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Rain reigns as 4-day soak looms

Winter taps Kuwait on the shoulder December 5

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (Agencies): Kuwait is expected to experience cloudy weather with light to moderate rainfall, occasionally thundery in some areas, from Monday morning until Thursday morning, Acting Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali said on Sunday.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Ali said the country would be affected by an extended surface low-pressure system accompanied by a cold front advancing from northern parts of the Arabian Peninsula, bringing increased low and medium cloud cover and rainfall.

He said southerly to southeasterly winds would strengthen significantly on Tuesday and Wednesday, with speeds occasionally exceeding 55 kilometers per hour.

Winds are expected to shift to light to moderate northwesterlies on Wednesday night, while chances of rain will gradually decrease from Thursday afternoon, he added.

Al-Ali said daytime weather would be moderate to warm and turn relatively cold at night, warning that wave heights could exceed six feet as winds intensify.

Maximum temperatures are forecast to range between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius, except on Tuesday when they are expected to reach 22-23 degrees. Minimum temperatures are expected to range between 11 and 15 degrees.

He urged citizens and residents to follow the latest weather bulletins through the department's official website, application and social media.

Meanwhile, the Al-Ojeiri Scientific Center announced that the Al-Murabba'aniyah season will begin on Saturday, December 5, 2026, marking the official start of winter in Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The center noted that temperatures may not drop significantly during the first few days of the season.

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Opinion



Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

When does a country's GDP increase or decline?

A COUNTRY'S economic performance is measured by what is known as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which represents the total value of all goods and services produced within its borders over a specific period.

Based on GDP figures, future plans are developed to promote economic growth or address economic decline. When reports indicate a downturn, governments investigate the underlying causes and work to resolve the problems. When the economy shows progress, they focus on strengthening existing capabilities to sustain and accelerate that growth.

This process is followed by countries seeking economic progress and stronger trade relations with other nations. Governments work to maintain economic and social stability through various standards that are continuously reviewed and developed. They also encourage domestic competition by adopting flexible policies and decisions that facilitate the smooth movement of goods and services.

Countries enact legislation to establish a long-term vision for economic development within a defined timeframe. If any flaws are discovered during implementation, governments work to address them after a thorough study. They also seek to minimize the negative consequences of any mistakes. Support is provided to affected citizens because the ultimate goal is to achieve comprehensive national development and strengthen the country's competitiveness.

Countries do not exist in isolation. Therefore, government officials must focus on achieving development while minimizing losses, building the capacity to absorb challenges, identifying the root causes of problems, and addressing them before they escalate into crises as a result of neglect or mismanagement.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Sunday a meeting of the Border Committee.

Foreign Minister leads Border Committee meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Sunday a meeting of the Border Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters. The ministry said in a press statement that the meeting discussed topics listed on its agenda.

Citizenship committee strips nationality of 27

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: The Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Citizenship issued Decision No. 115/22/2026, revoking the Kuwaiti citizenship of 27 individuals in accordance with Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Article 11 stipulates that "a Kuwaiti citizen loses their citizenship if they voluntarily acquire a foreign nationality."

Article 2 of the decision requires all relevant authorities to implement its provisions, which take effect from the date of publication in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm.

Lawyers urged to adapt

AI drives legal sector rethink

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: The First Business Development in Legal Departments and Law Firms Forum opened last Thursday, with the participation of legal professionals and experts who talked about the future of the legal sector and the opportunities offered by technological advancement and institutional development.

The Advocates Group Academy for Legal Training organized the forum on Nov 26-28 with the theme, "Towards an Innovative Legal Ecosystem and Sustainable Institutional Management."

Specialists, legal professionals, management experts and individuals working in or interested in the legal and technology sectors attended the forum.

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It's a 'no-go' at sea until Dec 3

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): The General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army announced on Saturday that the naval force will be conducting a live ammunition drill at the naval firing range from Sunday, November 29, until Thursday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The firing range is located 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Julaia, extending toward Qaruh Island, and six nautical miles east of Ras Al-Zour, extending toward Umm Al-Maradim Island, the Army's Moral Guidance and Public Relations Directorate said in a statement.

The directorate urged both citizens and residents who frequent land and sea areas to stay away from these designated areas during the announced period for their safety.

Newswatch

RIYADH: The Saudi-led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in **Yemen** said its air defenses intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile, fired by the terrorist Houthi militia towards Riyadh in the small hours of Sunday.

Spokesman of the Coalition Maj.-Gen. Staff **Turki Al-Maliki** confirmed the successful interception in a post on his X account.

Ahead of the announcement, the Saudi General Directorate of Civil Defense raised the alarm in the capital city of Riyadh and advised the public to keep away from open areas and remain vigilant for their safety. (KUNA)

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RIYADH: The Coalition to Support Legitimacy in **Yemen** announced on Saturday conducting a military deterrence operation to destroy vital resources used by the terrorist Houthi militia for systematic and deliberate acts to target civilians and civilian objects in **Yemen** and **Saudi Arabia**.

The operations planned by the militia also aimed at threatening maritime navigation south of the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the spokesman for the Coalition Maj. Gen. **Turki al-Malki** said in a press statement. (KUNA)



Photo during the Arab League event marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Kuwait rejects displacement, renews support for Palestine

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday reaffirmed the country's longstanding and unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate and inalienable rights, foremost among them the right to self-determination.

In a statement marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, observed annually on November 29, the ministry reaffirmed Kuwait's support for an independent Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The ministry said establishing an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders was the only way to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in line with relevant international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Kuwait saluted Palestinians' steadfastness and legitimate struggle, condemned continued illegal practices by Israeli occupation forces and urged the international community to take urgent action to end those practices, ease Palestinian suffering and provide international protection.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi affirmed on Sunday that a just and lasting peace requires ending the Israeli occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.



KUNA photos

Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi

Addressing an Arab League event marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Al-Mutairi reiterated the necessity of establishing an independent, sovereign Palestinian state along the June 4, 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Participants gathered at the League to renew an Arab stance in which Palestine has always been, and will remain, at its core, he stated, emphasizing that solidarity means ensuring Palestinian families remain safe in their homes, children in Gaza return to school, and patients access medical treatment amid ongoing suffering in the Gaza Strip.

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Grievances trigger freeze

CAPT suspends four MEWRE tenders

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: The Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) asked the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to suspend four tenders, as per the request of the Grievances Committee.

The committee requested CAPT to provide copies of all documents and information related to the grievances for the four tenders. Since the committee is currently reviewing the grievances, it is necessary to suspend the relevant procedures until the final decision is presented to CAPT.

These tenders include the supply and installation of three main transformer substations (11/132 kV) for the cloud data center project in various locations, their feeders and accessories, supply and installation of Al-Matahin (B) main transformer substation (132/11 kV), its feeders and accessories, enhancement and support for the financial sector in the ministry, and procurement of XLPE cables, specifically 11 kV single-core 630 mm² cables, 11 kV three-core 240 mm² cables, and 11 kV single-core 240 mm² cables and their accessories.

KOC rolls out sweeping organizational changes

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Ahmad Al-Eidan announced the issuance of administrative and organizational circular no. 19/2026 on restructuring various teams and appointing new officials within the organization.



Al-Eidan

This circular, which took effect on Sunday, stipulates the organizational modifications, as part of a thorough evaluation aimed at reorganizing certain sections and teams in the company.

The Enterprise Risk Management Team was transferred to the Office of the Group CEO, with Mishal Hamad Al-Mashout remaining as team leader who reports to the manager of the Office of the Group CEO.

In the North and West Kuwait Department, Abdullah Mazeed Al-Mazeed now heads the Planning Team (North and West Kuwait).

In the Operations Group (North and West Kuwait)—previously known as the Operations Group (North Kuwait), Hayef Khaled Al-Huwaila was appointed as Group Manager. Thamer Ali Al-Hajri and Nasser Faleh Al-Hajri were appointed as senior specialists. Nasser Bader Al-Arifi retains his post as leader of the Production Operations Team (North Kuwait), while Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Kandari now serves as leader of the Production Operations Team II (North Kuwait).

The Production Operations Team (West Kuwait) was transferred to the Operations Group (North and West Kuwait), with Abdulhadi Khalid Al-Huwailah continuing as team leader.

The Maintenance Team II was renamed Maintenance Team (North Kuwait), with Jarman Abdullah Al-Mutairi as Team Leader.

The Maintenance Team (West Kuwait) was transferred to the Operations Group (North and West Kuwait) and its team leader will be announced later.

The Water Handling Team (North and West Kuwait) was renamed Water Handling Team (North Kuwait), with Thunayan Hamed Al-Asfoor as team leader.

Hindi Fuhaid Al-Hajri was appointed leader of the Financial Payments Team, Ali Qasim Al-Qallaf as leader of the Contractor and Supplier Accounts Team, and Faisal Yaqoub Sabti as leader of the Budget and Costs Team.

The Public Relations and Media Group was transferred to the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department, with Mohammad Al-Basri continuing as Group Manager who

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Zain's expanding portfolio of enterprise and fintech solutions take center stage at NEXUS '26 — 7



ABK marks International Fraud Awareness Week — 8

NBK and Visa launch 'She's Next in Fashion' to support women entrepreneurs in fashion sector — 8



LuLu Hypermarket unveils 'WOW Style & Beauty' with exclusive offers — 10

Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:00	Asr	14:30
Sunrise	06:24	Maghrib	16:50
Zohr	11:37	Isha	18:13

Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, and senior ministers



PM Diwan photo

HH the PM receives Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture accompanied by Ministry of Information Undersecretary.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

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

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

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

PM receives Arab Culture 2025 book

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Sunday the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar at Bayan Palace.

Al-Omar presented His Highness with a copy of a book titled "Kuwait: Capital of Arab Culture and Media 2025", accompanying him was Ministry of Information Undersecretary Dr. Nasser Muhaisen. (KUNA)

Kuwait renews call for chemical weapons ban

New law strengthens safeguards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): Defense Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah led Kuwait's delegation to the 31st session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague from November 23 to 27.

The Defense Ministry said Sunday that Sheikh Dr. Abdullah, who chairs Kuwait's National Committee for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, delivered the country's address at the plenary session and reaffirmed its support for disarmament efforts.

He called for banning chemical weapons, preventing their proliferation and establishing a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, while stressing the importance of complying with the convention and upholding verification and accountability mechanisms.

He said Kuwait's Law No. 138 of 2026 establishes a national framework for implementing the convention by prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and providing for their destruction, reinforcing non-proliferation commitments.

He urged the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to keep pace with scientific and technological advances and strengthen capacity in research, verification, training, capacity-building and the transfer of chemical technology for peaceful purposes.

The delegation met with OPCW Director-General Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior, Dutch Defense Ministry Director-General for Policy Koen Davidse and other officials to discuss cooperation and exchanges of defense, technical and legislative expertise on the conference sidelines.

Kuwait's Ambassador to the Netherlands Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah and representatives of the defense and foreign ministries joined the delegation, which also met with heads of other delegations during the conference in The Hague, the ministry said.



Defense Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah during his participation at the 31st session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague.





Left: Sheikh Dr. Abdullah with Kuwait's Ambassador to the Netherlands Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah. Right: Sheikh Dr. Abdullah with OPCW Director-General Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior.



Ministry of Defense photos

Sheikh Dr. Abdullah during a meeting with Dutch Defense Ministry Director-General for Policy Koen Davidse and other officials.

Kuwait, UAE align aviation strategies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): President of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah held talks Saturday with UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism and Chairman of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) Abdullah bin Touq Al-Marri on enhancing bilateral coordination and joint cooperation in the civil aviation sector.

In a press statement, the PACA stated that the discussions took place during a virtual meeting, where both sides reviewed their respective strategic directions in the air transport industry and exchanged views on recent developments and challenges affecting the sector.

It added that the two officials underscored the importance of consolidating joint efforts and strengthening Gulf coordination on issues of mutual interest, in a manner that advances the civil aviation sector and serves the shared interests of both countries.



PACA photo

Officials from Kuwait and the UAE exchange views on air transport developments during a virtual meeting.

Other Voices

Eggs in our lives

By Ahmad alsarraf

When we talk about eggs, most people immediately think of chicken eggs, with the average Westerner consuming around 250 eggs per year.

However, duck, goose, quail, turkey, and ostrich eggs are also regularly consumed in various parts of the world, although on a much smaller scale.



Ahmad alsarraf

So, why do chickens dominate the global egg market?

Throughout history, people have consumed different types of eggs without showing any particular preference for one over another. Each type has its own place in food culture.

Duck eggs are popular in China and Vietnam, where they are valued for their rich flavor and larger yolks. Over time, however, chicken eggs have risen to their current prominent position.

According to The New York Times, chickens were domesticated at least 3,500 years ago. They descended from wild red junglefowl native to Southeast Asia and gradually spread across the world, eventually reaching the Americas.

Selective breeding, based on Darwin's theories, has led to a radical change in the quality and productivity of chickens. Wild jungle fowl lay approximately 10 to 15 eggs per year.

For centuries, farmers have carefully selected birds that lay eggs more frequently, mature faster, and adapt well to living alongside humans.

This process has resulted in a gradual but significant increase in productivity. Subsequent advances in genetics, nutrition, and animal husbandry have further accelerated this progress.

The average annual egg production in the United States has increased significantly over the decades, thanks to farmers developing breeds specifically designed to enhance productivity and efficiency.

Because other domesticated bird species did not receive the same level of investment or specialization in egg production, chickens gained a significant advantage even before the era of industrial agriculture began.

Laying chickens produce 280 to 320 eggs per year, compared with geese, which lay only about 30 to 50 eggs annually.

All birds, except chickens, typically require more feed, water, and space to maintain consistent production levels.

Chicken eggs are valued for their convenient size, reasonable cost, adaptability to various climatic conditions, and rapid maturation.

Recipes have come to rely on chicken eggs as a standard ingredient. Cookbooks, commercial bakeries, and food manufacturers have adopted specific egg sizes and expected yolk-to-white ratios.

By the early 20th century, chickens had become the most common commercial egg-producing birds in most of the industrialized world.

The rise of supermarkets and mass food distribution further reinforced this preference. Retailers favored products that could be classified, packaged, shipped over long distances, and sold according to consistent standards of size, appearance, and shelf life. Chicken eggs met these requirements.

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Giftedness center reaches 13,244 beneficiaries in 2026

Kuwait's young innovators take center stage at 'Impact Day'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity announced on Saturday that the 'Impact Day 2026' event provided an opportunity to showcase tangible outcomes of programs and initiatives, moving beyond presenting activities to highlighting their actual impact on developing students' capabilities.

The center said in a press release that it organized the event to elaborate the key outcomes of its programs and initiatives in nurturing national talents and provide scientific and academic preparation and participation in international competitions.

The event was held as part of the center's participation in NEXUS 2026, a specialized exhibition in technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The session titled "From Competition to Impact," featured a review of the key achievements of Kuwaiti students and their participation in local and international scientific and technological competitions.

Another session, titled "From Idea to Application," featured a review of key milestones in the STEM Racing competition, supported by Formula One, as well as the experience of the artificial intelligence and programming in cooperation with CODED.

The sessions contained a review of several local enrichment programs, including Future Scientists, the University Preparation Program (PRE) and the Conscious Consumer Program, Harvard and Yale universities, and the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF).

Additional session titled "Food and Water Security: Between Knowledge and Innovation" addressed projects and ideas being developed by participants in the incubation program in cooperation with Spain's IE University. Another session reviewed the Sabah Al-Ahmad Accelerator Program 2026, in cooperation with the global innovation consultancy platform "Mind the Bridge".

Regarding program participation indicators, the statement said the total number of beneficiaries across the center's various programs reached 13,244 in 2026, including 11,786 beneficiaries of scientific and technological talent programs and 1,458 beneficiaries under the innovation ecosystem support pillar.









KUNA photos

Some photos during the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity's 'Impact Day 2026' event.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

What God has chosen is always best

"GOD Almighty says, "Perhaps you dislike a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you like a thing and it is bad for you. And God knows, while you do not know." (Quran 2:216). How beautiful this verse is, and how profound its meaning!" columnist **Mohammad Al-Fawzan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"A person may grieve over losing something, feel disappointed when a wish is delayed, or endure a hardship whose wisdom he cannot understand. Yet, with time, he may discover that God has spared him from harm or reserved something even better for him.

Rest assured that what God chooses for you is better than what you choose for yourself. You may not understand the wisdom behind His choices at the time, but it may become clear later.



