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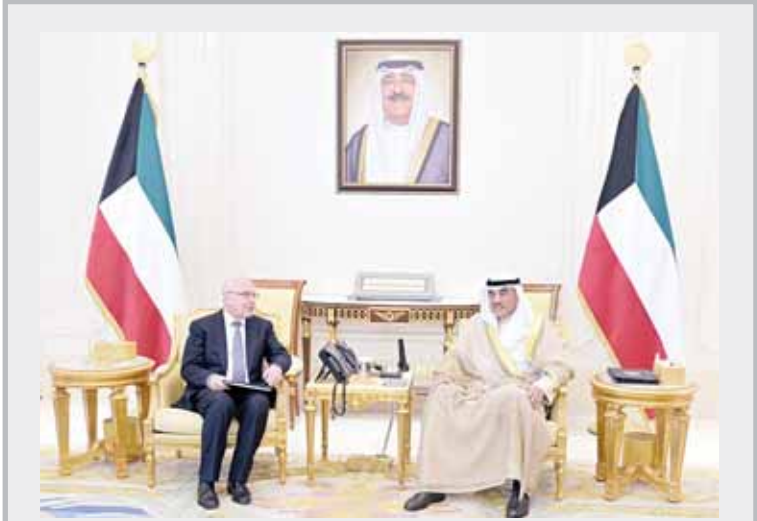
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Amir receives Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Tuesday His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In a separate diplomatic development, His Highness the Amir received a letter from South Sudan's President Salva Kiir, focusing on bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.

The letter was handed to Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya by Lieutenant General Tut Gatluak Menmi, who serves as President Kiir's Special Envoy. The handover of the letter took place during a meeting that also included the presence of Mohamed Abdullahi Jok, South Sudan's Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince receives the Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Crown Prince receives UN official

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Monday Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and senior officials. (KUNA)

Conference tackles rising cyberattacks in Gulf

Kuwait, Google Cloud team up to transform workforce

By **Mohammad Al-Musleh**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: "The partnership between the government and Google Cloud ushers in international companies that will provide various services, employ Kuwaitis, and transfer their expertise to local workers and systems," says Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar.

This is the minister's response to the query of the newspaper following the opening of the Fifth Gulf Conference for Cybersecurity Challenges on Tuesday when he delivered a speech on behalf of the sponsor of the conference -- acting Prime Minister and Defense and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Kuwait is hosting the conference with the theme, "A Secure Digital Environment".

Al-Omar affirmed that the Google Cloud project is moving forward as planned. He said "the Google Cloud data center will be established within two years at the latest. Contracts related to the project have been signed and are in the process of being implemented. Most of these contracts are governmental."

He explained that government data are categorized and kept in a unique manner, which complies with data privacy laws. "Google Cloud is not a remedy for this problem, as it is rather a component of a larger system, since it will offer services to the public and private sectors, as well as clients outside Kuwait," he added.



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Some photos from the launch of the 5th Gulf Conference and Exhibition for Cybersecurity Challenges.

The newspaper also inquired about merging the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) and Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT). The minister confirmed "there is a study on several parties, the purpose of which is to make the work simpler and easier. This move is not for the purpose of merging the two institutions per se."

Considering the short and long-term solutions, he pointed out there are steps to improve the postal sector as a whole. "The postal project will be presented in the future through Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), much like the fixed communications network development," he elaborated.

He also emphasized the significance of the event in analyzing and debating cyber issues, policies, strategies, and

global concerns pertaining to risks and threats.

He revealed the goal of the conference is to bring together the representatives and stakeholders from the public, commercial and academic sectors who are interested in cybersecurity and digital safety issues in order to present the best technical services and solutions and share knowledge to combat the growing number of cyberattacks.

He added the conference aims to discuss the risks and threats that countries and societies are facing in the field of cybersecurity, as well as the mechanisms for cooperation to confront them, curb their spread, and review the experiences of various countries and the progress they have made in cybersecurity and smart digital transformation.

He confirmed that the political leadership is focusing on such conferences

due to the importance of their outputs and recommendations, through which policies and precautionary measures are established to protect cyberspace and make it safer and more stable for users.

He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all participants for their interest in this conference, organized by Kuwait National Cybersecurity Center. He praised the efforts of the organizing body and all those behind the success of this event.

On the other hand, President of Kuwait National Cyber Security Center retired Major General Mohammed Bouarki stated that cybersecurity is currently one of the most important elements of national security, especially since most of the productive and service sectors have shifted to digital.

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Sponsorship system tied to trafficking risks

Reforms target unethical 'release' fees in work contract

By **Inaas Awadh**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking Cindy Dyer held a meeting with representatives from the National Human Rights Bureau, including the Chair of the bureau Jassem Al-Mubarak, and Vice-Chair Dr. Suhaim Al-Furaih.

The meeting was aimed at discussing the U.S. State Department's re-

port on human trafficking, which assesses the status of human trafficking in Kuwait, and the country's efforts to combat, protect, and prevent this

Expats, citizens collaborate to sell 'work visas' for hefty cash

Details Page 3

cross-border crime.

During the meeting, Al-Mubarak gave an overview of the bureau's work in handling this critical issue and shared several recommendations in line with the bureau's mandate. The most important among the recommendations was the abolition of the sponsorship system by amending the relevant laws, regulations, and decisions pertaining to residency.

The recommendations called for stricter oversight on business owners and labor office (recruitment) personnel and prosecute them both administratively and criminally. Deterrent penalties should be imposed on those found violating conditions that could facilitate human trafficking, including any infringements on workers' rights.

Continued on Page 5



Mol photo

Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior receives Iraqi National Security Advisor.

Kuwait and Iraq seek stronger security ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah met on Tuesday with Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim Al-Araji to discuss topics of mutual interest.

According to a press release by the Ministry of Interior, the meeting took place at Bayan Palace, with Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait, Al-Manhal Al-Safi, also in attendance.

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Education now focuses on life skills and innovation, says minister

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Minister of Education Dr. Jalal Al-Tabtabaei says education today extends beyond just transferring knowledge; it now includes the development of life skills, and promoting innovation and creativity, as these competencies are essential for enabling children to adapt to the demands of the modern era.

In his speech at the opening of the conference organized by the Arab Center for Educational Research for the Gulf States under the theme "Transforming Education: Opportunities and Challenges to Enhance the Future of Education in the Gulf States", Dr. Al-Tabtabaei highlighted the need to explore the opportunities and challenges involved in the process of transforming education in the Gulf States.

He said, "The goal is to equip future generations to deal with these challenges and contribute to sustainable development. Achieving this requires collaborative efforts, not just at the local level, but regionally as well."

Dr. Al-Tabtabaei described the conference as "a vital platform for exchanging ideas and visions on the future of education", especially in light of the rapid global transformations, including advancements in technology, social and economic changes, and human developments.

He affirmed the Ministry of Education's honor in the



Photo by Samer Shikher

A section of the audience during the opening of the conference organized by the Arab Center for Educational Research for the Gulf States, themed "Transforming Education: Opportunities and Challenges to Enhance the Future of Education in the Gulf States."

strong support and generous patronage received from the political leadership, which reflects their wise vision of the importance of education for building advanced societies and being the main driver of sustainable development.

Dr. Al-Tabtabaei said this vital support constitutes the cornerstone of Kuwait's ongoing efforts to enhance and develop the education system, and enhances the collective

responsibility to work diligently towards achieving a positive transformation in the nation's education system.

He added that the conference brings together a distinguished group of academics, experts, researchers, educational leaders, and education specialists from both the Gulf States and around the world to discuss critical issues concerning the future of education in the region.

Meanwhile, Director of the Arab Center for Educational Research for the Gulf States Dr. Mohammed Al-Sharika affirmed the need to intensify efforts to achieve the conference's objectives and produce fruitful recommendations that will enhance the future of education in the Gulf States.

In his speech, Dr. Al-Sharika stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation among the Gulf countries by supporting the outstanding initiatives and programs implemented by various departments within the center.

He explained that the conference is taking place at a pivotal moment when the world is witnessing rapid advancements in technology and profound political, economic, and social transformations. These changes require reformulating the education system to ensure it meets future demands and equips children with the skills to innovate and adapt to the global shifts underway.

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Newswatch

CSC declares Dec 1 holiday

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Civil Service Commission has issued Circular No. 12 of 2024, announcing the suspension of work on the day of the 45th Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

December 1 will be recognized as a day of rest, during which all ministries and government agencies will be closed.

WASHINGTON: American voters head over to polling stations to elect their new president as competition heightens between current Vice President, Democrat **Kamala Harris** and former Republican President, **Donald Trump**. (KUNA)

— See Also Page 6

Two-session review strengthens framework

Kuwait highlights anti-corruption efforts at UN convention

VIENNA, Nov 5, (KUNA): Observer of International Organizations and Conferences at Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Dhari Buyabes, gave a speech on Tuesday regarding the effectiveness of Kuwait's national legis-

lation in combating corruption.

This came during Kuwait's participation in the Second resumed 15th Session of the Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Vienna, Austria.

Buyabes said that Kuwait underwent two sessions of the implementation review, where all concerned national authorities, governmental and non-governmental, contributed. The first session had a great impact on developing legisla-

tion, procedures, and institutional mechanisms in the field of combatting corruption, in line with international and regional legislative evolution he stated.

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Kuwait joins OIC meeting on children's rights convention

JEDDAH, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwait is taking part in the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting, launched in Jeddah at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation headquarters, to discuss "OIC Jeddah Convention on the Rights of the Child" draft document. The meeting was organized by OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC).

The draft document aims to strengthen the efforts of the OIC and its member states in the field of protecting children's rights in the Muslim world.

The meeting is in line with the Resolutions of the First Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in December 2019 in Türkiye and the Second Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in June 2023 in Egypt.

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Kuwait's Sadu Society explores intangible heritage at UNESCO

PARIS, Nov 5, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Sadu Society held a seminar, Tuesday, on shared intangible cultural heritage and its protection as part of the "Arab Week" held at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters.

In a statement to KUNA, Head of the Sadu Society, Sheikha Bibi Duaij Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stressed THE importance of participating in this Arab cultural event, which carries significant intellectual burden and serves as a means to convey the richness of Arab culture through its diverse heritage.

The society is keen to participate in such cultural activities, which aim to foster mutual dialogue between cultures and peoples, and through which experiences can be shared to develop new partnerships at all levels, she said.

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8 Gulf Bank holds its third quarter 2024 Earnings Webcast



8 Zain highlights efforts to empower leaders & invest in human capital



9 KFH participates in the 'Breaking Barriers II' Conference



Prayer Timings

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr | 04:43 | Asr | 14:37 |
| Sunrise .. | 06:04 | Maghrib .. | 16:59 |
| Zohr | 11:32 | Isha | 18:18 |

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to northerly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Mild to rather cold

| Weather | | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|----|
| Station | Max Exp | Min Rec | |
| Kuwait Airport | 32 | 22 | |
| Abdaly | 32 | | 21 |
| Jahra | 33 | | 23 |
| Salimiyah | 28 | | 23 |
| Jal Aliyah | 32 | | 20 |
| Nuwaisib | 33 | | 22 |
| Wafra | 34 | | 21 |



KUNA photo
KUNA Director General Dr. Fatma Al-Salem meets the Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon at Tajikistan embassy.

Healthcare, tourism fields targeted

Tajikistan President lauds ties with Kuwait as 'multi-faceted'

By Dr. Fatma Al-Salem

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon on Monday heaped praise on his country's ties with Kuwait, highlighting the "multi-faceted" nature of these relations that are based on joint cultural values, in addition to mutual respect and understanding.

The spate of bilateral agreements signed as of late would help provide the "framework" for more progress in ties, the president of Tajikistan told state-run Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) in an interview conducted by its Director General Dr. Fatma Al-Salem, citing the growing potential for a further expansion in these relations.



Emomali Rahmon

He went on to pinpoint crucial sectors running the gamut from healthcare and tourism to energy and agriculture as among those with more room for growth that would prove equally beneficial for the two nations, describing such potential as significant and untapped.

Ahead of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Dushanbe due next year, the Tajikistan leader prognosticated that the occasion would give impetus to broader cooperation, saying the two countries already enjoy one another's "backing" on the international stage.

Dushanbe stands ready to employ all tools at its disposal to further strengthen the "camaraderie" shared by Kuwait and Tajikistan, he emphasized, saying that greater trade and economic cooperation represents a "perennial concern" for both sides, while the Tajik economy has grown at an annual rate of more than 7 percent over the past decade.

On such economic growth, the Tajikistan president said his country has been labeled by global bodies as among those to have witnessed robust development, while the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development has invested in development projects there worth more than USD 85 million since 2001, he added.

Tajikistan is currently working alongside Kuwait to bolster its financial and banking sectors, which includes the use of green bonds and efforts to expedite a national digital drive, he said, citing the passing of recent legislation aiming to lure foreign investors and cater to their need through a series of simplified procedures.

On Tajikistan's international initiatives in water and climate and its recognition as a leading country in this direction, President Rahmon said, "Everyone knows that water is the source of life, and its role is important in the development of humanity."

In modern conditions, water resources worldwide, especially fresh water, are subject to the profound impact of various threats, including climate change, population growth, urbanization and industrialization.

"We support the rationalization of water resources through the implementation of constructive international cooperation," said President Rahmon, adding that his country seeks to achieve the goal of playing an active role in solving water-related problems at the global level by activating the diplomacy of close cooperation in the



Kuwait, France delegation members.

Al-Seyassah photo

Kuwait, France eye boost in relations

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Quality and Academic Accreditation Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training held discussions with a delegation from the French Embassy and the Paris Academy to explore opportunities for strengthening cooperation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The aim is to establish scientific partnerships that will enhance the educational

process within the Authority's institutes and colleges, striving to meet the highest international academic standards.

The visit focused on approving the (data printing and recording) program, the second phase of which has been completed, with the final phase of approval for the Higher Institute for Administrative Services currently underway. Additionally, the discussions included plans to renew accreditation for nine programs at the Vocational Training Institute, alongside efforts to maintain its institutional accreditation.

8,500 register to go for Hajj through e-platform

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced that 8,500 citizens have registered through the electronic Hajj platform, which was launched on Sunday for those wishing to perform Hajj this year. Registration will remain open for two weeks.

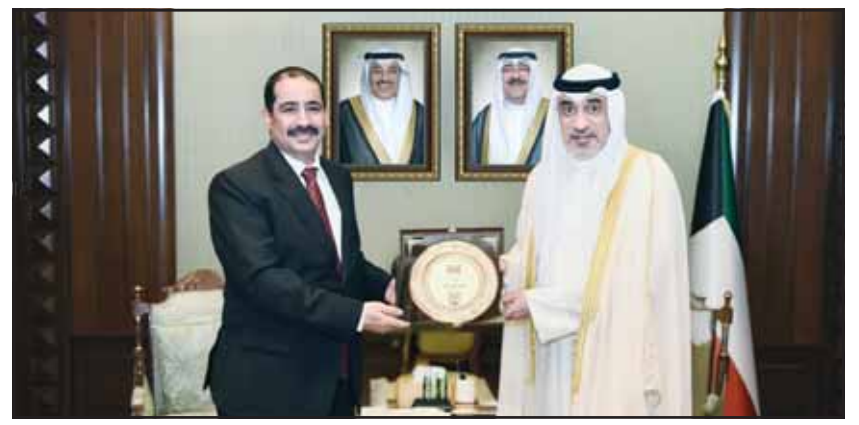
The ministry revealed that 14,093 citizens have authorized the "My Identity" application to access the platform. The ministry also received 3,000 inquiries via WhatsApp.

In another development, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs activated a decision from the Civil Service Council to link employee attendance fingerprint data with the integrated systems of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The ministry's Undersecretary Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi announced that attendance, departure, and presence fingerprint data for all ministry employees have been linked to CSC's systems.

He stated that this initiative is part of the ministry's comprehensive plan to enhance operations and benefit from modern technology to save time and effort, as well as eliminate the previous document cycle.

Dr. Al-Mutairi affirmed that this cooperation with CSC aims to provide the best services to employees while preserving their full rights.



KUNA photo
Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah met visiting Yemeni Minister of Interior Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Haidan at Bayan Palace on Monday.

Acting PM meets Yemen Interior Min

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah met visiting Yemeni Minister of Interior Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Haidan at Bayan Palace on Monday.

During the meeting, which was attended by Yemeni Ambassador to Kuwait Ali bin Safaa, the minister commended fraternal relations between Kuwait and Yemen and underlined mutual willingness to cement bilateral cooperation in all fields, mainly security, the Ministry of Interior said in a press release.

They also looked into a host of regional and international issues that concern both sides, according to the release.

Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah also

met on Monday with visiting Mauritanian Minister of Interior, Promotion of Decentralization, and Local Development Mohamed Ahmad Ould Mohamed Lemine, and Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Lamine Ould Cheikh, at Bayan Palace. Sheikh Fahad stressed keenness of the two countries on promoting their relations in all domains, mainly security, Kuwait's Interior Ministry said in a press release. Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah underlined the significance of mutual visits in enhancing security cooperation, and overcoming future and current challenges, it noted. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ties and security cooperation between Kuwait and Mauritania, along with some international and regional issues of common concern, according to the release.

Non-communicable diseases kill 72% people yearly: expert

Kuwaiti women , young girls least active : Dr Al-Baho

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Director of the Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Abeer Al-Baho says, "In Kuwait, non-communicable diseases account for approximately 72 percent of deaths each year".

She explained that 41 percent of these deaths are attributed to cardiovascular diseases, followed by cancer at 15 percent, chronic respiratory conditions at three percent, and diabetes at three percent. Chronic non-communicable diseases are largely driven by inactivity and a lack of physical exercise.

According to the World Health Organization's classifications, Kuwait is one of the least active nations globally.

The recent 2024 physical activity guidelines reveal significant differences in inactivity patterns based on gender, as well as social and geographical factors. The data shows that approximately 67 percent of the adult population in Kuwait, aged 18 and older, are not sufficiently active.

Dr. Al-Baho highlighted a concerning rise in physical inactivity, particularly among women, as 75 percent of women were classified as inactive, compared to 61 percent of men. Also, inactivity rates among adolescents have increased to 84 percent, with a notable gender gap, as 90 percent of girls were classified as inactive, compared to 79 percent of boys.

Dr. Al-Baho attributed this disparity to conservative social and cultural norms that limit women's ability to engage in outdoor physical activities, as well as the lack of sports facilities specifically designated for women.

The research highlighted the Ministry of Health's commitment to combating physical inactivity by developing a national action plan and strategy for the years 2024-2028 to increase physical activity. This initiative is in line with the four strategic goals outlined in the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity of 2018-2023.

Dr. Al-Baho said changing the level of physical inactivity in Kuwaiti society requires a comprehensive approach, involving a wide range of measures across multiple sectors. This is essential for effectively changing activity levels and improving public health.

Dr. Al-Baho outlined three main types of physical activity:

1. Aerobic activities (cardiovascular), which include running, swimming, and playing tennis.
2. Muscle and bone-strengthening, and balance activities, which include weight lifting and climbing stairs.
3. Stretching activities, which include exercises like touching the toes and performing side stretches.

Harmful effects of lack of physical activity in children and adolescents:

- Weight gain
- Poor cardiometabolic health
- Low fitness levels
- Poor behavioral and social functioning
- Sleep disturbances
- Benefits of physical activity in children and adolescents:**
- Improved respiratory, cardiovascular, and muscular fitness
- Better cardiometabolic health (e.g., improved blood pressure, blood sugar, and insulin resistance)
- Enhanced bone health
- Improved cognitive function
- Better mental health (e.g., reduction in depression symptoms)
- Reduced risk of obesity

Submit performance rating forms of staff by Feb 1: MoE

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Education Matrouk Al-Mutairi has announced that the last day for uploading the performance evaluation forms of employees nominated for promotion by selection is on Feb 1, 2025.

Al-Mutairi affirmed this decision is in accordance with the promotion procedures stipulated in the Civil Service Law and System, clarifying that employees can be promoted by selection as per the decision of the minister and recommendation of the Personnel Affairs Committee. The newspaper obtained a copy of Al-Mutairi's letter to the assistant undersecretary for Public Education Affairs, in which he confirmed that this year's promotion by selection includes employees who obtained excellent performance rating for the years 2023 and 2024.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya (center) at the press conference.

Kuwait is committed to jointly fighting terror, organized crime

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on Tuesday reaffirmed his country's commitment to promoting multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation to fight terrorist threats and transnational organized crime.

The minister made the statement while addressing the final session 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", held in Kuwait on November 4-5 under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He added that the conferees had looked into several significant issues, including ways of addressing world border security challenges, protecting borders from new technologies and building strong and effective national strategies and action plans to run border security.

Al-Yahya underlined countries' neces-

sary commitment to applying all UN resolutions pertinent to combating terrorism and supporting UN facilities and measures in order to promote international counter-terror cooperation and to back the efforts of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister voiced much thanks and appreciation to all the delegations that attended the UN conference aiming at strengthening counter-terror cooperation and building agile border security mechanism.

The High-Level International Conference on "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms -- The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process", kicked off in Kuwait on Monday.

More than 450 participants, including 33 ministers, from the member states, and representatives of UN agencies, 23 regional and international organizations and 13 non-governmental organizations, attended the Kuwait-hosted gathering.

Major reshuffle soon in North Kuwait

KOC aiming to achieve 100 pc 'Kuwaitization' by year 2027

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) plans to cancel several work teams, including those working on the development of heavy oil in north of Kuwait, reservoir studies, integration and leadership, and well repairs.

According to informed sources, this decision is in line with the goals of the 2040 strategy of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), particularly as the development of heavy oil fields, along with reservoir studies and well repairs, increasingly relies on modern digital technologies.

KOC is also aiming to achieve 100 percent Kuwaitization by 2027, by supporting national talent within the company and creating opportunities for Kuwaiti graduates in specialized fields. As of early 2024, the company has a total of 10,963 employees, which includes 9,446 Kuwaitis - 7,716 men

and 1,730 women.

Following up on the circular issued by the CEO of Kuwait Oil Company Ahmad Al-Eidan to announce organizational changes and new appointments, several key personnel were appointed to leadership roles. They are:

■ Khaled Dhiab was appointed as Head of the Integration and Leadership Team in West Kuwait.

■ Fayedz Al-Fayedz as Head of Drilling Operations for North and West Kuwait.

■ Majdi Al-Mutawa as Head of Production Engineering.

