



Kuwait Amir leads greetings to Lebanon on Independence Day Page 2

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KUWAIT, GULF RALLY BEHIND BAHRAIN AFTER IRANIAN STRIKES

Attack hurts 2, Pakistani critical

Fire, damage reported after industrial facility hit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22, (KUNA): Kuwait on Sunday strongly condemned Iran's continued attacks on Bahrain, including a strike on a civilian industrial facility that caused a fire and material damage, as regional and international bodies joined calls for an immediate halt to the escalation.

In a statement, Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the attacks violated Bahrain's sovereignty, international law, the UN Charter and UN Security Council Resolution 2817. It reiterated Kuwait's categorical rejection of any actions that threaten regional security and stability.

Kuwait reaffirmed its full solidarity with Bahrain and supported all measures taken by Manama to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability.

Bahrain condemns strike

The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemned what it described as continued Iranian air attacks on civilian targets on its territory. It said the latest attack caused a fire and material damage at a civilian industrial facility.

Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had publicly claimed responsibility for the attacks. It described the strikes as a direct threat to civilians and a flagrant violation of Bahrain's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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Opinion

■ **Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Well done, man of Iraq ... Al-Zaidi

WHEN we speak of the great nation of Iraq, we are not referring to a specific era but to a history spanning several centuries, from the dawn of civilization to the present day.

Like every nation, Iraq has experienced setbacks and periods of revival, each shaped by its own circumstances and causes.

For example, the Abbasids ruled over a vast empire with Baghdad as its capital. The city became renowned as a center of science and scholarship, housing the famous library called "House of Wisdom," which attracted scholars and seekers of knowledge from around the world.

Unfortunately, preserving this legacy proved difficult amid widespread recklessness and poor leadership, particularly during the reign of the last Abbasid caliph, Al-Musta'sim Billah, who squandered the empire's wealth on frivolous pursuits while his army went hungry.

His minister made no meaningful contribution to revitalizing state institutions or strengthening the empire's cultural influence. Rather than offering sound advice, he sought to weaken the state by encouraging the Caliph to indulge in further pleasures, driven by his own ambitions for power.

This minister was Mu'ayyad al-Din ibn al-Alqami, no ordinary official but the Caliph's chief advisor. Despite his influential position, Ibn al-Alqami conspired with Hulagu, promising to help him invade Baghdad in exchange for ruling the city himself. However, the Mongols reneged on their promises, humiliating Ibn al-Alqami after Baghdad fell and leaving him to wander in its streets.

Turning to the modern era, Iraq endured numerous tragedies throughout the last century. Among them was the coup against King Faisal, carried out by a group of military officers despite his efforts to build a modern state.

Political opportunism and the pursuit of power brought devastating consequences for Iraq. Some of the most horrific crimes were

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Minister Al-Sumait unveils 'Tawtheeq' to modernize legal services

Kuwait gives power of attorney system a digital makeover



Ministry of Justice photo

Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait speaks during the launch of the first phase of the "Tawtheeq" electronic power of attorney system on Sunday during a ceremony held at the Government Communication Theater at the National Cybersecurity Center in Al-Shaab.

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait launched the first phase of the "Tawtheeq" electronic power of attorney system on Sunday during a ceremony held at the Government Communication Theater at the National Cybersecurity Center in Al-Shaab.

The ceremony was attended by several officials and representatives of government agencies and companies participating in the project.

Al-Sumait explained that the launch marks a significant step in the Ministry of Justice's efforts to modernize its services and facilitate transactions for citizens and residents. The ministry is using modern technology to complete notarization procedures more quickly and efficiently while maintaining the necessary legal safeguards to protect rights. Notarization aims to protect rights and that any modernization of its procedures must be based on a solid legal foundation that ensures procedural integrity and data accuracy.

The new system allows powers of attorney to be issued electronically, with video conferencing required for certain types. It is designed to save time and effort, improve work efficiency, and safeguard rights through electronic integration with relevant authorities to verify the accuracy of power of attorney data. A power of attorney is automatically revoked upon receipt of proof of the agent's resignation or the principal's death.

Al-Sumait stressed that developing government services is not limited to speeding up transactions but also involves improving their accuracy and reliability.

He noted that the project received the support and continuous follow-up of His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, expressing his sincere gratitude and appreciation for His Highness's support and commitment to developing

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82 firms to recruit at PAAET forum

515 job doors open for Kuwaiti graduates

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The "Employment Pathways Forum," organized by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) in cooperation with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), will begin on Tuesday, November 24, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The two-day forum will bring together more than 82 private sector companies offering 515 actual job opportunities for graduates from various academic disciplines.

The initiative aims to expand employment opportunities and encourage Kuwaiti nationals to join the private sector.

Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, Director General of PAAET, said the forum represents a practical model of national partnership and institutional cooperation among government entities, creating direct channels of communication between graduates and employers.

He explained that the forum provides an effective platform for bringing educational institutions and private sector companies together, helping expand employment opportunities for Kuwaiti talent while addressing labor market needs. The forum is not limited to PAAET graduates but is open to all graduates and prospective graduates from various educational institutions across Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Director General of PAM, Engineer Rabab Al-Osaimi, said the partnership with PAAET translates institutional cooperation between government entities into tangible

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Defaulters face KD 100 fine

30-day clock starts for 516 deleted addresses

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced the removal of 516 residential addresses from its records, either at the request of property owners or due to the demolition of buildings.

The announcement was published in the latest issue of the official gazette, "Kuwait Al-Youm", released on Sunday.

PACI urged those affected by the decision to register their new addresses within 30 days of the announcement date, either by visiting PACI in person or through the Sahel application.

It warned that failure to comply would result in penalties under Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which stipulates a fine of up to KD 100 per person.



Embassy of India photo

Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Paramita Tripathi spearheads the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (Plant 4 Mother) campaign during a tree-planting drive at Riggae and Andalous parks on Nov 21, joined by members of the Indian community, volunteers and children in promoting environmental awareness and a greener Kuwait.

India's green campaign takes roots in Kuwait's public parks

By John C. Fernandes

Online Media Manager – Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The Embassy of India in Kuwait, in association with ARMS4U and Amma Kuwait, organised a tree-planting drive at Riggae and Andalous Park on November 21 under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (Plant 4 Mother) campaign, promoting environmental awareness and community participation in building a greener Kuwait.

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T2 airport deal heads for price talks

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) decided to arrange a negotiation session on the pricing of the operation, management and service development contract for the new passenger terminal at Kuwait International Airport (T2), along with the aircraft aprons, centralized operation and maintenance management of the airport.

This session is scheduled for Nov 30.

The decision is in response to the request of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) to establish suitable pricing agreements. The price negotiation session will involve the two pre-qualified companies. CAPT has advised these companies to visit its website for more information regarding the session like the date and time.

The session is in line with the efforts of PACA to take over the new terminal from the Ministry of Public Works, which is currently overseeing the project on behalf of the authority. Upon completion of the project, the responsibility for its management and operation will be transferred to PACA.

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Newswatch

RIYADH: The Coalition to Support Legitimacy in **Yemen** announced on Sunday the interception and destruction of a drone launched by the Houthi militia towards the Riyadh region.

Coalition Spokesman Brig. Gen. **Turki Al-Maliki** made the announcement in a brief statement posted on his official X account, without providing further details. (KUNA)

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WASHINGTON: The Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) has congratulated the **Sultanate of Oman** on winning a seat at the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). (KUNA)

Ministry targets excesses

One pay scale for all co-ops

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah announced the completion of a draft resolution on the unified organizational structure, standardized job descriptions and salary scale for employees in cooperative societies.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

In a press statement after reviewing the proposal prepared by the concerned team, Al-Huwailah disclosed that this move is part of the efforts of the ministry to strengthen the cooperative sector and improve its administrative and financial performance. She said she issued a directive to refer the document to the concerned authorities for technical and legal assessment, paving the way for the resolution to be formally adopted and issued.

She stated that several cooperative societies participated in the preparation process, so their observations and recommendations taken into consideration to ensure that the

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7 Zain receives two prestigious regional awards for developing the next generation of women leaders



8 ABK Wealth Management wins MEED's Best Asset Management Company award

9 NBK launches exclusive 'Blue Friday' offer for customers in collaboration with X-Cite

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:56	Asr	14:30
Sunrise	06:18	Maghrib	16:51
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:13

HH Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace Sunday morning.

His Highness also received the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

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

His Highness also received the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir



President of Lebanon Joseph Aoun

Kuwait Amir leads greetings to Lebanon on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable Sunday to the President of Lebanon Joseph Aoun, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness wished the President good health and well-being, and for Lebanon and its people continued progress and prosperity.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable Sunday to the President of Lebanon Joseph Aoun, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day, wishing him good health and well-being.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable Sunday to the President of Lebanon Joseph Aoun, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

State land is not up for grabs: First Deputy PM

'No fait accompli for violators'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah affirmed on Saturday that the state's property and the rights of others are not open to "encroachment or exploitation," stressing that the law punishes anyone who illegally seizes state property and applies to all without exception, whoever they are.

This came during a field campaign directly supervised by Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef targeting violating livestock pens (jakhour) in Al-Salmi desert area, to ensure enforcement of the law, protect state property and strengthen coordination among the concerned government agencies, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said that imposing a fait accompli does not grant violators any rights or exempt them from accountability, and that no one would be allowed to violate the law or seize property that does not belong to them.

He stressed the need to abide by grazing regulations and conditions, noting the importance of coordinated efforts between security and environmental authorities to protect natural reserves.

Citizens and residents have an essential role in protecting the environment and natural reserves, and that respecting reserve boundaries and complying with their regulations contribute to protecting wildlife within them, he added.

Criminal investigation officers detected the construction of several livestock pens without the required permits. Among them were three pens belonging to individuals from Gulf countries that violated Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources requirements and grazing regulations, statement added.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior also toured Kuwait Municipality's vehicle impound yard in Al-Salmi, where he reviewed its operations and procedures for handling impounded vehicles.

He affirmed the need for coordination among the concerned authorities to ensure that procedures are completed in accordance with applicable regulations.







Ministry of Interior photos

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef during a field inspection of violating livestock pens (jakhours) in the Al-Salmi desert area as part of a campaign to enforce regulations and protect state property.

The statement said the campaign also covered several natural reserves in the country, including Umm Qadeer Reserve, where he reviewed efforts to protect reserve lands, preserve their environment and safeguard the wildlife they contain.

The campaign also extended to a bird-breeders' site in Al-Manqeesh area, where it was found that they had encroached on sites allocated by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources to sheep and camel breeders, occupying them for bird breeding, which constitutes an encroachment on state property and the rights of those to whom the sites had been allocated.

The campaign was attended by Kuwait Municipality Director General Eng. Manal Al-Asfour, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Fay Al-Misbahi, Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority Nouf Behbehani, Criminal Security Affairs Sector Head Brigadier Fahad Al-Bader, and a number of security officials.

KUNA trains media staff in Photoshop and Lightroom

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22, (KUNA): KUNA Center for Media Development held on Sunday its training program on photo editing using Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, with participation by employees from KUNA, the Ministry of Interior, the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA).

The program, offered by photography trainer Mustafa Al-Bader and is ongoing until November 26, aims to help participants develop their skills in using photo editing software, learn the basics of working with it, and understand the basic tools and techniques used to improve image quality, lightening, colors, and details, helping to improve the level of visual media production.

Both theoretical and practical approaches were covered during the program, with ways including techniques for resizing images, adding text and watermarks, ways to efficiently use both programs, and the most suitable ways to export formats for best image quality.

KUNA Center for Media Development, established in December 1995, is one of the most important media training centers and has offered hundreds of training programs in various media fields, offering skills and capabilities to enhance professional media work.

Other Voices

Bana ... the unfinished painting

By Suad Fahad Almojil

At the height of her illness, she was preparing to participate in an art competition organized by a famous museum in Britain. The competition required each artist to submit ten paintings. The museum administration contacted them, and she was among the artists on the list. She sent nine paintings and was working on finishing the tenth and final painting when the hospital called her for a new round of treatment.



Almojil

I was with her as she put the final touches on the last painting in the set of ten paintings, and I was insisting that she send it before going to the hospital so that the first collection would be completed. But, with the eye of an artist, she did not see the painting as complete, for the artist has a different eye than the viewer, so she did not send it, and the project remained suspended at that time.

On November 10, 2026, our unfinished masterpiece, Bana Abdulrahman, departed, leaving behind an artistic legacy, a spiritual essence, and a profound human presence. Everyone who knew her felt the anguish of her absence and the pain of separation, mourning the loss of a true icon of life. Fate decreed that her final touches would remain etched in the memories of all who knew her, met her, or experienced the magic of her presence. Yet, despite her absence, her presence remains overwhelming, overshadowing all pain and sorrow. There is scarcely a home from Kuwait to Egypt, from Saudi Arabia to Qatar, from Austria to America, from Jordan to the smallest village in Palestine, that doesn't display a painting by Bana Abdulrahman. She left her mark on everything, making her absence a matter that defies easy comprehension.

Those who leave a legacy never truly depart, nor do those who bequeath beauty, nor does the image of a truly humane and generous soul ever fade. Lubna Abdulrahman possessed all of this, for her presence continues to fill every corner of time and space, far exceeding her physical lifespan. How can one truly depart who made art the language of the soul, who transformed beauty into a message that resonates among humanity, who forged from willpower a resolve that defies all the world's cruelty? Her drawings and paintings were not merely aesthetic forms; each one carried a stance on life and within life, a life in which Lubna never saw absolute evil, despite all its harshness. Her eye always discerned beauty in a rose, a sunset, a shower of rain, or the eyes of a child. She believed, and taught those around her, that there is always a window of light amidst all the ugliness, noise, and cruelty the world witnesses. Therefore, one who possesses a spirit like Lubna Abdulrahman's remains immortal in their presence, departing in body, but her spirit Its small details always remain stuck in the folds of memory and consciousness.

Artists and creators often leave open windows that remain open even after their departure, and Bana's window on life, art, and humanity will always remain open, inspiring those who knew her, met her, saw her paintings, or felt the beauty of her giving and presence, confirming that the presence of the spirit may triumph over the annihilation of the body.

I am not alone in mourning Bana Abdulrahman; this is a lament expressed by everyone who accompanied Bana Abdulrahman on her life's journey. If death is the fate of man at the end of that journey, then what remains in the end is what the departed leave behind in the memory of family, loved ones, and friends about a life that has much to tell.

Death has triumphed over Bana's body, but it will not take away the impact and legacy she left behind. One who leaves a legacy never truly leaves, and one who becomes an important part of memory never disappears. A memory that embraces the beauty of paintings, colors, and drawings in which Bana summarized her story with life. A memory that preserves small conversations, shared cups of coffee, fleeting laughter, small and large worries, and meetings brimming with joy and love. A rich legacy that Bana left open and suspended, remaining after her departure. We may complete it, or others may complete it later, just like her unfinished painting, which remained open, summoning memory and inspiring hope for a life without death. In it, Bana taught us that life is beautiful at times and turbulent at others, but it is honest in its incompleteness.

Kuwait University turns 60 this Friday

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22, (KUNA): Kuwait University will mark its 60th anniversary on Friday, November 27, commemorating six decades of contributions to national development, higher education, scientific research and community service.

In a press statement Sunday, the University said it continued to fulfill its mission with the support of 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, and the ongoing follow-up from the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal.

The university expressed appreciation for the contributions of successive generations of faculty members, staff, students and graduates who had helped build and advance the institution over six decades.

It reaffirmed its commitment to developing academic programs, expanding practical learning opportunities and supporting research aligned with national priorities and global scientific advances.

The university also unveiled the anniversary's visual identity and official logo, announcing plans for various celebrations and activities, and extended an invitation to the university community and the public to the event.

KUNA hosts interactive storytelling for children

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) threw a "Story Reading" event on Saturday at the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair, in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

The event is mainly intended to encourage children to read and enrich their connection to books from an early age.

The event comes within the framework of KUNA's commitment to backing cultural and awareness-raising activities targeting children, nurturing their linguistic and creative skills, and spurring their imagination by telling stories in an interactive manner. (KUNA)





KUNA photos

Photos during the "Story Reading" event.

Fake cops 11-crime spree ends in Jleeb

72-hour hunt nails robbery duo

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: In a security operation highlighting the vigilance of security personnel and their quick response to criminal reports, the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigations and the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Investigation Office, solved 11 cases involving armed robbery and impersonation of security officers within just 72 hours, reports Al-Anba daily.

The operation resulted in the arrest of two Syrian nationals, while efforts are ongoing to apprehend their third accomplice, also a Syrian national, who remains at large.

According to security sources, criminal investigators arrested the suspects just minutes after they committed their latest robbery. The suspects resisted arrest violently, injuring one investigator and damaging a security patrol vehicle.

The suspects were found carrying sums of money believed to be proceeds from the robberies, along with bladed weapons used in the crimes. One suspect was carrying a sword, while the other had two knives. Authorities also seized a forged identification card that the suspects used to impersonate Criminal Investigation officers.

Several expatriates had filed reports over the previous three days, stating that they had been robbed shortly after finishing their shifts at central markets after midnight while heading to buses that transport them to their residences.

According to the complainants, the suspects would hide among parked vehicles, impersonate Criminal Investigation officers, and demand to inspect their identification documents and belongings. They would then threaten the victims with bladed weapons, assault them, and steal their money and cell phones.

The investigation teams increased their presence around the markets where the incidents had been reported. At approximately 2:30 am, another report was received concerning the robbery of workers at a commercial market. A security team immediately responded and managed to arrest one suspect who was hiding underneath a vehicle.

