

Kuwait's Deputy Amir receives Egyptian FM

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Kuwait PM attends opening of Microsoft's digital innovation center

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026 / JUMADA AL-THANI 6, 1448 AH | emergency number 112 | NO. 19361 | 12 PAGES | 150 FILS

Amir returns home after US medical checkups







Amiri Diwan photos

His Highness the Amir is welcomed home by His Highness the Crown Prince and senior officials following routine medical checkups in the US.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah returned to Kuwait on Sunday from the US after completing routine medical checkups, the Amiri Diwan announced.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Amiri Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Abdulaziz Meshal Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah were among those welcoming him at the airport.



7

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor honors CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC)



8 NREC sustains profitability in Q3 '26 as strategic restructuring advances

Justice Minister hails drop

Juvenile cases plunge 58%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait confirmed the 58 percent decline in juvenile cases lodged with the Public Prosecution from Jan 1 to Sept 30, 2026, compared to the same period in 2024, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Sumait revealed that the total number of cases decreased from 2,815 to 1,176 -- a drop of 1,639 cases, according to data from the electronic systems of the Justice Ministry.

He asserted that preventing youths from being involved in crimes is a national imperative. He pointed out that dealing with juvenile delinquency necessitates a holistic strategy, integrating legal safeguards, preventive measures, public education, care and rehabilitation to protect the future of the youths and guarantee public safety.

He elaborated that the country witnessed substantial legislative changes



Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait

recently, such as the amendment of the Traffic Law, which now stipulates harsher penalties for serious traffic offenses, revised Penal Code which

Continued on Page 5

Iran's Bahrain strikes trigger Gulf backlash

Manama warns sovereignty non-negotiable

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday strongly condemned the renewed Iranian attacks targeting the Kingdom of Bahrain, describing them as a flagrant violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The ministry said the attacks constituted a blatant breach of international law, the UN Charter and UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

It stressed Kuwait's categorical rejection of these attacks, warning that they represented a dangerous escalation threatening regional security and stability.

In a statement, the ministry reiterated Kuwait's full solidarity with Bahrain and affirmed its support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability.

Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday strongly condemned continued Iranian attacks on the Kingdom, including a drone attack earlier in the day that was intercepted and destroyed by air defense systems over Bahraini airspace.

The ministry said the latest attack came two days after a similar incident early Friday, when two drones were intercepted. It noted that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had openly claimed responsibility for the attacks.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:51	Asr	14:32
Sunrise	06:13	Maghrib	16:53
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:15

Kuwait Crown Prince receives Prime Minister and Ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday morning.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

He further received Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Qatar-Kuwait bonds take spotlight at 49th book fair

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Qatar's participation as guest of honor at the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair offers an opportunity to celebrate the historic brotherly ties between the two countries and strengthen cultural cooperation, Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait **Ali Al-Mahmoud** said on Sunday.



Al-Mahmoud

Speaking to KUNA ahead of the fair, scheduled for November 18-28, Al-Mahmoud said the participation reflected the deep-rooted relations between the two nations and their peoples, as well as the shared commitment of their leaderships to advancing bilateral ties.

He praised Kuwait's leading cultural role and its longstanding contributions to Arab publishing, printing and translation, noting that its cultural institutions and literary publications had helped strengthen intellectual and cultural links across the Gulf and Arab world.

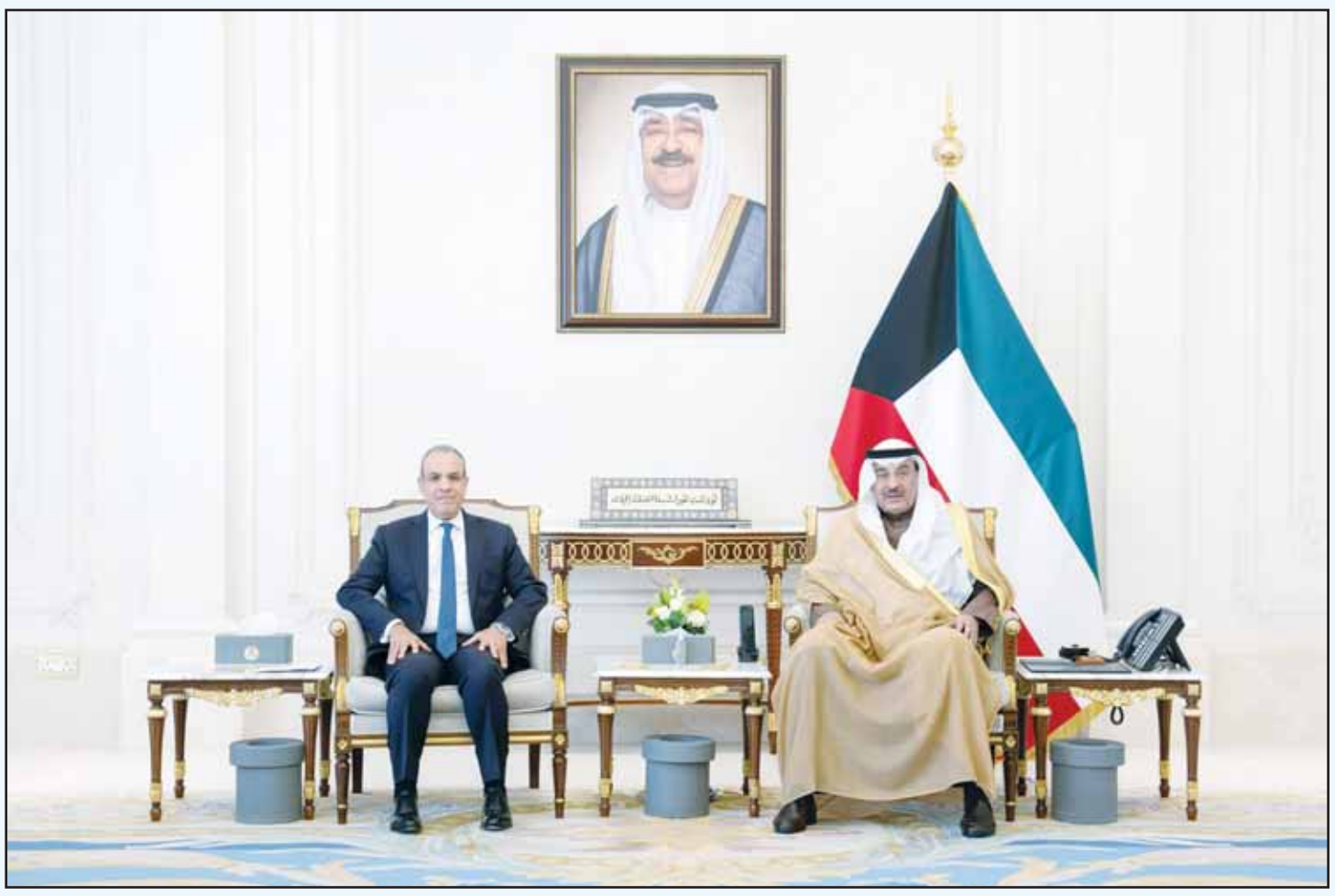
Al-Mahmoud described the book fair as a major annual cultural event bringing together readers, researchers and publishers, and providing a platform for exchanging ideas and showcasing new literary and intellectual works.

He said Qatar's participation would go beyond displaying books and publications to present a broader picture of the country's diverse cultural scene, history, heritage and national identity through various activities and events.

The Qatari pavilion will also showcase the contributions of Qatari writers and intellectuals, while introducing visitors to the country's literary, intellectual and heritage experiences.

Al-Mahmoud expressed hope that the participation would open new avenues for cultural exchange and cooperation among institutions, publishers and writers in both countries.

He thanked Kuwait's leadership, government and people, as well as the fair's organizers, for hosting Qatar as guest of honor, wishing the event success and further prosperity for Arab culture.



Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Egyptian Expatriates.

Kuwait's Deputy Amir receives Egyptian FM

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Egyptian Expatriates Badr Abdelatty and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace.

The visit comes as part of Abdelatty's official visit to Kuwait.

The meeting reviewed the relations between Kuwait and Egypt and discussed several issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior officials.







Ministry of Interior photos

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah inspects Nuwaiseeb border crossing and the islands of Auha, Kubbar, Umm Al-Maradim, Qaruh and Failaka to assess security readiness and operational requirements.

First Deputy PM checks border readiness

5 islands undergo security assessment

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah inspected Nuwaiseeb border crossing, as part of his ongoing field visits to Al-Salmi and Al-Abdali border crossings.

During the visit, the minister reviewed the development works, the level of security preparedness and the services provided to travelers, the ministry said in a press statement.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef was accompanied during the visit by the head of the Financial Affairs and Support Services Sector Brigadier Abdulmohsen Al-Ashkan, the head of the Border Security Affairs Sector Brigadier Ibrahim Al-Khalil, the Director General of the General Department of Coast Guard Brigadier Staff Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Director General of the General Department of Land Border Security Brigadier Yousef Al-Muhaini as well as several senior officials from the Ministry of Interior, the General Administration of Customs, and representatives of the National Bank of Kuwait, it added.

The minister instructed officials to closely monitor progress, address obstacles, and ensure that all operational requirements are met, the statement noted.

In addition, he stressed the importance of coordination among the various entities operating at the crossing to ensure smooth entry procedures and the prompt completion of transactions in accordance with security requirements.

He also inspected the islands of Auha, Kubbar, Umm Al-Maradim, Qaruh, and Failaka to assess their security readiness.

During the visits, he received briefings on the nature of operations, the duties assigned to personnel stationed there, and their requirements.

He stressed the importance of providing necessary resources to enable personnel to carry out their duties effectively.

He finally praised the efforts of ministry's personnel and the participating authorities in safeguarding the country's security and stability, the statement stated.

Three decrees strip fourteen of citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Three decrees published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm" revoked Kuwaiti citizenship from 14 individuals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 178/2026 revokes the Kuwaiti citizenship certificates of 10 individuals, including those who acquired citizenship through them.

Decree No. 179/2026 revokes the citizenship of one individual.

Decree No. 180/2026 revokes the citizenship of three individuals, including those who acquired it through them.

Other Voices

How many times has Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef been wronged?

By Ahmad alsarraf

IT is difficult to count how many times Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, has been wronged, as it has happened repeatedly.

It is only natural for a senior official to lose some popularity as a result of the reform measures he introduces in the institutions under his supervision. This is because he enforces the law equally, tightens penalties against violators, and closes loopholes through the quick introduction of appropriate legislation.

Ultimately, truth will come out one day.

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For financial reasons, as well as Kuwait's harsh weather conditions, most expatriates who do not own private cars tend to avoid public transportation, particularly since its network does not adequately cover the country.

Taking advantage of this situation, some citizens purchased hundreds of buses to transport tens of thousands of school students, along with a similar number of workers and employees, between their homes and schools or workplaces.



Ahmad alsarraf

The Ministry of Interior has now realized the seriousness of the situation. It has become clear that most operators providing transportation services across three shifts are either operating illegally or holding invalid licenses, often without insurance coverage.

The project has turned into a disaster that threatens the safety and well-being of dozens of innocent children.

It was essential to stop this violation, and there was no room to give bus company owners or service users more time to resolve the situation. Extending the deadline would only mean allowing this serious violation to continue.

The widespread dissatisfaction and complaints directed at the Ministry of Interior were not surprising, given the disruption the decision caused to the lives of hundreds of thousands of citizens, residents, parents, school owners, companies, and factories.

Hundreds of bus drivers suddenly lost their livelihoods. The problem is humanitarian, commercial, and educational.

There is no doubt that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef's decision to immediately halt this dangerous situation and cancel unregulated transportation services was absolutely correct.

Therefore, it is crucial to quickly close the loopholes and regulate the situation to protect the rights of all parties. However, this will likely come at the expense of service users, the vast majority of whom are low-income employees and laborers, as well as a large number of private school students.

Currently, residents pay between KD 15 and KD 25 per month to bus drivers who transport them to and from work. This represents approximately 10 percent to 20 percent of their monthly salaries or income.

Returning to the previous transportation system following the recent adjustments will automatically increase their expenses. Many of these individuals have yet to recover from the shock of losing their homes in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and other areas and being forced to relocate to more expensive neighborhoods. Rent and transportation costs now consume more than 40 percent of workers' salaries and wages.

We urge the government to expedite the construction of labor cities, provide safe and affordable transportation for workers, and encourage public transportation companies to offer comfortable and extensive services to replace the haphazard and unregulated transportation that has been banned.

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Diplomats pay tribute to outgoing UN-Habitat chief Dr. Amira Al-Hassan at an event hosted by UAE Ambassador Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi.

44 diplomats pay tribute to outgoing UN-Habitat chief

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Outgoing Head of the UN-Habitat mission in Kuwait and the GCC countries, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, was honored by 44 ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions at a gathering held at the UAE Embassy to celebrate her distinguished career and contributions.

The event was hosted by UAE Ambassador Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi and co-organized by the ambassadors of Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya and the Union of the Comoros, marking the conclusion of Al-Hassan's tenure. It brought together representatives of international organizations, distinguished personalities and close friends.

Ambassador Al-Neyadi praised Al-Hassan's contributions to sustainable urban development, environmental conservation and international cooperation. He described the occasion as a tribute not only to her professional achievements, but also to her ability to build partnerships, strengthen human connections and bring people together.

He noted that the participation of five ambassadors in organizing the event reflected the deep respect she enjoys within the diplomatic community. He added that diplomacy is not only about connecting nations, but also about nurturing relationships built on mutual respect, trust and shared experiences.

Responding to the tributes, Al-Hassan expressed her appreciation and said, "I am Kuwaiti. Kuwait is my homeland and my home." She affirmed that although her official mission with UN-Habitat has ended, her friendships, relationships and commitment to Kuwait will continue.

She highlighted her work in strengthening international partnerships, advancing sustainable urban development, protecting the environment, supporting afforestation and empowering women and young people. She also thanked Kuwait's leadership, government, people and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their support of the office's work and its commitment to empowering national talent within international organizations.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

64 years of Kuwait's Constitution: honoring founders, shaping future

"ON November 11, 64 years ago, the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah signed the Constitution of the State of Kuwait, ushering in a new era for a nation small in size but great in its aspirations and the dreams of its people," columnist **Bassam Fahad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"On that day, the Kuwaiti people were not merely witnessing the signing of a legal document, but rather the beginning of a new chapter for an independent state that would build its institutions, organize its affairs, and chart its course toward the future.



Al-Ghanim

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem (May God have mercy on him) understood that a nation's independence is not limited to raising its flag and declaring sovereignty. It also requires a constitution that regulates governance, defines the responsibilities of the authorities, safeguards rights, and establishes the foundations of a modern state.

Hence, just a year and a half after Kuwait gained independence on June 19, 1961, its Constitution was finalized, approved, and promulgated. It was not drafted in a single day, but rather emerged from a national effort involving members of the ruling family and the Kuwaiti people.

The Constituent Assembly was elected in 1961 and began its work in January 1962 under the chairmanship of the late Abdul Latif Mohammed Thunayan Al-Ghanim. Its members took part in discussing and drafting the Constitution alongside the Constitution Committee, chaired by Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah(may God have mercy on him).

The Assembly unanimously approved the draft Constitution on November 3, 1962, and subsequently submitted it to the Amir, who ratified and promulgated it without making any amendments on November 11.

This decision carried significant historical importance. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem wanted the Constitution to reflect the outcome of national participation and ensure that the state was founded on clear principles that combined the emirate system with the traditions of Kuwaiti society and the institutions of constitutional governance. Kuwaitis affectionately came to call Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem the "Father of the Constitution," adding to his historic title, the "Father of Independence." Participation in public affairs was not new to the people of Kuwait. Since its early beginnings, Kuwaiti society had been accustomed to consultation between the ruler and the people. The country had also experienced previous forms of political participation, most notably the Legislative Council of 1938.