■ Abdullah Abu Abdo as Head of the New Hydrocarbon Materials Management Team.

■ Jassim Hassan as Head of Technical Services and Well Repair Group.

■ Miqdad Al-Taqi as Director of Purchasing and Resources Management.

■ Yousef Al-Subaili as Head of the Hydrocarbon Resources Management Team.

Create fulfilling present, sow seeds for a promising future

"THERE are two distinct categories of people in the world: one comprised of primitive, uncivilized societies that lag behind in the fields of human sciences, technology and technical development and another consisting of advanced civilizations that excel in all dimensions of science and cultural development, possessing the capability to enhance and enrich life," columnist **Sheikh Ahmad Hussein Ahmad Mohammad** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"To effectively classify individuals and societies, it is essential to establish a set of values and standards that facilitate an accurate and objective sorting process. This classification must avoid devolving into a subjective exercise influenced by personal biases or whims.

"Among the crucial standards that warrant careful consideration and examination are: patterns of thought, systems of governance and administration, social relations, and moral and religious principles.

"The backward societies often focus on satisfying their basic needs for survival, neglecting the structural elements necessary for a flourishing life.

"They tend to overlook the importance of architecture, industry, agriculture, land development, and the cultivation of human potential. Consequently, their intellectual frameworks remain trapped in a repetitive cycle that dwells solely on past achievements, lacking any meaningful contribution to shaping the present or envisioning a brighter future.

"To foster a vibrant and prosperous society, it is imperative that we actively create a fulfilling present while sowing the seeds for a promising future. This can be achieved through effective management, innovative governance, and genuine social relationships that are free from corruption and moral decay.

"Such an approach will blossom into a comprehensive system that nurtures a life grounded in faith, centered around the belief in God, promoting altruism, defending the oppressed, and standing against tyranny.

"True prosperity and growth do not arise merely from hopes and aspirations; rather, they are cultivated through diligent and exceptional effort rooted in values that reject corruption.

"By prioritizing these principles, we can create a society that thrives on integrity, compassion, and progress, leading to a brighter future for all."

Also:

"The trend towards establishing new companies for the management of public services aims to generate profits, including for existing companies," columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"I support the second concept of privatization, which involves the private sector providing services that were previously under government oversight. It is surprising to witness the lack of progress in implementing the privatization law, despite the regulations being prepared in advance.

"Professional privatization should focus on finding economic solutions rather than political ones. Despite our attempts to privatize various services, many initiatives have failed and some even resulted in losses.

"There is a general consensus that while some successful companies require support, the current approach of assigning services to the private sector has not been successful.

"Therefore, instead of creating new companies that add to our costs, we should strategically allocate existing companies and resources in a way that is economically sound.

"At the core of our challenges lies mismanagement. If we had established an expertise bank from the outset, we could have led and managed existing companies more effectively while reallocating some services in a professional manner.

"Many countries have successfully implemented economically driven privatization models -- why can't we adopt the same procedures that have led to significant improvements in quality, price, and cost savings? This requires insightful management and the establishment of stringent governance protocols, including internal and external audits.

"It is disheartening to hear the amount of discontent regarding privatization without the backing of professional standards. The issue at hand is not merely about benefits or profit-seeking; it is about achieving a balance between profitability and delivering value to citizens, such as granting them shares in newly privatized companies.

"The problem does not lie within privatization itself, but rather in the

methods we have employed to implement it. Have we studied these methods from a purely economic perspective? Have we investigated the underlying reasons for the losses incurred by public companies?

"If we truly wish to move away from the traditional approach to selecting officials, we should support the privatization of certain services while protecting companies that have demonstrated success and focusing on sectors that prioritize citizen welfare.

"If mismanagement has occurred, we must ask who was responsible for running these companies. Why did they incur losses in the first place? Was there adequate oversight and accountability for their performance?"

"We have several options available, but reallocating responsibilities with a revised approach based on economic principles is preferable. I advocate for the privatization of sectors related to food security, industrial security, and select services.

"Professional privatization is the pathway forward. By leveraging a bank of expertise, similar to practices in Japan and other successful models, we can support and transform our approach to privatization, ensuring it effectively meets the needs of our economy and citizens."



"What do those attacking the Minister of Interior both inside and outside Kuwait hope to achieve? Their efforts have even extended to making personal calls a subject for undermining his reputation. Ironically, these attacks have only elevated his standing, and enhanced his respect and appreciation in the eyes of Kuwait's leadership and its loyal citizens. His honesty, clarity, and confidence in addressing the matter have only strengthened his position," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Is Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef the target of these attacks, or is it the new government approach that he is implementing with firmness and resolve? Yes, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef is the target.

"Based on our observations, we tell everyone that the current government's course will not waver. This is the stage of protecting the national identity, whether some want it or not. It is, more than anything, a time of "Enough fooling around!"

"As soon as he was appointed as the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef adopted a new government approach for preserving the national identity and waging a decisive battle against corruption and those responsible for it.

"His handling of all issues under his jurisdiction has been clear and firm, particularly regarding the sensitive issue of naturalizing the wives of Kuwaiti citizens. The unprecedented manipulation of this process sparked outrage among Kuwaitis who are keen about the nation's best interests. Many citizens were especially dismayed to see divorcees who were in "marriages of convenience" competing with them for opportunities, while their children, born from a second marriage after obtaining Article 8, were being treated as Kuwaitis simply because they had Kuwaiti mothers, and had no true connection to the country. This situation has caused huge pain and frustration among the Kuwaiti people, who are deeply concerned about the integrity of their nation.

"This contrasts sharply with the children who, along with their mothers, were registered under their Kuwaiti husbands' files and became Kuwaitis like us. These individuals now demand rights they are not entitled to, and oppose the system, only to flee abroad under the guise of Kuwaiti opposition, despite the questionable legitimacy of their nationality.

"Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, in his capacity, has addressed sensitive files that were previously left unresolved based on the old mindset of "Let the world live."

"However, those involved have not been content with merely living. They became political activists and self-styled fighters, some even deluding themselves into thinking they were the founding forces of the nation. Their actions have included taking from the people of Kuwait without any gratitude or acknowledgment, as if they are entitled to what rightfully belongs to the citizens.

"To all those involved, we offer this message - Regardless of any future changes in government, the approach will remain unchanged. The preservation of our national identity, which we have fought hard to uphold, will continue. No future minister of Interior will engage with them on the phone, nor will they be given any special consideration. The nation's integrity and identity will remain non-negotiable."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/ Mahmoud Attiyeh



The gang of expatriate visa traffickers arrested by the CID personnel.

Expats, citizens collaborate to sell 'work visas' for hefty cash

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of five individuals on human trafficking charges. Acting on the directives of Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, the General Department of Residence Affairs Investigations, specifically the Search and Investigation Department, carried out the operation. The suspects allegedly collaborated with citizens to sponsor foreign workers in exchange for payments between 800 and 1300 dinars per person.

The Ministry emphasized its firm commitment to upholding the law without exception and assured that security forces remain vigilant against any law-breakers. Legal procedures have been completed, and the suspects have been referred to the Public Prosecution for further action.

Revenge motive in false drugs case against Arab ex-husband

Arrest orders for men in uniform involved in imbroglia

By Al-Seyassah Security Editor
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: For the second time in roughly three months, the anti-narcotics unit in Kuwait has thwarted an attempt to falsely implicate an Arab expatriate in drug possession for personal use.

This incident involved Ministry of Interior personnel setting up an elaborate scheme, the first of which occurred in August when six suspects, including two policemen, planted hashish in a Lebanese doctor's possession. Now, a similar plot has emerged with a new set of perpetrators.

According to security sources, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, has ordered the dismissal of a police captain and two other men in uniform along with six other men, allegedly planting drugs in an Arab expatriate's vehicle, attempting to

fulfill his ex-wife's wish for revenge by having him deported. However, the anti-narcotics team's vigilance exposed the plot.

An anonymous security source told Al-Seyassah newspaper that the investigation indicated malicious intent, as the drugs were planted by another Arab expatriate, who coordinated with a bedouin with ties to the ex-wife. This bedouin informed the officer, who then arrested the targeted expatriate who found Lyrica pills and hashish in his vehicle.

Upon raiding the bedouin's residence in Sulaiybiya, the officer and his team encountered resistance from his brothers. They managed to subdue the suspects, who were then referred to the Public Prosecution.

The Public Prosecution announced that it has ordered the detention of the nine suspects on charges of unlawful detention, drug possession with intent to sell or use and falsifying official documents.

On its social media platform X, the prosecution stated that it has initiated questioning of the suspects and is proceeding with its investigation.



Municipality carries away an abandoned car.

9 abandoned cars lifted

The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality announced that the General Cleaning Department's tours resulted in the removal of 9 abandoned cars, in addition to issuing 17 warnings in the Jabriya area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

One dead in Salmi Road mishap

Jail for nurse bagging pay illegally

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Firefighting teams responded to a serious mishap involving a vehicle which overturned and went up in flames on the Al-Salmi Road Tuesday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Unfortunately, the accident resulted in one fatality. Emergency services have completed their operations at the scene, and the site has been handed over to the relevant authorities for further investigation.

Jail for nurse ... : The Criminal Court has sentenced a Kuwaiti nurse to five years in prison with hard labor for unlawfully receiving salaries over a ten-year period without actually starting her work, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In addition to the prison sentence, the court imposed a fine of 110,000 dinars, which is double the amount she received unjustly during that time.

Trio jailed in slander case: The Criminal Court issued two verdicts sentencing three individuals to imprisonment with hard labor in State Security cases, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The charges include defaming His Highness the Amir, spreading false information and misuse of telecommunications.

In the first case, two men were sentenced to two years in prison for allegedly publishing false information regarding confidential files, with claims that the files were connected to issues of naturalization.

In the second case, a third person received a two-year prison sentence for defaming His Highness the Amir and challenging his rights.

Additionally, the court ordered the confiscation of the mobile phones used by the defendants in the offenses related to the tweets in both cases.



Camping in the desert
 KD 50 non-refundable

Camping is not allowed outside specified areas

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Chairman of the Seasonal Camps Committee Faisal Al-Otaibi has announced that the reservation and licensing applications for camping sites in the northern and southern parts of the country, in addition to Kabad, will start on Nov 15, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Otaibi clarified that the camping sites reservation for cooperative societies has already started, because they need more time to prepare the camps in order to serve those visiting the desert areas.

He said Kuwait Municipality laid down many conditions for setting up camping sites, indicating the Municipality branches in the governorates have been instructed to prevent anyone from setting up camps outside the specified areas. He added the conditions include a non-refundable fee of KD50 for setting up the camp and KD100 deposit that will be refunded at the end of the camping season.

KLA enforces legal profession rules

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Secretary of the Kuwait Lawyers Association, Attorney Khaled Al-Suwaifan, has stated that the Lawyers Admission Committee is adhering strictly to the stipulations in the law regulating the legal profession, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Suwaifan noted that individuals who have lost eligibility for registration, including those who no longer meet the conditions for practicing law, have been notified of

their transfer to the non-practicing list.

According to a decree published in the Official Gazette and based on the Admissions Committee's decision, lawyers whose Kuwaiti nationality has been withdrawn were informed of their transfer to this list.

They were also asked to surrender their legal IDs and take steps to close their offices, unless they have a Kuwaiti partner who can continue the practice.



KFF photo
 Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi meets Director General of Saudi Civil Defense Major General Dr. Hamoud Al-Faraj.

KFF chief visits S. Arabia, attends fire fair & confab

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi attended the opening ceremony of the 4th International Conference and Exhibition on Firefighting Operations, held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh under the patronage of the Saudi Minister of Interior His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud.

According to a press release issued by KFF, Major General Al-Roumi met with the Director General of Saudi Civil Defense Major General Dr. Hamoud Al-Faraj during the conference, and they discussed various aspects of cooperation, ways to enhance these efforts, and other topics of mutual interest.

Major General Al-Roumi was accompanied by the Director of the Office of the Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force Colonel Faleh Turki Faleh, and the Supervisor of Presidential Affairs Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Mahmoud Salem.



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Education Minister sets new standard for early education

Al-Tabtabaei advocates for safe, healthy learning

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei visited Al-Sayed Omar Kindergarten in the Capital Educational District on Monday as part of his series of inspection tours, which started since he assumed the ministerial portfolio.

Director of the school Nawal Al-Tatan accompanied the minister during the inspection tour.

The minister was briefed on the kindergarten's facilities and the quality of services offered to the students.

He also inspected the cafeteria, where he underscored the need to provide healthy and balanced meals that contribute to supporting the children's growth -- physical and mental development.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that meals meet the health standards for children at this early age, affirming the ministry will continue to monitor the quality of meals in kindergartens and schools.

His inspection tours cover the con-



Al-Seyassah photo
Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei during his tour of one of the schools.

dition of school buildings, including classrooms, sports and health facilities, and children's rest areas to ensure a comfortable and safe environment; in addition to listening to the opinions of field workers on the quality of education.

Many parents, as well as educational and administrative staff in schools, praised the minister's tours; while expressing satisfaction over the minister's attention to even the small details that affect the school community.

Through these visits, the minister hopes to assess the condition of the

educational facilities' infrastructure, particularly that of classrooms, laboratories and libraries.

He also meets with school administrators and teachers to talk about ways to improve professional performance and educational conditions, and organize interactive educational activities that help students learn and grow.

Meanwhile, the minister entered a classroom at the kindergarten in a touching moment; as the children interacted with him spontaneously and welcomed him with a warm hug.

This spontaneous scene reflects the beautiful relationship between the minister and the children, manifesting the interest and care that he gives to this age group.

On the other hand, Al-Tatan expressed gratitude for the kind visit of the minister. "We sensed in His Excellency the love for Kuwait and the commitment to work for the benefit of all those in the educational field. We enjoyed the dialogue with him as he showed great interest in the details of the work and his eagerness to provide the necessary support to improve the educational environment."

She stressed that this visit reflects the minister's commitment to know the needs of the educational field and strengthen cooperation in order to provide the best educational services to the children.

Embassies join efforts for student success

KU remains committed to scholars

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Dr. Jasim Al-Hamdan, the Acting Dean of Student Affairs at the Kuwait University, emphasized the university's commitment to supporting incoming students, ensuring their comfort and facilitating their integration into university life, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

His remarks came during a meeting with representatives from the embassies of Nigeria, Bulgaria and France, where they discussed issues concerning scholarship students in Kuwait.

Dr. Al-Hamdan stated that these students are viewed as integral members of the university's educational community and the institution continuously strives to provide the necessary resources to help them achieve their academic goals.

Representatives from the embassies highlighted the importance of these regular meetings, which foster cooperation between Kuwait University and various embassies.

They noted that such interactions build communication and understanding, paving the way for the exchange of ideas aimed at enhancing the services offered to scholarship students, ultimately enriching their educational experience in Kuwait.



KUNA photo
Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon during his visit to Al-Salam Palace Museum.

Tajikistan Prez and delegation visit Al-Salam Palace Museum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and the accompanying delegation visited on Monday Al-Salam (peace) Palace Museum.

The President was taken on a tour of the facility where he was informed

about the history of the palace, its halls, important documentations, and the antiquities therein. Head of the honorary delegation advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abulhasan accompanied President Rahmon and his delegation during the visit.

Higher Education completes nearly 4K transactions in Oct

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Higher Education has announced that a total of 3,895 transactions were completed in October. They were categorized into three main areas - certificate equivalency, technical and technological support, and academic guidance services.

Among these, 1,264 transactions were processed by the Certificate Equivalency Department, which is responsible for evaluating academic certificates obtained by students from outside Kuwait in accordance with the approved standards.

This department is responsible for the equivalency of academic certificates obtained by students returning from abroad in accordance with the approved

standards. This department is considered one of the important departments in the ministry due to its vital role in approving academic certificates for students returning from abroad.

The statistics also revealed that 1,110 transactions related to providing technical solutions and guidance were completed. These services include solutions to technical problems and inquiries related to the use of the electronic portals

and communication platforms offered by the ministry to students.

Responses to guidance and counseling inquiries topped the list of completed transactions, totaling 1,521.

This department is concerned with answering students' questions, assisting them in selecting suitable specializations and study programs, and providing guidance on the necessary procedures for registration and studying abroad.

MEW temporarily halts treated water supply to Al Wafra farms

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Public Works said treated water supply to Al Wafra farms was temporarily suspended due to essential maintenance work, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This interruption will last Wednesday. The ministry has advised farm

owners and residents in the area to prepare for the temporary cut-off and make necessary arrangements for alternative water sources during this period.

The maintenance is part of ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure and ensure the reliable supply of treated water in the future.

Research aims to curb energy use

KU professor secures KFAS grant to develop cold nano coatings project

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Kuwait University Dr. Ammar Bahman has received a new research grant from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) to develop cold nano coatings and nano-supported phase change materials aimed at energy savings and sustainable building practices in Kuwait.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, the housing sector in Kuwait consumes large amounts of energy during the summer due to the heavy reliance on air conditioning units. Reducing this energy consumption is essential for lowering greenhouse gas emissions, due to which sustainable construction is essential. A main strategy in this effort is to minimize indoor heat without compromising the comfort of residents.

Thermal-sensitive coatings offer great potential for energy savings when applied to the exterior surfaces of buildings including rooftops, walls, and windows.

In addition, multifunctional materials can help reduce energy consumption and operating costs. This project focuses on studying the potential of cold nano coatings and nano-supported phase change materials in this aspect.

Cool nano coatings can reflect radiation, helping to maintain the temperature of a building's exterior surfaces. Meanwhile, phase change materials can absorb, store, and release thermal energy over a wide range of temperatures, making them effective thermal regulators in buildings.

However, improving their thermophysical properties requires further research. The integration of nanoparticles with phase change materials and coatings shows promise, but proper documentation of these nanoparticles is essential.

This research project aims to:

1. Synthesize and prepare cold nano coatings and nano-supported phase change materials for building cooling applications.

2. Characterize the thermophysical properties of these materials to assess their effectiveness in thermoregulation.

3. Analyze the performance of buildings integrated with cold nano coatings and nano-supported phase change materials using mathematical models for simulation and prediction.

4. Conduct research and field experiments to evaluate the application of these materials in buildings throughout Kuwait.

The research methods will include laboratory preparation of the materials, evaluation of their thermophysical properties, simulation of their impact on thermal comfort inside buildings, and conducting field tests.

The cold nano coatings will be applied to the exterior surfaces of buildings in Kuwait, taking into consideration parameters such as coating thickness optimized using mathematical simulation models.

The phase change materials will be integrated into building rooftops to enhance thermal regulation.

During periods of intense sunlight, these materials will undergo phase transitions, absorbing external heat and preventing it from penetrating the building. They will then return to their solid state through internal cooling or a decrease in the surrounding temperature.

The expected outcome of this research project is the development of a cold coating enhanced with nanoparticles and phase change materials specifically designed for cooling buildings. These innovations aim to lower indoor temperatures resulting from solar radiation, thereby reducing energy consumption.

All patents for any innovations arising from the project will be registered, and the results will be published in high-impact international scientific journals. In addition, findings will be presented at international conferences.

Moreover, the research is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals No. 7, 11, and 13, which focus on clean energy, sustainable cities, and climate change.

This project is a collaboration among four entities - Kuwait University, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, United Arab Emirates University, and Sunway University in Malaysia.

The project is planned to be executed in four phases over a period of 36 months, with a total budget estimated at KD 389,900.

KFAS has allocated a financial contribution of KD 96,110 to support this project.



Dr. Bahman



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Awqaf tightens mosque charity rules

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has tightened control over the activities of charitable organizations in mosques; prohibiting them from holding any advocacy, cultural or charitable activity without the approval of the Social Affairs Ministry, reports Al-Rai daily.

Assistant Undersecretary for the Mosques Sector at the ministry Eng. Bader Al-Otaibi issued a directive for Imams and

Muezzins to prevent charitable organizations from holding activities in mosques; including Quran memorization and cultural events, unless they present valid identification documents and the final approval letter from the ministry. He added the maximum period for holding an approved activity is six months and such activity will be suspended after this period until the ministry approves the extension.

China Cultural Center holds lecture on China-Middle East relations

‘Kuwait as real model of reconciliation’

By Saeed Mahmoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The China Cultural Center, with the cooperation of the Embassy of China in Kuwait, organized a lecture titled “China and the Middle East”, which was presented by the Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University Professor Degang Sun.

The lecture highlighted China’s vision for the Middle East and its approach to viewing the region as an integral part of the global arena.

Professor Sun revealed that China sees the Middle East not as a battle-

ground for conflict but as an important market, with relations based on respect, equal partnership, and mutual benefit.

He clarified that the Gulf countries, as part of the Middle East, belong to their people, not to any external powers, insisting that the region should not be viewed as a backdrop for the interests of other parties.

Professor Sun also highlighted China’s huge role as a trustworthy partner to various parties, citing the example of its diplomatic efforts with Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Professor Sun explained that the three countries are working on strengthening trilateral ties. Differing ideologies should not prevent coexistence and partnership. Despite the historical tensions between China and Japan, both countries maintain strong commercial ties, which reflects the fact that economic cooperation can transcend political differences.

He denied accusations that China



Al-Seyassah photo
Professor Degang Sun, Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University presented a lecture on ‘China and the Middle East’.

exploits the conflict in the Middle East for its own interests, explaining that, on the contrary, China is one of the biggest losers in such conflicts. Chi-

nese interests are directly affected by the Red Sea crisis, as it disrupts Chinese commercial shipments to Africa and Europe.

Professor Sun affirmed that China seeks stability and security for the region.

Contrary to the perspective that divides the region into “good guys” and “bad guys”, Professor Sun stated that China considers all parties involved, including Hamas and the Houthis. Hamas should be included in the large Palestinian family, represented by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

He stressed the importance of Palestinians speaking with one voice and having a unified government to represent them, affirming that China supports an independent State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

Regarding the Houthis, Professor Sun explained that their attacks on ships in the Red Sea are their way of supporting the Palestinian cause. If a Palestinian state were established,

such attacks would cease.

He clarified that China is not against Israel but it is against injustice. He recalled the 35 million Chinese victims of World War II and expressed sympathy for the victims in Gaza, Lebanon, and Yemen.

Professor Sun rejected the notion that the lack of democracy in the Middle East is the root cause of the rise of terrorism.

He stressed that China believes the key to stability is development, not democracy, adding, “When citizens have access to jobs and a strong economy, countries experience greater stability and security”.

