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Opinion

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

Ministerial Triangle

CONTRARY to the myth of the “Bermuda Triangle” and its negative image, the current Cabinet has a positive “triangle” if it is truly committed to revitalizing the country and fulfilling the political leadership’s vision of returning Kuwait to its pioneering status.

This triangle is composed of the Ministers of Finance, Commerce, and Justice, and each of these three ministers in this triangle brings extensive expertise to their respective fields.

In the Ministry of Finance, the minister and her team have the authority to propose laws that can encourage both domestic and foreign investments.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry holds significant authority to stimulate and support the two key sectors that are the backbone of Kuwait’s economy.

The judicial staff at the Ministry of Justice plays an important role in identifying and correcting any errors in the proposed laws or those that require amendments.

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com
Follow me on:

ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

COP29 opens with Kuwait Amir Representative in attendance

BAKU, Nov 12, (Agencies): The 29th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP29) has begun in the Azeri capital with participation of Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The Azerbaijan news agency (AZERTAC) said President Ilham Aliyev and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed the conferees, including heads of states and government and officials of various levels.

The conference, due until November 22, aims at boosting cooperation at the global level to take tangible measures in fighting climatic change and attain objectives of the Paris treaty on the climate.

The Paris Agreement (also called the Paris Accords or Paris Climate Accords) is an international treaty on climate change that was signed in 2016. The treaty covers climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance. The Paris Agreement was negotiated by 196 parties at the



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 meets with the Kuwaiti negotiating team for the Climate Change Agreement on the sidelines COP29 conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference near Paris.

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the summit, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to the COP29 conference met on Tuesday with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Kazakh president.

Moreover, the two sides during the meeting explored the bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Kazakhstan, means of boosting these ties, in addition to discussing major regional and international issues.

The audience was attended by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Issa Al-Issa and Assistant Foreign Minister for the

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Illegal expats face harsh penalties under new law

36-article decree to curb visa trading

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Cabinet lauded on Tuesday the visit of the UAE’s President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed to the country earlier this week.

This came during the Cabinet’s weekly meeting, chaired by Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Following the session, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State of Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said that the ministers touched on the results of the visit of the UAE president to the country, hailing the deep-rooted ties between the two countries.

The Cabinet praised the speech of the 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 at the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit, held in Riyadh, where His Highness called for the international community to put an end to the violations committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.

On the other hand, the Acting Prime Minister welcomed the newly appointed Minister of Justice, Counselor Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait, thanking him for his participation in bearing the responsibility of ministerial work in this important stage.

The Cabinet approved a draft decree appointing Sheikh Mubarak Homoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Chief of the National Guard (KNG).

The Cabinet also approved a draft decree regarding foreigners’ residency, aiming at prohibiting trade in residencies, determining the rules for deporting and expelling foreigners, and imposing severe penalties on those who violate the provisions of the Foreigners’ Residence Law.

The draft decree-law contains 36 articles, the most prominent of which is that, it is prohibited to trade in residency by exploiting the recruitment or facilitation of the recruitment of a foreigner under an entry visa or residency permit or its renewal in exchange for financial sums or benefits.

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8 Markaz records total revenues for 9M 2024 of KD 14.92 million

9 Agility Global posts \$37m Q3 2024 net profit

10 KIC reports KD 8.3 million net profit for 3rd quarter of 2024



Photos during a combat demonstration and an inspection visit to the 25th Commando Brigade on Tuesday.

Kuwait Army enhances combat readiness for future challenges

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, underscored the critical importance of ongoing training and readiness during an inspection visit to the 25th

Commando Brigade on Tuesday. The high-ranking official stressed the need for continuous development of individual and collective skills to enhance the combat efficiency of the Kuwaiti army.

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Day by Day

THE Kuwait International Airport, once a hub of regional and international air travel, is losing its splendor as many airlines have ceased using it.

A major factor behind this downturn is the constant rise in fees, coupled with the soaring fuel prices. Even Kuwait Airways, the national carrier, is reportedly sourcing its fuel from other providers, signaling a shift away from local suppliers.

While this information has yet to be confirmed, it paints a concerning picture of the airport’s current situation.

One of the critical issues identified is the decision-making process at various institutions, where many choices are made without proper research or thorough evaluation.

A prime example of this has been Kuwait’s refusal to grant transit visas to passengers, which has led to a loss of many potential travelers who might have used the airport as a lay-over point.

The late Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem, may God rest his soul, used to ask, “Where are we heading to?” Yet, tomorrow is another day...

Zahed Matar

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait names new diplomats to boost international ‘ties’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In a significant move to enhance its diplomatic outreach, a decree has been issued appointing 12 ambassadors and consuls-general to represent Kuwait in various countries. The decree underscores Kuwait’s commitment to strengthening international relations and expanding its global footprint, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision, rooted in constitutional and legislative provisions, was made after careful consideration. Referencing the Amiri Order of May 10, 2024, Law No. 21 of 1962 on the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, and Decree No. 84 of 2024 concerning ministerial roles and delegations, the appointments were finalized based on recommendations from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and approval by the Council of Ministers.

The following individuals have been appointed to their respective roles:
■ Abdulaziz Al-Adwani – Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey
■ Reem Mohammed Al-Khaled – Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany

Continued on Page 5



Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Routine checks urged to enhance learning spaces

Education minister voices discontent over Jleeb schools’ dismal conditions

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei has voiced his dissatisfaction with the state of several schools he inspected in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, which falls under the Farwaniya Educational District.

The educational sources revealed that the minister’s visit, Monday morning, exposed significant disparities in school readiness compared to other institutions he had visited earlier, where preparations were deemed satisfactory.

This latest visit highlighted the lack of preparedness in certain schools, contrary to expectations, signaling an urgent need for intensified efforts and routine follow-ups to address deficiencies and ensure a conducive learning environment for students.

The inspection was aimed at provide a first-hand evaluation of schools’ conditions and identify areas needing immediate attention. Minister Al-Tabtabaei emphasized the necessity of ensuring schools are equipped with essential facilities, maintenance and basic services to foster an optimal educational environment.

The minister directed educational ad-

ministrations, particularly the Farwaniya Educational Department, to regularly monitor schools to identify and address shortcomings promptly; equip schools with the necessary tools and services for seamless operations; deploy inspection teams for continuous oversight and proactive problem-solving and prioritizing student comfort and academic continuity.

Minister Al-Tabtabaei stressed the importance of fostering strong communication between the Ministry of Education and schools principals.

He called for the submission of periodic reports detailing school conditions and identifying priorities for repair and maintenance.

Furthermore, the minister underscored the need for rapidly address schools’ operational and infrastructural needs; implementing strategies to prevent disruptions during the academic year and reating a comfortable and supportive environment for learning.

The ministry is committed to upholding stringent standards for school preparedness and will not compromise on ensuring educational institutions meet the highest benchmarks.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Chairman of the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), **Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**, met with the British Ambassador to Kuwait, **HE Belinda Lewis**, to discuss bilateral relations and aviation-related cooperation between the two nations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Sheikh Humoud emphasized the importance of enhancing civil aviation ties to achieve mutual economic benefits.

On the same day, the National Committee for Aviation Security and Facilities convened under the leadership of Sheikh Humoud to deliberate on critical aviation security and operational matters at Kuwait International Airport.

The key topics included measures aligned with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements and updates on international treaties related to aviation security and operations.

The committee issued directives to expedite compliance with international aviation standards, given their significance to Kuwait’s ongoing and future aviation projects.

These discussions and decisions highlight Kuwait’s commitment to strengthening its aviation infrastructure and security measures in line with international best practices.

The collaborative efforts with global partners, like the **United Kingdom**, aim to ensure the country’s aviation sector continues to thrive as a critical component of its economic development.



Lewis

CITRA reshapes structure to revolutionize ICT sector

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has launched a new organizational structure aimed at improving the effectiveness of its regulation in the communications and information technology (ICT) sector.

The update introduces new departments and divisions to better serve the needs of beneficiaries.

Key changes include the creation of the control sector, which will focus on

protecting consumer rights by monitoring the performance of companies, ensuring compliance with regulations and fostering a fair competitive environment.

This is expected to enhance the quality of services offered to users.

CITRA emphasized that this restructuring aligns with its vision to provide a more advanced regulatory environment, shifting from a traditional administrative role to a more integrated regulatory and supervisory approach.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:47	Asr	14:34
Sunrise ..	06:09	Maghrib ..	16:55
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:14

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h.

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

Weather

erly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.	Bubyan	31	22
	Jahra	35	20
	Failaka Island	31	23
	Salmiyah	28	24
	Ahmadi	32	21
	Jal Aliyah	33	20
	Nuwaisib	33	21

We're grateful for Saudi hospitality: Kuwait Amir Rep

Saudi King, Crown Prince thanked for hosting summit

RIYADH, Nov 12, (KUNA): The 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 sent an appreciation cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

"My entourage and I would like, as we leave the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after attending the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to express gratitude for the hospitality we received during our stay," said His Highness in the cable.

His Highness the Amir Representative spoke highly of the great efforts made by the Kingdom and neat arrangements for the summit, which was held under exceptional conditions in the Arab region.

His Highness prayed for Allah, the Almighty, to contribute this summit in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, in light of the continuing crimes and violations to which the Palestinian and Lebanese people are exposed, because of the brutal Israeli aggression.

His Highness wished King Salman everlasting wellbeing and the Kingdom more progress and prosperity.

The 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 also sent Monday an appreciation cable to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud.

"My entourage and I would like, as we leave the sisterly King-



Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah



Mohammad bin Salman



King Salman bin Abdulaziz

dom of Saudi Arabia after attending the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to express gratitude for the hospitality we received during our stay," said His Highness in the cable.

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His Highness wished the Kingdom more progress and prosperity.



KUNA photo
Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II.

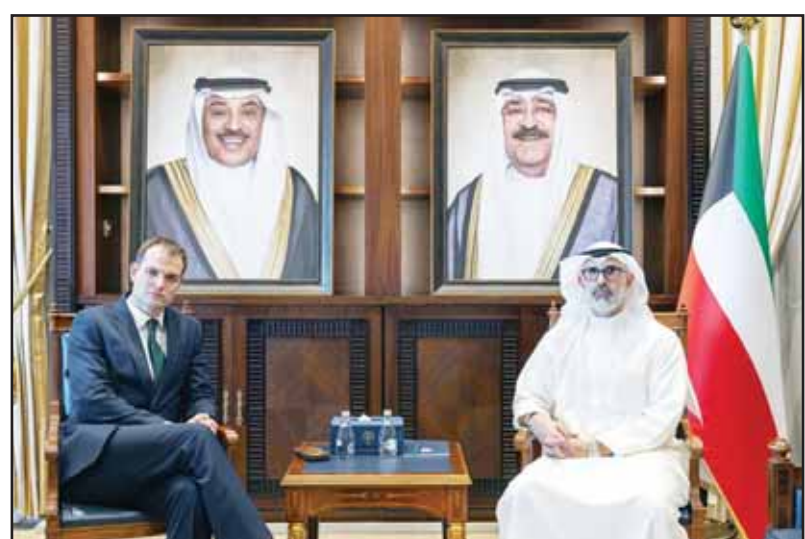
Amir Rep meets Jordan Crown Prince

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to the COP29 conference met on Tuesday with Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II on sidelines of the summit.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir to Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Moreover, the two sides during the meeting explored the bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, means of boosting these ties, in addition to discussing major regional and international issues.

The audience was attended by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Issa Al-Issa and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's Bureau Affairs, Ambassador Badr Saleh Al-Tunaib.



KUNA photo
The Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Australian Assistant Foreign Minister for Middle East and African Affairs.

Deputy FM meets Aussie, UK officials

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Tuesday Australian Assistant Minister for Middle East and Africa Marc Innes-Brown.

During the meeting, ways of boosting bilateral cooperation and latest regional and global events were touched on.

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Tuesday Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Hamish Falconer.

During the meeting, ways of boosting bilateral cooperation and latest regional and global events were touched on.

Other Voices

Honoring eminent personality

By Ahmad alsarraf

I was delighted to receive an invitation from the Arab Bankers Association Council in London to attend a prestigious ceremony honoring my esteemed friend, Mr. Yousef Al-Awadhi, as the recipient of the 'Banker of the Year 2024' award.

This accolade recognizes his more than forty-year career in banking and investment, marked by integrity, dedication and an impeccable professional reputation.

Held on November 7 in one of London's most luxurious venues, the event gathered a distinguished assembly of senior finance leaders, including Lord Alistair King, a member of the City of London Council, who would assume the historic role of the 696th Lord Mayor of the City the day after the ceremony.

Lord King delivered a heartfelt speech, following a warm introduction by Mr. Gaby Fadel, Chairman of the Arab Bankers Association, setting a respectful and celebratory tone for the evening.

Yousef's speech, in turn, highlighted the essential role of Arab financial institutions in the UK, the global significance of London's financial hub and the critical contributions of the finance and investment sectors to the economy.

Yousef and I first met over forty years ago while working together at the Gulf Bank in the late 1970s. Our friendship has remained strong ever since.

While I moved on, he stayed, eventually rising to the highest positions within the bank before moving on to lead the Kuwait Investment Office in London.

He took the helm of this vital investment arm of the State of Kuwait at a challenging time, skillfully steering it through difficult periods, including significant losses in Spain.

His effective leadership restored stability and confidence and one of his most remarkable achievements was

his decision to reduce the office's high stake in British Petroleum (BP) for strategic investment reasons.

In 1997, he oversaw the sale of three percent of BP's shares in a high-stakes 'Blind Block Deal' worth nearly \$2 billion, resulting in significant profits for Kuwait. The transaction, which drew international acclaim, underscored Yousef's professionalism and financial acumen.

The Arab financial presence in London has deep roots, with Kuwait playing a foundational role dating back to 1953 with the establishment of the Kuwait Investment Office, the world's first sovereign wealth fund.

This fund was an early visionary step toward managing Kuwait's surplus oil revenue, setting a pioneering model later followed by major economies, including Norway and other Gulf countries.

Today, Yousef serves as Chairman of the British Arab Commercial Bank (BACB), one of the oldest Arab banks in London. Despite his relatively brief tenure, he has already driven profits to record highs and substantially expanded the bank's operations.

His career also includes numerous influential executive and advisory roles within prominent financial institutions across Kuwait, London and other global and Arab financial centers.

His distinguished career earned him the honor of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) from Queen Elizabeth in 2005 for his contributions to strengthening UK-Kuwait economic relations.

Attending this ceremony in London, in the company of some of the world's brightest minds in finance, was a truly special moment, celebrating a Kuwaiti financial icon who commands immense respect wherever he goes, especially in London's "City" -- the historic financial district.

Yousef's impressive academic background, with a PhD from the University of Colorado and a BA in Economics from the American University of Beirut, complements his career and his economic insights continue to be both profound and highly respected.

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Geopolitical crises, Mideast, Europe wars drive dip in oil

'OPEC Plus output reduction did not solve problem'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The profits of oil companies for fiscal 2024/2025 might not be better than the previous fiscal year (2023/2024), as indicators show a decline in the profits of major international oil companies.

Oil sector sources explained to the newspaper that this decline is the result of the continuation of geopolitical crises in the Middle East, military conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, lower economic growth rates in most oil-consuming countries, especially in China, and the fluctuation of inflation and interest rates in the United States of America.

Sources said these factors played a major role in the decline in global oil prices, indicating the reduction in production by OPEC Plus did not solve the problem, as the price of oil continued to decline in 2024 compared to 2023.

Sources pointed out that the continuation of this decline will inevitably lead to the extension of the voluntary reduction by OPEC Plus countries in 2025, which requires Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to demand that its subsidiaries regulate oil projects until the vision becomes clear, so the corporation's budget is not drained in useless oil projects.

Sources suggested that local oil companies should expand fuel tanks to store the largest possible quantity, considering crude oil has no shelf life; in addition to the expansion of such reserves in many European and Asian countries to be close to global markets in case OPEC Plus agrees to increase Kuwait's production in the future.

Decline

On the decline of oil prices in the third quarter of this year, sources revealed that Brent crude's average price decreased by seven percent compared to the same period last year. They added this negatively affected the profits of major international companies, citing as an example the American company Exxon Mobil which announced that its net profits declined by five percent in the third quarter of this year, and that its profits decreased in the first nine months to about \$26 billion compared to its profits in the same period last year.

Sources clarified many non-geopolitical factors contributed to the oil price decline like slowdown in demand and low profit margins of gasoline, diesel and other oil derivatives.

Sources added other global oil companies whose profits declined this year is the American company Chevron, as its net profits for the third quarter reached \$4.5 billion compared to the same period in 2023, in addition to a decrease in net profits in the first nine months by nearly \$14 billion.

The Italian company, Eni, suffered decline in profits by 72 percent, the French company Total Energy's net profits fell by 65 percent or \$2.29 billion despite achieving net profits of \$6.67 billion in the same period last year.

The profits of Norwegian company, Quinor, decreased by more than eight percent -- \$2.28 billion in third quarter of 2024, but it is not a high percentage compared to the same period last year, when it achieved about \$2.5 billion.

Shell Global experienced the same with 38 to 39 percent decline as it earned about \$4 billion in the third quarter of this year, compared to about \$7 billion in the same period last year.

British oil company BP's profits decreased by 32.2 percent -- \$2.23 billion this year compared to last year's \$3.29 billion.

KPC to go for 95 percent Kuwaitization by year '28

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In light of the fact that the percentage of Kuwaitis employed in the oil sector reached 91 percent in the first quarter of 2024, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has asked its subsidiaries to designate 2025 as the year for recruiting nationals in a bid to achieve the target Kuwaitization rate in the oil sector -- more than 95 percent by 2028.

Sources informed the newspaper there will be more flexibility in the testing process for citizens applying for jobs in oil companies, even though there will still be some requirements that employees in the oil industry must fulfill.

They affirmed that KPC's recent announcement about its plan to offer an opportunity to fresh Kuwaiti graduates to work in one of the major oil companies is in line with the total Kuwaitization strategy in the upcoming years.

Sources said majority of the specializations in the oil industry jobs that will be filled next year will be for those who hold a bachelor's degree in Geology and Petroleum Engineering; and those who have completed a two-year diploma program in certain technical specializations like mechanical power transmission, chemical industries, and petroleum exploration and production.



KUNA photo
Mubarak Al Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College receives a military delegation from the Joint Command and Staff College in the Sultanate of Oman.

Kuwait, Oman seek to foster military education relations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College welcomed a military delegation from the Joint Command and Staff College of Oman on Tuesday, as part of an official visit aimed at fostering bilateral cooperation and exchanging expertise in military education.

Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Dosari, Assistant Commander of the Kuwaiti college, received the Omani delegation led by Brigadier General Saif bin Hamad Al-Yousefi, Commander of the Omani Command and Staff College. The Ministry of Defense reported that the visiting delegation was given a comprehensive briefing on the various departments and facilities of Mubarak Al-Abdullah College, including an

overview of the educational process, curricula, lectures, and training exercises.

During the visit, both parties engaged in discussions on topics of mutual interest, particularly focusing on sharing experiences in officer education and training methodologies employed at their respective Command and Staff Colleges. This exchange underscores the ongoing commitment to military cooperation between Kuwait and Oman, reinforcing the strong ties between the two Gulf nations in the field of defense education.

The visit highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in enhancing military education standards and fostering regional partnerships in defense training and strategy.

Make sure students get books on time, minister orders MoE

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei has instructed to proceed with issuing tenders for school books for the second semester as part of early preparations to ensure that books are provided to students on time.

