



Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader envisions Asia as a global icon in aquatics

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CROWN PRINCE CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY TO COMBAT EXTREMISM
Kuwait leads fight against terrorism

UN commends Kuwait and Tajikistan's Dushanbe contributions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): The Fourth Dushanbe Conference kicked off Monday under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and with the attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The conference has drawn over 450 participants, including 33 ministers from member states, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, and Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT Vladimir Voronkov.

The conference will conclude its work Tuesday, with the adoption of the "Kuwait Declaration" which will reflect the discussions, opinions and viewpoints of the participants and will serve as a guiding document for efforts to combat terrorism.

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Opinion

Emerging signs mark dawn of a new era

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ONE of the signs of the new era is the ongoing efforts to resolve one of Kuwait's most complicated and persistent issues - the Bedoun issue.

It is widely known that no challenge is insurmountable if there is a will to resolve it. Even the most difficult problems often have multiple solutions.

If the state has capable and wise leadership that understands the risks of allowing unresolved issues to linger without a solution, especially those that do not entail high costs, it can transform these challenges into opportunities for success.

All nations that have dealt with the Bedoun issue such as the U.S., France, Germany, Britain, and many European and Western countries, as well as some Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, have faced similar challenges.

However, some countries opted to grant these individuals rights comparable to those of citizens, except for full citizenship, in an effort to enhance their national productivity and utilize all available talent for employment and project opportunities.

Initially, the Bedoun issue was relatively minor, but due to a lack of seriousness in finding solutions and the parliamentary trading in it in the National Assembly, it

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His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah joins other dignitaries for a group photo at the Fourth Dushanbe Conference, held in Kuwait under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

KUNA photo

Nine team up to trap expat in drugs story

Details Page 3

Kuwait, US strengthen ties against human trafficking

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi discussed with US Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Cindy Dyer means of boosting cooperation in this field.

During a meeting held at Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, in the presence of US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara, the two sides reviewed deep-rooted bilateral ties in all domains, the Ministry of Justice said on Sunday on its 'X' account.

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His Highness the Crown Prince receives an invitation addressed to His Highness the Amir.

Crown Prince Diwan photo

HH Amir invited to attend Arab summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Monday an invitation addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, to participate in an extraordinary joint Arab and Islamic follow-up summit on November 11.

Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud delivered the invitation to His Highness.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and senior officials at the Amiri Diwan and the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince.

Farwaniya Governor visits Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh expat shelter

Kuwait champions expat worker well-being

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Farwaniya Governor Athbi Al-Nasser conducted an inspection tour of the Shelter for Expatriate Workers in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Monday morning.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the governor was received by the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Marzouq Al Otaibi, Director of Public Relations and Media Department Muhammad Al-Mazini, Director of Labor Relations Fatouh Al-Ansari, and Head of the Shelter Center Muhammad Al-Rajah.



Farwaniya Governor Athbi Al-Nasser signs the guest book during his visit to the Shelter for Expatriate Workers.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the procedures for receiving expatriate workers and ensuring their basic needs are met.

The governor commended the dedication of the center's employees, and appreciated their commitment to providing the basic support and services to ensure the comfort and safety of the workers.

He expressed gratitude for the great humanitarian efforts exerted by the staff, highlighting Kuwait's commitment to its humanitarian responsibilities.

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Farwaniya Governor Athbi Al-Nasser conducts an inspection tour of the Shelter for Expatriate Workers in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

Kuwait sets standards in oil production & tech adoption

ABU DHABI, Nov 4, (KUNA): Under-secretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil Sheikh Dr. Nimer Fahad Al-Sabah said on Monday that Kuwait is pioneering in oil production and constantly seeks to innovate and adopt latest technologies with the Gulf countries.

This came in a statement by Sheikh Dr. Nimer Al-Sabah to KUNA, after the opening of the ADIPEC 2024 Exhibition and Conference, held under the patronage of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, with the participation of more than 160 countries, Kuwait being one of them.

Participation in this event comes under "the urgent need to exchange experiences and modern technologies, which contributes to enhancing productivity and efficiency in this sector," he stated.

ADIPEC's excellence "highlights the

role of the UAE and the Gulf countries as the major international players in the oil sector," constituting an opportunity to develop strategic partnerships between companies from around the world," he added.

He expressed his aspiration to take advantage of this event "to strengthen Kuwait's position in the oil market and enhance cooperation between Gulf countries."

He stressed the importance of transitioning towards clean and sustainable energy, especially as the world is witnessing a major transformation towards renewable energy, "so we as oil-producing countries must be at the forefront of these transformations."

He pointed out the important need to promote innovation and technology in the oil and gas industries, "the development of modern technologies enhances our ability to face environmental and economic challenges."

"Kuwait's participation in ADIPEC is an important step towards strengthening our position as a regional hub for energy innovation, and we look forward to exchanging visions and ideas with the other participants," said the Undersecretary.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday Secretary General of the GCC Jassem Al-Budaiwi. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met with Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed Al-Khereiji in Kuwait on Monday.

The meeting came on the sidelines of the High-Level International Conference on "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms - The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process".

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya also met with Secretary General of Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Deemah Al-Yahya in Kuwait Monday.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of High-Level International Conference on "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms - The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process", held in Kuwait between Nov 4-5. (KUNA)

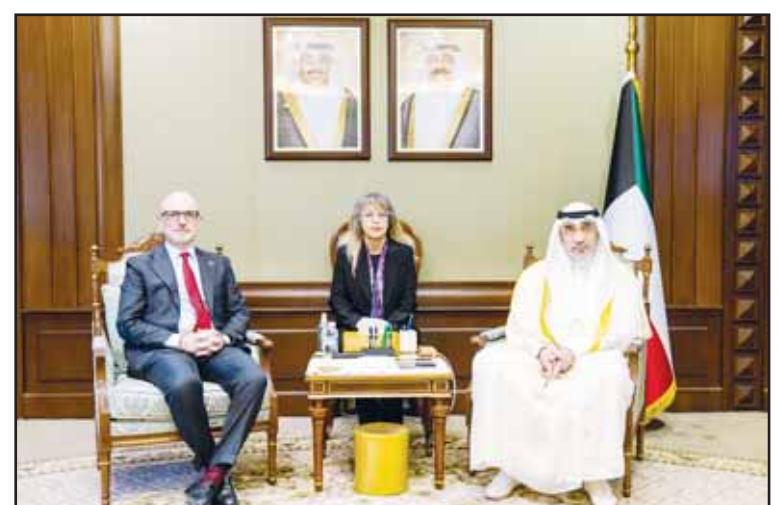
Acting PM receives Italian ambassador

Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah received Monday Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, Lorenzo Morini.

During the meeting, ways of boosting cooperation between the two

friendly countries were touched on. The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Dakhil Al-Dakhil, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Undersecretary of

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Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister receives Ambassador of Italy.

PM Diwan photo

2 Digital conversion qualitative leap in gov't offered services

4 Council hails Cabinet's decision to set unified car shade specification



10 Zain a strategic partner to the government in leading digital transformation

Day by Day

MANY employees have chosen to retire for various reasons, yet most have gone months without receiving their pensions due to complex administrative procedures, placing them in difficult financial situations.

The Public Institution for Social Security (PISS) is urged to expedite the processing of these cases, as retirees depend entirely on their pensions for their livelihood.

The government is also called upon to consider their circumstances and show compassion.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:42	Asr .....	14:38
Sunrise ..	06:03	Maghrib ..	17:00
Zohr .....	11:32	Isha .....	18:18

## Local

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Rather hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times northerly wind to northeasterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain.

**By Night:** Mild to rather cold

## Weather

with light to moderate northeast-ly wind to northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	32	24
Kuwait Airport	34	21
Abdaly	33	20

Bubyan	30	20
Jahra	32	22
Failaka Island	25	17
Salmiyah	28	23
Ahmadi	30	18
Jal Aliyah	31	20
Nuwaisib	30	20

## Tajikistan Tourism Exhibition



Fresh and dry fruits are available in abundance in Tajikistan.



Colorful handicrafts were the main attraction at the exhibition

## 'Kuwait lags behind among GCC visitors'

## Tajikistan showcases tourism potential, investment scope

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the sidelines of the visit of the country's President Emomali Rahmon to the State of Kuwait, organized the "Tourism Potential Introduction Exhibition, at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote tourism and the potential for business investment.

Tourism in Tajikistan offers diverse experiences, from stunning natural landscapes with mountains, meadows, and lakes to vibrant cities and ancient ruins. Travelers can explore historic sites in Penjikent, Khujand, Istaravshan, and Dushanbe, and embark on adventurous treks in the Pamir Mountains.

Muminzod Kamoliddin, Chairman of the Committee for tourism under the government of the Republic of Tajikistan said of particular interest to the Gulf citizens and especially Kuwait is eco-tourism which offers a glimpse of native flora, and mountain hot springs provide eco-friendly encounters with nature. The Pamir region, with its focus on family homestays and small businesses, is especially eco-conscious, preserving local culture and supporting sustainable practices.

Visitors can enjoy Tajik culture through festivals, handicrafts, and unique museums. Shopping at bazaars, choosing handmade souvenirs, dining at family-run cafes, and opting for homestays enhance both the experience and the local economy, fostering a deep connection to Tajikistan's heritage and environment, he said.

Speaking about the tourists from the GCC countries, he said, very few Kuwaitis visited Tajikistan last year, about 300 or 400, but from other GCC countries such as from the UAE and Saudi Arabia more than 50,000 have visited his country last year and expects this figure to jump by the end of this year.

## Tourists

He added, he is looking forward to receive more tourists from Kuwait and "we hope and believe more and more Kuwaitis will love rich tourism of Tajikistan. For the benefit of the tourists, he went on to say, there are more than 200 tour operators who offer highly skilled translators and guides for the benefit of visitors so that their stay in Tajikistan becomes more pleasant."

He said there are two direct flights to Tajikistan operated by Jazeera and hopes to see more direct flights for the benefit of the tourists. He added, there are also direct flights from Dubai and Saudi Arabia.

M. Baharullo, senior officer for the promotion of tourism in Tajikistan says, Dushanbe has open door policy and has good relations not only with Kuwait but all GCC countries and for us Kuwait is one of the closest partners in the region and "today as

we celebrate the 30th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations with the State of Kuwait we have organized this exhibition at the KCCI within the framework of this relationship.

"As we look forward to lure more Kuwaitis to visit Tajikistan we are closely working not only with travel agents in Kuwait but also the business entrepreneurs.

"For example, to manufacture electric cars 12 types of natural minerals are required and in this exhibition we have put on display 10 types of minerals all found in Tajikistan.

## Electric

"In future if any manufacturer in Kuwait shows interest to produce electric cars, we can supply all these 10 natural minerals. We are rich in mineral resources but unfortunately we do not have the much-needed technology and in this area we are looking for Kuwaiti investors."

For wellness, the Garm Chashma Hot Springs near Khorog offer mineral-rich waters believed to have healing properties, particularly for skin, muscle, and cardiovascular health. Other mineral springs provide carbonated water used for various treatments.

Adventure enthusiasts can trek the Pamir and Fann Mountains or travel the Pamir Highway, famed for its stunning landscapes, high mountain passes, and traditional mountain villages. Destinations like the Gissar Range and Iskanderul Lake offer scenic hikes and breathtaking views, while national parks preserve Tajikistan's diverse wildlife, including snow leopards and juniper forests.

Tajikistan's rich history includes ancient cities like Khujand and Penjikent, with well-preserved sites like mausoleums, mosques, and fortresses that tell the stories of Sogdiana, Bactria, and Alexander the Great's conquests.

Sustainable tourism is on the rise in Tajikistan, allowing travelers to enjoy its natural and cultural wonders while making a positive impact on local communities. Visitors can immerse themselves in authentic experiences that support the region's heritage and environment.

Dushanbe and Khorog's botanical gardens offer a close look at local flora, while the Varzob Valley and mountain hot springs provide refreshing natural experiences with minimal environmental impact. In the Pamirs, eco-friendly tourism thrives, with family homestays that directly benefit local communities and small-scale businesses.

Throughout Tajikistan, travelers can dive into Tajik and Pamiri culture through vibrant festivals, local crafts, and unique museums. Visitors are encouraged to shop at bazaars, buy handmade souvenirs, dine at family-run cafes, and stay in homestays, fostering a deeper connection to the region's culture and sustainable tourism.

the central registration platform, which has reduced prices by as much as 40 percent while maintaining service quality.

The Ministry is expected to release detailed pricing and contact information for Hajj campaigns at the end of this week. The registration will remain open until November 17.

Al-Muzain attributed the price reduction to recent changes in Hajj regulations, increased competition among licensed Hajj caravans and improved services within Saudi camps.

From KD 3,800 to KD 1,700

## Hajj pilgrimage prices in big dip

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs opened registration for the 2025 Hajj pilgrimage season, with campaign prices ranging from 1,600 to 1,700 Kuwaiti dinars per person.

Sattam Al-Muzain, Director of the Hajj and Umrah Department has announced a notable decrease in Hajj prices — down from previous rates of up to 3,800 dinars — due to the introduction of

the central registration platform, which has reduced prices by as much as 40 percent while maintaining service quality.

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Kuwaiti and Tajikistan trade delegations during the meeting.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq

## Deals signed with Tajikistan turning point in ties, says KCCI

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): A spate of bilateral deals Kuwait and Tajikistan have signed will be instrumental in paving the way for more growth in relations, the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said on Monday, citing untapped potential for more cooperation.

Dating back to the early 1990s, relations between Kuwait and Dushanbe have grown in proximity thanks largely to "cultural and eco-

economic links," said a commerce chamber statement after a visit by a high-profile Tajik delegation led by President Emomali Rahmon, underlining the common "national visions" for development seen in the two countries.

For Kuwaiti investors, the Central Asian nation offers ample opportunities to explore, the statement underlined, citing the banking and telecommunication sectors as among the most flourishing in Kuwait, while the same

fields could gain from more Kuwaiti investments in Dushanbe, it added. The statement went on to say that the visiting Tajik officials heaped praise on the "exemplary" investment and commercial relations with Kuwait, emphasizing that Tajikistan promises investors a hassle-free experience through an array of simplified procedures, including an electronic travel authorization system for the nationals of more than 80 nations, it said.

## Digital conversion qualitative leap in gov't offered services

Need to ensure safe use of technology: forum

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Participants at the 11th e-Government Forum held on Sunday affirmed that the digital-cloud transformation of government operations will achieve a qualitative leap in the electronic services provided by the government.**

The forum was organized by the Kuwait Foundation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses (KFE-OCH) under the patronage of Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar under the theme "Digital Government and Integrated Services Strategy". The speakers highlighted an agreement between the public and private sectors on the need to ensure the safe use of technology and to create a single digital platform that offers all government services.

A number of the speakers also highlighted the importance of the steps taken by the government, such as the Sahel application, in advancing this transformation.

In this context, Acting Chair of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Abdullah Al-Ajmi affirmed that developing integrated and comprehensive government services will save a lot of effort and costs for government agencies and the state budget.

In a speech delivered on behalf of Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar during the opening, Al-Ajmi explained that this development will provide better services for citizens and residents and simultaneously improve the capabilities of government agencies. This will enable more sustainable and effective planning that will benefit the state's financial and human resources and strengthen its competitive position among neighboring countries and the world.

He affirmed the importance of CITRA's role in regulating the communications and information technology sector in the country, stressing that communications and information technology are the main drivers for the development of electronic services derived from digital transformation strategies.

Al-Ajmi indicated that the communications sector provides the necessary infrastructure for both communication services and information systems.

## Kashif service

He announced the experimental launch of the advanced fifth-generation network (5G Advance) and the Kashif service, which reveals the identity of callers before answering, adding that this initiative aims to reduce fraudulent calls and is specifically designed to identify official entities, companies, and institutions, rather than individuals.

Meanwhile, Head of the Kuwaiti Foundation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses Bader Al-Salman stated that this forum serves as an important platform for accessing government services that promote comprehensive automation and integration in all government agencies.

He said this transition will eliminate the need for institutions and individuals to rely on manual methods or visit government centers to exchange information, inquire about procedures, or complete documentation, adding that he believes this shift will enhance productivity and efficiency, and result in cost and time savings for the state, institutions, and individuals alike.

He highlighted the immense potential of artificial intelligence, along with the expertise of the private sector and academics, to develop educational programs that ensure integrated solutions compatible with the approved international standards for protecting information assets and maintaining the privacy of citizens and residents, all while adhering to principles of good governance.

In addition, head of the Partnerships and Events Department at the Central Agency for Information Technology Fatima Al-Qallaf affirmed that the integration of electronic services represents a critical response to the challenges at hand.

She noted that the forum's theme reflects the commitment to advancing government services in the next phase of integration within government procedures.

Al-Qallaf explained that the real benefits of developing the e-government system over the past years lie in "moving confidently into the future for Kuwait to occupy a position among neighboring countries and the developed world, and provide the community with the advanced electronic services it deserves that would protect rights, save time and money, and support the execution of work and plans both inside and outside the State of Kuwait."

The state has established appropriate development plans to implement these initiatives efficiently and effectively, benefiting from all available financial and human resources.

She highlighted the Sahel application, developed by the Central Agency for Information Technology, as a key tool in facilitating the development of integrated automated government services.

## Other Voices

## Trump and Harris: diverging visions for America's future

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

As the United States gears up for its presidential election, the political scene is becoming increasingly dynamic, with former President Donald Trump and current Vice President Kamala Harris emerging as the top candidates.

Their contrasting visions for the future of the country set the stage for a highly anticipated electoral contest.

Donald Trump, having previously served as president, is running on a platform that emphasizes economic growth, national security, and a commitment to conservative values. His supporters appreciate his focus on deregulation and tax cuts, believing that these policies can stimulate job creation and economic recovery. Trump's campaign is expected to highlight his administration's accomplishments while addressing ongoing concerns about inflation and the state of the economy. As he rallies his base, Trump aims to unify Republicans and attract undecided voters by promising a return to the policies that characterized his presidency.

On the other hand, Kamala Harris brings a different perspective to the election. As the first female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, Harris represents

a significant shift in American politics. Her campaign focuses on issues such as healthcare reform, climate change, and social justice, appealing to a diverse coalition of voters who prioritize equity and inclusivity. Harris's experience in both the Senate and as attorney general of California informs her approach to policy, and she seeks to build on the achievements of the Biden administration while addressing the ongoing challenges facing the nation.

As election day draws near, both candidates are ramping up their campaign efforts to reach as many voters as possible. Their campaigns aim not only to mobilize their loyal bases but also to appeal to undecided voters who will play a crucial role in determining the election's outcome. With issues such as the economy, healthcare, and social justice at the forefront of public discourse, the candidates will be highlighting their strategies for addressing these pressing challenges.

Polling data is playing an increasingly significant role in shaping the strategies of both campaigns. Recent surveys indicate a competitive race, with both candidates showing strengths in different demographics and regions. Polls are not only gauging overall voter sentiment but also measuring key issues that resonate with the electorate, such as economic recovery, unemployment and healthcare. In this charged political environment, the upcoming presidential election promises to be a significant moment in United States history, with Trump and Harris representing two distinct paths for the nation's future.



Al-Hajeri

## KPA, Abu Dhabi Ports Group seek to upgrade cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Sheikh Khaled Al-Sabah, the Director General of the Kuwait Ports Authority, led a key coordination meeting with the Abu Dhabi Ports Group, focusing on strengthening collaboration in the commercial seaports sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting, attended by UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi and Abu Dhabi Ports Group CEO Saif Al-Mazrouei, was aimed to enhance maritime and logistics services, building on the historical ties between Kuwait and the UAE.

During the meeting, Sheikh Khaled emphasized that the partnership between the two institutions will concentrate on business development and the exchange of expertise.