Professor Sun highlighted the importance of putting aside ideological differences, seeking reconciliation, and moving forward together.

He pointed to Kuwait as a real model of reconciliation, highlighting how the country, after enduring the Iraqi invasion, achieved national unity and has seen growing cooperation between the two nations.

Professor Sun emphasized China’s commitment to enhancing its soft power, based on equal partnerships and common interests.

He said China has no military bases or soldiers in the region, but it plays a significant role in the global peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations’ missions, not through Chinese armed forces.

Professor Sun stressed the need for Syria to be united and sovereign, affirming that it should be solely for the Syrian people.

He asserted that Syria should not become a proxy for any foreign powers or countries.

In response to a question about the results of the U.S. presidential election, Professor Sun stated that China does not interfere in other countries’ elections. However, he remarked that Donald Trump is unpredictable, and Kamala Harris is more predictable, adding that China would prefer to deal with a more predictable administration.

Sponsorship system

Continued from Page 1

The recommendations presented also include reviewing the human trafficking law to ensure that penalties are proportional to the nature and severity of the offenses. The goal is to enact the necessary laws and rulings to prevent the collection of money in exchange for “releasing” or renewing employment contracts.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador-at-Large for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons Cindy Dyer’s visit to Kuwait enhances bilateral cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, said Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Sabah.

This came in a press statement Tuesday by Sheikh Jawaher Al-Sabah to KUNA on the conclusion of Ambassador Dyer’s visit to the country, which lasted from November 2 to 5, and aimed to learn about the efforts of Kuwait in combating human trafficking and enhancing the protection of human rights.

Ambassador Dyer met with the Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Permanent National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi, and members of the committee, where they reviewed the achievements made and the challenges facing Kuwait in this field, with a focus on its role as a transit country and not an exporter of this crime, she added.

She stated that the US Ambassador praised Kuwait’s serious and continuous efforts to combat this phenomenon and praised the work of the members of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants and the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordinating these efforts with all concerned parties.

Ambassador Dyer was quoted as stressing the importance of continued cooperation between the two countries to enhance the joint commitment to combating this global phenomenon and protecting the rights of individuals, noting that this visit embodies the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries and the shared responsibility in protecting human rights.

She also pointed out that the Ambassador visited the shelter center and the Office for Combating Trafficking in Persons, in addition to visiting a number of public benefit associations related to human rights and representatives of civil society such as the Kuwait Society for Human Rights, the Lawyers Association, and the General Federation of Kuwait Workers to learn about field efforts in this field.

She stressed that Kuwait is keen to promote humanitarian standards and protect individuals from all forms of exploitation, as it works to train national cadres in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labor Organization, and other organizations.

Sheikh Jawaher affirmed Kuwait’s commitment to cooperate with the international community and strategic partners to continue efforts to strengthen legislation that preserves the dignity and rights of individuals.

Kuwait’s Sadu

Continued from Page 1

She also praised the “outstanding” role of the Arab Group at UNESCO in coordinating and working to highlight the rich Arab cultural heritage through initiatives like these in international forums, shedding light on cultural and heritage work to elevate and develop culture and preserve heritage.

“In light of globalization, the technological and information revolution, the need to revitalize our cultural uniqueness and benefit from it in contemporary community development is becoming more prominent,” she added.

She also revealed the society’s future plans and the milestones it aims to achieve in preserving and immortalizing this craft, with the goal of introducing it globally, as it carries unique meanings rooted in historical diversity.

Arab Week at UNESCO, which takes place over two days, November 4-5, includes several cultural and artistic events. This event initiated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and organized by the Arab Group at UNESCO for the first time in the history of Arab cooperation with UNESCO.

The UNESCO recognized the Sadu Society as a non-governmental advisory organization during the ninth General Assembly of the States Parties to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage two years ago.

Kuwait and

Continued from Page 1

The discussions centered on enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially in the security sector, to serve the shared interests of both countries and their people.

Both parties emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq within the bilateral international treaties and agreements between the two sides.

Al-Araji expressed gratitude to Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef for Kuwait’s efforts to strengthen security ties between the two countries. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya also met with Iraq National Security Advisor Qasim Al-Araji.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Fourth High-Level Conference on “Enhancing International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism and Building Resilient Border Security Mechanisms - Kuwait Stage of the Dushanbe Process,” which is hosted by the State of Kuwait on November 4 and 5, 2024.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and common issues, in addition to joint cooperation to defeat terrorism and its outcomes were discussed.

Kuwait highlights

Continued from Page 1

Buyabas added that the beginning came with the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Authority that included a law regulating the process of submitting, receiving, and examining financial disclosure statements and criminalizing illicit gain.

Kuwait also enacted laws establishing the State Bureau of Financial Control, and the Central Agency for Public Tenders.

Moreover, Kuwait put forth laws on the right to access information, on preventing conflicts of interest, determining corruption crimes, and a ministerial decision on the identification of actual beneficiaries.

Kuwait is updating a number of national legislation, including the criminalization of bribery in the private sector, and bribery of foreign public servants, as well as existing laws on combating money laundering, in line with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Kuwait joins

Continued from Page 1

The Kuwaiti delegation includes counselor at the state’s envoy Turki Al-Daihani and second secretary at the foreign ministry Haya Al-Durei, as well as officials from the social affairs ministry.

Education now

Continued from Page 1

The conference’s theme reflects the urgent need to explore both the opportunities and challenges facing education in the region. It also calls for identifying actionable pathways to improve and develop education systems in ways that align with the development goals of the countries and fulfill the aspirations of the leaders and citizens for progress and prosperity.

The conference’s theme is closely aligned with the growing global debate on the transformation of education, which has become a major concern for international institutions and academic communities worldwide.

One of the key objectives of the conference is for the Gulf countries to actively participate in global efforts to rethink education, its goals and practices in ways that enhance their ability to adapt to global changes and meet future needs.

Dr. Al-Sharika added, “We continue to face challenges in improving education quality indicators and

aligning them with the demands of the modern era and the development requirements”.

In addition, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassim Al-Badawi affirmed that education is a top priority for the Gulf countries and serves as the foundation of joint Gulf cooperation.

He described education as a key driver of progress and development in various fields, due to which it receives the attention and support of Their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf countries.

Al-Badawi explained that the leaders’ visions have been translated into tangible recommendations, initiatives, and achievements. These include the adoption of the GCC Future Cooperation Plan in Education 2022, the Strategic Plan for Cooperation in Higher Education and Scientific Research 2022-2026, and the launch of the Gulf Information Base, which is a project designed to support scientific research and academic work in higher education across the GCC countries, as well as to improve the infrastructure of schools within the region.

Kuwait, Google

Continued from Page 1

Bouarki explained that the concept of cybersecurity and its procedures are an approach to securing the information infrastructure and important technological systems managing the country’s vital facilities. He underscored the need for concerted efforts to provide all the means to maintain cybersecurity in institutions, bodies and vital sectors.

He added that the center is keen on supporting the cybersecurity system; hence, the issuance of the National Framework for Cybersecurity Governance, which includes policies for the governance of standards and procedures to protect the country from cyber threats and to deal with these threats efficiently; while ensuring the sustainability of work, national security and the safety of people, property and information from increasing electronic attacks and risks.

He said the conference is the continuation of the coordinated efforts of the concerned authorities; so it becomes an important platform for exchanging experiences, reviewing the latest research and technologies, and proposing solutions that contribute to enhancing capabilities and confronting cyber threats.

He added the conference discusses the latest digital security technologies with the participation of a number of high-level international speakers and in the presence of cybersecurity experts from various countries.

He pointed out that the aim is to exchange expertise and specialized knowledge in the field of cybersecurity, while providing all aspects of international and Gulf cooperation in combating cyber vulnerabilities and threats and raise awareness of government and private institutions on protecting their systems and data from hacking.

Secretary General of Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) Dr. Yaqub Al-Rifai stressed that cybersecurity is a vital axis of national security and it is a necessity; given the continuous development in the use of technology that the whole world is witnessing, and the transformation of financial operations and data from personal to data related to societies and countries.

He affirmed that Kuwaiti banks are exerting tremendous efforts to strengthen cybersecurity. He said these banks improved their infrastructure in this field after decades of accumulated experience. He added the Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with the association, is preparing plans to enhance cybersecurity and information for the banking sector.

He revealed a virtual central room has been established to deter and confront financial fraud in order to improve efforts between the banking industry and the concerned official bodies to limit fraud. “This is done through coordination between the Central Bank, the association, Public Prosecution, and the Department for Combating Financial Crimes at the Ministry of Interior. By combining the expertise of the concerned parties, this room helps to achieve more progress in protecting customers from financial fraud,” he added.

Kuwaiti FM meets with SCO chief

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Tuesday with Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Zhang Ming.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Fourth High-Level Conference on “Enhancing International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism and Building Resilient Border Security Mechanisms - Kuwait Stage of the Dushanbe Process,” held in the country on November 4 and 5, 2024.

During the meeting, they reviewed the close partnership between Kuwait and the SCO, and discussed ways to enhance international efforts to combat terror crimes and drug trafficking and to support international peace and security, as well as regional and international cooperation in this regard.



Al-Seyassah photo
Governor Al-Habashi poses for a photo with Dr. Al-Jouan.

Jahra Governor & Dr Al-Jouan discuss women role in society

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi welcomed Dr. Kawthar Al-Jouan, the head of the Women’s Institute for Development and Peace, to his office at the governorate’s general office, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting focused on important topics related to the role of women in society, highlighting the significance of collaboration between the governorate and the Women’s Institute to achieve

shared objectives.

Governor Al-Habashi expressed his pleasure with the meeting and presented Dr. Al-Jouan with a commemorative shield, wishing her continued success in her efforts to serve the country.

This discussion underscored the commitment to enhancing the involvement of women in various sectors and fostering partnerships that contribute to societal development.

MEGA MARKDOWN

From 06 November To 12 November 2024

DEALS

Local Kuwaiti Veal Bone-in /kg
From 06 to 10.11.2024
K.D. 2.990

Grapes Red (Spain) per kg
K.D. 1.995
K.D. 1.595

Tomato (Kuwait) per kg
From 07 to 09.11.2024
K.D. 0.875
K.D. 0.495

Apple Pink Lady (New Zealand) per kg
K.D. 0.995
K.D. 0.795
K.D. 0.695

Avocado Hass (Mexico) per kg
From 06 to 09.11.2024
K.D. 2.795
K.D. 1.995

Potato Bag
From 06 to 09.11.2024
K.D. 1.395
K.D. 1.295

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'Proposal necessary to help secure border'

Voters in Arizona to decide if local agencies can police illegal immigration

PHOENIX, Nov 5, (AP): Arizona voters are set to decide whether to let local police arrest migrants suspected of illegally entering the state from Mexico, an authority that would encroach on the federal government's power over immigration enforcement but would not take effect immediately, if ever.

If Arizona voters approve Proposition 314, the state would become the latest to test the limits of what local authorities can do to curb illegal immigration. Within the past year, GOP lawmakers in Texas, Iowa and Oklahoma have passed immigration laws. In each case, federal courts have halted the states' efforts to enforce them.

The only presidential battleground state that borders Mexico, Arizona is no stranger to a bitter divide on the politics of immigration. Since the early 2000s, frustration over federal enforcement of Arizona's border with Mexico has inspired a movement to draw local police departments, which had traditionally left border duties to the federal government,

into immigration enforcement.

The state Legislature approved an immigrant smuggling ban in 2005 that let then-Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio conduct immigration crackdowns, a 2007 prohibition on employers knowingly hiring people in the country illegally, and a landmark 2010 immigration law that required police, while enforcing other laws, to question the legal status of people suspected of being in the country without authorization.

Arizona voters have been asked to decide matters related to immigration before. They approved a 2004 law denying some government benefits to people in the country illegally and a 2006 law declaring English to be Arizona's official language. They also rejected a 2008 proposal that would have made business-friendly revisions to the state law barring employers from hiring people who are in the country without authorization.

Arizona GOP lawmakers say the proposal is necessary to help secure



A group claiming to be from India walk past open border wall storm gates after crossing through the border fence in the Tucson Sector of the US-Mexico border, Aug. 29, 2023, in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument near Lukeville, Ariz. (AP)

the border, as they blame the Biden administration for an unprecedented surge of illegal immigration. Record levels of illegal crossings have plummeted in recent months, following moves by the White House to tighten asylum restrictions.

Opponents of Proposition 314 argue it would harm Arizona's economy and reputation, as well as lead to the racial profiling of Latinos. They cite the profiling of Latinos endured when Arpaio led the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. In 2013, a federal judge ruled Latinos had been racially profiled in Arpaio's traffic patrols that targeted immigrants, leading to a court-ordered overhaul of the agency that's expected to cost taxpayers \$314 million in legal and compliance costs by mid-summer 2025.

Kelli Hykes, who works in health policy and volunteers for Greg Whitten, the Democratic nominee in the race for Arizona's 8th Congressional District, said she thought carefully about how to vote on the immigration measure but declined

to share her choice.

"It's so polarizing, and there are folks in my family that are going to be voting one way and I'm voting another," Hykes said.

Proposition 314 would make it a state crime for people to illegally enter Arizona from Mexico outside official ports of entry, permitting local and state law enforcement officers to arrest them and state judges to order their deportations. Those who enforce the law would be shielded from civil lawsuits.

These provisions, however, wouldn't be enforceable immediately. A violator couldn't be prosecuted until a similar law in Texas or another state has been in effect for 60 consecutive days.

The Arizona GOP lawmakers who voted to put the measure on the ballot were referring to Texas Senate Bill 4. The bill, signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in December, was supposed to allow local and state law enforcement to arrest people accused of entering Texas illegally from Mexico.

Control of US Congress at stake and with it a president's agenda

WASHINGTON, Nov 5, (AP): Control of Congress is at stake Tuesday, with ever-tight races for the House and Senate that will determine which party holds the majority and the power to boost or block a president's agenda, or if the White House confronts a divided Capitol Hill.

The key contests are playing out alongside the first presidential election since the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, but also in unexpected corners of the country after what has been one of the most chaotic congressional sessions in modern times.

In the end, just a handful of seats, or as little as one, could tip the balance in either chamber.

The economy, border security, reproductive rights and even the future of U.S. democracy itself have all punctuated the debate.

In the Senate, where Democrats now have a slim 51-49 majority, an early boost for Republicans is expected in West Virginia. Independent Sen. Joe Manchin's retirement creates an opening that Republican Jim Justice, now the state's governor, is favored to win. A pickup there would deadlock the chamber, 50-50, as Republicans try to wrest control.

Top House races are focused in New York and California, where in a politi-

cally unusual twist, Democrats are trying to claw back some of the 10 or so seats where Republicans have made surprising gains in recent years with star lawmakers who helped deliver the party to power.

Other House races are scattered around the country in a sign of how narrow the field has become, with just a couple of dozen seats being seriously challenged, some of the most contentious in Maine, the "blue dot" around Omaha, Nebraska, and in Alaska.

Vote counting in some races could extend well past Tuesday.

"We're in striking distance in terms of taking back the House," House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who is in line to make history as the first Black speaker if his party wins control, told The Associated Press during a recent campaign swing through Southern California.

But House Speaker Mike Johnson, drawing closer to Trump, predicts Republicans will keep "and grow" the majority. He took over after Kevin McCarthy was booted from the speaker's office. Capitol Hill can make or break a new White House's priorities, giving Trump or Harris potential allies or adversaries in the House and Senate, or a divided Congress that could force a season of compromise or stalemate.



Lights shine inside the US Capitol building as night falls on Jan 21, 2018, in Washington. (AP)

German police arrest eight suspected members of a far-right militant group

BERLIN, Nov 5, (AP): Police in Germany on Tuesday arrested eight suspected members of a far-right militant organization, Germany's public prosecutor said.

The suspects, some of them minors and adolescents, were allegedly part of a group of around 15-20 individuals called Sächsische Separatisten, or Saxonian Separatists, that is characterized by racist, antisemitic and partially apocalyptic ideas, the prosecutor's office said in a statement. "Its members are united in a profound rejection of the liberal democratic order and believe that Germany is nearing 'collapse,'" the statement said.

It said the group plotted to seize power in Saxony and potentially other eastern German states "to establish governmental and societal structures inspired by National Socialism."

"Even ethnic cleansing was part of their inhuman plans," Justice Minister Marco Buschmann said in a statement. He said that the arrests were a reminder that the German constitutional



Police officers stand in a building entrance during a raid against suspected members of a far-right militant organization in Dresden, Germany on Nov 5. (AP)

state and the free and democratic order "are under threat from many sides."

"We must do everything we can to defend our liberal democracy against its enemies," he said.

The eight men were arrested in different locations across Saxony and their alleged ringleader was apprehended in Poland. More than 450 police officers and special forces searched 20 premises in connection with the arrests.

The prosecutor's office said that since its founding in 2020, the militant group made continuous preparations for the perceived inevitable and violent change of government.

It said its members, including the arrested suspects, repeatedly completed paramilitary training in combat gear, practiced specifically urban warfare, firearms handling and other skills. The group also procured military hardware, such as camouflage fatigues, combat helmets, gas masks and bullet-proof vests, the statement said.

Seven other suspects were also investigated in the raids but not detained.



People examine an Ukrainian M2 Bradley fighting vehicle at an exhibition featuring military equipment captured from Kyiv forces during the fighting in Ukraine, during Russia's National Unity Day in St. Petersburg, Russia on Nov 4. (AP)

North Korean troops in Russia shelled by Ukrainian forces: official

North Korean troops recently deployed to help Russia in its war with Ukraine have come under Ukrainian fire, a Kyiv official said Tuesday.

It is the first time a Ukrainian official has said that Pyongyang's units were struck, following a deployment that has given the war a new complexion as it approaches its 1,000-day milestone.

"The first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region," Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the counter-disinformation branch of Ukraine's Security Council, wrote on Telegram. He provided no further details.

Western governments had expected that the North Korean soldiers would be sent to Russia's Kursk border region, where a 3-month-old incursion by the Ukrainian army is the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments say up to 12,000 North Korean combat troops are being sent by Pyongyang to the war under a pact with Moscow.

The North Korean troops, whose fighting quality and battle experience is unknown, are adding to Ukraine's worsening situation on the battlefield.

Ukrainian defenses, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, are buckling under the strain of Russia's costly but relentless monthslong onslaught.

Russian advances have recently accelerated, with battlefield gains of up to 9 kilometers (more than 5 miles) in some parts of Donetsk, the U.K. Defense Ministry said Tuesday on the social platform X. It said Russia has superior troop numbers, and despite heavy casualties the Kremlin's recruitment drive is providing enough new troops to keep up the pressure. (AP)



Spain's Queen Letizia next to Spain's King Felipe VI speaks with a woman affected by the floods in Paiporta, near Valencia, Spain on Nov 3. (AP)

What will iconic moment mean for his reign?

Spain king stood his ground under mud barrage

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 5, (AP): Mud splattered the cheek of Spain's monarch as survivors of catastrophic floods unleashed their fury in a barrage of muck and mire. Felipe VI took it, literally, on the chin, and his determination to stay and speak to the enraged crowd could redefine his reign.

It instantly became an iconic moment. But what it will mean remains to be seen.

Spain's royals, prime minister and the Valencian regional president were greeted by a crowd hurling mud and other debris on Sunday when they tried to visit Paiporta, where over 60 people perished in last week's floods. The deluge has killed over 200 people in Spain and shattered communities.

It was the officials' first visit to the devastated area. Sticky brown globs hit Felipe on the face and all over his black jacket, while Queen Letizia's hands were streaked with the mud that, nearly a week after the floods, still coats street after street of the southern outskirts of Valencia city. Many in the crowd wielded the shovels they are using to dig out their homes.

The anger appeared directed not at the king specifically but at the entire state for its management of the worst natural disaster in Spain's living memory. The government is also saying there were far-right agitators among the locals, implying they wanted to go after the Socialist prime minister.

In any case, for Montserrat Nebrera, professor of constitutional law at the International University of Catalonia, the shocking sight of a muddied monarch could set a precedent for more fervent protests, since "never had such anger been shown to the king."

Monarchists like Nebrera and even republicans agreed that Felipe, who holds a largely ceremonial position, cut the figure of a man of state. The king insisted that his bodyguards, who tried to cover him with umbrellas, let him get close to talk with residents, some of whom screamed "Get out!" and "Killers!" Letizia has likewise been praised for staying put and speaking with distraught people.

"It could go down as the greatest day of Felipe's reign," Oriol Bartomeus, a political science professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, told The Associated Press.

"If he had sought protection from his bodyguards

and run away, that would have been the darkest day of his reign. Instead he showed why he is king, demonstrating composure and serenity, and by getting as close as he could to the people."

There is no doubt it was the most memorable moment of his reign.

The 56-year-old Felipe took over a Royal House whose reputation was in tatters after the financial and lifestyle scandals of his father, Juan Carlos, who abdicated in 2014. Earlier in his reign, Juan Carlos was loved or at least grudgingly respected after helping Spain's restoration of democracy after the death of dictator Francisco Franco. He was seen as down to earth and fun-loving compared to other European royals.

His son, by contrast, has been perceived as aloof, and has relied on Letizia, a former journalist, to help him run a relatively frugal palace in a nation where republican sentiment is strong.

Felipe heard some jeers when he took part in a tribute to the dead of the 2017 terror attack in Barcelona, but that was nothing compared to Sunday's reception.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez was whisked away by his security detail after he also was pelted. Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said "there was a clear danger and (Sánchez) had received a blow."

The back window of the prime minister's car was broken. The minister did not specify what hit the prime minister. One of Letizia's bodyguards had a bloody forehead.

An investigative judge has opened a preliminary probe into possible assault.

Felipe stood his ground for over half an hour. It was impossible to hear what was said, but he spoke to several shouting people in an intimate and apparently serious tone.

Bartomeus, who said he is not a fervent defender of the monarchy, noted what the king didn't do: He didn't appear to patronize the people.

"He didn't console the people, like for example you see the British royals do," Bartomeus said. Instead, "he dialogued with them. He put the state on his back, got down off the pedestal and went down to the people who were telling him that the state had not arrived, and he told them that it will."

INTERNATIONAL

Head of Myanmar military govt visits China for 1st time since taking power

BANGKOK, Nov 5, (AP) — The head of Myanmar's military government embarked Tuesday on an official visit to China, the embattled Southeast Asian nation's most important international ally, for several regional meetings.