However, the Minister decided to postpone discussions on the State Audit Bureau's request to discuss the observations regarding the National Center for Education Development, as well as the activation of the Audit and Inspection Office in the Minister's office, until a later date.

This decision was issued during a meeting with representatives from the State Audit Bureau and several leaders from the ministry. The meeting was

aimed at discussing the observations raised by the bureau, the ministry's responses to those concerns, and evaluating the ministry's level of cooperation in addressing the issues raised.

According to educational sources, Minister Al-Tabtabaei, during the meeting, affirmed the importance of close cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the State Audit Bureau, clarifying that this collaboration is part of the ministry's commitment to ensure transparency and accountability in managing both its financial and human resources.

The sources stressed the need to address the observations raised by the State Audit Bureau with utmost seriousness and diligence, ensuring that the recommendations are implemented in a way that serves the public interest.

They explained that the discussions during the meeting centered on several observations made by the State Audit Bureau in recent months. These observations pertained to the ministry's projects and programs, as well as the mechanisms for allocating and disbursing budgets for the implementation of various educational projects.



Al-Tabtabaei

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

The investigative journalist and his controversial book

"BOB Woodward, a name synonymous with investigative journalism, has built a global reputation for meticulous reporting and unwavering dedication to truth," columnist **Dr. Najm Abdul Karim** write for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Renowned for his insistence on documented evidence, Woodward's career reached historic heights during the Watergate scandal. By publishing damning documents and tapes, he exposed the (former) Republican US President Richard Nixon's involvement in spying on the Democratic Party, a revelation that triggered a seismic political scandal.

"The conclusive evidence presented by Woodward not only necessitated Nixon's resignation but also solidified Woodward's standing as one of the most respected investigative writers in modern journalism.

"Recently, Woodward released a new book titled War, which has quickly become a bestseller and captured the attention of political and media circles worldwide.

"The book delves into the current hotbeds of conflict, including the war between Russia and Ukraine and the ongoing war in Palestine, which escalated dramatically on October 7 of last year. Its timely analysis, coupled with Woodward's investigative approach, has led to its swift translation into several languages, becoming a focal point of discussion in academic and media forums.

"While the initial chapters of War examine the intricate dynamics within successive White House administrations, the influential figures shaping US policies and the internal conflicts that emerge from these power struggles, it is the sections addressing the Middle East -- particularly the war in Palestine -- that have drawn significant attention.

"Woodward did not visit the Middle East for firsthand reporting; instead, he relied on accounts from American politicians tasked with mediating the conflict and seeking to de-escalate tensions. A key source of information for the book was US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, whose insights provided a lens into the events on the ground.

"However, upon reviewing the book, it becomes clear that much of the information reflects a particular perspective -- one aligned closely with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This is perhaps most evident in Blinken's reported statement: 'I am a Jew before I was US Secretary of State'. The data and viewpoints Blinken provided to Woodward seem to echo Netanyahu's narrative, as though Blinken's diplomatic efforts were primarily aimed at fulfilling Netanyahu's objectives.

"For readers familiar with the broader nuances of the region's conflicts, this alignment raises questions about the objectivity of the narrative presented in War. While Woodward's professional integrity and journalistic rigor are undisputed, this reliance on a single dominant viewpoint may leave parts of the story incomplete or open to critique.

"Despite these concerns, War remains a vital contribution to understanding the complexities of contemporary global conflicts.

"Woodward's reputation as an investigative journalist ensures that the book is rooted in thorough research, even if some aspects may reveal their limitations with time.

"As discussions surrounding War continue in political and academic circles, it underscores the importance of examining conflicts through multiple lenses.

"While the book sheds light on pivotal events and offers invaluable insights, it also serves as a reminder that no narrative is immune to scrutiny.

"Bob Woodward's legacy as a chronicler of history remains intact, but his latest work invites readers to engage critically, ensuring that the pursuit of truth remains as dynamic and multi-dimensional as the conflicts it seeks to portray."

Also:

"After reading a report in Al-Rai about a few school cafeterias selling energy drinks, I was reminded of the saying: 'Don't Hurt Anyone!'" columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"What is the true cost for those who pursue profit by any means? What do they ultimately want?"

"For those seeking to profit through deceit, fraud, money laundering and manipulation, I ask you to remember: 'Indeed, you will die, and indeed, they will die'. Fear God for the sake of your country and its people.

"Some individuals go beyond cheating and fraud -- this extends to their social interactions as well. Their friends, family, and even acquaintances aren't safe from their harmful words, with gossip and slander sometimes crossing into defamation.

"In a 2019 article titled 'They robbed you... I wish you were safe', I recounted an incident involving Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, may God have mercy on him. When asked how to stay safe from oth-

ers, he said: 'Give to them and do not take from them. They harm you, but you do not harm them. You take care of their interests without asking them to take care of yours'. He was asked, 'Isn't that difficult, Imam?' He replied, 'I wish you were safe'.

"This situation feels familiar. We often encounter individuals who speak sweetly but act with deceit, like foxes. Others have become skilled liars, while some speak on topics they know nothing about.

"Everywhere we turn, harm seems to find us, and our only defense is to protect ourselves by guarding our words. This will allow us to minimize the damage we suffer.

"I once overheard someone speaking confidently about an event, claiming knowledge they didn't have. I tried to correct him, but he was too proud to listen and refused to acknowledge his mistake.

"In dealing with others, we must be open to hearing those who are deserving, but cautious, as gatherings may include both good and bad individuals -- some with questionable motives. As the saying goes, 'There is a time and place for every situation'.

"And as we turn our attention to the welfare of our children -- our 'little ones' -- the issue is not simply about selling harmful products to kids. It is about creating a list of healthy foods and drinks that should be sold in school cafeterias. Alternatively, we could return to the system of providing meals directly prepared at schools or work with suppliers who offer high-quality products with a trustworthy reputation.

"It is heartbreaking to witness the damage some cause to our children, and when you seek medical care for your child at the school health center, you're faced with unnecessary hardships. Something is clearly wrong.

"The root of the problem appears to be poor management, which has harmed both the young and the elderly. I am astonished by the failure to reform an administrative system plagued by vacancies and mismanagement.

"We've mismanaged our institutions and, in turn, mismanaged ourselves. The consequences are felt by everyone -- young and old alike. We pray to God to help us."

"The peculiar thing about the declared Israeli war on the Gaza Strip is that many European countries that traditionally supported Israel are now calling for an immediate halt to the conflict. The United States, too, is leading this push to stop the aggression, despite apparent differences between American and Israeli officials over how to manage the war. Nevertheless, Washington has continued to provide unwavering support to Tel Aviv, with both Democrats and Republicans backing Israel's actions," columnist **Walid Ibrahim Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"As long as this American and European support persists, Israel is unlikely to cease its campaign of violence. It will continue its acts, including the targeting of hospitals and the displacement of Palestinians, without facing major consequences.

"With Donald Trump's return to the White House, there will be no progress on the Palestinian issue. Instead, Israeli settlements will continue to expand, and the Palestinian people will be further displaced from their lands. Washington will likely push for the complete elimination of what is left of Palestine.

"Israel continues to write its name in letters of light, having celebrated its significant achievement under Trump when the U.S. became the first country to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to the Amona neighborhood in Jerusalem on May 14, 2018. This move came after the Trump administration officially recognized Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel on December 16, 2017, completely disregarding global protests and condemnation.

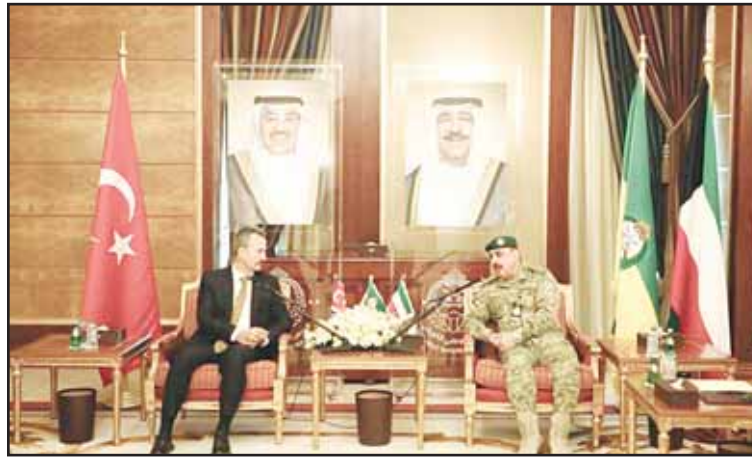
"In light of this, Arabs must carefully reconsider their approach to dealing with Trump in the coming phase, particularly from an economic standpoint.

"It is crucial to impose our own agenda and assert our economic power, making sure that we are not manipulated by the allure of investment opportunities, oil resources, or financial deposits. These are important assets that must be strategically dealt with in order to strengthen our position with the new U.S. administration, ensuring that we do not fall prey to exploitation or further marginalization by global powers.

"Do not expect any positive change from the return of U.S. President Donald Trump to the White House. Instead, brace for further setbacks to the Palestinian cause and more challenges for the broader issues of the Middle East, as well as human rights.

"In order to correct these conditions, God willing, we will meet you again!"

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/Mahmoud Attiyyeh



KUNA photo
The Undersecretary of the National Guard Lt Gen Eng. Hashem Al-Rifaei discusses with the President of Turkish Defense Industries ways to enhance defense and military cooperation.

Defense, military ties discussed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Undersecretary at the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Lieutenant General Eng. Hashem Al-Rifaei met on Tuesday with President of the Turkish Defense Industry Agency (SSB) Dr. Haluk Gorgun, discussing with him ways to enhance cooperation within the military and defense domains.

The KNG said in a statement that the meeting focused on bolstering co-

operation within defense.

The Turkish side offered its defensive expertise as well as the latest technologies in the military domain, added the statement.

The Turkish official and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait yesterday where he met with several officials including Acting Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Court rejects bail for Kuwaiti in wife's kill

Jail upheld in terror case

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Criminal Court refused to release on bail a Kuwaiti citizen, who was accused of killing his wife in the Saudi desert. The court decided to adjourn the trial to November 26 to allow time for reviewing the case, preparing, and paying the civil lawsuit fee.

It is worth noting that the detention renewal judge decided to extend his detention for investigations into the murder of his wife in the desert of Saudi Arabia, where he allegedly left her body before returning to Kuwait.

During the court session, the defendant denied the charges of killing his wife and disposing of her body in the Saudi desert. He stated, "I did not kill her, and this accusation is false. I left her alive in the Hadriya desert near the Kuwaiti border."

7-year jail upheld: The Court of Cassation upheld the verdict issued by the Criminal Court which sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to seven-year imprisonment with hard labor for encouraging people to become members of the outlawed ISIS group and organizing attacks against security forces.

Earlier, the Criminal Court had convicted him of joining a terrorist organization, and plotting to kill security personnel and attack the Amir and rulers of the Gulf States. He was extradited to Kuwait from Lebanon through security coordination between the two countries.

'High-schooler' wins comp: The Labor Section in the Court of Appeals ordered a company to amend the job title of a citizen in the contract concluded between them to be in the category of

'main operator' and to pay him about KD44,000.

Attorney Ali Al-Ali, who filed the lawsuit in his capacity as the citizen's lawyer, revealed that his client holds a high school diploma and joined the Ministry of Defense as an aircraft maintenance technician from Sept 14, 2004 to Dec 31, 2012.

Based on an advertisement published by the defendant company about its need for Kuwaiti employees, he applied for the position and was appointed as machine operator without including his service in the Ministry of Defense or adding years of experience and changing his job title to 'Senior Operator' despite his eligibility, so he filed a complaint in the Labor Relations Department at the Public Authority for Manpower, but his effort proved futile, so he decided to file a case.

Al-Ali pointed out it is evident in the expert report that his client holds a high school diploma and has completed training courses, with more than eight years experience in the Secretariat General of Kuwait Army. He said the defendant hired the plaintiff as per the employment contract dated Feb 12, 2013.

He said the plaintiff's job title is 'Machine Operator IV', but the case papers did not state that the defendant appointed the plaintiff with this title. The defendant's machine operator job ladder book makes it clear that the plaintiff's job title is 'Machine Operator IV', which places the plaintiff at number 11 in the qualifications and experience of Kuwaiti workers connected to the contractor, according to the attendant acting on behalf of the defendant. It is evident as well in the last table that 'Operator I (No. 13 in the table) is equated with a secondary school certificate plus eight years, while the job title is 'Main Operator' (No. 14 in the table) and in the equivalence item is equated with a secondary school certificate with one year of training plus eight years.

In the specialization item of the table, the specializations are clearly stated as follows: equipment field services, machines, factories, pipelines, he explained.

Hearing against many ex-MPs set for Dec 16

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Criminal Court has decided to adjourn to Dec 16 the hearing of the case filed against several former MPs and bloggers for allegedly spreading false news about former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri.

During the session, the defendants denied all charges, specifically the allegation of broadcasting false news.

The case was filed against 18 individuals, including former MPs and bloggers, who are accused of spreading false information, damaging the country's interests, and misusing communication devices to falsely claim that former MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri had been barred from entering the country.

Earlier, the Public Prosecution, following an investigation, had released the defendants on bail worth KD 500 and imposed a travel ban. However, on October 29, the Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Khaled Al-Tahous, decided to lift the travel ban for several former MPs.

Among those on trial are former MPs Mohammad Hayef, Bader Al-Dahour, Salem Al-Namlan, Khaled Al-Mones, Saud Al-Asfour, Mohammad Jawhar Hayat, Mohammad Musaed Al-Dosari, Shuaib Shaaban, Osama Al-Zaid, Musallam Al-Barrak, Adel Al-Damkhi, Falah Al-Hajri, along with several bloggers and Twitter users.



Al-Seyassah photo
Municipality inspectors cut power supply to bachelor homes.

Power supply cut to five bachelor homes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality has announced the disconnection of power supply to five properties found to be in violation of bachelor housing regulations in the Al-Firdous and Al-Andalus areas, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This action is part of ongoing field inspections conducted by the Engineering, Audit and Follow-up Department within the Municipality of the Farwaniya Governorate.

This is being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity and Water to ensure compliance with housing and zoning laws.

Souk Mubarakiya facelift, parking spaces on cards

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait Municipality held a preliminary meeting today for those interested in applying for pre-qualification for the Mubarakiya Markets development project and related parking lots.

The meeting, attended by Deputy Director General of the Projects Sector, Eng. Maysa Boushehri and several company representatives, was aimed at outlining the project's scope and requirements.

Following the meeting, a field visit to the Al-Mubarakiya area was organized to inspect the project site, during which the objectives and components of the development were detailed.

The project seeks to enhance the shopping experience in the Mubarakiya area, upgrade the existing services and introduce new additions, such as a heritage-style hotel, shops and an open area to host various activities.

These improvements aim to boost the area's economic, cultural and touristic significance.



Mol photo
Drugs and proceeds from the sales found in the wanted man's possession.

Kuwaiti wanted in many cases held in scrapyards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In a recent operation at the Amghara scrapyards, a Kuwaiti citizen wanted in multiple cases was apprehended with drugs and drug-related paraphernalia. The arrest was conducted under the supervision of Major General Hamed Al-Munaifi, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Public Security Affairs, reports Al-Anba daily.

Following his arrest, the individual was referred to the General Department for Combating Drugs. Authorities are now investigating the source of the narcotics found in his possession, as well as the extent of his involvement in drug trafficking.



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Participants at the 6th Gulf Forum for Subscriber Services in the Electricity and Water Sector.

Al-Seyassah photo

2 significant working papers presented

Kuwait showcases AI innovations in Customer Service at 6th Gulf Forum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The State of Kuwait, through its Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, participated in the 6th Gulf Forum for Subscriber Services in the Electricity and Water Sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Mohammed Al-Otaibi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Services and Head of the Collections Department, represented the ministry at the forum that was hosted by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Al-Otaibi presented two significant working papers focused on

the application of "Artificial Intelligence in Customer Service and Prepayment."

These papers highlighted the ministry's experiences and initiatives within the Customer Services Sector, showcasing the use of modern technologies to enhance operational systems.

His presentation emphasized how these advancements benefit public services, contributing to more efficient and streamlined processes in the electricity and water sectors.

CSC launches phase 2 of Central Employment Plan

Plan designed to ensure equal opportunities and justice in hiring process

36 govt agencies owe KD 1.921 billion in total debt

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: A government report on the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year revealed that 36 government agencies owed a total of KD 1.921 billion in debt as of September 2024.

The report indicated that the debt decreased by KD 47 million during the same month, with the outstanding balance at the beginning of the month amounting to KD 1.968 billion. This debt is primarily owed by individuals and businesses to various government entities.

In this regard, informed sources cautioned about the slow pace of debt collection, particularly since a large portion of the debt is nearing its statute of limitations. Many of these amounts have accumulated over the years and are being carried over from one budget

to another when they could be used to revitalize the state treasury and fund development initiatives in addition to pursuing legal action against non-payers.

The sources urged government agencies to adhere to new debt collection procedures and accelerate the digital transformation of service fee payments.

They emphasized that public funds need to be protected and that cooperation among all relevant parties is essential to ensure effective collection.

CPA reviews requests: The Competition Protection Agency (CPA) has announced that five companies have submitted requests for approval to complete an economic concentration process, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The companies involved are Spraus Bidco 1

Limited (Ireland), Spraus Bidco 1 Inc. (USA), Spraus Bidco 2 Inc. (USA), Vantiv Holding BV (Netherlands), and Vantiv Health GmbH (Switzerland).

According to a statement posted on the social media platform "X," the request concerns the acquisition of 100 percent of the kidney care division from the last two companies (Vantiv Holding BV and Vantiv Health GmbH) by the first three entities.

Under Law No. 72 of 2020, which governs competition in Kuwait, economic concentration is defined as a permanent change in control within a relevant market.

This includes situations such as mergers, acquisitions, or the establishment of partnerships that create a new independent economic entity operating permanently. The authority is currently reviewing the submission to assess its implications for the local market.

By Mohammed Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In a significant step towards enhancing government performance and ensuring fair employment opportunities, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and Acting Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Sherida Al-Maousherji, has announced the approval of the Commission's Central Employment Plan (Phase Two).

The initiative aligns with His Highness the Amir's directive for all state agencies to streamline job requirements through the Civil Service Council for approval under established controls.

Al-Maousherji highlighted that the CSC presented a comprehensive visual outline for the second phase of the Central Employment Plan.

The plan is designed to ensure equal opportunities and justice in the hiring process. The presentation covered various aspects, such as:

■ **Government Job Opportunities:** Highlighting positions available in the public sector.

■ **Education Outputs:** Assessing the annual average of graduates to align with job market needs.

■ **Nomination Mechanism:** Addressing specializations not currently in demand by creating new positions, organizing qualifying courses for candidates, or

filling administrative roles that do not require specific expertise.

For those with secondary school qualifications or less, the plan includes collaboration with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training to provide training courses aimed at enhancing skills for future employment.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information has reopened the nomination process for 55 vacant supervisory positions.

These include roles such as department directors, supervisors and department heads across various sectors, including finance, administration, journalism, publications, news, political programs, radio, and engineering.

The application period spans from Nov 26 to Dec 10, with strict eligibility criteria, including a specialized university degree, diploma, or a minimum of two years of post-secondary training and practical experience in the field -- 6 years for department heads, 8 years for supervisors and 10 years for directors in addition to achievement of two consecutive "excellent" performance ratings in the last two years.

These measures are part of Kuwait's broader strategy to enhance governmental efficiency, provide equitable job opportunities, and address employment challenges.

The integration of targeted training and job creation reflects a forward-thinking approach to preparing the workforce for future demands.