Al Fawzan

There was once an employee working in a government department in Mecca. His wife had a difficult temperament, which made his life challenging.

He also had brothers with whom he was involved in a dispute over ownership of a piece of land. Their relationship had deteriorated to the point where they were on the verge of cutting ties completely.

One morning, the employee left home after his wife had subjected him to a barrage of shouting and harsh criticism. He went to work extremely angry and arrived late.

Unable to find a parking space, he parked in the manager's designated spot, assuming the manager had not yet arrived. He quickly clocked in and then returned to look for another parking space.

Unfortunately, the manager arrived in an equally agitated state and began shouting, "Who is this idiot who parked in my spot?" The employee rushed towards the manager and unleashed all his pent-up anger, attacking him with punches, kicks, and blows while hurling insults at him. He then got into his car and drove away.

The manager got up and immediately called the ministry's undersecretary, who ordered the employee's transfer to a very remote location, specifically the city of Arar.

The employee decided to resign immediately. He then spent several days reflecting on his situation.

He thought to himself, "What's stopping me from going to Arar? There will be no difficult boss, no troublesome wife, and no feuding brothers. Can things really be any worse there?" The man tore up his resignation letter and accepted the transfer order, which gave him a few days before he was due to start his new job.

He went straight to the notary public and transferred his share of the land to his brothers. He then gave his house to his wife and divorced her.

After packing his belongings, he set off for Arar, where his new colleagues and manager welcomed him warmly.

The man quickly adapted to his new surroundings and began getting to know the kind people around him. They liked him, and he liked them.

One day, the department director in Arar called him into his office and told him that he had arrived at just the right time. The director explained that he needed to transfer to Riyadh but had been unable to do so because none of the employees had a university degree until this man arrived. He then informed him that he would serve as his deputy until his return.

Weeks, or perhaps months, passed quickly. Eventually, the ministry approved the director's transfer to Riyadh and appointed the man to his position.

The man soon became a respected figure in the region. He was welcomed into the homes, offices, and farms of the regional governor and heads of government departments. He was promoted, his salary increased, and he was even granted a plot of land by the municipality.

He obtained a loan from one of his friends and built himself a beautiful, luxurious house. In its courtyard, he set up a tent where he could welcome and entertain guests.

Later, the ministry held a meeting in Riyadh attended by department directors from various regions. His former boss was among those present. When the man told him everything that had happened, his former boss was astonished.

Meanwhile, his ex-wife had changed her behavior and urged him to return to her. She had realized that he was a generous man, especially after he had given up his house for her sake.

He refused to take her back unless she agreed to a set of difficult conditions, hoping they would persuade her to abandon her request. However, she accepted every condition, and he eventually took her back.

The employee's brothers discussed the matter among themselves and agreed that they needed to reconcile with their brother. Eventually, he returned to Mecca after all his problems there had been resolved.

Be optimistic and remember that God is merciful to His servants. When God closes one door, He opens others for you. Difficult circumstances and challenging events may lead you down a path you never imagined. In time, you may discover that this very path is the one that leads you to success and fulfillment."

Also:

"The king summoned his wise men and asked them to come up with a single phrase to be placed above his throne, one that carried profound wisdom to guide him through difficult times and help him navigate crises," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The wise men were puzzled, unable to find a phrase that would apply to all times, circumstances, and situations. After much thought and several unsuccessful attempts, one of them finally suggested the following words - "This too shall pass." The king gazed intently at the piece of paper, while the wise man explained, "My lord, the world is constantly changing. Days of happiness will come, but they too shall pass. You will also experience sorrow that will pain your heart and weigh heavily on your spirit. But sorrow, too, shall pass. Some people fail to understand this wisdom and therefore complain and lose hope during difficult times. It is God's wisdom that both joy and hardship are temporary, and neither lasts forever." The king smiled with satisfaction and ordered that this profound wisdom be inscribed not only above his throne but also in every public square across the kingdom, so that everyone who saw it would remember one timeless truth - "Nothing lasts forever." Indeed, this is how life unfolds, with its ever-changing fortunes. A person may experience hardship followed by prosperity, or vice versa. Neither lasts forever.



Al-Dawas

Just as individual fortunes change, so do the fortunes of nations.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Kuwait experienced an economic boom, followed by the Souk Al-Manakh crisis and a period of recession. Then came the Iraqi invasion, followed by liberation and a new period of prosperity.

We were brothers and sisters in Kuwait, united by our belonging to this land. However, the issue of forged citizenships emerged, violence spread throughout society, lawlessness increased, and our internal situation deteriorated. The performance of National Assembly members declined, eventually leading to the Assembly's suspension.

The country then entered a new era of reform, and citizens began to feel that they were living through a period of positive change. Today, we are experiencing an era of prosperity and progress, one that is improving conditions, strengthening the rule of law, and moving the country towards greater development.

The United States experienced the Great Depression in the 1930s, which resulted in widespread unemployment. However, following its entry into World War II on the side of the Allies against Nazi Germany, the American economy experienced a boom and began to recover. By the end of the war in 1945, the country was entering a period of significant growth.

The automobile and film industries flourished."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Italian delegation praises KNG's operational readiness

Kuwait, Italy eye closer military, security coop



KUNA photo

Undersecretary of the Kuwait National Guard Lt. Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas poses with the Italian delegation led by Gen. Salvatore Luongo.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Lt. Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas discussed with the Commander General of the Italian Carabinieri, Gen. Salvatore Luongo, ways to promote cooperative ties and share expertise.

This came when Al-Barjas welcomed the Italian general and his accompanying delegation as part of their official visit to Kuwait, in the presence of several senior commanders, the KNG said in a press release on Saturday.

Al-Barjas underlined the significance of mutual visits in bolstering bilateral cooperative relations and making use of expertise and experience in the military and security areas, according to the release.

He commended cooperation with friendly military and security institutions as a key pillar for exchanging expertise and keeping abreast of cutting-edge technologies, contributing to developing capabilities and potential and bolstering readiness and efficiency in performing tasks and duties.

The Italian delegation toured the Operations Center and the Security and Crisis Management System, where they were briefed on the center's work mechanisms, the nature of the system, and coordination among relevant bodies.

They also visited Al-Sumoud Camp, where they reviewed the facilities and training capabilities of the shooting range and got acquainted with the equipment and training.

The Italian delegation touted the KNG's development level and commitment to cementing its capabilities and advancing its operational and training systems.

Kuwait plans truck parking hubs near major highways

Citizen cleared in 10 cases involving bank fraud

By Inaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and **Agencies**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Kuwait Municipality is working on improving its system for regulating truck and heavy vehicle traffic by allocating four new truck parking sites with a combined area of approximately 3 million square meters.

The proposed locations include a one-million-square-meter site south of Mina Abdullah, along the Mina Abdullah-Wafra Road, and another site covering 500,000 square meters on Abdali Road, opposite Mutlaa Residential City.

This move follows studies conducted by Kuwait Municipality on previously proposed truck parking locations. Some of these sites faced obstacles that prevented the completion of their allocation procedures. These included a conflict between a proposed site in the Mina Abdullah area and Kuwait Oil Company's (KOC) existing services, as well as the company's rejection of a proposed site in northwest Shaddadiya because the land had not yet been transferred.

Kuwait Municipality is finalizing the procedures for allocating a site west of Jahra, along Salmi Road, covering an area of 500,000 square meters.

A detailed report is being prepared for submission to the Municipal Council to complete the allocation process.

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Appeals Court rejects charges: The Court of Appeals upheld the decision of the Criminal Court to acquit a citizen in 10 separate cases of money laundering, banking document forgery, electronic fraud, misappropriation of funds from the accounts of customers at local financial institutions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court based its decision on the absence of evidence establishing the defendant's involvement in the alleged crimes.

Defense lawyer, Attorney Ali Al-Ali, represented the accused in the courts and argued for his acquittal, asserting that the essential legal elements of money laundering, fraud and forgery were established and that no conclusive evidence linked his client to the theft of the victims' funds.

He also challenged the investigative procedures, describing them as inadequate and lacking the necessary seriousness to establish the facts and determine responsibility.

These cases were filed after a series of electronic fraud incidents in which several citizens were targeted by unidentified perpetrators who offered them lucrative investment opportunities and instructed them to download a mobile application.

Through this method, the perpetrators gained access to the victims' bank accounts and transferred amounts totaling thousands of Kuwaiti dinars into the defendant's account.

Police investigations indicated that a criminal network used the 'AnyDesk' application to channel proceeds obtained through fraudulent activities into the bank accounts of unsuspecting individuals acting in good faith. However, investigators were unable to establish the defendant's specific role in the incidents or identify the individuals who used the telephone numbers from which the victims were contacted.

In its reasoning for the acquittal, the Criminal Court ruled that the transfer or deposit of money into the defendant's bank account was not sufficient, in itself, to establish criminal liability, particularly when investigations failed to determine his role in the transactions or prove that he knew the funds originated from illegal activities.

The court stressed that criminal convictions must be based on certainty and firm judicial conviction rather than assumptions, conjecture or speculation, emphasizing that any reasonable doubt surrounding the prosecution's evidence must be interpreted in favor of the accused.

Man jailed for assaulting citizen

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: The Misdemeanor Section in the Court of First Instance sentenced a defendant to two weeks in prison with hard labor for assaulting a citizen and causing him injuries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Attorney Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan represented the victim in the case, seeking to hold the defendant accountable for the assault and obtain compensation for the damages sustained by his client.

The incident started in a disagreement in the lobby of a residential building in Northwest Sulaibikhat.

According to the case details, the victim was returning to the elevator after receiving a food delivery when the defendant blocked his path and questioned him about where he was going, falsely claiming to be the building manager.

Court documents revealed that the defendant slapped the victim in the face, grabbed him by his clothing and arm, and struck him on the head with an 'iqal' -- a traditional cord used to secure the head covering.

A medical report confirmed that the victim sustained cuts and abrasions to several parts of his body, including his face, hand, wrist and arm.

During the court proceedings, Al-Qattan argued that all the legal elements constituting the crime of assault were established against the defendant. He based his arguments on the victim's statements recorded during the investigation, medical report documenting the injuries, legal principles and precedents issued by the Court of Cassation-- precedents affirming the trial court's authority to assess the facts, evaluate the evidence and reach its judgment based on the testimony and circumstantial evidence.

Al-Qattan stressed that the evidence presented was consistent and mutually reinforcing, clearly demonstrating that the assault occurred and establishing the defendant's responsibility for it. He requested that the court impose the maximum penalty permitted by law and order the defendant to pay KD5,001 as provisional civil compensation for the damages suffered by the victim.

The court found the defendant guilty of assault and sentenced him to two weeks in prison with hard labor.

Fintas launches drive-through service for elderly & disabled

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: In the presence of Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Head of the Nationality and Residency Affairs Sector Brigadier General Abdulaziz Al-Omairi, and Director General of the General Department of Service Centers Brigadier General Saud Al-Tuwaijri, the Fintas Service Center has launched its drive-through service for senior citizens and people with disabilities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, attendees were briefed on the service's operational procedures and the process of completing transactions for beneficiaries without requiring them to leave their vehicles.

The Ministry of Interior stated that the initiative is part of the General Department of Service Centers' ongoing efforts to improve public services and introduce modern solutions that address the needs of senior citizens and people with disabilities.

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Kuwait to host UNESCO award ceremony in 2027

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei on Saturday announced the relaunch of the 'UNESCO-HH the Late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities', proving the commitment of Kuwait to promoting digital inclusion and supporting the rights of persons with disabilities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, Al-Tabtabaei revealed that Kuwait will host the awarding ceremony in December 2027. He explained that the initiative is being relaunched in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in line with the commitment of Kuwait to exert humanitarian and developmental efforts, promote the rights of persons with disabilities, and expand their access to knowledge, modern technology and digital services.



Al-Tabtabaei

He indicated that UNESCO will officially announce the relaunch of the prize from the United Nations headquarters in New York on Dec 3, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

He added that Kuwait will host the award ceremony and honor the recipients in December 2027, in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

He pointed out that hosting the ceremony is a reflection of the international standing of Kuwait and its role in supporting and promoting humanitarian initiatives on the global stage.

He added that a comprehensive plan is being laid down for the new edition of the prize, covering all administrative, technical and media requirements. "The plan aims to ensure that all arrangements for the relaunch are completed in accordance with regulations and procedures, while raising the international profile of the initiative and realizing its objective of promoting digital innovation for persons with disabilities.

He praised the efforts of Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf, particularly his continuous follow up on the prize and coordination with the organization to complete the necessary procedures and arrangements for its relaunch at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

He indicated that these efforts include preparations for Kuwait to host the awarding ceremony, which he described as essential steps towards ensuring the success of the new edition and achieve its objective.

He emphasized that the relaunch of the prize reflects the political leadership's commitment to maintain Kuwait's prominent role in international humanitarian work.

He added the initiative is an extension of the humanitarian and developmental vision of HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, who focused on issues of persons with disabilities, championed their rights and supported their active participation in society.

"The continuation of the prize reaffirms Kuwait's commitment to this humanitarian legacy and strengthens its presence in international initiatives dedicated to empowering persons with disabilities and improving their quality of life," he asserted.

He also stated that Kuwait is keen on ensuring that the prize is held regularly in coordination with UNESCO, stressing the importance of presenting the winning projects and successful experiences to the international community. He explained that showcasing these achievements will allow educational institutions and relevant organizations to benefit from outstanding solutions and practices, further develop them and adapt them to the specific needs of beneficiaries in order to remove barriers that limit persons with disabilities' access to education, information and digital services.

Kuwait International Book Fair draws 491,000 visitors, plans golden jubilee

Creative students honored

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): The 49th Kuwait International Book Fair drew about 491,000 visitors before closing Saturday, Director Khalifa Al-Rabah said Sunday, announcing the start of preparations for the fair's 50th edition.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Rabah said the strong turnout, broad participation and cultural program reflected the fair's standing in Kuwait and abroad, adding, 19,885 students from 852 schools, institutes and universities visited the fair.

The fair brought together 594 participants from 34 countries across 442 booths, including 459 direct participants and 33 newcomers, featuring 248,094 titles, including 22,772 new titles and 42,205 children's publications.

Al-Rabah said 120 Kuwaiti participants, including 80 publishers and 40 government bodies, organizations and public benefit associations, helped support local publishing. He added that participants and Arab publishers' unions praised the fair's organization.

Qatar, the guest of honor, presented cultural publications, poetry readings and workshops on the Gulf's maritime and desert heritage. For the first time, events honoring the guest country also took place outside the fairgrounds.

Al-Rabah said the golden jubilee edition would bring in more publishers, expand cultural activities and offer specialized courses, workshops and seminars on artificial intelligence and digital technology for publishing professionals.

He said organizers were developing translation programs and documenting previous editions in print and digital formats. The fair reviews feedback from visitors and participants after each edition to improve its program and organization.



KUNA photo

A photo from the event.