It is the first time Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing has traveled to the neighboring country since his army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar's army suffered unprecedented battlefield defeats over the past year, especially in areas near the Chinese border. Both Myanmar's ruling generals and China's government have shown concern as pro-democracy guerrillas and armed ethnic minority groups, sometimes working hand in hand, have taken the initiative in their fight against military rule.

But Beijing is now concerned about instability that threatens its strategic and business interests in Myanmar. China's government has maintained good working relations with Myanmar's ruling military, which is shunned and sanctioned by many Western nations for the army takeover and for major human rights violations.

State-run MRTV television said that Min Aung Hlaing departed on a flight from the capital, Naypyitaw, Tuesday morning to begin his visit.

He will visit the Chinese city of Kunming on Wednesday and Thursday to attend three summits: The Greater Mekong Subregion, the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy and the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Cooperation. Kunming, the capital of China's Yunnan province, is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) from the border with Myanmar.

The report said he will also have "meetings with Chinese government officials to discuss ways to enhance goodwill, economic and various sectors between the two governments and the people."

China, along with Russia, is a major arms supplier to Myanmar's military in its war against resistance forces. Beijing is also Myanmar's biggest trading partner and has invested billions of dollars in its mines, oil and gas pipelines, and other infrastructure.

Russia is the only other foreign destination to which Min Aung Hlaing is

known to have traveled since taking power, aside from his attendance at an April 2021 summit meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. His government's unwillingness to cooperate in efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of his country's conflict led to him and other top Myanmar government officials being disinclined from ASEAN summits since then.

Myanmar's pro-democracy opposition has expressed concern about China welcoming a visit by Min Aung Hlaing. Kyaw Zaw, a spokesperson for the opposition National Unity Government, said in a recorded video posted on Facebook before the official announcement of the trip that he was deeply concerned about China's invitation to Min Aung Hlaing and urged the Chinese government to review its action.

"Myanmar's people want stability, peace and economic growth. It is Min Aung Hlaing and his group who are destroying these things," Kyaw Zaw said. "I am concerned that it will unintentionally incite a misunderstanding of the Chinese government among Myanmar's public."



In this photo provided by The Myanmar Military True News Information Team, Myanmar military leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, (center), shakes hands with a military officer while members of the State Administration Council including deputy leader Vice Senior Gen. Soe Win, (right), see off his departure to China at airport in Naypyitaw, Myanmar on Nov 5. (AP)

'Pyongyang actions threaten peace, safety of Japan'

North Korea fires barrage of short-range ballistic missiles toward sea

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 5, (AP) — North Korea fired a barrage of short-range ballistic missiles into the sea on Tuesday, its neighbors said, as it continued its weapons demonstration hours before the U.S. presidential election.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen. Nakatani said at least seven North Korean missiles flew as far as 400 kilometers (250 miles) with a maximum altitude of 100 kilometers (60 miles). He said they landed in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

"North Korea's actions, including a series of repeated missile launches, threaten the peace and safety of Japan, the region and the international community," Nakatani said.

South Korea's military also detected several missile launches by North Korea and subsequently boosted its surveillance posture. The North Korean missiles could be used to target key facilities in South Korea, including US military bases there.

The launches came days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a flight test of the country's newest intercontinental ballistic missile d designed to reach the US mainland. In response to that launch, the United States flew a long-range B-1B bomber in a trilateral



A TV screen shows a report of North Korea's multiple short-range ballistic missiles with file footage during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Nov 5. (AP)

drill with South Korea and Japan on Sunday in a show of force. That drew condemnation from Kim's powerful sister Kim Yo Jong,

who on Tuesday accused North Korea's rivals of raising tensions with "aggressive and adventurist military threats."

South Korean officials have said that North Korea was likely to dial up its military displays around the US presidential election to command the attention of Washington. South Korea's military intelligence agency said last week that North Korea has also likely completed preparations for its seventh nuclear test.

Outside officials and analysts say North Korea eventually hopes to use an expanded nuclear arsenal as leverage to win concessions such as sanctions relief after a new US president is elected.

There are widespread views that Kim Jong Un would prefer a win by Republican candidate Donald Trump, with whom he engaged in high-stakes nuclear diplomacy in 2018-19, seeing him as a more likely counterpart to give him what he wants than Democratic candidate Kamala Harris. During campaigning, Harris said she won't "cozy up to tyrants and dictators like Kim Jong Un who are rooting for Trump."

North Korea claimed that the Hwasong-19 it tested on Oct 31 was "the world's strongest" ICBM, but experts say the solid-fuel missile is too big to be useful in war. Experts say North Korea has yet to acquire some criti-

cal technologies to build a functioning ICBM, such as ensuring that the warhead survives the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry.

Tensions between the Koreans are at their highest point in years as Kim has repeatedly flaunted his expanding nuclear weapon and missile programs, while reportedly providing Russia with munitions and troops to support President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

On Monday, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters that as many as 10,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia's Kursk region near Ukraine's border and were preparing to join Moscow's fight against Ukraine in the coming days. If they engage in combat, it would be North Korea's first participation in a large-scale conflict since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

After a meeting in Seoul on Monday, senior South Korean and European Union officials expressed concerns about Russia's possible transfer of technology to North Korea to enhance its nuclear program in exchange for its troops. Such transfers would "jeopardize the international non-proliferation efforts and threaten peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and across the globe," they said.



Houses are seen damaged from the eruption of Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki in East Flores, Indonesia on Nov 4. (AP)

Indonesia rescuers dig thru volcanic ash after eruption kills 9

Rescue workers on Tuesday were sifting through smoldering debris and thick mud in search of survivors, a day after a volcano on Indonesia's remote island of Flores erupted with fury, killing at least nine people with its searing lava and ash.

Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki spewed thick brownish ash as high as 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) into the air, and searing lava, gravel and ash were thrown up to seven kilometers (4.3 miles) from its crater, blanketing nearby villages and towns with tons of volcanic debris and forcing residents to flee.

The National Disaster Management Agency on Tuesday lowered the known death toll from an earlier report of 10, saying it had received updated information from rescuers that a victim trapped under tons of debris in a collapsed house who was feared dead was eventu-

ally rescued alive and was now in critical condition at a hospital. The agency said 63 other people were hospitalized, 31 of them with serious injuries.

More than 2,400 villagers streamed into makeshift emergency shelters after Monday's powerful eruption that burned down seven schools and 23 houses, including a convent of nuns, on the majority-Catholic island, said the agency's spokesperson, Abdul Muhari.

Smoldering debris, thick mud and a power blackout hampered the evacuation and search efforts, said Kenisius Didimus, a local disaster agency chief.

"We'll do everything we can to evacuate villagers by preparing trucks and motorbikes for them to flee at any time," he said, adding that the debris and lava mixed with rainfall formed thick mud that destroyed the main roads on the island. (AP)

Australia raises allegations with India of targeting Sikhs in Canada

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 5, (AP) — Australia's foreign minister said Tuesday she raised allegations with her Indian counterpart that India has targeted Sikh activists in Canada.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said she discussed the Canadian allegations with Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar while he was in the Australian capital, Canberra.

India has denied Canada's allegation that Indian Home Minister Amit Shah ordered the targeting of Sikh activists inside Canada.

Wong said her message to the Sikh community was that people have a right to be safe and respected in Australia, regardless of who they are.

"We've made clear our concerns about the allegations under investigation. We've said that we respect Canada's judicial process," Wong said at a news conference with Jaishankar.

"We convey our views to India as you would expect us to do and we have a principled position in relation to matters such as the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and also, frankly, the sovereignty of all countries," she added.

Jaishankar said Canada has put Indian diplomats under surveillance, which was "unacceptable." "Canada has developed a pattern of making allegations without providing specifics," he said.

Australia has close intelligence-sharing ties with Canada as members of the Five Eyes alliance that also includes the United States, Britain and New Zealand.



India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, (left), and Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong meet at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia on Nov 5. (AP)

Over the weekend, India officially protested Canada's allegation of Sikh activists being targeted there as "absurd and baseless."

Jaishankar on Tuesday also condemned reports of vandalism at a Hindu temple near Toronto in Canada on Sunday as "deeply concerning." In videos on social media, demonstrators carrying yellow flags in support of the Sikh separatist movement can be seen clashing with others, including some holding India's national flag, inside the temple complex. Indian consular officials were visiting the temple where the clashes

erupted. It was unclear how the violence began. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called the violence at the temple "unacceptable," adding that "every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely."

The attack on the temple also drew a strong rebuke from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. "Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve," he wrote on the social media platform X, adding that India expects Canada to ensure justice.

'Attack not related to army violence'

Pakistani guard shoots two Chinese in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan, Nov 5, (AP) — A Pakistani guard shot and wounded two Chinese nationals working in a textile mill in the southern port city of Karachi on Tuesday, but authorities said the attack was not related to militant violence.

China has frequently demanded better security for its nationals working in Pakistan. Last month, two Chinese were killed in a suicide car bombing outside the Karachi airport.

Thousands of Chinese are in Pakistan to work for Beijing's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, which is building major infrastructure projects. An unknown number of Chinese are also working at factories in the country.

Suhail Jokhoio, the spokesperson for the provincial home department, said the guard involved in the textile mill attack was arrested and police are still investigating to determine why the man to opened fire.

He said the wounded Chinese were taken to a hospital.

Pakistan has said it is committed



Police officers transport security guards, center, who shot and wounded at least a few Chinese nationals working in a textile mill, in a vehicle as they take them into custody, in Karachi, Pakistan on Nov 5. (AP)

to providing full security to Chinese working in the country.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's parliament passed legislation Monday to extend the tenures of military chiefs from three to five years, despite protests from lawmakers who said it was hastily passed without allowing comment from the opposition.

The bill promoted by the administration of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is aimed at building continuity and avoiding some of the political turmoil that usually surrounds the appointments of the army chief every three years. It also extends the tenure of the heads of the navy and air force, though those positions hold less influence and are less controversial.

It passed the National Assembly and the Senate late Monday as opposition lawmakers from the party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan chanted against the measure. Some of them tore up copies of the bill and threw them at Speaker Ayaz Sadiq for not allowing debate.



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, (center), reviews the troops with Defense Minister Gen Ricardo Trevilla Trejo, (left), and Navy Secretary Alt. Raymundo Pedro Morales, at Campo Marte in Mexico City on Oct 3. (AP)

Mexico's Nat'l Guard kills two Colombians

MEXICO CITY, Nov 5, (AP) — Mexico's National Guard fatally shot two Colombians and wounded four others in what the Defense Department claimed was a confrontation near the U.S. border.

Colombia's foreign ministry said in a statement Sunday that all of the victims were migrants who had been "caught in the crossfire." It identified the dead as a 20-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman, and gave the number of Colombians wounded as five, not four. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

Mexico's Defense Department, which controls the National Guard, did not respond to requests for comment Monday on whether the victims were migrants, but it said one Colombian who was not injured in the shootings was turned over to immigration officials, suggesting they were.

If they were migrants, it would mark the second time in just over a month that military forces in Mexico have opened fire on and killed migrants.

On Oct. 1, the day President Claudia Sheinbaum took office, soldiers opened fire on a truck, killing six migrants in the southern state of Chiapas.

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| | JAPAN | - | Nikkei 225 | +421.23 | 38,474.90 | | | | | | |
| | PHILIPPINES | - | PSEI | +121.84 | 7,257.94 | | | | | | |
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Business

Gulf Bank holds its third quarter 2024 Earnings Webcast



Waleed Mandani, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank.



David Challinor, Chief Financial Officer of Gulf Bank.



Dalal AlDousari

Waleed Khaled Mandani:

- Kuwait's financial system remains resilient, bolstered by stable oil prices and the government's renewed commitment to economic diversification through large-scale investments.
- Gulf Bank is well positioned to play a crucial role in financing local developments, leveraging strong relationships with both public and private sector stakeholders.

David Challinor:

- We've managed to keep operating expense growth to just 4%, year on year, which is very low compared to other banks in the system.
- The Bank's asset quality indicators continue to be very strong with an NPL ratio of 1.3%.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Gulf Bank held its third quarter 2024 earnings webcast on Monday, 04, November, 2024, to present and discuss the Bank's financial performance. The webcast was organized by EFG Hermes and presented by Waleed Khaled Mandani, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, and David Challinor, Chief Financial Officer of Gulf Bank. The discussion was moderated by Dalal AlDousari, Head of Investor Relations at Gulf Bank.

Operating Environment

Mr. Waleed Mandani, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, commenced the webcast with key updates regarding Gulf Bank's operating environment during the third quarter of 2024. Mandani stated: "Recent global economic developments have marked a turning point, particularly with central banks adjusting their monetary policies in response to evolving economic conditions. Most notably, the U.S. Federal Reserve recently implemented a 50-basis points rate cut, signaling a shift in focus from inflation control to supporting growth in the face of slowing economic momentum."

Mr. Mandani added "On the local front, the Central Bank of Kuwait followed the Fed's lead by announcing a 25-basis points rate cut. This action underscores the Kuwaiti regulator's commitment to maintaining a balance between fostering economic growth and ensuring financial stability. Lower borrowing costs are expected to stimulate demand for credit, particularly in consumer lending, as well in vital sectors such as construction and real estate, areas that are crucial for driving the Kuwaiti economy forward." He added: "Kuwait's financial system remains resilient, bolstered by stable oil prices and the government's renewed commitment

to economic diversification through large-scale investments. This focus, particularly on advancing key initiatives under the New Kuwait Vision 2035, strengthens the prospects for local banks to continue playing a vital role in financing national development. Gulf Bank is well positioned to play a crucial role in financing these developments, leveraging our strong relationships with both public and private sector stakeholders."

Loan Growth

When questioned about the loan growth during Q3 2024, Mr.Challinor noted: "Year to date gross loans and advances have grown 6%, which has been dominated by corporate lending with retail being relatively flat. Clearly the current rate environment has significantly reduced the appetite for retail borrowing, but we'd expect this to recover as rates start falling." He added: "In terms of the outlook, we gave guidance at the beginning of the year that full year loan growth would be around mid-single digits. We're on track to meet this and may even outperform subject to converting some of the pipeline in Q4."

Operating Expenses

In terms of operating expense Mr. Challinor mentioned: "We've managed to keep operating expense growth to just 4%, year on year, which is very low compared to other banks in the system." He added: "There was, however, an increase in other expenses from Q2 to Q3 due to a combination of one-offs and increased consulting/advisory expenses, but the underlying operating expenses remained relatively flat."

Margins

Regarding margins and the impact from the recent rate cut, Mr.Challinor remarked: "On a year-to-date basis the margin is flat to last year, but we did lose a few basis points from Q2 to Q3. As I said on the Q2 investor call, the cost of funds peaked in Q1, and since then we've had 2 quarters in succession of falling cost of

funds. The market remains very liquid and clearly the expectations are for further rate cuts. So, on the cost of funds side, we'd expect this to continue to fall." He added: "Now, clearly, we saw the CBK lower the discount rate by 25 basis points in September after the Fed lowered by 50. So, the local discount rate now sits at 4%. We'd expect this to continue to move lower but perhaps not at the same pace as the Fed. After the local rate cut, we repriced our corporate assets and all new retail business will now be booked at the new prevailing rate."

Credit Cost

When asked about the credit cost and reasons behind the pickup this year, Mr.Challinor noted: "The credit costs for Q3 were KD 14.2m which were higher than what we saw in both Q1 and Q2. If we look at retail and corporate in turn. For retail, the Q3 credit cost continued to be elevated but was lower than Q1 and Q2." He added: "On the corporate side, we had an account that moved into stage 3 which had been classified as stage 2 for a significant period of time. Now, if we look at the asset quality indicators, they continue to remain very strong. The NPL percentage is 1.3%. The stage 2 percentage has further dropped and is now only 2.9%, which is probably the lowest in the Kuwaiti banking system, and certainly the lowest the bank has seen since the introduction of IFRS 9."

Potential Merger with Boubyan Bank

Regarding the latest updates related to the potential merger with Boubyan Bank, Mr.Waleed stated: "We have first made an announcement on 30th July, 2024 regarding the Board's approval of a proposed potential merger with Boubyan Bank to create a unified, Sharia-compliant entity, and the recommendation to move forward to carry out the needed actions to commence the initial feasibility study and necessary due diligence for the merger, aligned with the Central Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) guidelines for the merger process. Additionally, on 17th September 2024 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Boubyan Bank, establishing the foundation for independent assessments to ensure that the best interest of both banks' shareholders and investors is maintained. And most recently, we have announced CBK's approval to the selection of the consultancy firms that will be carrying out the feasibility study and due diligence for the potential merger including Goldman Sachs as the Investment Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Financial and Tax Consultant, International Counsel Bureau as the Local Legal Consultant, and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer as the International Legal Consultant." He added: "I would like to reiterate our commitment to complying with all applicable laws and the instructions of the Central Bank of Kuwait, as well as the relevant regulatory authorities. We will also ensure that any significant developments in this regard are disclosed in a timely manner."

Zain highlights efforts to empower leaders & invest in human capital

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Zain is the strategic partner of the second Breaking Barriers conference, organized by the National Leadership Institute (NLI). At the event, Zain highlighted its strategic efforts in leadership development, human capital investment, and enhancing employee mental wellbeing. The conference was held under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Noora Al-Fassam.

Zain joined the opening ceremony, held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC), attended by the event patron's representative, the Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority, Ghanem Al-Ghenaiman, Zain Kuwait Chief Purpose and Human Resources Officer, Nawal Bourisli, and Group CEO of the National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC), Anas Meerza.

Also in attendance were Zain Group Chief Corporate Affairs and Communications Officer, Mohammad Abdal, Zain Group Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, Maryam Saif, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer, Waleed Al-Khashti, NLI General Manager, Mohammed Al-Khulaifi, along with leaders and officials from both the public and private sectors.

During the conference, Nawal Bourisli

participated in a panel discussion featuring executives from Kuwait's top private sector firms in technology, banking, and energy. Bourisli highlighted Zain's strategies for investing in human capital, attracting national talent, developing leadership, work-life balance, and supporting employees and leaders as they navigate workplace challenges.

Bourisli also shed light on Zain's efforts to enhance employee mental wellbeing through the BE WELL initiative, which made Zain one of the first organizations in the Middle East to establish a mental health strategy in the workplace. This initiative aims to cater to mental health and raise employee wellness standards.

Through this initiative, Zain seeks to improve the physical and mental health of its employees, enabling them to enjoy a healthier lifestyle both at work and at home. The initiative has yielded tangible results, enriching the work environment, positively impacting company performance, and boosting customer satisfaction.

In his opening speech at the conference, Waleed Al-Khashti remarked, "Our support for the Breaking Barriers conference dates back to the inaugural series in 2021. Human capital investment is a cornerstone of Zain's strategy for sustainable success."



Al-Ghenaiman with Bourisli, Abdal, Al-Khashti, and Zain's team.

He continued, "NLI's mission strongly aligns with our strategic goals at Zain, as reflected in this year's conference theme—Strong Mind. Strong Body. Strong Leader. We work to translate these principles through various pro-

grams, notably the BE WELL initiative to elevate mental health and wellness for our employees. We are also committed to investing in our national workforce, empowering them professionally and personally to lead Zain's future."

This year's Breaking Barriers conference featured a distinguished lineup of prominent speakers and local and global experts, including Steven Bartlett, entrepreneur, investor, author, and host of the UK's top podcast "The Diary of a

CEO"; Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy and former CEO of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar Organizing Committee.

Other notable speakers included Dr. Mariam Al-Awadhi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Kuwait University and a Consultant Psychiatrist; Alaa Al-Humaidhi, a Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University and a leading figure in mental health; and Kuwaiti entrepreneur Faisal Al-Agel, who transitioned from pharmacy to entrepreneurship and now hosts Kuwait's leading podcast, Bedoon Waraq.

Zain's participation reflects its belief in the essential role of such academic and cultural forums in fostering creativity in society, encouraging continuous development, and preparing future leaders. This commitment has driven Zain to be a leading supporter of the conference since its first edition.

The National Leadership Institute (NLI) is an institute fully owned by the National Company for Educational Services and Training (NEST), a subsidiary of the National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC). The NLI Conference Series was launched in 2021 to offer organizations in Kuwait innovative training solutions, with thousands of attendees since launch.

Six-week program bridges academia and banking industry

KIB launches H.I Innovation Program in collaboration with Visa and 5 universities in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) proudly announces the launch of the H.I Innovation Program in collaboration with Visa and five prestigious universities in Kuwait. The H.I Innovation program is a unique six-week initiative designed to bridge the gap between academia and the business world where teams from the five participating universities would get to solve real-world challenges. This program aims to empower university students by giving them the opportunity to tackle real-life problems faced by the banking sector today, providing a unique prospect to develop practical skills and gain valuable industry experiences.

In collaboration with Visa – a global leader in digital payments, and SIA Partners – a renowned global management consulting and Innovation firm, KIB's H.I Innovation Program will enable students from our partner universities across Kuwait to participate in this journey of innovation and growth. Participating universities include Australian University, American University of Kuwait, Gulf University for Science & Technology, Kuwait College of Science & Technology and College of Business Administration – Kuwait University, all of which have signed Memorandums of Understanding with KIB to engage their brightest minds in this groundbreaking program.

The H.I Program will span over a period of six weeks, during which students will work closely with innovation coaches and mentors from SIA



A group photo of the KIB team with representatives of Visa, SIA Partners and the five universities.

Partners to develop innovative solutions to pressing business problems. Visa will support the program by extending their subject matter expertise in various domains through bringing in key note speakers which will offer guidance, support, and practical insights, allowing students to learn from industry experts while crafting actionable solutions. The program will culminate in a final presentation where students will showcase their solutions to a panel of judges, including representatives from KIB and SIA Partners.

"This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to nurturing young talent and fostering a culture of innovation within the community," said

Mohamed Atef Elshareef, General Manager of the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department at KIB. "By partnering with leading organizations like SIA Partners and Visa, we are providing students with a real opportunity to step into the business world and make a tangible impact."

Visa's collaboration with KIB reflects its dedication to supporting capacity building and educational and growth programs that prepare youth and students for future success in a rapidly evolving payments and fintech landscape. Commenting on the H.I Innovation program, Mohamed Reyad, Visa's Country Manager for Kuwait, said, "The H.I Innovation

Program with our partners KIB and SIA is a great platform to help empower Kuwait's next generation of innovators, ensuring they can thrive in the fast-evolving digital economy and are well-prepared for the future. This aligns perfectly with Visa's purpose to uplift everyone, everywhere as well as supports the Kuwait government's efforts to promote digital literacy and modernize the country's payments and financial ecosystem."