By aligning employment initiatives with educational outputs and market needs, the Civil Service Commission and the Ministry of Information are taking critical steps to ensure a thriving public sector that supports Kuwait's development goals.

These efforts signal a renewed commitment to upholding fairness, fostering talent, and optimizing governance across all state institutions.



Al-Maousherji



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Kuwait University's dentistry students providing oral care to children at KSH.

Nursing College holds graduation event

KU's dentistry students visit KSH

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: A group of seventh-year students of the Faculty of Dentistry at Kuwait University recently visited the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped (KSH) as part of their community field trips for dentistry and public health.

During the visit, the students conducted oral examinations for all patients at the society and provided instructions on oral hygiene.

They also trained approximately 100 children with special needs on proper brushing and flossing techniques.

The trip was organized by Jagan Kumar Baskaradoss and Dr. Saad bin Qassim from the Faculty of Dentistry, with the support of the Special Care Unit Consultant at the Adan Specialized Dental Center Dr. Fatima Al-Sarraf, and in collaboration with the Director of Community Relations at KSH Hana Baghdadi.

Meanwhile, a new group of Kuwaiti students has joined the 'White Army', as the College of Nursing recently celebrated the graduation of 102 students in its various nursing programs for the second semester of the 2023/2024 aca-

ademic year, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a statement to the daily, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Head of the General Nursing Diploma Department Dr. Mohammad Al-Wadani affirmed the commitment of the college to honor its graduates in different nursing disciplines -- Bachelor of General Nursing, Bachelor of School Nursing and General Nursing Diploma. He said the 102 graduates constitute 10 percent of the total number of students in the college.

Al-Wadani revealed that majority of the graduates -- around 77 to 80 -- are females, reflecting the growing interest in nursing among Kuwaiti students. He attributed this increase to the recent approval of the nursing cadre and the streamlined recruitment process through the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

He added the college is in the process of expanding its facilities with the construction of more buildings to accommodate the rising number of students. He expressed optimism that this expansion would continue, with plans to build more facilities in different parts of the country in the coming years in line with the college's vision to meet the needs of both the State and the labor market.

Insan Charity Society holds 2nd int'l forum

Governance crucial for transparency in Kuwait's charity sector: Dr Al-Ajmi

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi says governance is a key factor in evaluating international organizations operating in Kuwait.

In statements issued on the sidelines of the Insan Charity Society's second international forum on governance in the charity sector, which took place Sunday, Dr. Al-Ajmi highlighted the ministry's support for charity societies in implementing effective governance systems, which help ensure clear and transparent tracking of funds.

He affirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting the successful implementation of governance frameworks within the charity sector, adding that such initiatives come at a crucial time, particularly given the huge efforts being made by charity societies, especially the Insan Charity Society, to enhance their operations.

Dr. Al-Ajmi highlighted that the launch of this forum, under the ministry's auspices, reflects a commitment to promoting ideas that ensure charitable work is governed in a transparent and clear manner, benefiting both recipients and all those working in the sector.

Emphasizing that governance is a fundamental pillar and a key factor in this process, he said the ministry is fully supportive of any forum that presents these ideas and strives to stand by charitable societies. Kuwait is a leader in this field, both locally and internationally.

In his speech at the opening of the forum, Dr. Al-Ajmi emphasized Kuwait's long and rich history of giving and charity, and reinforced the nation's dedication to supporting charity efforts.

He said, "Kuwait government places great importance on charity and humanitarian work, viewing it as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development. This vision is evident in several initiatives and policies aimed at enhancing and developing this vital sector, with the government offering robust support for charitable efforts. The government supports charity work through supportive legislation,

budget allocations for humanitarian and charity projects, and builds strategic partnerships with the private sector".

Dr. Al-Ajmi explained that governance efforts in this area streamline the processes for establishing and registering charity associations, which encourages the establishment of more such organizations.

The Ministry of Social Affairs plays a pivotal role in organizing and coordinating charity work in Kuwait. It grants licenses to new charity associations and monitors their activities to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

In addition, the ministry oversees the work of these associations, offers them the necessary support, guidance, and advice.

Eradicate

Dr. Al-Ajmi stated that the 2030 Global Agenda represents the United Nations' sustainable development goals, which aim to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. However, achieving these goals depends on strong cooperation and practical collaboration with all partners to make informed choices that improve life sustainably for future generations.

In this regard, charity organizations play an increasingly vital role in supporting the international sustainable development agenda.

Also, the private sector contributes significantly through corporate social responsibility initiatives that tackle global challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, food security, and poverty.

He said the Insan Charity Society in Kuwait is hosting the second edition of the Insan International Forum for Charity Governance, with the aim of enhancing the performance of charity organizations by adopting best administrative practices. This is aimed at improving the effectiveness of the sector, and fostering growth and prosperity for the region's society, at a time when the charity sector is recog-

nized as one of the most important pillars of development across all sectors.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Insan Charity Society Dr. Osman Al-Khamees stated that the Insan Society, since its establishment in 2019, has believed in the importance of charity work as a fundamental pillar in building societies.

He said, "From the beginning, we have sought to contribute to the development of this field by adopting best practices in management and governance, taking into account the legal, administrative, and financial challenges facing charity institutions.

Today, as we launch the second edition of the Governance Forum, we focus on one of the most important pillars of charity governance, which is the "tasks and responsibilities" assigned to the various components of the administrative structure within charity organizations.

This forum, organized around three main themes, reflects the Insan Society's desire to enhance a common understanding among all stakeholders about the vital roles played by the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Management in establishing governance standards.

During the forum, we discussed the role of the General Assembly in guiding charity work and enhancing transparency. We reviewed the key responsibilities of the Board of Directors and its committees, as well as highlight the responsibilities and powers of the Executive Management in implementing policies and overseeing daily operations.

It is no secret that the challenges facing charity work are growing in light of the rapid changes occurring worldwide. This requires us to continually develop our tools and strategies to ensure the sustainability of this noble work and its positive impact on society.

Therefore, we at the Insan Society are committed to collaborating with all charity organizations and local and international initiatives to exchange experiences and enhance institutional practices."



Dr Al-Ajmi



Dr Al-Khamees



A photo from the forum.

Photos by Sameer Shiqer

Ministerial Triangle

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait must have the courage and determination to realize the dreams of its people, who have been impacted by the political and economic instability that the deep state has cultivated to such an extent that the country is no longer viewed as a desirable destination for foreign investment.

However, with determination, this ministerial triangle and other members of the Cabinet have the power to overhaul the existing laws and open the country to new opportunities, much like other Gulf nations that have achieved high levels of economic success. These nations have elites that follow orders from their leaders, and Kuwait is no different.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry has many issues to deal with, but the industry that demands the most attention is the one that needs to be handled through a modern mechanism rather than one that is founded on acquisition, jealousy, and malice.

Kuwait cannot continue to import 95 percent of its needs when it has the capability to manufacture and export. It must strive for greater self-sufficiency, particularly in transformation industries, much like what the UAE and Saudi Arabia have done.

One of the tasks of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is to activate local food industries, which would significantly reduce the financial burden of importing fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products that could be grown locally.

This ministerial triangle also has the potential to amend the B.O.T. (Build-Operate-Transfer) law. In the past, this law stipulated an investment period of 50 years, with the possibility of a 50-year renewal, subject to certain conditions. However, due to envy and narrow self-interests, the law was amended by the National Assembly to shorten the investment period to just 20 years.

How can investors be expected to invest large sums of money and build projects, only to be forced to leave before reaping the returns on their investments, especially when they have more favorable opportunities in neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman?

I recall an Egyptian investor who was approached by the Saudi government to build a city similar to one he had built in his home country. The Saudi authorities granted him land, provided all necessary facilities, and offered a sufficient grace period to support the project.

Meanwhile, in the UAE, there are more than 50 multi-specialty free trade zones, each equipped with comprehensive infrastructure and services that save time and effort for investors. Non-citizens are allowed full 100 percent ownership of their projects.

In contrast, Kuwait has only one free trade zone, but it is burdened with numerous conditions that hinder investment, such that no one now enters it.

When it comes to the industrial sector, there are many obstacles, starting with restrictions on the facility owner's ability to sell or develop their facility. There are also challenges involving the overbearing judicial system, particularly if a plot owner disapproves of the tenant, such as prohibiting him from building housing for his workers near the factory.

It is also odd that the owner of a facility cannot request the inclusion of other similar industries in the same area due to pervasive envy within the

Public Authority for Industry.

However, the three ministries - Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Ministry of Justice - have the power to change these laws and regulations, and make the commercial, industrial, and craft sectors more prosperous and productive.

In many countries, particularly in some Gulf countries, there are dedicated official marketing and public relations teams from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs working globally to attract investment to their countries.

On the other hand, in Kuwait, we only hear remarks like "We don't want anyone to come to us" or "This person will only come for treatment", driven by spite. Such attitudes are counterproductive and do not serve the country's interests or the well-being of its people.

Illegal expats

Continued from Page 1

Another Article in the draft decree-law stipulates, "The sponsors of foreigners must notify the competent authority at the Ministry of Interior of the expiration of the foreigner's entry visa or temporary or regular residence if he does not leave the State of Kuwait."

On the other hand, the Minister of Education, Jalal Al-Tabtabaei briefed the cabinet on the Ministry's vision for developing education in Kuwait.

The Cabinet approved the minutes of the Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Nationality, which included cases of loss and withdrawal of Kuwaiti nationality from some persons who obtained it through fraud and forgery, in accordance with the provisions of Decree Law No. (15) of 1959.

CITRA reshapes

Continued from Page 1

The focus will be on protecting consumer rights, ensuring market transparency, and improving competitiveness.

The Authority expressed confidence that these changes will strengthen its role as a guardian of consumer interests and ensure the delivery of high-quality services.

Education minister

Continued from Page 1

This inspection and the minister's dissatisfaction serve as a reminder of the critical importance of proactive planning and continuous oversight in education.

Ensuring that all schools are equally prepared is not just an administrative task but a moral obligation to Kuwait's students, who deserve access to a quality education in a safe and well-maintained environment.

The Ministry of Education's proactive measures, under the leadership of Minister Al-Tabtabaei, highlight its dedication to addressing challenges swiftly and ensuring the seamless continuation of the school year.

Kuwait names

Continued from Page 1

■ Tariq Abdullah Al-Faraj - Ambassador to Hungary
■ Hassan Mohammed Zaman - Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq
■ Badr Abdullah Al-Munaikh - Am-

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri, has announced the opening of the transfer request period for MEW employees, starting from Nov 17 until Dec 25.

The transfer decisions will be finalized at the beginning of 2025, provided that employees' annual efficiency evaluations are completed prior to the issuance of the transfer decisions.

Minister Bushehri has instructed the Undersecretary of the Ministry to establish a mechanism to organize transfer requests and to ensure the implementation of relevant organizational

procedures.

Earlier, Dr Bushehri had issued a decision to halt transfer requests within the electrical distribution networks, electrical power stations, and water distillation.

However, exceptions to this suspension include the Renewable Energy Department and the Security and Safety Department for Electrical Transmission Networks under the Electrical Transmission Networks Sector.

According to the decision, a copy of which was obtained by Al-Seyassah, transfers within these sectors will only be permitted based on work requirements.

Additionally, newly-appointed employees are prohibited from requesting

or being granted transfers until they have completed at least two years of service from their appointment date.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting programs aimed at rehabilitating and integrating people with disabilities into the workforce, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The authority is sponsoring the sixth session of the "Partners for Their Employment" program, which commenced today at Kuwait University under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.

During the program's opening, Tamadur Al-Omar, Director of the Department of Social and Educational Care, spoke on behalf of the Director General, emphasizing the authority's ongoing support for the initiative.

She highlighted the authority's dedication to its humanitarian mission and societal responsibility towards individ-

uals with disabilities in Kuwait.

The sponsorship of the initiative is funded through the charitable thirds account managed by the authority, reflecting its strong commitment to the development and empowerment of people of determination.

Al-Omar stressed the importance of training and motivating people with disabilities to overcome future challenges and actively participate in all areas of work and production.

The program aims to equip participants with essential skills and job opportunities, particularly in sectors such as banking, which will enhance their integration into society and contribute to the nation's progress.

She also emphasized the authority's openness to collaborating on initiatives and suggestions that would further strengthen its efforts in supporting people with disabilities, promoting their inclusion, and advancing various social, educational, training, and humanitarian projects both locally and internationally.

Minister announces transfer request for MEW employees

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

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Kuwait participates in Meet Arab Tech meet

Kuwait showcases tech advancements at Portugal event

MADRID, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait has taken part in the Meet Arab Tech forum, held on sidelines of the prestigious international Web Summit (2024), in the Portuguese capital Lisbon for swapping expertise and presenting its experience in the technological sector.

The State of Kuwait Ambassador to Portugal Hamad Al-Hazeem said in a statement to KUNA on Tuesday that the mission made sure that the Kuwaiti private sector would participate in the section on digital technology at the affiliated Meet Arab Tech Meet, first edition of which was held today.

Ambassador Al-Hazeem said the Kuwait former Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Minister of State for Communication Affairs and the Minister of Youth Dawoud Maarafi was among the main speakers at the event. Minister Maarafi conveyed Kuwait's pioneering digital experience namely establishment of Sahel application.

He indicated that the affiliate Arab activity, organized by an initiative by the Council of Arab Diplomats in Lisbon, was intended to facilitate interaction between Arab technological innovators, executives and investors with peers from foreign countries.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Ambassador to Portugal Al-Hazeem and Kuwait former minister Maarafi at the prestigious international Web Summit (2024).

Minister Maarafi, meanwhile in a statement to KUNA, affirmed that the participation in the event was

aimed at studying other states' experience in the field of and promoting Kuwait's experience at this level. He

also shed light during a session on the Kuwaiti private sector's innovations and products.

bassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
■ Mishaal Ahmed Al-Mansour - Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran

■ Abdullah Abdulrahman Al-Shatti - Ambassador to Romania

■ Abdullah Suleiman Al-Shaheen - Ambassador to the Republic of France

■ Ali Thanyan Hamada - Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

■ Mutlaq Abdullah Al-Thuwaimer - Ambassador to Mongolia

■ Khaled Abdul Rahim Al-Zaabi - Consul-General to the United Arab Emirates (Dubai and the Northern Emirates)

■ Yousef Abdullah Al-Tanib - Consul to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Jeddah)

This new cadre of experienced diplomats is expected to bolster Kuwait's relationships with these nations, fostering collaboration in areas such as trade, culture and security.

ues and interests abroad while reinforcing its position as a key player in global diplomacy.

Kuwait Army

Continued from Page 1

Brigadier General Abdullah Ahmad Al-Turkait, Commander of the 25th Commando Brigade, along with other senior officers, welcomed Major General Al-Sabah at the brigade's headquarters. The visit commenced with a demonstration by brigade members, showcasing their proficiency in individual and collective combat arts. The display exhibited high levels of readiness and efficiency, reflecting the brigade's commitment to capability enhancement and skill development.

During his tour, Major General Al-Sabah inspected the brigade's weapons, equipment, and military vehicles, gaining insights into their operational roles and capabilities. He also received a comprehensive briefing on the brigade's assigned tasks, duties, training regimens, and future plans for development and modernization aimed at elevating the efficiency of all personnel. The Deputy Chief of Staff com-

mended the dedication and efforts of the brigade's members in fulfilling their duties. He emphasized that the Kuwaiti army remains fully prepared to execute its assigned tasks in safeguarding the nation's security and stability under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and his Crown Prince.

This visit underlines the Kuwaiti military leadership's commitment to maintaining a high state of combat readiness and continual improvement of its armed forces.

COP29 opens

Continued from Page 1

Minister's Bureau Affairs, Ambassador Badr Saleh Al-Tunaiab.

World leaders are converging Tuesday at the United Nations annual climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan although the big names and powerful countries are noticeably absent, unlike past climate talks which had the star power of a soccer World Cup.

But 2024's COP29 climate talks are

more like the International Chess Federation world championship, lacking the recognizable names but big on nerd power and strategy. The top leaders of the 13 largest carbon dioxide-polluting countries will not appear. Their nations are responsible for more than 70% of 2023's heat-trapping gases.

"The people who are responsible for this are absent," said Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko during his speech at the summit. "How effective are our actions at this meeting, when the President of France, which was the country which was responsible for the Paris is not even here, feels it's not relevant? There's nothing to be proud about."

France isn't the only one. The world's biggest polluters and strongest economies - China and the United States - aren't sending their No. 1s. India and Indonesia's heads of state are also not in attendance, meaning the four most populous nations with more than 42% of all the world's population aren't having leaders speak.

"It's symptomatic of the lack of political will to act. There's no sense of urgency," said climate scientist Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics. He said this explains "the absolute mess we're finding ourselves in."

— See Also Page 13

'Homan knows how the machine operates'

Pair of Trump officials defend family separation and ramped-up deportations

SAN DIEGO, Nov 12, (AP): Donald Trump's first picks for immigration policy jobs spent the last four years angling for this moment.

Stephen Miller and Thomas Homan had critical roles in the first Trump administration and are unapologetic defenders of its policies, which included separating thousands of parents from their children at the border to deter illegal crossings. With Trump promising sweeping action in a second term on illegal immigration, the two White House advisers will bring nuts-and-bolts knowledge, lessons from previous setbacks and personal views to help him carry out his wishes.

After Trump left office in 2021, Miller became president of America First Legal, a group that joined Republican state attorneys general to derail President Joe Biden's border policies and plans. Homan, who worked decades in immigration enforcement, founded Border 911 Foundation Inc., a group that says

it fights against "a border invasion" and held its inaugural gala in April at Trump's Florida estate.

Homan "knows how the machine operates," said Ronald Vitiello, a former Border Patrol chief and acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement director under Trump. "He did it as a front line, he did it as a supervisor, and he did it as the lead executive. He doesn't have anything to learn on that side of the equation."

Miller, he said, is deeply knowledgeable, has firm ideas about how the system should work, and has Trump's confidence.

Trump has promised to stage the largest deportation operation in American history. There are an estimated 11 million people in the country illegally. Questions remain about how people in a mass raid would be identified and where they would be detained.

Miller and Homan portray illegal immigration as a black-and-white issue and applaud Trump's policy of



Tom Homan, (left), is seen in an April 26, 2018 photo in East Point, Ga., and Stephen Miller is seen in Oct 9, 2024, photo in Reading, Pa. (AP)

targeting everyone living in the country without status for deportation.

Trump frequently and sharply attacked illegal immigration during

his campaign, linking a record spike in unauthorized border crossings to issues ranging from drug trafficking to high housing prices. The arrival of

asylum-seekers and other migrants in cities and communities around the country has strained some budgets and broadly shifted political debate over immigration to the right, with Democratic nominee Kamala Harris during her campaign reversing several of her old positions questioning immigration enforcement.

Miller, 39, is a former Capitol Hill staffer who rose to prominence as a fiery Trump speechwriter and key architect of his immigration policies from 2017 to 2021.

He has long espoused doomsday scenarios of how immigration threatens America, training his rhetoric on people in the country illegally but also advocating curbs on legal immigration.

Trump, Miller said at the former president's Madison Square Garden rally last month, was fighting for "the right to live in a country where criminal gangs cannot just cross our border and rape and murder with impunity." "America is for Americans and

Americans only," he added.

Homan, 63, decided on a career in law enforcement as a boy in West Carthage, New York, watching his father work as a magistrate in the small farming town. After a year as a police officer in his hometown, he joined the Border Patrol in San Diego and remembers thinking, "What the hell did I just do?" Homan, then working in relative obscurity as a top ICE official, said in a 2018 interview with The Associated Press that he got "a seat at the table" under President Barack Obama's homeland security secretary, Jeh Johnson, to deliberate on policy change.

