



Opinion

Leadership revolts against democracy of self-interest and freedom of filth

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

TO be realistic, prior to the evening of Friday, May 10, we were aware of the path our nation had been following for nearly 60 years, as we had adopted a distorted form of democracy that differs from what is common worldwide.

We realize how public affairs have been managed, as well as the foundations of internal political relations, and the detrimental impact this reality has had on both the economy and society.

The question that needs to be calmly addressed is: Did we experience a political circus during that time, or did we genuinely have a functioning democracy?

For now, we won't delve into the factors that led to the adoption of this democratic system, the threats of invasion and occupation, or the numerous other issues that emerged on the eve of Kuwait's declara-

tion of independence.

It would be accurate to say that only two or three national assemblies adhered to the norms governing democracies in the civilized world, while the others established a hybrid form of democracy that is unfamiliar even to nations with parliamentary systems.



Al-Jarallah

Throughout those decades, the pursuit of individual gains prevailed, and corruption became institutionalized through policies and decisions that favored those in power.

Elections were conducted according to the "what will you give us?" principle rather than adhering to parliamentary principles that emphasize the protection of the state and society,

oversight, and legislation.

This explains why we witnessed ministers resigning before being questioned, often when the Council of Ministers, attempting to shield their leader, abandoned them, or in response to threats of a no-confidence vote from certain lawmakers.

The National Assembly effectively became the de facto ruler. Any law not approved by the Amir was imposed by parliament. Any legislation he sought to pass was often rejected by lawmakers. We all remember the parliament's rejection of the law granting women political rights in 2005.

Lawmakers engaged in these abnormal practices by repeatedly paralyzing the nation and applying constant pressure on ministers and governments.

Despite the damage caused, they took pride in it, as it solidified their control over state institutions. They even went so far as to propose a draft law to prevent criticism of themselves or the National Assembly,

effectively stifling calls for constitutional amendments. This was a manifestation of their approach to democracy, characterized by the mantra "pave the way for the strong" and the notion of "scratch my back, I scratch yours."

In such a situation, no government can function effectively, and no minister can fulfill their duties. Consequently, anyone who values their dignity has refrained from accepting ministerial positions.

As a result, we have seen various controversial figures assuming roles in the government. Some of

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

85 kg shabu seized

Minister of Interior oversees Ishbiliya security campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Interior conducted a large-scale security and traffic operation in the Ishbiliya area, targeting lawbreakers and violators. The campaign, overseen by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, yielded significant results.

According to a statement released by the ministry on Saturday, the operation resulted in:

- 1,353 various traffic violations issued
- 7 individuals arrested for expired residency
- 9 persons wanted for absence apprehended
- 1 person caught with narcotics
- 1 individual found in an abnormal condition

- 4 wanted persons with outstanding arrest warrants detained
- 4 vehicles and motorcycles seized for traffic violations
- 7 vehicles wanted in connection with cases impounded

The ministry emphasized that this campaign is part of ongoing efforts to enhance security and stability across the country. Officials have called on both citizens and residents to fully cooperate with security personnel and report any violations or suspicious activities by contacting the emergency phone number.

This operation underscores the government's commitment to maintaining law and order, particularly focusing on traffic regulations and residency laws.

Continued on Page 5

Biometrics clock ticks for more than 750,000 expats

Sahel hits 4.3 mln transactions in October

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Interior has issued a renewed call for residents to complete their biometric registration before the December 31 deadline. According to recent figures, 3,032,971 individuals have already undergone the process, while 754,852 have yet to do so.

Lieutenant Colonel Thamer Dakhin Al-Mutairi from the Personnel Identification Department emphasized in a Kuwait TV interview that while the deadline for citizens passed in September, residents have until the end of the year to comply.

The biometric process can be completed at designated locations including the General Department of Criminal Evidence and Personnel Identification Departments. Residents are required to book appointments through the government application Sahel or the electronic platform "Meta".

Available locations for the process include Security Directorates in Hawalli, Farwaniya, Ahmadi, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, and Jahra, as well as Personnel Identification Departments for corporate processing in Ali Sabah Al-Salem (Umm Al-Hayman) and Jahra.

Lt. Col. Al-Mutairi stressed the importance of scheduling appointments to avoid crowding, stating that walk-ins without appointments will not be accommodated.

Continued on Page 5

Ex-death row inmate among 168 individuals stripped of citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait has issued a series of decrees revoking the citizenship of 168 individuals, including Hassan Abdul Hadi Ali Hajjia, a former death row inmate convicted in the high-profile Al-Abdali cell case, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 181 of 2024, published in Kuwait Alyawm, specifically targets Hajjia, who was initially sentenced to death in 2016 for his role as the primary defendant in the Al-Abdali cell case. While the Court of Appeal upheld this sentence, the Court of Cassation inter-

vened in 2017, commuting it to life imprisonment.

Hajjia's charges included actions deemed harmful to Kuwait's unity and territorial integrity, as well as alleged communication with Iran and Hezbollah. His case was part of a larger trial involving 15 defendants.

In addition to Hajjia's case, two other decrees have stripped citizenship from numerous individuals:

- Decree No. 180 of 2024 revoked citizenship from 37 women

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Kuwait beach comes alive with flamingos, a breathtaking sight that draws nature lovers and photographers alike.

Kuwait to host 4th conference on fighting terrorism Nov 4-5

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwait is scheduled to host the fourth senior-level conference on boosting the international cooperation in fighting terrorism and setting up flexible mechanisms for border security on November 4-5.

The conference is due to be sponsored by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who has deputized His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to represent him at the event.

The convention, is to be attended by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the UN Undersecretary for Combating Terrorism Vladimir Voronokov, said the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya in a statement to KUNA on Saturday. It will be organized by the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Tajikistan and the UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT).

It will be complementary to the "Dushanbe process for combating terrorism," launched by the Republic of Tajikistan in 2018. The previous three sessions had been hosted by Dushanbe

in 2018, 2019 and 2022.

Minister Al-Yahya added that the planned event constitutes a pivotal platform for boosting regional and international cooperation on issues such as border security, fighting and financing terrorism.

Up to 450 personalities including 33 ministers representing the member states, relevant UN agencies, 23 regional and international organizations and 13 civil societies will partake in the conference.

Al-Yahya added that it would be an opportunity to exchange expertise and views regarding the combat against terrorism and means of reinforcing regional and international cooperation at this level.

It is scheduled to conclude on November 5 with the adoption of "Kuwait Declaration" on border security. It will be approved as a guiding document for fighting terrorism and bolstering the border security. The State of Kuwait is hosting the conference in line with its regional and international roles in the field of fighting terrorism and supporting all efforts for uprooting this scourge.

PRCS lauds Kuwait's efforts in supporting Palestinian people

Palestinian cause remains core concern: Kuwait

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has reaffirmed that the Palestinian cause would remain the country's top issue.

The renewed stand was expressed by Marwa Al-Aradah, the diplomatic attache, addressing a session of the UN General Assembly, discussing a report by the International Court of Justice on the UN convention for barring genocides in Gaza and punishing the culprits.

Al-Aradah cited Kuwait's address to the tribunal affirming the right of the Palestinian people to determine their destiny, that their independence and sanctity of their territories be respected.

She said that the essence of the UN charter lies in shouldering the heavy re-

sponsibilities of building a world where all peoples enjoy peace. "We view this court as an embodiment of the charter and refuge for justice," the diplomatic attache said.



Al-Aradah

of barring genocides in Gaza and bringing the culprits to account.

However, the world has been repeat-

edly shocked with the continuation of the aggression by the occupation forces and the impunity. She also condemned expropriation of the UNRWA's properties in East Jerusalem.

In conclusion of her address, Al-Aradah cited a statement by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirming that the Palestinian cause would remain on top of the priorities for "our Arab nation."

Meanwhile, Vice-President of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Marwan Jilani expressed his appreciation for Kuwait's continuous humanitarian support to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people during the ongoing Israeli occupation aggression.

Continued on Page 5

350 deleted

Update addresses to avoid fines, says PACI

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has removed 350 residential addresses from its records. This action was taken based on declarations by property owners or due to building demolitions reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PACI is now calling on affected individuals to visit its headquarters within 30 days to register their new addresses. To avoid penalties, they must provide supporting documents for their updated residences.

Failure to comply may result in fines as stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32 of 1982. The penalty can reach up to 100 dinars per person affected.

This measure underscores PACI's efforts to maintain accurate and up-to-date residential information for Kuwait's residents.

Power interruptions across 6 governorates loom till Nov 9

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Electricity and Water on Saturday began a week-long maintenance project on transformers across Kuwait's six governorates, potentially leading to power interruptions in several neighborhoods between 8:00 am and noon each day until Nov 9, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a proactive announcement, the Ministry outlined which areas will experience these temporary power cuts as crews work to ensure the reliability and efficiency of Kuwait's electrical infrastructure.

The affected areas include: Saturday, Nov 2: Residents in Al-Rehab, Yarmouk, Saad Al-Abdullah, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Qadisiya, Rumaithiya, and Salmiya should prepare for possible outages as maintenance begins.

Sunday, Nov 3: Planned maintenance that will impact the areas include

Fahad Al-Ahmad, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Yarmouk, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Saad Al-Abdullah, Al-Qusour, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Salwa.

Monday, Nov 4: Outages may occur in the following areas -- Fahad Al-Ahmad, Yarmouk, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Saad Al-Abdullah, Al-Qusour, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Al-Qadisiyah, Doha, Salwa and Rumaithiya.

Tuesday, November 5: Power interruptions are expected in Fahad Al-Ahmad, Yarmouk, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Saad Al-Abdullah, Al-Qusour, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Al-Qadisiyah, Doha and Salmiya.

Wednesday, Nov 6: Power disruptions include Fahad Al-Ahmad, Yarmouk, Saad Al-Abdullah, Al-Qusour, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Al-Qadisiyah, Al-Qairawan and Rumaithiya.

Continued on Page 5

Saudi unearths ancient village

The Royal Authority of AlUla province declared on Saturday discovery of an ancient village in Khaybar oasis that used to be populated 3,400 years ago.

Recent excavations revealed remains of the walled village dating back to the Bronze Age, the

authority said.

The excavations also disclosed that the site had included residential sectors and cemeteries.

The authority indicated that the construction of the village had signaled shift from nomadic to urban life. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

Remains of a walled village dating back to the Bronze Age.

8 Kuwait Finance House sponsors 2nd Kuwait hackathon as strategic partner

8 Zain, National Council for Culture sign MoU

9 KIPCO participates in Future Investment Initiative meetings in Riyadh

News watch

KUWAIT CITY: The General Traffic Department has announced on its X platform account the rollout of an automatic monitoring camera system to detect drivers who do not wear seat belts or talk on the phone while driving by holding the gadget in hand, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative is part of the department's ongoing efforts to enhance road safety and reduce accidents caused by distracted driving.

KUWAIT CITY: Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on Saturday discussed regional affairs with his Egyptian counterpart Dr. Badr Abdelati in a telephone call he received from the Egyptian minister.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that ministers Al-Yahya and Abdelati discussed bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, current developments on the regional and international arenas.

Prayer Timings	
Fajr	04:41
Sunrise ..	06:01
Zohr	11:32
Asr	14:39
Maghrib ..	17:02
Isha	18:20

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for light fog forming at night.
By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather		Station	
Max Exp	Min Rec	Max Exp	Min Rec
32	22	32	22
31	20	31	20

Environmental challenges piling up: envoy

Multi-party role vital to achieve UN SDGs: Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Ambassador to Venezuela Fadhel Al-Hassan has affirmed significance of the multi-polar action to attain the UN Sustainable Development Millennium Goals (2030).

Ambassador Al-Hassan was speaking, upon instructions by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, at the (2024) United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), currently held in Cali, Colombia.

A statement released by the Kuwaiti embassy in Venezuela, received by KUNA on Thursday, quoted ambassador Al-Hassan as underscoring the State of Kuwait's keenness on participating in this significant international convention.

This conference is held at a time the world is witnessing environmental challenges caused by epidemics, pollution and wars, latest of which is the systematic annihilation perpetrated by the Israeli occupation, ravaging cultivated fields and water resources in Gaza, he said.

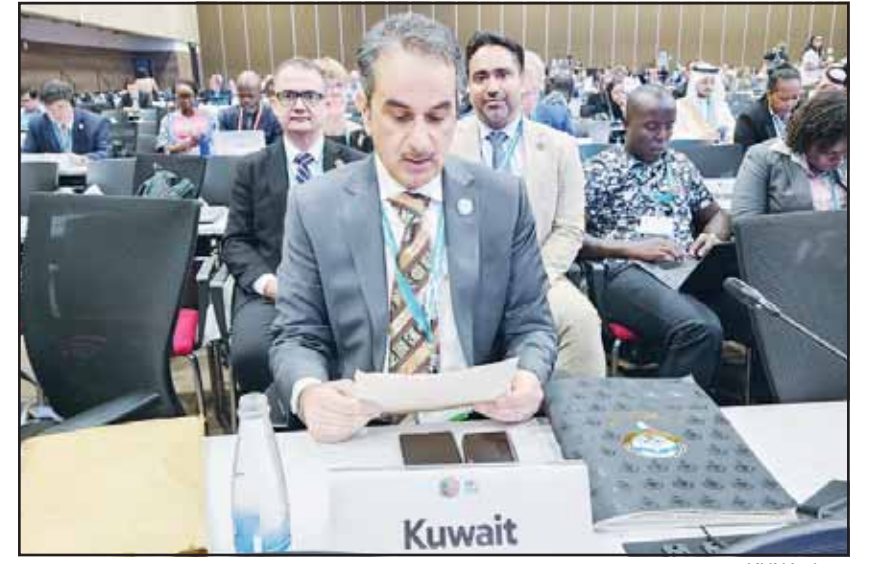
He expressed the State of Kuwait acclamation of the planned anti-desertification conference due in Saudi Arabia in December and a UN conference on climatic issues, scheduled in the UAE in 2026.

Moreover, the ambassador indicated at Kuwait's keenness on contributing and supporting the biological diversity, noting that its advocacy has been translated in the donation of USD 15 million to the UN to fund projects for tackling cross border dust waves in addition to a grant of USD 12 million for restoring the marshlands in southern Iraq.

He also affirmed support for efforts to preserve biodiversity at the local, regional and international levels and adherence to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Agreement.

The Kuwaiti delegation at the conference included the First Secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Venezuela, Meshal Al-Bannai.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a historic agreement committing nations to halt and reverse loss of the natural resources and wealth by 2030.



KUNA photo
Kuwait Ambassador to Venezuela Fadhel Al-Hassan speaking at the conference.

Other Voices

Sustainability in the field of humanitarian tasks

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wanda

International Consultant, Sustainable Development
Deputy General Manager – Al-Najat Charity

In the previous articles, we discussed the definition of sustainability, its relationship with the humanitarian charitable sector, and the challenges associated with it. We defined sustainable development and briefly traced the emergence of this term and its connection to sustainability, culminating in the United Nations' adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. In this article, we will introduce these seventeen goals based on the United Nations' own documents.

To begin with, these seventeen goals cover and address several issues that are of priority to the United Nations, society, and humanity in three main areas and pillars, which constitute the fields and frameworks of sustainability: the economic, social, and environmental pillars. These three pillars are associated with international cooperation and partnerships to achieve these goals. Recently, there has been a shift toward using the term 'people' (PEOPLE) instead of or alongside the social pillar, which we view as a positive development, as it emphasizes and focuses on the core goal of sustainability, which is 'people'. These goals also address several issues – within the context of these three pillars, as we mentioned – such as poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, water, sanitation, energy, environment, social justice, and gender equality. The United Nations



Dr Al-Wanda

aims for countries to achieve these goals by 2030.

The goals can be referenced in the United Nations document, specifically in paragraph 54 dated September 25, 2015. Among these goals, several are particularly relevant to the third sector in Kuwait, including: "Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; ending hunger and ensuring food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture; ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages; ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth; reducing inequality within and among countries; making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable; ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns; taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources; protecting terrestrial ecosystems; promoting peaceful and inclusive societies; and providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions."

It is noteworthy that these goals were chosen in a "democratic" manner, as stated by the United Nations, with 193 countries participating in their formulation, along with numerous global civil society organizations. The United Nations emphasizes this information to highlight the inclusivity of these goals and the consensus around their content and relevance.

— Concluded

MoE streamlines leave time, attendance schedule of staff

Work hours cut for some categories



KUNA photo
CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah (center) planted mangrove seedlings at Al-Jahra natural reserve.

KNPC plants 1,000 mangrove seedlings

Kuwait National Petroleum Company on Saturday organized planting 1,000 mangrove seedlings at Al-Jahra natural reserve. The activity was organized with attendance of the CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, the Executive Manager Wadha Al-Khatib and other leading figures. Sheikh Nawaf indicated in a statement that mangroves' carbon absorption is 4-5 times higher than other plants.

He also noted that there has been a global ap-

proach to expand the planting of the mangroves, also hinting that the move comes in tandem with the KNPC strategy on energy transformation (2050).

For her part, Al-Khatib indicated that the company had launched multiple environmental ventures.

Last October, it planted 1,500 mangrove seedlings in the same reserve, she said, indicating at a plan to green it with up to 9,000 such plants in total. (KUNA)

Need to remove hurdles in trade: Al-Budaiwi

'GCC on road to economic integration'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (Agencies): During the 67th meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council GCC Trade Cooperation Committee in Doha, Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi announced that the GCC countries are making significant strides toward achieving economic integration.

Kuwait participated in the meeting with a delegation led by Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel.

In his address, Al-Budaiwi emphasized the ongoing efforts of GCC nations to implement decisions made by their leaders to enhance cooperation in both economic and commercial spheres. He noted the commitment to increasing trade exchange among member states, removing obstacles, and facilitating the flow of goods and services to achieve economic unity.

The agenda for the meeting included preparations for a ministerial meeting on trade and economy between Gulf countries and China, which is set to take place next year in Kuwait.

Al-Budaiwi highlighted the importance of trade cooperation as a pivotal achievement, which has opened new opportunities for economic collaboration both within the GCC and with the broader international community. He reported that the combined gross domestic product GDP of the GCC countries reached approximately \$2.1 trillion in 2023, positioning them among advanced economies globally.

Moreover, he noted that the assets of GCC sovereign wealth funds are valued at around \$4.4 trillion, accounting for 34 percent of the total assets of the world's 100 largest sovereign wealth funds.

He further shared that intra-GCC trade exceeded \$127 billion in 2022, while the total trade volume among GCC countries for the same year surpassed \$1.5 trillion. These economic indicators suggest considerable opportunities for enhanced collaboration, necessitating greater efforts to bolster joint Gulf initiatives.

Qatari Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad also reported notable growth in trade, stating that intra-GCC trade rose by 44 percent, climbing from \$91 billion in 2019 to over \$131 billion in 2023.

The volume of foreign trade for GCC countries surged by 50 percent, increasing from \$1 trillion in 2019 to approximately \$1.5 trillion in 2023.

The Qatari capital city of Doha hosted a consultative meeting on Thursday between ministers of commerce and industry, and heads of chambers of commerce in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Qatari Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad said in a speech that the regular consultative meeting represents an essential platform for exchanging views and discussing various challenges facing the private sector in the Arabian Gulf region.

Bin Hamad expressed it is also an indicator of the keenness of government institutions in the GCC countries to share visions and aspirations with the private sector.

He underscored that the GCC private sector has emerged as a pivotal force in the development and growth of the Gulf economies.

Minister eyes urgent, effective solutions to up education level

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei highlighted the need for urgent, effective solutions to elevate educational standards, during a meeting with ministry undersecretaries on October 31, 2024. Key priorities include filling vacancies, enhancing distance learning infrastructure, and modernizing curricula to align with global trends, according to informed sources.

The Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, echoed this commitment, emphasizing the importance of new strategies and policies to ensure quality education that meets international standards.

Speaking at the 27th meeting of the National Authority for Academic Accredita-

tion and Education Quality Assurance, Al-Jalal highlighted the Authority's role in boosting confidence in education outcomes and aligning them with labor market demands.

Director of Academic Accreditation, Dr. Jassem Al-Ali, noted discussions on Ministerial Resolution No. 284-2024, focusing on criteria for selecting top universities for scholarship students, particularly in the US and Europe.

Moreover, the sources revealed that Minister Al-Tabtabaei has called for improving conditions for teachers and administrators, enhancing communication with citizens through the "Sahel" app, and accelerating digitalization to reduce reliance on paper and streamline procedures.

In alignment with this digital transformation, Huda Al-Mutairi, Director of Information Systems, announced the suspension of paper transactions, with a shift to electronic follow-up. The Ministry's online services, accessible via various platforms including "Sahel" and the Civil Service Bureau website, have processed nearly a quarter of a million cases.



Al-Tabtabaei

Training programs on anvil

Info ministry eyes e-correspondence

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Information is currently preparing for the operation and activation of the electronic correspondence system that aims to guarantee the efficiency of correspondence, including internal communication.

Sources said the ministry will organize a week-long training program for employees to be familiar with the electronic correspondence system starting Sunday, in order to develop communication within its sectors. Sources confirmed that the decision to conduct an additional training has been communicated to all sectors, indicating the employees are required to attend the

morning sessions to fully understand the contemporary correspondence mechanisms and improve their proficiency with the developed electronic system.

Sources stressed that the new electronic correspondence system is in accordance with the project booklet to enhance workflow and expedite information transfer to improve performance at work. Sources said the new system makes it possible to send and receive correspondences instantly; thereby, speeding up work and reducing the need for paper documents.

Sourex explained the system is easy to use, helping employees adapt quickly while reducing time spent on training, affirming it relies on modern protection technologies that guarantee the security of exchanged data.

Serbian embassy in Kuwait opens book for condolence

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Kuwait has announced the opening of a condolence book following a tragic incident at the Novi Sad railway station in Serbia. The disaster, which involved a roof collapse, resulted in 14 fatalities and left three individuals seriously injured.

Diplomatic missions, international organizations, and members of the public are invited to express their condolences at the Serbian Embassy, located in Bayan, Block 13, Street 1, Villa 18. The condolence book will be available for signing on Sunday, November 3, and Monday, November 4, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

This gesture allows the international community in Kuwait to show solidarity with Serbia during this difficult time. The embassy extends its appreciation to the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all diplomatic entities accredited to Kuwait for their support and understanding during this period of national mourning.



KUNA photo
International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent underway.

Kuwait's sustained Palestinian support praised

GENEVA, Nov 2, (KUNA): Marwan Jilani, Vice-President of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, has expressed deep gratitude for Kuwait's sustained humanitarian support, aimed at alleviating the hardships of the Palestinian people amidst ongoing aggression from the Israeli occupation.

Jilani's statement, made to KUNA on Friday, came after the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent concluded on Thursday in Geneva. The conference, which lasted four days, brought together over 2,200 representatives from around the globe for discussions on humanitarian issues.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Dipping oil rates raise financial planning sustainability concern

“WITH the price of a barrel of Kuwaiti oil hitting \$71.90 amid economic and political conditions that suggest potential further declines, there is growing concern about the sustainability of Kuwait’s financial planning,” columnist **Naji Al-Mullah** wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

“The latest Al-Shall report highlights the challenge: ‘In light of the significant fluctuations in oil prices and the unprecedented reliance on oil for public finances, a magician would be needed to manage financial planning effectively.’



Naji Al-Mullah

“Without such expertise, Kuwait’s economic, social and political stability rests on factors beyond its control, leaving it with limited options — either continuously depleting its savings or falling into the global debt trap as it did in 2017 — essentially a choice between two unfavorable outcomes’.

“This scenario breeds fear and pessimism, especially considering that the break-even price for the national budget stands at \$89.80.

“Notably, Kuwait has the highest break-even price among Gulf nations, with the following figures for the 2023-2024 fiscal year — Kuwait at \$88.40 per barrel, Bahrain at \$86, Saudi Arabia at \$77.20, Oman at \$74.60, Qatar at \$46.50 and the UAE at \$46 (Al-Qabas, January 19, 2023).

“Note that the budget break-even price represents the average oil price needed to balance revenue and expenditure, avoiding deficits or surpluses.

“Kuwait faces a significant challenge that demands a departure from traditional ideas and solutions, urging a revolutionary approach to problem-solving. Immediate decisions are essential to alleviate budgetary pressures, which include:

“Rapid Privatization of Electricity and Water Generation — Privatizing these sectors could save the state from expenditures totaling 3.2 billion dinars. This move would not only cut costs but also transform these utilities into revenue-generating assets.