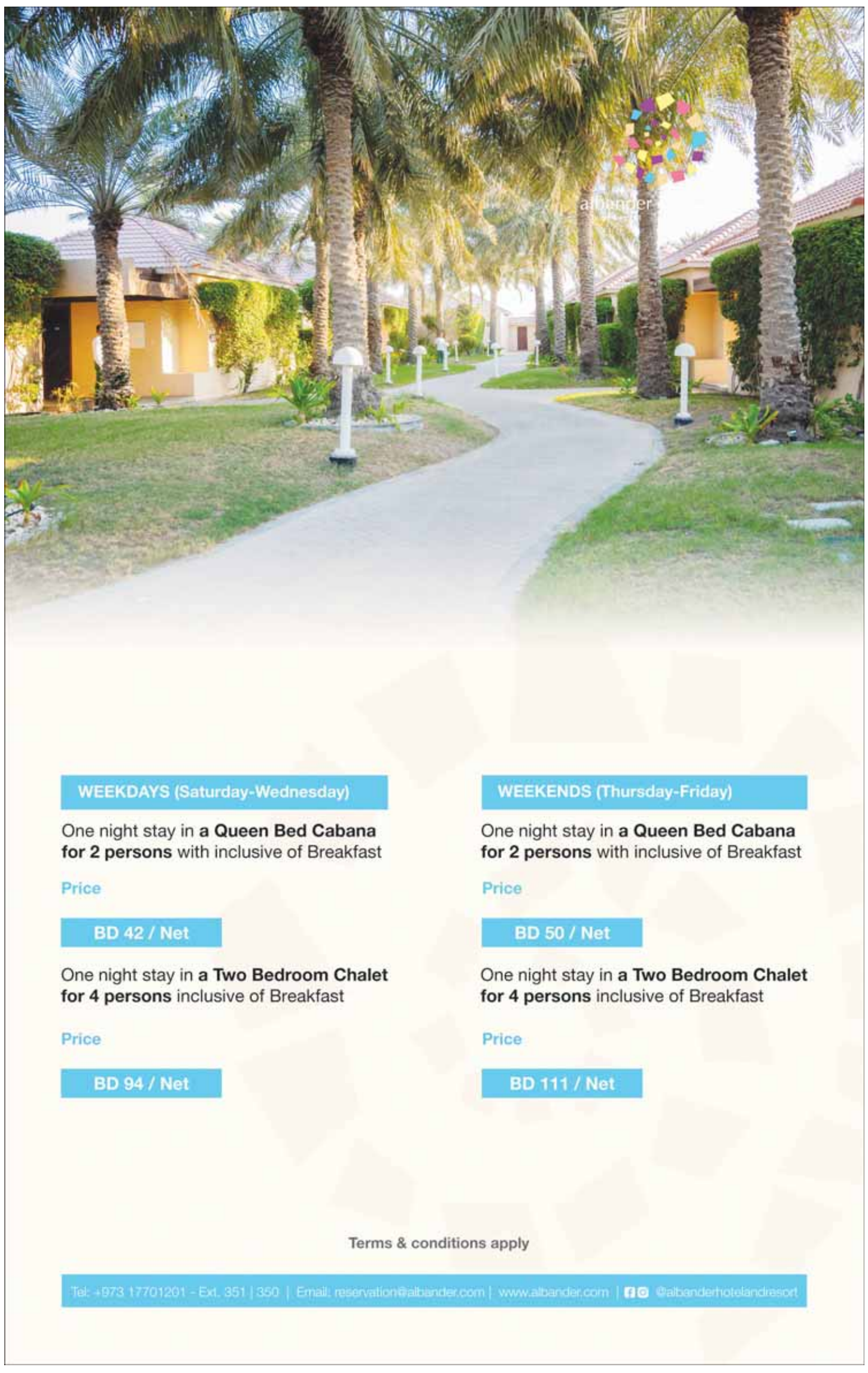
Organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters under the theme "We Read and Rise," the fair featured seminars, lectures, poetry readings and workshops with writers and cultural figures from Kuwait and abroad.

The 49th edition of the Kuwait International Book Fair concluded on Saturday with a ceremony honoring of the winners of the Creative Students Award for secondary school students, as part of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) efforts to discover and promote young talents in Kuwait's cultural scene.

In a speech of the Acting Director of the Cultural Affairs Department of (NCCAL) Aisha Al-Mahmoud, delivered by Dalal Al-Fadhli during the ceremony at the fair's Cultural Cafe, affirmed the council's commitment to nurturing young talents stems from its firm belief in the importance of investing in younger generations, as they constitute the cornerstone of Kuwait's cultural future.

Holding the award ceremony as part of the Kuwait International Book Fair carries special significance, bringing together celebration of the book as a source of knowledge and of young generations whom the council hopes will become partners in shaping knowledge and culture, she added.

She expressed her appreciation to those overseeing the award, members of the judging panels, educational institutions and parents for their role in nurturing and developing talents. Furthermore, she congratulated the winning students, stressing that participation itself represents an important step on the path to creativity and excellence.



Kuwait forum explores innovative solutions for better public health

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi stressed that human health is not just about the treatment of illnesses, but more importantly, prevention, surrounding environment, and availability of appropriate choices and healthcare services.

Al-Awadhi made the statement at the opening of the Scientific Forum for Sustainable Health Solutions on Saturday, with Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad, Forum Chairperson Eng. Fatima Al-Shakanani, experts, specialists and researchers in attendance.

The forum focused on healthy city planning, promoting preventive health behaviors, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, healthcare innovation and the provision of care for individuals with rare diseases.

Al-Awadhi presented figures from World Health Organization (WHO) reports indicating that more than 55 percent of the world population currently lives in urban areas, which is expected to rise to 68 percent by 2050. He said these figures underline the growing need to put human health and quality of life at the heart of urban planning and the development of future cities. He added that more than 300 million people around the world are affected by more than 7,000 rare diseases and around 70 percent of these conditions begin in childhood.

He stressed that these figures reinforce the importance of early diagnosis, expanding specialized healthcare services and providing adequate support for patients and their families, while protecting their right to quality care and human dignity.

He pointed out that global vaccination efforts saved at least 154 million lives over the past 50 years, proving the benefits of investing in preventive healthcare based on scientific evidence, cooperation and sustainability.

He disclosed that the Health Innovation Lab is an important platform for presenting ideas and projects that address challenges and transform them into practical solutions.

He explained that the value of scientific forums is not just the exchange of ideas and expertise, as their success is measured by the partnerships, joint efforts and recommendations they generate, which can make a meaningful difference to public health and quality of life.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stressed that the concept of health has evolved considerably and is no longer limited to medical treatment and healthcare services. He said modern healthcare now includes prevention, environmental quality, effective planning, and the application of technology and innovation in ways that serve humanity and improve people's lives.

He emphasized that investing in human health is an investment in the nation's future, adding that achieving sustainable healthcare is a shared responsibility that requires close cooperation among government institutions, private sector and civil society organizations.

He also underscored the importance of supporting young people and researchers by providing them with opportunities to present their ideas, develop their creative capabilities and transform innovative concepts into practical solutions and initiatives that benefit society.

He expressed optimism that the forum's outcomes will be beyond the exchange of knowledge and experiences, serving instead as a launching point for practical initiatives and projects capable of making a meaningful contribution to human well-being.

Al-Shakanani explained that the event, organized by the 'Empairo' Team, in collaboration with Adailiya Health City, was inspired by the question: How can human health be preserved before medical treatment becomes necessary? She asserted that answering this question requires the input of specialists from medicine, engineering, public health and technology fields to lay down integrated solutions that strengthen preventive healthcare and improve the overall quality of life.

She stated that the Health Innovation Lab operated for an entire month, during which students and graduates presented projects addressing practical challenges. She revealed that participants also held discussions with specialists on ways to further develop their ideas and explore opportunities to implement them in Kuwait.







KUNA photos

Some photos from the event.

Continued from Page 1

Rain reigns

It explained that Al-Murabba'aniyah begins annually after the end of the Al-Wasam season and marks the gradual transition from warm to cold weather. Temperatures are expected to fluctuate during this period before colder conditions gradually become established.

The season lasts 39 days and is divided into three periods, each spanning 13 days - Al-Iklil, Al-Qalb, and Al-Shula.

The beginning of Al-Murabba'aniyah typically brings the lowest temperatures, although the severity of the cold varies from year to year depending on climatic conditions.

The center also pointed out that nighttime hours gradually increase during this period, reaching their peak on December 21, which coincides with the longest night of the year, lasting 13 hours and 44 minutes.

AI drives

Mohammad Jameel, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the group, stressed that the legal profession is currently at a critical crossroads, requiring professionals to prepare for the future and reconsider the roles and responsibilities of lawyers, particularly since artificial intelligence and modern technologies have been increasingly integrated into legal practice.

He stated that the question is no longer what machines can accomplish, but what lawyers need to rediscover about their profession and the value they bring to the legal system. He explained that the essence of legal practice is beyond researching legislation, drafting legal memoranda or reviewing court rulings, as the profession requires sound judgment and wisdom when dealing with conflicting interests, as well as the willingness to assume responsibility when legal opinions affect lives.

He clarified that while technology can simplify procedures, accelerate legal processes and analyze enormous volumes of data, it cannot relieve legal professionals of their responsibility for the decisions they make or the consequences arising from them. He underscored the importance of developing professional capabilities and establishing legal institutions on strong foundations of governance and sustainability, rather than depending on individual expertise.

He stressed that the integration of law and technology should begin at the earliest stage of product design and deal structuring, rather than being introduced when disputes emerge. He believes this approach will protect rights and ensure that legal solutions genuinely respond to society's needs.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Kuwait Bar Association Dr. Khaled Al-Suwaifan asserted that the advancement of the legal profession is a shared responsibility, hence, the need for the coordinated efforts of professional associations, training institutions, law firms, corporate legal departments and the private sector. He said the ongoing legislative, economic and technological developments entail that legal knowledge alone is not enough to achieve professional excellence and ensure institutional sustainability.

He indicated that the next phase requires a fundamental shift away from dependence on individual expertise towards establishing integrated operational systems capable of continuous development, expansion and sustainability.

He added that the Lawyer 2027 Vision focuses on several priorities, including legislative development, digital transformation, professional qualification and strengthening local and international partnerships to develop the legal profession and guarantee its readiness for future challenges.

Kuwait rejects

Al-Mutairi urged the international community to uphold its responsibilities by ensuring the Israeli occupation adheres to the ceasefire agreement, protects civilians, and allows safe, sustainable, and unhindered delivery of humanitarian and medical aid.

He reiterated Kuwait's categorical rejection of the displacement of Palestinians under any pretext, while condemning Israeli occupation settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank and attempts to alter the historical and legal status quo of Jerusalem and its holy sites.

Furthermore, Al-Mutairi renewed Kuwait's support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), calling for the agency to be empowered to continue educating refugee children, caring for their families, and safeguarding their right of return.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Mutairi thanked the Arab League for organizing the event and saluted the steadfastness of the Palestinian people across generations, as well as the event's honorees and all those serving the Palestinian cause through science, art, and humanitarian work.

He affirmed that Kuwait will continue to defend Palestinian rights until children live in security and dignity within their independent state.

The Arab League marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Sunday, reaffirming its support for Palestinian rights and establish a sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Observed annually on November 29, the event is held under the patronage of Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy at the league's headquarters, and attended by permanent representatives, diplomatic mission members in Egypt, and representatives of Al-Azhar and the Coptic Orthodox Church.

In his opening remarks, Fahmy warned that the Palestinian cause has reached a deeply dangerous turning point, and called for continued international support to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Highlighting the devastation in Gaza and the tens of thousands killed or injured, he noted that the ongoing humanitarian crisis affecting families, children, and the patients goes far beyond numbers and figures.

Fahmy explained that what's happening in Gaza is directly tied to ongoing violations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where Palestinians deal with attacks, expanding settlements, forced displacement, and efforts to change the region's identity, cautioning that ignoring these crises risks deeper conflict.

He urged the international community to act swiftly to deliver humanitarian aid to Palestinians and ensure its access and pressure the Israeli occupation to halt its violations and be held accountable.

Achieving peace, he added, requires renewed international and diplomatic efforts to support the establishment of a Palestinian state and implement the two-state solution.

Fahmy also called on donor countries and capable parties to provide the political and financial support needed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

He affirmed that Palestine would remain central to the Arab League's concerns and work until the Palestinian people secured all their rights and established their independent, sovereign state.

Kuwait was represented at the event by its Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi. (

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at its headquarters in Jeddah, in collaboration with the permanent Palestinian delegation to the Organization, with representatives from member states and diplomatic corps, Sunday.

Secretary General of the Organization Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed called on countries to recognize and stand with Palestine, affirming their commitment to international law, and their right to self-determination and realizing their sovereignty with the borders of June 4, 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital.

He stressed the need to provide international protection for the Palestinian people in line with the relevant UN resolutions and the Geneva Conventions, ending the Israeli occupation's impunity to consequence, as well as implementing the peace plan regarding the Gaza Strip, and ensuring a permanent ceasefire with crossings being opened to deliver humanitarian aid.

He called on the international community to continue political, financial, and legal support for the UNRWA, as well as for pressure to release the Palestinian tax revenues being held by the Israeli occupation.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed annually on November 29 under the UN General Assembly Resolution 32/40 (1977) in remembrance of that day in 1947 when the Assembly adopted a resolution on the partition of Palestine.

Elsewhere, speakers at a popular rally held on Sunday in Ramallah called on the UN and the international community to take responsibility, provide state protection for the Palestinian people, and take steps to stop the Israeli occupation's daily crimes and violations.

When does

At the same time, governments must be careful not to reduce public spending excessively, as it is a vital driver of economic stability. Otherwise, the economy risks entering a deflationary spiral that could lead to a depression, as happened in the United States in the 1930s, which subsequently spread throughout the world.

For this reason, governments closely monitor economic indicators and local market activity to identify the factors that may cause any indicator to decline and determine how to address the underlying issues with complete transparency. They also draw lessons from previous experiences and build on them.

For example, if the retail sector experiences a downturn, the government examines the reasons behind it and takes measures to encourage consumer spending.

A country's economic activity is based on several interconnected sectors. No sector can be viewed in isolation. Therefore, governments strive as much as possible to create favorable economic conditions and understand why investors choose to move their businesses elsewhere for environments that better accommodate their needs and capabilities.

In Kuwait, we frequently discuss the tendency of citizens and residents to travel during holidays, particularly in the winter and spring months.

Statistics reveal significant numbers, yet the reasons prompting people to travel are rarely examined. The problem is clear - a lack of attractive entertainment facilities and inadequate infrastructure to accommodate international visitors.

A comparison of tourism's contribution to national income among several Arabian Gulf states in 2025 highlights the gap. Kuwait's contribution was approximately $2.1 billion, compared with $68.5 billion in the UAE, $15 billion in Qatar, and around $5.4 billion in Bahrain.

Countries are keen to encourage people to travel, trade in goods and services, and participate in tourism. They allocate a significant portion of their public budgets to productive projects that generate profits. Such projects stimulate local markets by encouraging the private sector to operate. Ultimately, all these activities contribute to the country's GDP.

As the supplication goes, "O God, provide for me so that I may provide for others."

KOC rolls

reports to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Administrative and Financial Affairs).

Mohammad Saleh Al-Aqab was appointed senior specialist in the Planning and Innovation Department, reporting to the group manager.

The Contracts and Commercial Support Group was renamed Commercial Group, with Mohammad Ismail Sadeqi as Group Manager, reporting to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Commercial and Project Engineering.

Temporary Debit list

Member of Nexia — مكتب الواحة لتدقيق الحسابات

1- Al Dunya International General Trading and Contracting Company,
2. Dunia Khazaal General Trading and Contracting Co.

Pursuant to the order issued by the Bankruptcy Judge on 8 November 2026 in Bankruptcy Application No. 158 / 2023, filed by Mr. Hamad Abdullah Al-Zakaria Al-Hajji against:
1. Al Dunia International General Trading & Contracting Company.
2. Dunia Khazal General Trading & Contracting Company.
And in Bankruptcy Application No. 159 / 2023, filed by Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Zakaria Al-Hajji against Al Dunia International General Trading & Contracting Company.
Debts that the Bankruptcy Trustee Deems Acceptable.

No	Creditor Name	Amount Due (KD)	Debtor	Notes
1	Hamad Abdullah Al-Zakaria Al-Hajji	7,563.098	Dunia Khazal General Trading & Contracting Company	
2	Hamad Abdullah Al-Zakaria Al-Hajji	22,240.360	Al Dunia International General Trading & Contracting Company	
3	Ahmed Abdullah Al-Zakaria Al-Hajji	17,828.821	Al Dunia International General Trading & Contracting Company.	
4	Al Mulla Rental & leasing	4,410	Al Dunia International General Trading & Contracting Company.	Acknowledgment of the Debt, Pending the Issuance of a Final and Binding Judgment in Case No. 5405 / 2026 T.M.G.F./9.
5	The public institution for social security	39,369.211	Al Dunia International General Trading & Contracting Company.	



'Past presidents changed their tack after midterm losses'

Voters deliver rebuke, but US President Trump sticking to agenda

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 29, (AP): US President Donald Trump is doubling down on ideas that voters say they dislike, a historically unique response to a midterms thrashing in which Democrats gained majorities in the House and Senate.

This week alone, Trump appeared to reject the kind of postelection pivot that presidents before him have made. Instead, he recommitted himself to tariffs, tech billionaires, and autocrats, and he did nothing to correct course and respond to the affordability pressures that caused voters to spurn Republicans.

Trump successfully pushed to have billionaire Jensen Huang reinstalled as the Nvidia CEO, after 7 in 10 told The AP Voter Poll that the economy has become rigged in favor of the wealthy.

"He is so happy to be going back. He calls it his second term," Trump said Thursday of his ally who was ousted after admitting to an extramarital affair with a woman, Alice Huang, connected to the Chinese government. Beijing denies that she was a spy.

