2003 friendly against Kazakhstan, Portugal had never won any major trophies.

Then he and successive generations of talented teammates made Portugal a regular presence at major tournaments.

Portugal won its first major title at Euro 2016, and the Nations League in 2019 and 2025.

"Throughout my entire career with the national team, I always pushed myself beyond my limits," Ronaldo said. "I wanted to win. I wanted to be better. I wanted to make history.

"I always demanded the most of myself. I always wanted more. I always believed we could go further. And I gave everything I had for this shirt."

Portugal qualified for the World Cup only three times before Ronaldo's time - 1966, 1986 and 2002. On his watch, Portugal qualified every single time.

The same was true for the Euros, which Portugal had played only three times before Ronaldo - 1984, 1996 and 2000. After he arrived it played in the tournament every time. Portugal was runner-up in Ronaldo's Euro debut in 2004 at home.

At the World Cup, Portugal went as far as fourth place with Ronaldo, in his tournament debut in 2006. It was among the title candidates nearly every time after that, though, with a best result a quarterfinal appearance in 2022.

"There were perfect afternoons and nights. There were victories I will never forget. There were defeats that still hurt to remember" Ronaldo said. "I made mistakes. I suffered. There were also moments when I couldn't give the Portuguese people what they so desperately wanted. But I never gave up, I never stopped feeling proud to represent Portugal."

Portugal's best World Cup finish remains third place in 1966 with the great Eusébio in what was the team's only World Cup participation until 1986.

Ronaldo was the first man to score in six World Cups. He reached an all-time 11 goals at this year's World Cup, surpassing the previous Portugal record of nine from Eusébio.

He has scored for Portugal in 23 consecutive calendar years, from 2004-26.

Whites remain in qualification race despite loss

Kuwait Club's Al-Khatib takes responsibility for Nasaf defeat

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Club coach Firas Al-Khatib has taken full responsibility for his side's 3-2 defeat to Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi in the fourth round of the AFC Champions League Two, apologizing to the club's supporters.

"I take responsibility for the loss and apologize to Kuwait Club's fans," Al-Khatib said after the match.

The Syrian coach said Kuwait Club had enjoyed a strong first half and gone into the break with a 2-0 lead, but a defensive lapse after the interval, coupled with costly errors, allowed Nasaf to turn the game around and score three goals.

Despite the setback, Al-Khatib praised his players for their hard work and commitment, pledging to address the defensive mistakes ahead of the team's upcoming fixtures.

He insisted that Kuwait Club remained firmly in the race for qualification and would fight for a place in the next round in its final two group matches.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Club player dribbles past an opponent during Kuwait Club-Nasaf match.

Al-Khatib added that the team had already turned its attention to domestic competition and was preparing for Sunday's Zain Premier League encounter against Sahel.

Kuwait Club remains second in the group with six points despite the defeat. Nasaf Qarshi climbed to third with four points, level with Bahrain's Khalidiya, while the UAE's Al-Wahda tops the standings with nine points.

Burgan poised to join Gulf Handball Championship

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Burgan is on the verge of securing a place in the Gulf Clubs Cup Winners' Championship, scheduled to be held in Bahrain from Nov 21 to 30, following the withdrawal of UAE club Sharjah.

Informed sources said the Gulf Handball Federation is expected to invite Burgan to replace Sharjah, citing the Kuwaiti club's recent triumph in the Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship.

Sharjah is the second team to withdraw from the competition, following Bahrain's Al-Shabab, who was replaced by Al-Najma.

The sources added that Burgan are awaiting an official invitation from the Gulf federation, after which the club will submit the request to Kuwait's Public Authority for Sport to obtain final approval.

Burgan's participation is expected to be settled within the next few hours, once the official invitation arrives and the necessary administrative procedures are completed.

If approved, Burgan will join Kuwait Club as the second Kuwaiti representative in the tournament, earning the opportunity through their recent Asian club championship success.



Players warm up during training session.

Qadsia aims to bounce back

Arabi seeks third straight win in Zain Premier League

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

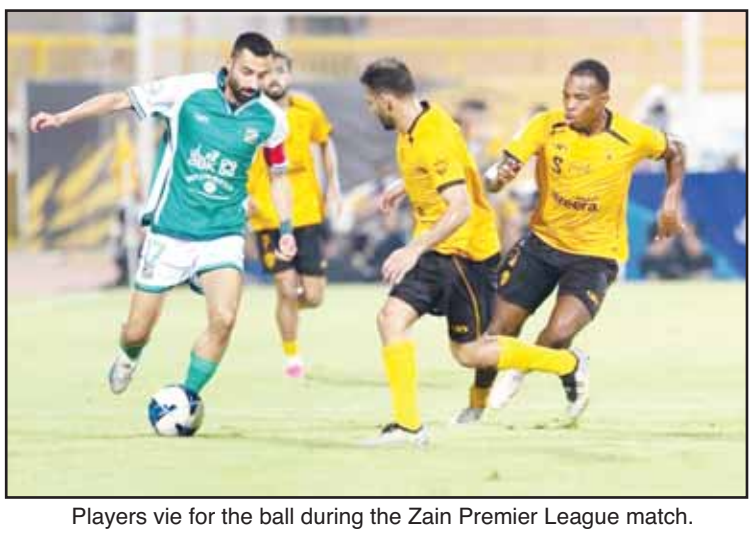
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Arabi and Qadsia head into Saturday's eighth-round Zain Premier League fixtures with different ambitions as they prepare to face Nasr and Jahra, respectively.