“Privatization of the Health Sector — introducing health insurance for every citizen at a cost of 1,200 dinars could lead to savings of approximately 800 million dinars.

“Subsidy Reformation — Eliminating subsidies totaling 4.66 billion dinars and redistributing 1.5 billion dinars in cash to citizens — approximately 83 dinars per person monthly—would result in significant state savings, estimated at 2 billion dinars.

“Implementing these strategies could help achieve a balance between revenues and expenditures at the current oil price, preventing deficits and preserving reserves while avoiding harsh measures for citizens.

“Overall welfare and salary levels could improve, adequately addressing potential increases in fuel, electricity, water, and food prices after the removal of direct subsidies.

“Essential support for medical treatments abroad, rental allowances, and educational missions would remain intact. This proposal is immediate and urgent, but discussions about long-term strategies will be addressed in the coming four years.”

Also:

“Loyalty and devotion manifest in various forms and faces among people, reflecting the diversity of relationships and bonds that unite them,” columnist **Muhammad Al-Owaisi** wrote for Al-Anba daily.

“One of the most significant examples of loyalty is found between spouses. However, we often witness rising rates of divorce for trivial reasons, lacking any moral or religious restraint. Why shouldn’t loyalty become a guiding principle, both in words and actions?”

“One touching story of loyalty involves a man who married an extraordinarily beautiful woman and loved her deeply. They lived together happily for many years. One day, however, a severe illness struck the city where they lived, leaving his wife with sores and scars that severely disfigured her face.

“Meanwhile, the husband was traveling when the outbreak occurred. Upon returning home, he

discovered that he had lost his sight during his journey.

“His wife was now disfigured, and the couple lived together for 40 years. When she eventually passed away, he mourned her loss and joined the townspeople to bury her.

“Upon their return to the husband’s home, the townspeople were astonished to see him navigating his way without a guide, as if he could see. They asked him how he managed to find his way home despite being blind.

“He replied, ‘I am not blind. I pretended to be for 40 years so that I would not hurt my wife’s feelings because of her disfigurement’.

“This husband exemplified true loyalty, feigning blindness for four decades, fully aware of his wife’s condition due to the illness that had struck the city.

“He did so to spare her feelings after losing her beauty, ensuring she would not feel like a burden due to her appearance.

“What a beautiful testament to this husband’s fidelity to his wife! He remained patient and devoted to her for 40 years and never sought another partner, even after her passing.

“Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz said about loyalty: ‘True loyalty is being there for someone in every circumstance, not just when it’s convenient’.”

“EVERY now and then, we read in the newspapers about the profits reported by banks in Kuwait for each quarter of the year, all of which confirm that no bank in the country is operating at a loss, and they all achieve huge profits”, columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

“Similarly, telecommunication companies are posting impressive earnings. While we certainly do not envy them, one must wonder - Don’t the country and its citizens deserve a share of these profits?”

“We are not just talking about private donations that might be made quietly but we are referring to visible contributions to community service and public welfare. For years, years, we have not seen anything that falls within the scope of community service or donation for public work by them.

“In the past, some institutions made donations to build hospitals, but that was many years ago. Recently, such contributions seem to have dwindled, unless there are undisclosed acts of charity that we are unaware of. The exception has been the Kuwait Finance House, which generously donated a huge amount to support debtors through the General Department for Sentences Enforcement at the Ministry of Justice. May they be rewarded for their kindness. We have witnessed the positive impact of this donation on the lives of struggling families!

“We hope to see banks and telecommunication companies actively engage in public initiatives. What prevents a telecommunication company or a bank from adopting the rehabilitation of the dilapidated border checkpoint in Salmi, which fails to reflect the status of the State of Kuwait? Currently, there is no government plan to rebuild the center, and our outlet pales in comparison to similar facilities in Saudi Arabia. The same concerns apply to the Abdali border checkpoint, even if its condition is somewhat better.

“Furthermore, where are the banks and telecommunication companies when it comes to honoring outstanding students or supporting the cleaning campaigns organized by youth through personal initiatives that often lack real backing? What about their involvement in youth-led projects to rehabilitate pedestrian bridges, repaint structures, and restore abandoned government buildings? It is time for these institutions to step up and contribute meaningfully to the community.

“It is evident to everyone that many merchants and capital owners, with a few notable exceptions, seem more inclined to take than to give. This includes car companies that are often reluctant to invest in the infrastructure around their showrooms, such as paving the squares, roads, and parking lots for their customers. They instead leave these responsibilities to the government.”

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes/ Mahmoud Attiyeh**

‘No country of origin’

Fraud detected in open cloth sold in City shops

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) conducted an inspection campaign targeting shops and markets that sell men’s and women’s fabrics in the Capital Governorate.

In a statement to reporters, the Director of the Ministry’s Commercial Control Department Faisal Al-Ansari explained that the campaign was part of a preemptive plan submitted by the department to ministry officials in anticipation of the winter season.

As a result of the campaign, 18 seizure citations and two citations for licensing violations were issued. These violations included non-compliance with the announced prices and the omission of the country of origin on some fabric materials on display, which increases the risk of consumers falling victim to commercial fraud regarding the country of origin.

Al-Ansari affirmed that the Commercial Control Department will continue conducting market inspection campaigns in all governorates, and urged customers to report any infractions through the complaints portal on Sahel app or via the ministry’s hotline.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry denied the use of WhatsApp to provide complaint services or to respond to inquiries.

The ministry stressed that it has not requested any payment links via WhatsApp, and advised consumers to ignore any suspicious messages they may receive in this regard.



Dangerous material badly stored in a shop.



KFF sticker shows the violating shop has been sealed.

KFF shuts 41 shops

One dead, one injured in King Fahd Road accident

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: An individual died and another sustained injuries when a vehicle overturned on King Fahd Expressway.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the Control Room of KFF received information about the traffic accident on King Fahd Expressway, they rushed to the location with securitymen and paramedics and discovered one fatality and one injury. Both victims have been handed over to the appropriate authorities.

The Kuwait Fire Force carried out the administrative closure of 41 shops and institutions in various governorates in Kuwait.

According to a press statement issued by KFF, this step, which was taken on Thursday, followed the issuance of prior warnings to the violating establishments, which did not respond to the warnings and rectify their status.

Multiple food outlets raided

Roaches, insects found in rotten meat and fish

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) during an inspection campaign has issued 22 citations.

The Al-Seyassah daily said the inspectors targeted the Capital Governorate (Mubarakiya Center) in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Kuwait Municipality on mobile food establishments on the Jaber Bridge (Southern Island).

The violations involved a mobile food establishment which was operating without obtaining a health license issued by the Authority, another mobile food establishment operating after the expiry of health license and the employer hiring workers whose health certificate had expired or without obtaining this certificate.

The citation was also issued for non-compliance of hygiene rules.

Meanwhile, the Hawally Governorate Inspection Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has conducted an inspection tour, spearheaded by Hawally Food Inspection Center Director Hanan Haji and Salmiya Inspection Center Director Jumana Bou Abbas, reports Al-Anba daily.

Haji disclosed that in compliance with the directive of PAFN Director General Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij and under the supervision of Hawally Governorate Inspection Department Director Abdullah Al-Kandari, the food establishments in the governorate were inspected with the assistance of the technical staff. She clarified that such campaigns are aimed at tightening control over food establishments to ensure the quality and safety of food products.

She added the violations include non-compliance with sanitation regulations as a lot of cockroaches and insects were found during the inspection of food items, sale of adulterated meat and fish, workers handling food without a health certificate that proves they are fit to work and free from infectious diseases, handling food without meeting the technical and health requirements, and opening a food establishment without obtaining a health license from the authority.



KUNA photo
First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef checks on the welfare of the injured traffic officer.

Minister visits drifter-hit officer

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef commended the efforts of security forces in arresting reckless drivers and enforcing the law to ensure public safety, while at the same time emphasizing that the safety of security personnel remains a top priority for the ministry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This statement came during Sheikh Fahd’s visit to First Lieutenant Badr Saad in the hospital, who was injured while performing his duties in the Al-Sabahiya area.

During the visit, Sheikh Fahd was briefed on the officer’s health condition by the attending medical team, showing his commitment to supporting injured officers and their recovery.

50 nabbed in dawn raid by Traffic Dept

Illegals, criminals trapped

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Friday, at dawn, the General Traffic Department launched a large-scale security and traffic campaign across Kuwait’s main expressways, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This coordinated operation involved 182 patrols from various Ministry of Interior sectors, including 45 traffic patrols, 57 emergency police patrols, 35 private security patrols and 45 public security patrols.

The comprehensive effort led to the arrest of 50 persons, including those wanted by the law and violators of the residency law.

All the arrested persons have been referred to the traffic police for further action. The security authorities also reported the seizure of narcotic drugs, issued 1,344 traffic citations and impounded 16 vehicles and motorcycles for various reasons.

The Ministry emphasized the importance of such campaigns in maintaining road safety and enforcing legal compliance among motorists.

Traffic brawl hit: A 34-year-old man was arrested after he rammed his vehicle into

the car of a citizen and fled from the scene, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that Hawally detectives have been searching for the driver of the vehicle that crashed into a citizen’s vehicle in the area. He said a security team was formed and the surveillance cameras at a store were reviewed, through which the detectives identified the culprit who was arrested and referred to the concerned authorities.

All good in eatery fire: Fire broke out at a restaurant in Farwaniya without causing injuries or casualties, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received a report about the fire incident. Firefighters from Farwaniya Fire Station were immediately dispatched to the location. They discovered that the fire started in the kitchen of the restaurant, so the workers were evacuated and then the fire was extinguished in record time. No injuries or casualties were reported.

A source from the firefighting sector confirmed that the immediate arrival of the firefighters in the restaurant and the evacuation of the workers greatly contributed to the efforts to limit material losses and prevent injuries or loss of lives.

A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of fire.

Municipality issues campsite lists

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Municipality has released the list of approved sites where spring camps can be set up, provided campers obtain the necessary licenses from the concerned Municipality department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The designated camping areas include Al-Subbiya, Kazma, Al-Mutla’a, Kilo 8, Kilo 14, Al-Jahra, Al-Naeem, Al-Sulaibiya, Kabad, Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential, Arifjan, Umm Safaqa and Al-Khairan.

Moreover, the municipality has outlined the areas designated for recreational asso-

ciations and gaming zones to enhance the camping experience. The municipality also announced the opening of its reservation and licensing portal for spring camps.

As of today, the cooperative societies can submit their requests, while individuals and institutions will have access to the reservation system starting November 15.

All applications must be submitted online through the municipality’s website, streamlining the process for campers and ensuring organized use of the designated camping areas.



“We Cater, You Party!”



Wedding | Anniversary | Birthday | Events
Corporate Party & much more



1800 188
5501 1985

@mughalmahalkuwait

www.mughalmahal.com

Kuwait HH Amir congratulates Algerian Prez on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day, and wishing him good health.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Algerian president good health and further progress and prosperity for Algeria and its brotherly people.

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day, and wishing him good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.



Farwaniya Governor with Al-Dar Company officials.

Farwaniya Governor meets Al-Dar Engineering Co on road upgrades

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al Athbi Al Sabah received in his office at the Farwaniya Governorate on Thursday morning the CEO of Al Dar Engineering and Construction Company Eng. Jamal Nasser Al-Houti, the General Manager Abdullah Al-Batel, and the Director of Government Relations and Security Mohammed Abdul Jalil Al-Awadhi.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, Sheikh Athbi welcomed the esteemed guests, and wished Al-Dar Company further progress and prosperity.

The governor stressed the need to prioritize urgent maintenance work on the most damaged roads and all internal streets in Farwaniya Governorate due to their deterioration.

He discussed ways to enhance cooperation and coordination between Farwaniya Governorate and the Roads and Networks Maintenance Department at the Ministry of Public Works, in addition to Al-Dar Engineering and Construction Company, which is responsible for the major maintenance contracts for all internal streets and some areas of Farwaniya Governorate.

Education Ministry goes fully digital, procedures simplified

Public urged to use e-platforms for faster access

By **Abdulrahman Al-Shammari**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: In compliance with the government's directive to streamline procedures for public sector employees in order to eliminate the need to visit the headquarters or educational districts, Director of the Information Systems Department at the ministry Huda Al-Mutairi has announced the suspension of manual receiving and delivery notes and stressed the need for close monitoring of transactions completed through the electronic systems.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the memorandum submitted to the undersecretary of the ministry, through which Al-Mutairi confirmed that electronic services are now available on various platforms.

She said about a quarter of a million cases are reviewed on the official website of the ministry, its smartphone application, Sahel application and website of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).



Al-Seyassah photo
Huda Al-Mutairi, Director of the Information Systems Department at the Ministry of Education.

She disclosed these platforms help the ministry's employees complete transactions without the conventional paperwork, as well as to streamline and ease procedures related to the administrative and educational services for citizens and expatriates.

She also stressed the significance of educating the public about the use of electronic platforms rather than visiting government offices, indicating that a comprehensive bulletin with a table of available electronic services has been distributed.

"As part of the efforts exerted by the ministry to support digitalization and facilitate government services for all beneficiaries, a table of electronic services was attached in a bid to better serve the public," she added.

Following are the electronic services:

1. Public services: general inquiries, certificates, attestations, transportation between schools, 'To Whom It May Concern' certificates, registration in special education schools, review of curricula and transfer decisions

2. Administrative and educational services: educational statistics including the number of students and classes, and electronic services for students, teachers and parents

3. Other services: internal and external transfer requests, student data amendment, and student and teacher attendance reports

4. Ministry: between schools transfer requests, distance education application and registration of new students

5. Other departments: Student Affairs Department, and Social and Psychological Support Services Department

Following is a breakdown of the on-line transactions:

1. Excellent Business Grievances Service-First Accounting Department (Human Resources): 691

2. Scholarship Service-Development Department: 9,016

3. Allowances Service-Allowances Department: 977

4. Bonuses Service-Promotions Department: 693

5. Employment Service (Local Contracting)-Educational Selection Department: 5,524

6. Supplementary Statement Service for Human Resources: 664

7. Disability Law Service-End of Service Department: 649

8. Internal Transfer Registration Service for Teachers: 6,274

9. Inquiry Service: 11,189

10. Administrative Supervisory Jobs Service: 1,590

The total number of transactions reached 37,267.

Work Reduction Services

1. Disabled Care: 2,038

2. Medical Council: 11,450

3. Work Reduction for Disabled Care (Fewer Cases): 869

4. Work Reduction after Childbirth: 16,861

5. Work Reduction for Pregnant Women Based on the Child Rights Law: 1,348

The number of work reduction cases reached 32,566 and residency renewals reached 14,914 or 47,480 cases out of the total 79,147.

Inquiry Services

1. E-exams: 3,000

2. Data: 147,000

3. Supervisory Job Ranking: 5,500

4. Excellent Work Grievances: 7,371

The total number of inquiry services reached 162,871; whereas the total number of cases received electronically reached 242,018.

33 private clinics referred for medical ad violations

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: In accordance with Ministerial Resolution No. 87/2023 concerning the controls and regulations governing medical advertisements in the private sector, the Minister of

Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi referred 33 private medical facilities to the Medical Liability Authority for violating regulations on medical advertisements.

This action was taken after finding a number of advertisements that were in violation of the established rules, which aim to regulate the industry and protect

the public from unethical practices.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing laws and procedures related to regulating medical advertisements in the private medical sector by activating its regulatory tools to ensure the safety of citizens and the provision of high-quality health services.



NOVEMBER

Room Promotion



One Night Stay in a Queen Cabana
for 2 persons with inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 76.230

Now BHD 49.550 Net



One Night Stay in a 2 Bedroom Chalet
for 4 persons inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 170.247 Net

Now BHD 110.661 Net

Promo period from 1st November to 30th November 2024 Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 Email: reservation@albander.com www.albander.com @albanderhotelandresort



Acting Secretary-General Dr. Fayeze Al-Dhafiri honoring top achievers.



Building competitive edge for creativity

KU honors winners of Administrative Excellence Award for years 2019-2023

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Based on the belief in the importance of human resources for developing administrative work and improving performance, and for discovering and nurturing promising talent, the General Secretariat of Kuwait University organized a celebration in honor of the winners of the Administrative Excellence Award for the years 2019 to 2023.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, the event was held under the patronage and in the presence of the Acting Secretary-General Prof. Dr. Fayeze Al-Dhafiri on Tuesday, October 29 at the Conference Hall in Sabah Al-Salem University City.

The celebration was attended by several important figures, including the Acting Secretary-General of Kuwait University Prof. Dr. Fayeze Al-Dhafiri, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Affairs Abdullah Al-Mutairi, former Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Affairs Osama Shehab; Acting Director of Procurement Department Haitham Darwish, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Development Dr. Bibi Al-Ajmi, Assistant Vice President for Academic Services Supporting Information Technology Dr. Zainab Al-Qenaie, and Director of Information Systems Center Eng. Anwar Al-Mousawi.

Also, a number of employees from various sectors such as the Administrative Affairs Sector, the Administrative and Human Resources Development Department, the Administrative Excellence Committee, and the Financial Affairs Sector, as well as deans and assistant deans of colleges, heads of administrative departments, and staff from various colleges and work centers were present.

In this regard, the Acting Secretary-General of Kuwait University Prof. Dr. Fayeze Al-Dhafiri affirmed the General Secretariat's keenness to reactivate this award, which was originally launched in 2008, in recognition of the value of administrative excellence and its role in creating a competitive environment that nurtures creativity.

He stated, "It is a source of pride to have a distinguished group of employees and administrators at Kuwait University. This honor confirms their great contributions to developing the academic and educational

process at the university, as well as advancing administrative work in various centers, which reflects their commitment to providing the highest standards of administrative quality."

Prof. Dr. Al-Dhafiri affirmed that the award reflects Kuwait University's commitment to being a beacon for fostering excellence among distinguished students.

He said he believes that recognizing outstanding students is important for motivating and enhancing administrative practices.

Prof. Dr. Al-Dhafiri explained that this honor aims to highlight the importance of supporting excellence in administrative work and promoting best practices that align with Kuwait's development plan. This initiative seeks to improve service quality and create a competitive environment for achieving excellence.

He praised the efforts exerted by the General Secretariat, the Assistant Secretary for Administrative Affairs, the Department of Administrative Development and Human Resources Development, and the members of the Administrative Excellence Committee in raising the standards and conditions for achieving excellence as outlined for award eligibility.

Prof. Al-Dhafiri announced the names of the winners based on the findings of the committee formed by the Secretary-General of the university.

The winners honored in the category of work centers from the Financial Affairs Sector's Purchasing Department included Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Affairs Abdullah Al-Mutairi, former Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Affairs Osama Shihab, and Acting Director of the Purchasing Department Haitham Darwish.

From the Administrative Affairs Sector's Human Resources Department, the Director of Human Resources Amina Al-Bashar was honored and presented with the excellence award.

In the category of distinguished employees, Assistant Vice President for Academic Services Supporting Information Technology Dr. Zainab Al-Qenaie, and Director of the Information Systems Center Eng. Anwar Al-Mousawi recognized distinguished employee Eng. Alaa Al-Subaie.



Distinguished group of employees.

Kuwait's HH Amir congratulates Antigua & Barbuda on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams, for his country's National Day on Friday.

His Highness wished Williams a long healthy life and more prosperity and development for Antigua and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams, for his country's National Day on Friday, wishing him a long healthy life.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams, for his country's National Day on Friday.

Leadership revolts

Continued from Page 1

them left the ministry to face imprisonment, some others have fled the country, and others are currently undergoing trials.

This state of affairs has drawn widespread objection from the majority of Kuwaitis. As calls grew louder for constitutional reform, and amid the fervor of the so-called "Arab Spring," we witnessed demonstrations for what was proclaimed as "homeland dignity" (the first and second). Erada Square had been transformed into a permanent camp for supporting those with questionable agendas.

The underlying motivation for such support appears to be linked to corrupt appointments, unrealistic tenders, and the amplification of sectarian and tribal identities.

There is no doubt that all of this weakened state institutions and left us, to some extent, exposed to external threats. Some individuals tried to exploit the situation to further a questionable external agenda, which nearly jeopardized the country's stability.

Moreover, this chaos has reached a point where it harms the leaders of Gulf states and their citizens, as if certain parliamentarians and political movements in Kuwait have assumed the role of guardians over those states.

Unfortunately, the justification for these actions has often been framed as "freedom of expression and opinion". In reality, it has manifested as insults and attempts to destabilize the state, compromise national security, and foster animosity toward Kuwait, despite the fact that the heads of nations are protected under all constitutions and international agreements.

Every honorable person is pained by what the country endured at that time. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad witnessed these practices before assuming power, yet he obeyed those in charge, even while harboring reservations. He quickly recognized the flaws in the constitution and the issues caused by ineffective reform laws. This is why, upon taking office, he immediately initiated a delicate rescue operation. The decisive moment arrived at 9:00 pm on Friday, May 10, which represented a turning point from the troubled and chaotic past, and marked the beginning of the mission to restore stability.

We therefore reiterate that, to overcome the challenges we face, a competent Cabinet is essential, one that is committed to implementing His Highness the Amir's plan, the broad outlines of which he outlined in his rescue statement.

His Highness remains vigilant and resolute in his decisions. He will not tolerate any neglect or complacency from those who oppose the democracy of self-interest and the spread of misconduct.

We believe this is crucial because, once the squabbling and vulgarity cease, Kuwait still has a lot of work ahead.

Minister of

Continued from Page 1

The ministry's proactive approach aims to address various forms of violations and criminal activities to ensure public safety and compliance with Kuwaiti laws.

Meanwhile, in a significant blow to international drug smuggling networks, the Ministry of Interior announced the seizure of 85 kilograms of the narcotic shabu, valued at an estimated street value of one million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The drugs were found in the possession of an Asian who is allegedly linked to a global network, and received instructions from abroad to distribute the contraband in Kuwait.

This operation is part of a series of recent successes attained by the Criminal Security Sector, demonstrating the Ministry's firm commitment to safeguarding society from the dangers of narcotics.

The officials emphasized that this operation sends a strong message to those attempting to smuggle and sell illegal substances, showcasing the anti-narcotics team's readiness to tackle even the most complex cases.

The suspect and the seized drugs have been handed over to the relevant authorities for further legal action.

Ex-death

Continued from Page 1

Decree No. 182 of 2024 targeted 130 women and others who had acquired citizenship through familial dependency

Biometrics clock

Continued from Page 1

For citizens who missed the September deadline, a "block" has been implemented on all government and banking transactions. However, they can still complete the process by visiting their local Security Directorate, where the block will be lifted immediately upon completion of the biometrics.

The Ministry urged all residents to comply with the deadline to avoid any disruption to their transactions and services in Kuwait.

In other news, the government application Sahel has experienced a significant uptick in usage, processing approximately 4.378 million transactions in October alone, according to service spokesman Yusuf Kadhem.

Palestinian cause

Continued from Page 1

This came in a statement to KUNA on Friday, following the conclusion of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva on Thursday, which brought together more than 2,200 representatives from around the world.

Jilani said that the Kuwaiti efforts in supporting humanitarian work reflect the depth of the Kuwaiti-Palestinian ties.

He warned against the Israeli occu-

Tajikistan's envoy praises Kuwait's cultural influence in anti-terrorism

Rahmon's visit signals deeper bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Tajikistan's Ambassador to Kuwait Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda said that the relationship between his country and Kuwait has gained special importance amid increasing tensions and challenges the world is facing.

In an interview with KUNA on Saturday on the occasion of the official visit



Zubaydzoda

of Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon to Kuwait, Ambassador Zubaydzoda said that Tajikistan and Kuwait are peace-loving countries and that the visit would reflect the strength of the relationship between them.

He added that during the visit, President Rahmon would discuss with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the latest developments and security threats in the region.

He said that the meeting would also discuss the ongoing aggression launched by the Israeli occupation and its crimes against the innocent children and women in Gaza and Lebanon.

He pointed out that the official visit to Kuwait came after President Rahmon's participation in the expanded meeting of the BRICS group and amid the increasing escalation of the conflict in the region and the danger of an all-out war.

Zubaydzoda went on saying that President Rahmon stressed, in his speech at the expanded meeting of the

BRICS group, the necessity of stopping the aggression, implementing the Security Council resolutions and establishing a viable Palestinian state.