Trump on Wednesday rolled out a new round of tariffs that hit China as well as traditional partners such as Japan, South Korea and the European Union. But two-thirds of voters said his import taxes had already hurt the economy as inflation had worsened. The Republican president has praised the term "tariff" as one of his favorite words in the English language, but in this case he did not take the time to personally promote the higher rates.

His Thanksgiving Day message posted on social media defended his obsession with renovating the White House and accused his own government of releasing fake economic data. Leading up to the holiday week, he defended calling Russian leader Vladimir Putin a friend and offered no assurance about his next steps in the Iran war.

Past presidents changed their tack after midterm losses, said Matthew Dallek, a professor and political historian at George Washington University.

Democrat Bill Clinton overhauled welfare after the 1994 elections. Republican George W. Bush surged troops into Iraq after his party's 2006 setback. Democrat Barack Obama reached a bipartisan deal on deficit reduction after electoral losses in 2010.



US President Donald Trump signs a major disaster declaration for Florida at his Mar-a-Lago club on Thanksgiving, as Rep. Lois Frankel, Palm Beach County commissioner Marci Woodward, Palm Beach County administrator Joseph Abruzzo and Bill Pulte, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, watch on Nov 26, in Palm Beach, Fla. (AP)

But Trump's seeming unwillingness to adapt to the new realities of his unpopularity and a Democratic Congress is a sign that the White House may be embarking on a path of self-destruction, Dallek said.

"If you're going to commit to political hari-kari, Trump seems to be doing that on behalf of his party," he said.

Dallek added that the midterm results were a "deeper repudiation" of Trump on a national scale that "potentially shakes the bedrock assumption of American politics that there are red and blue states and a handful of purple states."

The White House did not respond to questions about whether the Election Day outcome was prompting a serious reconsideration of its policies or whether it believes the public might eventually come around to its agenda.

Trump has suggested a willingness to work with Democrats, even as he posted a cartoon of himself online as the mafia boss from "The Godfather." The meme of Trump as Vito Corleone played on the joke that he would freely "veto" what the Democrats sent him.

Yet in front of the video cameras Thursday at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, he claimed that he expected a "very bipartisan relationship" because Democrats - who are promising to hold Trump accountable - would be intimidated by his ability to veto legislation.

"So I'm hearing from Democrats," Trump said. "They're calling because I have the power of veto, and I'm not looking to use it, but it's a very strong power."

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., posted on X that the president had responded to a "historic repudiation" by digging in on unpopular policies such as deporting immigrants, aligning himself with tech billionaires and pursuing tariffs.

"Read the room!" Kaine said.

Voters sent a message in the midterms that they expect Washington to help make necessities more affordable. Trump has yet to present any concrete fixes.

On Wednesday, he sidestepped a government report showing that the key gauge of inflation tracked by the Federal Reserve, the main personal consumption expenditures price index, rose 3.8% over the past 12 months.

Pakistan to send troops to Saudi Arabia to bolster defenses following Houthi attacks

ISLAMABAD, Nov 29, (AP): Pakistan's military announced Sunday that it will send troops to help strengthen Saudi Arabia's defenses amid relentless attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

In a statement, it said the troops would carry out their duties within Saudi territory under existing defense cooperation arrangements.

The military did not disclose the number of soldiers, their specific assignments, the duration of the deployment, or when the troops are set to land in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, a major US ally in the region, has been facing mounting pressure after the Iran war erupted in February following U.S. and Israeli strikes on the Islamic Republic. It has turned to its regional allies, including Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt and Syria, to beef up its defenses in the face of Houthi missile and drone strikes, some of which were deadly.

The kingdom has been countering the Houthis over the past decade in Yemen's civil war, backing the internationally recognized government in the south. However, the Houthis control Yemen's most populous areas, including Sanaa.



From center: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan poses for a family photo with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, (right), Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, second right, and senior military and civilian officials from Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia at the first meeting of the Strategic Political and Defense Committee established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement in Istanbul on Aug 31. (AP)

Fighting escalated this summer in Yemen between the Houthi rebels and the government's Saudi-backed forces. The Houthis have also launched direct and deadly attacks on Saudi Arabia, and imposed a blockade on its shipping in what has been viewed as an extension of the U.S.-Iran war.

In recent months, the rebels performed their biggest land grab in years, capturing Yemen's Red Sea coast from pro-government forces.

This, along with the closure of a key Saudi pipeline, strengthened their ability to choke off Saudi oil exports, pushing up global fuel prices and giving Iran greater leverage.

Islamabad's rare announcement came two days after Pakistani, Turkish, and Saudi defense and military officials met in Islamabad and reaffirmed their support for Riyadh under a trilateral agreement that treats an attack on one member as an attack on all.

The three countries also backed diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey signed the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement on Aug. 7, declaring that an attack on one member would be treated as an attack on all three. The countries have described the pact as defensive and said it is not directed against any particular state.

Europe

Russian attacks kill 3 in Ukraine: Russian attacks killed at least three people and wounded more than a dozen across Ukraine, authorities said Sunday, while Russia said it had shot down more than 1,000 Ukrainian drones for the second night in a row.

Russia and Ukraine have escalated their aerial strikes in recent months even as they engage in US-mediated talks to end the war that began with Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbor nearly five years ago.



Fedorov

In the Odesa region, one person was killed and three wounded when a strike set the fourth and fifth floors of a 14-story apartment building on fire and damaged cars, local authorities said. Elsewhere in the region, a farm was damaged and a large fire broke out at warehouses holding toys and household appliances, where two more people were hurt, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said.

In Zaporizhzhia, rescuers pulled a 14-year-old girl alive from the rubble after guided aerial bombs struck the city center, regional Gov. **Ivan Fedorov** said. Her mother was killed and two other people were wounded. The strike destroyed houses and damaged other buildings, he said. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Clashes erupt in Albania: Clashes broke out Saturday between police and protesters in Albania's capital, Tirana, as thousands of people called for the resignation of Prime Minister Edi Rama in the latest of a long series of anti-government protests.

The Health Ministry said that 30 people were injured, including journalists and police officers. The protest began peacefully, but small groups of masked demonstrators broke away and began smashing the windows of ministry buildings along the march route.

Police used tear gas and water cannons to push back protesters throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails and using wooden sticks to try to smash street cameras and windows of government buildings. Clouds of tear gas billowed through the area as protesters spread out across several streets. (AP)

Former Philippine president Duterte faces ICC trial over drug war killings

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov 29, (AP): Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte goes on trial Monday at the International Criminal Court on charges of overseeing a campaign of extrajudicial killings in his anti-drug crackdowns that prosecutors say amount to crimes against humanity.

The opening of the trial is a major milestone for the 24-year-old court and will be a litmus test of its ability to prosecute national political leaders for alleged crimes committed while in office. It comes when the court has outstanding arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for their respective roles in the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

Duterte's defense lawyers argue that the dozens of alleged murders he is accused of orchestrating do not amount to crimes against humanity, and have warned that their 81-year-old client's frail health prevents him from fully participating in the trial.

For relatives of victims of the so-called "war on drugs," this is their chance to seek justice for their loved ones.

Llore Pasco, a 72-year-old mother and massage therapist, who blames Duterte's bloody crackdowns for the killings of her two sons, was traveling from Manila to The Hague to witness the start of the trial. She said she felt the darkest period in her life was coming to an end.

She acknowledged her two sons were former drug users but said they had long reformed when they were separately gunned down by unknown attackers in suburban Quezon City in May 2017. The killings happened several months after authorities knocked on their door and inquired about her sons' history of drug use, she said.



Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte appears before the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, on Sept 16. (AP)

"He is so lucky because he has due process unlike what happened to us, so we really want justice for all victims," Pasco said of Duterte in an interview with The Associated Press where she wept as she described her family's continuing grief.

Duterte's trial opens as the ICC is facing unprecedented pressure from Washington, where the Trump administration has imposed punitive sanctions on key staff individually and the institution as a whole in what it calls an effort to dismantle the court "brick by brick."

"At a time when the court faces growing attacks, these proceedings demonstrate its vital role in holding the powerful to account and reaffirm why international justice must be defended," James A. Goldston, executive director of the Open Society Justice Initiative, a rights group, said in a statement.

Earlier this year, ICC judges ordered Duterte to stand trial, saying there are "substantial grounds to believe" he is responsible, as an indirect co-perpetrator, for the crimes against humanity of murder and attempted murder committed during the anti-drug crackdown from November 2011 to March 2019.

The first charge lists alleged murders while Duterte was mayor of Davao City in the southern Philippines. Prosecutors allege that Duterte founded and led a group called the Davao Death Squad that targeted suspects linked to selling and using drugs. The second charge involves alleged targeted killings between 2016 and 2017 when Duterte was president. The third cites alleged murders and attempted murders during so-called "clearance operations" between 2016 and 2018.

Africa

Armed men hijack ship: Armed men hijacked a Panama-flagged cargo ship owned by a company based in the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf of Aden on Saturday, a maritime police officer from Somalia's semiautonomous state of Puntland told The Associated Press.

The officer, who spoke by phone on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, identified the vessel as the MV Marsa Virgo and said six armed men had seized it.

The ship was carrying containers of undisclosed cargo and is owned by the UAE-based company Marsa Ocean Shipping.

Somalia and the UAE have had diplomatic tensions. Somalia ordered the UAE ambassador to leave the country last week, citing a failure to respect the country's sovereignty.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency, or UKMTO, said the ship's captain reported armed men boarding the vessel at 0630 GMT, about 64 nautical miles (119 kilometers) southwest of Balhaf, Yemen. (AP)

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Guinea-Bissau postpones elections: The military government in Guinea-Bissau on Thursday postponed presidential and legislative elections until November 2028, extending its promised yearlong transition to civilian rule by roughly two years.

The decision came on the first anniversary of the coup. The military seized power on Nov. 26, 2025, three days after general elections, ousting President Umaro Sissoco Embaló and interrupting the electoral process before official results were announced. Embaló and opposition candidate Fernando Dias had both claimed victory.

New presidential elections had initially been scheduled for next month. Prime Minister Ilídio Vieira Té said last month that conditions were not in place for December elections but gave no alternative date. (AP)



Juan Chipana, 86, a cook at the Sumaq Warmis community-run soup kitchen, which provides low-cost meals to local families, walks home with his food after cooking in Lima's Villa Maria del Triunfo district, Peru on Nov 24. (AP)

Rivers overflow in Peru, Ecuador as powerful El Niño drenches region

LIMA, Peru, Nov 29, (AP): Rivers overflowed across northern Peru and coastal Ecuador on Saturday, prompting water rescues, evacuations and road closures as relentless storms dumped rain on the region.

The increased flooding, which stretched along the Pacific coast from Ecuador's border with Colombia into northern Peru, came after weeks of heavy rain fueled by a particularly powerful El Niño. The climate phenomenon starts with a warming of the tropical Pacific and influences rainfall, temperature and storms around the globe.

Along these normally dry coasts, the downpours have killed at least 34 people in Ecuador since late August, according to the country's risk management agency. Two died Friday when a mudslide crashed into their homes.

In Peru, more than 2,000 families have been affected in the northern city of Piura alone, said Luis Vásquez, head of the country's National Civil Defense Institute. Forecasters warned of more rain, extending a red alert for the Piura and Tumbes regions through Monday and saying El Niño would remain at "extraordinary" strength until February.

In northwestern Ecuador's Esmeraldas province, police and firefighters evacuated families after two rivers burst their banks. Floods and landslides had damaged more than 50 road sections across the country by Saturday morning, closing at least 10, including the main highway between the capital, Quito, and the coast.

The storms also disrupted Ecuador's local elections Sunday, which officials had moved up from February to avoid El Niño's expected peak. The National Electoral Council said Friday it had moved polling stations in five provinces and warned that dozens more were at risk.

Across the border, the raging Tumbes River swallowed part of the Pan-American Highway, Peru's main north-south artery, and police this week rescued several ranchers trapped by its waters. On Saturday, the river swelled to nearly twice the level authorities consider dangerous, swamping homes, schools and hundreds of acres of rice and banana fields.

In Piura, a record 143 millimeters (5.6 inches) of rain fell in 24 hours at one weather station, overwhelming the city's storm drains and leaving streets under waist-high water. President Keiko Fujimori toured the flooded El Chilcal neighborhood by police boat Saturday as families waited on rooftops to be evacuated.

"In a single day, it has rained what Piura gets in a year," Fujimori said, promising emergency cash payments to affected families. Her government is coordinating aid from the United States and China to confront what she has called "a mega Niño."

Henry Salazar pleaded on a Peruvian radio station for help after his teenage children spent two days trapped without food on the second floor of a flooded house. Rescuers reached them early Saturday. But others stayed behind.

"There are people who don't want to leave their homes because they have nowhere to go," he told the station.

Further inland, Peru's Culture Ministry declared a 90-day emergency at Kuélap, a pre-Inca citadel that is among the largest ancient monuments in the Americas, to brace its stone walls against the coming rains.

Even in Peru's arid capital of Lima, El Niño has brought persistent rain to some neighborhoods and unusual heat to others, with temperatures reaching 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius), nearly 18 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) above normal.

Business

KPC's Shaheen project wins ME award

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Sunday that its Shaheen project had won the Middle East Market Impact Award at the 2026 Infra Global Investor Awards, which recognize outstanding fundraising, investment, mergers and acquisitions in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

KPC said in a press statement that it was represented at the awards ceremony by Deputy Managing Director for Planning Abdullah Al-Afasi and Director of Local Content Department Jaber Al-Sakhee.

BEDE Kuwait showcased digital payment solutions that drive business growth

Zain's expanding portfolio of enterprise and fintech solutions take center stage at NEXUS '26



Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel and Nawaf Al-Gharabally with Zain executives and event organizers.



Zain's Enterprise Solutions team in a group photo



Zain highlighted its expanding portfolio of enterprise and fintech solutions designed to meet the evolving needs of businesses.



Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel learns about BEDE Kuwait's digital payment solutions.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Zain Kuwait's participation in NEXUS 2026, one of Kuwait's leading technology, startup, and SME gatherings, reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating digital transformation, empowering local businesses, and fostering a thriving innovation ecosystem that contributes to the growth of Kuwait's digital economy.

The event was held under the patronage of the Minister of State for Communications Affairs and Acting Minister of Information and Culture, Omar Al-Omar, and attended by the Chairman of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel, Zain Kuwait CEO, Nawaf Al-Gharabally, and executive management.

The event brought together technology leaders, entrepreneurs, startups, investors, and decision makers, NEXUS provided a platform for exploring emerging technologies, exchanging ideas, and creating new opportunities for collaboration.

Building on its participation for the third consecutive time, Zain welcomed visitors to an interactive booth featuring three dedicated experiences that demonstrated how digital technologies are transforming the way businesses operate, connect with customers, and pursue growth. The showcase brought together Zain's expanding portfolio of enterprise and fintech solutions, reflecting its evolution beyond traditional connectivity into a technology partner for businesses of all sizes.

BEDE Kuwait: Simplifying payments, empowering businesses

BEDE Kuwait presented its merchant payment solutions at NEXUS 2026 that helps merchants, startups and enterprises manage payment acceptance across physical and digital channels through solutions including point-of-sale terminals, QR payments, payment links, e-commerce gateways, and transaction reporting tools. These solutions help businesses organize their payment operations and serve their customers across multiple channels.

BEDE Kuwait also entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BRDG to explore technology solutions supporting merchant verification and customer due diligence. The proposed collaboration aims to improve processing efficiency and the consistency of onboarding controls, while maintaining required verification standards and safeguards for customer information.

In addition, BEDE Kuwait entered an agreement with Kuwait International Bank (KIB) to introduce Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) payment options for merchants using its platform. Through this, BEDE merchants will be able to offer their customers greater payment flexibility through KIB's BNPL solutions, enhancing the customer experience and supporting business growth.



Zain collaborated with its global partner Cisco to introduce intelligent contact center solutions.

As part of the NEXUS 2026 program, Ahmad AlNafisi, GM of Bede Kuwait, joined The Middle Ground podcast for a conversation titled "Beyond the Payment: How Bede Helps Kuwait's Businesses Get Paid." The discussion explored BEDE's role in Kuwait's evolving digital payments sector, the payment needs of businesses, and importance of collaboration between fintech entities and banks.

