



# May Allah honor Sheikh Mohamed

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

IT would be impossible to discuss the United Arab Emirates without mentioning the profound accomplishments of the President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, who seeks to improve the nation.

Sheikh Mohamed tirelessly travels throughout his country to ensure everything is functioning well and that officials are working with integrity. Rather than remaining in high offices or tall towers, Sheikh Mohamed prioritizes direct social interaction with his people, engaging with them on a personal level to understand their concerns and needs, both big and small. His leadership has brought to life many of the dreams and aspirations of the UAE's citizens, and his greatest joy is seeing the happiness and success of his people.

For this reason, we must tell him: "May Allah honor you, dear just ruler."

Sheikh Mohamed, during my frequent visits to your assembly, I had witnessed the way people are drawn to you, eager to connect and speak with you. There is an undeniable sense of warmth and connection in your presence. Your smile reflects not only a deep humility and reverence for the Creator, but also a clear vision of hope for the future of the youth of your nation, something that all Gulf residents are proud of.

Sheikh Mohamed, I can still vividly remember a young girl, probably no more

than seven or eight years old at the time, who was participating in a celebration. She tried to get your attention in an attempt to greet you, but when you did not notice her, she lowered her hand. Those who witnessed the moment were deeply moved. The next day while watching the video of the celebration, you saw what had happened to the little girl and the evident embarrassment she felt in front of everyone.

I recall the tears that fell from your eyes as you watched, and as I had hoped, you quickly mobilized the full support of the UAE's security apparatus to track down her address. You went personally to her home to offer comfort and console her.

How overjoyed she was, and how touched were her family and all the people of the UAE to see their leader set aside his busy schedule to personally reach out to a young girl.

It is your concern for your nation's children - the younger generation before the elderly - that truly stands out. It is the humanity and ethical leadership you embody that makes you such a remarkable ruler. May Allah bless you.

Sheikh Mohamed, may Allah reward you once again for you are a compassionate ruler, deeply attuned to the needs of your people, and a source of immense pride for your country.

Sheikh Mohamed, I also recall your extraordinary support for the ambitious young Emirati woman who had opened a car repair shop. When photos of her reached Your



Highness, you did not hesitate to request her phone number, and personally call her to offer encouragement. Her tears flowed as she received the support of a leader who genuinely cares about empowering the daughters of the Emirates in all fields.

As I later learned, Your Highness visited her workshop with no fanfare and no entourage, and just with simplicity and humility, as you always do.

After that incident, how many Emirati girls have had their spirits lifted, their goals clarified, and have courageously and resolutely entered the workforce? How many workshops are now run by these inspiring Emirati women (May Allah elevate their status)?

Sheikh Mohamed, welcome to Kuwait, the country of our Amir His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, who is tirelessly working to usher in a new era defined by

ambition and determination, in order to restore Kuwait's pioneering spirit.

Sheikh Mohamed, I will not hide from you the fact that when I saw what happened to that young girl on that day and how you consoled her, I was deeply moved. As I watched that moment, my eyes filled with tears, and Allah knows the sincerity of those emotions.

Sheikh Mohamed, may your glory and the glory of the UAE last. May Allah have mercy on your father, who may have passed, but left behind a legacy of goodness, and with you, Your Highness, being one of its fruitful branches.

Email: [ahmed@aljarallah.com](mailto:ahmed@aljarallah.com)

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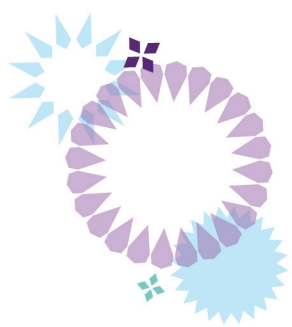
[ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Kuwait

Kuwait extends its heartfelt greetings to His Highness

**Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

President of the United Arab Emirates





## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:45 Asr ..... 14:35  
 Sunrise .. 06:07 Maghrib .. 16:57  
 Zohr ..... 11:32 Isha ..... 18:16

# Local

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Rather hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

**By Night:** Mild to rather cold with light to moderate northwest-

## Weather

erly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.	30	16
<b>Station</b>	<b>Max Exp</b>	<b>Min Rec</b>
Kuwait City	30	19
Kuwait Airport	30	20
Abdaly	30	16
Bubyan	27	19
Jahra	31	18
Failaka Island	27	21
Salmiyah	27	21
Ahmadi	28	18
Jal Aliyah	29	16
Nuwaisib	31	19

## KUWAITI-EMIRATI BONDS STRONG, ROOTED IN RESPECT

### Kuwait hosts UAE President

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA):** The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and his accompanying delegation will arrive in Kuwait, Sunday on a state visit.

During the visit, UAE president will hold official talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UAE Jamal Al-Ghunaim touted the upcoming visit by the President of the Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to the State of Kuwait, which would bolster the strong ties.

Speaking to KUNA, the Ambassador affirmed that the visit would further explore venues for cooperation and strengthen relations between the two GCC countries.

The visit would come at a critical time in the region namely in occupied Palestine and Lebanon, he added, saying that the leaders would touch on that during their meeting.

The historic visit of the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Sunday, is part of the strong Kuwaiti-Emirati ties, said UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Matar Al-Neyadi.

In a statement to KUNA on Saturday, Al-Neyadi said the visit comes by an invitation from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Ambassador added that Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed described the Kuwaiti-Emirati ties as "historic and deep, based on mutual understanding and respect." Sheikh Mohammed also affirmed that the UAE and Kuwait are eager to develop relations and cooperation, as well as support joint GCC work.

The ambassador said that Kuwait has a special place in the hearts of Emirati people, noting the statement of the UAE's Vice President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum that "Kuwait's love is engraved in our land, our hearts and our history."

The visit comes two months after the conclusion of the fifth meeting of the joint Kuwaiti-Emirati supreme committee, where the two countries signed a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding on double taxation, defense, infrastructure, cyber security, environment and information technology.

The two sides exchanged significant visits in 2024, starting with the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, followed by visits of Dubai Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of



KUNA photo  
The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan

Defense Hamdan bin Mohamed Al Maktoum and Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah in September and October, said Al-Neyadi.

The ambassador noted that trade exchange between the two countries in Q3 2024 reached AED 36 billion (KD three billion), adding that the UAE is Kuwait's second biggest commercial partner on a global level, while Kuwait is the 12th top commercial partner of the Emirates. The UAE represents 55 percent of Kuwait's trade exchange with the Gulf states, according to 2023 statistics, he added.

Kuwait and the UAE also share up to 162 weekly flights, boosting tourism between the two sides, said the UAE official.

Kuwait General Consul in Dubai and Northern Emirates Ambassador Ali Al-Thaidi stressed the importance of the upcoming visit by the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to Kuwait, saying that would add strength to the long illustrious ties.

Speaking to KUNA, Ambassador Al-Thaidi said that the visit, which would see the President meet with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, would address issues pertaining to venues that would bolster bilateral ties and also touch on the latest regional and international developments.

The Kuwaiti diplomat deemed relations between the UAE and Kuwait as exemplary, saying that people in both countries shared similar

views when it came to boosting relations on all possible domains.

The leaderships of both countries would be exploring recent developments in the Middle East in addition to regional challenges that would require coordination to overcome, he affirmed.

The President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan visit to Kuwait represents an integral part in strengthening the solid relations between the two brotherly countries, who have always been keen on developing these relations.

The visit is a continuation of wise leadership over the past decades of exchanging periodic visits to strengthen the ties between the two countries and to consolidate bilateral relations, common destiny and strategic partnership between them.

The six-decade-long history of diplomatic relations between the two countries has witnessed mutual visits by senior officials in both countries aimed at developing bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation on issues of common interest regionally and globally.

This relationship has become more solid under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who visited the UAE March 5, where he discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all fields with Sheikh Al-Nahyan.

A joint statement was issued following that visit in which the political, consular, diplomatic, economic, commercial, financial, investment, private sector, energy, cybersecurity, communications and technology cooperation between them was praised.

Additionally, the two sides stressed their keenness to enhance defense cooperation and develop strategic partnerships to protect the security and stability of the two countries and the region, and to enhance cooperation in the field of combating crimes in all their forms.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya visited the UAE on September 2, where he met with Sheikh Al-Nahyan and discussed the solid brotherly relations and ways to enhance them in various fields that serve both countries.

On October 8, His Highness the Amir of Kuwait received the Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of the UAE, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed Al-Maktoum, during his official visit to Kuwait.

Kuwait recalls with appreciation the official position of the UAE during the Iraqi invasion

Continued on Page 5

### British Airways suspends flights to Kuwait, Bahrain

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (Agencies):** British Airways has announced the indefinite suspension of flights to Bahrain and Kuwait starting from early 2025, citing ongoing issues with Rolls-Royce engines powering its Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet. The airline plans to halt all services to these Middle Eastern destinations by the end of March 2025, ending a 92-year presence in Bahrain and a 63-year connection with Kuwait.

This decision is part of a broader series of route cuts and schedule adjustments by the airline. British Airways has already announced the cessation of flights to Dallas Fort Worth from summer 2025 and a reduction in services to Miami. Additionally, the carrier has eliminated non-stop flights from Heathrow to Beijing and halved its Hong Kong service, attributing these changes to increased operating costs due to closed Russian airspace.

The airline's operational challenges extend beyond these routes. British Airways recently delayed its return to Kuala Lumpur by at least six months,

a service that was to be operated by the affected 787-9 Dreamliners. The grounding of these aircraft due to a shortage of spare parts for the Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines has forced the airline to make significant adjustments to its network.

British Airways has expressed frustration with Rolls-Royce, stating that it has informed the engine manufacturer about the impact of these issues on its schedule and customers. Initially, the airline's chief operations officer, Rene de Groot, anticipated that cancellations would last only about ten days. However, it now appears that the supply chain problems affecting both Rolls-Royce and British Airways may persist for a considerably longer period.

The suspension of flights to Bahrain and Kuwait is expected to result in redundancies for cabin crew who have been based in the region for decades. British Airways has determined that these routes are no longer commercially viable following a review of its operations.



Excavation site on Failaka Island.

KUNA photo

### Failaka Island dig unearths ancient Bronze Age temple

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9:** The Kuwaiti-Danish excavation team, in collaboration with the Moesgaard Museum, has completed the 2024 excavation season on Failaka Island, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Among their significant discoveries was Mound F6, a site dating back to the early Dilmun civilization in the Bronze Age, located east of the "Palace" site and the "Dilmun Temple."

Mohammed bin Redha, Acting Assistant Secretary General for Antiquities and Museums at the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL), expressed excitement over the discovery of a nearly complete Bronze Age temple, which adds new insights into human settlement on Failaka Island over 4,000 years ago.

This discovery further underscores Failaka's importance as a cultural, commercial, and social hub in the ancient Arabian Gulf.

Bin Redha emphasized that the NCCAL continues to support archaeological missions and scientific research in Kuwait, recognizing the significance of preserving the country's rich cultural heritage.

Dr. Stefan Larsen, head of the Danish

mission in Kuwait, noted that previous excavations at the site had uncovered traces of walls, believed to be part of a small temple platform dating from 1900-1800 BC. The new find is a Bronze Age temple, measuring 11 x 11 meters, with multiple altars.

Artifacts such as gemstone beads, pottery, and Dilmun seals further confirm the temple's connection to the Early Dilmun culture.

This discovery offers valuable insights into the religious practices of the Dilmun civilization and its kingdom. Excavations will continue next year, promising further revelations about the ancient history of Kuwait.

Dr. Hassan Ashkanani, Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology at Kuwait University, highlighted the importance of the find not only on a local scale but also within the broader context of Dilmun sites in the Arabian Gulf.

The presence of two temples alongside a large administrative building indicates that the site was a significant religious and administrative center, reflecting the growth and development of the Dilmun Kingdom.

### 4-hour power cuts until Nov 16

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water has scheduled maintenance of power transformer stations, due to which power will be cut off to various areas from November 9 to November 16, each day beginning at 8:00 am for approximately four hours, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

On Saturday, Nov 9, affected areas include Jaber Al-Ahmad Block 1, Saad Al-Abdullah Block 4, Al-Ardiya Blocks 3 and 6, Al Shamiya Block 5, Kairouan Block 1 and Farwaniya.

On Sunday, Nov 10, outages will impact Fahd Al-Ahmad, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Block 8, Al-Adan Block 1, Saad Al-Abdullah Block 7, Jaber Al-Ahmad Block 5, Al-Ardiya Block 11 and Rumaihiya Block 6.

Monday, Nov 11, will affect Fahd Al-Ahmad, Al Qurain Block 2, Al-Adan Block 1, Saad Al-Abdullah, Jaber Al-Ahmad Block 5, Firdous Block 4, Sulabiya, Al-Ardiya Block 3, Al Qadisiya Block 4, Doha Block 1 and Rumaihiya Block 10.

On Tuesday, Nov 12, outages will oc-

cur in Fahd Al-Ahmad, Al-Qasr Block 1, Al-Adan Block 7, Saad Al-Abdullah Block 7, Jaber Al-Ahmad Block 5, Ardiya Block 7, Al-Adan Block 9, Al Qadisiya Block 4, Kairouan Block 2 and Rumaihiya Blocks 1 and 8.

On Wednesday, Nov 13, Al-Zahra, Fahd Al-Ahmad, Al Qurain Block 5, Al-Adan Block 7, Saad Al-Abdullah Block 7, Al-Ardiya Block 2, Firdous Block 9, Daiya Block 3, Kairouan Block 2 and Bayan Blocks 5 and 6.

On Thursday, Nov 14, Daher, Fahd Al-Ahmad, Al-Qasr Block 4, Al-Adan Block 8, Ishbiliya, Al-Firdous Block 5, Daiya Block 3, Kairouan Block 2 and Bayan Blocks 6 and 1 will be affected.

On Friday, November 15, will include Jaber Al-Ahmad Block 6, Dasmah Block 2 and Al Nahda Block 1.

Finally, on Saturday, Nov 16, Dasmah Block 2 and Andalus Block 12 will experience outages. Residents can consult the Ministry's website for a complete schedule.

### 328 residential addresses axed

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9:** The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has announced the deletion of the residential addresses of 328 individuals as per the endorsement of the owner of the residence or

due to the demolition of the building.

These individuals have been advised to visit PACI to register the new address and submit the supporting documents within 30 days from the date of the announcement; otherwise, the KD 100 fine stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982 will be imposed on them.

Continued on Page 5

نورت دارك

يسر رئيس وأعضاء مجلس إدارة

شركة الاتصالات الكويتية stc

والإدارة التنفيذية وكافة العاملين فيها

بالترحيب بصاحب السمو الشيخ

محمد بن زايد آل نهيان

رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

في بلده الثاني الكويت



## Real reforms needed to up stock market performance

"A RECENT claim by the CEO of the Kuwait Stock Exchange that the market's profits reflect its robust performance amid global challenges is misleading," columnist **Dr. Saud Al-Mutairi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Evaluating the effectiveness of a stock exchange goes beyond profit, especially when profits stem from a monopolistic market position and lenient operational standards.

"This article examines the essential technical and regulatory criteria for evaluating a financial market and highlights areas where the Kuwait Stock Exchange falls short, particularly in comparison with regional competitors.

"Key factors in evaluating a market include regulatory frameworks, governance quality, technology infrastructure, investor protections, and adherence to international standards.

"Despite recent profits, the Kuwait Stock Exchange ranks low regionally, with fewer transactions, lower liquidity, and less market value than its peers.

"For instance, the Kuwait market's value stands at \$134 billion versus Saudi Arabia's \$3 trillion, while transaction volumes and listings remain limited.

"While the CEO emphasizes "qualitative listings," half of the listed companies trade below book value, indicating a need for stricter listing standards.

"The reluctance to acknowledge these performance issues suggests a deeper need for reform. It is essential for the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to implement meaningful changes aligned with Kuwait's economic goals and international best practices.

"This reform is critical to restoring investor confidence and enhancing Kuwait's position in the competitive Gulf financial landscape."

### Also:

"By 2025, it is projected that over a billion young people aged 16 to 26 will need various essential services," columnist **Dr. Abdulaziz Youssef Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Alongside quality education, suitable employment, housing, and comprehensive healthcare, they will also require recreational opportunities.

"This demographic phase is uniquely sensitive due to the complex emotional and psychological challenges young people face, emphasizing the need for extensive psychological, behavioral, and educational research to channel their energies positively and help them navigate this delicate stage.

"In 1980, the United Nations took a significant step by designating 1985 as the International Year of Youth. This initiative aimed to encourage youth engagement in diverse areas of life.

"Following that, other international observances were dedicated to women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly.

"Numerous socially and developmentally targeted programs, such as environmental protection, hunger and poverty alleviation, food security, and water resources, were launched.

"This raises an important question: given the extensive challenges, wouldn't it be more effective for researchers and specialists to develop standardized, evidence-based programs whose results are evaluated and shared among nations?

"This approach would allow countries to address youth-related issues comprehensively, channel their potential into meaningful initiatives, and foster optimism, resilience, and active involvement in building a promising future."

"We offer our heartfelt condolences to ourselves, to the people of Fahaaheel, and to the esteemed Al-Dabbous family on the passing of the family's patriarch, the good man, the honorable brother, and the respected Sheikh Faysal Al-Saud Al-Dabbous. May God have mercy on him, forgive him, and grant patience and solace to his family, relatives, loved ones, and all the kind people of Fahaaheel during this difficult time," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"A man from the noble men of Kuwait has passed away, and in him, you saw the goodness of its people, their honesty, loyalty, and love.

"The departure of such men leaves a profound social void. We ask God to grant his children success in filling the great void he has left, for they are the successors, and he was the predecessor. Yet, it is never easy to lose a man like the honorable Faysal Al-Dabbous, a man who truly embodied the essence of goodness and virtue.

"He was a man of righteousness and piety, and of exemplary character and reputation. He was known for his honesty, clarity, generosity, kindness, good manners, and his generous hand that gave freely, often in secret, without seeking recognition.

"He was a man of goodness, he was one of Kuwait's finest, known for his unwavering commitment to truth, and his dedication to maintaining family ties and staying connected with people. He could be found everywhere, at every occasion, sharing in both

the joys and sorrows of those around him. He was always keen to visit the sick, never distinguishing between the young or old, the rich or the poor.

"All of Kuwait knows him, especially the people of Fahaaheel, who are familiar with his kindness, his constant presence, and his fatherly care for all. They remember his generous, giving hands.

"The great Faysal has departed from this world, but his deeds and the lasting impact he left behind will never fade.

"We ask God to place all his good deeds in the balance of his actions and to accept him with the best of acceptance. We thank God for making us Muslims who believe in death like the way we believe in life.

"May God have mercy on our dearly departed, and may He grant patience and solace to his family and loved ones. To God we belong, and to Him we shall return."

"A young American man named Wallace Johnson worked at a lumber mill for several years, until one day his boss unexpectedly told him that he was being fired and he had to leave permanently and never to return," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"With no job and no prospects, Wallace felt utterly hopeless and defeated. His livelihood had been stripped away, and he and his wife had no other source of income. What was he to do?

"He went home and told his wife about the situation. Then, in a moment of resolve, he decided to mortgage their house and venture into the construction business. His first project was to build two small houses, and he poured his heart and soul into them.

"Soon after, more small projects followed, and he developed a specialization in building small-scale properties. Over the years of hard work and determination, Wallace's reputation grew, and he eventually became a wealthy and successful businessman.

"He is Wallace Johnson, the man who founded the "Holiday Inn" hotel chain.

"In his personal memoirs, Wallace reflects, "If I knew where the boss who fired me lived, I would thank him deeply for what he did for me. At the time, I was hurt and confused, and I couldn't understand why this had happened. Now, I see that God closed one door to open a much better path for me and my family."

"Even on a personal level, what may seem like bad luck can, in fact, be good fortune. For example, imagine a man who desires to marry a woman, but she rejects him, leaving him frustrated. Later, he marries someone even better than her, or perhaps vice versa.

"Similarly, on a national scale, the aftermath of World War II offers a powerful example. In 1945, after America defeated Japan, harsh measures were imposed on Tokyo, both military and otherwise.

"However, Japanese leaders demonstrated remarkable insight and wisdom by accepting the difficulties with resilience. While many doors were closed to Japan, they seized the opportunity to focus on industrial development and scientific progress. What initially seemed like a crisis turned into a catalyst for innovation, as Japan emerged from the ruins of war to become one of the world's leading economic powers.

"When the Berlin Wall was torn down in 1989, it opened up new markets to investors throughout Europe. Similarly, during the October 1973 war, the Arab nations significantly raised the price of oil, which undoubtedly harmed the global economy. However, this challenge sparked Western countries to search for alternatives, leading to the discovery and development of solar panels and the use of hydrogen gas for car engines.

"These examples, along with many others in life, carry important lessons. The wise do not mourn what they have lost, because they understand that even in loss, there may be hidden benefits. Perhaps in missing something, God was sparing them harm. They do not excessively rejoice in their gains either, but instead always thank God for whatever He has given them. Such people are truly happy, for happiness comes from contentment with fate and acceptance of life's circumstances.