He said that Kuwait and Tajikistan enjoy a solid foundation for cooperation, pointing out that the two countries will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

He noted that the two countries had previously signed cooperation agreements in the fields of education, culture, agriculture and in combating terrorism, pointing out broadening cooperation to include tourism, energy and water sectors.

The ambassador stressed the efforts to secure and facilitate the arrival of tourists from Kuwait to Tajikistan, expressing his hope to increase trade exchange and labor.

Regarding cultural exchange between the two countries, he said that there is much in common in culture and history between Kuwait and Tajikistan, expressing his hope for the activation of the translation movement and the exchange of literary and student delegations.

Ambassador Zubaydzoda concluded by praising Kuwait's great services in the field of Arab cultural work, pointing out that Tajikistan can benefit from Kuwait's experience in spreading knowledge and culture that supports efforts to combat terrorism.

President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and his accompanying delegation will arrive in Kuwait on Sunday on an official visit, where he will hold official talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Relations between Kuwait and Tajikistan have been progressing due to the keenness of the two countries' leaderships' to further promote them in many domains in a drive to achieve common objectives, strategies and development visions.



KUNA photo
Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Brazil Talal Al-Mansour presents his credentials as a non-resident ambassador to Guyana.

Kuwait Ambassador to Brazil as 'non-resident' envoy to Guyana

WASHINGTON, Nov 2, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Ambassador to Brazil Talal Al-Mansour has delivered his credentials as the State of Kuwait Non-Resident Ambassador to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the country's President Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in Brazil said in a statement, received here on Thursday, that the Ambassador relayed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Guyanese

President, and his wishes for him so he may enjoy good health and his country and people witness lasting progress and prosperity.

The statement added that Ambassador Al-Mansour, during the meeting, affirmed the State of Kuwait's aspiration to boost the cooperation with the republic at diverse levels.

The Guyanese President for his part expressed interest in enhancing the bilateral relations and cooperation in the economic and commercial spheres.

Kuwait joins GCC standardization meeting

DOHA, Nov 2, (KUNA): The GCC committee for standardization affairs convened its 8th meeting here on Thursday with Kuwait's participation.

Qatari Minister of Trade and Industry Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad expressed hope in a statement during the session that the conferees would cap the event with recommendations

for bolstering joint GCC actions at the level of criteria and standards of products and commodities.

He underscored need for intensive GCC efforts to cope with the rapid developments, at this level, resulting from the open markets. He particularly called for updating legislations and the required specifications, in line

with the GCC accord signed in 2001. He also indicated that the joint legislations are helpful for easy flow of the commodities across the borders among the Council's member countries.

The GCC had set up to 27,600 standardization units and technical rules that would facilitate inter-GCC trade and ensure products' sound quality.

TRAMPO Extreme Expands Brands Portfolio with Kidz N Fun Acquisition



Kuwait-based TRAMPO Extreme has acquired Kidz N Fun, a growing entertainment and soft play enterprise in Kuwait. This strategic acquisition is a key milestone in TRAMPO Extreme's expansion efforts. The global entertainment center sector is valued at \$11.2 billion, with the Middle East being one of the fastest-growing regions, projected to see significant growth over the next five years.

Kidz N Fun is a new player on Kuwait's family entertainment scene, currently operating two facilities with two additional facilities planned for Q1 and Q2 2025. The company provides safe, immersive play spaces and hosts memorable birthday events for young children and their families. Ghassan Assi, COO of TRAMPO Extreme, stated,

"Kidz N Fun is a perfect addition to our leisure and entertainment portfolio. By acquiring this promising company, we aim to accelerate its growth through TRAMPO Extreme's established platform and expertise. This acquisition strengthens our presence in the GCC's thriving entertainment sector."

About TRAMPO Extreme:

Headquartered in Kuwait, TRAMPO Extreme has been a leading name in the GCC leisure and entertainment industry since 2015. The company operates family entertainment centers in Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, and Qatar, with several more locations in development. TRAMPO Extreme is known for offering safe, family-friendly entertainment for children of all ages.

CONDOLENCES

The Owners,
Management and Staff of

**Al-Rashed International
Shipping Co. K.S.C.C**

Extend their Heartfelt
condolences to

**Mr. Manoj Nileshwar
(Business Development Manager)
and his Family**

on the sad demise of his Mother
Ammini
who passed away in India
on 31st October 2024

May her soul Rest in Peace

Traffic department reveals closures of 2 major highways

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The General Traffic Department has issued an important notice regarding upcoming road closures affecting two major highways in Kuwait. The changes will be implemented from Sunday dawn and remain in effect until Tuesday.

Key closures include:

■ The secondary exit on Jassim Al-Kharafi Road (Sixth Ring Road) for traffic coming from Jahra and heading towards King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Road (Road 40) in the Ahmadi direction.

■ The exit leading to King Fahd Road for vehicles traveling towards Kuwait City.

These closures are part of ongoing road maintenance and improvement efforts. Drivers are advised to plan alternative routes and allow extra time for their journeys during this period. The Traffic Department urges all motorists to follow traffic signs and instructions to ensure smooth traffic flow and safety.

Republican candidate fights on in North Carolina gov's race

Jeffries chooses calm over chaos as Dems work to win House majority

PALMDALE, Calif., Nov 2, (AP): This election, he has warned, is about the economy. Freedom. Stopping Project 2025 and the MAGA extremes.

And, after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, it's about democracy.

And yet, Hakeem Jeffries, in line to make history as the first Black speaker of the House, says he is choosing to stay calm, as Democrats work to wrest control of the chaotic U.S. House from Republicans.

"In this unprecedented moment that we're in, I've concluded that calm is an intentional decision," Jeffries told The Associated Press during an interview at a park-side cafe in between campaign stops in Southern California.

"We have to continue to make the decision to remain calm, execute the plan, run through the finish line," he said. "And then put it into the hands of the American people."

Ever tight, the campaign for control of the House is a toss-up, playing out in unlikely corners of the country far from the presidential race, including in Jeffries' home state of New York and in California. A single contested seat, among 435, could make the difference if Democrats can flip the majority and

dislodge Republican Mike Johnson from the speaker's office.

Never before in the nation's nearly 250-year history has a Black American been so close to grasping the gavel. Jeffries, 54, is part of a younger generation of leaders, alongside Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, proposing a new way forward, past the era of the former president, Republican Donald Trump.

But Jeffries, a lawyer before coming to Congress, doesn't want to talk about the milestone of becoming House speaker, and he won't venture to predict that Democrats will sweep the House majority. He wants to talk about the choices before voters right now.

"Everything we care about is on the line. Everything we care about is on the line. We can either move this country forward or turn back the clock," he said on an early Sunday morning in the high desert community of Palmdale, the dusty far reaches of Los Angeles County.

"We're not going back!" chanted the hundreds of volunteers, ready to go knock on doors to get out the vote for Democrat George Whitesides in the race against Republican Rep. Mike Garcia.

The Brooklyn-born Jeffries took over as House Democratic leader when



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., greets Derek Tran during a campaign event at Golden Sea Restaurant on Oct 12, in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi stepped aside, making him heir apparent to the speaker's office. He is poised to win internal party balloting as leader again later this year, regardless of the election results. Yet if Democrats win majority control, he would stand for election as speaker by the whole House, when the

new Congress convenes in January.

Meanwhile, addressing over 100 supporters outside an ice cream stand that's shaped like a giant strawberry, North Carolina Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson battered his Democratic rival for governor and the media, and said he'd keep fighting as their

race neared its conclusion.

"I'm on the battlefield for the people of this state," he said in a stump speech this week.

In what was once expected to be one of the fiercest down-ballot races of the year, a candidate who won the endorsement and effusive praise of former President Donald Trump continues to play defense as Election Day looms. He's been badly outsped by his Democratic opponent, state Attorney General Josh Stein, and he's still trying to blunt the impact of a CNN report on offensive comments he allegedly made on an online porn site years before he ran for public office.

Answering reporters' questions Wednesday outside The Berry Patch in Ellerbe, 90 miles (145 kilometers) southwest of Raleigh, Robinson said he still believes he'll win.

"People don't care about salacious lies that supposedly happened 15 years ago. They don't care about Facebook posts from 10 years ago," Robinson said. "What they care about is how they're going to feed their families, how they're going to keep their businesses open, how they're going to get their child a great education."

North Carolina was projected early

as the governor's race to watch this fall - a battleground state clash where statewide races are usually close and for a position Democrats have held for all but four years out of the past 32.

In the campaign's final days, advantages appeared to favor another Democrat to succeed term-limited Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper.

Stein had a lead over Robinson in several polls of North Carolina voters conducted since Labor Day. Campaign finance reports filed this week had Stein's campaign with a massive haul - \$44.6 million collected during a 3 1/2-month period ending in mid-October and \$59.3 million spent during the same period. Robinson's campaign committee, meanwhile, raised \$4.1 million and spent almost \$10 million. During the election cycle, Stein has outsped Robinson by a nearly 4-to-1 margin.

Stein's financial advantage and support from allies helped them persistently remind voters about blunt statements made by Robinson about abortion, women and LGBTQ+ people that they argue should disqualify him for the job, while also promoting the attorney general's accomplishments.

UK Conservative Party picks Badenoch as its new leader in wake of poll defeat

LONDON, Nov 2, (AP): Britain's Conservative Party on Saturday elected Kemi Badenoch as its new leader as it tries to rebound from a crushing election defeat that ended 14 years in power.

Badenoch (pronounced BADE-NOCK) defeated rival lawmaker Robert Jenrick in a vote of almost 100,000 members of the right-of-center party. She is the first Black woman to lead a major British political party.

Badenoch replaces former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who in July led the Conservatives to their worst election result since 1832. The Conservatives lost more than 200 seats, taking their tally down to 121.

The new leader's daunting task is to try to restore the party's reputation after years of division, scandal and economic turmoil, hammer Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer's policies on key issues including the economy and immigration, and return the Conservatives to power at the next election, due by 2029.

A business secretary in the previous Conservative government, Badenoch



Britain's Member of Parliament Kemi Badenoch is congratulated by Robert Jenrick after being announced as the new Conservative Party leader following the vote by party members, at 8 Northumberland Avenue in central London on Nov 2. (AP)

was born in London to Nigerian parents and spent much of her childhood in the West African country.

The 44-year-old former software engineer depicts herself as a disruptor, arguing for a low-tax, free-market economy and pledging to "rewire, reboot and reprogram" the British state.

A critic of multiculturalism and self-proclaimed enemy of wokeness, Badenoch has drawn criticism for saying recently said that "not all cultures are equally valid," and for suggesting that maternity pay was excessive.

In a race that has lasted more than three months, Conservative lawmakers reduced the field from six candidates in a series of votes before putting the final two to the wider party membership.

Both finalists came from the right of the party, and argued they can win voters back from Reform U.K., the hard-right, anti-immigrant party led by populist politician Nigel Farage that has eaten away at Conservative support.

But the party also lost many voters to the winning party, Labour, and to the centrist Liberal Democrats, and some Conservatives worry that tacking right will lead the party away from public opinion.

Trump and Harris host dueling rallies in Milwaukee in final push to win Wisconsin



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at Macomb Community College on Nov 1, in Warren, Mich. (AP)

MILWAUKEE, Nov 2, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump hosted rallies within 7 miles of each other Friday night in the Milwaukee area as part of a fevered final push for votes in swing-state Wisconsin's largest county.

Milwaukee is home to the most Democratic votes in Wisconsin, but its conservative suburbs are where most Republicans live and are a critical area for Trump as he tries to reclaim the state he narrowly won in 2016 and lost in 2020. One reason for his defeat was a drop in support in those Milwaukee suburbs and an increase in Democratic votes in the city.

"Both candidates recognize that the road to the White House runs directly through Milwaukee County," said Hilario Deleon, chair of the county's Republican Party.

Air Force Two, the vice presidential aircraft, touched down at Milwaukee's airport about 40 minutes ahead of Trump's private plane, which he has dubbed Trump Force One. The planes parked near each other, but the candidates did not cross paths; Harris' motorcade was gone before Trump landed.

Both venues drew roughly the same number of people, based on crowd estimates provided by each campaign. Trump took the stage seven minutes before Harris.

The two rallies - Trump was in downtown Milwaukee and Harris in a suburb - may be the candidates'

last appearances in Wisconsin before Election Day. Both sides say the race is once again razor tight for the state's 10 electoral votes. Four of the past six presidential elections in Wisconsin have been decided by less than a point, or fewer than 23,000 votes.

It was absentee votes from Milwaukee, which typically are reported early in the morning after Election Day, that tipped Wisconsin for President Joe Biden in 2020.

Democrats know they must turn out voters in Milwaukee, also home to the state's largest Black population, to counter Trump's support in the suburbs and rural areas. Harris is hoping to replicate, and exceed, turnout from 2020 in the city, which voted 79% for Biden that year.

Trump is trying to cut into the Democrats' margin. Deleon called it a "lose by less" mentality. Before heading to Milwaukee, Harris campaigned in the southern Wisconsin city of Janesville, where she talked up her support for organized labor in a speech at an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local.

"Nobody understands better than a union member that as Americans we all rise or fall together," Harris said. She promised to eliminate "unnecessary" degree requirements for federal jobs and push private sector employers to do the same.

She called Trump "an existential threat to America's labor movement"

and said the nation lost manufacturing jobs during his presidency.

Trump, whose base includes working-class voters, has made sporadic efforts to reach out to rank-and-file union members, who have traditionally been core to the Democratic coalition.

Harris later went after Trump on health care, telling hundreds who packed into a high school in Little Chute that the former president wants to undo the Affordable Care Act law and take the United States back to the days when insurers could deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions.

Rapper Cardi B was among the celebrities at Harris' third and final Wisconsin rally, in the Milwaukee suburb of West Allis.

"Did you hear what Donny Trump said the other day?" Cardi B said on-stage, referring to Trump saying he'll protect women "whether they like it or not."

"Donny, don't," she said. "Please." At the same rally, Harris told the boisterous crowd that Trump is bad for the economy, their health care and women's reproductive rights.

"We know who Donald Trump is," she said. "This is not someone who is thinking about how to make your life better. This is someone who is increasingly unstable, obsessed with revenge, he is consumed with grievance and the man is out for unchecked power."

Pyongyang sent troops to help war in Ukraine

North Korea's top diplomat holds talks in Moscow

MOSCOW, Nov 2, (AP): Russia's top diplomat met his North Korean counterpart for talks amid reports that Pyongyang has sent thousands of troops to Russia to support its military in the war in Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui's visit to Moscow and her meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov came on the heels of the Pentagon's statement that North Korea has deployed about 10,000 troops to Russia to fight against Ukraine.

The Biden administration said Thursday that some 8,000 North Korean soldiers are now in Russia's Kursk region near Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against

Ukrainian troops in the coming days.

Western leaders have described the North Korean troop deployment as a significant escalation that could also jolt relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Neither Moscow nor Pyongyang have specified the agenda for Choe's talks in Moscow, but in a closed-door hearing at South Korea's parliament, the South's spy agency said Choe may be involved in high-level discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and negotiating what the North would get in return.

South Korean and Western officials have voiced concern that Russia may offer technology that could advance the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Meeting Choe in Moscow on Friday, Lavrov hailed ties between Moscow and Pyongyang, saying that they "have reached an unprecedented high level over the past few years," and proposed discussing the implementation of the strategic partnership agreement the two nations signed earlier this year.

"We will have discussions on a series of issues regarding politics and foreign policy as well as matters that require a joint response between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation," Choe said, invoking the North's formal name.

She reiterated Pyongyang's support "for the just fight of Russia's military and people to defend their country's sovereign rights and security interests" in Ukraine.

Moscow and Pyongyang have responded vaguely to South Korean and Western claims of the North Korean troop deployment to Russia, emphasizing that their military cooperation conforms with international law, without directly admitting the presence of the North's forces in Russia.

The United States and its allies also have accused North Korea of providing millions of artillery shells and other equipment to Russia to fuel its military action in Ukraine.

Russia, along with China, has blocked U.S.-led efforts at the U.N. Security Council to tighten sanctions on North Korea over its recent missile testing, which intensified after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia also vetoed a U.N. resolution to extend the mandate of monitors in March, in a move that effectively abolished oversight by U.N. experts of Security Council sanctions against North Korea.



In this photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry press service on Nov 1, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, center, and North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui attend an unveiling ceremony of the plaque to mark Kim Il Sung's 1949 visit to USSR, at Yaroslavsky railway terminal in Moscow, Russia. (AP)

America

Adams gets April '25 trial date: New York City Mayor Eric Adams' federal corruption trial will begin next April, a judge ruled Friday, right in the thick of his promised reelection campaign.

US District Judge Dale E. Ho set the trial date as Adams returned to Manhattan federal court for a hearing on his bid to eliminate a key charge in the indictment that threatens his political future.

Ho said he's confident the April 21, 2025, date will hold, "assuming nothing unexpected comes up." At the same time, prosecutors said they still haven't been able to crack a potentially crucial piece of evidence: Adams' personal cellphone. According to his indictment, Adams changed his password just before giving the phone to authorities, then claimed he forgot it.

Adams' lawyers are fighting to throw out a bribery charge, one of five counts against the first-term Democrat. They argued the charge doesn't meet the U.S. Supreme Court's recently narrowed threshold for the crime and shouldn't apply to Adams because it involves allegations dating to before he became mayor.

"The prosecutor for the United States had trouble defining what the 'quo' is here," Adams' lawyer John Bash argued, referring to a "quid pro quo," a Latin phrase meaning "something for something."

Prosecutors countered that Adams' lawyers were split-



Adams

ting hairs because, they allege, Adams was taking bribes and exerting influence while holding a prior elected office and as he anticipated becoming mayor.

Ho said he would take the arguments "under advisement and attempt to rule shortly."

The indictment, which also includes wire fraud and conspiracy charges, accuses Adams of accepting flight upgrades and other luxury travel perks valued at \$100,000 along with illegal campaign contributions from a Turkish official and other foreign nationals looking to buy his influence. (AP)

Orlando shootings kill 2: A gunman who opened fire during a Halloween street celebration that drew thousands of costumed revelers to downtown Orlando killed two people and wounded seven others early Friday, authorities said.

Officers quickly arrested a 17-year-old male suspect, police Chief Eric Smith said during a briefing. Authorities have not yet determined a motive.

The shooter fired in Orlando's downtown bar and restaurant district around 1 a.m. Officers responded as costumed celebrants ran, and the same gunman then fired again about a block away, Smith said.

The seven wounded, who range in age from 19 to 39, were taken to a hospital and were in stable condition, Smith said. A 10th victim was treated after being trampled by the crowd as people fled.

One of the Halloween celebrants killed and another who was injured were students at the University of Central Florida, the school said in a statement on Friday.

The shootings "may have impacted many students who were out celebrating Halloween and in the vicinity of the incident," the university said. "Our thoughts are with all the loved ones affected during this unimaginable time." (AP)



Rescue service workers inspect a scene as a roof collapsed at a railway station on Nov 1, in Novi Sad, Serbia. (AP)

Rescuers end search for survivors after 14 die in Serbia canopy collapse

Serbian rescuers stopped searching for survivors on Saturday after pulling out 14 bodies from underneath tons of concrete from a fallen canopy at the entrance of a railway station in the northern city of Novi Sad.

Serbia's government declared Saturday a day of mourning as officials promised a thorough investigation into Friday's collapse of the roof that fell on people sitting below it. The dead included a 6-year-old

girl and a citizen of North Macedonia while three people were seriously injured, Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said.

Doctors said the injured ranged from 18 to 24 years old and remained in life-threatening condition on Saturday.

The train station has been renovated twice in recent years, and critics of Serbia's populist government attributed the disaster to cor-

ruption and sloppy renovations. Members of the opposition planned to protest in front of the station later on Saturday.

Officials have insisted that the canopy had not been part of the renovation work. Goran Vesic, the government minister for construction and infrastructure, told the state RTS television the tragedy would not have happened had the canopy been renovated as well. (AP)

Japan, EU announce security and defense partnership

TOKYO, Nov 2, (AP) — Japan and the European Union announced a security and defense partnership as they seek to step up military ties, including joint exercises and exchanges between their defense industries, amid growing tensions with China, North Korea and Russia.

It is the first security partnership that the EU has concluded with an Indo-Pacific country, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters. "We live in a very dangerous world. We live in a world of growing rivalries, climate accidents and threats of war. And there is only one antidote to this challenging world, which is partnerships among friends," Borrell said. "It is an historical and very timely step given the situation in both of our regions."

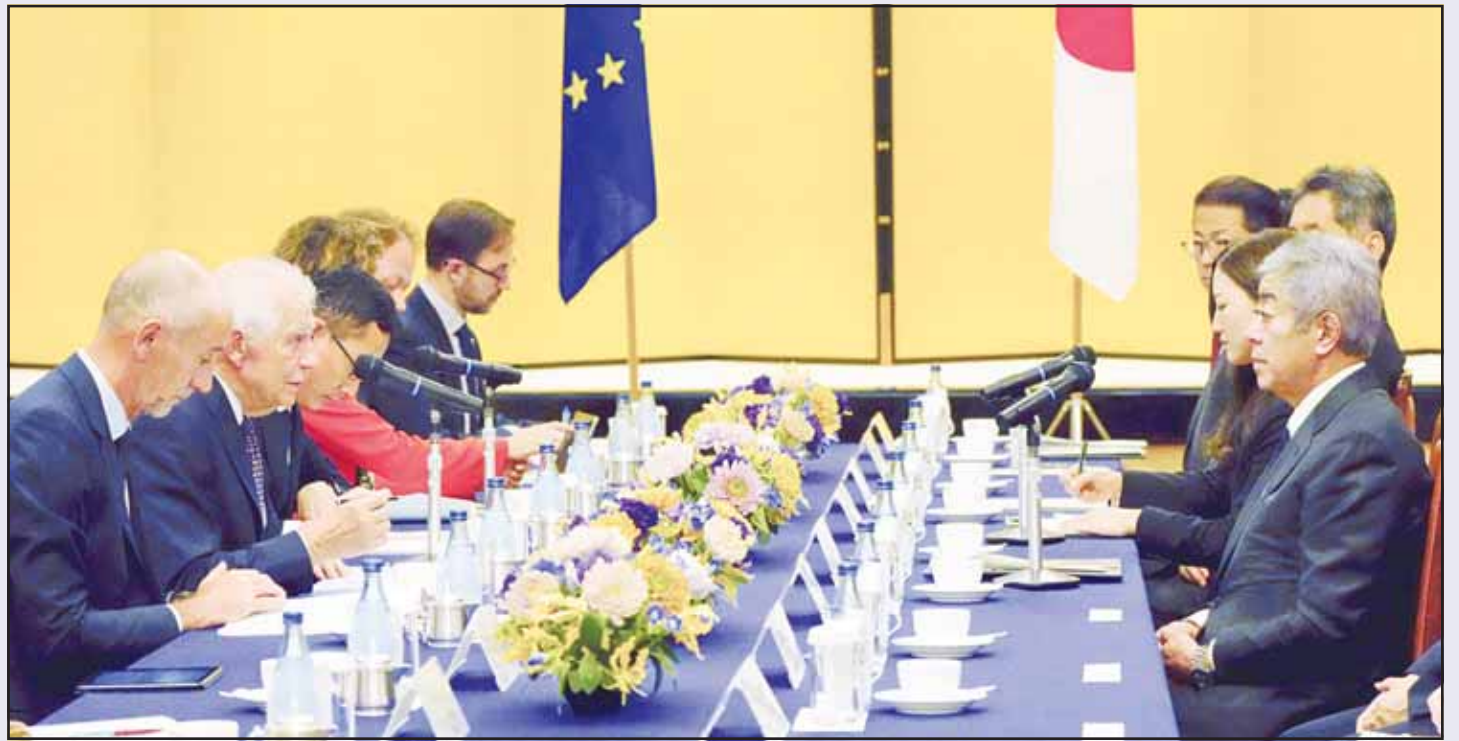
Borrell is in Tokyo as part of an East Asia tour that includes South Korea, where he will also hold a strategic dialogue, underscoring the EU's increasing engagement with the Indo-Pacific region, as China and Russia step up joint military activities and North Korea

sends troops to Russia. Their talks came a day after North Korea test-fired what is believed to be a new type of ICBM-class ballistic missile.

