



AMIR HAILS U.A.E.-KUWAIT HARMONY ON REGIONAL ISSUES



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Sheikh Mohamed praises 56-year UAE-Kuwait bond

New avenues for cooperation explored

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and the accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait on Sunday for a state visit.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah welcomed him at the airport.

Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, Deputy Commander of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and other senior officials also received the UAE president.

A squadron of Kuwaiti warplanes escorted the UAE President's plane over Kuwaiti airspace.

The official UAE delegation includes Vice President of the UAE and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al-Dhafrah Region Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Presidential Court for Special Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Al-Nahyan, Advisor for Special Affairs at the Presidential Court Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al-Nahyan, and other top officials.

The official reception ceremony was held for Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed at the Amiri Airport on his state visit.

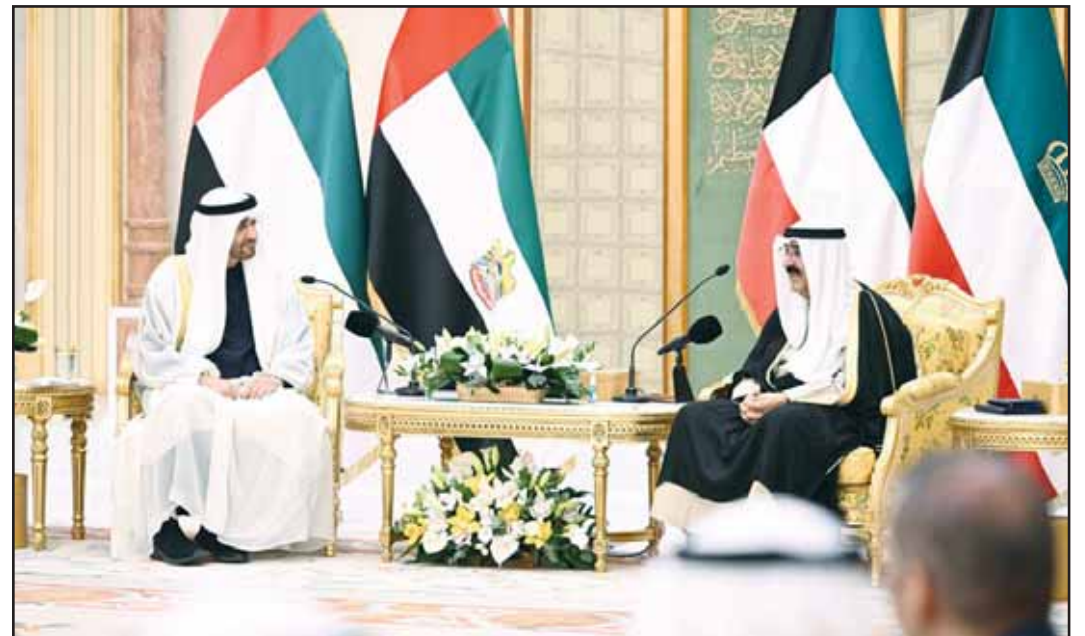
Upon arrival, the national anthems of both countries were played, after which the UAE President presented the honor guards and shook hands with top officials in the Kuwaiti government.

His Highness the Amir shook hands with members of the official accompanying delegation.

Lining the roads, as the procession of the UAE's President Sheikh Mohammad and His Highness the Amir left the Amiri airport, were a number of children raising the flags of both nations and chanting welcoming phrases.

Cannons launched 21 shots welcoming President Sheikh Mohamed Al-Nahyan as the procession arrived at Bayan Palace, while military choppers flew overhead carrying the nations' flags.

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Top: Official reception ceremony for Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed at the Amiri Airport. Above: Photo shows official talks between Kuwait and the UAE on Sunday at Bayan Palace; heading the Kuwaiti side was His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, while the Emirati delegation was headed by President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Indian expats dominate job market

Kuwait sees workforce surge amid wage gaps

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Kuwait's workforce has experienced steady growth, with a recent report estimating the total number of workers at approximately 2.141 million, excluding domestic workers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This marks a 2.5 percent increase compared to 2.089 million workers at the close of the second quarter of 2023.

Despite this overall growth, disparities in wages persist, particularly between male and female workers, as well as between Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees.

In the government sector, the average monthly wage for male Kuwaiti workers was reported to be about 1,966 dinars, reflecting a slight increase from 1,950 dinars a year earlier.

Female Kuwaiti workers in the same sector earned an average of 1,387 dinars, which represents a 41.8 percent wage gap compared to their male counterparts.

Meanwhile, the wages for non-Kuwaiti workers in government positions have also seen slight increases. The average salary for non-Kuwaiti males is now about 807 dinars, while for females, it stands at 724 dinars, with a smaller gender wage gap of 11.4 percent.

The Al-Shall report, which draws from data by the Central Statistical Administration, highlights that the wage disparity is less pronounced among non-Kuwaiti workers.

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WHO lauds Kuwait's data-driven strategies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait had made great efforts utilizing clear-cut data to build and develop health policies, said a World Health Organization (WHO) official on Sunday.

This came in a statement to KUNA by Representative of WHO to Kuwait, Dr. Asad Hafeez during a workshop organized by the Health Ministry's department of planning and development in cooperation with WHO regional office in the Middle East.

Hafeez affirmed that WHO took important steps to bolster health policies based on clear data to make sure that plans were executed smoothly and achieved sustainable health development.

He stressed that it was crucial to support technical abilities within the region

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Kuwait slams attack on Yemen coalition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait, on Sunday, utterly condemned and denounced the attack on the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen in Seyjun city, Hadhramaut Governorate in central Yemen, which led to the death of two Saudi soldiers and the injury of another.

In a statement by the Foreign Minister, the State of Kuwait reiterated its firm stance with Saudi Arabia and full support to the Kingdom's efforts to safeguard stability in the region.

It also expressed Kuwait's support to the efforts of the Joint Command of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen.

Kuwait also expressed sincere condolences to the families of the slain Saudi

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House arrest to replace prison in proposed reform

Draft law pushes rehab over jail for lesser offenses

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, announced that the explanatory memorandum of the draft law on alternative procedures and penalties has been completed and referred to the Fatwa and Legislation Authority, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This draft law, first revealed by Minister Al-Wasmi in July, represents a new approach to penal policy, aimed at reforms for individuals convicted of minor to moderately severe offenses without imprisonment, thereby avoiding contact with hardened criminals and allowing

them to remain in their social environment under specific obligations.

Minister Al-Wasmi highlighted two main objectives of the law -- rehabilitating the accused or convicted individual through non-custodial measures, keeping them integrated into their normal environment and redefining criminal prosecution by enabling alternative procedures that may resolve cases within the investigating authority instead of court.

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2 Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times Al-Jarallah receives outgoing Japanese ambassador



5 Sheikh Khalid Al-Bader Al-Sabah visits renowned artist Ibrahim Al-Sallal



9 Developing Kuwait's education system is a top national priority, says Al-Bahar

Other Voices

A new era of hope: President Trump's return and the promise of stability

By Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor UAE Businessman

The re-election of President Donald Trump heralds a new era of optimism and possibility for both the United States and the global community. His return to office signals a steadfast commitment to revitalizing the US economy and prioritising the well-being of the American people. As a businessman with a proven track record, President Trump brings a practical approach to governance, focusing on economic prosperity and tangible results.



Al Habtoor

During his previous term, President Trump's policies spurred economic growth, reduced unemployment, and created a favourable environment for businesses. His emphasis on deregulation and tax reforms breathed new life into various sectors, fostering investment and job creation. The American people can expect a con-

tinuation of these strategies, aimed at further strengthening the nation's economic foundation.

Beyond the economy, President Trump has consistently championed traditional family values and has made it clear he intends to protect youth from harmful ideologies. His stance against the Woke movement demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding cultural values and shielding younger generations from agendas that threaten to erode societal foundations. This form of leadership is not only crucial for the United States but also serves as an example for youth around the world.

On the international front, President Trump's approach to foreign policy is characterised by a focus on peace and stability. His administration's success in brokering agreements in the Middle East, such as the Abraham Accords, underscored his commitment to fostering dialogue and reducing tensions. As the conflict between Ukraine and Russia continues to claim lives and create global instability, I am confident that President Trump will leverage his diplomatic acumen to facilitate negotiations that could bring an end to this crisis.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday at the Amiri Airport Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

In other news, Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is set to leave Kuwait on Monday to participate in the extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned, Sunday, the terrorist attack that took place at a railway station in Quetta in southwestern Pakistan, which resulted in several casualties.

The Ministry, while affirming Kuwait's stance against all forms of violence and terrorism, also reiterated Kuwait's solidarity with Pakistan in all its efforts to maintain its security and stability. (KUNA)

GTD stats show alarming surge in traffic violations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The latest statistics from the General Traffic Department reveal a concerning spike in traffic violations, with a total of 33,739 infractions issued last week, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Among these, 22 juveniles were arrested for driving without a driver's license and were subsequently referred to Juvenile Prosecution, and parents were summoned to find out

how the juveniles got access to the car keys without their knowledge.

The report also highlighted the detention of 46 motorists for committing serious violations, including driving vehicles with expired registrations. Moreover, 78 vehicles and 77 motorcycles were impounded for committing various types of violations.

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Passenger numbers top pre-pandemic

Travel rebound sparks aviation boom

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: A recent report from the Central Statistical Bureau highlighted significant developments in air traffic, and consistent growth in aircraft movements, passenger numbers, and airport capacity. The data also reflected an increase in the number of direct global des-

tinuations, which reflects the sector's progress and its ability to keep pace with the annual growth in both passengers and aircraft.

According to the report, the number of aircraft arriving and departing has surged by 29.17 percent over the past decade. In 2014, approximately 83,443 aircraft were recorded, while by 2023, that number had risen to 117,822.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:46 Asr 14:35
 Sunrise .. 06:07 Maghrib .. 16:56
 Zohr 11:32 Isha 18:15

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

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

By Night: Mild to rather cold with light variable wind to light

Weather

to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	29	22
Kuwait Airport	31	18

Abdaly	31	18
Bubyan	33	19
Jahra	29	20
Failaka Island	31	21
Salmiyah	28	23
Ahmadi	29	20
Jal Aliyah	29	18
Nuwaisib	29	20



The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah and the outgoing Japanese ambassador to Kuwait.



The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari, and First Secretary at the embassy Shimokawa Mayuko in his office. Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Suleiman Al-Jarallah was present at the meeting.

Photos by Rizk Tawfiq

Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times, Al-Jarallah, receives outgoing Japanese ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received in his office at Dar Al-Seyassah the outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari and the First Secretary at the embassy Shimokawa Mayuko for a friendly meeting on the occasion of the end of the ambassador's term. Present at the meeting was the Deputy Editor-in-Chief

of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Suleiman Al-Jarallah.

During the meeting, they discussed the potential for media cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views on the main regional and international developments. This reflected both sides' keenness to enhance mutual understanding and present an accurate and objective portrayal of current global issues.

Al-Jarallah expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Yasunari for his efforts during his tenure in Kuwait, and wished him success in his future assignments.

He affirmed the strength of the relationship between the two friendly nations and the important role the media plays in strengthening those ties.

MoE adopts stringent steps to avert cheating in school tests

'All students must get fair chance'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Ministry of Education (MoE) tightened control on cheating methods in high school exams during the second semester of the last academic year, hence, its success in neutralizing test leakers and referring them to courts, which led to a noticeable commitment in the exam committees and a decrease in cases of barring.



Al-Daihani

Based on this success, the ministry is preparing for a new experience in exams with greater confidence this year, as part of in-

tensive preparations to ensure the integrity of the exams. It has laid down a comprehensive plan that includes strengthening security measures and developing the control system to achieve a fair exam environment for all students.

It has started preparations for the first semester exams for academic year 2024/2025, striving to secure all the necessary requirements to ensure that the exams run smoothly despite the challenges it has been facing since a large number of high school principals retired earlier without filling up the posts they vacated. This puts the ministry in a difficult position in terms of forming high school exam committees.

In spite of the technical challenges, the most important move is to raise awareness on the importance of adhering to the regulations and preparing well for the exams; while warning against relying on cheating methods that may harm society as a whole and lose the credibility of the educational process.

Educational sources revealed that acting Undersecretary of the ministry and Director General for Examinations Mansour Al-Daihani has approved the formation of control committees

tasked to organize and follow up the progress of exams.

The decision includes the appointment of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs Mansour Al-Dhafiri as the first deputy of the Science Section, Director of Hawally Educational District Dalal Al-Nahedh as second deputy, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Research and Curricula Maryam Al-Enezi as first deputy of the Literary and Religious Studies sections and Director of Jahra Educational District Jassim Bu Hamad as second deputy.

Sources confirmed that members of the control committees started reviewing the database and lists of students in the Science and Literary sections, while maintenance work on devices and equipment is ongoing to ensure their readiness for the upcoming examination period.

Sources added the educational districts are coordinating their efforts for the printing of exam papers for intermediate stage in the educational districts' control rooms in order to lessen the burdens of the central unit and speed up the examination preparations.



KUNA photo

The signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) in progress.

MoU on climate change, powers to women, peace, rights signed

BRUSSELS, Nov 10, (KUNA): Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute signed on Sunday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the College of Europe in Bruges on diplomatic cooperation.

The MoU aims to strengthen diplomatic training, exchanging expertise and facing international challenges such as climate change, empowering women, peace, human rights and security.

The signing ceremony was attended by Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Saud

Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute Affairs, Ambassador Nasser Al-Sabeeh, the Director of the College of Europe Federica Mogherini, the European Union's Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen, and Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium and EU Nawaf Al-Enezi.

All sides expressed their high aspirations on signing the MoU, noting that it would boost the historic ties between the two sides, and open new horizons to cooperation.

MoH submits plan for medical coverage during 2024 Gulf Cup

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Director of the Emergency Medical Department Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti announced that the department has submitted its plan to ensure readiness in providing medical services before, during, and after the 2024 Gulf Cup matches, which will be hosted by the State of Kuwait.

He explained that the plan outlines the distribution of paramedics, their equipment, clinics, and ambulances in stadiums, hotels, and during the movements of the participating teams and delegations.

The plan includes conducting field visits to the stadiums, followed by evaluation reports and recommendations for further improvements. It also focuses on enhancing both theoretical and practical expertise in managing stadium injuries, in collaboration with the Kuwait Sports Authority.

The plan also includes activating emergency response protocols by strategically positioning paramedics and emergency technicians at clinics, treatment tents, ambulances, and support vehicles. This will be complemented by continuous performance evaluations of ambulance teams, based on the specific responsibilities assigned to each ambulance region, an approach that was successfully implemented during the recent Asian qualifiers between Qadisiya and Kuwait teams.

In preparation for the upcoming Gulf Cup Championship, the Emergency Medical Department has been diligently working to cover various sporting events in Kuwait. These events, including international matches, are used to ensure all medical emergency technicians are fully prepared to secure the Gulf Cup matches, both through hands-on fieldwork and specialized training programs.

As an example, the Medical Emergency Department is preparing to collaborate with the Public Authority for Sports to organize a training course for approximately 100 medical emergency technicians. The course will focus on sports injuries and their management with the aim of enhancing both the scientific knowledge and practical skills of the medical personnel involved.

KGOC sets attendance, departure rules for staff

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: According to informed sources, the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) has issued a circular to regulate attendance and departure procedures at work, in line with instructions issued by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to ensure the smooth operation of business activities.

The circular states: "Given the need to ensure continuous operations for business reasons, it is necessary for certain employees to work shifts. The work ID and magnetic card must be used to verify attendance and departure times." This implies that working hours may extend up to 40 hours per week.

The circular also explained that if an official assigns an employee tasks outside the work sites, those hours will be excluded and considered as part of their official working hours, which begin at 7:30 am and end at 3:30 pm. The employee must still work eight hours a day, from Sunday to Thursday.

Grievances, complaints: In a move to enhance efficiency and streamline operations, the Minister of Education, Jalal Al-Tabtabaai, has issued a circular assigning the Citizen Service Office to handle all grievances, complaints and requests for access via the Ministry's official website, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This directive mandates that the office electronically send these matters to the relevant departments, completely eliminating the need for paper transactions between the Citizen Service Office and other sectors.

4 more private clinics under probe

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Less than two weeks after referring 33 private health facilities to the Medical Liability Authority, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi has now referred four more private health facilities for violating ministerial Resolution No. 87/2023 related to the rules and regulations for organizing medical advertisements in the private sector.

This step was taken following inspections carried out by the ministry's teams,

during which they uncovered advertisements that violated these regulations and contradicted the fundamental principles of the medical profession.

The Ministry of Health reiterated its commitment to continue with the monitoring and field inspections of all health facilities to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations governing medical practice and related professions, as well as to safeguard the rights of both patients and healthcare providers.

Other Voices

The world is a usufruct right

By Ahmad alsarraf

I recently came across a beautifully written piece that I felt was worth sharing with readers, after a bit of fine-tuning.

Kuwait stands among the few countries where nearly 90 percent of the land is state-owned. The largest portion is allocated to areas rich in oil reserves, the lifeblood of the nation's economy.

The rest includes public utility zones like roads, parks and public squares, as well as properties for government ministries, institutions, coasts, seafronts, islands and nature reserves.

The state also controls almost all agricultural land (99.99%), including farms, warehouses, industrial sites and storage areas -- whether directly managed by ministries or leased to companies and individuals under renewable annual contracts at symbolic rents.

All of these lands, ultimately, return to state ownership. The current users are only temporary stewards, a cycle that reflects the fleeting nature of own-

ership itself.

We may hold property today, but tomorrow it could belong to someone else, following the principle of "temporary right of use."

Nothing is owned forever -- not real estate, land, buildings, mountains, or valleys. The homes we live in today once belonged to others -- parents, relatives, or previous owners -- and will pass to our descendants, creditors or even revert to the state if no heirs remain.

Despite this, we defend our homes fiercely, even willing to risk our lives to protect them, though our ownership is as temporary as a hotel room we rent for a night or a car we lease for a journey.

Like a seat on a train or a plane, everything we "own" is merely ours for a moment before it moves on to someone else.

As the English saying goes, "You only truly own what you spend" -- not the money in your bank account, but what you use and enjoy.

Life, in essence, is a right of usufruct. We use, inherit, or pass things on, sometimes willingly, sometimes not. Life is simply a series of moments, measured by how much we savor them.

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KOC on KPC directives ramps up efforts to hike oil production

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: According to informed sources, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) is racing against time to implement the directives of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to increase production capacity in all its fields by 2025.

They explained that the CEO of KOC Ahmad Al-Eidan recently held a meeting with the company's drilling and exploration leaders to ramp up efforts for achieving the highest possible levels of crude oil production in various fields.

This is particularly important as KOC is not satisfied with just discovering light oil and gas in the Nkhatha marine field, which it had announced in July. The field is estimated to contain about 2.1 billion barrels of light oil and 5.1 trillion standard cubic feet of gas, equivalent to approximately 3.2 billion barrels of oil. KOC is deploying the latest technologies to expand drilling operations and enhance exploration efforts across all its fields.

KOC is working on restoring the Burgan

field to its full production capacity, similar to its past output. In the past, the Burgan field produced about 70 percent of KOC's total output, but this has decreased to around 60 percent due to factors associated with aging. As one of the largest oil fields in the world, Burgan field's production has been impacted by these factors, though the company is confident that the use of digital technology can help bring production levels back to previous highs.

KOC is intensifying efforts to increase production from its light-production fields. For example, the company aims to boost output from the Umm Al-Naqqa field to 30,000 barrels per day by 2026. This goal is achievable, especially since new exploration technologies have enabled the company to raise production from 15,000 barrels to over 22,000 barrels per day.

In addition, KOC is focused on increasing production from the Qadir, Sabriya, and Rawdatain fields. The company is following a strategic plan that emphasizes both quality and higher production while also reducing operational costs.

The sources revealed that KOC took advan-

tage of the voluntary reduction in Kuwait's oil production under OPEC+ agreements to carry out periodic maintenance of its oil facilities ahead of schedule. This proactive approach ensures that the company is fully prepared for Kuwait's return to full oil production without any reductions.

KPC has called on oil companies involved in domestic oil exploration and production, such as KOC and the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, to intensify efforts to increase crude oil production capacity to approximately 3.5 million barrels per day.

As part of its current strategy, KPC is preparing to submit a proposal to increase Kuwait's share within OPEC+ in 2025. It is also working towards its long-term goal of boosting the country's oil production capacity to four million barrels per day by 2035.

The sources said Kuwait's adherence to the voluntary production cuts, in line with OPEC+ agreements, will strengthen its case for an increase in its production quota. Moreover, new oil discoveries announced by KOC are a key part of these efforts to enhance Kuwait's capacity to produce crude oil.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Why should we naturalize spouses of Kuwaiti citizens?

"THE debate over Kuwait's naturalization policies has reached new heights, with strong calls for reforms to prevent unnecessary granting of citizenship. In a recent discussion, former MP Bader Al-Mulla voiced his concerns, questioning the rationale behind naturalizing spouses of Kuwaiti citizens," columnist **Badr Khaled Al-Bahar** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"He emphasized saying, 'We are a wealthy nation, producing three million barrels of oil daily, with a small territory and a capable population. Why would we naturalize spouses of Kuwaiti citizens? Their children already have Kuwaiti citizenship, so what is the necessity of granting it to the spouse? The very meaning of citizenship should be redefined and this issue of automatic naturalization must be stopped'."



Badr Al-Bahar

"Al-Mulla's stance recalls a pivotal moment in 2014 when former MP Safa'a Al-Hashem raised a storm in Parliament, addressing the issue of forged citizenships. Al-Hashem presented a comprehensive file to the then Minister of Interior, detailing allegations that around 62,858 cases of citizenship were fraudulently obtained.

"This revelation led to the imprisonment of several individuals, but ultimately, no systemic action was taken, and the minister involved was simply removed from office. According to Al-Mulla, this unresolved issue of forged nationalities still casts a long shadow on Kuwait's citizenship policies and regulations.

"In a 2019 symposium held by the 'Group of Eighty' at the office of Adel Al-Zawawi, Al-Mulla and other speakers stressed the urgency of citizenship reform, especially concerning Kuwait's stateless Bedouin population.

"Over the past five years, many of their recommendations have been implemented, including halting certain forms of naturalization. However, Al-Mulla and others argue that additional steps must be taken to address existing fraud and prevent future abuse of the system.

"Al-Mulla expressed his support for First Deputy Prime Minister Fahad Al-Yousef, urging him to continue investigating cases of alleged forgery and misuse of nationality.

"These include individuals who were naturalized through marriage or who retained citizenship after divorce or widowhood, even though they lack genuine Kuwaiti roots.

"Al-Mulla stressed that these cases often involve dependents or descendants who received citizenship by extension but are not of Kuwaiti origin. To preserve the integrity of Kuwait's population, Al-Mulla argued, such cases should be examined, and any improperly granted nationalities should be revoked.

"Additionally, Al-Mulla warned of the economic risks posed by companies established by individuals with questionable citizenship.

"He emphasized the importance of revoking business licenses for companies founded by those who may have obtained citizenship fraudulently, as such entities can become avenues for money laundering and the manipulation of Kuwait's labor market.