This initiative is a reflection of the longstanding bilateral relations that have fostered economic cooperation, evident in recent projects like the establishment of the SAFIN office in Kuwait, linked to the Abu Dhabi Ports Group and the Maritime

Classification office affiliated with the Emirates Classification Society.

Ambassador Al-Neyadi highlighted the pivotal role of the ports sector in boosting maritime transport efficiency, reducing logistical costs and leveraging the services available at both countries' ports. Such collaborations not only facilitate trade movement but also create opportunities for growth and investment in the region.

Meanwhile, Saif Al-Mazrouei stressed that this strategic cooperation would not only enhance operational efficiency but also contribute significantly to the broader economic landscape of the Gulf region, underlining the importance of working together to capitalize on each other's strengths.

This synergy can be likened to two rivers converging, where the combined flow increases the overall strength and breadth of the waterways, thereby benefiting all stakeholders involved.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Return Gaza Strip to Egyptian control ... only viable solution'

"IT APPEARS that the only viable solution, both regionally and internationally, is to return the Gaza Strip to Egyptian administration," columnist **Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"There is a lack of Arab or international support for restoring control of the Strip to Hamas, which has turned Gaza into a factional emirate, leading its residents toward an uncertain future marked by humanitarian crises.



Talal Al-Arab

"The Palestinian Authority has failed to protect Gaza from Hamas's separation and reckless actions, which have brought nothing but disaster and devastation to its people.

"Given Egypt's proximity to Gaza and its significant Arab and international influence, free from partisan bias and the weaknesses of Palestinian leadership, it is uniquely positioned to sever Gaza's ties to the Iranian regime.

"Historically, Egypt managed the Gaza Strip intermittently from 1948 until June 1967, following the disastrous war that resulted in Israel occupying Sinai and Gaza, along with the Golan Heights, West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

"Despite the Palestinian factions being under direct Israeli occupation and enduring significant suffering, they have not managed to unite, focusing instead on controlling the remnants of Palestine.

"Although the Arab and international community recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, power struggles and financial interests have overshadowed this unity, especially within Hamas, which emerged from Israeli dominance.

"When Hamas failed to gain power in Ramallah, it took an unprecedented step by launching a violent coup in Gaza against the ruling authority and persecuting dissenters.

"Surprisingly, Israel did not intervene, as this situation aligned with its interests. Even more perplexingly, Israel overlooked the funding and arming of Hamas.

"Therefore, returning Gaza to Egyptian administration is essential, allowing its people the right to live peacefully, free from external greed and manipulation."

**Also:**

"When a reckless young motorist hits a police officer who stopped him for his dangerous driving, and then flees with full awareness that he will eventually be caught, what do we call that? When a motorist intentionally drives in the opposite direction without any regard for the safety of others and of causing a fatal accident, what do we call that? When truck drivers deliberately enter the capital during curfew, what do we call that? And when bus drivers race on the roads and block traffic at stoplights, obstructing the flow of vehicles and damaging sidewalks, how do we label that? These are just a few of the unacceptable behaviors we witness daily, all without fear or shame. Other examples include parking in spots allocated for the disabled, running red lights, or stopping in a third lane at a two-lane traffic light, as if the rules no longer apply," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"This behavior reflects a blatant disregard for the law. Some citizens and residents intentionally undermine the authority of the state, not just by breaking traffic laws. These actions should be classified as state security offenses rather than mere traffic violations!

"Decision-makers must pay close attention to the current situation and figure out how we reached this point. People are not foolish; they have tested the waters and realized that connections can often extricate them from the consequences of their actions. Residents have also discovered ways to evade accountability, leading to a boldness in violating the state's authority.

"Even those who would normally respect the law in their own countries have become transgressors here, disregarding the prestige of the state. This behavior, which some have come to view as a hobby, reflects a troubling mindset.

"These are the realities we observe daily. While we feel the frustration, it seems there is little we can do. The responsible authorities must take this matter seriously and work to restore the prestige of the state, and ensure both citizens and residents respect the laws and understand their boundaries."

"I am not fond of generalizations, and the views of enthusiasts regarding successive governments are not entirely accurate. However, I agree with the widespread political and

cultural sentiment that the state has failed to prioritize culture, which often seems to be at the bottom of its agenda, if not entirely overlooked," columnist **Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) has been a long-standing cultural institution that achieved remarkable successes and organized events both in Kuwait and abroad. This was particularly true when NCCAL was run by statesmen and cultural figures who were unafraid of criticism and focused on substantive issues rather than personal attacks.

"Unfortunately, we have seen NCCAL lose its status as a platform for culture, arts, and literature following the departure of influential figures like the poet Ahmad Al-Adwani, Abdulaziz Hussein, and Ahmad Al-Saqqa, as well as the resignation of our dear brother, the poet Dr. Khalifa Al-Waqyan. This marked the beginning of a troubling phase in NCCAL characterized by decline, silence, and a lack of genuine cultural engagement.

"NCCAL lacks a comprehensive archive of its activities and documents since its establishment. Many of its important documents have been scattered, with some unfortunately ending up on the black market, which is a troubling reflection of neglect.

"Few months ago, the Center for Research and Studies in Kuwait proposed a free professional initiative to document all works and documents of NCCAL. However, there was little enthusiasm for this initiative within NCCAL at the time.

"Former Secretary-General Engineer Ali Al-Youha faced attempts at forgery, distortion, investigation, and personal attacks from within the Ministry of Information and even NCCAL itself. Despite these challenges, cultural and literary justice ultimately prevailed, thanks to the efforts of Abu Sarah and some dedicated team members, and not those who merely entered NCCAL through the 'wasta' virus.

"Our brother, poet Dr. Khalifa Al-Waqyan, in his capacity as the former assistant secretary-general of NCCAL and a witness to its golden age of culture, agreed to submit a paper for the 51st anniversary of NCCAL.

"He requested the minutes of the founding meetings and relevant documents to help shape his ideas culturally and historically. Unfortunately, this request could not be fulfilled due to the absence of those papers, which were neither preserved in the Ministry of Information nor in NCCAL's archives.

"The Secretary-General of NCCAL Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar attended a lavish dinner organized at a prestigious hotel in honor of Dr. Al-Waqyan for his recognition as the personality of the Qurain Cultural Festival. However, Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi was absent at the event, as he chose to attend a modest sporting event that seemed more important than honoring a cultural and poetic figure like Dr. Al-Waqyan.

"Today, silence has become a defining legacy within NCCAL, as well as in the Ministry of Information, which seeks a more prominent role in a rapidly advancing world. This has become particularly evident following my article on 'Forging History and Governmental Silence,' which addressed false claims regarding a Syrian citizen's right to the national anthem, which was originally penned by poet Ahmad Al-Adwani.

"Legal action is an option for anyone, but the primary responsibility lies with the state, represented by the Ministry of Information and NCCAL. Their inaction only encourages the distortion of history and disrespect for the national anthem. I wouldn't be surprised if the legacy of silence, negligence, and concession continues.

"NCCAL and the Ministry of Information have not issued any statement to clarify the circumstances surrounding the controversy over the national anthem. In the meantime, my dear brother Dr. Khalifa Al-Waqyan has taken on the moral responsibility, and even shared his audio testimony on the 'X' platform.

"Recently, Dr. Khalifa Al-Waqyan was awarded the Al-Babtain Foundation Appreciation Award for Creativity. However, we are yet to hear any words of congratulations or blessings from the Minister of Information or the Secretary-General of NCCAL.

"In Kuwait, there seems to be a rush for leadership positions in the Ministry of Information and NCCAL. However, this urgency does not extend to confronting forgery or defending the state's history, dignity, and national anthem, nor does it include recognizing and congratulating intellectual and cultural figures.

"We are left to accept that the pervasive silence has become a troubling government legacy."

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



Fishing boats moored at the Souq Sharq marina.

Al-Seyassah photo

**Fishermen's union seeks PM intervention**

**Diesel shortage threatening fishing industry**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Kuwaiti Fishermen's Union (KFU) has called upon His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, to urgently resolve the issue of subsidized diesel. The Union is urging a return to the previous fuel allotments, which were sufficient for fishing trips before being halved, a decision that has put immense strain on the fishing sector.

The Union warned that these challenges, coupled with dwindling support, are driving people away from the profession and threatening the industry's survival, potentially leading to the disappearance of local seafood products from markets, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The Union also expressed frustration over attempts to engage with the Minister of Finance to address this crisis, stating that requests for a meeting have gone unanswered. They questioned who stands to gain from the current situation and why there seems to be a lack of intervention to support the fishing community.

Describing the industry as "struggling and collapsing," the Union emphasized the need for

immediate action to safeguard both the fishing profession and the Kuwaitis who rely on it. The Union noted that an increasing number of fishing boats are now inactive due to a loss of skilled workers. Union representatives have approached various officials, and while their concerns were acknowledged, no concrete solutions have been implemented.

The Union urges government officials to take swift action to support the fishing industry, preserve the local product, and address the challenges driving away workers from this essential sector.



Mol photo

Suspects involved in the conspiracy in police custody.



Mol photo

The half-lorry which smashed into vehicles was traced by the traffic police.

**Drones deployed to trace berserk 'half-lorry' driver**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The General Traffic Department arrested a transport vehicle driver who deliberately rammed into multiple vehicles, endangering the lives of others, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that as soon as a video surfaced showing the driver of a half-lorry transport vehicle deliberately colliding with several vehicles in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, the General Traffic Department intensified its search efforts. Drones were used, and security personnel were dispatched to the area.

Authorities quickly located the vehicle, identified the driver, and arrested him as he attempted to conceal the vehicle's features for camouflage. The driver was handed over to the relevant authorities for further legal action, and the vehicle was impounded at the traffic department's garage.



KFF photo

The fire destroyed the flat but no injuries were reported.

**No injuries in flat fire**

Fire broke out in an apartment in Hawally on Monday afternoon, but no casualties were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the Control Room of KFF received information about the fire, firefighting teams rushed to the location and quickly controlled the fire before it spread further.

Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

**PAFN destroys 250 kg of rotten meat and chicken**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Head of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Food Inspection Center at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Jumana Al-Khalab has confirmed the destruction of 250 kilograms of adulterated meat and chicken found to be unfit for human consumption on the sidelines of the most recent inspection campaign carried out by the center, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Khalab explained that based on law no. 112/2013 regarding the establishment of PAFN, the authority's commitment to guarantee the safety of consumers and the directive of PAFN Director General Dr. Reem Al-Fulaj to hold accountable anyone who dares to tamper with food and harm consumers; the center conducts inspection tours regularly.

**Nine team up to trap expat in drugs story**

**Ex-wife, officers party to crime**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (Agencies): **Kuwait's Ministry of Interior announced on Monday that the criminal security sector, represented by the General Administration for Drug Control, has uncovered details of a fabricated drug possession charge against a resident, initially arrested by security patrols.**

A conspiracy orchestrated by several individuals, including the resident's ex-wife, an officer, and two military personnel from the Ministry of Interior, led to the false charges.

In a press release, the Ministry stated that investigations by anti-narcotics officers revealed the drugs found in the resident's vehicle had been planted covertly, without his knowledge, with the assistance of an officer and two patrol officers.

When the resident was detained, he was taken to the General Directorate for Drug Control, where an altered arrest report was filed to support the false accusations, and the investigations ultimately led to the arrest of all nine individuals involved.

Each suspect confessed to their role in the crime and has been referred to the Public Prosecution for further legal action and completion of the investigation.

The MoI affirmed that no one was above the law, stressing that the primary duty of law enforcement was to uphold justice and ensure that people's rights were protected and respected.

The Ministry reiterated its commitment to pursuing justice and bringing all suspects to account in every case.

**Woman insulted:** A 29-year-old Kuwaiti woman working at the Ministry of Justice filed a report at Jahra Police Station, accusing her supervisor of threatening and insulting her at the workplace without stating the

reasons why the accused committed such acts, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

A security source confirmed that a case was registered at the police station and the supervisor will be summoned for questioning to verify the employee's claim.

**Duo held with drugs:** Two persons were arrested in Riqqa for consuming and possessing narcotic substances, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

Ahmedi securitymen were patrolling the area when they noticed the suspicious behavior of two persons who appeared to be in an abnormal condition. The officers approached them for routine inspection, leading to the discovery of an undisclosed quantity of different types of illegal drugs (narcotic pills, shabu and others) in their possession.

A case was registered and the two individuals were referred to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry.

**95 nabbed in police ops:** The General Department of Rescue Police carried out extensive security and traffic operations across various governorates between October 27 and November 2. The campaigns led to 1,639 security operations, resulting in the arrest of 95 individuals wanted on various charges, the recovery of 71 missing persons, and the detention of three people for theft. Additionally, 11 individuals with outstanding criminal warrants were apprehended, 67 people were detained for lack of identification, and 49 were found with expired residency permits. Police also intervened in four altercations, assisted 348 individuals in need, and impounded 139 judiciary-wanted vehicles, transferring them to the relevant authorities.

On the traffic front, the Emergency Department recorded 6,951 traffic violations, including 21 cases of unauthorized parking in spaces designated for individuals with disabilities.



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# Council hails Cabinet's decision to set unified car shade specification

Move to enhance public aesthetics gains momentum

## Need for stronger incentives

KCCI hosts a workshop with ILO on low-carbon practices

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a workshop attended by representatives from the International Labor Organization's Regional Office for Arab States, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The focus of the workshop was to present the findings of a preliminary study prepared by the organization, highlighting the efforts of the Kuwaiti private sector in transitioning to low-carbon practices.

This initiative aims to enhance sustainability in economic activities and support Kuwait's commitments to reduce carbon emissions as outlined in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

The NDCs serve as a climate action framework for each signatory country to establish goals for emission reductions and adaptation to climate change impacts.

The Paris Agreement, adopted by 197 countries during COP 21 in December 2015, emphasizes the need to significantly cut global greenhouse gas emissions, aiming to limit the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with aspirations to restrict it to 1.5 degrees.

During the workshop, discussions among representatives from various Kuwaiti companies and sector unions identified several challenges in Kuwait's transition to a low-carbon economy.

The key issues included a lack of incentives that could balance the costs of achieving this transition and the need for workforce qualification.

The workshop concluded with recommendations to enhance collaboration between the public and private sectors, develop comprehensive frameworks for sustainability implementation and periodically review these frameworks.

Furthermore, there was a call to elevate Kuwait's NDCs to align with those of other Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The KCCI encouraged its members to continue providing feedback and suggestions on the shift towards low-carbon practices through a previously circulated questionnaire.



Attendees in the workshop. Al-Seyassah photo

**By Inaas Awadh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Several members of the Municipal Council praised the Cabinet's decision to set unified specifications for car shades at mosques, schools, and cooperative societies throughout the country with the aim of preserving the overall scenery and aesthetic appearance in various regions.**

Some of these members suggested that the draft regulations for car shades, which the Municipal Council approved two years ago but are still pending approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, should be linked to the technical specifications to be set by the authorities designated by the Cabinet.

In this context, Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khalid Al-Mutairi commended the Cabinet's decision to standardize the technical specifications for car shades.

He affirmed that implementing this decision will enhance the aesthetic character of these shades and create a positive visual harmony in their locations adjacent to cooperative societies, mosques, and schools. This will create a distinctive mark for the residents of each area.

In a press statement, Al-Mutairi highlighted the importance of linking the technical specifications and requirements for car shades that were developed based on the Cabinet's directives with the new car shade regulations approved by the Municipal Council two years ago.

He revealed that he had submitted a question to the municipality to inquire about the reason behind the delay in approving these regulations by the Minister of Municipal



Photo by Samer Shakir

Unified car shade specifications aims to preserve Kuwait's visual appeal.

Affairs, as this approval is necessary for dealing with the chaos surrounding car shades and the encroachment on state property, and ensuring better organization and improved designs and placements throughout the country.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Abduljader also praised the Cabinet's decision, which has assigned several government agencies to set the requirements and technical specifications for car shades, under the guidance of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

He expressed his strong support for this decision, indicating that it builds on a proposal he had previously submitted.

Al-Abduljader explained that they had submitted a proposal concerning car shades in October last year and had advocated for its approval. However, at that time, there were no positive signs of implementation, despite its significance. The recent decision by the Council of Ministers reflects the importance of this issue.

He called for the expedited development

of technical specifications for car shades at mosques, schools, and cooperative societies.

Al-Abduljader affirmed the need to standardize the specifications and designs in each region to preserve the overall scenery and aesthetic appeal of the country, as outlined in the Cabinet's decision.

He asserted that the new shade regulations and the accompanying guidelines will undoubtedly help maintain the visual integrity of the areas and prevent any encroachments on state property.

Furthermore, Municipal Council member Abdullah Awad Al-Hathal Al-Enezi expressed appreciation for the Cabinet's decision to unify the design and shape of canopies at cooperative societies, schools, and mosques in each area.

He highlighted the priority of the Municipal Council and its important role in setting and approving technical specifications for car canopies, as this is an inherent right of the council.

Al-Enezi stated that the Municipal Council is fully prepared to collaborate with the government agencies designated by the

Cabinet to develop these specifications for car canopies.

He stressed the need for the municipality to be at the forefront of the nominated entities due to its vital role in this process, adding that the municipality and the Municipal Council function as two integral parts of a single entity.

Al-Enezi affirmed in a press statement the importance of setting technical specifications for car canopies in locations adjacent to schools, cooperative societies, mosques, and government agencies.

He indicated that these specifications are necessary for the urban organization of the areas and for standardizing requests and designs. This, he noted, would help reduce encroachments on state property and enhance the overall appearance of the areas.

In related context, municipal sources revealed that efforts are underway to select members from the municipality to serve on the committee established by the Council of Ministers.

They explained that this committee will focus on developing technical specifications for car shades, reaching a consensus on their requirements, and benefiting from the expertise of municipal staff regarding the laws governing the licensing and placement of shades.

As the executive body, the municipality aims to align the technical requirements for car shades at mosques, schools, and cooperative societies throughout the country with the articles and stipulations in the draft of the new shades regulation. The Ministry of Municipality is currently awaiting activation of this regulation through a ministerial decision.

Also, article 7 of the bylaws of the newly approved car shade regulations outlines the fees associated with canopy licenses. Licensees will be required to pay a fee of half a Kuwaiti dinar per square meter for licenses to install car shades outside property boundaries in private and model residential areas. This fee is to be paid once at the municipality's relevant department, in accordance with the decision regulating fees for municipal services.

## Other Voices

### Me and freedoms of India, China

By Ahmad alsarraf

I believe in absolute freedom for individuals, bounded only by the law. Yet, such freedom demands a robust understanding of the law, as well as an awareness of boundaries -- what one may or may not do or say.

Absolute freedom without knowledge or cultural grounding is counterproductive, particularly for societies that lack education or sophistication.

Freedom, then, requires a certain level of cultural and intellectual maturity to be used constructively rather than misinterpreted or abused.

Personal freedom, in this way, forms the cornerstone of societal progress, stability and innovation. It may not guarantee security or prosperity, but it is vital to individual fulfillment -- more essential, even, than many combined comforts.

This importance of freedom becomes clearer when we reflect on choice. If a prisoner were offered a range of material and moral comforts alongside the option of freedom, most would likely choose freedom, with exceptions only for those who have never grasped its true essence.

In societies shaped by slavery or communist systems, the concepts of liberty and autonomy are often foreign. Many slaves, particularly in historical contexts like America and the Gulf, were so accustomed to dependency that they chose to remain with the families who controlled their destinies even when freed. For them, this was the life they knew and found comfort in.

Some might argue that the dynamics of freedom observed around the world do not apply to a country like China, ruled by a communist party yet home to highly creative, productive people.

However, China remained economically and socially behind for nearly half a century. Only in the last thirty years, when the ruling party adopted policies of economic openness, expanded individual freedoms and moved away from rigid ideology, did China begin to rival developed nations.

Each increment in freedom coincided with greater individual creativity and innovation. I have visited Chi-

na several times over the past three decades for business and observed this transformation first-hand.