"Islam encourages this mindset, as reflected in the words of the Quran in Surah Al-Hadid, verses 22-23 - "No misfortune can happen on earth or in your souls but is recorded in a decree before We bring it into existence. That is truly easy for Allah. In order that you may not despair over matters that pass you by, nor exult over favours bestowed upon you. For Allah loveth not any vain glorious boaster."

"In other words, remain calm when facing both good and bad events. Do not panic in times of pain, nor rejoice excessively in moments of joy, for destinies are already determined in advance.

"If some of us truly embrace this understanding and refrain from lamenting our fate, the feelings of tension, depression, sadness, and envy that many suffer from will naturally decrease. In turn, this can lead to an improvement in their overall health and well-being."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/  
Mahmoud Attiyeh



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and KFF chief at the site.



Ministry of Health and Kuwait Fire Force vehicles rush to the accident location.

## Patients, medical staff unhurt in hospital fire

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (Agencies): A minor fire broke out at the old Ahmadi Hospital, currently repurposed for pediatric patients from Al-Adan Hospital, prompting a rapid and well-coordinated emergency response that ensured no injuries to patients, medical staff, or emergency teams.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, the spokesman for the Ministry of Health said, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Health Minister and senior Ministry officials were present at the scene to oversee operations and ensure patient safety and continuity of care. Upon receiving the fire report, an emergency response plan was swiftly activated in collaboration with the Kuwait Fire Force and the Ministry of Interior.

The ambulances were dispatched immedi-

ately, facilitating a thorough evacuation of patients and medical staff from general wards and intensive care units.

As part of the emergency protocol, three support hospitals were designated to receive patients -- the new Ahmadi Hospital as the primary support, Al-Adan Hospital as the secondary and Jaber Hospital as the tertiary. The patients were efficiently redistributed, with 10 percent transferred to the new Ahmadi Hospital, 20 percent to Al-Adan and 70 percent to Jaber Hospital to maintain high standards of care.

Specialized teams promptly moved essential medical supplies and medication to the support hospitals, while the remaining medicines and patient records are in the process of being transferred to ensure uninterrupted care.

Al-Sanad confirmed that an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire, with initial reports indicating smoke originating from the X-ray unit.

Meanwhile, the KFF said more than 60 firefighters from the Ahmadi, Fahaaheel and Al-Bairaq fire stations joined hands to extinguish the fire and ensure the safe evacuation of all patients and nursing staff.

Dr. Al-Awadhi, along with KFF head Major-General Talal Al-Roumi and key officials including Brigadier Mohsen Abdullah, Director of Ahmadi Governorate Prevention Department and Brigadier Ahmed Ibrahim Suleiman, Director of the Ahmadi Governorate Fire Department, were present on-site to oversee the emergency response.

## Cars and criminals in clutches of law

### Expatriate hangs to death

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (Agencies): The Ministry of Interior launched a security and traffic campaign on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Causeway on Friday.

In a statement on Saturday, the ministry said that the General Department of Traffic and Kuwait Police issued 605 different traffic fines, seized 23 vehicles and motorcycles, as well as seizing four wanted vehicles, transferred five people to Juvenile Protection and arrested a wanted person.

The ministry noted that the campaign is part of its increased efforts to enforce the law and protect security, adding that it will keep launching campaigns in different areas across the country.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior conducted a comprehensive security and traffic campaign on Thursday in the Hawalli area, involving all field sectors.

The campaign led to the issuance of 1,141 traffic violations, the impounding of 24 vehicles and motorcycles and the seizure of 8 vehicles wanted by law.

The authorities also detained 5 violators of residency law, three of whom absconding reports had been filed by their sponsors,

four persons wanted by law, one for possessing narcotics substance and another for consuming drugs.

**Expatriate kills himself:** An expatriate tragically ended his life by hanging in an apartment he shared with others in Farwaniya. The incident was reported to the Ministry of Interior's operations center early yesterday by one of the expatriate's roommates. Security personnel arrived at the scene to find the expatriate's body suspended from a rope. The Public Prosecutor's Office was notified, and a formal case was registered.

In a separate incident, a fire broke out in an apartment in Hawalli, causing injuries to two individuals who suffered burns and smoke inhalation. They were quickly transported to Mubarak Hospital for treatment. The Fire Department reported that the fire was contained by firefighting teams, who acted swiftly to bring it under control. The injured were handed over to the appropriate authorities for further care.

**Ghazali shut for 3 days:** The Interior Ministry's General Dept. of Traffic said that Al-Ghazali Road will be closed to traffic daily between 1:00 a.m. until 5:00 a.m., until Monday, November 11. The closure began on Friday, November 8. (KUNA)



Traffic Police on the Jaber Bridge.

Mol photo

## Dec 25 verdict date set for expulsion of Darjal

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Administrative Court has set December 25 to issue a verdict on the lawsuit filed by lawyer Adel Al-Yahya against the government.

The lawsuit demands the expulsion of Adnan Darjal from Kuwait and seeks to prevent him from re-entering the country, in respect for Kuwait's sovereignty and to honor the sentiments of the families of prisoners of war and martyrs.

Al-Yahya contends that Darjal played a key role in stealing from Kuwait's clubs during the brutal Iraqi invasion and had made inflammatory remarks in the media, referring to Kuwait as an Iraqi province.

Al-Yahya further argued that such actions violate international norms and undermine Kuwait's status as a sovereign nation, along with the dignity of its people.

## Drive launched to raise awareness on drugs use

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) has announced its participation in the "Stay Aware" initiative, organized by the Kuwait University to educate young people about the dangers of drugs and highlight their destructive effects on individuals and society, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the PAMA emphasized the significance of this initiative in fostering collaboration among government agencies, civil organizations and the private sector to protect society from the harmful impact of drugs.

The initiative, organized by the General Administration of Coast Guard, the Deanship of Student Affairs at Kuwait University, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri charity society and the Iman Volunteer Initiatives Team, aligns with the Authority's commitment to social responsibility.

PAMA reaffirms its efforts extend beyond just the minors under its care, participating actively in a wide range of social, educational, training, religious, humanitarian and health activities to benefit the broader community.



The Algerian envoy with the Army Deputy Chief of Staff.

### Bilateral ties discussed

Major-General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, received in his office Thursday the Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait, Abdelkader Qasmi Al-Husseini, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, the two officials engaged in friendly discussions and explored key topics of mutual interest, with a particular focus on military matters.

## Hearing delayed to Dec 18 in money fraud case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Criminal Court postponed the hearing on the case of the former head of Kuwait Fencing Federation, who was charged with fraud and money laundering through the organization of tournaments and camps, until Dec 18 in order to summon witnesses.

The Public Prosecution ordered the director general of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) to submit the list of the federation's delegations from July 1, 2021 to Dec 31, 2023; including the expenditures on each delegation and dates.

Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan attended the session on behalf of the Kuwait national team members for the individual fencing game and filed a claim for KD 5,001 as temporary civil compensation.

The prosecution charged the defendant with laundering KD1,181,529 through forgery of official documents. He received checks issued by the federation amounting to KD1,053,516 through his account in the National Bank of Kuwait.

He also used two other accounts at the same bank to receive checks amounting to KD128,013. He forced the bank to deliver the money to him in cash and through bank transfers to his account in order to conceal the illegal source of these funds, as indicated in the investigations.

A public employee acting in good faith helped him forge the official documents -- settlement forms issued by PAS -- in a way that makes them appear genuine.

Two others assisted the defendant in forging official documents and committing fraud.

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# Minister 'disbands' fifteen charities over irregularities

Union of Charity Societies hosts UNHCR official

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (Agencies): Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthar Al-Huwailah decreed disbanding 15 charities and non-profit agencies, mainly due to irregularities.**

Twelve of them were disbanded for violating the set laws and controls governing their activities while the three others were disbanded under requests from their own founders, a statement from the ministry said on Thursday.

The majority of disbanded charities failed to produce their respective final statements for several years in contravention with items 6 and 7 of Article 18 of the basic system of charities.

This failure also violated Article 27 of Act 24 (1962) regulating the activities of clubs and public interest organizations, the statement said, citing a detailed report on the assessment of activities of such charities.

The report followed field visits by the inspectors from the ministry to the organizations in question to assess their commitment to the rules and serving the public, the statement added.

Meanwhile, the Union of Charity Societies and Foundations hosted the Head of the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for West and Central Africa

Abdul Raouf Gheneh Kondzi, during his official visit to Kuwait.

According to a press release issued by the union, the meeting was held at the union's headquarters and focused on strengthening cooperation in providing humanitarian aid to African countries as well as addressing the challenges and urgent needs facing charity work on the continent.

The union was represented by its Chairman Saad Marzouq Al-Otaibi, along with Board Member Abdullah Al-Haider, Treasurer Yousef Al-Kandari, and Director of Public Relations and Media Khalifa Al-Shatti. From the UNHCR side, the meeting was attended by the UNHCR Representative in Kuwait Nisreen Rabian, and the Private Sector Partnerships Officer at UNHCR Sanaa Al-Habashi.

In this regard, Al-Otaibi said, "We are proud to welcome Abdul Raouf Gheneh Kondzi today. He has provided us with the opportunity to review aspects of cooperation and develop practical solutions to support humanitarian efforts in the African continent.

Africa is facing escalating challenges that require both immediate and sustainable responses. According to international reports, 17 million people in West and Central Africa, particularly in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Chad, are in urgent need of humanitarian aid due to conflicts, climate change, and rising displacement. This has resulted in a complex humanitarian crisis that calls for a coordinated international effort to meet the basic

needs of food, shelter, education, and healthcare.

Kuwait's commitment to its humanitarian role extends far beyond its borders. It includes our support for brothers and those in need in various parts of the world. This steadfast approach reflects the values of giving that are deeply rooted in our society, beginning with the legacy established by Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Sumait (May God have mercy on him).

Kuwait continues to play a pivotal role through its charity societies and humanitarian organizations. This cooperation with the UNHCR exemplifies solidarity and international cooperation."

Al-Otaibi concluded by stating, "Our cooperation with the UNHCR and our international partners in such initiatives reflects Kuwait's commitment to creating a lasting positive impact. This goes beyond providing urgent relief, focusing instead on promoting sustainable development in affected communities, and enhancing peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. We look forward to the continuation of this partnership, which we hope will bear fruit in improving the lives of those in need, and serve as a model for others to emulate in humanitarian work."

It is worth mentioning that this meeting is part of a series of discussions and visits aimed at strengthening regional and international cooperation in the field of humanitarian efforts, and affirming Kuwait's role as a central hub for humanitarian action.



Photo by Union of Charity Societies and Foundations  
A group photo during the visit by the Regional Head for West and Central Africa of UNHCR to the Union of Charity Societies and Foundations.

## Kuwait showcases rich cultural heritage as it participates in Sharjah Int'l Book Fair '24

By Salem Al-Methen

SHARJAH, Nov 9, (KUNA): Kuwait, represented by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), participated on Friday in Sharjah International Book Fair 2024 with a pavilion that includes a diverse collection of books, cultural and literature pamphlets that reflect the country's heritage.

Kuwait's International Book Fair Director and Head of the NCCAL delegation Khalifa Al-Rabah told KUNA that this participation expresses Kuwait's commitment to promoting culture and

arts, whereas the Kuwaiti pavilion represents a variety of books and publications full of Kuwait's rich cultural heritage and its pioneering identity.

Al-Rabah said that the NCCAL is participating with all its recent publications in this exhibition organized by the Sharjah Book Authority, including (World Culture), (Global Creations), (World of Knowledge) series, (World of Thought) magazine, Al-Arabi magazine, heritage books, and special publications.

He stressed the importance of culture as an essential element in strengthening the national identity and build-

ing bridges of communication between peoples through our participation in this exhibition, as Kuwait hopes to enhance its cultural presence, strengthen ties and exchange knowledge with other countries of the world.

The 43rd Sharjah International Book Fair, organized by the Sharjah Book Authority, under the patronage of the Ruler of Sharjah Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi.

The book fair kicked off on Wednesday November 6, and continues until November 17, with the participation of 2,520 publishers from 112 countries, including Kuwait.

## HH the Amir congratulates Cambodia on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Saturday to King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia, on his country's National Day.

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

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to King Norodom

Sihamoni on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah too sent a cable of congratulations to King Norodom Sihamoni on his country's National Day.

## 'Friendship flourishes for nearly 63 years'

### Outgoing Japanese ambassador praises 'Kuwait-Japan' relations

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Ambassador of Japan to Kuwait Morino Yasunari affirmed the strong ties between Japan and Kuwait, and the deep friendship that has flourished for nearly 63 years.

He explained that diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1961 immediately after Kuwait achieved independence under the wise leadership of the ruling family. Since then, both countries have worked continuously to strengthen and develop their bilateral relationship, which has been mutually beneficial.

At a press conference held at his residence recently, Ambassador Yasunari expressed Japan's sincere appreciation for Kuwait's generous support following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

He explained that in 1995, the then-Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife Princess Masako visited Kuwait, and they were warmly welcomed, particularly by the late Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah, who was Crown Prince at the time. The late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad had visited Japan in 2012.

In 2016, both nations agreed to launch a comprehensive partnership. Oil trade is the cornerstone of bilateral relations between the two countries. Japan began importing crude oil from Kuwait even before the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1958. The Kuwaiti government granted a concession to the Arabian-Japanese Oil Company to explore and develop hydrocarbon reserves in the marine-divided zone, which led to the discovery of the Khafji field in 1960.

#### Economic

The support of oil by Kuwait greatly contributed to Japan's rapid economic growth. Kuwait remains an important supplier of oil, ranking third in the list of major oil suppliers to Japan.

Trade exchanges between the two countries began even before the conclusion of the oil concession contract, as Kuwaiti businessmen, who were very curious about Japanese products, traveled to Japan to discuss business.

The import of Japanese-made cars to Kuwait began in the 1950s. Since then, there has been a lot of trade activity between the two countries.

Many Kuwaitis are now interested in Japanese culture and tourism, and Kuwaiti students are interested in studying in Japan.

Many Japanese students are currently studying Arabic in Kuwait, thanks to the generous scholarships provided by the

Kuwaiti government.

Ambassador Yasunari affirmed Japan's strong commitment to strengthening its relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. He expressed hope to advance this goal during the upcoming GCC summit, which Kuwait will host in early December.

He also highlighted the agreement between Japan and the GCC to resume negotiations on a free trade agreement and to hold regular meetings between the foreign ministers of Japan and the GCC, the latest of which took place in Riyadh in September 2023.

Regarding the ongoing situation in Gaza, Ambassador Yasunari stated that the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the realization of a two-state solution that would allow Israel and a future independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully and with dignity, adding that this can only be achieved through negotiations based on international law and in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Ambassador Yasunari highlighted the strong potential for Japan and Kuwait to collaborate in addressing international issues of mutual interest.

#### Sustainable

He said, "For example, Japan and Kuwait can join forces to create a sustainable human society".

Ambassador Yasunari indicated that the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its Japanese counterpart organize an annual symposium on sustainable energy technologies, during which companies and experts from both countries can exchange knowledge and experiences.

He also highlighted the potential for Japan and Kuwait to cooperate regarding environmental protection, revealing that Japanese companies possess advanced technologies for recycling materials and generating energy from waste.

These technologies, he suggested, could be applied in Kuwait to help address environmental challenges.

Ambassador Yasunari concluded by referring to the beach cleaning initiative organized by the Japanese Association annually at Shuwaikh Beach, which sees active participation from both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti volunteers.

The Japanese ambassador revealed that his tenure in Kuwait is nearing its end, as his assignment will conclude on November 19, after which he will be moving to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

He said his successor - Ambassador Mukai Kenjiro - will take over his duties after presenting his credentials to Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of November.



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Photo by Rizk Taufiq  
Japanese Ambassador Yasunari with members of the media.



## Minister Al-Mishari heads Kuwaiti team at forum

### WUF calls for addressing housing issues

CAIRO, Nov 9, (KUNA): The World Urban Forum (WUF) on Friday called for urgent action to address the global housing crisis, describing it as a "pre-requisite" to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The forum's declaration, issued at the conclusion of its 12th edition, emphasized that access to adequate housing is a fundamental human right. Currently, nearly three billion people worldwide are affected by housing shortages, with 1.1 billion living in slums or informal settlements.

Kuwait was represented at the forum by a delegation led by Abdul Latif Al-Mishari, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, acting on behalf of His Highness the Amir. The event, held from November 4 to 8, brought together international participants to discuss strategies for addressing urban challenges.

The declaration highlighted the critical need for collective action to address the housing crisis through policies and investments that prioritize housing as a cornerstone of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also stressed that cities are key players in global climate action, noting that urban areas must lead efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, manage greenhouse gas emissions, and safeguard communities from climate-related risks.

Participants underscored the devastating impact of conflicts and humanitarian crises, which continue to displace millions and disrupt lives and homes. Urban areas have increasingly become shelters for displaced populations, and this highlights the urgent need for resilient urban systems capable of adapting to shifting needs.

The forum called for a transformative approach to informal settlements and slums, urging local action to improve living conditions and provide access to essential services for dis-



A photo from the World Urban Forum.

KUNA photo

placed people. It also emphasized the need for local action to achieve global goals, aligning national frameworks with community priorities.

The declaration called for empowering local authorities with the institutional and financial resources necessary to implement the SDGs at the local level. It stressed the importance of ensuring continuous representation of local governments in decision-making processes, advocating for the inclusion of youth, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups in these processes.

The forum participants also emphasized the need for inclusive, safe, and caring cities, where all residents – regardless of gender, age, disability, or background – feel secure and valued. They called for urban planning that prioritizes resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability as the foundation for better local outcomes.

The participants further advocated for integrating the circular economy into urban development to promote efficient resource use, economic prosperity, and social justice. They called for increased funding for urban development, urging cooperation between local, regional, and national governments to close the financing gap.

Achieving justice and equality for marginalized groups, particularly in terms of access to housing and services, was also a key focus of the forum. Participants emphasized the importance of utilizing local data in decision-making processes to empower communities and foster social integration.

Lastly, the forum highlighted the role of culture and heritage in fostering sustainable cities. Cultural diversity was recognized as a vital element in building resilient communities, with participants calling for greater collaboration to amplify the impact of local initiatives.

# Kuwait highlights AI & smart metering in customer service

MEW participates in Qatar-hosted 6th Gulf Forum

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy participated in the Sixth Gulf Forum for Subscriber Services in the Electricity and Water Sector in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries held in the State of Qatar on Nov 6-7.**

Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Services Sector Falah Al-Mutairi, who headed the

Kuwaiti delegation, confirmed that the ministry presented two papers on using artificial intelligence in customer service and prepayment at the forum. He said these papers contained details of the sector's work in developing its system by using contemporary technologies to better serve the public.

He highlighted the importance of the forum in exchanging experience and expertise between member states, as well as discussing papers and holding sessions, through constructive communication between participants to achieve the best results, improve services provided to subscribers, and raise customer satisfaction.

He confirmed the ministry is keen on adopting the latest technologies, citing the development of its smart meter system or other related to technologies and programs that facilitate the collection of dues.

He pointed out that due to these procedures followed by the sector, it succeeded in collecting a large percentage of electricity and water bill payments in the previous fiscal year.

On the other hand, Director of the Collections Department in the sector Mohammad Al-Otaibi presented a detailed explanation of the paper he presented in one of the sessions during the forum; including the methods adopted by the ministry in the collection of dues.



Kuwaiti Diplomatic Attache Mubarak Al-Qamis during the UNGA meeting in New York.

KUNA photo

## Kuwait calls for protecting journalists in Gaza

Kuwait called on the international community to take serious measures to protect journalists in Gaza, as they are being attacked by Israeli occupation force.

The remarks came during a speech of the Kuwaiti Permanent Mission to the UN, performed by Diplomatic Attache Mubarak Al-Qamis at the meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York late Thursday.

The continuous attacks on journalists in the Gaza Strip are a violation of the Palestinian people's right to reach out to the world and show their suffering at the hands of the Israeli occupation force, said Al-Qamis.

He affirmed the need to protect journalists against such violations, to ensure a transparent and truthful covering of the war on Gaza.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti diplomat underlined Kuwait's support for the UN's initiatives on enhancing media transparency and preventing the spread of misleading information.

Kuwait has launched a strategy to develop media freedom, enhance transparency, support digitalization and boost the quality of the media field in the country, said Al-Qamis. (KUNA)

## MoE opens students care centers for '24-25 academic yr

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Ministry of Education has launched care centers across all educational regions to support academically struggling and outstanding students for the 2024-2025 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative aims to provide accredited educational opportunities, helping students enhance their academic performance and develop key skills in well-equipped centers.

In a press release, the ministry em-

phasized that the student care project is a vital and successful program which will benefit many students.

These centers have been strategically distributed across the educational regions, considering factors such as student density and proximity to students' homes.

Registration at the centers is available at symbolic prices and covers subjects for both intermediate and secondary stages.