Defense Ministry opens voluntary naval enlistment

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The Ministry of Defense, through the General Staff of the Army's Administration and Manpower Authority, has officially opened voluntary military enlistment in the Naval Force, targeting non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Registration Details:

Application Period - Applications opened on Thursday and will remain open until November 28.

How to Apply - Applicants must register online through the Volunteer Recruitment Branch's official portal - https://vc.kuwaitarmy.gov.kw

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas visits Al-Tahrir Camp

National Guard Undersecretary calls for enhanced operational efficiency

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The Undersecretary of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas conducted an inspection visit to the staff formations at Al-Tahrir Camp, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, he emphasized the importance of complying with military instructions and orders, and reinforcing the principles of discipline and order in the performance of duty, stressing that these are two fundamental pillars in building military competence and enhancing operational readiness.

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas highlighted the importance of continuous training in improving performance, refining skills, and strengthening a sense of responsibility and teamwork to keep pace with the requirements of the current phase and achieve the objectives of the training season.

He affirmed that discipline is the foundation of competence and continuous training is the path to readiness, adding that both are essential pillars in the National Guard's pursuit of excellence and service.



The Undersecretary of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas conducts an inspection visit to the staff formations at Al-Tahrir Camp.



Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas inspects military personnel during a visit to Al-Tahrir Camp.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Kuwait and Britain: 125 years of partnership

"THE relationship between Kuwait and the United Kingdom is more than a historical legacy spanning over 125 years. It is a comprehensive partnership built on trust, cooperation, and mutual interests," Egyptian journalist **Bassam Al-Qassas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Having evolved from early political and security agreements, the relationship has expanded into a broad partnership encompassing economics, education, and investment.



Al-Qassas

Today, it is entering new areas of cooperation, including technology, artificial intelligence, clean energy, and cybersecurity.

From the 1899 agreement, a pivotal milestone in the history of both nations, to Britain's stance during the 1990 Iraqi invasion and the participation of British forces in Kuwait's liberation in 1991, the relationship between the two countries has gone beyond conventional diplomatic ties, becoming a cornerstone of Kuwait's relations with European nations.

Economic indicators underscore the scale of these mutual interests. According to British data, total trade in goods and services between the two countries reached £5.7 billion in the 12 months ending September 2025, comprising £2.3 billion in British exports to Kuwait and £3.4 billion in imports from Kuwait.

This partnership is set to gain further momentum following the conclusion of negotiations on a free trade agreement between the United Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states on May 20, 2026.

This marks the first comprehensive free trade agreement between the GCC and a G7 nation.

Once the ratification process is complete and the agreement enters into force, it is expected to reduce trade barriers and facilitate the flow of goods, services, and investment.

British estimates suggest that trade between the United Kingdom and the GCC countries could increase by approximately 19.8 percent, equivalent to £15.5 billion annually, over the long term.

Defense and security cooperation remains one of the strongest pillars of the bilateral relationship.

British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed reaffirmed his country's unwavering commitment to Kuwait's security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

He also highlighted ongoing military cooperation, joint training exercises, the exchange of expertise, and efforts to strengthen defense capabilities.

Areas of cooperation include the Rapid Sentry counter-drone system, the enhancement of air defense capabilities, military education and training, and coordination between security and defense institutions.

Furthermore, the British Military Mission in Kuwait has served as a cornerstone of cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries for more than three decades.

Educational ties are equally significant, complementing the economic and military dimensions of the partnership. The British ambassador revealed that approximately 14,000 Kuwaiti students are enrolled in British universities, including both government-sponsored scholarship recipients and students pursuing their studies at their own expense.

Reflecting the strength of people-to-people ties, the United Kingdom has issued approximately 244,000 Electronic Travel Authorizations (ETAs) to Kuwaiti citizens. This figure represents the total number of authorizations granted, rather than the actual number of individual travelers.

British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed noted that more than 160,000 visitors from Kuwait traveled to the United Kingdom in 2024.

London remains a primary destination for Kuwaiti investments, while efforts are ongoing to strengthen the presence of British companies in the Kuwaiti market, particularly in the energy, infrastructure, financial services, education, and healthcare sectors.

In this context, Ambassador Qudsi Rasheed emphasized that priorities for the coming period include expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, digital technologies, cybersecurity, clean energy, healthcare, and higher education.

He also stressed the importance of translating available opportunities into tangible projects and investments.

Furthermore, 2024 witnessed high-level engagement between the two nations, including a telephone call in July from British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. This reflects the continued political dialogue between the two leaderships and their shared commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations.

Consequently, Kuwaiti-British relations are entering a new phase, one that goes beyond relying on a legacy spanning more than 125 years and instead builds on it to forge a modern partnership founded on lasting security, economic diversification, and advanced knowledge.

By combining Britain's long standing expertise with Kuwait's development ambitions, the relationship continues to serve as an example of a historic partnership capable of renewal and adaptation to the challenges of the future."

Also:

"There is no solution to rising divorce rates except to extend judicial oversight to decisions involving divorce and khula (divorce initiated by the wife), as society should not be left to bear the consequences of such decisions," Kuwaiti writer **Zaid Al-Jalawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Al-Jalawi

"This approach is based on Article 9 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the family is the foundation of society and that the law must preserve its structure, strengthen its bonds, and protect motherhood and childhood within its framework.

Tormented souls and exhausted children bear the consequences of the legislature's considerable delay in protecting them. Yet the legislature has intervened by requiring genetic testing before marriage.

Why, then, does the state not intervene to oversee divorce proceedings and attempt to prevent divorce, particularly when the mechanism for arbitration between the parties is not in place? I propose a legislative amendment assigning the Family Prosecution Office the task of investigating the reasons for divorce, with its findings subject to judicial review. The court would then decide whether to approve or reject the divorce or khula request.

Children urgently need the constitutionally guaranteed right to protection from neglect. The proposed amendment would authorize the court to impose a fine on the party responsible for breaching the marital obligations stipulated in the marriage contract and to award compensation to the aggrieved party.

The court would also have the authority to require the party initiating the divorce to repay the benefits provided by the state to those preparing for marriage.

Marriage is not an end in itself but serves societal purposes that preserve life, lineage, intellect, religion, and property. Achieving these five necessities is difficult without legislative intervention, particularly when existing measures have proven ineffective in curbing divorce, which has become a troubling phenomenon for society as a whole.

The judiciary should oversee the soundness of spouses' decisions and examine the reasons behind their desire to separate. The family is an integral part of society, which is negatively affected by rising divorce rates.

The judiciary already oversees most administrative decisions, even when they are less important than cases involving the disintegration of families.

Many divorced couples later regret their decisions and therefore need the state to protect them from their own impulsive choices by providing appropriate social support. While marriage is an absolute personal right, divorce is not. Divorce should occur only under compelling circumstances that the court deems necessary to justify ending the couple's life together."

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"A stranger is someone we do not know or are unfamiliar with, and can be any individual we meet, speak to, or interact with for the first time," Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Khaled Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"I am not suggesting that every stranger necessarily suffers from a psychological disorder simply because they are unfamiliar to us. Rather, as human beings, we are all susceptible to various psychological disorders, particularly in today's turbulent world, except those whom Almighty God has spared.

A rational person who is morally and psychologically sound should approach every stranger with this possibility in mind until proven otherwise.

Several logical points support this approach, the first being that psychological disorders are less apparent than moral shortcomings.

A person with moral shortcomings often reveals their true character through their speech or unethical behavior.

In contrast, the psychological condition of someone with a disorder may remain hidden from a rational, psychologically sound observer, particularly until the observer begins to expect normal and balanced behavior from them.

Deep-seated psychological complexes, in particular, take time to surface. It may take time for a stranger to reveal their distorted thought patterns and troubled psychological biases. Therefore, exercising caution when dealing with strangers is a logical choice for any sensible person.

A sensible person's wariness and guardedness towards a stranger, including taking time to observe them until their true character becomes clear, are far better than engaging spontaneously without exercising appropriate judgment and reasonable caution during a first encounter.

Many psychologically and morally sound individuals find themselves facing avoidable problems simply because they mistakenly assume that strangers share their own psychological stability and moral integrity. Indeed, exercising caution when dealing with people in general is essential for personal safety.

Rather than working to improve their character or seeking appropriate medical advice to address their psychological issues, some psychologically troubled individuals may attempt to relieve their inner turmoil by mistreating others, using them as an outlet for their frustrations and a means of emotional release.

Do not allow yourself to become a punching bag for individuals who use others to vent their psychological frustrations and personal complexes."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Dangerous stunts land three in prison

Stolen 4WD found abandoned in Jabriya

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Task Force Patrols deployed across various areas of the country located a four-wheel-drive vehicle that was reported stolen in Ahmadi Governorate after finding it abandoned in an open, sandy lot in Jabriya, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, a patrol spotted the vehicle, which appeared to be in good condition despite being left in the lot with sand accumulating on it. Officers checked its details and discovered that its owner had previously reported it stolen in Ahmadi.

The circumstances surrounding the theft remain unclear, including whether the vehicle had been left running when it was stolen or whether another method was used.

Legal procedures had been initiated and the vehicle referred to the Criminal Evidence Department for fingerprint collection in an attempt to identify the suspect before returning it to its owner.

❑ ❑ ❑

Police step up monitoring: Motorcycles used in reckless driving and dangerous stunts have come under increased scrutiny by the Ministry of Interior, underscoring its commitment to pursuing all violators regardless of the type of vehicle or machinery involved, reports Al-Anba daily.

The move follows the arrest of a motorcyclist by the General Traffic Department for performing dangerous stunts and riding on one wheel, endangering his life and the lives of other road users.

The Ministry of Interior said three reckless drivers were referred to the Central Prison following their arrest in three separate incidents.

The most notable case involved a dirt bike rider who attempted to flee from security officers in the Jaber Al-Ahmad area. His escape attempt ended when he collided with a patrol vehicle and was arrested by traffic officers.

A patrol from the Security Monitoring Department spotted the motorcyclist riding on public roads in violation of the law and engaging in reckless and dangerous behavior. When officers ordered him to stop, he attempted to flee and collided with the patrol vehicle. Security personnel managed to arrest him and take the necessary legal action.

In a related development, the General Traffic Department arrested two motorists in separate incidents after video footage circulated showing them engaging in reckless driving and dangerous behavior that endangered their lives and the lives of others.

Investigations led to the identification and arrest of both drivers. One admitted to committing the violations, while the other vehicle was located in an industrial area in Jahra.

The ministry confirmed that all three violators were referred to the Central Prison.





Verifying students' identities before they take the aptitude test.

KU holds aptitude tests for over 10,000 students

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Kuwait University recently held the second sitting of the first round of its academic aptitude examinations for a total of 10,720 students, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The tests were conducted through the traditional paper and electronic methods, with special arrangements for students with disabilities. Students were tested in three core subjects -- Mathematics, English and Arabic.

The examinations took place at Sabah Al-Salem University City, where testing facilities were distributed in the main administration building and the colleges of Education, Life Sciences, Engineering, Science and Arts. These venues were designated according to the nature of the examination and the method of delivery.

The paper and electronic tests scheduled for Saturday were conducted in two sessions -- from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm, with specific time allocations for each subject.

During an inspection tour, acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Suleili affirmed the commitment of the university to provide the necessary personnel and logistical resources, create a comfortable testing environment, and ensure that all examinations are conducted smoothly in accordance with university regulations.

KU to host 12th admission exhibition for students

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Kuwait University has announced the 12th university admission exhibition with the theme, "A Journey of Ambition," scheduled for Nov 23-25 at the Cultural Center in Sabah Al-Salem University City, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement Wednesday, acting Dean of Admissions and Registration Dr. Fadel Aziz disclosed that the exhibition is in line with the commitment of the university to inform the secondary school students about the admission criteria and available specializations, as well as to respond to their questions in order to help them choose their academic and career paths.

He said the deanship collaborated with the Ministry of Education to welcome more than 4,000 students from public and private schools to familiarize them with the courses offered by the university and career opportunities after graduation.

Kuwait hosts regional push for pediatric healthcare advances

Latest treatments for childhood diseases showcased

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The Second Gulf Pediatric Conference has officially opened, with the participation of the Gulf Pediatric Association and Kuwait Pediatric Society under the auspices of the Kuwait Medical Association.

Heads of pediatric associations from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as well as regional and international medical experts, specialists and consultants, attended the conference.

Conference Chairperson Dr. Sundus Al-Shuraida revealed that the two-day event is an important scientific platform for strengthening regional and international partnerships, exchanging medical expertise and research findings, and exploring the latest developments in diagnosing and managing childhood diseases.

In her speech, Al-Shuraida talked about the vision of the Gulf Pediatric Association to establish an integrated regional framework for advancing healthcare services for children. She stated that this strategy includes unifying clinical guidelines and treatment standards, promoting collaborative research in medical centers, creating unified databases throughout the Gulf region, expanding professional training and continuing medical education initiatives.

She presented the comprehensive scientific program for the conference, which features expert lectures, specialized discussion sessions and practical workshops. She said the agenda covers the advancements in pediatric medicine, chronic, rare and hereditary conditions, clinical nutrition, precision medicine, gene and cell therapies, integration of artificial intelligence into healthcare, and latest treatment approaches for achondroplasia -- a genetic condition that causes a form of dwarfism.



A glimpse of the opening ceremony.

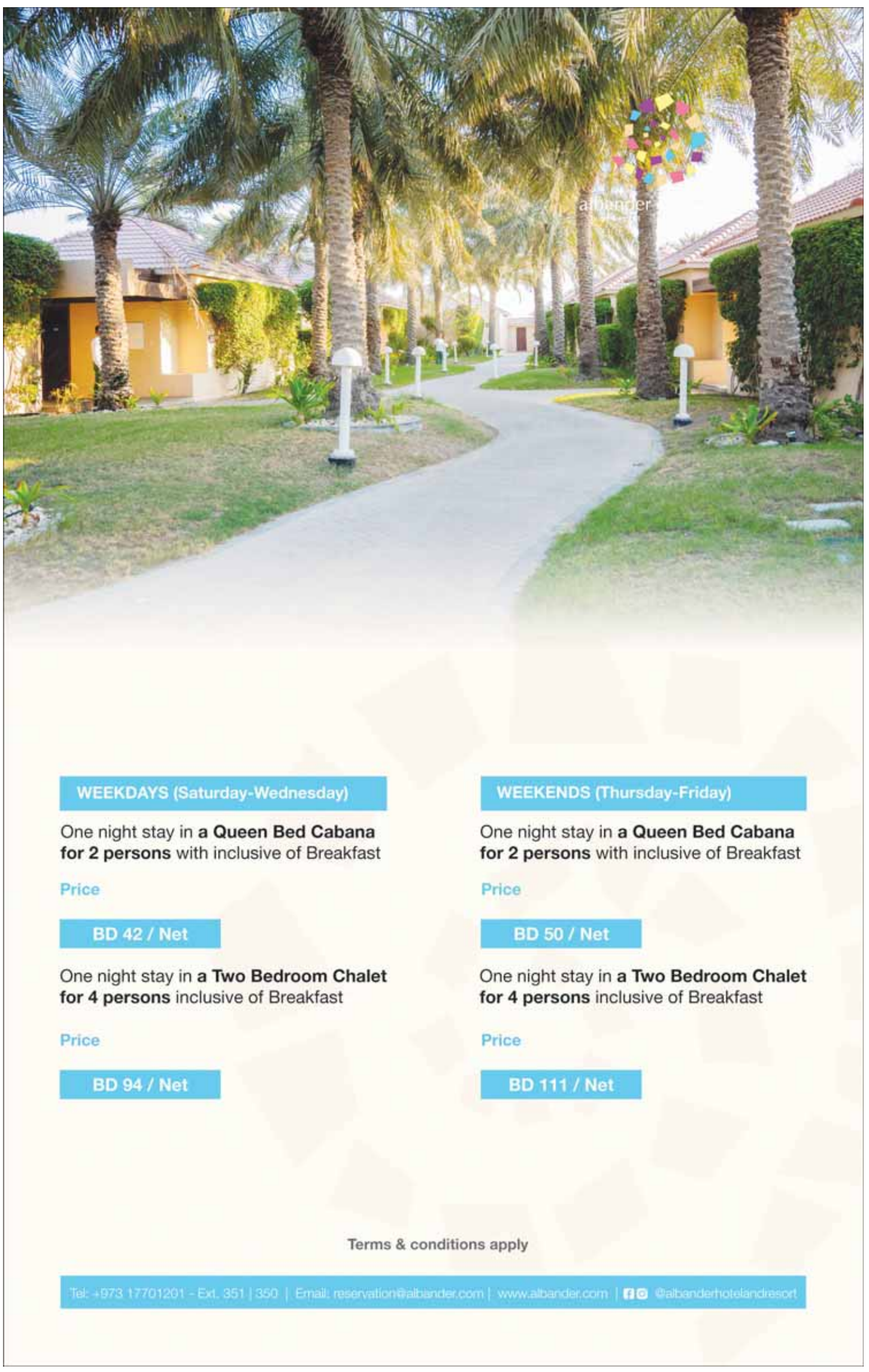
She added that the conference includes workshops on total parenteral nutrition for children, outpatient intravenous antibiotic treatment, diagnosis and management of graft-versus-host disease, and the formulation of clinical policies and procedures to improve healthcare standards and patient safety.