Homan told others that he worried he may have been disrespectful and when word got back to the secretary, Johnson told him, "I may not agree with what you say, but I need to know what the effects are going to be if I don't listen to you."

Johnson said Monday that he didn't recall the exchange but doesn't dispute it, saying it sounded like him.



Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao, (right), listens to a question from the media during an election night gathering at Fluid 510 in Oakland, Calif on Nov 5. (AP)

Oakland voters oust Thao

Voters in Oakland, California, have ousted Mayor Sheng Thao just two years after she narrowly won office to lead the liberal San Francisco Bay Area city. The Associated Press called the race Monday.

"Thank you for choosing me to serve as your Mayor. As the first Hmong American woman to become the mayor of a major American City, it has been the honor of my lifetime," she said in a statement last week.

She committed to ensuring a smooth transition. Thao must vacate the office as soon as election results are certified Dec. 5 and the Oakland City Council declares a vacancy at its next meeting, which would be Dec. 17, Nikki Fortunato Bas, City Council president, said in a statement. A special election for a new mayor will be held within 120 days, or roughly four months.

Until then, Bas - as president of the City Council - would serve as interim mayor unless she wins a seat on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. As of Monday, Bas was trailing in that race.

Thao was elected mayor in November 2022 and became the first Hmong American to lead a major city. She faced criticism almost immediately after taking office for firing popular Oakland Police Chief LeRonne Armstrong. Frustrated voters, including the local NAACP, blamed Thao for a long list of city woes related to public safety, homelessness and the city's budget. (AP)

Several House races still too early to call

Congress returns to unfinished business and new Trump era

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): Congress returns to a changed Washington as President-elect Donald Trump's hard-right agenda is quickly taking shape, buoyed by eager Republican allies eyeing a full sweep of power on Capitol Hill while Democrats are sorting out what went wrong.

Even as final election results are still being tallied, the House and Senate leadership is pushing ahead toward a second-term Trump White House and what he's called a "mandate" for governing, with mass deportations, industry deregulation and wholesale gutting of the federal government.

Trump is already testing the norms of governance during this presidential transition period - telling the Senate to forgo its advise-and-consent role and simply accept his Cabinet nominees - and he is staffing his administration and finding lawmakers willing to bend those civic traditions.

"Trump's going to deliver his deportations, the drilling, the wall - it's going to take all of us getting together," said Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C., a conservative member of the House Freedom Caucus.

But first, the House and Senate leaders will hold internal party elections this week for their own jobs. Most of the top Republican leaders depend on Trump for their political livelihoods and have worked to draw closer to the president-elect to shore up loyalty.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, who is on the cusp of keeping a slim ma-



The US Capitol is seen from Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, on Election Day on Nov 5. (AP)

ority hold of the chamber with several House races still too early to call, will assemble his leadership team early Tuesday on the Capitol steps for a victory lap and agenda-setting.

In the Senate, where Republicans seized power from Democrats on election night, three Republican senators who are vying to become the new GOP leader have rushed to agree with Trump's plan for quick confirmation of presidential nominees.

"As Congress returns to Washington, we must prepare the Senate to advance that agenda legislatively and ensure that the president-elect can hit

the ground running with his appointees confirmed as soon as possible," GOP Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, who is seeking the leadership job, wrote in a Fox News opinion piece.

All told, it's a fundamental reshaping of not only the power centers in Washington, but the rules of governing, as Trump returns to the White House in January with a potential GOP-led Congress that is far less skeptical or wary of his approach than eight years ago, and much more willing to back him.

"This is going to be a very challenging time," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal,

D-Wash., the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

She described the "horrific immigration policies" that Trump promised voters and she insisted the progressives in Congress will provide an "effective check" on the new White House, much the way Democrats did during his first term by fighting efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and other policies.

At the same time, Jayapal warned Trump will have "many fewer restrictions."

"Our members are ready to take up the fight again," she said, standing alongside a handful of newly elected progressive lawmakers she called the "bright lights" joining Congress.

First tests will come during the "lame duck" period of the remaining days of this Congress, the eight-week sprint until Jan. 3, 2025, when the new lawmakers are sworn into office.

As lawmakers return this week they will be joined by dozens of new names in the House and Senate who are in town for freshmen orientation weeks and the private leadership elections scheduled for Wednesday.

But Republican senators are protesting that one of their own, newly elected Dave McCormick of Pennsylvania, is being excluded from orientation week by Senate Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Schumer because there are still uncounted ballots in his race. Schumer's office has said it is custom to wait until all the ballots are counted.

New parliamentary election as early as Feb

Scholz set to ask for December 16 confidence vote

BERLIN, Nov 12, (AP): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is expected to ask for a vote of confidence in his government on Dec. 16, paving the way for a new parliamentary election as early as February, German media reported Tuesday.

The expected vote in the Bundestag would come well ahead of original plans, marking a step to reach compromise between Scholz's party, the Social Democrats, and the main opposition party in parliament, the center-right Christian conservatives.

The move comes after the collapse of Scholz's three-party coalition last week. Scholz had previously announced that he would seek a vote of confidence on Jan. 15 that could lead to an election as soon as March. The vote had otherwise been due next September.

On Tuesday, Scholz told public broadcaster ARD that it was "no problem" for him to call for the confidence vote before Christmas, and that he would respect any



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz gives a statement after a meeting with government leaders in Berlin, Germany on Nov 6. (AP)

agreement by his fellow Socialists and the Christian Democrats.

A final decision on the exact date for the election - possibly Feb 16 or Feb 23 - would rest with German President Franz-Walter Steinmeier. Scholz announced that he would lead Germany with a minority government after his move last week to fire Finance Minister Christian Lindner of the pro-business Free Democrats, ending its role in the coalition.

Left with the environmentalist Greens in his coalition, Scholz expressed hope to win support of the Christian Democrats, led by Friedrich Merz, to pass important legislation and plug the billion-euro hole in the 2025 budget.

Merz vehemently rejected Scholz's initial plan to wait until January to hold the confidence vote. If the government doesn't win the vote of confidence, which has seemed increasingly likely, Steinmeier can dissolve the Bundestag within 21 days and call a new election.

America

Crews battle wildfires: Fire crews battled small wildfires across the Northeast U.S. on Monday, including a blaze in New York and New Jersey that killed a parks employee over the weekend and postponed Veterans Day plans.

A quarter-inch of rain fell overnight from Sunday into Monday in a forest area straddling the border between the two states, giving a slight respite to firefighters.

The fire is one of several burning on the East Coast amid a lack of much rainfall since September. An employee of the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Department who was assisting firefighting crews died Saturday when he was hit by a falling tree.

The East Coast fires were burning as much larger wildfires raged in California.

Firefighters continued making progress against a wildfire northwest of Los Angeles in Ventura County that broke out Wednesday and quickly exploded in size due to dry, warm and gusty Santa Ana winds.

The Mountain Fire in Ventura County prompted thousands of residents to flee their homes and was 41% contained as of Monday. The fire's size remains around 32 square miles (about 83 square kilometers). The Mountain Fire has destroyed more than 192 structures and damaged 82, most of them homes, officials said. The cause is under investigation.

In neighboring Nevada, authorities ordered the evacuation of hundreds of

homes southwest of Reno and closed the main highway to Lake Tahoe after a wind-whipped wildfire erupted Monday and spread quickly through mountainside vegetation.

About 3,000 people were told to leave, said Adam Mayberry, spokesperson for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Rain began to fall as local, state and federal crews arrived to battle the blaze, Mayberry said. (AP)

5 dead in Kansas shooting: Five men were found shot to death inside three homes in the same area of Wichita, Kansas, and police believe the shootings are connected.



Sullivan

Police Chief Joe Sullivan said one of those found dead Sunday was the suspected shooter, but he declined to elaborate. Police believe all five knew each other, but the nature of their relationships weren't disclosed. Police said Monday that the men ranged in age from 39 to 68.

Officers were called to a report of a shooting at 5:44 p.m. and found one man dead inside a home. Officers following up on his death went to a home a few blocks away and found three other people dead, police said in a news release.

Officers canvassing that neighborhood looked into the window of a third home and saw a fifth victim,

police said. "We have five victims who are deceased from gunshots," Sullivan told reporters. "We believe that the investigation will determine that one of those victims was the shooter of all the other victims." (AP)

Man guilty of murder: A former drugstore worker in the small Indiana community of Delphi was found guilty of murder on Monday in the killings of two teenage girls who vanished during an afternoon hike.

Jurors convicted Richard Allen of two counts of murder and two additional counts of murder while committing or attempting to commit kidnapping in the 2017 killings of Abigail Williams, 13, and Liberty German, 14.

Allen wasn't arrested for five more years, while the case drew outsized attention from true-crime enthusiasts. His trial followed repeated delays, a leak of evidence, the withdrawal of Allen's public defenders and their reinstatement by the Indiana Supreme Court. Reporters inside the courtroom said Allen, 52, showed no reaction as the verdict was delivered, but he looked back at his family at one point. Allen is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 20. He could face up to 130 years in prison.

Outside the courthouse, people on the sidewalk began to cheer as word of the verdict spread.

Indiana State Police spokesman Capt. Ron Galaviz told The Associated Press that the judge's gag order remains in place and he believes it will until Allen is sentenced. Allen's lawyers left the courthouse Monday without making statements. (AP)



People attend a rally to protest against alleged violations in a recent parliamentary election in Tbilisi, Georgia on Nov 11. (AP)

Protests in Georgian separatist region block bridges to capital

Protesters on Tuesday blocked bridges leading to the capital of the Georgian separatist region of Abkhazia as tensions flared in a dispute over a proposed law that would encourage Russian investment. News reports said that police and protesters clashed at one of the bridges, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Abkhazia is a region of about 245,000 people that had been largely under separatist control since the end of a war in 1993. Georgia lost control of the rest of the region in the short 2008 war with Russia. Russia now formally recognizes Abkhazia as independent, but many of the region's residents are concerned about economic and po-

litical pressure from its giant northern neighbor. The trouble broke out Monday after Abkhazia's parliament discussed a proposed law that would allow Russians to purchase land and property in Abkhazia, whose mountains and Black Sea beaches make it a popular tourist destination for Russians.

Five opponents of the bill were detained after the session, according to Russian and Georgian news reports, although what actions sparked the detentions weren't clear. Protesters demanding their release and objecting to the proposed law gathered at the republic's security services headquarters in the capital, Sukhumi. (AP)

Kallas underlines China's links to war

EU top diplomat nominee strongly backs Ukraine

BRUSSELS, Nov 12, (AP): The European Union must back Ukraine against Russia for as long as it takes and persuade the United States that its strategic interests in China are tied up in the outcome of the war, the woman nominated as the bloc's top diplomat for the next five years said Tuesday.

Questions have been raised about whether the 27-nation EU's commitment to Ukraine would remain firm with Russia appearing to have an edge in the war, which began on Feb 24, 2022, and following the reelection of Donald Trump, who has vowed to end the conflict as US president.

"Ukraine's victory is a priority for us all. The situation on the battlefield is very difficult," Estonia ex-Prime Minister Kaja Kallas told EU lawmakers during a hearing she must pass to be appointed as foreign policy chief.



Estonia's Kaja Kallas, nominee for European Union High Representative and Vice-President for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, speaks during her hearing at the European Parliament in Brussels on Nov 12. (AP)

"That is why we must keep on working every day. Today, tomorrow and for as long as it takes and with as much military, financial and humanitarian aid as needed," she said, and added that "this must be underpinned by a clear path for Ukraine to join the European Union."

Kallas underlined China's more covert role in the conflict.

"Without China's support to Russia, Russia would not be able to continue its war with the same force. China needs to also feel the higher cost," she said, suggesting that sanctions should be considered.

Many EU leaders and representatives have long insisted that the bloc must wean itself off its security dependence on the United States, regardless of who is in power in Washington. The belief is that the US is increasingly focused on its growing rivalry with China.

INTERNATIONAL

'It was horrific, it was wrong'

NZ's PM formally apologizes to survivors of abuse in state, church care

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Nov 12, (AP): New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon made a "formal and unreserved" apology in Parliament on Tuesday for the widespread abuse, torture and neglect of hundreds of thousands of children and vulnerable adults in care.

"It was horrific. It was heartbreaking. It was wrong. And it should never have happened," Luxon said, as he spoke to lawmakers and a public gallery packed with survivors of the abuse.

An estimated 200,000 people in state, foster and faith-based care suffered "unimaginable" abuse over a period of seven decades, a blistering report released in July said at the end of the largest inquiry ever undertaken in New Zealand. They were disproportionately Mori, New Zealand's Indigenous people.

"For many of you it changed the course of your life, and for that, the government must take responsibility," Luxon said. He said he was apologizing for previous governments too.

In foster and church care - as well as in state-run institutions, including hospitals and residential schools - vulnerable people "should have been safe and treated with respect, dignity and compassion," he added. "But instead,



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, (center), stands in silence ahead of making a 'formal and unreserved' apology in Parliament for the widespread abuse, torture and neglect of hundreds of thousands of children and vulnerable adults in care, in Wellington, New Zealand on Nov 12. (AP)

you were subjected to horrific abuse and neglect and in some cases torture."

The findings of the six-year investigation believed to be the widest-ranging of comparable probes worldwide were a "national disgrace," the

inquiry's report said. New Zealand's investigation followed two decades of such inquiries around the globe as nations struggle to reckon with authorities' transgressions against children removed from their families and placed

in care. Of 650,000 children and vulnerable adults in New Zealand's state, foster, and church care between 1950 and 2019 - in a country that today has a population of 5 million - nearly a third endured physical, sexual, verbal or psychological abuse. Many more were exploited or neglected.

"We will never know that true number," Chris Hipkins, the leader of the opposition, told Parliament. "Many people entering into state and faith-based institutions were undocumented. Records were incomplete, they've gone missing, and in some cases, yes, they were deliberately destroyed."

In response to the findings, New Zealand's government agreed for the first time that historical treatment of some children in a notorious state-run hospital amounted to torture - a claim successive administrations had rejected.

"I am deeply sorry that New Zealand did not do better by you. I am sorry you were not believed when you came forward to report your abuse," Luxon said. "I am sorry that many abusers were not made to face justice which meant that other people experienced abuse that could have been prevented."



A security person stands guard near a sports center where a man rammed a car into people exercising in Zhuhai, China on Nov 11. (AP)

35 dead as driver hits crowd in China

A driver killed 35 people and severely injured another 43 when he deliberately rammed his car into people exercising at a sports center in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai, police said Tuesday.

Police had detained a 62-year-old man at the sports center in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai following the ramming late Monday, on the eve of the country's premier aviation exhibition by the People's Liberation Army that's hosted annually in the city.

Police identified the man only by his family name of Fan, consistent with the practice by Chinese authorities. Fan was discovered in the car with a knife, with wounds to his neck thought to be self-harm injuries, according to the statement. He is unconscious and receiving medical care.

He was dissatisfied with the split of financial assets in his divorce, according to a preliminary investigation, police said. (AP)

Both allies face shared threat of China

Philippines doesn't expect Trump will demand payment for army protection

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 12, (AP): Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said Tuesday that he didn't expect President-elect Donald Trump's next administration would demand that the Philippines pay more for military protection because both allies faced the shared threat of China.

Teodoro was speaking at a news conference with Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles following an inaugural bilateral annual meeting aimed at improving security ties.

Asked if Trump would expect the Philippines, like Taiwan, to pay for US protection, Teodoro replied: "I really don't expect some sort of a statement from Mr. Trump, hopefully not."

"I really don't have any preconditions or any assumptions as to what will be the outcome of this administration, except on what we are working on - on institutional ties," he said.

"We have an interest, both the United States and the Philippines, in ensuring that our partnership continues because - not totally, but principally - ... of shared threats. And that is undoubtedly the overreach and the aggressive and illegal activities of China," he added.

Marles said that Australia had been confident that regardless of the US presidential election outcome, Australia's alliance with Washington would remain in "good shape."

"What we see in the election of President Trump and in the formation of his administration, is an administration which will maintain America's role of leadership in the world, which is really important in terms of maintaining the global rules-based order, which is very much in Australia's national interest," Marles said.

Last week, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr signed two laws reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea, angering China, which claims the hotly disputed waterway almost in its entirety.

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

Confrontations between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval



Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles, (left), shakes hands with Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr during the inaugural Australia-Philippines Defence Ministers' Meeting at Parliament House in Canberra on Nov 12. (AP)

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

The laws, called the Philippine Maritime Zones Act and the Philip-

violators.

Meanwhile, Typhoon Toraji unleashed floods, knocked down trees and caused power outages in the northern Philippines before weakening into a tropical storm and blowing out to the South China Sea, officials said Tuesday as they braced for another approaching storm.

The Philippines has scrambled to deal with multiple calamities wreaked by four back-to-back typhoons and storms, including Toraji, that devastated the northern region of Luzon, including vast farmlands and communities, in less than a month. A brewing storm in the Pacific may strengthen into a typhoon and hit the country on Thursday, forecasters said.

There were no immediate reports of deaths from Toraji.

Authorities were still clearing roads blocked by fallen trees, electricity poles and small landslides set off by Toraji to allow the passage of food packs and other government aid and to rescue those who might be stranded in far-flung villages, officials said.

Disaster-response contingents, including army troops, police and the

coast guard, have been struggling to respond to the aftermaths of the successive typhoons and storms, but President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. assured people Friday that help was on the way to communities battered by Toraji, locally called Nika.

"Even if there's still stormy weather and strong wind out there, they say they can still do it. They can still work to clear trees that fell and the electric posts that were knocked down so our relief goods can pass through," Marcos told reporters.

"We're already there and they're just waiting for the storm to allow them to get to work," said Marcos, who skipped this week's Asia-Pacific Economic forum in Peru to oversee his administration's response to the aftermath of the storms.

In northern Cagayan province, where Marcos two days ago inspected damage from a previous typhoon and led the distribution of food packs to rural villagers, officials said Toraji's fierce wind and torrential rains swamped 25 villages in six towns in floodwater. At least 22 bridges were impassable due to the floods and 13 towns and the provincial capital of Tuguegarao city reported power outages.

'Biggest deal since end of Cold War'

N.Korea ratifies major defense treaty with Russia

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 12, (AP): North Korea ratified a major defense treaty with Russia stipulating mutual military aid, the North's state media reported Tuesday, as the US, South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea has sent thousands of troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

Russia had completed the ratification of the treaty last week after it was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June. It is considered both countries' biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership treaty will take effect when both sides exchange documents on the ratification, the state-run Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korea ratified the treaty through a decree signed Monday by the country's president of state affairs, KCNA said, using one of Kim's titles.

North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament, the Supreme People's Assembly, has the right to ratify treaties but Kim can unilaterally ratify major ones, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

The treaty requires both countries to use all available means to provide immediate military assistance if either is attacked. It also calls for the two countries to actively cooperate in efforts to establish a "just and multipolar new world order" and strengthen cooperation on various sectors including peaceful atomic energy, space, food supply, trade and economy.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, (left), and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un pose for a photo during a signing ceremony of the new partnership in Pyongyang, North Korea, on June 19. (AP)

Some observers speculate the treaty's ratification in both countries could signal North Korea could formally enter the Russia-Ukraine war soon.

According to US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, up to 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia likely as part of the June treaty. Last week, Ukrainian officials said Ukraine and North Korean troops engaged in small-scale fighting while Ukraine's army fired artillery at North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk border region.

North Korea's troop dispatch threatens to escalate the almost three-year war. South Korea, the US

and their partners also worry about what Russia could give North Korea in return. Possible Russian transfer of sensitive technology to enhance North Korea's already-advancing nuclear and missile programs would be an alarming development for the US and its allies.