"Al-Mulla called for legal reforms to enshrine these principles in Kuwaiti law. He advocated amendments to laws such as Law 21/2000 and proposed reversing the 1994 amendment to Law 44 under Amiri Decree No. 15 of 1959, which granted naturalized individuals the right to confer citizenship to their children 'by origin'.

Al-Mulla believes this change blurred the legal distinctions between original and acquired citizenship and undermined the Constitution's requirement that National Assembly members be Kuwaiti 'by origin'.

Finally, Al-Mulla encouraged Fahad Al-Yousef to pursue reforms boldly, confident that Kuwait's original citizens stand with him in support. He urged him to 'strike while the iron is hot', under the guidance of His Highness the Amir, to secure the future of Kuwaiti citizenship and the nation's demographic stability."

Also:

"The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, has firmly established the principle that no one is above the law, not even members of the Ministry of Interior itself," columnist **Tareq Hamada** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"His decisive handling of a case involving the fabrication of false drug possession charges against an expatriate highlights this commitment. Not only were the accused officers referred to the Public Prosecution, but Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef also took a resolute stance by dismissing an officer and several policemen from the Ministry of Interior after they admitted to abuse of power, forgery, and misconduct.

"Such disciplinary action serves as a stern deterrent, warning all police officers against exploiting their authority or wrongfully implicating innocent people, whether citizens or expatriates.

"The Ministry of Interior's transparency in announcing the details of this

case through an official statement and referring the case to the Public Prosecution is not an isolated action.

"A similar approach was taken in a prior case involving an attempt to implicate an expatriate doctor with fabricated drug charges. Many will remember Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef's commendable initiative to personally meet with the doctor in his office, reaffirming his message that no one is above the law and that the core duty of law enforcement is to ensure security, uncover the truth, and uphold justice.

"On several occasions, His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, has emphasized that the interests, security and stability of Kuwait must be prioritized above all else, and that the law must be applied firmly and indiscriminately. Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef has upheld this vision with precision in all cases, even when they involve police personnel.

"In many countries, such cases are rarely covered by the media and often limited to internal disciplinary measures or military trials. However, to instill respect for the rule of law, these bold and transparent steps are essential.

"Some may argue that it would have been better to wait for a court ruling before taking action against the accused. However, in my opinion, swift, preventative measures are crucial in sensitive cases like this, where thorough internal investigations can sometimes be undermined by legal loopholes. Taking strong action against those who disregarded the solemn oath they swore is essential.

"Every police graduate in Kuwait, officers and non-commissioned officers alike, recites a solemn oath during their graduation ceremony: 'I swear by Almighty God... to be loyal to the State of Kuwait, faithful to its rights, loyal to its revered Amir, obedient to all rightful orders issued to me by my superiors, safeguarding my honor and weapon, fulfilling my duties with honesty and integrity, respecting the country's laws and the rights of the people, with God as my witness'.

"This oath must be upheld without deviation, ensuring the fair and equal application of the law, irrespective of citizenship status.

"In my personal opinion, the Ministry of Interior's resolute actions will significantly reduce similar cases in the future, as those contemplating such misconduct will now be deterred by the strict penalties awaiting them.

"We pray to God to protect Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

"A final note: We hope that the Public Relations and Security Media department will inform the public about the penalties issued against the reckless driver who deliberately ran over traffic officers in Sabahiya, as well as the driver who bizarrely damaged vehicles. It would also be beneficial to learn what became of the vehicles involved in both incidents."

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"The visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, to Kuwait is part of the longstanding fraternal ties between the two countries. This visit is of great significance, further enhancing the historical relationship between the UAE and Kuwait across multiple fronts," columnist **Dr. Eissa Mohammad Al-Emairi** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The UAE is Kuwait's largest trading partner, with trade exchanges surpassing \$10 billion since the beginning of 2024. In 2023, non-oil trade alone reached approximately \$12.2 billion. The UAE holds a 55 percent share of Kuwait's trade with the GCC and a 46 percent share with all Arab countries.

"From 2019 to 2023, Emirati investments in Kuwait reached \$1.1 billion, while Kuwaiti investments in the UAE amounted to \$194.7 million. These figures underscore the strength of their partnership, suggesting a prosperous future for continued cooperation and positioning it as one of the region's and world's most vital commercial partnerships.

"The visit also reaffirms a deep-rooted bond, one built on familial and blood ties that have united these nations since the time of their founding leaders, continuing to flourish under today's visionary leaders. It serves as an opportunity for consultation in the interest of both countries and their people.

"Accepting the invitation from His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's visit reflects a profound respect and affection for Kuwait and its leadership.

"Taking place amid complex international and Middle Eastern challenges, the visit represents the continued high-level exchanges between the two nations that benefit their mutual interests.

"It also highlights tourism as a key area, particularly during winter, with Kuwaiti visitors favoring destinations like Dubai and Abu Dhabi year-round, and Emiratis enjoying the warm hospitality of Kuwait.

"We ask God to guide the leaders of both countries for a successful and blessed visit, steering them towards decisions that benefit both nations and their people."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/
Mahmoud Attiyeh

Teenager among 2 dead in two different mishaps

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10, (Agencies) : A teenager believed to be 17 years old died and an 18-year-old was injured following a collision between two vehicles in the Umm Qadeer desert area Friday evening.

The daily quoting the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said security personnel and patrol units were dispatched to the site of the accident to investigate the cause of the accident.

In a separate incident, an unidentified expatriate worker, who is believed to be in his 40s died after falling from a building in the Al-Mutla'a area Saturday morning.

According to security sources, the worker, was rushed to the Jahra Hospital where doctors attempted in vain to revive him.

He was pronounced dead and the corpse was sent to the Forensic Medicine department.

□ □ □

Abandoned cars seized: The most recent inspection campaign in Fahaeel resulted in the impounding of five abandoned vehicles and discovery of various violations.

This campaign is part of the ongoing efforts to strictly implement laws and regulations, and maintain the aesthetic appearance of various areas, in compliance with the directives of Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Kuwait Municipality Saad Al-Khurainj.



Municipality photo
Senior Municipality officials giving instructions on the site.

'Keep Kuwait highways, streets clean'

By Inaas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality announced that Saad Al-Dabous, Director General of Kuwait Municipality, has issued directives to improve the cleanliness of highways and main streets across the country. In line with these instructions, inspection teams from the General Cleaning and Road Occupancy Departments have

conducted field campaigns in all governorates to remove any items obstructing roads or detracting from the visual appeal.

Saad Al-Khuraiej, Director of the General Cleaning and Road Occupancy Department in Ahmadi Governorate, highlighted that these intensified efforts aim to keep streets clean, identify violators, and enforce regulations. The recent campaigns successfully cleared sand and waste from King Abdulaziz Al Saud Road, marking a significant step toward maintaining cleaner and safer roads.

Rapid response teams win MoH praise for tackling hospital fire

Political leadership boosts public trust, confidence

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Ministry of Health (MoH) extended its highest appreciation and gratitude to the political leadership of the country, particularly to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, and the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, for their continuous follow-up, unwavering support, and wise directives that greatly enhance the ongoing efforts aimed at serving the nation and ensuring the safety of its people.



Dr. Al-Awadhi

The ministry also thanked all health teams for their rapid response and high efficiency in managing the fire incident at the old Ahmadi Hospital, adding, "Thanks to their efforts, and by the grace of Allah, no injuries were reported".

It commended the health teams' dedication, professionalism, and commitment to their duties in serving the country. Furthermore, the Ministry extended its deepest appreciation to all the relevant authorities involved, including the Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait Fire Force, and the Kuwait Oil Company, for their exceptional cooperation with the health teams. Their teamwork demonstrated a spirit of high responsibility and underscored the priority of safeguarding the nation and protecting lives.

In a separate context, the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed the importance of continually developing the professional performance of doctors and

ensuring they are up-to-date with the latest developments in their specialties. He added that this ongoing development directly benefits patients and enhances the quality of healthcare services provided.

He noted that scientific cooperation between medical professionals, both locally and internationally, is a cornerstone for advancing the national health system and achieving a clear vision for the future.

Speaking at the opening of the Second Conference of the Kuwait Association of Colon and Rectal Surgery, Minister Dr. Al-Awadhi expressed the ministry's pride in being an active partner and supporter of all efforts aimed at enhancing and developing the medical profession for achieving the highest standards of healthcare and ensuring that Kuwait keeps pace with the latest scientific innovations in medicine.

Dr. Al-Awadhi acknowledged the positive impact of medical conferences, and their vital role in providing advanced medical knowledge and enhancing scientific exchange, which ultimately elevates the level of healthcare services.

He also commended the organizing committee for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that the conference content aligns with the latest developments in the field of colon and rectal surgery, adding that this year's conference includes sessions on cutting-edge topics such as complex tumor surgeries and the use of robotic technology in surgery, marking a major advancement in the field of surgery.

In addition, the conference aims to establish scientific foundations that support research and surgical initiatives by taking advantage of modern technologies that enhance the precision of surgeries and improve their outcomes.

Dr. Al-Awadhi stressed that such conferences serve as an excellent platform to motivate medical professionals, hone their skills, and offer them opportunities to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in various surgical specialties.

This conference also builds on the achievements of the association's first conference in May 2023, which saw notable accomplishments. These included performing delicate and complex surgeries in collaboration with international experts, as well as developing a unified protocol for the treatment of rectal cancer in partnership with the Kuwait Cancer Control Center.



Rescue vehicle at the site.

KFF photo

KFF rescues two men trapped in water tank

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Two individuals who were trapped inside a water tank in Shuwaik area were successfully rescued.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the Control Room of KFF received information about the incident, firefighters rushed to the location, rescued the two individuals safely, and handed them over to paramedics for necessary treatment.

Meanwhile, fire broke out in a flat in Mahboula at dawn on Saturday. No casualties were reported but material losses had incurred.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighting teams from Mangaf and Fahaeel fire stations rushed to the location after receiving information about the flat on fire.

They extinguished the fire within a short time, and launched investigations to determine the cause of the fire.

Kuwaiti teacher jailed for 7 years in case of forgery

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Court of Cassation upheld the verdict issued by a lower court, which sentenced a Kuwaiti teacher to seven-year imprisonment for forging medical leaves over a span of more than eight years. The court also upheld the fine of KD 100,000 imposed on her for unlawfully receiving undeserved salaries, and ordered her to repay double that amount.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court acquitted former MP Bader Sayyar Al-Shammari of charges related to forging expatriate residencies and official documents while working at the Ministry of Interior.

He had denied the charges, asserting that signing the transactions was within his authority, but verifying them was the responsibility of employees before they were entered into the system.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by a Kuwaiti citizen, who accused the former MP of transferring the residencies of workers employed by him to the sponsorship of another company without their knowledge, and demanded a seven-year prison sentence for the alleged offense.

Ban on sale of 'chapathis', 'samosas' in schools: MoE

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Education has received a request to take urgent action to prevent the sale of certain products in school cafeterias, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

They explained that the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has observed the sale of some items that are prohibited in educational facilities, in violation of the relevant regulations. These items include energy drinks, which are banned for children, and soft drinks. PAFN also informed the Ministry of Education about the presence of corn and saj vending machines, as well as the daily sale of meals such as chapathi, samosas, grape leaves, and pizza, all of which violate the approved regulations for school canteens.



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Kuwaiti Ambassador Al-Kharafi hosts luncheon

Kuwait-Cyprus ties strengthened as new ambassadors gather

MEW seeks approval of Subiya Station project's legal aspects

Minister stresses timely completion of road projects

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, the ministry is waiting for the Fatwa and Legislation Department to approve the legal aspects of the Subiya Station Project (Phase IV), which has a planned capacity of 900 megawatts.

They indicated that the Fatwa and Legislation Department had recently sent some inquiries related to the tender for the project, and the ministry responded to these inquiries.

The sources said, as soon as the opinion of the Fatwa and Legislation Department is received, the tender

will be referred to the Central Agency for Public Tenders to be offered to the companies specialized in this field.

Meanwhile, the latest report from the Ministry of Finance revealed that the total expenditures of the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy amounted to KD 1.040 billion for all budget items, representing 34.29 percent of the total estimated budget of KD 3.034 billion for the first six months of the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

The report further highlights that, during this period, the ministry spent KD 926 million on the goods and services item, primarily for oil, gas, and other fuels used to operate water desalination stations and electricity

generation plants. This expenditure accounted for 53.92 percent of the total estimated amount for this item, which was set at KD 1.717 billion.



Road projects completion: Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works, conducted a field inspection of the ongoing projects on the Airport Road and the Sixth Ring Road, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The purpose of her visit was to assess the progress on-site, address any challenges and ensure that construction efforts are on track.

During the tour, Dr. Al-Mashaan reiterated the importance of adhering to the project timelines and urged contractors to expedite the remaining phases to meet the specified deadlines. The minister's visit highlights the ministry's commitment to advancing Kuwait's infrastructure development, with the goal of enhancing road connectivity and easing traffic congestion for residents and visitors.



Dr. Al-Mashaan

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Cyprus, Abdullah Musaed Al-Kharafi, recently hosted a luncheon in honor of the newly appointed ambassadors from sisterly and friendly countries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event drew attendance from Cypriot ministers, officials, diplomats from Gulf and Arab missions and notable public figures.

During the banquet, Cypriot Foreign Minister Constantinos Koumpos held discussions with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ambas-

sadors, focusing on shared regional issues and the deepening ties between Cyprus and Arab nations.

He laid the emphasis on advancing collaboration in key areas such as education, investment, tourism, trade and technology.

Ambassador Al-Kharafi delivered a welcoming speech, expressing his support for the new ambassadors and hopes for enhanced Arab cooperation on regional and international matters.

He also highlighted his pleasure at the presence of Foreign Minister

Koumpos and the First Lady of Cyprus, symbolizing Cypriot commitment to stronger bonds with Kuwait and the GCC.

In his remarks, Minister Koumpos thanked Ambassador Al-Kharafi for his hospitality, noting the close relationship between Cyprus and Kuwait.

He emphasized the ongoing efforts to expand bilateral economic and investment cooperation and mentioned an upcoming evaluation of past initiatives aimed at further elevating these partnerships.



Kuwaiti Ambassador Al-Kharafi in a group photo on the sidelines of the banquet.

Al-Seyassah photo

PAMA stresses commitment to digital transformation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) announced its ongoing commitment to advancing digital transformation by expanding its electronic services through its official website and the Sahel app, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAMA was among the first government entities to launch the initial phase of its digital services.

In a statement during her partici-

tion in the 11th e-Government Forum, sponsored by Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar, the authority highlighted its success in leveraging digital transformation programs to improve service quality, enhance government efficiency, and boost productivity through automation and streamlined processes.

Maryam Malallah, Director of the Information Systems Center and the

authority's official spokesperson, emphasized the authority's continuous efforts in automating links with various government agencies and related institutions.

These connections are vital for the success of its digital transformation initiatives. She further noted that the authority has signed several agreements and organized workshops to ensure the success of these collaborations.

MoE activates teachers' accounts on 'Teams' platform

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Mansour Al-Dhafiri, the Assistant Undersecretary for General Education, announced the activation of teachers' accounts on the 'Teams' platform across all educational levels.

This initiative is part of the Ministry of Education's efforts to support the educational process and streamline virtual learning.

The move is aimed at enhancing the use of digital technologies, improving education quality and ensuring continu-

ity in learning.

In a letter sent to the directors general of educational districts and school principals, Al-Dhafiri emphasized the importance of identifying and activating any remaining teacher accounts by November 17.

He urged schools to coordinate with technical support teams to ensure full access to virtual classes and the ability to conduct electronic assessments, assignments and tests through the platform.

Al-Dhafiri also stressed the need to adhere to the academic schedule, ensuring that lessons and exams are completed on time using 'Teams' testing tools.



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Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila during the opening of Salmiyah popular cafe.

KUNA photo

Dr Al-Huwaila affirms support for heritage activities

Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila affirmed on Saturday support for the national heritage activities that embrace the Kuwaiti identity across all generations.

Al-Huwailah made this statement to KUNA during the opening of Salmiyah popular cafe. She extended her gratitude to the Expo 965 team for heritage and craft fairs and Kuwaiti innovators for their participation.

She expressed her gratitude to the members of the Social Fund for Popular Cafes for their continuous efforts in embracing Kuwaiti heritage, noting the series of cafes that have been renewed and developed to meet citizens' expectations.

Popular Cafes Season in Kuwait is part of a series of Ministry of Social Affairs initiatives aimed at reviving heritage sites and activating them as social hubs that attract citizens and residents to Kuwaiti culture. (KUNA)

Council set to discuss key proposals

Parking for damaged cars in Shuwaikh Industrial Area included in MC agenda

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The regular session of the Municipal Council, headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, will be held on Monday, during which several important items will be discussed, including:

1. A letter sent in October by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Abdullah Al-Mishari concerning the ratification of the minutes from the Municipal Council's meeting held on September 30. During that meeting, the minister had objected to the approval of a proposal submitted by member Fahad Al-Abduljader.



Al-Mahri

The proposal suggested coordination between the municipality, the Public Facilities Management Company, and the Ministry of Finance to allocate certain open yards in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area for use as parking lots for temporary storage of neglected and damaged cars until they are either repaired or disposed of by their owners.

The proposal aimed to offer these parking spaces at symbolic prices to encourage vehicle and garage owners to park their cars in designated areas instead of leaving them in open spaces in violation of the relevant law.

It also sought to address the space requirements for garage owners in the Shu-

waikh Industrial Area. However, the ministry raised concerns about the potential financial costs to the state and the negative impact such parking lots would have on the overall appearance of the area.

2. The proposal submitted by member Abdullatif Al-Da'i to build an entrance from the Fifth Ring Road to the Rumaithiya, specifically for Blocks 11 and 12.

3. The proposal submitted by member Nasser Al-Jadaan to create a roundabout on Nasser Al-Mubarak Street

4. The proposal to amend the distribution schedule for Hawally Block 6

5. Two proposals submitted by member Fahad Al-Abduljader - one to allocate a square in Shuhada, South Surra, Block 5 for conversion into a public park, and another to acquire houses and land in Khaithan Block 5.

6. A request from the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to allocate surface parking spaces in Saddiq, Block 2.

7. A request from the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy to deduct part of the main transformer station in South Surra (Al-Salam area, block 2) for the construction of an administrative building for the condensers department

8. A request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to transfer the affiliation of the NATO Regional Center and the Istanbul Initiative to the West Mishref Diplomatic Area.

9. A letter from the Indian National Private School requesting to move its headquarters from Salmiya block 12 to Block 10, Sabaa Street, Plot 28.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader Al-Sabah visiting artist Ibrahim Al-Sallal.



Al-Seyassah photos

Visit highlights deep sense of unity and solidarity among people

Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader Al-Sabah visits renowned artist Ibrahim Al-Sallal

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Renowned artist Ibrahim Al-Sallal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader Al-Sabah, who visited Al-Sallal to check on his health following his recent return from an overseas medical trip, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He stated that the visit highlights the deep sense of unity and solidarity among the people of a country that is known for love and peace.

It also highlights the strong bond between the people of Kuwait and the Al-Sabah family, who continue to stand with the citizens on all occasions.

This support is what sets Kuwait apart from others in the region.

Al-Sallal extended his sincere gratitude to Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader for his kindness, and prayed for continued peace, security,

and prosperity for Kuwait.

He urged God to bless the country and its people under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader with Khaled Ibrahim Al-Sallal.

Sheikh Mohamed

Continued from Page 1

Greeting the President were also a number of horseback riders and folk troops who performed traditional pieces.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held on Sunday at Bayan Palace a luncheon in honor of visiting President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and his accompanying delegation.

Following the grand reception, official talks between Kuwait and the UAE took place on Sunday at Bayan Palace, heading the Kuwaiti side was His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, while the Emirati delegation was headed by President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

At the meeting, attended by a number of top officials from both sides, His Highness the Amir welcomed the Emirati head of state, expressing deep joy and appreciation for his visit.

His Highness the Amir called this visit a point to further cement the sturdy long-lasting relations tying the two, and moving forward to a bright present and a promising future, whether on bilateral level through Kuwaiti-Emirati joint committee, or through the Gulf bloc.

He praised the harmony between the Kuwaiti and Emirati positions on regional and international fronts and in highly sensitive times, saying that addressing these challenges should be rooted in international relations and charters, dictated by the voice of wisdom.

Concluding his speech, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal wished the UAE's President success in all his endeavors, and for the fraternal nation further progression and excellence.

On his part, the President voiced his delight at visiting Kuwait and meeting with His Highness the Amir, to engage in discussions and exchange perspectives on matters important to their respective nations and region as a whole.

The Emirati President hailed the deep-rooted relations between the two saying that they are interlinked by shared blood, history, culture, proximity, and principles.

He said that these sentiments were expressed some 56 years ago during first official visit of late Sheikh Zayed to Kuwait and his meeting with late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem, and remain unchanged since then.

The UAE believes that economic cooperation is the basis for strong relations and achievement of aspirations, stated the President adding that as such, the UAE sees Kuwait as an essential partner for progress and development in the region.

In that regard, President Sheikh Mohamed pointed to non-oil trade exchange between the two saying that it had amounted to more than USD 12 billion.

The UAE is Kuwait's second largest trade partner in the world, and second on regional level and Kuwait is the UAE's 12 most essential partner in the world, he remarked hoping for even more growth in economic relations.

Taking note of the difficult challenges facing the region and the whole world, the President affirmed that Gulf work is a security policy ensuring stability in the region.

President of the UAE thanked His Highness the Amir for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, wishing Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah stated that the talks included the modes of boosting the sturdy fraternal relations, across various fields as well as expanding cooperation in what benefits both nations, as well as issues of common interest, supporting unity, joint Arab and Gulf work and latest regional and international developments.

A new era

Continued from Page 1

A Strong Partner for Stability in the Middle East

President Trump's commitment to addressing the Middle East's unique security challenges is clear. Unlike past administrations, which engaged in deals that inadvertently strengthened Iran's influence, President Trump has taken a firm stance against Tehran's destabilizing activities. His administration has consistently recognised the need to counteract extremist forces and has taken robust measures to limit Iran's ambitions across the region, from Lebanon to Yemen.

A renewed US-GCC partnership under Trump's leadership also reinforces stability across the Gulf states. His strategic alliance with the Gulf Cooperation Council nations reflects a shared commitment to countering common threats and promoting regional security. In a recent message from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, he extended his congratulations to President Trump and emphasised the importance of this collaboration by stating, "Our partnership with the United States is vital to achieving the stability and peace our region needs. Together, we fulfil our people's aspirations for a secure and prosperous future."

In a Middle East where stability is paramount, President Trump's focus on strengthening alliances and curbing extremist forces offers a path forward. His leadership is an encouraging sign for all those invested in a secure and prosperous future for the region.

A Broader Vision for Global Stability

President Trump's foreign policy extends beyond the Middle East, reaching key players in Asia. His diplomatic engagements with North Korea and China signalled a shift from military confrontations towards economic cooperation. His landmark meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, though met with skepticism by some, opened channels of communication that had long been dormant, and his firm stance on trade imbalances with China sought to establish a more equitable economic relationship.