She disclosed that the participants presented 27 scientific research papers on various pediatric specializations. She said three papers were selected to receive awards as the conference's outstanding research papers, proving the commitment to promote innovation, scientific excellence, and contributions of young researchers and medical professionals.

She stressed the need to strengthen partnerships among healthcare institutions and specialized medical centers throughout the Gulf, while promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience in treating complicated cases and uncommon diseases.

She added that such joint efforts can help facilitate earlier diagnosis and broaden children's access to advanced medical treatments.

She indicated that prioritizing children's health is a long-term investment in the future of nations. "We aspire for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to be active partners in shaping the future of pediatrics globally. We are one Gulf, we share a common mission, and the future of our children is the responsibility we all hold," she concluded.



Continued from Page 1

Attack hurts 2,

The ministry said the attacks constituted a dangerous escalation that threatened regional security and stability. It said they violated the UN Charter, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity of states, as well as international law, the principles of good neighborliness and UN Security Council Resolution 2817.

Bahrain rejected the pretexts and justifications cited by the IRGC for the aggression. It stressed that the facts showed the target was a purely civilian industrial facility.

The ministry called on Iran to abandon its policy of repeatedly violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states, and to stop using disputes with other parties as a pretext to justify attacks.

Right to self-defense

Bahrain said it reserved its inherent right to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty and the security of its citizens and residents.

It said this included its right to individual and collective self-defense, at the time, place and in the manner it deems appropriate, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter and the Gulf Cooperation Council's Joint Defense Agreement.

Bahrain said it would act in coordination with fellow GCC states and partners. It also praised the Bahrain Defense Force for its efficiency and high combat readiness in confronting the attacks.

Call for UN action

Bahrain renewed its call on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities and take firm measures to compel Iran to implement Resolution 2817.

It said the resolution's provisions included an immediate halt to attacks and threats against civilians, civilian objects and infrastructure, as well as freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Bab Al-Mandab.

Bahrain also called on Iran to cease support for proxy groups, be held accountable, and provide redress and full compensation in accordance with international law and Human Rights Council Resolution 1/61.

It said such steps were necessary to safeguard regional and international peace and security.

Two people injured

Bahrain's Interior Ministry announced on Sunday that a Bahraini citizen with disabilities and a Pakistani resident were injured in the Iranian attacks on the kingdom on Saturday.

In a statement, the ministry said the Bahraini citizen was in stable condition, while the Pakistani resident was in critical condition. It said both were receiving treatment at hospital.

Saudi Arabia backs Bahrain

Saudi Arabia also expressed its condemnation and denunciation of what it called the heinous Iranian attacks on a civilian industrial facility in Bahrain.

In a statement, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed the Kingdom's full solidarity with Bahrain in all measures it takes to protect its security and stability.

Riyadh reiterated its rejection of Iran's continued destabilizing behavior in the region, its targeting of regional countries and civilian facilities, and its violations of international law, the UN Charter and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Charter.

Saudi Arabia said it held Iran responsible for the consequences of continuing what it described as brutal attacks.

GCC expresses solidarity

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Jasem Al-Budaiwi expressed the GCC's full solidarity with Bahrain following the announcement of the fire at the industrial facility.

In a statement, Al-Budaiwi affirmed the GCC's support for Bahrain and for all measures taken by the kingdom's authorities to deal with the incident and contain its repercussions.

He said the security of Bahrain, the safety of its territory, facilities, citizens and residents was an integral part of the security of GCC countries.

Al-Budaiwi stressed that GCC states stood united in confronting anything that could undermine their security and stability.

Arab League warns of escalation

The Arab League strongly condemned the attack on the civilian industrial facility, describing it as a flagrant violation of Bahrain's sovereignty and a threat to its security, stability and territorial integrity.

In a statement, the League expressed full solidarity with Bahrain's leadership, government and people. It affirmed its support for all sovereign measures taken to protect the kingdom's security, stability, territory and residents.

The League renewed its call on the international community to reject such attacks and work to immediately halt all forms of escalation.

It warned that failure to do so could push the region into dangerous developments that threaten regional security and peace.

Arab Parliament demands halt

The Arab Parliament also condemned the Iranian attack on the civilian industrial facility in Bahrain, warning that continued assaults threatened regional security and stability.

In a statement, the parliament said targeting civilian facilities, economic assets and infrastructure constituted a serious violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

It said the attacks reflected an escalation that endangered regional peace and security, and warned that continued strikes could trigger a wider confrontation.

The parliament called for an immediate halt to the attacks, respect for Bahrain's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and adherence to good-neighborly relations and international law.

It reaffirmed full solidarity with Bahrain and support for measures taken to protect its security, sovereignty and the safety of its citizens and residents.

The Arab Parliament stressed that Bahrain's security was an integral part of Arab national security.

Continued from Page 1

Well done,

committed during the 1958 revolution, when people were dragged through the streets. The decline of this once-great nation continued from that period until 2003.

When Saddam Hussein's regime fell, Iraqis breathed a sigh of relief, believing that an end to injustice had finally arrived.

Unfortunately, however, the United States handed Iraq over to Iran. The following 23 years became one of the darkest chapters in the country's history, as Tehran brought in its agents - thieves and outlaws - who spread violence, theft, and extortion across Iraq.

Iranian influence grew to the point of interfering in the country's daily affairs through proxies who sought to portray Iraq as a non-Arab entity and isolate it from its Arab surroundings, turning it into a conduit for conspiracies and mercenaries targeting others.

The recent war exposed these forces when they targeted GCC states on the orders of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Today, a window of hope has opened thanks to Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi, who is working tirelessly to restore the state's authority, resist sectarian and regional blackmail, and curb the influence of any external power.

Therefore, Operation Jurf al-Sakhr represents the second pillar in Iraq's path toward restoring stability, following the launch of the campaign to combat corruption. These steps weakened the militias' grip on power, and it could even be said that Operation Jurf al-Sakhr dealt a major blow to Iranian influence in Iraq.

The operation was akin to surgically removing a mini-state within the Iraqi state, one riddled with deadly viruses.

These viruses manifested themselves in the plundering and smuggling of Iraqi oil abroad to support Iran's war effort, while Iraq was deprived of its natural resources, including oil, minerals, agricultural resources, and water. Meanwhile, Iraqi citizens were left without even the most basic necessities.

The situation is now clear. The Iranian hegemony that once extended over four Arab countries began to collapse with the launch of Operation Jurf al-Sakhr. This explains why Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi enjoys wide and strong Arab support.

One pay

framework reflects the nature and requirements of cooperative operations in order to establish regulations that balance organizational needs with financial efficiency.

She clarified that the proposal intends to standardize professional titles and job descriptions, define duties and responsibilities more precisely, introduce a unified remuneration system based on employees' qualifications and the nature of their work, present clear and transparent guidelines for recruitment and promotion, ensure equal opportunities and fairness, support the nationalization of the workforce through the Kuwaitization initiative, address the excessive staffing issue, control payroll expenditures, protect shareholders' funds, and raise the operational efficiency of cooperative societies.

In a related development, a source told the newspaper that introducing a unified organizational structure and salary system for cooperative employees is a major milestone for the sector.

The source explained that the initiative aims to resolve longstanding administrative and financial inconsistencies by eliminating unjustified disparities in wages and employment benefits in cooperative societies, put an end to improvised management decisions, strengthen institutional governance by introducing clearly defined positions, and determine salaries based on job responsibilities and academic qualifications.

On the Kuwaitization policy, the source pointed out that establishing a consistent, competitive, and stable compensation system will make cooperative societies a more attractive workplace for young Kuwaiti professionals. The source stated that unequal salaries and the lack of clear career progression opportunities discouraged many Kuwaitis from entering the cooperative sector or pursuing long-term careers in the sector.

The source added that the new framework is expected to transform cooperative societies into a reliable and sustainable source of employment for Kuwaiti nationals, replacing the practice of symbolic or short-term appointments with meaningful and lasting career opportunities.

515 job

employment opportunities.

She described it as an important step toward strengthening coordination and unifying efforts to support the employment of national talent in the private sector.

Al-Osaimi affirmed that the participation of more than 82 companies and the provision of 515 job opportunities reflect the seriousness of this partnership and the organizers' commitment to bringing private sector companies together on a single platform.

She indicated that the forum provides a direct channel of communication between job seekers and employers, contributes to expanding employment opportunities for national talent in the private sector, and highlights companies' needs and job requirements.

India's green

The event was attended by Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Ms. Paramita Tripathi, along with members of the Indian community, volunteers and children, who joined hands in planting saplings as a tribute to their mothers and Mother Earth.

The participation of children was a notable feature of the initiative, highlighting the importance of introducing environmental responsibility at an early age. Through their involvement in planting saplings, the young participants were encouraged to appreciate nature, understand the importance of protecting the environment and contribute to a greener future.

Launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 5, 2024, on the occasion of World Environment Day, the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign encourages people to plant trees in honour of their mothers while contributing to environmental conservation.

The initiative reflects the campaign's broader message that small individual actions, when supported by collective community participation, can make a meaningful contribution to environmental protection.

The tree-planting drive also underscored the importance of community-led efforts in creating greener, healthier public spaces and promoting a culture of sustainability among future generations.

The Embassy of India appreciated the support and cooperation of ARMS4U and Amma Kuwait in organising the initiative and encouraged continued community participation in activities that promote environmental conservation and sustainability.

T2 airport

This transition necessitates the involvement of international expertise in airport management and operations, considering that the new passenger terminal is one of the largest air transport projects in the region, with an annual capacity of 25 million passengers.

Kuwait gives

government services and improving their performance.

Al-Sumait also thanked Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, and Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah for their contributions to supporting and completing the project.

He also expressed his appreciation to the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), the Central Agency for Information Technology, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, Microsoft, Tech Unicorn, and the Ministry of Justice team.

Al-Sumait concluded by expressing his hope for continued success in fulfilling his responsibilities and serving Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Omar Al-Omar said the launch of the digital power of attorney system represents a significant milestone in the government's digital transformation journey.

He explained that its impact goes beyond improving notarization services, opening new opportunities to digitize additional government services through legislative updates that keep pace with technological advancements.

The previous requirements for personal attendance and paper documentation had posed obstacles to digitizing many services. However, recent legislative updates have made it possible to provide these services digitally with greater ease and flexibility.

Legislation that keeps pace with technological advancements does more than improve a single service but it also opens the door to digitizing dozens of related services.

Successful digital transformation rests on three pillars - modern legislation, streamlined procedures, and advanced technological systems. The new system will also help improve the business environment and simplify procedures for companies and investors.

Al-Omar praised the success of the Sahel application in strengthening public confidence in digital government services.

He revealed that the Sahel app has more than three million users and has processed over 180 million transactions through more than 530 services on Sahel and 220 services on Sahel Business, averaging approximately one million transactions per week.

Al-Omar stressed that the Ministry of State for Communications and Information Technology views digital transformation as a shared responsibility among government entities.

He highlighted that the ministry's role is to support these entities, enable them to develop their services, and strengthen integration among them to convert more traditional transactions into comprehensive digital services.

Al-Omar congratulated the Minister of Justice and the ministry's staff on the launch of the digital power of attorney system, praising the efforts of the ministry's work teams, the Central Agency for Information Technology, the Public Authority for Civil Information, and all other entities that contributed to completing the project.

He also expressed his appreciation for the continued support of the political leadership for digital transformation projects and its commitment to improving government performance and enhancing the quality of services provided to citizens and residents.

Furthermore, Microsoft Kuwait General Manager Ali Haddad said the launch of the digital power of attorney system through the "Tawtheeq" platform marks a significant achievement that strengthens trust between citizens and state institutions.

He affirmed that the system will help modernize judicial services by making them faster, easier, and more secure. Haddad highlighted that the digital system strengthens public trust and demonstrates how technology can be used to improve government services.

He expressed Microsoft's pride in its partnership with the Ministry of Justice in supporting New Kuwait 2035 vision.

In addition, Annie Deve, founder and CEO of Tech Unicorn, praised Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait's leadership and vision in bringing the digital transformation project to completion.

She stressed that a transformation of this scale requires commitment from the highest levels of leadership, which the Ministry of Justice demonstrated throughout all stages of the project.

Deve also highlighted the leading role of Kuwaiti women in completing the project, praising the efforts of Ministry of Justice Undersecretary Awatif Al-Sanad, Nouf Al-Qabandi, Dr. Zainab Al-Qenaei, and Hanin Al-Foudari. She affirmed that the results achieved reflect the scale of the efforts exerted.

Mushrif Trading and Contracting Company
KSC public

Announcement

Regarding Preventive Settlement - No. 2023/2

Debtor: Mushrif Trading and Contracting Company

Mushrif Trading and Contracting Company announces that a decision was issued by the Bankruptcy Judge on September 30, 2026, in relation to Preventive Settlement Application No. 2023/2, concerning the amounts due allocated to the "labor" category of the company's creditors.

Accordingly, the company advises all creditors falling under the labor category especially those who have not previously initiated enforcement proceedings or filed lawsuits to contact the company at # 90052048. This is to ascertain the procedure and date for receiving their dues through the designated payment agent, Kuwait Finance House (KFH), during the period from November 23, 2026, to December 31, 2026. We strongly urge you to attend during the specified period to avoid any delays in the disbursement of your entitlements.

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GOP nominee quietly heating up

Trump auditions potential successors as Rubio, Vance join for WH briefing

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (AP): Marco Rubio fidgeted and sighed. JD Vance smiled and furrowed his brow.

For 90 minutes on Friday, the secretary of state and the vice president, both potential 2028 presidential contenders, stood nearly shoulder to shoulder in matching outfits, an arm's length from President Donald Trump as he spoke to reporters crowded into the White House press briefing room.

It was the latest episode in the public audition that the president and former reality television star has appeared to delight in arranging for his potential successors as he nears his last two years in office.

In the same room months earlier, Rubio and Vance each took a turn defending the president and selling his agenda while filling in as White House press secretary. The president has also been known to quiz his public and private audiences on their opinions of the two men.

Vance and Rubio maintain that they're good friends and have both demurred about whether they'll seek the White House in the next presidential race. Rubio has said he won't run if Vance does.

Even so, the race to succeed Trump as the GOP nominee is quietly heating up, with Vance and Rubio widely seen as some of the likeliest contenders.

One by one, Trump called them to the lectern, turning his gaze from them to the audience as he surveyed how each of their remarks landed with the dozens of journalists in the room.

Vance went first.

He explained that it was in his job description to stay in Washington while Trump, Rubio and others were on the other side of the world for international summits in the Philippines and China.

Vance said he had to "stay back and hold down the fort," like the movie "Home Alone," but "with better food and more gold" at the White House.

"So, I missed you, sir," Vance said before shifting into lauding Trump's economic leadership.

Trump said Vance's statement distancing himself from the war in Iran and blaming it for the GOP's midterm losses was "fine" and "accurate." Notably, Vance passed on an opportunity to say the Iran war was worth the political costs.

"I think the president is the one who makes the decision, and the president has said he would do it again," Vance said.



US President Donald Trump speaks at a news conference in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House on Nov. 20, 2026, in Washington, as Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, listen. (AP)

As Trump spoke, Vance laughed at his jokes but stood mostly still, hands clasped in front of himself with a serious expression on his face.

Rubio, by contrast, fidgeted behind Trump, turning from side to side and adjusting his tie. At one point, he pulled a note out of his breast pocket to review it.

When Rubio took the microphone, he spoke in his typical rapid-fire clip as he recapped Trump's Asia trip and forcefully defended Trump's decision to meet the authoritarian leaders of China and Russia.

His tone suggested irritation at a question that nobody asked.

"If these leaders can't get along and can't engage with one another and don't have a positive relationship, it is impossible to get anything good done for the country and the safety of the world," Rubio said.

It wasn't just a rhetorical showcase. It was also a display of stamina.

When the president delivers the State of the Union address each winter, the House speaker and vice president flank him, their faces on camera the entire time. But at least they get to sit.

On Friday, Vance and Rubio stood behind Trump for the entire hour-and-a-half he was in the briefing room, an appearance that lasted longer than nearly every State of the Union speech on record. There's no doubt they were both keenly aware that they were on camera the whole time.

Both men wore navy blue suits with white shirts and red ties that created, intentionally or not, a symmetrical backdrop for the president, aside from Vance's advantage in height. The most obvious difference in their dress was the flag pins on their lapels; Rubio's was rectangular, just the stars and stripes, while Vance's pin had the flag swaying on a pole.

Even after the GOP was thrashed in midterm elections that were widely seen as a repudiation of Trump, the president continues to enjoy deep support from the Republican base. His endorsement is likely to carry considerable sway among 2028 primary voters.

Trump has praised both men and suggested they might be running mates, declining to elevate one over the other. He again avoided the question on Friday, when a journalist asked which of them he thinks would make a better president.

"Oh, let me give you the answer to that," Trump deadpanned. The reporter moved on to his next question.

At the end of the briefing, Trump called up his new chief of staff, Stephen Miller, who showered Trump in praise and ran through a laundry list of accomplishments.

When he was done, the president threw a jab at Vance and Rubio.

"We have breaking news - he was better than these two guys," Trump said.

Turning to Miller, he joked: "Do you want to run for president?"

Ballistic missile attack on Zelenskyy's hometown kills 2, wounds 60 in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 22, (AP): A Russian strike on the center of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown, Kryvyi Rih, killed two people and wounded 60 others, local officials said Saturday.