Borrell and Iwaya also shared "grave concern" over Russia's deepening military cooperation with North Korea, including the North's troop deployment to Russia and arms transfers between the two countries, according to an EU statement. The two officials reiterated their commitment to supporting Ukraine and condemned Russian aggression.

Japan, under a new security strategy adopted in 2022, has been rapidly accelerating its military buildup through its alliance with the United States, its only treaty ally, and other partners, including Australia, the UK and a number of European and Indo-Pacific countries, to deter an increasingly assertive China.

Tokyo has also significantly eased its voluntary arms export ban, seeking to expand its defense industry and play a greater role globally. Japan is jointly developing a next-generation fighter jet with the U.K. and Italy.



Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, (right), and European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, (second left), hold a talk at the foreign ministry's guest house in Tokyo on Nov 1. (AP)

Pyongyang boasts of 'the world's strongest' missile

US calls on a silent China to use its sway over Russia and North Korea

WASHINGTON, Nov 2, (AP) — The US and South Korea have called on China to use its influence over Russia and North Korea to prevent escalation after Pyongyang sent thousands of troops to Russia to aid Moscow's war against Ukraine. Beijing has so far stayed quiet.

In a rare meeting earlier this week, three top US diplomats met with China's ambassador to the United States to emphasize US concerns and urge China to use its sway with North Korea to try to curtail the cooperation, according to a State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the sides had "a robust conversation just this week" and that China knows US expectations are that "they'll use the influence that they have to work to curb these activities."

"But I think this is a demand signal that's coming not just from us, but from countries around the world," he said at a news conference in Washington with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and their South Korean counterparts.

Liu Pengyu, spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said in a statement that China's position on the Ukraine crisis is "consistent and clear."

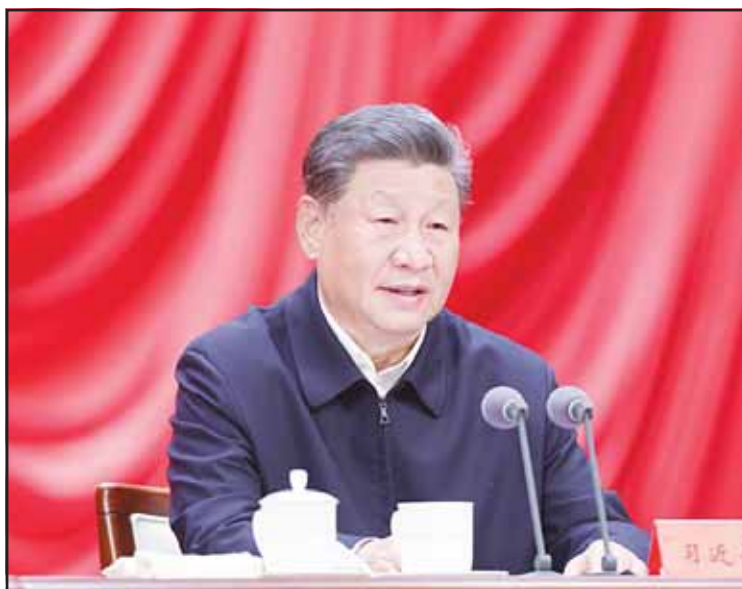
China strives "for peace talks and political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. This position remains unchanged. China will continue to play a constructive role to this end," Liu said.

The US says 8,000 North Korean soldiers are in Russia near Ukraine's border and are preparing to help the Kremlin fight against Ukrainian troops in the coming days. China has yet to publicly comment on the move.

Beijing has forged a "no limits" partnership with Moscow, and while it has also been a major ally for Pyongyang, experts say Beijing might not approve of the closer military partnership between Russia and North Korea because it sees it as destabilizing in the region.

The Russia-North Korea partnership runs contrary to Beijing's goal for a peaceful Korean Peninsula, said Shi Yinhong, an international relations expert at China's Renmin University.

Xi has built a personal relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and "he cannot see Putin fail," Wilder said this week at a panel discussion



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, addresses the opening of a study session at the party school of the CPC Central Committee (National Academy of Governance) for principal officials at the provincial and ministerial level on Oct 29. (Xinhua)

hosted by the Washington-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Meanwhile, North Korea boasted that the new intercontinental ballistic missile it just test-launched is "the world's strongest," a claim seen as pure propaganda after experts assessed it as being too big to be useful in a war situation.

The ICBM launched Thursday flew higher and for a longer duration than any other weapon North Korea has tested. But foreign experts say the test failed to show North Korea has mastered some of the last remaining technological hurdles to possess functioning ICBMs that can strike the mainland U.S.

The North's Korean Central News Agency identified the missile as a Hwasong-19 and called it "the world's strongest strategic missile" and "the perfected weapon system." The official media outlet said leader Kim Jong Un observed the launch, describing it as an expression of North Korea's resolve to respond to external threats to North Korea's security.

The color and shape of the exhaust flames seen in North Korean state media photos of the launch suggest the missile uses preloaded solid fuel, which makes weapons more agile and harder to detect than liquid propellants that in general must be fueled beforehand.

But experts say the photos show the ICBM and its launch vehicle are both oversized, raising a serious question about their wartime mobility and survivability.

"When missiles get bigger, what happens? The vehicles get larger, too. As the transporter-erector launchers get bigger, their mobility decreases," Lee Sangmin, an expert at South Korea's Korea Institute for Defense Analyses.

The Hwasong-19 was estimated to be at least 28 meters long (92 feet) while advanced U.S. and Russian ICBMs are less than 20 meters long (66 feet), said Chang Young-keun, a missile expert at Seoul's Korea Research Institute for National Strategy. He suggested that the missile's size likely helped South Korean intelligence authorities detect the launch plan in advance.

"In the event of a conflict, such an exposure makes the weapon a target of a preemptive attack by opponents so there would be a big issue of survivability," Chang said.



Paramedics and volunteers transport an injured victim of a bomb explosion in Mastung town, upon arrival at a hospital in Quetta, Pakistan on Nov 1. (AP)

Bomb targeting police assigned for polio drive kills 9 in Pakistan

A powerful bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded near a vehicle carrying police officers assigned to protect polio workers in restive southwest Pakistan on Friday, killing nine people including five nearby children, and wounding 17 other people, officials said.

Local police chief Fateh Mohammad said the attack occurred in Mastung, a district in Balochistan province. He said a motorized rickshaw carrying schoolchildren was nearby when the bombing happened, resulting in the deaths of five children, a police officer and two passersby.

Some of the wounded were moved to a hospital in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province, said Wasim Baig, a spokesman for the health department. He said seven people died on the spot, while two men who had been critically wounded died at a hospital. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on police, but suspicion is likely to fall on separatist groups and Pakistani Taliban that have stepped up attacks on security forces and civilians in recent months. (AP)



Unidentified assailants vandalize an office of Jatiya Party that supported the country's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Oct 31. (AP)

Attackers set fire to Bangladesh party HQ that backed Hasina

Attackers set fire to the headquarters of a Bangladesh party that supported the country's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina media reports said. There was no information if anyone was injured.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on the Jatiya Party offices in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka. TV stations and other media said the attackers stormed the party headquarters in Dhaka's Bijoy Nagar area, clashing with party members who were there and eventually setting the premises on fire.

The extent of the damage was not immediately known. Firefighters rushed to the scene, according to Rashed bin Khaled, an official of the Fire Service and Civil Defense. Bin Khaled, who spoke to The Associated Press by phone, had no other details.

The party is Bangladesh's third largest and was founded by former military dictator H.M. Ershad in the 1980s. As the attack was underway, a prominent leader of a student protest movement that led to Hasina's ouster in August said the Jatiya Party should be "destroyed" for its support of her government. (AP)

Kenya's new deputy president sworn in

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 2, (AP) — Kenya's new deputy president has been sworn into office, two weeks after his predecessor was overwhelmingly voted out in an impeachment motion in parliament over allegations of corruption and inciting ethnic division.

Kindiki Kithure took office on Friday after a colorful event in the capital, Nairobi, attended by government officials and western envoys among other guests.

His swearing-in was cleared by the court on Thursday after orders that had suspended it were lifted, despite a continuing court case challenging the impeachment of the previous deputy president, Rigathi Gachagua.



Kenya's new Deputy President Kindiki Kithure, right, is sworn into office at a ceremony, at Kenyatta International Convention Centre, in Nairobi, Kenya on Nov 1. (AP)

'Offensive tone'

Brazil criticizes Venezuela for escalating tensions

SAO PAULO, Nov 2, (AP) — Brazil's government broke its silence Friday over growing tensions with neighboring Venezuela, with the Foreign Ministry saying it was surprised by "the offensive tone" adopted by Venezuelan authorities toward Brazil.

In recent days, Venezuela's government has escalated its criticism of Brazilian foreign relations officials and even President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a long-time ally.

"The choice of personal attacks and rhetorical escalations, instead of political and diplomatic channels, does not align with the respectful manner in which the Brazilian government treats Venezuela and its people," the Brazilian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

President Nicolás Maduro's government intensified its criticism of Brazil after a top adviser to Brazil's president said the country had not supported Venezuela's bid to join the BRICS bloc of developing economies at the recent summit in Russia. That decision added to tensions between the two nations over disputed results in Venezuela's July presidential election and calls for transparency from Brazil and other countries.

Venezuela's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it summoned Brazil's



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro speaks after signing an agreement to respect the results of the upcoming presidential elections, at the National Electoral Council headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela on June 20. (AP)

chargé d'affaires in Venezuela, Breno Hermann, to "express its strongest rejection of the recurrent interventionist and rude statements of spokespersons authorized by the Brazilian government."

The ministry also accused Celso Amorim, Brazil's former foreign minister and special adviser to Lula, of acting "like a messenger of Ameri-

can imperialism" by "issuing value judgments on processes that only correspond to Venezuelans and their democratic institutions." It added that his actions threaten the "ties that unite both countries."

Initially, Brazil's diplomatic approach was to avoid commenting to prevent escalating tensions, a Foreign Ministry source told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly. However, this stance shifted after Venezuela's Bolivarian National Police shared an image Thursday on social media depicting what appeared to be Lula's silhouette over Brazil's national flag with the text: "If you mess with Venezuela, you wilt."

"Our homeland is independent, free, and sovereign. We do not accept blackmail from anyone; we are not anyone's colony," the publication added.

In the Friday statement, Brazil's Foreign Ministry said it values non-intervention and fully respects the sovereignty of each neighboring country. The statement explained that Brazil's interest in Venezuela's electoral process stems from its role as a witness to the 2023 Barbados Agreements, in which Venezuela's government and opposition settled on electoral conditions.

Africa

Algeria releases jouno: Algeria has pardoned a journalist who emerged as a key voice during the country's 2019 pro-democracy protests and was later imprisoned for taking foreign funding for his media outlets and threatening state security.

Ihsane El Kadi was released from prison, one of his lawyers, Fetta Seddat, told The Associated Press.

El Kadi was the veteran editorial director of the media company responsible for the francophone station Radio M and news site Maghreb Emergent. Both reported heavily on Algeria's weekly pro-democracy "Hirak" protests, which began in 2019 and led to the resignation of octogenarian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. (AP)

BDP loses power: The party of Botswana's opposition candidate

Duma Boko was declared the election winner Friday over incumbent President Mokgweetsi Masisi in a seismic change that ended the ruling party's 58 years in power since independence from Britain.

Masisi conceded defeat even before final results were announced, with his Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) trailing in fourth place in the parliamentary elections in what appeared to be a humbling rejection by voters and a landslide victory for the main opposition party. (AP)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+30.32	4,621.37	
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+1,905.85	91,126.48	
BRITAIN	-	FTSE 100	+67.05	8,177.15	
EUROPE	-	Euro Stoxx 50	+50.12	4,877.75	
JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	-1,027.58	38,053.67	

Business

An intensive cybersecurity bootcamp for participants

Kuwait Finance House sponsors 2nd Kuwait hackathon as strategic partner

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: For the second consecutive year, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is continuing its partnership for the largest cybersecurity hackathon in Kuwait. In collaboration with CODED Academy Kuwait and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), the competition is held under the patronage of His Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

KFH organized a meeting attended by KFH Deputy General manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh, NCSC Vice President for Governance and Risk Management, Taiba Al-Qabandi, and CODED Academy CEO, Ahmad Marafi.

KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh, affirmed KFH's keenness to empower the youth and develop their talents and enhance their knowledge while adding value to society. He also stressed its commitment towards youth-focused initiatives as part of its social responsibility, particularly those initiatives centered on technology and software development aiming at enhancing their digital capabilities.

Al-Ruwaieh pointed out that Kuwait Hackathon competition plays a crucial role in building a generation skilled in digital forensic and cybersecurity. The competition also empowers them to keep abreast of the rapid developments in the digital world. "These initiatives not only enrich the trainees experience but also provide them with official accreditation that enhance their CVs and boost their employment chance" he remarked, "Such efforts align with KFH's strategy to support the community, empower the youth and promote innovation."

He reiterated the critical role of modern technology, digital learning

Al-Ruwaieh:

- KFH is keen to empower the youth and participate in initiatives that develop their talents and digital capabilities

Al-Qabandi:

- The successful public-private partnership contributes to the success of the youth and Kuwait

Marafi:

- The 7-year strategic partnership with KFH led to the development of CODED and an increase in the number of beneficiaries

and artificial intelligence in strengthening cybersecurity, highlighting its significance to the global economy and banking sector in serving the public interest of protecting the data and information of the customers.

Al-Ruwaieh noted that the strategic partnership with CODED Academy, established in 2018, aligns with KFH's strategy to foster innovation and digital transformation initiatives. He asserted the Bank's commitment to supporting the youth by nurturing their talents and shaping a future capable of driving the community forward. He added that through this partnership, the focus remains on technological applications, coding and other digital means which have become essential languages of today and the future.

He further underscored KFH's ongoing efforts to social responsibility, aiming to strengthen its leadership and pioneering role in social responsibility. NCSC Vice President for Govern-



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh, Taiba Al-Qabandi, and Ahmad Marafi in a group photo.

ance and Risk Management - Taiba Al-Qabandi

NCSC Vice President for Governance and Risk Management, Taiba Al-Qabandi, lauded KFH's support of this initiative, saying that it highlights the importance of public-private collaboration in a manner that achieve the greater good for the youth and the

community.

She added that Kuwait Hackathon targets young cybersecurity enthusiasts to develop their skills through world leading training methods in collaboration with CODED Academy. She further said that these initiatives help nurture and harness the talents of young individuals, enabling their per-

sonal and professional growth.

CODED Academy CEO - Ahmad Marafi

In his statement, CODED Academy CEO, Ahmad Marafi commended the strategic partnership with KFH which has extended for 7 consecutive years. He said that this collaboration led to the development of CODED and an

increase in the number of beneficiaries.

This year, the Kuwait Hackathon will span three weeks, commencing on October 27th at Kuwait University's Al-Shadadiya campus. The competition, which includes an intensive bootcamp, is aimed at young individuals aged 21-26 who will be registered upon successful completion of the initial tests.

Boursa Kuwait sees surge in liquidity, up 13.9 pct in Oct

Total liquidity for 2024 reaches KD 11.9 billion, up 38.4%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Liquidity at Boursa Kuwait experienced a significant boost in October, rising 13.9% to reach KD 1.7 billion (\$5.1 billion), compared to KD 1.5 billion (\$4.5 billion) in September, according to a report by Al-Shall Consulting Company released on Saturday.

The report highlighted positive performance in October, noting increases in daily trading val-

ue and liquidity, alongside gains in most price indices. The main market index rose by 3.9%, the main 50 index by 4.3%, and the general market index by 0.3%. However, the premier market index saw a slight decline of 0.5%.

October's average daily trading value reached KD 74.6 million (\$227.5 million), a 4% increase from September's KD 71.8 million (\$218.9 million). Both months demonstrated high trading activity.

For the first ten months of the year, total liquidity amounted to KD 11.9 billion (\$36.2 billion). The average daily trading value for this period was KD 57.9 million (\$176.5 million), marking a 38.4% increase

compared to the same period in 2023.

The report also noted a concentration of liquidity, with half of the listed companies receiving only 4% of the total liquidity. Notably, 50 companies received just 1.3% of the liquidity, while one company saw no trading activity at all.

In contrast, 12 companies, including four from the first market, with a combined market value of about 2.9% of the total listed companies, attracted 19.4% of the stock exchange liquidity. This trend indicates that large liquidity activity continues to bypass about half of the listed companies, favoring those with smaller market values.

Other Voices

US oil production soars

Oil surplus leads OPEC+ to hold off on production cuts

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

The oil market situation today leaves OPEC+ with limited ability to intervene. Further production cuts are unlikely to improve oil prices or benefit the organization.



Al-Harami

The current abundance of oil supply has led OPEC+ to refrain from taking action, allowing the market to determine its own direction. The oil prices, which range from \$70 to \$75 per barrel, currently seem to be satisfactory for both consumers and producers.

The surplus oil available in the market exceeds seven to eight million barrels per day, with OPEC+ holding about six million barrels in reserve due to its decisions to reduce oil production with the aim of supporting the oil prices. Unfortunately, this is not effective given the weak demand for oil, particularly as China's overall economy is not moving forward to generate the necessary demand to strengthen oil prices.

Meanwhile, the U.S. oil production continues to surge, potentially reaching 15 million barrels per day from 13.5 million, thus solidifying its position as the biggest producer globally. This

increase is followed by Russia at 9.8 million barrels per day and Saudi Arabia at 9 million barrels per day.

The gradual expected increase in OPEC+ voluntary production is unlikely to materialize in the next few years. The mechanism of increasing or decreasing oil production is no longer viable, and OPEC+ seems unable to make decisive moves beyond following market trends, with reluctance. This situation persists despite the fact that the two largest oil producers - Saudi Arabia and Russia - are part of OPEC, with Russia's involvement intended to help stabilize prices and enforce some level of discipline.

However, this is ineffective as the U.S., Canada, and Brazil continue to ramp up oil production. OPEC+ has reduced its output to support prices, but these efforts have yielded little success. It appears that the approach of OPEC+ in terms of production cuts is unsustainable and unlikely to benefit the organization in the long term.

Perhaps it is time for OPEC+ to consider a more flexible stance on oil production. Defending oil prices primarily benefits the U.S., which produces 13.5 million barrels per day. Instead, OPEC+ might consider accepting a price level of around \$75 per barrel while also working on strategies to reduce reliance on oil income in the future.

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

To lead the development of the creative economy in Kuwait

Zain, National Council for Culture sign MoU

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Zain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) to establish a strategic partnership aimed at leading the development of the creative economy in Kuwait. The partners will launch joint initiatives and programs to nurture a thriving ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.

The MoU was signed at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) in the company's headquarters in Shuwaikh, attended by Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al Gharabally, NCCAL Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad Al Jassar, and senior officials from both partners.

This collaboration reflects Zain and NCCAL's shared vision of advancing Kuwait's innovation landscape by bolstering the creative economy. It illustrates a commitment to leveraging both public and private sector efforts to support national development goals, particularly by investing in the human capital.

The MoU's objectives include leading initiatives to support the development of science, technology, and innovation to contribute to establishing a resilient, creative ecosystem capable of positively impacting Kuwait's social, cultural, and



Nawaf Al Gharabally and Dr. Mohammad Al Jassar sign the MoU.

economic growth. Both parties will jointly launch initiatives aimed at supporting the labor market, building creative capacities, supporting research and development, empowering entrepreneurs, and making meaningful contributions to Kuwait's social fabric and cultural identity.

Additionally, the partnership seeks to establish a sustainable regulatory environment for the creative industries, fostering talent identification, incubation, and development, digital content creation, and a robust educational system for creativity. It also aims to empower creators, free-

lancers, and SMEs.

This initiative complements Zain's extensive portfolio of programs and initiatives designed to achieve various sustainable goals under the company's strategic vision, such as supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, empowering startups, sharing private sector expertise, enhancing the creative landscape, and investing in young people's digital skills.

NCCAL is dedicated to providing a framework for cultural growth in the creative industries by engaging relevant stakeholders and partners under a national umbrella that gath-

ers government bodies, the private sector, academic, cultural, and research institutions, and more to support creatives and entrepreneurs.

This platform provides space for communication between the creative community and supporting organizations, as well as making the necessary resources available to support innovators and promote initiatives and investment opportunities within the creative economy. NCCAL believes that partnerships and collaboration are essential for advancing shared goals that enrich Kuwait's cultural and creative landscape.

Founded in 1973, the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters stands as one of Kuwait's foremost cultural institutions, dedicated to advancing cultural awareness and showcasing Kuwait's heritage. Its initiatives include developing Kuwait's cultural infrastructure by encouraging intellectual and creative production across diverse fields, such as literature, arts, music, and theater.

The Council also works diligently to preserve historic buildings, which serve as landmarks in Kuwait's history and as cultural catalysts for positive change, thereby strategically aligning with Kuwait's national vision.



Al Gharabally and Al Jassar with Zain and NCCAL officials.

Brent crude up by 29 cents

Kuwait oil price up to \$74.52 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price rose by USD 2.60 to USD 74.52 per barrel on Friday, compared with USD 71.92 pb on Thursday, Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC) said on Saturday. Globally, Brent crude went up by 29 cents to USD 73.10 pb, and West Texas Intermediate crude rose by 23 cents to USD 96.49 pb.

Iraq 'cuts' oil output, aims to stabilize global markets

BAGHDAD, Nov 2, (KUNA): Iraq is cutting its daily output of the crude oil to 3.3 million barrels, in addition to decreasing local consumption, the ministry of oil announced on Friday.

The cut comes in line with Iraq's adherence to resolutions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allied crude-producing states withing the joint accord (DoC), stipulating voluntary trim of the oil output.

The drop will proceed in the coming months to ensure the production "within the agreed upon ceilings," and make up for the glut put out over the past months, the ministry said, affirming that this approach is designed to reinforce stability in the global oil markets.

Iraq officially announced on October 27 that it would abide by the lower oil output accord, crafted within OPEC+.

ABK Group holds 9-month '24 analyst conference call

'We have experienced a 19% increase in net profit ...'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently hosted its 9-month 2024 analyst conference attended by Abdullah Al Sumait, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer; Shiamak Soonawalla, Group Chief Finance Officer; Abdulaziz Jawad, Chief Strategy Officer; and Yaqoub Almulla, Senior Manager of Investor Relations.

Al Sumait commenced by discussing the key financial achievements of this period, stating, "We have experienced a 19% increase in Net Profit attributable to shareholders, rising from KD 32.6 million in the first 9 months of 2023 to KD 38.8 million in first 9 months in 2024. Moreover, Earnings Per Share have grown by 23%, rising from 13 fils to 16 fils, supported by a robust Capital Adequacy Ratio of 17%."

In addition, during mid-September the Bank successfully issued Additional Tier 1 perpetual bonds with a value of \$300 million at a fixed rate of 6.5% which was oversubscribed 4.5 times, demonstrating international investors' confidence in ABK's credit worthiness and performance.

He added, "Our adaptability to the evolving economic landscape is reflected in our successful strategic execution, as evident in our KPIs. Over the last nine months, ABK has maintained positive momentum, as seen in our improved profitability and asset quality metrics, with a Non-Performing Loan Ratio of 1.30% displaying stability along with loan growth of 6% YoY."

Goal Development

The Bank is continuously advancing its strategic goals and sustaining excellence in digital transformation across all sectors. This is highlighted by a major overhaul and near completion of our mobile banking app to provide state-of-the-art services to our customers. Al Sumait said, "Both our corporate and retail portfolios have grown significantly and are closely monitored using real-time data analytics."

He added, "Looking forward, ABK is well-prepared to capitalize on emerging growth opportunities by leveraging its financial robustness and customer-centric strategies. We remain committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance and transparency, aiming for a positive outcome by the end of 2024."

Financial Indicators

On his part, Soonawalla disclosed, "Our Operating Income has grown by 11%, amounting to KD150.8 million, while Operating Profit increased by 13% to KD80.6 million. After the successful issuance of Tier 1 perpetual bonds (AT1) of USD 300 million, our Capital Adequacy Ratio has strengthened to 17%, comfortably above the regulatory benchmarks."

In terms of asset quality, he was pleased to report, "Our



Abdulla Al Sumait – Acting Group Chief Executive Officer

■ **Abdulla Al Sumait:** Our adaptability to the evolving economic landscape is reflected in our successful strategic execution.