AI-powered customer engagement with Cisco

At the event, Zain Kuwait announced a collaboration with its global partner Cisco to introduce an AI-powered Contact Center solution designed to transform customer engagement through intelligent, personalized, and efficient interactions. Combining artificial intelligence with the advanced communication capabilities of Cisco Webex, the solution enables businesses to deliver more responsive, personalized, and efficient customer experiences within their own contact centers.

With features including Arabic and English AI assistance, integration with existing customer management systems, real-time translation, and intelligent analytics, it demonstrates how AI can help organizations transform customer service and strengthen their relationships with customers.

Smarter business operations with Foodics

During Nexus, Zain Kuwait also announced a collaboration with Foodics, a leading restaurant operations and financial technology platform in the region powering over 40,000 restaurants and helping them manage sales, payments, orders, inventory, and daily operations.

By bringing together Foodics' restaurant management technologies, including POS and kitchen display systems, with Zain's state-of-the-art connectivity and enterprise services, the solution offers cafés and restaurants a streamlined approach to managing their operations, improving efficiency, and supporting future expansion.

Transformation to a TechCo

Beyond showcasing its latest solutions, Zain's participation reflects its belief in the importance of connecting innovation with real business needs. By supporting platforms such as NEXUS, the company seeks to encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen collaboration between established businesses and emerging innovators, and make advanced digital capabilities more accessible to Kuwait's growing business community.

This year's edition of NEXUS featured a technology exhibition, conference, startup challenge, and cybersecurity hackathon, bringing together industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, SME owners, and technology enthusiasts to explore emerging trends and opportunities. Through interactive experiences, expert discussions, and competitions, the event highlighted the latest advancements in AI, fintech, cybersecurity, and digital transformation, while reinforcing the growing role of innovation and entrepreneurship in shaping Kuwait's future.

This commitment forms part of Zain's broader transformation from a telecommunications operator (TelCo) into a technology and investment company (TechCo). Through continued investment in emerging technologies, strategic partnerships, and digital services, Zain remains focused on empowering businesses, nurturing innovation, and supporting Kuwait Vision's ambitions for a diversified, knowledge-based economy.

Global inflation divergence: Monetary policy, growth and ECB leadership

By National Bank of Kuwait

Market Commentary

Global markets continue to assess divergent inflation trends and their implications for monetary policy. In the United States, Q3 GDP growth was revised higher to an annualised 4.3%, while October headline PCE inflation reached 3.8% YoY, while core PCE rose to 3.3% YoY, reinforcing the case for a restrictive Federal Reserve stance despite subdued real consumer spending. The administration also announced new tariff measures targeting 14 trading partners. November flash composite PMI declined to 54.6, indicating continued expansion at a slower pace. In Europe, preliminary inflation readings in France and Spain surprised to the downside, while the Eurozone composite PMI registered 51.7 and the UK equivalent fell to 52.3. European leaders also initiated consultations on the nomination of Pablo Hernández de Cos to succeed Christine Lagarde as ECB President. Across Asia-Pacific, Tokyo core inflation accelerated to 2.9% YoY, while Australian headline inflation increased to 4.9% YoY, strengthening the case for further monetary tightening in both economies. The releases highlight the increasingly uneven balance between persistent price pressures and moderating demand across major economies. In currency markets, the US dollar index ended the week broadly flat at around 104.014, having briefly reached 104.53 on Monday, its highest level since March 2025, before retreating as Treasury yields declined. EUR/USD steadied near 1.0934 after touching its lowest level since April 2025, supported by expectations of a further ECB rate hike in December, while GBP/USD held around 1.3095, down approximately 1.5% over the month. USD/JPY remained elevated near 159.55 after softer-than-expected Tokyo underlying inflation, keeping markets attentive to the risk of intervention near the 160 level. In commodities, Brent crude rebounded to around $97 per barrel, heading for its first weekly gain in five weeks as attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure revived supply concerns ahead of Sunday's OPEC+ meeting, before steadying at $90.84 per barrel. Meanwhile gold recovered to approximately $3,668 per ounce after falling to a 15-month low of $3,427 on Wednesday.

United States and Canada

Stronger US Growth and Sticky Inflation Reinforce Hawkish Fed Outlook

US Q3 GDP growth was revised higher to an annualised 4.3% from the initial estimate of 3.4%, accelerating from 2.2% in Q2. Final sales to private domestic purchasers rose 5.8%, supported by household consumption and AI-related investment. US headline PCE inflation accelerated to 3.8% YoY in October from 3.6% in September, matching consensus, while core PCE inflation increased to 3.3% YoY from 3.1%, exceeding expectations of 3.2%. On a monthly basis, headline inflation moderated to 0.3% from 0.5%, while core inflation remained at 0.3%, in line with expectations. Meanwhile, nominal personal spending rose 0.3% MoM, slowing from a revised 0.6% in September, with services accounting for most of the increase. Inflation-adjusted consumption was broadly unchanged, suggesting that rising prices continue to constrain household demand. Personal income increased 0.7% MoM, while disposable income rose 0.8% and real disposable income advanced 0.5%. The personal saving rate stood at 4.1%. The combination of resilient GDP growth, accelerating annual inflation and softer real spending presents a challenging policy backdrop for the Federal Reserve. Persistent core inflation supports the case for a further rate increase in December, although subdued consumption may limit the need for more aggressive tightening. The next PCE release is scheduled for December 23, after the December policy meeting, leaving policymakers particularly reliant on other incoming inflation and labour-market indicators.

US Announces Fresh Tariffs on 14 Major Trading Partners

The Trump administration announced new tariffs on 14 major trading partners, including the EU, China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and India, under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act, targeting excess manufacturing capacity. The proposed tariffs will not be added to existing duties, with overall rates expected to remain within previously negotiated trade agreements of 15–20% in most cases. Higher duties could be imposed if trading partners fail to honour existing agreements or negotiations break down. Canada and Mexico remain excluded from the measures, which are expected to take effect over the coming months. The move seeks to restore tariff levels broadly to those prevailing before the Supreme Court overturned the IEEPA tariffs in February.

US Flash Composite PMI Falls to 54.6 as Growth Moderates

The US flash composite PMI declined to 54.6 in November from 55.9 in October, below expectations of 55.6. Manufacturing PMI eased to 54.5 from 54.9, while services PMI fell to 54.7 from 56.1. New business growth slowed and price pressures moderated, although both input costs and selling prices continued to rise at elevated rates. The figures suggest that economic activity remains resilient despite tighter financial conditions, while slower demand growth may temper the case for more aggressive Federal Reserve tightening.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 104.014.

United Kingdom

UK Private Sector Growth Moderates as Services Activity Slows in November

The UK's flash manufacturing PMI edged lower to 52.7 in November from 52.8 in October, while services PMI declined to a five-month low of 52.0 from 52.8, reflecting higher borrowing costs, cost-of-living pressures and weak property demand. Composite PMI eased to 52.3 from 52.9, although activity expanded for a fifth consecutive month. Manufacturing output growth reached its highest level since August 2024, supported by AI investment and defence spending. Employment contracted despite improving business confidence as firms sought to contain costs. S&P Global indicated that the survey was consistent with GDP growth of 0.6% QoQ in Q4. Persistent inflation and resilient output support the case for a further Bank of England rate hike in December, with markets assigning 85% probability to such, and potentially additional tightening in early 2027.

The GBP/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.3095.

Eurozone

French and Spanish Inflation Ease Ahead of Eurozone CPI Release

Preliminary November inflation readings in France and Spain surprised to the downside. French harmonised inflation fell to 3.2% YoY from 3.7%, below expectations of 3.6%, while Spanish headline inflation declined to 4.1% from 4.9%. Spanish core inflation eased to 2.6% from 3.1%. Lower fuel prices contributed to the moderation, although elevated natural gas prices remain an upside risk. Separately, Eurozone one-year consumer inflation expectations rose to 3.5% from 3.1%. The softer national readings may temper expectations for further ECB tightening, pending the aggregate Eurozone release.

European Leaders Advance ECB Leadership Succession Process

European leaders initiated formal consultations on the nomination of former Bank of Spain Governor Pablo Hernández de Cos to succeed Christine Lagarde as ECB President. The other front-runner for the position was former Dutch central bank governor Klaas Knot. The European Parliament and ECB Governing Council will be consulted ahead of a final decision expected at the December European Council meeting, although the position is essentially assured after leaders met in Brussels and agreed to the recommendation. The transition comes amid elevated inflation and uneven growth across the currency bloc. Markets will closely monitor the incoming leadership's approach to balancing price stability with downside risks to economic activity.

Eurozone Flash PMIs Signal Modest Private Sector Expansion

The Eurozone flash composite PMI registered 51.7 in November, while manufacturing PMI reached 52.9 and services PMI eased to 51.2. Growth remained uneven, with German composite PMI rising to 55.0 and France falling to 46.2. The readings point to continued but uneven expansion across the region.

The EUR/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.0934.

Asia-Pacific

Tokyo Core CPI Reaches 2.9% YoY, Supporting Further BOJ Tightening

Tokyo core CPI increased to 2.9% YoY in November from 2.6% in October, slightly below expectations of 3.0% but reaching its highest rate in 16 months. The expiry of utility subsidies contributed to the increase, alongside price rises across food and services. Inflation excluding fresh food and fuel eased to 2.5% from 2.6%, indicating some moderation in underlying pressures. The data strengthen the case for further policy normalisation at the BOJ's December 18 meeting, although the pace of tightening will remain dependent on incoming economic data and financial market conditions.

The USD/JPY currency pair was last seen trading at 159.55.

Australian CPI Accelerates to 4.9% YoY as Underlying Inflation Rises

Australian headline CPI increased to 4.9% YoY in October from 4.3% in September, exceeding expectations of 4.8%. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.5% in unadjusted terms and 0.7% on a seasonally adjusted basis. Trimmed mean inflation increased to 3.8% from 3.6%, remaining above the RBA's 2–3% target range. Housing costs rose 6.4% YoY, while transport prices increased 10.6% and food prices rose 3.5%. The acceleration in headline and underlying inflation reinforces the risk of further RBA tightening, despite the potential drag of higher borrowing costs on domestic demand.

The AUD/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 0.6648.

FX Rates – November 29, 2026

	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0970	1.0880	1.1005	1.0934	1.0750	1.1035	1.0980
GBP	1.3087	1.3007	1.3144	1.3095	1.2900	1.3180	1.3100
JPY	158.57	158.52	159.59	159.55	158.60	161.50	158.40
CHF	0.8397	0.8284	0.8440	0.8361	0.8280	0.8550	0.8260

KIB Invest participates in Kuwait Institutional Investor Summit '26



Jamal Al-Barrak, CEO of KIB Invest, poses with fellow speakers during the Kuwait Institutional Investor Summit 2026, held at the Kuwait Investment Authority headquarters in Kuwait City.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: KIB Invest, the investment arm of Kuwait International Bank (KIB), participated in the Kuwait Institutional Investor Summit 2026, held at the Kuwait Investment Authority headquarters in Kuwait City. The summit brought together senior institutional investors and global asset managers for a series of discussions examining portfolio construction, asset valuations, investment opportunities, private and public markets, and the evolving considerations shaping long-term capital allocation. KIB Invest's participation reinforced its commitment to supporting the development of Kuwait's investment ecosystem, advancing knowledge exchange across the local sector, and contributing to the sustainable growth of the national economy.

Organized by Institutional Investor in partnership with Kuwait Investment Authority and Wafra, with the support of CFA Society Kuwait, the 14th edition of the summit examined several themes affecting institutional portfolios. Topics included how traditional allocation frameworks were adapting to structural changes in global markets, the role of fixed income within portfolios, the implications of geopolitical risk, and the relationship between valuations, risk and prospective returns across asset classes. Discussions also addressed the challenge of finding genuine alpha in a crowded market, developments in private equity and private credit, and the impact of market concentration and global fragmentation on public-market investment strategies.

Jamal Al-Barrak, CEO of KIB Invest, participated as a panelist in the summit's closing session, entitled "Inside the Portfolio – How Kuwait's Leading Allocators Are Positioned for the Decade Ahead." The discussion explored how investment portfolios have evolved in response to changing market conditions, the themes, regions and asset classes that could attract greater allocations over the coming years, and the capabilities institutional investors will need to navigate the next phase of global investing.

Commenting on his participation, Al-Barrak said: "Participating in the Kuwait Institutional Investor Summit provided an important platform to exchange perspectives with leading institutional investors and asset managers on the forces reshaping long-term capital allocation. Markets are evolving amid changing valuations, geopolitical considerations and shifts across public and private asset classes, making dialogue among institutional investors increasingly valuable. For KIB Invest, engaging in these discussions allowed us to contribute our perspective while remaining closely connected to the priorities, opportunities and challenges influencing investment decisions in Kuwait and across global markets."

During the session, Al-Barrak discussed how the investment landscape had shifted dramatically since 2022, driven by persistent geopolitical uncertainty, increased public market volatility, and the rapid adoption of AI and digital technologies. He highlighted how institutional investors were moving away from relying solely on historical correlations for diversification, adopting a more forward-looking approach that prioritizes liquidity, portfolio resilience across multiple scenarios, concentration risks, and exposure to structural growth trends.

He also explored the renewed attractiveness of Sharia-compliant income-generating instruments, with investors now able to achieve meaningful yields without taking excessive duration risk. Lastly, he examined the continued role of private markets in institutional portfolios, noting that greater selectivity, manager quality, and access to high-quality opportunities are becoming increasingly important.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Barrak said: "Every major market transition creates new opportunities for disciplined long-term investors. Our responsibility as allocators is to stay focused on fundamentals, maintain a long-term perspective, and continually evolve our capabilities. The institutions that combine discipline, innovation, and adaptability will be best positioned for the decade ahead."

It is worth noting that KIB Invest continues to actively participate in industry discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions that offer valuable insights into market developments, investment trends, and the opportunities and challenges shaping the sector. These engagements help keep KIB Invest connected to the wider investment community and the conversations driving the industry forward.

Will AI replace marketers? An honest answer from inside the industry

By Dr. Zaher Mourad

It is the question I hear most, from clients, colleagues, and my university students.

I understand the fear. Today, AI can write a caption in seconds, design a visual, edit a video, translate it to Arabic and suggest where to place the ad. Tasks that took a team a full day now take minutes.

So, will AI replace marketers? My honest answer: AI will replace tasks, not people. But it will replace people who refuse to use it.

What AI already does well

Let's be clear. AI is not coming. It is already here, inside the tools we use every day.

When you see an ad on Instagram or YouTube, the platform's algorithms help decide who sees it, when, and how much the brand pays. AI writes first drafts, tests different headlines, sorts data and builds reports. I have built my own AI assistants that research, summarize and prepare work for me. They save me hours every week.

AI is fast, tireless, and cheap. For repetitive work, it wins. No question.

What AI still cannot do

But marketing is not only tasks. Marketing is understanding people. And this is where AI still falls short.

1. AI does not understand Kuwait the way we do. It does not feel the mood of Ramadan nights, the energy of National Day, or the way a joke lands in a Kuwaiti diwaniya. It can copy a dialect. It cannot live the culture. A campaign that is technically perfect but culturally wrong will fail here.

2. AI does not make choices. People do. AI can give you ten



Dr. Zaher Mourad

ideas. It cannot tell you which one is right for your brand, your budget and your moment. Strategy is about choosing what to do and what not to do. That takes judgment, experience and courage.

3. AI does not build trust. Clients trust people. Customers trust brands that feel human. When something goes wrong, a client does not want to talk to a machine. They want someone who understands their business and takes responsibility.

4. AI is only as good as the question you ask. Give AI a weak brief and you get weak work, faster. The value moves from doing the work to knowing what to ask for.

So what changes?

The job is changing, not disappearing. Think of it like the calculator. It did not replace accountants. It replaced accountants who could not use one.

In marketing, the people who will grow are those who:

■ Use AI every day for research, drafts, testing and reports, and spend the saved time on thinking.

■ Understand data, because AI produces numbers, and someone needs to read them correctly.

■ Know the audience deeply, the local culture, the language, the small details AI misses.

■ Ask better questions because a good prompt is just a good brief in a new form.

The people at risk are those who keep doing everything by hand, and those who hand everything to AI without thinking. Both lose.

My advice

For business owners: do not cut your marketing team and hope AI will do the job. Give your team AI tools and expect more strategy, more testing and faster results in return.

For marketers: start today. Pick one task you do every week and try to do it with AI. Then another. In three months you will work in a completely different way.