As President Trump once said, "Sometimes by losing a battle you find a new way to win the war." This sentiment captures the resilience and adaptability that characterise his approach to leadership—a quality that will undoubtedly serve him well in navigating both domestic and global complexities.

The Power of Constructive Dialogue with Allies

World leaders have expressed optimism for renewed collaboration with the Trump administration. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer praised Trump's "historic victory," highlighting the enduring UK-US alliance, while European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed the "true partnership" between the EU and the US, emphasising a strong transatlantic agenda under Trump's leadership to address shared challenges.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, recognising the significance of Trump's re-election, expressed hope for "strong bipartisan support for Ukraine in the United States." His message reflects the optimism felt by nations worldwide that President Trump's leadership will contribute to a more peaceful, balanced international order.

A Renewed Call for Unity in the Gulf

Reflecting on my endorsement of President Trump during his first campaign, I believed that his background as a businessman would bring a refreshing change to American politics. While some people and celebrities opposed him, it was crucial to set aside personal biases and offer him the chance to implement his vision. His subsequent achievements demonstrated the effectiveness of a pragmatic, business-oriented approach.

Al-Amir proposes to evaluate and reorganize labor cities, complexes

Kuwait currently witnessing stagnation: council member

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Municipal Council member Munira Jassim Al-Amir submitted a proposal to evaluate and reorganize labor cities and complexes, indicating that Kuwait is currently witnessing stagnation; hence, the need to assess its internal positions and policies with the aim of tightening control over its resources and use them in the best manner for the benefit of all sectors.

Al-Amir disclosed that when she reviewed the sites previously allocated for labor cities and complexes as she is keen on adopting such topics due to her role in the council, including the issue of privatization in general; she noticed many new developments through which the nature of these areas changed.

"Some of them became close to residential areas, while some are now far from the work areas. Those who took the allocation decision in the past did not take into account a specific pattern to justify the allocation. This pattern can be taken as criterion for the entire process. It was done as per the actual need for

places for workers far from residential areas and near the production areas, but this was done in a disorganized manner," she pointed out.

Accordingly, she submitted a proposal to study the issue through the following steps:

First: Evaluate all sites that have been allocated and those unused.

Second: Set conditions and standards for allocating sites for the same purpose to evaluate and identify the sites.

Third: Add the network dimension to the chosen sites. The vision for allocating such sites must be taken into account, as they are a network of cities distributed to facilitate the movement of workers according to the need of Kuwait, not change the pattern of the worker if he is transferred to another location, as well as ensuring communication between these

laborers to create a community that supports the production journey and matches the humanitarian vision.

She added her proposal aims to free previously allocated areas and put them back on the allocation and evaluation schedule, so the State can fully benefit from them, as it is known that the passing time changes the nature of places and this actually happened.

She suggested setting the mechanism for allocating sites for labor cities and complexes, which will become the nucleus for expanding the remaining allocation steps for other projects.

She stressed the need for consensus in decisions and development plans for the future, as well as ensuring that "what we are doing today is part of a comprehensive vision for the country, not a momentary action."

Bank holds its weekly draw

Warba Bank announces winners of Al Sunbula

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Warba Bank, Kuwait's premier provider of corporate and investment banking services, today announced the winners of the latest Al Sunbula weekly draw as part of its continued commitment to reward loyal customers. The draw was held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in addition to Warba Bank officials.

This week, ten Al Sunbula account holders each received a cash prize of KD 1,000. The winners are as follows: Mr. Ahmad Hani Khalil Al-Hamar, Ms. Rafea Owaid Al-Mohammed Al-Jamalah, Ms. Reem Tawfiq Abdullah Al-Seif, Mr. Ahmad Khudr Khalil Youssef, Mr. Abdullah Salem Farhan Al-Ajmi, Mr. Zaid Jassem Abdulrahman Al-Khalidi,

Mr. Mohammad Salman Salem Al-Shatji, Mr. Faleh Ammash Mohammad Al-Ajmi, Mr. Nasser Ghab Hleil Al-Mutairi and Mr. Baraka Saqr Maedid Al-Mutairi.

Designed to support customers' savings goals, Al Sunbula account offers a unique savings opportunity, combining attractive returns on their savings with the chance to win cash prizes through regular draws year-round.

Explained the eligibility criteria, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait, Area

Manager of the Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank, said, "Customers are required to deposit a minimum of KD 100 to qualify for both the weekly and grand Al Sunbula draws. For every KD 10 in their account, customers receive one entry based on the lowest monthly balance, increasing their chances of winning as their balance grows. The balance must remain in the account for a full month to be eligible to the weekly draw, and two months to be eligible to the grand draws. What differentiates Al Sunbula is that there are no restrictions on deposits or withdrawals, and the more a customer deposits, the higher their chances of winning."

In addition to the benefits of Al Sunbula account, Warba Bank recently introduced its latest banking solution,

Customer Onboarding, as part of its ambitious five-year strategy. This innovative digital service allows non-Warba customers to easily open an Al Sunbula account online via the Bank's website, without the need to visit a branch. Through this new automated system, unique within Kuwait's banking sector, new customers can complete their account setup in five minutes, at any time and from any location.

Having achieved significant milestones in a short period, Warba Bank has acquired a leading position as a provider of innovative digital banking services to individuals and businesses. The Bank is also one of the local banks with the highest number of shareholders, further strengthening its commitment to serving every segment of the local community.

Kuwait sees

Continued from Page 1

The average salary for all Kuwaiti government sector employees, male and female, is approximately 1,616 dinars, compared to just 340 dinars for non-Kuwaitis across both sectors.

The private sector also presents wage gaps for Kuwaiti employees. Male Kuwaiti workers in the private sector earned an average of 1,648 dinars, which is 16.2 percent lower than their government sector counterparts, while female Kuwaiti workers earned 1,075 dinars.

In terms of employment distribution, Kuwaiti workers make up 15.4 percent of the total workforce, a slight increase from 14.6 percent in the previous year. Of those Kuwaiti workers, approximately 377,500 are employed in the government sector, with an additional 74,100 in the private sector.

Domestic workers remain a significant portion of the expatriate workforce in Kuwait, making up 26.9 percent of all expatriates, with a total of 786,000 domestic workers. This represents a slight decrease from 788,000 a year ago.

Domestic workers are primarily female (421,000) but also include a considerable number of male workers (365,000).

Expatriate workers from India dominate the workforce, making up about 30.2 percent of the total labor force, or 883,000 individuals.

Egyptians come second, comprising 16.2 percent of the workforce with 475,000 workers, while Kuwaitis themselves hold 15.4 percent of the to-

tal workforce.

These figures reflect both the continued growth of Kuwait's labor force and the ongoing complexities surrounding employment, gender and nationality-based wage disparities, as well as the importance of foreign workers in the local market.

Draft law

Continued from Page 1

He emphasized that these alternative procedures do not amount to a criminal conviction or create a criminal record but serve as reform measures aimed at behavior correction.

The law stipulates that alternative procedures must last from one month to one year. Geographically, these measures are limited to Kuwait, though they may accommodate emergency travel needs, subject to investigative authority approval.

The draft law also outlines community service requirements, limiting work to six hours a day, five days a week. It grants courts the power to impose house arrest instead of imprisonment, restricting individuals to their residence or another designated location, with possible allowances for limited daily outings.

GTD stats

Continued from Page 1

The traffic authorities also cracked down on vehicles involved in legal violations, seizing 68 vehicles linked to

breach of trust cases, judicial warrants, or criminal execution.

The operation led to the detention of 15 individuals wanted for civil or criminal cases, 8 reported absconding and 4 found in possession of narcotics.

Travel rebound

Continued from Page 1

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aviation sector is reflected in the air traffic plummeting during the 2020-2021 period. The number of aircraft movements had dropped to just 30,215 in 2020 and 35,215 in 2021 due to the global health crisis.

The statistics revealed that Kuwait International Airport has seen a significant rise in passenger capacity, accommodating 7 million passengers annually in 2015, and reaching 14 million passengers in 2023, which is an increase of 1.5 million passengers beyond its original capacity.

Kuwait slams

Continued from Page 1

soldiers and wished for the swift recovery for their injured compatriot.

The Joint Command of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen said that a Saudi officer and a non-commissioned officer were martyred as a result of "a cowardly attack" on their camp in Seyiun city, Hadhramaut Governorate, central Yemen.

'Our system is broken'

Democracy motivating factor for Harris, Trump voters, but for different reasons

WASHINGTON, Nov 10, (AP) - While inflation and immigration emerged as the dominant themes in this year's presidential race, another issue was prominent in the minds of voters for both major candidates: the stakes for democracy.

Half of voters identified democracy as the single most important motivating factor for their vote. That was higher than the share of voters who answered the same way about inflation, the situation at the US-Mexico border, abortion policy or free speech, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide. Notably, backers of Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, the president-elect, saw the issue from different perspectives.

About two-thirds of Harris voters said the future of democracy was the most important factor for their votes. No other topic - high prices, abortion policy, free speech or the potential of the first woman to be elected as president - was as big a factor for her supporters. Harris especially leaned into this messaging toward the end of her campaign: She said Trump was a threat to undermine the country's founding ideals and she called him a fascist.

The sentiment was supported by former members of the first Trump administration who warned about his fitness for office. Trump refused the peaceful transfer of power while lying about his loss in the 2020 election to Democrat Joe Biden. And on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump also directed a mob of his supporters to the Capitol after telling them to "fight like hell."

Audrey Wesley, 90, of Minneapolis cited Trump's legal cases and his disregard for the law as one of the reasons she supported Harris.

"Our system is broken," she said.

Wesley said one of the things that troubled her most was Project 2025, a detailed conservative blueprint for the next Republican administration. Trump has said he had not read the report, even though many members of his first administration had a hand in creating it.



Supporters cheer as Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign event, Oct 30, in Harrisburg, Pa. (AP)

"That's very scary as to what he wants to do," Wesley said.

The idea that democracy is under attack also motivated Trump voters, but in starkly different ways. About one-third of his supporters said democracy was the most important factor for their vote.

A further breakdown of the survey found that 9 in 10 Harris voters who indicated democracy was the single most important factor in their vote were somewhat or very concerned that electing Trump would bring the country closer to authoritarianism. About 8 in 10 Trump voters felt electing Harris would bring the country closer to authoritarianism. "Democracy voters" who supported Harris and Trump were equally concerned that the opposing candidate's views were too extreme.

The findings followed a consistent pattern in recent surveys by AP VoteCast and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. While democracy's future has been one of the few crossover concerns among a fractured electorate, people have differed on why they are worried about it and who is responsible for the threat.

Debbie Dooley, 66, and a co-founder of the tea party movement, had several important factors in her voting decision, all leading to concern over what would happen to the country under another Democratic administration.

"I think it was Thomas Jefferson who said when people fear their government, there is tyranny," she said. "We had tyranny under the Biden-Harris machine."

Dooley, a longtime Trump supporter, cited the nation's "open border" and concerns by many conservatives about crimes caused by migrants who had circumvented the law. The resident of Cumming, Georgia, also agreed with Trump's contention that the Biden administration had unleashed the Department of Justice on political adversaries.

"That's something they do in Russia. That's something they would do in China, not the United States, not here in the beacon of freedom for the world," Dooley said. Republicans have held congressional hearings for nearly two years but have provided little substance to the claim that Biden has "weaponized" the department.



The White House is seen in Washington on Nov 5. (AP)

Biden, Trump to meet in Oval Office on Wednesday: WH

US President Joe Biden will host President-elect Donald Trump for a traditional postelection meeting in the Oval Office on Wednesday, the White House said Saturday.

Such a meeting is customary between the outgoing president and the incoming president, and is meant partly to mark the start of a peaceful transfer of power under America's democracy.

But then-President Trump, a Republican, did not host Biden, a Democrat, for a sit-down after the 2020 election, when Trump lost his reelection bid.

Trump sought the presidency again four years later, and on Tuesday he defeated Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee. Trump is

the first former president to return to power since Grover Cleveland regained the White House in the 1892 election. The White House said Biden called Trump this past Wednesday to congratulate him and invite him to meet in the Oval Office. Their meeting is scheduled for 11 am.

In a speech Thursday, Biden said he had assured Trump "that I would direct my entire administration to work with his team to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition. That's what the American people deserve."

Asked about Trump as he left church Saturday in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where he was spending the weekend, Biden said, "I'm going to see him on Wednesday." (AP)

Dems struggle to respond

Trump's gains with Latinos could reshape politics

MIAMI, Nov 10, (AP) - From Pennsylvania to Florida to Texas, areas with high numbers of Hispanics often had little in common on Election Day other than backing Republican Donald Trump over Democrat Kamala Harris for president.

Trump, the president-elect, made inroads in heavily Puerto Rican areas of eastern Pennsylvania where the vice president spent the last full day of her campaign. Trump turned South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, a decadeslong Democratic stronghold populated both by newer immigrants and Tejanos who trace their roots in the state for several generations.

He also improved his standing with Hispanic voters along Florida's Interstate 4 corridor linking the Tampa Bay area - home to people of Cuban, Venezuelan, Nicaraguan, Colombian and Puerto Rican origin - with Orlando, where Puerto Ricans make up about 43% of the local Hispanic population. Trump was the first Republican since 1988 to win Miami-Dade County, home to a sizable Cuban population and the country's metropolitan area with the highest share of immigrants.

It was a realignment that, if it sticks, could change American politics.

Texas and Florida are already reliably Republican, but more Hispanics turning away from Democrats in future presidential races could further dent the party's "blue wall" of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, that had helped catapult it to the White House before Trump romped through



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump arrives for a campaign event on Sept 29 in Erie, Pa. (AP)

all three this time. The shift might even make it harder for Democrats to win in the West, in states such as Arizona and Nevada.

Harris tried to highlight the ways Trump may have insulted or threatened Latinos.

Trump, in his first term, curtailed the use of Temporary Protected Status, which Democratic President Joe Biden extended to thousands of Venezuelans, and tried to terminate the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arriv-

als program. He also delayed the release of relief aid to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria in 2017 until nearly the end of his term, having long blasted the island's officials as corrupt and inept.

Once he returns to the White House, Trump has pledged to stage the largest deportation operation in U.S. history. That could affect millions of families in mixed-status homes, where people who are in the United States illegally live with American citizens or those with legal residency.

But the Democratic warnings did not appear to break through with enough voters for Harris. Now the party must figure out how to win back votes from a critical, fast-growing group.

"Trump, he's a very confounding figure," said Abel Prado, a Democratic operative and pollster who serves as executive director of the advocacy group Cambio Texas. "We have no idea how to organize against him. We have no idea how to respond. We have no idea how to not take the bait."

Ultimately, concerns about immigration did not resonate as much as pocketbook issues with many Hispanics.

About 7 in 10 Hispanic voters were "very concerned" about the cost of food and groceries, slightly more than about two-thirds of voters overall, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide. Nearly two-thirds of Hispanic voters said that they were "very concerned" about their housing costs, compared with about half of voters overall.

Camilla has chest infection

Charles, Kate attend UK Remembrance events

LONDON, Nov 10, (AP) - King Charles III laid a wreath honoring fallen service personnel in central London on Sunday as the Princess of Wales looked on, in a further sign the royal family is slowly returning to normal at the end of a year in which two of the most popular royals were sidelined by cancer.

Remembrance Sunday is a totemic event in the UK, with the monarch leading senior royals, political leaders, including Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his eight living predecessors, and envoys from the Commonwealth countries in laying wreaths at the Cenotaph, the Portland stone memorial that serves as the focal point for honoring the nation's war dead. It is held on the second Sunday of November to mark the signing of the armistice to end World War I "on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" in 1918.

After leading the nation in a two-minute silence, Charles, dressed in his Royal Navy uniform of the Admiral of the Fleet, laid a wreath of poppies at the base of the Cenotaph, honoring those who have died in conflicts since World War I.

His eldest son and the heir to the throne, William, left his own floral tribute - featuring the Prince of Wales' feathers and a new ribbon in Welsh red.

Dressed in somber black, his wife, Kate, watched on from a balcony of the nearby Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, as is tradition. Queen Camilla, who would normally be standing

next to the princess, was not present as she is recovering from a chest infection.

It is the first time since the start of the year that Kate is carrying out two consecutive days of public official engagements. On Saturday, she attended the Royal British Legion Festival Of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Following the wreath-laying, around 10,000 veterans, including those who have fought in wars this century, notably in Afghanistan and Iraq, marched past the Cenotaph. With the passage of time, there were only a handful of

World War II veterans present.

Charles' ceremonial role as commander in chief of the armed forces is a holdover from the days when the monarch led his troops into battle. But the link between the monarchy and the military is still very strong, with service members taking an oath of allegiance to the king and members of the royal family supporting service personnel through a variety of charities. Charles and William both served on active duty in the military before taking up full-time royal duties.



Front from left: Prince William, Prince of Wales, King Charles III and Anne, Princess Royal walk during the National Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph in London, England on Nov 10. (AP)



Thousands of demonstrators gather in front of the city council for a protest organized by social and civic groups, denouncing the handling of recent flooding under the slogan "MazÚn, Resign", aimed at the president of the regional government Carlos Mazon, in Valencia, Spain on Nov 9. (AP)

Spaniards demand Valencia leader resignation for flood response

Tens of thousands of Spaniards marched in the eastern city of Valencia on Saturday to demand the resignation of the regional president in charge of the emergency response to last week's catastrophic floods that left more than 200 dead and others missing.

A group of protesters clashed with riot police in front of Valencia's city hall, where the protesters started their march to the seat of the regional government. Police used batons to beat them back.

Regional leader Carlos Mazon is under immense pressure after his administration failed to issue

flood alerts to citizens' cellphones until hours after the flooding started on the night of Oct. 29.

Many marchers held up homemade signs or chanted "Mazon Resign!" Others carried signs with messages like "You Killed Us!" Upon arrival at the regional government seat, some protesters slung mud on the building and left handprints of the muck on its facade.

Earlier on Saturday, Mazon told regional broadcaster A Punt that "there will be time to hold officials accountable," but that now "is time to keep cleaning our streets, helping people and rebuilding." (AP)

Europe

Kasciunas proposes plan: European nations should not repeat the mistake of creating a barrier between them and President-elect Donald Trump but instead cooperate on issues of common interest, Lithuania's defense minister said Saturday.

Assuming that Trump will again apply what **Laurynas Kasciunas** called "his contract approach to our relations," Kasciunas outlined areas where Europe and the new president could join forces: more investment in defense, European acquisition of American weapons and cooperation on containing China and Iran.

"What we did a little bit wrong last time when he was elected (by defeating) Hillary Clinton, and it was unexpected, we built against him a moral wall," Kasciunas told The Associated Press. "I think it was not a correct way," Kasciunas said. He was speaking on the sidelines of a three-day gathering in

Prague focusing on European and transatlantic military capabilities.

During his first 2017-2021 term, Trump pushed NATO's European



Kasciunas

members to spend more on defense, up to and beyond 2% of gross domestic product, and to be less reliant on U.S. military cover. That's what the allies have been doing. A total of 23 members are expected to

meet the 2% target this year, compared to just three 10 years ago, according to NATO. (AP)

Kasselakis departs Syriza: Stefanos Kasselakis, a businessman who burst into Greek politics over a year ago, said he was leaving left-wing

Syriza, the country's main opposition party he had led, and forming his own.

Kasselakis announced he was leaving Syriza Friday after a two-day party congress refused to consider his leadership candidacy in a contest that will take place later this month.

Kasselakis, 36, has lived most of his life in the US and only entered Greek politics in May 2023 as a candidate in a national election. Syriza, already the main opposition party, suffered a disastrous double defeat at elections held in May and June of that year. He unexpectedly entered the leadership contest to replace longtime leader Alexis Tsipras and triumphed in September 2023.

His main opponent and several of her supporters bolted the party in December 2023, forming a new organization, New Left. Many of the Syriza members who had supported Kasselakis soon soured on him, accusing him of not being a true leftist. Kasselakis did not endear himself with his confrontational style and open disdain for the elected party organs. (AP)

Drones strike Moscow as top UK official highlights Russian casualties in Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 10, (AP) - A massive drone strike rattled Moscow and its suburbs overnight into Sunday, injuring a woman and temporarily halting traffic at some of Russia's busiest airports, while a huge nighttime wave of Russian drones targeted Ukraine, officials reported.

A top UK defense official meanwhile said that Russian forces had suffered their worst month of casualties in October since their full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The chief of the UK defense staff, Tony Radakin, told the BBC that Moscow's troops suffered an average of 1,500 dead and wounded "every single day," bringing their total losses in the war to 700,000.

Russia's defense ministry said a total of 70 drones were shot down overnight in Russian territory, including 34 over Moscow's outskirts. Russia's



Pipa Vasy, a policeman of the "White Angels", tries to convince a local woman to evacuate from Kurakhove, Donetsk region, Ukraine, on Nov 7. (AP)

aviation authority said flights were briefly grounded at major international airports including Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo.

A woman in her 50s suffered burns to her face, neck and hands after drones sparked a blaze in her village southeast of Moscow, local Gov. Andrei Vorobyov reported.

No one was hurt in Moscow itself, according to Sobyenin, although Russian channels on the messaging app Telegram carried eyewitness reports of drone debris setting fire to suburban homes.

According to Radakin, ordinary Russians were paying "an extraordinary price" for the war, even as a grueling, monthslong Russian offensive in Ukraine's industrial east continues to eke out gains. He did not say how UK officials had calculated the Russian casualty figures.

INTERNATIONAL



A Chinese coast guard vessel stays beside suspected Chinese militia ships near Thitu island, locally called Pag-asa island on Nov 6 ahead of a Philippine military multi-service joint exercise at the disputed South China Sea, Philippines. (AP)

Beijing delimits S.China Sea shoal in dispute with Manila

BEIJING, Nov 10, (AP): China has published baselines for a contested shoal in the South China Sea it had seized from the Philippines, a move that's likely to increase tensions over overlapping territorial claims.

The Foreign Ministry on Sunday posted online geographic coordinates for the baselines around Scarborough Shoal. A nation's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone are typically defined as the distance from the baselines.

Both China and the Philippines claim Scarborough Shoal and other outcroppings in the South China Sea. China seized the shoal, which lies west of the main Philippine island of Luzon, in 2012 and has since restricted access to Filipino fishermen there. A 2016 ruling by an international arbitration court found that most Chinese claims in the South China Sea were invalid but Beijing refuses to abide by it.

Ships from China and the Philippines have collided several times as part of increased confrontations, and the Chinese coast guard has blasted Philippine vessels with water cannons.

Myanmar's conflict-torn Rakhine state could face imminent acute famine, UN report warns

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 10, (AP): Myanmar's Rakhine state, home to the Rohingya minority and engulfed in conflict between government forces and a powerful ethnic group, could face an imminent acute famine, the United Nations development agency warned in a new report.

The UN Development Program said in the report issued Thursday that "a perfect storm is brewing" which has put western Rakhine "on the precipice of an unprecedented disaster."

It pointed to a chain of interlinked developments including restrictions on goods from elsewhere in Myanmar and neighboring Bangladesh, the absence of income for residents, hyperinflation, significantly reduced food production, and a lack of essential services and social safety net. As a result, UNDP said, "an already highly vulnerable population may be on the brink of collapse in the coming months."