North Korea and Russia have been significantly strengthening their military and other cooperation. South Korea's spy agency said last month that North Korea had sent more than 13,000 containers of artillery, missiles and other conventional arms to Russia since August 2023 to replenish its dwindling weapons stockpiles.



Haiti's new Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé speaks to the press after his swearing-in ceremony in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Nov 11. (AP)

Haiti main airport shut down as violence surges and new prime minister sworn in

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Nov 12, (AP): Haiti's international airport shut down on Monday after gangs opened fire at a commercial flight landing in Port-Au-Prince, prompting some airlines to temporarily suspend operations as the country swore in a new interim prime minister who promised to restore peace.

The Spirit Airlines flight headed from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Port-Au-Prince was just hundreds of feet from landing in Haiti's capital when gangs shot at the plane striking a flight attendant, who suffered minor injuries, according to the airline, the US Embassy and flight tracking data. The flight was diverted and landed in the

Dominican Republic.

Photos and videos obtained by The Associated Press show bullet holes dotting the interior of a plane.

The shooting appeared to be part of what the US Embassy called "gang-led efforts to block travel to and from Port-au-Prince which may include armed violence, and disruptions to roads, ports, and airports." Spirit, JetBlue and American Airlines said Monday they were canceling flights to and from Haiti.

In other parts of Haiti's capital, firefights between gangs and police broke out. Rounds of gunfire echoed through the streets as heavily armed officers ducked behind walls and ci-

vilians ran in terror. In other upper class areas, gangs set fire to homes. Schools closed as panic spread in a number of areas.

The turmoil comes a day after a council meant to reestablish democratic order in the Caribbean nation fired the interim prime minister Garry Conille, replacing him with businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aimé. The council has been marked by infighting and three members were recently accused of corruption.

As he was sworn in, Fils-Aimé said his top priorities were to restore peace to the crisis-stricken nation and hold elections, which haven't been held in Haiti since 2016.

Mauritius opposition wins election by landslide

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 12, (AP): Mauritius' opposition coalition has won the country's election by a landslide, taking all seats in the country's parliament in a major rejection of the current government.

According to results released at various constituencies across the country throughout Monday, the governing coalition led by Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth failed to get any of the 62 seats available for voters to directly decide on.

Jugnauth conceded defeat before all results were announced, saying his Militant Socialist Movement coalition



Jugnauth

was headed for a huge defeat as it became clear that the opposition was winning in all of the country's 21 constituencies.

The Alliance for Change coalition's win will see the return of Navin Ramgoolam as the country's prime minister. He served as prime minister from 1995 to 2000 and again from 2005 to 2014.

Jugnauth, in office since 2017, had been seeking another five-year term in the Indian Ocean island nation, but his government faced corruption allegations after recordings of politicians and business people were leaked online.

"The population has decided to choose another team. I wish good luck to the country," Jugnauth said on Monday.

Official results that will include two seats from Rodrigues Island are expected to be released Tuesday, but the opposition has already won all 60 seats that have been announced.

Subcontinent

10 killed in Manipur: Ethnic organizations in parts of India's violence-wracked northeastern state shut schools and businesses Tuesday, protesting the killings of 10 people by paramilitary soldiers.

They called for an 11-hour shutdown in the hill districts of Manipur from 5 am Tuesday. Heavy gunfire was reported overnight in the periphery of the hills and the Imphal Valley.

Life was paralyzed in the area, with schools and businesses closed and people staying indoors. There were no vehicles on the road.

The Manipur state police said those killed Monday were "armed militants" and the soldiers fired at them after they attacked their post near the district town of Jiribam on Monday. (AP)

'Help arrest Hasina': A special tribunal in Bangladesh on Tuesday asked the international police organization Interpol to issue a red notice

for the arrest of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in connection with the deaths of hundreds of protesters during a mass uprising against her.



Hasina

Hasina fled to India on Aug. 5 with her close aides and former ministers, ending a 15-year rule.

Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus took over as the interim leader of the South Asian nation on Aug. 8, and later reconstituted the tribunal that once handled charges of crimes against humanity during the country's 1971 independence war against Pakistan.

B.M. Sultan Mahmud, a prosecutor at the tribunal, told The Associated Press that they wrote to Interpol through the police chief seeking assis-

tance from the France-based organization in the arrest of Hasina and others.

The Yunus-led government has promised to try Hasina and said that it would seek her extradition from India. (AP)

Officer held over bombing: A police officer has been arrested in connection with facilitating a suicide bomb attack at a mosque on the premises of a police compound in north-west Pakistan.

Provincial police chief Akhtar Hayyat announced the arrest of police constable Mohammad Wali at a news conference in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, on Tuesday.

Wali, who worked with the Peshawar police, is alleged to have shared a map of the compound with the suicide bomber who carried out an attack on the mosque on Jan. 29, 2023, killing 101 people, mostly police officers, and wounding 250 others. (AP)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+48.97	4,701.40	
SAUDI	-	TASI	-58.74	12,047.67	
JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	-157.23	39,376.09	
PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	-129.90	6,810.11	
EGYPT	-	EGX 30	-38.90	31,582.39	
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-382.33	93,232.56	

Business

Diraya campaign promoted during Gulf Bank student tour

Gulf Bank introduces students to saving, digital banking & fraud awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In its ongoing commitment to supporting the community and the "Diraya" campaign, Gulf Bank welcomed a group of students from the Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching. The visit aimed to educate the students on the bank's services, the importance of saving, and the risks associated with electronic fraud.

The visit included an introductory tour of the bank, where students received an in-depth explanation on how banking accounts function, as well as deposit and withdrawal services.

They were also introduced to modern digital products such as mobile banking applications and online banking services. Additionally, the students learned about conducting safe bank transfers.

The students were introduced to a range of benefits available at Gulf Bank, designed to encourage early saving and investing across various community segments. These include the Neo account for children, the Red account for youth, and the AlDanah Millionaire account, which offers the largest cash prize globally tied to a bank account, valued at KD 2 million.



A group photo of the Gulf Bank team with the teachers and students of the center.

The students were also briefed on the important role Gulf Bank plays in supporting the "Diraya" campaign, launched by the Cen-

tral Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association.

The campaign seeks to educate

bank clients about essential banking services and improve their ability to conduct transactions securely, ensuring safety while

promoting financial inclusion, monetary stability, and economic security. It focuses on raising awareness of clients' rights and

responsibilities, emphasizing the advantages of electronic financial transactions, and offering guidance on mitigating associated risks to achieve cybersecurity.

The students expressed their appreciation for the experience, noting that the visit offered a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of money management and explore modern financial services.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

General index up 0.21%

KD 1.39 billion in AUM for Markaz

Boursa markets strengthen amid geopolitical optimism

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Boursa Kuwait wrapped up Tuesday's trading session on a positive note, with all major indices recording gains. The General Index rose by 15.61 points (0.21%), closing at 7,283.05 points. Market activity was robust, with 686.8 million shares traded through 29,626 transactions, totaling KD 131.2 million (approximately USD 400 million).

In the Main Market, the index increased by 25.23 points (0.38%) to 6,664.78 points, with 475.9 million shares traded valued at KD 71.10 million (USD 216.8 million). The Premier Market Index also showed growth, rising 13.81 points (0.18%) to 7,798.58 points, with 210.8 million shares traded worth KD 60.13 million (USD 183.3 million). The Main 50 Index climbed 18.27 points (0.28%) to 6,591.56 points, with 332.7 million shares traded valued at KD 52.6 million (USD 160.4 million).

This positive trend follows Monday's session, which saw the General Index rise by 38.3 points (0.5%) to 7,267 points. Monday's trading volume reached 581 million shares across 26,908 transactions, amounting to KD 114 million (USD 347.7 million). The market capitalization increased by KD 228 million to KD 42.971 billion.

The upward momentum was attributed to optimism surrounding a stable geopolitical environment, the Federal Reserve's recent interest rate reduction, and strong third-quarter results from financial companies. Eight sectors recorded gains, led by the technology sector's 2.7% increase, while three sectors declined, with consumer goods dropping 3.63%.

At the stock level, 74 stocks advanced, with Montazahat leading at 12.87%, while 40 stocks declined, led by Hayat.com's 7.20% drop. Agility led in trading volume with 42.65 million shares, while Kuwait Finance House topped liquidity with trades valued at KD 12.94 million.

Notable gainers included Parks, Equipment, Mina, and Warba Capital, while Hayat Com, Unicab and Sahel experienced significant declines.

Market value rises over KD 2 bln

Kuwait stock market drives strong returns for local investment funds

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The local stock investment funds have demonstrated remarkable performance through the first 10 months of this year, driven by the strong overall performance of the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

Notably, the market value saw gains exceeding 2 billion dinars, contributing to positive returns across various funds.

The performance of these funds ranged from a high of 12.27 percent to a low of 0.16 percent. Among traditional Kuwaiti funds, Kamco Investment Fund led the pack with a return of 12.27 percent, while the National Kuwait Equity Fund secured second place with a gain of 9.06 percent.

For Kuwaiti Islamic investment funds, the top performer was Al Fajr Fund, managed by Wafra International Investment, which achieved a return of 8.1 percent. Kamco Islamic Fund followed with an 8.08 percent gain, and the Islamic Center Fund earned 7.2 percent.

In the category of traditional Gulf funds, the Gulf Momentum

Fund, managed by Kuwait Financial Centre, took the lead with an 8.2 percent return, while the Gulf Equity Investment Fund, managed by the National Investment Bank, posted a gain of 2.08 percent.

Gulf Islamic funds saw the Al Daraj Investment Fund, managed by National Investments, at the top with a return of 7.09 percent.

Among traditional Arab funds, the Markaz Fund for Excellent Returns, managed by the Financial Center, posted a gain of 6 percent, while the Tharwa Islamic Fund led the Arab Islamic funds with a return of 7.4 percent.

Despite the positive trend overall, October saw a dip in fund performance, indicating that the market remains vulnerable to volatility.

Geopolitical tensions, concerns about global economic growth, and fluctuations in oil prices may have contributed to these declines.

Fund managers are advised to remain cautious and adopt risk-reducing strategies, exploring safer investment opportunities in the face of uncertain global conditions.

Markaz records total revenues for 9M 2024 of KD 14.92 million

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" has reported its financial results for 9M 2024 with Total Revenues of KD 14.92 million with an increase of 6.25%, as compared to Total Revenues of KD 14.04 million in 9M 2023. Net Profit attributable to shareholders of Markaz was KD 3.35 million for Jan-September 2024, compared to KD 0.71 million in the same period last year.

Mr. Ali H. Khalil, Markaz's CEO, stated: "The Kuwaiti market witnessed a positive performance in Q3-2024, driven by strength in key sectors and positive corporate earnings. The political landscape remains stable, with continued focus on economic reforms and project implementation. The GCC Markets witnessed a similar performance for key sectors and due to the positive corporate earnings. The global investment landscape remains uncertain due to heightened geopolitical tensions."

Mr. Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, Managing Director, Wealth Management and Business Develop-



Ali Khalil, CEO at Markaz



Abdullatif W. Al-Nusif, MD - WMBD at Markaz

ment at Markaz, stated: "Markaz is delighted to report that Assets Under Management amounts to KD 1.39 billion as of 30 September 2024, compared to KD 1.16 as of 30 September 2023 that has increased by 19.84%. Strategic initiatives undertaken across asset management and investment banking underscore our commitment to client

satisfaction and innovation. By being both results driven and prioritizing continuous improvement, Markaz continues to enhance both operational best practices and underlying profitability. Looking ahead, Markaz is well placed to not only meet but exceed client expectations in a rapidly evolving financial landscape."

Seminar supports businesses in navigating region's evolving tax landscape

EY hosts its Annual Corporate Tax Seminar 2024 in Kuwait City

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: EY hosted its Kuwait Annual Corporate Tax Seminar 2024 in Kuwait City with the aim of guiding businesses in navigating the evolving tax landscape. The latest edition of the event provided an overview of the major developments in the tax landscape that have taken place in Kuwait and the wider region over the last eight months. It also reviewed expected changes that are likely to be introduced in the country's tax laws and regulations.

The seminar saw the participation of around 220C-suite executives and finance professionals from Kuwait-based local and international companies and various regulatory bodies. The event leveraged the knowledge and practical experience of EY's senior tax professionals to provide comprehensive insights that will help the participants understand major changes which may have impact on their businesses.

The agenda covered various aspects of the taxes that are currently imposed in Kuwait and in the MENA region. Key topics included Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Pillar 2, practice changes related to corporate taxes, zakat and national labor support tax (NLST) laws. The sessions also explored the potential implications of upcoming changes to the tax environment, such as the introduction of the business profits tax. Currently in the draft stage and expected to be released soon, the tax law will apply to all businesses operating in Kuwait, including companies and natural persons, with revenue exceeding the specified threshold.

Furthermore, the seminar examined regulatory updates and recent tax trends across the MENA region with a focus on the GCC that affect Kuwaiti businesses operating in other jurisdictions. These included the implementation of value-added tax (VAT) in other GCC countries, as well as the corporate income tax (CIT) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the qualified domestic minimum tax (QDMTT) in Bah-



EY Kuwait Tax Team

rain and e-invoicing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). In addition, the event covered the role of technology in the tax transformation journey and the hot topic of environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects.

Ahmed Eldessouky, EY Kuwait, Qatar and Oman Tax Leader, says:

"Kuwait is proactively working to diversify government revenues, promote foreign direct investment, enhance ease of doing business and create more transparency in its tax regime. The country is also gearing up to implement a new business profits tax, which is a step in the right direction and the need of the hour considering the changes in the global tax landscape. In addition, Kuwait signed agreements to prevent double taxation with the UAE and Qatar. We look forward to supporting our esteemed clients on their journey to navigate and comply with the upcoming taxes in the country."

Ahmed El Sayed, EY GCR



A session from EY Kuwait Tax Seminar 2024.

Tax Leader, says:

"The planned introduction of the business profits tax in Kuwait is a game-changing move. Well-regulated and fair taxation can boost economic stability, making the country more attractive to investors from around the world. This can lead to a surge in foreign investment, stimulating economic

growth. In addition, the increased revenue from taxes could help the nation diversify its economy, reducing its dependence on oil and financing sustainable projects. Finally, the implementation of taxes promotes transparency and accountability among companies, thereby creating a more responsible business environment."

Agility Global posts \$37m Q3 2024 net profit

EBIT jumps to \$104.6m, up 36% reflecting robust growth

ABU DHABI, Nov 12: Agility Global PLC, a multi-business owner and operator and long-term investor in global and regional businesses, today reported Q3 2024 earnings of \$37.1 million, or 0.36 cents per share. EBIT grew 36% to \$104.6 million, and revenue increased 16% to \$1.2 billion. (Note that figures for the comparable period are carved-out financials).



Tarek Sultan, Chairman Agility Global

For the first nine months of 2024, earnings stood at \$97.4 million, or 1.14 cents per share. EBIT grew 46% to \$292.7 million, and revenue increased 13% to \$3.3 billion.

"Agility Global maintains the healthy growth momentum seen since the beginning of the year. Our controlled businesses delivered double-digit EBIT growth. That growth was driven by the main three businesses: Menzies, Tristar and Agility Logistics Parks (ALP). Menzies saw growth in new operations in Europe and Asia, Tristar has grown in fuel business and its road and transport segment, and ALP grew in Saudi Arabia; and is further expanding in the Kingdom," said Agility Global Chairman Tarek Sultan. "On the investment side, the share

price of DSV, the company's largest investment, has been positively impacted by DSV's acquisition of Schenker. When the deal closes, expected in 2025, DSV will become the world's largest freight forwarder. Today, Agility is the largest investor in DSV. The increase in DSV's share price has resulted in an increase in the carrying value of our investment. Due to the accounting treatment, this increase will be reflected through equity and not through profit-and-loss statement."



Agility Global logo

Interim Dividends

Agility Global's board has approved the distribution of \$65 million as the second interim cash dividends for Q3 2024. Shareholders registered on the company's registrar as of the settlement date 21 November 2024 are entitled to the dividends.

Q3 2024 Performance

Controlled Segment

For Q3 2024, the consolidated EBIT of the controlled businesses was \$102 million; EBITDA was \$177.7 million; and revenue \$1.2 billion. This reflects increases of 20%, 11% and 16%, respectively, over the same period in 2023.

Aviation Services: Menzies

Menzies reported revenues of \$704 million and increase of 24% compared to same period last year, this was driven by several new operations including license wins in Spain, acquisitions in Portugal, new operations in Belgrade, and a new warehouse in Bangalore. Q3 EBIT stood at of \$60 million – an in-

crease of 55% over the same period a year prior and EBIT margin improved from approximately 6.8% to 8.5% as a result of efficiencies, synergies, and operational leverage. YTD EBIT increased 41% from \$103.1 million in 2023 to \$145.3 million in 2024.

Fuel Logistics: Tristar

Tristar a fully integrated fuel logistics business continued to deliver strong performance in the third quarter of 2024. Revenue stood at \$ 337.2 million with a growth of 23% and EBIT stood at \$34 million with a growth of 7% compared to Q3 2023.

Industrial Real Estate: Agility Logistics Parks

Agility Logistics Parks (ALP), a leading developer of warehouse parks and light industrial facilities, reported revenue of \$13.2 million and EBIT of \$9.6 million increases of 12% and 20%, respectively. ALP's growth was driven mainly by its Saudi Arabia operations. Recently, ALP announced a development of an additional 100k SQM of warehousing space in Riyadh, part of which will be operational during the first quarter of 2025.

Investments Segment

Agility Global holds non-controlling minority stakes in a number of businesses, both listed and non-listed. As of 30 September 2024, the carrying value of those stakes was roughly \$5.1

	Q3 2024 (Million USD)	Q3 2023 (Million USD)	Variance (%)	9M 2024 (Million USD)	9M 2023 (Million USD)	Variance (%)
Revenue	1,226.9	1,057.8	16%	3,314.5	2,938.9	13%
EBITDA	180.4	151.7	19%	517.3	408.6	27%
EBIT	104.6	76.8	36%	292.7	200.6	46%
Net Profit	37.1	0.8	4532%	97.4	3.5	2703%
EPS (cents)	0.36	0.01		1.14	0.04	

Number above are rounded.

billion an increase of around USD 485 million from December 31, 2023. The main investments in this segment are in DSV and Reem Mall.

DSV is a Copenhagen-based logistics company and is expected to become the world's number one freight forwarder when it completes its acquisition of Shenker, based in Germany. Agility Global owns a total of 19.3 million shares today, equivalent to more than 8% of DSV's capital, making it one of the Denmark-based company's largest shareholders. DSV's share price was boosted by the announcement that DSV will acquire Schenker. The upward movement in DSV's share price increased the carrying value of this investment, which was \$4 billion as of September 2024.

Reem Mall -Agility Global is an investor in Reem Mall on Abu Dhabi's Reem Island. Agility Global's investment in Reem Mall is through equity and convertible debt. The mall had a soft opening to the public in February 2023 and launched formally in May 2024. To date, 183 units are trading,

and almost 80% of Gross Leasable Area (GLA) is committed. More tenants are expected to announce openings in coming months. The mall is one of the region's first, fully integrated omnichannel retail ecosystem with digital, e-commerce, and logistics capabilities. It brings together all consumer and retail services to ensure a seamless customer experience.