History offers further examples. Germany's democracy in the 1930s facilitated the rise of both the Nazi Party and, later, Chancellor Adenauer, whose leadership drove the post-war "German miracle."

This reflects the potential of free and progressive societies to chart their destinies, whether for good or ill. While democracy may not always fit specific times or contexts, it generally adapts well to varied circumstances.

However, any prosperity a democratic system might offer is diminished if freedom is absent. Material wealth alone does not satisfy people indefinitely; they eventually crave freedom of speech, movement, thought and action. The Soviet Union and its bloc serve as an instructive example of this pattern.

India provides another perspective. For decades, it was among the poorest and most populous countries in the world, yet it remained committed to democracy.

Over time, India's democracy took root, ultimately emerging as the foundation of its growth and resilience. Today, it stands as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, providing stability and security to large segments of its population without sacrificing democratic principles.

This journey of perseverance underscores that India's success is directly tied to its commitment to freedom and democracy.

In contrast, nations riddled with hatred, bigotry and regional or religious strife remain ensnared by poverty, disease and backwardness, even if they are rich in resources.

This is because a nation's true wealth lies not in its natural resources or industries, but in its people. Human potential cannot thrive without freedom, for only under conditions of freedom can people innovate and prosper.

As our society considers constitutional amendments, we must remember that freedom is the highest investment in human capital.

Freedom not only fuels creativity and progress but also lays the groundwork for a society that is stable, prosperous and fulfilled. It is my hope that those tasked with these constitutional changes will recognize the vital role of freedom as the bedrock of true advancement.

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## Awqaf integrates fingerprint attendance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Dr. Badr Al-Mutairi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, announced the integration of employee attendance departure fingerprints with the Civil Service Bureau's systems, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This development aligns with Admin-

istrative Circular No. 32 of 2024, issued on Sunday.

Al-Mutairi emphasized that this initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing comprehensive plan to modernize operations, leverage technology for efficiency, and eliminate outdated documentation processes.

## HH Amir congratulates Tonga on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to King Tupou VI of Tonga, on his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished King Tupou VI long-lasting health, and Tonga further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to King Tupou VI of Tonga, on his country's national day, wishing him long-lasting health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to King Tupou VI of Tonga, on his country's national day.

## 89 grievances filed

## CAPT reports 106 tenders, 64 bids opened in October

By Mohamed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) disclosed that it handled 822 issues in the month of October.

During this month, 106 tenders were published, 73 were offered, and 64 bid envelopes were opened. Also, 61 contracts were signed by direct order, 15 were registered, and 89 grievances and complaints were received.

The number of incoming messages were seven, and only one summons was issued, as well as four penalties were applied, and a single case of failure in implementation was filed. There were also 162 extension and change orders, along with 109 first policies processed.

In terms of meetings, the agency held ten meetings involving 56 entities and 952 attendees. A total of 82 working hours were logged.



Al-Seyassah photo

Photo during the College of Graduate Studies Council first meeting for academic year 2024-2025.

## College of Graduate Studies Council convenes its first meeting 2024-2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The College of Graduate Studies Council convened its first meeting for the academic year 2024-2025, attended by key officials including Acting Dean Dr. Ahmed Al-Makhial, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishari Al-Aifan and Acting Assistant Dean for Planning and Development Dr. Muhammad Al-Samawi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Dr. Al-Makhial extended a warm welcome to the new heads of various fields joining the College Council and expressed gratitude to previous members for their contributions. The council also appointed Dr. Muhammad Al-Samawi as the Secretary of the Council.

The attendees reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous meeting and agreed to host Dr. Ahmad Al-Gharaibeh as the second

evaluator for the Master of Education program in Educational Psychology. Additionally, they discussed the formation of scientific committees for the upcoming College of Graduate Studies conference, scheduled for April 6-7.

Key topics on the agenda included memoranda concerning student affairs, specifically focusing on application numbers and conditions for the academic year 2025/2026, anticipated scholarship opportunities for postgraduate studies and a proposal to set aside 20 percent of the expected acceptance numbers for students wishing to register under a non-restricted system.

This meeting set the stage for strategic planning and initiatives aimed at enhancing the academic landscape for graduate studies in the coming years.



Ambassador Lewis and Al-Attal meeting the delegation of ICE officials and engineers.

## British Ambassador advocates for engineering cooperation

## ICE Student Chapter opens at Kuwait University

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Belinda Lewis, welcomed the opening of the British Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Student Chapter's new branch at Kuwait University's College of Petroleum and Engineering, expressing her hope that this would contribute to the strengthening of knowledge exchange and people-to-people links between the two friendly countries.

The Ambassador hosted a delegation of visiting ICE officials, including ICE President Professor Anusha Shah, at her Residence following the conclusion of a Kuwait Society of Engineers-hosted roundtable discussion introducing ICE's "Enabling Better Infrastructure" programme, which focuses on overcoming challenges in the field of civil engineering to promote sustainable infrastructure development.

Ambassador Lewis added: "I am delighted by both the opening of ICE Student Chapter's new branch and the broader cooperation between ICE and Kuwaiti entities, including the Kuwait Society of Engineers and Kuwait Uni-



Al-Attal presenting a commemorative shield to Ambassador Lewis.

versity. I am confident this will unlock further collaboration between our two countries in the engineering, scientific and environmental fields."

The President of the Kuwait Society of Engineers, Eng. Faisal Duweeh Al-Attal, thanked the British Ambassador for supporting cooperation between the Society and ICE, stressing that he would spare no effort when it came to further strengthening this moving forward. Al-Attal also stressed his keenness to benefit from the experiences of friendly partners in the field of sustainable infrastructure development, which had been the core focus of the earlier roundtable discussion.

The President of ICE, Professor Anusha Shah, expressed her gratitude to all parties involved in opening the new Student Chapter, and her hope that this would support local engineers and students to realise their academic and research ambitions.

## Emerging signs

Continued from Page 1

has evolved into a major problem. In the process, many have overlooked the fact that it represents a stain on Kuwait's reputation.

In light of this, instead of finding a contemporary solution, the restrictions placed on these individuals became so severe that some turned to a life of crime, while others, especially those with professions, academic degrees, or foreign citizenship, chose to leave.

Living up to the Gulf proverb "A spring quenches the thirst of the one who is far, while the one who is near dies of thirst", many left Kuwait, the country where they had studied and spent their entire lives. Some became British citizens, Canadian citizens, or citizens of other nations that embraced them and benefited from them.

In the 1965 census, the number of Bedouin individuals was less than 15,000. However, they were left without a solution, either due to a lack of seriousness in solving the problem or their exploitation in electoral conflicts, as previously mentioned.

Today, their numbers have significantly increased and the situation continues to worsen, particularly due to the revocation of nationalities, which caused serious social and economic issues. It is likely that their population has surpassed 200,000 or more.

This issue is on the mind of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, who aims to get rid of the crises and problems that have remained unresolved for 60 years.

Even though the file is large, determination can pave the way to solutions, especially within the Council of Ministers.

Therefore, the recent report about a roadmap to tackle the Bedouin file represents a crucial starting point not only for resolving this issue but also for dealing with several others. For instance, benefiting from the skills and workforce of Bedouin employees in various institutions could contribute to strengthening the country's economic activity.

Furthermore, as we read, it is necessary to recognize that Kuwait is in a strategic location and is poised to embark on large-scale projects.

To support development and enhance the national product, it is necessary to employ all young people, skilled citizens, and Bedouin residents

who were born and raised in the country. This calls for a large workforce for new projects.

To conclude, we want to emphasize how pleased everyone would be to see the Bedouin issue resolved. This would mark a final solution to a longstanding social issue that has been exploited by dishonest parties to misrepresent Kuwait.

Once again we say, where there is a will, there is always a way.

## Kuwait champions

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Athbi affirmed the importance of the role played by human rights associations and public benefit organizations, which have offices within the center, in enhancing humanitarian services.

He stressed that Kuwait's reputation as a center for humanitarian work necessitates ongoing collaboration among all concerned parties to improve the level of services and care provided to expatriate workers.

## Kuwait, US

Continued from Page 1

In a statement, the minister lauded Dyer's efforts and role in combating trafficking in persons, which has been increasing.

As part of national efforts, a 3-point strategy was set on protection, prevention, and building partnerships, along with cooperation on local, regional and global levels, Al-Wasmi noted, pointing out that a standing national committee was formed to combat trafficking in persons and implement the content of said strategy.

The meeting also saw a visual presentation by representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Health, as well as the Public Prosecution on efforts, measures and services offered by each body in this regard, according to the ministry.

## Acting PM

Continued from Page 1

Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah, and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Major General Pilot Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

## Minister Al-Omar underlines digital technology to overhaul vital sectors

### Kuwait enhances collaboration with DCO

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar on Monday stressed eagerness to beef up State capabilities by employing cutting edge digital technology to revamp and develop various vital sectors.

The minister made the statement



KUNA photo Omar Al-Omar, Minister of State for Communication Affairs.

to KUNA following his meeting with Secretary-General of Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Deemah Al-Yahya to explore efforts to prop up digital transformation and joint cooperation.

He added that such meetings contribute to consolidating Kuwait's relations with the DCO due to relevant paramount significance to Kuwait's insight into digital transformation and promotion of State capabilities for a better future.

Al-Omar quoted the organization as

outlining Kuwait's steps towards the fulfillment of its strategic goals by means of launching a set of national initiatives and digital products that have created a fresh image for effective and productive government administration based on new generation technologies.

He added that during the meeting they had discussed Kuwait's DCO presidency for 2025 with a view to forging mutual coordination and providing all technical and technological support for relevant bodies.

## Kuwait leads

Continued from Page 1

In his speech to the two-day Fourth Dushanbe Conference, held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince said that the high-level event would focus on international counterterrorism efforts.

The conference, held under the title of "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms - The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process," reflected the Gulf country's commitment in this important security domain, he affirmed.

His Highness affirmed that the Dushanbe process would help solidify the global framework aimed at creating a fruitful and prosperous future for all where the rule of law was supreme regardless of race, religion, or gender.

Terrorism, he indicated, was harmful in all aspect and some were using advance technology and finances to serve their insidious purposes through terrorist organizations and transnational organized crime syndicates, which threatened international peace and security.

His Highness the Crown Prince said it was important to use the outcomes of the 79th UNGA, which concluded back in September especially the "Pact for the Future" document, a roadmap based on valued experiences that would help in the fight against terrorism.

In the time of political, economic, and social disagreements, the world must set aside differences and unite to face terrorism and extremism and all that would lead to such outcomes. His Highness the Crown Prince stressed.

He reiterated the importance of safeguarding international law and bolstering human rights to set the basic bloc that would prevent terrorism and extremism of all shapes and forms, adding that such must be an institutional principle agreed by all governments, civil societies.

He warned against terrorism's usage of the latest technologies to carry out evil plots and plans, saying that national, regional, and international efforts must be geared towards coordinating counterterrorism efforts through the UN and other similar organizations.

In similar terms, transnational organized crimes should be countered with drying up illegal financial resources to prevent criminals from

spread mischief and wrongdoing, he affirmed.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled mentioned "state terrorism", indicating that any country carrying out such heinous act must be stopped through systematic and pragmatic means via finding a unified definition of what constitute as terrorism.

He reflected the State of Kuwait's support of the crucial role played by the UN in counterterrorism and securing borders regionally and internationally.

Borders security is essential for every country's stability and peace, preventing many crimes such as smuggling of narcotics and weapons in addition to human trafficking, said His Highness the Crown Prince, hoping that this would reflected in the "Kuwait declaration" as part of the conference final communique.

He added, in this regard, Kuwait's commitment to the security exchange protocol of 2008 reflected keenness to counter terrorist groups and transnational organized crime in yet-to-be-drawn maritime borders with Iraq, reiterating his country's calls for Baghdad to resume cooperation within this field to achieve both countries mutual interest.

His Highness the Crown Prince also reflected Kuwait's keenness to hold a high-level conference for border security and administration in June of 2026, an event dedicated to reviewing results of the Dushanbe process.

He reiterated Kuwait's support of all efforts to counterterrorism and crime whether through security efforts, political coordination through the UN, or drying up the financial means to carrying out heinous terrorist acts.

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon underscored the significance of the Kuwait phase in strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation. He called for attention to educational programs and social projects to reduce the risks of extremism among youth.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya reaffirmed the country's stance against all forms of terrorism and its support for international efforts to counter extremism. He highlighted Kuwait's role in the global coalition against the so-called Islamic State and its efforts in repatriating family members of foreign fighters from camps in Syria and Iraq.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi emphasized the importance of cooperation in countering terrorism

and safeguarding security in the Gulf region. He outlined the GCC's comprehensive strategies and intelligence cooperation efforts to ensure terror-free borders.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov expressed on Monday deep appreciation towards Kuwait and Tajikistan for their support of the Dushanbe Process.

This came in Voronkov's speech to the High-Level International Conference on "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms - The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process".

"It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process High-Level Conference on Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms."

The UN official said "I extend my deepest gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for hosting this event, and to the Government of Kuwait for its generous hospitality."

He added, "I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to His Excellency President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan for his leadership in establishing the Dushanbe Process in 2018, indicting, "His efforts have transformed the Dushanbe Process into a key platform for multilateral action and cooperation in the global fight against terrorism."

"We are also deeply grateful to the State of Kuwait, and the Republic of Tajikistan for their support in advancing the Dushanbe Process."

The UN official stated, "Today, more than 480 participants, including Ministers, high-level representatives of Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, including youth and women's groups, are gathered here in Kuwait City."

"This gathering reaffirms our collective commitment to multilateralism and counter-terrorism cooperation, and our shared goal of building secure and resilient borders to safeguard global peace and security," he said.

"International counter-terrorism cooperation should be the beacon for inspiring all stakeholders toward effective coordination and cooperation to secure their countries, and to prevent terrorist movements and operations across national borders."

Voronkov said, "The global security landscape continues to evolve, with

terrorists exploiting the vulnerabilities of our borders. Recent expert reports show that over 40% of violent events and 10% of fatalities linked to political violence occur within 100 kilometers of a land border."

"This correlation is particularly evident as regards the expanding terrorist presence towards coastal states in West Africa, such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. The number of violent incidents in border areas has increased by 250% over the past two years."

"These trends are taking place within the broader context of an evolving terrorist threat. According to the latest Global Terrorism Index, a 22% increase in global deaths from terrorism was recorded in 2023, with fatalities rising to 8,352, the highest recorded figure since 2017."

He went on to say, "The use of established travel routes by terrorist groups such as Daesh and Al-Qaida and their affiliates continue to pose a risk, especially in conflict-prone regions like the Sahel, where they can recruit, transport, and smuggle operatives across porous borders."

"We reaffirm today the importance of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the recently adopted Pact for the Future, both of which reflect the international community's commitment to addressing the drivers of terrorism and ensuring sustainable peace."

"In this context, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, with 46 entities and its Border Management and Law Enforcement Working Group, remains pivotal to our efforts to deliver a coordinated UN response to terrorism," said Voronkov.

"Building on this collective effort, my Office leads two global, flagship programmes to assist Member States in strengthening border security: one focused on Border Security and Management and another on Countering Terrorist Travel. Both are One-UN initiatives, mobilizing the expertise and resources of specialized UN entities."

"I am confident that the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process will bolster regional and international counter-terrorism cooperation and help achieve a Future Free from Terrorism," stated Voronkov, adding, "I hope the Kuwait Declaration, which we will adopt based on discussions and deliberations of the Conference, will reflect our joint commitment to strengthen border security mechanisms across the world."

Trump wants to narrow his deficit with women

# Harris and Obamas work to turn out voters in run-up to Election Day

MIAMI, Nov 4, (AP): Concerts and carnivals hosted at polling precincts. "Souls to the Polls" mobilizations after Sunday service. And star-studded rallies featuring Hollywood actors, business leaders, musical artists and activists.

Such seemingly disparate efforts all have a single goal: boost Black voter turnout ahead of Election Day.

How Black communities turn out in the 2024 election has been scrutinized due to the pivotal role Black voters have played in races for the White House, Congress and state legislatures across the country.

Vice President Kamala Harris, who if elected would be the second Black president, has made engaging Black voters a priority of her messaging and policy platform. Meanwhile, former president Donald Trump has sought to make inroads with Democrats' most consistent voting bloc with unorthodox and at times controversial outreach.

A key strategy in Harris and Democrats' Black voter outreach includes dispatching the first Black president

and his wife, the former first lady, to battleground states where winning may come down to how well the Obamas convince ambivalent or apathetic voters that they must not sit this one out.

Democratic efforts have ranged from vigorous door-knocking campaigns in Atlanta, Detroit and Philadelphia this weekend to swing state rallies. Michelle Obama rallied voters in Norristown, Pennsylvania on Saturday alongside Grammy award-winning artist Alicia Keys while Barack Obama stumped in Milwaukee on Sunday. The former first lady also conducted her own scrupulously nonpartisan rally on Tuesday where speakers evoked the South's Civil Rights history.

"I'm always amazed at how little so many people really understand just how profoundly elections impact our daily lives," Michelle Obama said. "Because that's really what your vote is, it is your chance to tell folks in power what you want."

Efforts to boost Black voter turnout often start at the community level. In Miami, members of local churches



Voters and attendees gather around for t-shirts in support of the Harris-Walz ticket at the Joseph Caleb Center during the 'Souls to the Polls' event on Nov 3 the last day of early voting in Miami. (AP)

gathered Sunday at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and marched to a nearby early voting center as part

of a Souls to the Polls event.

"It helps a lot to encourage others to vote," said Regina Tharpe, a Miami

resident. She had voted earlier, but said people "get excited when they see us walking down the street. It encourages them to get out."

Sharina Perez, a first-time voter, brought her mother, Celina DeJesus, to vote on the last day of early voting in Florida. She said a number of issues inspired her to vote. "It was for myself, my future, my mom's future and for the younger generation," she said.

Organizers focused on Black communities say they are often combating exhaustion and cynicism about politics, especially among younger Black voters and Black men. But they are cautiously optimistic that their efforts will bear fruit.

Black voters are the most overwhelmingly Democratic voting demographic in the country. But the Trump campaign has made a more concerted pitch to win a greater share of Black voters this year, particularly Black men.

Meanwhile, Trump says he will be the "protector" of women, whether they like it or not.

He's campaigned with men who use sexist and crude language. He's expressed alarm at the idea that wives might vote differently from their husbands.

And the former Republican president has suggested that Democrat Kamala Harris, who is trying to become the first woman to win the White House, would get "overwhelmed" and "melt down" facing male authoritarian leaders he considers tough.

In the final days of his campaign, Trump has stuck to a gendered worldview that his critics consider dated and paternalistic, even as he acknowledges that some of that language has gotten him "into so much trouble" with a crucial group of voters. Trump and some of his most prominent allies have peddled outright sexism.

Former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, at an event with the Republican presidential nominee, likened Trump to an angry father providing tough love to a "bad little girl" who, as Carlson put it, was "in need of a vigorous spanking."



Alabama Gov Kay Ivey delivers the State of the State address at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, Ala., on Feb 6. (AP)

## Ivey treated for dehydration

Alabama Gov Kay Ivey was treated by paramedics Sunday after appearing to become unsteady at a campaign rally for congressional candidate Caroleene Dobson. Ivey's office said the governor had gotten dehydrated and is recovering after being treated with fluids.

Ivey, 80, was attending a Sunday evening campaign rally for Dobson at SweetCreek Farm Market in Pike Road, about 18 miles (29 kilometers) southeast of Montgomery, when the incident occurred. Witnesses said Ivey was shaking as she stood with Dobson and held on to a beam for support. WAKA posted video from the event showing the governor looking unsteady. The station reported that members of Ivey's staff then ran up to her. An ambulance was called to the scene.

"While campaigning for Caroleene Dobson at an event this evening, the governor got dehydrated. She received fluids and was evaluated on site out of precaution. She immediately felt better and is at home doing well this evening," Ivey spokeswoman Gina Maiola wrote in a texted statement.