Shiamak Soonawalla – Group Chief Finance Officer

■ **Shiamak Soonawalla:** The 9 months of 2024 have been marked by significant enhancements in profitability, operational efficiency, asset quality, and capital strength.



Abdulaziz Jawad – Chief Strategy Officer

■ **Abdulaziz Jawad:** As we move through the remainder of 2024, we will continue to approach the execution of ABK's strategy with determination.

the same period in 2023."

For the first nine months of 2024, the Group has achieved KD 108 million in Net Interest Income, marking a 7% rise of KD 6.7 million in comparison to the same period in 2023. This growth is largely driven by increased asset levels and loan volumes.

Shifting to the Group's Total Assets, Soonawalla said, "These have grown by 13%, reaching KD7.1 billion, while our loan book has grown YoY by 6%, from KD4.3 billion to KD4.6 billion. Furthermore, Total Deposits stand at KD4.3 billion, making up 68% of our Total Liabilities. In terms of liquidity, we are well positioned with a Net Stable Funding Ratio of 116% and a Liquidity Coverage Ratio of 378%, both well above regulatory requirements."

Furthermore, Operating profit increased by 13% YoY driven by improved margins and higher non-interest income. The major contributions to our operating income of KD 150.8 million for the 9-month period came from Corporate Banking (46%), Retail Banking (39%) and Treasury operations (15%). Our asset allocation shows 56% in Commercial Banking, 12% in Retail, and 32% in Treasury.

Soonawalla clarified, "Fees and commissions have significantly contributed to our operating income, growing by 15% from last year to KD 29 million during the first nine months in 2024. These are broadly diversified across various regions and business sectors, arising primarily from core banking operations. Moreover, our cost-to-income ratio has improved to 46.6% from 47.6% last year, emphasizing our ongoing commitment to cost optimization and efficiency."

He concluded, "The 9 months of 2024 have been marked by significant enhancements in profitability, operational efficiency, asset quality, and capital strength. We remain optimistic about continuing this positive trajectory throughout the remainder of the year."

A Positive Impact

Moving on to Jawad, he stated, "Despite the global and regional challenging conditions over the last period, ABK has impressively grown its profitability and balance sheet size whilst maintaining its asset quality. ABK's organic growth strategy remains focused on its key pillars of targeting youth and high-value customers on the corporate and retail banking fronts, whilst optimizing our operating model. In parallel, ABK Group is selectively exploring and assessing different inorganic growth avenues and opportunities."

He highlighted, "As we move forward, our dedication to creating long-term value for our shareholders remains steadfast at ABK. We are strategically investing in our future while maintaining a prudent approach to risk management, which has earned us strong credit ratings of 'A2' and 'A' from Moody's and Fitch respectively."

Furthermore, Jawad stated that ABK is honored to have received six distinguished awards from the esteemed Global Finance institution in 2024. This is in addition to ABK-Egypt being named Best Retail Bank in Egypt at the Banking Excellence Awards ceremony organized by MEED this year, which reflects ABK-Egypt's commitment to realizing its long-term vision, thereby establishing a prominent and distinguished position within the banking sector in Egypt.

Reflecting on the commitment to sustainability across the Group, he disclosed, "We have recently published ABK-Egypt's first annual Sustainability Report and Carbon Footprint Report for 2023, adhering to GRI standards."

Jawad also shed light that from a strategy standpoint, ABK-UAE has achieved significant milestones, most notably launching the corporate service desk to streamline operations and enhance client experience. On the consumer-banking front, ABK enhanced our UAE mortgage product by extending financing against cash collateral, which broadens our customer base and meets short-term cash flow needs. He said,

"Our special mortgage rate program is in the final development stage and is expected to boost UAE mortgage growth, hand in hand with a new personal loan product that is set to roll out soon, diversifying our consumer banking offerings."

Furthermore, Jawad shared that global economic growth is forecasted to remain stable at 3.2% according to the latest IMF report in October. He continued, "From a monetary perspective, the Central Bank of Kuwait has reduced the discount rate by 25 basis points from 4.25% to 4% effective September 19, 2024, which was in parallel to the Federal Reserve's (Fed) implementation of a 50-basis points rate cut."

He explained that the geopolitical and macroeconomic landscapes for the region have been fluid with a lot of volatility over the past 12 months, which have, and continue to have, an impact on oil prices and GCC economies. In the GCC region, market performance has shown encouraging economic progress, characterized by strong non-oil growth, despite ongoing uncertainties and fluctuations in oil prices.

He added that whilst Kuwait's economic activities were subjected to subdued growth over the last period, the IMF projects a rebound of 2.8% GDP growth in 2025 with activity expected to increase in the energy, water, and construction sectors. Such outlook will have positive effects on the banking sector as a whole, and ABK in particular.

Finally, transitioning to ABK's international footprint and starting with Egypt, he disclosed "The IMF Executive Board completed the third review of Egypt's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement in July 2024, noting that Egypt's recent reform efforts have shown positive results and are yielding improvements in macroeconomic stability."

Concluding his statement, Jawad affirmed, "As we move through the remainder of 2024, we will continue to approach the execution of ABK's strategy with determination, ensuring we pave a successful way for our full-year results."



Loan Loss Coverage Ratio is also impressive at 467%, reflecting our prudent provision strategies and solid credit practices. Additionally, as of September 2024, our provisions exceed IFRS requirements by KD226 million, providing a substantial buffer against potential risks."

Soonawalla affirmed, "Profitability continues to be a priority, as indicated by our Net Interest Margin at 2.2%, an improvement from 2.1% in the previous year. Moreover, our Operating Profit to Average Assets Ratio increased by 11 basis points to 1.61%. These figures highlight the Group's strong performance. Additionally, our Return on Average Equity has risen to 8.4%, an impressive 35% increase from

'Exploring investment opportunities to bridge current challenges with future possibilities,' says company's Group CEO

KIPCO participates in Future Investment Initiative meetings in Riyadh

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – and its Group companies participated in the eighth edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII8), held in Riyadh from October 29 to 31. The delegation, headed by KIPCO Group CEO, Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, included board members and senior executives from Burgan Bank, Kamco Invest, United Real Estate and Advanced Technology Company.

FII8 is taking place under the Royal Patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and is themed 'Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow'. The discussions focused on how investment can serve as a catalyst for a prosperous and sustainable future, pushing the boundaries of what is possible for humanity. Commenting on this occasion, Sheikha Dana Naser Al Sabah said: "We are delighted to be taking part in the FII meetings once again this year. With KIPCO's diverse businesses, it is important for us to be part of discussions that bring together global leaders and decision makers to explore investment opportunities, backed by facts and actionable strategies, in order to bridge current challenges with future possibilities. We believe that such forums are crucial in shaping the future of the region's economic landscape."

Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – KIPCO – is a holding company that invests in the Middle East and North Africa. Its strategy of acquiring, building, scaling and selling companies in the MENA region has worked successfully for over 30 years.

KIPCO's main business sectors are financial services, food, petrochemicals & oil services, media, real estate and education. It's financial service interests include commercial banking, asset management and investment banking.



KIPCO Group CEO, Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah (center) with representatives of Burgan Bank, Kamco Invest and Kamco Invest Saudi on the sidelines of FII8. From right: Mohammed Al Faris, CEO of Kamco Invest Saudi; Meshari Shehab, GM-Private Banking & Wealth Management at Burgan Bank; Essam Al Thukair, Board Member of Kamco Invest Saudi; Ms Dalal Al Shaye, Senior VP-Alternative Investments at Kamco Invest; Ms Sana Al Hadlaq, Senior Executive Director-Wealth Management at Kamco Invest; Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO Group CEO; Mufareh Al Shehri, Chairman of Kamco Invest Saudi; Faisal Sarkhou, Vice Chair of Burgan Bank & CEO of Kamco Invest; Fahad Al Sharekh, Vice Chair of Kamco Invest Saudi; Ms Ghada Khalaf, Group Senior VP-Investments at KIPCO.

US employers added just 12,000 jobs last month, unemployment rate remained at 4.1%

WASHINGTON, Nov 2, (AP): America's employers added just 12,000 jobs in October, a total that economists say was held down by the effects of strikes and hurricanes that left many workers temporarily off payrolls. The report provided a somewhat blurry view of the job market at the end of a presidential race that has pivoted heavily on voters' feelings about the economy.

Last month's hiring gain was down significantly from the 223,000 jobs that were added in September. But economists have estimated that Hurricanes Helene and Milton, combined with strikes at Boeing and elsewhere, had the effect of pushing down net job growth by tens of thousands of jobs in October.

Friday's report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate remained at 4.1% last month.

The low jobless rate suggests that the labor market is still fundamentally healthy, if not as robust as it was early this year. Combined with an inflation rate that has tumbled from its 2022 peak to near pre-pandemic levels, the overall economy appears to be on solid footing on the eve of Election Day. The government did not estimate how many jobs were likely removed temporarily from payrolls last month. But

economists have said they think the storms and strikes caused up to 100,000 jobs to be dropped. Reflecting the impact of the strikes, factories shed 46,000 positions in October.

In a cautionary sign for future hiring, though, temporary job placement firms lost 49,000 jobs last month. Companies often take on temporary workers before committing to full-time employees.

Event celebrates cultural bridges between Kuwait and Italy through art

Italian Ambassador hosts 'Dawn of Peace' by Kuwaiti artist Fareed Abdal

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: On November 4, at 19:00 hours, the residence of the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Lorenzo Morini, will host a remarkable event showcasing the work of renowned Kuwaiti artist Fareed Abdal.

This event 'Dawn of Peace', a unique fusion of Arabic artistic calligraphy and Italian contemporary writing instruments, is part of a series of diverse cultural activities - 'A Journey into Italian Creativity' festival, showcasing Italian excellence in art, fashion, design, and culture -- that are happening from Oct 28 to Nov 5 to commemorate Italy's Unity and Armed Forces Day, observed annually on Nov 4.

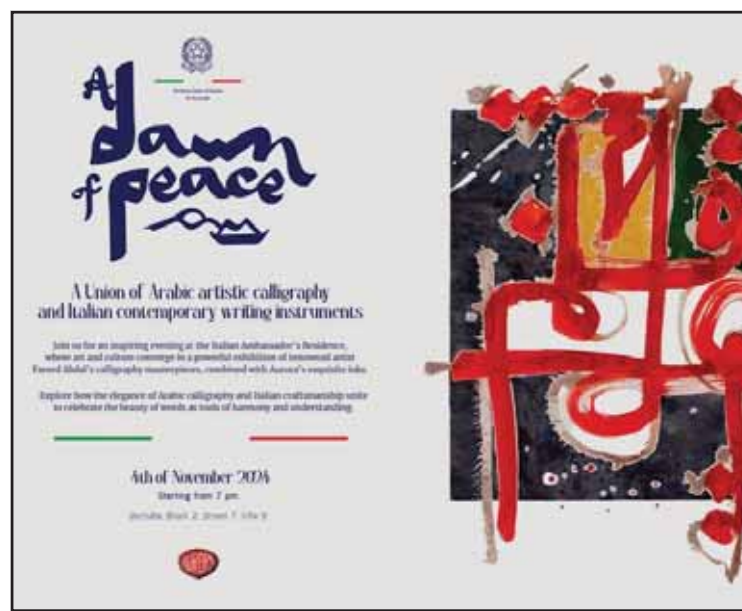
The exhibition aims to celebrate and highlight a creative collaboration that embodies the rich cultural connections between Kuwait and Italy.

Fareed Abdal will unveil a special piece crafted using vibrant inks from the esteemed Italian company Aurora, known for its prestigious and successful manufacturing of pens and inks.

The choice of Aurora's inks not only underscores the quality and craftsmanship inherent in Italian artistry but also reflects a deep appreciation for the art of writing, which is integral to both cultures.

This collaboration symbolizes a powerful bridge between two distinct yet complementary artistic traditions.

The blend of Kuwaiti calligraphy, renowned for its intricate designs and



'Dawn of Peace' event

historical significance, with the contemporary flair of Italian writing instruments, represents a renewed commitment to strengthening the friendship between Kuwait and Italy.

Such initiatives foster cultural exchange and mutual understanding, essential components in today's globalized world.

In these challenging times, the significance of language and calligraphy cannot be overstated. Words serve as vital instruments for building connections between nations and finding peaceful solutions to conflicts and disputes.

Fareed Abdal's works encapsulate a message of peace and understanding, promoting dialogue through the beauty of calligraphy. The choice of Aurora as a partner is particularly meaningful; the company's name evokes the first light of dawn, symbolizing hope and new beginnings.

The union of Arabic calligraphy and Italian craftsmanship in this exhibition conveys a powerful message of optimism for a brighter future. It invites viewers to reflect on the potential for artistic expression to transcend boundaries, fostering a spirit of cooperation and harmony in a world often divided by differences.

This event is more than just an art exhibition; it is a celebration of culture, friendship, and the enduring power of words to inspire change and promote peace.

The collaboration between Fareed Abdal and Aurora stands as a testament to the potential of art to unite, inspire, and illuminate the path toward a new era of understanding and collaboration among nations.

Industry insights shared at 'Leaders of Tomorrow' event

AU hosts 'Leaders of Tomorrow' event with GPCA Youth Council

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Australian University (AU) proudly hosted the Leaders of Tomorrow initiative, organized with the GPCA Youth Council, reinforcing the great partnership established through the Memorandum of Understanding between AU and GPCA. The event provided AU students with valuable learning experience, equipping them with essential tools to shape a sustainable future in the industry.

Dr. Jean El Achkar, Assistant Professor of Petroleum Engineering at AU, began the program with a presentation showcasing the collaborative journey between GPCA and AU, highlighting the milestones achieved through this partnership. Following the introduction, the event was split into three sessions with multiple speakers giving attendees insight into industry and offering practical advice on transitioning from university to the corporate environment.

The master of coronations for the event was Ms. Dalal Al Hooli from GPCA, and the first session speakers were Ms. Dima Hourani and Ms. Anwar Al Awadhi from GPCA. The second session was presented by Mr. Fadi Matar from Dow Chemical Company. As for the third session, it was presented by Mr. Meshari Al Ahmad from the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC). At the end, a brief presentation was given by Ms. Aastha Govil which highlighted GPCA's activities and invited students to join the



Photo from the 'Leaders of Tomorrow' event.

GPCA Leaders of Tomorrow Program in Muscat in December 2024.

Throughout the event, there were lively question and answer sessions,

where students actively engaged with the speaker's exchanging questions and ideas about the chemical industry and the future of their careers.

The event concluded with certificates of appreciation distribution for the speakers' contributions and the GPCA Youth Council.

Health scare drives exploration of work-life balance & wellness

By Cathy Bussewitz

The moment I knew I had to get serious about work-life balance came without warning. I was writing a high-profile news story during the pandemic when my heart began pounding like a jackhammer.

I took a quick, deep breath and held it, hoping to calm the arrhythmia. It was a technique I'd learned to relieve occasional palpitations caused by my rare congenital heart defect. But this time was different. The room went dark. I couldn't see. Then, just as quickly, my vision returned.

In the days that followed, I learned I needed to have a defibrillator surgically implanted as soon as possible. My cardiologist told me: it's time to reduce stress. That was a prescription I, like many Americans, didn't know how to fill, especially as the parent of a young child.

But the health scare and a cancer diagnosis that followed meant I had to try. Now, as I continue this journey, I'm launching a series called "Working Well." While exploring ways to improve my own well-being at work, I'll share experts' insights and tips with readers who hope to do the same.

We've been through a lot the past few years: A global pandemic took loved ones' lives and left parents juggling full-time jobs with no childcare. College graduates navigated their first professional jobs without lunch buddies or in-person mentors. Elections and wars divided families and places of work. It's no surprise workers feel burned-out.

But along with these challenges came a growing sense that we could choose to build our professional lives in a different, healthier way. Companies experimented with hybrid work models. Younger generations talked more proactively about mental health. Employers looking to retain workers launched in-house yoga and stress-reduction programs.

The Associated Press wants to contribute to the conversation about workplace wellness. In the coming months, we plan to interview doctors, therapists, executives and coaches about the changes they recommend or have made to improve employees' lives - ones you may want to consider, too.

The topic is personal for me. After I received my defibrillator, I took steps to find that elusive work-life balance. I experimented with a four-day workweek. That helped me find time to exercise, cook healthy meals and occasionally pause.

Just as I was getting into a groove, a routine mammogram revealed breast cancer. There would be surgery. I was given frightening handouts and bluntly told about procedures that would make me feel like a piece of meat.

There would be months of chemotherapy. Thirty rounds of radiation. My heart condition complicated every treatment plan.

With the life-threatening diagnosis also came lessons in healing. For the first time in my life, I was forced to slow down enough that I could listen to my body. When I was tired in the afternoon, instead of having chocolate or coffee, I took a nap. I timed my chemotherapy appointments so I'd be well enough to walk to the bus stop on my son's first day of kindergarten, celebrate his birthday and walk house-to-house on Halloween.

My oncologist encouraged me to exercise through chemotherapy. I swam laps at the town pool, under the green leaves of the oak trees, swapping my wig or turban for a swim cap discreetly. I tried yin yoga. I took walks. When I felt lightheaded, I rested. When I felt stronger, I rode on my stationary bike and did crunches.

I began acupuncture. I finally tried meditation. I learned that for this disease, unlike with my heart condition, there was a raft of support networks available. Social workers contacted me at every turn.

At one point I had three therapists. One taught me a calming technique that I used on the way to my PET scan. In the car, inching through thick traffic with my husband driving, I began feeling dizzy, my fingers tingling, as I imagined the radiologist finding inoperable tumors all over my body. I remembered the therapist's advice: Name five things you can see. Four things you can hear. Three things you can feel. Two things you can smell. One thing you can taste. I tried it. The panic subsided.

Eventually, my body healed enough that I could return to work. But I was altered. I still had brain fog and fatigue, side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. How would I perform? Was it possible to maintain my health and thrive in my career?

Coming back, I wanted to continue the wellness habits that cancer, after thrusting me off the track that had been my life, gave me the time to begin. Writing stories that help others, including this series, is a way to do that.

In Working Well, I'll share stories about inspiring workers who have overcome challenges and actively improved their health. I'll tackle topics from how to negotiate a new schedule to navigating the workplace with health challenges.

I want to hear your experiences as well. Have you surmounted a big obstacle at work? Adopted new habits? Found balance, or not, as a working parent? Share your stories and questions about workplace wellness at cbussewitz@ap.org. Together, let's be well at work.



Discover the essentials of work-life balance in this infographic, showcasing practical tips and strategies for achieving harmony between your professional and personal life. (AP)

The Conversation

Research reveals dynamics of online rumor spread

Election integrity organizations recruit volunteers amid concerns

By Kate Starbird

University of Washington

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

On Sept. 20, 2024, a newspaper in Montana reported an issue with ballots provided to overseas voters registered in the state: Kamala Harris was not on the ballot. Election officials were able to quickly remedy the problem but not before accusations began to spread online, primarily among Democrats, that the Republican secretary of state had purposefully left Harris off the ballot.

This false rumor emerged from a common pattern: Some people view evidence such as good-faith errors in election administration through a mindset of elections being untrustworthy or "rigged," leading them to misinterpret that evidence.

As the U.S. approaches another high-stakes and contentious election, concerns about the pervasive spread of falsehoods about election integrity are again front of mind. Some election experts worry that false claims may be mobilized - as they were in 2020 - into efforts to contest the election through tactics such as lawsuits, protests, disruptions to vote-counting and pressure on election officials to not certify the election.

Our team at the University of Washington has studied online rumors and misinformation for more than a decade. Since 2020, we have focused on rapid analysis of falsehoods about U.S. election administration, from sincere confusion about when and where to vote to intentional efforts to sow distrust in the process. Our motivations are to help quickly identify emerging rumors about election administration and analyze the dynamics of how these rumors take shape and spread online.

Through the course of this research we have learned that despite all the discussion about misinformation being a problem of bad facts, most misleading election rumors stem not from false or manipulated evidence but from misinterpretations and mischaracterizations. In other words, the problem is not just about bad facts but also faulty frames, or the mental structures people rely on to interpret those facts.

Misinformation may not be the best label for addressing the problem - it's

more an issue of how people make sense of the world, how that sensemaking process is shaped by social, political and informational dynamics, and how it begets rumors that can lead people to a false understanding of events.

There is a long history of research on rumors going back to World War II and earlier. From this perspective, rumors are unverified stories, spreading through informal channels that serve informational, psychological and social purposes. We are applying this knowledge to the study of online falsehoods.

Though many rumors are false, some turn out to be true or partially true. Even when false, rumors can contain useful indications of real confusions or fears within a community.

Rumors can be seen as a natural by-product of collective sensemaking - that is, efforts by groups of well-meaning people to make sense of uncertain and ambiguous information during dynamic events. But rumors can also emerge from propaganda and disinformation campaigns that lead people to misinterpret or mischaracterize their own and others' experiences.

Prior research describes collective sensemaking as a process of interactions between evidence and frames. Evidence includes the things people see, read and hear in the world. Frames are mental schemas that shape how people interpret that evidence.

The relationship between evidence and frames flows in two directions. When people encounter novel events or new evidence, they try to select the best frame from their mental filing cabinets. The selected frame then determines what evidence they focus on and what evidence they exclude in their interpretations. This evidence-frame view of collective sensemaking can help researchers understand rumors and disinformation.

Everyone has their own ways of interpreting events based on their unique experiences. But your frames are not yours alone. Frames are shaped, sometimes intentionally, by information from media, political leaders, communities, colleagues, friends, neighbors and family. Framing - the process of using, building, reinforcing, adapting, challenging and updating frames - can be a deliberate strategy of political communication.

Frames play a role in generating rumors, shaping how people interpret emerging events and novel evidence. False rumors occur when sensemaking goes awry, often due to people focusing on the wrong piece of evidence or apply-

ing the wrong frame. And disinformation, from this perspective, is the intentional manipulation of the sensemaking process, either by introducing false evidence or distorting the frames through which people interpret that evidence.

In 2020, we saw these dynamics at work in a rumor about Sharpie pens in Arizona. In the lead-up to the election, President Donald Trump and his allies repeatedly alleged that the election would be rigged - setting a powerful frame for his followers. When voters noted that the Sharpie pens provided by election officials were bleeding through their ballots, many interpreted their experiences through the frame of a "rigged election" and became concerned that their ballots would not be counted.

Some people shared those experiences online, where they were soon amplified and given meaning by others, including online influencers. Concerns and suspicions grew. Soon, members of Trump's family were repeating false claims that the bleed-through was systematically disenfranchising Republican voters. The effect was circular and mutually reinforcing. The strategic frame inspired misinterpretations of evidence - real bleed-through falsely seen as affecting ballot counting - that were shared and amplified, strengthening the frame.

Collective sensemaking is increasingly taking place online, where it is profoundly shaped by social media platforms, from features such as repost and like buttons to algorithmic recommendations to the connections between accounts.

Not so long ago, many people hoped that the internet would democratize information flows by removing the historical gatekeepers of information and disrupting their ability to set the agenda - and the frames - of conversation. But the gatekeepers have not been erased; they have been replaced. A group of newsbroking influencers have taken their place, in part by gaming the ways online systems manipulate attention.

Many of these influencers work by systematically seeking out and amplifying content that aligns with prevailing political frames set by elites in politics and media. This gives creators the incentive to produce content that resonates with those frames, because that content tends to be rewarded with attention, the primary commodity of social media.

These dynamics were at work in February 2024, when an aspiring creator produced a man-on-the-street video interviewing migrants to the U.S. that was

selectively edited and captioned to falsely claim to show undocumented migrants planning to vote illegally in U.S. elections. This resonated with two prominent frames: the same rigged-election frame from 2020 and another that framed immigration as harmful to the U.S.

The video was shared across multiple platforms and exploded in views after being amplified by a series of accounts with large followings on X, formerly Twitter. X CEO Elon Musk commented with an exclamation point on one post with the embedded video. The creator soon found himself on Fox News. He currently has hundreds of thousands of followers on TikTok and Instagram and continues to produce similar content.

Interactions between influencers and online audiences result in content that fits strategic frames. Emerging events provide new evidence that people can twist to fit prevailing frames, both intentionally and unintentionally. Rumors are the by-products of this process, and online attention dynamics fuel their spread.