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long considered the Rohingya Muslim minority to be "Bengalis" from Bangladesh even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982.

In August 2017, attacks by a Rohingya insurgent group on Myanmar security personnel triggered a brutal campaign by



Rohingya refugees gather near a fence during a government organized media tour, to a no-man's land between Myanmar and Bangladesh, near Taungpyolay village, Maung Daw, northern Rakhine State, Myanmar on June 29, 2018. (AP)

the military which drove at least 740,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh. The military is accused of mass rape, killings and burning thousands of homes.

Since Myanmar's military seized power in 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, pro-democracy guerillas and ethnic minority armed forces have been attempting to

oust the military from power.

Last November, the Arakan Army, which is seeking autonomy from Myanmar's central government, began an offensive against the military in Rakhine and has gained control of more than half of its townships. The Arakan Army, which is the well-armed wing of the Rakhine ethnic minority move-

ment, is also a member of the armed ethnic group alliance trying to topple the military.

The UNDP report said that based on data the agency collected in 2023 and 2024, "Rakhine's economy has stopped functioning, with critical sectors such as trade, agriculture, and construction nearly at a standstill."

With domestic and international markets no longer accessible because of blockades, UNDP said people's incomes are collapsing because they can't export goods, and that agricultural jobs are disappearing for the same reason.

In addition, it said, imports of cement have stopped, leading to "an exorbitant price increase" and shutting down the construction industry, a major employer.

The report, titled "Rakhine: A Famine in the Making," said, "Rakhine could face acute famine imminently."

"Predictions indicate that domestic food production will only cover 20% of its needs by March-April 2025," UNDP said.

"Internal rice production is plummeting due to a lack of seeds, fertilizers, severe weather conditions, a steep rise in the number of internally displaced people who can longer engage in cultivation, and escalating conflict," the U.N. agency said.

Subianto, Xi agree to deepen ties

Indonesia's prez calls for collaboration with China before heading to US

BEIJING, Nov 10, (Agencies): Indonesia's new leader called for collaboration rather than confrontation with China after the signing of \$10 billion in new deals at a business forum on Sunday in the Chinese capital before heading to the US.

President Prabowo Subianto told the forum that his country wants to be part of China's emergence as not only an economic but also a "civilizational power."

"We must give an example that in this modern age, collaboration - not confrontation - is the way for peace and prosperity," he said.

Subianto wrapped up the first stop of his first overseas trip since taking office three weeks ago. He is headed next to Washington - where the US government is confronting China's rise - and then to Peru and Brazil for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and Group of 20 summits.

He and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Saturday to deepen ties, elevating security to a fifth "pillar" of cooperation in addition to political, economic, maritime and people-to-people exchange. They agreed to hold a first-ever joint meeting of their foreign and defense ministers in 2025, a joint statement said.

"Indonesia is very clear," Subianto

said. "We have always been non-aligned, we have always been respectful of all great powers in the world."

Indonesia has remained on the periphery of the territorial disputes between China and its Southeast Asian neighbors in the South China Sea. It doesn't have a formal dispute with Beijing though Indonesia said its patrol ships repeatedly drove a Chinese coast guard vessel away from an Indonesian energy company vessel conducting a seismic survey less than a month ago.

Chinese companies have invested heavily in mining in Indonesia, as they have elsewhere in the world. China also helped build Indonesia's first high-speed railway, a 142-kilometer (88-mile) route between Jakarta and Bandung that opened last year.

But a flood of low-priced Chinese products has hit Indonesia's garment makers hard, shuttering factories and prompting calls for import tariffs. The government has sought to placate domestic producers while not angering the country's biggest trading partner.

Xi noted that Prabowo visited China in his first overseas trip right after he was elected in March and chose China as the first country to visit after taking office, which speaks volumes about the great importance he attaches to developing relations with China and dem-



Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, (center left), gestures as he witnesses a signing ceremony of cooperation documents between Indonesia and China during the Indonesia-China Business Forum in Beijing on Nov 10. (AP)

onstrates the high level and strategic nature of China-Indonesia relations.

Xi went on to point out that the adherence to strategic autonomy, mutual trust, mutual assistance, win-win cooperation, fairness and justice represents not only a summary of the experience in developing bilateral ties over the past decades, but

also an important principle that should be followed for ensuring the sustained and stable development of bilateral relations in the future.

"China is willing to work with the new Indonesian government to build on past achievements, promote building a community with a shared future

with regional and global influence, and continue to write a new chapter of seeking self-improvement via solidarity, and boosting coordination and mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation among major developing countries," said Xi.

Xi stressed that the two sides should consolidate higher-level strategic mutual trust, increase high-level exchanges and cooperation between governments and legislative bodies and at the sub-national level, strengthen exchanges of governance experience, firmly support each other in exploring modernization paths suited to their national conditions, and firmly support each other in upholding respective core interests and major concerns.

Xi called on the two sides to further improve the layout of strategic cooperation and foster cooperation regarding the "five pillars" of politics, economy, people-to-people and cultural exchange, maritime affairs and security.

Xi urged the two sides to deepen high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, continue to operate well the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, advance cooperation on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Corridor and the "Two Countries, Twin Parks" project, strengthen cooperation in such

areas as digital economy, advanced manufacturing and the circular economy, carry out joint maritime development, and continuously deepen all-round mutually beneficial cooperation.

China is also ready to work with Indonesia to build more projects for the benefit of the people, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in poverty reduction, medicine, grain cultivation and fisheries, provide support for the training of scientific personnel and the development of vocational education in Indonesia, and introduce more facilitation measures to expand personnel exchanges, Xi said.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the next year marks the 70th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, Xi noted, adding that as major developing countries, emerging markets and major members of the Global South, China and Indonesia should jointly champion the Asian values featuring peace, cooperation, inclusiveness and integration, enrich the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the Bandung Spirit with the imperatives of the new era, lead countries in the Global South to unite and strengthen themselves, and steer global governance in a fairer and more equitable direction.

Public rift between Abad, Noboa

Ecuador's vice president suspended for 150 days

QUITO, Nov 10, (AP): Ecuador's Vice President **Veronica Abad** was suspended Saturday for 150 days accused of "unjustified abandonment" of her duties. It comes during a public rift between Abad and President Daniel Noboa that could have implications for Ecuador's February elections.

Abad's suspension without pay came at midnight, her lawyer Dominique Dávila told The Associated Press. Dávila called the move "extremely serious" and claimed it may not have any legal backing.

Abad was accused by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of not following an order in September to temporarily transfer her from Israel - where she also serves as ambassador - to Turkey due to the conflict, arriving eight days after the order.

Abad had argued that she was not "properly prepared" for the trip to Turkey and that Ecuador's government suggested "that I leave my children in Israel to go to Turkey

alone."

The move comes at a time of deep tensions between Abad and Noboa who, despite running the government together, have clashed for years establishing a sort of feud, the origins of which are unknown.

In August, Abad filed a legal complaint accusing Noboa and other officials of gender-based violence.

The suspension was the second sanction against Abad in less than a week. Abad was also fined \$8,500 on Tuesday by Ecuador's Electoral Disputes Tribunal for early election campaigning in 2023 when she was a candidate for mayor of the city of Cuenca.

The vice president has previously cited the Israel case and other incidents as government measures

to pressure her to resign, while the president has called her "disloyal."

Dávila, Abad's lawyer, said the suspension was the latest attempt to push Abad out, calling it a "trick to prevent the presidential succession" and something they planned to appeal.

Abad's fate has special importance for Noboa, who hopes to run for reelection in February 2025, and will have to request a leave of absence to carry out the campaign, according to experts.

In that case, Abad would take over the presidency, but with the recent sanctions, the pathway to her taking the reigns would be blocked, according to constitutional lawyer André Benavides. The expert said that while the suspension lacks strong legal backing, any appeals process to reverse the 150 day suspension would take longer than the suspension period.



Abad



Migrants board boats to continue their journey north hoping to reach the United States after walking across the Darien Gap from Colombia in Bajo Chiquito, Panama on Nov 9. (AP)

Migrants crossing Darien heard of Trump victory - and picked up the pace

BAJO CHIQUITO, Panama, Nov 10, (AP): Jesús Chávez, a 34-year-old pastry chef from Barquisimeto, Venezuela, arrived in this small village at Panama's edge of the Darien jungle on Friday.

He was traveling with five others, a mix of friends and family. They had all left Venezuela last Saturday with the goal of reaching the United States.

He said the group had waited in Venezuela for the results of July's presidential election, but after President Nicolás Maduro was declared winner despite evidence that he had lost, they decided to leave. "We didn't

see any hope," Chávez said.

They entered the Darien Gap Tuesday and heard about Donald Trump's presidential victory while still trudging through the jungle.

"We're trying to arrive as soon as possible, before January, to see if we have a chance with CBP One," he said, referring to the U.S. government's online portal that allows migrants to seek an appointment to request asylum at the border. Trump has said he will end CBP One.

Chávez said they wanted to get to the southern Mexican city of Tapachula where they would be able to access

the app.

In Bajo Chiquito migrants can buy food, rent rooms, hammocks or spaces to set up their tents. There is Wi-Fi and NGOs offering medical care.

Venezuelans make up the majority of migrants passing through, but the group Friday also included people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Bangladesh.

Through Tuesday, Panama had recorded nearly 289,000 migrant arrivals through the Darien. This is about 38% fewer compared with the same period last year. Sixty-nine percent of this year's arrivals were Venezuelans.

Subcontinent

6 terrorists killed in Pak:

Six terrorists were killed and six others injured during an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said on Sunday.

The security forces conducted the operation in the Spinwam area of North Waziristan district of the province on reported presence of terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, said in a statement. (Xinhua)

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2 rebels dead in Kashmir:

Two suspected militants were killed in a gunfight with government forces in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said Friday, while assailants killed two members of a government-sponsored militia elsewhere in the disputed region.

The region, divided between India and Pakistan but claimed by both in its entirety, has experienced an increase in violence. The Indian military said a joint team of soldiers and police raided a village near northwestern Sorepore town late Thursday following a tip about the presence of a group of militants. (AP)



Leader of the Labour Party, Navin Ramgoolan, casts his vote in Mauritius elections in Port Louis on Nov 10. (AP)

Mauritius holds election

People in Mauritius voted Sunday for a new Parliament with the ruling party seeking to secure a second five-year term for Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth in one of Africa's most stable democracies.

Jugnauth's government has faced criticism recently after it banned social media websites following a wiretapping scandal in which recorded conversations involving politicians, businesspeople, activists and journalists leaked and were published online. The ban

was lifted after a few days but has raised concern among the opposition and civil society.

At least 1 million people were registered to vote in the 12th elections since Mauritius gained independence from Britain in 1968.

An alliance of parties led by Jugnauth's center-left Militant Socialist Movement won a majority of seats in Parliament to cement his leadership in 2019. He is being challenged by opposition leader Navin Ramgoolan's Alliance for Change. (AP)

Asia

China steps up measures: Chinese authorities have stepped up precautionary measures against Typhoon Yinxing, with heavy rainfall forecast in south China's Hainan Province.

The Ministry of Water Resources has been closely monitoring the path of the typhoon, holding special consultation meetings and sent a work team to provide on-site assistance and guidance for flood-control efforts in Hainan.

Due to Typhoon Yinxing, moderate to heavy rain is expected to hit the central and southeastern parts of Hainan in



Xi

the next two days. The Wanquan River and the Changhua River will experience a slight rise in water levels, according to the ministry. China's president is **Xi Jinping**. (Xinhua)

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Heavy rain hits Okinawa: Japan's weather agency on Sunday urged Okinawa residents to be on high alert for

mudslides and other disasters as torrential rains are drenching the country's southernmost prefecture.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said atmospheric conditions are very unstable in Okinawa on Sunday due to moist air flowing in, with rain clouds developing in the northern part of the main island of Okinawa.

Data showed that about 110 mm of rain likely fell in the hour through 8:30 am local time (2330 GMT on Saturday) in some parts of Okinawa, including areas near the western and eastern parts of Nago City. (Xinhua)

Boursa Kuwait hosts CFA Institute's Research Challenge for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Boursa Kuwait sponsored and hosted the CFA Institute's Research Challenge, organized in collaboration with the CFA Society Kuwait. This competition provides a unique opportunity for students from participating colleges to embark on a journey into the world of finance. Through comprehensive training and mentorship, they gain valuable skills in financial analysis and professional conduct.

The Research Challenge provides students from Kuwait University, the Gulf University for Science and Technology, the American University of the Middle East, and the American University of Kuwait to apply their academic knowledge to real-world scenarios. Participants will conduct in-depth analysis of companies listed in the Kuwaiti capital market and present their recommendations to a panel of seasoned professionals. It allows participants to gather and analyze data, source and manage financial resources, and enhance their problem-solving skills to address the challenges faced by these companies. This year, Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) was the focus of the challenge.

Commenting on the strategic partnership with the CFA Society Kuwait and the CFA Institute, Boursa Kuwait's Senior Director of Marketing and Communication Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi said: "Boursa Kuwait treasures its strategic partnership with the CFA Society Kuwait and the CFA Institute, and we are proud to be the first strategic partner of the Research Challenge in Kuwait. Boursa Kuwait has been a consistent supporter of the society's initiatives and events since 2018, united by a shared commitment to advancing financial literacy in Kuwait and empowering individuals, from students

and academics to employees and executives, to invest with confidence and insight."

"Boursa Kuwait remains dedicated to building and strengthening a robust, efficient, and transparent capital market. I would like to wish all participating teams the best of luck in this competition," he added.

This year's Research Challenge will be held at the iconic Boursa Kuwait building, immersing students in an inspiring environment designed to ignite their competitive spirit. This hands-on learning experience, hosted in such a symbolic venue, underscores Boursa Kuwait's commitment to motivating participants and inspiring the next generation of capital market leaders in the Kuwaiti financial sector. Boursa Kuwait will also be represented on the judging panel for this year's Challenge.

Boursa Kuwait's strategic partnership with the CFA Society Kuwait and the CFA Institute is a cornerstone of its commitment to making a meaningful impact on the communities it serves. This collaboration is integral to Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy, which aims to build an educated, informed, and qualified generation ready to face future challenges. By raising knowledge levels and developing expertise within the Kuwaiti community, Boursa Kuwait is investing in the future of the financial sector. Additionally, this initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 4 - Quality Education - and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals.

President of the CFA Society Ms. Amina Abutalef praised Boursa Kuwait's support of the Society's initiatives and programs, saying: "The CFA Society Kuwait is proud of its long-term collaboration with Boursa



Boursa Kuwait hosts CFA Research Challenge for financial students.

Kuwait and is proud to have the exchange as the first strategic partner of the Research Challenge in Kuwait. Since its establishment, the Society has sought to raise the standards of professionalism in Kuwait's investment sector, supporting the ongoing education and professional development of industry practitioners through specialized educational programs, organizing conferences, supporting CFA charterholders, and fostering collaboration among members. It is also committed to the promotion of ethical practices that contribute to the development of Kuwait's capital market and all its stakeholders."

In October 2018, Boursa Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CFA Society Kuwait, aiming to provide educational content on the fundamentals of investing through Boursa Academy Online, the digital educational portal developed by Boursa Kuwait which seeks to enhance financial literacy among novice and professional investors in Kuwait.

The MoU enables both organizations to combine their expertise in

financial services and offer accessible content to those eager to learn about investing, providing resources to help investors assess opportunities and make well-informed investment decisions, such as a glossary of financial terms, definitions of financial instruments, guidance on financial planning, an introduction to investment strategies and methods, as well as educational materials featuring videos, infographics, and online presentations.

This year's subject company is Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), listed on Boursa Kuwait and included in its "Premier" Market index, which is comprised of a selection of blue-chip companies with high liquidity and medium to large market capitalization.

To kick off the Challenge, stc coordinated with the CFA Society for its participation in this initiative, providing contestants with the necessary information to be familiar with the telecommunications company. stc's investor relations team also participated in an introductory session for the participating teams, which in-

cluded a comprehensive presentation highlighting the company's key activities, financial position, and financial data. The presentation concluded with an interactive Q&A session, allowing the participating teams to ask questions about the various financial and operational aspects of the company.

General Manager of Corporate Communications at Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) Mrs. Danah AlJasem hailed the choice of stc as the subject of this year's Research Challenge, stating: "stc believes wholeheartedly in empowering future generations, and our selection as the subject of this year's Research Challenge is aligned with the company's strategic goals and objectives under the umbrella of the upgrade education initiative. The company plays an active and ongoing role in supporting educational initiatives aimed at empowering Kuwaiti youth. I would like to thank the CFA Society and Boursa Kuwait for organizing and hosting the Research Challenge and wish the participating teams the best of luck in this competition. stc

continues to work closely with its partners in the public and private sector to pave the way for a brighter and more sustainable future for Kuwait."

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company established by Amiri Decree No. 187 on July 22, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in the State of Kuwait under Law No. 2 of 2007. A leader in the telecommunications industry and a subsidiary of stc Group, the company provides innovative services and platforms that enable digital transformation in the region. The company was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014, with a paid-up capital of 50 million Kuwaiti Dinars, which was increased to KD 99.9 million in 2022 after a 100% bonus share distribution to shareholders in 2022.

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards, and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, to achieve longevity and ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

Kuwait's Central Bank keeps interest rates 'unchanged' amid Fed rate cut

'Banking sector remains resilient'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: In response to the US Federal Reserve's recent decision to reduce interest rates by 25 basis points, the Central Bank of Kuwait has chosen to keep its interest rates intact, citing a careful assessment of the country's economic and financial landscape, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Central Bank's decision to maintain its rates came after a detailed review of both local and international economic conditions, including geopolitical developments and their potential effects on the global economy.

The CBK emphasized that the current economic stability in Kuwait, bolstered by robust monetary and financial conditions, justified the decision.

In a statement, the Central Bank of Kuwait affirmed its commitment to monitoring global economic trends while tailoring policies to fit the specific needs of Kuwait's national economy.

The Bank stressed the strength of the Kuwaiti banking sector, which remains resilient due to the Central Bank's prudent regulatory measures and effective lending practices.

These efforts were recognized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during its mission to Kuwait in October 2024.

Since March 2022, the CBK has gradually raised the discount rate by a total of 275 basis points, culminating in a 4.2 percent rate by July 2023.

This strategy aimed to curb inflation and stabilize growth, particularly in non-oil sectors, while providing flexibility through the exchange rate system.

The Bank's recent 25 basis point reduction in the discount rate in September 2024 brought the rate down to 4 percent. This adjustment was made in response to local inflationary trends and global economic indicators, which suggested a cooling of inflation and a stable exchange rate for the Kuwaiti dinar against major global currencies.

The data points to a slowdown in inflation, with the rate falling from 4.7 percent in April 2022 to 2.7 percent by September 2024. This is seen as a positive development for the domestic economy, suggesting that the Central Bank's policies are having the desired effect.

Additionally, the banking sector is experiencing positive growth, with resident deposits in the banking system increasing by 6.7 percent at the end of September 2024 compared to the previous year. This reflects confidence in Kuwait's financial system and the effectiveness of the Central Bank's policies.

The Central Bank of Kuwait reiterated its commitment to continuously monitoring economic developments both locally and internationally. The Bank remains ready to adjust its monetary policy as necessary to ensure the continued stability of Kuwait's economy, emphasizing a gradual and balanced approach to policy changes.

The Central Bank of Kuwait's decision comes as several Gulf central banks, including those in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE, followed the US Federal Reserve's lead in cutting interest rates. These moves reflect a coordinated response to global economic shifts, with the aim of maintaining financial stability across the region.

Under Diraya campaign

KFH warns against clicking unverified links

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) advises customers to constantly stay cautious and encourages them to activate security settings on their devices when sharing personal information and important details online.

Additionally, KFH urges customers to refrain from clicking unverified links received from unidentified numbers, and particularly links received from the customer's known contacts as their accounts might be hacked and targeted.

In its statement, KFH invites customers to remain alert and avoid responding immediately to messages received at suspicious timings. The Bank reaffirmed the importance of not



rushing in providing personal and financial information or the OTP to any party, whether online, or through SMS, a phone call.

KFH continues its efforts to support Diraya financial and banking

awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with Kuwait Banking Association.

These efforts are manifested through awareness campaigns, social media messages and videos that shed light on customers' rights, rules and regulations, information safety and security against intrusion and combating financial fraud. They also detail the process of filing complaints and safeguarding customers' rights.

By supporting the campaign objectives, KFH aims to strengthen its pioneering role in banking awareness and provide customers with the maximum security standards when using the banking products and services.

KOTC invites bids for sale of two power generators

KPC awards KD 839,000 consulting contract for petroleum zone study

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has announced the awarding of a contract for the preparation of a detailed consulting study for the petroleum industrial zone. The contract, valued at KD 839,000, will span a period of 12 months.

Also, KPC announced in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm the launch of a special auction for the licensing of

areas designated for providing banking services in the oil sector complex. The auction will be held from November 10 to December 26.

Furthermore, the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC) issued a notice in the official gazette to invite bids for the sale of two power generators. The inspection date is set for November 20 at the gas filling branch in Umm Al-Aish.

In addition, KPC has launched a special tender for the maintenance of information storage devices, with the offering date also set for November 10.

Markets rise on Trump win

Fed cuts rates as inflation eases and economic growth stabilizes

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

ISM Services PMI
In October 2024, the US ISM Services PMI rose unexpectedly to 56, the highest since August 2022, up from 54.9 in September and surpassing the forecast of 53.8. This growth was primarily driven by a rebound in employment (53 vs 48.1) and slower supplier delivery times (56.4 vs 52.1). Price pressures slightly eased (58.1 vs 59.4). However, there were slower gains in business activity/production (57.2 vs 59.9), new orders (57.4 vs 59.4), and inventories (57.2 vs 58.1), while the backlog of orders shrank further (47.7 vs 48.3). According to Steve Miller of the ISM, concerns over political uncertainty, hurricanes, and labor issues at ports were highlighted, though the longshoremen's strike had a lesser impact than anticipated due to its brief duration.

Presidential Election
Stocks soared to record highs, with the S&P 500 gaining 2.1% on optimism around Donald Trump's anticipated return to the White House and the potential impact of his policies on the markets. Investors are betting that Trump's administration will introduce pro-growth measures beneficial to corporate America, helping the S&P approach its 48th record this year. Small-cap stocks surged by 5%, bolstered by speculation that Trump's protectionist approach would benefit domestic companies. In addition, expectations of lower taxes and relaxed regulations boosted bank stocks, while Medicare-focused insurers rose on hopes of higher government payments for private Medicare plans. Trump Media & Technology Group Corp. also saw a 6% increase, as investor sentiment tilted toward pro-growth, pro-regulation, and pro-market themes. Following the news the Greenback rallied, breaching the 105.00 mark as market participants anticipated Trump's policies on immigration, trade and taxation would stimulate growth and inflation.