The Republican governor announced in 2019 that she had been diagnosed with early stage lung cancer and would undergo radiation treatments. She said in 2020 that the cancer appeared to be gone and that her doctor considered her cancer-free. Dobson is the Republican nominee in the 2nd Congressional District. Ivey has endorsed Dobson in the race. (AP)

## EU, South Korea condemn N.Korea reported troop dispatch to Russia

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 4, (AP): Top South Korean and European Union officials on Monday strongly condemned North Korea's reported troop dispatch to aid Russia's war against Ukraine and agreed to work together to try to block deepening military cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang.

North Korea's alleged troop deployment threatens to expand the almost 3-year-long war and is causing security jitters in South Korea, where many worry Russia might reward the North by giving it sophisticated weapons technology or offering a defense commitment in the event of a conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

In a meeting in Seoul, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun and the EU's visiting foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, expressed "serious concerns" about North Korea's reported troop dispatch and "strongly condemned" it, according to a statement from the South Korean Defense Ministry.

The two agreed to work together with the international community to try to obstruct Russian-North Korean security cooperation, the statement said.

The US government said Thursday that about 8,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia near Ukraine's border



In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun, (left), and European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, (right), pose for a photo at the Defense Ministry, in Seoul, South Korea on Nov 4. (AP)

and preparing to join Russia's fight against Ukraine in the coming days. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday urged allies to stop

just "watching" and take steps before North Korean troops deployed in Russia reach the battlefield.

According to US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, North Korea was estimated to have moved about 10,000-12,000 troops to Russia. If they start fighting against Ukraine forces, it would mark North Korea's first participation in a large-scale conflict since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has used the Russia-Ukraine war as a way to expand defense and economic cooperation with Russia in the face of an intensifying U.S.-led pressure campaign against his advancing nuclear program.

The US, South Korea and others accuse North Korea of having already exported artillery shells, missiles and other conventional arms to Russia.

In the past two years, Kim has also ramped up tests of nuclear-capable missile systems, as Russia and China have repeatedly blocked U.S.-led attempts to toughen international sanctions on North Korea over its testing activities in defiance of US bans. North Korea has also pushed to sever relations and abandon its long-standing goal of reconciliation with South Korea.

## Germany's top diplomat Baerbock visits Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 4, (AP): Germany's top diplomat arrived Monday in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on an unannounced visit, in what appeared to be a show of European support for Ukraine on the eve of a U.S. presidential election that could bring far-reaching changes in Washington's policy toward Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor.

Germany is Ukraine's second biggest weapons supplier after the US, and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock vowed that Berlin's backing would remain steadfast.

"Together with many partners around the world, Germany stands firmly by Ukraine's side," she said, German news agency dpa reported. "We will support the Ukrainians for as long as they need us so that they can continue on their path to a just peace."

The war is at a critical moment for Ukraine, with the Russian army making creeping gains on the battlefield and another hard winter ahead after Russia relentlessly battered the Ukrainian power grid.



German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Ukrainian Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko look at fragments of a Russian rocket during an official visit to a thermal power plant which was destroyed by a Russian rocket attack in Ukraine on May 21. (AP)

## Thousands of homes without power

# Oklahoma severe storms injure at least eleven

OKLAHOMA CITY, Nov 4, (AP): Severe storms and tornadoes battered Oklahoma early Sunday, tossing cars and ripping roofs off buildings in the middle of the night and leaving tens of thousands of homes and businesses without power. Among numerous injuries, 11 people required hospitalization, authorities said.

Much of the damage was reported in and around the state capital of Oklahoma City, near the state's center, but also scattered elsewhere around the state. The early morning storms set off tornado warnings that extended south to the Arkansas state line. Heavy rains caused flash flooding in some areas and one lightning-sparked house fire was reported.

More than 99,000 Oklahoma homes and businesses lost power during the overnight storms. By late Sunday afternoon, that number was reduced to around 24,000. No fatalities had been reported.

Richard Thompson, forecast chief for the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Oklahoma, said he believes six or more tornadoes hit the state overnight. Meanwhile, forecasters warned state residents to brace for more heavy rain and possible severe weather through Monday.

"We're not done with it yet," he said. A tornado watch for much of the central and southeast part of Oklahoma was in effect until 8 p.m. Sunday. Other areas were under thunderstorm or flood watches.

In the town of Choctaw, east of Oklahoma City, firefighters and police officers went door to door Sunday morning to ask about injuries.

"It leveled a complete neighborhood in Choctaw," the town's mayor, Chad Alcox, told The Associated Press. He added that debris hindered



People inspect damage to a home along SE 84 after a tornado hit the area in Oklahoma City on Nov 3. (AP)

search and rescue efforts. "Power lines are down everywhere ... a lot of the roads are blocked, hard to get through. Very large trees blocking roadways."

Oklahoma City Fire Department spokesman Scott Douglas told the AP that heavy rain and the lingering threat of tornadoes in the early morning darkness complicated early search and rescue ef-

orts. He described a first sweep of hard-hit areas around 1:30 a.m.

"It was a heavy downpour. We were trying to sweep the area with another possibility of a tornado coming through," he said. "So that was in the back of our minds, too."

Emergency workers had to free two people from an overturned mobile home, including a woman injured when an air conditioner landed on her leg, Douglas said.

The scale of the damage came into focus as daylight broke. Local television footage showed downed power lines, walls peeled off homes, overturned vehicles and neighborhood streets littered with debris.

Douglas said 11 people were transported to hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening. "There were some other minor injuries, some walking wounded, that were going to get treatment on their own," Douglas said.

Allcox said early weather warnings and tornado sirens likely saved lives. A handful of shelters - including one opened at a casino by the American Red Cross - are available for displaced residents or those without power, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management said.

The Oklahoma Heart Hospital South also sustained damage, state health officials said.

At the University of Oklahoma, school officials had urged students and staff to seek shelter and move to the lowest floor as storms approached the campus after midnight. The National Weather Service office in Norman also issued urgent warnings, posting on social media: "If you're in the path of this storm, take cover immediately!"

Parts of Oklahoma remained at risk for more heavy rainfall and thunderstorms later Sunday.



The President of Interpol, Ahmed Naser Al Raisi, speaking at the opening ceremony for the Interpol General Assembly in Glasgow, Scotland on Nov 4. (AP)

## World must 'wake up' to threat from people-smugglers: UK's PM Starmer

LONDON, Nov 4, (AP): People-smuggling gangs sending migrants across the English Channel in small boats are a serious threat to global security and should be treated like terror networks, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told an international law-enforcement conference on Monday.

Starmer told a meeting of the international police organization Interpol that "the world needs to wake up to the severity of this challenge."

"People-smuggling should be viewed as a global security threat similar to terrorism," he said.

Starmer, a former chief prosecutor for England and Wales, said his government would be "taking our approach to counterterrorism, which we know works, and applying it to the gangs." That means more cooperation between law enforcement agencies, closer coordination with other countries and unspecified "enhanced" powers for law enforcement, he said.

Starmer also announced plans to increase the UK Border Security Command's two-year budget from 75

million pounds (\$97 million) to 150 million pounds (\$194 million). The money will be used to fund high-tech surveillance equipment and 100 specialist investigators.

Senior police and government officials from Interpol's 196 member nations are attending the global police body's four-day congress in Glasgow, Scotland. Starmer and British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper both addressed the meeting, calling for stronger international policing cooperation to fight drug trafficking and child sexual abuse, as well as people-smuggling.

Britain's 2020 departure from the European Union complicated international cooperation on law-enforcement by taking the U.K. out of the bloc's police agency, Europol. Starmer's Labour Party opposed Brexit, but says it will not try to reverse the decision to leave the bloc.

Starmer said his government was seeking a new security pact with the EU that would restore real-time intelligence sharing.

## Europe

**Rains disrupt rail service:** The recurrent storms in eastern Spain that led to massive flooding last week and killed over 200 people, mostly near Valencia, dumped rain on Barcelona on Monday, prompting authorities to suspend commuter rail service.

Spanish Transport Minister Oscar Puente said he was suspending all commuter trains in northeast Catalonia, a region with 8 million people, on request from civil protection officials. Mobile phones in Barcelona screamed with an alert for "extreme and continued rainfall" on the southern outskirts of the city. The alert urged people to avoid any normally dry

gorges or canals. (AP)

**Sandu wins 2nd term:** Moldova's pro-Western President Maia Sandu has won a second term in a pivotal presidential runoff against a Russia-friendly opponent, in a race that was overshadowed by claims of Russian interference, voter fraud, and intimidation in the European Union candidate



Sandu

country.

With nearly 99% of votes counted in the second round of the presidential election held Sunday, Sandu had 55% of the vote, according to the Central Electoral Commission, or CEC, compared to 45% for Alexandr Stoiianoglo, a former prosecutor general who was backed by the pro-Russia Party of Socialists. (AP)

**Lawmakers grill candidates:** Nominees for some of the European Union's top jobs face parliamentary hearings on Monday, as lawmakers start to vet would-be commissioners to oversee Europe-wide policies ranging from agriculture to trade for the next five years. (AP)

## Philippine military drills to seize an island in disputed South China Sea

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 4, (AP): The Philippine military opened two weeks of combat drills Monday that would include seizing an island in the disputed South China Sea and likely be frowned upon by China.

More than 3,000 Filipino army, navy and air force personnel will take part in the maneuvers, which Philippine military officials said were not directed against any country.



In this photo released by Indonesian Maritime Security Agency (BAKAMLA) a Chinese Coast Guard ship with hull number 5402 sails in North Natuna waters in the disputed area of the South China Sea, Indonesia on Oct 25. (AP)

China has rapidly expanded its military and has become increasingly assertive in pursuing territorial claims in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety. The tensions have led to more frequent confrontations, primarily with the Philippines and Vietnam, though the longtime territorial disputes also involve Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Last month, Indonesia said its patrol ships drove away a Chinese coast guard ship that disrupted a survey being undertaken by a state-owned energy company in a part of the South China Sea disputed by both countries.

"Our mission today is very clear, to prepare ourselves comprehensively to respond to any external threats that might challenge our sovereignty," Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. said in the opening ceremony of the exercises.

The maneuvers will include live-fire drills using artillery and assault rifles and beach landing drills. In the South China Sea, Filipino forces would simulate taking control of an island, Philippine army Col. Michael Logico told reporters without elaborating.

Asked how China may react, Logico said he expected Chinese forces to undertake surveillance from a distance but added they would not likely make any hostile move.



Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki spews volcanic materials from its crater during an eruption in East Flores, Indonesia on Jan 14. (AP)

### Volcanic eruption burns houses in Indonesia, 10 killed

Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least 10 people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions widens on the remote island of Flores.

The eruption at Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki around midnight spewed thick brownish ash as high as 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) into the air and hot ashes hit several

villages, burning down houses including a convent of Catholic nuns, said Firman Yosef, an official at the Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki monitoring post.

He said volcanic material was thrown up to 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from its crater, blanketing nearby villages and towns with tons of volcanic debris and forcing residents to flee. (AP)

### Nuclear reactor shut down again

## Japan launches defense satellite carried by a new flagship H3 rocket

TOKYO, Nov 4, (AP): Japan launched a defense satellite designed for information-gathering and military operations on a new flagship H3 rocket on Monday, as the country seeks to build up its military capability amid growing tension in the region.

The H3 No. 4 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center on a southwestern Japanese island. Everything went as planned and the satellite placed at the top of the rocket was successfully separated about half an hour after liftoff, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said in a livestream.

The rocket is carrying a Defense Ministry satellite, Kirameki No. 3, which uses X-band communication for military operations and reconnaissance, including information-gathering for signs of North Korean missile activity. X-band satellite is less affected by weather conditions and is capable of supporting stable communication. Kirameki No. 3 adds to two earlier X-band satellites already in operation.

Monday's launch was initially planned for Oct. 20 and came after four postponements due to a technical glitch and bad weather.

The launch was the third consecutive successful flight of the H3 system after the shocking failed debut flight last year when the rocket had to be destroyed with its payload.

Japan sees a stable, commercially competitive space transport capability as key to its space program and national security.

JAXA and its main contractor, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, have been developing the H3 launch system as a successor to its current mainstay, H-2A, which is set to retire after two more flights. MHI will eventually take over H3 production and launches from JAXA and hopes to make it commercially viable by cutting the launch cost to about half of the H-2A.

Meanwhile, a Japanese nuclear reactor that restarted last week for the first time in more than 13 years after it had survived a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami that badly damaged the nearby Fukushima nuclear plant was shut down again Monday due to an equipment problem, its operator said.

The No. 2 reactor at the Onagawa nuclear power plant on Japan's northern coast was put back online on Oct. 29 and had been expected to start generating power in early November.

But it had to be shut down again five days after its restart due to a glitch that occurred Sunday in a device related to neutron data inside the reactor, plant operator Tohoku Electric Power Co. said.

The reactor was operating normally and there was no release of radiation into the environment, Tohoku Electric said. The utility said it decided to shut it down



A new flagship H3 rocket carrying a defense ministry communications satellite is launched from Tanegashima Space Center, Kagoshima prefecture, southern Japan on Nov 4. (AP)

to re-examine equipment to address residents' safety concerns. No new date for a restart was given.

The reactor is one of three at the Onagawa plant, which is 100 kilometers (62 miles) north of the Fukushima Daiichi plant where three reactors melted following a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, releasing large amounts of radiation.

The Onagawa plant was hit by a 13-meter (42-foot) tsunami triggered by the quake but was able to keep its crucial cooling systems functioning in all three reactors and achieve their safe shutdowns.

All of Japan's 54 commercial nuclear power plants were shut down after the Fukushima disaster for safety checks and upgrades. Onagawa No. 2 was the 13th of the 33 still useable reactors to restart.

Japan's government last year adopted a plan to maximize use of nuclear energy and is pushing to accelerate reactor restarts to secure a stable energy supply and meet its pledge to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Concern about the government's revived push for nuclear energy grew after a magnitude 7.5 earthquake hit Japan's Noto Peninsula on Jan. 1, 2024, killing more than 400 people and damaging more than 100,000 structures. It caused minor damage to two nearby nuclear facilities, and evacuation plans for the region were found to be inadequate.

A remote-controlled robot has safely returned with a tiny piece of melted fuel it collected from inside one of three damaged reactors at the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant for the first time since the 2011 meltdown.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, which manages the plant, said Saturday that the extendable fishing rod-like robot successfully clipped a gravel as big as 5 millimeters (2 inches), the size of a tiny granola bit, from the top surface of a mound of molten fuel debris that sits on the bottom of the No. 2 reactor's primary containment vessel.

The "tesesco" robot, with its frontal tongs still holding the melted fuel bit, returned to the enclosed container for safe storage after workers in full hazmat gear pulled it out of the containment vessel earlier Saturday.

The sample return marks the first time the melted fuel is retrieved out of the containment vessel. But the mission is not over until it's certain that the sample's radioactivity is below a set standard and safely placed into a container.

If the radioactivity exceeds the limit, the robot must go back inside the reactor to find another piece. TEPCO officials said they expect the piece is small enough to meet the requirement.

The mission initially started in August for what was supposed to be a two-week round trip but had been suspended twice due to mishaps.



A teacher and students wear mask to protect themselves from poor air quality due to increasing smog in the city as they attend their school, in Lahore, Pakistan on Nov 4. (AP)

### Pakistan shuts primary schools for week in Lahore due to air quality

Dangerously poor air quality on Monday forced Pakistani authorities in the cultural capital of Lahore to close primary schools for a week, government officials said, after the air-quality index hit a record high over the weekend.

The measures in Lahore were part of a larger effort to protect children from respiratory-related and other diseases in the city of 14 million people. The govern-

ment said everyone in Lahore was required to wear a face mask.

Fifty percent of employees must also work from home as part of a "green lockdown" in the city, the government said, adding that barbecuing food without filters was banned and motorized rickshaws restricted. Wedding halls must close at 10 p.m. and artificial rain is likely to be used to combat the pollution. (AP)

## Bolivia ex-prez presses on with hunger strike until his rival accepts dialogue

LAUCAN, Bolivia, Nov 4, (AP): Bolivia's transformative and divisive former President Evo Morales said Sunday that he would press on with a hunger strike until the government of his protégé-turned-rival agreed to a political dialogue. His act of dissent aims to defuse street protests that have paralyzed the nation in recent weeks over what Morales' supporters condemn as his political persecution.

Morales, a larger-than-life figure still towering over Bolivian politics five years after his fraught ouster, spoke on his third day without food from the misty tropics of Chapare, Bolivia's rural coca-growing region that serves as his stronghold.

"My fight is to improve the situation in the country and to start a dialogue without conditions on two fronts, one economic and one political," Morales told The Associated Press from the office of the coca growers' federation that he long has led.

The ex-president said he began his hunger strike Friday in hopes of "international organizations or friendly governments" facilitating talks with his



Former Bolivia's president Evo Morales chews coca leaves during a hunger strike in Lauca N, in the Chapare region, Bolivia on Nov 3, amid an ongoing political conflict with the government of President Luis Arce. (AP)

political nemesis, President Luis Arce.

Tensions have surged over the past three weeks since pro-Morales supporters set up crippling roadblocks aimed at rebuking Arce - Morales' former economy minister with whom he's now vying to lead Bolivia's governing socialist party into next year's elections.

Protesters have choked off major highways in defiance of an attempt by Arce's government to revive a 2016 statutory rape case against Morales, an ethnic Aymara who was the first member of an Indigenous community to become the president of Latin America's only Indigenous-majority nation.

Morales has denied any wrongdoing. "My crime is being Indigenous," he said on Sunday.

The AP reached Morales after an arduous 11-hour journey by car, motorcycle and foot over hills and through the highlands, circumventing road blockades, crisscrossing routes littered with debris and toppled trees and squeaking through over a dozen security checkpoints, in some cases manned by profiteers.

### Several people injured

## 36 dead in India after bus skids into deep gorge

LUCKNOW, India, Nov 4, (Agencies): A poorly maintained and overcrowded bus veered off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in northern India on Monday, killing at least 36 people and injuring several others, officials said.

The accident occurred in Almora district in the mountainous state of Uttarakhand. The bus was carrying around 60 people, and more than 20 have been injured, said Deepak Rawat, a senior state government official.

Authorities said earlier they believed there were 42 passengers, which was how many people the bus could accommodate.

Teams of rescue and relief workers were deployed to the site and officials feared the death toll may rise further, especially as seven passengers in hospital were in critical condition.

Television footage showed parts of the bus mangled and destroyed as it lay overturned on a rocky slope, close to a stream. Rescuers were

seen working to pull out passengers and carrying bodies on stretchers.

The state's chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami earlier said rescue teams were working to quickly evacuate the injured passengers to nearby hospitals and that authorities have been instructed to airlift those seriously hurt.

The state government has opened an investigation into the accident, said Vineet Pal, another official in the state. He added that preliminary information suggested that the dilapidated bus skidded before tumbling down a 60-meter- (200-foot)-deep gorge.

A number of passengers managed to escape or were thrown out by the impact, and then alerted authorities about the accident. Two transport of-

officials have been suspended for approving a bus that was in poor condition, Pal said.

India has some of the highest road death rates in the world, with hundreds of thousands of people killed and injured annually. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

In July, at least 18 people died after a double-decker passenger bus collided with a milk truck in Uttar Pradesh state. In May, a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims skidded and rolled into a deep gorge on a mountainous highway in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing at least 21 people.

Meanwhile, as many as eight persons have died after the vehicle they were traveling in fell into a pond by the roadside in India's central state of Chhattisgarh, said a local cop over phone on Sunday.

The road mishap occurred late Saturday night in the state's Rajpur area.



Dhami

### Africa

'Continue CoHA implementation': The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell urged the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front to ensure the continued implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) for the benefit of all Ethiopians living in the northern region.