Heading into the 2024 election, false and misleading claims about election integrity remain widespread. Our team has tracked more than 100 distinct rumors since the beginning of September. The machinery for quickly converting perceived evidence from elections into widely shared rumors and conspiracy theories is increasingly well oiled.

One concerning development is an increase in so-called election integrity organizations that seek to recruit volunteers who share the rigged-election frame. The groups aim to provide volunteers with tools to streamline the collection and amplification of evidence to support the rigged-election frame.

One worry is that these volunteers may misinterpret what they see and hear on Election Day, generating additional rumors and false claims about election integrity that reinforce that increasingly distorted frame. Another is that these false claims will feed lawsuits and other attempts to contest election results.

However, we hope that by shedding light on some of these dynamics, we can help researchers, journalists, election officials and other decision-makers better diagnose and respond to rumors about election integrity in this cycle. Most importantly, we believe that this collective sensemaking lens can help us all to both empathize with well-meaning people who get caught up in sharing false rumors and see how propagandists manipulate these processes for their gain. (AP)

Not just for summer

'Brat' Collins Dictionary's word of the year



Charli XCX attends the WSJ Magazine Innovators Awards at the Museum of Modern Art on Oct. 29, 2024, in New York. (AP)

LONDON, Nov 2, (AP) Collins Dictionary has declared "brat" - the album title that became a summer-living ideal - its 2024 word of the year.

The word, used by singer Charli XCX as the title of her sixth studio album, has been defined as "characterized by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude."

Collins lexicographers said on Friday that in the phrase "brat summer," it became "one of the most talked about words of 2024."

"More than a hugely successful album, 'brat' is a cultural phenomenon that has resonated with people globally, and 'brat summer' established itself as an aesthetic and a way of life," the dictionary said.

Collins experts monitor their 20-billion-word database to create the annual list of new and notable words that reflect the ever-evolving English language.

Other new and notable words for 2024 include "era," in the sense of "a period of one's life or career that is of a distinctive character." It's inspired by Taylor Swift's world-conquering Eras tour.

Other notable neologisms among the dictionary's word-of-the-year finalists include the growing movement against mass tourism, "anti-tourism"; "delulu," meaning utterly mistaken or unrealistic in one's ideas or expectations; and "rawdogging," taking a long-haul flight with no devices or distractions.

"With many of this year's notable words being popularized by generations Z and Alpha, we can confidently say this is the most 'brat' Word of the Year list ever," said Collins managing director Alex Beecroft.

Tina Knowles to tell her story in a new memoir 'Matriarch'

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP) Tina Knowles will have a memoir out next spring with a title that will not surprise her many admirers.

The fashion designer and mother of Beyoncé, Solange Knowles and "bonus daughter" Kelly Rowland has a deal with Random House Publishing Group for "Matriarch," which the publisher is calling, in part, the story of "a determined, self-possessed, self-aware, and wise woman who raised and inspired some of the great artists of our time."

The book is scheduled for April 22. "I have always been a storyteller, and it's something I learned

from my mother," Tina Knowles said in a statement Tuesday. "When I had a family of my own, I believed that my daughters needed to know where they came from to know where they were going."

"I am calling this book 'Matriarch' because what inspires me is the wisdom that women pass on to each other, generation to generation - and the inner wisdom we long to uncover in ourselves. Even at 70 I am still learning valuable lessons - that I would have had at 40 or even 20. So, I have decided to tell my story, because I know what it means to me and my daughters and future generations of women."

Tina Knowles was recently honored as one of Glamour's Women of the Year, with Beyoncé among those in attendance at the New York City ceremony. "Matriarch" will be released through Random House's One World imprint, where other authors include Ta-Nehisi Coates, Trevor Noah and Cathy Park Hong.



Knowles

People

Film

A free man

Young Thug pleads guilty

ATLANTA, Nov 2, (AP) Rapper Young Thug pleaded guilty Thursday in Atlanta to gang, drug and gun charges and will be released from jail, though he could be put back behind bars if he violates the terms of his sentence.

The 33-year-old Grammy-winning artist, whose given name is Jeffery Williams, entered his pleas without reaching a deal with prosecutors after negotiations between the two sides broke down, lead prosecutor Adriane Love said. That left the sentence completely up to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Paige Reese Whitaker.

Young Thug's plea comes two and a half years after he was arrested and charged and nearly a year after the prosecution started presenting evidence in the problem-plagued trial. Jury selection at the courthouse in Atlanta began in January 2023 and took nearly 10 months. Prosecutors have called dozens of witnesses since opening statements last November in the trial of six defendants.

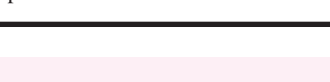
The trial has faced many delays, including in July when the original judge was removed after two defendants sought his recusal, citing a meeting the judge held with prosecutors and a state witness.

Young Thug pleaded guilty to one gang charge, three drug charges and two gun charges. He also entered a no contest plea to another gang charge and a racketeering conspiracy charge, meaning that he decided not to contest those charges but can be punished for them as if he had pleaded guilty.

The judge imposed a sentence of 40 years with the first five to be served in prison but commuted to time served, followed by 15 years on probation. If he successfully completes that probation without any violations, another 20 years will be commuted to time served. But if he violates the conditions, he will have to serve those 20 years in addition to any penalty for a probation violation.

Young Thug must stay away from the metro Atlanta area for the first 10 years of his probation, except for weddings, funerals, graduations or serious illness of family members, the judge said.

But she also ordered him to return to the Atlanta area four times a year during his probation to make a live anti-gang, anti-violence presentation at a school or a community organization serving children. She said that can count toward the 100 hours of community service she ordered him to perform each year during probation.



Young Thug



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Elliott Heffernan, (left), and Saoirse Ronan in a scene from 'Blitz.' (AP)

McQueen's film reveals the human cost of war

WWII drama 'Blitz' breaks convention

LOS ANGELES, Nov 2, (AP) "Blitz," set in London during World War II, might technically be Steve McQueen's first war movie. But struggle and survival has long marked the filmmaker's tough and tortured work.

No matter the circumstance - slavery in "12 Years a Slave," the 1960s-1980s London of "Grenfell" captured the aftermath of the tragic Grenfell Tower blaze. Last year's "Occupied City" compared present-day street addresses in Amsterdam to what happened in those precise locations during the Nazi occupation of WWII.

In that film, McQueen juxtaposed past and present, death and life, and some of the same collisions are found in the 1940-set "Blitz," which opened Friday in theaters and streams Nov. 22 on Apple TV+. It's told largely from the perspective of a 9-year-old boy, George (Elliott Heffernan), whose single mother, Rita (a steely Saoirse Ronan), has made the an-

guished decision to send him to the countryside with thousands of other schoolchildren fleeing the Blitz.

A year into the war, the bombing is already intense, and so is the questionable nature of how some are responding to the omnipresent danger and the loosening of order. The film opens in a fiery blaze as firefighters wrestle with an out-of-control hose, and a mass of people rush toward the underground to take cover from the bombers overhead. Outside the station, the gates are locked, and the nearby police refuse to open them. It's an early hint that McQueen's treatment of the war will be more complicated and unsparring than the average WWII drama.

"Blitz" properly gets underway once Rita leaves George at the train station. The parting is bitter ("I hate you," George says on the platform) only because their bond is so evidently strong. It's not long once aboard the train that George sees a chance to flee and hops off. "Blitz" proceeds as George's odyssey in trying to get home.

Adventurous

It's an awkwardly condensed tale - the film takes place over one day but feels like a lifetime - that clunkily cuts between George and Rita. "Blitz" feels stuck between a conventional war drama and something more adventurous and probing. It doesn't coalesce the way Mc-

Queen's best work does, but the frictions that drive "Blitz" make it a singular and sporadically moving experience.

A representative sequence happens early in the film. George, who's Black and surely feels some growing anxiety leaving London, climbs into a passing train only to find three young brothers are also stowaways there. After a tense moment, they find camaraderie together. Riding atop the train, they seem almost carefree. But moments later, when they're fleeing authorities at the trainyard, one of the boys is killed in an instant by a moving train.

Throughout, "Blitz" toggles between moments of tenderness and violence, a back and forth that McQueen suggests isn't just part of wartime. Following the trainyard moment, the film slides into a flashback of Rita and George's otherwise unseen Grenadian immigrant father, Marcus (CJ Beckford). On their way home from a joyous night dancing at a jazz club, a man intentionally bumps into Marcus. In the ensuing tussle Marcus is arrested, and later, swiftly deported. In an instant, cruelty and racism can wreck a life just as surely as a Nazi bomb from above.

The film stays close to George as he makes his way closer to home in Stepney Green in the East End. "Blitz" is far less concerned with the aerial bombardment above than the festering prejudices

and injustices on the ground. In the movie's most Dickens-esque sequence, George is taken in, and held prisoner, by a Fagin-like criminal (Stephen Graham) whose band of thieves steal from the dead and plunder freshly bombed-out flats. There are chillingly ghostly sequences, most of all one set in the Café de Paris. One moment it's a teaming, multiracial jazz club, the next - as captured in one sweeping, grotesque shot by Yorick Le Saux - it's a bloody ruin.

There are moments of uplift, or at least temporary relief. One comes when Rita, who works in a munitions factory with a Rosie the Riveter headscarf, sings for a BBC radio program from the factory floor. Once Rita learns that George is lost, there's an ill-fitting side plot of her feuding with an unsympathetic boss, arguing with those in charge of the evacuation and her attempting to find George with the help of a police officer (Harris Dickinson, in a role too vague to resonate).

Again and again we see, though, that going against a tide of indifference takes the conviction and courage of individuals. That includes the activist Mikey Davies (Leigh Gill), who makes a stirring speech in a shelter. And, most of all, it includes a Nigerian ARP warden (Benjamin Clémentine), who George meets outside a store advertising coffee and sugar from Africa with caricatures of Black faces.

Variety

WEST STOCKBRIDGE, Mass.: This year's Rockefeller Center Christmas tree comes with a strong New England accent, and locals could not be more excited.

The Norway spruce that will travel to New York City hails from West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. It was scheduled to be cut down Thursday and make the roughly 140-mile (225-kilometer) journey south, arriving Nov. 9 in midtown Manhattan.

The tree will be lit during a live TV broadcast on Dec. 4, featuring 50,000 multi-colored lights with a Swarovski star on top and remain on display until mid-January.

Local residents were flocking to the tree

this week, which was planted 67 years ago in honor of the homeowner's nieces and several workers could be seen high up in the 11-ton (9.97-metric ton) tree, tying up its branches for a trip down south.

It is the first Rockefeller Center Christmas tree to come from Massachusetts since 1959.

"There's a lot of people coming to town that are interested in this. So people are at the house taking pictures and excited about it," said Bernie Fallon, a resident of West Stockbridge, a town of 1,400 in western Massachusetts. "The talk of the town, local gossip and conversation is quite high." (AP)

NEW YORK: Heidi Klum and Janelle Monáe opted for out-of-this-world Halloween costumes this year - both choosing to dress as the

stubby alien E.T. for their parties on opposite coasts.

While the similar costumes will likely spark "who wore it best" debates that are popular in celebrity magazines, the stars chose different interpretations of the creature from Steven Spielberg's 1982 classic, "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial."

Klum's husband Tom Kaulitz dressed as E.T., while the model and television personality came as E.T. similar to how the alien looked after being dressed up by Drew Barrymore's character in the



Klum

movie, complete with a blonde wig and round hat. The costume featured animatronic eyes, a long neck, a blonde wig and a long index finger that lit up, just like the movie version.

Monáe told People magazine that she'd been planning the costume for two years, and appeared in two different versions Thursday night. (AP)

BERLIN: A noted Belarusian film director and dissident who was held in Serbia for a year while Belarus sought his extradition has been released and gone to Germany.

Andrej Hniot told The Associated Press that Serbian authorities released him from house arrest on Thursday, exactly a year after he was detained. Under Serbian law, pre-extradition detention cannot exceed one year,

said his lawyer Filip Sofjanic.

Belarus issued an international warrant for Hniot on charges of tax evasion, which he claims are false.

Hniot is a noted critic of Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko. He participated in the huge protests that gripped the country in 2020 following a presidential election whose disputed results gave Lukashenko a sixth term in office.

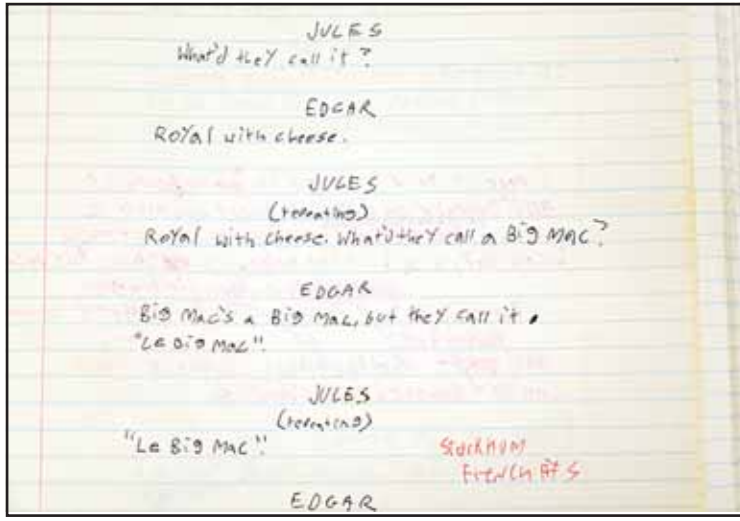
Authorities launched an extensive and harsh crackdown on opposition amid the protests, which continues to the present day. More than 65,000 people were arrested for protesting or other opposition activity. The country's most prominent opposition figures are now imprisoned or have fled the country. (AP)

Hniot said he was able to leave Serbia without problems. (AP)

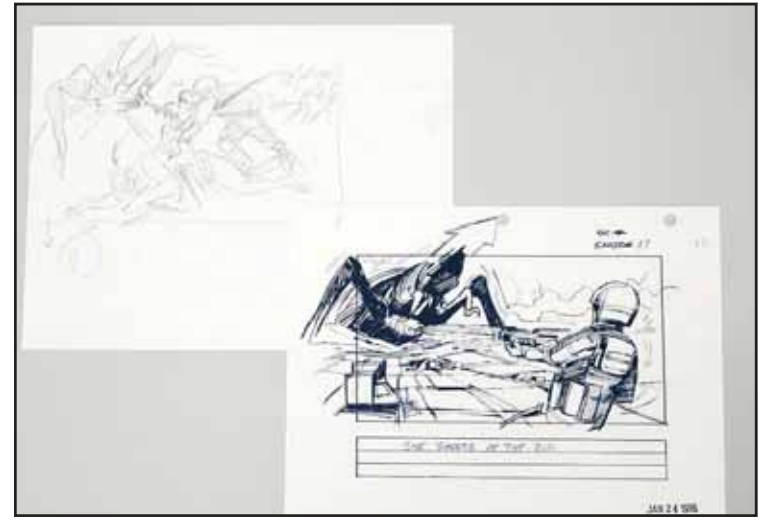
NEWS/FEATURES



A collection of hair pins and combs from the 1993 film 'The Age of Innocence.' (AP)



A page from writer/director Quentin Tarantino's handwritten script draft for his 1994 film 'Pulp Fiction' is pictured on, Oct. 29, 2024, at the Pickford Center for Motion Picture Study in Los Angeles. (AP)



Original drawings and storyboards for director Paul Verhoeven's 1997 film 'Starship Troopers' are pictured on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024. (AP)

Tarantino donates legendary script

Academy adds 'Pulp Fiction' script, Miyazaki art to collection

LOS ANGELES, Nov 2, (AP): No one knew what Quentin Tarantino had in the duffel bag. He and many other A-listers were gathered recently at the Academy Museum in Los Angeles for its glitzy annual fundraising gala. Tarantino was among the honorees. And as he approached the podium to make his speech, the bag did not go unnoticed. At the very least, it was unusual.

Then he opened it up and presented its contents: It was his original handwritten script for "Pulp Fiction," with mistakes, misspellings and all. He was giving it to the museum. "The script is legendary," said Matt Severson, the executive vice president of academy collection and preservation. "No one was expecting it. This was not a coordinated effort on the part of the academy. This is Quentin thinking what can he do to make his stamp on the museum?"

It's one of many high-profile acquisitions to the Academy's vast film memorabilia collection that the organization announced Thursday, including original "Ponyo" art by Hayao Miyazaki, glasses worn by Mink Stole in "Pink Flamingos," Kurt Russell's Snake Plissken costume from "John Carpenter's Escape from L.A.," animator maquettes of Figaro and Geppetto from Disney's "Pinocchio" and six storyboards from "The Silence of the Lambs."

The organization has also acquired personal collections of filmmakers Paul Verhoeven, Barbara Kopple, Nicole Holofcener, Oliver Stone and Curtis Hanson, as well as 70mm prints of Christopher Nolan's best-picture winner "Oppenheimer," and David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Ryan's Daughter."

"We want items from the history of cinema that relate to all ages and levels of interest," Severson said. "We are preserving this global film history. And it's something that the academy has been doing since its founding in 1927."

Some are coming directly from the stars themselves: Jamie Lee Curtis gifted her tearaway dress from "True Lies," Bette Midler gave two of her ensembles from "The Rose" and Lou Diamond Phillips contributed the guitar he used as Ritchie Valens in "La Bamba." Others are through estates and private collectors. Just last year Steven Spielberg donated his collection of original, hand-drawn nitrate animation cells from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Studio Ghibli, which doesn't work with any other American museum, donated more than 80 pieces of original animation art by Miyazaki and Noboru Yoshida, as well as the studio's Japanese movie posters and an animators desk used at the studio. "To have original artwork from Miyazaki? It takes your breath away," Severson said.

The Academy Collection consists of more than 52 million items - the largest in the world - spanning the history of cinema. Not everything is on display, but components of the Academy's collection can be accessed several ways: The museum itself, the Margaret Herrick Library, the Academy Film Archive and online.

At the gala, Severson heard from the likes of Nicole Kidman, Demi Moore, Jeff Goldblum and Tarantino how passionate they are about the work the museum is doing. He was quick to point out that it all starts with the staff working to preserve and present all the items in the best way possible. That includes the film preservation team and the paper conservators who aren't just binding books but restoring photographs and posters damaged over time, as well as the team who spent an enormous amount of time bringing the belt from the 1982 film "Tron," which had partially dissolved, back to life.

"You may not be aware of the painstaking labor that goes into preserving those objects," Severson said. "It is important to pass this knowledge on to new generations of creatives and young filmmakers and artists to understand the history of the art form."

"This museum does become a platform that showcases our dynamic history and not just the history of Hollywood, but the global film industry."

Variety

NEW YORK: Jodi Picoult remembers when everyone seemed to praise her novel "Nineteen Minutes," a 2007 bestseller about a school shooting that now tops a list compiled by PEN America of the books most banned in schools.

"Not only was it recommended for young adults to read, but it was on the curriculum in schools where it's now banned," the author said during a recent telephone interview.

On Friday, PEN issued a report that expands upon numbers released in September for Banned Books Week, when libraries and stores around the country highlighted censored works. PEN compiled more than 10,000 cases of books temporarily or permanently removed during the 2023-2024 academic year, roughly four times higher than for 2021-2022. The bans affected around 4,200 individual titles, compared with around 1,600 two years ago.

More than 80% of the bans came in Iowa and Florida, states that have passed laws restricting school books. Around 4,500 were removed in Florida, and more than 3,600 in Iowa, according to PEN. (AP)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.: A Tennessee man sentenced to life in prison in the daytime ambush killing of rapper Young Dolph received an additional 35 years behind bars Friday.

Justin Johnson was convicted of first-degree murder on Sept. 26 and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole the same day by Shelby County Judge Jennifer Mitchell. On Friday, she sentenced Johnson for his two other convictions from the trial: conspiracy to commit murder and being a felon in possession of a gun.

Young Dolph, whose real name was Adolph Thornton Jr., was fatally shot in November 2021 at a Memphis bakery. Known for his works of charity in the city where he grew up, the 36-year-old rapper and independent music label owner was in Memphis to hand out Thanksgiving turkeys to families when his visit to his favorite cookie shop turned into an event that shocked the entertainment world.

Prosecutor Paul Hagerman noted during the sentencing hearing that Johnson, a 26-year-old aspiring rapper, had three aggravated assault convictions before the shooting and he had "no hesitation" to commit the murder-for-hire in a public place. Hagerman called it a "stone-cold execution" motivated by money and fame. (AP)

NEW YORK: A eclectic group of stars - including reality TV's Ariana Madix, Broadway belter Idina Menzel, hip-hop's T-Pain, members of the WNBA champions New York Liberty and country duo Dan + Shay - will feature in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Music performers The War and Treaty, Lea Salonga, Kylie Cantrall, The Temptations, Chloé, Charli D'Amelio, Jimmy Fallon & The Roots, Coco Jones, Walker Hayes, Rachel Platten, Bishop Briggs, Joey McIntyre, Natti Natasha and ballet dancers Tiler Peck and Roman Mejia, are also slated to perform. The Associated Press got the list early.

The holiday tradition will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 28 in all time zones and will be kicked off by actor Alison Brie, the "Glow" star currently starring in Peacock's "Apples Never Fall." (AP)

Music



Willie Nelson performs during a campaign rally for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, in Houston. (AP)

Singer at 91, keeps music legacy alive

Nelson shares what makes a good song

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP): Young musicians looking for longevity would be wise to follow the sensible word of Willie Nelson: Do what feels right, and if you're lucky enough to have a statue built in your honor in your city, remember that it is just something you've "got to go down and clean off the pigeon (expletive) every now and then."

On Friday, Nelson, who is 91, released "Last Leaf on the Tree," his second studio album this year - also his 76th solo studio album and 153rd album overall, according to Texas Monthly's herculean ranking his prolific discography. So how many more does he have in him? Nelson laughs into the phone. "I don't know. I hope there's a few more." Maybe he'll hit 200? "Why not?"

"Last Leaf on the Tree" is an album of firsts and familiarities; it is Nelson's first album produced entirely by his son Micah, which includes a few originals and covers from Nelson staples like Neil Young, Nina Simone and Tom Waits as well as some less-than-obvious inclusions, like reimaginings of the Flaming Lips' "Do You Realize??" and Beck's "Lost Cause."

"He's a real artist," Nelson says of his son. "He picked all the songs."

Asked how he broke the news to his producer Buddy Cannon that Micah was taking over, Nel-

son jokes, "We just surprised him."

Micah Nelson's artistic, alternative-rock sensibilities are present on the record, not only in its cover song selection by also in his delivery. For a cover of Young's "Are You Ready for the Country," for example, he used sticks and leaves for the percussion instead of traditional instrumentation. "I didn't notice anything different," Nelson laughs.

His wife, Annie Nelson, who joins Willie for the interview, adds, "He says it all the time. It's great to play with your kid. And it's even better if they're good."

After seven decades of songwriting, Nelson says the only way to identify a good one is simply, "You know it when you hear it. When you hear something and you go, 'Damn, I wish I would've wrote that,' it's a good song."

"There's no better songwriter alive than Kris Kristofferson," Nelson once said of his Highwayman bandmate at a 2009 award show tribute. Kristofferson, 88, died last month at his home on Maui, Hawaii.

Songwriter (cross head)

"He was a great songwriter. He left a lot of fantastic songs around for the rest of us to sing, for as long as we're here," he reflects. "Kris was a

great friend of mine. And, you know, we just kind of had a lot of fun together and made a lot of music together - videos, movies. I hated to lose him. That was a sad time."

In a few ways, Nelson is the last of the Outlaw Country era - though he's always experimented across genre and style. The title "Last Leaf on the Tree," taken from a cover of Waits' "Last Leaf," resonates, in a way, when he considers his contemporaries. "If you just take the music part of it and go back to, you know, Waylon (Jennings) and Kris and Johnny (Cash) and, you know, all of us working together, the Highwaymen. And then I am the only one left. And that's just not funny."

The album, too, considers love and death - topics he knows a thing or two about.

"Well, I'm 91 plus, so, you know, I'm not worried about it. I don't feel bad. I don't hurt anywhere. I don't have any reason to worry about dying. But I don't know anybody who's lived forever," he says. "I take pretty good care of myself. And I feel like I'm in pretty good shape physically. Mentally? That's another story," he says, laughing.

As for what he hopes his legacy is, he's got an answer for that, too: "I had a good time. And I did what I came here to do: make music."