The Constitution established principles that have become an integral part of the state's history and identity. Justice, freedom, and equality are the pillars of society. All people are equal before the law, the judiciary is independent, and state authorities exercise their powers in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

The Constitution's drafters placed particular emphasis on education, health care, employment, family, social welfare, and housing, recognizing that building a state is inseparable from investing in its people.

Over the past six decades, Kuwait has experienced periods of development and progress, as well as crises, disputes, and difficult challenges. Our history has taught us that having a Constitution and state institutions alone is not enough to achieve progress. Nations also need effective governance, competent officials, an independent and fair judiciary, a strong education system, a productive economy, and citizens who understand their rights and responsibilities.

As we commemorate the 64th anniversary of the Constitution, Kuwait is entering a new phase in its political history following the Amiri decree issued on May 10, 2024, which dissolved the National Assembly and suspended certain articles of the Constitution for a period not exceeding four years to study the country's democratic experience.

This is a critical juncture that calls for a careful review of past experiences, including both achievements and challenges, to draw lessons and strengthen state institutions, enhancing their ability to function effectively and deliver results.

Loyalty to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem and the framers of the Constitution goes beyond circulating their photographs and speeches on special occasions. It means studying their experience, understanding the circumstances they faced, appreciating their contributions to their country, and continuing their work by building a state that meets Kuwait's present needs and fulfills the aspirations of future generations.

Sixty-four years after establishing a constitution for its modern state, Kuwait now possesses considerable human, financial, and institutional resources and expertise. At the same time, the country faces economic, educational, and administrative challenges that call for a long-term vision, meaningful reforms, and greater investment in human capital to keep pace with the major transformations taking place across the Gulf region and the world.

On this cherished national anniversary, we remember with deep gratitude and loyalty the Amir of Independence and Father of the Constitution, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the President of the Constituent Assembly, Abdul Latif Thunayan Al-Ghanim, and all the founders who contributed to drafting Kuwait's Constitution and establishing its institutions.

May God have mercy on them and reward them abundantly for their service to their nation.

If our forefathers succeeded, with the resources available to them at the time, in building a modern state and establishing its Constitution, what can we, with the knowledge, wealth, and experience at our disposal today, contribute to ensure that we pass on to our children and grandchildren a more advanced, prosperous, and stable Kuwait?"

Also:

"Sixty-four years later, we commemorate the anniversary of the promulgation of Kuwait's Constitution on November 11, 1962, when the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (May God have mercy on him) signed the document that established the country's political and national sovereignty, completing the journey toward independence, which had been declared on June 19, 1961," Kuwaiti writer **Tariq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"This milestone paved the way for the election of the first National Assembly following independence in 1963, in accordance with the 1962 Constitution, which granted every Kuwaiti citizen by birth the right to vote and run for parliamentary election.

As this historic anniversary returns in November 2026, it serves as a reminder of the importance of restoring the proper political course and reaffirming the principles of genuine democracy enshrined in the 1962 Constitution, particularly those governing candidacy and elections.

The amendments to the provisions and articles of Amiri Decree No. 15 of 1959 concerning the Nationality Law, aimed at protecting national identity, have been reinstated after 67 years. This fulfills a long-standing aspiration of Kuwaiti citizens and future generations, an aspiration that their fathers and grandfathers enjoyed during the first National Assembly elections in 1963.

I would like to reaffirm that November 11, 1962, will remain etched in our memory, particularly following efforts to address the manipulation and tampering that affected Kuwaiti national identity and contributed to the decline of Parliament's democratic role over the years. This is reflected in the records of successive National Assemblies following the October 1996 elections and beyond.



Idris

The political chaos and disorder that characterized this period, including practices that undermined the dignity of Abdullah Al-Salem Hall and its national and developmental role in advancing the democratic process after liberation, stand as clear evidence of that decline.

To avoid reopening old wounds and revisiting scenes and practices that undermined the standards of political discourse during those dark days, it is enough to recall the events of Black Wednesday, when protesters stormed the National Assembly and violated the sanctity of Abdullah Al-Salem Hall.

Rather than dwell on those events and practices, we should remember that November 11, 2026, the anniversary of the promulgation of the 1962 Constitution, remains a beacon guiding our future and that of generations to come, ensuring the stability of Kuwait and its people and guiding the country towards a safe and secure future.

This can be achieved when responsibility for safeguarding democracy and correcting the legislative, political, and executive course rests with officials who remain committed to the principles of the National Document and the same foundations upheld by the founders since 1963.

November 11 will remain an everlasting day in Kuwait's national memory. May God protect Kuwait, its wise leadership, and its people from all harm."

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

KFF crews contain fire at Shuwaikh restaurant





Left: Flames engulf Shuwaikh restaurant. Right: Firefighters from the Shuwaikh Industrial and Al-Shaheed fire stations extinguish the blaze.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Fire broke out in a restaurant in Shuwaikh on Saturday afternoon, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) explained that firefighters from the Shuwaikh Industrial and Al-Shaheed fire stations extinguished the blaze. No injuries were reported. The site was subsequently handed over to the relevant authorities.

MoSA 'launches' WhatsApp service for co-op complaints

Five arrested for riding buggies on public roads

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Ministry of Social Affairs has urged citizens and cooperative society patrons to submit complaints, observations, and reports of violations or irregularities via WhatsApp at 22484531, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Complaints may also be submitted in person at the Citizen Service Department at the ministry's headquarters.

In a press release, the ministry said the initiative follows directives from Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah to strengthen oversight of the cooperative sector and protect the rights of shareholders and consumers.

The ministry affirmed that it would follow up on reports within its jurisdiction, investigate them in coordination with the relevant departments, and take the necessary legal action.

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Crackdown on illegal ATV use: Public roads are not for off-road recreational vehicles (ATVs or buggies)—a lesson that five young men learned the hard way as they ended up in a traffic detention cell, instead of continuing their joyride.

Within 24 hours, traffic officers arrested these five individuals riding the abovementioned vehicles on various public roads.

They were then referred to a traffic detention facility and their buggies were impounded.

According to a security source, legal measures against these individuals are underway.

The source urged the public to comply with traffic regulations in order to avoid legal problems.

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'Silent guards' risk deportation: Building guards who fail to report suspicious or illegal activities taking place on properties under their supervision will face administrative deportation and may be banned from returning to Kuwait, reports Al-Anba daily quoting security sources.

They explained that building guards are responsible for reporting any violations or illegal activities occurring within the properties they oversee. Security authorities deal firmly with all reports and information concerning suspected violations.

Security coordination among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries allows authorities to exchange and register deportees' information. As a result, individuals placed on deportation lists may be barred from entering other GCC countries in accordance with applicable procedures and regulations.

Crackdown results in 104 vehicle seizures

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry continued its campaigns in the governorates, resulting in the issuance of numerous traffic violation citations and impoundment of 104 vehicles.

A security source confirmed that the traffic officers arrested traffic law violators during these campaigns, in addition to the issuance of traffic violation citations, while 104 vehicles were impounded and then referred to the garage for impounded vehicles.

KFF shuts down 102 establishments in Farwaniya

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), carried out an inspection campaign in Farwaniya Governorate to identify buildings and establishments that violate fire safety and prevention regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in the administrative closure of 102 establishments and the issuance of violation notices and warnings to 158 others for failing to comply with KFF safety requirements.



An official issues violation notice.

Administrative decision overturned

Court 'grants' full pension to MoI employee caring for disabled aunt

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Eleventh Administrative Circuit of the Court of First Instance has overturned an administrative decision refusing to grant early retirement to a female Ministry of Interior employee who was assigned to care for her aunt, who has a moderate intellectual disability. The court affirmed her entitlement to a retirement pension equivalent to her full salary, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The lawsuit was filed by Lawyer Ali Al-Ali, who asked the court to overturn the administrative authorities' refusal to apply Article 42 of Law No. 8/2010 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

The citizen has worked as a senior psychological researcher at the Ministry of Interior since 2010. She is responsible for caring for her aunt, who has a permanent moderate intellectual disability, as confirmed by official certificates issued by the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA).

Despite submitting a retirement application under Article 42 of the law, the relevant authorities rejected her request, citing her failure to meet the sequencing requirements stipulated in Article 25 of the same law.

Lawyer Al-Ali insisted that his client was entitled to the legal benefits granted to individuals responsible for caring for persons with disabilities. He submitted official documents confirming her caregiving responsibilities, her aunt's disability classification, and the fulfillment of the legal requirements for retirement.

PAFN issues 5 citations over illegal food activities

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, conducted an inspection campaign following a complaint about food-related activities being carried out inside a private residence in Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in the issuance of five citations for various violations, including operating a food establishment without a health license, handling food without authorization, and employing workers without valid health certificates.

The necessary legal measures were taken against those responsible.







KUNA photos

Some photos from the event.

Kuwait launches first 'With Gulf Students' regional competition

JPPI, VO Holding promote youth creativity

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Joint Program Production Institution (JPPI) of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has started preparations for the first 'With Gulf Students' (Ma'a Al-Talaba Al-Khaliji) competition -- a new regional initiative aimed at bringing together students from the Gulf and strengthening cooperation in the fields of media and education, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The competition was launched in Kuwait in partnership with VO Holding upon approval by GCC Ministers of Education at their recent meeting and it is being organized in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat General.

In a press statement, JPPI revealed that the competition aims to solidify media and educational cooperation among GCC member states by providing a competitive platform for students throughout the region. It affirmed that the competition will reinforce the shared Gulf identity, while promoting knowledge, creativity and positive competition among younger generations.

Director General of JPPI Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said the institution's decision to host the competition is in line with its commitment to implement sustainable media initiatives for Gulf youths, with the aim of enriching their cultural awareness and strengthening their collective identity. He explained that the competition is educational and media platform for deepening bonds of brotherhood and solidarity among Gulf countries, while encouraging constructive competition and closer relationships among young people in the GCC.



KUNA photo

Sheikha Ohoud Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairperson of VO Holding and Director General of JPPI Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

He is hoping that the competition will be an annual initiative covering all GCC countries and serving as a launching point for broader media and educational projects in the future.

He also reaffirmed the institution's commitment to support creative initiatives and expand partnerships with the private sector. He stressed the importance of producing meaningful Gulf media content that reflects the aspirations of younger generations and serves future generations.

Meanwhile, Sheikha Ohoud Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairperson of VO Holding, expressed pride in the partnership with JPPI, praising its pioneering contributions to develop and promote purposeful media and educational projects throughout the Gulf region.

She described the launching of the competition as a qualitative leap, and that it builds on the success of the original program in Kuwait and the vision of VO Holding to transform successful national initiatives into Gulf-wide projects capable of delivering sustainable regional impact. "True investment in the future of our nations begins with investing in the potential of our youth," she asserted, indicating that the achievements of the original program in Kuwait served as the impetus for its expansion into a regional platform.

She added that the new platform is for students from GCC countries under a shared framework focusing on knowledge, creativity and positive competition, hence, generating more opportunities for young people to develop their abilities, showcase their talents and pursue excellence and achievement.

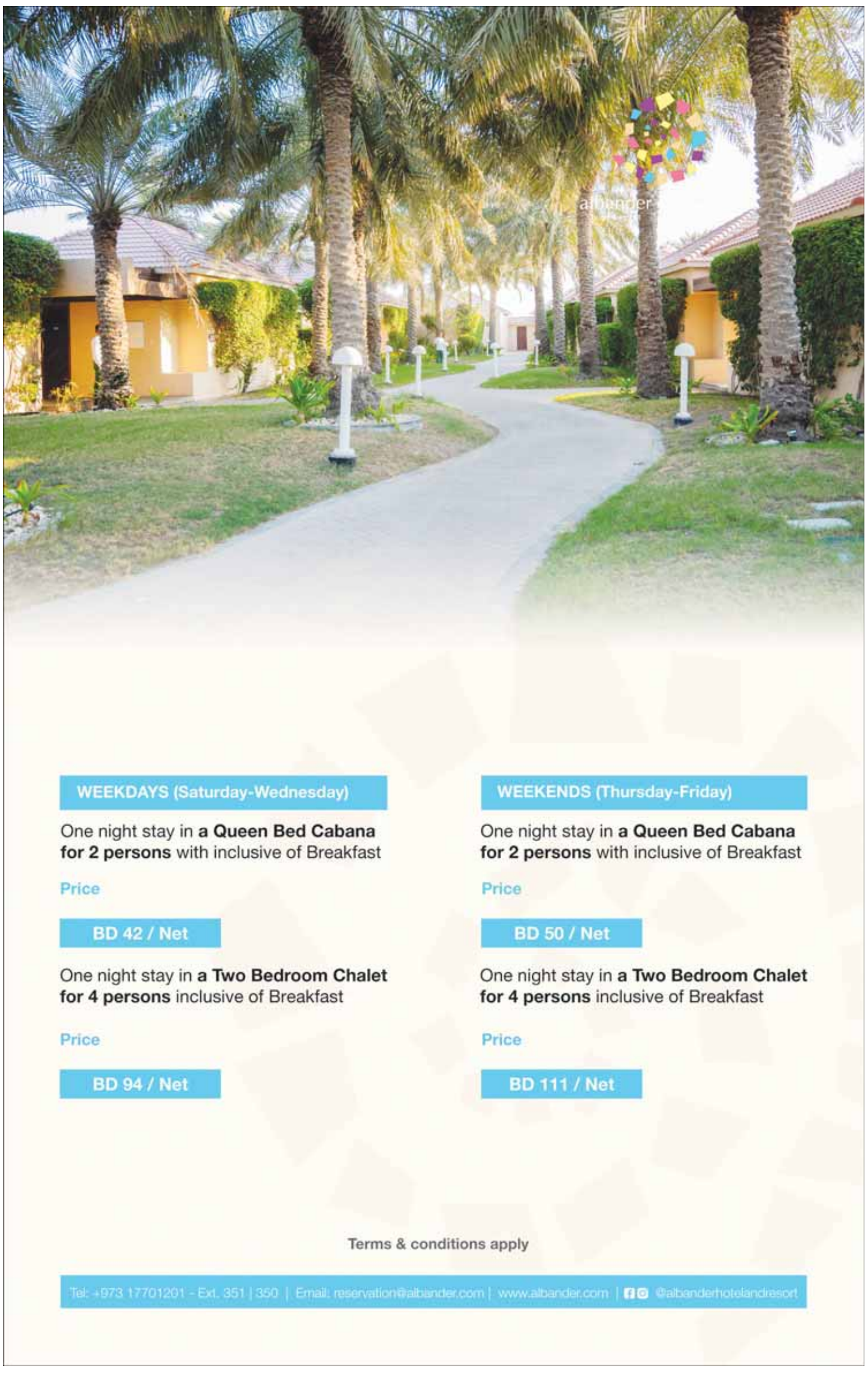
JPPI and VO Holding also extended their sincere gratitude and appreciation to GCC Secretary General Jasem Al-Budaiwi and Kuwaiti Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei for their unwavering support throughout the project's development -- from its conception until the final approval stages, particularly their efforts in securing the endorsement of GCC Ministers of Education, paving the way for its launching as a regional project.

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to empowering persons with disabilities

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah attended a celebration in honor of the founder of the Arab Open University -- the late Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

University President Dr. Saleh Al-Hammadi, academic and administrative officials attended the event, themed, "Empowering Persons with Disabilities Toward an Inclusive and Sustainable Society".

In her speech, Al-Huwailah pointed out that the inclusion of persons with disabilities is a national responsibility and humanitarian mission. She stressed that these persons are vital partners in development, and that their empowerment requires a supportive environment, which guarantees equal opportunities and promotes their participation in all sectors. She affirmed that Kuwait is keen on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.