In a statement, issued on Saturday to mark two years since the signing of the ceasefire agreement, Borrell reiterated the EU call for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflicts in the country, emphasizing the importance of "respecting human rights at all times in accordance with Ethiopia's continental and international obligations." The implementation of this agreement has led to significant developments including the restoration of basic services, enabling humanitarian access, and the return of some internally displaced persons while acknowledging the complexities involved in the process, according to the statement.

Borrell affirmed that achieving transitional justice in a reliable manner focused on victims is essential and called on all parties to participate in the ongoing national dialogue.

He confirmed the EU's readiness to deepen its commitment to Ethiopia based on the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council in April 2023. (KUNA)

Lightning strike kills 14 in Uganda: Fourteen people were killed and 34 others injured when lightning struck a prayer gathering in Lamwo District, northern Uganda, police said on Sunday. The lightning struck on Saturday evening at the Palabek Refugee Settlement as people gathered for prayers, said Police Spokesperson Rusoke Kituma.

"The victims, yet to be identified, had gathered for prayers

when the rain started around 5:00 p.m. (1400 GMT), and the lightning thunder struck at 5:30 p.m. (1430GMT). Victims were evacuated to Paluda Health Center III," Kituma said in a post on X.

The refugee settlement camp is home to many refugees from neighboring South Sudan.

A similar lightning incident in July struck Uganda's northwestern Nebbi district, injuring 77 students gathered for a sports competition.

Weather authorities have issued warnings of lightning, floods, and landslides in some mountainous areas as the rainy season continues. (Xinhua)

Sudan sends medical aid: The Sudanese Ministry of Health announced that it has dispatched urgent medical supplies to regions affected by the ongoing armed conflict. The 250-ton shipment includes essential medicines, solutions, antibiotics, and emergency medical equipment.

"This support comes in response to the urgent humanitarian situation following the violations committed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in more than 100 villages in Gezira State," Health Minister Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim said in a statement.

The minister noted the critical situation in Gezira, necessitating the establishment of an emergency room and increased coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

The conflict has severely impacted the healthcare system in Sudan, particularly in war-torn areas. Many pharmacies in Khartoum have closed due to the fighting, leading to shortages and price hikes of essential medicines.

The outbreak of diseases like cholera, malaria, measles, and dengue fever has further exacerbated the health crisis. According to the Ministry of Health, over 28,000 cholera cases and 800 deaths have been reported.

The ongoing conflict, which began in mid-April 2023, has resulted in over 24,850 deaths and displaced millions of people, according to the latest estimation of international organizations. (Xinhua)

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# Business

## Foreign investors record net sales of KD 5.2 million on Boursa Kuwait

Kuwaiti investors face selling pressure

By Mahmoud Shandi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4:** In recent trading activity on Boursa Kuwait, a dominant selling trend was observed among foreign individuals, who recorded net individual sales of approximately 5.2 million dinars.

Their total purchases reached about 282.7 million dinars, compared to sales of 288 million dinars. Similarly, foreign investment funds experienced net sales of around 1.1 million dinars, following purchases of 5.4 million dinars and sales amounting to 6.6 million dinars.

Data from the Boursa Kuwait indicates that Kuwaiti investors also faced selling pressure, with net sales reaching about 84.8 million dinars. This was largely attributed to Kuwaiti individuals, who recorded net sales of 107.3 million dinars over the first ten months of 2024. Institutional and corporate purchases amounted to 27.8 million dinars, while in-

vestment funds recorded net purchases of 2.5 million dinars.

The Gulf investors similarly reported net sales of about 89.2 million dinars during the same period. This was largely driven by increased sales from institutions and companies, totaling 93.7 million dinars, compared to net purchases of 1.5 million dinars by investment funds.

The Gulf individuals managed to make net purchases of Kuwaiti stocks worth 2.8 million dinars, with total purchases of approximately 20.4 million dinars against 68.2 million dinars in sales.

Overall, the transactions within Boursa Kuwait for the first ten months of 2024 revealed significant net purchase activity from institutions, companies and investment funds, amounting to 114.65 million dinars and 2.90 million dinars, respectively.

Notably, institutions and companies dominated trading activity, capturing more than half of the total transactions, while investment funds were the least active category.

In daily trading results, Boursa Kuwait

concluded Monday's trading session with a mixed performance across its indices. The general index fell by 7.42 points, or 0.10%, closing at 7,124.10 points.

Trading activity was robust, with a total of 281.6 million shares exchanged through 15,055 cash transactions, amounting to KD 50.4 million (approximately USD 153.7 million).

The main market index experienced a decline of 37.36 points, or 0.58%, finishing at 6,439.85 points. This segment saw the trading of 185.4 million shares through 8,963 transactions valued at KD 23.7 million (USD 72.2 million).

In contrast, the premier market index edged up slightly by 0.16 points to reach 7,649.45 points, with 96.2 million shares traded across 6,092 transactions worth KD 26.7 million (USD 81.4 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 index dropped by 45.68 points, or 0.72%, closing at 6,326 points after trading 106 million shares through 4,730 transactions valued at KD 14.3 million (about USD 43.6 million).

## CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4:** The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the latest issuance of CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq, totaling KWD 300 million. This includes KWD 200 million for a 3-month term with a 4.125% rate of return, and KWD 100 million for a 6-month term with a 4.250% rate of return.

Saudi and UAE markets dip

## Kuwait equity market up 0.3% in Oct amid positive earnings

By Markaz

**K**uwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its Monthly Market Review report for October 2024. Kuwait and GCC equity markets remained muted during the month weighed down by rising geopolitical tensions and volatility in oil prices. U.S equity markets ended negative in October, after registering gains for five consecutive months due to concerns over persistent inflation and a strong labor market.

Kuwait equity index (All Share Index) gained 0.3% for the month driven by a slew of positive earnings results, while geopolitical uncertainties added downward pressure on regional markets. Kuwait main market index gained 3.9% for the month, extending its yearly returns to 17.1%. The continuing bullish sentiment is due to expansion of investor base and positive performance of few non-banking sectors such as financial services and real estate. The banking sector index registered a marginal decline of 0.4% during the month. NBK share price fell 3.7% in October. S&P 500 posted a 5.7% y/y rise in Q3 2024 with net profit amounting to KD 165 million (USD 538 million). KFH also came out with their results for 9M 2024, posting a net profit of KD 482.9 million, an increase of 4.6% y/y. Commercial Bank of Kuwait was the top gainer among banking stocks with a monthly uptick of 7.9% after Fitch affirmed a stable outlook on CBK. Among Premier market stocks, Agility Public Warehousing Company gained 13.7% following an announcement of expanding its warehousing facilities owned by Agility Logistics Park in Riyadh for SAR 250 million.

Kuwait inflation mildly eased to 2.8% y/y in September, down from 2.9% y/y in August driven by slower price growth across categories. Prices in housing services grew 0.6% y/y, the lowest since August 2021. Food & beverage prices remained elevated at 5.8% y/y, however lower than previous month's reading of 6% y/y. Kuwait's population reached 4.92 million as of June 2024, growing by 2.0% y/y compared to the 2.6% y/y growth recorded in 2023, according to PACI.

The S&P GCC composite index registered a decline of 1.2% in October, dragged down by rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and the subdued performance of blue-chip stocks. However, a positive start to Q3 2024 corporate earnings season marginally lifted the investor sentiment. Among the GCC equity indices, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi and Qatar equity indices ended the month in red while others remained mildly positive. Saudi equity index declined 1.7% during the month weighed down by the downgrade of its 2024 growth forecast to 1.5% from 1.7% from IMF in its World Economic Outlook report released in October 2024 and muted performance of few major blue-chips. Ma'aden shares rose 15.6% during the month driven by positive sentiment after the announcement of acquiring 20.62% stake in Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) and plans of Manara Minerals (a joint venture between Ma'aden and Public Investment Fund) to acquire between 15-20% equity in Canadian miner First Quantum Minerals' Zambian copper and nickel assets. The Abu Dhabi equity index declined by 1.0% in October. First Abu Dhabi bank (FAB) share price fell 4.4% for the month due to muted profit growth in Q3 2024. FAB net profits rose 4% y/y to AED 12.9 billion in 9M 2024 and by 5% y/y in Q3 2024 to AED 4.5 billion. The Dubai equity index inched up 1.9% for the month, extending its yearly gains to 13.1% supported by the strong performance of real estate stocks. UAE real estate stocks Emaar Development and Aldar Properties gained 6.3% and 1.3%

respectively. Qatar equity index fell 0.8% driven by the plunge in natural gas prices and sell-offs by foreign funds.

The UAE real GDP is projected to grow at 4.1% in 2025, according to the World Bank's latest semi-annual MENA Economic Update. Real GDP per capita growth rate is expected to be at 3.4% in 2025 driven by robust growth in the non-oil sector. Saudi Arabia's inflation rate edged up to 1.7% y/y in September, from 1.6% y/y in August driven by increase in housing rents.

MSCI World and S&P 500 indices fell by 2.0% and 1.0% respectively for the month. The muted performance of the technology stocks and persistent U.S inflation outweighed the positive start to Q3 corporate earnings season. The technology-weighted Nasdaq index fell 0.8% during the month due to concerns over rising costs for AI-related companies. The electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla posted unexpectedly strong Q3 earnings with net income rising 17.3% y/y and EPS of 72 cents against analyst expectations of 58 cents.

The U.S personal consumption expenditure (PCE) price index, closely watched by the U.S Fed, increased 0.2% m/m in September compared to 0.1% m/m in August, in line with expectations. The U.S CPI rose 2.4% y/y in September, lower compared to 2.5% y/y in the previous month but above the consensus estimate of economists. Core inflation increased 0.3% m/m and 3.3% y/y, higher than forecast. U.S job creation surged in September with 254,000 new jobs added, higher than expected, coupled with a fall in unemployment rate. The European Central Bank lowered its key deposit rate by 25 bps to 3.25% in its October meeting. The MSCI EM index fell 4.4% for the month driven by negative performance of Chinese and Indian equities. Chinese stocks fell 1.7% as the recent stimulus measures failed to inspire investor confidence.

The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury rose by 47 bps during the month closing at 4.28%. Persistent U.S inflation, strong jobs data coupled with uncertainty surrounding the U.S elections and its impact on the heightened government debt drove the treasury yields higher during the month. The yield on the 2-year U.S. Treasury note rose by 50 bps during the month closing at 4.16%.

Oil price settled at USD 73.16 per barrel compared to USD 71.77 per barrel in the previous month (average price USD 81.32 per barrel during Jan-Oct 2024), registering a gain of 1.9% during the month of October. Escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and reports that OPEC+ could delay a planned oil production increase scheduled to take effect in December supported oil prices. OPEC forecasts world oil demand to rise by 1.93 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2024, down from growth of 2.03 million bpd projected last month. China accounted for the bulk of the 2024 downgrade and its oil demand growth forecast was trimmed down to 580,000 bpd from 650,000 bpd.

The outlook for global equity, commodity, and fixed income markets for November hinges on U.S economic data releases. Fed meeting and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Markets widely differ in their expectations of the size of rate cut in the upcoming Fed meeting on Nov 6-7th. Against the backdrop of the latest U.S economic data, majority of the market expects U.S Fed to be measured in its easing of monetary policy. Economic data releases during next month would shape investor expectations. Additionally, Q3 earnings release from GCC blue chips, OPEC+ supply and developments on the geopolitical front would impact GCC markets.

## Al-Mazen aims for increased production at Khafji Field by 2025

### KGOC revamps leadership for operational efficiency

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4:** The Kuwait Gulf Oil Company has made several key appointments to its leadership team aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and cooperation within the organization.

Abdullah Al-Fawaz has been appointed Executive Director of Industrial Services, Faisal Al-Dhuwad has taken on the role of Director of Operations and Musaed Al-Mazid has been named Executive Director of Projects and Engineering.

Moreover, Walid Al-Khadha has become the Executive Director of Business Administration. These changes reflect a focus on developing human resources and fostering collaborative efforts among highly qualified individuals.

Abdul Wahab Al-Mazen, the acting CEO

of the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, previously led the joint operational committee for Khafji operations.

Under his leadership, there is a goal to increase production capacity at the Khafji field to an average of 300,000 barrels per day by 2025, up from the current output of 240,000 to 250,000 barrels per day, which is shared equally between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Recent reports have emphasized the need for continuous development of the Khafji field, with a focus on modern technologies to enhance joint operations.

On a related note, the Durra Field project is progressing toward implementation. A recent meeting involving the Dorra Project Development Team brought together representatives from both the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company and Aramco Gulf Operations Company of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting focused on preparatory frameworks, project developments, organizational structures and required technical specializations. Key attendees from the Kuwaiti side included Talal Al-Anzi, Mohammed Al-Dawas and several others, while Saudi Aramco's representatives included Omar Al-Shaiji and Abdullah Al-Fawaz.

Expectations are high for the Durra gas field to be operational within three years, with both countries working diligently to expedite its implementation.

The project is significant, as it holds proven gas reserves estimated at about 20 trillion cubic feet, indicating its potential impact on regional energy resources. Next month is anticipated to bring substantial progress regarding the Durra field project.

Table 1: Credit growth

Credit	Sep-2024		% growth		
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2023
<b>Business</b>	24.0	1.1	3.4	3.6	0.8
of which Real Estate	10.0	1.7	4.1	5.3	1.3
<b>Household</b>	19.1	1.1	1.9	2.5	1.5
Securities	3.6	1.3	5.2	10.4	6.9
Banks & financial instit.	2.1	-12.3	-6.2	-2.5	4.2
<b>Total domestic credit</b>	48.9	0.4	2.5	3.4	1.7
Non-resident credit	7.0	-2.6	18.6	25.5	5.7
<b>Total credit</b>	55.8	0.0	4.2	5.7	2.1

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Table 2: Deposit growth

Deposits	Sep-2024		% growth		
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2023
<b>Private sector</b>	38.9	1.2	4.3	4.1	1.1
of which Time dep.	22.4	3.2	8.4	8.3	12.0
of which CASA dep.	14.7	-1.9	-1.4	-2.7	-11.0
<b>Public Institutions</b>	6.5	10.2	-4.6	13.0	2.2
<b>Government</b>	5.1	3.9	11.1	21.6	37.2
<b>Total resident dep.</b>	50.5	2.5	3.7	6.7	3.9
Non-resident deposits	3.3	-3.4	-22.4	-19.0	-0.7
<b>Total deposits</b>	53.9	2.1	1.6	4.7	3.5

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Oil/gas sector struggles with 9% decline in YTD lending

## Kuwait's domestic credit growth stalls at 0.4 pct in Q3 amid weak lending to banks

By National Bank of Kuwait

**D**omestic credit growth was a lackluster 0.4% in Q3, resulting in a 2.5% YTD increase. Headline growth in Q3 was negatively impacted by a plunge in lending to banks/financial institutions (-12% q/q) while underlying growth in terms of business and household lending was robust and stronger than in Q2. Business credit growth strengthened to 1.1% q/q, pushing the YTD increase to 3.4%. Looking ahead, the fourth quarter of the year is usually the weakest for business credit likely due to increased repayments and write-offs but the commencement of the interest rate-cutting cycle and a faster roll-out of project awards, as has been the case recently, are tailwinds for credit growth.

Within business lending, "construction" remains in the lead, in line with 2022-2023, up 4.2% q/q and 16% YTD while "trade" is a distant second (+7% YTD). In contrast, the oil/gas sector remains the main laggard, falling by 9% YTD, following a steep 8% drop in 2023. The dominant "real estate" was robust in Q3 and is up by 4.1% YTD, accelerating from only 1.3% growth in full-2023. After a very

weak start for 2024 in terms of project awards, Q2 and Q3 were solid, with awards climbing to around KD 1.5 billion YTD through September. And while this is 13% lower y/y, we note that 2023 was a strong year in terms of awards, recording the highest level since 2017. This robust level of awards, if sustained, should eventually support business credit growth. On the other hand, the recovery in household credit continued with quarterly growth strengthening to the highest in seven quarters, and while y/y growth remains a limited 2.5%, annualized growth over the past three months is a stronger 4.3%. The higher interest rate environment has had a significant impact on household credit demand, with growth slowing to a near standstill of 1.5% in 2023, which is way lower than historical growth rates. Therefore, interest rates' downward trajectory going forward will be the key catalyst that should unlock growth for household credit.

Recovery in private-sector deposits gained stream while public-institution deposits remain very volatile

Resident deposits increased by a solid 2.5% q/q, driving up the YTD increase to 3.7%.

Private-sector deposits (77% of total deposits) continued their recovery following a weak 2023, growing by 4.3% YTD. Government deposits continued to power ahead and are up strongly for the seventh straight quarter while public-institution deposits remain very volatile. Within private-sector KD deposits, time deposits continued to outstrip CASA, but the differential in terms of y/y growth rates (at +8.3% and -2.7%, respectively) is significantly narrower than the peak seen in mid-2023.

Market's expectation of rate cuts in the US has become less aggressive, more in line with the Fed's dot-plot

Following the Fed's outsized 50 bps rate cut in September, the Central Bank of Kuwait, unsurprisingly, cut the discount rate by a smaller 25 bps. Given inflation and labor market developments in the US, the market's expectation for US rate cuts has been dialed back to a cumulative 50 bps before end-2024 and an additional 75 bps in 2025, while the Fed's dot-plot indicates cuts of 50 bps and 100 bps, respectively. Irrespective of the size and timing of future cuts, the downward trajectory in interest rates should support credit growth.





# Zain a strategic partner to the government in leading digital transformation



Nawaf Al-Gharabally with top guests at Zain's booth.

## Company highlighted leadership and success at e-Government Forum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Zain, Kuwait's leading technology innovator, sponsored the 11th e-Government Forum under the theme Digital Government and Integrated Service Strategy, organized by the Kuwait Federation of Engineering Offices and Consulting Houses in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), under the patronage of H.E. Minister of State for Telecommunications Affairs, Omar Al-Omar.

Zain participated in the forum's opening ceremony alongside prominent officials from both the public and private sectors. The company's support to the event aligns with its strategy to bolster the national economy and highlight the private sector's role in advancing state-led digital transformation initiatives.

The company's participation underscores the spirit of cooperation between the public and private sectors, combining efforts to drive economic growth. As a strategic partner to government bodies, Zain is deeply invested in national development plans, believing that future-focused investments are key to addressing upcoming challenges.

Notable attendees included the forum's patron representative, Abdullah Al-Ajmi, Acting Chairman of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA); Nawaf Al-Gharabally, CEO of Zain Kuwait; Hamad Al-Marzouq, Chief Enterprise Business Officer; Meshal Al-Kandari, Chief Commercial Officer; and Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer.

Additional attendees included Fatima Al-Qallaf, Head of Partnerships and Events at CAIT; Bader Al-Salman, President of the Kuwait Federation of Engineering Offices and Consulting Houses; Hannes Astok, Chairman of Estonia's e-Governance Academy; Shaima Al-Terkait, Country Manager of Google Cloud Kuwait; and Sundus Boushehri, Executive Director of SAP Kuwait.

Nawaf Al-Gharabally, CEO of Zain Kuwait, stated: "The strong link between economic growth and state projects encourages increased cooperation between government institutions and the private sector to achieve developmental goals. This forum showcases a vision of genuine collaboration and partnership."

Al-Gharabally added: "Government initiatives to stimulate the economy are the driving force in aligning private sector efforts with sustainable development goals. In this regard, Zain is committed to elevating its strategic partnership with the public sector to support the nation's strategic priorities, strengthening Kuwait's competitiveness as a financial and commercial hub."

He continued: "The lines between



From the opening ceremony.



Hamad Al-Marzouq delivering the opening speech.



Al-Gharabally with Zain's team.



Al-Khashti receives a recognition of Zain's support from Al-Ajmi, Al-Salman, and Al-Qallaf.



Nawaf Al-Gharabally at the event.