For the intermediate stage, sub-

jects include Arabic, English, mathematics and sciences, while secondary students can have access to Arabic, English, mathematics, all branches of science, social studies and French.

The study sessions will be held from Sunday to Wednesday, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, with three hours of study per day. The ministry encourages students to register at the center most convenient for them to take advantage of this opportunity.

## MPW to launch tender for rainwater drainage projects

### CAPT receives four bids for railway project study

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) recently opened bids for the tender on the study, design and preparation of documents for the first phase of the railway project.

Sources revealed the number of prequalified companies reached four, while two companies were excluded in accordance with Article 40 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016.

Sources said the Ministry of Public Works, acting through the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) as the implementing agency, will review the four bids through a technical committee within the legally mandated month. The bids will then be referred back to the agency for a decision on awarding the contract to the company with the best technical and financial offers, signaling the start of study and design procedures for the project, sources clarified.

Sources affirmed that the con-

sulting study tender will be implemented for 12 months, followed by the project implementation tender, which is scheduled for 30 months. Based on the system used for tenders, the proposed timeline for Kuwait's portion of the Gulf train project will be completed in late 2030, sources added.

Meanwhile, the ministry confirmed that a tender will be launched soon for the construction and maintenance of a rainwater drainage system for Wafra, Khairan and South Sabah Al-Ahmad.

The ministry said this tender is part of the plan of PART for Fiscal 2024/2025, indicating the plan includes six tenders announced by the ministry in the official gazette -- Kuwait Al-Youm.

It explained that the rainwater drainage system project aims to provide better services to citizens in the new residential areas, while ensuring their safety during rainfall by regularly draining rainwater and preventing the accumulation of rainwater.

It added the project's objectives

include preventing rainwater pools in the area and the surrounding areas where water may accumulate, preserving the quality of rainwater transported in independent drainage networks, and protecting the environment by preventing rainwater accumulation and stagnation in residential cities.

It stated that the scope of work includes the construction of a concrete drainage to drain rainwater from the collection tanks at the exit of the rain networks to the sea in Nuwaseeb, with a length of approximately 73 kilometers and three basins, as well as the retention of rainwater for Wafra, Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Sabah Al-Ahmad.

It announced another project – construction and maintenance of rainwater drainage tanks to improve the existing network in various areas in the country, provide better services to citizens in existing residential areas, improve the performance of rainwater drainage networks, and increase their capacity.

signed to boost cooperation and stimulate late development.

At the political-diplomatic level, the two sagacious leaderships share identical visions and perspectives toward regional and international issues; such the necessity to reach a comprehensive and just settlement to the Palestinian cause according to the two-state principle.

As to regional issues, Kuwait City and Abu Dhabi have affirmed support for the Gulf security and stability, favoring dialogue and diplomatic solutions to resolve disputes and strife, boosting solidarity, tolerance and peaceful co-existence among countries of the region.

The fifth session of the joint supreme commission, held in Abu Dhabi on September 2, was capped with signing a number of agreements within the framework of executive memos and programs. Some of the inked memos during the session tackled products standardization, the infrastructural environment, communication, information technology, education, sports and culture.

The two sides had also inked MoUs for cooperation in cyber security and defense procurement.

At the environmental level, Kuwait Environment Public Authority and Abu Dhabi Emirates signed in November 2021 a MoU for enriching biodiversity, advancing expertise swap and cooperating in specialties such as fish farming.

In February 2023, Kuwait City and Abu Dhabi inaugurated the first project for pooling traffic violations data. And, in April 2023, they opened a marine route for tankers from Khalifa port to Al-Shuwaikh port.

In February 2024, they signed an agreement for averting double taxation. Moreover, the Kuwait Cultural Office in Dubai and the Gulf Medical University in Ajman signed in March 2024 a MoU to allocate seats for the human medicine expeditions.

In June 2024, the two countries signed a memo for deploying guards on board of civil planes.

Non-oil commodities exchanges between the two countries reached USD 12.2 billion last year, growing by two percent per annum.

The UAE is Kuwait's second top trade partner after China. Abu Dhabi draws 22 percent of the Kuwaiti exports. And, the UAE is the third top investor in Kuwait -- six percent of the foreign investments until end of 2022.

## Kuwait slams

Continued from Page 2

In a statement to KUNA, KRCS Chairman Ambassador Khaled Al-Maghames praised the efforts of the political leadership in continuing the relief bridge to support the Lebanese people who suffered from the Israeli occupation aggression.

He said that the Kuwaiti relief aid is in line with the humanitarian needs in Lebanon, which are represented in providing food, blankets, and in-kind and medical supplies.

He pointed out that the Society is working to coordinate with the Embassy of Kuwait in Lebanon and the Lebanese authorities to deliver aid and medicines to the displaced and to those who deserve it.

Al-Maghames expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs and Health in supporting the society's efforts to enhance the humanitarian situation in Lebanon, in addition to the efforts of the employees and volunteers in KRCS.

On Friday, the Kuwaiti charity Tanmiya launched a campaign through partners in Lebanon to aid the displaced and people affected with the Israeli aggression.

Mohammad Fawaz, the director of developing resources at Rakaz association, told KUNA that Tanmiya launched the campaign in coordination with local counterparts namely Razak to deliver aid at the displaced shelters, with concentration on segments in dire need for help.

Up to 100,000 people have benefited from the campaign in the first phase, he said, indicating that the activity included distribution of food parcels, blankets, bread, water and medicines. Moreover, rents of housing for some of the displaced have been paid.

Some 1.5 million Lebanese have been relocated since Israel stepped up the aggression on the country in September. Many of them have settled in shelters and others in houses of relatives and friends.

Kuwait has already sent in two plane-loads of relief supplies, via Beirut airport, that was hit in an Israeli air strike on adjacent locations two days ago. Shrapnel inflicted damage at the terminal and tarmac but authorities insisted that operations would proceed as regular.

Kuwait had aided Lebanon on many tragic occasions in the past, includ-

ing several Israeli aggression and the fiery Beirut port blast that had inflicted damage and destruction in nearby residential districts.

## Kuwaiti-Emirati

Continued from Page 2

of Kuwait in August 1990, when the UAE hosted tens of thousands of Kuwaiti families on its land, and the UAE Armed Forces participated in the war to liberate Kuwait.

In 1952, the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, visited Sharjah and dispatched a Kuwaiti educational mission to the Emirates, which arrived in 1955 and began establishing, equipping and supporting many schools with books and school supplies for students.

A medical mission was sent to the Emirates in the year 1962, establishing many centers and hospitals, and a television transmission station called "Kuwait TV from Dubai" was established in Dubai, which began operating in 1969.

The path of relations between the two countries is getting stronger under the directives of wise leadership, in a way that contributes to serving common interests and achieving security, safety, development, and prosperity in their regions.

The State of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, over the years, have inked a large number of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) aimed at beefing up further the strategic partnership and the close relations.

These accords have covered political, economic and social sectors, in line with the two countries' long-term development visions.

As these relations have been evolving in all fields, the two countries have signed a number of agreements during era of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, out of Their Highness' keenness on rendering the bilateral relations an example to follow.

The two GCC countries have been on the path of enhancing ties and working out cooperation agreements at diverse levels since 1972, when they inaugurated embassies in Kuwait City and Abu Dhabi. Since then until late 2020, they had inked up to 33 accords, in addition to a number of MoUs, de-

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## Who will lead it?

## Democrats start to discuss party chair candidates for second Trump era

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The Democratic Party faces existential questions after Donald Trump's resounding victory. One of the first: Who will lead it?

Democratic National Committee chairman Jaime Harrison is not expected to seek a second term, opening a job that must be filled by March 1, according to the party's bylaws. Who takes the position will speak volumes about how the party wants to present itself going forward and what issues members believe hampered Democrats against Trump in 2024.

The incoming chair will also oversee the party's 2028 nominating process, a complex and contentious exercise that will make that person central to the next presidential election. Harrison was derided for having backed President Joe Biden even as many Democratic voters questioned whether the president should run again. He was accused after Biden's disastrous



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, (right), greets DNC Chair Jaime Harrison after phone banking with volunteers at the DNC headquarters on Election Day on Nov 5 in Washington. (AP)

debate performance of pushing for a virtual roll call before Biden chose to withdraw.

The early debate over Harrison's replacement appears to be set on a clear dividing line: Do Democrats

need an operative with clear skills and experience in reshaping the party's infrastructure? Or does the party need a communicator who can respond to everything the Trump administration plans to do and can sell Democratic ideas to a public that rejected them at the ballot box?

"They have to find someone from outside Washington who understands politics at the grassroots level," said Howard Dean, a former chair who took the position after George W. Bush won a second term as president. Dean said he has received calls from members urging him to run, but he has no plans to do so. "The DNC is often a creature of Washington, which is a major problem. ... You have to have a DNC that is big enough to include the whole country."

Top Democrats are scheduled to meet privately in Scottsdale, Arizona, in mid-December. Already, there is speculation among attendees that serious candidates would attend the

meeting or at least be announced by then.

In the wake of Tuesday's thrashing, there is a sense, at least among some of the DNC's rank-and-file, that the committee's 440-plus voting members may be more likely to embrace an outsider with strong ties to the party's formal establishment. Some also would want the new chair to fill a full-time role, which would present challenges to a current officeholder.

"As the party looks to the future, we must be positioned for the important work of unifying and strengthening Democrats at all levels, and holding Trump's Republican Party accountable for the harms it will inflict on the American people," said Rosemary Boeglin, a spokesperson for the committee. "In the coming weeks, we will lay out a process for electing a new Chair to guide us on that path forward."

The more high-profile leaders on

the minds of multiple top Democrats include Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, former Georgia lawmaker Stacey Abrams, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, and Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor and current commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

The lower-profile route features state party chairs Ken Martin, chairman of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and a vice chair of the national party; Ben Wikler, chairman of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin; and Michael Blake, a former vice chair of the party.

Murphy and O'Malley have already been having early discussions with DNC members and donors over the last day or so, according to people with direct knowledge of the outreach. It is unclear whether they will enter the race.

## Walz vows to fight Trump's agenda while working to understand his appeal

EAGAN, Minn., Nov 9, (AP): Gov Tim Walz vowed on Friday to make Minnesota a safe haven for the values that drove the Democratic presidential ticket he helped lead, while at the same time promising to work harder to understand the concerns of President-elect Donald Trump's voters.

Inside a high school auditorium in Eagan, Minnesota, a suburb just south of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Walz addressed a crowd of supporters with his reflections on Trump's election victory, an outcome he said left him searching for answers.

"It's hard to understand why so many of our fellow citizens, people who we have fought so long and hard for, wound up choosing the other path," Walz said. "It's hard to reckon with what that path looks like for the next four years."

Several audience members donned Harris Walz came campaign hats and exchanged hugs before the governor took the stage. They gave him a standing ovation and chanted his name as he and his wife, Gwen Walz, delivered remarks.

Tim Walz thanked Kamala Harris for selecting him as her running mate and for her friendship. His ascension to the Democratic ticket allowed him to learn more about the country he had hoped to serve as vice president, he said. Even in the face of defeat and a polarized political climate, Walz maintained that most Americans shared similar concerns.

"People really want the same basic things out of an American life. And I want to be clear when I say basic things. I mean things like meaningful work, safe neighborhoods, good schools, affordable quality health care. But I also mean something more," Walz said. "It became clear to me, people want security. I mean that broadly. They want to feel like their life is built on a solid foundation that won't collapse

under them."

Walz also said Americans wanted the freedom to live their lives as they see fit, a message that had been a cornerstone of the Harris-Walz campaign. To that end, Walz promised to make Minnesota a bulwark against a second Trump administration's potential attacks on abortion rights, immigrants and labor unions.

"Look, we know what's coming down the pike. We know it because they told us," Walz said. "The moment they try and bring a hateful agenda in this state, I'm going to stand ready to stand up and fight."

Walz returned home from the presidential campaign trail to a new era of divided state government, now that Republicans appear to have broken the full Democratic control that helped put him on Kamala Harris' radar. He was elected governor in 2018 and was reelected in 2022 in an election that handed Democrats both chambers of the state Legislature.

In his remarks on Friday, Walz touted several of policies Democrats were able to implement during that period, including stronger protections for abortion rights, child tax credits, paid family and medical leave, free school meals for all kids and gun safety measures. Those policy victories allowed him to tell a story on the presidential campaign trail about Minnesota's progress, he said.

First lady of Minnesota Gwen Walz, who often joined her husband on the campaign trail, said Minnesota would remain a safe haven. In processing the election results, she said the Walzes have found solace in their favorite bible verse: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith."



Minnesota Gov Tim Walz receives a standing ovation while speaking at Eagan High School in Eagan, Minn. on Nov 8. (AP)



US Sen Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., speaks to supporters during an election watch party on Nov 6 in Las Vegas. (AP)

## Sen Rosen re-elected in Nevada

Nevada Democratic Sen Jacky Rosen has won re-election, beating Republican Sam Brown in a tight but unusually quiet race for the battleground state. The first-term senator had campaigned on abortion rights and positioned herself as a nonideological politician, a formula that also worked for the state's senior senator, Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto, in her own reelection bid two years ago.

"Thank you, Nevada! I'm honored and grateful to continue serving as your United States Senator," Rosen said Friday on the social platform X.

Brown, a retired Army captain who moved to Nevada from Texas in 2018 and has never held elected office, unsuccessfully tried to ride President-elect Donald Trump's strong showing in the working-class state. Trump won Nevada on Friday. The Associated Press left phone and emailed messages seeking comment Friday from Brown's campaign. Just before Rosen won, Brown said on X that it was unacceptable that votes were still being counted in Nevada days after the election. (AP)

## Trump's deportation plan a key focus for Cabinet committee on US-Canada relations

TORONTO, Nov 9, (AP): US President-elect Donald Trump's promise to launch a mass deportation of millions of undocumented people is a top focus for Canada, its deputy prime minister said Friday, as the country plans to deal with a possible influx north.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau re-established a special Cabinet committee on Canada-US relations to address his administration's concerns about another Trump presidency this week.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who is chair of the revived committee, said what Trump's deportation plan would mean for Canada is a key priority for the committee.

"I do want Canadians to know it is one of our two central points of focus," Freeland said after the group met for the first time since Trump's first term in office.

Freeland said controlling Canada's border is fundamental. "Canadians are right to be concerned about it," she said.

Freeland said Canada has a plan, but she did not share any details.

She said she spoke to the leaders to Canada's provinces about the issue this week and said it is intentional that



US President Donald Trump, (left), and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau talk prior to a NATO round table meeting at The Grove hotel and resort in Watford, Hertfordshire, England on Dec 4.

the country's immigration and public safety ministers are members of the committee. The deputy prime minister said the committee will meet often including early next week again.

Canada saw an increase in the number of irregular border crossings be-

tween 2016 and 2023, which the the Royal Canadian Mounted Police attributes in part to the first Trump presidency.

The national police service has said they have been working through multiple scenarios in case there is a change

in irregular migration - which is trending down this year.

Trump has talked about creating "the largest mass deportation program in history." And Trump has called for using the National Guard and empowering domestic police forces in the effort.

Trudeau and U.S. President Joe Biden announced last year a plan to close a loophole to an immigration agreement that allowed thousands of asylum-seeking immigrants to move between the two countries along a back road linking New York state to the Canadian province of Quebec.

The policy says asylum seekers without U.S. or Canadian citizenship who are caught within 14 days of crossing anywhere along the 3,145-mile (5,061-kilometer) border will be sent back.

Trudeau called Trump on Wednesday to congratulate him and the two discussed the new free trade deal Trump reached during his first term with Canada and Mexico, the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which replaced NAFTA.

Ottawa will soon have to focus on a scheduled review of the agreement in 2026.

## Higgins dissolves Parliament

## Ireland prepares for campaign to decide next PM

LONDON, Nov 9, (AP): Ireland's President Michael Higgins dissolved Parliament Friday, clearing the way for a Nov 29 election that will determine who controls government.

Prime Minister Simon Harris, who had until March to call an election, had announced the date Wednesday.

A historic coalition government led by Harris' center-right Fine Gael party and its center-left rival Fianna Fail has been in power since the 2020 race ended in a virtual dead heat. "We did not agree on every issue but we did always work hard and together for the good of the Irish people," Harris said. "The time is now right to ask the Irish people to give a new mandate."

Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, which arose from opposing sides of Ireland's 1920s civil war, shared a broadly centrist outlook and had alternated holding power to govern Ireland over the decades. The two set aside their differences in 2020 to work together, bringing the Green Party along as a junior partner.

Fianna Fail leader Micheál Martin served as premier for the first half of the term and was replaced by Fine Gael's Leo Varadkar in December 2022.

Harris took over when Varadkar stepped down earlier this year.

The left-wing nationalist Sinn Fein party had won the largest share of



Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris makes a statement outside Government Buildings ahead of the Dail being formally dissolved for the General Election scheduled for next Nov 29, in Dublin on Nov 8. (AP)

votes in the election but was shut out of government because it couldn't assemble enough support to govern. Sinn Fein has been shunned by centrist parties because of its historic links to the nationalist militants of the Irish Republican Army and decades of violence in Northern Ireland. Sinn Fein said it was fielding more candidates in its effort to lead the government.

"After a century of Fianna Fail

and Fine Gael, it is time to make that change, to give Sinn Fein the chance to lead and the chance to deliver," said party President Mary-Lou McDonald. "In Sinn Fein you will get a government that will move heaven and earth to make housing affordable, to bring home ownership back into the reach of working people and to restore hope for a generation."

Ireland, which has a population of 5.2 million, has faced many of the same challenges of other countries since its last election: the COVID-19 pandemic, economic disruptions due to the war in Ukraine and a surge of migrants from overseas.

Martin said the next five years would be challenging for the Irish economy, noting the impact from global conflicts and a potential change in US trade policy change.

"The greatest threat to the Irish economy is external, and we need experience and we need leadership that has already demonstrated its capacity to weather significant events and shocks to lead us through the next challenging five years," Martin said.

Harris said the coalition had protected people during coronavirus, supported Ukraine in its war and weathered the cost-of-living crisis.

Housing, immigration and childcare are some of the main issues for voters, he said.



This photo, provided by head of the Odesa Regional Military Administration Oleh Kiper, shows the site of a Russian attack in Odesa, Ukraine on Nov 8. (AP)

## 1 killed in Odesa drone attack as Borrell arrives in Kyiv

One person died and 13 people were wounded by a Russian drone in a residential area in the Ukrainian port city of Odesa overnight, local officials said Saturday, as EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell arrived in Kyiv to discuss European support for Ukraine.

Odesa regional Gov Oleh Kiper said high-rise residential buildings, private houses and warehouses were damaged by the "fall" of a drone. He did not specify whether the drone had been shot down by air defenses.

A further 32 Russian drones were shot down over 10 Ukrainian regions, while 18 were "lost," according to Ukraine's Air Force, likely having been electronically

jammed. A Russian aerial bomb struck a busy highway overnight in the northeastern Kharkiv province, Kharkiv mayor Ihor Terekhov said. No casualties were reported.

Russia is mounting an intensified aerial campaign that Ukrainian officials say they need more Western help to counter. However, doubts are deepening over what Kyiv can expect from a new U.S. administration. President-elect Donald Trump has repeatedly taken issue with U.S. aid to Ukraine, made vague vows to end the war and has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin. (AP)



## INTERNATIONAL

## Leader seeks to strengthen relations with Beijing

## Indonesia's President Subianto visits China in 1st overseas trip

BEIJING, Nov 9, (AP): Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto pledged to maintain close ties with China during a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing on Saturday, his first overseas stop since he took office three weeks ago.

Subianto is seeking to strengthen relations with China, Indonesia's largest trading partner and one of its most important foreign investors. This is his second visit to Beijing this year, following a visit in April as president-elect, the first overseas trip he made after winning the Indonesian presidential election in February.

"Indonesia considers China not only as a great power but as a great civilization," Subianto said at the meeting, adding that the two countries had had close relations for centuries. "Therefore, I think it is only natural that now in the present situation, geopolitical and geoeconomic, that Indonesia and China have become very close partners and in many, many fields."

Xi vowed support for Subianto's administration, thanking him for visiting China first and saying he believed "Indonesia will adhere to an independent development path, continue to make new achievements in the journey of achieving national prosperity



Chinese President Xi Jinping, (left), and Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto review the honour guard during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on Nov 9. (AP)

and national rejuvenation, and play an important role on the international and regional stage."

Earlier on Saturday, Subianto met with other top Chinese leaders, including Premier Li Qiang and Zhao Leji, who is chairman of the National People's Con-

gress and considered the No. 3 official in the ruling Communist Party.

Subianto is on the first stop on a multi-country tour. He is scheduled to visit five other nations, including the U.S. and the U.K., suggesting that Indonesia will continue to pursue its

longstanding stance of neutrality between Beijing and Washington.