Meanwhile, a Russian cargo ship bound for Kaliningrad caught fire in the Gulf of Finland on Saturday after it was hit by drones, Finnish and Russian officials said. It was not clear who struck the ship not far from the Russian border. The Finnish prime minister warned that the war was spilling into the region.

A 7-year-old boy and a 20-year-old woman were killed in the attack Friday night on Kryvyi Rih in central Ukraine, Oleksandr Vilkul, the head of the city administration, wrote on Telegram. Oleksandr Hanzha, head of the regional military administration, said 60 people were wounded, including six children.

The strike caused four fires and damaged about 25 apartment buildings, a hospital, schools and an industrial facility, as well as businesses and vehicles, Vilkul said.

Video footage published by the regional branch of the Ukrainian State Emergency Service appeared to show further strikes while ambulance and firefighting crews were responding at the scene, as fires burned around them.



Firefighters extinguish a fire after a Russian attack in Dymer, Kyiv region, Ukraine on Nov 22. (AP)

"First, two ballistic missiles. And then, when the emergency and rescue operation began, three more rockets hit doctors, rescuers and utility workers," Vilkul wrote on Telegram.

The attack added to uncertainty about the prospects for ongoing talks brokered by Washington. It also came hours after two Russian missiles and a suspected drone came down in Poland, in what its prime minister said was likely a provocation timed to coincide with European military exercises in his country.

In the unprecedented two-week military exercise that began Nov. 9 in southeastern Poland, forces are preparing for a possible postwar mission in Ukraine aimed at helping to stabilize the country and rebuild its military. European countries previously have expressed alarm at what they deem to be Russia's attempts to destabilize the continent.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, speaking to reporters in Warsaw on Saturday, called the airspace violation "dangerous" and said all allies stood "in full solidarity with Poland."

"NATO will defend every inch of Polish territory," Rutte said. He said the alliance functioned "as it should" on Friday morning, when NATO jets supported Polish F-16s scrambled as Russian objects approached Polish airspace. NATO's top military commander was assessing the alliance's defenses and would make adjustments if needed, Rutte said.

At a meeting with UK Defense Secretary Wes Streeting in Kyiv, Zelenskyy said Saturday that Ukraine's repeated attacks on the Kerch Bridge linking occupied Crimea with the Russian mainland were a "fair response" to scores of Russian attacks on Ukrainian bridges. He said that Russia President Vladimir Putin had "attacked Ukrainian bridges 109 times."

"Not the number of missiles - the number of attacks," he said. "This is important, that's why it's our absolutely fair response."

The Ukrainian leader said Putin "doesn't want to stop the war" and is looking to escalate. He also rejected Putin's claim that the Kerch bridge is used exclusively by civilian traffic.

Turkey's final draft at UN climate talks doesn't mention fossil fuels

ANTALYA, Turkey, Nov 22, (AP): The newest and possibly final agreement to come out of United Nations climate talks doesn't contain the words "fossil fuels," the chief cause of global warming, or specifically call for a move away from climate polluting coal, oil and gas.



Kurum

The draft from Turkish Environment Minister **Murat Kurum**, co-president of the two-week conference in Antalya, Turkey, called COP31, was released in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Kurum gave negotiators only about three hours to make objections or request changes before the draft is presented to what may be the summit's final meeting, where countries will either accept, reject or express their reservations about the agreement.

"We are at a very critical point, and our goal is to reach a conclusion here," Kurum said Sunday, following back-to-back delays to the meeting. "If there is genuine sincerity - if there is a real desire to get something done - I believe it can be achieved in this plenary."

Several nations have made serious objections to the draft, which needs near-unanimous consensus for approval.

The proposal does include a specific goal on supporting technology that captures carbon pollution and stores it, which is hotly debated and backed by the oil industry.

Organizers worry that as negotiators depart Antalya there may not be enough delegates left in the room to pass the draft.

Panama has vowed to formally object to a final agreement that doesn't put a cap on oil production, acknowledge failing goals to limit warming and beef up finance for nations to adapt to climate change, among other demands. Panamanian Environment Minister Juan Carlos Navarro said the talks were being held hostage by a "petroleum mafia" and need to be reformed.

Fossil fuels went unmentioned in COP final decisions for more than 25 years, said Alden Meyer, with the think-tank E3G. However, the "transition away from fossil fuels" was agreed to in Dubai in 2023, he added.

"It would be a real setback if we come out of here with no signal that we were serious about what we agreed to do three years ago," Meyer said.



In this photo released by Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS), rescuers inspect a candy factory following a fire in Cikande, Banten Province, on Nov 22. (AP)

Fire at Indonesian candy factory leaves 3 dead

A fire swept through a candy factory in Indonesia's Banten province, killing at least three workers and leaving 36 others unaccounted for, officials said Sunday.

The blaze broke out at the PT Fonusa Agung Mulia factory in the Serang district of Banten province, which borders the capital, Jakarta, at 5 p.m. local time on Saturday.

Flames engulfed the three-story factory, sending thick black smoke into the sky, television reports showed. Debris littered the floor of the burned-out structure, including twisted metal and blackened, corrugated iron roofing.

A company representative said Sunday 300 workers were inside when the blaze started. He added 54 were initially missing, but 15 have since been rescued. The rescued included four injured workers, the National Search and Rescue Agency said in a statement. (AP)

Subcontinent

15 militants dead in Pakistan: Pakistani security forces killed 15 militants in two separate operations in Mastung district of the country's southwestern Balochistan province on Saturday, security sources said.

The sources said five militants were killed in the first operation, while 10 others were killed in a separate action in the district.

Several militant hideouts were also destroyed, and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were recovered during the operations, the sources added. (Xinhua)

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India road accidents kill 12: At least 12 people were killed and 23 others injured in two separate road accidents in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, police said Sunday.

Nine members of a family were killed and eight others injured early Sunday after a speeding vehicle they were in rammed into a truck parked on the roadside near Shambhupura village in Kota district, about 250 km south of Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan. (Xinhua)

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3 killed in Nepal SUV accident: Three people were killed and seven others injured when a passenger sports utility vehicle (SUV) plunged into a river in central nepal's Makwanpur district, police said.

The vehicle, which was en route to Kathmandu and carrying 10 people including the driver, fell 10 meters off the highway into the river. (Xinhua)

Haiti announces agreement with El Salvador to build new prisons

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Nov 22, (AP): Haiti announced an agreement with El Salvador Friday for the construction of new prisons as the two countries increase cooperation following the Central American country's deployment of troops to fight gangs in Haiti.

This announcement by Haitian Minister of Justice and Public Security Patrick Pélissier follows his official mission to El Salvador. The first prison will be launched soon with the prime minister ordering it to be expedited. It will be one of three prisons built by a Salvadoran company in collaboration with a Haitian firm, the minister said.

Gangs control an estimated 70% of Haiti's capital and swaths of land in the country's central region.

Pélissier praised the notorious Salvadoran maximum security prison CECOT, which he visited while in the Central American country for an international conference. El Salvador has been under a state of exception since 2022 that has imprisoned more than 90,000 people with no access to family visits. The U.S. has also deported Venezuelans and Salvadorans to the CECOT and they have denounced torture there after release.

"Once you enter, there is no hope of ever seeing the outside world again," Pélissier said.

Haiti has struggled to find proper infrastructure to hold those arrested after powerful gangs raided the country's two biggest prisons in 2024 and released thousands of inmates. Haiti's prisons have long been notorious for severe overcrowding, with human rights experts warning that prisoners sleep standing and hundreds have died in recent years. A 2023 visit by The Associated Press to one of Haiti's prisons revealed horrid conditions with prisoners thirsty and starving.

Pélissier did not say how much the projects would cost, whether El Salvador would help finance them and whether it would play any kind of management role.

The announcement comes as El Salvador's armed forces said Friday that two of its soldiers were killed and two others injured in a detonation while handling explosives at a camp in Haiti, where Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele has sent troops to fanfare from many Haitians.

"We express our deepest condolences and solidarity with the families of those who died. We stand with their loved ones during this difficult time," the armed forces said on X.

The military said the two injured soldiers were receiving medical care but did not disclose their condition.

The soldiers killed were among the 2,500 Salvadoran soldiers deployed in Haiti in a military operation to rescue four technicians who disappeared in the Caribbean nation on Oct. 18, 2026, after coming under fire from gangs in the Croix-des-Bouquets area northeast of Port-au-Prince.

Some Haitians have celebrated Bukele's decision to send troops to fight gangs, but experts have said it is a political gamble for the leader running for his third term that poses risks to civilians.

The missing technicians were part of the gang suppression force in Haiti, an international force authorized by the U.N. Security Council in October 2025 to have 5,500 security personnel work to dismantle and neutralize Haitian armed gangs, protect infrastructure and facilitate humanitarian access in collaboration with the Haitian National Police.



Rescue workers carry the body of a mourner in Yenagoa, Nigeria on Nov 21, who died after their boat capsized on the way to a funeral. (AP)

At least 24 killed as boat capsizes in southern Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria, Nov 22, (AP): A boat carrying people to a funeral has capsized in southern Nigeria, killing at least 24 people, emergency services said on Saturday.

The boat was taking passengers from one community to another for a burial ceremony when it sank on Friday in Bayelsa State in the country's South South region, Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency spokesman Manzo Ezeki said in a statement.

He said that search and rescue operations were ongoing without specifying how many people were missing.

Police spokesman Musa Mohammed said on Friday that another 24 people had been rescued and sought medical assistance.

Authorities haven't said how many passengers were believed to have been on board.

Mohammed said that preliminary reports suggested that the boat suffered a mechanical problem.

Business

China moves to boost stock market

BEIJING, Nov 22, (Xinhua): China will roll out a slew of measures to steady the stock market, including lowering the minimum margin requirement for leveraged stock purchases to generate incremental funds, the country's securities regulator said Sunday.

With approval from the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the Shanghai, Shenzhen and Beijing stock exchanges will lower the minimum margin ratio from 100 percent to 80 percent, effective from Nov. 30, according to the CSRC.

Recognition reflects the progress of Zain's WE initiative

Zain receives two prestigious regional awards for developing the next generation of women leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Zain Group, a leading regional TechCo, has earned two prestigious regional recognitions for its continued efforts in advancing gender diversity across its operations by developing and empowering future women leaders. The accolades celebrate the impact of Zain's long-term investment in women's professional growth and its commitment to building a more inclusive leadership culture across the organization.

Zain's flagship women's leadership development program, WE SUCCEED, won the Best Women Development & Leadership Program award at the Informa Future Workplace Awards 2026, held in Dubai. In a second major achievement, Zain Group was also named Organization of the Year for Women Empowerment in the Private Sector at the GCC GOV HR & Youth Awards 2026, held in Abu Dhabi, recognizing the impact of its wider WE initiative.

Together, these recognitions reflect the progress of Zain's WE initiative, a Group-wide ecosystem dedicated to advancing women across different career stages and creating meaningful pathways to leadership across its MENA footprint. Guided by its WE 2030 vision, Zain aims to increase women's representation to 30% across both middle management and leadership positions by 2030.

Championed by Zain Group's Board of Directors and executive management, this vision places women's advancement at the heart of the Group's talent development strategy, recognizing the important role diverse leadership plays in driving sustainable growth.

Commenting on the recognition, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi said, "Women are at the heart of Zain's success, and we remain committed to investing in their potential, growth, and leadership. We do not simply want to see more women in leadership roles, we want to ensure their voices, perspectives, and experiences help shape the decisions that define our organization. When women are empowered to contribute and lead at every level, we unlock a broader spectrum of ideas, challenge conventional thinking, and strengthen our ability to innovate and respond to the evolving needs of our diverse communities."



Zain's IDE team receiving one of the awards in Abu Dhabi.

He added: "We see women's advancement as a strategic business imperative, one that enriches our culture, strengthens our competitiveness, and contributes directly to our long-term success. These recognitions reaffirm our belief that investing in women's potential is ultimately an investment in a stronger, more inclusive, and more successful regional TechCo."

Further highlighting the impact of its efforts, Zain Group's journey toward greater gender diversity has been featured in an academic case study titled Transforming Organizational Culture: A Case Study of Zain's Journey to Gender Diversity, available on the Harvard Business Impact catalog.

Also published through IE University Publishing, the case study explores Zain's approach to transforming its organizational culture, advancing gender equity, and empowering women in leadership. Its inclusion in these international academic catalogs brings Zain's experience to a wider global audience of educators, students, and business professionals, offering valuable insights into how organizations can drive meaningful cultural transformation and inclusive workplaces.

Building the next generation of women leaders

Zain's pioneering approach to inclusion dates to 2017, when it established its dedicated Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (IDE) office, becoming the first telecom operator in the region to introduce a specialized function of its kind. This milestone marked an important step in embedding inclusion and equal opportunities into the Group's corporate strategy, laying the foundation for a long-term approach to organizational transformation.

Over the years, the office has evolved into a driving force behind a comprehensive ecosystem of initiatives spanning women's empowerment, disability inclusion, youth development, employee wellbeing, and leadership development. Supported by progressive workplace policies, strategic partnerships, and measurable objectives, these efforts continue to strengthen Zain's position as a people-first organization that recognizes diversity as an important contributor to innovation, business performance, and sustainable growth.

WE SUCCEED

At the heart of this journey is WE SUCCEED, Zain's leadership development program designed to accelerate the progression of high-potential women into senior and executive roles. Building on the Group's women empowerment journey that began with the Centered Leadership Program in 2017, WE SUCCEED introduces a comprehensive, three-year development experience that combines leadership training, executive education, personalized coaching, and practical learning.

The program has brought together 50 high-potential women from across Zain's regional operations, offering them tailored development opportunities that strengthen their leadership capabilities, confidence, and readiness for greater responsibilities.

Complementing WE SUCCEED is NOVA, another key program within Zain's WE ecosystem that focuses on advancing women in traditionally male-dominated functions, particularly technology and digital roles. By strengthening capabilities and creating new pathways for career progression, NOVA helps build a more diverse talent pipeline in areas critical to the Group's digital transformation.

Reinforcing its commitment to women empowerment and retention, Zain also upgraded its Group-wide Family Leave Policy to support work-life balance and foster an inclusive environment where employees can thrive both personally and professionally. This includes longer maternity leaves, baby bonding periods, paternity leaves, and more.

Through initiatives like WE SUCCEED and NOVA, Zain is creating a continuous pathway for women's advancement, from emerging talent to executive leadership. By aligning leadership development with succession planning and business priorities, the Group continues to embed inclusion, diversity, and equity into its organizational culture and long-term strategy.

The latest regional accolades and international academic recognition reaffirm Zain's position as an organization committed to investing in its people and unlocking their full potential. They also reinforce its determination to create an environment where talented women have the opportunities, support, and confidence to grow, lead, and contribute to shaping the future of the digital economy.

Achieves 87.02% on-time performance

Kuwait Airways soars to fourth place in Middle East and Africa

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Kuwait Airways has achieved fourth place among airlines in the Middle East and Africa in the on-time performance index, recording 87.02% during October 2026, according to a report issued by CIRIUM, the global company specializing in aviation data analytics and airline performance.

On this occasion, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Airways, Captain Abdulwahab Ibrahim Al-Shatti, stated that this achievement reflects the company's continuous improvement in operational performance and is the result of a clear management vision and integrated operational planning, alongside the efforts of various departments and sectors to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen readiness levels, and maintain the highest international standards.

Al-Shatti added that this result reflects the spirit of teamwork, integration between operational and technical departments, and the dedicated efforts of the company's national workforce and employees. He emphasized that the Executive Management remains committed to developing performance, improving service quality, and further enhancing operational efficiency.



Kuwait Airways promotional flyer celebrating their 4th place ranking in the Middle East and Africa.

Al-Shatti concluded by affirming that this achievement serves as a strong incentive to continue the company's development journey and achieve further successes, strengthening Kuwait Airways' position as the national carrier of the State of Kuwait and enhancing its presence at both regional and international levels.

A joint project by KUFPEC, EGAS, & Shell

New West Mina wells lift Egypt's daily gas and condensate output

CAIRO, Nov. 22, (Xinhua): Egypt has boosted its daily natural gas production by 160 million cubic feet and condensate output by 3,000 barrels following the start of production at two wells in the West Mina offshore gas field in the Mediterranean, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

The first well, West Mina-2, came online at 60 million cubic feet per day, about two months ahead of schedule, while the second, West Mina-1, is producing 100 million cubic feet per day, the ministry said in a statement.

The project is being developed through a partnership between the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company, energy giant Shell and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company.

Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Karim Badawi said the start of production reflected renewed investment in Egypt's oil and gas sector, following efforts to improve the investment climate and restore confidence among foreign partners.

West Mina, located in the northeastern Amreya offshore area, is estimated to hold recoverable reserves of about 245 billion cubic feet of natural gas and five million barrels of condensates, according to the ministry.

AI valuation concerns and persistent inflation drive risk aversion as policy outlooks diverge

By National Bank of Kuwait
Market Commentary

GLOBAL financial markets faced heightened volatility as persistent inflation, expectations of further monetary tightening, and concerns surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) valuations weighed on investor sentiment. In the US, initial jobless claims increased to 203K, while October retail sales growth slowed to 0.2% MoM and the Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index declined to 6.3.

Federal Reserve meeting minutes reinforced expectations for further tightening, with markets pricing a 25 bps increase in December. The dollar index approached a 19-month high near 103.9, supported by safe-haven demand. DXY closed the week at 103.807 [+0.38%]. US equities experienced broad selling pressure amid concerns over stretched technology valuations, with the Nasdaq and S&P 500 declining 10.02% and 8.61% on the week, respectively.