From their side, SIA Partners joins efforts with KIB to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kuwait. From defining the innovation intent or purpose, to facilitating the generation of new solutions for the Bank, SIA



Marwa Marafie, Manager of Marketing and Corporate Communications at KIB; Mohamed Atef Elshareef, General Manager of the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department at KIB; Abdullah Al-Awadi, General Manager of Strategy at KIB; Fahad Othman AlBader, General Manager of the Operations Department at KIB; Roberto Wyszowski, Partner at SIA Partners as well as Growth & Innovation Global Team Leader.

Partners is committed to enabling open innovation that will strengthen KIB's future business results. "The H.I Innovation Program demonstrates how bringing together a wide ecosystem of partners and entrepreneurs can drive innovation and add value to the market. By engaging the youth, we are leveraging the latest trends and future customer behaviors to shape up new solutions that will build the foundation for long term success," said Roberto Wyszowski, Partner at SIA Partners

as well as Growth & Innovation Global Team Leader.

The H.I Program not only gives students a chance to apply their academic knowledge to real business scenarios but also opens doors to future career opportunities by equipping them with skills that are in high demand in today's job market. It is a rare opportunity for participants to make meaningful contributions while still in university, gaining a competitive edge in their careers.

KFH participates in the 'Breaking Barriers II' Conference

Confab organized by National Leadership Institute



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh receiving the honor.



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh



Lamya AlTabtebai

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the second edition of the National Leadership Conference titled "Breaking Barriers II: A Strong Mind, Strong Body, Strong Leader". The Conference, organized by the National Leadership Institute (NLI) in strategic partnership with KFH, is held under the patronage of the Ministry of Finance.

During her participation in the panel discussion: "Leading through Resilience, Innovation, and Wellness", KFH Group Chief Data Officer, Lamya AlTabtebai affirmed that resilience has played a vital role in KFH's achievement of positive results at all levels.

She said that balancing between innovation and outstanding performance at work and achieving employee well-being relies on a healthy work environment that promotes employee growth and maintains effective communication with the team and the manager where transparent discussions about all aspects of fear and challenge are welcome.

AlTabtebai added: "The team well-being and outstanding performance complement each other. Employee well-being is key to innovation."

She mentioned that KFH management are aware of the significance of team well-being, its role in motivating employees to innovate, stressing KFH's keenness towards employee well-being and investment in human talents.

She commended KFH's health initiative directed at its employees, which includes facilitating health check-ups and providing female employees with the opportunity to undergo medical screening during work hours as part of Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, with special discounts at various health centers.

Al-Ruwaieh:

- KFH is committed to supporting initiatives that empower national competencies

AlTabtebai:

- Employee well-being is key to innovation

AlTabtebai also highlighted KFH's initiative to celebrate employees' children for their academic excellence in high school, reflecting KFH's dedication to supporting its human capital and inspiring them to achieve success for themselves and their families.

AlTabtebai added: "In line with its commitment to human capital development, KFH launched the Qadha program, the first of its kind, to honor outstanding employees. This unique initiative is designed to encourage capable employees and sustain their enthusiasm. Additionally, KFH awarded scholarships to 19 employees this year, reaffirming its support for staff career development."

"When employees feel valued, their loyalty to the workplace increases, making them more motivated, committed to their responsibilities, and innovative," she remarked.

She further explained that effective time management and organization allow employees more time for themselves and their families. The clear distinction between work and personal life helps employees maintain energy and sustain a healthy mental state, enabling them to perform their work to the fullest.

KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media - Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh

During his opening speech at the conference, KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, said that KFH continues its strategic partnership with NLI through its active participation in Breaking Barriers II, following the outstanding success of its inaugural edition.

He added that KFH's participation in this prestigious conference, which highlighted the importance of balancing mental and physical well-being for effective leadership, stems from KFH's commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to supporting specialized initiatives and conferences. These initiatives provide opportunities to explore new avenues for knowledge transfer and empower national talent and skills.

"The conference serves as a platform for participants to network, learn, and gain insights from experiences. It features local and international speakers from various sectors who share their successful professional journeys, including executives from top companies, banks, and institutions," added Al-Ruwaieh.

He emphasized that KFH places significant importance on fostering a healthy and appealing work environment and motivates all levels of management to adopt this approach in their work and interactions with their teams, reflecting the strategic goals of the conference.

KFH was honored by the National Leadership Institute in recognition of its prominent role and active participation in the conference.

Conference key speakers:

■ **Steven Bartlett:** Entrepreneur, investor, author, and host of the UK's number one podcast, "The Diary of a CEO".

■ **H.E. Hassan Al-Thawadi:** Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy in Qatar, the organization responsible for preparing and overseeing the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

■ **Dr. Mariam Al-Awadhi:** Assistant Professor at Kuwait University's College of Medicine and a specialist in mental health. She was trained at the University of Ottawa.

■ **Alaa Al-Homaizi:** A doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University. She is a trailblazer in global mental health advocacy.

Series of sessions targeting private schools and universities to raise financial awareness among students

NBK delivers a comprehensive session about the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign to UAS students

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: In line with its ongoing efforts to promote financial and banking awareness among all sectors, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is delivering a series of sessions at a number of private schools and universities to introduce the "Let's Be Aware" campaign to students and familiarize them with different scams and required precautions to avoid them.

NBK's team started this series with a visit to the Universal American School (UAS) during which they delivered a comprehensive session that included a detailed explanation of the campaign's objectives and topics. The team also provided tips and advice to avoid scams that may occur within the course of daily transactions such as online shopping, using bank accounts, or clicking fake ads on social media.

NBK team advised students to be cautious when dealing with suspicious e-mails that may impersonate well-known banks or organization by using their logos, by not clicking any attached links, and avoiding communication with unknown parties, as these messages and communications may target stealing banking or personal information, so it is crucial not to disclose any banking information to any person or entity.

NBK affirmed that it will never ask customers for personal information via e-mail, SMS or phone calls, warning of responding to such messages representing fraud attempts to steal banking or sensitive information or money.

The team called to enable two-factor authentication (2FA), which adds an extra layer of security, as well as to keep a close eye on bank statements and transaction history, to identify any suspicious or unauthorized activity.

They also called the students to keep always updated on fraud tactics and keep learning about the evolving



Universal American School students pose with officials.

Bastaki:

- We aim to scale up efforts to build financial awareness among the young generation
- Early education on scams and required precautions minimizes potential risks and promote financial stability
- We seek to ensure the widest exposure for the "Let's Be Aware" campaign objectives
- We intensify publishing awareness content on our digital platforms, which are the most popular among Kuwaiti banks

methods scammers use to trick people and understand how to avoid them by following the tips provided across the bank's digital platforms, as scammers tend to employ new methods using AI techniques. Therefore, NBK is intensifying the awareness content published

on its pages, in addition to reposting the Central Bank of Kuwait's related communications.

Speaking on this, Farah Bastaki, Manager, Digital Communications at National Bank of Kuwait said, "We are always aim to spread financial lit-

eracy among all sectors, and this visit is an opportunity to help students understand the types of fraud and how to protect personal information and make safer financial decisions in the future."

"Through these visits, we aim to scale up efforts to build financial awareness among the young generation, especially as this generation greatly relies on digital banking. Early education onscams and protection methods can minimize potential risks and promote financial stability," she added.

Bastaki stressed that NBK employs its strong customer communication capabilities as well as all its digital platforms, which are the most popular among all Kuwaiti banks, to ensure the widest exposure for the "Let's Be Aware" campaign objectives.

Introduced by the Central Bank of



Farah Bastaki

Kuwait, in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), the "Let's Be Aware" campaign is the largest across the GCC region focusing on raising banking and financial awareness among banks' customers. The campaign covers a variety of crucial topics including: anti-fraud tips, raising awareness on high-risk investments, maximizing benefit from banking services, promoting savings and investment culture, as well as other related topics.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key supporter and partner in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different sectors. As the leading financial institution in Kuwait, the bank frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector.

ABK launches Al Tajer Pay digital solution

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: As part of its dedication to providing the highest levels of service, ease, and security, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has launched Al Tajer Pay, a digital solution tailored for merchant and corporate payments. This initiative takes the Bank further forward in terms of meeting customer needs while keeping up with continuous developments in the banking industry.

The introduction of Al Tajer Pay aligns with the Bank's digital transformation plan, aimed at enhancing its portfolio of advanced solutions and enabling merchants to easily collect payments, streamline their operations, and enhance their satisfaction with the diverse range of products and services offered.

This innovative digital solution reflects ABK's commitment to customer satisfaction and represents an important step in adopting advanced technologies for executing payments. It marks a significant milestone in its journey to expand its product portfolio and meet the evolving needs of merchants in the Kuwaiti market, while increasing the efficiency of their banking transactions through their continuous engagement with the Bank.

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, expressed the Bank's pride in introducing Al Tajer Pay. Demonstrating their



Ms. Johair Marafi General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK.



ABK RM Al Tajer Pay

continued efforts, she said, "Al Tajer Pay is set to enhance ABK's digital solutions portfolio, empowering merchants to collect payments swiftly, securely, and conveniently."

She continued, "In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, consumers increasingly demand seamless and efficient payment experiences. Al Tajer Pay addresses these needs by providing merchants with a state-of-the-art payment solution that streamlines their operations therefore enhancing customer satisfaction."

Al Tajer Pay boasts many features,

including the provision of digital payment collection where merchants can create invoices and manage their payment collection process, whether handling invoices sent in bulk, recurring payments, or individual transactions. In the first stage, customers may send and collect due payments from customers using debit cards. In stage 2, this will be expanded to credit and prepaid cards via SMS, WhatsApp, emails as well as other communication mediums through a highly-secured centralized platform.

Marafi highlighted that security is of paramount importance in today's digital

payments where Al Tajer Pay leverages advanced encryption technology to ensure secure payment transactions. She said, "Merchants and their customers can have peace of mind in knowing that their financial data is safeguarded against fraud and unauthorized access. Furthermore, merchants can promptly and seamlessly integrate the Al Tajer Pay platform without disrupting their business operations. To ensure a smooth onboarding experience, and in order to provide ongoing assistance, we have provided a dedicated technical support team from ABK."

Upon integration, merchants can benefit from real-time reporting and analytics through a user-friendly dashboard, enabling them to easily keep track of collected, pending, and even rejected invoices. Moreover, merchants can gain valuable insights into sales trends, customer behavior, and transaction history, enabling data-driven decision-making to optimize business strategies and drive growth.

Concluding her statement, Marafi mentioned that the coming period will witness the introduction of more digital solutions as part of ABK's plans to enhance its position and competitiveness in the banking sector and attract more customers. Finally, she emphasized the Bank's ongoing commitment to enhancing innovation to meet the needs of all segments.

Asian shares mixed after Wall St drifts ahead of US Election Day

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): Shares were mixed in Asia early Tuesday after U.S. stock indexes drifted lower a day ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

This week will bring various potential flashpoints, among them Election Day in the United States. But the results may not be known for some time as officials count all the votes, and that could bring sharp swings since markets hate uncertainty.

U.S. futures were virtually unchanged early Tuesday.

Adding to the potential for volatility, the Federal Reserve will also be meeting on interest rates later this week. The widespread expectation is for it to cut its main interest rate for a second straight time.

Investors also hope the Chinese government may announce stimulus for the world's second-largest economy.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index gained 1.3% to 38,552.67, reopening after a holiday on Monday.

South Korea's Kospi fell 0.7% to 2,569.75, while the S&P/ASX 200 in Australia dropped 0.6% to 8,117.30.

The Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress is

meeting this week, and analysts say the government may endorse major spending initiatives to boost economic growth amid troubles for the country's real-estate industry.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that the lawmakers had reviewed legislation to raise ceilings on local government debt to replace existing hidden debts, part of a process to arrange debt swaps to help resolve the financial woes brought on by the pandemic and by a collapse in the property market in recent years.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.1% at 20,597.30 and the Shanghai Composite index picked up 0.4% to 3,323.26.

On Monday, the S&P 500 slipped 0.3% to 5,712.69, remaining near its record set last month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.6% to 41,794.60, while the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.3% to 18,179.98.

In the oil market early Tuesday, the price for a barrel of U.S. crude fell 7 cents to \$71.40. On Monday, it rose 2.8% after Saudi Arabia and other oil producers said they would delay plans to increase the amount of crude they produced.

What's On



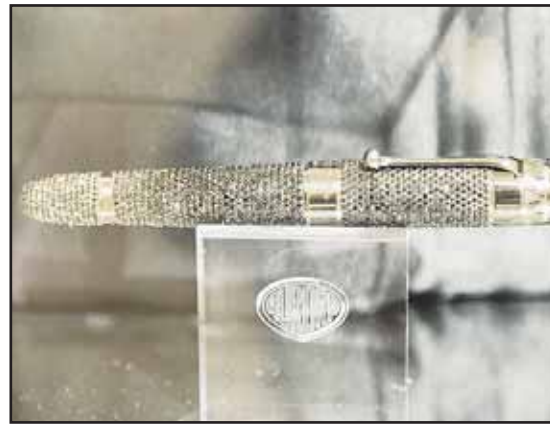
From left Fared Abdal, Linda Di Fonzo and Ambassador Morini.



Ambassador Morini



Linda Di Fonzo with Sheikha Intisar Al-Sabah.



More pictures of the art exhibition.

Fared Abdal showcases Arabic calligraphy with Italian craftsmanship

Italian Embassy hosts 'Dawn of Peace' art event by Kuwaiti artist

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Lorenzo Morini hosted an event at his residence to showcase the work of renowned Kuwaiti artist Fared Abdal under the title, 'Dawn of Peace' -- a unique fusion of Arabic artistic calligraphy and Italian contemporary writing instruments as part of the festival 'A Journey into Italian Creativity'.

The night celebrated a creative partnership that exemplifies the cultural connections between Kuwait and Italy. Fared unveiled a unique piece crafted with Aurora's vibrant inks, a testament to the craftsmanship of Italian design and the richness of Arabic art.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Morini expressed his excitement about the exhibition, noting that it marks the culmination of a project that began several months ago with Fared and his collaborator Linda Di Fonzo -- the commercial and export manager of the Italian company Aurora -- playing vital roles.

He described the exhibition as an immersive experience filled with colors and exceptional craftsmanship, highlighting the enduring friendship between the two nations.

The event featured 26 captivating works by Fared, showcasing various

styles of Arabic calligraphy alongside the exquisite tools from Aurora.

Each piece not only demonstrated the artistry of Fared but also illustrated the deep-rooted connections between the two cultures. One of the highlights was a new masterpiece inspired by the name of Aurora, meaning "Dawn" in English, symbolizing peace and unity through art.

Ambassador Morini emphasized the importance of collaboration in these challenging times, asserting that words and dialogue are essential for bridging divides and fostering understanding.

He expressed hope that the exhibition would inspire all attendees to embrace dialogue and shared experiences in their daily lives.

The ambassador took a moment to thank those who contributed to making the event possible, especially Abdullah Alawadi and Antonella Fanelli, as well as the support from CAP, High Effect for the installation and St. Regis for their service.

Regarding his country's participation in the Dushanbe conference hosted by Kuwait, he said that this meeting is very important, and Kuwait has shown its commitment to a global issue, stressing that the best way to confront terrorism and extremists is by working together.

He stressed that combating terrorism and extremism effectively requires united action and collaboration among nations. His participation in the conference alongside a representative from the Italian Counter-Terrorism Authority

further underlined this commitment.

Fared Abdal shared his excitement about the exhibition, highlighting the expressive power of Arabic calligraphy. He explained that his work blends the elegance of Aurora's writing instruments with his artistic vision, creating a unique presentation that showcases the diversity and depth of Arabic calligraphy.

With influences from various regions, including the Gulf and the Far East, his pieces reflect a rich cultural heritage and the philosophical weight of the art form.

Dr. Abdullah Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi, an assistant professor at Kuwait University and the exhibition's coordinator, noted the long-standing cultural ties between Kuwait and Italy.

He highlighted the exhibition's role in merging Kuwaiti artistry with Italian craftsmanship, using Aurora pens to craft one of the featured works.

Al-Awadhi emphasized the aesthetic appeal and cultural significance of Arabic calligraphy, asserting its relevance in both modern and traditional contexts.

This exhibition aims not only to showcase the strength and beauty of Arabic art but also to enhance appreciation for Arabic language and culture in a global context, bridging gaps and fostering understanding through the universal language of art.

Two standout projects represent AU

AU shines at 7th Intl MAINTCON 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Australian University (AU) made a significant impact at the 7th International Maintenance, Reliability, and Asset Management Conference and Exhibition (MAINTCON), which took place at Exhibition World Bahrain, under the theme of "Building Resilience in Assets for a Sustainable Tomorrow". MAINTCON has steadily grown to become the world's largest gathering of professionals in maintenance, reliability, and asset management.

The University actively participated in various activities during the conference, including showcasing innovative projects, presenting technical papers, and chairing technical sessions. The Innovation Corner, a prominent feature of MAINTCON, provided a platform for innovators from regional oil and gas companies, service providers, and universities to display their groundbreaking work.

During the exhibition's physical evaluation, which involved competing against leading innovations from both international and GCC universities and industries, Dr. Mortadha Al Saba's, Associate Professor and Head of Petroleum Engineering at AU, his project was selected as one of the winners, and this prestigious award was shared with three other winners from major GCC industries.

Dr. Mortadha Al Saba's recognition highlights the university's commitment to advancing innovative solutions in the oil and gas industry, as well as its growing influence in promoting sustainability



Photo during the event.

through engineering advancements.

From her end, Dr. Suad Al Radhwan, Assistant Professor in the Petroleum Engineering Department at AU and Chairperson of the Innovation Committee at the 7th MAINTCON, emphasized the importance of the Innovation Corner. She described it as a unique opportunity for innovators to share their talents with regional industry leaders and a prestigious recognition that encourages continued investment in inventions.

During the event also, AU showcased

2 standout projects in the Innovation Corner. The first, led by Dr. Adel Younis from the Mechanical Engineering Department, focused on the "Development of Floating Offshore Wind Turbines and their Supporting Structures." The second project, spearheaded by Dr. Mortadha Al Saba from the Petroleum Engineering Department, with Eng. Asama Hussain as Co-Innovator, presented a "Smart Sustainable Drilling Fluid Additives Inventory Management System."

Banking solutions aligned with Islamic Sharia

Warba Bank announces the winners of Al Sunbula draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Al Sunbula draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold weekly draws for ten winners of Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

Each of the 10 lucky winners of the Sunbula weekly draw of Warba Bank received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Muneera Nasser Al-Rkhaiyis, Sultan Ahmad Al-Shammari, Daham Matar Al-Saadi, Khaled Munif Al-Shammari, Wadha Fahhad Al-Ajmi, Nazal Khalaf Al-Rashidi, Sultan Abdullah Al-Dosari, Mohammed Abdullah Al-Rashidi, Musaed Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, and Reem Mohammed Al-Azmi.

As for the Sunbula account, it is the ideal choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their accounts at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Regarding the conditions, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait, Area Man-



Abdulaziz Al-Bakhait

ager Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and major draws, and the client still gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are counted according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to count the chances. There are no

restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances to win".

Warba Bank launched its latest banking solutions service, "Customer Onboarding", in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, which enables non-Warba Bank clients to apply for opening a Sunbula account in an easy digital way via the Bank's website without the need to visit any of the Bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new clients will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

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.

Core Values, STEAM, and Performing Arts shine at BSK Awards

British School of Kuwait celebrates excellence at Middle Phase Awards evening

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The British School of Kuwait (BSK) hosted its prestigious Middle Phase Awards Evening at the Crowne Plaza Al Thuraya City, celebrating the outstanding achievements of 200 students from Years 6 to 8 for the 2023-24 academic year. The event, attended by a large number of family members of the award winners along with the Chairman Sadiq Al Mutawa and BSK Founder and Director Madam Vera Al-Mutawa MBE, unfolded in a wonderful celebratory atmosphere that made the evening all the more memorable.

Diplomats from around the world, along with honored guests, presented Special Awards across various categories; F1 in Schools, Model United Nations, Music, Drama, Core Values, and Housepoint Awards. The Core Values Awards were given to students who exemplify the school's values of Resilience, Respect, Honesty, Courage, and Empathy. The Performing Arts Awards recog-



Photos during the event.

nised outstanding achievements in school productions and music, while the Formula 1 in Schools Awards celebrated student STEAM skills and teamwork. Additionally, the Housepoint Awards were presented

to students who achieved the highest housepoints in their year group, further highlighting their dedication and involvement in school activities.

Guest speaker, Dr Anwar Al-Ibrahim, Assistant Professor in the Civil



Engineering Department at the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University, addressed the students, encouraging them to believe in themselves, respect others, and embrace their unique qualities

that help them to excel.

In her Principal's Address, Ms. Emma Bowie emphasised the importance of a well-rounded education, encouraging students to make the most of the extracurricular and

leadership opportunities that BSK offers. She highlighted that these experiences are essential for preparing students for future challenges and fostering personal growth, reinforcing BSK's mission to help students to achieve academic excellence whilst at the same time developing strength of character and leadership skills through involvement in the wider life of the school.

A key highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Head Teacher's Award. This year, the award was presented by Madam Vera Al-Mutawa MBE, BSK's founder, alongside Principal Ms. Emma Bowie, guest speaker Dr. Anwar Al-Ibrahim, and Ms. Sophie Gore, Head Teacher of the Middle Phase. Together, they honored one student in each year group, who best exemplified the achievements and attitudes valued at BSK. This year the Head Teachers awards were presented to Retaj Abdelatif (Year 6), Tareq Hashem (Year 7) and Walid Ashqar (Year 8).

'I like to think to the future'

Bocelli marks 30 years with 'Duets,' concert film

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): It's one of the most immediately recognizable voices on the planet: Andrea Bocelli's tenor is beloved across generations, cultures and borders, known to induce tears in as few as three simple words: "Con Te Partirò," or in its English performance, "Time to Say Goodbye."

This year, he's celebrating the 30th anniversary of his career with a new compilation album, "Duets," featuring both previously released and brand-new collaborations of his best-known work - as well as a few surprising contemporary covers - and the release of a new concert film, "Andrea Bocelli 30: The Celebration," which will arrive in theaters on Friday.

So, why duets?