Unemployment Claims
New applications for U.S. unemployment benefits edged up slightly last week, indicating little overall change in the labor market but highlighting the impact of recent hurricanes and strikes, which slowed job growth in October. Although the labor market shows signs of easing, wage pressures remain strong, raising concerns over the inflation and interest rate outlook. Data from the Labor Department revealed that unit labor costs rose notably in the third quarter, with a sharp upward revision to second-quarter figures, suggesting inflation may struggle to stabilize at the Federal Reserve's 2% target. In response, the Fed lowered interest rates by 25 basis points to a 4.50%-4.75% range. Economist Paul Ashworth of Capital Econom-

ics noted that high labor costs are a key factor in labor-intensive service prices and warned that if they don't slow, the Fed may find it challenging to sustain inflation at 2%. The Labor Department also reported that initial unemployment claims increased by 3,000 to 221,000 in the week ending Nov. 2, matching economists' expectations. Meanwhile, continuing claims, which signal hiring trends, rose to 1.892 million for the week ending Oct. 26.

Federal Funds Rate
The Federal Reserve announced a quarter-point interest rate cut to 4.50%-4.75% as it begins to assess how President-elect Donald Trump's proposed policies ranging from tax cuts and tariffs to widespread deportation—might impact the U.S. economy, with Fed Chair Jerome Powell stating that the election results will not affect monetary policy in the short term. Instead, the Fed will continue reviewing data to guide its adjustments as inflation approaches the central bank's 2% target. While the Fed's primary goals of stable inflation and full employment remain, Powell noted that understanding how Trump's fiscal strategies will influence these areas will take time. Reflecting on past policy impacts, Powell referenced the major spending measures of President Biden's early years, which spurred growth but also contributed to inflation that the Fed later had to manage through rate hikes in 2022 and 2023. Although inflation has since eased, Powell sees a gradual return to a neutral interest rate, acknowledging that exact targets could shift, particularly if the new administration enacts rapid policy changes backed by a Republican Senate and possibly a Republican House. Powell, who had earlier clashed with Trump during his first term, confirmed he would continue as Fed Chair until 2026, affirming his legal authority against removal over policy disagreements. In the meantime, both inflation and rates are trending lower, aligning with the Fed's projections for moderating price pressures amid steady economic growth and a stable job market. With another rate cut anticipated in December, Powell emphasized that the Fed's calibrated approach aims to maintain economic stability, though he noted the process could be complex as it navigates new fiscal policies.

The Greenback closed last week at 104.997

United Kingdom

BOE Monetary Policy Decision
The Bank of England (BOE) lowered its interest rate by 25 basis points to 4.75% in an 8-1 vote by the Monetary Policy Committee, marking the second rate cut this year after initiating its easing cycle in August. This decision, though influenced by easing inflation, came amid a new fiscal backdrop shaped by the Labor government's recent budget, which raised growth and inflation forecasts and complicated the outlook for further policy easing. The BOE now projects inflation will reach around 2.75% next year, up 0.5 percentage points from previous estimates, before easing back to its 2% target, while economic growth is expected to increase by about 0.75% over the next year. Governor Andrew Bailey emphasized that the bank must proceed cautiously with rate cuts, keeping monetary policy restrictive until inflation risks subside further. Despite money markets largely anticipating the rate cut, analysts caution that future reductions may proceed more slowly due to inflationary pressures from the government's expansive budget and rising global risks, such as potential U.S. tariffs.

The GBP/USD currency pair closed last week at 1.2921

Asia-Pacific

New Zealand Unemployment Rate
The unemployment rate in New Zealand rose to 4.8% on Wednesday, missing expectations of 5.0%, while higher than the previous 4.6% figure. Meanwhile, the employment rate was at 67.8%, and annual wage inflation was at 3.8%. The report highlights rising unemployment in the area, rising from 3.2% in September 2022 to its current levels.

RBA Monetary Policy Statement
The Reserve bank of Australia has decided to keep interest rates unchanged at 12-year highs of 4.35%. The decision came in line with market expectations, as more confidence is needed that core inflation is moving towards the RBA's target. It has now been a year since rates have been kept at that level, after a series of hikes that began in May 2022. Currently, annual inflation is at 2.8% in September, while core inflation was at 3.5%.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30675.

Currencies	Previous Week Levels			This Week's Expected Range			3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0858	1.0681	1.0937	1.0718	1.0510	1.0790	1.0760
GBP	1.2969	1.2832	1.3047	1.2921	1.2830	1.3030	1.2916
JPY	152.96	151.27	154.71	152.65	151.25	153.90	150.83
CHF	0.8676	0.8615	0.8774	0.8753	0.8690	0.8920	0.8662

Emphasizing govt-private sector collaboration as a key driver for transformative solutions at the 'MoneyTech' summit

Developing Kuwait's education system is a top national priority, says Al-Bahar

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait, emphasized that developing the education system is one of the most critical challenges impacting the future of Kuwait's economy, as bridging the talent gap, essential to the national economy, is deeply tied to the quality of education provided to our youth.

During the third edition of the MoneyTech Aljarida Summit held yesterday at the Grand Hyatt Kuwait Hotel, in partnership with National Bank of Kuwait, Al-Bahar explained that the current educational system in Kuwait does not adequately align with the rapidly evolving needs of the private sector, noting that for decades, educational outcomes have primarily aimed at preparing individuals for public sector employment, necessitating a comprehensive transformation to align with the new economic goals our country aspires to achieve.

She also highlighted that the current education system lacks emphasis on areas that meet the demands of today's global economic landscape, noting that this traditional educational approach restricts the focus on critical areas such as innovation, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and science and technology, which are becoming increasingly vital in today's economy.

Al-Bahar also stressed that there is an urgent need to equip teachers with training in new educational technologies, including digital learning.

Investing in Education

"Although Kuwait's educational expenditures averages about 5% of GDP—exceeding the global benchmark of around 4% seen in education-leading countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany, the outcomes have fallen short of expectations," Al-Bahar stated. She also noted that universities and research institutions in Kuwait are often perceived as lagging in innovation, quality, and advanced research output.

"Simultaneously, there is a need for substantial reforms in the labor market to encourage citizens to pursue employment in the private sector," Al-Bahar added, noting that the World Economic Forum consistently highlights the increasing demand in fields such as AI and machine learning, projecting that these sectors will generate nearly 100 million new jobs by 2025.

Al-Bahar stressed that by adjusting the curriculum in Kuwait accordingly, the country can position its future workforce at the forefront of these emerging industries.

Al-Bahar stated that the reform process must encompass curriculum development, teaching methodologies, private sector involvement, and comprehensive school assessment systems. She highlighted that each of these areas is crucial in shaping Kuwait's future work-



Shaikha Al-Bahar highlights urgent need for educational reform in Kuwait at the 'MoneyTech' summit

force, equipping it with the skills and knowledge necessary to foster a diversified, knowledge-based economy.

Furthermore, she emphasized the urgent need to enhance internal and vocational training programs across various sectors, engage the private sector in educational planning and curriculum development, and establish collaborative training initiatives. This approach aims to ensure that the skills imparted in educational institutions can be directly applied in the workplace.

Bankee

In this context, Al-Bahar highlighted NBK's initiative through the Bankee program, which seeks to im-

prove awareness and financial literacy among school students in Kuwait. The program has experienced remarkable success since its launch and currently benefits approximately 15,000 students.

Research & Development

Al-Bahar emphasized the necessity of developing a vision to enhance spending on research and development as a percentage of GDP. She highlighted the importance of devising a strategic plan to elevate Kuwait's position in international research and innovation rankings and advocated for forming partnerships with leading universities and global research institutions. Additionally, she called for a focus on

critical areas essential for diversifying the economy, such as renewable energy and information technology.

"Enhancing Kuwait's ranking in global education quality indicators must be established as a national goal, prioritizing educational development for both the government and the private sector. Fostering human capital is vital for achieving economic diversification. The core benefit of this reform lies in developing a workforce prepared for the demands of the twenty-first century, with a strong focus on skills like programming, data analysis, and entrepreneurship," she noted.

Female Representation

Al-Bahar emphasized the pressing

- The educational system in Kuwait is not aligned with the rapidly changing demands of the private sector
- Education outcomes have traditionally geared students toward public sector employment, necessitating a comprehensive overhaul that supports Kuwait's new economic goals
- Currently, the education system overlooks essential areas needed to meet today's global economic standards
- This traditional approach restricts progress in fields like innovation, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, science, and technology
- Schools in Kuwait should emphasize the urgent need for training educators on modern teaching methodologies
- Despite the country's spending on education being higher than the global average as a percentage of GDP, outcomes remain unsatisfactory
- Universities and research institutions in Kuwait lag behind in innovation and quality, producing limited cutting-edge research
- Educational reforms represent a critical investment in Kuwait's future, driving a skilled workforce, a more competitive economy, and long-term prosperity
- There should a clear plan to increase investment in research and development, alongside a strategy to improve Kuwait's international standing in research, innovation, and education quality
- Women remain significantly underrepresented in higher education and STEM-related fields
- NBK RISE promotes women in leadership and serves as a key example of NBK's efforts contributing to societal advancement
- Initiatives like NBK's Bankee program, which benefits 15,000 students in Kuwait, have achieved great success

necessity for strong female participation in the development process, noting that achieving this goal demands genuine efforts to tackle their underrepresentation in both higher education and professions within the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

She explained that the statistics highlight the severity of this issue, as only around 30% of female students in higher education opt for STEM related fields. Additionally, women account for merely 29.2% of the total workforce in these areas.

Al-Bahar emphasized that STEM education is crucial for fostering a more socially equitable and economically inclusive future. These fields provide the foundation for developing the critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for advancing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

She noted that the underrepresentation of women in this domain results in a significant loss of talent, diversity of thought, and experience, which are vital for fostering innovative ideas. Research indicates several factors contributing to this gap, including stereotypes, peer pressure, and the absence of female role models. These influences can cause girls to feel that STEM is not a domain for them, even when they excel in these subjects.

"Therefore, I believe it is essential to address this issue head on by debunking stereotypes surrounding STEM careers through early childhood education. The private sector also has a critical role to play in creating opportunities for gaining work experience and fostering an inclusive work environment to help re-

tain young women in these fields," she stated.

NBK Rise

Al-Bahar pointed out that NBK has made a significant contribution to empowering women in leadership through the NBK RISE program, which aims to support and strengthen women leaders in achieving top positions. This initiative involves several Kuwaiti private sector organizations collectively signing a pledge to enhance women's representation in leadership roles, reaffirming their commitment to work together to achieve the goals of this global program.

Al-Bahar concluded her remarks at the MoneyTech Summit by stating, "I assure you that we will not relent in our unwavering commitment to advocating for and contributing to the development of our educational system. We firmly believe that this is a vital investment in Kuwait's future, enabling us to cultivate a more skilled workforce, foster a more competitive economy, and ensure a prosperous future for generations to come."

Key Figures:

- The average public expenditure on education in Kuwait is 5% of GDP, exceeding the global average of 4%.
- Approximately 30% of female students in higher education select fields related to STEM.
- Women account for only 29.2% of the total workforce in STEM fields.
- By 2025, artificial intelligence and machine learning are expected to generate nearly 100 million new jobs.

Oil expert's insights reflect forward-looking approach

Sheikh Khalifa stresses need for diversification, strategic investment and regional cooperation

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Sheikh Khalifa Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, a former board member of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), oil expert and economic analyst, in an interview with Al-Seyassah daily shared his insights on the future of Kuwait's oil industry, the impact of OPEC Plus and the country's economic diversification efforts.

Sheikh Khalifa anticipates that the voluntary production cuts by OPEC Plus — currently reducing output by 2.2 million barrels per day — are likely to continue into 2025, particularly if the global demand for oil remains weak.

However, he emphasized that the KPC and its subsidiaries must focus on increasing Kuwait's production capacity in preparation for a future rise in demand. He pointed out that Kuwait could request an increase in its production share within OPEC Plus, similar to what some countries have successfully done in recent years.

Sheikh Khalifa stressed the influence of geopolitical factors on global oil prices. While oil prices are affected by regional instability, such as potential disruptions in oil reservoirs or the closure of key maritime

routes like the Strait of Hormuz, he noted that the market has grown accustomed to such tensions and price fluctuations are less dramatic than in the past.

He also pointed out that, despite geopolitical risks, OPEC Plus plays a critical role in maintaining price stability by regulating global oil supply and avoiding price drops that could harm member states and disrupt long-term oil production projects. He highlighted that OPEC Plus has achieved its goal of preventing oil prices from falling to levels that could adversely affect the investment needed to meet future global demand.

Sheikh Khalifa discussed Kuwait's ambition to increase its oil production capacity to 4 million barrels per day by 2035, a target that has faced delays but remains a key strategic objective for the country.

He emphasized that Kuwait must continue investing in its oil sector to meet this goal, even as OPEC Plus continues to implement production cuts. Sheikh Khalifa suggested that Kuwait should position itself to request an increase in its OPEC Plus production share once it has met its internal production targets and proven its readiness.

Regarding oil price trends, Sheikh Khalifa noted that the current market

conditions reflect weak demand, particularly from industrialized nations and China.

He explained that the demand in China had fallen by 92,000 barrels per day and refinery margins had declined, suggesting that oil demand will not meet earlier forecasts for 2024.

As a result, the voluntary production cuts by OPEC Plus are expected to continue through much of next year due to weaker demand and shrinking refinery profit margins.

Sheikh Khalifa strongly advocated for economic diversification, emphasizing that Kuwait must reduce its reliance on oil as a primary source of income.

He argued that the country needs to implement the measures outlined in its 2035 development plan to stimulate other sectors and create new revenue streams. This, he believes, will ensure long-term economic sustainability.

He also supported the idea of utilizing the Future Generations Fund to finance domestic projects, provided they offer suitable returns on investment. By doing so, Kuwait can stimulate its economy while maintaining the value of its sovereign wealth fund.

On the topic of regional eco-

nomie cooperation, Sheikh Khalifa expressed strong support for the GCC railway project, which will link the six Gulf countries through a network stretching over 2,000 kilometers.

He believes that this railway system will enhance trade and social exchanges, reduce transportation costs and create job opportunities across the region.

The project will not only boost connectivity but also attract foreign investments and encourage closer economic ties between GCC states, similar to the economic integration seen in the European Union.

Sheikh Khalifa concluded the interview by reiterating the importance of fully implementing Kuwait's 2035 development plan. By doing so, he believes Kuwait can generate business opportunities for local companies and create jobs for Kuwaiti youth.

He also called for increasing the localization of foreign oil projects to create more employment opportunities within the country.

Sheikh Khalifa's insights reflect a forward-looking approach to Kuwait's economic challenges, stressing the need for diversification, strategic investment and regional cooperation to secure the nation's future prosperity.

Türkiye maintains high interest rates amid inflation pressures

ANKARA, Nov 10, (Xinhua): Türkiye on Friday revised its year-end inflation targets upwards amid stubborn price pressures, which, to many analysts, signaled that disinflation will be slower from hereon.

Earlier in the day, Türkiye's central bank announced an upward revision to its year-end inflation forecasts for 2024 and 2025, from previously 38 percent and 14 percent to 44 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

"Looking further ahead, we expect the inflation to decrease to 12 percent by the end of 2026," said Central Bank Governor Fatih Karahan when presenting the fourth-quarter inflation report, noting that "the underlying trend in inflation is improving, but more slowly than expected."

"Our disinflation process continues. Macroeconomic indicators are also in line with this process. We assess that domestic demand continues to decline and reaches levels that support disinflation. In accordance with this slowdown, the current account deficit continues to decline," he added.

The central bank attributes the revised forecasts to various economic pressures and maintains that its cautious monetary policy will help curb inflation.

Türkiye has been grappling with high inflation amidst one of the worst cost-of-living crises in its history.

Since June 2023, the country has tightened its monetary policy significantly, with the central bank raising the key interest rate from 8.5 percent to 50 percent. The interest rate has been kept unchanged since March this year to allow the tightening to have an impact.

According to official data, Türkiye's annual inflation rate eased to 48.58 percent in October, maintaining below 50 percent for the second consecutive month.

Meanwhile, official data issued on Monday showed that consumer prices went up 2.8 percent month-on-month in October, just under September's 2.9 percent. The October figure, like that for September, was higher than expected.

Following the official release of October's inflation rate on Monday, Türkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek wrote on social media platform X that "it takes time" to "remove rigidities," adding that still, developments in this regard are "positive."

"The decline in inflation is satisfactory, but there is still high inflation," Orhan Turan, head of the Turkish Industry and Business Association, told the country's free-to-air TV channel CNBC-e.

"The process is becoming more prolonged, and tensions are rising. I believe inflationary pressures will persist for some time," he said.

In the view of Istanbul-based independent economist Mustafa Sonmez, the central bank struggles to bring down inflation as quickly as it wants.

"This was anticipated given recent data," Sonmez told Xinhua, noting that the central bank had to adjust its forecasts to align more closely with market expectations.

"Monthly inflation is currently stuck around 3 percent, which is significantly high, and price increases will continue to be stubborn," he said.

Noting the pace of disinflation has slowed down, Sonmez said, "The easy part is behind us, now, the decline will be less prominent."

Türkiye has to engage in structural reforms to challenge income inequalities in order to be successful in disinflation, he added.

Atilla Yesilada, another economist from Istanbul, told Xinhua that the fresh inflation forecasts delayed an expected interest rate cut.

"It's a bold and honest move from the bank" as it aligned with market expectations, he said. "No rate cuts will happen soon."

Nevertheless, ING Group, an Amsterdam-based multinational banking and financial services corporation, still believes a rate cut may be forthcoming at the end of 2024.

"We think a measured cut in December is still on the table, despite a higher-than-expected October reading," it said in a note to investors on Monday.

Gas extraction expected to begin in 2027

Cyprus to supply natural gas to Egypt for export to EU markets

NICOSIA, Nov 10, (Xinhua): Cyprus intends to supply natural gas to Egypt's liquefaction plants for export to international markets, including the European Union (EU), Energy Minister George Papanastasiou said on Friday.

Addressing the parliamentary Finance Com-

mittee during his ministry's budget presentation, Papanastasiou said that initial gas supplies would come from the Cronos field, discovered by Italian energy company Eni.

He noted that Eni is expediting the development of Cronos and is expected to submit a

development and production plan by the end of this year or early next year.

Despite the accelerated efforts, Papanastasiou indicated that gas extraction from Cronos is anticipated to commence in the first half of 2027.

Bank excited to make the announcement

ABK enhances customer experience with innovative interactive features

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is excited to announce at its revamped Jabriya and Salmiya branches aimed at offering a simpler banking experience. These branches showcase state-of-the-art technology that allows for constant updates and integrations with the latest trends in banking.

In line with ABK's commitment to enhancing customer satisfaction, the new platform empowers customers to explore electronic content through a digital brochure related to the Bank's diverse product offerings, special promotions, and advanced digital services. Customers can benefit from interactive touch screens, tablets, and easy access through QR codes, ensuring an engaging and informative banking journey.



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

Johair Marafi:

- The ongoing evolution of banking technology is essential in today's fast-paced environment.



The launch of innovative interactive features.



Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, stated, "Our digital branches exemplify our dedication to harnessing technology to enhance customer experiences. By in-



tegrating interactive features, we provide our customers with the tools they need to make informed banking decisions at their fingertips."

As part of the Bank's commitment to reducing reliance on printed materials and promoting the concept of sustainability, this innovative platform will allow for the electronic development, sharing, and updating of brochures instead of using paper. This will decrease paper consumption, having a positive impact on the environment, while also facilitating quick and more

effective access to and sharing of new information with ABK customers.

Marafi added, "The ongoing evolution of banking technology is essential in today's fast-paced environment. We are proud to offer an innovative space that not only meets but anticipates the needs of our customers, making them feel empowered in their financial journeys."

The interactive features in the digital branches position ABK as a leader in modern banking solutions in Kuwait, setting a new standard for customer engagement and satisfaction. ABK remains committed to investing in technology that enhances the banking experience, reinforcing its promise to deliver exceptional service to its customers.

China, US firms collaborate

Bangladesh's first solar lab launched in capital Dhaka

DHAKA, Nov. 10, (Xinhua): China's telecom giant Huawei and Center for Energy Research (CER) of United International University (UIU) have jointly established the first solar energy lab with Energy Storage System (ESS) facilities in Bangladesh at the UIU premises.

The lab was inaugurated here Saturday.

The Huawei-CER, UIU solar lab is funded by Huawei. One of the aims of the facilities will be to conduct capacity building and human resource development activities. Huawei and CER, UIU will jointly develop different course contents for organizing trainings that meet the purposes of Bangladesh market.

The course contents will also include the latest research and technological development in the field of renewable energy technology, digital power, and smart energy solutions.

The inauguration event was followed by a seminar on "The Role of Smart Grid in the Future Power System". Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen, adviser for Bangladesh's Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Muhammad Fozul Kabir Khan, chief executive officer of Huawei Bangladesh, Pan Junfeng, among others, attended the event.

According to Pan, till the end of

2023, Huawei Digital Power has helped Bangladeshi customers build 600 MW+ Digital Power plants, generating 437.5 million kWh of green power, reducing carbon emissions by 207,867 tons, which is equivalent to planting 284,450 trees.

"We believe that, as a leader in ICT and digital power, Huawei and the country's prominent energy research center can jointly provide invaluable opportunities for students and professionals to learn, grow, and contribute to the renewable energy landscape through this solar lab," Pan said.

"We are introducing renewable sources like solar and wind. Now we need to move towards the smart grid which we are working on. We are also giving priority to battery storage systems," Khan said.

Noting that new energy is gradually becoming an important area of China-Bangladesh economic and trade cooperation, Yao said that this modern solar energy lab will be the first photovoltaic and energy storage solution model in Bangladesh.

"China is willing to encourage more Chinese enterprises to participate in Bangladesh's development of new energy and other fields, so as to help the Bangladeshi people build a smarter, richer and better future," Yao added.

BRICS leads quest for more just international financial system

Current system said to be flawed

BEIJING, Nov 10, (Xinhua): BRICS, a cooperation mechanism of leading Global South countries, has held its first summit after a historic membership enlargement. Leaders of the grouping, which accounts for nearly half of the world's population and over 30 percent of global GDP, were joined by 20-plus other countries in Kazan, Russia, to explore ways of strengthening multilateralism for global development and security. A key consensus was to push the reform of the international financial system.

While the collective rise of the Global South makes the world increasingly multipolar, the international financial order remains centralized -- trade is denominated almost solely in the U.S. dollar and transactions mainly done through SWIFT.

To be fair, this structure had facilitated trade for decades and provided the financial stability needed for global revival after the end of WWII, thanks to the fixation of the value of the dollar to gold, and then the petrodollar system introduced in the 1970s after the United States abandoned the gold standard.

On the downside, however, dependence on the dollar has exposed economies around the world to as many, if not more, vulnerabilities. This is especially true of the underdeveloped economies of the Global South, who often find themselves at the mercy of arbitrary, sometimes volatile, monetary policy adjustments by the United States. For one thing, aggressive Fed interest rate hikes, intended

to bail out the American economy in troubling times, have time and again caused capital flight elsewhere and exacerbated debt pressure on developing countries.

The United States also readily uses its dominant position in the system to punish those who dare to disagree. According to The Washington Post, the United States imposes three times as many sanctions as any other country or international body, targeting one-third of countries with some kind of financial penalty. These sanctions cripple national economies, and quickly spill over to non-target markets.

Former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who is now president of the New Development Bank (NDB), a multilateral development bank launched by BRICS, warns that the dollar has been used as a political tool, which undermines its reliability in global finance.