KUNA photos

Some photos from the event.

KFAS Science Month '26 features 55 events to inspire young minds

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has announced that its Science Month 2026 initiative, launched at the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre with the theme, "Mathematics and Computing," will run until Dec 12, featuring 55 scientific and interactive events to raise scientific awareness and inspire the next generation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, KFAS disclosed that the initiative aims to promote scientific literacy and stimulate curiosity among young people and young adults through workshops, experiments and interactive activities that encourage critical thinking, creativity and a deeper understanding of science.

The opening ceremony was held last Thursday, with the participation of scientific clubs from public and private universities, as well as science and technology enthusiasts.

The event features 25 scientific and interactive pavilions, offering activities and experiments for different age groups.

According to KFAS, the pavilions provide visitors with an opportunity to explore the scientific programs and projects of participating institutions, while engaging with students and researchers. The activities strengthen connections between academic institutions and the community, bringing scientific knowledge closer to the public.

The opening ceremony included an interactive and science-themed play area, where visitors took part in activities and challenges inspired by mathematical and computing concepts. It was aimed to make learning more engaging by encouraging participants to explore scientific principles through practical experiences.

Other Voices

Brian Tracy: What he taught me about peace of mind

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb

During a visit to Brian Tracy's home in San Diego, I noticed a copy of the Holy Qur'an in his study. I asked him about it. He explained that he found its storytelling inspiring and drew lessons and wisdom from sacred books.

I have been thinking about that conversation since Andrew Phillips, Managing Director of Brian Tracy Solutions, told us that Brian had passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family. It captured something I admired about him: a continuing curiosity about people, ideas and the stories through which we understand our lives.

Before meeting Brian, I had spent considerable time with his books and programmes, including courses through Brian Tracy University. Attending his Speaking Academy in San Diego in 2025 brought those lessons into a more personal setting. I came to know his wife, Barbara, and his daughter, Dr. Christina, and had the opportunity to spend time with him beyond the classroom. Those encounters are now memories I treasure.

People knew Brian for his teaching on achievement, productivity, leadership, selling and time management. The lesson that stayed with me most was the importance he gave to peace of mind. It belonged at the centre of a successful life, alongside the goals we worked so hard to achieve.

For someone working in law, training and business, that lesson matters. There is always another deadline, another difficult decision, another ambition. It is easy to postpone contentment until everything has been resolved. Brian encouraged me to think about the life I was creating while pursuing those goals. What would achievement mean if I could never feel at peace with myself?

His teaching often began with simple words: "I like myself." "I can do it." "I am responsible." "I am unstoppable". He encouraged people to repeat constructive messages until they became familiar habits. I understood their value through the choices they encouraged: approaching a challenge with confidence, recognising my own responsibility, and being more deliberate about how I responded to others.



Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb with Brian Tracy.

Taking responsibility was especially important. Circumstances can be unfair, and much lies beyond our control. Yet we still have decisions to make about our preparation, our conduct and our next step. That was how I came to understand his message. It brought my attention back to what I could actually do.

He was equally practical about goals. Decide what matters. Write it down. Give it your attention and make time for it. His lessons made me ask whether a busy day had produced something useful, and whether my time had brought value to someone else. They also encouraged me to be more thoughtful about the conversations and relationships to which I gave my energy. As he said wisely "time is an opportunity to contribute".

What made these ideas memorable was his gift for storytelling. He could explain a principle through a story so clearly that you would recognise it later in your own experience. You remembered the story, and with it, something you could use. The conversation about the Qur'an felt entirely consistent with that gift and his interest in wisdom wherever he encountered it.

My heartfelt condolences go to Barbara, Dr. Christina, Catherine, Michael and David, and to Andrew Phillips, my dear friend Medhet Zaki, and the teams who worked with him.

Those of us who learned from Brian have a responsibility now: to put those lessons into practice and share them carefully with others. I hope to honour him through teaching that remains useful to people in their work and their lives.

I will miss our conversations, Brian. Thank you for the knowledge, the encouragement and the kindness. May God have mercy on you. What you taught us will continue to help others.

Kuwait, Egypt sign new deals in multiple sectors

Ties enter 65th year with renewed push

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwait and Egypt held on Sunday the 14th session of their joint committee, reviewing bilateral ties and ways to expand cooperation across several fields.

The Kuwaiti side was chaired by Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, while Egyptian Foreign Minister, International Cooperation and Egyptian Expatriates Minister Badr Abdelatty headed his country's delegation.

In his address, Sheikh Jarrah noted that this year marks the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, describing their longstanding ties as a model of close political, economic and cultural cooperation.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to advancing shared goals in line with the strategic partnership aspired to by the leaderships and peoples of both countries.

Sheikh Jarrah said Kuwait views Egypt as a key pillar of joint Arab action and regional security and stability, praising its diplomatic efforts to address regional challenges through dialogue and peaceful solutions.

He also commended Egypt's support for Arab states and its role regarding developments in Gaza, Sudan and Libya.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with Egyptian Foreign Minister, International Cooperation and Egyptian Expatriates Minister Badr Abdelatty.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and explored ways to broaden cooperation, while also discussing regional and international developments and joint efforts to address current challenges.

The session concluded with the signing of the meeting's minutes and several cooperation documents, including memoranda of understanding on participation in international exhibitions and fairs, economic and free zones, and civil aviation.

The two sides also signed executive programmes for 2027-2028 in vocational training, and for 2027-2029 in cultural and artistic cooperation and education, in addition to programmes covering customs cooperation and standards, metrology and mutual recognition of conformity assessment certificates and procedures.

Sheikh Jarrah hosted a luncheon in honor of Abdelatty and his accompanying delegation.

Other Voices

God is my witness, Dad ... all we're missing is a little dignity

By Suad Fahad Almojil

'God is my witness, Father… all we lack is a little dignity," a phrase said by Ghawar al-Tousheh, Duraid Lahham, in the play "Your Cup, My Homeland," written by Muhammad al-Maghout, which later became one of the most famous phrases said on the stage, and which the Arab community immortalized as the most painful and accurate phrase in describing the state of the Arab world in general.

The phrase appeared in the context of the final scene of the play "Kask Ya Watan", in which Ghawar speaks to the spirit of his martyred father, who asks his son about the state of the Arab world, and whether his sacrifices and those of his comrades were not in vain, and whether the Arab world has become better, more prosperous and more advanced. Ghawar replies that Arab unity, for which his father struggled, has become a reality, to the point that he has breakfast in Baghdad and lunch in Khartoum, while he is speaking to him now from Abu Dhabi, and that prisons are now only for criminals, and that detention centers have been turned into schools and hospitals, and that justice and equality have prevailed, and there is no longer a single displaced person or Arab refugee. Then Ghawar explodes, revealing the bitter truth, and how the Arab world has been torn apart by wars, conspiracies and conflicts, and how Israel has become a brotherly country, and that it is now selling its sons for a loaf of bread, and that the Arab world has become in need of nothing but a little dignity.

The play remained immortal in the Arab memory for several reasons, most notably that it brilliantly summarized the bitter and painful Arab reality, to the point that its hero, Ghawar, did not ask at the end of the scene for wealth, influence, power, victory, or privileges, but only for dignity that had become lost.



Almojil

The most prominent reason for the Arab citizen's recall of this play is that it was able at that time to break through the censorship boundaries in a repressive state at that time, which raised the question about the reasons that made the authority at that time allow a play that contradicts its political, intellectual, social and economic approach, and whether political satire on the stage at that time constituted an outlet to absorb anger and contain resentment, which is indeed what many critics expressed when the play "Kask Ya Watan" was shown in more than one Arab country.

In this play, Muhammad al-Maghout did not need a political statement through which to express the structural flaw in the Arab environment, but only a dialogue in a scene between a citizen and his martyred father, in which this theatrical scene was transformed from an entertaining theatrical scene into a symbolic trial of the modern history of the Arabs, in which al-Maghout narrated everything.

Throughout human history, theater has played a prominent role in raising awareness. From ancient Greece to the modern Arab world, theaters have witnessed plays that posed open questions to audiences concerning freedom, justice, war, and other issues. For example, in pre-revolutionary France, a play satirizing the privileges of the nobility was performed. It was initially banned and delayed before its performance was finally permitted, becoming a symbol, though not a direct cause, of the French Revolution.

Muhammad al-Maghout's plays did not change the regime in Syria, nor did the French play The Marriage of Figaro lead to the revolution that stormed the Bastille. But in both cases, the theater presented a different narrative from the prevailing one. Both plays raised questions, but did not provide answers; questions that remained open in the memory of humankind.

The German director and playwright Brecht had already used theater to reveal, through his works, the truth about the economic and social interests behind wars. Saadallah Wannous did the same, who made the defeat of 1967 an entry point for questioning Arab political discourse. Then Muhammad al-Maghout came along in a different way and with the same steps, making dignity alone the fuel for awareness.

Continued from Page 1

Juvenile cases

intensified penalties for involuntary manslaughter and accidental injury, and the introduction of a new law on combating narcotics and psychotropic substances. He asserted that these initiatives enhanced the legal framework to shield society and the youths from various crimes.

He added that the revised Weapons and Ammunition Law intensified efforts to mitigate the dangers of bladed weapons. He said the legislation now criminalizes the possession or carrying of these weapons in restricted areas without legal justification, as well as the deliberate intimidation of others by displaying them in public. He indicated that for repeat offenders, the penalties are increased to provide more protection against assaults and threats.

He praised the Ministry of Interior's initiative in preventing and addressing juvenile delinquency cases, along with the role of the Ministry of Social Affairs in providing care and rehabilitation for young offenders.

He also recognized the contributions of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Ministry of Health and other relevant entities in protecting children from violence and abuse, while providing them with psychological and social support.

He clarified that protecting juveniles is not just about responding to crime after it occurs, because it starts within the families and schools and includes proactive awareness initiatives.

He stressed that timely intervention when warning signs emerge, guiding youths toward positive behaviors, and offering rehabilitation for those in need are considered collective responsibilities aimed at securing the future of youths and preventing their involvement in criminal activities.

Iran's Bahrain

In a statement, the ministry commended the Bahrain Defense Force for its efficiency, vigilance and capability in repelling Sunday's attack, stressing its full readiness to deter any aggression.

It described the attacks as a resumption of Iran's hostile actions against Bahrain and other regional countries, in disregard of international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

Bahrain considers these attacks a blatant violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, a flagrant breach of UN Security Council Resolution 2817, which condemned Iranian attacks against Bahrain and neighboring countries and demanded their immediate cessation.

The ministry said the attacks also endangered the safety of citizens and residents, undermined de-escalation efforts and posed a serious threat to regional security and stability.

It categorically rejected what it described as unfounded justifications and false allegations made by the IRGC, stressing that no pretext could justify violations of states' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The ministry affirmed that freedom of navigation and passage by sea and air through international waterways was a right guaranteed under international law and could not be subject to any state's will or conditions.

It also rejected the use of Bahraini territory as an arena for settling scores and held Iran fully responsible for the attacks and their consequences.

The ministry further affirmed Bahrain's inherent right to individual and collective self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

It said the Kingdom would take all necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and protect the security of citizens and residents, in close coordination with fellow Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Such coordination is based on the GCC Joint Defense Agreement, which considers aggression against any member state an attack against all members, as well as cooperation with Bahrain's allies and partners.

The ministry noted that Bahrain, as a member of the UN Security Council, called on the Council to condemn the repeated attacks and fulfil its responsibilities.

It urged the Council to take firm measures to ensure Iran's full compliance with Resolution 2817 and to halt its attacks, threats and support for proxy groups in the region.

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry reiterated that the Kingdom's security was a red line and its sovereignty was non-negotiable.

It stressed that Bahrain would continue to advocate good relations, respect for state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, while remaining committed to safeguarding the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf.

Saudi Arabia on Sunday strongly condemned Iranian attacks on the Kingdom of Bahrain, affirming its full solidarity with the Kingdom in all measures taken to protect its security and stability.

In a statement, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the attacks constituted a violation of international law and the principles of good neighborliness.

The Kingdom stressed the need for an immediate halt to Iran's blatant attacks on regional countries and called for serious steps towards ensuring security and stability for the region and its peoples.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi strongly condemned on Sunday Iranian drone attacks targeting Bahrain, describing them as a blatant violation of the Kingdom's sovereignty and international law.

In a statement, Al-Budaiwi said the continued hostile acts undermined regional and international efforts to promote security and stability, warning that repeated attacks posed a direct threat to the region.

He stressed that the attacks violated the principles of good neighborliness and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, calling for a firm international stance to halt them and hold those responsible accountable.

Al-Budaiwi reaffirmed the GCC states' full solidarity with Bahrain and support for all measures it takes to safeguard its sovereignty, security and the safety of its citizens and residents, stressing that Bahrain's security is an integral part of the collective security of the GCC states.

The Arab League condemned attacks targeting the Kingdom of Bahrain, reaffirming its rejection of any violation of the kingdom's sovereignty, security or territorial integrity.

In a statement, the League expressed solidarity with Bahrain and support for measures it takes to protect its security and the safety of citizens and residents, warning of the repercussions of such attacks on regional security and stability.

It stressed that Bahrain's security was an integral part of Arab national security, calling for an end to escalation, respect for state sovereignty and prioritizing political and diplomatic solutions.

Kuwait's TV legacy turns 65

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Television marked on Sunday the 65th anniversary of its official launch on November 15, 1961, recalling more than six decades of documenting the country's history and reflecting its political, economic, social and cultural development.

The station began broadcasting from Sharq in black and white, with four hours of daily programming and limited technical capabilities. Its gradual development included the introduction of color broadcasting in 1974 using the PAL system and the opening of the Media Complex in Kuwait City in 1979.

Director General of the Ministry of Information's Television Department Bader Al-Da'ei told KUNA that the anniversary was an occasion to celebrate the pioneers who laid the foundations of Kuwait's television industry and the generations of media professionals who developed it.

He said Kuwait Television had become an integral part of the country's national memory through its news coverage, drama, cultural and social programs, and documentation of major national events.

Al-Da'ei stressed the need to modernize production and broadcasting tools, expand the station's presence on digital platforms and social media, and invest in young national talent to keep pace with changes in the media landscape.

He also praised the support of Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, Ministry Undersecretary Dr. Nasser Muhaisen and Assistant Undersecretary for Radio and Television Turki Al-Mutairi.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Television crew during the 60s.

Over the decades, Kuwait Television has played a key role in covering national occasions and preserving the country's cultural heritage.

During the 1990 Iraqi invasion, Kuwaiti media continued broadcasting from abroad, conveying the country's position to regional and international audiences until liberation and the resumption of official transmission from Kuwait.

Kuwait and UAE seek to strengthen defense links

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shurai'an met on Sunday with Commander of the UAE Joint Operations Command Maj. Gen. Awadh Al-Ahbabi to discuss ways to enhance military cooperation.

The General Staff said in a statement that the meeting, held at Al-Shurai'an's office, reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two brotherly countries and ways to strengthen and develop them in support of their common interests.



Kuwait Army photo

A photo during the meeting.



Chief mediator Qatar continues to try to negotiate interim agreement

With shifting Iran rhetoric following US elections, Trump leaves ME in limbo about path ahead

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): US President Donald Trump has had a lot to say about his thinking on the way ahead in the Iran war since Republicans were trounced in last week's midterm elections.

In exchanges with reporters, broadcast interviews and social media posts since Election Day, he's somehow managed to back away from carrying out additional strikes while also backing away from the prospect of additional talks with the Islamic Republic's negotiators on ending the 8-month-old conflict.