"I've loved voices since when I was a child, and I like very much to share the stage with the best artists and voices. So, this album, there are the best duets that I did in my life," he told The Associated Press. "From the first, 'The Prayer' with Celine Dion, until the last, like 'Perfect' with Ed Sheeran and many, many others. And the album has been remastered and remixed. So, I hope the sound can be better."

He says: "The most important thing in voices... is to be recognizable, to give emotion."

Sheeran was an interesting collaboration because when Bocelli first attempted to sing "Perfect," the English singer-songwriter wasn't a fan. "He didn't

like what I did because I sang in a pop style," he recalls. "He wanted to listen to my voice, like in an operatic style." So, Sheeran traveled to Bocelli's home in Tuscany, and the song was transformed. "He was right because this song had a huge success."

When asked if there is anyone he would've loved to add to the "Duets" collection, Bocelli says of course - but "they passed away before I began to sing. For example, I would like very much to sing with Maria Callas or (Renata) Tebaldi or Magda Olivero. Many great, incredible singers. They are not anymore with us, unfortunately."

Performed

Three decades into his career, Bocelli has performed for presidents, popes, and sold-out stadiums across the globe - in addition to having sold nearly 90 million records worldwide, according to a press release. "Reality exceeded my wildest dreams," he says.

How he reflects on that time should come as no surprise. "I like to sing to the future. Honestly, I don't like to think with nostalgia to the past," he says. "My first time on stage, for me it is like yesterday. The time is gone so quickly, so fast. And, yeah, now I like to think to the future."

So, what, then, does he hope becomes his legacy in the next 30 years, 300 years? "In Italy, we have a very famous expression: The people that come after us will judge us," he says with a translator. "So I

can't force the judge(men) of the people. But I feel that my audience has a big affection for me, and this is my goal. When somebody in the street comes to me and says (to) me, 'Thank you for your voice, for your music,' I think mission is accomplished."

Across "Duets," Bocelli sings in Italian, English, French and Spanish. "There are many languages, but it's so difficult. I remember the day I tried to sing in Chinese, only few lines, but it has been so hard for me," he laughs.

He also performs across genres, working with everyone from Latin superstars like Karol G and Jennifer Lopez to country musicians like Chris Stapleton and Shania Twain. "I would like to try to sing jazz," he says. "But it's too difficult for me because you must live in an atmosphere, to learn step by step, day by day. I like jazz but it's too far from the experience of my life."

There is little he hasn't done across these last three decades, but the ultimate goal now, he says, is steeped in faith. "I have been very lucky and I reached the affection of the people. Now I must try to deserve the affection of the God. It's more difficult."

But he will continue to perform for those who love him. On Dec. 4, Bocelli's U.S. tour kicks off in San Diego and runs through the month, before commencing again in February and June 2025. The final dates will be held in Napa Valley, California, on June 21 and 22.



Andrea Bocelli appears during a portrait session on Oct. 28, 2024, in New York. (AP)

Variety

KANSAS CITY, Mo.: Pop superstar Taylor Swift returned to Arrowhead Stadium on Monday night to see the Kansas City Chiefs and her boyfriend, Travis Kelce, play the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after wrapping up the US leg of her record-setting Eras Tour.

It wound up being a good night for both of them.

Swift was able to celebrate Kelce's big night, which included 14 catches for 100 yards in a driving rain, along with a victory for the Chiefs. They trailed by a touchdown in the fourth quarter, scored twice to take the lead, then headed to overtime, where they won the coin toss and drove for a touchdown that gave them a 30-24 win.



Swift

Kelce, who had fumbled earlier in the game, had two of his catches on the decisive drive in overtime. His total receptions was a career-best for a regular-season game, matching a 14-catch performance in a 2023 playoff win over Jacksonville, while his 16 targets from Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was just one shy of his career high.

"He does a great job of finding space," Mahomes said, "and I think with having DeAndre (Hopkins) out there, it takes pressure off where not all the attention is on him the entire time. And whenever he gets going, man, he's hard to stop."

Swift is finally getting a chance to stop herself after playing the last of three shows at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Sunday to conclude the U.S. portion of her tour. The rest of her tour heads to Canada with the first of six shows at Rogers Centre in Toronto on Nov. 14 and three shows in December at BC Place in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

MANCHESTER, England: Olivia Rodrigo was part of the crowd for Manchester United's Premier League soccer game against Chelsea on Sunday.

The pop star emerged from the players' tunnel at Old Trafford and appeared on the side of the field before kickoff.

"Good 4 u @OliviaRodrigo - we hope you enjoy Old Trafford," United posted on X.

Rodrigo, whose hits include Deja Vu and Good 4 U, wore dark sunglasses and a yellow coat. She sat behind former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

It's not the first time she's attended a Chelsea match, having watched the two-time Champions League-winning team play against Liverpool at Stamford Bridge last season. She posed for pictures with England international Ben Chilwell after that match and Chelsea said on social media that it had "unlocked" her as a fan and declared "Olivia Rodrigo is a Blue!"

While Rodrigo may have been an unexpected guest at Old Trafford, the club's minority owner Jim Ratcliffe was at a United match for the first time since manager Erik ten Hag was fired on Monday. (AP)

BERLIN: The Chinese Culture Center in Berlin launched an exhibition on Chinese sustainable design Friday night, featuring 81 innovative exhibits and 26 programs.

The month-long event, co-hosted by the Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation, demonstrates China's innovative approaches to sustainable development in daily life, covering themes aligned with the United Nation's sustainable development goals, including rural revitalization, recycled materials, and women's empowerment.

During the opening ceremony, Sun Qinghang, director of the Chinese Cultural Center in Berlin, noted that this exhibition not only showcases China's strengths in sustainable design but also highlights the country's active engagement with global sustainability issues.

Cui Qiao, chairman of the Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation, voiced her hope that the innovative exhibits would inspire audiences, shaping their lifestyle and building global consensus. (Xinhua)

Film



This image released by Searchlight Pictures shows Kieran Culkin, (left), and Jesse Eisenberg in a scene from 'A Real Pain.' (AP)

Eisenberg's film blends humor, history and heart

Mercurial Culkin shines in 'Real Pain'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 5, (AP): It's part comedy, part tragedy. It's part road-trip saga, part odd couple-buddy flick, and part Holocaust film. What could possibly have gone wrong?

Yup - everything could have gone wrong. So the first miracle about "A Real Pain," writer-director Jesse Eisenberg's remarkably accomplished film about mismatched cousins on a somber trip through Poland, is how it pulls off the most delicate of balancing acts.

That it does so while also asking intriguing questions about the nature of pain - personal vs. universal, historic vs. contemporary - is all the more impressive. So is the fact that it showcases an Oscar-worthy performance.

That stunning performance comes from Kieran Culkin, and what's striking is that it doesn't overpower the rest of the ensemble. That's a testament mostly to the careful way Eisenberg, who co-stars in the less flashy role, has constructed and paced his film. And as for Culkin, well, if you needed proof that his searing, Emmy-winning work as tortured live-wire Roman Roy in "Succession" wasn't a fluke, here you have it.

The movie, which is only Eisenberg's second directorial effort, stems from a trip the "Social Network" star took some 20 years ago to Poland. There, he found the tiny house his aunt had lived in before the Holocaust uprooted the family. He wondered what his own life would have been like had World War II never happened.

And that's one of the many conversations that David (Eisenberg) and Benji (Culkin) have as they travel through Poland on a mission to visit the house where their grandmother, who has recently died, once lived. (Eisenberg used the exact same house, which tells you just how personal this film was for him.)

It's a poignant but also awkward reunion for the cousins, who were close as youngsters but are on very different paths as 40-something adults. David is the anxiety-ridden but

highly functional type that Eisenberg the actor excels at; he works in tech and lives with his wife and young son in Brooklyn. As for Benji, he lives upstate and is largely unmoored, or undeveloped. He's also a study in contrasts - the type, David notes, who can light up a room when he enters, and then crap on everyone. The death of their grandmother, with whom Benji was close, has taken a toll on his mental health.

The cousins first meet up at the airport in New York. Before they even get through security, Benji has terrified David by informing him he's secured some really good weed for the journey. (Don't worry, he's mailed it to the hotel.)

Reconnect

In Warsaw, they meet their small tour group and British guide James (Will Sharpe, of "The White Lotus"), a scholar of wartime Poland. Fellow travelers include Marsha (Jennifer Grey), a divorcee who's moved from LA back east and is trying to reconnect with her past; a Midwestern couple (Daniel Oreskes and Liza Sadovy); and Elogue (Kurt Egyiawan), a Rwandan-Canadian convert to Judasim who knows something about genocide.

In short order, Benji both charms and exasperates the group - and this turbulent brand of charisma is Culkin's specialty.

At a war memorial statue, he runs up to strike a playful action pose, embarrassing David. But somehow, the whole group ends up joining Benji in the childlike stunt, and David is left taking photos.

Then when the tour boards a train for Lublin, Benji suddenly explodes in anger at the group - how can they be sitting in first-class comfort when 80 years ago, their ancestors were corralled into cattle cars? He disappears to a lower-class car.

And at a visit to a wartime tombstone, Benji admonishes the mild-mannered guide, furiously, for focusing on statistics and not

letting the group feel the pure emotion of the moment. (He's not wrong, as the guide will later acknowledge.)

Eisenberg has said that when conceiving of his film, he was struck by a Polish ad that promised "Holocaust tours (with lunch)." All these moments feel quite real; such tours are indeed filled with awkward (and rather inevitable) juxtapositions of modern tourist comforts and historical horrors.

Speaking of horrors, by far the most difficult scenes come when the group visits Majdanek, the Nazi camp. There, they walk past unspeakable sights of gas chambers and ovens and piles of abandoned shoes. One might at first gasp that Eisenberg is leading us here at all; wisely, he keeps these moments silent. When Benji breaks down, it's on the way home - an acknowledgment that such reactions often come later.

At the end, with the cousins hugging goodbye uneasily in the same airport where we began, having completed a journey both physical and personal, it's hard not to think back to the title of the movie. Yes, Benji is "a real pain." But there are layers of pain at play here.

There is David's very real pain, an anxiety that forces him to take pills each day. There's Benji's pain, which not long ago has sent him into a very dangerous tailspin.

But, Eisenberg seems to be asking, how "valid" are these types of pain set against the historic pain that the film explores in Poland? A place where, as he shows in a striking shot of empty streets where life once teemed, an entire community was erased by the Nazis.

It's quite a journey for one film. All credit to Eisenberg, and his superb co-star, for making the road trip so thought-provoking.

"A Real Pain," a Searchlight Pictures release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for language throughout and some drug use." Running time: 90 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Tributes

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): Reactions to the death of Quincy Jones, who died Sunday at age 91:

■ "My beloved Q. The world's beloved Q. The one and only Quincy Jones "discovered" me for "The Color Purple" movie in 1985. My life changed forever for the better after meeting him. I had never experienced, nor have since, anyone who's heart was so filled with love. He walked around with his heart wide open, and he treated everybody as if they were the most important person he'd ever met. He was the Light. No shadows. He was love lived out loud in human form and he was the first person I ever loved unconditionally. That's how we signed all our notes to each other, "Unconditionally..." Oprah Winfrey on Instagram.



Jones

■ "He was supremely talented, and I felt privileged to have known him for many years. He was friends with George Martin, the Beatles' producer and, between the two of them, produced some very fine music. Quincy or 'Quince' or 'Q', as he was known, always had a twinkle in his eye and had a very positive, loving spirit which infected everyone who knew him. His work with Michael Jackson is, of course, legendary and he had so many other strings to his musical bow." Paul McCartney on Instagram.

■ "Quincy is the reason why I decided to become a record producer. His records were my go-to when I started engineering. All of the time that I spent hanging out with him was priceless and I love how open he was - the advice he gave me, the conversations we had have helped me in my life and career. Forever inspired by the incomparable Quincy Jones." Dr. Dre, on Instagram.

■ "I was honored to call Quincy a friend. I will always remember his generosity of spirit, his selfless support, and his deep kindness. Our world has lost a giant. But in his melodies, and in the lives he touched, Quincy's legacy will live on forever." Vice President Kamala Harris, in a statement Monday.

■ "Quincy Jones is the true definition of a Mentor, a Father and a Friend. He pointed me toward the greatest parts of myself. He defended me. He nurtured me. He encouraged me. He inspired me. He checked me when he needed to. He let me use his wings until mine were strong enough to fly." Will Smith on Instagram.

■ "I am speechless at the moment. What this man means to me goes extremely deep. What a life. What an expression of authenticity. What a teacher. I am humbled that I was given the gift of your openness and friendship. I am still processing." Lenny Kravitz on X.

■ "My fans know how important Quincy was to the fabric of my music. I was given the opportunity to write a foreword to his book and tried to capture what he meant to me as a human. Let's celebrate his life today." Abel Tesfaye/The Weeknd on X.

■ "I woke up today to the Terrible news that we lost Quincy Jones... Genius is a description loosely used but Rarely deserved. Point blank, Quincy was the MAN. I won my 1st Grammy with Quincy and I live with his Wisdom daily." Ice-T on X.

■ "My Celestial twin Quincy was a titan in the musical world. He was a wonderful and unique human being, lucky to have known him." Michael Caine on X (Both Caine and Jones were born March 14, 1933).

■ "Quincy Jones was a musical genius who transformed the soul of America - one beat, one rhythm, and one rhyme at a time. ... He was a great unifier, who believed deeply in the healing power of music to restore hope and uplift those suffering from hunger, poverty, and violence, in America and the continent of Africa." President Joe Biden in a statement Monday.

■ "His music appealed to listeners of every race and every age. And by building a career that took him from the streets of Chicago to the heights of Hollywood, Quincy paved the way for generations of Black executives to leave their mark on the entertainment business." former President Barack Obama on X.



Lady Gaga, (left) Will.i.am (center) perform during a campaign rally for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Monday, Nov. 4, in Philadelphia, and Katy Perry



(right) performs after an appearance by Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at a campaign rally at the Carrie Blast Furnaces in Pittsburgh, Monday, Nov. 4. (AP)

Music

Inspirational journey

Richman on Million Dollar Baby and Grammy hopes

LOS ANGELES, Nov 5, (AP): Tommy Richman nearly had a million reasons to quit music - until "Million Dollar Baby" became one of the year's most popular songs. Now, the singer is eyeing Grammy nominations next week.

Two years ago, Richman was living in his parents' basement in Virginia, before moving to Los Angeles to crash on his best friend's air mattress and sometimes finding a spot on friends' couches or floors. But his fortunes changed in April when he posted "Million Dollar Baby" on TikTok, lifting him from obscurity into a viral sensation.

The song peaked at No. 2 on Billboard's Hot 100 and later became the longest-running No. 1 song on the R&B Songs chart, spanning 22 weeks, and topped the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart as well. His songs "Devil Is a Lie" and "Thought You Were the One," a single from his recently released debut album "Coyote," both cracked the top 10 on the R&B Songs chart.

But despite Richman's R&B success, his song "Million Dollar Baby" will compete in two hip-hop categories: The track was submitted for best rap song and melodic rap performance, according to a report from The Hollywood Reporter. The submission follows backlash he received over his claim of not being a hip-hop artist in a post on X, which has been deleted.

While Richman ultimately clarified his stance, he declined to comment further on his Grammy submissions.

In a recent interview, Richman spoke with The Associated Press about the reason he left "Million Dollar Baby" off his debut album, handling criticism and his thoughts heading into Grammy nominations on Nov. 8. Comments have been edited for length and clarity.

AP: How do you feel about possibly being Grammy nominated?

Richman: It's a childhood dream. I don't care about winning. In the grand scheme of things, we had the biggest song numbers-wise. Who else had a Kidz Bop Kids song? I don't feel like I deserve anything. I pray it happens. I feel like this is how we get the nomination. If I don't get nominated, I guess it gives me a reason to go harder. But I think we'll get nominated.

AP: You faced some criticism about your not-being-a-hip-hop-artist claim. How would you classify yourself?

Richman: I'm a singer. When I say things, I just feel twerking things saying how I feel. I forgot about the way I say things and people taking it a certain way. I saw discussion videos about what I said. I appreciate people who saw that I wasn't coming from a place of malice.

I was coming from a place of "Hey, this is my sound, and I make a lot of types of vibes, and I don't want to be boxed into a certain thing." I definitely have to watch how I say things online. I forgot that I have a platform. People are going to find a reason to throw negativity towards my way. I know there's a lot of negativity online, which is fine. It comes with it.

AP: What was the strategy behind leaving "Million Dollar Baby" and "Devil is a Lie" off your debut album?

Richman: I wanted to take this artistic risk that was going against the industry quota. I'm really proud of this body of work. We made this album before we made those songs.

In my mind, I'm feeling like "I'm going to give you these songs." That's how hard I think this project is. I was trying to stand on business. I'm proud. I don't have any regrets. I know what me and my friends are destined for. When I look back 10 years from now, I really stuck to my guns and put out this beautiful body of art.

AP: Your debut album has received some mixed reviews. How do you feel about the reception so far?

Richman: People who get it, get it. I try not to really read into reviews that much. I saw some reviews from publications that I really used to look up to. Like, "Wow, one day, when I put out my album, they're going to review it." I didn't like the words they were saying about the album. But people are entitled to their own opinions. I can't get too upset. No one is going to be on your same wavelength of thinking.

Initially, I was like "They don't get me." They don't know I was in the basement for four years crafting this sound and working all these people. They just hear this music and judging it. It's nothing personal. People who are being too critical of my sound. I appreciate them for listening and giving thoughts. Back in the day, nobody was listening. I'm glad it's happening now.

AP: How has "Million Dollar Baby" changed your world and others around you?

Richman: My life has changed in so many ways. I've been able to help my friends' lives off this one song. One of my friends just bought a (home) in Silverlake (a neighborhood in Los Angeles). They had no credit score. But they put in the email that they made the "Million Dollar Baby" song. They literally got the house because we made that song. They got a really nice crib. There's a lot of beautiful things.

AP: You went from living in your mom's basement to recently buying her a house. What was her influence on you?

Richman: When I was about to drop out of college, I was very thankful for my mom. She was like "Nah, you can do it. If you're not happy in school singing, just do it. Go do what you want." She's helped me in so many ways. I can never repay her. I just bought her a crib the other day. Even that isn't enough.

AP: Did you think the song would takeoff so quickly?

Richman: I never thought we would have a smash hit right out the gate... The label didn't even know it would be a hit. I remembered sending it to them and asking, "What do you think?"

Their response: "Oh, it was cool." Nobody thought it was a hit until we dropped it on TikTok. That's why the music industry is in an interesting place. Some artists who think they're going to sell, can't, while some can. It's literally the public and TikTok who decides what's a hit.

AP: What's next for you career-wise?

Richman: We're about to tour the album. That's going to be sick. I'm working on another project. I know this is the one that's going to go crazy. On "Coyote," I wanted to show that I'm a real artist. I'm going to give people what they want for this one, so people can turn up. Then I'm going to do another artistic album that people probably won't get. That's what I plan for the year. Do a festival or two, if we're given a chance. I want to grow. Not only a great version for others, but for myself.

Is country music ready for Beyoncé, Shaboozey, Post Malone's Grammy nod?

A new sound in country

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): Country music has become a dominant force, bleeding into pop music's mainstream. And artists who might not have been previously associated with the genre - like Beyoncé and Post Malone - have recently released country albums.

They've been popular, but their prospects at the Grammys remain uncertain.

Beyoncé's landmark "Cowboy Carter" recentered Black performers in this music's history and made her the first Black woman to hit No. 1 on Billboard country albums chart.

Shaboozey's "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" is the biggest song of the year, having spent more weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 than any other - it combines his twang with the familiar sample of J Kwon's 2004 rap hit "Topsy."

This summer, he followed Beyoncé to become only the second Black artist ever to top Billboard's pop and country singles charts at the same time.

And Post Malone made an effortless transition into the world of country, spending time in Nashville, playing at the Grand Ole Opry, and dominating the charts with "I Had Some Help," his collaboration with Morgan Wallen.

For all the success, will these country newcomers be rewarded when the Grammy Award nominations are announced next week? Here's some key things to know.

Categories

There are four main Grammy country music categories: best country album, best country solo performance, best country duo/group performance and best country song. The latter is awarded to the songwriters.

Each category recognizes five nominated works.

Beyoncé, Shaboozey and Post Malone have been submitted in all four of the major country music categories, including country album of the year for "Cowboy Carter," "Where I've Been, Isn't Where I'm Going," and "F-1 Trillion," respectively. They are not guaranteed nominations, though each has submitted in several other categories that honor pop, R&B and Americana and are also vying for best album, record and song of the year recognition.

Beyoncé's "Texas Hold 'Em" has been submitted in the country song category. "16 Carriages" is up for country solo performance and in the country duo/group performance category. "I'll Most Wanted," her duet with Miley Cyrus, has been submitted.

In the case of Shaboozey: "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" is up for the country song and country solo performance categories. "My Fault" with Noah Cyrus is up for country duo/group performance.

And lastly, for Post Malone: "I Had Some Help" with Wallen is up for country song and country duo/group performance. "Yours" is his submission in the



Beyoncé

country solo performance category. They will likely be up against some of the 2024 Country Music Association Awards' best country album nominees, which include Luke Combs' "Fathers & Sons," Cody Johnson's "Leather," Kacey Musgraves' "Deeper Well" and Chris Stapleton's "Higher," as well as the other all-stars who've released albums that are eligible for Grammy nomination, Lainey Wilson's "Whirlwind" among them.

Beyoncé received no nominations for "Cowboy Carter" for the 2024 CMAs, a decision country star Mickey Guyton called dispiriting - and one that might reflect the ways in which the Nashville country music industry operates. Could the same happen at the Grammys?

"A lot of times in country music, if you're releasing a country record, you need to - you don't need to, but it's beneficial to you to - invest in the community and really show yourself in that audience so the community feels an attachment to you," Guyton said. "Nashville is very, very, very - it's a club almost, and it's a community. And people ... feel like they need to know you. And so that was definitely a factor. It still



Post Malone

doesn't make it not disappointing."

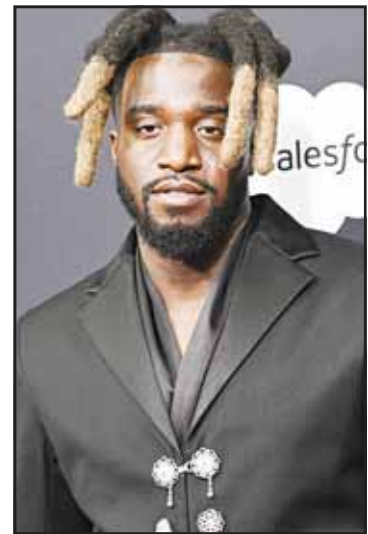
If Beyoncé receives a best country album Grammy nomination, she will become the second Black artist to do so - Guyton was the first, for her 2022

debut, "Remember Her Name."