A photo of Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly waving a BRICS banknote, later clarified as a symbolic one, at the Kazan summit, triggered a media debate on currency alternatives, highlighting the growing anticipation for changes to the status quo.

With stronger solidarity and cooperation among BRICS countries, a viable path is emerging. In a joint declaration issued at the summit, in addition to welcoming "the use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners," BRICS leaders encouraged the advancement of a BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative, designed to strengthen banking networks within BRICS to facilitate trade settlements among member countries.

In fact, BRICS members have already made significant progress in the use of local currencies.

The RMB, for instance, is used as the currency of choice for China-Russia trade, and increasingly for Russia's transactions with other countries -- a shift partly driven by American sanctions and asset seizures following the start of the Ukraine crisis.

Changes are also taking place in financing. The NDB has been promoting local currency lending as a key mission. In August, on top of the 5.8 billion dollars in concessional loans to South Africa, the bank approved a 5-billion-rand loan to a South African transport company to support the modernization of its freight rail sector, one of the first to be made in the South African currency. To date, more than 28 percent of the NDB's financing is provided in member currencies, and the bank has pledged to raise the figure to 30 percent by 2026.

No doubt the dollar will remain a key currency in the global system in the foreseeable future. Instead of rejecting the dollar altogether, a more viable solution is to mitigate the shocks from America's monetary and political decisions and, as Chinese President Xi Jinping puts it, to make "the international financial system more effectively reflect the changes in the global economic landscape."

BRICS is readily taking the lead in this process, with more countries of the Global South joining the quest. The Russian presidency has announced agreement on a new BRICS partner country model. The combined strength of heavy-weight emerging markets and developing countries would reinforce BRICS' ongoing efforts for a more stable and just international financial system and raise the representation and voice of developing nations in global governance.

There is much to be expected.

Higher wages drive up costs for eateries

Restaurants, other services still in grip of high inflation even as overall rate slows

NEW YORK, Nov 10, (AP): While prices for most goods have been falling throughout the year, inflation for a wide range of services remains high. That has put a strain on consumers eating out, servicing their cars and paying for various kinds of insurance.

Prices for services rose 3.7% in September from a year ago, according to the personal consumption expenditures price index, the inflation gauge of choice for the Federal Reserve. Prices for goods, though, have been falling, which has helped cool the overall rate of inflation nearly back to the Fed's

goal of 2%.

Restaurants, with traditionally tight margins and tough competition for diners' dollars, are among the harder hit sectors dealing with stubborn inflation. Food services inflation rose 3.6% in September. Chains including Chipotle, McDonald's and others say they expect inflation pressure from wages to continue.

Higher wages drive up costs for restaurants, often prompting menu prices to also rise. Pressure from rising wages increased following mandatory increases in minimum wages in Cali-

fornia.

McDonald's and other restaurants have tried to attract more cautious consumers with menu deals as the price of eating out rises compared with eating at home.

Home and car insurance inflation also remains stubbornly high. Household insurance premiums were up 10.1% from a year ago, while auto insurance was up 6%. Companies including Allstate and Progressive have said increased storm damage and more costly parts and labor for repairs are keeping prices high.

The housing market, particularly rent, has been one of the biggest drivers of services inflation. Overall housing costs rose 5.1% in September from a year ago. The travel sector is also facing sticky inflation. Air transportation costs rose 4.1% in September.

Prices for goods fell 1.2% in September and have been easing or cooling since late 2023, but pressure remains for food companies. Many of those companies are hesitant to pass along more price increases to consumers as people become more cautious about spending.

President-elect campaigned on promises to impose huge tariffs on foreign goods

Frustrated Americans await economic changes they voted for with Trump

WASHINGTON, Nov 10, (AP): Fed up with high prices and unimpressed with an economy that by just about any measure is a healthy one, Americans demanded change when they voted for president.

They could get it. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to topple many of the Biden administration's economic policies. Trump campaigned on promises to impose huge tariffs on foreign goods, slash taxes on individuals and businesses and deport millions of undocumented immigrants working in the United States.

With their votes, tens of millions of Americans expressed their confidence that Trump can restore the low prices and economic stability they recall from his first term - at least until the COVID-19 recession of 2020 paralyzed the economy and then a powerful recovery sent inflation soaring. Inflation has since plummeted and is nearly back to normal. Yet Americans are frustrated over still-high prices.

"His track record proved to be, on balance, positive, and people look back now and think: 'Oh, OK. Let's try that again,'" said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former White House economic adviser, director of the Congressional Budget Office and now president of the conservative American Action Forum think tank.

Since Election Day, the Dow Jones

Industrial Average has skyrocketed more than 1,700 points, largely on expectations that tax cuts and a broad loosening of regulations will accelerate economic growth and swell corporate profits.

Maybe they will. Yet many economists warn that Trump's plans are likely to worsen the inflation he's vowed to eradicate, drive up the federal debt and eventually slow growth.

The Peterson Institute for International Economics, a leading think tank, has estimated that Trump's policies would slash the U.S. gross domestic product - the total output of goods and services - by between \$1.5 trillion and \$6.4 trillion through 2028. Peterson also estimated that Trump's proposals would drive prices sharply higher within two years: Inflation, which would otherwise come in at 1.9% in 2026, would instead jump to between 6% and 9.3% if Trump's policies were enacted in full.

Last month, 23 Nobel-winning economists signed a letter warning that a Trump administration "will lead to higher prices, larger deficits, and greater inequality."

"Among the most important determinants of economic success," they wrote, "are the rule of law and economic and political certainty, and Trump threatens all of these."

Trump is inheriting an economy that, despite frustratingly high prices,

looks fundamentally strong. Growth came in at a healthy 2.8% annual rate from July through September. Unemployment is 4.1% - quite low by historic standards.

Among wealthy countries, only Spain will experience faster growth this year, according to the International Monetary Fund's forecast. The United States is the economic "envy of the world," the Economist magazine recently declared.

The Federal Reserve is so confident that U.S. inflation is slowing toward its 2% target that it cut its benchmark rate in September and again this week.

Consumers, though, still bear the scars of the inflationary surge. Prices on average are still 19% higher than they were before inflation began to accelerate in 2021. Grocery bills and rent hikes are still causing hardships, especially for lower-income households. Though inflation-adjusted hourly wages have risen for more than two years, they're still below where they were before President Joe Biden took office.

Voters took their frustration to the polls. According to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide, 3 in 10 voters said their family was "falling behind" financially, up from 2 in 10 in 2020. About 9 in 10 voters were at least somewhat worried about the cost of groceries, 8 in 10 about the cost of healthcare, housing or gasoline.

"I don't think it's either deep or complicated," Holtz-Eakin said. "The real problem is the Biden-Harris team made people worse off, and they were very angry about it, and we saw the result."

The irony is that mainstream economists fear Trump's remedies will make price levels worse, not better.

The centerpiece of Trump's economic agenda is taxing imports. It's an approach that he asserts will shrink America's trade deficits and force other countries to grant concessions to the United States. In his first term, he increased tariffs on Chinese goods, and he's now promised much more of the same: Trump wants to raise tariffs on Chinese goods to 60% and impose a "universal" tax of 10% or 20% on all other imports.

Trump insists that other countries pay tariffs. In fact, American companies pay them - and then typically pass along their higher costs to their customers via higher prices. Which is why taxing imports is normally inflationary. Worse, other countries usually retaliate with tariffs on American goods, thereby hurting U.S. exporters.

Kimberly Clousing and Mary Loveley of the Peterson Institute have calculated that Trump's proposed 60% tax on Chinese imports and his high-end 20% tariff on everything else would impose an after-tax loss on a typical American household of \$2,600 annu-

ally.

The economic damage would likely spread globally. Researchers at Capital Economics have calculated that a 10% U.S. tariff would hurt Mexico hardest. Germany and China would also suffer. All of that depends, of course, on whether he actually does what he said during the campaign.

Trump has threatened to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, potentially undermining one of the factors that allowed the United States to tame inflation without falling into recession.

The Congressional Budget Office reported that net immigration - arrivals minus departures - reached 3.3 million in 2023. Employers needed the new arrivals. After the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession, companies struggled to hire enough workers, especially because so many native-born baby boomers were retiring.

Immigrants filled the gap. Over the past four years, 73% of those who entered the labor force were foreign born. Economists Wendy Edelberg and Tara Watson of the Brookings Institution's Hamilton Project found that by raising the supply of workers, the influx of immigrants allowed the United States to generate jobs without overheating and accelerating inflation.

The Peterson Institute calculates that the deportation of all 8.3 million immigrants believed to be working illegally

in the United States would slash U.S. GDP by \$5.1 trillion and raise inflation by 9.1 percentage points by 2028.

Trump has proposed extending 2017 tax cuts for individuals that were set to expire after 2025 and restoring tax breaks for businesses that were being reduced. He's also called for ending taxes on Social Security benefits, overtime pay and tips as well as further reducing the corporate income tax rate for U.S. manufacturers.

The University of Pennsylvania's Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates that Trump's tax policies would increase budget deficits by \$5.8 trillion over 10 years. Even if the tax cuts generated enough growth to recoup some of the lost tax revenue, Penn Wharton calculated, deficits would still increase by more than \$4.1 trillion from 2025 through 2034.

The federal budget is already out of balance. An aging population has required increased spending on Social Security and Medicare. And past tax cuts have shrunk government revenue.

Holtz-Eakin said he worries that Trump has little appetite for taking the steps - cuts to Social Security and Medicare, tax increases or some combination - needed to bring the federal budget meaningfully closer to balance.

"It's not going to happen," Holtz-Eakin said.



Fast food restaurant signs line Peach Street in Erie, Pa., Aug. 26, 2014. (AP)

New research traces iconic statue's roots to China's Tang Dynasty

Where does Venice's iconic bronze lion come from?



This photo taken on Nov. 6, 2024 shows the Lion of Venice on St. Mark Square, Venice, Italy. (Xinhua)

ROME, Nov 10, (Xinhua): Towering atop a column in St. Mark Square, Venice, Italy, the massive bronze lion has long symbolized the city's power and heritage for centuries. Yet its actual origin has remained a mystery.

A recent study led by a team of Italian scientists, including archaeologists, geoscientists, and sinologists, suggests the iconic bronze lion may actually trace its roots back to China's Tang Dynasty (618-907).

"I have been fascinated by the lion since my youth because of its unique appearance," said Massimo Vidale, a professor from the Department of Cultural Heritage of the University of Padua.

"It is so different from any other statue that we have in Italy or other parts of the Western world," he said.

The origin of the Lion of Venice, which is approximately four-meter in length and weighs around 3000 kg, has puzzled archaeologists for years. However, recent advancements in geoscience analysis, alongside a comprehensive extensive database of ore sources, are shedding light on its past.

"Lead isotope analysis, combined with chemical analysis, is currently the most reliable method to trace the source of metals," said Gilberto Artioli, a professor from the Department of Geosciences of the University of Padua.

Artioli and his team conducted lead isotope analysis on the lion, using three new samples from the statue. "To confirm the origin, the integrity of the database is crucial," he emphasized, noting that their research



Massimo Vidale, a professor from the Department of Cultural Heritage of the University of Padua, introduces his findings on the Venice bronze lion in Padua, Italy, Nov. 5, 2024. (Xinhua)

incorporated data from ore deposits across Eurasia, including a 2019 study on the chemical composition of Chinese ores.

"Based on the samples and existing data, we can say with certainty that the copper used for the original part of the lion came from mines in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River in China," Artioli said.

Vidale added that these isotope findings align with stylistic analyses, which support a Chinese origin. Italian scholar Bianca Maria Scarfi first suggested in 1990 that the Lion of Venice displayed stylistic similarities

with specific Chinese cultural figures.

Further analysis revealed that distinctive features of the lion, such as its large nose, flared nostrils, bared fangs, and ferocious expression, closely resemble Tang-era "tomb guardians," some of which are on display in the Luoyang Museum in central China's Henan Province.

"The overall shape of the Venice bronze lion has characteristics of the Tang Dynasty 'tomb guardian,'" confirmed Li Kewei, a researcher at the Luoyang Institute of Archaeology, in an interview with Xinhua.

While the exact route the lion may have travelled remains unknown, scholars suggest it could have arrived in Venice via the ancient Silk Road, probably the Maritime Silk Road.

According to Li, bustling international trade along the Yangtze River would have facilitated the transport of such a large bronze figure.

Some Italian academics further suggest that Venetian explorers - possibly Marco Polo's father Niccolò and uncle Maffeo might have brought the lion to Venice in the 13th century.

"What is certain is that when Marco Polo returned to Venice from China in 1295, it had been installed on the top of the column in St. Mark's Square," Vidale noted.

This theory hints at a profound East-West connection dating back to ancient times, highlighting the Silk Road's role in cultural exchange. "The connection between the Lion of Venice and China reflects the far-reaching influence of the Silk Road," Vidale said.

Variety

ROME: Tourists in Rome won't be allowed to toss coins over their shoulders into the Trevi Fountain, following tradition, though an elevated walkway now gives limited access to the monument during maintenance work.

Rome Mayor **Roberto Gualtieri** inaugurated the steel walkway on Saturday, saying it will provide tourists with a close-up view of the fountain and calling it a "unique experience" that won't be ruined by overcrowding.

The walkway over the fountain's basin will be able to accommodate about 130 people at a time.

But tourists won't be allowed to toss coins from there, as the fountain is currently drained, and could face a 50-euro fine if they do, the mayor warned.

City lore has it that tossing a coin into the Baroque fountain will ensure a return trip to Rome.

Gualtieri said a small pool has been set up next to the walkway to collect the coins, which are donated to the Caritas charity to fund meals for people in need.

The walkway will remain until the end of the maintenance work, which is expected to finish by year's end.

Rome city officials are devising a plan to block off the area around the fountain. Under the plan, visitors will be required to book online and pay 2 euros (\$2.20). Once inside, they will have 30 minutes to enjoy the fountain. (AP)

TAIPEI: Calligraphy and seal-carving art works by 200 prominent artists from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan are being exhibited at the 2024 Cross-Strait Chinese Character Culture & Art Festival, which opened on Saturday in Taoyuan, Taiwan.

The event, running until Dec. 3, also features an exhibit showcasing creative works centered on Chinese characters by young people, and an art carnival with the participation of 18 calligraphy and seal-carving groups, celebrating the charm of Chinese characters and traditional Chinese culture.

The festival stands not only as a feast of artistry but also a valuable opportunity for the two sides of the Taiwan Strait to collaborate on cultural preservation and promote people-to-people exchanges, said Liu Chao-shiuan, chairman of the Foundation of Chinese Culture for Sustainable Development, in his opening remarks.

"Chinese characters are a symbol and carrier of the culture shared by the two sides of the Strait. By using them as a bridge, we hope to unleash the dynamics of traditional culture in artistic exchanges," Liu said. (Xinhua)

ISTANBUL: Türkiye's northern Black Sea provinces, renowned for their diverse and stunning caves, are emerging as a sought-after destination for cave tourism, drawing an increasing number of visitors.

Estimates showed that the Cal Cave in Trabzon, a city on the Black Sea coast of northeastern Türkiye, attracted over 150,000 tourists in 2023.

Inside the Cal Cave, which has two walking pathways, 750 meters and 250 meters long, "volcanic rocks intersect with the cave's structure, creating beautiful waterfalls," said Raif Kandemir, an expert in geological engineering.

"The cave also features an active river system, which continues to flow, giving it a mystical atmosphere as visitors walk alongside the river," Kandemir said.

Koskarli Cave, another major attraction in the region, holds significant historical value, with artifacts dating back to the Neolithic period, drawing professors from the archaeology department at Black Sea Technical University to conduct studies there. (Xinhua)

Music

Rising pop stars shake up nominations

Grammy stage set for Beatles' revival, 'BRAT' summers & country crossovers

NEW YORK, Nov 10, (AP): It looks like the 2025 Grammy Awards may be a different kind of award show. Beyoncé leads the nods with 11, bringing her career total to a record-breaking 99 nominations. There's an incredible diversity of genres represented across the major categories, and women continue to succeed. So... who didn't make the cut? What were the best surprises of all? Let's take a look.

Country music has bled into other prominent genres and the Recording Academy has taken note. Country hybridists - like Beyoncé, Post Malone and first-time nominee Shaboozey - lead many nominations, in country and beyond.

But that means the traditionalists might not see rewards: CMA Awards favorites Cody Johnson's "Leather" and Luke Combs' "Fathers & Sons" didn't see any nominations. The latter shouldn't come as much of a surprise: Combs' blockbuster cover of Tracy Chapman's "Fast Car" wasn't nominated for record of the year at the Grammys in 2024, either - though it did land a nod in best country solo performance.

This year also marks Malone and Beyoncé's first-ever nominations in the country categories.

Who saw this one coming? The Beatles last new song, the AI-assisted "Now and Then," is up for record of the year. Released in 2023, the song utilized artificial intelligence to extract John Lennon's voice from an old demo. It's the same technology used to separate the Beatles' voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson's 2021 documentary series, "The Beatles: Get Back."

Last summer, the Recording Academy announced a series of changes to the Grammy Awards, including new protocols involving technological advancements in machine learning. It sparked headlines: "Only human creators" could win the music industry's highest honor in a decision aimed at the use of artificial intelligence in popular music. At the 2025 Grammys, clearly, those changes are in action.

Last year's album of the year category was dominated by pop women - and that continues, with Taylor Swift, Chappell Roan, Sabrina Carpenter and Charli XCX's rave-ready approach to the genre receiving nods. The latter is a nice surprise (more on that below), but the two



The Beatles, from left, John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney appear in Liverpool, England on July 10, 1964, for the premiere of their movie "A Hard Day's Night." (AP)

men nominated are creative outliers. OutKast frontman André 3000's experimental jazz-flute album "New Blue Sun" is a contender, as well as Jacob Collier's "Djesse Vol. 4," though that one may fulfill a space left vacant by Jon Batiste.

Charli XCX, having never received a solo artist nomination at the Grammys, is up for seven awards at the 2025 ceremony. Those include record and album of the year, as well as pop solo and pop duo/group performance, pop dance recording, dance/electronic album and music video. Clearly, her culture-shifting "BRAT" album - and the summer of memes it inspired - has continued to hold real influence.

There is no shortage of first-time

nominees this year. Some were expected - like Roan, Carpenter and Shaboozey - others less so. Willow Smith has received her first nomination in the arrangement, instruments and vocals category for arranging her song "big feelings." Linda Martell, the first commercially successful Black woman musician in country, is featured alongside Shaboozey on Beyoncé's "SPAGHETTI," which is up for the melodic rap performance category. That delivers the progenitor her first-ever Grammy nomination at age 83.

And lastly, Morgan Wallen - undoubtedly one of the most popular musicians in the country, and one rife with controversy - has received his first two Grammy nominations for his feature on Malone's "I Had Some Help." Last year, his song "Last Night" was nominated for best country song, but that is a songwriter's award, and Wallen did not receive a nod.

In the past, the country singer has been absent from nominations. In 2021, after video surfaced of him using a racial slur, he was disqualified or limited from several award shows and received no Grammy nominations for his bestselling "Dangerous: The Double Album."

Just like last year, Latin music is missing from the top categories at the 2025 Grammys, despite a surplus of eligible talent: Peso Pluma's "Éxodo," Shakira's "Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran," Residente, "Las Letras Ya No Importan," Carín León's "Boca Chueca, Vol. 1" and Bad Bunny's "Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va a Pasar Mañana" among them. Same as above: K-pop, too, seems

to be absent. There are no nominations for the BTS members who've released solo material this year: RM's "Right Place, Wrong Person," J-Hope's "Hope on the Street, Vol. 1," and Jimin's "Muse." As a boy band, BTS has received five nominations across its career.

Despite being one of the great global superstars of the current moment - regularly celebrated as one of the most streamed artists on the planet - Bad Bunny's "Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va a Pasar Mañana" received only one nomination, for música urbana album.

And Usher, who had a blockbuster year - including a star-studded Super Bowl halftime show - also received only one nomination, for

R&B album.

In pop, Dua Lipa's "Eternal Optimism" is nowhere to be seen. In country, best new artist hopeful Megan Moroney received no nominations. In R&B, Normani's long-awaited debut album, "Dopamine," failed to make waves with voters, and in rap, Nicki Minaj's "Pink Friday 2" and Megan Thee Stallion's "Megan" are absent.

Last year, Jack Antonoff took home producer of the year, non-classical for a third year in a row, tying Babyface as the only other producer to do so consecutively. This year, he didn't receive a nod in that category - one he has held a place in since 2019. Who will take the mantle?



Sabrina Carpenter performs during the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, in New York. (AP)



Chappell Roan arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, at UBS Arena in Elmont, N.Y. (AP)

NEWS/FEATURES



Pottery vessels found in excavations in the city at the beginning of the last century.



Other mosaics in good condition.



Coins used in the city of Verulamium.

KUNA photos

London Great Mughal exhibition displays pieces from Kuwaiti Islamic Antiques Museum

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London, United Kingdom, is holding an exhibition titled "The Great Mughals: Art, Architecture and Opulence", in collaboration with the Islamic Antiques Museum of Kuwait.