The president acknowledged on the day after the midterms that the war and the global economic tumult it's caused were partly to blame for Republicans' electoral losses, while maintaining it was the right thing to do.

Then, at the start of this week, he huddled with Qatar's prime minister at the White House and afterward told reporters that he believed it was highly unlikely he'd need to order new major strikes on Iran, declaring that the war "militarily is effectively over."

But by Thursday, he was again raising questions about whether he needed to rush to find an endgame. He declared that the US no longer needs a deal with Tehran and brusquely directed Vice President JD Vance - who served as his chief negotiator in earlier peace talks with Iran - to shift his attention to the administration's domestic anti-fraud campaign targeting Democrat-controlled cities and states.

All the while, Trump warned Iran that the US military is "locked and loaded" and keeping an eye on Pickaxe Mountain, a facility linked to Iran's nuclear program, for signs of activity.

"If something does not work out, I would not hesitate" to act, Trump told conservative broadcaster Hugh Hewitt on Thursday.

Trump's tonal shifts have only added to the uncertainty about what comes next in a war in which America's allies were not consulted before it was started but nonetheless struggle to deal with its economic ramifications.



US President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance attend a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va on Nov 11. (AP)

"President Trump is now acting like an arsonist who has set ablaze our foreign policy," Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey said in an interview Friday on the sidelines of the Democrats' postelection gathering in Denver. "And now he just wants to walk away."

The president's ambiguous positioning on the war is expected to loom large during a visit next week to the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in the Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen.

While in Shenzhen, Trump will hold an unprecedented three-way summit with China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin. Trump is expected to discuss Iran and the three powers' nuclear stockpiles with Xi and Putin.

The White House declined to comment directly to queries on Trump's postelection rhetoric on Iran. But Secretary of State Marco Rubio underscored that Trump's approach is leading to the Iranian economy collapsing.

"The economic pain that we are inflicting on that regime is so great that there's no need for military action because we've weakened them so much," Rubio said in a Friday evening speech to the Federalist Society.

Chief mediator Qatar continues to try to negotiate an interim agreement that would restore traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital passageway for the flow of oil and natural gas from the Persian Gulf to global markets, while leaving open options for further discussions between the US and Iran.

But those efforts are now clouded by uncertainty following Trump's shifting - and sometimes contradictory - comments, according to two Middle East diplomats familiar with the process.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the situation had appeared to be on the right track earlier this week after Qatar's prime minister met with Trump.

'New Europe security framework floated by US could benefit Putin'

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 15, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the United States had raised the possibility of a new security framework for Europe as part of efforts to end Russia's war in Ukraine, warning that Moscow could use such discussions to weaken NATO and reshape the continent's borders.

Separately, Ukrainian forces struck a major Russian oil facility supporting Moscow's war effort, Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement Saturday. Russian

"In my view, this can be dangerous," Zelenskyy told reporters Friday, referring to the new security framework. "This should not be the main agenda." His comments were embargoed until Saturday.

He said he believed Moscow was interested in reopening broader questions about European security rather than focusing exclusively on ending the 4 1/2-year war.

"(Russian President Vladimir) Putin's desire to change borders in Europe is a fact. I am sure this is part of his concept of revising security guarantees in Europe," he said. "This is dangerous because, in my view, it is precisely things like this that lead to wars or escalations."



US special envoys Steve Witkoff, (left), and Jared Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, (center), meet Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the airport in Dublin on Nov 12. (AP)

European leaders have stressed that decisions about the continent's security must be made by Europeans themselves, warning against allowing Russia to dictate the terms of a new security order or negotiate NATO's future.

Zelenskyy said the US had asked for the first time whether Ukraine would withdraw from parts of the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine that Russia does not control if Kyiv were admitted to NATO. He reiterated that Kyiv would not surrender its territory.

Pope highlights Indigenous rights, Amazon protection during Peru visit

CUSCO, Peru, Nov 15, (AP): The plight of Indigenous peoples and the protection of the Amazon take center stage Sunday as Pope Leo XIV travels across Peru to visit communities high in the Andes and deep in the rainforest.

On the penultimate day of his visit to his adopted homeland, Leo is expected to echo Pope Francis.

He travels first to Cusco, the former capital of the Inca empire, before flying to the Amazonian city of Pucallpa, where illegal mining, deforestation and threats to Indigenous communities will be central concerns.

"The church in Peru perceives the continuity of his commitment to accompany Indigenous peoples in the defense of life and the care of the territory, which is increasingly threatened by deforestation and illegal mining," Peruvian Cardinal Pedro Barreto, president of the Amazon bishops conference, told The Associated Press.

"Leo is clearing the path laid out" by Francis on environmental protection and human rights, Barreto said. He added that the pope would hear about violence affecting children and young people.

The visit to Cusco, 3,400 meters (more than 11,000 feet) above sea level, will test the stamina of the pope, who is recovering from lung cancer surgery.



Pope Leo XIV attends a meeting with the Catholic community on the occasion of the closing of the Jubilee Year of Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo at the Shrine of Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo in Zana, Peru, on the ninth day of his twelve-day apostolic journey to South America, on Nov 14. (AP)

His schedule begins at the historic Sacsayhuamán fortress, where he will speak about local religious devotion. In the Plaza de Armas, he will present a shroud from the Holy See for the image of the Lord of the Earthquakes, a focus of devotion in a country prone to seismic activity. He will then deliver a message to the sick before leaving for Pucallpa.

In the rainforest city of 434,000 people, Leo is expected to reinforce Francis' teachings on protecting the environment and Indigenous communities threatened by illegal mining and other forms of exploitation.

The visit to Cusco, 3,400 meters (more than 11,000 feet) above sea level, will test the stamina of the pope, who is recovering from lung cancer surgery.



Front row, from left: Myanmar Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department Han Win Aung, Malaysia Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Johari Abdul Ghani, Thailand Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao, Vietnam Deputy Foreign Minister Dang Hoang Giang, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Brunei Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Abdul Manaf Metussin, Cambodia Deputy Prime Minister Hangchuon Naron, Indonesia Foreign Minister Arrmanatha Nasir, Laos Prime Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, and ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn pose for a group photo during the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) on Nov 15, 2026 in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

ASEAN leaders open annual summit amid global conflicts, rising tensions

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 15, (AP): Southeast Asian leaders opened their annual summit in the Philippine capital Manila on Sunday for three days of talks, including dialogues with world leaders led by U.S. President Donald Trump, whose crucial trip to Asia could help boost his standing after his party's defeat in the midterm elections.

The talks by the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their expanded discussions with Asian and Western heads of state would focus on the world's most troubling conflicts led by the war in the Middle East, according to drafts of post-summit communiques seen by The Associated Press.

Trump is expected to land in Manila with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday afternoon, after the main ASEAN summit meetings have concluded and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. turns over the regional bloc's rotating annual leadership to Singapore, Philippine officials said.

The ASEAN leaders are likely to renew calls for self-restraint and peaceful resolutions of conflicts, including longstanding disputes in the South China Sea and a civil war in Myanmar. They also are expected to press efforts to shield their economies and citizens from continuing fallout from intractable global conflicts.

"We reaffirmed our shared commitment to upholding international law, including the United Nations Charter," the leaders' draft statement says.

The statement also underlines the "importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes, upholding freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, including the right of transit passage in straits used for international navigation."

Marcos said it's crucial that despite the 11-nation regional bloc's diversity, it has remained committed to remaining united in the face of headwinds.

"That commitment matters even more as the waters around us turn on shifting tides, geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, new technologies, climate change and transnational threats," Marcos said in his opening remarks before ASEAN counterparts in a heavily secured convention center by Manila Bay.

Marcos warned problems across the world "are reshaping our region faster than any one country can respond to alone."

But unity has been an elusive objective in ASEAN, a diverse bloc of democracies and authoritarian states, many of which are aligned with the United States or China.

ASEAN is known more for photo-ops projecting unity, cultural pomp and pageantry than for effectively dealing with the region's conflicts, including Myanmar and the South China Sea.

Trump will join three key meetings late Tuesday, including a meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue consisting of the United States, Japan, Australia and India, a grouping largely seen as a counterweight to China. He also will take part in a special summit with ASEAN leaders over cocktails, according to Philippine officials.

Trump will meet Wednesday with Marcos, who will receive him with a red-carpet welcome and a state luncheon at Manila's presidential palace. They are expected to renew a commitment to their countries' decades-old treaty alliance before flying separately to Shenzhen city in China for the APEC summit hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Cape Verde's election puts first female president within reach

PRAIA, Cape Verde, Nov 15, (AP): Cape Verde was holding a presidential election on Sunday, a vote that could see the Atlantic island nation off the coast of West Africa elect its first woman president since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Former Justice Minister Joana Rosa is challenging incumbent José Maria Neves, who is seeking a second term. Six candidates are in the running and if no candidate receives more than half the votes, a runoff would be held on Nov. 29.

Rosa is running with the support of the opposition Movement for Democracy, a party that ruled the country for 10 years before losing in the parliamentary elections in May. Women have held senior Cabinet posts, but Cape Verde has never had a female prime minister or president.

In Cape Verde's parliamentary system, the prime minister directs government policy and holds most executive authority. The president's role is largely symbolic, although the directly elected head of state can veto legislation.

The country is home to about half a million people and has a record of peaceful transfers of power and competitive elections in a region where that is rare. Nearly 77,000 Cape Verdeans abroad are registered to vote, almost a fifth of the total electorate.



A vehicle drives past electoral banners for presidential candidates Joana Rosa and José Maria Neves, ahead of the presidential elections in Praia, Cape Verde on Nov 12. (AP)

Roselma Évora, a professor of political science and gender studies at the University of Cabo Verde, said that limited economic prospects have been driving young people to seek opportunities abroad. Also, she said, many voters feel distant from their leaders and want a president who understands their daily difficulties.

Neves, who won in 2021 with about 52% of the vote, has pledged to build cross-party support to improve housing, healthcare and education, create jobs and raise wages.

His incumbency has given Neves greater visibility in the race, including among overseas voters, Évora said, adding that Rosa's candidacy challenges traditional expectations of women's roles in a society that remains "very patriarchal."

Rosa has centered her campaign on maintaining a balance of power, arguing that the country needs a counterweight to the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde, which backs Neves and controls the government and most municipalities.

Lat/Am

8 killed in Colombia bus crash: At least eight people were killed and 20 others injured early Saturday when a passenger bus overturned on a highway in southwestern Colombia's Huila department, local media reported.

The crash occurred on National Route 45 as the bus was traveling from Florencia to the capital Bogota.

Preliminary reports indicated that two children were among those killed, while authorities were still working to confirm the death toll and identify the victims.

Traffic police, firefighters and highway concession workers responded to the scene, coordinating rescue and emergency operations.

The injured were taken to hospitals in the nearby city of Neiva.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the crash. Preliminary reports suggested that the driver may have briefly fallen asleep at the wheel, causing him to lose control of the bus. (Xinhua)

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3 gangs declared as terrorist groups: The Trump administration has declared three Guatemalan gangs to be terrorist groups for financing violence and crime with proceeds from drug trafficking.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday imposed the terrorist designations on Los Lorenzanas, Los Huistas and Los Mendoza, all of which the U.S. says have deep ties to Mexican drug cartels.

Los Lorenzanas was designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization, while the other two were identified as Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Both labels subject the groups and their members to USsanctions, including freezes on assets they may have in US jurisdictions. The FTO designation goes further and allows criminal prosecution of people found to have provided those organizations with material support. (AP)

Business

Morocco secures $480 mln AfDB deal

RABAT, Nov. 15, (Xinhua): Morocco and the African Development Bank (AfDB) signed a financing agreement worth 480 million U.S. dollars in Rabat to support the third phase of a program aimed at strengthening economic governance and climate resilience, according to Morocco news agency MAP.

The agreement was signed by Moroccan Minister of Economy, Finance and Public Performance Fouzi Lekjaa and AfDB Country Manager for Morocco Achraf Tarsim, the report said.











PM Diwan photos

His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attends opening of Microsoft Innovation and Digital Transformation Center.

Center aims to advance digital transformation, modern technologies & AI in Kuwait

Kuwait PM attends opening of Microsoft's digital innovation center

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Microsoft inaugurated its Innovation and Digital Transformation Center in Kuwait on Sunday, with His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in attendance.

His Highness expressed pride in the opening, saying the center would accelerate digital transformation and advance modern technologies and artificial intelligence in the country.

He stressed the importance of harnessing opportunities in these fields to develop digital infrastructure, build national expertise and support Kuwait's vision of a sustainable, advanced digital economy.

During the visit, His Highness was briefed on the center's work in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and cybersecurity, as well as the "Kuwait Skills" initiative, which seeks to enhance employment opportunities and equip government employees with skills to promote innovation and AI applications.

The initiative is being implemented through cooperation between Microsoft's office in Kuwait and the Central Agency for Information Technology.

His Highness was accompanied by the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Microsoft President for the Middle East and Africa Naim Yazbeck.

Recognition reflecting support for Governorate initiatives & events

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor honors CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC)



Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor, Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah presents award to KNPC CEO, Eng. Wadha Ahmed Al-Khatib.



Eng. Wadha Ahmed Al-Khatib, CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), receives an award from Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor, Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

By Bassam Al-Qassas
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Acting Governor of Hawally, Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, received this morning at his office at the Governorate's headquarters the Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), Eng. Wadha Ahmed Al-Khatib.

The Governor honored Al-Khatib in recognition of the active participation and outstanding contributions made by KNPC in supporting and completing numerous initiatives and events in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Sabah praised the pioneering role of KNPC and its commitment to its social responsibility, stressing the importance of continuing this constructive cooperation between state institutions and the oil sector, in a way that contributes to advancing development and improving services and activities provided to citizens and residents.

For her part, Al-Khatib expressed her appreciation for the honoring gesture, thanking the Governor for his keenness and follow-up on the governorate's affairs, and his interest in improving and developing its areas.

She affirmed KNPC's keenness to fulfill its community role, and to contribute alongside other state bodies and institutions in supporting and sponsoring activities and initiatives that benefit Kuwait in various fields.

CEO welcomes appointments

KIPCO announces changes to executive management team

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – has announced changes to its executive management team as part of its ongoing organizational development.

The changes, approved by KIPCO's Board of Directors, take effect on November 15, 2026, and include the promotion of Mohammad Al Hubail to Group Chief Corporate Affairs and Government Relations Officer, the appointment of Sherif Abdel Aal as Group Senior Vice President – Investments, and the addition of Naveen Kumar Rajanala, Group Senior Vice President – Financial Control, to the Executive Management Team.

Commenting on the appointments, Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group CEO, said:

"We are pleased to welcome Sherif to KIPCO and congratulate Mohammad and Naveen on their new responsibilities. Their respective experience and knowledge will complement the capabilities of our existing management team. As we continue to implement our strategy, we remain focused on maintaining a strong management structure that supports the Group's operations and long-term objectives."

Mohammad Al Hubail brings 30 years of experience in human resources, administration and corporate affairs. He joined KIPCO in 2024 from Kamco Invest, where he held several senior positions since joining in 2009, including Chief Resources Officer and Managing Director of Corporate Affairs and Administration. He currently holds a number of chairmanships and board positions across KIPCO Group companies.

Sherif Abdel Aal brings 28 years of experience in corporate and investment banking, private equity, portfolio management, and investment oversight across the MENA region. He has held senior leadership positions at Kamco Invest and Pharos Holding, alongside roles at several regional financial institutions.

Naveen Kumar Rajanala, who currently serves as Group Senior Vice President – Financial Control, joins KIPCO's Executive Management Team. He has over two decades of experience in banking, capital management and business transformation, having previously held positions at Dubai Islamic Bank, Burgan Bank and Barclays Bank.