Meanwhile, Canada's inflation held steady at 3.1% YoY in October, below expectations, while easing core inflation moderated expectations for further BoC tightening. The Canadian dollar weakened to its lowest level since April 2025. USD/CAD closed the week at 1.4344 [+0.52%]. In Europe, the euro weakened to a 19-month low below 1.10 against the dollar, pressured by hawkish Fed expectations and fiscal uncertainty in France.

Meanwhile, Switzerland's economy expanded by 0.2% QoQ in Q3, outperforming expectations of a contraction. UK inflation accelerated to 3.6% YoY, sustaining expectations for further BoE tightening amid resilient retail activity. EUR/USD, USD/CHF, and GBP/USD closed the week at 1.0968 [-0.50%], 0.8399 [+0.13%], and 1.3084 [-0.98%], respectively.

Across Asia Pacific, China's retail sales growth slowed to 0.4% YoY, while fixed-asset investment declined by 8.1% during January-October compared with the corresponding period a year earlier. USD/CNH closed the week at 6.6745 [-0.01 %]. Meanwhile, Australia's unemployment rate increased to 4.9%, strengthening expectations for RBA easing in 2027, while the BoJ maintained its tightening bias despite Japan's Q3 economic contraction. USD/JPY closed at 158.57 [-0.72%], while AUD/USD closed at 0.6628 [-2.13%]. Commodity markets remained volatile amid geopolitical supply risks and shifting monetary expectations.

Brent crude closed at 92.57 [-3.41%] amid Middle East supply disruption risks and concerns over weaker global demand. Gold closed at 3538.49 [-8.91%], weighed down by dollar strength and expectations of higher US interest rates. US Treasury yields fluctuated amid shifting policy expectations and risk sentiment. The US 10-year yield closed the week at 4.9438% [−19.14 bps], while the 2s10s and 5s30s spreads stood at 29.26 bps [+0.36 bps] and 58.69 bps [+8.47 bps], respectively.

United States and Canada

Hawkish FOMC Minutes and Fed Commentary Reinforce Expectations for Further Rate Hikes

Federal Reserve officials reinforced expectations of further monetary tightening as persistent inflation continued to outweigh concerns over labour market conditions. Minutes from the October 27-28 FOMC meeting revealed that nearly all policymakers anticipated additional rate increases to restore inflation to the 2% target, following a 10-2 decision to maintain the federal funds rate at 3.75%-4.00%.

Two officials indicated that an increase exceeding 25 bps could be warranted in December if inflation remained elevated. Governor Christopher Waller called for consideration of a 50 bps rate hike, while Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee emphasized that all policy options remained available. Against this backdrop, swap markets currently price in 50 bps of cumulative tightening over the next three FOMC meetings through March 2027. DXY last printed at 103.807.

US Jobless Claims Rise to 203K, Retail Sales Slow to 0.2% MoM and Manufacturing Weakens

US economic indicators have presented a mixed picture in November, with labour market conditions remaining relatively stable despite signs of moderating demand. Initial jobless claims increased by 1K to 203K, exceeding expectations of 198K, while continuing claims rose by 70K to 1.763 million, suggesting some moderation in labour market conditions.

Meanwhile, October retail sales growth slowed to 0.2% MoM from 0.8% in September, although underlying control-group sales increased by 0.6%, indicating continued consumer spending resilience. Manufacturing activity expanded at a slower pace, with the Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index declining to 6.3 in November from 20.9, significantly below expectations of 20.6. New orders contracted to -0.4, while the prices-paid index increased to 58.2 from 43.2, highlighting persistent input cost pressures alongside softer manufacturing activity.

Canada's Inflation Holds at 3.1% YoY as Core Pressures Ease, CAD Weakens to Lowest Level Since April 2025

Canada's annual inflation rate remained unchanged at 3.1% in October, below expectations of 3.2%, while consumer prices increased 0.2% MoM. Higher energy costs sustained headline inflation, although underlying price pressures moderated. Core inflation excluding food and energy eased to 1.8% YoY from 2.1%, while the Bank of Canada's preferred median and trimmed-mean measures stood at 2.0% and 1.8%, respectively.

Meanwhile, grocery inflation accelerated to 2.0% YoY, while rent inflation slowed to 1.7% from 2.8%. Following the release, the Canadian dollar weakened to its lowest level since April 2025, while two-year government bond yields declined approximately 5 bps. Swap markets currently assign approximately a 50% probability to a December rate hike, despite moderating underlying inflation and signs of weakening economic activity. USD/CAD last printed at 1.4344.

Europe and the United Kingdom

EUR/USD Falls Below 1.10 to a 19-Month Low as Fed Tightening Expectations Support the Dollar

The euro weakened to its lowest level since April 2025, falling below the 1.10 threshold, as expectations of further Federal Reserve tightening strengthened the US dollar. The currency remained under pressure from persistent political uncertainty in France and concerns over the country's fiscal deficit, alongside resilient US economic data and increasingly hawkish Fed commentary.

Meanwhile, lower energy prices offered some relief to the euro-area economic outlook, while options markets indicated sustained demand for downside protection. Interest rate differentials continued to favour the dollar, with swap markets pricing approximately 70 bps of Fed tightening over the next 12 months, compared with around 60 bps expected from the European Central Bank.

The relatively more hawkish Fed outlook, alongside persistent political and fiscal uncertainty in France, continued to weigh on the euro. EUR/USD last printed at 1.0968.

Swiss GDP Exceeds Expectations at 0.2% QoQ as Markets Anticipate SNB Tightening by June 2027

Switzerland's economy expanded by 0.2% QoQ in Q3 2026, outperforming expectations of a 0.1% contraction, although growth moderated from the previous quarter's 1.5% expansion. Economic activity was supported by an expansion in the industrial sector, while services output remained broadly stagnant. Domestic consumption benefited from relatively contained inflation and supportive financing conditions, despite elevated global energy costs and continued trade uncertainty.

October inflation accelerated to 1.5% YoY, its highest level in almost three years, while remaining within the Swiss National Bank's 0%-2% target range. Against this backdrop, economists brought forward expectations for the SNB's first 25 bps rate increase to June 2027 from September, potentially ending a two-year period of unchanged rates at 0%. Swap markets currently price in 45 bps of cumulative SNB rate increases by late 2027. USD/CHF last printed at 0.8399.

UK Inflation Accelerates to 3.6% YoY, Retail Sales Rebound 0.7% MoM, BoE Maintains Tightening Bias

UK inflation accelerated to 3.6% YoY in October from 3.5% in September, reaching its highest level in a year as rising energy and motor fuel costs continued to pressure households. Core inflation remained unchanged at 2.8%, while services inflation held steady at 3.7%, indicating limited evidence of further broadening in underlying price pressures.

Meanwhile, retail sales volumes unexpectedly increased by 0.7% MoM, reversing September's revised 0.6% contraction, supported by stronger supermarket demand and purchases of essential goods. The Bank of England maintained a restrictive policy stance after raising its benchmark rate by 25 bps to 4.00% in November. Governor Andrew Bailey warned that prolonged Middle East disruptions could necessitate further tightening, particularly as household energy bills are projected to increase by 26% in January 2027. GBP/USD last printed at 1.3084.

Asia-Pacific

Australia's Unemployment Rises to 4.9% as Employment Falls 43.5K, Strengthening Expectations for RBA Rate Cuts

Australia's labour market weakened sharply in October, with the unemployment rate increasing to 4.9%, its highest level in five years, from 4.7% previously. Employment unexpectedly fell by 43.5K jobs, against expectations of a 25K increase, while the labour force participation rate decreased to 66.6% from 66.8%. Youth unemployment also climbed to 11.3%, its highest level since October 2021, while total hours worked contracted by 0.2%.

The deterioration followed five interest rate increases by the Reserve Bank of Australia, bringing its benchmark rate to an 18-year high of 4.85%. Consequently, markets increased expectations for monetary easing in 2027, with September emerging as the anticipated starting point for a reduction in the cash rate. AUD/USD last printed at 0.6628.

China Retail Sales +0.4% YoY, Jan-Oct Fixed-Asset Investment Falls 8.1%; PBoC Holds 1Y and 5Y Loan Prime Rates

China's economic momentum weakened in October as domestic demand and investment deteriorated despite additional fiscal support measures. Retail sales increased by just 0.4% YoY, below expectations of 0.8%, while industrial production growth moderated to 4.8% YoY. Fixed-asset investment declined by 8.1% during January-October compared with the corresponding period a year earlier, while property investment fell 21.6%. October investment alone declined approximately 17% YoY, highlighting persistent weakness in capital expenditure.

Meanwhile, the People's Bank of China maintained its one-year and five-year loan prime rates at 3.00% and 3.50%, respectively, marking 18 consecutive months without adjustment. Authorities continued implementing targeted liquidity and financing measures, although weakening consumption, property activity, and investment increased pressure for additional fiscal and monetary support. USD/CNH last printed at 6.6745.

BoJ Stays Hawkish Despite Q3 Slump; Government Interest Payments Projected at JPY 16.6T Next Fiscal Year

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda maintained a tightening bias despite Japan's real GDP contracting by 0.1% YoY in Q3 2026, partly reflecting weaker household consumption. Ueda reiterated expectations that sustained wage growth and moderating inflation would support a gradual recovery in consumer spending, while underlying inflation had reached levels consistent with the BoJ's 2% target.

Despite the economic contraction, these underlying inflation dynamics supported expectations for further monetary tightening, with overnight index swaps indicating an approximately 80% probability of a December rate increase. Separately, Japan's Fiscal System Council warned that expansionary fiscal policies could undermine investor confidence and increase sovereign borrowing costs. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's proposed JPY 370 trillion public-private investment initiative and temporary food tax reduction have heightened fiscal scrutiny, with government interest payments projected to reach a record JPY 16.6 trillion in the next fiscal year. USD/JPY last printed at 158.57.

Kuwait

USD/KWD closed the week at 0.30900.

FX Rates - 22 November 2026

	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1023	1.0953	1.1037	1.0968	1.0800	1.1050	1.1012
GBP	1.3214	1.3076	1.3228	1.3084	1.2900	1.3160	1.3085
JPY	159.71	158.42	159.97	158.57	157.55	160.20	157.34
CHF	0.8388	0.8373	0.8444	0.8399	0.8315	0.8550	0.8304

Award honours bank's excellence & innovation

ABK Wealth Management wins MEED's Best Asset Management Company award

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: ABK Wealth Management, the investment arm of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group, announced that it was named Best Asset Manager at MEED's 2026 Middle East and North Africa Banking Excellence Awards. The award recognises the company's outstanding performance, innovation in asset management and development of investment solutions.

The MEED Awards are among the region's most prestigious industry accolades. An independent panel of experts rigorously evaluates nominations against criteria that include performance, innovation, governance and the lasting impact of the solutions companies provide.

The award reflects the expertise of the ABK Wealth Management team and the continued trust of its clients. It also recognises the company's ability to keep pace with rapid developments in financial markets and the investment industry, as well as its focus on providing specialised services and innovative asset management solutions that meet clients' evolving needs and help them achieve their long-term goals.

Sherif ElRafie, Chief Executive Officer of ABK Wealth Management, said, "Receiving this prestigious award from MEED reflects our longstanding commitment to excellence. It is a testament to our team's dedication and the mutual trust we have built with our partners and clients. We will continue to pursue promising investment opportunities, deliver the best investment solutions across all client segments and uphold the highest standards of governance. This aligns with customer aspirations and strengthens our relationship with them, and our position as a trusted investment partner in Kuwait."



Sherif ElRafie, Chief Executive Officer of ABK Wealth Management

He added, "This achievement marks a milestone for the company and affirms the success of our business model in navigating changing financial markets. It reflects our clear strategy for identifying high-quality investment opportunities and our disciplined approach to risk management in accordance with the highest standards of efficiency, which serves as a fundamental pillar of our business model'.



Meed award

ElRafie noted that the award reflects the consistency and stability of the company's investment plans amid global economic volatility. He stressed that successful investing goes beyond generating financial returns to creating a lasting economic impact that benefits communities and partners alike.

"Over the past year, we have taken a proactive approach to diversifying our investment portfolio and deepening our presence in key sectors with strong growth potential," he said. "Supported by rigorous analysis and our team's extensive expertise, this approach has improved our operational efficiency and enabled us to pursue investment opportunities that offer significant added value."

ElRafie emphasized that this recognition further strengthens the company's commitment to excellence and reinforces its ambition to set new benchmarks in the investment sector, in line with international best practices. He added that ABK Wealth Management will build on this achievement by expanding its reach into new markets, enhancing its investment capabilities, and developing innovative financial solutions that create sustainable, long-term value for its clients and stakeholders.

The award reinforces ABK Wealth Management's position as a leading investment institution as it continues to pursue its expansion plans and implement its strategy for the next phase of growth.

Proposed tax aims to boost US AI investment

Trump threatens overseas data center tax to keep AI boom on American soil

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (AP): President Donald Trump on Friday threatened "a tremendous tax" on U.S. companies that build artificial intelligence data centers abroad, highlighting a divide between a president who sees their expansion as critical to winning the AI race and an American public that is deeply skeptical of their benefits.

Briefing reporters at the White House shortly after his return from Asia, the president said the country was ahead of China in developing what he likes to call "super intelligence." But he warned it could fall behind if a growing political backlash puts the brakes on development of the data centers that are driving the AI boom.

"We're not going to allow companies to build data centers in other countries," the president said. "If they do that, they can. But we're going to put a tremendous tax on them."

He contrasted his push to keep AI infrastructure in the U.S. with the foreign production of advanced computer chips, which he said had been "very destructive to our country."

Trump said he had not yet told his staff about his proposal to target data center development outside the U.S., and it was not immediately clear how it would be enforced.

His statements emphasized the gap between Trump's view of AI development and the views of most Americans and came less than three weeks after voter concerns about data centers contributed to a Republican wipe-out in the midterm elections.

About three-quarters of U.S. voters in this year's election said they opposed the construction of a new data center in their community, according to The AP Voter Poll.

In a survey taken over the summer, about 6 in 10 Americans said they supported limiting the number of new data centers that can be built, including most Democrats and Republicans, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.



In this aerial photo, an Amazon data center is under construction in New Florence, Mo., on Monday, Nov. 9, 2026. (AP)

The same survey found that a majority of Americans are "extremely" or "very" concerned about the impact of data centers on electricity prices or the water supply in the communities where they are built.

With Democrats winning large majorities in both houses of Congress, a tougher regulatory environment for AI giants and data center developers is expected to follow, even if Trump - perhaps the industry's biggest champion - stalls any federal crackdown.

He suggested that data center concerns could be addressed through community negotiations with the tech companies seeking to build them. Tax breaks, reduced utility bills, money for teachers, direct payments to local residents all could be part of the talks.

"Make the deal," Trump said. "They have plenty of money. Take it."

The development of artificial intelligence is an important growth factor for data centers, but cloud computing services remain the dominant use of data centers in the U.S., industry officials say.

With host communities across the U.S. turning against the gargantuan data centers, America's technology giants are promising to take fewer taxpayer handouts, keep fewer secrets and shower more money on communities willing to allow the server warehouses.

Besides ramping up financial incentives, officials with Google and Meta said in interviews with The Associated Press they are trying to address mistrust by being more transparent with communities where they would like to build.

Companies also are making pledges to reduce their impact on the environment and offering assurances that data centers will boost local property values - all while maintaining that AI is a positive force for the American economy, despite its skeptics.

"We want them to build it here," Trump said.

Many of the tech giants already have global footprints. Google has data centers in Asia and Europe.

Trump's threat to penalize companies that build data centers overseas reflects his view that the buildout is a boon for the U.S. economy. Most economists agree, but with caveats.

The largest high-tech firms are projected to spend as much as $1.8 trillion next year developing AI, mostly on data centers, economists at UBS estimate. The buildup has also boosted wages for some construction workers, particularly skilled contractors such as electricians, who are in short supply.

At the same time, most of the goods that power data centers - particularly semiconductors, but also materials such as copper - are imported, which offsets much of the economic gain.

On Thursday, the Republican-led Senate approved bipartisan legislation to speed up permitting reviews for power plants, transmission lines, and other energy infrastructure as lawmakers seek to increase the nation's energy supplies to meet surging demand and to lower electricity prices.

The legislation's sweeping changes would shorten the timeline to start big energy projects and make sure data centers pay for the energy they use and upgrades to the larger transmission network.

Trump praised the Senate bill, which now goes to the House: "It's going to cause tremendous amounts of new building," he said.

Nearly 850,000 chips approved

Bessent defends US chip policy

WASHINGTON, Nov 22, (AP): Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that no further restrictions on the sale of older Nvidia chips to China are needed following the Trump administration's move earlier this week to block China's remote access to the latest semiconductors.

The ability of Chinese tech firms to access Nvidia's technology came under scrutiny after CEO Jensen Huang stepped down amid allegations of his affair with an executive at Megaspeed, a Singapore-based company that uses advanced chips to generate computing power that Chinese firms access remotely.

"The proper chip restrictions are in place," Bessent said in an interview with CNBC after returning from a trip to Asia with President Donald Trump. "And the remote access has been curtailed."

Bessent's comments came a day after the House Foreign Affairs Committee released details of the Commerce Department's approval of the sales of more than 850,000 chips from Nvidia and its competitor AMD to Chinese companies. The Pentagon has identified some of those companies as having ties to the Chinese military.

The report tracked applications from Nvidia to sell its H200 chips - one of its more powerful products, though not the most advanced - and AMD's applications to sell its roughly comparable MI325X chip to companies that are either located or headquartered in China, or entities with parent companies based in China.