The bottom line

AI is the most powerful tool marketing has ever had. But a tool is only as good as the hand that holds it.

The future does not belong to AI, and it does not belong to marketers who ignore it. It belongs to the people who know how to work with it.

So no, AI will not replace you. But a marketer who uses AI well just might.

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Dr. **Zaher Mourad** is Head of Media at BPG Group Kuwait and teaches Digital Marketing at GUST. He writes about media, AI and digital strategy. Follow him on Instagram @zahermourad, LinkedIn linkedin.com/in/zahermourad, or visit zahermourad.com.

Bank organizes training program

ABK marks International Fraud Awareness Week



ABK employees and officials pose for a group photo during the Bank's fraud awareness workshop marking International Fraud Awareness Week.



A lecturer shares advice with employees during ABK's fraud awareness workshop marking International Fraud Awareness Week.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced a fraud awareness initiative to mark International Fraud Awareness Week, reaffirming its commitment to protecting customers and strengthening fraud prevention.

Organized by the Bank's Fraud Risk Management Unit, the initiative included training and awareness sessions for branch employees in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The sessions aimed to strengthen employees' ability to identify warning signs, respond effectively to suspicious activity and address recurring fraud schemes.

The training covered common fraud methods and the groups most frequently targeted by fraudsters, using real cases and practical examples. It also focused on strengthening account-opening controls and reinforcing employees' responsibilities as the Bank's first line of defense.

Interactive discussions gave participants an opportunity to share experiences, ask questions and suggest ways to improve daily practices. The Retail Banking Complaints Unit and Risk Management divisions also participated, adding relevant observations and lessons learned from fraud cases to the training.

The program included awareness messages supporting the objectives of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign. These encouraged employees to help customers recognize fraud risks and adopt safer banking practices.

A central focus of the training was the importance of keeping PINs and one-time passwords (OTPs) confidential and never sharing them with anyone under any circumstances.

ABK aims to establish the initiative as an annual program to sustain awareness, strengthen vigilance and reduce fraud, operational and reputational risks. The Bank emphasized that knowledgeable employees and informed customers are both essential to a safer banking environment.

Customer protection and financial security remain among ABK's highest priorities. Its participation in International Fraud Awareness Week reflects its belief that education and awareness are the first line of defense against fraud.

International Fraud Awareness Week is an annual global campaign that raises awareness among employees and customers of different forms of fraud. As technology advances, deceptive tactics continue to evolve, including the use of artificial intelligence, messages impersonating official entities, phishing campaigns, and voice and video impersonation across banking services and digital platforms. Keeping employees and customers informed about these methods helps them recognize potential fraud before it is too late.

First fashion program in Kuwait

NBK and Visa launch 'She's Next in Fashion' to support women entrepreneurs in fashion sector

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: As part of its ongoing efforts to support women entrepreneurs and foster the growth of women-owned businesses, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), in collaboration with Visa, has announced the launch of 'She's Next in Fashion'. A new vertical within the She's Next initiative, the programme is designed to support women entrepreneurs and emerging designers in Kuwait's fashion sector by providing the funding, mentorship, guidance and practical support needed to develop their ventures and grow their businesses.

The launch builds on the ongoing partnership between NBK and Visa to strengthen Kuwait's ecosystem for women's entrepreneurship and open new opportunities for emerging businesses to benefit from specialized expertise and practical resources that support their development and establish the foundations for sustainable growth.

Returning to Kuwait for its third edition, She's Next introduces a dedicated fashion programme for the first time this year, providing an integrated platform for ambitious designers and women entrepreneurs to draw on the expertise of leading specialists and prominent entrepreneurs in the sector and develop their creative and business skills.

Applications opened on November 25, 2026, and will remain open until January 10, 2027. Five participants will be selected to advance to the final stage, and their names will be announced on January 25, 2027.

The five finalists will receive specialized training in pitching their businesses ahead of the finale, as well as develop capsule fashion collections reflecting their brand identities and creative visions. They will present their businesses and showcase the collections they have produced at the programme finale, in late March, 2027.

The programme offers business grants totaling US$45,000, distributed across three awards as follows:

■ First Prize: US$20,000
■ Second Prize: US$15,000
■ People's Favorite: US$10,000, with the winner selected by a public vote

These grants are intended to help the winners continue investing in the development and growth of their businesses.

The first-prize winner will also receive a trip to New York City to take part in an advanced masterclass led by a prominent international fashion designer. This will offer exposure to international expertise in fashion, brand-building and the global fashion industry, complementing the mentorship and guidance provided locally through the programme.

Ghadeer Al Awadhi, Executive Vice President – Head of Sales & Distribution at NBK, said: "As She's Next returns to Kuwait for its third edition, we are pleased to expand our partnership with Visa into the fashion sector for the first time. Kuwait's emerging designers have the creativity and ambition to build brands with promising commercial potential, and this programme provides them with a platform to develop their business models and achieve sustainable growth. Supporting women entrepreneurs is an important part of NBK's commitment to helping build a more inclusive and diversified economy. Through this partnership, we aim to enable women-led businesses to access the expertise, knowledge, resources and networks they need to enhance their competitiveness and contribute to the development and advancement of Kuwait's fashion sector."



Ghadeer Al Awadhi, Executive Vice President – Head of Sales & Distribution at NBK



Maha Nizam, Visa Head of Marketing for the GCC

- Al Awadhi: Supporting women entrepreneurs is an important part of NBK's commitment to building a more inclusive and diversified economy
- Nizam: The programme helps emerging designers take their businesses to new stages of growth
- Al Marzook: The challenge lies in turning outstanding creative ideas into businesses that move beyond the design stage
- US$45,000 in business grants across three awards
- Five finalists to receive industry mentorship and pitch training

Maha Nizam, Visa Head of Marketing for the GCC, said: "Women entrepreneurs contribute innovative ideas, creativity and ambition to the growth of Kuwait's fashion sector. However, turning creative talent into sustainable businesses requires access to appropriate funding, strong networks, and the expertise, insights and guidance of industry specialists. Through She's Next in Fashion, Visa and NBK are working together to provide these essential elements, helping emerging designers develop their ventures and take them to new stages of growth. This new edition builds on the success of the She's Next initiative in Kuwait, while focusing on the distinctive opportunities and challenges of the fashion sector."

Kuwaiti entrepreneur Shouq Al Marzook, co-founder and CEO of Marzook, will participate in the programme as a mentor and ambassador. Drawing on her experience in establishing a fashion brand, Al Marzook will provide the finalists with insights from her experience in the local market, including developing a distinctive brand identity, navigating the demands of the fashion industry, and building businesses with the potential for long-term growth.

Shouq Al Marzook said: "Kuwait has ambitious women with outstanding creative ideas, but the challenge often lies in turning those ideas into businesses that move beyond the design stage and building brands with a clear identity, strong commercial foundations and a defined path to growth. I look forward to working with the finalists, sharing lessons from my own experience, and helping them approach the next stage of their journeys with greater confidence and clarity."

She's Next in Fashion reflects NBK's commitment to continuing to support initiatives that foster women's entrepreneurship and strengthen women's contribution to economic activity. Through its partnership with Visa, the programme provides women business owners with practical opportunities to learn, develop and connect with experts and specialists.

Through this initiative, NBK continues to broaden its efforts to support promising female talent and empower women to transform their creative ideas into scalable, sustainable businesses, contributing positively to Kuwait's business environment and economy.

Kuwait joins 6 OPEC+ countries in backing secure oil supplies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): The seven OPEC+ countries participating in additional voluntary oil production cuts - Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman - reaffirmed their commitment to supporting stability in global oil markets and ensuring secure energy supplies.

In a joint statement issued on Sunday, the seven countries, which announced additional voluntary cuts in April and November 2023, said they had held a virtual meeting to review global oil market conditions and prospects.

They reviewed the latest market developments and stressed the central role of the Declaration of Cooperation in supporting global energy market stability. They also underscored the importance of protecting international maritime routes to ensure uninterrupted energy supplies.

The countries expressed concern over attacks targeting energy infrastructure, noting that restoring damaged facilities and assets to full operational capacity requires substantial costs and considerable time, affecting available supply levels.

They warned that any measures undermining energy supply security, whether through attacks on infrastructure or disruption of international maritime routes, would increase market volatility and weaken collective efforts under the Declaration of Cooperation to serve the interests of producers, consumers and the global economy.

The statement also highlighted that continued disruptions to energy flows and soaring shipping and insurance costs, which have remained at unprecedented levels exceeding one-third of the value of goods, were hindering the timely and efficient transportation of crude oil and petroleum products while adding inflationary pressures to the global economy.

Move reflects bank's focus on leadership and growth

Warba Bank appoints Yusuf Chorghay as Chief of Investment Banking Officer

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Warba Bank announced the appointment of Yusuf Chorghay as Chief of Investment Banking Officer, following approval from the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The appointment marks his transition from Acting Chief to Chief of Investment Banking Officer and reflects the bank's strategic direction to strengthen its leadership capabilities and leverage specialized banking and investment expertise to develop its business and achieve its strategic objectives.

The appointment recognizes Chorghay's extensive professional track record across the banking and financial sectors, particularly his specialized experience in structured finance, syndicated finance, capital markets, and Sukuk issuances. His leadership will further strengthen the Investment Banking Group's capabilities and advance its role in developing Sharia-compliant financing and investment solutions.

Over 23 Years of Banking and Financial Experience

Yusuf Chorghay brings more than 23 years of professional experience in finance and banking, encompassing deep expertise in managing investment and banking operations, developing financing structures, and executing local and international financing transactions.



Yusuf Chorghay, Chief of Investment Banking Officer at Warba Bank.

His areas of specialization include Structured Finance, Project Finance, and Syndicated Finance, alongside arranging and issuing diverse financing and investment instruments, with a primary focus on Islamic finance solutions and capital markets.

Throughout his career, Chorghay has held roles across several financial and banking institutions, in addition to gaining experience in auditing and financial advisory prior to advancing his career within Kuwait's banking sector.

Professional Qualifications and Specialization in Islamic Finance

On the academic and professional front, Chorghay holds the Chartered Accountant (CA) qualification from The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), as well as a specialized qualification in Islamic finance from the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI).

These credentials, combined with his extensive practical experience, have established a strong professional foundation blending financial and accounting acumen with deep expertise in Sharia-compliant financing and investment instruments.

Pivotal Role in Advancing Investment Banking and Capital Markets

During his tenure at Warba Bank, Chorghay has held key leadership responsibilities within the Investment Banking sector, working across structured and syndicated finance and progressing to the role of Deputy Chief of Investment Banking Group, before being appointed Acting Chief of Investment Banking Officer in July 2026.

His responsibilities have included arranging and executing specialized financing solutions for government entities, financial institutions, and corporates, in addition to expanding the bank's Islamic capital markets operations and increasing its participation in Sukuk transactions and debt issuances.

He also played a notable role as part of the team that strengthened Warba Bank's presence in global Sukuk markets, contributing to the bank's ranking among the top 20 global Sukuk arrangers in Bloomberg's Islamic Capital Markets League Tables for the first half of 2026—a milestone reflecting the bank's growing regional and international footprint in this segment.

Strengthening Warba Bank's Investment Banking Capabilities

The appointment underscores Warba Bank's commitment to investing in experienced leadership capable of navigating rapid developments across the banking sector and capitalizing on emerging investment opportunities, thereby supporting its sustainable growth strategy and consolidating its position within the Islamic banking industry.

Warba Bank continues to advance its institutional capabilities and enhance the efficiency of its banking and investment divisions, backed by the expertise of its human capital and a vision focused on delivering modern financial solutions aligned with client expectations and market demands.

Korean icon continues journey with extensive updates in design, performance & safety

KIA Al-Mutawa launches Sportage 2027

Bolder design and smart technologies redefine driving experience

By Bassam Al-Qassas

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: In a new step that strengthens its presence in the Kuwaiti car market, the National Agencies Group for General Trading and Contracting "KIA Al-Mutawa", one of the companies affiliated with Al-Qurain Automotive Trading Company and the exclusive agent for KIA in Kuwait, announced the launch of the KIA Sportage 2027, which comes with striking updates in exterior and interior design, smart technology systems and safety systems, to continue the journey of one of the most successful models of the Korean brand in the Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) category.

The car was launched during a celebration held at the KIA showroom in Al-Rai area, in the presence of senior company officials, a number of guests and media representatives, where the company reviewed the most prominent developments in the new model, and what it offers in terms of specifications that combine sporty character, family needs and daily driving requirements.

On this occasion, the CEO of Al-Qurain Automotive Trading Company, Engineer Mohanad Ahmed Al-Mutawa, confirmed that KIA Sportage holds a special place among customers in Kuwait, for its balance between modern design, spaciousness, comfort, performance efficiency and reliability.

He said that the new model is an extension of this position, with a set of updates that elevate the driving experience, whether in terms of design, technology or safety equipment, pointing out that Sportage meets the needs of diverse segments of customers, especially young people and families looking for a practical car with advanced specifications.

Al-Mutawa added that the Sportage 2027 features a bolder design, and advanced technical equipment, most notably the Kia Connect system, which allows controlling a number of the car's functions via smartphone, in addition to the digital key that provides the possibility of opening and starting the car without the need for a traditional key, as well as remotely starting the engine and air conditioning and tracking the car's location.

He stressed that KIA Al-Mutawa's interest does not stop at providing the car and its specifications, but extends to providing a complete ownership experience, explaining that the company provides multiple financing options in cooperation with banks and approved financing companies, in addition to insurance services, maintenance packages and after-sales services.

He confirmed that the company's philosophy is based on putting the customer at the forefront of its priorities, and providing all his needs under one roof, making the purchase and service experience easier and clearer.



Salem Al-Mutawa, Mohannad Al-Mutawa, Raed Al-Awadhi, Mona Al-Issa and Thamer Al-Ayoub pose alongside the All-new KIA Sportage 2027 L at its official launch, hosted by KIA Al-Mutawa, a subsidiary of Al-Qurain Automotive Trading Company and the exclusive KIA agent in Kuwait.



Mohannad Al-Mutawa addresses the audience during the launch ceremony of the All-new KIA Sportage 2027 L.

A Continuous Journey of Evolution

The launch ceremony included a visual presentation that reviewed the journey of Sportage since its first appearance in 1993, through successive generations that witnessed important transformations in design, engineering and technology.

In 2010, the model witnessed an important transformation towards the front-wheel drive system, with the adoption of KIA's design identity known as Tiger Nose, while the 2015 generation focused on enhancing interior spaces, comfort and practicality. With the 2022 generation, Sportage moved to a bolder and more developed design language, reaching the 2027 model which carries a wide range of updates.

The Sportage 2027 stands out with a completely redesigned front fascia, topped by a wide front grille with 3D details, and vertical LED headlights that give the car a stronger and more distinctive appearance.

The updates also extend to the rear design, with new LED lights and streamlined details that enhance the harmony of the body, in addition to aerodynamic improvements that contribute to enhancing stability and reducing wind noise. The features are completed by a panoramic sunroof that adds a sense of spaciousness inside the cabin.

As for the interior cabin, it has received a clear share of development, both in the choice of materials and the design of the dashboard and practical details. The car features a 12.3-inch infotainment screen, with support for Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, in addition to a D-Cut two-spoke steering wheel design, and interior lighting with a choice of ten colours.

Equipment includes a HUD head-up display that shows essential information in front of the driver, a 360-degree surround camera system, a wireless phone charger, as well as a Harman Kardon sound system that provides a distinctive listening experience for all passengers.

Among the most prominent technical additions is the Kia Connect system, which allows the driver to monitor the car's condition and some of its maintenance-related data, and remotely control a number of its functions via smartphone.

The digital key also provides the possibility of using the phone or smartwatch to open and start the car and share access permissions to it, in addition to supporting Over-The-Air (OTA) software updates, which helps keep systems up to date.

In terms of safety, the Sportage 2027 includes a range of driver assistance systems, including Forward Collision Avoidance, Blind Spot Monitoring, Rear Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, as well as Smart Cruise Control, Parking Assistance systems and Automatic Emergency Braking.

These systems integrate with surround sensors and comprehensive vision cameras, in addition to front, side and curtain airbags, to provide advanced levels of protection and assistance while driving.

Performance Options to Suit Customer Needs

The car is available with two engine options according to the announced specifications, the first with a capacity of 2.0 litres and 154 horsepower, and the second with a 1.5-litre turbo with 197 horsepower, providing diverse options to suit different usage patterns, whether for daily commutes within the city or long trips.