The changes are in line with KIPCO's ongoing efforts to develop its organizational structure and support the management of its diversified portfolio.



Mohammed Al Hubail, Group Chief Corporate Affairs and Government Relations Officer.



Naveen Rajanala, Group Senior Vice President – Financial Control to the Executive Management Team.



Sherif Abdel Aal, Group Senior Vice President – Investments

Protecting investments through global compliance: Alkhateeb

Kuwait's Taher Group wins Tax and Trusts honour at Thomson Reuters' ALB Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Kuwait-based Taher Group Law Firm has been named Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year at the ALB Middle East Law Awards 2026, organised by Asian Legal Business, part of Thomson Reuters. The award was presented in Dubai on November 5, recognising the firm in a specialist field serving companies, investors and cross-border business.



Fawaz Alkhateeb

The recognition comes as legislative and tax changes increasingly affect corporate structures, transactions and asset management, placing greater emphasis on early legal assessment and dispute prevention.

"We are proud of this recognition, which reflects our team's work in domestic and international tax advisory services, dispute management and tax litigation," said Dr. **Fawaz Alkhateeb**, Managing Partner of Taher Group Law Firm. "It also showcases Kuwaiti professionals advising on complex matters where laws and commercial interests intersect across jurisdictions."



Officials from Kuwait-based Taher Group Law Firm receive the Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year award at Thomson Reuters' ALB Middle East Law Awards 2026.

Alkhateeb said companies should assess their legal and tax exposure before committing to investments or expansion.

"A single transaction can have consequences in several countries. Companies need to understand their obligations before signing contracts, document their transactions and coordinate with their legal and financial advisers," he said. "Our experience in tax litigation shows that a company's position in a dispute is built on sound decisions and documentation long before the matter reaches court."

Now in its sixth edition, the awards brought together regional and international law firms, government bodies, banks and corporate legal teams. Shortlisted organisations across the categories included Deutsche Bank, Masdar, ACWA Power, PepsiCo and Siemens Saudi Arabia.

Winners in other categories included Arab National Bank's legal team in financial services; the Legal Affairs and Regulation Deputyship at Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Culture and the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi in the government category; and Alghanim Industries' legal team in industrial and manufacturing. Mohammed Alzogaibi of Etihad Etisalat (Mobily) received the In-House Lawyer of the Year (Regional) award, while Binghatti Holding's AAOIFI-Compliant Debut & Green Sukuk Programme won Debt Market Deal of the Year.

Winners are selected from the shortlists through an independent judging and scoring process involving legal industry leaders, specialists and academics.

Established in Kuwait in 1969, Taher Group Law Firm advises on domestic and international matters, with practices spanning legal advisory services, litigation and cross-border transactions.

KUFPEC launches production at Egypt's Mina West gas field

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company k.s.c.c. (KUFPEC) announced Sunday that its wholly owned subsidiary, KUFPEC Egypt Limited, has begun gas production at Mina West field in the Mediterranean Sea, in just three years after discovery.

In a press release, KUFPEC added that it holds 40 percent working interest in this concession with Shell, the operator, holding the remaining 60 percent.

Through strong collaboration with Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), KUFPEC Egypt and Shell Egypt, the partners accelerated project delivery and achieved a key milestone.

This strengthens Egypt's domestic gas supply, enhances energy security, supports future investment, and unlocks additional value from offshore gas resources. The project is expected to deliver up to 160 million standard cubic feet of gas per day.

KUFPEC CEO Eisa Abdulrahman Al-Maraghi said, "this achievement marks an important step toward fulfilling the company's strategic objectives through strengthening our international portfolio, sustaining production, and supporting long-term growth to maximize the company's financial returns".

Investing in youth is key to successful, thriving societies: Al-Jalahma

Youth Min. honours winners of Kuwait AI Hackathon



Participants in the Kuwait Artificial Intelligence Hackathon, held as part of the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season, pose for a group photo.



Some participants in the Kuwait Artificial Intelligence Hackathon, held as part of the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season, are pictured in a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma honored on Saturday the winners of the Kuwait Artificial Intelligence Hackathon, held as part of the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season, with the participation of more than 500 young men and women.

The closing ceremony of the hackathon, organized by 'CODED Academy', was held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre.

'Wathq' team won first place, followed by 'Soor' in second place and 'Wareed' in third place, while Team 'Mouj 3' received the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Award.

In his speech on the occasion, Al-Jalahma stressed that investing in youth represents a fundamental pillar of successful, progressive and thriving societies, stating that young people are the nation's true wealth and the makers of its future.

He praised the ideas and creative projects presented by participants in the Kuwait Artificial Intelligence Hackathon, which reflected the capabilities and potential of Kuwaiti youth.

The world was witnessing rapid and significant developments in artificial intelligence, making it necessary to keep pace with these advances, benefit from their positive aspects and avoid their negative effects, he noted.

He pointed out that major ideas and projects seen today had initially started as small ideas before evolving into impactful achievements.

Kuwait Youth and Sports Season always seeks to diversify its events and activities to serve the youth and sports sectors and keep pace with young people's aspirations and interests across various fields, he added.

Al-Jalahma thanked CODED Academy, and their strategic partner Kuwait Finance House (KFH), as well as the judging panel for their efforts and contributions to the success of the event, expressing hope that more events and competitions would follow to help develop this vital field.



Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, addresses the audience.



KUNA photos

The winning 'Wathq' team poses with officials after securing first place at the Kuwait Artificial Intelligence Hackathon, part of the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season.

For his part, CEO of CODED Ahmad Maarefi said that the academy was established following numerous attempts to create an environment that embraces Kuwaiti youth and provides them with opportunities to invest their talents and potential, away from profit-driven objectives.

The hackathon's objectives went beyond winning, encompassing encouraging participants to explore new experiences, discover their passions, develop their capabilities and transform their ideas into viable projects, Maarefi added.

He stressed the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors in serving the country and supporting young people, noting that CODED, which received support in its early stages, now seeks to back young people, nurture their talents and help them achieve their ambitions.

The hackathon targets young people aged 15 to 30 and includes training workshops on developing applications using artificial intelligence tools through the Replit platform, culminating in the competition day.

Q3 profitability driven by divestment & optimization

NREC sustains profitability in Q3 '26 as strategic restructuring advances

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: National Real Estate Company K.P.S.C. (NREC) reported net profit of KD 10.5 million for Q3 2026 and earnings per share of 5.43 fils, compared with net profit of KD 20.1 million and earnings per share of 10.09 fils in Q3 2025. For the first nine months of 2026, the Company reported a net loss of KD 31.7 million, compared with a net loss of KD 45.2 million in the same period of 2025.

The Q3 2026 result includes KD 7.5 million in profit recognized from the Carina Views transaction. The quarter also marked further progress in NREC's strategy to monetize non-core assets, reduce leverage, and improve the Company's capacity to allocate capital in ways that maximize long-term shareholder value.

Debt Reduction and Shareholder Value Maximization

NREC's asset monetization program, including Carina Views and other recently completed transactions, represents approximately KD 70 million in aggregate proceeds. Upon conclusion of the full Carina Views transaction, the Company expects net debt to fall below KD 100 million. The reduction in leverage is intended to lower financial risk, strengthen the balance sheet, and provide greater flexibility through market cycles.

The Company's capital allocation framework gives priority to debt reduction and balance sheet resilience. NREC will then assess disciplined reinvestment in higher-return opportunities and potential distributions to shareholders. This approach is designed to improve the quality of the asset base and direct capital toward the uses expected to create the greatest value for shareholders.

Divestment Program Progress

The Carina Views divestment transaction covers two Al Reem Island land plots for AED 400 million (approximately KD 33.4 million), comprising AED 200 million paid at initial completion for 50 percent of the shares, AED 120 million due four months later for a further 30 percent and secured by a dated cheque, and AED 80 million subject to a put option in favor of the Company, exercisable within one year of the second completion. If the option is not exercised, the Company will have priority over future distributions from the development of the properties owned by Carina Views Property Development Limited until total receipts reach AED 150 million, bringing potential aggregate proceeds to AED 470 million (approximately KD 39.2 million). NREC recognized KD 7.5 million in profit in Q3 2026 while retaining a 20 percent interest and related contractual rights.



Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

NREC also completed the transfer of its stake in Mediterranean Investments Holding plc for EUR 74 million (approximately KD 26.5 million), recognizing approximately KD 6.2 million through the reclassification of reserves from Other Comprehensive Income, with no impact on total equity. The Company also sold a separate Al Reem Island plot for AED 52 million (approximately KD 4.4 million), generating approximately KD 1.0 million in profit.

Moreover, NREC has recently completed the sale of the shares in its Cayman Islands subsidiary, KNREC Holding International Limited, for a consideration of USD 13.0 million (approximately KD 3,998,800). The transaction resulted in a profit of approximately KD 2,331,418.

Capital Allocation and Outlook

NREC will continue reviewing its portfolio to identify opportunities where divestment can release capital, reduce debt and improve risk-adjusted returns. The Company is also strengthening operational efficiency and capital discipline to ensure resources are directed toward activities with the strongest potential to enhance shareholder returns.

The Board will continue to evaluate selective investment opportunities, including potential housing projects in Kuwait, together with potential dividend distributions. Any such allocation will be assessed against expected returns, the Company's leverage objectives and the approvals required under applicable governance processes.

CEO Commentary

"Q3 2026 demonstrates the progress of our strategy to convert non-core assets into financial capacity and direct the proceeds toward debt reduction and shareholder value. The Carina Views transaction, following our exit from Mediterranean Investments Holding and the earlier Al Reem Island sale, reflects disciplined execution across the portfolio. As these transactions progress, we are strengthening the balance sheet, reducing financial risk and creating greater flexibility to invest selectively or return capital to shareholders."

– Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Financial Highlights

Item	Q3 2026	Q3 2025	Q3 Variance	9M 2026	9M 2025	9M Variance
Operating Revenue	5.4	1.0	442.4%	7.0	2.6	169.8%
Net Revenue	1.7	0.7	137.6%	2.8	1.9	51.9%
EBITDA / (Negative EBITDA)	12.3	22.6	-45.3%	(25.8)	(38.1)	32.3%
Net Profit / (Loss)	10.5	20.1	-47.8%	(31.7)	(45.2)	29.9%
EPS / (LPS) fils	5.43	10.09	-46.2%	(16.1)	(22.7)	28.9%

Al-Mutairi: Empowering youth through partnerships

Warba Bank partners with 'Shtgol' to support youth tournaments & events

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Warba Bank announced a strategic partnership with "Shtgol", an application specializing in organizing tournaments, competitions, and interactive activities. The collaboration aims to support and organize a series of youth-oriented events and tournaments that promote community engagement and deliver interactive experiences combining competition, entertainment, and digital technology.

An Interactive Experience Bringing Youth Together

This partnership reflects Warba Bank's ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives tailored to young people and offering fresh experiences aligned with their interests and aspirations, while utilizing modern digital solutions to organize competitions and manage events.

Through its collaboration with the "Shtgol" app, a range of tournaments and events will be hosted across various locations, enabling participants to enjoy competitive, interactive experiences that blend on-ground presence with digital innovation.



Warba Bank and Shtgol mark the signing of their strategic partnership.

Al-Mutairi: Building Impactful Partnerships

- Al-Mutairi: Our partnership with "Shtgol" marks a new step in supporting youth events and utilizing modern digital solutions to elevate participant experiences.
- Al-Mutairi: We continue to back initiatives that foster community participation and create interactive spaces that bring young people together.

Commenting on the partnership, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, stated:

"At Warba Bank, we are committed to building impactful partnerships that strengthen our engagement with youth and deliver innovative, interactive experiences tailored to their interests. Our partnership with the 'Shtgol' app marks a new step in supporting youth events and tournaments while leveraging digital solutions to enhance the participant experience."

Al-Mutairi added that Warba Bank continues to support initiatives that promote community engagement, highlighting the importance of interactive events in creating spaces that bring young people together and foster a spirit of healthy competition and connection among them.

Ongoing Competitions and Events Strengthening Community Engagement

The events will use the "Shtgol" application to manage competitions among participants, with the necessary content and technical support provided to facilitate the successful organization of tournaments and deliver a smooth, well-organized experience.

The partnership reflects Warba Bank's direction toward combining community presence with digital transformation through initiatives focused on innovative, interactive experiences, reinforcing the bank's role in supporting youth and community activities.

Partnerships Creating Interactive Experiences

This collaboration forms part of Warba Bank's broader strategy to establish strategic partnerships with promising digital platforms and organizations, strengthening its presence and communication across different segments of society while opening new avenues to engage with youth through purposeful initiatives that match their interests and aspirations.

It also underscores the bank's focus on leveraging effective partnerships to evolve its communication channels, encourage community participation, and deliver interactive experiences that combine on-ground engagement with digital solutions, supporting Warba Bank's goals of deepening relationships with its audience and expanding its presence in youth activities.

About Warba Bank:

Warba Bank has achieved significant milestones over a relatively short period, establishing a leading position in Islamic digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank maintains close ties with different segments of Kuwaiti society. The bank continues to strengthen its position as a trusted banking partner, combining innovation and social responsibility in the delivery of financial products and services.

Grand prize totaling KD 1.5 million

KFH: KD 130,000 in prizes for Al-Hassad and Al-Rabeh monthly draws

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners of its monthly Al-Hassad and Al-Rabeh draws for October 2026. Al-Hassad awards a monthly prize of KD 100,000 to one winner, while Al-Rabeh awards 30 winners with KD 1,000 each, reflecting KFH's commitment to honoring customer loyalty and trust.

KFH conducted two draws, awarding 31 winners a total of KD 130,000 in cash prizes, distributed as follows:

- Al-Hassad Account: One winner received KD 100,000.
- Al-Rabeh Account: 30 winners received KD 1,000 each.

The full list of winners is available on KFH's official social media channels.

The new campaign for Al-Hassad account features substantial prizes, headlined by a KD 1.5 million Grand Prize, a KD 500,000 semi-annual prize, and a KD 100,000 monthly prize.

Effective January of this year, the new Al-Hassad prize campaign coincided with the resumption of investment account draws conducted under the supervision of independent auditors appointed by the bank to ensure the highest standards of integrity and transparency.

KFH continues to enhance the features of its Al-Hassad account, one of the bank's flagship products that has gained remarkable popularity and strong customer trust.

Al-Hassad offers increased chances of winning, with one entry for every KD 50 deposited. The longer the balance is maintained, the greater the number of entries, bringing customers closer to the title of "KFH Millionaire".

As for Al-Rabeh account, it is a dedicated salary account. To qualify for the draws, customers must deposit at least three salaries over the three months preceding the draw and maintain a minimum monthly closing balance of KD 50 throughout that period. The account awards 30 winners KD 1,000 each month.

KFH remains committed to offering premium banking products that fulfill customer aspirations and provide unique opportunities to win significant cash prizes. This makes the account a highly appealing savings and investment solution.

Based on the Wakala investment structure, Al-Hassad account allows the bank to invest the full balance at a pre-agreed expected profit rate, in addition to the monthly, semi-annual, and annual prize draws.

Customers can open Al-Hassad and Al-Rabeh accounts through KFH branches, KFHonline, or ATMs to enjoy exclusive draw opportunities and a wide range of banking benefits.



KFH Al-Hassad monthly draw winner flyer

Dollar climbs to 19-month high as rising inflation reprices the Fed

By National Bank of Kuwait
Market Commentary

GLOBAL markets spent the week repricing the Fed after a second upside inflation surprise in as many months. October CPI rose 0.4% MoM against 0.3% expected and core held at 0.3% for a third straight month, hours after Governor Waller had told a London audience that a core print of that size would put a 50bps hike on the table for December.