About 20 rare pieces from the Al-Sabah collection are being displayed at the exhibition, which aims to celebrate the extraordinary creative output

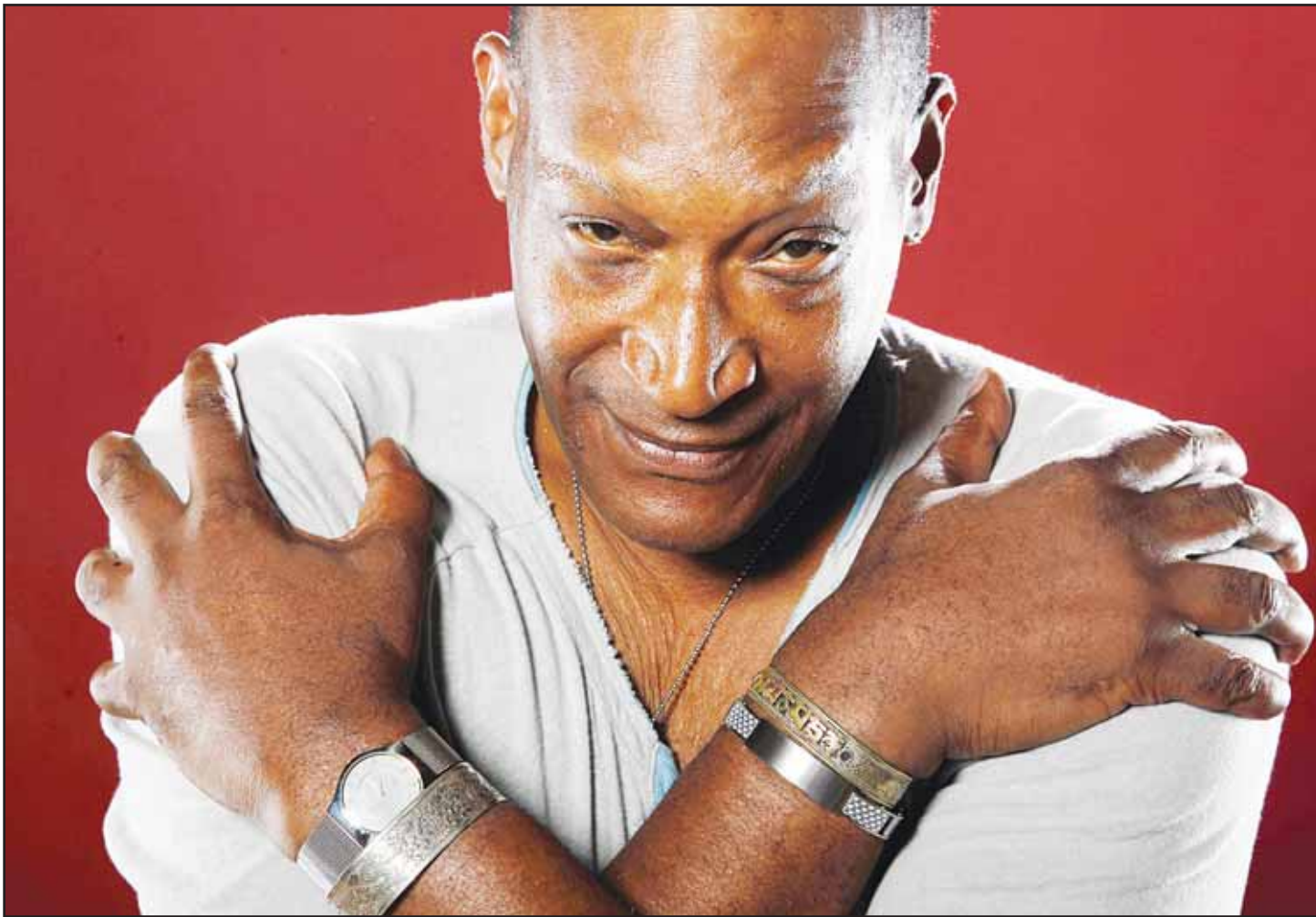
and internationalist culture of the Golden Age of the Mughal Court (about 1580-1650) during the reigns of its most famous emperors: Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan.

The exhibition opened to the public on Saturday November 9, and will continue until May 4 of next year.

The imperial workshops employed Hindu and Muslim artists from various areas of the empire to create hybrid art that is distinguished by its design and beauty, the exhibition traces Mughal art from jeweled pottery, carpets, velvets and the art of architecture and books. (KUNA)

Obituaries

Tony Todd, iconic 'Candyman' star, horror legend dies at 69



Actor Tony Todd, from 'Sushi Girl', poses for a portrait at the LMT Music Lodge during Comic Con in San Diego, July 22, 2011. (AP)

Transcendent dancer Judith Jamison passes away at 81

LOS ANGELES, Nov 10, (AP) — Actor Tony Todd, known for his haunting portrayal of a killer in the horror film "Candyman" and roles in many other films and television shows, has died, his longtime manager confirmed. He was 69.

Todd died Wednesday at his home in the Los Angeles area, his manager Jeffrey Goldberg said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"I had the privilege to have Tony as my friend and client for over 30 years and I will miss that amazing man every single day," Goldberg said.

"Known worldwide for his towering presence, both physically and artistically, Tony leaves behind an indelible legacy in film, theater, and the hearts of those who had the honor of knowing him," Goldberg's management company said in announcing the death.

"We bid farewell to Tony Todd, a giant of cinema and a beloved soul whose impact on our lives and the world of film will never be forgotten," it said.

Todd's film resume included roles in award-winning movies such as the Oliver Stone-directed classic "Platoon," released in 1986.

Todd was also known for his role in the 2000 horror film "Final Destination" and its sequel in 2003. The film company New Line Cinema mourned Todd's death on social media over the weekend:

"The industry has lost a legend," the company said on Instagram. "We have lost a cherished friend. Rest in peace, Tony."

In "Candyman," released in 1992 and followed by a remake in 2021, Todd played a menacing killer who had a hook on one arm. The premise is built around an urban myth that Candyman roamed the Cabrini-Green housing projects in Chicago and could be summoned by saying his name five times in front of a mirror. The 2021 movie explores societal problems such as racism and police brutality.

Todd's television career included roles in "Night Court," "Matlock" and "Law & Order."

"Off-screen, Tony was cherished as a

mentor, a friend, and a beacon of kindness and wisdom," Goldberg's company said. "He gave his time and resources to aspiring actors, consistently advocating for greater representation and authenticity within the industry."

"Those who knew him will remember his warm laugh, generous spirit, and his dedication to his craft," the company said. "Whether on stage, on screen, or in personal conversations, Tony brought an unyielding honesty that resonated deeply with his friends, family, and fans."

Also;

NEW YORK: Judith Jamison, an internationally acclaimed dancer who later served as artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for two decades, has died. She was 81.

Jamison died Saturday after a brief illness in New York, surrounded by close friends,



Choreographer Judith Jamison attends the BET Honors at the Warner Theatre on Jan. 17, 2009, in Washington. (AP)

Ailey company spokesperson Christopher Zunner confirmed to The Associated Press.

"We remember and are grateful for her artistry, humanity and incredible light, which inspired us all," Zunner said.

Jamison grew up in Philadelphia and trained there in ballet from a young age. At a time when Black dancers were rare in ballet, she began with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965.

Tall, graceful and expressive, she became one of the company's most famous performers and a muse for Ailey. Jamison had star turns in two of Ailey's signature dances, "Revelations" and "Cry." She danced with the Ailey company for 15 years before leaving to perform on Broadway and as a guest artist with other ballet companies.

Jamison later returned to the Ailey company as its artistic director for 20 years. She is widely credited with helping to make it one of the most successful dance companies in the U.S.

As a dancer, choreographer, director and speaker, her distinguished career leaped over barriers of race and gender.

"She was a unique, spectacular dancer who was majestic and queenly. She danced with eloquence and integrity," Sylvia Waters, Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita, said Saturday following the new of Jamison's death.

"To dance with her and to be in her sphere of energy was mesmerizing," Waters said. "I was fortunate to perform with her and she set the bar very, very high."

Jamison's directorship of the Ailey theater "sustained the company and helped it to grow. She was an eloquent speaker, strong leader and ran a tight ship," Waters said.

Striking images of Jamison including photos, video and a sculpture are currently displayed at an exhibition about the work of the Ailey company at New York's Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Jamison was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors in 1999. Other honors included the National Medal of Arts and the Handel Medallion, the highest cultural award from New York City.

Cast flips from shock to praise

Saturday Night Live to Trump: We've been with you all along

NEW YORK, Nov 10, (AP) — The first "Saturday Night Live" since Donald Trump's election victory began with the most somber of tones as a group of plainly dressed cast members, primarily women and minorities, described their new reality.

"To many people, including many people watching right now, the results were shocking and even horrifying," Ego Nwodim soberly said.

"Donald Trump, who forcibly tried to overturn the results of the last election, was returned to office," Heidi Gardner said.

"And now," Bowen Yang added, "thanks to the Supreme Court, there are no guardrails."

Then came the swerve from the liberal-leaning show.

"That is why we at 'SNL' would like to say to Donald Trump, we have been with you all along," Keenan Thompson said.

Yang chimed in, "We have never wavered in our support for you, even when others doubted you."

"Every single person on this stage believed in you," Sarah Sherman said.

Marcello Hernandez added, "Every single person on this stage voted for you."

The cast members went on to effusively declare their reverence for, and obedience to, the former and future president, introducing a new character, "Hot, Jacked Trump."

Cast member James Austin Johnson, who plays a dead-on Trump and was virtually guaranteed a long-term job by the election, came out as an Adonis-bodied president-elect.

"From now on we're going to do a very flattering portrayal of Trump, because frankly he's my hero," Johnson said in his Trump voice but speaking as himself. "He's going to make an incredible president and eventually king."

The episode, hosted by standup comic and actor Bill Burr, was the first all season that did not begin with former cast member Maya Rudolph, who played Vice President Kamala Harris in a giddy five-week run culminating with an appearance last week of Harris herself that began the show's 50th season and brought a ratings spike.

Burr, hosting after standup Dave Chappelle hosted the last two post-presidential election episodes, did his own feint in his monologue, saying, "I don't watch politics" and doing some standard standup including an airplane bit before doubling back to the elephant in the studio, the election.

"Alright, let's get to what you all want to talk about. Alright ladies, you're 0-and-2 against this guy," he said. "But you learn more from your losses than your wins. So let's get into the game tape. Ladies, enough with the pantsuit. Okay, it's not working. Stop trying to have respect for yourself."

He suggested candidates that were a least a little more scantily clad, saying, "I know a lot of ugly women - feminists, I mean - don't want to hear this message." Burr was "so psyched that this stupid election is finally over. Everybody knew who they were going to vote for four years ago. Then they just dragged us through a year and a half of this stuff," he said.

After Trump's first election victory in 2016, the show opening was serious and stayed that way with Kate McKinnon, who played Hillary Clinton on the show, appearing as the losing candidate sitting at the piano and singing a somber version Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," changing only one verse from the best-known versions of the song.



James Austin Johnson attends The Museum Gala at the American Museum of Natural History on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, in New York. (AP)

Jamie Oliver withdraws children's book amid First Nation backlash

LONDON, Nov 10, (AP) — A children's book written by British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has been withdrawn from sale after it was criticised for causing offense to First Nation Australians.

The Guardian newspaper reported Saturday that the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Corporation blasted "Billy And The Epic Escape," which was published earlier this year.

The group criticized one of the subplots of the book, which tells the story of a First Nations girl living in foster care, for contributing to the "erasure, trivialisation, and stereotyping of First Nations peoples and experiences."

In a statement, Oliver, 49, said he was "devastated" to have caused offense and apologized "wholeheartedly."

"It was never my intention to misinterpret this deeply painful issue," he said. "Together with my publishers we have decided to withdraw the book from sale."

First Nation campaigners were par-

ticularly aghast that neither Oliver nor his publishers, Penguin Random House, had consulted with them before the novel was published.

"It is clear that our publishing standards fell short on this occasion, and we must learn from that and take decisive action," the publisher said. "With that in mind, we have agreed with our author, Jamie Oliver, that we will be withdrawing the book from sale."

Oliver, who is in Australia promoting his latest recipe book, is among a long list of celebrities to have put their names to children's books, a trend that has been criticized by many children's authors, who say they are being crowded out of their market.

Oliver released his first children's book, "Billy And The Giant Adventure," last year and said in a social media post that he had "carefully chosen the font to make sure the text is as clear as possible" as dyslexic people like himself can find it hard to read.

Oliver, who rose to fame in 1999 with his book and television show "The Naked Chef," has long campaigned on children's food and nutrition and caused a furore in 2005 when he hit out at the nutritional of some school dinners in the U.K.



Oliver

HEALTH

Robotic sinus surgery debuts

Top global experts gather for Kuwait's 46th ENT conference

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Head of Otorhinolaryngology Departments Council and Otorhinolaryngology Department at Zain Center Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan announced that the 46th Otorhinolaryngology Conference will be held on Nov 12-14, under the patronage and in the presence of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi.

Al-Sihan said the conference will cover various topics; such as the latest surgical techniques, using the surgical robot in sinus and skull base surgeries, international scientific research, salivary duct endoscopy, and balance, hearing and speech difficulties.

He confirmed the participation of

an elite group of doctors from the United States of America, Belgium, Canada, Italy, India, Egypt, Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and their local counterparts. He added the conference will witness the presentation of about 40 scientific and research papers.

He disclosed a number of major operations will be performed by distinguished visiting consultants on the sidelines of the conference like head and neck surgeries, sinus endoscopy and others.

He stressed that the ministry is keen on continuing medical education and developing the research and technical capabilities of doctors in the Ministry of Health and the private sector, indicating the conference participants will be granted 23 points of continuing medical education.

Kuwait among top countries for inactivity

'Physical activity vital for better mental & psychological health'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Dr. Abcer Al-Buhu, Director of the Health Promotion Department, emphasized that physical inactivity is a leading risk factor for chronic noncommunicable diseases.

She pointed out that Kuwait is among the countries with the highest inactivity rates globally, with approximately 67 percent of adults and about 84 percent of adolescents aged 11 to 17 being inactive.

In a press statement made dur-

ing the launch of the 'Guidelines for Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviors' course, Dr. Al-Buhu said globally, one in three adults and four out of five adolescents do not get enough physical activity.

She highlighted the importance of regular exercise in reducing the risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and certain cancers, including breast and colon cancer.

Physical activity also contributes to better mental and psychological health, improved sleep and an enhanced quality of life.



KUNA photo

Part of the training course.

Health minister emphasizes global collaboration for better healthcare



Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, and a number of participants in the conference.

Al-Awadhi pushes for innovation in medical training

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, spoke of the ongoing need to advance doctors' professional performance and ensure they stay current with specialty innovations to enhance patient care and elevate the quality of medical services, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Speaking at the second conference of the Kuwait Association of Colon and Rectal Surgery, Dr. Al-Awadhi noted that scientific collaboration between local and international medical experts is fundamental to strengthening Kuwait's healthcare system and realizing a forward-looking health vision.

Dr. Al-Awadhi expressed the Ministry of Health's commitment as a key partner in initiatives to advance the medical profession, supporting efforts that align with international standards in treatment services and up-to-date medical techniques.

He highlighted the impact of medical conferences in sharing advanced knowledge and fostering scientific exchange to raise healthcare quality.

The Minister lauded the conference organizing committee's dedication to delivering content that reflects the latest advancements in colorectal surgery. This year's conference features sessions on complex tumor surgeries and the application of robotic technology in operations -- a significant step forward in surgical practices.

Additionally, the conference focuses on establishing scientific frameworks to support research and surgical projects by leveraging modern technology for more precise and effective surgeries.

Dr. Al-Awadhi underscored that these conferences play an essential role in motivating and skill-building for medical professionals, providing them with



KUNA photos

During an award ceremony with the Minister of Health.

opportunities to keep up with surgical advancements.

He noted that the achievements from the association's inaugural conference in May 2023 included successful complex surgeries in collaboration with international specialists and the development of a unified rectal cancer treatment protocol alongside the Kuwait Cancer Control Center.

40 startups to tackle Africa's healthcare challenges

Rwanda and UNDP launch health-tech hub

KIGALI, Nov 9, (Xinhua): Rwanda and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in collaboration with the Timbuktoo Africa Innovation Foundation, launched the first cohort of 40 startups for the Timbuktoo HealthTech Hub's healthtech accelerator program on Saturday in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

Hosted at the HealthTech Hub, the accelerator aims to empower entrepreneurs and startups developing cutting-edge health technologies to address Africa's most pressing healthcare challenges.

Speaking at the launch, UNDP Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Africa Ahunna Eziakonwa, praised the hub as a transformative step for Africa's

healthcare innovation landscape. "This hub is about building African solutions for global health challenges," she said.

Eziakonwa underscored the potential of Africa's youth and tech entrepreneurs to drive healthcare advancements across the continent, highlighting the crucial role of partnerships in supporting young talent to create sustainable healthcare solutions.

The program targets sectors such as telemedicine, healthcare logistics, diagnostics, and mobile health, focusing on scalable, impactful solutions to address Africa's healthcare needs.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame also spoke at the event, lauding the initiative and emphasizing Africa's

resourcefulness and the potential of young innovators to drive meaningful change.

"The diversity on our continent is in itself a huge resource, and we are as capable, if not more so, than anyone else, anywhere," he said, adding that young people need guidance to refine and enhance their ideas.

The program provides early-stage startups with comprehensive support, including mentorship, funding, and state-of-the-art resources. It forms part of the broader Timbuktoo initiative, which aims to mobilize one billion U.S. dollars in catalytic and commercial capital over the next decade to ignite Africa's startup revolution.

The HealthTech Hub in Kigali, one of Timbuktoo's 10 thematic hubs, unites government agencies, private sector partners, and academic institutions to create a dynamic environment for innovation. The hub also fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the continent to ensure that health technology innovation drives sustainable and inclusive healthcare solutions for all Africans.

The initiative seeks technology-driven entrepreneurs and startup founders who are building or have already developed health-tech solutions that meet the application criteria. Targeted sectors include telemedicine, healthcare logistics, diagnostics, and mobile health.

'Measles outbreak' alert issued in Malawi capital

LILONGWE, Nov 10, (Xinhua): Authorities in Lilongwe, the Malawian capital, have issued a public alert on the measles outbreak that has been recorded in nearly 20 locations in the city.

Twenty-one cases have been confirmed since October, with no deaths recorded yet, read a statement, dated Nov. 8, 2024, and signed by the District Commissioner (DC) for Lilongwe Lawford Palani.

The official warned that the situation is of public health concern, requiring everyone in the country to be vigilant to prevent further spread of the disease, especially within schools and surrounding communities. He also described the disease as highly infectious and that it can affect anyone, including children,

causing severe disease complications, and even death.

According to the DC's statement, the disease is characterized by high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes, followed by a rash that usually starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. As a contagious disease, it spreads easily when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes in the company of others.

Meanwhile, the district's health office has embarked on mass vaccination for all eligible children aged between 9 months up to 15 years in the affected areas, in schools, and in other designated places within the community.

Malawi suffered one of the worst measles outbreaks in 2010, with at least 134,000 cases and 304 deaths recorded, mostly children.

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First American to win the Finals since Serena Williams in 2014

Gauff wins WTA Finals for the first time by rallying to beat Qinwen

Cavaliers rally past Nets to remain perfect at 11-0



Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Allen, left and Brooklyn Nets' Keon Johnson (45) dive for a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Cleveland. (AP)

CLEVELAND, Nov 10, (AP): Evan Mobley had 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Donovan Mitchell scored 22 as the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied for a 105-100 win over the Brooklyn Nets, becoming the 12th team in NBA history to start a season 11-0.

Darius Garland scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for Cleveland, which trailed 82-68 with 35 seconds left in the third. Garland put the Cavaliers ahead for good at 97-96 with two free throws.

The 2015-16 Golden State Warriors hold the league record after winning their first 24 games. They lost to the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals.

Cam Johnson scored 23 points and Dennis Schroder and Cam Thomas had 22 apiece for the Nets. Brooklyn trailed by 15 in the second quarter, but held Cleveland to a season-low 13 points in the third with Johnson and Thomas combining for 19.

The Cavaliers failed to score 110 points for the first time, ending their NBA-record streak of doing so in 10 consecutive wins to open a season. Hall of Fame center Wilt Chamberlain and the 1960-61 Philadelphia Warriors had held the mark with nine.

Nets: Coming off a 108-104 overtime loss in Boston one night earlier, Brooklyn couldn't stop the Cavaliers' league-leading offense in the fourth

quarter. Cleveland made 14 of 18 shots in the final period.

Jazz 111, Spurs 110

In San Antonio, Collin Sexton scored 23 points, Lauri Markkanen added 20 and the Utah Jazz held off the San Antonio Spurs, overcoming 24 points, 16 rebounds and seven blocks from Victor Wembanyama.

Markkanen stayed in the game after landing directly on his left hip with 2:44 remaining. He was down on the court for a few minutes before being helped to his feet. The 7-footer was hobbling noticeably in the final minutes.

Jordan Clarkson had 16 points and John Collins scored 15 for Utah (2-7).

San Antonio rookie Stephon Castle had a career-high 23 points in his third NBA start. Wembanyama shot 6 for 9 on 3-pointers and Castle, also 20 years old, was 3 for 7.

Spurs guard Devin Vassell had 18 points in his season debut after missing seven months with a fractured right foot.

Bulls 125, Hawks 113

In Atlanta, after trailing for the majority of the game, Chicago stormed back in the second half to defeat Atlanta, snapping a four-game losing streak on Saturday night.

Atlanta outscored Chicago 37-24 in the first quarter and led by as many as 18, but the Bulls started the fourth quarter with a 14-3 run and never

looked back.

Ayo Dosunmu led the Bulls with 19 points, Nikola Vucevic added 18 points and 12 rebounds, and Zack LaVine and Coby White also scored 18. Josh Giddey scored 13 points and Patrick Williams tallied 10.

Chicago shot 50% (46 of 92) while Atlanta shot 46.1% (41 of 89).

Trae Young had his third double-double in as many games with 14 points and 16 assists, but the effort was wasted for a second game in a row. Clint Capela and Jalen Johnson led all scorers with 20 points apiece.

Clippers 105, Raptors 103

In Inglewood, James Harden had 24 points and 12 rebounds, Norman Powell added 24 points and Los Angeles barely hung on to beat Toronto for their fourth straight victory.

Ivica Zubac had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won three straight at Intuit Dome after starting 0-4 in their lavish new home. Ochai Agbaji and Immanuel Quickley scored 21 points apiece for the Raptors, who have lost three straight and seven of eight.

After Quickley hit a tying 3-pointer with 39 seconds left, Powell and Harden combined to miss three of six free throws to leave the door open for Toronto. But Quickley and RJ Barrett both missed tough short shots under defensive pressure before Jakob Poeltl missed a putback attempt with 4.1 seconds left.

Washington State rolls past Utah State

BYU comes alive late, Ferrin kicks winning field goal in win over Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, Nov 10, (AP): Jake Retzlaff engineered two fourth quarter scoring drives and Will Ferrin kicked a 44-yard field with four seconds remaining to keep No. 9 BYU's unbeaten season alive with a 22-21 win over Utah on Saturday night.

The Cougars' final drive was extended on a defensive holding penalty on fourth down when the largest crowd in Utah's Rice-Eccles Stadium history (54,383) thought the game was over.

Retzlaff, who was 15 of 33 for 219 yards, passed for 30 yards to Chase Roberts and 12 yards to Darius Lassiter before Hinckley Ropati ran for 14 yards to get BYU (9-0, 6-0 Big 12) in position for Ferrin's kick.

The Cougars remain the final undefeated team in the Big 12 and in prime position for a bid in the conference championship game.

Retzlaff scored on a 1-yard sneak with 12:35 remaining to cap a nine play, 95-yard drive and the first where they looked like the team that's averaging more than 35 points a game. But the 2-point conversion was intercepted by Cam Calhoun to keep Utah (Utah 4-5, 1-5 Big 12) ahead 21-19.

Washington State 49, Utah State 28

In Pullman, John Mateer threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score. Wayshawn Parker rushed for a career-best 149 yards on 11 carries

and No. 20 Washington State rolled to a 49-28 victory over Utah State on Saturday night.

Parker sprinted for a 75-yard touchdown and also plunged in from a yard out. Kyle Williams caught three TD tosses as the Cougars (8-1, No. 21 CFP) won their fourth straight game since a 45-24 loss at then-No. 25 Boise State.

Mateer completed 18 of 24 passes for 179 yards without an interception and also ran for 55 yards on 13 at-



Pittsburgh tight end Gavin Bartholomew (86) is tripped up after a reception during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Virginia in Pittsburgh. (AP)

tempts. Washington State racked up 303 yards on the ground and extended its best start to a season since 2018.

"John is a tremendous player," Williams said. "He has great potential and I feel like he's going to be one of the best quarterbacks to play in college football. Seeing his growth through the first nine weeks has been amazing."

Derrick Jameson had a late 72-yard touchdown run for the Aggies (2-7). Spencer Petras was 28-of-45 passing

for 208 yards and two scores with an interception. Herschel Turner ran for 85 yards on 16 carries.