Subianto, 73, is a wealthy ex-general with ties to both Indonesia's popular outgoing president and the country's dictatorial past. He presented himself as heir to the immensely popular President Joko Widodo, the first Indonesian president to emerge from outside the political and military elite. Subianto vowed to continue the modernization agenda that has brought rapid growth and vaulted Indonesia into the ranks of middle-income countries.

Indonesia's economic ties with China flourished during Widodo's decade in office. China became Indonesia's largest trading partner and plowed billions into major infrastructure projects such as the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, which opened last October, and Cirata, Southeast Asia's largest floating solar power project, on a reservoir in West Java, 130 kilometers (80 miles) from the capital, Jakarta.

Subianto said during the meeting with Xi that he will preside over the signing of over \$10 billion worth of deals during a meeting between Chinese companies and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Italian President Sergio Mattarella, who is on a state visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 8, 2024. (Xinhua)

## Italy's president meets Chinese leader

Italian President Sergio Mattarella met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping Friday on an official visit to China that came as Russia's full-on invasion of Ukraine pitted Rome's NATO allies against Beijing's support for Moscow.

The two exchanged greetings following a ceremony with full military honors at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing.

In his opening remarks, Xi referred

to the 700th anniversary of Italian adventurer and trader Marco Polo's journey to China that encouraged cultural, economic and religious links between Europe and East Asia.

Italy is heavily reliant on foreign trade such as luxury products that have a large market in China. It is also a member of NATO, which China has blamed for provoking the Russia-Ukraine conflict. (AP)

## Regional tensions rise

## Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba vows military buildup, deeper ties with US

TOKYO, Nov 9, (Agencies): Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba renewed a pledge Saturday to build up his country's military and deepen its alliance with the United States under President-elect Donald Trump.

Ishiba, who made the comments at an annual troop review held at Camp Asaka in the Tokyo suburbs, said the security environment surrounding Japan and the international community has significantly worsened due to escalating tensions with China, Russia and North Korea. He pledged to reinforce Japan's military power.

He said breaches of Japanese airspace by Chinese and Russian warplanes earlier in the year "not only violated Japanese sovereignty but also threatened the safety of Japan, and are absolutely unacceptable." He said Japan faces growing threats from China's accelerating military activity around Japanese coasts and from North Korea's repeated missile firings.

"As we face the most severe and complex security environment, I will balance and strengthen Japan's diplomacy and security," Ishiba said in his speech before hundreds of troops

gathered for the ceremony.

The Japan-US alliance is the lynchpin for achieving this, Ishiba said, pledging to elevate Japan's ties with the United States and work closely with Trump as they agreed during a brief telephone conversation Thursday.

Ishiba took office on Oct 1, replacing his unpopular predecessor Fumio Kishida but his governing coalition badly lost a recent parliamentary election and could face difficulty pursuing his party's planned policies and budget plans in coming months.

Ishiba pledged to pursue the ongoing military buildup plan under the 2022 security strategy adopted by his predecessor, Fumio Kishida, which calls for a counter-strike capability with long-range cruise-missiles, a break from his self-defense only principle. Ishiba said he will pursue strengthening of command system to improve operation between Japanese and US troops.

After its devastating defeat in World War II, Japan had prioritized economic recovery over defense under its war-renouncing constitution,



Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, (top right), attends an annual troop review at Camp Asaka in the Tokyo suburbs on Nov 9. (AP)

but has steadily strengthened its defense capability in recent years.

Ishiba and Trump also agreed to realize a meeting in-person at the earliest possible opportunity which would be convenient for both sides, the ministry said in a press release.

Asked by reporters after the phone talks how he would respond if Trump

sought an increase in defense spending, Ishiba said, "How we should share the burden is not only a matter of money and capabilities, but also how we should conduct operations."

"I would like to have vigorous discussions toward strengthening the Japan-US alliance from various perspectives, not just in terms of mon-

etary amount, but also in terms of equipment and operations," the premier said.

According to Kyodo News Agency, the Japanese government is aiming to arrange an in-person meeting between Ishiba and Trump at an early date.

Japan and the US have been deepening their alliance to tackle common challenges and make the Indo-Pacific "a free and open" region.

During his first term as US president, Trump built a personal rapport with Japan's then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who underscored the importance of the longtime security alliance amid China's increasing assertiveness and North Korea's nuclear and missile development.

Meanwhile, Japan's parliament will convene a special session from next Monday following the general election, the top government spokesperson said Tuesday, with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba looking set to be reelected the same day.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi notified both ruling and opposition party lawmakers in charge of Diet affairs of the schedule of the

envisioned four-day session.

A party leader must secure major support in parliament to become the prime minister. If neither exceeds that threshold, a vote will proceed to a runoff, and the candidate who secures the most seats will secure the post.

The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, led by Yoshihiko Noda, saw its seats increase in last month's House of Representatives election but is still short of a majority.

While Japan's ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its partner Komeito lost their majority in the general election, Ishiba, who is also LDP president, is expected to remain in office as he is expected to receive more support than his main opposition counterpart in parliament, Kyodo News reported.

According to the Constitution, Ishiba's current cabinet will resign when the Diet convenes for a special session that must be held within 30 days of a general election. Both houses will hold a fresh vote to select a prime minister. If Ishiba is reelected, he will form a second cabinet.



Passenger planes are seen on the tarmac at Gimpo Airport in Seoul, South Korea on Nov 9. (AP)

## 'N.Korea GPS manipulation disrupted dozens of planes, vessels'

South Korea's military said North Korea disrupted GPS signals from border areas for the second-straight day on Saturday, affecting an unspecified number of flights and vessel operations.

Tensions between the rival Koreas have escalated as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un flaunts his advancing nuclear and missile program and engages in electronic and psychological warfare, such as flying thousands of balloons to drop trash and anti-South Korean propaganda leaflets in the South.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korean operations to manipulate GPS signals were detected from around the western border city of Kaesong and the nearby city of Haeju on Friday and Saturday, and said the activities disrupted dozens of civilian aircraft and several vessels.

While warning aircraft and vessels near western bor-

der areas, South Korea's military did not specify how North Korea was interfering with GPS signals or detail the extent of disruptions.

"We urge North Korea to stop GPS interference provocations immediately and strongly warn that it will be held fully accountable for any resulting consequences," the South's joint chiefs said in a statement.

Meanwhile, South Korea fired a surface-to-surface ballistic missile into the Yellow Sea this week in a show of force after North Korea's recent series of missile launches, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said Friday, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The live-fire exercise took place Thursday in the western coastal county of Taean, 108 km southwest of Seoul, days after North Korea fired short-range ballistic missiles Tuesday and a new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) last week. (AP)

## Marcos angers China with new laws to demarcate S.China Sea territories

MANILA, Nov 9, (AP): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed two laws on Friday reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea, angering China, which claims the hotly disputed waterway almost in its entirety.

China's foreign ministry said it summoned the Philippines ambassador to China to lodge a "stern protest." The ministry condemned the move as an attempt to "solidify the illegal ruling of the South China Sea arbitration case through domestic legislation."

Confrontations between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval forces in the disputed sea passage have spiked alarmingly since last year. That has sparked fears that the United States - Manila's longtime treaty ally - may get drawn in a major conflict.

The laws, called the Philippine Maritime Zones act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes act, were signed by Marcos in a nationally televised ceremony attended by top military and national security officials. They further cement Manila's rejection of China's claims to virtually the entire sea passage, and stipulate jail terms and stiff fines for violators.

"These signal our resolve to protect our maritime resources, preserve our rich biodiversity and ensure that our waters remain a source of life and livelihood for all Filipinos," Marcos said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the move "seriously infringes on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea."



In this photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Communications Office, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. holds a document during the ceremonial signing of the Philippine Maritime Zones and Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act, at the Malacanang presidential palace, in Manila, Philippines on Nov 8. (AP)

"China strongly condemns and firmly opposes it," she said.

In a new national map it released last year the Chinese government demarcated its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea with vague dash lines that drew protests and rejections from rival coastal states and government, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The maritime zones act demarcates

key parts of the Philippine archipelago's territory and outlying waters where it has full sovereignty and sovereign rights under international law and the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, Philippine officials said.

Those zones include the country's Exclusive Economic Zone, a 200-nautical-mile (370-kilometer) stretch of water, where a coastal state like the Philippines has exclusive rights to tap energy and other resources. Foreign ships and aircraft have an internationally recognized right known as "innocent passage" to pass through such a zone, as long as the coastal state's security would not come under threat.

The archipelagic sea lanes act allows the Philippines to designate sea lanes and air routes in the archipelago where foreign ships and aircraft could transit under its regulation and in compliance with international law.

"These legal instruments solidify our territory and enhances our ability to protect our country against any infringement," National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said.

Marcos said the laws comply with international law and the UNCLOS, but many of their provisions stand in stark contrast to Beijing's claims in the South China Sea and would likely be rejected and defied by China.

It's unclear how the Philippines could enforce the laws, which take effect 15 days after their publication in the government's official gazette or in a newspaper, given China's increasingly aggressive actions to push its claims.

## Balochistan Liberation Army claims attack

## Bomb blast at Pakistan train station kills at least 26

QUETTA, Pakistan, Nov 9, (AP): A suicide bomber blew himself up at a train station in restive southwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 24 people, including soldiers and railway staff, and wounding about 62 others, some critically, officials said.

The attack happened when nearly 100 passengers were waiting for a train to travel to the garrison city of Rawalpindi from Quetta, the capital of the restive Balochistan province, according to Hamza Shafiqat, a senior government administrator.

Police said about a dozen soldiers and six railway employees were among the dead. A separatist group, the Balochistan Liberation Army, claimed the attack in a statement, saying a suicide bomber targeted troops present at the railway station. The outlawed BLA has long waged an insurgency seeking independence from Islamabad.

TV footage showed the steel structure of the platform's roof blown apart



Investigators collect evidence from the site of a bomb explosion at railway station in Quetta, southwestern Pakistan on Nov 9. (AP)

and a tea stall destroyed as luggage littered the place.

Ayesha Faiz, a Quetta police official, said some of the critically wounded passengers died at a hospital, raising the deaths.

Shahid Rind, a government spokesperson said all the wounded were transported to hospitals for treatment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif denounced the bombing in a statement, saying those who orchestrated the attack "will pay a very heavy price for it," adding that security forces were determined to eliminate "the menace of terrorism."

The attack came a little over a week after a powerful bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded near a vehicle carrying police officers assigned to protect polio workers in Balochistan, killing nine people including five near-by children.

In August, the BLA carried out multiple coordinated attacks on passenger buses, police and security forces across Balochistan, killing more than 50 people, mostly civilians.



Border officials inspect a burnt-out Mozambican border patrol vehicle at the border crossing in Lebombo, South Africa on Nov 7. South Africa closed its border with Mozambique shortly after opening it on Thursday as post-election violence in the neighboring country escalated. (AP)

## Mozambique deploys soldiers on streets

MAPUTO, Mozambique, Nov 9, (AP): Mozambique has deployed soldiers on the streets to help keep order following weeks of protests against the ruling party that has been accused of rigging last month's election to extend its 49 years in power.

Mozambique armed forces spokesperson Gen. Omar Saranga made the announcement at a late-night press conference on Thursday, saying the army would support police in keeping order. Soldiers had already been deployed when he made the announcement, Saranga said.

The country of 34 million people in southern Africa is on edge, with the presidential palace under heavy guard and security forces constantly patrolling the streets. Many people are locking themselves in their homes.

"In moments like this, with demonstrations taking place in some regions, our role also extends to supporting security forces in maintaining public order and peace," Saranga said.



	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts				
JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	+118.96	39,500.37	DUBAI	-	DFMGI	-4.34	4,639.83
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+838.43	93,406.04	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEI	-37.26	6,977.18
					BRITAIN	-	FTSE 100	-68.35	8,072.39
					EUROPE	-	Euro Stoxx 50	-49.20	4,802.76

# Business



Omar Al-Saleh joins launching the GTI 5G-AxAI Development Program.



Al-Saleh with ICT executives at the forum.

## Company participates in Mobile Broadband Forum 2024 in Istanbul

# Zain showcases leadership in developing intelligent 5G network technologies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Zain announced its participation in the Mobile Broadband Forum (MBBF 2024), recently held in Istanbul, Türkiye, where it highlighted its ongoing efforts in developing smart 5G network technologies. This step reinforces Zain's leadership in digital innovation, particularly in 5G Advanced (5G-A) and artificial intelligence integration.

The forum gathered top executives from major global telecom and IT players to showcase the latest industry advancements and explore new avenues for sustainable growth in the era of AI and 5G-A. Zain was the sole representative from Kuwait to share its expertise in this prestigious gathering.

During the event, Omar Al-Saleh, Radio Networks Optimization Professional at Zain Kuwait, showcased the company's latest efforts to develop intelligent radio access network (RAN) technologies. Al-Saleh demonstrated how Zain leverages AI within RAN networks, enhancing the company's operational efficiency at the network level and improving customer experiences.

At the forum, Zain joined GTI Group's 5G-AxAI program, an initiative aimed at promoting integration between 5G-A and AI technologies to foster innovation across technology, business, environment, and commerce through

mutual empowerment. This commitment reinforces Zain's dedication to operational excellence and maintaining its leadership in digital transformation across the region.

The initiative seeks to make 5G smarter and AI more ubiquitous, supporting digital intelligence development in the economy and society, unlocking new opportunities, and driving industrial growth. Zain aims to jointly research, develop, and test integration of new AI solutions in 5G Advanced technology to achieve new service scenarios.

Zain remains committed to advancing AI-driven digital innovation within its 5G network infrastructure, enhancing productivity and elevating customer satisfaction. The company is developing intelligent RAN AI-based agent solutions that integrate predictive capabilities into network Operations & Maintenance, enabling it to move from reactive to proactive management.

By focusing on key fault scenarios, these solutions intelligently analyze and model data to forecast potential issues, effectively identifying risks before they impact network performance. Through continuous development of innovative use cases, Zain aims to achieve a leap in its network productivity,

reinforcing its leadership position in the region.

By leveraging robust partnerships with global tech leaders, Zain contributes to driving Kuwait's digital transformation through advanced solutions, setting new standards in 5G-Advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, and service experience assurance in line with the nation's developmental goals.

Zain was recently recognized with the Outstanding Mobile Broadband Network Quality award under the Leadership in User Experience category during the second edition of the Leadership and Excellence Awards (LEAD), organized by SAMENA Telecommunications Council. This prestigious award acknowledged Zain's leadership in delivering an exceptional 5G user experience, excelling in speed, reliability, and quality for its customers in Kuwait.

This recognition affirmed Zain's leadership in continuously enhancing its 5G network technologies to keep pace with the significant developments in the telecom and ICT sectors. The award underscored the company's strategic vision of securing a competitive edge in the digital era by delivering world-class services, pioneering innovations, and exceptional customer experiences.

### Other Voices

#### Uncertain 2025 outlook for OPEC+

## OPEC+ holds back as oil market faces oversupply

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

WEAKENING demand, coupled with increased supply, is forcing OPEC+ to refrain from taking any action to introduce more oil into the market. Also, the ongoing rise in U.S. crude oil production, which is currently at 13.5 million barrels per day and projected to reach 20 million barrels per day in the coming years, is further impacting the global oil dynamics.



Al-Harami

Currently, the oil prices are hovering around \$75, and there are strong indicators suggesting the prices may continue to fall in the coming years.

The US is going strong in expanding its oil production and exploring new fields, with little regard for environmental concerns or the potential hazards involved.

With the incoming American administration determined to achieve energy independence, the U.S. has the potential to reach and sustain a production level of 20 million barrels per day. The current production of 13.5 million barrels would solidify its position as the world's largest oil produc-

er, surpassing the current leader. In the near future, the U.S. could challenge traditional oil powerhouses in the Arab Gulf region and expand its influence in the Asian markets, which have long been the domain of these Gulf producers.

At this stage, OPEC+ is largely powerless to take effective action, and with increasing production, the decision made a year ago to gradually increase supply in anticipation of demand growth has proven to be misguided.

Demand has not materialized as expected, while producers outside the OPEC+ cartel continue to push for further increases in production. Any potential demand growth is quickly absorbed by these non-OPEC producers, which further contribute to a continued decline in oil prices.

On the other hand, a reduction in OPEC+ production would not lead to higher revenues or a larger market share for OPEC+. As a result, OPEC+ has become more of an observer in the market for the time being.

With more oil flooding the markets, OPEC+ producers, who are heavily reliant on oil revenues, are facing the need to adjust and reduce expenses. There is hope that oil prices will strengthen in the future, but the outlook for 2025 remains uncertain. The hope is that oil prices will not fall below \$70 per barrel.

Email: [naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com)

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced its financial results for the period ended 30 September 2024. The Company reported a net profit of KD 3.5mn (EPS: 10.14 fils) compared to a loss of KWD 1.4 mn during the same period in 2023 (EPS: -4.08 fils).

Total revenue reached KWD18.5mn, compared to KWD11.2mn for the same period last year, reflecting the positive impact of increased fee and commission income and the strong performance of the Company's diversified investment portfolio. Fee & commission income increased by 28.0% in comparison to the same period in 2023 reaching KWD12.1mn, accounting for 65.1% of the total revenue.

As of 30 September 2024, total assets stood at KWD124.7mn, whereas shareholders' equity stood at KWD61.3mn. The Company also enjoys a strong financial position and a "BBB" long-term credit rating and "A3" short-term rating with stable outlook by Capital Intelligence in their latest review in May 2024.

On the business side, Assets under management grew by 9.3% to reach USD16.2bn as of 30 September 2024, attributed to new money raised in various products and services during the period. Equity funds and managed portfolios con-



Faisal Sarkhou

tinued to outperform their respective benchmarks, with local funds retaining their positions among the top performing conventional and Islamic funds in Kuwait.

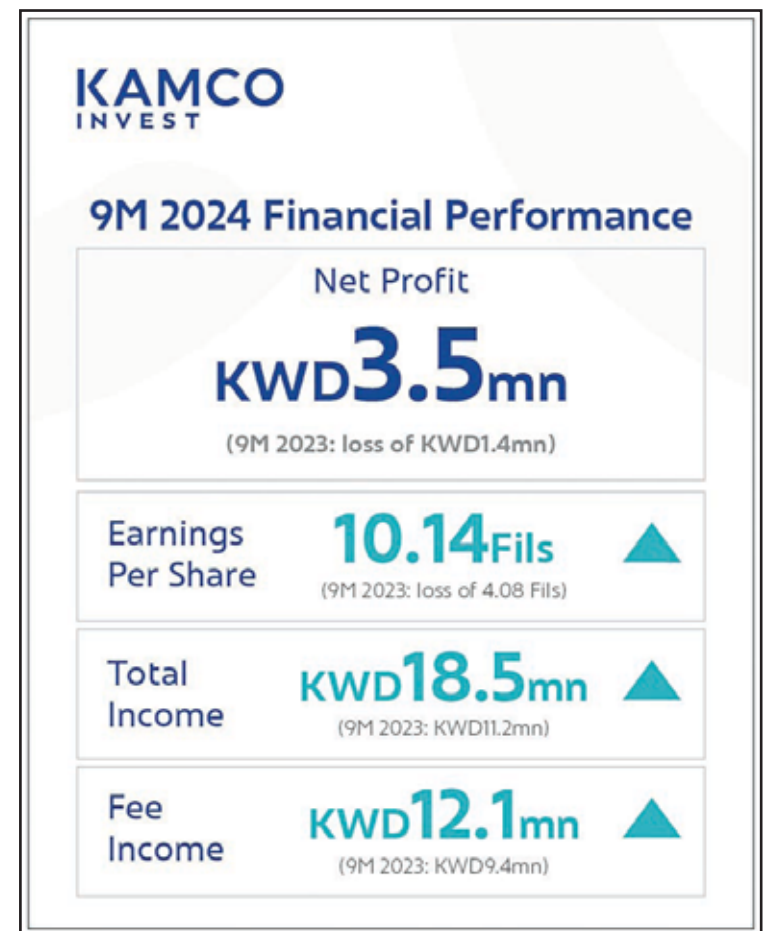
Meanwhile, the Alternative Investments team remained focused on identifying and evaluating investment opportunities in real estate, private equity, and venture capital. The team also continued to capitalize on Kamco Invest's strategic partnerships and advise clients on various transactions in key regional markets.

The Investment Banking team continued to advise their clients with several transactions in the pipeline expected to close during 2024 across Equity Capital Markets, Debt Capital Markets, and Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A). The team successfully managed 8 transactions on behalf of its clients that amounted to over USD 3.1bn from the beginning of the year.

Commenting on the results, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer, said, "Amidst a global landscape of heightened uncertainty, market by economic challenges and global tensions, Kamco Invest's performance reflects our strategic focus on resilience and sustainable growth. Our

## Kamco Invest reports net profit of KD 3.5 mln for the 9 months of '24

EPS of 10.14 fils



Financial result infographic

ability to navigate challenges and harness opportunities reflects the growth in our assets under management and the continued out-performance of our investment portfolios. This growth is a testament to the trust placed in us by our clients and the expertise of our teams.