Recap of Agility Global Q3 2024 Financial Performance

- Revenue increased 16% to \$1.2 billion.
- EBITDA increased 19% to \$180.4 million, with 15% margins.
- EBIT increased by 36% to \$104.6 million, with 9% margins.
- Net profit stood at USD 37.1 million equivalent to 0.36 cent per share.
- Agility Global enjoys a healthy balance sheet with \$ 11.4 billion in assets and USD 5.7 billion in equity.
- Operating cash flow was USD 393 million for the first 9 months of 2024. Agility Global spent a total of USD 180 million in CAPEX and investments for the same period.

Efforts to strengthen cybersecurity

KIB participates in 10th edition of 'Best Cyber Warrior' competition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) took part in the 10th edition of the "Best Cyber Warrior" competition, organized by the Cyber Operations Directorate of the Kuwait Army in collaboration with the U.S. Army Central Command and under the patronage of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef. KIB's participation in this significant event reflects its ongoing support for the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) banking awareness campaign and its commitment to enhancing the capabilities of national cadres in cybersecurity and information security. This engagement also seeks to strengthen cooperation with leading international cybersecurity organizations and to exchange expertise to address the growing challenges in this critical field.



KIB 'Let's Be Aware' flier

comprehensive risk assessment. Discussing the challenges associated with AI security, Al-Suwaidan stated: "We must be mindful of the potential obstacles when implementing this technology. Nonetheless, recent advancements in this field offer promising opportunities to improve security in the banking sector." He concluded his lecture saying that: "Through our participation in this event, we aim to strengthen our team's capabilities and acquire new expertise that will bolster our cybersecurity and provide better protection for our customers."

The competition took place at the Al-Jiwan Camp, with participation from 10 countries and 80 teams of contestants from various friendly and allied countries, as well as several military and civilian representatives from state ministries. The schedule was packed with lectures and workshops covering several strategic topics in cybersecurity, such as "Key Threats and Challenges at the National and Military Strategic Levels," "Zero Trust Architecture," and "API Attacks." It also included sessions on "Governance and Cybersecurity and the Role of Women in the Field," "Artificial Intelligence," and "Cyber Threat Intelligence."

It is worth noting that KIB's participation in this event underscores its commitment to bolstering cybersecurity efforts and developing its team's skills, contributing to improved efficiency, information security, and data protection on both local and international levels.



Al-Suwaidan

As part of the Bank's participation, Basil Al-Suwaidan, General Manager of the Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department at KIB, delivered a lecture titled "Embracing AI Security in the Financial Sector." Al-Suwaidan highlighted the importance of utilizing artificial intelligence to bolster security and counter the rising cyber threats faced by banking institutions. He emphasized that "cybersecurity has become an essential field in today's world, impacting all state institutions and serving as a fundamental pillar for protecting organizations and national sovereignty."

Al-Suwaidan added: "We must recognize that cyber threats are evolving rapidly, and it's essential to be prepared to address them with effective security strategies." He noted that AI can play a pivotal role in banking by improving operations, increasing efficiency, and enhancing security, highlighting the importance of using AI for

Alliance to offer clients unrivalled service offering

TRACCS and Accordience announce strategic global affiliate partnership

LONDON, Nov 12: TRACCS, the largest independent and homegrown communications consultancy in the MENA region, and Accordience, the parent company of global agency brands Grayling, Citigate Dewe Rogerson, Circle, Red Consultancy, and movement, announced a strategic global partnership bringing together decades of proven expertise and experience. This affiliation enables access to integrated, reputation-building communications services and solutions for leading organizations, with a worldwide network of more than 100 offices.



Mohamed Al Ayed, CEO of TRACCS and Sarah Scholefield, Group CEO of Accordience



TRACCS logo



Accordience logo

This unique partnership addresses the growing demand from corporates and organizations for seamless local, regional, and global communications delivered through a single, integrated team. By combining TRACCS' unrivalled MENA presence and expertise with Accordience's extensive international network, the alliance enables clients to reach and influence diverse audiences across multiple markets with cohesive, culturally resonant messaging.

Mohamed Al Ayed, CEO of TRACCS, said, "Communications is a game-changing industry, and for the past 27 years, TRACCS has had the privilege of playing a major role in inspiring, driving, and leading the evolution of the industry in the Middle East and North Africa. With the aspirations of all major global markets and businesses transcending borders, strategic communications plays a mission-critical role in ensuring unified messaging, positive brand reputation, and

successful business outcomes. This partnership with Accordience is more than just a business affiliation; it is a three-way commitment that positively impacts our combined portfolio of clients, our teams, and the communications ecosystem as a whole. Together, we have the passion, dedication, and know-how to deliver multi-stakeholder and multi-market com-

munications programs that hit the mark."

Sarah Scholefield, Group CEO of Accordience, said, "In today's connected world, businesses need communications partners who can think globally and act locally. This partnership with TRACCS addresses the critical need for organizations to maintain brand consistency across borders while adapting their messages to resonate in local markets. By combining Accordience's global reach and diverse sector expertise with TRACCS' breadth and depth across MENA, we're creating a powerful alliance that will enable our clients to navigate complex international landscapes with confidence. Whether it's a global brand looking to make an impact in the Middle East or a MENA-based company seeking to expand internationally, our partnership offers a unique, integrated approach to strategic communications."

The joint offer to clients and new business targets will combine a comprehensive suite of services including brand communications, corporate and public affairs, financial communications, and digital and social media strategies. It will serve clients across various sectors, including financial services, retail, FMCG, real estate, sport, energy, technology, infrastructure, and many more.

The TRACCS-Accordience affiliate partnership has already led to the successful delivery of multiple international client projects, showcasing the immediate value and seamless integration of the collaboration.

Environmental sustainability cooperation

Warba, Scientific Center sign strategic partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait - signed a strategic partnership with the Scientific Center, one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, to cooperate in the field of environmental conservation and sustainability and enhance joint efforts in this regard through a partnership that will extend until the end of 2025.

This partnership aims to launch environmental programs and initiatives targeting different age groups, especially youth and children, to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the environment and facing the challenges of climate change.

In this regard, the Chief Marketing and Corporate Communications Officer at Warba Bank, Dr. Mohammad Barakat, stated that this partnership comes within the Bank's commitment to social responsibility and its support for environmental efforts by adopting strategies that enhance integrated sustainability as well as implementing many initiatives, programs and projects concerned with protecting and preserving the environment.

Dr. Barakat added that the partnership will include an integrated program of initiatives and events that highlight environmental and climate issues, aiming to raise environmental awareness among all members of society, and is in line with Warba Bank's vision to preserve Kuwait's environment and support the transition towards a sustainable future.

Dr. Barakat also referred to Warba Bank's pioneering role in sustainable financing and launching products and services aimed at green transformation, stressing that the Bank's efforts in the field of sustainability are part of its plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, and its aspiration to reach net zero emissions in its operations by 2035.

For his part, Deputy General Manager - Visitors Engagement at the Scientific Center, Mr. Mohammad S. Al-Sanousi, expressed his pride in this partnership, saying: "The strategic partnership with Warba Bank comes within the framework of the joint Scientific Center's efforts to enhance envi-



Warba Bank and Scientific Center officials during the signing of strategic partnership.

ronmental awareness and establish the principle of sustainability in society." Al-Sanousi added: "This partnership

will contribute to providing distinctive workshops, educational programs, and environmental events throughout the

year, targeting all segments of society, and focusing in particular on youth and children. The aim of these activities is to educate the younger generations about the importance of protecting the environment and preserving its natural resources to achieve a more sustainable future. It is worth noting that this partnership is not just a temporary cooperation, but rather part of our vision to enhance the role of the Scientific Center as a leading institution in environmental awareness and sustainable education."

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

Reminder Declaration

Invitation to Attend the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc)

Kuwaiti Shareholding Company (Public)

The Board of Directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company is pleased to invite you to attend the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting. Which will be held on Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 10:30 a.m., at the Company's Headquarters - Olympia Mall / West Office Towers, where Shareholders shall be able to attend by their physical presence or electronically through Kuwait Clearing Company's platforms specified for holding Annual General Assembly Meetings to discuss the agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting Agenda

Approval of amending the text of Article No. (17) of the Article of Association

Text before modification:

The company may purchase no more than 10% of its total shares in accordance with Law (15/1960) regarding commercial companies and its amending laws, regulations and executive decisions, provided that the purchase is not financed from the company's capital.

Text After modification:

First

- The company may buy, sell, or deal in an amount not exceeding 10% of its total shares after obtaining the approval of the company's general assembly and the Capital Markets Authority.
- It is permissible to use treasury shares for the purpose of encouraging qualified employees to work for the company and to introduce a stock purchase option system for employees prepared by the Board of Directors.
- Selling or granting the company's employees all or part of its shares within the employee stock purchase option program after issuing a decision from the ordinary general assembly of shareholders approving this and in accordance with the regulating rules approved by the general assembly of shareholders.

Electronic Attendance: Shareholders wishing to attend the meeting electronically are required to register their names using the electronic voting service eAGM by filling up the intended form available on the website of the Kuwait Clearing Company (www.maqasa.com) in addition to providing the required documents to obtain the username and password which shall authorize them to attend and vote electronically on the agenda items of the Extraordinary General Assembly. Participation and voting will start on Sunday November 10th, 2024 until 08:00 a.m. of the day of the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting scheduled on Wednesday 20 November 2024, as per the Policies and Procedures Guidelines published on Kuwait Clearing Company's website with regards to convening the general assemblies through the electronic systems.

Physical Attendance: Shareholders wishing to attend the meeting physically should visit the Investor Relations Department at the Company's Headquarters - Olympia Mall / West Office Towers. Shareholders shall bring with them their share certificates or the original transfer receipt to obtain the attendance invitations and the EGM agenda.

In the absence of a quorum for the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting another meeting with the same agenda items and same place will be held on Wednesday, 4 December 2024, at 10:30 a.m. whereby, the attendance and voting shall be either physically or electronically.

Board of Directors



A 6-month program in collaboration with 6 prestigious local & international institutions

NBK launches 'Pioneers Program' for employee leadership development

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: As part of its continuous endeavors to enhance the career development of its human resources and support them in building a successful career, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has launched a talent management training program titled "NBK Pioneers Program", to develop and enhance the leadership skills of its employees and help them advance in their careers, which ensures high-quality human capital being the bank's most valuable asset.

The new program announced in a ceremony held yesterday at NBK's headquarters will run for 6 months until May 15, 2025, specifically targets high potential and high performing employees, especially in customer-facing divisions including Domestic Branches Division, Direct Sales Division, Call Center, Business Banking. The material in this program is much varied and intense in order to cover all opportunities and dimensions that they will face in their careers including soft and technical skills, which will reflect positively on their performance and qualify them to play a greater role in the bank's success and growth in the future.

NBK's partners in delivering the NBK Pioneers program include a number of local and international training institutions including: Lifelong, CODED, Trusted Advisor, Mawaarid, Scotwork, and Euromoney.

This learning journey prioritizes experiential learning and ensures that Pioneers learn by experiencing rather than passively. Covering various themes throughout their journey which include



Employee training at NBK.

several topics related to Impact Skills, Digital Transformation, Technical Skills, Leadership Skills, Interpersonal Skills, and innovation.

The program also addresses key topics including, but not limited to Self-marketing, AI in Retail Banking, Mega Trends In Technology, Fraud Prevention, Ad-

vanced Selling Skills, Business Etiquette, Leading High Performing Teams, Generation Gap And The New Tech Savvy Customer- amongst many others.

Talent Development

Commenting on the launch of the NBK Pioneers Program, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani,

GM - Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "Launching this program comes in light of the growing needs and demands of skills and talents in the banking sector, and as part of NBK's efforts to develop and upskill its high potential employees, and to qualify them to take on leadership roles in the future."

"The journey of Group Human Resources with the development of NBK employees is a continuing process that begins with attracting high-caliber talent to join the bank, continues with enhancing their skills and developing their performance through various training programs and workshops, and culminates with qualifying them to take on leadership roles in the bank through specialized training programs," he elaborated.

Unique work environment

"NBK stands out with a unique work environment, akin to international peers, raising the slogan "More Than a Workplace" by continuously providing employees with exceptional career development opportunities. This includes diverse training and development programs delivered in cooperation with leading local and international educational institutions to develop their professional as well as their personal skills," he noted.

"This unique work environment makes NBK an employer of choice for fresh graduates and increases employees' loyalty, reflecting the bank's firm belief that the success of any organization is dependent on diverse and high-quality talent," he added.

It is worth mentioning that investing in human capital is instrumental in NBK's culture and strategy to achieve its goals. The bank also stands out among Kuwaiti banks and companies in terms of attracting national talent from fresh graduates and providing them with suitable job opportunities.



Al-Zamami and Alqadeeri at the panel discussion.

Under the patronage of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense & Interior

KFH participates in Gulf Conference and Exhibition for Cybersecurity Challenges

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In line with its constant efforts to raise awareness of cyber fraud and threats, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the 5th Gulf Conference and Exhibition for Cybersecurity Challenges. The conference, titled "A Secure Digital Environment", was hosted in Kuwait under the patronage of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior, His Excellency Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

KFH Senior Manager of Fraud Risk, Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Zamami, participated in a panel discussion on "Banking Data Privacy and Combating Cyber Attacks". Moderated by KFH Executive Manager of Cyber and Information Security Risk, Nasser Alqadeeri, the session brought together participants and experts from the Kuwaiti banking sector.

During his participation, Al-Zamami explained the concept of fraud in general, with a specific focus on cyber fraud. He highlighted the various

methods of fraud that pose a threat to both individuals and the community. Al-Zamami emphasized that fraud is not solely confined to financial matters. Indeed, it encompasses a wide range of practices that fall under the definition of fraud.

Additionally, he discussed the reasons, motives and justifications that drive individuals to commit fraud, illustrating these points with real-life examples. He commended the efforts of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Banking Association and local banks to combat these crimes. These efforts raise awareness of the importance of maintaining data privacy. They also emphasize avoiding responding to suspicious requests and focus on strengthening cybersecurity measures in vital sectors. He highlighted KFH's successful endeavors in the Diraya campaign for disseminating banking awareness.

Al-Zamami affirmed KFH's commitment to continue the efforts of adopting flexible practices while adhering to local and international cyber-

security regulatory and supervisory standards, serving the public interest of protecting data. He stressed the importance of utilizing the latest technology at KFH to boost its cybersecurity, one of the major factors for digital transformation.

He highlighted the significance of organizing similar conferences and forums to exchange expertise and information around cybersecurity and digital safety. These events are also an opportunity to address the best solutions that confront the growing challenges that are posing as a major threat in light of the digital transformation worldwide.

Al-Zamami lauded Kuwait's role in hosting the conference since 2018. He also praised the country's efforts to develop the security system and pave the way for improving services through the conference and the panel discussions, along with the exhibition in which the latest solutions and technologies are demonstrated.



Operating profit reaches KD 3.95 mln

KIC reports KD 8.3 million net profit for 3rd quarter of 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait Insurance Company has announced its financial results for period ending 30/09/2024. The net profit achieved for the current period amounted to KD 8.3 million (USD 27.2 million) with Earnings per share of Fils 44.65 (US Cents 14.6), along with, the realized gain from the sale of investments up till the third quarter of 2024, amounted to KD 1.4 million (USD 4.6 million) which, as per the IFRS 9, is included in the retained earnings directly and not in the income statement.

The Gross Written Premium for the current period amounted to KD 53.9 million (USD 176.7 million) compared to KD 42.4 million (USD 139 million) for the same period last year. This represents an increase of KD 11.5 million (USD 37.7 million), equivalent to a 27% growth.

Earned premium for the current period amounted to KD 55.1 million (USD 180.6 million) compared to KD 33.5 million (USD 109.8 million) for the same period last year. This represents an increase of KD 21.6 million (USD 70.8 million), equivalent to a 64% growth.

Operating profit reached KD 3.95 million (USD 12.9 million) for the current period.

Investment income for the current period amounted to KD 5.6 million (USD 18.5 million), compared to KD 5.1 million (USD 16.7 million) for the same period last year, representing a 10% increase.

The company's CEO, Mr. Sami Sharif, stated that our recent successes are the result of significant efforts over the past years to establish a strong foundation, enabling us to achieve sustainable growth in both profits and premiums. This success is also attributed to our robust and stable financial base.

In recognition of our achievements, the company was awarded "Most Trusted Insurance Company" for 2024 by The Global Economics magazine, and "Most Financially Stable Insurance Company" for 2023 by the same publication, which specializes in annual rankings in the fields of economy and business. Additionally, KIC was honored with the "Best Company in General Insurance for 2023" award by International Finance magazine.

Mr. Sharif highlighted that, in addition to our impressive sales and profit growth, this year has been marked by significant achievements. Notably, our company's credit ratings were reaffirmed by AM Best and Moody's credit rating agencies, with an A- (Excellent) and A3 rating respectively, both with a stable outlook. We take pride in maintaining these ratings, as they position us as leaders among local and regional companies in the insurance sector.

On another note, we have made significant progress in our digitalization project. Currently, customers can easily download some insurance documents on their mobile phones by scanning a barcode. Soon, all insurance documents will be available for download, in



Sami Sharif

line with the new requirements set by the Insurance Regulatory Unit. Additionally, we launched a travel insurance campaign to coincide with the summer season, promoting it through social media channels and at Kuwait International Airport's Pearl Lounge.

In its commitment to corporate social responsibility, Kuwait Insurance Company (KIC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity. Through this partnership, KIC aims to sponsor specialized programs in science and technology for children and youth, helping to develop their skills and talents. Also, the company has collaborated with Tadwire to collect and recycle electronic waste. This is the part of company's commitment and belief in the importance of applying sustainability principles and solutions in all forms.

Additionally, KIC sponsored the Kuwait Sustainability Exhibition, promoting a culture of sustainability and raising awareness about the importance of creating a sustainable society for future generations. In collaboration with the Kuwait Food and Relief Bank for the second consecutive year, KIC conducted its charitable campaign, "Iftar for the Fasting Person," distributing Iftar meals to fasting workers and individuals with limited income.

Kuwait Insurance Company is dedicated to investing in and developing its staff by providing training and enrolling them in educational programs. This initiative enhances their ability to deliver top-tier insurance services to organizations, individuals, and stakeholders, thereby serving the interests of both society and the State of Kuwait.

Looking forward, we are excited about the many accomplishments yet to come. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to achieving our goals, including the Board of Directors, shareholders, and all company employees.

In conclusion, Mr. Sharif expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Insurance Regulatory Unit for raising the standards of the Kuwait Insurance sector globally and for making the Insurance activities regulated and organized in the State of Kuwait. In addition to the above Mr. Sharif would also commend the Capital Markets Authority, the Ministry of Commerce, and all regulatory bodies in Kuwait for their active role in fostering a professional business environment.

Revolutionizing results & transforming knowledge into power for enterprises

ZainTECH & Tencent collaborate to introduce advanced Digital Twin applications regionally

DUBAI, Nov 12: ZainTECH, the integrated digital solutions provider of Zain Group, announces a compelling collaboration with Tencent Cloud, a global technology leader, to further enrich digital transformation initiatives across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through the integration of Tencent Cloud's cutting-edge Digital Twin technology onto ZainTECH's enterprise solutions.

This strategic partnership is a significant step towards empowering enterprises and government entities with innovative solutions that leverage the power of digital twins to optimize business operations, enhance decision-making processes, and drive sustainable growth in the digital era. The companies will capitalize on Tencent Cloud's expertise in this area and ZainTECH's deep understanding of the regional market dynamics and customer needs.

Tencent Cloud's Digital Twin technology offers a sophisticated platform for creating virtual replicas of physical assets, processes, and systems, enabling organizations to simulate, analyze, and optimize their operations with precision and efficiency. By harnessing this capability, businesses can gain valuable insights, streamline processes, and drive inno-



ZainTECH x Tencent picture

vation across various industries.