UC Davis 30, Montana 14

In Missoula, Miles Hastings threw three touchdown passes and Lan Larison had 144 yards from scrimmage and scored a touchdown in his eighth consecutive game to help UC Davis beat Montana 30-14 in a Big Sky Conference clash between two teams in the Top 10 of the FCS coaches poll.

No. 4 UC Davis (9-1, 6-0) has won nine games in a row since a season-opening 31-13 loss at California of the FBS. The Aggies are tied atop the conference standings with Montana State and play host to the second-ranked Bobcats next Saturday.

No. 7 Montana (7-3, 4-2) had its three-game win streak snapped and fell out of contention for the conference title. The Grizzlies are two games behind UC Davis and in-state rival Montana State in a third-place tie with No. 12 Idaho and Northern Arizona (RV) in a Big Sky that could produce as many as five FCS playoff participants this season.

Hastings was 28-of-38 passing for 227 yards. Larison finished with 97 yards rushing on 24 carries and added six receptions for 48 yards, including a 1-yard TD catch that made it 27-14 with 12:35 to play.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 10, (AP): Coco Gauff won the WTA Finals for the first time by rallying to beat Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2) in the final.

The 20-year-old American came from 2-0 and 5-3 down in the final set and was two points from defeat at one stage.

Yet she took the set to a tiebreaker and won the first six points. Zheng threatened a comeback but Gauff took the victory off her third match point with a forehand winner as she came into the net.

She is the first American to win the Finals since Serena Williams in 2014, and received \$4.8 million in prize money. She also is the youngest player to win it since Maria Sharapova in 2004, the year Gauff was born.

Gauff beat the world's top two players - Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek - on her run to the final at the season-ending event in Riyadh.

She felt vindicated after that and appeared to take a swipe at observers who wrote her off.

"I just love to say I'm right. Specifically today, I got comments about how I was going to lose badly, so I was just like, 'OK, we'll see,'" Gauff explained. "It's honestly just liking the idea of just proving people wrong and, and letting your racket do the talking. And so, yeah, I use it as motivation."

Zheng was looking to complete a season in which she reached a grand slam final for the first time at the Australian Open and delivered China's first Olympic tennis singles gold medal.

"The match today, it's just a couple of important points," Zheng said. "The match was very close."

Gauff edged the three-hour fi-



Coco Gauff of the U.S. holds her trophy after winning against China's Qinwen Zheng in their women's singles final match of the WTA finals at the King Saud University Indoor Arena, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

nal which included 26 break points. Gauff also won their only previous meeting, in the Rome quarterfinals on clay in May.

Gauff beat Sabalenka at age 19 in last year's U.S. Open final to win her only major in singles to date. She teamed with Katerina Siniakova to win the French Open doubles this year.

In the WTA doubles final, Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada and Erin Routliffe of New Zealand beat Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic and Taylor Townsend of the United States 7-5, 6-3. They are the first players from Canada and New Zealand to win the doubles title.

Kuwait Special Olympics wraps up successful Young Players program

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Kuwait Special Olympics recently wrapped up the 2024-2025 season of the "Young Players" program at the Kuwait Club Hall, with 75 male and female athletes with intellectual disabilities taking part. These athletes represented nine schools and educational institutions.

The program's conclusion featured a showcase of the players' basic skills across various sports, physical fitness activities, balance games, and entertaining segments.

Rehab Boursely, Director of the Olympics, explained that the Young Players Program is designed to teach and develop sports skills in children with and without intellectual disabilities, aged 2 to 7 years, preparing them for future participation once they turn 8.

Boursely highlighted the program's significance in encouraging early sports engagement, emphasizing its positive impact on both physical and mental health.

She also expressed gratitude to the Public Authority for Sports, the Ambition Club, the Marine Club, and the Kuwait Club for their support, which contributed to the success of the program and the wider Olympic activities.



Great participation of children in the Special Olympics.

Kuwaiti bowling team wins double bronze at Arab Championship in Cairo

CAIRO, Nov 10, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti bowling team recently secured two bronze medals in the Masters event at the 11th Arab Championship for men and the 7th for women.

Kuwait's achievement came as player Mohammed Abdullah took third place in the men's division, and Wasmiya Al-Abdullah claimed third in the women's division during the championship's final in Cairo, Egypt.

Following the coronation, Kuwaiti team coach Ayad Al-Amiri told KUNA, "We earned third place in the Arab Championship behind the Saudi team in first and the Emirati team in second."

He extended his gratitude to Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, President of the International and Asian Bowling Federations, for his support in preparing the team to achieve this honorable performance.

Al-Amiri highlighted the federation's strategic plan and technical staff's efforts to train future generations capable of representing Kuwait in Arab, Asian, and international competitions, emphasizing the country's commitment to nurturing youth in all fields.



Crowning of the winners on the podium.

Khaleeji Zain 26 draw ceremony embodies unity among Gulf nations

Kuwait to face Oman in opening match at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium; official mascot 'Haydo' unveiled



Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Bader Al-Kharafi at the ceremony.



The draw results.



Unveiling Haydo, the tournament's official mascot.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The organizing committee for Khaleeji Zain 26 (the Arabian Gulf Cup) held a ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria Kuwait to conduct the tournament draw, that unveiled the eagerly awaited matchups among the eight teams competing in the region's premier sporting event, hosted in Kuwait from December 21, 2024, to January 3, 2025.

The event was attended by H.E. Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Bedah Al-Mutairi; H.E. Qatar's Minister of Sports and Youth, and Chairman of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmad Al-Thani; Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi; Secretary-General of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation, Jassim Al-Rumaihi; Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah; President of the Qatar Football Association, Jassim bin Rashid Al-Buenain; and Acting Director of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah.

During the event, the tournament's official mascot, 'Haydo the Camel', was unveiled. Representing Gulf heritage and embodying the identity of Khaleeji Zain 26, Haydo stands as a symbol of the Gulf's environment and rich culture. Haydo will serve as a dynamic focal point for engaging with fans, especially families, and young fans.

Bader Al-Kharafi praised the efforts and preparations undertaken by the tournament's organizing committee, highlighting its role in presenting the draw ceremony in such a remarkable fashion. He commended the support provided

by both the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation and the Kuwait Football Association in ensuring this edition of the tournament is an exceptional one.

Al-Kharafi added, "We have been delighted from the outset to participate in this competition among Gulf national teams, cherished by football fans across the region. We hope Gulf and Arab audiences alike will enjoy the thrilling matches among our brotherly nations, especially as this tournament receives the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah."

He also noted that the robust support this tournament is witnessing at all levels raises expectations for Khaleeji Zain 26 to live up to the legacy of this championship as one of the most prominent football events on the regional scene, especially with the enthusiastic fan engagement anticipated.

The DRAW & RULES

The draw ceremony was attended by representatives from the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation, Kuwait Football Association, Gulf football associations, delegations from the eight participating teams, and many renowned Gulf football stars.

Fans can look forward to classic showdowns, with a highlight being Kuwait's national team facing Oman in the opening match at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, as part of Group A, which also includes Qatar and the UAE. Group B features Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen.

Khaleeji Zain 26 will feature two stages: the group stage and the knockout stage, culminating in the final match. The draw divides the eight teams into two groups, with



Al-Mutairi and Al-Kharafi observe the draw.

Bader Al-Kharafi:
■ The passionate regional support for this football spectacular raises the bar for an exceptional tournament

the host nation, Kuwait, and the defending champion, Iraq, heading each group.

According to tournament rules, the top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals, where the Group A leader will face the Group B runner-up, and the Group B leader will compete against the Group A runner-up. The winners of these semifinals will advance to the final match, where the victor will claim the championship title.

Zain Group recently announced its role as the Title Partner of the tournament, now branded as Khaleeji Zain 26 for the second consecutive time. Kuwait will host this historic sporting event for the



The Khaleeji Zain 26 Cup.

fifth time in its history, and Zain warmly welcomes Gulf teams and delegations to this premier regional event.

Zain is reaffirming its commitment to supporting major sporting events, enhancing Kuwait's position as a key player in regional sports, boosting the development of football among the youth.



From the draw ceremony.

The Arabian Gulf Cup, which began in 1970, has solidified its place as one of the most prominent sporting events in the region. The football competition underscores the unity, deep-rooted relations, and shared heritage of Gulf nations.

The Gulf Cup has a special place in the hearts of football fans across the GCC, particularly Kuwaitis, as Kuwait won the inaugural tournament in 1970 and remains the most successful team in Gulf Cup history.

Zain will utilize its resources and national talents to ensure this edition of the tournament leaves fans with unforgettable memories. In addition, the company plans to engage football enthusiasts through a series of interactive events and programs like fan zones, social media contests, giveaways, and more.

The logo for Khaleeji Zain 26 incorporates symbolic elements from Gulf nations, including sand dunes, the Kuwaiti dhow sail, camels, palm fronds, the Arabic letter "Alef," falcon wings, and

the traditional Arabian headdress (Aqal), which all form the shape of the Gulf Cup. The color blue represents Kuwait's national team's colors.

As a leading technology and digital lifestyle company, Zain remains committed to supporting major sporting events as part of its mission to contribute to youth and sports development, which are vital pillars of every society.

This marks the second time the tournament will carry the Khaleeji Zain name, following the previous edition, Khaleeji Zain 25, held in Basra, Iraq, in 2022-23, which celebrated the tournament's silver jubilee. The 2022-23 edition saw Iraq win the championship, drawing a significant fan response.

The Arabian Gulf Cup is held every two years, rotating among the member states of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation, which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Yemen. This year's matches will be played at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium and Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium.

Kuwaiti drivers dominate Sharjah Rally



Dhari and Mohammed during the coronation.

DUBAI, Nov 10: Dhari Al Dhafiri, a driver for Kuwait's Inspire Club, clinched first place in the (T1) category and secured third place overall at the Sharjah Desert Rally Championship, which featured strong competition with 35 drivers from various countries.

Meanwhile, fellow Inspire Club racer Mohammed Al Dhafiri earned second place in the (Group S) category and finished seventh overall in the Sharjah Rally.

Both drivers expressed their

joy at this achievement and their gratitude for Inspire's support, attributing their success to intensive training and thorough preparation. They aim to continue delivering outstanding performances in future competitions.

They regarded this achievement as a significant milestone in their racing careers, thanking Inspire and the Public Authority for Youth and Sports for their ongoing encouragement and for providing ideal training conditions.

Atlanta United upsets top seed

Messi and Inter Miami ousted from MLS playoffs

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Nov 10, (AP): Lionel Messi walked off the field and into the tunnel leading to the Inter Miami locker room a few seconds after the final whistle blew, hardly any emotion on his face.

He didn't want to see the celebration.

Atlanta United ousted Messi and Major League Soccer's biggest-spending team earlier than anyone imagined from the MLS Cup playoffs. Jamal Thiare scored twice, Bartosz Slisz's header in the 76th minute was the winner, and Atlanta United stunned Inter Miami 3-2 on Saturday night to win their best-of-three first round playoff series in three games.

"There's some fairy dust in our locker room, man," Atlanta United goalkeeper Brad Guzan said after stopping seven shots, some of them in spectacular fashion, and giving Slisz a big hug in response to his goal. "I couldn't be more proud of our guys."

Two free kicks by Messi in the final minutes hit the wall of Atlanta defenders, and time eventually ran out on soccer's most decorated player and his team. Messi's header - yes, header - in the 65th minute tied the match at 2-2, but the hosts never reclaimed the lead. Atlanta took the lead with an Inter Miami player

down and the hosts lobbying for play to be halted, but the whistle never came and Slisz became one of many heroes for the winners.

"It's everybody. It's a joint effort," Atlanta United interim coach Rob Valentino said. "We talked about it before the game, we talked about it all year long that it's not going to be just one player. It's a collective effort and that's what happened tonight."

It was the fifth win-or-else victory for Atlanta United this

season - starting with two must-win matches to keep hope alive at the end of the regular season against the New York Red Bulls and Orlando City, then a wildcard match at Montreal, Game 2 of this series at home and then Saturday's stunner.

And the East is suddenly wide open. Ninth-seeded Atlanta United will play No. 4 Orlando City in the Eastern Conference semifinal, while sixth-seeded New York City FC will face the sev-

enth-seeded New York Red Bulls in the other East semifinal.

No. 2 Columbus was already gone. No. 3 Cincinnati was ousted Saturday. And then came the biggest surprise of all - No. 1 Inter Miami's season is over.

Facundo Torres scored in the 12th minute of second-half stoppage time to forge a 1-1 tie, and he added a shootout goal as Orlando City beat Charlotte FC 4-1 on penalty kicks to win the rubber match of the best-of-three first-round series for the MLS Cup.

No. 4 seed Orlando City will host eighth-seeded Atlanta United in an Eastern Conference semifinal. Atlanta United eliminated top-seed Inter Miami with a 3-2 victory in the rubber match of its series.

Neither club scored until Karol Swiderski found the net in the 81st minute to give No. 5 seed Charlotte the lead. It was Swiderski's first postseason goal in his fourth career appearance. Rookie Liel Abada notched his first playoff assist on the score.

Torres tied the match for fourth-seeded Orlando City when he scored off a rebound on a penalty kick that Kristijan Kahlina blocked but couldn't corral. He has made seven playoff appearances with both of his goals coming this postseason.



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (10) and Atlanta United defender Derrick Williams (3) go after the ball during the first half of an MLS playoff opening round soccer match in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)



The Pakistan team pose with their trophy after winning their one day international cricket match and series over Australia in Perth, Australia. (AP)

Sports

Abdullah confirms Kuwait's readiness

Al-Mutairi expresses optimism for Gulf 26 success

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and Chairman of the Supreme Organizing Committee for "Gulf 26," Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, shared that while the tournament is a sports competition, its true purpose is to unite "brothers and strengthen ties with our guests in Kuwait, the land of friendship and peace."

Speaking during the tournament draw held recently, Al-Mutairi expressed that the event would help elevate the level of sports in Kuwait, with hopes for a successful tournament that lives up to its slogan, "The Future is Gulf."

"We warmly welcome all our guests," Al-Mutairi added. "The presence of fans will bring energy to the tournament, and we are optimistic about its success."

The "Gulf 26" will take place in Kuwait from December 21 to January 3, featuring the Kuwaiti national team in Group A with Qatar, the UAE, and Oman, while Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen form Group B.

Director General of the Public

Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah, emphasized the focus on organizational excellence, noting that Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium, and Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium are ready to host. He remarked that the draw was fair, with seven teams having strong chances to compete for the title, and affirmed that "the Kuwaiti team, the Blues, will compete regardless of recent form."

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef, President of the Football Association, observed that the teams are closely matched based on recent World Cup qualifiers. He highlighted the value of Gulf unity and fair competition, stating, "Eight teams will compete for the title, and there will ultimately be one champion."

Regarding local league games before "Gulf 26," KFA president clarified that it would not be feasible due to tournament preparations. He added that after the fifth and sixth rounds of the World Cup qualifiers, and Kuwait and Qadsia's external tournaments, the Kuwaiti team would head to Qatar for a training camp in Doha.

Secretary-General of the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation, Jas-

Gulf 26 Match Schedule	
December 21	Kuwait vs. Oman - Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium
	Qatar vs. UAE - Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium
December 22	Iraq vs. Yemen - Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium
	Saudi Arabia vs. Bahrain - Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium
December 24	Oman vs. Qatar - Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium
	Kuwait vs. UAE - Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium
December 25	Yemen vs. Saudi Arabia - Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium
	Bahrain vs. Iraq - Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium
December 27	Kuwait vs. Qatar - Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium
	UAE vs. Oman - Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium
December 28	Saudi Arabia vs. Iraq - Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium
	Bahrain vs. Yemen - Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium
December 31	Semi-final Matches
January 3	Final Match

sim Al-Rumaihi, commended the organization of the draw, noting its fairness and expressing optimism for a high-quality tournament. He remarked, "Kuwait has successfully hosted the tournament twice in

the past seven years, and everyone is working toward its success." He concluded, "Kuwait is well-prepared to host, with all teams set to bring their main squads as per tournament rules."



VIP attendees during the draw for the 'Gulf 26'.



Players bid farewell to Al Zaabi.

Crown Prince Shooting Championship kicks off in Kuwait with 15 Arab nations

Al-Otaibi reaffirms the readiness of Kuwaiti shooters



Officials attend the opening ceremony of the Crown Prince Shooting Championship.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: The annual His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Shooting Championship officially opened, attracting a strong contingent of shooters from 15 Gulf and Arab countries. The competition will run until November 15 at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Range Complex.

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Sabah marked the opening of the event, highlighting the growing significance of the championship, which this year sees participation from top Arab shooters. The championship will feature a range of events, including shotgun (skeeet and trap) shooting, lead weapons (pistol and rifle), and archery (mounted and Olympic).

Sheikh Athbi Al-Sabah expressed pride in attending the opening ceremony of the "precious championship," commending its continued development and success over the years. He praised the excellent organization by the Kuwait Shooting Club and wished all participants the best of luck in this prestigious Arab sports gathering.

Duajj Al-Otaibi, Chairman of the Shooting Club and the Organizing Committee, emphasized that the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince symbolizes unwavering support for Kuwaiti shooting at all levels. He also acknowledged the support of



Duajj Al-Otaibi, Chairman of the Shooting Club and the Organizing Committee.

His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince for Kuwaiti shooters' continued growth. Al-Otaibi also spoke of the upcoming His Highness the Amir's Grand International Championship in April, which will further showcase Kuwait's leadership in shooting sports.

Al-Otaibi reaffirmed the readiness of Kuwaiti shooters, whose exceptional performance at the recent Asian Championship has set high expectations for the upcoming competition. He extended a warm welcome to all Arab delegations, emphasizing that Kuwait is honored to host them.

Obaid Al-Osaimi, Director of the

Championship and Secretary of the Kuwait Shooting Club, announced that the championship would begin with qualifying rounds for the trap shooting competition, with other events continuing until Friday. He also noted the Arab Championship for Shotgun Weapons (Skeeet and Trap) would feature high-level technical competition among both men and women.

Today's events will include the finals of the "Trap" competition for both men and women, as well as the 10-meter air pistol competition. Both finals are set to take place in the evening.

Dr. Mishaal Al-Nasr, President of the Qatari Shooting Federation, praised the modern and impressive opening ceremony and

shared Qatar's enthusiasm for the competition. Qatar is participating in both the Skeeet and Trap shooting events for men and women, with hopes for strong results. He credited the leadership of Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah, President of the Asian Shooting Federation, and Eng. Duajj Al-Otaibi for their contributions to the development of shooting in the Arab world and internationally.

Muhand Al-Fadil, President of the Sudanese Shooting Federation, also commended the professionalism of Al-Otaibi and Al-Osaimi, announcing that the Arab Federations have re-elected them for the next four years, recognizing their tireless efforts to elevate the sport across the Arab region.

Al-Zaabi's farewell marks end of an era in Kuwaiti handball

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 10: Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, the former star of Kuwait's national handball team and Al-Salmiya Club, officially bid farewell to the handball courts with a retirement ceremony held during the Kuwait International Championship. This special event took place on the sidelines of the match between Kuwait and the Tunisian national team, which concluded the championship at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall.

The Kuwait International Friendly Championship, featuring the Tunisian, Bahraini, and Cape Verde national teams, served as part of the Kuwaiti team's preparations for the 2025 World Cup, set to take place in January across Croatia, Denmark, and Norway. Kuwait will compete in Group Three alongside France, Austria, and Qatar.

The national team achieved notable results in the tournament, securing a 36-26 victory over Cape Verde, a 33-33 draw against Tunisia, and a 35-31 loss to Bahrain.

Tunisia claimed victory in the Kuwait International Handball Tourna-

ment after a 33-33 draw with Kuwait. Bahrain secured second place with a 29-21 win over Cape Verde in the final. The tournament, held on November 8-9, served as preparation for the 2025 World Cup.

The final rankings were as follows: Tunisia emerged as champions with two wins and one draw, Bahrain finished second with two wins and one loss, Kuwait placed third with one win, one loss, and one draw, while Cape Verde came fourth after three defeats.

Coach Saeed Hijazi expressed satisfaction with the team's progress, highlighting the valuable experience gained from these encounters. He commended the Handball Association's Board of Directors for their support in properly preparing the team. Hijazi also emphasized that Kuwaiti handball has the talent and potential to compete at a high level. Bahraini national team coach Aaron Christensen echoed similar sentiments, praising the exchange of experience between the teams and the excellent organization of the event.

A special moment for Rizwan

Pakistan routs Australia by 8 wickets to clinch ODI series

PERTH, Australia, Nov 10, (AP): Pakistan achieved its first win over Australia in a 50-overs series in Australia since 2002 when it won the deciding third one-day international Sunday by eight wickets.

Australia's under-strength batting lineup folded in the face of hostile bowling from Pakistan's pace attack and was all out for 140 in 31.5 overs.

The home team was without captain Pat Cummins, Steven Smith, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Marnus Labuschagne, all of whom were rested to prepare for the first of five tests against India that begins in Perth on Nov. 22.

Saim Ayub (42) and Abdullah Shafique (37) then gave Pakistan's chase a solid foundation in an 84-run opening partnership before both fell in the same over, bowled by Lance Morris.

That left Babar Azam and captain Mohammad Rizwan to steer Pakistan to an important victory. The pair put on a further 58 for the third wicket before Babar ended the chase in the 27th over when he hit Adam Zampa for four to take Pakistan to 143-2.

Pakistan won with 139 balls to spare. "This is a special moment for me because we know our nation will be happy," Rizwan said. "They don't always get what they expect from us as a team. Today we are happy as a team because our nation will be happy."

The Pakistan pacemen have dominated the series since Australia won the opening match by two wickets in Melbourne. Pakistan leveled the series when it won the second match by nine wickets in Adelaide when Australia was bowled out for 163 with Haris Rauf

taking 5-29.

As a result, Rizwan had no hesitation in choosing to bowl when he won the toss Sunday. Naseem Shah dismissed Jake Fraser-McGurk in the fourth over, Rauf dismissed Aaron Hardie in the seventh and Shaheen Shah Afridi removed Aidan Harte in the 11th and from there Australian wickets fell at regular intervals.

Shaheen finished with 3-32, Naseem took 3-34 and Rauf took 2-24 from seven overs as Australia was bowled out for its lowest total at home in a decade.

The Australia batters looked particularly vulnerable against the short ball on a lively pitch and allrounder Cooper Connolly retired hurt on 7 after being struck in the hand by Mohammad Hasnain.

Fraser-McGurk and Short struggled for form in the first two matches, sharing partnerships of 19 in the first match and 21 in the second. They started positively this time, taking 12 runs from the first over but were separated with the total on 20 when Fraser-McGurk was caught at second slip by Rizwan from Naseem's bowling.

Hardie reached 12 from 13 balls when he also edged to second slip from Shaheen, who caused a ball to nip away off the seam.

Josh Inglis captained Australia for the first time in his home town and came to the crease after learning he had been included in Australia's 13-man squad for the first test against India. His celebrations were cut short when he skied an attempted pull off Naseem to Rizwan when on 7.

"It's disappointing. We just didn't get enough runs on the board," Inglis said.