Sarkhou added, "Looking ahead,

we remain committed to leveraging our extensive market expertise and solid relationships to navigate the evolving landscape. Our strategy remains focused on identifying and capitalizing on opportunities that support our clients' long-term objectives, while maintaining our role as a trusted partner in the regional financial markets."

Brent crude down by \$1.98

## Kuwait oil price plunges to \$74.83 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price fell down by 17 cents to USD 74.83 per barrel Friday, compared with USD 75 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Cor-

poration (KPC) said on Saturday. Globally, Brent crude went down by USD 1.98 to USD 70.35 pb, and West Texas Intermediate crude fell by USD 1.76 to USD 73.87 pb.

## Air travel boom drives jobs & trade

## IATA reports 7.1% surge in global air travel demand for September

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported a significant surge in global air travel demand for September 2024, showing a 7.1 percent increase compared to the same month last year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

IATA's latest data highlighted that total capacity, measured in available seats per square kilometer, rose by 5.8 percent, while the load factor, indicating the percentage of available seat kilometers filled, remained stable at 83.6 percent.

IATA's Director General, Willie Walsh, expressed that this robust

growth in air travel demand marks a peak in the industry.

He noted, "This year, the travel industry has witnessed unprecedented growth and demand for flights has reached its peak. This demand is positive for both travelers and the global economy, leading to more jobs and increased trade."

However, Walsh cautioned that this rapid growth presented new challenges, particularly with increasing pressure on airport and airspace infrastructure, which could potentially hinder the benefits of the sector's expansion.

## CBK reaffirms financial resilience amid economic conditions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait said its current assessment of the available economic and financial data demonstrate the continued safety and resilience of the monetary system and financial stability in the country.

The assessment is based on CBK's continuous monitoring of all economic and monetary variables and indicators in international markets and geopolitical developments, as well as the impacts of the global economic conditions on the local economy, the Bank said in a press release on Thursday.

In terms of monetary policy developments, CBK had adopted a gradual approach for the monetary tightening cycle during the past period that ensured the optimal balance of its objectives aimed at maintaining monetary and financial stability and boosting economic growth.

Since March 2022, CBK has raised its discount rate nine times by a cumulative 275 basis points to 4.25 percent on July 26, 2023, in line with its monetary policy that stands appropri-

ate to the local economic conditions and contributes to controlling inflation and stabilizing growth in the non-oil sectors.

Moreover, the exchange rate regime provides relative flexibility, and serves as an anchor for the monetary policy, according to the CBK statement.

The resilience of the Kuwaiti banking sector has a very prominent role thanks to the CBK's prudent regulatory requirements and judicious lending and provisioning practices, as mentioned in the Concluding Statement issued on October 10, 2024, by the International Monetary Fund's Mission to the State of Kuwait.

Based on its vigilant monitoring of the most important developments in local and global economic indicators, and given the end of the monetary tightening cycle in most global central banks, CBK lowered the discount rate by 25 basis points to 4.00 percent on September 19, 2024.

The data related to macroeconomic indicators reflect declining inflation rate from 4.71 per-

cent in April 2022 to 2.75 percent in September 2024, and underscore the continued relative stability in the exchange rate of the Kuwaiti Dinar against major currencies.

On the monetary and banking indicators side, residents' deposit balances with the banking system recorded a growth of 6.7 percent at the end of September 2024 compared to the end of September 2023, while the private sector's KWD deposits accounted for 95.2 percent of total private sector's deposits at the end of September 2024.

The balances of credit facilities (for residents and non-residents) also grew by 5.7 percent at the end of the mentioned month compared to the end of the corresponding month of the previous year.

CBK reiterated commitment to continue its close monitoring of the economic and monetary developments in international markets to assess their potential effects on the local economy with a view to ensuring monetary and financial stability and promoting economic growth.



Bank honored for its prominent role in the industry

# Kuwait Finance House participates in AAOIFI conference

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group attended the 19th Annual Conference of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) in Bahrain. The conference, titled "Leveraging Islamic Finance to Build a Sustainable, Efficient and Resilient Halal Ecosystem for Muslim Economies," was organized with the support of the Central Bank of Bahrain and in collaboration with the IsDB Institute.

KFH's participation reflects its commitment to efforts aimed at developing and strengthening Islamic banking, as well as its support for promoting Sharia-compliant financial products and services. The conference is a major event that brought together Shariah scholars and decision makers to discuss key topics and urging updates in the Islamic Finance Industry at the global level.

In recognition of its pivotal role in the regional and global industry, KFH was lauded by conference participants. H.E. Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the AAOIFI Board of Trustees, honored KFH's delegation for their invaluable contributions and partici-



Kuwait Finance House delegation.

pation in the conference. This honor acknowledges KFH's ongoing efforts and leadership in advancing Islamic finance services, expanding their reach, and driving its successful journey.

Through seven panel discussion,

the two-day conference featured keynote addresses from distinguished dignitaries, policymakers, central bankers and officials from supervisory and regulatory authorities. These discussions explored how Islamic finance can build a sustain-

able Halal ecosystem, covering topics such as transitioning from Halal finance to a Halal economy, enhancing supply chains and addressing governance and transparency in Islamic finance, among other relevant topics.



Faisal Al-Surayeh receiving the honor of your home from Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

The conference encompassed diverse live and virtual discussions during which renowned Islamic finance leaders presented their perceptions on developing Islamic finance, handling challenges, and maintaining Shariah aspects of transactions as part of the issues raised.

During its participation, KFH had the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas with pioneers and experts in the Islamic finance industry. It was also an opportunity to highlight

key issues requiring practical solutions and implementations in the Islamic banking industry. Moreover, the industry requires continuous research and improvement to address all obstacles to its development, particularly in areas such as promoting economic efficiency and financial stability.

Established in 1991 in Bahrain, the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) is the leading international non-profit organization primarily responsible for development and issuance of standards for the global Islamic finance industry. It has issued a total of 122 standards in the areas of Shariah, accounting, auditing, ethics and governance for international Islamic finance. It is supported by a number of institutional members, including central banks and regulatory authorities, financial institutions, accounting and auditing firms, and legal firms, from over 45 countries. Its standards are currently followed by all the leading Islamic financial institutions across the world and have introduced a progressive degree of harmonization of international Islamic finance practices.



A for sale sign hangs in front of a home in the Park Slope neighborhood in the borough of Brooklyn in New York. (AP)

## Average rate on 30-yr mortgage up 6.79 pct

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The average rate on a 30-year mortgage in the U.S. rose for the sixth straight week, returning to its highest level since early July.

The rate ticked up to 6.79% from 6.72% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. That's still down from a year ago, when the rate averaged 7.5%.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with homeowners seeking to refinance their home loan to a lower rate, also edged higher this week. The average rate rose to 6% from 5.99% last week. A year ago, it averaged 6.81%, Freddie Mac said.

When mortgage rates increase they can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, reducing homebuyers' purchasing power at a time when home prices remain near all-time highs, even though the housing market remains in a sales slump going back to 2022.

Mortgage rates are influenced by several factors, including the yield on U.S. 10-year Treasury bonds, which lenders use as a guide to price home loans. Bond yields have been rising following encouraging reports on inflation and the economy.

This week, bond yields surged on expectations that President-elect Donald Trump's plans for higher tariffs, lower tax rates and lighter regulation could lead to bigger economic growth, inflation and U.S. government debt.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury was at 4.36% at midday Thursday. It was at 3.62% as recently as mid-September.

The average rate on a 30-year home loan hasn't been this high since July 11, when it was 6.89%. In late September, the average rate got as low as 6.08% - its lowest level in two years - following the Federal Reserve's decision to cut its main interest rate for the first time in more than four years.

While the central bank doesn't set mortgage rates, its policy pivot cleared a path for mortgage rates to generally go lower.

"While we still expect mortgage rates to stabilize by the end of the year, they will likely be at a higher level than markets were initially expecting prior to election week," said Ralph McLaughlin, senior economist at Realtor.com.

The recent uptick in mortgage rates has discouraged some would-be home shoppers. Mortgage applications fell last week for the sixth week in a row, sliding 10.8% on a seasonally adjusted basis from the prior week, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Applications for loans to refinance a mortgage fell 19%, though they were still 48% higher than in the same week last year, when rates were higher.

"Rates and borrower demand will likely remain volatile in the coming weeks as financial markets digest both the election results and the Fed's upcoming monetary policy decisions," said MBA CEO Bob Broeksmit.

9,750 to 227,250.

Weekly applications for jobless benefits are considered representative of U.S. layoffs in a given week.

Continuing claims, the total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits, rose by 39,000 to 1.89 million for the week of Oct. 26. That's the most since late 2021.

In response to weakening employment data and receding consumer prices, the Federal Reserve slashed

its benchmark interest rate in September by a half a percentage point as the central bank shifted its focus from taming inflation toward supporting the job market. The Fed is hoping to execute a rare "soft landing," whereby it brings down inflation without tipping the economy into a recession.

It was the Fed's first rate cut in four years after a series of increases starting in 2022 that pushed the fed-

eral funds rate to a two-decade high of 5.3%.

The Fed is expected to announce later Thursday that it has cut its benchmark borrowing rate by another quarter point.

Inflation has retreated steadily, approaching the Fed's 2% target and leading Chair Jerome Powell to declare recently that it was largely under control.

Last week, the government re-

ported that an inflation gauge closely watched by the Fed fell to its lowest level in three-and-a-half years.

During the first four months of 2024, applications for jobless benefits averaged just 213,000 a week before rising in May. They hit 250,000 in late July, supporting the notion that high interest rates were finally cooling a red-hot U.S. job market.

In October, the U.S. economy produced a meager 12,000 jobs, though

economists pointed to recent strikes and hurricanes that left many workers temporarily off payrolls.

In August, the Labor Department reported that the U.S. economy added 818,000 fewer jobs from April 2023 through March this year than were originally reported. The revised total was also considered evidence that the job market has been slowing steadily, compelling the Fed to start cutting interest rates. 2021.

# Fed cuts key rate by a quarter-point

'In the near term, the election will have no effects on our decisions'

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate Thursday by a quarter-point in response to the steady decline in the once-high inflation that had angered Americans and helped drive Donald Trump's presidential election victory this week.

The rate cut follows a larger half-point reduction in September, and it reflects the Fed's renewed focus on supporting the job market as well as fighting inflation, which now barely exceeds the central bank's 2% target.

Asked at a news conference how Trump's election might affect the Fed's policymaking, Chair Jerome Powell said that "in the near term, the election will have no effects on our (interest rate) decisions."

But Trump's election, beyond its economic consequences, has raised the specter of meddling by the White House in the Fed's policy decisions. Trump has argued that as president, he should have a voice in the central bank's interest rate decisions. The Fed has long guarded its role as an independent agency able to make difficult decisions about borrowing rates, free from political interference. Yet in his previous term in the White House, Trump publicly attacked Powell after the Fed raised rates to fight inflation, and he may do so again.

Asked whether he would resign if Trump asked him to, Powell, who will have a year left in his second four-year term as Fed chair when Trump takes office, replied simply, "No."

And Powell said that in his view, Trump could not fire or demote him: It would "not be permitted under the law," he said.

Thursday's Fed rate cut reduced its benchmark rate to about 4.6%, down from a four-decade high of 5.3%. The Fed had kept its rate that high for more than a year to fight the worst inflation streak in four decades. Annual inflation has since fallen from a 9.1% peak in mid-2022 to a 3 1/2-year low of 2.4% in September.

When its latest policy meeting ended Thursday, the Fed issued a statement noting that the "unemployment rate has moved up but remains low," and while inflation has fallen closer to the 2% target level, it "remains somewhat elevated."

After their rate cut in September - their first such move in more than four years - the policymakers had projected that they would make further quarter-point cuts in November and December and four more next year. But with the economy now mostly solid and Wall Street anticipating faster growth, larger budget deficits and higher inflation under a Trump presidency, further rate cuts may



A screen at a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange displays the Federal Reserve interest rate decision, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024. (AP)

have become less likely. Rate cuts by the Fed typically lead over time to lower borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

Powell declined to be pinned down Thursday on whether the Fed would proceed with an additional quarter-point rate cut in December or the four rate cuts its policymakers penciled in for 2025.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at accounting giant KPMG, said she thought Powell was reluctant to provide hints about the Fed's next moves because of the uncertainty caused by Trump's election victory.

"He's not willing to go too far out ahead of his skis, given how much could change," she said. "In an environment where you don't know how promises on the campaign trail translate to actual policies, you don't want to front-run it."

Still, Matthew Luzzetti, an economist at Deutsche Bank, said there were signs that the Fed might end up announcing fewer rate cuts next year than many economists expect. The job market and the economy are looking healthier than they appeared in September, when the Fed announced an outside half-point rate cut.

"Nothing in the economic data," Luzzetti said, "suggests that the (Fed) has any need to be in a hurry" to get rates down substantially.

On Thursday, Powell did express confidence that inflation, despite some recent

higher-than-expected readings, would keep falling back to the Fed's target.

"We feel like the story is very consistent with inflation continuing to come down on a bumpy path over the next couple of years, and settling around 2%," he said.

The economy is clouding the picture by flashing conflicting signals, with growth solid but hiring weakening. Consumer spending, though, has been healthy, fueling concerns that there is no need for the Fed to reduce borrowing costs and that doing so might overstimulate the economy and even re-accelerate inflation.

Financial markets are throwing yet another curve at the Fed: Investors have pushed up Treasury yields since the central bank cut rates in September. The result has been higher borrowing costs throughout the economy, thereby diminishing the benefit to consumers of the Fed's half-point cut in its benchmark rate, which it announced after its September meeting.

Broader interest rates have risen because investors are anticipating higher inflation, larger federal budget deficits, and faster economic growth under a President-elect Trump. Trump's plan to impose at least a 10% tariff on all imports, as well as significantly higher taxes on Chinese goods, and to carry out a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants would almost certainly boost inflation. This would make it less

likely that the Fed would continue cutting its key rate. Annual inflation as measured by the central bank's preferred gauge fell to 2.1% in September.

Economists at Goldman Sachs estimate that Trump's proposed 10% tariff, as well as his proposed taxes on Chinese imports and autos from Mexico, could send inflation back up to about 2.75% to 3% by mid-2026.

The economy grew at a solid annual rate just below 3% over the past six months, while consumer spending - fueled by higher-income shoppers - rose strongly in the July-September quarter.

But companies have scaled back hiring, with many people who are out of work struggling to find jobs. Powell has suggested that the Fed is reducing its key rate in part to bolster the job market. If economic growth continues at a healthy clip and inflation climbs again, though, the central bank will come under pressure to slow or stop its rate cuts.

Asked at his news conference about Americans who are feeling little relief from the pain of high prices and who helped fuel Trump's victory, Powell said:

"It takes some years of real wage gains for people to feel better, and that's what we're trying to create, and I think we're well on the road to creating that. Inflation has come way down, the economy is still strong here, wages are moving up, but at a sustainable level."

## China taps window period to enhance EV manufacture, exports

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (Xinhua): China has spotted a window period, maybe once in a century, which, if tapped properly, can boost the country's electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing to a new height and help define the global EV market, an industry insider told Xinhua in Detroit, U.S. Midwest state of Michigan, at the end of October.

"China is now defining the (EV) market, which the United States has been failing to do and other manufacturers have no ability to do, let alone preserve such an am-

bitution," said Bill Zhuang, president and CEO of Angstrom Electric, a division of Angstrom Automotive Group, a leading tier 1 full-service supplier for Automotive and Industrial OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturer).

Due to sectoral deficits, the automotive-manufacturing "Big Three" of the United States, namely General Motors, Ford and Stellantis, have all slowed down their transition to EV production. Staff members were laid off and factories closed, a sign of

losing confidence in EV's prospects. However, latecomer Tesla has made money in the past five years, thanks to its strong presence in the Chinese market.

"China prides itself on efficiency, which is now hard to find in the United States," said Zhuang, recalling his September visit to over 10 EV manufacturers in China. "American manufacturers can give few marvels in the transmission system, interior and exterior design, customer experience and electric application, which are exactly

the fields that their Chinese peers stand out."

"And the most important thing with which China calls the shot is that a sound and full-dimension supply chain has been established within the country for making EVs in the past decade," noted Zhuang, who moved from China to the United States in the 1990s and has spent the last four decades building his career across both countries, accumulating vast industry knowledge and experience.

### Layoffs remain at low levels

# Slightly more Americans apply for unemployment benefits last week

WASHINGTON, Nov 9, (AP): The number of Americans applying for jobless aid ticked up last week but layoffs remain at historically low levels.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that jobless claim applications rose by 3,000 to 221,000 for the week of Nov. 2. That's fewer than the 227,000 analysts forecast.

The four-week average of weekly claims, which softens some of the week-to-week fluctuations, fell by

Weekly applications for jobless benefits are considered representative of U.S. layoffs in a given week.

Continuing claims, the total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits, rose by 39,000 to 1.89 million for the week of Oct. 26. That's the most since late 2021.

In response to weakening employment data and receding consumer prices, the Federal Reserve slashed





Photos during the event.

Photos by Mohamad Morsi

## Japan Ambassador given farewell at Al-Qadiri Gallery

The Japan Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Mr. & Mrs. Morino Yasunari, visited Al-Qadiri Gallery in Mishref last Tuesday, to bid farewell after the end of his mission in the State of Kuwait. H.E Mr. & Mrs. Morino Yasunari were welcomed by Mr. Mohammed Al-Qadiri the General Manager of Al-Qadiri Gallery,

and his wife Kuwaiti artist and writer Thuraya Al-Baqsmi, who presented the ambassador and his wife with a gift of one of her recent paintings as a token of friendship and as a nice memoir of Kuwait. Many ambassadors, diplomats, and friends attended the event.



Photos during the event.

## Indian envoy attends event honoring Chandy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: On November 2, 2024, United Indian School, the Indian Public School and the United International Indian School celebrated Founder's Day at United International Indian School, honoring their late founder, Thomas Chandy. A visionary philanthropist and former Transport Minister of Kerala, India, Chandy's dedication to education, culture, and community continues to inspire the institutions he founded.

The event was graced by distinguished guests including HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, along with Madam Vandana Swaika and Baija Nath from the Indian Embassy. Notable dignitaries, including sponsors and principals of various CBSE schools in Kuwait, also attended.

The celebration included a warm welcome speech by Anwita from Indian Public School, followed by an address from HE Dr. Swaika, who emphasized the strength of India-Kuwait ties and the unity shown by the Indian diaspora.

Top CBSE exam achievers were recognized with awards and a tribute song and dance performances added to the cultural richness of the event.

The gathering also highlighted the legacy of Thomas Chandy, with Mrs. Tessy Chandy and Mrs. Mary Chandy sharing heartfelt words on his lasting influence. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Amy Mariam Alex from United Indian School.

## 160 students benefit from dental camp

# IDAK successfully conducts dental camp at Al Resala Bilingual School

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Indian Dentists Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), affiliated with the Kuwait Dental Association (KDA), successfully organized a dental camp at Al Resala Bilingual School, special education needs division. This event, aimed at promoting dental health among students, saw a commendable turnout and positive engagement from both the school administration and IDAK representatives.

A team of dedicated dentists represented IDAK at the camp, including Dr. Prashanth R. Prasad (Chair of IDAK's CWC), Dr. Ajay Vazhiyodan (Co-chair), Dr. Thomas Thomas, Dr. Dhanalakshmi Mannem, Dr. Valentina Fernandes, Dr. Jayashree Dexith, Dr. Sabina Arsiwala, Dr. Akshara Mary Thomas, Dr. Jubin Easo Jose, and Dr. Jane John Thomas.

The Principal of Al Resala Bilingual School, Ms. Sahar Mahmoud Hassan, along with Mr. Ibrahim Khalil and Ms. Fahima Ahmed Abdul Fateh, extended full support to the initiative. They expressed appreciation for IDAK's commitment to screening and educating around 160 students on oral health.

An interactive session led by Dr. Jane John Thomas highlighted effective oral hygiene practices, capturing the attention of students and their caregivers. As part of the camp, dental kits were distributed to students, along with IDAK's patient handbook.

I am an exercise physiologist, certified strength and conditioning specialist and certified performance and sport scientist. My research focuses on how muscle develops from childhood to adolescence, with the goal of understanding how young people can get the most benefit out of exercise training programs, particularly strength training programs.

My experience and research has shown that strength training can help to improve sports performance for youth, and that there are significant health benefits for youth participating in strength training beyond sports performance.

The question I receive most often, for good reason, is whether strength training is safe for youth. In a study examining injury rates in numerous sports, researchers found that, when done correctly, strength training had a lower risk of injury than nearly all other sports. This is not only true for adults but also for children.

That being said, it is important to consider a young person's emotional maturity before handing them a dumbbell. During my career, I have designed and implemented strength training programs for kids of all ages, even as young as 6 years old. But not every child in that age range is ready for strength training. For their own safety, participants need to be emotionally mature enough to listen to and follow instructions so that they don't hurt themselves. For some kids, that's as early as age 6, while others may not be ready until they are a few years older.