Dallas Fed President Logan backed at least two more quarter-point moves, and although Hammack and Daly leaned against a larger step, futures now fully price a hike on December 9, with roughly 13% odds of a half-point move and around 85bps of tightening over the year ahead.

Treasuries took the message badly once cash trading resumed after Veterans Day: the 10-year yield closed above 5% for the first time this cycle and reached 5.12%, the 2-year rose to around 4.76%, and a soft $25bn 30-year auction cleared at 5.441%.

The dollar was the clear winner, with the DXY up to 103.17, its highest since April 2025: EUR/USD slid below 1.1060, sterling fell to the low 1.32s despite an in-line Q3 GDP print, the Australian dollar hit its weakest level since January, and USD/JPY traded through 160.00 for the first time since early September, drawing fresh intervention warnings from Tokyo.

Equities proved more resilient than bonds. Monday's 2.3% rally in the S&P 500, its best session since April, came on the back of a 5.9% drop in Brent, and even after Thursday's 0.35% dip on the abrupt resignation of Nvidia's Jensen Huang, the index is on course for a weekly gain of close to 2%.

Oil stayed headline-driven: Brent briefly dipped below $90 on Tuesday after President Trump called renewed strikes on Iran "highly unlikely", then rebounded 3.3% to $95.82 on Thursday when he said Washington did not need a deal, leaving it down just under 3% on the week.

Gold was the casualty of higher yields and a stronger dollar, falling below $3,900 to its lowest level of the year.

The week's message is that the inflation problem has broadened beyond energy: oil is 20% off its highs and core prices are still running at 0.3% a month, the debate has shifted from whether the Fed hikes in December to how much.

United States & Canada

October CPI Beats at 0.4% as Core Holds at 0.3% for a Third Month; No Annual Rate Published

Headline CPI rose 0.4% MoM in October, above the 0.3% consensus and down from September's 0.6%, while core CPI increased 0.3% against 0.2% expected, its third consecutive reading at that pace and the fifth of 0.3% or more in ten months this year.

The slowdown in the headline was almost entirely an energy story: the energy index rose 0.7% and gasoline 1.0%, a fraction of the previous two months' gains. Underneath, pressure was broad.

Shelter rose 0.3% and accounted for more than 30% of the monthly increase, food climbed 0.5%, transportation services jumped 0.8% and motor vehicle insurance 0.7%, with a 1.2% fall in used car prices the only meaningful offset.

The BLS published no 12-month rate because last year's government shutdown prevented it from collecting October 2025 prices; Bank of America estimates put headline inflation near 3.8% and core near 2.7%.

For the Fed, the report removes the argument that inflation is a pass-through from oil alone, and it met precisely the threshold Governor Waller had set that morning for considering a larger move.

Waller Opens the Door to a 50bps December Hike; Logan Backs Faster Tightening as Hammack and Daly Urge Calibration

Speaking in London ahead of the CPI release, Governor Waller said he was leaning toward a 25bps hike in December if inflation improved, but that a core reading of around 0.3% or higher would mean a 50bps increase should be considered, adding that higher rates will be needed "sooner rather than later" and that policy has not been as restrictive as he had thought.

Dallas Fed President Logan followed by backing at least two further quarter-point hikes, possibly at a quicker pace than the Fed has moved this autumn.

Later in the week Cleveland's Hammack pushed back on a half-point step, preferring smaller, steadier increases toward a restrictive stance, and San Francisco's Daly said further tightening will be needed but that higher bond yields give the Committee time. With the funds rate at 3.75%-4.00% after one hike in September and a skip in October, and Chair Warsh still declining to offer rate-path guidance, markets price an 87% chance of 25bps and 13% of 50bps on December 9, with further moves seen in January and possibly April.

	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1135	1.1019	1.1251	1.1021	1.0850	1.1115	1.1067
GBP	1.3359	1.3200	1.3458	1.3215	1.3050	1.3305	1.3220
JPY	158.30	157.65	160.18	159.66	158.75	161.50	158.45
CHF	0.8208	0.8172	0.8396	0.8388	0.8285	0.8550	0.8295

Jobless Claims Edge Up to 200K but Stay Near Multi-Decade Lows; Existing Home Sales Slowest Since 2010

Initial jobless claims rose 9K to 200K in the week ending November 7, above the 194K forecast, with the prior week revised up to 191K from 189K. The four-week average was unchanged at 195,250, claims have now been at or below 200K for nine straight weeks, and continuing claims fell 20K to 1.697M, a profile consistent with last week's strong October payrolls and the dip in unemployment to 4.1%.

The cost of higher yields is showing up elsewhere: existing home sales fell to a 3.75M annualized pace in October, below the 3.89M expected and the slowest since August 2010.

PPI Slows to 0.3% in October, Below Forecast, but the Annual Rate Hits a Four-Year High of 6.5%

Producer prices rose 0.3% MoM in October, below the 0.4% consensus and well down from September's upwardly revised 1.4%, while core PPI increased 0.3%, in line with expectations, after 0.8% the previous month. The slowdown was driven by energy, which slipped 0.1% as diesel prices fell 7.9%, and by a 0.2% decline in trade margins. The underlying detail was less comfortable. Food prices jumped 1.3%, goods excluding food and energy rose 0.5%, and transportation and warehousing costs surged 2.0%, with truck freight alone accounting for more than 80% of the rise in services. The measure that strips out food, energy and trade climbed 0.5% on the month and 4.9% on the year, and the headline annual rate accelerated to 6.5% from 6.3%, the highest since November 2022, with goods prices up 10.2% YoY.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 103.41.

BoC Deliberations Show Council Ready to Hike Again After October's Move to 2.50%

The summary of deliberations from the October 28 meeting, when the Bank raised its policy rate by 25bps to 2.50% in its first hike in more than three years, confirmed that Governing Council sees a possible need to tighten further and that uncertainty over oil prices and the US trade war is not a reason for inaction.

Members agreed that monetary policy cannot lower global energy prices but can stop them feeding into generalized inflation and noted that near-term inflation expectations had moved up. Even without pass-through, the energy shock alone is expected to hold inflation around 3% for more than a year; September CPI stood at 3.2% and the Bank projects 3.5% by year-end.

Higher costs have largely not yet reached consumers, though the Bank's surveys show firms plan to raise some prices over the coming year. The Canadian dollar found little support, weakening past 1.4250 as US yields surged, with October CPI on November 16 the next test.

The USD/CAD was last seen trading at 1.4269.

United Kingdom

UK Q3 GDP Grows 0.7%, the Fastest Since Early 2024, as Services Lead; Bailey Defends Independence After Hike to 4%

The UK economy expanded 0.7% QoQ in the third quarter, up from 0.5% in Q2 and in line with both consensus and the Bank of England's own projection, leaving output 1.9% higher than a year earlier. September GDP rose 0.2% MoM against expectations of no growth, although August was revised down to 0.0% from 0.1%. Services did almost all the work at +0.9%, led by a 4.4% jump in computer programming and consultancy, while production edged up 0.1% and construction fell 0.7%.

Coming a week after the MPC voted 8-1 to raise Bank Rate to 4%, with Mann preferring 50bps, the data give the Bank room to keep tightening. Bailey's Zurich lecture on Monday offered no new policy signal, arguing instead that a shock-prone world makes independent central banks more important and flagging financial stability risks from AI. Sterling nonetheless slipped to multi-week lows as the dollar's rally dominated.

The GBP/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3215.

Europe

Euro Slides to Its Lowest Since April 2025 as the Rate Gap With the Fed Widens; ECB December Hike in Play

The EURUSD pair broke below its May 2025 low this week and fell below 1.1060, its weakest level since April 2025, in a move driven from the dollar side.

Markets now price roughly 85bps of Fed tightening over the next year against about 50bps for the ECB, whose deposit rate stands at 2.50% after hikes in June and September and a hold on October 29.

With eurozone inflation at 4%, Chief Economist Lane said another increase in December would be prudent if the data hold, and President Lagarde has said the December projections will help determine whether a hike is necessary, but investors increasingly see the ECB pausing afterwards while the Fed continues into 2027.

Institutional and political uncertainty adds to the pressure: Lagarde leaves office on February 7, a successor is expected to be named at the December 17-18 EU summit, and French fiscal concerns persist. The European Commission's Autumn Forecast, now scheduled for November 17, will update spring projections of 0.9% euro area growth and 3.0% inflation for 2026.

The EUR/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.1021.

Asia Pacific

USD/JPY Breaks 160 for the First Time Since September; Tokyo Steps Up Warnings as BoJ Opinions Point to a December Hike

The yen weakened through 160 per dollar on Thursday, touching 160.03, as the rise in US yields widened the rate gap with Japan. The response from Tokyo was immediate: top currency diplomat Mimura said recent moves had been too rapid and that it was "too early to forget" the summer, and Finance Minister Katayama warned on Friday against one-sided moves and promised an appropriate response.

The threat is credible. Ministry of Finance data released this week confirmed Japan spent JPY 15.4 trillion (USD 96.4 billion) across three sessions between July 30 and August 3, including its first coordinated intervention with the US since 1998, which pushed the pair back toward 155.

Domestic policy is moving in the yen's favour but slowly: the BoJ's Summary of Opinions from the October meeting showed several members urging a faster move toward neutral, October PPI accelerated to 7.1% YoY against 6.5% expected, and markets price a roughly 80% chance of a hike to 1.50% on December 17-18. A simultaneous Fed hike would leave the differential broadly unchanged.

The USD/JPY currency pair last seen trading at 159.66.

China's Factory-Gate Inflation Hits 5.7%, the Highest Since 2022, While Consumer Prices Slow to 0.7%

China's producer price index rose 5.7% YoY in October, up from 5.0% and well above the 5.3% consensus, the third straight month of acceleration and the fastest pace since June 2022, driven by mining, raw materials and energy-related sectors. Consumer prices went the other way: CPI slowed to 0.7% YoY from 0.9%, missing the 0.8% forecast, as a sharper fall in food prices offset higher gasoline, and core CPI eased to 0.8% from 1.0%. The gap is the story. Industrial purchase prices rose 7.9%, well ahead of the prices factories are able to charge, pointing to squeezed margins and fragile domestic demand rather than healthy reflation.

The USD/CNY currency pair last seen trading at 6.6710.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30860.

Weyay Bank launches exclusive 'Jeel' card for American Creativity Academy students to celebrate creativity and promote financial literacy









Top and above: Photos from the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Weyay Bank has launched an exclusive edition of its "Jeel" card for the American Creativity Academy (ACA) students, featuring the winning design from a student-led creative competition. The initiative combines artistic expression with financial education, reflecting Weyay's commitment to empowering the next generation through innovative and meaningful experiences.

The competition gave students the opportunity to transform their ideas and creativity into a real-world banking card design carrying their personal touch. Participants submitted a range of innovative concepts that showcased their artistic talent and unique perspectives. This initiative forms part of Weyay's ongoing efforts to support young talent and enrich students' learning experiences through practical programs that blend creativity with financial awareness in an engaging and inspiring way.

The exclusive card design will be available to ACA students for a limited time only. Parents can contact the Weyay Solutions Center to open a Weyay account and issue a Jeel card for their child within minutes through the Weyay app. Once completed, the exclusive card will be delivered and can be used for purchases both online and in-store, inside and outside Kuwait.

Jeel is Kuwait's first dedicated banking account and app designed specifically for children and young teens aged 8 to 14. It offers a safe and educational banking experience that helps young users develop everyday money management skills, understand the fundamentals of saving and responsible spending, and build sound financial habits from an early age. Parents are also able to monitor and guide their children's transactions through the Weyay app.

The initiative further reflects the ongoing relationship between Weyay Bank and American Creativity Academy, which includes a range of educational activities and programs designed to strengthen financial literacy among students and connect classroom learning with practical, real-life experiences. Through such collaborations, both organizations aim to help prepare a generation that is more financially aware, confident, and capable of making informed decisions in the future.

It also underscores Weyay's commitment to delivering innovative experiences that go beyond traditional banking services. By encouraging creativity and innovation while introducing students to real-world financial concepts, the initiative provides young people with meaningful opportunities to express their ideas, develop new skills, and see their creativity come to life.

The event concluded with the recognition of participating students and competition winners in celebration of their creativity and achievements. Weyay Bank also acknowledged the valuable support of American Creativity Academy's leadership, teachers, and parents in encouraging student participation and nurturing young talent, reaffirming its commitment to launching educational and community initiatives that contribute to building a more empowered and future-ready generation.

Dasman Diabetes Institute marks World Diabetes Day with free health screenings

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), organized its annual World Diabetes Day awareness event on Saturday, 14 November 2026, at Assima Mall, reaffirming its commitment to raising public awareness about diabetes, promoting early detection, and encouraging healthier lifestyles.

Held under this year's international theme, "Early Action on Diabetes," the event emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, prevention, and understanding of the risk factors associated with diabetes to reduce complications and improve overall health and well-being.

The event featured a variety of complimentary health services and educational activities, including medical screenings, medical and nutritional consultations, guidance on physical activity, and awareness of diabetes-related complications. Visitors also had the opportunity to interact directly with the Institute's healthcare professionals and receive valuable advice on diabetes prevention and management.

The event attracted a large turnout of visitors from various segments of the community, who benefited from the free screenings, consultations, and educational services offered by the Institute, reflecting growing public awareness of the importance of preventive healthcare.

On this occasion, Dr. Jasim Alabbad, Director General of Dasman Diabetes Institute, highlighted the importance of community engagement and early intervention in combating diabetes.

"At Dasman Diabetes Institute, we believe that prevention begins with knowledge and that early detection, combined with informed lifestyle choices, can make a meaningful difference in people's lives," said Dr. Alabbad. "Through initiatives such as World Diabetes Day, we aim to bring specialized medical knowledge closer to the community and encourage individuals to take proactive steps toward protecting their health."

Dr. Alabbad further emphasized the Institute's continued commitment to combating diabetes through scientific research, specialized healthcare, training, and public education, noting that investing in awareness and prevention is an investment in the health and well-being of future generations.

The event also highlighted DDI's ongoing research and clinical initiatives, reflecting its dedication to advancing diabetes prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in Kuwait.

Dasman Diabetes Institute concluded the event by reaffirming its commitment to promoting public health awareness and healthier lifestyles across Kuwait, while expressing its appreciation to all those who contributed to the event's organization and success.

Dasman Diabetes Institute extends its sincere appreciation to Assima Mall for its generous cooperation in hosting the event and supporting the Institute's efforts to promote health awareness within the community.



Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) in a group photo during the annual World Diabetes Day awareness event held at Assima Mall.

New genetic test identifies people at up to 10 times higher glaucoma risk

Preliminary study finds clue in quest to help diagnose CTE in the living

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (Agencies): Scientists stumbled onto a hint that measuring a toxic protein tied to Alzheimer's disease just might one day be useful in diagnosing a different brain disease in football players and others who have suffered repeated blows to the head.

Doctors evaluate symptoms such as mood swings and memory loss to try to tell if patients may have CTE, or chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a disease linked to concussions and other brain trauma. But other diseases cause similar symptoms, and a CTE diagnosis can only be confirmed by examining the brain after death.

The new clue involves a protein called tau that normally supports neurons but becomes abnormal in Alzheimer's, tangling inside those nerve cells. Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis were using autopsy samples to study a tau fragment called eMTBR-tau243 that may help track those tangles when they found something unusual: a patient with high levels of that biomarker even though records showed the person didn't have Alzheimer's but advanced CTE instead.

The researchers turned to a larger collection of autopsied brain and other samples, and eventually tested blood stored from 11 people who had been classified as having CTE.

Compared to healthy people, levels of eMTBR-tau243 were higher in those with advanced CTE, said study coauthor Chihiro Sato, a WashU assistant neurology professor. That biomarker couldn't reliably identify early-stage CTE.