Zain showcased AI-powered drone solutions.

public and private institutions have blurred with the private sector's growing role in national development. Amid today's rapid global economic shifts and reliance on digital services, strategic partnerships with the public sector are vital to building a diversified knowledge-based economy."

Al-Gharabally also noted: "Technology has become the backbone of successful, sustainable governance, with digital transformation essential to government service infrastructure. Digital platforms are now citizens' primary channel for services, and there's great value in such platforms like this forum to encourage experience sharing and best practices and advance digital integration in the public sector."

During the ceremony, Hamad Al-Marzouq, Chief Enterprise Business

■ **Nawaf Al-Gharabally: Technology plays a crucial role in reshaping the infrastructure for government services.**

■ **Zain collaborates closely with global tech leaders to advance digitalization efforts.**

■ **The private sector's technological resources are essential to local development plans.**

ness Officer at Zain Kuwait, delivered an opening speech, saying: "We are delighted to support and partner with the 11th e-Government Forum, a key platform that annually unites decision-makers and specialists from both sectors to share expertise and contribute to mutual developmental objectives."

He continued, "In recent years, e-government services in Kuwait have seen remarkable improvements with tangible results, thanks to digital

transformation strategies and the extensive efforts of state institutions under the wise vision of the nation's leadership."

Al-Marzouq highlighted the successful growth of the Sahel app, which has offered a seamless digital experience to citizens and residents by connecting various government entities, enabling faster service completion with over 60 million transactions processed since its launch.

He further added, "This digital transformation has shifted government services to be citizen-centric, unlike in the past. Technology has provided a unified platform for citizens, supporting the overarching goal of citizen convenience."

He also acknowledged the impact of Sahel Business, which has enhanced

Kuwait's business environment, reduced bureaucracy, streamlined processes, and empowered entrepreneurs and startups to achieve sustainable success.

Al-Marzouq reaffirmed Zain's support for the public sector, stating, "Our early investment in emerging technologies such as AI has positioned Zain as a leading strategic partner in the government's digital transformation efforts, contributing to the 'New Kuwait 2035' vision and economic growth. The private sector is integral to local development plans."

He explained, "We work closely with global tech leaders like Google Cloud, Microsoft, Oracle, and Amazon to realize this vision. Such partnerships form a strategic blueprint to advance Kuwait's tech landscape, requiring joint public-private collaboration."

He concluded: "Cybersecurity strategies are also crucial to counter the growing digital threats targeting individuals, governments, and organizations alike, and I appreciate the forum's focus on this significant aspect."

At the forum, Zain showcases its latest digital solutions for the business sector, including AI-powered drones, cloud solutions, and more. Zain also participates in discussions on data governance, inter-agency data sharing, and maximizing returns from tech investments.

As a digital services leader, Zain is committed to leveraging technology and AI to lead digital transformation and foster innovation. Zain's business portfolio offers comprehensive solutions, including cloud computing, cybersecurity, AI-powered drones, 5G connectivity, and other advanced technologies to meet the needs of public and private institutions, driving economic growth and supporting national development goals.

The e-Government Forum runs for three days, bringing together major digital service providers, telecom and IT companies from Kuwait, the region, and beyond, with over 500 attendees, 30 speakers, 25 sponsors, and 20 presentations, along with government partners and interactive panels.

Each year, the forum discusses pathways to enable Kuwait's government institutions to transition toward an advanced digital governance model, establishing an integrated, efficient system through digital transformation and eliminating bureaucratic obstacles.

This year, the forum features a distinguished participation from Estonia's e-Governance Academy (eGA), a digital society leader. Since 2002, eGA has partnered with over 290 organizations in 143 countries to build open, democratic digital societies, enhancing citizens' quality of life and supporting transparent governance worldwide.

## Japanese envoy attends grand opening of showroom

## INFINITI launches world's largest standalone showroom in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co. (AABC), the exclusive dealer for INFINITI cars in Kuwait, proudly announced the official launch of the world's largest standalone INFINITI showroom in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Morino Yasunari, the Japanese Ambassador. The launch event, attended by Al Babbain and IMEA management, media representatives, and VIP customers, marked a significant milestone in the automotive retail landscape.

This state-of-the-art showroom, located in the Al-Rai area on the 4th Ring Road, embodies INFINITI's new global retail architecture developed by the INFINITI design team in Atsugi, Japan. Blending minimalist Japanese design principles with immersive customer experiences, the space reflects the brand's vision of redefining luxury automotive retail. The INFINITI showroom's design reflects the Japanese concept of "Ma"—the balanced space between elements—creating a harmonious environment that elevates both function and aesthetics. The exterior façade features a signature 'deep cave' along the roofline, casting shadows and controlling sunlight to complement the open, light-filled interior.

Inside, customers are welcomed by warm, wood-look finishes and indirect lighting that accentuate the brand's iconic "vanishing point" motif. A semi-translucent mesh screen inspired by Japanese "Noren" fabric dividers adds seasonal and nature-inspired displays, fostering a tranquil ambiance and highlighting the INFINITI logo.

The showroom integrates INFINITI's Kimono fold pattern throughout selected walls and surfaces, paying homage to one of the brand's



Photos of the grand opening of INFINITI showroom

signature textural details. The result is a seamless, immersive experience where every detail has been thoughtfully considered to enhance the customer journey.

The Al-Rai showroom stands as a testament to INFINITI Al Babbain's commitment to excellence, innovation, and craftsmanship. It redefines the Total Ownership Experience, creating an elevated retail environment for customers to

explore the brand's latest models and services.

Customers are invited to explore the world of INFINITI at our new showroom, located on the 4th Ring Road in Al-Rai. Operating from Saturday to Thursday, 8:30 AM to 10:00 PM, the showroom promises an unforgettable journey into automotive luxury.

For more information, Customers can contact customer service at 1804888



## Workshops focus on interview preparation

## KFH organizes workshops to support university students

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: In line with its commitment to supporting students, education, and youth, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized a series of lectures and workshops for university students, aimed at preparing them for the job market and guiding them in planning their career paths.

A dedicated team from KFH's Human Resources Department conducted lectures and workshops in accordance with memoranda of understanding (MOUs) signed between KFH and several universities. These agreements aim to strengthen collaboration and coordination in training, education, talent acquisition, and year-round educational and social activities. The MOUs further strengthen KFH's prominent role in supporting student and academic initiatives, thereby promoting educational advancement and scientific research.

KFH Executive Manager Recruitment, Abdullah Al-Khamis, said that the initiative aligns with the KFH's strategy to support students, education, and youth. Additionally, the initiative highlights KFH's keenness to support students in their career paths through best grounds and methodologies. He emphasized that investing in youth is a long-term strategy for fostering a prosperous future for both individuals and Kuwait.

A series of lectures and seminars

Al-Khamis pointed out that KFH organizes a series of lectures and seminars that encompass the essential keys to success in defining future careers. They also shed light on the importance of embarking on this journey and leveraging all available opportunities to achieve success. This can be accomplished through self-development



Abdullah Al-Khamis

and engaging in student activities and events that significantly contribute to personality development.

He indicated that the purpose of the seminars and workshops is to equip students and young professionals with the necessary skills to craft a professional resume, prepare for job interviews effectively, and approach the process with confidence and a positive mindset. "They also focus on the transition phase, from academic to professional life, by providing an overview of governance principles, career development, organizational structure, as well as fundamental aspects of institutional operations," remarked Al-Khamis. He stressed that these considerations are crucial for professional success.

Al-Khamis emphasized the importance of part-time jobs that align with students' majors in various sectors.

He added that the internship opportunities are equally important in providing students with hands-on job experience, including commitment to the role and interaction with colleagues, supervisors, and clients.

## 'Banking transactions made easy'

## Warba announces winners of Salary Transfer Campaign '24

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Warba Bank continues its salary transfer campaign for the year 2024, which gives the clients a chance to obtain different benefits, most notably an exceptional travel experience and cash prizes of up to KD 1,000, a 25-gram gold bar, and 35,000 miles provided by Warba Bank in cooperation with the Oasis Club of Kuwait Airways, in addition to a cash gift of up to KD 15,000.

The Bank stated that this year's salary transfer campaign will grant all Kuwaiti clients of Warba Bank whose salaries exceed KWD 500 exceptional benefits and entry into the monthly and weekly draws for the 2024 Salary Transfer Campaign. The weekly draw was held



Al-Mutawa

and three clients won. The first winner was Hind Saleh AlIsmael, who won a prize worth KD 1,000, while the second winner was Hadeel Khaled Al-Anezi, who received a 25-gram gold bar. The third prize, went to Sarah Ghanem Al-Rasheed, who received 35,000 miles provided by Warba Bank in cooperation with the Oasis Club of Kuwait Airways.

On this occasion, Ahmed Mohammad Al-Mutawa – Area Manager Retail Banking Group, said: "We are always keen to provide the best distinctive offers and exclusive benefits to our clients that suit different segments and ages of Kuwaitis whose salaries exceed KD 500, so we launched this year's salary transfer campaign with exceptional benefits and rewards."

Al-Mutawa added: "Salary transfer

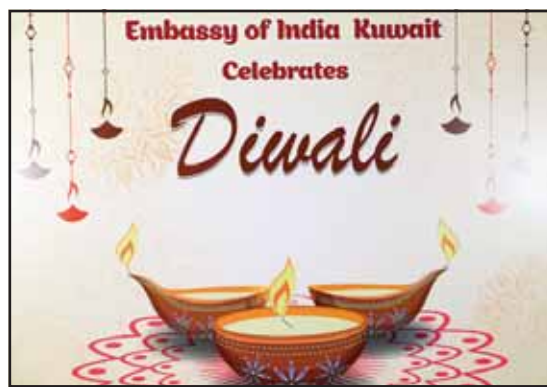
gives clients the opportunity to enjoy the distinguished banking solutions provided by Warba Bank, including innovative digital services and the most advanced payment solutions using the latest technology, which contributes to providing clients with banking experience on the highest levels of luxury, security and peace of mind."

He stressed that all the offers included in the salary transfer campaign this year were carefully designed in line with clients' needs and seasonal requirements, with the aim of always providing the most valuable and suitable offers for our clients.

Al-Mutawa pointed out that transferring the salary gives clients the opportunity to obtain special benefits such as other banking and investment solutions, indicating that Warba clients obtain many exceptional benefits when transferring their salary to the Bank, which include benefiting from the largest banking networks in Kuwait, whether in terms of branches or ATMs.

Al-Mutawa explained that Warba clients can complete their banking transactions quickly, easily and at any time through the Bank's electronic channels, most notably the Warba mobile service, which the Bank is constantly developing and updating, and which is always highly demanded by clients, as it has come to account for the largest share of banking transactions.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that have achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it has occupied a leading position by providing innovative digital banking services in accordance with Islamic Sharia for individuals and companies, and is one of the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the Bank close to all members of society.



## 'Festival of Lights' showcases Indian culture and heritage

## Indian Embassy in Kuwait hosts vibrant 'Diwali' celebration

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Embassy of India in Kuwait celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, with a vibrant event that gathered invited community members and media representatives.

The celebration showcased traditional Indian cultural expressions, with captivating dance performances and melodious singing.

The event highlighted the rich heritage of India, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, which Diwali traditionally represents. The embassy's celebration provided a joyful at-

mosphere, strengthening cultural bonds between the Indian community in Kuwait and fostering deeper cultural appreciation among all attendees.

The invitees were welcomed by the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika and Mrs Vandana Swaika, expressing heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined the celebration.

In his remarks, the Ambassador highlighted Diwali's significance as a time of joy, unity and hope, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness.

He acknowledged the strength and spirit of the Indian community in Kuwait and their role in fostering cultural exchange and friendship between India and Kuwait.

The Ambassador extended special thanks to the performers, the Indian Embassy family and guests, appreciating their contributions to the event's success and the strong bonds shared between the India and Kuwait.

Diwali also known as Deepavali is the Hindu festival of lights, with similar celebrations observed in other Indian religions. The festival symbolizes the spiritual triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar months of Ashvin and Kartika, typically from mid-September to mid-November, with festivities lasting five to six days.

SELECT card offers up to 40% cashback, vouchers and lifestyle discounts

## Weyay Bank partners with 'Caribou Coffee' to offer one-of-a-kind 50% discount for SELECT cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Weyay Bank, Kuwait's first digital bank, is pleased to announce an unprecedented new partnership with Caribou Coffee aimed at creating a unique experience for the Weyay allowance customers who hold the SELECT Card and encouraging them to adopt the right financial habits.

This collaboration reflects Weyay Bank's commitment to keep pace with their customers' needs and deliver unparalleled offers in the market, particularly for university students seeking affordable yet quality options. Not only does it align with student needs but also it helps them to spend wisely since they enjoy their favorite Caribou Coffee food and drinks throughout the week with a 50% discount.

Weyay Bank believes that allowance customers seek not only financial services but also valuable lifestyle benefits. With this collaboration, all the SELECT cardholders can enjoy significant savings on their favorite Caribou Coffee menu options, which makes it easier for them to indulge while managing their finances smartly.

The SELECT Card can be easily set up through the Weyay user-friendly app as soon as the first student allowance hits the Weyay account. As the name of the card suggests, it allows customers who have been selected to join the exclusive community of SELECT to effortlessly manage their spending, taking advantage of up to 40% cashback offers, weekly and monthly vouchers, and other exclusive discounts from multiple brands ranging



Caribou Coffee

from Telecom services and food and beverages to gym and personal care. In just a few taps in the Weyay app, a user can access their SELECT card, add it to their digital wallet, and use it to benefit from the exclusive offers – all within a fully digital experience. This innovative approach ensures that the SELECT customers are empowered to make smart financial decisions while enjoying rewards like the Caribou Coffee 50% discount.

"At Weyay Bank, we focus on understanding our customers' needs," said Fawaz AlNakib, Campaign and Partnership Manager at Weyay Bank. "By partnering with Caribou Coffee, we are not only offering our customers a special discount but also reinforcing our mission to provide a digital-first banking experience that aligns with their distinguished lifestyle."

"The partnership with Weyay Bank exemplifies its ongoing efforts to enrich customers' lives by combining money management with everyday rewards. We are thrilled to offer this unique opportunity, and we encourage all the SELECT cardholders to take advantage of this exciting discount," said Sally Tohme, Marketing Manager at Caribou Coffee - Kuwait.

All the information about Weyay Bank and the SELECT Card and its benefits are available on www.weyaybank.com or in the Weyay app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store.

Weyay Bank stands out as the first digital bank in Kuwait, committed to delivering the best digital banking experience. The Bank continues to set benchmarks in the financial sector, having garnered multiple prestigious awards that underscore its innovative approach and commitment to customer satisfaction. Recently recognized at Global Finance's annual Innovators Awards for 2024, Weyay Bank received the "Most Innovative App for Young People" award, affirming its dedication to providing the best family banking experience through its new innovative card and app designed specifically for kids between the ages of 8 and 14 years old, Jeel Weyay. Additionally, the Bank was honored with the "Best Digital Bank in Kuwait" award, received from MEED international magazine within its MENA Banking Excellence Awards for 2024, and "the Best Information Security and Fraud Management" award in Global Finance's World's Best Digital Bank Awards for 2024.

Caribou Coffee, a global coffeehouse brand with over 800 locations in 11 countries, offers a wide range of delicious food and beverage options and strives to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all types of customers.



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Tom Hardy in a scene from 'Venom: The Last Dance.' (AP)

## Tom Hanks film struggles

### 'Venom: The Last Dance' retains box office crown

NEW YORK, Nov 4, (AP) — "Venom: The Last Dance" enjoyed another weekend at the top of the box office. The Sony release starring Tom Hardy added \$26.1 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was a relatively quiet weekend for North American movie theaters leading up to the presidential election. Charts were dominated by big studio holdovers, like "Venom 3," "The Wild Robot" and "Smile 2," while audiences roundly rejected the Tom Hanks, Robin Wright and Robert Zemeckis reunion "Here." Thirty years after "Forrest Gump," "Here" opened to only \$5 million from 2,647 locations.

"Venom 3" only fell 49% in its second weekend, which is a notably small drop for a superhero film, though it didn't exactly open like one either. In two weeks, the movie has made over \$90 million domestically; The first two opened to over \$80 million. Globally, the picture is brighter given that it has already crossed the \$300 million threshold.

Meanwhile, Universal and Illumination's "The Wild Robot" continues to attract moviegoers even six weeks in (and when it's available by video on demand), placing second with \$7.6 million. That's up 11% from last weekend. The animated charmer has made over \$121 million in North America and \$269 million worldwide.

"The Wild Robot" has quietly been this absolute juggernaut for the fall season," said Paul

Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "For that film to see an increase after six weeks is astounding."

"Smile 2" landed in third place with \$6.8 million, helping to push its worldwide total to \$109.7 million.

The time-hopping "Here," a graphic novel that was adapted by "Forrest Gump" screenwriter Eric Roth, was financed by Miramax and distributed by Sony's TriStar. With a fixed position camera, it takes audiences through the years in one living room. Critics were not on board: In aggregate it has a lousy 36% on Rotten Tomatoes.

#### Audience

"It was a slow weekend anyway, but it didn't resonate in a way that many thought it might," Dergarabedian said. "There are a lot of films out there for the audience that 'Here' was chasing."

Despite playing in almost 1,000 more locations, "Here" came in behind Focus Features' papal thriller "Conclave," which earned \$5.3 million. Playing in 1,796 theaters, "Conclave" dropped only 20% from its debut last weekend and has made \$15.2 million so far. Two Indian films also cracked the top 10 in their debuts, "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3" and "Singham Again."

Overall box office continues to lag behind 2023 by almost 12%. But holiday moviegoing will likely give the industry an end-of-year boost with ti-

titles like "Gladiator II" and "Wicked" on the way.

"In a couple of weeks, it'll get a lot more competitive," Dergarabedian said.

Jesse Eisenberg's film "A Real Pain," a comedic drama about cousins on a Holocaust tour in Poland, launched in four theaters this weekend in New York and Los Angeles. It made an estimated \$240,000, or \$60,000 per screen, which is among the top three highest per theater averages of the year. Searchlight Pictures will be expanding the well-reviewed film nationwide in the coming weeks, going wide on Nov. 15 to over 800 theaters.

Box office charts don't always paint a full picture of the moviegoing landscape, however. This weekend several relatively high-profile films playing in theaters did not report full grosses for various reasons, including the Clint Eastwood film "Juror #2," Steve McQueen's WWII film "Blitz" and the Cannes darling "Emilia Pérez." Netflix, which is handling "Emilia Pérez," never reports box office. Apple Original Films is following suit with "Blitz," a likely awards contender, which is in theaters before hitting Apple TV+ on Nov. 22.

"Juror No. 2" is a Warner Bros. release, and a well-reviewed one at that. The film directed by Eastwood stars Nicholas Hoult as a juror on a murder case who faces a big moral dilemma. Domestic ticket sales were withheld. The studio did say that it earned \$5 million from international showings, where it played on 1,348 screens.

## Variety

NEW YORK: As he approached his mid-90s, pioneering Black businessman George E. Johnson unexpectedly found himself determined - even called - to write his memoir.

Johnson's "Afro Sheen: How I Revolutionized an Industry with the Golden Rule, from Soul Train to Wall Street" will be published Feb. 4 by Little, Brown and Company. The book's title is named for one of the most memorable consumer items his Johnson Products Company developed. Founded in 1954, Johnson Products was the first Black-owned company to be listed on the American Stock Exchange and was also known for sponsoring the popular 1970s music show "Soul Train."

Johnson, 97, worked on "Afro Sheen" with the author-editor Hilary Beard. He hadn't thought of writing a book until three years ago.

"I had an epiphany on Sunday morning, November 21, 2021," he said in a statement released Wednesday by Little, Brown. "In that experience, I clearly heard five words: 'You must tell your story.' I believed it was the voice of the Lord. I made a 180 degree turn and immediately sought a writer." (AP)

NEW YORK: The author of "Daisy Jones & The Six" is aiming high with her next book. Taylor Jenkins Reid's "Atmosphere: A Love Story" is a romance set during the space shuttle program of the 1980s.