People

Prosecutors react

'Lawyers want to 'hijack' case'

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP): Federal prosecutors say lawyers for Sean 'Diddy' Combs are trying to "hijack" the music mogul's criminal case from them by asking a judge to force early disclosure of evidence, including his accusers' identities.

The prosecutors urged a judge in papers filed late Wednesday to reject the requests, saying the effort to reveal the identities of prospective witnesses, in particular, was "blatantly improper."

They said it was inappropriate for defense lawyers to seek the disclosure of victim identities and details about other evidence that would preview the government's case.

Defense lawyers also have asked for a gag order to stop accusers' lawyers from commenting publicly and have claimed government leaks to the media have threatened the rapper's chance at a fair trial.

Prosecutors said the requests were "a thinly veiled attempt to restrict the Government's proof at this early stage of the case and to hijack the criminal proceeding so the defendant can respond to civil lawsuits. This demand should be squarely rejected, especially in light of the risk it poses to witness safety."



Combs



People look at screen print depicting Queen Elizabeth II, titled 'Reigning Queens,' 1985, by Andy Warhol at museum Paleis Het Loo in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, Oct. 9, 2024, similar to a Warhol work stolen from a gallery in Oisterwijk, Netherlands, early Friday, Nov. 1. (AP)

'Amateurish' thieves botch Warhol heist

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov 2, (AP): Thieves blew open the door of an art gallery in the southern Netherlands and stole two works from a famous series of screen prints by American pop artist Andy Warhol and left two more badly damaged in the street as they fled the scene of the botched heist, the gallery owner said Friday.

Mark Peet Visser said the thieves attempted to steal all four works from a 1985 Warhol series called "Reigning Queens," which features portraits of the then-queens of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark and Swaziland, a small landlocked kingdom in southern Africa which is now called Eswatini.

MrBeast probe ends with some employees fired

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP): Online video production company MrBeast said Friday it has fired somewhere between 5 to 10 employees following an investigation into the YouTube empire's workplace culture.

A company spokesman declined to put a precise number on the firings, say which employees were let go or for what reasons. But the shakeup comes as Jimmy Donaldson, who draws millions of views under the MrBeast alias with highly produced stunts and giveaways, deals with accusations of impropriety

against himself, his collaborators and others within his multimillion-dollar production company that have threatened his family-friendly image.

Investigators only identified "several isolated instances of workplace harassment and misconduct," according to a two-page letter sent Friday by Alex Spiro, a trial lawyer who led the investigation by white-shoe law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan and whose clients have included Jay-Z and Elon Musk.

The nearly three-month probe concluded that there was no basis behind allegations that MrBeast team members committed sexual misconduct or "knowingly" employed people with "proclivities or histories towards illegal or questionable legal conduct."

Spiro said the team interviewed 39 current and former employees. Millions of documents from phones, emails, and messaging platforms including Discord and Slack were also reviewed, according to the letter.

KU holds breast cancer awareness event

Experts stress self-exams, early detection in cancer fight

By **Abdulrahman Al-Shammari**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Public Relations Department of the Abdullah Al-Salem University hosted an awareness event titled "Early Detection is the Best Prevention" on Tuesday, October 29 at the auditorium in Khaldiya university campus.

The event was attended by the university's founding board chair Prof. Moudi Abdulaziz Al-Hamoud, Vice President of Academic Affairs Prof. Ali Faisal Al-Mutairi, academic and administrative staff, and several male and female students.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the importance of early detection in the fight against breast cancer and to promote preventative measures. It featured educational lectures, various activities, and an awareness exhibition presented by a group of health experts and specialists.

In his introductory remarks, a member of the Sahabat Amal volunteer team Dr. Anwar Al-Ajmi highlighted the importance of early detection of breast cancer, the prevalence of the disease and the recovery rates in Kuwait.

Dr. Al-Ajmi stressed the need to carry out monthly

self-examinations and regular check-ups to ensure early identification, which is crucial for effective treatment and preventing the disease from spreading, particularly for those with additional risk factors, such as a family history of breast cancer or previous exposure to radiation therapy in the chest area.

Meanwhile, a consultant in IVF and obstetrics and gynecology at Taiba Hospital Dr. Laila Al-Majali talked about the importance of self-checkups and the symptoms to watch for during the check-up process.

She highlighted the changes that may affect women diagnosed with breast cancer, and stressed the need to consult a specialist upon noticing these changes, as regular self-checks can reduce the rates of breast cancer.

Dr. Al-Majali talked about lifestyle choices that increase cancer risk, such as smoking and obesity, and suggested healthier alternatives like breastfeeding and regular exercise for ensuring a disease-free life.

Furthermore, a general surgery specialist at the International Hospital Dr. Yousef Badra said breast cancer is the most common cancer both locally and globally.

He highlighted the role of community awareness in early detection, which enhances treatment effectiveness, limits disease spread, and aids in overcoming the illness.

Dr. Badra stressed that breast cancer does not solely af-

fect women but it can also affect men, though at different rates.

He insisted on the importance of consulting a specialist if any symptoms are detected through self-examinations or mammogram images to ensure everyone's safety.

In addition, Head of the Department of General Surgery, Oncology, and Advanced Endoscopy at Al-Seef Hospital Dr. Mustafa Fouad Abdullatif talked about breast diseases in general, focusing on ways to differentiate between symptoms indicating cancerous tumors and those associated with benign tumors.

He affirmed the importance of regular check-ups and urged immediate consultation with a doctor if any changes are noticed.

For those under 30 years of age, he recommended an ultrasound examination, while those over forty should undergo a mammogram and biopsy to ensure safety.

The lecture also featured inspiring stories from breast cancer survivors Hanan Al-Khalidi and Bashayer Salmeen. They shared their experiences with discovering the disease, receiving necessary treatment, and the challenges and lessons learned on their journey to recovery.

Meanwhile, a panel discussion titled "How to Protect Yourself from Cancer" that focuses on the power of food and exercise was held as part of the event.

The discussion was moderated by a nutritionist from Abdullah Al-Salem University Latifa Al-Ghanim, and featured sports trainer Nader Nabil Mohammad and therapeutic and sports nutritionist Dalal Al-Nakhilan.

During their discussion on the role of exercise and healthy diet in cancer prevention, the panelists affirmed the importance of consuming a diet low in saturated fats and preservatives.

They also highlighted the benefits of regular exercise to strengthen the body and maintain a healthy weight for warding off illness.

At the end of the event, founder of the Sahabat Amal volunteer team Dr. Yousef Al-Tandil expressed his sincere appreciation to Abdullah Al-Salem University for organizing the awareness event on breast cancer, as this disease poses a huge challenge for societies.

He urged all participants to adhere to the prevention guidelines by conducting monthly self-examinations and regular check-ups, as these practices are essential for ensuring the health and safety of everyone.

In conjunction with the event, an awareness exhibition was held with the participation of various entities from both the government and private sectors, including those from the medical and nutritional fields, and public benefit associations.

Health

'Enhance screening in schools'

31pc of students in Kuwait show signs of ADHD: study

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: A study, the first-of-its-kind in Kuwait, has revealed a high prevalence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) among public school students, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the study, approximately 31 percent either have ADHD or are at a high risk of developing it. This highlights the urgent need to enhance screening and early intervention systems in public schools.

The study, which involved 1,437 male and female students from public schools, was funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the American University of Kuwait (AUK), and was conducted by the Kuwait Learning Difference Association in collaboration with academics from Kuwait University, AUK, and Asia Management and Statistical Consulting Company. It also involved specialists and volunteers who collected and analyzed the data.

It assessed the prevalence of ADHD among male and female students in primary and intermediate stages in public schools, by using the internationally recognized CHAOS scale, a fundamental tool for measuring behavioral and attentional disorders and evaluating the likelihood of developing ADHD.

The study revealed that ADHD negatively affects academic achievement and educational level among school students.

The study revealed that the primary educational stages exhibited the highest prevalence of ADHD compared to the intermediate stages.

In the second grade of primary school, the percentage of students diagnosed with ADHD reached 36.3 percent, which is the highest among all educational levels. This percentage gradually declines in the intermediate stages.

Male and female students

The results revealed a significant disparity between the sexes, with 34 percent of male students being affected or likely to be affected by ADHD, compared to 26.9 percent of female students. This highlights the need for tailored support and educational strategies that address the specific needs of each gender. The difference is attributed to the fact that ADHD often manifests more distinctly in males than in females.

The study also pointed to differences in social and environmental factors that may

influence the prevalence of ADHD in different governorates in Kuwait.

The study focused on all male and female students from elementary and intermediate public schools in Kuwait, with the aim of assessing the prevalence of ADHD.

As per the study's methodology, data was not collected directly from the students. Instead, researchers relied on parents as the primary source of information.

To ensure transparency and freedom of participation, parents were provided with written consent forms that outlined the study's objectives and benefits.

The study stressed the importance of developing interactive educational curricula and training teachers to effectively address the needs of students with hyperactivity disorder.

It also called for increased attention to this educational health issue that requires urgent focus.

Main recommendations of the study:

- The findings of this study should serve as a basis for developing national educational policies that address ADHD.
- Additional financial resources should be allocated to schools that receive affected students.
- Teachers and administrators should be trained to effectively manage special cases.
- Support should be provided for establishing specialized centers that offer educational and psychological services.
- Collaboration with international organizations, such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF, should be pursued to adopt best practices in dealing with ADHD. It can yield effective frameworks and guidelines for developing integrated support programs for children suffering from this disorder.
- Early detection programs and systems should be developed and strengthened in all government schools, particularly in primary schools.
- Interactive and comprehensive educational curricula should be developed for students with ADHD.
- Modern educational technology and techniques should be used to enhance these students' performance and ensure greater interaction with their peers and teachers.
- Awareness campaigns should be launched to educate families about ADHD and the importance of early diagnosis.

Real-time tips and directions offered

Google Maps adds AI features to help users explore and navigate

PALO ALTO, Calif., Nov 2, (AP): Google Maps is heading down a new road steered by artificial intelligence.

The shift announced Thursday will bring more of the revolutionary AI technology that Google already has been baking into its dominant search engine to the digital maps service that the internet company launched nearly 20 years ago as part of its efforts to expand into new frontiers.

Google Maps recently surpassed 2 billion monthly users worldwide for the first time, a milestone that illustrates how dependent people have become on the service's directions during their daily commutes and excursions to new places. With the introduction of Google's AI-powered Gemini technology, the maps are now being set up to become entertainment guides in addition to navigational tools.

Starting this week in the US only, users will be able to converse with Google Maps to ask for tips on things to do around specific spots in a neighborhood or city and receive lists of restaurants, bars and other nearby attractions that include reviews that have been compiled through the years. The new features will also provide more detailed information about parking options near a designated destination along with walking directions for a user to check after departing the car.

"We are entering a new era of maps," Miriam Daniel, general manager of Google Maps, told reporters Wednesday during a preview of the features presented in Palo Alto, California. "We are



A 500-pound camera Google used to begin photographing the streets included in its digital maps during tests is displayed at Google's 'Street View Garage' in Palo Alto, Calif., on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024. (AP)

transforming how you navigate and explore the world."

Google Maps also is trying to address complaints by introducing more detailed imagery that will make it easier to see which lane of the road to be situated in well ahead of having to make a turn.

In another AI twist, Google Maps is going to allow outside developers to tap into the language models underlying its Gemini technology to enable pose questions about specific destinations, such as apartments or restaurants, and get their queries answered within seconds. Google says this new feature, which initially will go through a testing phase, has undergone a fact-checking procedure that it calls "grounding."

Google's Waze maps, which focus exclusively on real-time driv-

ing directions, will use AI to offer a conversational way for its roughly 180 million monthly users to announce hazards in the road and other problems that could affect traveling times.

The decision to bring AI into a service that so many rely upon to get from one point to the next reflects Google's growing confidence in its ability to prevent its Gemini technology from providing false or misleading information, also known as "hallucinations," to users. Google's AI has already been caught hallucinating in some of the summaries that began rolling in May, including advice to put glue on pizza and an assertion that the fourth U.S. president, James Madison, graduated from the University of Wisconsin, located in a city named after him.

New partnership

ChatGPT functions as a search engine

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 2, (AP): OpenAI is launching a ChatGPT-powered search engine that could put the artificial intelligence company in direct competition with Google and affect the flow of internet traffic seeking news, sports scores and other timely information.

San Francisco-based OpenAI said Thursday it is releasing a search feature to paid users of ChatGPT but will eventually expand it to all ChatGPT users. It released a preview version in July to a small group of users and publishers.

The original version of ChatGPT, released in 2022, was trained on huge troves of online texts but couldn't respond to questions about up-to-date events not in its training data.

Google opened its search engine in May with AI-generated written summaries now frequently appearing at the top of search results. The summaries aim to quickly answer a user's search query so that they don't necessarily need to click a link and visit another website for more information.

Makeover

Google's makeover came after a year of testing with a small group of users but usage still resulted in falsehoods showing the risks of ceding the search for information to AI chatbots prone to making errors known as hallucinations.

A pivot by AI companies to have their chatbots deliver news gathered by professional journalists has alarmed some news media organizations. The New York Times is among several news outlets that have sued OpenAI and its business partner Microsoft for copyright infringement. Wall Street Journal and New York Post publisher News Corp sued another AI search engine, Perplexity, earlier in October.

OpenAI said in a blog post Thursday that its new search engine was built with help from news partners, which include The Associated Press and News Corp. It will include links to sources, such as news and blog posts, the company said. It was not immediately clear whether the links would correspond to the original source of the information presented by the chatbot.

Cancer drugs can help with vascular disease

MANHASSET, N.Y., Nov 2, (AP): A drug commonly used to treat breast cancer might be able to help people living with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT) - a rare genetic bleeding condition that causes enlargements and tangles of veins and arteries, as well as other malformations of the blood vessels - according to new research from The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research.

The study, which published in also shows that HHT could cause certain cells in the endothelium of the blood vessels to multiply via a cancer-like mechanism of abnormal cell growth.

Philippe Marambaud, PhD, professor in the Institute of Molecular Medicine at the Feinstein Institutes, led the research that shows a specific process controlled by a protein called CDK6 is making endothelial

cells multiply abnormally, directly linking to the blood vessel concerns seen in HHT.

Researchers used drugs Palbociclib and Ribociclib, which are known to block the CDK6 protein in multiplying cancer cells and found that it stopped the abnormal cell growth in animal models with HHT who were not following normal growth patterns in their blood vessels.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For
your
ads on
this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARAWANIYA

Dermatology - Cosmetology Dept.



Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD (DVD)
Skin & Dermatology
Specialist



Dr. Faizan Kalekhan
MBBS, MD, DNB
Dermatology,
Venereology & Leprosy

Our Services

PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, Aging, Skin Tightening, Stretch marks | Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, corn | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond Microdermabrasion | Carboxytherapy | Dual peel | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries | Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police Station - Farwaniya
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Ph: 2473 4000

Gulf Champions League 2nd round kicks off Tuesday

Petrovic confident as Al-Qadsiya gears up to face Al-Ettifaq

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Al-Qadsiya is currently conducting an internal camp in preparation for their upcoming Gulf Champions League match against Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq, scheduled for Tuesday in the second round of Group Two.

In the first round, Al-Qadsiya drew 1-1 with Qatar's Al-Arabi, while Al-Ettifaq defeated Bahrain's Al-Riffa 3-1. Recently, Al-Qadsiya shifted focus back to league play and secured a 2-0 victory over Khaitan in the ninth round of the Zain Premier League, bringing their point total to 16, placing them third in the standings, two points behind Al-Salmiya, who face Al-Arabi on Wednesday.

Al-Qadsiya's Montenegrin coach, Zeljko Petrovic, expressed satisfaction following the Khaitan match, acknowledging that the opponent's playstyle limited his team's scoring but also created chances that tested their defense. Despite some injuries, Petrovic confirmed his squad's readiness to face Al-Ettifaq, promising a competitive showing against coach Gerard's team.

Petrovic noted, "Mentally, playing against big teams with star players is easier than facing smaller teams." He explained that Al-Ettifaq's offensive

approach suits Al-Qadsiya's style, as it allows them to create more scoring opportunities without the difficulties faced against defensive setups like Khaitan's.

He also emphasized his confidence in his players, stating that their motivation and mental preparation are at peak levels for major matches, making the technical staff's job easier. He highlighted that Premier League matches often require additional effort and preparation.

Reflecting on their Gulf Champions League journey, Petrovic acknowledged the high level of competition and skilled professionals, noting his hope to capitalize on this experience.

Tonight in the ninth round of the Zain Premier League, Al-Fahaheel will take on Al-Nasr at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 6:50 pm. Both teams aim to rebound from recent setbacks; Al-Fahaheel (11 points) lost to Al-Qadsiya 1-2 and drew 2-2 with Al-Tadamon, while Al-Nasr (4 points) is in ninth place and coming off a postponed match against Al-Arabi following their 1-2 loss to Al-Qadsiya in the seventh round.



Zeljko Petrovic

Galaxy completes sweep of Rapids

Kahlina makes 2 saves, Charlotte gets its first-ever playoff win

COMMERCE CITY, Colo., Nov 2, (AP): Rookies Gabriel Pec and Joseph Paintsil scored first-half goals, Riqui Puig scored twice during second-half stoppage time, and the Los Angeles Galaxy polished off a first-round sweep of the Colorado Rapids with a 4-1 victory in MLS Cup action.

Pec, who had 16 goals during the regular season, scored his first postseason goal just eight minutes into the match when he deflected a clearing attempt by Colorado goalkeeper Zack Steffen into the net.

The Rapids answered with an unassisted goal by Oliver Larraz - his first in his first postseason - to even the score in the 19th minute of the best-of-three series.

The second-seeded Galaxy took a 2-1 lead into halftime when Paintsil took a pass from Maya Yoshida in the third minute of stoppage time and scored his first postseason goal. Yoshida's assist was his first in two career playoff starts.

Puig, who scored twice in the Galaxy's 5-0 victory in the opening match, put the finishing touch on the victory with goals in the first and third minutes of stoppage time. He did not have a goal or an assist in two playoff starts for LA in 2022.

Diego Fagúndez notched his second career assist in his ninth postseason appearance on Puig's first goal. Pec made it two straight postseason matches with an assist with one on



Charlotte FC's Brandt Bronico, back, leaps over Orlando City defender Daur Thorhallsson for the header during the first half of game 2 of an MLS Cup soccer playoff game in Charlotte, N.C. (AP)

his second.

John McCarthy saved three shots in his second playoff start for the

Galaxy after posting a clean sheet in his first. His only other postseason start came in 2020 with Inter Miami.

Steffen totaled four saves in his 10th career postseason start and second with the seventh-seeded Rapids.

The Galaxy outscored Colorado 15-4 in four matchups this season. LA improves to 9-2-0 all time against the Rapids in the postseason, including 4-2-0 on the road.

LA will face the winner of the series between No. 3 seed Real Salt Lake and No. 6 seed Minnesota United in the next round.

Kristijan Kahlina made two saves in a 3-1 shootout after the teams played to a scoreless draw in regulation, and Charlotte beat Orlando for its first-ever MLS Cup playoff win.

Charlotte stayed alive in the best-of-three series with Orlando, which will host Match 3 on Nov. 9 for a chance to advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Kahlina dove to his left to deny Nicolás Lodeiro on Orlando's first attempt, and Patrick Agyemang scored for Charlotte for a 1-0 edge. Robin Jansson sailed it over the crossbar on Orlando's second PK, and Karol Swiderski rolled it into the bottom corner for a two-goal advantage.

Kahlina ended it with a save of Duncan McGuire's shot in front of an announced crowd of 40,238.

Orlando goalkeeper Pedro Galles helped keep it scoreless in the first half, highlighted by a reaction save of Liel Abada's close-range header on a counterattack in the 23rd minute.

Orlando appeared to take the lead in second-half stoppage time on Facundo Torres' goal but Lodeiro was called offside in the build-up.

Kahlina only needed to make one save in regulation.



Players in action.

Kuwaiti side to kick off training

Kazma faces Egyptian Oly team ahead of Asian Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Nov 2: Kazma is set to kick off its current training camp in Cairo with a friendly match against the Egyptian Olympic team.

The team, known as the "Ambassador," is preparing for the 27th Asian Handball Clubs League Championship, scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar, from November 13 to 24.

In the draw for the Asian Championship, Kazma has been placed in Group B alongside several notable teams, including last year's champions, Al-Ahli from Saudi Arabia, Al-Ahly Sidab from Oman, Al-Duhail from Qatar, and Mes Kerman from Iran. Meanwhile, Kuwait, the other representative of Kuwaiti handball currently training in Manama, competes in Group A, facing Qatari club Al-Rayyan, Iraq's Al-Karkh, Al-Sharjah from the UAE, and Bahrain's Al-Shabab.

The "Orange" team is also in the final stages of securing contracts with foreign professional players for the tournament, with announcements expected soon.

Kazma is being represented in the camp and tournament by a dedicated team, including treasurer Omar Al-Mulla, game manager Salem Abdul Salam, administrator Tariq Al-Subaie, media coordinator Nasser Al-Fadhli, Serbian head coach Radric Bozo, goalkeeper coach Hamdi Al-Maraq, physical trainer Abdullah Thaqib, physiotherapist Dardo Antik, and technical analyst Walid Al-Anzi, along with 20 players.

Jadeja, Ashwin put India on top in 3rd test vs NZ

MUMBAI, India, Nov 2, (AP): Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin shared seven wickets as India's cricketers seized control on day two of the third test against New Zealand on Saturday.

New Zealand was 171-9 in its second innings at stumps, a lead of just 143 runs, after Jadeja took his haul of wickets in the match to nine by claiming 4-52 while Ashwin picked up 3-63.

Earlier, India was bowled out for 263 in its first innings. Shubman Gill top-scored with 90, including seven fours and a six. Ajaz Patel had figures of 5-103.

Gill and Rishabh Pant (60) put on 96 for the fifth wicket to dig India out of trouble after it started the day on 86-4. Washington Sundar also contributed a useful 38 not out off 36 balls, including four fours and two sixes.

Patel again showed his liking for the Wankhede Stadium, taking his total of wickets at the venue to 19 in



India's Shubman Gill plays a shot during the second day of the third cricket test match between India and New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, India. (AP)

just three innings.

New Zealand then slumped to 44-3. Akash Deep bowled Tom Latham for one, Sundar had Devon Conway caught at slip for 22 while Rachin Ravindra was stumped for four off Ashwin.

Will Young (51) and Daryl Mitchell fought back with a 50-run stand for the fourth wicket before Mitchell went for 21 when Ashwin pulled off a running catch at long-on off Jadeja.

Jadeja also dismissed Tom Blundell for the second time in the match. Glenn Phillips then staged a brief rally with three sixes before he was bowled for 26 by Ashwin.

Ish Sodhi also fell to Jadeja before the spinner claimed the wicket of Matt Henry from the final ball of the day.

New Zealand won the first two tests in Bengaluru and Pune by eight wickets and 113 runs respectively, registering a landmark first test-series win in India.

McLaren's Norris wins sprint race at Brazilian Grand Prix to cut gap on overall leader Verstappen

SAO PAULO, Nov 2, (AP): McLaren driver Lando Norris won Saturday's Formula 1 sprint race at the Brazilian Grand Prix to cut his deficit to championship leader Max Verstappen.

But Norris had to thank teammate Oscar Piastri for handing him victory at Interlagos.

Red Bull's Verstappen finished third, although he is under investigation for a potential virtual safety car infringement.

The gap between Norris and Verstappen, with four grands prix and a final sprint race to the end of the season, is now 45 points.

Norris started second on the grid and, late into the 24 laps of the sprint race, Piastri gave way to him.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who also has a long shot at the title, ended fourth, just ahead of teammate Carlos Sainz Jr.

Mercedes' George Russell, Alpine's Pierre Gasly and Red Bull's Sergio Perez were next best and within points



McLaren driver Lando Norris, of Britain, steers his car during the sprint qualifying session, ahead of the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix auto race at the Interlagos racetrack, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (AP)

positions.

Norris appeared upset on the team radio about leader Piastri's pace for most of the sprint race.

"I am not sure what I am doing here, mate," Norris said. "I thought we spoke about this."

Later, Norris said McLaren had done

a good job.

"I am not proud about it but we worked well as a team together so I thank Oscar," he said. "Oscar deserved (a win) but we did what we had to do."