It is an interesting but very preliminary finding, requiring far larger studies to see if there is a real connection, cautioned Dr. Rudolph Castellani, a neuropathologist at Northwestern University who wasn't involved with the research.

Abnormal tau is found in several brain diseases, many of which can overlap in older adults, adding to the difficulty in teasing apart its role in any one disease, including CTE. Sato, who studies such tauopathies, also stressed much more research is needed.

The findings were published late Friday by the medical journal JAMA and presented at a scientific meeting in Japan.

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A human brain affected by Alzheimer's disease is displayed at the Museum of Neuroanatomy at the University at Buffalo in Buffalo, NY, on Oct 7, 2003. (AP)

Glaucoma: Researchers in Australia have developed a genetic test that can identify people at up to 10 times the normal risk of developing open-angle glaucoma, the most common form of the disease and the world's leading cause of irreversible blindness.

The findings suggest the test could help doctors identify high-risk individuals for closer monitoring and earlier treatment, potentially preventing irreversible vision loss, while reducing unnecessary testing for those at lower risk, according to a statement released Friday by Australia's QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

Developed by researchers at QIMR Berghofer and Flinders University in Australia with international collaborators, the test uses genetic data from more than 6 million people, including nearly 300,000 glaucoma patients, to calculate a person's inherited risk.

In Australians of European ancestry, those in the highest 10 percent of genetic risk were 10 times more likely to have glaucoma than the rest of the population, compared with a four-fold increase identified by an earlier version of the test published in 2020, which was based on about 8,000 glaucoma cases.

The study, published in the journal Ophthalmology, also found that people in the highest 10 percent of genetic risk developed glaucoma about 25 years earlier, on average, than those in the lowest 10 percent.

The test also identified patients more likely to require intensified treatment, have affected family members, and added substantial predictive value beyond eye pressure measurements, the most commonly assessed glaucoma risk factor, the researchers said.

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Acute respiratory infections: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday warned about the sharp increase of 33,000 cases of acute respiratory infections in Gaza compared to the same period last year.

WHO Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) Reinhilde Van De Weerdt stressed that heavy rains and overcrowded shelters resulting from the Israeli occupation army's expanding control over territory in Gaza could worsening health and humanitarian risks in the Gaza Strip.

She warned that the risk of waterborne diseases remains high, particularly with the onset of the rainy season and the hugely insufficient wastewater management in Gaza amid severe restrictions on the entry of equipment into the Strip.

Van De Weerdt said that nearly one million displaced people in Gaza live in flood-exposed areas including 400,000 people in locations considered at extremely high risk, warning that tent was the only protection they had and the only space on their own, stressing also that tent is not just shelter, but it is also the first line of defense for health.

Van De Weerdt expressed shock that healthcare continues to be under attack more than three years into the conflict, and one year after the announcement of a ceasefire.



SpaceX's mega rocket Starship successfully returns to be captured at its launch pad after a test flight from Star base, Texas on Nov 14. (AP)

SpaceX's Starship completes first-ever mid-air catch after return from orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Nov 15, (AP): SpaceX's Starship made a triumphant return to Earth on Saturday, caught in midair by giant mechanical arms where its journey began 22 hours earlier.

It was the grand finale that Elon Musk and his team hoped for - the first-ever capture of a Starship flying back from space. But with the first-stage booster exploding shortly after Friday's liftoff from Texas, the company fell short of its desired double catch, still the goal for accelerating moon and Mars travel.

Wreckage remained in the Gulf of Mexico, cordoned off by buoys, as the stainless steel, bullet-shaped spacecraft lowered itself upright at the launch pad.

The dramatic, sci-fi-like capture helped blot out the booster's messy miss. Cameras panned the spacecraft up and down as it hung high above the ground, supported by the arms of the launch tower.

"Can you believe it?" SpaceX commentator Dan Huot shouted, dragging out each word. "Look at her! Baby, she's back!"

Calling it an "epic day," Musk later ascended the launch tower to take up-close video with his phone. He even hugged the spacecraft. "Looks great," he reported via X.

SpaceX officials said Saturday's catch demonstrates the full reusability of Starship, crucial for rapid and low-cost recycling. Although Friday's booster recovery failed, the company had already made three previous booster catches, validating the technique.

NASA welcomed Saturday's news. The space agency is paying billions of dollars for Starship to land Artemis astronauts on the moon later this decade and help build a permanent lunar base. Musk's ambitions are even grander: He wants to launch a fleet of Starships to build a city on Mars.

"It was almost magic," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said via X. "Making more believers by the day ... one step closer to (emojis of the moon and the US flag)."

The world's largest and most powerful rocket - a 407-foot (124-meter) behemoth - blasted off late Friday afternoon from SpaceX's Starship base near the US-Mexican border. Separating neatly from its booster before things went awry, the upper-stage spacecraft soared into orbit and released 26 advanced Starlink satellites.

Starship continued circling the world 165 miles (265 kilometers) up, with live views of itself and Earth streaming down via Starlink. The spacecraft completed 14 laps around Earth, outshining the previous mission's one to two laps.

It was SpaceX's 15th flight of a full-scale Starship since 2023 and its only second trip to orbit.

SpaceX reported that everything on the spacecraft, including its vital heat shield, appeared to work well.

As for the booster, SpaceX's Kate Tice said its engines stopped firing too soon on the way back down. The booster's guidance system sensed it wasn't in the right position and automatically initiated the watery detour and self-destruction. Engineers are still investigating the cause.

SpaceX expects to begin launching Starships from Florida's Kennedy Space Center within the next few months. That is the starting point for NASA's next Artemis mission, which will skip the moon and remain in orbit around Earth for lunar lander practice.

Artemis III's four astronauts will attempt to dock their capsule with not only Starship but Blue Origin's Blue Moon. The two companies will take turns delivering crews to the lunar surface. NASA is targeting as soon as 2028 for Artemis IV, humanity's first moon landing since the Apollo era more than half a century ago.

UN climate chief urges swift action as COP31 reaches midpoint

ANTALYA, Türkiye, Nov 15, (Agencies): UN climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell on Saturday urged negotiators to "move swiftly to the hardest issues and to avoid tactical delays," as the 31st United Nations climate Change Conference (COP31) reached its halfway mark.

"Getting agreement on every word, every sentence, is tough but vital work. There is no collective success without compromise from every Party," Stiell said at a press briefing in the Turkish coastal city of Antalya, where the two-week event will run through Nov. 20.

He said practical climate initiatives at COP31 are gaining momentum, seeking to bridge international agreements and the real economy through clean energy, resilient infrastructure, greener industry and disaster resilience.

Winning the global climate fight also requires reaching billions of people in their everyday lives through areas such as sports, entertainment, and culture, he added.

"We need to get better at connecting climate impacts and solutions to the things people need -- like better health, good jobs, and affordable secure energy -- and with the things they love -- like sports," Stiell said.

Opened on Monday, COP31 aims to shift global climate efforts from pledges to concrete implementation, particularly on scaling up climate finance for developing countries, adaptation and clean energy transition.

COP31 President and Turkish Environment Minister Murat Kurum said on Saturday that fulfilling climate finance pledges is a necessity, not an option.

Speaking in a news conference Antalya, south of Turkiye, Kurum added that addressing climate challenges requires turning financial commitments into tangible steps amid the insufficient resources estimated at USD 1.3 trillion.

Talks are proceeding as planned, he said, urging countries to honor their pledges. He noted that 196 countries and the European Union are represented at the conference, while the leaders' summit held on November 11-12 saw 102 leaders representing 95 countries and 7 international organizations.

He said initial UN registration figures indicate the number of participants has exceeded 97,000, adding that a 1.1 million-square-meter area has been prepared to host the conference events.

Next week, ministers will seek joint decisions. COP31's proposed goals include raising global electrification to 35 percent by 2035, increasing reused materials to 15 percent, and accelerating climate action through the BRIDGE mechanism.

He noted that discussions were held with officials from China, Russia, Cuba, and Egypt, leading to the signing of significant agreements, as well as talks with the Chinese side on implementing renewable energy projects.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday urged developed countries to step up climate financing for developing nations, describing the global climate finance system as marked by "structural injustice."

Speaking at a press conference at the 31st United Nations climate Change Conference (COP31) in the Turkish coastal city of Antalya, Guterres pointed to the massive funding gap for vulnerable countries.

"Developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable, will need far greater support for adaptation and for loss and damage," he said. "Even tripling adaptation finance would meet less than 30 percent of what is needed."

Noting that commitments made by developed countries fall short of actual needs, Guterres added: "Those that pollute more have not created the conditions to gather the resources that are necessary to adequately respond to the needs of those that suffer."

The UN chief also called for more effective use of existing financial resources to expand funding for climate action.

He said that channeling public funds into the capital of multilateral or national development banks could significantly multiply their impact, allowing an initial investment of one U.S. dollar to mobilize as much as eight to 10 dollars in financing.

Guterres also urged national and multilateral development banks to expand their use of guarantees to mobilize private-sector financing.

climate finance has remained a central focus of COP31 negotiations, with developing countries seeking greater support to address climate impacts and strengthen their resilience. Enditem

China's rapid expansion in renewable energy and growing exports of green technologies are making an important contribution to global efforts to combat climate change, Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reported Saturday, highlighting the country's progress in stabilizing carbon emissions and helping reduce emissions worldwide.

In a report from the ongoing 31st United Nations climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye, the newspaper noted that China's carbon emissions have stopped rising and leveled off, largely thanks to the country's rapid growth in solar and wind power generation in recent years.

Beyond its domestic green transition, China's exports of solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles are also helping reduce emissions in other countries. The newspaper estimated that such exports, primarily of solar panels, could help avoid around 450 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions this year.



People wait in line at the COP31 UN Climate Summit on Nov 12, in Antalya, Turkey. (AP)

Kuwait suffers defeat to Lebanon in U-17 qualifiers

MUSCAT, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwait suffered a 4-1 defeat to Lebanon in their second Group G match of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers, currently being held in Salalah, Oman.

The Blues will look to bounce back when they face Brunei on Tuesday. Brunei suffered a heavy 10-0 defeat to host Oman earlier on Saturday.

Lebanon leads Group G with nine points, followed by Bahrain with four, Oman with three and Kuwait with one.

A total of 35 national teams are competing in the qualifiers, divided into seven groups and playing a single-round league format at centralized venues. The qualifying campaign runs until November 20.



Kuwaiti players leave the field after their defeat.

Only the group winners will secure places in the final tournament, the 22nd edition of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup, scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan next May.

The seven qualifying teams will join nine nations that earned automatic qualification through their participation in the 2026 FIFA U-17 World Cup in Qatar. They are Australia, China, Japan (the defending champions), South Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Sheikh Khaled Badr congratulates HH Amir on safe return to Kuwait

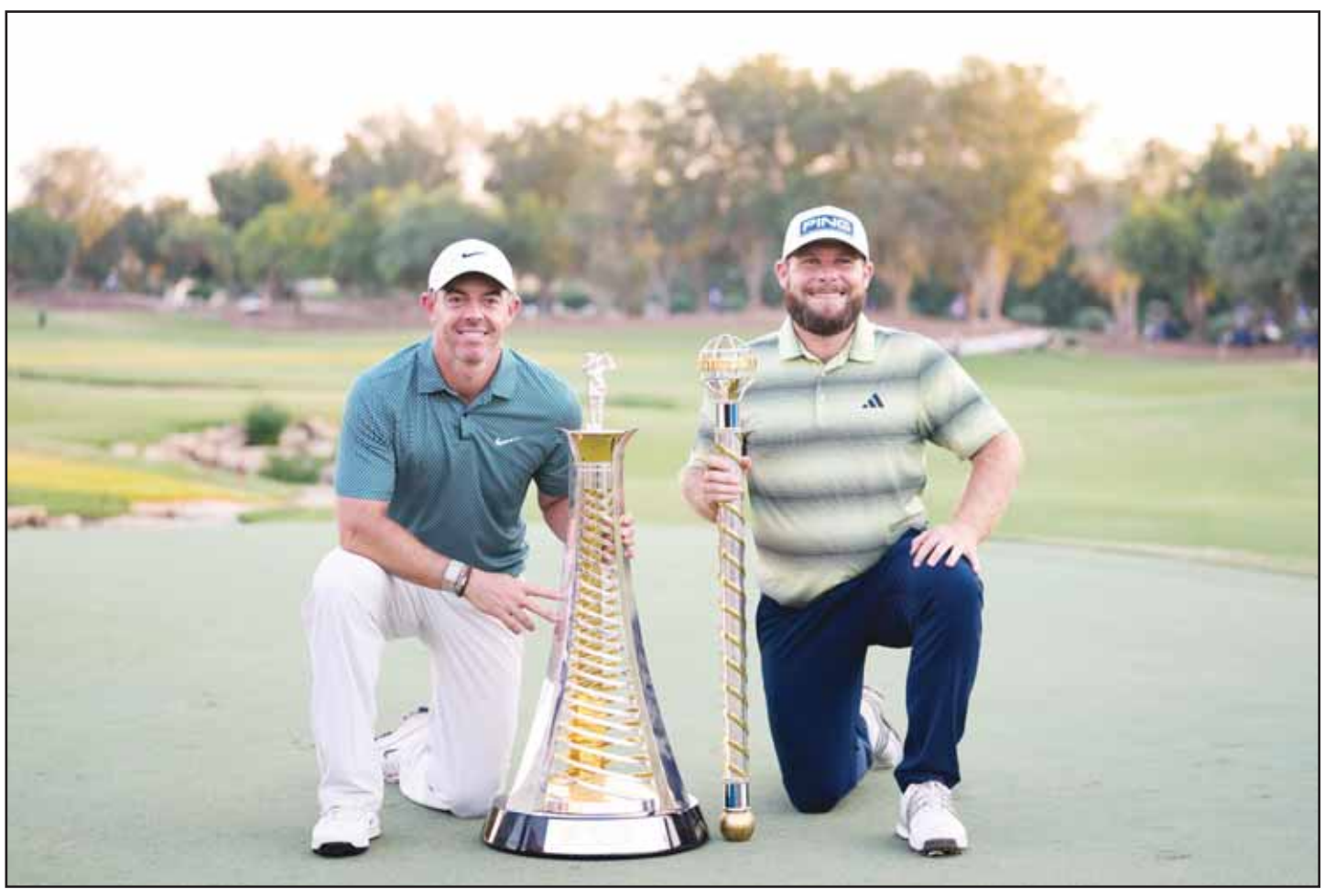
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Sheikh Khaled Badr Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah extended his heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the Amir's safe return to the homeland following his medical trip abroad.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to bless the Amir with continued good health and well-being, protect him, and grant him lasting wellness. He also prayed for the continued security, safety and stability of Kuwait and for the protection of its people from all harm.



Sheikh Khaled Badr

McIlroy claims record-tying eighth Race to Dubai title



Tyrrell Hatton of England, right, and Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland pose with their trophies after the final round of the World Tour Golf Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

Hatton wins season-ending event

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Nov 15, (AP): Rory McIlroy captured the season-long Race to Dubai golf title on the European tour for a record-tying eighth time by finishing second at the World Tour Championship won by Tyrrell Hatton on Sunday.

McIlroy joined Colin Montgomerie atop the all-time list of winners of the previously named "Order of Merit" award, adding another significant achievement to the resume of a player who has done pretty much everything in golf - notably the career Grand Slam.

Hatton shot 6-under 66 to win the season-ending event by five strokes on 15-under par, but the main focus was on the tense fight for the year-long points title between McIlroy and young Spaniard Eugenio Chacarra, who arrived in Dubai atop the standings just ahead of the Northern Irishman.