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security approved the export, re-export, or transfer of 879,868 of these chips to companies with Chinese ties across 21 license applications as of May 11, 2026, the report said. Nvidia and AMD had requested to sell a cumulative total of more than 3.4 million of the chips to Chinese-tied companies across those applications, per the report.

The approvals, which don't necessarily indicate completed sales, included 75,000 for Alibaba, 150,000 for Tencent and its subsidiaries, 43,000 for Baidu, and 4,000 for BYD, according to the report. Each of those companies has been identified by the Defense Department as having ties to the Chinese military.

The report shows the Commerce Department has a "long track record of transparency with Congress about licensing activity for the H200 and equivalent chips, including both approvals and rejections," a spokesperson for the Bureau of Industry and Security said in a statement Friday.

The spokesperson said the Commerce Department's approach to H200 licensing is based on a rule in the Federal Register that was published in January. The rule imposes "significant additional national security-related requirements on license applicants in order to qualify for case-by-case consideration rather than a presumption of denial," the spokesperson said.

An Nvidia spokesperson said in a statement Friday that the "limited shipments we made under the H200 program were legal and authorized" by the BIS. "The review and licensing process spanned more than half a year, with approvals subject to strict conditions and limited volumes," the company spokesperson said.

Earlier this week, Nvidia said it was no longer shipping H200 chips to China. The spokesperson said Friday that shipments had stopped despite prior approvals.

AMD said it complies with U.S. export control laws and regulations and maintains "rigorous processes to ensure compliance across our global operations" in a statement from a spokesperson Friday. "We remain focused on serving our customers and upholding the highest standards of integrity," the spokesperson said.

Chinese technology firms have been bracing for impacts on their ambitious AI development plans as scrutiny mounts on export controls in the U.S.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has been under intense scrutiny himself in the wake of the turmoil following the Huang affair. Last week, Bessent said he was frustrated with the Commerce Department's delay in placing restrictions on Nvidia chip exports to Megaspeed International, which is under investigation by the U.S. for potentially diverting restricted Nvidia AI chips to China. A former executive at the company who allegedly had an affair with Huang was reportedly suspected by U.S. intelligence agencies of being a spy for China.

In an unusually public rebuke of a fellow Cabinet member, Bessent said his department wanted to place export controls on Megaspeed, but Commerce was in charge of the matter.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Trump said he has "not lost confidence" in Lutnick. Calling him a "different kind of guy," Trump said he "has a natural business instinct" and has "done a very good job."

Anthropic IPO raises hopes for charitable windfall

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (AP): It was philanthropy, the story goes, that first bonded two of the founders behind artificial intelligence giant Anthropic.

Jared Kaplan, the San Francisco company's chief science officer, and CEO Dario Amodei were doctoral students carpooling to an event organized by an academic fellowship. As Kaplan recalls, he and Amodei spent the ride discussing "this idea of thoroughly investigating what kinds of charitable causes could do the most good."

"We had so much largesse to, sort of, disperse," Kaplan joked at a Hertz Foundation discussion in April 2025.

Those once-hypothetical philanthropic ambitions gained new steam as Anthropic debuted on the stock market to a record $1.5 trillion valuation. The Claude AI tool maker already plans to dedicate 5% of its shares for a new Anthropic Public Benefit Fund. Its seven co-founders say they'll give away 80% of their equity - a $112 billion commitment based on its IPO price.

Now suddenly affluent employees, many of whom will become millionaires as they sell their vested stock, may wield enough capital to make transformative donations themselves - riches that are commanding the attention of nonprofits looking to direct some sliver toward causes from global health to animal welfare.

Silicon Valley has great expectations. The napkin math suggests leading U.S. AI firms' valuations could add at least $37 billion annually in intended philanthropy, according to a widely circulated May blog post by Nan Ransohoff, head of public goods at the payments company Stripe.



Paul Smith, chief commercial officer of Anthropic, center left, and Krishna Rao, chief financial officer of Anthropic, center right, alongside others react during the closing bell ceremony for the Anthropic IPO at Nasdaq Market Site in New York, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime kind of opportunity for people to really make an impact on extreme poverty," said Peter Singer, the moral philosopher whose writings influence many tech donors.

Nonprofits aren't counting on an immediate charitable windfall, though. Many Anthropic employees cannot sell or gift the bulk of their shares until next spring. Questions persist about the charitable priorities of these potential philanthropists whose worldviews have been shaped by the increasingly powerful AI models advancing at breakneck speed. The sector's volatility - between high borrowing costs, recent turmoil at the chipmaker Nvidia and warnings about risks to humanity - leaves skeptics doubtful about the amounts actually available to redistribute.

"The challenge is that deploying philanthropic capital is hard," said Renaissance Philanthropy president Kumar Garg, whose nonprofit matches funders with scientific initiatives. "That's not an automatic step."

Will the artificial intelligence wave of wealth creation differ from previous ones that created new philanthropy?

There's reason to believe so, according to Benjamin Soskis, a historian of philanthropy and senior research associate at the Urban Institute's Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, even if he finds the number of tech executives who have "actually managed to empty the safe" is low.

The modern philanthropic foundation stemmed from the post-Civil War wave of industrial capitalism. Titans such as oil magnate John D. Rockefeller Sr. and steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie established bureaucratic institutions intended to address the root causes of social problems. Those were followed by the turn-of-the-century technology wealth that brought a more data-centric, risk-taking approach. The Gates Foundation launched to address pressing crises in global health and poverty.

AI wealth, according to Soskis, carries a sense of "extreme peril" and "really transformative promise" that should spur even more urgent action from this emerging class of donors.

At least one of Anthropic's co-founders will donate in the coming weeks to the Trump Accounts children's savings program, according to comments made Friday by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on CNBC.

Anthropic's explosive growth is also fueling some anticipation that its 5,300 employees will want to rapidly scale their charitable impact, too. A generous internal giving program adds another incentive. Employee equity gifts are matched by the company with shares of Class N common stock. Anthropic also partners with donor-advised fund vendors such as Daffy, which offer a tax-efficient tool for grantmaking without the hassle of a more sophisticated charitable foundation.



A logo of Nvidia is displayed at the Computex Taipei exhibition, one of the world's largest computer and technology expos, in Taipei, Taiwan, Wednesday, June 3, 2026. (AP)

Discounts available through the company's website and app purchases on November 27

NBK launches exclusive 'Blue Friday' offer for customers in collaboration with X-Cite

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: As part of its ongoing efforts to provide exceptional benefits and added value to its cardholders, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced an exclusive "Blue Friday" offer for its customers in collaboration with X-Cite (a division of Alghanim Industries).

The offer allows eligible NBK customers to enjoy an instant discount of KD 35 when shopping exclusively through Xcite's website or mobile app on November 27 only, starting at 10:00 AM.

The offer applies to purchases of KD 300 or more and is available for the first 1,000 eligible orders. Each customer can benefit from the discount once during the promotional period.

The discount applies to all X-Cite products, excluding digital gift cards, and is available exclusively to eligible NBK Visa credit and prepaid cardholders, providing them with a seamless and comprehensive digital shopping experience across X-Cite's online channels.



Anwar Al-Ballam, AVP – Cards Services Management at NBK

Al-Ballam: We are committed to participating in major shopping seasons by providing offers that deliver added value and exceptional experiences to our customers.

The offer is available exclusively to eligible NBK Visa credit and prepaid cardholders.

Commenting on this, Anwar Al-Ballam, AVP – Cards Services Management at NBK, said: "At NBK, we are committed to participating in major annual shopping seasons by offering exclusive deals that provide added value and exceptional experiences tailored to our customers' aspirations. This offer, developed in collaboration with X-Cite, is part of our ongoing effort to provide rewarding benefits to eligible NBK Visa cardholders, while ensuring a convenient and secure digital payment experience that aligns with their modern lifestyles".



Flyer of NBK's exclusive "Blue Friday" discount offers in collaboration with X-Cite.

Al-Ballam added: "We continue to work on enriching the banking experience for our customers by building strategic partnerships with major brands and leading institutions, alongside providing innovative digital payment solutions and exclusive rewards that enhance the value of the services we offer and meet our customers' needs at all times".

NBK invited customers to follow its Instagram account, @nbkgroup, to stay informed about its latest offers and promotions. Throughout the year, the Bank continues to offer a comprehensive range of promotions and rewards, specifically designed for its credit and prepaid cardholders, which reflects its unwavering commitment to providing an advanced banking experience that keeps pace with the latest digital trends and meets the aspirations of its customers.

Kuwait: Economy recovering from initial conflict-linked stresses

By National Bank of Kuwait

Economy weathers conflict-linked shock: Despite severe disruption in the early months of the conflict, economic activity rebounded relatively quickly and by September, a range of metrics were back at or close to pre-conflict levels. The PMI activity gauge recorded four consecutive months of expansion through October, oil production recovered to 2.1 mb/d (80% of pre-war levels), while business (6.7% y/y) and household (5.1%) credit growth had risen to solid levels by September.

This resilience was underpinned by trade and supply-chain adjustments, more normalized air travel and substantial government liquidity injections (govt and public sector deposits up 32% YTD in September). We therefore see a relatively limited dip in on-oil GDP of 2% in 2026, weighed by disruptions to refined oil output, and assuming an end to regional hostilities in H1 27 a rebound in non-oil GDP of 5% in 2027.

Oil GDP (around 50% of the economy) is also assumed to surge 40% next year as it returns to pre-conflict levels by year-end. We believe that there were signs in 2025 of economic reform momentum gathering pace from a higher scale of project awards, more streamlined government procurement processes and further emphasis on fiscal consolidation measures (see below) aimed at addressing long-standing structural challenges, and we expect the government to return to these initiatives once the regional climate stabilizes, resulting in higher investment rates than in the past. A positive impact on housing and credit demand from the 'mortgage' law could also emerge from H2 27.

Fiscal outlook supported by higher oil revenues allied to fiscal restraint: The fiscal deficit is forecast to widen to 20% of GDP (KD9.3bn) in FY26/27 driven by lower oil revenues following the sharp drop in production during Q2 26, then tentatively return to broad balance next year on higher revenues, lower conflict-related spending and continued expenditure restraint.

Options to finance the deficit have been widened further by the decree approving temporary albeit limited state borrowing from its huge Future Generation Fund (assets estimated at over $1trn), adding potentially an extra 60% of GDP in borrowing capacity and reducing reliance on public debt markets. Growth in public debt – now at about 25% of GDP up from just 3% in early 2025 – is expected to be much slower going forward.

Rating agencies have left the government's credit rating unchanged through the US-Iran conflict and reflecting ongoing commitment to fiscal reform, the newly approved excise tax is likely to be implemented in 2027, potentially generating KD200mn (0.4% of GDP) in annual revenues with only a temporary inflationary impulse of around 0.5-0.7pp.

Reforms and investment to shape the post-conflict outlook: Beyond geopolitical developments, the pace and quality of development spending, together with progress on fiscal and regulatory reforms, will remain key determinants of mediumterm growth as the authorities seek to shift from a consumption-led to an investment-driven growth model.

Realizing this transition will require further improvements to the business environment, labor market reforms, and targeted privatization to increase private-sector participation (the $16bn KPC oil pipeline deal in July was a notable step on FDI). In the field of AI, the government aims to use the technology to raise public sector productivity and help diversify the economy, and recent deals with Microsoft include developing an AI-powered in-country cloud system and a Digital Innovation Center.

Key economic indicators

		2024	2025	2026e	2027f
Nominal GDP	$bn	160	156	148	165
Real GDP	% y/y	-1.5	2.7	-16.3	18.5
- Oil sector	% y/y	-6.7	2.5	-32.0	40.0
- Non-oil sector	% y/y	3.7	2.9	-2.1	5.1
Inflation (avg.)	% y/y	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.5
Fiscal balance (FY)	% of GDP	-2.1	-14.8	-20.4	0.6
Current account bal.	% of GDP	29.0	22.7	9.4	21.2

Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts, *end of period

Purchasing managers index

(index)



Source: S&P

Bipartisan support grows for rate caps

Trump signals new push to cap credit card interest rates at 10%

NEW YORK, Nov 22, (AP): President Donald Trump said Saturday that he would work with the incoming Democratic Congress to cap credit card interest rates, hoping to fulfill a promise he made on the 2024 campaign trail but couldn't deliver on because of industry pressure and a lack of interest from his fellow Republicans.

"I would do it. These credit card companies have made a lot," Trump told Fox News Channel's "Saturday in America."

Democrats and the Republican president have both backed capping credit card interest rates, with the standard proposal being capping rates at 10%. It would substantially reduce what credit card companies can charge customers. The median credit card interest rate is roughly 22.2%, according to an August survey by the New York Federal Reserve.

Trump proposed capping credit card interest rates in January, as part of the White House's affordability push. Banks and credit card companies immediately and aggressively opposed the proposal, saying any interest rate cap would force them to cancel cards for the poor and less creditworthy customers or substantially cut back on the rewards they offer when customers spend on their cards.

The proposal also did not sit well with Republicans, and there was little effort by the GOP-controlled Congress to fulfill Trump's promise.

That could change now that Democrats will control both the House and Senate. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who is expected to be the next chair of the Senate Banking Committee, has said repeatedly she wants to cap rates.



An American Express card is shown, Jan. 18, 2024, in Atlanta. (AP)

In response to the Fox News interview, Warren said: "Let's cap credit card interest rates and save Americans money."

Other Democrats have endorsed the idea in various ways, including Rep. Maxine Waters of California, a powerful Democrat who sits on the House Financial Services Committee. Among Republicans, Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri has proposed several caps on credit card interest rates, as recently as this year when Trump made his proposal.

"The President is right. Let's pass my bill to cap credit card interest fees," Hawley posted on X on Saturday.

Researchers who studied Trump's campaign pledge after it was first announced found that Americans would save roughly $100 billion in interest a year if credit card rates were capped at 10%. The same researchers found that while the credit card industry would take a major hit, it would still be profitable, although credit card rewards and other perks might be scaled back.

About 195 million people in the United States had credit cards in 2024 and were assessed $160 billion in interest charges, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau says.

Americans are now carrying more credit card debt than ever, to the tune of about $1.23 trillion, according to figures from the New York Federal Reserve for the third quarter last year.

Ministers stress stronger trade ties

India, Canada wrap up round 6 of CEPA talks

NEW DELHI, Nov 22, (KUNA): India and Canada concluded the sixth round of negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in New Delhi.

A statement from the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that India and Canada reaffirmed commitment to a balanced and mutually beneficial CEPA.

The sixth round of negotiations for the CEPA was held in New Delhi from 11 to 20 November covering key areas, including trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, trade remedies, intellectual property and investment promotion.

The Indian delegation was led by Brij Mohan Mishra, Chief Negotiator, while the Canadian delegation was led by Mary-Catherine Speirs, Chief Negotiator.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Canada's Minister of International Trade Maninder Sidhu opened negotiations with a warm and constructive meeting in New Delhi on 11 November.

Both ministers underscored the importance of a balanced and mutually beneficial CEPA that delivers meaningful market access, builds on the complementarities of both economies and creates new opportunities for trade and investment.

They reviewed progress in the negotiations and guided their teams to advance discussions productively.

The discussions witnessed constructive and substantive discussions across the negotiating tracks, with both sides making progress towards advancing the negotiations. The discussions were guided by the shared objective of concluding the negotiations within the ambitious timelines envisaged by the leaders of the two nations.

Indian Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal also held a productive meeting with Glenn Purves, Vice Minister of International Trade of Canada and his delegation in New Delhi. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the progress achieved during the sixth round of negotiations and take stock of the overall status of the India-Canada CEPA discussions.

Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to concluding an ambitious, balanced and commercially meaningful agreement that delivers tangible benefits to farmers, industries, businesses and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in both countries.

It was underscored that the proposed CEPA would unlock new opportunities in trade and investment, strengthen resilient and diversified supply chains, and further deepen the economic partnership between India and Canada.

China-Singapore FTA talks to speed up

BEIJING, Nov. 22, (Xinhua): China stands ready to work with Singapore to accelerate negotiations on the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) 4.0 and promote a higher level of two-way opening-up, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said.

Li made the remarks during talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in Beijing.

Li said China is willing to strengthen strategic communication with Singapore, consolidate political mutual trust, support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests and major concerns, and expand practical cooperation.

The two sides should strive for more achievements in their all-round high-quality future-oriented partnership and continuously improve the well-being of the two peoples, Li said.

Li called on the two sides to further strengthen industrial integration, upgrade major bilateral government-to-government cooperation projects, and deepen cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, clean energy, connectivity and finance.

The two countries should also advance the development of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor to inject fresh impetus into their development, he said.

Noting that China and Singapore share similar approaches to social governance and face many common challenges, Li called for greater exchanges and mutual learning to address population aging, promote balanced development and improve public services.

The two sides should also expand people-to-people and cultural cooperation in areas such as tourism, culture and youth exchanges, he added.

Li said China and Singapore should forge closer coordination and cooperation within the United Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and other relevant frameworks, firmly promote regional economic integration, advance the building of an open world economy, uphold the multilateral trading system and safeguard their common interests.

China supports Singapore in assuming the rotating chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year, and stands ready to work with Singapore to encourage all parties to implement the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol effectively, Li said.

Wong congratulated China on successfully hosting the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen.

He said Singapore and China have built a strong partnership based on deep mutual trust over the past decades.