With the launch of the Sportage 2027, KIA Al-Mutawa continues to strengthen its presence in the Kuwaiti market, relying on a model that has a wide customer base, and updates that combine design, technology and safety, in addition to an integrated service system that puts the customer experience at the heart of its attention.



Mohannad Al-Mutawa introduces the all-new KIA Sportage L 2027.



Ghaleb speaks at the launch of all-new KIA Sportage L 2027.









What's On SPOTLIGHT

Interactive experiences for shoppers across Kuwait

LuLu Hypermarket unveils 'WOW Style & Beauty' with exclusive offers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait is set to bring an exciting celebration of beauty, glamour, and exceptional value with its special 'WOW Style & Beauty'- world of wellness, promotionrunning from November 25 to December 1 across all its outlets in Kuwait, featuring exclusive offers of up to 60% off on selected products, exciting brand promotions, and interactive experiences for shoppers across Kuwait.

The promotion was officially launched on 26 November at LuLu Hypermarket Al Rai, welcoming an exciting gathering of glamorous beauty vloggers, prominent beauty influencers, fashion enthusiasts, and popular lifestyle content creators, alongside LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait's management team, participating brand partners, and invited guests. The presence of these influential personalities added a touch of glamour and excitement to the occasion, creating a lively atmosphere and setting the stage for a spectacular celebration of beauty, fashion, and lifestyle.

The special promotion transforms LuLu Hypermarket outlets into vibrant beauty destinations, offering customers an opportunity to explore an extensive range of cosmetics, skincare, fragrances, personal care, and wellness products from leading international and regional brands.

As part of the promotion, customers can enjoy discounts of up to 60% on selected international branded perfumes, bringing an exciting opportunity to explore an impressive collection of fragrances at attractive prices. Shoppers can also benefit from special Buy 2 Get 1 Free offers on selected products from popular brands including Nivea, L'Oréal, Garnier, Johnson's, and Listerine.

The promotion also features discounts of up to 60% on selected personal care products, while popular skincare brands such as Neutrogena and Clean & Clear are offering discounts of up to 40% on selected products.

Customers can explore an impressive selection of renowned beauty and personal care brands, featuring specially curated offers across multiple categories. From everyday skincare essentials and luxurious fragrances to makeup favorites and personal grooming products, the promotion brings together quality, variety, and value.

Adding excitement to the promotion, participating brands are showcasing their latest products through exclusive in-store activations, interactive demonstrations, and engaging customer experiences. Beauty experts and brand representatives are available to introduce shoppers to new products, share skincare recommendations, demonstrate makeup techniques, and provide personalized beauty advice.

The 'Style & Beauty' promotion is sponsored by leading international, including P&G, Unilever, Nivea, Johnson's, Colgate, L'Oréal, Garnier, Dabur, Head & Shoulders, Gillette, Dove, Lux, and Yardley. Their participation further enhances the promotion, bringing together an exceptional portfolio of trusted beauty, skincare, fragrance, and personal care brands under one roof.





Some photos from the event.



List of winners

Prize distribution ceremony on Dec 4

Kala (Art) announces 'NIRAM 2026' winners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Kala (Art) Kuwait has announced the winners of "NIRAM 2026" Children's Day painting competition held on Friday, 13th November 2026 at Indian Community School, Khaitan, in association with Metro Hypermarket. The prize distribution ceremony will take place at Indian Community School, Khaitan on Friday, 4th December 2026 at 2:00 PM onwards.

Kala (Art) Kuwait proudly announce that this year marks the 22nd consecutive year of NIRAM, which has been conducted on the occasion of Children's Day. It is worth noting that students of different nationalities from all 28 Indian Schools in Kuwait have participated in this competition, with more than 2,000 children taking part. The School Managements as well as Indian Community including business establishments as sponsors have also voluntarily extended their entire support to this wonderful event.

Winners of Painting Competition titled "NIRAM 2026" have been adjudged by the well-known Artists Mr. Sasi Krishnan, Mr. Sunil Kulanada, Mr. Hari Chengannur and Mrs. Priya Haridas, who were appointed by the Executive Committee of "Kala (Art) Kuwait"and accordingly,the organizers are pleased to announce the list of winners as follows:

Overall Championship:1st Position-IES-Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Abbasiya, 2nd Position – Indian Community School, Khaitan,3rd Position-Indian School of Excellence.

C. Bhaskaran Memorial Trophyas a tribute to Late. Mr. C Bhaskaran, one of the founder and advisory board member of Kala (Art) Kuwait, won by Indian Community School, Khaitan, the school from which maximum numbers of students were participated in this event.

Group-A: Ist Prize-David Varghese Philip, 1st Std, Indian School of Excellence IInd Prize-Advika Ajishmohan, 1st Std, United International Indian School (UIIS-New), IIIrd Prize-Rawan Usman, 1st Std, Indian Community School, Khaitan.

Group-B: Ist Prize-Anika Ajishmohan, 4th Std., United International Indian School (UIIS-New), IInd Prize-Aulfia Sobanam, 4thStd., Indian School of Excellence,IIIrd Prize-Niharika Prajesh Menon, 4thStd., Indian Community School, Junior Branch, Salmiya and P.V.Poorvesh Messiah, 3rd Std., Indian School of Excellence.

Group-C: Ist Prize-Erin Eliza Joseph, 7th Std., Indian English Academy (Donbosco), Salmiya, IInd Prize-Amogh Sapaliga, 7thStd., Indian Community School, Amman and Allen Wood, 7th Std., Indian Community School, Khaitan, IIIrd Prize-Advik Pradeepkumar, 6th Std., IES-Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Abbassiya and Dhyan Krishna, 5th Std., United International Indian School (UIIS-New).

Group-D: Ist Prize-Fatima Siddique, 11th Std., United Indian School, Abbassiya, IInd Prize-Liya Mary Joseph, 11th Std., Carmel School, IIIrd Prize-Neeraj Ranjith, 10th Std., Indian Community School, Amman and Merin Biju, 12th Std. United Indian School, Abbassiya.

Clay Sculpture: Ist Prize-Jalaluddeen Akbar, 12th Std., IES-Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Abbassiya, IInd Prize-Parvana V K, 8th Std., Indian Community School, Khaitan, IIIrd Prize-Gavin William, 10th Std., Indian Community School, Sr. Salmiya, and Joanna Elizabeth Tity, 9th Std., Learners Own Academy, Abbassiya.

Open Canvas (for Parents & Guests): Ist Prize- Mr. Sujay Pusadkar,IInd Prize-Mrs. Divya S and Mrs. Anu Kurian, IIIrd Prize-Miss. Nikhat Fathimaand Mr. Manuraj.

The organizers announced that the entire winners list consisting 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 48Merit Prizes as well as 133 Consolation Prizes (Total 206 Prizes) have already been forwarded to all participated Schools. The List may also be available at our website www.kalakuwait.net.

NRI Kuwait makes its mark at Nat'l Tug of War Championships

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Young athletes representing NRI Kuwait have achieved remarkable success at the 39th National Junior Tug of War Championship and the 28th National Sub-Junior Tug of War Championship, held in Palghar, Maharashtra, from November 25 to 28.

The NRI Kuwait team secured the gold medal in the Under-15 Boys category and two silver medals in the Under-13 and Under-15 Mixed categories. The beach category competitions witnessed participation from more than 1,000 athletes representing various states across India, making the team's achievement particularly noteworthy.

Adding to the team's success, 19-year-old Adonis Rana Varghese has earned a place in the probable list of the Indian team for the World Tug of War Championship, scheduled to take place in Italy during the first week of March 2027.

A total of 44 children representing various Indian schools in Kuwait participated in the championship across different age categories. They underwent an intensive 15-day training camp under the guidance of Chief Coach Dr. Murugaiyan, assisted by women's team coaches Deepa and Shivani.

Ahead of the competition, the Chairman of Bhavans School extended his blessings and best wishes to the young athletes at a send-off ceremony. The official flag-off was conducted by Anand Victor, Principal of Bhavans School.

The team's preparations and participation were coordinated by BabujiBathery, President of the Kuwait NRI Tug of War Association, and D.K. Dileep, General Secretary.

Commenting on the achievement, Madan Mohan, General Secretary of the All India Tug of War Federation, expressed confidence in the team's potential for further success in the coming years. Several prominent personalities associated with the sport also congratulated the young athletes on their national-level performance.

The Kuwait NRI Tug of War Association extended its appreciation to all 44 participants, coaches and those who supported the team's successful participation.

The medals and individual recognition mark an important milestone for NRI Kuwait, highlighting the growing sporting talent among young expatriates and strengthening Kuwait's presence in India's national tug of war arena.







Some photos from the event.

PMI event in Dubai discusses smoking alternatives, public health and regulation

DUBAI, Nov 29: Healthcare professionals, business representatives, designers and policy experts gathered at TECHNOVATION Dubai at W Dubai – The Palm to discuss smoking alternatives, consumer behaviour, product development, public health communication and regulatory challenges surrounding nicotine products.

The event, organized by Philip Morris International (PMI), examined the challenges involved in changing established smoking habits, communicating scientific information and developing regulations that address adult access while protecting young people.

PMI outlines business strategy

Opening the event, Gijs de Best, PMI's President for South Asia, Indochina, CIS & MEA, discussed the company's history and its strategy of expanding beyond traditional cigarettes.

PMI's portfolio includes heated tobacco, oral nicotine and e-vapor products, which the company describes as smoke-free because they do not involve tobacco combustion.

According to figures presented at the event, these products are available in 110 markets and account for more than 40% of the company's revenue. PMI also said more than 600 scientists, engineers and technicians work in this area.

Product development and consumer behaviour

Christos Kiritsis, PMI's Vice President for the Smoke-Free Products Category in South Asia, Indochina, CIS & MEA, said understanding consumer behaviour and the reasons people continue smoking was important when developing new products.

"Don't fall in love with the solution, fall in love with the problem," he said, emphasizing the importance of identifying consumer needs before developing solutions.

He also highlighted the role of reliable information, consumer trust and consistent communication in product development.

Natasha Carella, Director of Dubai Design Week, discussed the importance of incorporating local knowledge and community participation into the design process. She said working with local practitioners and communities from the early stages could help ensure that products and concepts address relevant needs.

Health information and nicotine addiction

A panel on health communication examined how scientific information about tobacco and nicotine products should be presented to the public.

Dr Tomoko Iida, PMI's Senior Director of Scientific Engagement for South Asia, Indochina, CIS & MEA, discussed nicotine addiction and the health consequences associated with burning tobacco. She also addressed the challenges of preventing underage access to nicotine products and the need for cooperation between communities and enforcement authorities.

Dr Mohammed Eltaweel, Consultant Psychiatrist, Substance Use Disorder Specialist and Medical Director of Hedoa Psychiatric Hospital, stressed that nicotine is addictive and not harmless.

He said quitting smoking should remain the first recommendation for smokers. Those who experience difficulty quitting should seek medical advice and psychological support, while healthcare professionals need appropriate training to explain the differences between tobacco and nicotine products.

Wassim Kari, Co-founder and CEO of Sohati, highlighted the importance of providing context when communicating medical and scientific findings, particularly through digital platforms.

He said health information should identify the population to which research applies and reflect established scientific evidence rather than relying on isolated studies.

"Even if science is universal, the people are local," he said.

Regional markets and local considerations

RichaRustagi, PMI's Managing Director for the Lower Gulf, Iraq and Kuwait, discussed differences in consumer preferences across regional markets.

She said businesses should assess local requirements, conduct market-specific research and evaluate results before expanding initiatives across different countries.

She also referred to a project involving Dubai Design Week that is scheduled to culminate at Milan Design Week.

WassimBouMalham, Founding Partner and Chief Strategy Officer of Factory People, discussed the importance of understanding local markets and working with regional partners when expanding internationally.

He cited the international popularity of Arabic music as an example of how cultural products can reach global audiences while retaining their local identity.

Regulation and protection of young people

Another discussion focused on the regulation of nicotine products, adult access and measures to prevent underage use.

Guy Bentley, Director of Consumer Freedom at the Reason Foundation, argued that regulations should establish clear marketing restrictions, strengthen retailer compliance and involve law enforcement in preventing access by minors.

He also discussed differences in taxation between combustible cigarettes and non-combustible nicotine products.

Mirza M. Abeer, CEO of the Association for Smoking Alternatives in Pakistan, called for policymakers to examine regulatory approaches adopted in countries including the United Kingdom, Sweden and Japan. He said public policies should consider smoking-related health risks while retaining smoking cessation as the longer-term objective.

Stefano Betti, Deputy Director-General of the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade, addressed the risks associated with counterfeit and substandard products entering markets through illegal distribution channels.

He said illicit trade could undermine regulatory safeguards, including measures intended to prevent sales to minors.

Betti called for stronger financial investigations, recovery of criminal proceeds, improved supplier verification and greater oversight of online marketplaces. He also urged policymakers to consider whether regulatory measures could unintentionally encourage demand for illicit products.

Company reflects on early product trials

Closing the event, Fred de Wilde, CEO of PMI International, discussed the company's early product trials in two cities.

He said the initial device was bulky and did not meet consumer expectations, while the company had underestimated the difficulty of changing habits associated with taste and routine.

He said subsequent efforts focused on product development, clearer communication and continued engagement with consumers.

De Wilde also called for evidence-based regulation and greater consideration of local market conditions, particularly in developing economies.

The event concluded with discussions on the role of scientific evidence, public health communication, consumer behaviour and regulatory oversight in shaping the future of tobacco and nicotine markets.





Some photos from the event.

Mubarak leads Kuwait's golden show at Gulf Tennis Cup



Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma receives a commemorative plaque during the ceremony.



Winners pose with officials during the awarding ceremony.

KUNA photos

Tournament highlights Kuwait's rising standards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Abdulhamid Mubarak captured the men's singles title at the Gulf Tennis Cup on Saturday, defeating compatriot Isa Qabazard 2-1 in the final, which was attended by Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma.

Kuwait also claimed the men's doubles crown, with Badr Al-Qahtani and Qabazard overcoming Qatar's Mubarak Al-Herasi and Mousa Al-Herasi 2-1 in the final.

Head of the Kuwait Tennis Federation Abdel Redha Al-Gharib told KUNA that the tournament featured strong competition across all categories, praising the high technical standards displayed by Kuwaiti players.

He said the performances reflected the noticeable progress of tennis in Kuwait and the ongoing efforts to develop players' skills and raise their competitive levels.

Al-Gharib expressed optimism about further success in upcoming tournaments and thanked the minister, along with Honorary President of the Kuwait Tennis Federation Mohammad Al-Marzouq, for their continued support and commitment to promoting the sport.

The tournament began on November 21 at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Tennis Complex, with all GCC national teams taking part.

Kazma takes on Fahaheel in Zain Premier League

Qadsia seeks revival against Sulaibikhat

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Qadsia faces Sulaibikhat at 5:20 pm at Thamer Stadium, while Kazma hosts Fahaheel at 7:35 pm at Al-Sadaqa Wal-Salam Stadium as the ninth round of the Zain Premier League continues.

Second-placed Qadsia, on 15 points, enters the match determined to restore its confidence after its painful exit from Amir Cup quarterfinals. Its elimination came at the hands of Fahaheel, who secured a 3-2 victory over the Yellow Castle.

Qadsia is also eager to reduce the four-point gap separating it from leader Kuwait Club, who has 19 points and faces a challenging encounter against Salmiya on Tuesday in the final fixture of the round.

Coach Mohammad Ibrahim, nicknamed "The General", will be under pressure to get his side back to winning ways, correct their recent shortcomings and keep them in contention for the league title.

Sulaibikhat, 11th with five points, will seek to exploit its opponent's unsettled situation and claim its second win of the season.



Mohammad Ibrahim prepares Qadsia for upcoming clash.

In the other fixture, third-placed Kazma, with 14 points, is looking to put its disappointing Gulf Club Champions League campaign behind it after collecting just one point from its first four matches.

The Orange is equally keen to return to winning ways in the league after a 3-2 defeat to Salmiya in the previous round, which saw it drop to third place.

Fahaheel, meanwhile, occupies seventh position with 10 points and will be encouraged by its recent triumph over Qadsia. Its victory and the subsequent elimination of the Yellow Castle have further boosted the team's morale, particularly after a difficult spell marked by defeats in the league and Crown Prince Cup.

Speculation has emerged that national coach Nasser Al-Shatti could take charge of Qadsia, replacing Mohammad Ibrahim, who is reportedly considering stepping down following the defeat to Fahaheel.