Because correct technique is key to doing these exercises safely, it is important that strength training programs for children be designed and implemented under the guidance of a qualified trainer or coach. This means someone with valid credentials and who has received higher education in exercise science.

It's also important to seek out professionals who use scientific evidence to back up their training programs and philosophies.

Research has shown that stronger muscles in kids reduce the likelihood of injuries during various types of activities. One study we conducted found that lower muscle strength and size could lead to lower performance during different activities kids typically engage in, such as running and jumping. Not only this, but kids with lower strength tend to have worse neuromuscular efficiency, which means that they are not as proficient at activating their muscles. This trans-



Photos during the campaign.

## 'Win gold, cash, and travel miles'

# Warba Bank announces winners of the Salary Transfer Campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Warba Bank continues its salary transfer campaign for the year 2024, which gives the clients a chance to obtain different benefits, most notably an exceptional travel experience and cash prizes of up to KD 1,000, a 25-gram gold bar, and 35,000 miles provided by Warba Bank in cooperation with the Oasis Club of Kuwait Airways, in addition to a cash gift of up to KD 15,000.



Ahmed Al-Mutawa

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

The weekly draw was held and three clients won. The first winner was: Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Farah, who won a prize worth KD 1,000, while the second winner was Ayam Saeed Al-Enezi, who received a 25-gram gold bar. The third prize, went to Wedad Mudhhi Al-Bannaqi, who received 35,000 miles provided by Warba Bank in cooperation with the Oasis Club of Kuwait Airways.

On this occasion, Ahmed Mohammad Al-Mutawa - Area Manager Retail Banking Group, said: "We are always keen to provide the best distinctive offers and exclusive benefits to our clients that suit different segments and ages of Kuwaitis whose salaries

exceed KD 500, so we launched this year's salary transfer campaign with exceptional benefits and rewards."

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

He stressed that all the offers included in the salary transfer campaign this year were carefully designed in line with clients' needs and seasonal

requirements, with the aim of always providing the most valuable and suitable offers for our clients.

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

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

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

## The Conversation

# Strength training can boost muscle strength & reduce injury risk in kids

By Zachary Gillen

Mississippi State University

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

‘Aren't they a little young for that?’ This is a question I used to hear regularly from parents when I'd recommend strength training for the kids I worked with, whose ages ranged from 6 to 18 years old, in youth sports. During my four years as a strength and conditioning coach, I often received questions from parents about the pros and cons of strength training - that is, training that involves weight-bearing exercises - for children.

Some of the most common questions: Is strength training safe for children and adolescents? At what age is it appropriate for them to begin strength training? What are the benefits of strength training for this age group? Is strength training beneficial even for kids who are not involved in organized sports?

Simply put, it is safe and appropriate for kids of all ages to perform strength training.

I am an exercise physiologist, certified strength and conditioning specialist and certified performance and sport scientist. My research focuses on how muscle develops from childhood to adolescence, with the goal of understanding how young people can get the most benefit out of exercise training programs, particularly strength training programs.

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The question I receive most often, for good reason, is whether strength training is safe for youth. In a study examining injury rates in numerous sports, researchers found that, when done correctly, strength training had a lower risk of injury than nearly all other sports. This is not only true for adults but also for children.

That being said, it is important to consider a young person's emotional maturity before handing them a dumbbell. During my career, I have designed and implemented strength training programs for kids of all ages, even as young as 6 years old. But not every child in that age range is ready for strength training. For their own safety, participants need to be emotionally mature enough to listen to and follow instructions so that they don't hurt themselves. For some kids, that's as early as age 6, while others may not be ready until they are a few years older.

Because correct technique is key to doing these exercises safely, it is important that strength training programs for children be designed and implemented under the guidance of a qualified trainer or coach. This means someone with valid credentials and who has received higher education in exercise science.

It's also important to seek out professionals who use scientific evidence to back up their training programs and philosophies.

Research has shown that stronger muscles in kids reduce the likelihood of injuries during various types of activities. One study we conducted found that lower muscle strength and size could lead to lower performance during different activities kids typically engage in, such as running and jumping. Not only this, but kids with lower strength tend to have worse neuromuscular efficiency, which means that they are not as proficient at activating their muscles. This trans-

lates to using more energy and feeling more worn out when they're physically active.

While it's easy to see how strength training is important for youth who play sports, there are also incredible health benefits for kids who may not be into organized sports. Studies have shown the positive effect that strength training can have on healthy bone development in kids, leading to a lower likelihood of fractures. Research has also shown that strength training in kids can have a positive influence on psychological well-being and academic performance.

Strength training can also affect overall health and well-being as it relates to childhood obesity.

Obesity rates in children and adolescents have been rising for decades. Previous research has suggested that youth who are categorized as obese tend to have lower muscle strength than those considered normal weight. Not only this, but other research has found that youth who are obese may have a greater likelihood of sarcopenic obesity, defined as obesity with low muscle mass and function, which can have significant, negative health ramifications.

Resistance training interventions in youth with obesity have shown to have positive impacts on metabolic health, body composition, psychological health and overall quality of life.

An effective strength training program starts with setting age-appropriate expectations.

Children and adolescents are not miniature adults, and not all young people will adapt to a strength training program the same way. For instance, research shows that during puberty, there are unique differences in how muscle develops in boys versus girls.

Specifically, girls may have more neuroplasticity, which is defined as the brain's ability to recognize new movements and patterns. This means that they may adapt to more complex movements faster than boys, while boys will see more significant changes when their muscle mass starts increasing with puberty. This doesn't necessarily mean that girls and boys need vastly different strength training programs. It simply means not all kids will have the same rate of progression for certain exercises.

Taking that into consideration, an age-appropriate program should focus on technique over results. How much weight a child can lift is far less important than teaching them good movement patterns. For example, if a child is having difficulty performing normal pushups, a qualified professional could modify the exercise so they start with wall pushups or incline pushups. This will help that child build good movement patterns and be better for their strength in the long run.

Building off this focus on technique, a good strength training program for youth should progress from simple movements to more complex movements and lighter weights to heavier weights, taking into consideration that not all youth will adapt at the same rate.

Obviously, most kids won't grow up to be professional athletes, but every child can develop athleticism. A good strength training program for kids will set them on a trajectory to a healthy lifestyle from childhood to adolescence to adulthood.

Research shows that beginning exercise in childhood tends to lead to continued exercise habits in adulthood. For this reason, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, a leading organization in the field of strength and conditioning and exercise science, has encouraged a focus on improving training habits in childhood that can then be maintained into adulthood for overall better health and well-being. (AP)



## A cultural win in China-Italy collaboration

### 56 lost Chinese cultural relics returned from Italy

BEIJING, Nov 9, (Xinhua): A total of 56 lost Chinese cultural relics have been returned from Italy, China's National Cultural Heritage Administration announced on Saturday.

The return signifies yet another successful cooperation between China and Italy within the framework of their bilateral agreement aimed at preventing the illegal import and export of cultural relics, the administration noted.

It follows the previous repatriation of 796 Chinese cultural relics from Italy in March 2019.

In October 2022 and April 2024, the Italian Carabinieri military police notified China about the seizure of a total of 56 suspected Chinese cultural relics.

Upon receiving this information, China's National Cultural Heritage Administration provided detailed identification opinions and legal basis reports to the Italian authorities.

Through diplomatic channels, China



President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan, together with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and his daughter Laura Mattarella, view Chinese artifacts returned by Italy at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Nov 8, 2024. (Xinhua)

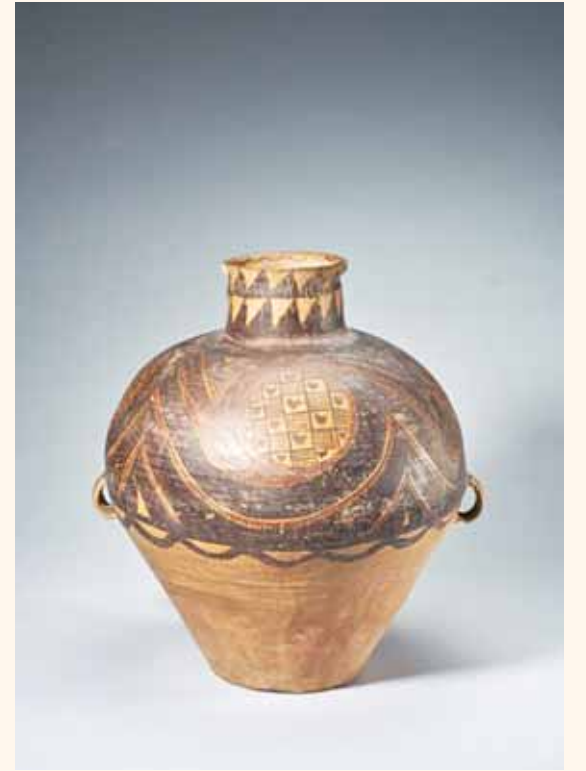
officially requested the return of these cultural relics. Italy subsequently made the decision to return the 56 aforementioned artifacts.

Most of the artifacts were found to have been unearthed in the provinces of Gansu, Qinghai, and Shaanxi in China.

Among them is painted pottery of Majiayao culture, an ancient Chinese culture dating back more than 5,000 years, providing valuable material evidence for the study of the origin and early development of Chinese civilization.

The returned artifacts also include pottery figurines from the Han (202 B.C. - A.D. 220) and Tang (618-907) dynasties and animal-shaped ceramics from the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

Amid China's intensified efforts to recover cultural relics lost overseas, more than 2,100 pieces or sets of artifacts have been successfully brought back in the past 12 years.



One of the newly returned Majiayao pottery vessels. (Xinhua)

## Maltese version sci-fi novel

### 'The Three-Body Problem' debuts at book festival

VALLETTA, Nov 9, (Xinhua): A Maltese version of "The Three-Body Problem," the acclaimed science fiction novel, was officially launched on Friday at the Malta Book Festival, which runs from Nov. 6 to Nov. 10 in Attard, central Malta.

At the book launch event, attendees were captivated as excerpts from "The Three-Body Problem" were read in Chinese, Maltese, and English. The published book is the first in "The Three-Body Problem" trilogy.

"The Three-Body Problem," written by Chinese author Liu Cixin, portrays humanity's struggle for survival against an existential threat from an alien civilization. The novel's expansive cosmic vision and profound philosophical reflections earned it the prestigious Hugo Award, one of the highest honors in the sci-fi genre.

In a video address, Liu said that "The Three-Body Problem" represents his years of contemplation on technology, the universe, civilization, and human nature. Its creative inspiration is derived from the "three-body problem" in celestial mechanics, he said, adding that based on this scientific problem, he envisioned a galaxy where three stars engage in irregular motion and the existence of the "Three-Body Civilization" within the galaxy.

The novel has been published in more than 30 languages and has gradually become a sci-fi work that influences readers in many countries, he said. "I do not speak Maltese, but science fiction is a language we share," Liu said. He expressed his hope that Maltese readers will enjoy the book and he looks forward to visiting the beautiful country of Malta one day.

"This is quite an accomplishment," Joanne Micallef, director of Malta's Faraxa Publishing, which is responsible for the pub-

lication of the book, told Xinhua, adding that she was very proud to have secured the rights to publish the novel in Maltese. She said that the company has a plan to translate the remaining two books into Maltese as well.

Micallef emphasized the significance of the translation, noting that so far only a few Chinese books have been translated into Maltese. She hopes that this project will "open the road" for more works in the genre to reach Maltese readers.

She also expressed interest in further collaboration with Chinese publishers, saying that the experience of publishing the Maltese-version "The Three-Body Problem" was highly positive and that she looks forward to continued partnerships with Chinese publishers.

John Bonello, the book's translator, began work on the project in June 2023. He dedicated ten months to the first draft, working daily, followed by an additional six months to bring the book to publishing standard. "It was challenging and required a lot of hard work, but the story deserves it," he told Xinhua.

According to Bonello, there are very few science fiction books in the Maltese language. He hopes that this book will be well-received and inspire more Maltese writers to create works in Maltese. He also expressed hope to bring more of China's remarkable literature to Maltese readers, offering them a window to explore Chinese culture through translation.

Lynn Zammit Russell crafted the cover of the book. She is also a fan of science fiction novels and movies. "I have watched the Netflix series 3 Body Problem, but I'm looking forward to reading the book today," she told Xinhua.

Malta's National Book Council and the China Cultural Center in Malta supported the publication of the book.



John Bonello, translator of 'The Three-Body Problem,' reads the Maltese version of the book during a book launch event at the Malta Book Festival in Attard, central Malta, on Nov. 8, 2024. (Xinhua)

## Film



This image released by Netflix shows Samuel L. Jackson in a scene from 'The Piano Lesson.' (AP)

## Washington brings ghost story in August Wilson to life

### Heritage unbound in 'The Piano Lesson'

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): An heirloom piano takes on immense significance for one family in 1936 Pittsburgh in August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson." Generational ties also permeate the film adaptation, in which Malcolm Washington follows in his father Denzel Washington's footsteps in helping to bring the entirety of The Pittsburgh Cycle - a series of 10 plays - to the screen.

Malcolm Washington did not start from scratch in his accomplished feature filmmaking debut. He enlisted much of the cast from the recent Broadway revival with Samuel L. Jackson (Doaker Charles), his brother, John David Washington (Boy Willie), Ray Fisher (Lymon) and Michael Potts (Whining Boy). Berniece, played by Danielle Brooks in the play, is now beautifully portrayed by Danielle Deadwyler. With such rich material and a cast for whom it's second nature, it would be hard, one imagines, to go wrong. Jackson's own history with the play goes back to its original run in 1987 when he was Boy Willie.

It's not the simplest thing to make a play feel cinematic, but Malcolm Washington was up to the task. His film opens up the world of the Charles family beyond the living room. In fact, this adaptation, which Washington co-wrote with "Mudbound" screenwriter Virgil Williams, goes beyond Wilson's text and shows us the past and the origins of the intricately engraved piano that's

central to all the fuss. It even opens on a big, action-filled set piece in 1911, during which the piano is stolen from a white family's home. Another fleshes out Doaker's monologue in which he explains to the uninitiated, Fisher's Lymon, and the audience, the tortured history of the thing. While it might have been nice to keep the camera on Jackson, such a great, grounding presence throughout, the good news is that he really makes narration shine as well.

Wilson purists will certainly have opinions on these artistic choices; But they let the film breathe a bit, offering some respite from the living room with the looming piano. And most of the film stays right there, in 1936. Boy Willie and Lymon descend early one morning, uninvited, on the Pittsburgh home of Berniece and her uncle Doaker. It's a family reunion with an agenda: They've driven a truck full of watermelons up north from Mississippi, and Willie, Berniece's younger brother, wants to sell the watermelons and then the piano. The dusty old instrument represents to him a chance to let the past go and start a future. With the money, he wants to buy the land that his enslaved ancestors worked. Berniece has other ideas about the piano, namely keeping it. It's a connection to the past, not an anchor. Besides, it might be haunted.

Yes, "The Piano Lesson," in theaters Friday and

streaming on Netflix on Nov. 22, isn't just a meditation on family history. It's also a literal ghost story, with creaks, spooks and shadows lurking when the piano is disturbed. Deadwyler is electric as Berniece, who bears the brunt of the haunting, walking on eggshells in her life, trying to care for her young daughter and fend off passes from men who assume she can only be fulfilled with one at her side. Now she must deal with her somewhat manic brother who might, Doaker wisely reminds, actually, annoyingly, have a point. Perhaps the film academy will make up for their snub of her performance in "Till" with this turn.

Regardless of your familiarity with Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, "The Piano Lesson" is a worthwhile, captivating and moving watch full of charismatic performers. Talent isn't always genetic, but the Washington family is putting in the work to prove otherwise. And with "Fences,"

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and now "The Piano Lesson," they're making a mark with a bold and ambitious project that is probably long overdue. Only seven more to go.

"The Piano Lesson," a Netflix release in theaters Friday and streaming Nov. 22, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "strong language, violent content, some suggestive references and smoking." Running time: 125 minutes. Three stars out of four.

## Variety

**ANKARA:** Ankara, the capital city of Türkiye, is striving to increase its tourism appeal with historical attractions. One of them is Hamamonu, a vibrant ancient neighborhood that merges Ottoman heritage with modern charm.

Even though Türkiye welcomed nearly 50 million international visitors in 2023, only 700,000 of them ventured to Ankara, according to official data, a figure the city is determined to improve.

While Istanbul often steals the spotlight as Türkiye's most famous and most visited city, Ankara is a gem waiting to be discovered, said Murat Toktas, vice president of the Turkish Hoteliers Federation.

"We want to see Ankara capture a larger role in Türkiye's tourism share. This is possible with historical sites like Hamamonu."

Named after the 15th-century Karacabey Hamam, or bathroom, Hamamonu is one of the oldest still-functioning areas in the city and has been revitalized in recent years, preserving its traditional character with cobblestone streets, old houses, and authentic wooden structures dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. (Xinhua)

**PHNOM PENH:** Cambodia's famed Angkor Archaeological Park welcomed 63,545 Chinese visitors during the first 10 months of 2024, up 40.5 percent from 45,214 over the same period last year, said an official report on Saturday.

The number accounted for 8.2 percent of the total 774,203 international tourist arrivals to the ancient park during the January-October period this year, said the state-owned Angkor Enterprise's report.

China was the fifth-biggest source of foreigners to the Angkor

## Obit

### Elwood Edwards, voice behind 'You've got mail' dies

LOS ANGELES, Nov 9, (AP): **Elwood Edwards**, who voiced America Online's ever-present "You've got mail" greeting, has died. He was 74.

He died Tuesday at his home in New Bern, North Carolina, said his daughter Heather Edwards. The cause was complications from a stroke late last year, she said.

Edwards taped his AOL greeting in 1989 into a recorder while sitting in the living room of his home. "You've got mail" became a pop culture catchphrase in the late 1990s and served as the title of the 1998 Tom Hanks-Meg Ryan film.

"He would still blush anytime someone brought it up," his daughter said. "He loved the attention, but he never got used to it."

He was also the voice of AOL's "Welcome," "Goodbye" and "File's done" messages. He made \$200 from the recordings.

He got the gig while working at an independent TV station in Washington, D.C. His second wife,

Karen, was a customer service representative for the internet provider that later became known as AOL. She heard the company was looking for someone to be the voice of its software and suggested her husband.

"They were so impressed, they didn't have him go in a recording booth," his daughter said.

While few people knew his face, his voice was heard by millions of people each day.

"For a while, America Online was keeping it a secret, making me a man of mystery. But finally it was released, and there you go," Edwards said in 1999.

He did appear on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" in 2015 to repeat the famous catch-



Edwards

phrase, smiling broadly and chuckling as the studio audience cheered. He also added his voice to an episode of "The Simpsons" in 2000.

Edwards first worked in radio and then moved into television. He had a brief stint as a weatherman and worked as an announcer, but mostly he spent his time behind the camera, Heather Edwards said.

"He would say, 'I have a face for radio,'" she said, adding that her dad "always had a ready smile anytime you'd see him."

He later worked at WKYC-TV in Cleveland as a "graphics guru, camera operator, and general jack-of-all-trades," the station said. Edwards also did freelance voice-over work for radio and television commercials.

Survivors include another daughter, Sallie Edwards; granddaughter Abbie Edwards; and a brother, Bill.

The family plans to hold a memorial service Monday in New Bern.



## Burr hosts as show adapts to changing political climate

## SNL gears up for new era with Trump's return

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): "Saturday Night Live" is likely to strike a new tone as it looks toward a second term for Donald Trump in its first episode since his election victory.

Standup comic and actor Bill Burr will host for the second time with Mk.gee as musical guest.

But most eyes will be on the NBC sketch institution's cold open, and the signal it gives about what four more years will mean for the generally liberal-leaning show, other than steady employment for cast member James Austin Johnson, who does a Trump impression that has become definitive.

In the first five episodes of its 50th season, which has seen a ratings spike, the show openings made Vice President Kamala Harris - played by returning cast member Maya Rudolph - the central star, culminating last week in an appearance by Harris herself, with a giddy pre-election energy in the air.

This Saturday night could be a little less live. After Trump's first election victory in 2016, Kate McKinnon, who played Hillary Clinton on the show, appeared as the losing candidate sitting



Left; Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris appears on NBC's 'Saturday Night Live,' with Maya Rudolph, Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024 in New York. Right: Bill Burr, a cast member in 'Unfrosted,' poses at the premiere of the Netflix film at the Egyptian Theatre, April 30, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)



at the piano and sang an almost entirely somber-and-serious version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," changing only one verse from the best-known versions of the song.

"And even though it all went wrong, I'll stand

before the lord of song with nothing on my tongue but 'Hallelujah,' McKinnon sang in what became a national moment of catharsis for those on the losing side.

After finishing, McKinnon said, with a shaky

voice, "I'm not giving up and neither should you" before delivering the obligatory "live from New York, it's Saturday night!"