Singapore looks forward to maintaining closer high-level exchanges with China, strengthening the alignment of development strategies, deepening cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, the digital economy, green energy and connectivity, and enhancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges, Wong said.

Singapore stands ready to work with China to achieve more results in their all-round high-quality future-oriented partnership, he added.

Wong said Singapore supports the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and the four global initiatives proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, and appreciates China's leadership in maintaining world peace and promoting openness and development.

Agreements aim to eliminate most tariffs

Indonesia, EU sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement after decade of talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22, (KUNA): Indonesia announced on Sunday details of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and an Investment Protection Agreement signed with the European Union in Brussels, following more than a decade of negotiations.

The agreements aim to eliminate most tariffs, expand Indonesian products' access to European markets and enhance their competitiveness, the Indonesian Cabinet Secretariat said in a statement.

Under the CEPA, 90.4 percent of tariff lines will be eliminated from the first day the trade agreement enters into force, reducing tariffs on Indonesian exports to the EU to zero percent.

Another 8.37 percent of tariff lines will be subject to gradual reductions over three to 15 years through a tariff-rate quota mechanism, allowing reduced duties on specified quantities of goods under agreed trade quotas.

Key Indonesian exports expected to benefit from full tariff exemptions include palm oil and its derivatives, textiles, leather footwear and sports shoes.

The statement said Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto held talks via videoconference with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen ahead of the signing, as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and the strategic partnership.

The agreements are also expected to create opportunities for increased European investment in strategic sectors and labor-intensive industries, including electronics, sportswear, footwear, electric vehicles, renewable energy and palm oil-related manufacturing, with a focus on increasing the added value of Indonesian products.

ARAB TIMES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026

From ancient Failaka to the couture: Celebrating 65 years of India-Kuwait diplomatic relationship

By Chaitali B. Roy
Special to the Arab Times

From ancient maritime connections and the enduring bonds of trade and migration to a remarkable meeting of textile traditions in New Delhi, the 65th anniversary celebrations of Kuwait-India diplomatic relations offered a powerful reminder that the friendship between the two nations is rooted as much in people and culture as in diplomacy.

Long before diplomatic missions were established, before oil transformed the Arabian Gulf, and before Kuwait and India emerged as modern nation-states, the waters connecting the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian subcontinent carried merchants, sailors, goods, ideas and cultural influences across vast distances.

The archaeological history of Failaka, lying off the coast of Kuwait, offers a fascinating glimpse into this ancient world of maritime connections. Situated within the historic trading networks of the Gulf, archaeological remains at Failaka bear witness to this movement of people, goods, and cultures across a region that connected Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley civilisation, the Arabian Peninsula, and lands farther east.

This history predates modern Kuwait and the formal diplomatic relationship between India and Kuwait. While the archaeological evidence must be distinguished from the better-documented maritime exchanges of later centuries, Failaka remains an evocative symbol of the Gulf's long-standing connections with the wider world.

Sheikha Altaf Salem Al Ali Al Sabah raised this deeper historical perspective when I met her in New Delhi on November 18, at the inauguration of Threads of Exchange, a textile exhibition celebrating the cultural connections between Kuwait and India.

Her reference to Failaka struck a particularly personal chord. In my book, Sadaaqa: Partnership & Cultural Kinship – Conversations with Pioneering Indians & Kuwaitis, I explored the historical links between the two countries. Sheikha Altaf, who graciously wrote the book's foreword, also reflected on the enduring cultural connections that have shaped the relationship between India and Kuwait.

For me, the conversation at Bikaner House brought that historical narrative full circle. From the ancient maritime world of Failaka to the contemporary meeting of Kuwaiti and Indian textile traditions in New Delhi, the relationship has continually evolved while retaining something essential: a remarkable capacity for cultural exchange, mutual respect and human connection.

On November 17, the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in New Delhi organised a commemorative function marking the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and India, established in 1961.The occasion brought together senior diplomats, business leaders, cultural personalities and individuals whose contributions have helped strengthen the relationship between the two countries.The Chief Guest was H.E. Sibi George, Secretary (West) at India's Ministry of External Affairs and former Ambassador of India to Kuwait.

The programme included a short film tracing the historical relationship, a recorded address by Kuwait's Ambassador to India, H.E. Meshal Mustafa Al-Shemali, and a ceremony recognising individuals who have helped strengthen India–Kuwait ties. In his commemorative message, Ambassador Al-Shemali reflected on the extraordinary depth of the relationship.Although formal diplomatic ties date back 65 years, he observed that the friendship itself extends over six centuries, built upon maritime trade, social interaction and enduring human connections. The relationship entered a new phase during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Kuwait in December 2024, when bilateral ties were elevated to a strategic partnership.This development has created opportunities for greater cooperation in areas aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035 and India's Viksit Bharat 2047.

Yet the Ambassador's message also highlighted a dimension of the relationship that cannot be measured through agreements or trade figures alone. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kuwait extended substantial humanitarian assistance to India, including oxygen cylinders, liquid medical oxygen and other essential medical supplies. India, in turn, sent medical personnel to Kuwait and subsequently supplied vaccines.









Traditional Sadu designs on display at Bikaner House highlight Kuwait's rich weaving heritage and the cultural exchanges that have historically connected the Arabian Gulf and the Indian subcontinent.



Anupa Dasgupta, Service Designer and Chaitali B Roy with Sheikha Bibi Al Sabah at the exhibition celebrating 65 years of India–Kuwait diplomatic relations, highlighting the important role of women in fostering cultural understanding between the two countries.



Distinguished Kuwaiti and Indian dignitaries including Ambassador HE Meshal Al Shemali & HE Nandini Singla, Director General of ICCR gather at Bikaner House, New Delhi, for an exhibition celebrating 65 years of India–Kuwait diplomatic relations and the enduring cultural ties between the two nations.



Ambassador HE Meshal Al Shemali with Sheikha Bibi Al Sabah at the exhibition celebrating 65 years of India–Kuwait diplomatic relations.



Kuwaiti dignitaries and Indian guests engage in conversations at Bikaner House, reflecting the warmth of people-to-people connections that have strengthened India–Kuwait relations over generations.

An important part of the November 17 celebrations was the recognition of individuals whose lives and work represent different aspects of India–Kuwait relations. Among those honoured was Ambassador Zikrur Rehman, whose diplomatic and academic contributions have strengthened understanding between India and the Arab world. His work includes establishing the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Jaber Al Sabah Library at Jamia Millia Islamia, creating an important resource for students and researchers. Veteran businessman S.K. Wadhawan, whose remarkable journey began when he arrived in Kuwait in 1957 at the age of seventeen, was also recognised. His story reflects the experiences of an earlier generation of Indians who arrived in Kuwait with modest resources and went on to build successful enterprises. Entrepreneur Saulat Ali Khan, whose illustrated memoir From Destiny to Destination documents his experiences in Kuwait, was another recipient.

The cultural dimension of the relationship was represented by textile historian and designer Jenny Housego, associated with Kashmir Loom; Sheikha Altaf Salem Al Ali Al Sabah; and Sheikha Bibi Duaij Jaber Al Sabah, whose work with Al Sadu has helped preserve and promote Kuwait's traditional weaving heritage. I was deeply honoured to be among those recognised for my work as a cultural journalist, author and broadcaster documenting Kuwait's social and cultural history and the relationship between India and Kuwait. Through Women of Kuwait: Turning Tides and Sadaaqa: Partnership & Cultural Kinship, as well as my journalism, radio programmes and interviews, I have sought to document histories that might otherwise remain outside the conventional diplomatic narrative.The ceremony was also a reminder that the strength of bilateral relations lies not only in the work of governments but in the lives of individuals who build bridges between societies.

The following afternoon, November 18, the anniversary celebrations took on a distinctly cultural character. At Bikaner House in New Delhi, the Embassy of the State of Kuwait, in collaboration with Al Sadu Society and Kashmir Loom, inaugurated Threads of Exchange, a contemporary textile exhibition bringing together two remarkable weaving traditions.

Dignitaries, members of the diplomatic community, cultural personalities, and representatives of Indian institutions attended the inauguration. The exhibition presented a meeting between Kuwait's traditional Sadu weaving and the intricate textile craftsmanship of Kashmir.

At first glance, the two textile traditions appear quite different. Sadu, traditionally practised by Bedouin women, is distinguished by geometric patterns, rhythmic compositions and a visual vocabulary inspired by the natural environment and everyday life of the desert. On the other hand, Kashmiri textiles, particularly shawls and embroidered fabrics, are celebrated for their intricate craftsmanship, refined techniques and rich decorative traditions.

Yet beneath these differences lie striking similarities. Both traditions developed from communities' practical needs. Both reflect inherited knowledge transmitted through generations. Both are deeply tied to cultural identity, and both have faced the challenge of staying relevant in a rapidly changing world.The exhibition demonstrated how these distinct artistic languages could be brought together without diminishing their individual identities. By reinterpreting Sadu motifs through Kashmiri weaving and embroidery techniques, the collaboration created contemporary textile works that acknowledged the craftsmanship of both cultures.In doing so, Threads of Exchange transformed the idea of cultural diplomacy into something tangible.

For Sheikha Altaf Salem Al Ali Al Sabah, Honorary President and Patron of Al Sadu Society, the exhibition's significance lies not merely in the beauty of the finished textiles but in the continuity of the traditions they represent."India's textile heritage is very old, one of the oldest and most diverse in the world," she observed, referring to handloom weaving, block printing, tie-dye and natural dyeing techniques passed down through generations.What she finds particularly remarkable is that these traditions remain part of everyday life.Unlike crafts that survive only as museum exhibits, Indian textiles continue to be worn, used and appreciated across generations."The sari remains an essential part of Indian dress, while Kashmiri shawls, woven on traditional wooden looms, continue to be valued for their craftsmanship and beauty."

For Sheikha Altaf, this continuity represents one of the most important lessons in cultural preservation. "Crafts are a part of the material culture of any people." Her observations also reveal a deeper understanding of the relationship between craftsmanship and community."Both Sadu weaving and India's traditional weaving, especially in Kashmir's ancient weaving techniques, share these binding threads of human skill, creativity, culture and history," she explained.

A woven textile is therefore more than a decorative object. It is also a record of cultural memory. Sheikha Altaf believes that traditional crafts originally developed from necessity, responding to the particular needs of the communities that created them.Their survival, however, depends on their ability to evolve.She explained that Sadu has continued through changing design forms and contemporary applications while respecting its traditional materials and cultural meaning. "India has successfully negotiated a similar balance between authenticity, modernity and innovation, particularly through the evolution of the sari and contemporary textile design," she said. Her reflections touch on a central challenge facing traditional crafts worldwide: how to preserve their cultural integrity while keeping them relevant to new generations.

The Threads of Exchange exhibition was also the culmination of a creative partnership that developed through exchanges between Kuwaiti and Indian artisans.Speaking at the inauguration, Sheikha Bibi Duaij Jaber Al Sabah, Chairwoman and Managing Director of Al Sadu Society, described the exhibition as the outcome of cooperation between Sadu and Kashmir Loom, founded on a shared commitment to preserving traditional craftsmanship while exploring contemporary creative possibilities.

She explained that using the traditional hook needle and chain-stitch technique, Kashmiri artisans reinterpreted the visual language of Al Sadu, creating a meeting point between two cultures through materials, techniques and design.The result was not simply a fusion of decorative patterns but an artistic conversation between two distinct traditions.

Sheikha Bibi also placed the exhibition within the wider history of India–Kuwait relations. For centuries, Kuwaiti vessels sailed to Indian ports carrying pearls, dates and Arabian horses, returning with timber, spices, grains and textiles.These voyages established connections that extended beyond commercial transactions, gradually creating shared social and cultural histories.The textile collaboration, therefore, represents a contemporary expression of a much older tradition of exchange.

Asif Ali, co-founder of Kashmir Loom, offered further insight into how the partnership began. Hecredited Sheikha Altaf with initiating the cooperation, which was subsequently developed under Sheikha Bibi's leadership.He explained that the collaboration involved exchanging designs and creative ideas, as well as organising workshops at Bait Al Sadu in Kuwait, where weavers and embroiderers travelled from Kashmir to work alongside their Kuwaiti counterparts.

Ali also spoke appreciatively of the encouragement and support extended by the Kuwaiti side towards Indian handicrafts.Having developed a close familiarity with Kuwait through his visits and professional collaborations, he recognises the importance of such cultural interactions in strengthening relationships between people.He expressed the hope that the exhibition would become a starting point for more direct communication between Kuwaiti and Indian communities.

The two days of celebrations in New Delhi presented complementary expressions of India–Kuwait friendship. The November 17 ceremony recognised individuals whose work has contributed to the development of the relationship across diplomacy, business, scholarship, culture and community life.The November 18 exhibition demonstrated how that friendship continues to find expression through artistic collaboration and shared cultural heritage.Together, they offered a broader understanding of bilateral relations.

India and Kuwait today share a strategic partnership encompassing energy, trade, investment, defence, healthcare and other areas of cooperation. But the foundations of this partnership were laid long before formal agreements were signed.They were built by sailors who navigated the Arabian Sea, merchants who established trading relationships, families who migrated across borders, and generations of people who developed friendships and cultural affinities. Today, through initiatives such as Threads of Exchange, they continue to serve as instruments of connection.n From Failaka to the future, the story of India and Kuwait continues to unfold.And as Threads of Exchange so eloquently demonstrates, its many strands are still being woven.

Mutrif Al-Mutrif headlines Marina Festival's November 26 opener



Badr Al-Essa

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The Marina Festival, which will be held from November 26, 2026 to January 2, 2027, is preparing to host its first musical evening featuring singer Mutrif Al-Mutrif on Thursday, November 26.

According to a press release, Badr Al-Essa, the event's producer and organizer, working in collaboration with director Ya'rab Bourhama, revealed details of the "Al-Mutrif Evening."

He explained that the event will take place at the basketball courts at Marina Mall, which have been transformed into a covered, open-air venue where attendees can enjoy the pleasant winter weather. Seating arrangements have been provided to ensure the audience can comfortably enjoy the performance, along with VIP seating on the ground level.

Evening gatherings are usually associated with private occasions held at chalets or farms, and normally attended by small groups of friends and young people. The concept has been adapted to create a fun and sophisticated atmosphere suitable for families.

The singer's close proximity to the audience, as he performs while seated, enhances interaction and encourages attendees to clap and move along to the distinctive rhythms.

Al-Essa emphasized that "Samrat Al-Mutrif" offers a first-of-its-kind experience in Kuwait, combining the distinctive atmosphere of traditional Kuwaiti gatherings with modern theatrical production.

He assured that the audience will enjoy a selection of singer Mutrif Al-Mutrif's most popular songs.

Al-Essa revealed that "Samrat Kashta" will not be limited to the opening evening, but will include a total of six performances throughout the season.

He indicated that the first, starring Mutrif Al-Mutrif, will be followed by five more evenings, held every Thursday.

Al-Essa concluded by inviting the public to attend and enjoy the experience, stressing that the goal is not simply to stage a concert but to recreate the atmosphere of traditional Kuwaiti gatherings, offering families and friends an opportunity to come together in a warm and intimate winter setting.



Mutrif Al-Mutrif

Al-Nasr sinks Sulaibikhat

Burgan edges Fahaheel in Crown Price Cup

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Burgan made an impressive start to its Crown Prince Cup campaign, pulling off an upset with a 3-2 victory over Fahaheel in a Group Two clash at Al-Shabab Stadium.

Burgan took the lead as early as the third minute through Emmanuel, but Fahaheel drew level through Hamad Al-Taweel in the 37th minute.



Al-Nasr's Mohammed Abdulhadi drives forward with the ball as Ali Hassan follows the play.

Emmanuel restored Burgan's advantage in the 66th minute, only for Fahaheel to respond a minute later through Vitor da Silva, who had recently returned from injury.

Burgan, however, had the final say when Sullivan Lakhami scored the winner in the 75th minute to secure all three points. The group also features Al-Shabab and Al-Sahel.

In another Group Three encounter at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium, Al-Nasr claimed a narrow 1-0 victory over Sulaibikhat.

The decisive goal came through an own goal by Sulaibikhat defender Wilfiz Damsina, whose attempted backpass caught his goalkeeper out of position and rolled into the net.

The victory sent Al-Nasr to the top of the group with three points. Tadamon and Al-Jazeera have one point each, while Sulaibikhat remain bottom without a point.

'Play Big' festival forms part of strategy

KHA steps up efforts to 'nurture' young talent



Future stars battling for the ball.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Kuwait Handball Association Treasurer and Chairman of the Technical Development and Training Committee Khaled Taleb said the "Play Big" festival, held Thursday evening at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex, forms part of the association's to widen handball's grassroots base, discover promising talents and develop young players from an early age.

Taleb said the initiative is designed to strengthen players' individual and team skills while building a new generation of talented athletes capable of representing Kuwaiti clubs and national teams in the years ahead.

He described the festival as a major organizational success, praising the efforts of the organizing committees and noting that the event encouraged greater club participation and engagement with its objectives.

Taleb also commended Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma for his continued support of Kuwaiti sports, particularly handball. He praised the minister's presence from the start of the festival, saying it reflected the state's commitment to promoting sports among different age groups, identifying emerging talent and providing young athletes with the right environment to develop.

He expressed his appreciation to the organizing committee, administrative and technical teams, and participating players. He also acknowledged the role of parents and their commitment to encouraging their children to participate.

Taleb stressed that cooperation among sports officials, clubs, players and families is essential to advancing handball and expanding its base of participants.