Country musician BRELAND, who is both a CMA and Grammy voter, points to the differences between both award shows.

"Nashville in general is a community that, when you come to town, you kind of pay your dues. And I feel like that's the way that the system runs. That's how country radio runs," he explained. "You saw Post Malone really ingratiate himself in the in the community here in Nashville, which I think contributed to him getting some of those looks. You know, Shaboozey was nominated (at the CMAs.) but you also saw him playing CMA fest and playing a bunch of these country festivals."

In Beyoncé's case, "Her not being here (in Nashville) probably didn't help her case for getting nominated," he continued. "She's done a really great job in helping to change the narrative in country music, and I would be surprised if she wasn't acknowledged in some respect at the Grammys. ... Grammy voting members are probably going to be a little bit more receptive to that, than people would be on the CMA side."



Shaboozey

Variety

NEW YORK: The New York Philharmonic is firing principal oboist, **Liang Wang** and associate principal trumpet Matthew Muckey after their union decided not to contest the decision, which followed renewed allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of power.

The orchestra said Monday it issued a notice of non-reengagement to the two effective Sept. 21, 2025.

Wang and Muckey were fired in September 2018 following allegations of misconduct dating to 2010. Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians filed a grievance and the two were ordered reinstated in April 2020 by arbitrator Richard I. Bloch.

New York Magazine this past April detailed allegations and the two were placed on paid leave. They then sued the orchestra and the union.

Philharmonic executive adviser Deborah Borda said 11 women made accusations against Wang and three against Muckey during the latest investigation.

"It found that both gentlemen had been involved in sexual abuse and rape as well as abuse of power," Borda said. "This is all new information that came out and

I think the reason is that people were afraid to speak up before and they are not now."

Borda said some of the allegations were made by students.

"Matt Mackey has done nothing wrong," said Steven J. Hyman, a lawyer for Muckey. "The fact that they've attempted to do this is of course violative of his rights. What's appalling is that the union has agreed to it, and the impact of that is that it renders meaningless this most precious right that orchestra members have of tenure, which ensures that you have a career at the philharmonic and can only be terminated for just cause."

Alan S. Lewis, a lawyer for Wang, called the union's decision "shameful."

"Troublingly, the philharmonic has gone down the road of public character assassination instead of due process, throwing a lot of mud against the wall to see what sticks," he wrote in an email to The Associated Press. Lewis described the most serious allegation against Wang involving a person unaffiliated with the orchestra and "with whom, more than a decade ago, Liang had a long-term consensual relationship."

He called the other allegations against Wang false. The philharmonic this spring hired Tracey Levy of Levy Employment Law to investigate and issued a letter of non-reengagement on Oct. 15 following Levy's conclusions that the orchestra said were based on new accusations. Muckey said in his lawsuit the New York Magazine story contained "a reiteration of the same 2010 allegations." (AP)



Singer/songwriter Tommy Richman poses for a portrait, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)

HEALTH

Cancer affects 51 Kuwaitis annually

Experts urge prostate cancer screenings for men over 50

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, emphasized the Ministry's dedication to raising awareness about prostate cancer to safeguard the health of the professional community and promote understanding of the disease, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

His remarks, delivered on his behalf by Dr. Bader Al-Dhafiri, Director of the Technical Affairs Department, were made during the launch of the 'Kuwait Campaign for Prostate Cancer Awareness at Age Fifty', organized by the Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) campaign under the patronage of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, in collaboration with the Kuwait Association of Urology.

Dr. Al-Dhafiri highlighted the Ministry's commitment to fostering partnerships between government agencies and civil society organizations to strengthen community health initiatives.

He noted that the campaign aligns with World Cancer Awareness

Month, aiming to educate the public about prostate cancer, encourage early detection and promote regular screenings through PSA blood tests, all of which are vital to ensuring high recovery rates.

Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of CAN, stated that the campaign reflects CAN's dedication to public health education and seeks to increase prostate cancer awareness by offering public consultations with medical experts in malls, organizing lectures and encouraging tumor marker tests for early detection.

Al-Saleh noted that according to 2020 statistics from the Kuwait Cancer Control Center, prostate cancer affects 51 Kuwaitis annually, making up 8.7 percent of cancer cases among Kuwaiti men. Among non-Kuwaitis, prostate cancer represents 6.6 percent of cases, with 40 new diagnoses each year.

The campaign, which includes various outreach activities targeting men over 50, aims to elevate community awareness and promote proactive health practices for early detection.



A group photo of participants at the psoriasis awareness event.

KU and KMA host awareness event on psoriasis

Under the patronage of Acting Director of Kuwait University Prof. Osama Al-Saeed and in the presence of Vice President for Medical Sciences Prof. Noura Al-Suwaih, the Public Relations and Media Department of Kuwait University, in collaboration with the Kuwait Dermatologists Association affiliated with the Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) held an awareness

event on psoriasis in the hall of the College of Administrative Sciences at the South Campus of Sabah Al-Salem University City.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, Secretary-General of the Kuwait Dermatologists Association, Head of the Dermatology Department at Farwaniya Hospital, and Director of the Kuwait Board

of Dermatology Program Dr. Abeer Al-Badali attended the event, which was aimed at enhancing public understanding of skin health.

The event featured an educational exhibition with booths for general and skin examinations conducted by participating doctors from the Ministry of Health and the Kuwait Board of Dermatology.

Navigating the fitness maze

Tips to choose the best personal trainer

NEW YORK, Nov 5, (AP): Irv Rubenstein holds a doctorate in exercise science and has run a personal fitness training studio for 35 years in Nashville, Tennessee. Obviously, he speaks positively about the benefits of using a personal trainer, and this goes for grizzled-gym goers as well as beginners.

"Most anybody can teach you how to do a bicep curl," Rubenstein said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But only a few people can tell you how to do it if your shoulder's hurting."

It can be a maze finding the trainer who is best for you, Rubenstein acknowledged.

How much should credentials and education matter, or are personality and motivational skills more important? What about the cost? And how frequently should you use a personal trainer? These are just a few of the questions anyone who is searching for a trainer should ask.

"How do you discern who is best?" Rubenstein asked. "That which works best for you is the best. But finding that is the challenge."

In the United States - and in many other countries - there is no national or local government body that licenses trainers. Certification is typically issued by private entities, some more respected than others and many are in the business of generating income more than credibility.

The American College of Sports Medicine is the best known in the United States. In Canada, it's the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine.

"You probably should ask if the person is certified," said Rubenstein, who runs STEPS Fitness. "I think that's valuable, but I don't think it's essential. And you should ask about academic training."

He also issued a caveat. "If a person is getting all their information off the internet - to the extent you can discern that - I would avoid that person," he said of a potential trainer.

Guy Andrews runs Exercise ETC. out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Like Rubenstein, he says trainers and clients have to jibe. Credentials are important, but a personality match is



Personal fitness trainer Richard Lamb, leads a group in an outdoor gym class in London, Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024. (AP)

essential.

"Primarily, it's a service relationship," Andrews said. "So, first you have to bond with the trainer. You've got to like them. The personality of me is paramount. I don't care how well qualified someone is, how well educated they are. If you cannot enjoy working with them, the relationship is doomed to fail."

Asking friends or gym operators for referrals could be helpful in your search. A good benchmark for a successful relationship is how many years has the referrer spent with their trainer?

Clients

"If clients have been with a trainer for eight or 10 years, that's a good sign," Andrews said. "Looking good in a tank top is not enough."

Rubenstein injected another truth and laughed: "Most people who are working with a trainer for any length of time will tell you they are the best."

Another good sign when rating trainers is whether they offer a "non-contractual relationship." Meaning, you would not lose money if you discontinue the service.

"Then you have a trainer with integrity and confidence and probably the skills to help you," Rubenstein said.

There is also a trainer's style of motivation to consider. Rubenstein repeatedly said the quality of "compassion

was key in choosing the right person. But some may want a basic training drill sergeant to push them.

"The rah-rah military attitude might work for the young, the very fit," he said. "But for the average person that type of behavior might not be motivating or stimulating."

Price is difficult to pin down. Costs vary by country and within countries by geographic region. In the United States you might pay \$100-150 per hour in larger cities, maybe \$50-75 in other areas. Rubenstein also said the cost compared favorably with manicures and similar personal-care services.

The cost can be prohibitive for some, Rubenstein said. It often eliminates the young and might favor older clients who have more spending power and need the service more.

"It weeds out the people who would like a trainer from those who need one," he said.

Andrews and Rubenstein said that beginners should meet with a trainer two or three times per week for the first six weeks. After that, once a week might be enough, or even once or twice a month for maintenance and evaluation.

"In terms of motivation, for the average person I don't believe once a week is enough at the start," Andrews said.

Measles cases spike in Afghanistan

94,000 children vaccinated in polio campaign in north Gaza: UN report

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 5. (Xinhua): The UN-supported third phase of the polio vaccine campaign concluded in the besieged northern Gaza Strip on Monday, with 94,000 children vaccinated, but thousands still remain out of reach, according to UN agencies.

Nearly 79 percent of children in northern Gaza have been vaccinated against polio, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on social media early Monday.

The third phase of vaccine campaign, which had been postponed since Oct. 23 due to the escalating conflict, resumed from Saturday to Monday during agreed-upon humanitarian pauses.

Early Saturday morning, 216 medical teams, supported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNRWA, and partners, deployed across 106 fixed sites in the north.

In addition, more than 200 social mobilisers engaged communities and raised awareness around vaccination efforts, according to UN agencies.

Richard Peeperkorn, a WHO official, said the target was to reach all children in the north with the second and final dose.

"We covered many more children than we expected, but we missed some," he said at a briefing via video for reporters at UN headquarters on Monday, adding that constant evacuation orders from Israel had recently displaced thousands of people.

The third phase of campaign in northern Gaza followed the implementation of the first two phases of the second round in central and southern Gaza, which reached nearly 451,200 children, or 96 percent of the target in these areas, according to the United Nations.

Measles: Measles cases are surging in Afghanistan, with nearly 6,000 positive cases in 2024, according to the latest data from the country's Ministry of Public Health.

"Out of 10,000 suspected measles

cases in 2024, nearly 6,000 cases have tested positive, showing an increase compared to 2023," local media outlet TOLONews quoted the ministry's spokesperson, Sharafat Zaman Amarkhil, as saying on Monday.

The ministry planned to launch a measles vaccination campaign across the country to prevent disease outbreaks, said Amarkhil.

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent measles.

Measles is an extremely infectious disease caused by a virus. It spreads easily when infected people breathe, cough or sneeze. An individual infected with measles can infect nine out of 10 unvaccinated individuals with whom they come in close contact.

Whooping cough: Twelve people have died from whooping cough, or pertussis, in the Czech Republic so far this year, according to the State Health Institute (SZU).

Most of the deaths have been among seniors, though they also include two children under the age of one year, the SZU epidemiological situation report published on Monday showed.

In the report, the SZU said the number of reported cases has significantly decreased in recent weeks. In the last four weeks, an average of 448 new cases were registered per week, down from a four-week average of 673 new cases reported in the previous report at the end of September.

Since the beginning of the year, the country has recorded a total of 34,423 cases. By comparison, there were 494 cases in the Czech Republic last year, and only 96 in 2022.

Of this year's total, the most cases and the highest morbidity have been in the age group of 15-19 years, according to the report. The overall hospitalization rate is low (2.4 percent), but it is particularly high for children under the age of one year (over 40 percent) and seniors over 75 (10 percent).

Mycoplasma pneumonia: Cases of mycoplasma pneumonia, a respiratory disease caused by bacteria, have been

surging in Japan, hitting a record high for four consecutive weeks as of Oct. 20, local media reported Tuesday.

The average number of cases reported by about 500 medical institutions nationwide was 2.01 per institution in the week ended on Oct. 20, with the figure surpassing two for the first time, Jiji Press said, citing data from the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Patient numbers have been at the highest-ever weekly total since the current reporting method was introduced in 1999.

Before the recent surge in mycoplasma pneumonia cases, the record weekly average number of patients was 1.64 logged in October 2016.

The respiratory infection, caused by the bacterium mycoplasma pneumonia, spreads through droplets released into the air by sneezing and coughing and leads to symptoms such as fever, cough, fatigue and headache, while children are more likely to become infected.

Cholera: At least five people were killed by cholera, and 500 others contracted the disease in the Ikungi district of the Singida region, central Tanzania, between July and October, an official said Monday.

Emmanuel Kikoti, the acting medical officer of the Ikungi district, mentioned the most impacted villages, including Kaugeri, Mduguyu, and Ufana.

Kikoti said some of the 500 people who contracted the disease were admitted to isolated health centers and discharged, with a few others still being treated. He said the Ikungi district authorities suspended fisheries activities in Mngungira dam after it was established that most of the victims contracted the disease while fishing.

Ally Juma Mwangi, chairperson of the Ikungi district council, said the main cause of the outbreak of cholera was the lack of toilets in the area's communities.

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Turkish league 'smells bad'

Mourinho blasts VAR decisions in Fenerbahce win

ISTANBUL, Nov 5, (AP): Fenerbahce coach Jose Mourinho angrily ripped into both the VAR official and Turkish soccer in general after his team's win on Sunday, saying he was fighting against "the system" and that he wouldn't have taken the job if club officials had told him "the whole truth" about how the league works.

Mourinho, who is in his first season at Fenerbahce, said the Turkish league "smells bad" and questioned why any international fans would watch it in a diatribe that suggested officials are biased against his team.

The rant came even though his team beat Trabzonspor 3-2 after scoring a winner in the 12th minute of injury time, leading to wild celebrations where the Portuguese coach ran onto the field and tried a knee slide that led to him tumbling face forward onto the grass.

But it was the decisions of the VAR official, Atilla Karaoglan, that infuriated Mourinho, after Trabzonspor was awarded two penalties while his team's claim for a spot kick were waved away.

Mourinho also claimed a Trabzonspor player should have been sent off for a red-card offense in the first half.

"(The VAR) was what, drinking coffee at that time?" Mourinho said. "Was drinking coffee, didn't see the red card for their player. He was alert to give the two penalty decisions when the referee didn't give (them), and then he was having Turkish tea when it was a clear penalty for us and he didn't give it."

Mourinho went on to suggest he had been warned about the referees in the Turkish league before he took the job, but added: "I didn't believe. It's even worse than I was told."

"It's more difficult because we play against our opponents ... but we play against the system," Mourinho said. "And to play against the system is the most difficult thing. Tonight we play against a good team, against a strong atmosphere, against the VAR and against the system. So very hard. That's why we celebrated so much this victory, because it's unbelievable to win this

match against so many powerful people."

The 61-year-old Mourinho took the job after being sacked by Italian club Roma last season. It's his first coaching job outside Europe's top leagues and comes after a glittering career that includes two Champions League trophies and league titles in Portugal, England, Italy and Spain.

But he hinted that he's regretting the decision to come to Turkey. "I blame the Fenerbahce people that brought me here. They told me only half of the truth," Mourinho said. "They didn't tell me the whole truth. Because if they tell me the whole truth I wouldn't come."

In his press conference moments later, Mourinho continued the attack on Turkish soccer.

"Nobody abroad wants to watch the Turkish league. Who wants to watch this Turkish league abroad?" he said. "Why should they see this? It's too grey, it's too dark, smells bad."

Genoa pips Parma 1-0 as Empoli earns 1st home win



Empoli's Ola Solbakken, left, kicks the ball past Inter Stefan De Vrij during the Serie A soccer match between Empoli and Inter Milan at the Carlo Castellani Stadium in Empoli, Italy. (AP)

Balotelli makes first Serie A appearance in 4 years

MILAN, Nov 5, (AP): Mario Balotelli made his first Serie A appearance in four years when he came on as a late substitute in Genoa's 1-0 win over Parma and earned a yellow card within five minutes.

Balotelli came on in the 86th minute and was booked in injury time for a foul.

The former Italy international signed with relegation-threatened Genoa last week, having last played in Italy's top division with hometown club Brescia in 2019-20.

Parma's winless streak reached nine games with the loss, even though the host had the best of the first half with Valentin Mihaila and Anas Haj Mohamed coming close to opening the scoring.

But Genoa took control after the break as Morten Thorsby had a goal disallowed after 49

minutes and Andrea Pinamonti hit the post shortly after. Pinamonti scored the winner with 11 minutes remaining when he slotted home the rebound from Jeff Ekhator's low shot.

It was Genoa's first win since beating Monza on Aug. 24 and moves it off the bottom of the standings and into 17th place. Parma is 15th.

Also, Empoli earned its first home win of the Italian league season after a goal two minutes into the second half from Pietro Pellegri was enough to beat Como 1-0.

The on-loan Torino striker took advantage of poor defending before driving into the penalty box and scoring from an angle.

It was Empoli's first goal at home this season. The club has scored only eight times in 11 matches but is still in 11th place in Serie A thanks to a strong defense that has conceded just nine times.

Como stayed in 16th. Lazio beat Cagliari 2-1 thanks to a late penalty

from Mattia Zaccagni.

The home side was gifted the lead after just two minutes when Simone Scuffet spilled Luca Pellegrini's free kick right at the feet of Boulaye Dia, giving him easiest of finishes to notch his eighth goal of the season.

Zito Luvumbo equalized for Cagliari four minutes before halftime when the Angolan striker spun and his shot took a deflection that wrongfooted the Lazio keeper and rolled into the net.

Zaccagni then made no mistake from the spot with 14 minutes remaining after Pellegrini was felled by Nadir Zortea.

Two Cagliari players were sent off shortly afterward as Yerry Mina was first shown a second booking for a foul and Ndary Adopo also earned a second yellow for complaining about the decision.

The win lifts Lazio into fifth place, a point above Juventus and level with Fiorentina and Atalanta. Cagliari remains in 16th.

Al-Hilal blanks Esteghlal of Iran 3-0

Neymar picks up another injury in second game

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 5, (AP): Neymar picked up another injury on Monday in just his second game since returning from a 12-month absence as Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal defeated Esteghlal of Iran 3-0 in the AFC Champions League Elite.

The Brazilian has only recently recovered from a torn ACL and came off the bench in Riyadh after 58 minutes. However, the 32-year-old forward had to come off with three minutes remaining, having seemed to pull up after stretching his leg out for the ball in the penalty area.

Neymar has time to recover before his next game, however, as he is not registered for the team's matches in the Saudi Pro League

and the next fixture in the AFC competition is on Nov. 25.

Aleksandar Mitrovic scored a



Neymar grimaces after suffering an injury.

hat trick for Al-Hilal, the four-time Asian champion which has now won all four games in the group stage.

All three goals from the Serbian came from close range. He opened the scoring after 15 minutes, added a second just after the half-hour mark and then completed his hat trick with 16 minutes remaining.

Al-Hilal remains top of the 12-team group, where the top eight will advance to the Round of 16. It is above Saudi Arabian rival Al-Ahli on goal difference after the team from Jeddah thrashed Al-Shorta of Iraq 5-1 with former Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino scoring twice in the first half.

Earlier, Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates drew 1-1 with Qatar's Al-Sadd and the game between Persepolis of Iran and Al-Gharafa of Qatar ended in the same scoreline.

with 15 million dollars. But he has struggled to make a consistent impact for a Flamengo side that is currently fourth in the 20-team Brazilian Serie A standings, nine points behind leader Botafogo.

According to Globoesporte, Flamengo has set an 18 million U.S.-dollar price tag for De la Cruz's signature. De la Cruz made 214 appearances for River during his first spell at the Argentine club from 2017 to 2023.



Barcelona's Raphinha, left, challenges for the ball with Espanyol's Omar El Hilali during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Espanyol at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Barca is in excellent form

Must-win games on road for Barcelona and Madrid

MADRID, Nov 5, (Xinhua): FC Barcelona return to Champions League action on Wednesday night when it goes to Serbia to play Red Star Belgrade (Crvena Zvezda).

Hansi Flick's side traveled after another convincing win at home to Espanyol on Sunday in another game in which its rival was unable to deal with its high press and in which its offense trawled to annul two Espanyol "goals" for offside.

Barca is in excellent form, with 12 goals in its last three games, including five at home to Bayern Munich and four away to Real Madrid, while fit-again Dani Olmo showing he further adds to their attacking options with two goals on Sunday.

Flick will bring Jules Kounde back into his side at right back after resting the French defender on Sunday, while Frenkie de Jong or Ferran Lopez also have options of starting in Belgrade.

Barca's defeat to Monaco in its opening group game means it has six points from a possible nine in the Champions League and that means it needs a win to move into

the top-eight of the 32-team group.

Barca is currently 10th in the group and that would put it in a play-off ahead of the round of 16, and also mean it will have more games in an already packed fixture list.

Atletico Madrid travels to face Paris Saint-Germain under even more pressure, with Diego Simeone's side currently 27th in the standings and even outside of the play-off places.

A 3-1 home defeat to Lille and a 4-0 thrashing against Benfica have piled the pressure on Atletico after an indifferent start to the season and although their last four group games look slightly easier, another defeat would surely end their hopes of going directly into the last-16.

Atletico returned to winning ways with a 2-0 win at home to Las Palmas on Sunday, but PSG will give a better indication of Atletico's current form.

Someone isn't helped by injuries to defenders Robin Le Normand and Cesar Azpilicueta, with Le Normand vital in giving Atletico stability and helping to play the ball out from defense.

Corruption suspected

Investigators search offices of French soccer league and CVC

PARIS, Nov 5, (AP): French investigators raided offices of the French soccer league and private equity firm CVC Capital Partners on Tuesday as part of an investigation into possible corruption and embezzlement related to an investment deal, a judicial official said.

The searches took place amid an investigation that opened in July into charges of misappropriation of public funds, active and passive corruption of a public official and illegal taking of interest, the judicial official told The Associated Press.

The person with direct knowledge of the matter spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing case publicly.

Under its current president Vincent Labrune, the French soccer league approved in 2022 an investment deal with CVC as part of a new commercial subsidiary in charge of marketing media rights. CVC invested 1.5 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) in return for a 13% stake in the new commercial subsidiary managing TV rights, valuing the entire capital of the commercial subsidiary at 11.5 billion euros.