Arabi hosts Nasr at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 5:25 pm, while Qadsia take on Jahra at Mubarak Al-Ayar Stadium at 7:40 pm.

The round kicks off on Friday with two encounters. Fahaheel (nine points) meets Sulaibikhat (four points) at Tadamon Stadium at 5:25 pm, followed by Shabab (eight points) against Tadamon (three points) at Shabab Stadium at 7:40 pm.

Sixth-placed Arabi, on nine points, will be looking to build on its recent resurgence and claim a third successive victory to move closer to the league's leading sides.

Bosnian coach Darko Nestorovic will be banking on his players' confidence after their convincing 3-0 derby triumph over archrivals Qadsia in the previous round.



Players vie for the ball during the Zain Premier League match.

Nasr, meanwhile, will be eager to recover from dropping two points in a 2-2 draw with Shabab last Monday. Third in the standings with 13 points, they are determined to return to winning ways.

National coach Thaher Al-Adwani knows his side face a difficult assignment against Arabi and will need a highly focused and collective effort to come away with all three points.

In the other headline fixture, fourth-placed Qadsia (12 points) will be out to recover from its derby disappointment and make amends for a below-par display against Arabi.

The Yellow Castle had entered that encounter with expectations on their side, but its performance and the eventual outcome told a different story.

Coach Mohammad Ibrahim knows his team can ill afford another slip-up, especially with the gap to leader Kuwait Club having widened to four points.

Although the league campaign is still in its early stages, further dropped points could undermine Qadsia's bid to reclaim a title they have not won in 10 seasons.

Jahra, ninth with seven points, will seek to exploit Qadsia's predicament under national coach Ahmad Abdulkarim. Their confidence has also been boosted by a 3-0 victory over Fahaheel in the previous round.

Qadsia has approached the Public Authority for Sport and the Kuwait Football Association, requesting a change of venue for their match against Jahra to ensure the safety of players from both sides.

The club cited the poor condition of the pitch at Mubarak Al-Ayar Stadium as the reason behind its request.

Real Madrid stages another comeback

Liverpool beaten by Fenerbahce

ATHENS, Greece, Nov 5, (AP): Real Madrid produced another late comeback in the Champions League as Federico Valverde struck in stoppage time to seal a 3-2 win over AEK Athens.

Liverpool, however, fell to a surprise 3-2 defeat at Fenerbahce on a dramatic night of action, while Manchester City battled to victory over RB Leipzig by the same score after twice blowing leads, and Como beat Lens 9-1.

Last season's runner-up Arsenal beat Slavia Prague 2-1.

Madrid joined back-to-back defending champion Paris Saint-Germain as the only other team to have a 100% winning record after four games played in this season's competition. But that perfect start was put under serious threat in Greece.

The record 15-time European champion twice went behind at Allwyn Arena and needed Valverde's long-range strike in the 92nd minute to seal victory.

"Of course, I prefer to win more comfortably, but these games in the final minutes - only we can win them," Madrid coach Mourinho told broadcaster Movistar.

Madrid also needed a late rally to beat Roma 4-3 last month, scoring three goals in the last 10 minutes, including a 90th minute winner from Antonio Rudiger.

AEK led through Aboubakary Koita in the first half before Jude Bellingham leveled with a back heel.



Real Madrid players celebrate with Federico Valverde after he scored his side's third goal during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between AEK Athens and Real Madrid in Athens, Greece. (AP)

Stavros Pilios put the home team 2-1 ahead in the 75th, but Kylian Mbappé equalized three minutes later.

Mbappé then hit the bar before Valverde's dramatic winner.

"The players have courage. I'm very lucky to have players of this quality. Very lucky," Mourinho said.

Madrid is second in the standings, behind PSG on goal difference.

Liverpool twice blew the lead against Fenerbahce before losing for the first time in this season's Champions League.

Volleyball Federation Cup set for mid-Nov kickoff

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The 2025-2026 Kuwait Volleyball Federation Cup is set to begin in mid-November, with the preliminary round featuring a single match between Al-Arabi and Sahel. The winner will advance to the quarterfinals.

The draw, held at the federation's headquarters, placed the participating clubs into two groups. Group A includes Kuwait Club, Shabab, Nasr, and Sulaibikhat, while Group B includes Qadsia, Yarmouk, Sahel, Al-Arabi, and Kazma.

In a related development, the Competitions Committee announced that the 2026-2027 Federation Championship will start on Nov 26 and run for three weeks.

The Premier League will resume on Dec 21, with the opening round featuring Yarmouk vs. Al-Arabi, Kuwait Club vs. Sahel, Nasr vs. Shabab, and Sulaibikhat vs. Qadsia.

Second-round fixtures will see Kazma face Al-Arabi, Yarmouk meet Shabab, Kuwait Club take on Qadsia, and Nasr play Sulaibikhat.

The third round will feature Kazma vs. Sahel, Al-Arabi vs. Shabab, Yarmouk vs. Sulaibikhat, and Kuwait Club vs. Nasr.

The draw ceremony was supervised by Competitions Committee Chairman Aref Al-Subaihi, Vice-Chairman Dr Jaber Al-Sharif and Committee Rapporteur Abdullah Al-Najdi, with representatives of the participating clubs in attendance.

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