Ballantine, a Penguin Random House imprint, will publish "Atmosphere" on June 3.

"I have long wanted to tell a sweeping, romantic love story, and when the character of astronomer Joan Goodwin came to me, I knew I had found my way in," Reid said in a statement recently.

According to Ballantine, "Atmosphere" will tell "a passionate and soaring story about the transformative power

of love, this time among the stars." Reid's previous books, which also include "Malibu Rising" and "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo," have sold millions of copies worldwide. "Daisy Jones & The Six" was adapted into an Emmy-nominated miniseries starring Riley Keough. (AP)

RIYADH: Qiddiya Investment Company (QIC) and leading technology company Globant have announced a significant new partnership that will cement Saudi Arabia's landmark new destination Qiddiya City as one of the world's most immersive hubs for entertainment, sports and culture.

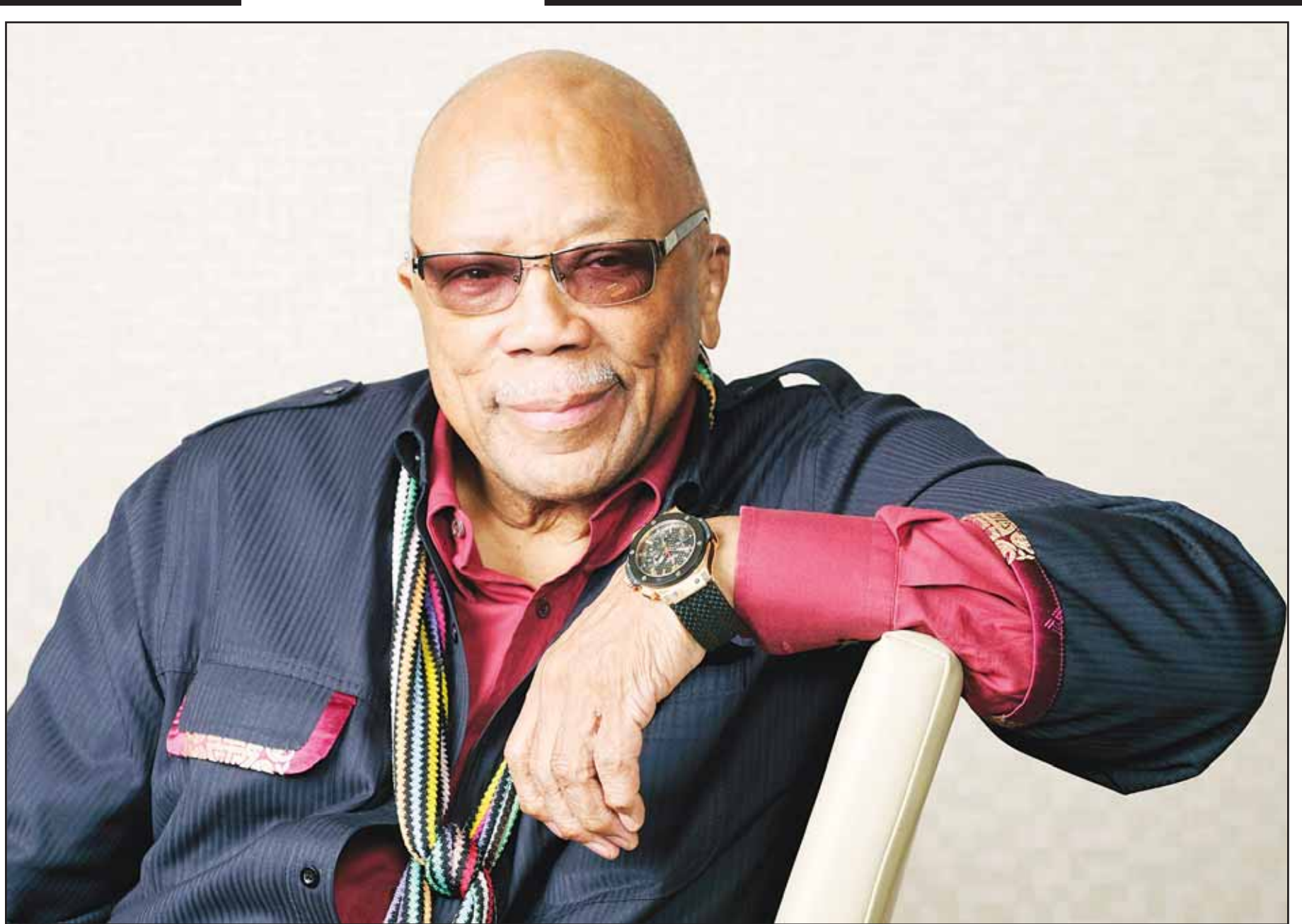
As part of the collaboration, Globant - a digitally native company focused on reinventing businesses with innovative technology solutions - will work with QIC to develop the Qiddiya "Play Life Connected Experience", a cutting-edge digital ecosystem designed to transform how visitors and residents interact with the unique destination's wide range of offerings.

The system will leverage artificial intelligence, data analytics, and cloud technology to develop a seamless interface that personalizes and enhances every interaction at Qiddiya City. It will allow visitors to book events, manage their itineraries, discover new adventures, and engage with the community, all through a personalized, real-time interface. Whether attending a sporting event, exploring cultural attractions, or participating in world-class entertainment, the "PLAY LIFE Connected Experience" will enrich every moment.

Abdulrahman Alali, QIC's Chief Technology Officer, underscored the importance of the new partnership in achieving Qiddiya's ambitions. "Our partnership with Globant marks a pivotal step in realizing Qiddiya's vision as the world's first city dedicated entirely to play," he said.

"The Qiddiya Play Life Connected Experience will not only enhance how visitors engage with our attractions but also set a new standard for digital integration in entertainment and tourism. We are creating a destination that is both innovative and unforgettable, and this collaboration will help ensure that every visitor's journey is personalized, seamless, and truly unique," Abdulrahman Alali added. (AP)

## Obituary



Music producer Quincy Jones poses for a portrait to promote his documentary 'Quincy' during the Toronto Film Festival on Sept. 7, 2018, in Toronto. (AP)

### Music legend leaves behind a vast legacy

## Quincy Jones, the music titan, dies at 91

LOS ANGELES, Nov 4, (AP) — Quincy Jones, the multi-talented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91.

Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died Sunday night at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family.

"Tonight, with full but broken hearts, we must share the news of our father and brother Quincy Jones' passing," the family said in a statement. "And although this is an incredible loss for our family, we celebrate the great life that he lived and know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and leaving behind a vast musical catalog that includes some of the richest moments of American song and rhythm. Over the past half century, it was hard to find a music lover who did not own at least one record with Jones' name on it or someone in the music, television or movie industries who did not have some connection to him.

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World."

In a career that began when records were still played on vinyl at 78 rpm, singling out any work seems unfair. But honors likely go to his productions with Jackson on "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad," albums universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination fit perfectly with the bursting talents of

Jackson as he sensationally transformed from child star to the "King of Pop." On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'," Jones and Jackson drew upon disco, funk, rock, pop, R&B and jazz and African chants. For "Thriller," some of the most memorable touches originated with Jones, who recruited Eddie Van Halen for a guitar solo on the genre-defying "Beat It" and brought in Vincent Price for a ghoulish voiceover on the title track.

"Thriller" sold more than 20 million copies in 1983 alone, helped Jackson become the first major Black artist to have a video played on MTV and influenced countless performers.

"Michael had the look and the voice, and I had every sound you can think of," Jones would explain.

#### Contributions

The list of his honors and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q": 28 Grammys (out of 80 nominations), an honorary Academy Award and an Emmy for "Roots." He also received France's Legion d'Honneur and the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy. In 2001, Jones was named a Kennedy Center Honoree for his contributions to American culture. He was the subject of a 1990 documentary, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones," and his memoir made him a best-selling author.

"Despite all the Grammys and the special awards and testimonials that maturity bestows, it will always be the values you carry within yourself - of work, love, and integrity - that carry the greatest worth, because these are what get you through with your dreams intact, your heart held firm and your spirit ready for another day," he wrote in his book.

Born in Chicago in 1933, Jones would cite the hymns his mother sang around the house as the first music he could remember. But he looked back sadly on his childhood, telling Oprah Winfrey that "There are two kinds of people: those who have nurturing

parents or caretakers, and those who don't. Nothing's in between." Jones' mother suffered from emotional problems and was eventually institutionalized, a loss that made the world seem "senseless" for Quincy. He spent much of his time in Chicago on the streets, with gangs, stealing and fighting.

Music was his passion, and, almost literally, his salvation. As a boy, he learned that a Chicago neighbor owned a piano and he soon played it constantly himself. His father moved to Washington state when Quincy was 10 and his world changed at a neighborhood recreation center. Jones and some friends had broken into the kitchen and helped themselves to lemon meringue pie when Jones noticed a small room nearby with a stage. On the stage was a piano.

"I went up there, paused, stared, and then tinkled on it for a moment," he wrote in his autobiography. "That's where I began to find peace. I was 11. I knew this was it for me. Forever."

Within a few years he was playing trumpet and befriending a young blind musician named Ray Charles, who became a lifelong friend. He was gifted enough to win a scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, but dropped out when Hampton invited him to tour with his band. Jones went on to work as a freelance composer, conductor, arranger and producer. As a teen, he backed Billie Holiday. By his mid-20s, he was touring with his own band.

"We had the best jazz band on the planet, and yet we were literally starving," Jones later told Musician magazine. "That's when I discovered that there was music, and there was the music business. If I were to survive, I would have to learn the difference between the two."

His survivors include actor Rashida Jones and five other daughters: Jolie Jones Levine, Rachel Jones, Martina Jones, Kidada Jones and Kenya Kinski-Jones; son Quincy Jones III; brother Richard Jones and sisters Theresa Frank and Margie Jay.

## Preventing medics' exodus

## Arab League calls for stronger nursing and midwifery roles

CAIRO, Nov 4, (KUNA): The Arab League stressed on Sunday the importance of strengthening the role of nursing and midwifery to reduce the risk of health workers leaving the sector.

In a statement, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Affairs Sector at the Arab League Ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazaleh said that the Council of Arab Health Ministers adopted November 3 of each year to celebrate (Arab Nursing and Midwifery Day) through a resolution issued in 2021, with a unified slogan.

She underlined the importance of Arab countries celebrating this day, expressing gratitude and appreciation for the great efforts made by the nursing and midwifery teams and their vital role in improving health care services. The Council of Arab Health Ministers, at its 60th session last May, approved the award list for (the best distinguished work in the nursing and midwifery professions in Arab countries) in appreciation of their great work, she noted.

Abu Ghazaleh added that the First Arab Conference on the Role of Arab Expatriate Health Professionals in Supporting Health Systems in Arab Countries, held last October, also highlighted the increase in nursing and midwifery migration in the Arab region.

She also stressed the importance

of working to draw attention to this phenomenon and working to develop a "comprehensive vision" through which Arab countries can limit it by motivating working Arab competencies to develop their performance and boost health systems.

Abu Ghazaleh explained that the League's General Secretariat prepared an indicative Arab strategy to advance the nursing and midwifery professions in cooperation with the member ministries of health and in partnership with the UN Population Fund for Arab States and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, and was approved by the Council of Arab Health Ministers at their meeting held in Geneva on May 22, 2022.

She indicated that the strategy provides a set of priorities, directions and related procedures that are considered a road map for countries to guide them in developing their national executive plans to advance the nursing and midwifery professions. Abu Ghazaleh emphasized the keenness of the General Secretariat to support member states in improving their health services by organizing workshops to follow up on the implementation of this strategy, in cooperation and coordination with the UN Population Fund for the Arab States and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, astronaut Ye Guangfu waves near the re-entry capsule of the Shenzhou-18 manned space mission after it landed successfully at the Dongfeng landing site in northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in the early Monday, Nov. 4. (AP)

## Eyes 2030 moon mission

## Chinese astronauts return to Earth after 6-month mission

BEIJING, Nov 4, (AP): Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth on Monday after a six-month stay on the Tiangong space station, part of China's effort to be a global leader in space exploration.

A parachute slowed their capsule's nighttime descent to a remote landing area in China's Inner Mongolia region. The crew emerged after touching down at 1:24 a.m. A Chinese national flag stuck in the ground near the capsule flapped in the wind.

In recent years, the country's space program has brought back rocks from the moon and landed a rover on Mars. It aims to put a person on the moon by 2030, which would make China the second nation after the United States to do so.

The space station astronauts returned after welcoming a replacement three-person crew last week for the latest six-month mission. The new team of one woman and two men will conduct experiments, carry out spacewalks and install equipment to protect the station from space debris.

A space agency official said in April that Tiangong had maneuvered several times to avoid debris and had partially

lost power when the solar wing's power cables were hit by debris, according to a report from the official Xinhua News Agency.

China is among the countries that have created space debris, including the reported break-up of a rocket stage in August during the launch of the first 18 satellites for a global internet service similar to Starlink, the still-growing constellation of satellites operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Tiangong, which means Heavenly Palace, was completed two years ago and orbits the earth.

Only Chinese astronauts have gone to the space station so far, but a space agency spokesperson said last week that China is in discussions to select and train astronauts from other nations to join the missions, Xinhua reported.

Astronauts from several nations have traveled to the International Space Station, but China is blocked from that program mainly because of U.S. concerns over the military's involvement in China's space program.

China laid out an ambitious plan last month to become a leader in space science research by 2050 in conjunction with its advances in space exploration.

## New rule aims to protect public health

By Marwa Al-Bahravi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has mandated that all food establishments, factories and suppliers of food products comply with the Trans Fats Regulation (GSO 2483:2024).

This decision aligns with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and aims to miti-

gate the potential health risks associated with the consumption of trans fats.

Shaima Al-Asfour, the Deputy Director General for Community Nutrition Affairs and official spokesperson for the Authority, emphasized that the regulation seeks to eliminate industrial trans fatty acids.

She stated that this initiative is part of the Authority's ongoing efforts to enhance consumer health and safety, fostering integrated cooperation

between government agencies and the private sector to serve the public interest.

Al-Asfour further clarified that this decision is based on the technical regulation (Gulf 2483), which addresses trans fats and outlines the health risks posed by their consumption.

She urged all food companies and suppliers to strictly adhere to the regulation to ensure the availability of safe food products that are free from harmful trans fats.

## Inventions

## Breakthrough tool for thyroid cancer

BEIJING, Nov 4, (Xinhua): Chinese researchers have made progress in localizing medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC), a form of thyroid cancer that poses challenges in identifying metastatic lesions.

This breakthrough is based on a new imaging technique utilizing a novel class of radiopharmaceutical, known as covalent targeted radioligand (CTR). This approach addresses one of the major challenges in treating MTC: precisely locating metastatic lesions, which is essential for accurate diagnosis and effective treatment, according to researchers.

The development of this innovative imaging method was a collaborative effort between Liu Shaoyan's team from the Cancer Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Liu Zhibo's team from Peking University and Changping Laboratory, along with their collaborators. Their study was published online in Cancer Discovery, a leading journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, in late October.

Liu Shaoyan, the director of the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at the Cancer Hospital, emphasized that existing imaging techniques often fail to locate metastatic lesions accurately. "Surgery is a primary curative option for MTC. A precise imaging method is crucial to assist surgeons in accurately determining the extent of the surgical procedure," he stated.

The new approach allows for selective targeting of tumor cells, enabling higher amounts and longer duration of the radioactive agents to remain in the tumor. This provides better imaging contrast, clearer tumor identification and more precise treatment planning, as explained by Kong Ziren, a member of Liu's team and the co-first author of the paper.

Looking ahead, Liu noted that as this imaging approach continues to evolve and expand its applications, CTR has the potential to become a valuable diagnostic tool not only for MTC but also for various other cancers.



**Extreme light:** "I'm going to work on extreme light for medical and energy fields," Nobel laureate Gérard Mourou said on Friday, speaking on plans for his work in China.

The French physicist, who joined Peking University's School of Physics as chair professor last month, made the remarks on the sidelines of this year's Beijing Forum, a global academic forum on innovation and human progress.

At the opening ceremony of the annual forum, he outlined the applications of ultra-high intensity lasers in such areas as medicine and nuclear energy.

In 2018, Mourou shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with Arthur Ashkin and Donna Strickland "for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics."

He is expected to assist in the establishment of a new institute for scientific research and international cooperation in the fields of laser physics, particle physics, nuclear physics, medical physics and astrophysics, according to a statement from Peking University.

## Light therapy offers hope for SAD

## Winter depression is real and there are many ways to cope

NEW YORK, Nov 4, (AP): As winter approaches and daylight hours grow shorter, people prone to seasonal depression can feel it in their bodies and brains.

"It's a feeling of panic, fear, anxiety and dread all in one," said Germaine Pataki, 63, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

She's among the millions of people estimated to have seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. Her coping strategies include yoga, walking and an antidepressant medication. She's also part of a Facebook group for people with SAD.

"I try to focus on helping others through it," Pataki said. "This gives me purpose."

People with SAD typically have episodes of depression that begin in the fall and ease in the spring or summer. Changing the clocks back to standard time, which happens this weekend, can be a trigger for SAD. A milder form, subsyndromal SAD, is recognized by medical experts, and there's also a summer variety of seasonal depression, though less is known about it.

## Researcher

In 1984, a team led by Dr. Norman Rosenthal, then a researcher at the National Institutes of Health, first described SAD and coined the term. "I believe that because it is easy to remember, the acronym has stuck," he said.

Scientists are learning how specialized cells in our eyes turn the blue wavelength part of the light spectrum into neural signals affecting mood and alertness.

Sunlight is loaded with the blue light, so when the cells absorb it, our brains' alertness centers are activated and we feel more awake and possibly even happier.

Researcher Kathryn Roeklein at the University of Pittsburgh tested people with and without SAD to see how their eyes reacted to blue light. As a group, people with SAD were less sensitive to blue light than others, especially during winter



Miriam Cherry poses for a photo in her home where she uses a light therapy device to treat seasonal affective disorder, in Larchmont, New York, on Sept. 4, 2024. (AP)

months. That suggests a cause for wintertime depression.

"In the winter, when the light levels drop, that combined with a lower sensitivity, might be too low for healthy functioning, leading to depression," Roeklein said.

Miriam Cherry, 50, of Larchmont, New York, said she spent the summer planning how she would deal with her winter depression. "It's like clockwork," Cherry said. "The sunlight is low. The day ends at 4:45, and suddenly my mood is horrible."

Many people with SAD respond to light therapy, said Dr. Paul Desan of Yale University's Winter Depression Research Clinic.

"The first thing to try is light," Desan said. "When we get patients on exposure to bright light for a half an hour or so every morning, the majority of patients get dramatically better. We don't even need medications."

The therapy involves devices that emit light about 20 times brighter than regular indoor light.

Research supports using a light that's about 10,000 lux, a measure of brightness. You need to use it for

30 minutes every morning, according to the research. Desan said this can help not only people with SAD but also those with less-severe winter blues.

Special lights run from \$70 to \$400. Some products marketed for SAD are too dim to do much good, Desan said.

Yale has tested products and offers a list of recommendations, and the nonprofit Center for Environmental Therapeutics has a consumer guide to selecting a light.

If your doctor diagnosed you with SAD, check with your insurance company to see if the cost of a light might be covered. Desan suggested.

Antidepressant medications are a first-line treatment for SAD, along with light therapy. Doctors also recommend keeping a regular sleep schedule and walking outside, even on cloudy days.

Light therapy's benefits can fade when people stop using it. One type of talk therapy - cognitive behavioral therapy, or CBT - has been shown in studies to have more durable effects, University of Vermont researcher Kelly Rohan said.