The CVC deal was sealed after French soccer came close to bankruptcy following the collapse of a major broadcast rights deal with Mediapro.

The investigation was launched after the French National Financial Prosecutor's Office received in November 2023 a complaint from a group called AC! Anticorruption. Their lawsuit focused on a possible misappropriation of public funds when the French league's subsidiary company was created following the partial transfer of capital to CVC.

CVC declined to comment on the case and the French league did not immediately respond to The AP.

The deal with Mediapro should have been worth more than 4 billion euros (\$4.8 billion) over four years for the top two tiers but collapsed after only four months. After its collapse, the league was forced to ask the government to set up a financial rescue plan amid huge revenue losses exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Looking for a cash injection to help clubs, French league president Vincent Labrune found an agreement with CVC Capital Partners.

The deal was supported by a large majority of clubs but has been challenged by Le Havre, which launched a lawsuit against the French league because it was unhappy with the distribution of the money.

Twenty clubs were playing in the elite back then - compared to 18 now - with more than 1.1 billion euros to be shared between professional clubs in the top two divisions. Of this sum, Paris Saint-Germain was granted the largest share, 200 million euros to be disbursed in three installments. Marseille and Lyon were entitled to 90 million euros each, and 80 million euros going to Lille, Monaco, Nice and Rennes.

The remaining 13 Ligue 1 clubs were given 33 million euros each.

Ligue 2 teams were granted 3 million euros each, provided they remained in the second tier of French soccer for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 seasons. This was not the case for Le Havre, which was promoted to the elite at the end of the 2023 season and thus missed out on half of the amount it was entitled to, receiving only 1.5 million euros. And once back in the top flight, the club said it was not entitled to half of the 33 million euros allocation earmarked for so-called small Ligue 1 clubs, as it was not in the elite during the 2021-2022 season.

Corinthians beat Palmeiras to ease relegation fears

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 5, (Xinhua): Rodrigo Garro scored one goal and set up another as relegation-threatened Corinthians eased to a 2-0 home win over Palmeiras in Brazil's Serie A.

Garro put the hosts ahead in the Sao Paulo derby at Corinthians Arena with a long-range shot into the bottom right corner.

Alberto doubled the advantage when he latched onto Garro's pass on the counterattack before slotting a

low finish past goalkeeper Weverton. Corinthians have now won three successive matches and are four points clear of the relegation zone with six games remaining in the season.

Palmeiras remain second, three points behind leaders Botafogo, who have a game in hand.

"It's for your performances in big games like these that you remembered," Garro told reporters. "I'm happy to be making an impact with this club and I thank those

that have supported me." Corinthians will meet Vitoria away in their next match on Saturday, a day after Palmeiras are due to host Gremio.

Uruguay international midfielder Nicolas de la Cruz could leave Flamengo to rejoin former club River Plate, according to media reports in Brazil.

The 27-year-old has made 38 appearances for Flamengo - scoring two goals and providing five assists - since the Brazilian giant signed him

ALSAYER Group promotes sports and well-being in Kuwait through partnership with Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Club & Kuwait Rides



ALSAYER and Kuwait Rides officials pose for a group photo.



ALSAYER Group officials with Kuwaiti athletes.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: In an effort to promote sports and well-being in Kuwait, ALSAYER Group has renewed its sponsorship contract with the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Club for the third consecutive year and entered new sponsorship contract with Kuwait Rides for Cycling at ALSAYER Group headquarters.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Faisal Badr Al-Sayer, Chairman of ALSAYER Group, Mr. Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer – CEO, Mr. Bashar Abdullah, the Acting Director of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, Sheikh Sabah Fahad Al-Naser Al-Sabah, the Secretary General of Equestrian Club, Mr. Naser Al-Waleed, the Chairman of the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Club, and Dr. Mubarak Al-Hajri, the founder of Kuwait Rides for Cycling along with a large number of officials.

Mr. Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer delivered a speech emphasizing ALSAYER Group's commitment to supporting youth to engage in sport and developing their talents to create a generation capable of achieving many accomplishments globally. He highlighted that the partnership with the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Club has achieved its goals over the past two years by winning numerous achievements in external championships held in the Philippines, Egypt and Portugal. ALSAYER latest partnership with Kuwait Rides for Cycling will enhance cycling, sports participation and environmental awareness. He stated: "We are committed to supporting young athletes believing in our community role and creating an environment that motivate youth succeed and excel



The signing ceremony in progress.

locally and internationally."

Mr. Naser Al-Waleed, Chairman of the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Club, presented a visual presentation showcasing the stages of the partnership between the club and ALSAYER Group, and the achievements made over the past two years. Al-Waleed mentioned that many achievements have been accomplished in the recent short period, including attracting over 300 players from various age groups and organizing a modern pentathlon championship under the patronage of the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

Dr. Mubarak Al-Hajri, the founder of Kuwait Rides for Cycling, stated that this agreement aims to promote the culture of cycling to develop sports, provide environmentally friendly transportation, and promote a healthy lifestyle. Our team will ride bicycles every Saturday morning with over 100 cyclists covering a distance of over 120 km. "ALSAYER Car Rental & Leasing Company" will provide two cars to support our community activities and programs for three months. This initiative will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing sports participation, safeguard safety of the participants, and spreading environmental awareness.

This collaborative partnership between ALSAYER Group, the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Club, and Kuwait Rides represents a shared vision to promote a healthier and more active Kuwait in the fields of sports, fitness and sustainability.

Crucial match up

Injury-hit Al-Arabi faces Al-Salmiya

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Al-Arabi faces a challenging away game against Al-Salmiya tonight at 8:30 pm at Thamer Stadium in the final match of the Zain Premier League's ninth round.

Originally set for last Friday, the match was postponed to accommodate Al-Arabi's participation in the Asian Challenge League Championship, where the team secured second place in its group and advanced to the West Asia semifinals. It will take on Oman's Al-Seeb in a two-legged encounter on March 5 and 12.

Al-Arabi currently holds second place in the league standings with 18 points and has one postponed match against Al-Nasr from the eighth round, while Al-Salmiya

stands in fifth place with 14 points.

Riding high on confidence from its recent Asian Challenge League success, Al-Arabi is aiming for another victory to close in on the league leader, Kuwait Club, who leads with a perfect 27 points. Al-Arabi also hopes to continue its dominant record against Al-Salmiya, having won three of their last four encounters in the league last season (1-0, 2-0, and 3-2), with one match ending in a 1-1 draw.

However, Al-Arabi will be missing several key players tonight. Goalkeeper Suleiman Abdul Ghafoor is sidelined with a hamstring tear, expected to keep him out for four to five weeks, and Youssef Majed is also out due to injuries sustained in their Asian Challenge League game against Arkadag from Turkmenistan. The fitness of Ahmed Khalidi and Suleiman Al-Awadhi remains uncertain.

Meanwhile, Al-Salmiya aims to achieve multiple goals with a win tonight. In addition to halting Al-Arabi's recent dominance, it's looking to secure a second consecutive victory following its 2-1 win over Yarmouk in the previous round. A win would also see Al-Salmiya reclaim third place from Al-Qadisiya, who currently has 16 points, and bring it closer to Al-Arabi in the standings.

Despite a recent dip in form, including a narrow 3-4 loss to Kuwait Club and draws with Al-Fahaheel (2-2) and Khaitan (1-1), Al-Salmiya's recent comeback win against Yarmouk has revitalized its campaign.



Al-Arabi looks forward to continuing its victories in the league.

Wilson scores twice in injury time, Fulham edges Brentford



Fulham's Raul Jimenez, top right, heads the ball towards goal under pressure from Brentford's Ethan Pinnock during the English Premier League soccer match between Fulham and Brentford at Craven Cottage stadium in London. (AP)

Arsenal sporting director resigns to pursue a 'different challenge'

LONDON, Nov 5, (AP): Substitute Harry Wilson scored twice in added time as Fulham rallied for a 2-1 home win over Brentford in the Premier League.

Wilson came on in the 82nd minute and equalized in the second minute of injury time by meeting a cross from Adama Traore and, with his back toward the goal, flicking the ball inside the far post. He then netted the winner four minutes later with a stooping header from another cross from Antonee Robinson as Fulham was finally rewarded for its attacking play.

Fulham had only been behind for 113 minutes in the league all season and controlled most of the early action, only for Brentford to take the lead in the 24th against the run of play.

Sloppy play in midfield by Fulham gave the visitors possession and German midfielder Vitaly Janelt let fly with a shot from almost 30 meters out that flew inside Bernd Leno's left-hand post.

Marco Silva's Fulham side pushed forward but never looked like scoring until Wilson's late double.

The win lifts Fulham into ninth place in the league table while Brentford remains in 13th.

"It's emotionally very tough right now," said Brentford coach Thomas Frank. "When you're leading in the 92nd minute, it's tough for us to even have a draw - and then we lose it.



Fulham's Harry Wilson celebrates after scoring his sides second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Fulham and Brentford at Craven Cottage stadium in London. (AP)

"On the day, Fulham were better but we showed a lot of resilience and defending. I thought that could give us the win but then there was an unbelievable touch from Wilson where 99 times out

100 it doesn't go in. Then we could have won, and in the end, we lost it. It was brutal."

Meanwhile, Arsenal sporting director Edu Gaspar has resigned, the Premier League club said.

The former midfielder returned to the club as technical director in 2019 before being promoted to sporting director in 2022, and has been seen as a key figure in Arsenal's emergence as a Premier League challenger under manager Mikel Arteta in recent seasons.

Edu said he was leaving to pursue "a different challenge" but did not specify what that would entail.

"This was an incredibly hard decision to make," Edu said in a club statement. "Arsenal has given me the opportunity to work with so many amazing people and the chance to be a part of something so special in the club's history. ... Now it is time to pursue a different challenge. Arsenal will always remain in my heart. I wish the club and its supporters only good things and all the very best."

Arsenal co-chair Josh Kroenke said the club respected Edu's decision and noted his "immense contribution and dedication to drive the club forward."

Kroenke added: "Change and evolution is a part of our club. We remain focused on our strategy and winning major trophies. Our succession plan will reflect this continued ambition."

Edu played 127 times for the Gunners and featured in Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles," who went the entire 2003-04 season unbeaten.

Djokovic withdraws from ATP Finals

BELGRADE, Serbia, Nov 5, (AP): Novak Djokovic won't defend his ATP Finals title after ruling himself out on Tuesday due to an unspecified injury.

Djokovic wrote in an Instagram story, "I was really looking forward to being there, but due to ongoing injury I won't be playing next week. Apologies to those who were planning to see me."

The year-end, eight-man ATP Finals open in Turin, Italy, on Sunday.

He's won it a record seven times. Last year he beat current No. 1 Jake Sinner in the final.

"Wishing all the players a great tournament" Djokovic added: "See you soon!"

Djokovic finishes the year with a 37-9 win-loss record highlighted by winning his first Olympic gold medal in Paris. That was his 99th tour-level title.

He didn't add to his men's record 24 Grand Slam titles this year, and after bowing out of the U.S. Open third round, he played only one Davis Cup match and reached the final of the Shanghai Masters last month, losing to Sinner. He then withdrew injured from the Paris Masters.



Kuwait Club player dribbles past two defenders.

Sports

Qatari shooting delegation arrives

Kuwait completes final preparations for Crown Prince Shooting Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The Supreme Organizing Committee for the His Highness the Crown Prince Shooting Championship has finalized its preparations for the upcoming competitions, set to commence next Saturday. The event will feature participation from numerous Gulf and Arab teams, alongside the Kuwaiti team.

The Kuwait Shooting Federation, led by Engineer Duaij Al-Otaibi, is set to kick off the new season of the His Highness the Crown Prince Shooting Championship. This year's competition promises to showcase intense rivalries among both male and female shooters.

Obaid Al-Osaimi, Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti and Arab Federations and Director of the Championship, has circulated the latest instructions to the working committees under the Supreme Organizing Committee, emphasizing the need to ensure smooth organization and address any potential challenges faced by the participating teams.

Ahmed Al-Kuwari, head of the Qatari delegation, confirmed that the team arrived in Kuwait two days ago in anticipation of the championship, which unites brothers from all Arab nations.

He stated, "We prioritized our early arrival in Kuwait to adequately prepare for the championship, where the Qatari team aims to achieve significant successes across all events."

Al-Kuwari noted that the Qatari delegation comprises 31 shooters and administrators, with five players participating in each event, including "trap," "skeet,"

and mixed competitions. Among the notable shooters are Qatari champion Nasser bin Saleh Al-Attiyah, Rashid Al-Hajri, Mohammed Al-Kuwari, Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, and Rashid Al-Athba. He highlighted that the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad International Shooting Complex is a premier sports venue that all Gulf and Arab nations take pride in, inspiring shooters to consistently

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Ahmed Al-Kuwari, Head of the Qatari Delegation.

Cavaliers equal best start in franchise history

Clippers overcome 26-point deficit for 1st victory at Intuit Dome

CLEVELAND, Nov 5, (AP): The win total is growing quickly, and so is the Cavaliers' confidence.

At 8-0 so far, they're the only unbeaten team left in the Eastern Conference and at this point they might as well win them all.

"That's the plan," center Jarrett Allen said with a wide smile.

The Cavs kept their unblemished record intact on Monday night with a 116-114 win over the Milwaukee Bucks, who pushed Cleveland to the absolute limit despite playing without injured two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Darius Garland scored 39 points to pace the Cavs, outdueling Bucks star Damian Lillard in the final minutes as the point guards put on a dazzling display of shot-making to the delight of another rocking crowd inside Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

"It was amazing," said Garland, who made 7 of 11 3-pointers, including a go-ahead one with 45 seconds left that put the Cavs up 113-111. "I grew up watching Dame. It was super cool playing some 1-on-1 basketball."

It's been team ball that has gotten Cleveland off to its pristine start.

Clippers 113, Spurs 104

In Inglewood, the Los Angeles Clippers have a history of making things hard on themselves.

So why should trying to win for the first time at their new home be any different?

It took five attempts, but the Clippers finally broke through at Intuit Dome, overcoming a 26-point deficit in a 113-104 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

"That's the Clippers way. We can't do it the easy way, we always have to fight back and be dramatic but a win is a win," said center Ivica Zubac, who had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Owner Steve Ballmer joked around with the players before the game that he thought his new \$2 billion building was cursed and that he might have to tear it down and start over. While that did help lighten the mood, the Clippers knew that the pressure was building to break through.

Thunder 102, Magic 86

In Oklahoma City, Jalen Williams scored 23 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 21 points and nine assists and the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards, left, goes up for a shot as Dallas Mavericks forward Najj Marshall defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)

Orlando Magic to remain the only unbeaten team in the Western Conference.

Chet Holmgren added 14 points, nine rebounds and two blocks for the Thunder. Oklahoma City has won all seven of its games by at least 12 points.

Suns 118, 76ers 116

In Phoenix, Kevin Durant broke a tie on a driving layup with 24 seconds left and the Phoenix Suns beat Philadelphia, spoiling Paul George's 76ers debut.

After missing the first five games of the season because of a bone bruise in his left knee, George had 15 points, five rebounds and four assists in 32 minutes. He

was 4 of 14 from the field and missed a shot that would have tied it in the final seconds.

Durant scored 35 points to lead Phoenix to its fifth straight victory. Bradley Beal had 17 points, Jusuf Nurkic had 15 points and 15 rebounds.

Pistons 115, Lakers 103

In Detroit, Cade Cunningham had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his third career triple-double and the Detroit Pistons beat the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jaden Ivey matched a season high with 26 points. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 19 points, Tobias Harris had 15 points and Jalen Duren had 11 points and 14 rebounds.

Anthony Davis scored 37 points for Los Angeles, and LeBron James had 20 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds. Davis appeared to hurt his left ankle late in the fourth quarter, but stayed in the game.

Pacers 134, Mavericks 127

In Dallas, Myles Turner had season highs with 30 points and 11 rebounds while going over 8,000 career points, Tyrese Haliburton had a season-best 25 points and 12 assists and the Indiana Pacers beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Dallas cut a 10-point deficit to five with 1:47 left before Haliburton hit a pull-up 17-footer with 50 seconds left. Pascal Siakam added 23 points for Indiana.

Trail Blazers 118, Pelicans 100

In New Orleans, Anfernee Simons scored 24 points, Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 13 rebounds and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the injury-depleted New Orleans Pelicans.

Toumani Camara and Jerami Grant each scored 16 points for the Trail Blazers, who trailed for most of the first three quarters. Portland surged ahead in the fourth, when Dalano Banton entered the game and scored 20 points in a single period.

Jazz 135, Bulls 126

In Chicago, Keyonte George had 33 points and nine assists, John Collins added 28 points and 13 rebounds and the Utah Jazz won for the first time this season, beating the Chicago Bulls.

The injury-depleted Jazz (1-6) entered as the NBA's worst team offensively, averaging 99.8 points on 39.1 percent shooting. Against Chicago, the Jazz shot 53.9% from the floor and were 45.7% from 3-point range at 16 of 35.

Eddie Temple wins Sheikh Nasser Fahad Cup



Sheikh Dhari Al-Fahad receives Sheikh Nasser Fahad Cup.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: "Eddie Temple" from Al-Adhab Stable, trained by Khaled Fahd Al-Adhab and ridden by jockey Luciano, claimed victory in the late Sheikh Nasser Fahad Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Cup. The race took place in the fifth round of the Opening Cup competitions at the Hunting and Equestrian Club, covering a distance of 1400 meters

with a winning time of 1:36.33.

The cup was presented to the stable's representatives by Sheikh Dhari Al-Fahad, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hunting and Equestrian Club, along with Sheikh Sabah Fahd Sabah Al-Nasser, Secretary General and Chairman of the Supreme Authority for Horse Racing.

In the earlier rounds, "Mahasin," owned by Dasman Stable, secured first place in the first round for locally produced horses over a distance of 1200 meters. "Al-Masmak" triumphed in the second round, "Al-Asok" took the third round, and "Hessian" emerged victorious in the fourth round.

Whites play Shabab Al-Ahli

Kuwait Club aims to revive Champs League 2 campaign

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Kuwait Club is set to host Shabab Al-Ahli from the UAE at 7:00 pm at Kuwait Club Stadium in Kaifan for the fourth round of Group 4 in the AFC Champions League 2. Meanwhile, Nasaf Qarshi from Uzbekistan will face Al-Hussein Irbid from Jordan at Tashkent's Central Stadium at 5:00 pm in another Group 4 match.

Shabab Al-Ahli currently leads the group standings with 6 points, tied on

points but ahead on goal difference from Al-Hussein Irbid, while Nasaf holds third place with 4 points, and Kuwait Club sits in fourth with just one point.

Kuwait Club is focused solely on winning to keep its hopes alive for one of the two qualifying spots. Any other result could effectively end its chances of advancing. Despite an impressive run in the Zain Premier League, where the club leads with a perfect record of 9 victories, Kuwait Club has struggled in the AFC Champions League. The team drew 0-0 with Nasaf in the open-

ing round, lost 1-2 to Al-Hussein Irbid, and endured a 1-4 defeat to Shabab Al-Ahli in Dubai.

Kuwait Club's Montenegrin coach, Nebojsa Jovovic, knows that today's match is a pivotal moment in the team's championship journey. The team needs a win to stay in contention, which will require capitalizing on any mistakes from the opposition while leveraging home advantage and fan support.

Kuwait Club has a roster capable of sparking a comeback in the group, including Fahad Hamoud, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Ali Hussein, Mashari Ghan-

nam, Mohammed Daham, Yousef Nasser, Sami Al-Sanea, Reda Hani, and Amr Abdel Fattah. International talents like Morocco's Yahya Jabran and Ayman Abu Al-Fath, Tunisia's Yassin Al-Khenisi, Bahrain's Mohammed Marhoon, and Congo's Arsene "Malik" Zola add depth to the lineup.

Shabab Al-Ahli, co-leader of the UAE League with Sharjah at 18 points (with a postponed match in hand), enters today's game aiming for another win to solidify its top position in the group and boost its qualification prospects.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: Fahad Al-Kahilan, Secretary of the Transitional Committee for Al-Jahra Club, which was established by the General Assembly on October 12, has confirmed that the committee will determine the date for the club's elections during its upcoming meeting. This decision aligns with the General Assembly's mandate to call for new elections.

Al-Kahilan stated that the Transitional Committee is currently awaiting approval from the Olympic Committee to officially circulate its members' names to the federations and begin its duties.

He emphasized that the Transitional Committee was formed in accordance with Article 45 of the club's bylaws, which permits General Assembly members to step in when the club lacks a managing board. This situation has persisted since the alleged endorsement

on February 13, as the club has not had a functioning board since that date. Evidence of this includes the previous board's inability to register players, pay coaches and employees, or renew residency permits, prompting the Public Authority for Sports to form a financial committee to handle salary payments for club staff and players.

Al-Kahilan expressed his surprise at the delay in receiving a circular from the Olympic Committee that would allow the committee to reach out to the federations and commence its management of the club's affairs. He reiterated the integrity of all legal procedures undertaken by the electoral committee, from calling the extraordinary General Assembly meeting to the Assembly's decision to establish a Transitional Committee, all of which have been transparently communicated to various media outlets.

Al-Jahra Club elections date will be set in next meeting: Al-Kahilan



Kuwait Football Association logo.

Board elections today

New leadership for KFA on the horizon

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 5: The supplementary elections for the Football Association's Board of Directors will take place tonight at 7:00 pm in the meeting hall of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. An extraordinary general assembly will be held to elect a new Board of Directors, which will serve until May 2026.

Abdullah Al-Shaheen, the former Chairman, resigned on July 15, followed by a collective resignation from the remaining board members on September 14. This decision came after events during Kuwait's match against Iraq at Jaber Stadium on September 10, as part of the Group Two qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

This evening, club representatives will select the seven new board members to lead the association. The leadership formation has taken shape, with Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef from Salmiya expected to secure the chairman position, while Osama Hussein from Al-Arabi and Mubarak Abdulaziz from Kuwait Club will likely take the two vice-presidential roles. Hanan Al-Hardan will assume the mandatory women's seat. Six candidates are contending for the final three board positions: Ayman Al-Hussaini (Kazma), Dr. Ahmed Ajab (Al-Sahel), Fahd Al-Hamlan (Al-Fahaheel), Thamer Anad (Al-Sulaibikhat), Salem Saadoun (Al-Tadamon), and Majed Awad (Al-Shabab).