If Ibrahim insists on resigning, Al-Shatti could begin his duties as early as the day after tomorrow or wait until after Qadsia's meeting with Kazma next Friday in the 10th round of the league.

Another possibility is that the change could be delayed until after the postponed encounter against Sahel on December 18, which was originally scheduled for the fifth round.

Qadsia will then face a break extending into the beginning of the New Year due to the Amir Cup semi-finals from last season.

Al-Shatti previously coached Qadsia in February 2022 but resigned in September of the same year following a decline in the team's league performances

Kuwait Club targets winning start against Sahel at KVA Championship

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29: Two matches will be played today in Group B of the Kuwait Volleyball Association Championship for the 2026-2027 season at the Kuwait Volleyball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Kuwait Club takes on Sahel at 5:00 pm, followed by the clash between Kazma and Al-Arabi at 7:00 pm. All four sides will be looking to secure positive results and improve their chances of reaching the next stage.

Kuwait Club aims of getting off to a winning start and compensating for a disappointing 2025-2026 season, when it finished without silverware after missing out on both the league and Federation Cup titles.

Sahel, meanwhile, will be seeking to make amends for its opening defeat to Kazma and register its first victory in the competition in its second outing.

In the other match, Kazma will look to maintain its momentum and claim another victory, buoyed by its players' high morale following its triumph in last season's Federation Cup last week.

Al-Arabi, for its part, will be eager to recover from a surprising 3-1 defeat to Al-Nasr and return to winning ways. However, it faces a tough assignment against a Kazma side determined to build on its recent success.



Kazma players attempt to block a Sahel spike during the match.

Rockets rout short-handed 76ers

Bucks hand Thunder 4th consecutive loss

MILWAUKEE, Nov 29, (AP): Kel'el Ware had a career-high 30 points with 13 rebounds, Ryan Rollins had a season-high 28 points and Brayden Burries added 20 as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder 119-111in a matchup of short-handed teams.

Ousmane Dieng had a season-best 13 points for the Bucks, who won for just the third time this season. Milwaukee has two wins in its last four games.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 34 points and Ajay Mitchell added 24 for the Thunder. Alex Caruso had 13 points off the bench for Oklahoma City, which lost its fourth straight.

The Bucks outscored the Thunder 34-18 in third period to take a 92-82 lead.

Milwaukee protected its advantage throughout the fourth quarter. A Gilgeous-Alexander 3-pointer cut the Bucks' lead to 105-103, but Milwaukee held off the Thunder down the stretch.

The Thunder (10-10) led by as many as eight points in the first, but the Bucks closed with a flurry and held a 27-26 advantage at the end of the quarter.

Oklahoma City built a 10-point lead in the second and led 64-58 at the half. Gilgeous-Alexander has 19 first-half points for Oklahoma City, while Rollins had 20 to lead Milwaukee.

The Thunder made 5 of 9 foul shots, while the Bucks converted on 19 of 27.

Aday Mara, Jaylin Williams and Nikola Topic all sat out for the Thunder, who have lost eight of 10 games while dealing with the loss of three starters to long-term injuries.

Alperen Sengun scored 21 points, Amen Thompson added 20 points, and the Houston Rockets beat a Philadelphia 76ers team without its three biggest stars, 131-93.

Philadelphia played without LeBron James (low back/sciatica management), Joel Embiid (right plantar fascia injury management), and Jaylen Brown (left hamstring injury management). Without them, Tyrese Maxey led the way with 17 points while VJ Edgecomb and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 14 points each.

Sengun shot 9 of 15 from the field and added seven rebounds and four assists.

Thompson converted 8 of 11 shots while finishing with five rebounds and five assists.

Jabari Smith Jr. scored 17 points for the Rockets, Kevin Durant chipped in 16 points, while Tari Eason finished with 15 off the bench.

Houston shot a season-high 59% from the field and knocked down 17 of 35 3-point attempts.

The Rockets, who won their third in a row, finished with 36 assists and just nine turnovers. It was their fifth straight game with 30 or more assists.

After starting the game 4 of 5 from behind the 3-point line, the Sixers finished the night 9 of 34.

Jevon Carter scored a season-high 17 points - all during a first half in which he was perfect from the field - and the Orlando Magic took a 30-point halftime lead en route to a 116-91 win over the Washington Wizards.

Franz Wagner led the Magic with 23 points and Tristan da Silva made six 3-pointers and scored 22 for the Magic, who stopped a two-game skid and avenged a loss at Washington last Sunday. Carter was 6 for 6 from the field, including 5 for 5 beyond the arc, before halftime.

Orlando went 18 of 38 from 3-point range and held Washington to 35.4% shooting. The Wizards, who were missing leading scorer Anthony Davis because of an illness, matched a season low with 28 field goals.

Trae Young scored 19 points for Washington, which has lost 10 of 13 despite a recent three-game winning streak.

Da Silva's third 3 of the first half prompted Wizards coach Brian Keefe to call timeout amid boos from the Capital One Arena crowd.

Rookie AJ Dybantsa's 3-pointer cut Orlando's advantage to 49-33 with 6:03 left in the second quarter, but the Magic held the Wizards without a field goal for the rest of the quarter and led 68-38 at the break.

Trailing 17-14 in the first quarter, the Magic went on a 61-21 run that extended into the third.

Alex Sarr's 3-pointer with 7:53 remaining in the third ended a span of 10 minutes, 10 seconds without a basket for Washington.

Wendell Carter Jr. added 17 points, Tristan Vucevic had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Jalen Suggs had 11 points and 11 assists for the Magic.

Matas Buzelis scored 22 points, including a go-ahead finger-roll with 55.1 seconds left, and the Chicago Bulls hung on for their third straight victory, 108-107 over the Indiana Pacers on Saturday night.

Buzelis changed hands and scored to give the Bulls the lead. He then got a piece of Aaron Nesmith's shot at the other end to help extend Indiana's road losing streak to five games.

Buddy Hield had 19 points and eight assists, and Tre Jones also scored 19 for Chicago. Jalen Smith had 12 rebounds.

Nesmith and Kelly Oubre Jr. each scored 19 points for the Pacers, who've dropped six of seven. Obi Toppin scored 15 points and Ivica Zubac added 14 points and 16 rebounds.

Chicago trailed 84-78 at the start of the fourth quarter and took its first lead since early in the first quarter when Jordan Hawkins scored off a steal with four minutes to go. The teams swapped the lead four times in the final minute before Buzelis' basket.

The Pacers went on a 16-0 run midway through the first quarter and led by 17 points before taking a 58-50 lead to intermission.



Philadelphia 76ers forward Jabari Walker (33) goes up to the basket against Houston Rockets forward Kevin Durant (7) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Houston. (AP)





Mercedes driver George Russell of Britain steers his car during the qualifying session at the Lusail International Circuit in Qatar, ahead of the Qatar Formula One Grand Prix. (AP)

Sports

Al-Obaid puts Kuwait on top with double gold

Significant milestone in jiu-jitsu career

ABU DHABI, Nov 29: Kuwait's Mishari Al-Obaid has added two major achievements to his sporting career after capturing gold medals at both the Asian and World Jiu-Jitsu Championships.

Al-Obaid first claimed the Asian title, taking first place after a series of challenging bouts against strong opponents in his category, demonstrating his skill and competitive ability on the mat.

He then continued his outstanding run by securing another gold medal and first place at the World Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Abu Dhabi, UAE, marking a significant milestone in his Mishari Al-Obaid and rewarding his dedication and intensive preparations.

Al-Obaid expressed his pride and happiness at the achievements, thanking Allah for his success. He also acknowledged everyone who supported him throughout his journey, particularly his coaches, whose guidance and efforts helped improve his performance and develop his skills.

He extended his gratitude to all those who encouraged and supported him on his path to the top of the podium.



Mishari Al-Obaid with other winners.



Kuwait and Palestine players fight for the rebound.

Blues hold off Palestine

Kuwait strengthens Asian Cup qualification hopes

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

BEIRUT, Nov 29: Kuwait claimed a hard-fought 86-84 victory over Palestine in the second window of the Asian qualifiers for the 2029 FIBA Asia Cup, held at the Nouhad Nawfal Sports Complex in Beirut, Lebanon, from November 27 to 30.

The encounter was closely contested throughout, with neither side able to establish a clear advantage. However, the Blue Wave held their nerve in the closing moments to secure a narrow two-point win and maintain their winning start to the qualifying campaign.

Kuwait had earlier defeated Kazakhstan 87-85 in their opening match.

Gazi Al-Otaibi, Treasurer of the Kuwait Basketball Association and head of the national team delegation, praised the players for their impressive display against Palestine.

He said the victory reflected the association's extensive efforts in recent months, the effectiveness of the team's preparation programme and the determination and sense of responsibility shown by the players, as well as the work of the technical and administrative staff.

Al-Otaibi thanked the players for raising Kuwait's flag high, commending their fighting spirit and commitment throughout the match. He also expressed confidence that the team would build on these results in the upcoming stage.

He stressed that the team's ambitions extended beyond the current campaign, describing qualification as an important step towards restoring Kuwaiti basketball to its rightful standing in Asia.

Russell bounces back by beating Antonelli to pole for Qatar GPrix

LUSAIL, Qatar, Nov 29, (AP): George Russell beat his Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli to pole position for Formula 1's Qatar Grand Prix on Saturday, bouncing back in style after a costly error last week in Las Vegas.

Now, he wants to sort out his "rubbish" race results.

Antonelli was fastest in practice but Russell had the pace when it mattered in qualifying, beating his champion teammate by 0.128 of a second as Antonelli complained Mercedes wasn't listening to him on strategy.

On Sunday, he'll be chasing a first win since September, on a track with plenty of high-speed corners which suit the Mercedes car.

Russell thanked the Mercedes team for a car he called an "absolute joy," but said he needs to start turning strong qualifying results into wins. "I just need to try and convert it tomorrow because the Sundays have been pretty rubbish," he said.

Antonelli seemed frustrated with Mercedes after the session.

"We need to talk about this, because if I please ask something, please do it," Antonelli said over the radio. He was unhappy with the team's call to send him out first on track for the final qualifying runs, when he'd wanted to go out last. Being first on track means no chance of benefiting from the slipstream of a car ahead.

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff told Sky Sports the team considered Antonelli's wish but thought if he went out last he risked running out of time.

On a dominant day for Mercedes reminiscent of the team's unbeatable early season form, Lando Norris was a distant third for McLaren, nearly half a second off Russell's pace.

"These guys were just too fast," Norris said, adding it's "unlikely" McLaren can challenge Russell or Antonelli in Sunday's race.

"They did give us a bit of a shock in showing us what a car can be capable of in high-speed corners," Norris said. "They've given us a good indication of the level we need to be at next year."

Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri was fourth, with Isack Hadjar outqualifying his Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen in fifth. Ferrari has lacked pace all weekend so far in Qatar and both of its cars were more than a second off the pace on Saturday.

Charles Leclerc qualified seventh, with Lewis Hamilton ninth, split by Racing Bulls' Arvid Lindblad.

In Qatar, Russell is attempting to recover from a mistake which cost him a chance of victory in Las Vegas last week and left Verstappen with the bragging rights in their long-running rivalry.

Russell hasn't won a race - or even been on the podium - in six races, and he's slipped to fourth in the standings.

Antonelli has not won in three races since last month's United States Grand Prix, before he wrapped up the title as F1's youngest champion.

The Qatar GP is the second-to-last race of the season and marks F1's return to the Middle East in a season disrupted by the Iran war. The season finale in Abu Dhabi is next week.

Liverpool and Everton share spoils in Merseyside derby

Bellingham sent off as Madrid suffers costly loss



Liverpool's goalkeeper Alisson, left, kicks the ball ahead of Everton's Harrison Armstrong during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Liverpool in Liverpool, England. (AP)

MADRID, Nov 29, (AP): Jude Bellingham was sent off and Real Madrid slumped to a damaging loss.

Madrid players berated referee César Soto Grado after their 2-1 loss at home to modest Alaves, possibly over Bellingham's red card after he was booked for diving, though they may also have had other reasons after a game of many complaints. Madrid coach José Mourinho was also booked before the break for a vigorous outburst against a decision.

"I think this referee likes to show his power," said Mourinho, who added, "I don't want to say we lost because of the referee."

Madrid's third league defeat of the season allowed city rival Atlético Madrid to move to second after a 3-2 win at Elche. The end of Madrid's 10-game winning run across all competitions.

Brahim Díaz made a rare start on the right wing a day after extending his contract with the club through June 2031.

Madrid created good chances but was stunned when Toni Martínez pounced on a short back pass from Dean Huijsen to score at the other end in the 22nd. The goal seemed to erode the home team's composure.

There were some whistles from the home fans at the break, but Alaves went closer to scoring after it, and then Mariano provided the key for Ángel Pérez to make it 2-0 in the 61st.

Kylian Mbappé finally found a way through to respond in the 69th, and Bellingham thought he'd found another way late, only for Soto Grado to change his mind after consulting video replays and show the already-booked England star his second yellow card for simulation.

Earlier, Jorge de Frutos pounced with the winner for Rayo Vallecano to stun Champions League participant Real Betis with a 1-0 victory in Seville. It was the fourth victory of the campaign for the modest but fiercely proud left-wing club from Madrid's gritty neighborhood of Vallecas.

Athletic Bilbao held on to win at Malaga 4-3.

Two goals in two minutes from a Danish duo helped Lazio consolidate first place in Serie A with a 2-1 win at Torino - the Rome club's 11th victory from 13 rounds. It's Lazio's best start to the season since three points were awarded for a win.

The goals came just before the break. Oliver Provstgaard headed the opener from a corner, then Gustav Isaksen guided the ball inside the far post on a break.

Scotland forward Ché Adams pulled one back in the second half, but the visitors held on.

Lazio, which drew its other two games, stayed three points clear of defending champion Inter Milan, which routed Genoa 4-0 at home in the late game, and five points clear of city rival Roma, which hosts Monza on Sunday.

Promoted Frosinone's good start continued in a 3-0 home win over Parma.

PSG stretched its Ligue 1 lead to six points with an ultimately comfortable 2-0 win at home over mid-table Lorient.

Senny Mayulu broke the deadlock with a fine strike inside the far post in the 32nd and Ousmane Dembélé effectively sealed the result with a low shot from distance in the 67th.

Young forward Quentin Ndjantou conceded a penalty late, but Lorient's Ibrahima Baldé sent the spot kick wide.

Also, Lille lost at Le Mans 2-1, promoted Lens enjoyed a 5-2 win at Angers, Nice defeated Troyes 4-1 at home, and Strasbourg won at Le Havre 3-1.

Liverpool was held by Everton and Brighton lost at home to Newcastle as two teams touted as possible challengers to Arsenal for the Premier League title dropped points on Sunday.

Liverpool's three-match winning run was brought to an end by Jeremie Frimpong's own-goal in a 1-1 draw with Everton in a frenetic Merseyside derby. Dominik Szoboszlai's fifth-minute strike put Liverpool ahead.

Brighton was then beaten 1-0 for a second straight loss in the league after its strong start to the season. Harvey Barnes converted a penalty in the eighth minute for the only goal.

Bournemouth is the team to watch at the moment. A 2-1 win at Fulham, courtesy of Justin Kluivert's 62nd-minute goal, secured Bournemouth's 11th straight victory in all competitions.

Crystal Palace stayed in last place - a point adrift of next-to-last Manchester United - by losing 3-2 at home to Hull, while Tottenham won 2-0 at 10-man Sunderland thanks to James Maddison's double.

Bahrain to lead new body for first 2 years

Gulf handball body takes shape after draft approval

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

MANAMA, Nov 29: The heads of the Gulf handball federations have approved a draft proposal to establish a unified Gulf Handball Federation at a meeting held on the sidelines of the 42nd Gulf Clubs Handball Cup Winners' Championship in Manama, Bahrain.

The draft will now be referred to the presidents of the Gulf Olympic Committees at their meeting in Bahrain next December for formal endorsement, marking an important step towards strengthening regional cooperation and developing handball across the Gulf.

Under the proposed structure, Manama will host the federation's permanent headquarters, while Bahrain will assume the presidency for the first two years after its establishment.

The presidency will subsequently rotate among the other Gulf federations every two years, ensuring equal opportunities for member associations to take part in managing the federation's affairs and advancing the sport throughout the region.



Federation chiefs pose for a group photo.

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