In a turbulent final round in which Chacarra played one group behind McIlroy, the pair regularly exchanged places in the top two spots of the projected standings. McIlroy won out, shooting a bogey-free 67 that ultimately left him in outright second place.

Chacarra needed to eagle the par-5 18th - or get some unlikely help from a couple of players finishing their rounds after him - but neither scenario transpired. He shot 69 and tied for third, dropping him to second place in the Race to Dubai standings.

McIlroy has now won the season-long title for the last five years, as well as in 2012, '14 and '15.

Arabi takes on Kazma

Volleyball Federation Cup heats up with last 8 clashes

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The 2025-2026 Volleyball Federation Cup continues Monday with two quarterfinal matches at the Volleyball Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Qadsia meets Yarmouk at 5:00 pm, while Al-Arabi faces Kazma at 7:00 pm.

The tournament got underway a few days ago with Al-Arabi edging Sahel 3-2 in a closely contested encounter to secure their quarterfinal berth and arrange a showdown with Kazma. The Green side faces a difficult challenge against the Orange, who boasts greater technical depth and has foreign professionals in its lineup, while Al-Arabi will be without its foreign players.

The semifinals are scheduled for next Thursday, with the competition set to conclude on Monday, November 23, when the finalists compete for the 2025-2026 Federation Cup title.

The tournament is part of the resumption of the 2025-2026 sports season, which was suspended in February due to developments in the Gulf region. Action recently resumed with the completion of the Premier League, where Qadsia emerged champions after defeating Kuwait Club in the final.

With the league title decided, the focus now shifts to the Federation Cup, as the contenders look to finish the season with another major trophy.



Kazma player blocks a shoot from opponents.

Best of the Rest

Toronto downs Montreal for title: Teenager Olivia Chisholm scored her first goal in the 39th minute and AFC Toronto went on to win the Northern Super League's Diana B. Matheson Cup championship with a 1-0 victory over the Montreal Roses.

Toronto finished first in the standings last season but fell to the Vancouver Rise in the league's first championship game. This season Toronto advanced to the title game by downing Ottawa 8-2 on aggregate in the two-leg semifinals. (AP)

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Jamaica stuns Mexico, closing in on semis: Jamaica stunned Mexico 3-2 on Saturday to move within reach of the CONCACAF Nations League semifinals and deepen Mexico's struggles under new coach Rafael Márquez.

An own goal by Jesús Gallardo opened the scoring in the 28th minute before Renaldo Cephas doubled the hosts' lead in the 46th. Richard King then added a third from the penalty spot in the 63rd minute.

Teenage sensation Gilberto Mora pulled one back for Mexico in the 70th and Julián Quiñones added a goal in the 81st. (AP)

Ronaldo-less era gets off to poor start

Portugal humbled by Denmark in NL

LISBON, Nov 15, (AP): Portugal slumped to a 4-1 loss at home to Denmark in its first game since Cristiano Ronaldo's retirement, while Viktor Gyökeres and Erling Haaland helped Sweden and Norway complete a Scandinavian raid on the Nations League.

Portugal paid tributes to Ronaldo before and during the team's lackluster display - one that earned whistles from disappointed home fans who had been looking forward to a party, with their previously unbeaten team already through to the quarterfinals.

The 41-year-old Portugal superstar announced his international retirement last week. His former teammates all wore Ronaldo No. 7 jerseys before kickoff, then failed to impose themselves on the game.

Denmark captain Pierre-Emile Højbjerg scored before the break with an emphatically-taken penalty after Rúben Dias was penalized for hand ball.

Rasmus Højlund made it 2-0 in the 50th with a volley to finish off a fine team move, then eluded Dias on the edge of the area and hammered the ball past goalkeeper Diogo Costa in the 57th.

Portugal fans whistled as their misfiring team needlessly conceded a corner, but it didn't get any better.



Denmark's Mohamed Daramy vies for the ball with Portugal's Pedro Neto, right, during the Nations League soccer match between Portugal and Denmark in Braga, Portugal. (AP)

Joachim Andersen scored with a header to make it 4-0 in the 75th.

Bernardo Silva's stoppage-time response only meant the Group A4 game ended with a VAR check.

Gyökeres converted two penalties, after Daniel Svensson had opened the scoring, for Sweden to enjoy a comfortable 3-0 lead over Bosnia-Herzegovina at half time on the outskirts of Stockholm.

The Swedish-born Armin Gigović pulled one back after the break and Sead Kolašinac got another in the 62nd to set up a nervy finale. Sweden, though, held on to clinch top spot in Group B4.

In the other group game, Romania enjoyed a 2-1 win over Poland in Bucharest. It was its first win of the campaign.

Haaland ended a two-game run without scoring for Norway with the third goal in a 3-1 victory over Wales in Oslo.

The 26-year-old Manchester City striker looked set to go three games without scoring - an anomaly for a player who averages at least one goal for every international match he plays - until Connor Roberts conceded a penalty with a foul on Andreas Schjelderup in the 85th minute.

Haaland stayed cool while the decision survived a VAR check, then swung his spot kick to the right of Wales goalkeeper Karl Darlow.

He almost got a second in stoppage time but had to be content with his tally of 66 goals in 60 appearances for Norway - extending his national record.

Haaland's rate of scoring is unseen since "der Bomber" Gerd Muller scored 68 in 62 games for West Germany, including the decisive goal in the 1974 World Cup final.

Norway needed Antonio Nusa to get the breakthrough in the 59th after Wales' defense failed to adequately clear a corner.

Haaland set up Schjelderup to make it 2-0 with a simple finish soon after, only for David Brooks to make the finish exciting with a brilliant chip over the goalkeeper.

Haaland then ended any suspense to seal Norway's second win in Group A4. It has six points, three behind Denmark and six adrift of leader Portugal.

Austria substitute Saša Kalajdžić scored late in a 1-0 win over Ireland to seal top spot in Group B3, where Israel held Kosovo 0-0 in Pristina earlier. Kosovan fans whistled the Israeli national anthem before the game.

Terry Devlin's second-half goal was enough for Northern Ireland to beat Ukraine 1-0 in Belfast to lead Group B2 by a point from Hungary.

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Antetokounmpo scores 34, Heat rolls past Pistons

MIAMI, Nov 15, (AP): Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists, some of the spectacular variety, and the Miami Heat beat the Detroit Pistons 137-117 on Saturday night for their fourth straight win.

Klay Thompson scored 26 points in his return from a sprained ankle and Bam Adebayo added 20 for the Heat. Davion Mitchell had 15 points and nine rebounds for Miami.

Cade Cunningham had 33 points and eight assists for Detroit, which got 20 points and seven assists from Kevin Huerter.

Miami had nine players record at least one block and finished with 14 as a team - one shy of the franchise record.

The NBA record for players on the same team having at least one block in a game is 10, done twice - both by Golden State, first in 1991 and then again in 2016. The Heat team record for players with at least one block was eight, done on five occasions.

Antetokounmpo finished a weekend where he scored 71 points in a two-day span, after finishing with 37 in Miami's win over Cleveland on Friday night. He also had a through-the-legs assist to Thompson for a 3-pointer in the opening quarter.



Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi receives instructions from the assistant coach.

Sports

Blues hold final training

Kuwait steps up preparations for Honduras friendly amid minor injuries

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Kuwait will hold its final training session on Monday before taking on Honduras in an international friendly on Tuesday, at Al-Sadaqa Wal-Salam Stadium.

The Blues resumed training yesterday under Portuguese coach Hélio Sousa after being given a break from Saturday evening's session. The players had completed only a morning gym workout following their convincing 3-0 victory over Syria in Friday's friendly.

Before the session, Sousa and the administrative team, led by Mohammed Binyan, met with the players and urged them to deliver a stronger performance, maintain their concentration and adhere to the tactical instructions in pursuit of another positive result.

Both the technical and administrative staff and the players are targeting victory over Honduras to improve Kuwait's position in the FIFA rankings. The success against Syria already earned the Blues valuable ranking points.

Meanwhile, Dr Abdulmajeed Al-Bannai, head of the Kuwait Football Association's medical department and a sports injury and physiotherapy specialist, examined several players who picked up knocks during the Syria encounter. Some players had been forced to leave the field before the final whistle due to injuries.

Shabib Al-Khaldi, who was substituted after sustaining an injury, was found to have suffered a minor bruise and is expected to be available for tomorrow's match. Abdullah Al-Saeedi, however, will miss the encounter due to a foot injury.

The participation of Mohammed Al-Huwaidi and Dhari Al-Otaibi remains uncertain, as both players are still undergoing rehabilitation and fitness preparations.

In the meantime, the Honduras delegation arrived yesterday and held its first training session. The visitors are scheduled to train today at Al-Sadaqa Wal-Salam Stadium.

Honduras traveled to Kuwait from Abu Dhabi, where it faced the UAE on Friday and suffered a 3-1 defeat.

Separately, the Kuwait Football Association began selling tickets for the friendly, urging fans to turn out and rally behind the Blues.

Impressive Mohammed wins Asian bowling gold for Kuwait



Abdulrazzaq Mohammed celebrates with his teammates and the technical and administrative staff.

Sheikh Talal takes helm of Asian Bowling Federation

DOHA, Nov 15: Kuwait's Abdulrazzaq Mohammed captured the singles gold medal at the 28th Asian Bowling Championships, being held in Doha, Qatar, from November 11 to 23.

Mohammed produced an impressive display to finish ahead of a field of 108 bowlers representing 18 countries, overcoming several high-profile competitors to claim the continental title.

Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad welcomed the achievement, describing it as the outcome of dedicated efforts by the players and the technical and administrative teams to raise Kuwait's flag at continental and international events.

He expressed hope that the Kuwaiti delegation would add to its medal tally in the remaining competitions.

In a related development, Sheikh Talal was elected president of the Asian Bowling Federation for a term running through 2030.

The federation also elected three vice-presidents representing Qatar, South Korea and Thailand, while five board members were chosen from Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Macau, Kazakhstan and India.

Al-Khashan earns IIHF selection for U-18 World Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Kuwait Winter Games Club announced that the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has selected Kuwaiti referee Abdulaziz Al-Khashan to officiate at the U18 World Championship, Division II, Group A, scheduled to be held in Croatia next April.

Club President Fahid Al-Ajmi said the appointment marks another step in strengthening Kuwait's presence on the international ice hockey stage and reflects the progress of Kuwaiti refereeing in the sport.

He said the selection recognizes Al-Khashan's efforts to develop his refereeing skills and his participation in several training courses organized by the IIHF with the club's support. Al-Ajmi expressed confidence in his ability to perform well at the championship.

Al-Khashan will also attend an IIHF workshop in Budapest, Hungary, in December, held on the sidelines of the U20 World Championship, Division I.



Kuwaiti referee Abdulaziz Al-Khashan

Al-Khashan described the appointment as an important milestone in his refereeing career, noting that the tournament will feature strong teams from Britain, Romania, China, Japan and South Korea, alongside hosts Croatia.

Best of the Rest

Sabalenka apologizes for outburst: Aryna Sabalenka has apologized for an on-court outburst in her three-set loss to Elina Svitolina at the WTA Finals.

Video circulating widely on social media appeared to show Sabalenka swearing in a tirade during Friday's 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 loss at the season-ending championships in Indian Wells.

The former top-ranked player from Belarus said on Saturday she was upset by the behavior of spectators during the match.

"My comment was not directed at Elina. I was frustrated with a small group of spectators who were aggressively cheering my mistakes, and I reacted emotionally in the moment," Sabalenka posted on Instagram without mentioning what she said.

"That said, I should have handled my frustration differently and I apologize to anyone I offended. Elina played a great match, and I wish her all the best for the rest of the tournament." Sabalenka was visibly annoyed during the match, and she declined to speak with media afterward. (AP)

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Lookman injury setback for Atletico: Atletico Madrid has suffered an injury setback after Nigerian winger Ademola Lookman sprained a knee ligament while on international duty.

Lookman sustained the injury while playing against Tanzania and will return to Spain for treatment.

He will miss Nigeria's return match against Tanzania and is also a major doubt for Atletico's next three matches, against Getafe and Elche in La Liga and Viking FK in the Champions League, although the club has yet to confirm how long he will be sidelined.

Atletico will then face FC Barcelona in another La Liga match brought forward from February due to the Spanish Super Cup, with Lookman's availability depending on the severity of his injury.

Lookman made an immediate impact after joining Atletico in February, scoring six goals and providing two assists in 20 appearances during the second half of last season. (Xinhua)

Kazma faces Al-Arabi for Handball Federation Cup 3rd place

Burgan chases historic title against Sulaibikhat

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The 2025-2026 Handball Federation Cup reaches its conclusion on Monday with Burgan taking on Sulaibikhat in the final at 7:00 pm at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier, Kazma and Al-Arabi will meet at 5:00 pm in the third-place playoff.



Players challenging for the ball.

The final is particularly significant as it will crown a new champion, ending a 12-year period of Kuwait Club dominance. Kuwait Club had held the trophy continuously from the 2013-2014 season through 2024-2025, before Al-Arabi knocked the defending champions out of this year's tournament, bringing their long-standing reign to an end.

Sulaibikhat will be looking to claim its third Federation Cup title, having previously lifted the trophy in 2002 and 2005. Burgan, on the other hand, are chasing its first-ever domestic championship, having yet to win either the league or the Federation Cup despite its achievements on the continental stage.

The final also brings together two Asian club champions. Sulaibikhat won the Asian Club Championship in 2009, while Burgan heads into the showdown as the 2026 continental champion. Its recent Asian triumph marks the most significant achievement in the club's history and adds further intrigue to an already compelling encounter.

Burgan, coached by Yaqoub Al-Mousawi, will seek to build on its technical strength and strong morale to secure victory and make history with its first domestic crown. Sulaibikhat, under national coach Hussein Habib,is equally determined to reclaim itsplace among the competition's champions and add a third cup to its honours, capping a season of intense competition on a high note.

101 horses to compete in the opening meeting at Hunting & Equestrian Club

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Kuwait Hunting and Equestrian Club launches its first horse racing meeting of the season on Monday at 3:00 pm, with 101 horses set to compete in seven races expected to deliver keen competition.

The opening program features the Cup of the late Sheikh Nasser Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, may he rest in peace, along with the Cup presented by Al-Raya Stud owner Alaa Al-Roumi.

The first race will feature mixed locally bred Thoroughbreds over 1,200 meters, followed by a mixed race over the same distance. The third event is for locally bred mixed Arabian horses over 1,200 meters, while the fourth is a mixed race over 1,600 meters. The fifth race is reserved for maiden horses over 1,400 meters.

The sixth event, covering 1,200 meters, is dedicated to Arabian horses of Egyptian bloodlines and will be contested for a Cup donated by Al-Raya Stud owner Alaa Al-Roumi in support of Arabian horse racing. The seventh race will feature mixed horses over 1,000 meters.

Sheikh Dhari Al-Fahad, Chairman of the Kuwait Hunting and Equestrian Club, stressed that the club remains committed to supporting Kuwaiti equestrian sports and horse racing, helping preserve a cherished tradition passed down through generations.

He noted that horse racing has witnessed considerable development following the opening of the country's racetracks to participants from other local clubs. The move allows horses and trainers to compete at any of Kuwait's racetracks.



Sheikh Dhari Al-Fahad flanked by Fawzi Al-Ali, Alaa Al-Roumi and Sheikh Sabah Fahad Al-Nasser.

Sheikh Dhari added that the club had completed preparations for the new season, including track maintenance and lighting arrangements.

Races at the Kuwait Hunting and Equestrian Club will be held weekly. The Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber Racetrack will host its meetings on Tuesdays, followed by the Sheikh Sabah Al-Nasser Racetrack on Wednesdays and the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Racetrack on Thursdays.

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