Barcelona scores 3 goals in 10 minutes to beat Villarreal



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal, left, and Villarreal's Carlos Romero challenge for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Real Villarreal in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Juventus routs Venezia

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 22, (AP): Barcelona scored three goals in a 10-minute span to rally past Villarreal 3-2 and restore its three-point lead at the top of the Spanish league.

Juventus struck four times in an 18-minute span to beat Venezia 4-0 in Serie A.

The home victory moved the Catalan club clear of Real Madrid, which on Saturday came from behind to defeat Celta Vigo at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Villarreal took an early two-goal lead over Barcelona with goals in the fifth and seventh minutes by Canada internationals Tajon Buchanan and Tani Oluwaseyi. Gerard Martín started Barcelona's comeback by scoring in the 57th and Fermín López equalized in the 61st. The winner came through an own-goal by Pau Navarro in the 67th.

Navarro was sent off with a second yellow card in stoppage time.

Barcelona has won three straight league matches since its first league defeat of the season - against Real Madrid in the clasico at Camp Nou last month.

It was the third loss in four matches in all competitions for midtable Villarreal.

Luciano Spalletti's 600th Serie A game as a coach ended happily despite Juventus being booed by fans at halftime.

High-flying Brighton was brought down to earth by Hull and missed out on the chance to close the gap on Premier League leader Arsenal after a 2-0 loss.

Oli McBurnie scored twice in added time after Brighton's Costinha was red carded in the 89th minute at MKM Stadium.

It was Hull's first league win since August and moved it up to 11th in the standings.

Second-placed Brighton could have moved to within three points of defending champion Arsenal, but was frustrated by a brilliant performance by Hull goalkeeper Konstantinos Tzolakis, who pulled off a string of saves to keep the score level.



Hull City's Mohamed Belloumi, left, and Brighton and Hove Albion's Olivier Boscagli battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Hull City and Brighton and Hove Albion in Hull, England. (AP)

Rafael Nadal enjoyed his new position on Real Madrid's executive board as he watched the team rally for a 2-1 victory over Celta Vigo.

Jude Bellingham scored from the edge of the area in the 66th, canceling out Pablo Durán's early goal.

Madrid's super sub Carlos Espí then scored the winner in the 86th as Madrid pulled level with Barcelona atop La Liga.

Espí, who was largely unknown when he joined from Levante in the summer, has become a specialist in scoring as a late substitute for Jose Mourinho's side. His four goals have come in less than an hour of combined minutes for the entire campaign and all of them have been key to securing wins.

Family members of Jesús de Miguel, the Tenerife player who died earlier this month after an in-game collision in the second division, were honored on the field before kickoff, when they were applauded before a minute of silence for De Miguel.

Nadal is a lifelong Madrid fan. The tennis great was officially confirmed as a new board member by a club assembly earlier on Saturday.

Sevilla rallied for a 1-1 draw with crosstown rival Real Betis. Valencia won 1-0 at Rayo Vallecano as it continues to improve under new coach Javier Aguirre, and Alaves beat Deportivo 3-1.

Not even 24 hours after Harry Kane tore a ligament in his ankle, another top talent of European soccer suffered an ugly-looking injury when Paris Saint-Germain forward Désiré Doué's leg buckled under him during a French league game on Saturday.

Doué was carried off on a stretcher late in the first half of the away game at Nice, which PSG rallied to win 3-2 and build on its league lead.

The victory, however, came at a high cost for the two-time Champions League winner, which last month lost forward Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to a ruptured ACL.

Doué's was injured in the 39th minute when he stretched to protect the ball and his fully-extended leg bulged awkwardly without any contact from an opponent. The 21-year-old France player crumpled to the ground clutching his right knee. He looked to be in severe pain as he cried out. Moments later he was taken off on a stretcher and placed both hands on his face.

"We will have to wait until tomorrow to know the exact nature of the injury. But it is a serious injury, we have seen the images," PSG coach Luis Enrique said after the game.

Doué had scored his second league goal of the season to put PSG up 2-1. His replacement, Ferran Torres, scored the eventual winner.

Kvaratskhelia tore his right ACL against Barcelona on Oct. 20, when both Ousmane Dembélé and Marquinhos tore thigh muscles. Dembélé came off the bench against Nice in the second half.

Next up for PSG is a Roma side that is flying high after Donyell Malen scored four times to lead it to a 5-1 rout at Parma.

Malen got going in the 39th when he used one touch to latch on to a cross before smashing it home. He was helped by some poor defending in the 68th, when Malen was left in front of the goal to turn in another cross. The Netherlands forward made it three in the 77th when he drove in a low cross from Wesley Franca, and he rounded it off in the 90th on the break following a through-ball from Franca.

Malen, who joined Roma from Aston Vila last winter, leads the Italian league with 12 goals in 11 appearances. He has also scored four times in the Champions League.

Roma, which is second in Serie A, visits Paris on Wednesday.

Lazio protected its lead after Tijjani Noslin got a brace in a 3-0 win at struggling Lecce. Como also won at home, beating Cagliari 2-0.

Borussia Dortmund remained unbeaten and took the lead of the Bundesliga a day after Bayern Munich was held to a draw and lost Kane to an injury that will sideline the star striker for months, according to this club.

Felix Nmecha's goal in the 80th minute grabbed Dortmund a 1-0 win at Borussia.

Tapia scores twice

Columbus beats Messi and Inter Miami

MIAMI, Nov 22, (AP): Gonzalo Tapia scored twice, Patrick Schulte made five saves and the seventh-seeded Columbus Crew upset Lionel Messi and defending MLS Cup champion Inter Miami 3-0 on Saturday in Game 1 of their best-of-three, first-round playoff series.

Taha Habroune also scored to stun Messi and the star-studded Inter Miami squad, the No. 2 seed.

The win extended a dominant run for Columbus, which was 15th in the Eastern Conference on Sept. 1 but entered the MLS postseason having won its past six regular-season matches - the longest active streak in the league.

It was another disappointing performance for Inter Miami in its first season playing at Nu Stadium - the 26,700-seat venue that opened this year. Miami won just six of 17 regular season matches at Nu Stadium since playing its first game there in April, and was shut out for the first time at the venue on Saturday.

Game 2 of the series will be in Columbus, Ohio, on Friday.

"We can't concede early," Miami defender Ian Fray said. "We're going to score goals if we can keep a clean sheet going into the second half."

Tapia converted an early penalty after Miami goalie Dayne St. Clair came off his line and brought down the Columbus forward in the box in the eighth. Habroune doubled the lead in the 52nd, and Tapia tapped a shot post St. Clair six minutes later.

Schulte made four saves in the first half, denying Messi on a point-blank shot in the 23rd and again on a free kick in the 31st.

Miami played down a man the second half after Gonzalo Luján was sent off after receiving a red card in the 36th.



Columbus midfield Sean Zawadzki (25) defends Inter Miami right wing Leo Messi (10) during the first half of Game 1 of an MLS soccer first-round playoff series in Miami. (AP)

Miami's frustrations became evident by the end of the first half. Messi was shown a yellow card after bouncing the ball off the side of Tapia's face while taking a throw in, and fans booed as players walked off the field at the half.

Ahead of kickoff, Inter Miami co-owner Jorge Mas presented Messi with the 2026 Golden Boot award, which the star won earlier this month.

Messi also won the Golden Boot last year, becoming the first player to win the award given to the league's top scorer in consecutive seasons.

He had 26 goals during the regular season, along with 17 assists - second-most in the league. He's just the sixth MLS player to win multiple Golden Boots. He is also expected to win his third straight MLS MVP award.



Change Name

I, SHAIK HABEEB R/O 3/73 BURUJU-PALLI 2 GUNDLACHERUVU GALIVEEDU - 516 267 CUDDAPAH AP CHANGED MY NAME AS SYED HABEEB S/O SYED NABI SAB

Max wins Las Vegas GP for third time in 4 years

LAS VEGAS, Nov 22, (AP): Rival George Russell was the first to challenge Max Verstappen, overtaking him several times only to give the lead right back.

Then it was Kimi Antonelli, the current Formula 1 champion going after the four-time series winner only to fade near the end.

And, finally, Lando Norris gave it a shot before realizing second-place was the more realistic goal than being the first across the finish line.

Verstappen simply would not be beaten Saturday night, seemingly willing his way around the 50-lap course to win a Las Vegas Grand Prix that will not be forgotten after 35 lead changes and 352 overtakes. He has won three of the four races on the Las Vegas Strip and 75 overall in his F1 career.

"I remember winning one like this when I was playing on Mario Kart," Verstappen said.

Norris, the 2025 series champion, and McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri, finished second and third on the 3.85-mile (6.2 kilometers) layout.

Antonelli finished fourth.

Norris showed he might be a factor when he passed Russell on the 34th lap to move into second place and soon after even briefly led the field.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates on the podium after the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race. (AP) – See Page 11

Sports

Police Sports Federation int'l championship wraps up

Deputy PM honours top riders at Showjumping Championship



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Yousef presents a commemorative shield to Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah during the awards ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The Police Sports Federation's International Showjumping Championship came to a successful close at the equestrian arena in Subhan, attracting leading riders from eight countries.

Held under the patronage of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation and Kuwait Oil Company, the competition featured participants representing Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, India, Britain and Germany.

British rider Chad Fellows dominated the 145cm Grand Prix, claiming both first and second places with two different horses. Egypt's Zain Shadi finished third, followed by Bahrain's Sami Ghazwan and Germany's Bjorn Kofertz. Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Hamad Al-Hajri, Anaz Al-Anaz and Madi Al-Khamis also featured among the leading finishers.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah joined Police Sports Federation President Brigadier General (Navy) Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef in presenting the awards. The ceremony was also attended by Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Governor and Acting Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Salem.

Sheikh Mubarak presented a commemorative shield to Sheikh Fahad in recognition of his support.

Expressing satisfaction with the championship's successful conclusion, Sheikh Mubarak said the event had been organized for the second consecutive year with the support of the Police Sports Federation and Kuwait Oil Company. He thanked Sheikh Fahad for his continued backing of sports and his contribution to the development of Kuwait's sporting movement.

Volvo backs HH Amir Cup

'Kuwait to host two international sporting events annually'

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef announced plans for Kuwait to host two international sporting events annually, speaking at a press conference held Sunday at BNK Automotive (Volvo), which marked the signing of a sponsorship agreement covering the remaining fixtures of the 2025-2026 His Highness the Amir Cup.

The press conference was attended by KFA Vice President for Financial and Administrative Affairs Dyain Al-Dyain, Secretary-General Dr Saleh Al-Majrab, Volvo Vice President Mishal Al-Safran and Araya Media Group CEO Mohammed Al-Saeed.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef said his recent meeting with Barcelona Vice President Rafael Yuste had produced an agreement to explore opportunities to benefit from the Spanish club's expertise, alongside an understanding to arrange a friendly match between Barcelona and Kuwait's national team.

He said the KFA had proposed Feb 20-28 next year for the encounter, but the final date would be determined in coordination with Barcelona, given the club's commitments in several competitions.

"Without a doubt, the Blues will face Barcelona in 2027," Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef said.

He welcomed Volvo's sponsorship of the remaining Amir Cup matches, describing the initiative to offer prizes to spectators as a positive addition. He stressed that all parties were committed to ensuring the prestigious tournament concluded in a manner befitting its standing.



Sheikh Al-Yousef speaks at Amir Cup sponsorship press conference, flanked by Al-Safran and Al-Saeed.

Turning to the Saudi Super Cup, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef said the countdown had begun for the tournament, which Kuwait will host from Dec 19 to 23. Preparations are progressing well under the organizing committee chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

He called on Kuwaiti, Saudi and other Gulf fans planning to attend to secure their tickets early, pointing to strong demand. He cautioned that no further tickets would be available once the allocated supply had been exhausted.

Volvo Vice President Al-Safran welcomed the sponsorship agreement, reaffirming the company's commitment to supporting sports and athletes and continuing its backing of competitions organized by the KFA.

Meanwhile, Al-Saeed said spectators wishing to enter the draw for a car must attend four of the tournament's five matches, including the final, which is compulsory.

Kuwait makes waves with 41-medal haul in Bahrain

13 gold, 12 silver and 16 bronze

MANAMA, Nov 22, (KUNA): Kuwait's male and female swimmers have made an impressive showing at the fifth Arab Aquatics Championships in Bahrain, collecting 41 medals over the first three days of competition, including 13 gold, 12 silver and 16 bronze.

Kuwaiti delegation head Hamid Al-Gharib said that the results reflected the swimmers' high technical standards and their determination to raise Kuwait's flag on the regional stage.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Gharib praised the team's strong start, which saw Kuwait claim 15 medals on the opening day alone, comprising seven gold, four silver and four bronze.

The gold medals went to Yasmeen Al-Subaih in the women's 15-16 age category 400m individual medley; Hassan Rajab in the men's 15-16 400m individual medley and 200m freestyle; Khaled Al-Otaibi in the open 400m event; Saud Al-Enezi in the men's 17-18 400m individual medley; Yaseen Al-Attiyah in the open 50m butterfly; and Mohammad Zubaid in the men's 17-18 50m butterfly.

Kuwait also secured four silver medals on the opening day through Mohammad Al-Otaibi in the open 400m event, Hamoud Al-Hamoud in the men's 15-16 50m butterfly, Saud Al-Enezi in the men's 17-18 200m freestyle and Abdullah Sultan in the men's 15-16 100m backstroke.

The four bronze medals were won by Mona Al-Farsi in the women's 15-16 400m individual medley, Omar Al-Khalfan in the men's 15-16 400m individual medley, Saud Al-Shammroukh in the open 200m freestyle and Abdulmohsen Al-Tahou in the open 100m backstroke.

Kuwait maintained its momentum on the second day, adding 14 medals, including three gold, five silver and six bronze.

Hassan Rajab won gold in the men's 15-16 800m freestyle, while Mohammad Zubaid topped the podium in the men's 17-18 50m backstroke. Kuwait's third gold came in the men's 15-16 4x200m freestyle relay, with Hamoud Al-Hamoud, Abdullah Sultan, Mohammad Ashkanani and Hassan Rajab combining for victory.



Kuwaiti swimmers celebrate alongside fellow medalists on the podium.

The Kuwaiti contingent added another 12 medals on the third day, comprising three gold, three silver and six bronze.

Rashid Al-Tarmoum claimed gold in the open 200m breaststroke, while Abdullah Sultan won the men's 15-16 200m backstroke and Hamoud Al-Hamoud triumphed in the men's 15-16 100m freestyle.

The three silver medals went to Khaled Al-Otaibi in the open 200m breaststroke, Jana Adel in the women's 15-16 200m backstroke and Mohammad Zubaid in the open 100m freestyle.

The championships, featuring several Arab national teams, continue until November 23.

Kuwait Club takes on Burgan

Kuwaiti derby takes center stage at Gulf Handball Clubs Champ'ship

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

MANAMA, Nov 22: An all-Kuwaiti showdown between Kuwait Club and Burgan headlines Monday's third-round action in the 42nd Gulf Handball Clubs Championship for Cup Winners, currently underway in Manama, Bahrain.

The two sides meet at 3:30 pm at Khalifa Sports City Hall in Isa Town, in what promises to be a keenly contested encounter between two of Kuwait's leading handball teams.

The round also features two other matches, with Qatar's Al-Rayyan taking on Bahrain's Al-Najma at 5:30 pm, followed by a clash between Bahrain's Al-Ahli and Qatar's Al-Arabi at 7:30 pm.

Both Kuwaiti sides enter the derby on the back of two successive victories, having made a perfect start to the competition. Burgan secured a 35-29 victory over Oman's Oman Club yesterday, with Frankis Marzo earning the best player award.



Burgan's Frankis shoots the ball against Oman.

With both teams eager to extend their winning runs and strengthen their title ambitions, today's encounter carries considerable weight. The derby also pits Kuwait Club, the domestic league champions, against Burgan, the Asian champions and holders of the Federation Cup, which they lifted last week.

The clash is expected to deliver a high-quality tactical contest, with both teams boasting a strong blend of local talent and experienced professionals.

Kuwait Club will look to its star-studded lineup, featuring Montenegrin professional Vladan, Egyptian Mahmoud Abdelaziz and Bahraini Mohammed Habib. Burgan, meanwhile, will count on Japanese professional Soheira, Portuguese Angel Hernandez and Tunisian Jihad Arar, as well as Qatari Frankis Marzo, who previously played for Kuwait Club before joining Burgan for the Gulf tournament.

Kuwait karate team claims historic World Cup bronze



Kuwait's karate team kisses the historic bronze.

HANGZHOU, Nov 22, (KUNA): Kuwait's karate team made history on Sunday by winning its first-ever bronze medal in the men's team kata event at the World Cup in Hangzhou, China.

The quartet of Salman Al-Mousawi, Mohammad Al-Mousawi, Saqer Al-Dabbasi and Mohammad Ahmad secured the landmark achievement with a 4-3 victory over Italy.

Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports Bashar Abdullah congratulated the team, describing the bronze medal as a landmark moment in Kuwait's sporting history and evidence of the athletes' improving technical standards.

Speaking to KUNA, Abdullah praised the competitors' performance and the efforts of the national sports system. He said the achievement reflected the support provided by the political leadership and the government to the sports sector, represented by Minister of State for Youth and Sports Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma. He also highlighted the authority's efforts to provide a supportive environment for national teams, reaffirming its commitment to backing Kuwaiti athletes and working closely with sports federations to enhance the country's presence in international competitions.

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