## Therapy offers antimicrobial protection

## FDA approves new pain-relief wound dressing

MIDDLETON, Wis., Nov 4, (AP): Imbed Biosciences has announced US Food and Drug Administration 510(k) clearance to market Microlyte Ag/Lidocaine, the first antimicrobial wound dressing to integrate lidocaine for the management of painful skin wounds. Microlyte Ag/Lidocaine utilizes Imbed's patented synthetic matrix to deliver ionic and metallic silver alongside lidocaine, providing both antimicrobial protection and local anesthetic effects. The dressing releases 40mg of lidocaine hydrochloride USP per 100cm<sup>2</sup> of wound surface area, equivalent to a 4% w/w gel. The advanced Microlyte® Ag/Lidocaine wound dressing is indicated for the management of a variety of partial- and full-thickness wounds under the supervision of a healthcare professional, including venous stasis ulcers, pressure sores, is-

chemic ulcers, partial thickness burns, donor site wounds, surgical wounds, post-surgical incisions, abrasions and lacerations.

In the \$22 billion wound care industry targeting both acute and chronic wounds, over 8 million Americans suffer from chronic wounds, with approximately 60% remaining unhealed. These wounds often harbor microbial biofilms, contributing to over \$148 billion in annual healthcare costs. Microlyte® Ag/Lidocaine is designed to facilitate wound healing progression in deteriorating wounds by suppressing the growth of microbes in contact with the dressing, maintaining a moist matrix environment conducive to cellular growth, and releasing lidocaine to effect local anesthetic action.

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Kuwait Aquatics Federation is keen on providing all necessary facilities

## Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader envisions Asia as a global icon in aquatics

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: President of Kuwait and Asia Aquatics federations Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader Al-Sabah has commended the competitive and zealous atmosphere of the Asian round of the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup organized by World Aquatics under the leadership of Hussein Al-Musallam, in collaboration with Asia Aquatics Federation.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader Al-Sabah disclosed that Asia Aquatics Federation wishes to put into action a clear action plan for Asia to

become the global symbol of aquatics. "The region has done so in the past by holding prominent positions and winning medals at the Olympic and international levels; thereby, affirming that the aquatics movement in Asia is heading towards the right direction," he added.

He pointed out that sustaining aquatics growth in Asia hinges on several ideas, such as the ongoing construction of facilities to maintain the state of the art status and achieving the desired outcome by keeping up with advancements in the techni-

cal level of water sports and through the Asia Aquatics Federation's continued assistance to nations that are unable to meet their commitments.

He said Kuwait Aquatics Federation is keen on providing all the necessary facilities and overcome obstacles that the water sports is currently facing, in cooperation with the concerned authorities, in order to create the appropriate atmosphere and capabilities to guarantee continuous progress regionally and internationally, especially after achieving new records in the name of Kuwait and

winning many medals in the recent Arab Championship held in Cairo, Egypt.

He hopes the coming period will witness more progress and sports prosperity in Kuwait in line with the renaissance that the country is experiencing in all fields under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader Al-Sabah

### Coordination meeting held for upcoming World Cup qualifiers



The coordination meeting in progress.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: A coordination meeting was held in the meeting hall at the Football Association headquarters, at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, to discuss the upcoming World Cup qualifying between Kuwait, South Korea, and Jordan on November 14 and 19, respectively.

This meeting was attended by the acting Secretary-General of the Federation, Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub, and the acting Deputy Director of the Public Authority for Sports for the Facilities, Maintenance, and Facilities Sector, Engineer Sarah Fleitah, along with representatives from various ministries and state agencies. During the meeting, participants discussed the program for organizing fan entry and reviewed the readiness of the different working committees responsible for ensuring the successful execution of both matches.

### Palhinha ready to lead vs Benfica

## Champs League pressure mounts on Bayern Munich

BERLIN, Nov 4, (Xinhua): Ahead of the crucial UEFA Champions League encounter against Benfica, Joao Palhinha must feel as if he's been transported to a different world.

For weeks, there has been little attention on the Portuguese international following his move from Fulham to Bayern Munich last summer. The €50 million the Bavarians paid made headlines, but Palhinha appeared to vanish on the bench, losing the starting spot to Alex Pavlovic.

However, due to Pavlovic's shoulder injury, the 33-time capped international was thrust into action. While he's been making more statements since returning to the pitch, attention has reached new heights ahead of the match against Benfica.

Born in Lisbon, with his parents and brother still living near the Portuguese capital, Palhinha has become a sought-after figure in the media.

"It's a final for us," said the former Fulham and Sporting midfielder, sounding the alarm for the 2020 treble winner.

Despite Bayern Munich riding a wave of success in the domestic league, the pressure from a disappointing Champions League campaign is mounting. With two losses in its first three group-stage matches in the 2024/25 season, this week's clash is a must-win for the Bavarians, currently ranked 23rd.

Wins against Benfica, PSG, Shakhtar Donetsk, Feyenoord, and

Slovan Bratislava are essential to secure a spot in the top eight and direct qualification for the knockout stage.

Following three consecutive wins in the league and the German Cup (with a combined 12-0 scoreline), confidence is building, Palhinha said. "But we all know what's next." The Portuguese also acknowledged Benfica's recent surge under coach Bruno Lage, which includes a 4-0 victory over Atletico Madrid.

With the 2025 Champions League final set to take place in Munich on May 31, Bayern's goal is clear.

"But before we talk about the final, we have important tasks ahead," Palhinha emphasized, referring to a recent 1-0 defeat to Aston Villa and a 4-1 setback against Barcelona.

The loss to Barca still weighs on the team, Palhinha said, adding that coach Vincent Kompany's side is determined to turn things around.

"We want to make up for that, it drives us. We need to prove our quality," he added. As Palhinha becomes a vital presence, closing gaps in midfield has taken on greater importance in Bayern's entertaining but risky style of play.

A fierce, determined approach is needed to take on Benfica, Palhinha noted. "We have a fantastic team with high quality," he said, expressing confidence. "It's a challenge, no doubt, but with this squad, I believe we can handle the pressure and the challenges."

## Balanced Pistons topple Nets

Johnson shines as Hawks snap losing streak

NEW YORK, Nov 4, (AP): Cade Cunningham scored 19 points to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 106-92 win over the Brooklyn Nets Sunday.

Cunningham was one of six players in double figures for Detroit. Tobias Harris and Malik Beasley scored 18 points each, Jaden Ivey finished with 15, Tim Hardaway Jr. added 14 and Jalen Duren had 13 for the Pistons.

Duren also finished with 17 rebounds, and Detroit won two of its last three games.

Despite a 26-point performance from Cameron Johnson, the Nets fell to 3-4. Cam Thomas, Brooklyn's leading scorer, scored 17 points and only had six in the fourth quarter after entering the game as the NBA's leader in fourth-quarter scoring.

Leading by six points entering the fourth quarter, the Pistons held the Nets to 15 points in the fourth quarter to earn their second win.

**Hawks 126, Pelicans 111**

In New Orleans, Jalen Johnson scored 29 points and Atlanta snapped a four-game skid with a victory over short-handed New Orleans.

Pelicans star forward Zion Williamson was scratched from the lineup with right hamstring tightness shortly before the game, leaving Brandon Ingram as the club's only usual starter.

Ingram scored 32, but it wasn't enough to overcome a Hawks squad with six players with at least 11 points.

Trae Young scored 23, while former Pelican Dyson Daniels, back from a two-game injury absence, added 16 for Atlanta. Larry Nance Jr. scored 14 against his former team.



Detroit Pistons' Jaden Ivey (23) shoots against Brooklyn Nets' Zion Williamson (1) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in New York. (AP)

**Mavericks 108, Magic 85**

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 32 points and nine rebounds and seven assists, Daniel Gafford scored a season-high 18 points, and Dallas beat Orlando.

The defending Western Conference champions outscored the Magic 30-9 in the first 9:30 of the second quarter en route to a 65-40 halftime lead. Dallas' largest lead was 33 points.

Orlando played its second game without Paolo Banchero, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2022 draft and 2023 Rookie of the Year, who suffered a torn right oblique last Wednesday.

Another Magic starter, Wendell Carter Jr., was limited to nine first-half minutes, six points and a rebound because of a strain of his left plantar fascia.

Franz Wagner led the Magic with 13 points, and Orlando scored well below its average of 111.7 points per game.



Atlanta Hawks forward Jalen Johnson (1) tries for a basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans. (AP)

### Martínez sinks lowly Venezia

## Inter closes in on Napoli ahead of showdown

MILAN, Nov 4, (AP): Inter Milan moved just one point behind Serie A leader Napoli ahead of their early title showdown next weekend.

Lautaro Martínez scored the only goal of the match to help Inter to a 1-0 win over lowly Venezia, shortly after Napoli was stunned 3-0 at home by Atalanta.

Napoli coach Antonio Conte, who led Inter to the Serie A title in 2021, takes his team to San Siro next Sunday.

Inter has another tough match before that as it hosts Arsenal in the Champions League on Wednesday.

It was an entertaining match at San Siro on Sunday and Inter, which knew it could cut the gap to Napoli to a solitary point, had plenty of chances. But Nerazzurri goalkeeper Yann Sommer was also kept busy.

Inter thought it had taken the lead seven minutes into the second half



Venezia's Francesco Zampano, left, and Inter Milan's Denzel Dumfries fight for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Venezia at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan, Italy. (AP)

when Federico Dimarco rolled the ball across from the left for Henrikh

Mkhitaryan to blast into the roof of the net but it was ruled out for offside.

The home side did break the deadlock in the 65th minute in almost identical fashion as Dimarco whipped in another cross for Lautaro to head into the far bottom corner.

Venezia thought it had leveled in the seventh minute of stoppage time when Marin Sverko bundled in a cross and the whole of the Venezia bench streamed onto the field in celebration but it was ruled out by VAR for handball.

Roma coach Ivan Juric is under even more pressure after the capital side lost 3-2 at Hellas Verona.

It was a third defeat in seven league matches since Juric replaced the fired Daniele De Rossi.

Verona, which had lost five of its last six matches, moved up to 12th and just a point below Roma.

Fiorentina rose to fourth after a 1-0 win at Torino for its seventh straight victory in all competitions.



Bayern's Jamal Musiala challenges for the ball with Union's Diogo Leite during the Bundesliga soccer match between Bayern Munich and Union Berlin at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)



Khaled Al-Jarid and Hamad Al-Ruwaisan arrive for the Crown Prince Shooting Championship in Kuwait.

# Sports

Organizing Committee in final stages

## Kuwait welcomes delegations for Crown Prince Shooting Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The delegations of teams participating in the His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Shooting Championship, scheduled for November 8 to 16, continue to arrive in Kuwait. Today, the Qatari and Bahraini team delegations are expected to land, following the arrival of officials and administrators from the Qatari Federation.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Organizing Committee, led by Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federation President Eng. Duajj Al-Otaibi, is finalizing organizational details to ensure a successful championship. Known for excellence in hosting esteemed competitions, the committee is dedicated to

delivering an event that upholds the high standards expected by participating delegations.

Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations and Championship Director Obaid Al-Osaimi is actively overseeing the latest preparations, regularly meeting with subcommittees to ensure seamless organization.

Hamad Al-Ruwaisan, head of the cartridge referees committee at the Kuwait Shooting Federation, announced that a refresher course for participating referees will be held the day after tomorrow. This course aims to update referees on recent changes in international shooting laws and clarify their

responsibilities. He noted that 22 experienced Kuwaiti referees, all internationally certified, will officiate the competitions. Preparations for these referees began four months ago to ensure fairness and adherence to regulations in every match.

Khaled Jarid, head of the bullet referees committee, confirmed the referees' readiness for the Championship. Having completed refresher training, referees were briefed on the latest international shooting laws. Jarid emphasized that the professionalism and skill of Kuwait's shooting referees are highly regarded in regional and international competitions.

Strong roster unveiled

## Kuwait aims for glory in upcoming first International Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The technical staff of the Kuwait handball team has unveiled the roster for the upcoming first Kuwait International Championship, set to take place at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall from November 6-9. This inaugural tournament will feature competing teams from Bahrain, Tunisia, and Cape Verde.

The roster includes 18 players: Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Haider Dashti, Saif Al-Adwani, Mohammed Amer, Fawaz Mubarak, Abdullah Al-Khamis, Fawaz Al-Shammari, Saleh Al-Raghib, Abdulaziz Daif, Abdulrahman Saeed, Ali Naseer, Mishaal Al-Harbi, Saleh Ali, Mohammed Al-Sanea, Abdulrahman Al-Shammari, Mohammed Ali, Has-

san Safar, and Mohammed Bouyabes.

The technical team, led by Algerian coach Saeed Hijazi, includes assistant coach Mohammed Masoudan, goalkeeper coach Marwan Al-Maqaiz, technical analyst Ayman Al-Sheikh, physical therapist Mehdi Al-Bakoush, national teams manager Faisal Saywan, and team administrator Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi.

According to the tournament schedule, the opening day will feature Tunisia facing Bahrain and Kuwait taking on Cape Verde. The following day, Tunisia will play against Cape Verde, and Kuwait will compete against Bahrain. The tournament will conclude on November 9 with Bahrain playing Cape Verde and Kuwait facing Tunisia.

This friendly tournament serves as a vital preparation for the national handball team ahead of their participation in the 29th edition of the 2025 World Cup, which will be held from January 14 to February 2 in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway. The "Blue" team will begin their World Cup journey against Austria in Group Three on January 16, followed by matches against France and Qatar.

Additionally, the Bahraini handball team arrived in Kuwait yesterday in preparation for the tournament. Notably, the event will also include a retirement match for former national team and Al-Salmiya Club star Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, which will take place during the match between Kuwait and Bahrain, under the patronage of Sheikh Ahmed Al-Youssef Al-Sabah.



Kuwaiti players prepare for the first International Championship.

## Melinic sees bright future for equestrian sports in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Argentine coach Patricio Melinic, head trainer at the Kuwait Equestrian Club, affirmed Kuwait's potential to advance its equestrian sport each year. He noted that the quality of equestrianism in Kuwait is steadily rising, and that the club's training staff is well-equipped to further elevate and promote the sport locally.

Melinic shared that he was invited by international rider Ali Al-Kharafi to join the Kuwait Equestrian Club, as they share the same vision and goals for the club's development.

Reflecting on his background, Melinic said, "I began riding at a young age in Argentina, competing in both local and international championships. My most memorable event was participating in the Longines Global Champions Tour in Miami."

He praised rider Ali Al-Kharafi's Olympic-level skills and competitive horses, highlighting Al-Kharafi's potential to challenge the top riders in the Middle East and Europe. Melinic added that equestrian clubs in Kuwait are well-equipped, offering excellent facilities and services that allow riders to pursue their specific goals.

According to Melinic, the Kuwait Equestrian Club stands out as Kuwait's leading equestrian institution. It features a large, specialized academy that offers riding lessons for children as young as four, as well as advanced training for those aiming to master jumping. The club also boasts a roster of top riders who represent Kuwait nationally and internationally.



Argentine coach Patricio Melinic

### Best of the Rest

**Flamengo gains edge in final:** Gabriel Barbosa scored twice as Flamengo secured a 3-1 home victory over Atletico Mineiro in the first leg of the Copa do Brasil final.

Uruguayan midfielder Giorgian de Arrascaeta gave the hosts the lead with an 11th minute volley after Barbosa's close range effort was parried away by goalkeeper Everson.

Barbosa doubled the advantage just before halftime by running onto Gonzalo Plata's headed flick and slotting a cool finish into the far corner. (Xinhua)

**Bochum picks veteran coach:** Bochum has turned to experienced coach Dieter Hecking to save its season, the struggling Bundesliga club said on Monday with relegation looking a strong possibility.

Bochum has just one point from its first nine games and lost 7-2 against Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday. Hecking arrives with a contract through to the end of the season and immediately faces a tough task against champion Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday. (AP)



Kuwait squash team receives a hero's welcome at the Kuwait International Airport.

## Kuwait squash team returns to hero's welcome

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Kuwait squash team received a warm welcome at Kuwait International Airport upon its return from the fifth West Asian Championship, held in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. The team celebrated a successful campaign, winning the gold medal in the team event and a silver medal in the singles competition.

The delegation was greeted by Federation President Walid Al-Sumaie, Vice President

Khaled Al-Habib, and Secretary General Hamed Al-Omran. The team consisted of Ammar Al-Tamimi, Mohammed Al-Masoud, Athbi Hamad, and Jassim Al-Gharib, with Salem Fayeze serving as coach and Board Member Adel Al-Gharib accompanying the delegation.

Competing against six teams, the Kuwaiti squad dominated the championship, reclaiming the title after not securing victories in the previ-

ous two tournaments.

Ahmed Al-Adwani, head of the delegation, expressed his joy at the team's achievement and the warm reception they received in the VIP hall. He noted that the players were determined from the start to return home with the gold medal, emphasizing that they kept their promise to the board of directors and contributed to the national pride by playing the Kuwaiti anthem and raising the flag at the international event.

# Calm Cummins leads Australia to 2-wicket win over Pakistan

'Nice to start the summer off in a positive way'

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 4, (AP): Captain Pat Cummins kept his nerve on his return to international cricket to lead Australia to a nervy two-wicket win over Pakistan in the first one-day international on Monday.

A calm Cummins made an unbeaten 32 off 31 balls to steer Australia to 204-8 with more than 16 overs to spare, after the middle-order had stumbled in a modest run chase.

Searing pace from Mitchell Starc (3-33) had earlier helped to bowl out Pakistan for 203 with Cummins, playing his first international since the T20 World Cup in June, picking up 2-39 after he won the toss and elected to field.

"It's always nice to start the summer off in a positive way," said Cummins. "We are looking for powerplay wickets ... (and) it was a really positive effort with the ball. Maybe a little sloppy from us in the field."

Josh Inglis (49) and Steve Smith (44) had the chase under control at 113-2 before Pakistan's four-pronged pace attack had Australia reeling at 155-7 on a bouncy MCG wicket.

Fast bowler Haris Rauf (3-67) ignited the collapse when he had Smith caught at point and then Marnus Labuschagne (16) and Glenn Maxwell (0) were undone by pacy deliveries.

Shaheen Shah Afridi picked up 2-43, but Cummins added 30 runs with



Australia's Josh Inglis bats against Pakistan during their one day international cricket match in Melbourne. (AP)

Sean Abbott before the skipper carried his side over the line for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Earlier, five of Pakistan's six top-

order batters, fresh from playing on spinning wickets at home against England, struggled to cope with the pace of Starc and Cummins.

Babar Azam, who was omitted from the last two test victories against England, made a fluent 37 as the rest of the top-order crumbled.

Starc removed debutant Saim Ayub in his second over when the left-hander played the ball back onto his stumps, and Abdullah Shafique couldn't pull his bat out of the way of another short delivery and was caught behind.

Starc, playing his 54th ODI in Australia, reached 100 wickets at home and broke the record of Brett Lee, who achieved his milestone in 55 ODIs.

The left-armed Starc is now fourth on the all-time list of Australian ODI bowlers, behind Glenn McGrath, Lee and Shane Warne.

Pakistan's new white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan struggled to accelerate before leg-spinner Adam Zampa had Babar clean bowled in his first over. Rizwan made 44 off 71 balls before he top-edged a sweep to Labuschagne, the ball deflecting off his helmet to give wicketkeeper Inglis his third catch.

Kamran Ghulam couldn't gauge the steep bounce provided by Cummins and gloved a simple catch behind the wicket before the Pakistan tail-enders frustrated Australia.

Naseem Shah smashed a better than a run-a-ball 40 with four sixes and Afridi scored a quickfire 24 off 19 balls which lifted Pakistan beyond the 200-run mark. But Cummins wrapped up the innings by having Naseem caught at mid-off.

Naseem and Afridi then dismissed openers Jake Fraser-McGurk (16) and Matt Short (1) before Smith and Inglis combined in an 85-run partnership.