Standup comic Dave Chappelle hosted that episode. One sketch featured him and another Black comic-actor, Chris Rock, watching election returns with white liberals, who are shocked by the results, unlike their Black guests.

"This is the most shameful thing America has ever done," white cast member Beck Bennett says at the end. Rock and Chappelle then look at each other and break into laughter.

Chappelle also hosted the post-election "SNL" in 2020, but this time that honor goes to another comic, Burr, who is currently on a major standup tour and is set to join Kieran Culkin and Bob Odenkirk on Broadway this spring on a revival of "Glenrory Glen Ross."

Burr's politics, at least as expressed through his comedy and frequent guesting on podcasts and talk shows, may be best described as angrily centrist. But other than the fake news of "Weekend Update," the show tends to turn away from politics after the opening.

## Music

## 'Cowboy Carter' sets new benchmark

## Beyoncé leads Grammy noms

NEW YORK, Nov 9, (AP): Welcome to Beyoncé country. When it comes to the 2025 Grammy Award nominations, "Cowboy Carter" rules the nation. She leads the nods with 11, bringing her career total to 99 nominations. That makes her the most nominated artist in Grammy history.

"Cowboy Carter" is up for album and country album of the year, and "Texas Hold 'Em" is nominated for record, song and country song of the year. She also received nominations in a wide swath of genres, including pop, country, Americana and melodic rap performance categories.

This is her first time receiving nominations in the country and Americana categories. Previously, she and her husband Jay-Z were tied for most career nominations, at 88.

If Beyoncé wins the album of the year, she'll become the first Black woman to do so in the 21st century. Lauryn Hill last won in 1999 for "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," joining Natalie Cole and Whitney Houston as the only Black women to take home the Grammys' top prize.

Post Malone also received his first ever nominations in the country categories this year, having released his debut country album "F-1 Trillion" in August. That one is up for country album and "I Had Some Help," his collaboration with Morgan Wallen, is nominated for country song and country duo/group performance. They are Wallen's first ever Grammy nominations.

Malone is just behind Beyoncé, with seven nominations, tied with Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar and Charli XCX, who earned her first nominations as a solo artist.

Lamar's ubiquitous diss track released during his feud with Drake, "Not Like Us," is nominated for record and song of the year, rap song, music video as well as best rap performance. He has two simultaneous entries in the latter category, a career first: Future & Metro Boomin featuring Lamar, "Like That" is up for best rap performance and best rap song.

This is his third time receiving two simultaneous nominations for best rap song.

Taylor Swift and first-time nominees Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan boast of six nominations each.

Last year, women artists dominated the major categories. This year, that continues somewhat, but the main trend seems to be a variance of genre. In the album of the year category, alongside "Cowboy Carter" is André 3000's new age, alt-jazz "New Blue Sun" and multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier's "Djesse Vol. 4." Rising pop stars Carpenter and Roan round it out, with "Short n' Sweet" and "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" respectively, as well as Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department." Eilish's "Hit Me Hard and Soft," and Charli XCX's rave-ready "BRAT."

Eilish is the only artist to have her first three albums become nominated for album of the year.

Last year, Swift won album of the year for "Midnights," breaking the record for most wins in the category with four. This year, she becomes the first ever woman to seven career nominations in the category.

"The breadth and the variety of genres represented in the general field feels new and really exciting," says the Recording Academy CEO and President Harvey Mason jr. He credits an active and evolving voting body for its success. "We've been very intentional in how we looked at and tried to rebalance our membership. So not just gender or people of color, different racial makeup, but also genre equity and trying to



Beyoncé appears at a campaign event for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in Houston, on Oct. 25, 2024. (AP)



Taylor Swift performs during 'The Eras Tour,' Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. (AP)



Post Malone performs a medley at the 57th Annual CMA Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

make sure that all different types of music in different regions and different locations are being represented in every way possible."

Only recordings commercially released in the U.S. between Sept. 16, 2023 through Aug. 30, 2024 were eligible for nominations. The final round of Grammy voting, which determines its winners, will take place Dec. 12 through January 3.

In the best new artist category, Carpenter and Roan will go head-to-head, alongside Benson Boone, Doechii, Khruangbin, RAYE, Shaboozey and Teddy Swims.

In the song of the year category, Beyoncé is joined by Eilish with "Birds of a Feather," Swift and Post Malone with "Fortnight," Roan's "Good Luck, Babe!," Carpenter's "Please Please Please," Lamar's "Not Like Us," Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars' "Die With A Smile," and Shaboozey's "A Bar Song (Tippy)." Shaboozey is also a first-time nominee. His "A Bar Song (Tippy)" is the biggest song of the year, having spent more weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 than any other - it is so popular, a remix of the track is also up for remixed recording.

Elsewhere, Shaboozey is nominated in the melodic rap performance category for his feature on Beyoncé's "SPAGHETTI." Linda Martell, the first commercially-successful Black woman musician in country, is also featured on the song, delivering the 83-year-old artist her first Grammy nomination.

For record of the year, "Texas Hold 'Em" will compete against Swift and Post Malone's "Fortnight," Eilish's

"Birds of a Feather," Lamar's "Not Like Us," Roan's "Good Luck, Babe!,"



Billie Eilish appears at the 66th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Feb. 4, 2024. (AP)



Kendrick Lamar performs during the Festival d'été de Québec in Québec City, Canada on July 7, 2017. (AP)

Carpenter's "Espresso," Charli XCX's "360," and the Beatles last new song, the AI-assisted "Now and Then."

"We're trying to make sure we're keeping up with how music creators and our community are using technology. And in this case, AI enhanced the record and allowed it to be eligible in the categories that it was eligible in," Mason jr explains.

Dolly Parton scored her 55th career nomination in the audio book, narration, and storytelling recording category for her "Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones," news The Associated Press broke to the country music legend Friday morning. "No! What did I get nominated for?" she cheered over the phone. "Oh, well, that's cool. I thought it would be for my rock album, I'd take it."

"It feels good. I'm always appreciative of everything. I don't work for that, but it's always good to say 'you've done good work,' and for somebody to acknowledge that. So, I'm always proud of every award I get and every mention I get. That just makes me feel like I'm doing the right thing."

She's up against producer Guy Oldfield, George Clinton, Barbra Streisand and Jimmy Carter, who could become the oldest Grammy award winner in history at 100.

So, what's missing? Like last year, there's a huge dearth of Latin music - the fastest growing streaming genre in the United States - across the board, and no representation in the major categories. There are also only four entries in the best Música Mexicana album category, despite it also being one of the fastest growing genres.

## 'Light of the Sun'

## Ancient Shu and Inca exhibit opens in Peru

CUSCO, Peru, Nov 9, (Xinhua): An exhibition of "Light of the Sun: A Dialogue Between Ancient Shu and Inca Civilizations" is being held at the Inca Museum (Museo Inka) in Cusco, Peru, to showcase selected artifacts from the ancient Shu civilization, along with seven sets of Inca cultural relics.

More than 180 attendees, including representatives from cultural and governmental institutions from China and Peru, on Tuesday attended opening ceremony of exhibition themed around dialogue and mutual learning, which will run until Nov. 20.

The event also features digital presentations and cultural performances, providing visitors with an interactive experience that bridges these two ancient civilizations across time and space.

Organizers said the exhibition aims to create another vivid dialogue between the ancient Shu and Inca civilizations.

Mohenir Julinho Zapata, director of the museum, expressed the hope that the exhibition will serve as a window into China's cultural heritage for the people of Cusco, and deepen exchanges and mutual understanding between the two countries.

Chinese and Peruvian scholars gathered in Cusco for an international academic forum on Wednesday, exchanging insights on archaeological discoveries, exploring the values and characteristics of the two ancient civilizations, and sharing the latest achievements in archaeology and heritage preservation.

Guided by China's State Council Information Office, the Chinese Embassy in Peru, the Ministry of Culture of Peru, and the Regional Government of Cusco, the exhibition is organized by Sichuan Provincial Government Information Office, Sichuan Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics, and the National University of San Antonio Abad of Cusco.



This photo taken on Jan. 9, 2024 shows a cloak displayed at an exhibition on the Inca civilization at the Jinsha Site Museum in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua)

## Naples Museum artifacts on display in Saudi AIUla

JEDDAH, Nov 9, (KUNA): The Royal Commission for AIUla signed on Thursday an agreement with Italy's National Archaeological Museum of Naples to display relics from the museum in the Saudi province.

The official Saudi Press Agency said a selection of the Italian treasures would be brought for display in the Saudi governorate, now a key tourist attraction in the kingdom.

SPA indicated that 15 pieces would be part of the Ancient Kingdoms Festival that kicked off today in AIUla (due until November 30).

The Italian museum, established in 1777, is an iconic Italian cultural attraction.



## Al-Awadhi commends skilled national teams, emphasizes integration of AI in healthcare

# 'Kuwait hospitals equipped with modern radiology machines'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi stated that Ministry hospitals are equipped with state-of-the-art radiology machines in all varieties to reinforce the health system, and commended the qualified national cadres for operating such machinery with skill and professionalism.

Minister Al-Awadhi made these remarks to KUNA on Friday in an event celebrating World Radiology Day.

He underlined radiology as one of the four main pillars upholding healthcare system including doctors, nursing teams, and lab work.

Radiology is imperative to diagnosis, he added explaining that it puts modern technology to use including digital healthcare and Artificial Intelligence.

Minister Al-Awadhi said that this integration of modern machinery and technologies and keeping up with developments places Kuwait at level with highly developed countries.

He praised those working in the field, saying that investing in human capital reaps biggest rewards for Kuwait.

On her part, Chief of radiology department at the Ministry Dr. Butheina Al-Kandari told KUNA that this event is to facilitate better understanding of the field as it contributes to providing patients with safe care.

She affirmed their intent on continuously improving their services, providing advanced technologies and training specialized teams, and thanked the Ministry's unlimited support.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi and a number of participants in the celebration.

KUNA photo

## Device revolutionizes real-time monitoring

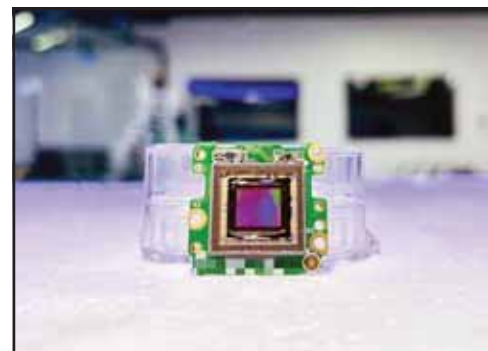
# Chinese researchers develop new image sensor with broad application prospects

BEIJING, Nov 9, (Xinhua): Chinese researchers have developed a new type of real-time imaging sensor that can detect whether food has spoiled or heavy metals in water exceeded safe standards with just a glance.

According to a study paper published in the journal Nature on Thursday, a research team from Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) has developed the world's first hundred-channel, million-pixel hyperspectral real-time imaging device, showing broad application prospects in remote sensing, life and health, smart agriculture and industrial automation.

Hyperspectral imaging technology can capture both the structure and spectral information across dozens or even hundreds of bands for a target, enabling precise material identification. It plays a crucial role in satellite remote sensing, deep space exploration, and the development of advanced equipment.

However, current hyperspectral imaging technology is hampered by traditional geometric dispersion and narrowband measurement methods, leading to bulky systems, heavy weight and integration challenges, which greatly limit its development and practical application.



This photo taken on Nov. 5 shows a new type of real-time imaging sensor developed by the research team from Beijing Institute of Technology in Beijing, capital of China. (Xinhua)

The BIT team proposed an innovative principle of photon reuse, and developed an on-chip hyperspectral real-time imaging sensor through the integration of disciplines such as materials, electronics, optics and computer science.

The new image sensor weighs only tens of grams, with more than 100 spectral channels, a million-pixel resolution and a compact size. It

boosts the efficiency of light energy utilization to a record of 74.8 percent from the current level of less than 25 percent, which enhances the sensitivity and precision of hyperspectral imaging.

"It has universal detection capabilities. A single device can not only detect the presence of heavy metals in water environments or find whether food has spoiled, but also monitor human blood oxygen and blood sugar levels," said Bian Liheng, the first author of the paper.

The team has applied the device in various fields, including capturing high-definition spectral video of lunar surface, conducting dynamic blood oxygen monitoring and water pollution analysis, and high-precision detection of sugar content and bruising in fruits. In an industrial scenario, the device has enabled high-precision automatic sorting of textiles.

According to Zhang Jun, team leader and the corresponding author of the paper, the research has opened up a new field in on-chip optical study and provided new ideas for the development of intelligent optoelectronic devices, with application potential in fields such as satellite remote sensing, deep space exploration, environmental monitoring and smart healthcare.

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## 5th Scientific Club for Obstetricians and Gynecologists forum launched

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The 5th Scientific Club for Obstetricians and Gynecologists commenced on Saturday under the auspices of Adan Hospital and the supervision of its Obstetrics and Gynecology Department and the Kuwaiti committee representing the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Council of Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments.



Dr. Al-Thaidi

According to the Head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Adan Hospital and Chair of the Kuwaiti Committee representing the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Dr. Abeer Al-Thaidi,

the club will be hosting eight senior doctors and international experts from the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Lebanon, the UAE, and Turkey. These experts will share their knowledge and experiences with local doctors in Kuwait for enhancing greater international cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of women's health. The club aims to promote greater focus on women's health and enhance the skills of doctors and healthcare practitioners in both the public and private sectors.

She revealed that the event will include three scientific sessions, each presenting the latest medical developments, and will follow the Continuing Medical Education Program, which will allow participants to earn seven accredited scientific points from the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialties.

Dr. Al-Thaidi said a comprehensive medical exhibition will be held to showcase the latest medical devices and consumables, as well as two workshops designed to train doctors on modern technologies.

## Cases surpass 50,000

# Africa faces acute mpox outbreak

ADDIS ABABA, Nov 9, (Xinhua): The African continent is still in the acute phase of the mpox outbreak as the number of cases reported so far this year surpassed the 50,000 mark, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned.

During an online media briefing Thursday evening, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said 19 African countries have reported 50,840 mpox cases, with 10,741 confirmed and 1,083 deaths since the start of this year. During last week alone, the continent reported 2,532 new cases, including 345 confirmed cases and 32 new deaths.

Data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency show that the number of confirmed mpox cases in Africa has surged by over 545 percent this year compared to the total of last year. It said the Central Africa region is the

most affected by the outbreak, accounting for 85.8 percent of all reported cases and 99.4 percent of deaths.

"We are still in the acute phase of the outbreak and that is pushing us to redouble our efforts to control the mpox outbreak in Africa," Kaseya said.

He said the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi, the two worst hit countries by the outbreak, accounted for 86.7 percent of all new confirmed cases reported during the past week.

Expressing concern over the recent increase in mpox cases in Uganda as the country continued to record weekly increase of confirmed cases, the Africa CDC chief said 14 African countries have active transmission of the mpox virus.

He said four African countries, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, and South Africa, have not reported any confirmed cases in the past six weeks. He underscored that while some countries have not

reported cases for consecutive weeks, they remain at risk due to cross-border transmission.

Kaseya also expressed concern over the impact of comorbidity, the simultaneous presence of two or more diseases or medical conditions in a patient, as mpox mortality is closely associated with HIV, especially in cases where HIV is poorly managed and recently diagnosed.

"Comorbidity is playing a key role as we saw deaths in Uganda and Kenya recently, and also the two deaths we had in South Africa are linked to HIV. That is why we are promoting double testing of mpox and HIV," he said.

Mpox, known as monkeypox, was first detected in laboratory monkeys in 1958. It is a rare viral disease typically spread through body fluids, respiratory droplets, and other contaminated materials. The infection usually causes fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

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## A memorable experience for all attendees

## ICAIKC successfully hosts badminton tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India - Kuwait Chapter (ICAIKC) organized a thrilling Badminton Tournament recently at I Smash Badminton Academy, Ahmadi, Kuwait. The event, open exclusively to ICAIKC members and their families, saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of attendees. The tournament featured various categories, including Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Boys' (8-12 Years), Boys' (Teen Category), and Girls' Singles, with winners and runners-up being awarded trophies.

The Tournament began with CA Aditya Dhanuka, Chairman of ICAI Kuwait Chapter inaugurating the event, after which CA Jatin Bagaria, Executive Committee Member, took the lead to warmly welcome the participants and outline the rules, setting an enthusiastic tone for the day's competitions.

The competition was then set into motion, with CA Jatin Bagaria managing the event along with organising efforts from CA Joseph Peter and CA Umesh Soni. The games were smoothly facilitated with the help of additional committee members such as CA Dhruv Shah, CA Bhavani Vikram Joshi, CA Kunjumary Ignatious and CA Sonia Enamakel.

CA Aditya Dhanuka, expressed his congratulations to all the winners and participants, emphasizing that such events help promote sportsmanship and camaraderie among members and their families. He then, extended a special thanks to the committee members who ensured seamless management of the tournament. He also highlighted the joy and enthusiasm that filled the event, creating a memorable experience for all attendees.

CA Aditya Dhanuka also began the Prize Distribution ceremony, where trophies were handed over by the Committee Members to the respective winners. The Chapter also extended its gratitude to its annual sponsors, Al Mulla Exchange and NBK for their continued support.

The tournament wrapped up on a delightful note with a sweet surprise awaiting the attendees where the Chapter presented each participant's family with a special Diwali gift box of sweets by Mughal Mahal, adding festive joy and warmth to the memorable event.

ICAIKC is committed to hosting more events in the future, promoting sportsmanship, unity, and a vibrant community spirit among its members. The Badminton Tournament was another step towards creating a vibrant and connected ICAIKC family in Kuwait.



ICAIKC badminton tournament winners pose with officials.



ICAIKC badminton tournament participants gear up for action.

The winners and runners up in each category were as follows:

Category	Winners	Runners Up
<b>Men's Doubles Category</b>	CA Sarany Mathew Roy and CA Joseph Thomas	CA Sai Devitta and CA Ravikiran Prabhakar
<b>Women's Doubles Category</b>	CA Vijaya Ann Joseph & Roshni Gonsalves (W/O CA Rabin Gonsalves)	CA Nisha Jagan & Hansa Dhruv Shah (W/O CA Dhruv Shah)
<b>Boys' Teen Category</b>	Chris Chacko Mathew (S/O CA Sarany Mathew Roy)	Ayukht Pawan Kumar (S/O CA NP Kumar)
<b>Boys' 8-12 Age Group</b>	Arya Nagar (S/O CA Ravi Nagar)	Aarav Thomas (S/O CA Abin Raj Varghese)
<b>Girls' Singles Category</b>	Ummakhalasom Mahdhanala (D/O CA Mohammad Mahdhanala)	Meera Vikram Joshi (D/O CA Bhavani Vikram Joshi)

# McIlroy makes late error to ruin 3rd-round charge in Abu Dhabi

14-year-old Zhou Shiyuan wins second straight China LPGA title

**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Nov 9, (AP):** Rory McIlroy's charge at the Abu Dhabi Championship faltered when he found water off his drive and made double bogey on the last hole on Saturday, leaving him five shots off the lead held by Paul Waring heading into the final round.

Nine strokes off the lead after 36 holes, the No. 3-ranked McIlroy had closed to just three shots back in the third round when he pulled his tee shot on the par-5 No. 18, the ball bouncing off the rocks lining the fairway and ricocheting into the water.

After a drop, McIlroy then hit an approach - his fourth shot - into the greenside bunker and could only make a 7, for a 3-under 69 and 13 under overall.

"The leaders weren't getting away and I was making a little bit of a charge," said McIlroy, who made six birdies after opening his round with a bogey. "And one mistake - that drive on 18. Untimely mistake."

It was all the more frustrating for McIlroy because the 229th-ranked Waring - the leader by five shots after the second round - was one of only two players in the top 29 to shoot over par on Saturday.

With a 1-over 73, Waring saw his lead trimmed to one stroke and was 18 under for the tournament. Niklas Norgaard was alone in second place after shooting 69, with Tommy Fleetwood (71), Thorbjorn Olesen (71), Sebastian Soderberg (68) and Shane Lowry (66) tied for third place.

McIlroy was in a tie for 13th place as he seeks a win that can clinch him the Race to Dubai title for a sixth time, tying him with the late Seve Ballesteros and putting him just two off the record eight of Colin Montgomerie.

"I dug myself a bit of hole to get out of," McIlroy said, adding he still goes "into tomorrow feeling like I have half a chance."

McIlroy also made triple bogey on



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays his second shot at the 17th hole during the second round of Abu Dhabi Golf Championship in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

No. 17 on Friday.

Zhou Shiyuan captured her second straight China LPGA Tour title on Saturday as the 14-year-old amateur delivered in front of her hometown fans, beating Zhang Yunxuan in a second-hole playoff to win the Kove China Sports Lottery Chongqing Women's Open.

After starting the day one stroke off the lead, Zhou, winner of last month's Zhangjiagang Shuangshan Challenge, closed with an even-par 72 over the King Run Nanshan Golf Club to finish on five-under 211, deadlocked with overnight co-leader Zhang (73).