At first, Piastri did not elaborate on the McLaren decision. "A great day for the team and a lot of points. We learned a lot for the race tomorrow," he said.

Speaking to journalists later, Piastri described the race as "a bit of a tricky one." "(Giving way to Norris) is not as fun as winning," the Australian driver said. "But we've been talking about this for months now."

Three-time champion Verstappen will find it tough to beat the McLarens in Sunday's race. He has received a five-place grid punishment after changing his engine for the sixth time in the season - the maximum allowed is four.

Later, qualifying for Sunday's race is expected to take place under some risk of rain.

Al-Jahra appoints Dahilis as head coach for new season

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Al-Jahra Board of Directors has appointed national coach Mohammed Dahilis to lead the team this season. Dahilis previously resigned as head coach of Kazma after five rounds of the Zain Premier League and has a history of coaching various teams, including Al-Sahel, Al-Salmiya, and Burqan.

Al-Jahra has faced significant administrative challenges over the past seasons, resulting in the team's relegation to the First Division. Most of last season's players, both local and international, have since joined other clubs.

In response, the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee and the Sports Authority have decided to back Yousef Karim and his board to manage the club, following favorable rulings. The current board is now focused on restoring stability and rebuilding Al-Jahra's standing.



Mohammed Dahilis

Glenn wins her maiden title

ANGERS, France, Nov 2, (AP): Amber Glenn overcame a fall and her own doubts to win a maiden Grand Prix figure skating title Saturday at the Grand Prix de France.

The American skater Glenn had the lead from Friday's short program. That and the support of the crowd got her through a tough free skate in which she fell on a triple flip and put a hand onto the ice to steady herself on two other jumps.

"I didn't feel that great out there to-

day but I really tried and the audience really got me through that last half when I was doubting myself," Glenn said. "The audience was really strong and really encouraging, so I really fought for everything I could."

Glenn posted the day's third-best score in the free skate but it was enough to win overall with a total of 210.44 points, ahead of Japanese skaters Wakaba Higuchi, who won at Skate America last month, and Rion Sumiyoshi.

A memorable celebration of sportsmanship

Bhavans Kuwait hosts thrilling chess showdown for young minds



By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Bhavans Kuwait recently hosted the Bhavans Rapid Chess Tournament 2024, showcasing a stunning blend of intellect and strategy that attracted Kuwait's brightest young chess enthusiasts. Held at the Indian Educational School, this event celebrated mental agility, drawing over 180 participants from more than 20 schools in an exciting competition of wits.

Open to students of all nationalities, the tournament featured three age categories: Under 11, Under 14, and Under 19. Each round tested patience, foresight, and sharp thinking as participants navigated the chessboard with tactical skill. The top winners were:

Under 11 Category -- 1st Place: Nehan Abdullah (SIS Cambridge Wing); 2nd Place: Patrick Riyana Pinto (ICSK) and 3rd Place: Aagney Shiju (Gulf Indian School)



Under 14 Category -- 1st Place: Mithilesh Ranjithkumar (Gulf Indian School); 2nd Place: Abel Joseph (United Indian School) and 3rd Place: Mohammed Junaid Khan (Smart Indian School)

Under 19 Category -- 1st Place: Mohnish Balamurugan (ICSK); 2nd Place: Nihal Saheer (ILOA) and 3rd Place: Sudhanshu Muluku (American International School)

The Best Young Female Award went to Saanvi Arora from Indian Educational School, Kuwait.

The tournament kicked off with an inspiring ceremony led by Mahesh Iyer, Principal of Smart Indian School, joined by Ms. Anselma Tassy, Senior Vice Principal of Bhavans Kuwait. Chief Guest Anand Victor, Principal of Indian Educational School, praised the young talents and presented trophies, cash prizes, and certificates to the winners.

With seamless management from Chief Arbitrator NA Anitha Rajendran, Ali from the Kuwait Chess Federation, and Tournament Director Dr. Murugaiyan



Subbarayalu, the event ran flawlessly. The Bhavans Physical Education Department ensured the arrangements were smooth, making the tournament a true celebration of young intellectual strength.

N. K. Ramachandran Menon, Chairman of Bhavans Middle East and tournament sponsor, emphasized his commitment to nurturing young talent. This sentiment was echoed by Ms. Meenakshi Nayyar, Binoy Mathew, and Headmistress Ms. Munneera Mammikutty, who congratulated all participants and organizers.

As the event concluded, players left with participation certificates, a renewed camaraderie, and a sense of accomplishment. With refreshments provided throughout the day, the young chess enthusiasts remained energized and focused.

The Bhavans Rapid Chess Tournament 2024 was a memorable celebration of sportsmanship, intellectual curiosity, and passion for chess, embodying a spirit of strategic thinking essential both on the chessboard and beyond.



Top and above photos from Bhavans Rapid Chess Tournament 2024.



Al-Nasr holds off Qurain

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Al-Nasr Club clinched a narrow 80-79 victory over Qurain in the first round of the basketball league at Union Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. The event also saw Al-Qadsiya secure a commanding win over Al-Tadamon, finishing with a score of 113-45.

The league, which kicked off recently, follows a two-division format. After the initial round, the top four teams advance to the semi-finals, where the first-place team will face the fourth-place team, and the second will meet the third in a best-of-three playoff format. The winners

will proceed to the finals, contested in a best-of-five series, with the team winning three games crowned champion.

The Al-Nasr vs. Qurain matchup remained intense from start to finish. Al-Annabi initially dominated, ending the first quarter with a 23-16 lead and extending it to 49-38 by halftime. Qurain showed improvement at the start of the third quarter, but Al-Nasr managed to widen the gap, closing the quarter at 71-56.

In a thrilling final quarter, Qurain closed the gap, capitalizing on Al-Nasr's performance drop. The game reached a nail-biting conclusion, with Al-Nasr narrowly escaping with an 80-79 win.



Al-Qurain and Al-Nasr players battling for the rebound.

Cavaliers, Thunder stay unbeaten

Timberwolves top Nuggets in thriller

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov 2, (AP) — Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points in 28 minutes and the Oklahoma City Thunder remained unbeaten with a 137-114 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Jalen Williams added 22 points for the Thunder and Cason Wallace and Aaron Wiggins each had 13 off the bench as Oklahoma City improved to 5-0.

Jerami Grant led Portland with 17 points on 5-of-11 shooting. Four of Portland's five starters scored in double digits: Deandre Ayton had 14, Toumani Camara had 13 and Deni Avdija had 11.

Cavaliers 120, Magic 109

In Cleveland, Darius Garland scored 25 points, Donovan Mitchell added 22 and the Cleveland Cavaliers improved to 6-0 with win over the Orlando Magic, who played their first game without injured All-Star Paolo Banchero.

The Cavs are the only unbeaten team in the Eastern Conference. The last time Cleveland started 6-0 was in 2016 with LeBron James. The club's best start was 8-0 in 1976.

The early meeting between Orlando and Cleveland was a rematch of last season's tense opening-round playoff series won by the Cavs in seven games.

Banchero is expected to miss at least a month - and maybe longer - with a torn right oblique. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2022 draft was on an early tear, averaging 29 points with 8.8 rebounds and 5.6 assists before getting hurt Wednesday.

Orlando's Jalen Suggs scored a career-high 28 points and had eight rebounds and seven assists. Franz Wagner had 17 points.

Cleveland rookie Luke Travers made his NBA debut. The Australian scored four points in garbage time.

Timberwolves 119, Nuggets 116

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards hit a go-ahead 7-foot floater with 25.7 seconds left, and Rudy Gobert iced the game with two free throws to lead



Minnesota Timberwolves center Naz Reid (11) works toward the basket as Denver Nuggets guard Christian Braun, right, defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)

the Minnesota Timberwolves past the Denver Nuggets.

Edwards scored 29 points, Gobert had 17 points and 14 rebounds and Julius Randle added 23 points and seven assists for the Timberwolves, who recovered from a 25-3 fourth-quarter run by the Nuggets.

Nikola Jokic had 26 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds and hit two free throws with 2:30 left to put Denver up 116-109, before Minnesota roared back. Jokic had a chance to tie the game at 119, but Gobert forced an errant corner 3-pointer with 2.3 seconds to go.

Gordon led the Nuggets with 31 points and 11 rebounds in a rematch of last season's Western Conference semifinal.

Lakers 131, Raptors 125

In Toronto, Anthony Davis scored a season-high 38 points and had 12 rebounds, LeBron James had 27 points and 10 assists, and the Los Angeles Lakers never trailed in a win over the Toronto Raptors.

Austin Reaves scored 20 points and D'Angelo Russell had 19 as the Lakers built a lead that the Raptors were unable to overcome.

Los Angeles led by as many as 26 in its fourth consecutive win over Toronto before the Raptors battled back in the second half.

RJ Barrett had a season-high 33 points and a career-high 12 assists, but Toronto lost its fourth straight. Grady Dick scored a career-high 31 points and Jakob Poeltl had 19 points and 12 rebounds.

After scoring his first career basket in Wednesday's loss at Cleveland, Lakers rookie Bronny James checked in for the final 7.6 seconds.

Celtics 124, Hornets 109

In Charlotte, Jayson Tatum had 32 points and 11 rebounds, Jaylen Brown added 25 points and the Boston Celtics pulled away late to beat Charlotte in a heated game in which two Hornets players were ejected.

Derrick White had 17 points and Jrue Holiday chipped in with 14 for Boston.

LaMelo Ball had 31 points before

fouling out to lead the Hornets, who continue to play without injured starters Brandon Miller and Mark Williams.

The game got chippy in the fourth quarter as Grant Williams was ejected for a flagrant foul 2 after he ran over Tatum near halfcourt. Moments later, Ball fouled Tatum on a 3-point attempt and was assessed a flagrant for a dangerous foul. Then in the closing seconds Miles Bridges was ejected.

The game featured new Hornets head coach Charles Lee facing the team he won an NBA championship with last season as an assistant coach.

The Hornets got a strong game out of rookie Tidjane Salaun, who had nine points on three 3s.

Knicks 128, Pistons 98

In Detroit, Jalen Brunson scored 15 of his 36 points in the first quarter as the New York Knicks beat Detroit for their 16th straight victory over the Pistons.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for New York, which never trailed and led by at least 20 points for the final 40 minutes. OG Anunoby scored 21 points as the Knicks' starters scored 106 points.

Cade Cunningham had 22 points for the Pistons, who fall to 1-5, and Tobias Harris added 13 points and eight rebounds.

The Knicks tripled the Pistons' scoring in the first quarter, taking a 39-13 lead, and were never threatened.

Pelicans 125, Pacers 118

In New Orleans, Zion Williamson had 34 points and 10 assists, Brandon Ingram added 26 points and the New Orleans Pelicans snapped a three-game skid with a 125-118 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Friday night.

Jordan Hawkins scored 23 points for New Orleans and reserve Brandon Boston Jr. added 14 points.

Ben Sheppard hit six 3-pointers and scored 20 points for Indiana, which led by 13 points in the first half but lost two players to injuries.

Nesmith was leading the Pacers with 12 points when he left with a left ankle sprain in the first half. Center

Isaiah Jackson, who had six points and eight rebounds, was helped off the court with an apparent right leg injury in the fourth quarter.

Benedict Mathurin scored 19 points for Indiana. Pascal Siakam had 16 points, and Tyrese Haliburton had 11 points and 11 assists.

Nets 120, Bulls 112

In New York, Cam Thomas scored 10 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter to help the Brooklyn Nets beat the Chicago Bulls.

Thomas scored eight straight points to give the Nets a 118-109 lead with 1:52 left.

Cam Johnson added 14 points in Brooklyn's second straight victory. Nic Claxton and Keon Johnson each had 12 points, and Ben Simmons had eight points, 11 assists and eight rebounds.

Nikola Vucevic led Chicago with 28 points on 10-of-11 shooting and had 11 rebounds. Zach LaVine and Coby White each added 21 points, with White going 5 of 9 from 3-point range.

Kings 123, Hawks 115

In Atlanta, De'Aaron Fox scored a season-high 31 points and the Sacramento Kings held off the short-handed Atlanta Hawks for their third straight win.

DeMar DeRozan had 27, the fifth straight game he's scored more than 20 since joining the Kings in the offseason. Domantas Sabonis scored 15 points and grabbed 14 rebounds before fouling out, his fourth double-double in five games.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 25 points and 12 assists and Garrison Mathews hit a career-high seven 3-pointers off the bench en route to 23 points. The Hawks played without starters De'Andre Hunter and Dyson Daniels, plus rotation players Bogdan Bogdanovic, Vit Krejci and Kobe Bufkin due to injury.

The Kings outrebounded the Hawks 50-41 and did not trail for the final 47 minutes of the game.

Kings: The Kings were in control most of the way but could not put the game away. Still, their four-game road trip is off to a 2-0 start.

Neymar, Endrick overlooked for Brazil's World Cup qualifiers

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 2, (Xinhua) — Veteran forward Neymar and Real Madrid teenager Endrick have been left out of Brazil's squad for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela and Uruguay, the Brazilian Football Confederation said. Neymar, Brazil's all-time top scorer with 79 goals in 128 international matches, returned to action for his club Al Hilal last month, almost a year to the day after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Brazil manager Dorival Junior said it was too soon to recall the 32-year-old for the away clash with Venezuela on November 14 and the home fixture against Uruguay five days later.

"He is fully recovered, but he has had just a few minutes of play, and that was a big reason," Dorival told a news conference. "By next year, he will have had more time playing, he will totally recover his confidence." 18-year-old forward Endrick, who scored three goals in his first five international outings, played just 26 minutes in Brazil's October qualifiers against Chile and Peru. He has also struggled for opportunities with Real Madrid, having been an unused substitute in each of the Spanish club's past three matches.

Dorival named six players from local clubs: Luiz Henrique

(Botafogo), Igor Jesus (Botafogo), Estevao (Palmeiras), Weverton (Palmeiras), Guilherme Arana (Atletico Mineiro) and Gerson (Flamengo). Brazil is currently fourth in the 10-team South American qualifying zone standings with 16 points from 10 games, six points behind leaders Argentina.

The top six teams in the group will automatically qualify for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The seventh-ranked side will advance to an inter-continental playoff.

Brazil squad:

Goalkeepers: Weverton (Palmeiras), Bento (Al-Nasr), Ederson (Manchester City).

Defenders: Danilo (Juventus), Vanderson (Monaco), Abner (Lyon), Guilherme Arana (Atletico Mineiro), Murillo (Nottingham Forest), Eder Militao (Real Madrid), Gabriel Magalhaes (Arsenal), Marquinhos (Paris Saint-Germain).

Midfielders: Andre (Wolverhampton), Bruno Guimaraes (Newcastle), Gerson (Flamengo), Lucas Paqueta (West Ham), Andreas Pereira (Fulham), Raphinha (Barcelona).

Forwards: Rodrigo (Real Madrid), Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid), Luiz Henrique (Botafogo), Igor Jesus (Botafogo), Estevao (Palmeiras), Savinho (Manchester City).



India's Ravindra Jadeja celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell during the second day of the third cricket test match between India and New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, India. (AP)
— See Page 14

Sports

'Perfect way to launch the new sports season'

Top shooters from Kuwait and the Arab world set to compete in Crown Prince Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Chairman of the Kuwait Shooting Club, Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi, announced that the annual His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Shooting Championship, featuring a significant turnout of shooters from Kuwait, the Gulf, and Arab nations, will kick off next Saturday. He hailed the event as the perfect way to launch the club's new sports season for 2024/2025.

At a press conference held at the club's headquarters, Al-Otaibi, who also leads the championship's organizing committee, outlined that the competition will encompass all Olympic shooting disciplines for both men and women. These include shotgun shooting events – "skeet" and "trap" – as well as lead shooting categories for "pistol" and "rifle," and archery events in both "composite" and "Olympic" styles.

Al-Otaibi noted the significance of the occasion, as the club will also host the Arab Championship for shotgun shooting (skeet and trap), featuring top Arab shooters in both the men's and women's categories. He emphasized that Kuwaiti athletes are well-prepared to compete in both this prestigious championship and the Arab tournament, aiming to secure impressive results.

He highlighted that the club organizes two major annual events: the "HH the Amir" International Grand Shooting Championship and the "HH the Crown Prince" Championship. Al-Otaibi expressed his gratitude for the generous support from the political leadership, which has empowered Kuwaiti shooting sports to achieve numerous accolades in international, continental, and regional competitions.



Officials address the press during the launch of Crown Prince Shooting Championship.

Furthermore, he informed that the organizing committee has made extensive preparations at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, which will host the tournament. He thanked the Public Authority for Sports and other relevant state agencies for their assistance in facilitating the organization of this important sporting event.

The club's secretary and tournament director, Obaid Al-Osaimi, added during the press conference that the committee has been diligently preparing for this major tournament, which is a point of pride for the Kuwaiti shooting community. He acknowledged the efforts of all committee members, particularly those involved in officiating, organizing competitions, and managing the event's logistics.

Regarding the Arab Championship, Al-Osaimi, who also serves as Secretary-General of the Arab Federation for shooting sports, explained that it will take place concurrently with the Crown Prince Championship. He emphasized the significance of this event, noting the participation of prominent Arab shooters, including five representatives from Kuwait, and expressed confidence that both championships will showcase high levels of competition across various disciplines.

Al Arabi sets up showdown with Al Seeb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Al Arabi has scheduled its quarter-final clash with Oman's Al Seeb in the West Asia region of the Asian Challenge League. The teams will compete in two legs, with the first on March 5 and the second on March 12. Meanwhile, Turkmenistan's Arkadag will face India's East Bengal.

Al Arabi secured its spot by finishing second in its group, following a 3-2 victory over Arkadag at Kuwait Club Stadium in the final match of Group Two. Arkadag topped the group based on goal difference.

With all three teams – Al Arabi, Arkadag, and Kyrgyzstan's Abdish Atta – tied at 6 points, the tiebreaker went to goal difference in direct encounters. Arkadag led with a goal



Player Ali Khalaf celebrates his goal against Arkadag. KUNA photo

difference of 4-4, followed by Al Arabi at 3-3, while Abdish Atta was eliminated with a goal difference of 1-2.

In their decisive game against Arkadag, Al Arabi aimed for an emphatic win, avoiding missed chances as in their previous match against Maldives' Maziya Sports. They struck first through Ali Khalaf in the 40th minute.

The Greens maintained their dominance in the second half, with Jumaa Aboud scoring in the 49th minute and Moroccan player Hamza Khaba converting a penalty in the 70th. Despite losing striker Youssef Majed to a red card, Al Arabi held on to its lead after Arkadag scored twice late in the game, securing three crucial points.

Kuwait wins 10 medals at Qatar Int'l Taekwondo Championship

DOHA, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwait increased its medal count to 10 at the 4th Qatar International Taekwondo Championship, adding eight medals on Friday, including three golds.

In the junior female category, Teiba Al-Maghrabi claimed gold in the 27 kg division, Mesk Al-Salem won gold in the 59 kg division, while Ghola Al-Assaf and Al-Hawra Habib took bronze in the 59 kg and 25 kg divisions, respectively.

In the junior male category, Walid Al-Mutairi captured gold in the 49 kg division, with Mosaab Al-Masoud (49 kg), Noah Abdullatif (41 kg), and Rakan Al-Ajmi (53 kg) each winning bronze.

On the tournament's opening day, Kuwait's Shaheed Al-Ajmi and Houraa Al-Damkhi each secured bronze in the 42 kg and 49 kg female competitions, respectively.

The tournament, which concluded on Saturday, has brought together 1,440 competitors from 40 countries across four categories: cadet, junior, youth, and adult.



Walid Al-Mutairi and Mosaab Al-Masoud celebrate with an official. KUNA photo



Members pose for a group photo after the Sports Committee elections.

Shaaban and Al-Zankawi battle for presidency

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Athletes Abdullah Shaaban and Ali Al-Zankawi are vying for the presidency of the Sports Committee in elections held last Thursday. The committee is comprised of seven members, including a chairman, vice-chairman, committee rapporteur, and four additional members.

The elections took place at the Kuwait Olympic Committee headquarters, resulting in Suad Al-Faqan securing first place with 407 votes. Madawi Al-Shammari followed closely in second with 398 votes, while Sarah Al-Hawal garnered 354 votes for third place. Abdullah Shaaban finished fourth with 300 votes, Abdullah Al-Khamis was fifth with 290 votes, Ali Al-Zankawi came

in sixth with 284 votes, and Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri rounded out the results in seventh with 283 votes.

The newly elected committee will convene in the coming days for a coordination meeting to assign positions, as both Shaaban and Ali-Zankawi compete for the presidency.

According to the committee's regulations, the elected president will automatically secure a seat on the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and will have voting rights. Should the president be absent, the vice-chairman will step in. Additionally, one male and one female athlete from the Sports Committee will be nominated to serve as members of the General Assembly of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, granting them the same rights to attend meetings and vote as representatives from other sports federations.

Best of the Rest

Bayer Leverkusen held: Bayer Leverkusen did everything except score against Stuttgart in a lively 0-0 draw in the Bundesliga ahead of Champions League games for both next week.

Leverkusen hit the woodwork twice, forced repeated saves from Stuttgart goalkeeper Alexander Nübel, and saw Jeremie Frimpong's goal ruled out for offside in the buildup.

Stuttgart had few clear chances against a Leverkusen defense which has made some costly blunders and conceded at least once in all of its previous Bundesliga games this season.

However, it was also the first game this season in which Leverkusen failed to score and fourth draw in its last six games in all competitions. The closest Leverkusen came to scoring was when Victor Boniface blasted a shot against the post in the 53rd from a good position.

Missed chances are a recurring theme in a season where Xabi Alonso's team has failed often to produce the kind of late winning goals that fueled its title win last season.

Leverkusen heads to Liverpool on Tuesday in the Champions League and Stuttgart hosts Atalanta on Wednesday. (AP)

Mishari Al-Awadhi clinches championship title

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Abdullah Mishari Al-Awadhi, a rider from Al-Masayel Club, claimed the championship title at the Kuwait Equestrian Center Championship held in Subhan.

Al-Awadhi excelled in the sixth main round, clearing a height of 130 cm with an impressive time of 28.82 seconds and no penalty points. He also secured third and fifth places in the same competition. British rider Nick Channing finished in second place, while Ouss Al-Tanak took fourth. Mosaad Al-Shuaibi achieved sixth



Abdullah Al-Awadhi

and seventh places, with riders Raghad Al-Dubos and Badr Al-Haifi also earning titles.

In the fifth round, where the height was set at 120 cm, Nick Channing captured first place, while Khaled Jumaa topped the fourth round at 110 cm.

Rider Abdullah Al-Awadhi expressed his joy at winning the championship, highlighting that he competed in the main round with three horses, successfully securing first, third, and fifth positions.

Arsenal falls to Newcastle

Isak's header gives Magpies win

NEWCASTLE, England, Nov 2, (AP): Arsenal slumped to a 1-0 loss at Newcastle for the second year in a row on Saturday to make it three straight Premier League games without a win for the Gunners.

Alexander Isak's early header was enough for Eddie Howe's team to end a five-game winless run in the league as the hosts easily neutralized Arsenal's struggling attack the rest of the way.

Newcastle was coming off a morale-boosting win over Chelsea in the League Cup in midweek and carried that momentum into the start of the game, as Isak found space in-between Arsenal center-backs William Saliba and Gabriel to head home a pinpoint cross from Anthony Gordon in the 12th minute.

It was a big contrast from Newcastle's winning goal in the same fixture last season, when Gordon bundled home a late winner that stood after a triple VAR check - leaving Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta furious and calling the decision "an absolute disgrace."

Arteta can have no complaints about this defeat, though, as Arsenal rarely threatened going forward and looked short of creativity in the absence of the injured Martin Odegaard.

Declan Rice had the team's best chance in the third minute of injury time but headed wide after a cross by Bukayo Saka.

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard is in the final stages of his recovery from an ankle injury after nearly two months out, manager Mikel Arteta said.

"Now is the stage where he is going to do certain work with us. Let's see how he deals with pain and if his movement is natural enough," Arteta said.

"He's physically now at the level required to compete. With the work rate and hours he has put in, I'd be surprised that the moment he starts training with us, he looks ready. Hopefully soon."



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard, left and Newcastle United's Sean Longstaff vie for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and Arsenal, at St James' Park, in Newcastle. (AP)