Commenting on the collaboration, Andrew Hanna, CEO of ZainTECH said, "This collaboration underscores our commitment to delivering transformative solutions that enable organizations to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Integrating Tencent Cloud's technology into our digital transformation initiatives will empower our clients to unlock new opportunities for growth and efficiency. This partnership exemplifies our ded-

ication to driving innovation and delivering tangible value to our customers through strategic collaborations with global technology leaders."

Digital twin technology is enjoying a widening range of applications, including testing new designs for equipment or spaces; conducting diagnostics on organizational health; and enabling more effective city management. ZainTECH's expanding portfolio of products and solutions, including cloud, cybersecurity,

big data, drones and robotics, modern infrastructure, and digital solutions can all benefit from the application of digital twin technology, as we help accelerate our clients' time-to-value.

Dan Hu, Vice President of Tencent Cloud International, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) commented, "We are excited to partner with ZainTECH, a trusted leader in digital transformation, to bring our advanced Digital Twin solutions to the MENA market. Together, we will empower organizations to harness the power of digital technologies and unlock new avenues for growth and innovation."

According to ZainTECH estimates, Digital Twin technology will revolutionize results and transform knowledge into power for enterprises:

- Enhanced Operational Efficiency: Reduce maintenance cost by up to 30%
- Predictive Maintenance: Cut downtime by up to 20%
- Energy Savings: Optimize energy use by up to 15%
- Faster Time-to-Market: Speed up product development cycles by up to 30%
- Risk Mitigation: Lower compliance costs by 50%
- Data-Driven Revenue Models: Identify new streams through performance-based services



Some photos from the FAIPS DPS Grade 2 Annual Day celebration.

Students present colorful 'Fitness Fiesta' performances

FAIPS DPS Grade 2 students showcase talent on Annual Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The stage at FAIPS DPS transformed into a vibrant canvas as Grade 2 students showcased their talents and aspirations on the Annual Day. The Fitness Fiesta was a dazzling spectacle, filled with color, energy, and joy. Young performers captivated the audience with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and unwavering belief in themselves.

The event was a celebration of holistic development, emphasizing the importance of co-curricular activities alongside academics. The school auditorium buzzed with excitement as parents, teachers and guests gathered to witness the little stars shine.

ered to witness the little stars shine.

The program commenced with the Kuwait National Anthem and a recitation of the Holy Quran. Principal Ravi Ayanoli extended a warm welcome to the chief guest, Ms. Eman M. Al Awadhi, Group Senior Vice President of Corporate Communication at KIPCO, and the guest of honor, Dr. Susovana Sanjit Nair, Vice President of the Indians Doctors Forum. Special guest Ms. Shaima Al Ansari, Director of Private Education from the Ministry of Private Education, also graced the occasion.

Principal Ravi highlighted the significance of building a strong foundation for young minds and emphasized the importance of parental and teacher collaboration. The subsequent performances, a fusion of dance, music, and sports were a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students. From graceful yoga poses to energetic dance routines, the children's performances were a visual treat. The audience was mesmerized by the synchronized movements, colorful costumes, and infectious energy. Parents beamed with pride as they witnessed their children's confidence and stage presence.

The chief guest and other guests were impressed by the students' talent and the supportive environment fostered by the school. Ms. Eman commended the students and teachers for creating such a positive and inspiring event.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Headmistress Ms. Seema Bhatnagar, who emphasized the importance of nurturing well-rounded individuals. The 'Fitness Fiesta' will undoubtedly be cherished as a memorable milestone in the lives of the students, parents, and teachers.

A legacy of excellence

ICSK clinches 21st title at the CBSE Kuwait Athletics Meet

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Indian Community School, Kuwait, set a remarkable standard of excellence, securing its 21st consecutive Championship Trophy at the 26th CBSE Kuwait Cluster Athletics Meet held from 3rd to 5th November, 2024, at Al Shabab Sports Club in Al Ahmadi. This outstanding victory marked yet another milestone in ICSK's legacy of athletic achievement.

Competing against 20 other CBSE schools in Kuwait, ICSK showcased exceptional talent and dedication, claiming victory with a commanding lead of 165 points. This win underscores not just the strength of its athletes, but also the school's commitment to fostering well-rounded individuals who excel in both academics and sports.

ICSK athletes bagged 40 gold, 12 silver, and 4 bronze medals. In addition, the school set 4 new meet records and won 8 individual championships. The new meet records were set in 4x100m relay for U-14 Girls by Anam Arif Khanzada, Laibah Syed, Prisha Acharand Ann Elizabeth, 200m for U-17 Girls by Anugraha Susan Varghese, Discus Throw for U-17 Boys by Ron Niju, Long Jump for U-19 Boys by Kiran Santosh Kumar.

ICSK dominated all six age categories: Under-14 Girls, Under-14 Boys, Under-17 Girls, Under-17 Boys, Under-19 Girls and Under-19 Boys. Notably, Jaision Donal (U-14 Boys), Laaibah Syed (U-14 Girls), Anand Arjun (U-17 Boys), Anugraha Susan Varghese (U-17 Girls), Nisar Fahimuddin (U-19 Boys), Deon Daniel Lewis (U-19 Boys), Hellone Mathew (U-19 Girls) and Sania Shajan (U-19 Girls) were crowned individual champions.

The success was made possible by the dedication of ICSK's athletics team, led by Dr. K. Shyam, Head of the Department, Physical Education, Athletic Team Incharge and Track Events Coach, along with Murali Manickam (Throws Coach), Mrs. Sharafali Aranganod (Jumps Coach), and Mrs. Ipparla Lakshmi Devi (Track Events Coach), all under the leadership of Dr. V. Binumon., Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK.

The success of ICSK at the 26th CBSE Kuwait Cluster Athletics Meet is a testament to the relentless effort, discipline, and teamwork of its athletes, coaches and staff. By winning in all six age categories and setting new meet records, ICSK has once again proven its approach to balancing academic excellence with sporting achievement. The school continues to inspire its students to aim for greatness, nurturing them into not only skilled athletes but also well-rounded individuals who embody the values of leadership, perseverance and integrity.



A group photo of the ICSK CBSE Cluster Athletics Meet participants with coaches.



Some photos from the ICSK's CBSE Cluster Athletics Meet.

Huge turnout for free medical services

Indian Dentists Alliance joins hands with UP NRI Forum for dental screening camp

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Indian Dentists Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), Indian Doctors Forum, Kuwait Heart Foundation and Kuwait Red Crescent Society took part in the successful medical and dental screening camp organized by UP NRI Forum benefiting hundreds of residents in Kuwait.

Held at Salmiya Indian Model School, Salmiya, the well-organized camp saw a large turnout, providing essential healthcare services to those in need. The IDAK dental team, led by Dr. Prashanth R. and Dr. Ajay Vazhiyodan, was supported by a dedicated group of doctors, including Dr. Dhanalakshmi, Dr. Nadia Shoukat, Dr. Jane John Thomas, Dr. Tiny Elsa Thomas, Dr. Sujia Mary John, Dr. Shaikh Reshamwala, Dr. Shashikala Savla, Dr. Megha Jen-



A photo from the dental screening camp.

son, and Dr. Jubin Easo Jose, who volunteered their time and expertise for the community.

The event was graced by Manas Raj Patel, First Secretary at the Embassy of India, Kuwait. He expressed his appreciation towards IDAK for the initiative and emphasized the importance of community-driven healthcare efforts and the positive impact they have on public well-being.

IDAK expressed its gratitude to UP-NRI Forum President Zeeshan Ullah Khan and General Secretary Shafaq Mumtaz for their professional planning and execution of the event. In a show of appreciation, Mumtaz presented a memento to IDAK General Secretary Dr. Jijan Sam Thomas, recognizing the association's dedication and service.

A photo from the event.

Event honors community spirit

KMRM Pearl Jubilee and Harvest Festival concludes with spectacular celebrations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The momentous year-long Pearl Jubilee and Harvest Festival of the Kuwait Malankara Rite Movement (KMRM) culminated in a series of vibrant and resplendent ceremonies. The day commenced with KMRM Senior Vice President Joseph Kuriakos raising the KMRM flag, igniting the spirit of celebration for this grand occasion.

The closing festivities unfolded with an awe-inspiring sector- and area-wise harvest rally at the Jleeb Al Shuyouk United International Indian School courtyard, accompanied by resounding chenda drums, traditional musical ensembles, various folk art forms, and symbols of agricultural heritage. His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, Head and Father of the Malankara Catholic Church, inaugurated the grand general assembly, embodying the unity and reverence of the congregation.

Presiding over the grand finale of the Pearl Jubilee, KMRM President Babuji Bathery led an inspiring session, where KMRM Spiritual Director Rev. Dr. Thomas Kanjirakalil delivered a stirring introductory address. Cor Episcopo Rev. John Thundiath, GCC Coordinator of the Malankara Catholic Church, followed with a benedictory address that resonated deeply with attendees. Distinguished speakers, including visiting clergy Rev. Dr. Titus John Cheravallil O.I.C. and Rev. Fr. Severios Thomas, Advisory Board Chairman Jojimon Thomas, United Indian International School Director Joel Jacob, Metro Medical Group Chairman & CEO Mustafa Hamza, Joji Varghese Vellappalli,

Sharon Tharakan, Jose Varghese, Shinu M. Joseph, Jilto James, Bindu Manoj, and Liju Parakal, further graced the event with eloquent and heartfelt messages.

His Beatitude honored Thomas Pattiyani and Geevarghese Mathew with the distinguished "SaptatiPattam" in recognition of their seventy-year journey, as well as members who have quietly yet unwaveringly served the Church in Kuwait for three decades. The Ahmadi Area, crowned as the champions of the "Projwella" art and cultural competitions, and the victors of the Ivania Season X grand finale quiz competition were celebrated with applause and gratitude. Special mementos were also presented to Mar Grigoris Award recipients Merin Abraham and Nia Ann Sam, for their exceptional achievements in grades 10 and 12.

In a moment of poignant artistry, Master Dino John Thomas and A.E. Mathew presented His Beatitude Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Catholicos with a meticulously crafted portrait on canvas. Souvenir Committee Convener Shamon Jacob then presented a commemorative compilation of the Pearl Jubilee events to His Beatitude, marking its official release to Souvenir Committee Coordinator Liju Abraham.

KMRM General Secretary Binu K. John extended an enthusiastic and warm welcome to the multitude gathered for this magnificent harvest festival and Pearl Jubilee concluding session. The event concluded with heartfelt gratitude delivered by Treasurer Rana Varghese, leaving a lasting impression of unity, faith, and cultural pride.



A group photo from the IDAK and UP NRI Forum dental screening camp.

Scott's spectacle-fueled return to the Coliseum

Washington steals the show in 'Gladiator II'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 12. (AP) — Rome teeters on the brink in Ridley Scott's "Gladiator II." Its fall is said to be imminent. The dream it once symbolized is dead. The once high-minded ideals of the Roman Empire have deteriorated across a venal land now ruled by a pale-faced emperor.

On the throne is Geta (Joseph Quinn), who sits alongside his sniveling brother, Caracalla (Fred Hechinger). The heart of this Rome, of course, is the Coliseum, where throngs cheer for the gladiators who fight and die. There, the ageless Scott remains remarkably at home. The arena, with its eruptions of spectacle and violence, is a stand-in for the director's own vision of the big screen: Go big or go home.

This dichotomy - a fallen society and its insatiable need for entertainment - is the clever and not altogether flattering backdrop of the "Gladiator" films. Part two, set 20 years after the events of the first movie, brings a new combatant to the Coliseum - a mysterious outsider named Lucius Verus, played by Paul Mescal. And to answer the inevitable question, yes. Yes, I was quite entertained.

"Gladiator II" isn't quite the prestige film the first one, a best-picture winner, was in 2001. It's more a swaggering, sword-and-sandal epic that prizes the need to entertain above all else. No one in "Gladiator II" understands that more than Denzel Washington. His performance as the Machiavellian power broker Macrinus is a delicious blur of robes and grins - so compellingly over-the-top that he nearly reaches 1990s Al Pacino standards.

Interests

Inside this Rome are scattered interests in toppling it, including Marcus Acacius, a decorated general who has just returned from a successful campaign taking Numidia in northwest Africa. (That siege makes the movie's blistering opening, with an armada racing at almost NASCAR speed toward the walled city, with towers on the bows of the boats to scale the parapets.)

Acacius is a loyal Roman but, when he learns that the emperors have only more bloodlust for further territory and more war, he and his wife, Lucilla (Connie Nielsen) begin plotting to overthrow the brothers.

In a movie where everyone nurtures some secret, few stay hidden long. Foremost among them is Lucius Verus, a warrior in Numidia who's taken prisoner and forced to fight as a gladiator. He's the son of Lucilla and Maximus (Crowe in "Gladiator"). Following the events of that film, Lucilla sent him, an heir to the empire, to Numidia to grow up outside of the empire's power struggles.

Mescal, the terrific Irish actor of "After-sun" and "All of Us Strangers," smoothly steps into a blockbuster arena for the first time. "This one is interesting," says Macrinus, eyeing him for the first time. Mescal's Lucius is vengeful - the Roman army kills his warrior wife in the Numidia battle. "Rage pours out of you like milk," Macrinus says, admiringly. The glint of mischief in Mescal's eyes gives Lucius a little more character than your average revenge-seeking gladiator.

We watch as Lucius cunningly survives arena after arena. Meanwhile, Macrinus manipulates him to steer the public's routing interest away from the emperor. It's a rich if slightly cartoonish tapestry of palace intrigue, with Macrinus deftly pulling all the strings.

Power

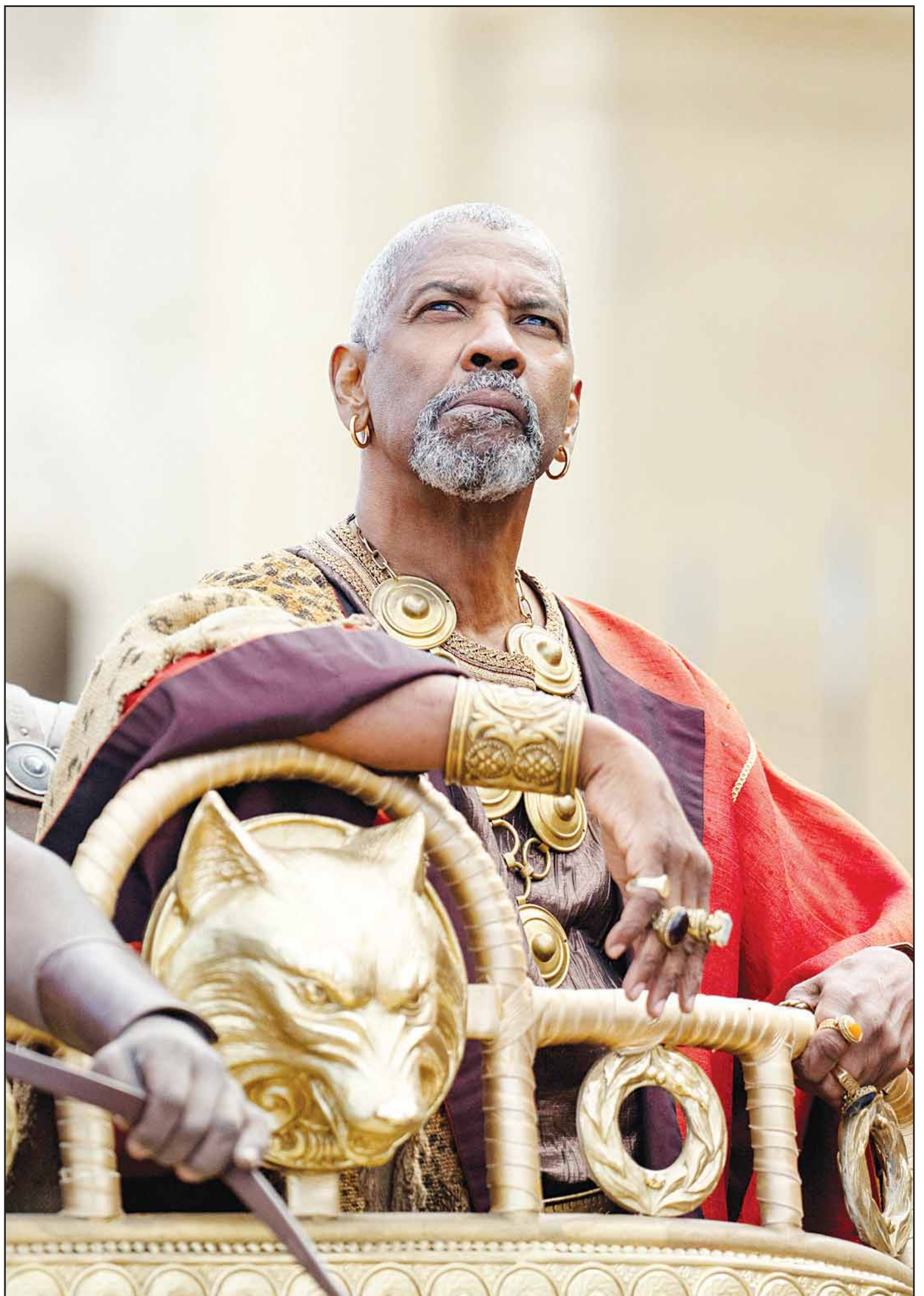
But, really, none of the power machinations are as compelling as the increasingly carnivalesque scenes of the Coliseum. In the gladiators' first trip there, they're greeted by man-eating monkeys. Next, it's a rider atop a giant, charging rhinoceros. Then, the piece de resistance: a flooded Coliseum festering with sharks. There are even little mock islands with palm trees spread about.

Now, "Gladiator II" may not stand up to much inquiry from historians. (Some issues were also taken with Scott's last historical epic, "Napoleon," which likewise was scripted by David Scarpa). But this is not a movie built for accuracy. It's made for taking a few bits of history and inflating them into a feast and the charms of watching Washington's Macrinus brandish a head recently relieved of its body.

Yes, heads do roll in Scott's "Gladiator" sequel. Macrinus succeeds in whipping Rome into a frenzy. In fact, he does it so easily and guilefully that, once things begin unraveling for him, the air leaves "Gladiator II." You don't quite believe his recklessness after he so patiently and artfully turned the screws.

Nevertheless, two possible successors emerge - Lucius, who has a birthright to the throne, and Macrinus, who comes to within its grasp purely by his own wit. Is it any wonder that I was rooting for Macrinus, all the way? How could you not, with Washington chewing scenery like this and making zesty (and rather apt) pronouncements like: "That, my friend, is politics!"

"Gladiator II," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "strong bloody violence." Running time: 148 minutes. Three stars out of four.



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Denzel Washington in a scene from 'Gladiator II.' (AP)



Pedro Pascal in a scene from 'Gladiator II.' (AP)

Course to examine singer's influence on Black culture and politics

Beyoncé, her legacy to feature in new Yale course

NEW YORK, Nov 12. (AP) — With a record 99 Grammy nominations and acclaim as one of the most influential artists in music history, pop superstar Beyoncé and her expansive cultural legacy will be the subject of a new course at Yale University next year.

Titled "Beyoncé Makes History: Black Radical Tradition, Culture, Theory & Politics Through Music," the one-credit class will focus on the period from her 2013 self-titled album through this year's genre-defying "Cowboy Carter" and how the world-famous singer, songwriter and entrepreneur has generated awareness and engagement in social and political ideologies.