As both players made par on the first playoff hole, the 525-yard 18th, Zhou made no mistake when the two played the same hole again. After Zhang put her approach shot 25 feet away from the pin, Zhou pitched past the hole from 98 yards out and spun her ball back where it settled to within a foot

of the flag.

Zhang nearly extended the playoff as her birdie putt grazed the hole but the ball rolled past the cup. She then made the easy putt for the win.

With the victory, the teenager becomes the youngest player to record two wins on the CLPGA Tour. She is also the first amateur to win back-to-back since Yin Xiaowen in 2021.

"I am proud of myself with this win as a Chongqing local player after a long day. That was the best shot that I shot under the gun," said Zhou of her approach on the second playoff hole.

"This win is not easy. I tempered my expectations on the back nine where Michelle (Zhang) made three birdies. I wasn't stressed for the whole day. After the first win in Shuangshan, I am plenty self-confident." Zhang, who carded four birdies, three bogeys and a double-bogey five at the 164-yard seventh hole in the wet conditions, picked up the 75,000 yuan winner's purse as

the top pro. The second-year pro said Zhou deserved the win as she didn't make any big mistakes.

"Obviously, I put myself into a tough spot on the front nine where I hit into the water and made a double bogey at the seventh hole after two bogeys in a row. But I know the front nine is not my type. I didn't give up and made three nice birdies after the turn," said the 19-year-old who last year won the CGA Ladies Championship in Hainan Island.

"I found out my weak point this week. I need to play better off the tee and make more putts. I will work on this for the LPGA Q-Series next month." Amateur Li Menghan, the other overnight co-leader, carded a 74 to finish one shot back in third, while Chongqing native Li Dongmei closed with a 68 to finish fourth a shot further back. Wang Zixuan (71), Pan Yanhong (73) and Ji Yuai (74) were equal fifth at four shots off the pace.



Al-Alawi and Camilla are among the heroes.

## Al-Jariwi triumphs at Messilah Equestrian Club Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait Equestrian Club star Ghazi Al-Jariwi emerged as the champion of the Messilah Equestrian Club Championship, held at the club's track in Subhan.

In the main round at a height of 135 cm, Al-Jariwi claimed victory with the fastest time and no penalty points, triumphing over strong competitors Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Hamad Al-Hajri, and Ali Ahmed Al-Kharafi. Champions were honored by Messilah Club's coach, international Bahraini rider Sayed Adnan Al-Alawi, and trainer Camilla Kudara.

Al-Jariwi expressed his delight with this strong start to the season, emphasizing that these events are essential for preparing horses for upcoming championships, including the local league. He extended his gratitude to Messilah Club's management for the event's exceptional organization and predicted an exciting season ahead.

The championship's judging committee was led by rider Dalal Al-Obaid, with the event course designed by Bahraini international trainer Adnan Al-Alawi.

## Mark Cavendish announces retirement from pro cycling

SINGAPORE, Nov 9, (AP): Mark Cavendish, one of the best road sprinters in cycling history, plans to retire on Sunday after competing in the Tour de France Criterium.

The 39-year-old Cavendish broke Eddy Merckx's long-standing record for most career Tour de France stage wins with his 35th victory this past July. "I am lucky enough to have done what I love for 20 years and I can now say that I have achieved everything that I can on the bike," the Isle of Man native wrote Saturday on Instagram.

"Cycling has given me so much and I love the sport, I've always wanted to make a difference in it and now I am ready to see what the next

chapter has in store for me."

Nicknamed the "Manx Missile," Cavendish confirmed that Sunday's competition will be "the final race of my professional cycling career."

Cavendish initially planned to retire after the 2023 season but changed course and returned with the goal of passing Merckx for Tour de France stage wins.

He had equaled Merckx's mark of 34 wins during the 2021 Tour, though unlike the Belgian great, Cavendish never won the overall title.

Cavendish won stages at all three Grand Tours - the others are the Giro d'Italia and Spanish Vuelta - and became a world champion in 2011.

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## Kuwait Club and Kazma depart for Asian Clubs Handball Championship in Qatar

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The delegations of Kuwait and Kazma clubs are departing for Qatar today to compete in the 27th Asian Clubs Championship, hosted in Doha from November 12-23.

Last month's draw placed Kuwait Club in Group A, alongside Qatar's Al-Rayyan, UAE's Al-Sharjah, and Bahrain's Al-Shabab. Kazma Club was drawn in Group B with titleholder Al-Khaleej of Saudi Arabia, Al-Duhail of Qatar, Ahli Sidab of Oman, and Iran's Mes Kerman.

The championship's opening day will feature a match between Kazma and Ahli Sidab, while Mes Kerman faces Al-Khaleej and Al-Shabab takes on Al-Rayyan. Kuwait Club will play its first match on the second day against Al-Sharjah.

Kuwait Club prepared for the tournament with an external camp in Bahrain's capital, Manama, which included a friendly match against Al-Ahli of Bahrain. The team is

strengthened by Qatari professionals Frankis Marzo and Portuguese player Angel Hernandez, along with tournament professionals: Portuguese Semedo, Algerian Osama Jaziri, and Brazilian Guillermo Santista. The team is led by national coach Haitham Al-Rashidi.

Kazma Club, meanwhile, held a training camp in Cairo, Egypt, where it played several friendly matches. Coached by Serbian Bozo, the squad includes Tunisian professionals Anwar bin Abdullah and Mohamed Farad, along with tournament players Wajdi Sinan from Tunisia, Argentine Moscono Lux, and Portuguese Gonzalo Felipe.

In support of their participation, the Handball Federation has postponed Kuwait Club and Kazma's league matches from the fifth round. The teams will resume play in the ninth round upon their return, with postponed matches set for March, at the start of the Premier League.



A file photo of players in action.



'A wonderful opportunity to showcase British automotive excellence'

## British Embassy celebrates 125 years of diplomatic relations with Car Rally



Top and above photos taken from the event.

Photos by Rizk Taufik

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The British Embassy in Kuwait, as part of ongoing celebrations to highlight the 125th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and the State of Kuwait, organized an exciting and dynamic event – the Car Rally – along the Gulf Road bringing together car enthusiasts and adventure seekers for a thrilling ride along this scenic coastline of Kuwait.

This rally was designed to celebrate both British and Kuwaiti culture, a day filled with fun, competition and camaraderie as participants took in the beautiful views of the Arabian Gulf while navigating through a series of engaging challenges.

The event, as expected, fostered stronger ties between the British and Kuwaiti communities, showcasing the spirit of cooperation and friendly competition during which the event showcased a number of the UK's premier automotive brands.

The rally, which spanned from Marina Crescent to the iconic Kuwait Towers, attracted a diverse group of motoring enthusiasts, all eager to admire a stunning array of British-made vehicles.

From the classic Aston Martin DB5, famously driven by James Bond in the 1964 film Goldfinger, to the Rolls Royce of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the latest high-performance supercars, the event showcased the best of British automotive craftsmanship.

Beyond celebrating the rich heritage and innovation of the UK's car manufacturing industry, the rally also highlighted the significant role that

British automobiles play in the trade relations between the UK and Kuwait. By the end of Q1 2024, the UK had exported £286 million worth of cars to Kuwait, reinforcing the strong economic ties between the two nations.

Her Excellency Belinda Lewis, the British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, who took part in the event driving a magnetic grey Bentley Continental GT V8, said, "Today's rally was a wonderful, family-friendly opportunity to showcase British automotive excellence.

"The cars ranked among the top five British exports to Kuwait last year, with Kuwaiti buyers appreciating the style, luxury, and quality that our brands offer.

"It was fantastic to see such a diverse collection of beautiful British cars, from sleek Bentleys, McLarens, and Aston Martins to rugged Land Rovers, as well as vintage Rolls Royces and cutting-edge electric Jaguars."

'We are committed to making this collaboration a success'

talabat the official food delivery partner of Gulf Cup



talabat and Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation officials pose for a group photo.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: In preparation for the most anticipated sporting event in the GCC region, leading technology pioneer, talabat, announced its partnership with the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation (AGCFF), sponsoring the federation's upcoming Arabian Gulf Cup football championship, as Official Food Delivery Partner.

The tournament will be hosted in Kuwait, uniting the people of the GCC and bringing together teams of the Gulf region, from December 21, 2024, to January 3, 2025.

The partnership marks a significant milestone for talabat, the home bred initiative founded and first flourished in Kuwait. Returning to its roots this year, talabat is set to support the most loved sporting event in the region, marking its first-ever collaboration with the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation.

The agreement was formally signed during a ceremony attended by senior leaders from both talabat and the AGCFF. The collaboration was brokered through IMG, the AGCFF's official commercial agency. The agreement was signed by Mr. Bader Al Ghanim, Vice President & Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, and Mr. Jassim Al-Rumaihi,



The signing of the agreement in progress.

Secretary-General of the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation. The event underscored the shared vision of both parties to enhance the fan experience and support regional sports.

As the official Food Delivery Partner for the tournament, talabat will enhance the experience of football fans by providing seamless delivery services throughout the event. Mr. Bader Al Ghanim expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled

to partner with the AGCFF. We are committed to making this collaboration a success, reflecting our dedication to supporting regional sports and celebrating our rich Kuwaiti heritage and culture. We look forward to delivering world-class services to fans and taking this prestigious tournament to new heights of success."

The tournament will bring together national teams from across the Gulf, fostering unity and showcasing

the rich cultural heritage shared among these nations. talabat's involvement aims to elevate the event by ensuring attendees have access to a diverse range of culinary options, swiftly delivered to enhance their match-day experience.

Mr. Jassim Al-Rumaihi, Secretary-General of the AGCFF, remarked: "This collaboration between Talabat and the AGCFF highlights the importance of involving leading institutions to enhance the success of this important tournament, ensuring a richer and more enjoyable experience for the fans"

As the tournament draws closer, talabat is preparing to implement innovative solutions to meet the needs of football enthusiasts attending the matches ensuring that spectators can enjoy their favorite meals without missing any of the action.

In conclusion, talabat reaffirms its commitment to strengthening collaboration with the AGCFF and supporting efforts to enhance unity among Gulf countries. The company remains dedicated to playing a pivotal role in supporting Kuwait's preparations for this major event, while promoting sportsmanship and Gulf unity through its engagement in the beautiful game.

## Kagiyama defends title, Sakamoto leads Japanese sweep

TOKYO, Nov 9, (AP): Yuma Kagiyama of Japan recovered from an early fall in his free skate on Saturday to defend his title at the NHK Trophy.

The 2022 Olympic silver medalist fell on his opening quadruple flip but quickly recovered with a clean quad salchow and a quad toeloop-triple toeloop combination.

First after the short program, Kagiyama added another quad toeloop and three triple jumps to finish with 194.39 points for a total of 300.09.

Italy's Daniel Grassl moved up from fifth place with a strong free skate to finish second with

264.85 points while Japan's Tatsuya Tsuboi was third with 251.52 points.

"It was regrettable to fall on the opening jump but I was quickly able to recover and that's a testament to my growth," said Kagiyama, who will next compete in the Nov. 15-17 Finlandia Trophy.

Andrew Torgashev of the United States was fourth with 246.58 points.

In the women's event, three-time world champion Kaori Sakamoto led a Japanese sweep of the podium with an electrifying performance in the free skate.

Skating to "All That Jazz," Sakamoto landed

seven triple jumps en route to a season-best 152.95 points for a total of 231.88.

Mone Chiba was second with 212.54 followed by compatriot Yuna Aoki with 195.07.

American teenager Alysa Liu, who is making a comeback, was fourth with 190.75 points.

Sakamoto also won Skate Canada two weeks ago but was second in the free skate.

"It's been two weeks since Skate Canada and I didn't think I would be able to do this much (in the free skate)," Sakamoto said. "I was so nervous the last time in Canada and wanted to be able to relax more this time."

## Cavs extend perfect run

Jokic leads Nuggets past Heat

CLEVELAND, Nov 9, (AP): Darius Garland scored 27 points and Evan Mobley had 23 as the Cleveland Cavaliers routed the Golden State Warriors 136-117, extending their franchise-best start to 10-0 this season.

The Cavaliers became the first team in NBA history to win their first 10 games and score at least 110 points in each of them. Wilt Chamberlain and the 1960-61 Philadelphia Warriors had shared the mark with nine.

Cleveland also set a franchise record with a 41-point halftime lead at 83-42 - tying the eighth largest in the NBA's shot clock era - and equaled its mark for points in a half. Ty Jerome scored 13 of his 20 points before the break.

Jonathan Kuminga scored 21 points and Stephen Curry had 12 points and six turnovers for Golden State, which lost for the first time in six road games this season. Draymond Green had six points, six assists and four fouls.

**Nuggets 135, Heat 122**

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 30 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds for his third straight triple-double to lead the Denver Nuggets past the Miami Heat.

The triple-double was Jokic's NBA-best fifth of the season.

After missing the past three games in concussion protocol, Jamal Murray had 28 points and became the first player in Nuggets franchise history with 1,000 career 3-pointers.

Denver raced out to a 17-6 lead in the opening 4:10 as part of a 40-point first quarter in which it made 14 of its 20 shots. Though it fought back to get within seven in the final five minutes of the game, Miami never led and trailed by as many as 26 in the second half.

**Suns 114, Mavericks 113**  
In Dallas, Jusuf Nurkic made the second of two free throws with 0.8 seconds left after getting fouled on an offensive rebound, lifting the Phoenix Suns to a 114-113 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Kevin Durant scored 26 points, and Nurkic had 15 points and 10 rebounds as the Suns improved to 8-1 for the first time since 2009-10. Two of the victories have been over defending Western Conference champion Dallas.

**Thunder 126, Rockets 107**  
In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Chet Holmgren each scored 29 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder rout the Houston Rockets.

Oklahoma City opened a six-game homestand with a victory after losing at Denver on Wednesday night for its first defeat of the season.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 10 of his first 11 field goals and didn't take a 3-pointer until his 13th shot. It went in to give the Thunder a 96-73 lead in the



Los Angeles Clippers guard Norman Powell (24) attempts a layup past Sacramento Kings forward DeMar DeRozan (10) and forward Domantas Sabonis (11) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)

third quarter.  
**Celtics 108, Nets 104**  
In Boston, Jayson Tatum had 33 points and nine rebounds, Payton Pritchard scored six points in overtime and the Boston Celtics beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Pritchard finished with 20 points. Jrue Holiday added 17 points and five assists, and Derrick White scored 14 and had six assists for the Celtics (8-2).

Cam Thomas reached 30 points for the fourth time this season, finishing with 31 to lead the Nets (4-5). Dennis Schroder added 20 points.

**Knicks 116, Bucks 94**  
In New York, Karl-Anthony Towns had 32 points, 11 rebounds and five assists and the New York Knicks snapped a two-game losing streak with win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

New York (4-4) did not trail, and six different Knicks scored in double figures. Jalen Brunson chipped in 15 points and nine assists, and Josh Hart had 11 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in the Knicks' third win of at least 20 points this season.

**Lakers 116, 76ers 106**  
In Los Angeles, LeBron James had 21 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds in his second triple-double of the season, and the Los Angeles Lakers extended the Philadelphia 76ers' miserable start with a victory.

Anthony Davis scored 31 points, Austin Reaves had 20 and D'Angelo Russell added 18 as a reserve for the Lakers, who remained unbeaten at home this season in their return from a 1-4 trip.

**Clippers 107, Kings 98**  
In Sacramento, Norman Powell posted his first career double-double with 31 points and 12 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Sacramento Kings for their third straight win.





Kuwaiti players relax on the pitch before the start of training session.

# Sports

## Arab Shooting Federation renews confidence in Al-Otaibi and Al-Asimi



Newly elected officials pose for a group photo after Arab Shooting Federation General Assembly.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The Arab Shooting Federation recently held its elections at the General Assembly meeting, hosted at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, with heads and representatives of national shooting federations in attendance.

During the elections, confidence was renewed in Eng. Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi as President and Obaid Manahi Al-Asimi as Secretary-General, acknowledging their pivotal role in advancing Arab shooting.

Expressing his gratitude, Eng. Al-Otaibi extended heartfelt thanks to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah for their ongoing, steadfast support of the Arab Shooting Federation.

Meanwhile, the annual Crown Prince Shooting Championship continues today, with the trap events for men and women starting at 8:30 am at the complex. Bullet

shooting equipment inspections are scheduled for 9:00 am, followed by official training for the 10-meter air pistol event at 9:30 am.

The technical meeting for the Arab Shooting Championship took place yesterday, chaired by Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi, President of the Kuwaiti and Arab Federations, alongside technical delegate and President of the Egyptian and African Federations, Major General Hazem Hosni.

Maj. Gen. Hosni praised the championship's unique

character and commended Kuwait's support in hosting Arab Championships, thanking Sheikh Salman Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah for his efforts in promoting Arab, Asian, and global shooting sports.

Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, head of the technical committee at the Kuwait Shooting Club, confirmed that the ranges are fully equipped to host the Crown Prince Championship, featuring modern electronic systems for targets and scoring.



Bashar Abdullah with Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef and Hassan Hassan.

## Abdullah hosts Sheikh Al-Yousef, FIFA's Hassan to discuss projects

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Bashar Abdullah, the Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, met with Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef, President of the Kuwait Football Association, and Hassan Hassan, Director of Projects and Development at FIFA. The meeting focused on upcoming development projects for the Kuwait Football Association, with FIFA providing significant support. The three parties discussed the finalization of a comprehensive plan for a major infrastructure project aimed at enhancing the Kuwaiti Football Federation's facilities, sectors, and

teams.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef announced that FIFA had allocated over \$6.5 million for the project, which is set to begin in early 2025. The agreed-upon location for the project will serve as a new, integrated national football landmark.

Sheikh Al-Yousef expressed his gratitude to FIFA's representative and the Public Authority for Sports for their commitment to advancing Kuwait's football infrastructure and supporting the achievement of the sport's strategic goals in the country.

## Kuwait prepares for qualifiers with internal training camp

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait will enter an internal training camp after today's session in preparation for its upcoming World Cup qualifiers against South Korea and Jordan, scheduled for November 14 and 19 at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. These matches mark the fifth and sixth rounds of Group Two in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Khaled Al-Rashidi and Sultan Al-Enezi are expected to join the team today, while all other players have participated in prior training sessions, except for Hamad Al-Harbi, Youssef Majed, and Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, who are recovering from minor

injuries. The trio is anticipated to return to full training within the next two days.

The team's roster currently includes 30 players, which will be narrowed down to 23 ahead of the match against Korea on Thursday.

The Kuwaiti Olympic team, managed by head coach Dario Passig, began its training sessions on the subsidiary field of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium with 26 players in attendance.

The Olympic team is set to depart for Doha midweek for a training camp running from November 13 to 27, where it will play two friendlies against Qatar on November 15 and 19. This camp serves as preparation for the Asian Cup qualifiers, scheduled to begin in September 2025.

## Injuries mar Real big win



Real Madrid's Antonio Rudiger, right, jumps for a header with Osasuna's Ante Budimir during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Osasuna at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

### Vinicius nets hat trick

MADRID, Nov 9, (AP): Vinicius Júnior scored a hat trick to lead Real Madrid a 4-0 win over Osasuna on Saturday in a much-needed victory that was dampened when teammate Éder Militão left on a stretcher.

Madrid had heard jeers in its previous two home games - a 4-0 loss to fierce rival Barcelona and 3-1 defeat to AC Milan.

But the easy victory may have come at the high price.

Militão was taken off after the central defender crumbled to the turf while screaming and clutching the back of his right knee shortly before halftime. Rodrygo and Lucas Vázquez also were unable to continue after apparently sustaining muscle injuries in the first half.

Vinicius, who felt overlooked when the Ballon d'Or went to Spain's Rodri last week, got his second hat trick of



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior celebrates after scoring his side's fourth goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Osasuna at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

the season and took his overall tally to 12 goals. Jude Bellingham's goal had made it 2-0.

Madrid is in second place in the Spanish league at six points behind

leader Barcelona.

Rodrygo appeared to sustain a muscle injury early in the game. The forward, who missed the "clasico" due to another injury, wept as he walked

gingerly to the bench, where a team medic put ice on his left leg.

Worse was to come for coach Carlo Ancelotti when Militão went down. He pulled his jersey over his face as he was carried off in a stretcher on the half-hour mark.

A numbed Santiago Bernabeu was brought alive by Vinicius when he cut back and curled in the opener in the 34th minute.

Madrid right back Dani Carvajal was already ruled out for the season with a serious leg injury. Goalkeeper Courtois Thibaut, David Alaba and Aurélien Tchouaméni were also unavailable with their own injuries.

Ancelotti replaced Militão with youth team player Raúl Asencio, who made the most of his debut by delivering a long lobbed pass that Bellingham used one touch to chip over goalkeeper Sergio Herrera to double the lead in the 42nd.

Vinicius ran onto another long pass, this time by "keeper Andriy Lunin, before rounding Herrera to make it 3-0 in the 61st.