Yale University's African American Studies Professor Daphne Brooks intends to use the performer's wide-ranging repertoire, including footage of her live performances, as a "portal" for students to learn about Black intellectuals, from Frederick Douglass to Toni Morrison.

"We're going to be taking seriously the ways in which the critical work, the intellectual work of some of our greatest thinkers in American culture resonates with Beyoncé's music and thinking about the ways in which we can apply their philosophies to her work" and how it has sometimes been at odds with the "Black radical intellectual tradition," Brooks said.

Beyoncé, whose full name is Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter, is not the first performer to be the subject of a college-level course. There have



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

been courses on singer and songwriter Bob Dylan over the years and several colleges and universities have recently offered classes on singer Taylor Swift and her lyrics and pop culture legacy. That includes law professors who hope to engage a new generation of lawyers by using a famous celebrity like Swift to bring context to complicated, real-world concepts.

Professors at other colleges and universities have also incorporated Beyoncé into their courses or offered classes on the superstar.

Brooks sees Beyoncé in a league of her own, crediting the singer with using her platform to "spectacularly elevate awareness of and engagement with grassroots, social, political ideologies and movements" in her music, including the Black Lives Matter movement and Black feminist commentary.

"Can you think of any other pop musician who's invited an array of grassroots activists to participate in these longform multimedia album projects that she's given us since 2013," asked Brooks. She noted how Beyoncé has also tried to tell a story through her music about "race and gender and sexuality in the context of the 400-year-plus history of African-American subjugation."

"She's a fascinating artist because historical memory, as I often refer to it, and also the kind of impulse to be an archive of that historical memory, it's just all over her work," Brooks said. "And you just don't see that with any other artist."

Brooks previously taught a well-received class on Black women in popular music culture at Princeton University and discovered her students were most excited about the portion dedicated to Beyoncé. She expects her class at Yale will be especially popular, but she's trying to keep the size of the group relatively small.

For those who manage to snag a seat next se-

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly are expecting to grow their family.

Fox announced her pregnancy in a social media post Monday. She appeared in a photo covered in black ink while holding her baby bump and another of a pregnancy test that said "Yes."

"Nothing is ever really lost, welcome back," the actor said in the post, tagging her fiancé's song "Last November."

The couple spoke about experiencing a miscarriage more than a year ago. They announced their engagement in 2022.

Fox, 38, was married to actor Brian Austin



Fox

Green from 2010 to 2021. They have three sons together.

Machine Gun Kelly, 34, whose real name is Colson Baker, has a daughter from a previous relationship. (AP)

NEW YORK: Toy giant Mattel says it "deeply" regrets an error on the packaging of its "Wicked" movie-themed dolls, which mistakenly links toy buyers to a pornographic website.

The error gained attention on social media over the weekend, where numerous users shared photos of the URL printed on the back of the boxes for the special edition dolls, which feature characters from the movie adaptation of "Wicked" set to hit theaters later this month. Instead of linking to Universal Pictures' official WickedMovie.com page, the website listed leads to an adult film site that requires consumers to be over 18 to enter.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, Mattel said it was "made aware of a misprint

on the packaging of the Mattel Wicked collection dolls," which it said are primarily sold in the U.S. "We deeply regret this unfortunate error and are taking immediate action to remedy this," the company added.

Mattel did not confirm whether this action included removing unsold products with the incorrect link from stores. But as of Monday morning, at least some of these "Wicked" dolls appeared to be no longer available or not in stock on sites like Amazon, Target and Mattel's.

In the meantime, the company is advising consumers who already have the dolls to discard their packaging or obscure the link - and contact Mattel's customer service for more information.

Mattel unveiled its special "Wicked" collection earlier this year. Back in July, a promotion shared on Instagram showed Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, who star as Elphaba and Glinda in Universal Pictures' upcoming film, seeing the line's singing dolls for the first time. (AP)

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



RECALL VEHICLES



LITE ACE (MY-2023,2024)

VIN:MHKBF31F2PK000114 to MHKBF31F2RK003811

RECALL REASON

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Dr. Al-Hassawi highlights healthcare advancements at Otorhinology conference

Kuwait introduces surgical robotics for head, neck surgeries

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Public Health Affairs, Dr. Munther Al-Hassawi, has highlighted Kuwait's commitment to embracing cutting-edge medical advancements with the introduction of surgical robotics for head, neck and skull base surgeries.



Dr. Munther Al-Hassawi delivers a speech.

Dr. Al-Hassawi made this announcement while delivering a speech on behalf of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, at the 46th Conference on Otorhinology, Head and Neck Surgery held this morning. Dr. Al-Hassawi emphasized that the use of advanced robotic technology enhances surgical precision, flexibility, and control, minimizing human intervention and improving outcomes.

He noted that this technology represents a transformative step in medical practice, aligning with the Ministry's goal of leveraging the latest global developments to improve healthcare

in Kuwait.

Speaking at the conference, Dr. Ahmed Al-Rashidi, Head of the Otorhinology Department at the Al-Farwaniya Hospital and Vice President of the conference, outlined the key themes of the event.

These included discussions on the latest techniques in sinus surgeries, skull base procedures and robotic-assisted surgeries.

Corporate support for the conference was underscored by Zain's continued involvement. Waleed Al-Khashti, CEO of Corporate Relations and Affairs at Zain, expressed the company's pride in being the main sponsor of the event. He highlighted Zain's longstanding commitment to healthcare, which includes establishing Zain Hospital, a specialized center for nose, ear and throat treatments equipped with state-of-the-art medical technologies.

The conference serves as a platform for global and regional experts to share insights and discuss innovations that shape the future of head and neck surgery. It reflects Kuwait's dedication to advancing medical practices and improving patient outcomes through technology and expertise.



A photo from the opening of the exhibition during Otorhinology conference.

KUNA photo

Urgent calls for billions to tackle climate change

Climate talks open with calls for a path away from the 'road to ruin'

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Nov 12, (AP): Soaring rhetoric, urgent pleas and pledges of cooperation contrasted with a backdrop of seismic political changes, global wars and economic hardships as United Nations annual climate talks began Monday and got right to the hard part: money.

In Baku, Azerbaijan, where the world's first oil well was drilled and the smell of the fuel was noticeable outdoors, the two-week session, called COP29, got right to the major focus of striking a new deal on how many hundreds of billions - or even trillions - of dollars a year will flow from rich nations to poor to try to curb and adapt to climate change.

The money is to help the developing world transition their energy systems away from planet-warming fossil fuels and toward clean energy, compensate for climate disasters mostly triggered by carbon pollution from rich nations and adapt to future extreme weather.

"These numbers may sound big but they are nothing compared to the cost of inaction," the new COP29 president, Mukhtar Babayev, said as he took over. "COP29 is a moment of truth for the Paris Agreement" which in 2015 set a goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

This year, the world is on pace for 1.5 degrees of warming and is heading to become the hottest year in human civilization, the European climate service Copernicus announced earlier this month. But the Paris 1.5 goal is about two or three decades, not one year of that amount of warming and "it is



Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, speaks during the plenary session at the COP29 UN Climate Summit, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. (AP)

not possible, simply not possible," to abandon the 1.5 goal yet, said World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

The effects of climate change in disasters such as hurricanes, droughts and floods are already here and hurting, Babayev said.

"We are on the road to ruin," he said. "Whether you see them or not, people are suffering in the shadows. They are dying in the dark. And they need more than compassion. More than prayers and paperwork. They are crying out for leadership and action."

United Nations Climate Secretary Simon Stiell, whose home island of Carriacou was devastated earlier this year by Hurricane Beryl, used the story of his neighbor, an 85-year-old named

Florence, to help find "a way out of this mess."

Her home was demolished and Florence focused one thing: "Being strong for her family and for her community. There are people like Florence in every country on Earth. Knocked down, and getting back up again."

That's what the world must do with climate change, especially with providing money, Stiell said.

"Let's dispense with any idea that climate finance is charity," Stiell said. "An ambitious new climate finance goal is entirely in the self-interest of every nation, including the largest and wealthiest" because it will keep future warming from hitting 5 degrees Celsius, where he said the world was going before it started fighting climate

change.

In the past year, nation after nation has seen political upheaval, with the latest being in the United States - the largest historic carbon emitter - and Germany, a climate leading nation.

The election of Donald Trump, who disputes climate change and its impact, and the collapse of the German governing coalition are altering climate negotiation dynamics here, experts said.

"The global north needs to be cutting emissions even faster and should be decreasing by 20, 30, 40% now. But instead we've got Trump, we've got a German government that just fell apart because part of it wanted to be even slightly ambitious," said Imperial College London climate scientist Friederike Otto. "So, we are very far off."

Initially, Azerbaijan organizers who were hoping to have nations across the globe stop fighting during the two weeks of negotiations. That didn't happen as wars in Ukraine, Gaza and elsewhere continued.

Dozens of climate activists at the conference - many of them wearing Palestinian keffiyehs - held up banners calling for climate justice and for nations to "stop fueling genocide."

"It's the same systems of oppression and discrimination that are putting people on the frontlines of climate change and putting people on the front lines of conflict in Palestine," said Lise Masson, a protester from Friends of the Earth International. She slammed the United States, the U.K. and the EU for not spending more on climate finance while also supplying arms to Israel.

A flyer of the event.

Free check ups, consultations

DDI marks World Diabetes Day with awareness event at Al Assima Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Tarek Aleryan, Director of Public Relations and Media at Dasman Diabetes Institute, announced that the institute will celebrate the World Diabetes Day on Thursday, November 14 at the ground floor of Al Assima Mall.

The event will feature the participation of numerous doctors and diabetes specialists.

In a press statement, Aleryan explained that the celebration will run from 11:00 am until 8:00 pm and include a variety of awareness and entertainment activities, medical and nutritional consultations and examinations.

The event is sponsored by Zain, the mobile telecommunications company.

Aleryan encouraged the pub-



Tarek Aleryan

lic, from all segments of society, to attend the event to gain valuable information and participate in the awareness initiatives, emphasizing the importance of adopting preventive measures to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

Oman launches first remote sensing, observation satellite

MUSCAT, Nov 12, (KUNA): Oman, represented by "Oman Lens" company, launched Monday its first full-fledged satellite registered under its name at the International Telecommunication Organization (ITU).

The Omani News Agency (ONA) reported that the satellite, specializing in remote sensing and earth observation technologies, is enhanced with artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

OL-1 satellite is able to capture and analyze high-resolution images in real time, because its advanced sensors enable it to collect detailed images of Oman's landscapes, infrastructure and natural resources, offering actionable solutions faster than traditional satellites.

The satellite can also monitor environmental conditions with high accuracy, transforming data into practical solutions that benefit various sectors.

TIANJIN, Nov 12, (Xinhua): Using social media may help prevent or reduce the symptoms of depression among middle-aged and elderly people, according to a Chinese study published in the international Translational Psychiatry journal. A team of researchers led by Qi Yanling, a professor at Nankai University in Tianjin, analyzed data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study. This ongoing panel survey focuses on Chinese residents aged 45 and older.

In a study conducted in 2018 and again in 2020, the researchers examined the relationship between social

media use and the symptoms of depression. They tested longitudinal associations between the baseline social media activities of 9,121 respondents who did not report depressive symptoms in 2018 and the social media activities and depressive symptoms they reported over the two years that followed.

During the same period, they also evaluated whether social media use, including the use of online chat, gaming and shopping platforms, could help alleviate symptoms of depression among the 5,302 surveyed individuals who reported such symptoms in 2018.

Among respondents who initially reported no symptoms of depression, engaging in social media activities was associated with a 24 percent lower likelihood of developing such symptoms. Among respondents who had reported symptoms in 2018, those who engaged in three or more out of the seven measured social media activities -- chatting, reading the news, watching videos, playing games, mobile payments, using WeChat and posting WeChat moments -- over the two-year period were 1.24 times more likely to revert to a non-depressive state compared to those who did not use social media.

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No. 7 Iowa State routs Roos as No. 13 Purdue rallies past Yale

Nelson scores 22 to lead No. 2 Alabama over McNeese State

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Nov 12, (AP): Grant Nelson scored 22 points and had seven rebounds to lead No. 2 Alabama over McNeese State 72-64 on Monday night.

Latrell Wrightsell Jr. went 5 for 9 from 3-point range, scoring 15 points for the Crimson Tide (3-0), and Mark Sears added 15 points, three rebounds and five assists.

McNeese State (1-2) struggled with foul trouble, committing 22 fouls. Javohn Garcia, who has averaged 18 points per game this season, was limited to 11 minutes due to foul trouble, scoring only four points.

Sincere Parker led the Cowboys with 19 points off the bench, and Alyn Breed scored 17 points.

Parker continues to be a scoring force off the bench, scoring 39 points in his last two games on 15 for 27 shooting from the field (56%).

The Crimson Tide won a much lower scoring game than its norm, winning despite taking 50 shots from the field compared to 61 from McNeese State. Alabama's 15 turnovers and a negative offensive rebounding differential contributed to the shot disparity.

With just over two minutes to play, Nelson grabbed one of his three offensive rebounds and drew a foul, earning two free throws with McNeese State in the bonus. He hit both free throws, extending Alabama's lead to nine

points. McNeese State attempted just two shots after those free throws.

Alabama assisted 16 of its 22 field goals, creating ball movement and scoring from half-court sets when needed.

No. 7 Iowa State 82, Roos 56

In Ames, Iowa, Curtis Jones came off the bench to score 20 points and Milan Momcilovic added 16 to lead No. 7 Iowa State in an 82-56 rout over Kansas City.

Jones, who played a key role as Iowa State's sixth man last season, has scored 20 or more points three times in his 32 games with the Cyclones. He had 26 in a Sweet 16 loss to Illinois.

Charlotte transfer Dishon Jackson added 13 points and six rebounds in his second game for Iowa State (2-0). Keshon Gilbert just missed a double-double with nine points and 10 assists.

Jamar Brown led the Roos (2-1) with 20 points and six rebounds in his second game.

The Roos, who dropped to 0-31 against Top 25 opponents, made their first three shots of the game but went 5 for 23 the rest of the half.

The Cyclones, who have opened with wins of 39 and 26 points, use a pair of double-digit runs in the second half to put away the Roos. Jackson's dunk started a 13-0 run early in the second half to put the Cyclones up 47-24.

Momcilovic, who was 2 for 7 on 3-pointers in the opener against Mississippi Valley State, went 3 for 3 from beyond the arc in the first half.



Iowa State guard Curtis Jones, left, drives to the basket past Kansas City guard Cameron Faas (30) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, on Nov. 11, 2024, in Ames, Iowa. (AP)

No. 13 Purdue 92, Yale 84

In West Lafayette, Ind., Braden Smith finished with 22 points, nine rebounds and six assists and Trey Kaufman-Renn added 17 points to lead No. 13 Purdue past Yale 92-84.

The Boilermakers (3-0) extended their home winning streak to 21, tying the third-longest in Mackey Arena history. They've also won 24 consecutive November games and still have not lost a regular-season non-

conference game since December 2020.

John Poulakidas scored 23 points and made five 3-pointers to lead Yale (1-2). Samson Aletan had a career high 14 points and seven rebounds for the defending Ivy League champs.

Purdue played without 7-foot-4 freshman Daniel Jacobsen, who fractured his right tibia in his second career start Friday. He is scheduled to have surgery Wednesday and could

miss the rest of this season.

The Boilermakers student section also was on its best behavior Monday after university officials threatened to remove anyone who repeated Friday's chant about firing football coach Ryan Walters.

Camden Heide made two 3s, forced a turnover and saw his effort to snag an offensive rebound lead to a missed layup for Yale.

No. 15 Marquette 70, C. Michigan 62

In Milwaukee, Stevie Mitchell scored 17 points and No. 15 Marquette capitalized on an early 21-0 run to defeat a pesky Central Michigan team 70-62.

Kam Jones and Chase Ross each added 12 points for the Golden Eagles, and Ben Gold had 10. Jones also had eight assists, five rebounds and three steals.

Kyler VanderJagt had 19 points to lead Central Michigan (1-2).

The game was tied at 15 just over nine minutes in before Marquette capitalized on 21 straight points in a span of 3 minutes, 21 seconds. Jones had 10 points and two assists during that spurt.

Central Michigan got the margin down to five in the second half but couldn't come all the way back.

Central Michigan trailed 53-48 and had a chance to make it a one-possession game when VanderJagt got a steal to start a fast break. But he missed his driving layup attempt. Ross then hit a corner 3-pointer on the other end to make it 56-48 with 8:24 left. The lead didn't drop below six the rest of the way.

Alcaraz struggles with stomach woes, falls to Ruud in ATP Finals

Zverev overpowers Rublev

TURIN, Italy, Nov 12, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz struggled with a stomach issue and looked far from the player who won two Grand Slams this year while losing to Casper Ruud 6-1, 7-5 at the ATP Finals on Monday.

It marked Ruud's first victory over Alcaraz in five career meetings, and the result could make it difficult for Alcaraz to advance from the round-robin stage at the season-ending event for the top eight players.

"I didn't feel well on court," Alcaraz said. "A few days before coming here, I got sick at home. ... This morning, I feel uncomfortable in the stomach."

In the same group, Alexander Zverev began his bid for a third ATP Finals title by beating Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-4.

The top two finishers from each group advance to the semifinals.

On Sunday, top-ranked Jannik Sinner and U.S. Open finalist Taylor Fritz beat Alex de Minaur and Daniil Medvedev, respectively, in the other group.

Alcaraz won the French Open and Wimbledon to boost his career total to four Grand Slam titles. But he also struggled at the Paris Masters recently and dropped behind Zverev to No. 3 in the rankings this week.

"I have no experience playing on indoor courts," Alcaraz said. "I'll be a really good player on indoor courts, I'm sure about it. But I think it's about time, about getting experience. ... A lot of players are better than me on indoor court."

Ruud reached the 2021 semifinals and 2022 final in his first two appearances at the finals. But he has struggled recently, too, losing his first or second match in his last seven



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns the ball to Norway's Casper Ruud during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 11, 2024. (AP)

events.

"I'm not full of confidence," Ruud said. "A match like today might be able to change it." Alcaraz was broken when he served for the second set at 5-4. Alcaraz led 25-16 in winners but committed 26 unforced errors to Ruud's 10.

Ruud converted all four of his break points while Alcaraz was just one of six in that category.

"I'm tired mentally," Alcaraz said. "Obviously a lot of matches, really tight schedule, really demanding year with not too many days off."

Zverev, who won the finals in 2018 in London and 2021 in Turin, extended his winning streak to six

matches following a title run at the Paris Masters.

Rublev is making his fifth consecutive appearance at the finals but hasn't won a match at the event since 2022.

Zverev served nine aces and dropped only 10 points on his serve in 10 service games.

"He served wide 220 (kph) on the deuce side," Rublev said. "Normally everybody serves slice and it's 190. He find(s) a way to serve 220 wide on the deuce side. It's not easy."

"Even if you catch the direction, when the flat serve comes 227, slice serve comes 219, 215, it's tough to just see the ball."

Before the Zverev-Rublev match, Sinner received the trophy for finishing the year at No. 1 in the rankings.

"There's no place better to celebrate this trophy," Sinner said as his mom, Siglinde, looked on in tears. "Thanks for all of your support."

Sinner is playing at home for the first time since it was announced before his U.S. Open title that he tested positive in two separate drug tests this year.

A decision to clear Sinner of wrongdoing was appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency in September. A final ruling in the case is expected early next year.

Commitment extended through '26

Lineker to step down from BBC soccer show 'Match of the Day'

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 12, (AP): Former England striker Gary Lineker, the BBC's highest-paid presenter, will step down from his role on its flagship soccer show "Match of the Day."

Lineker will finish up at the end of the season, but has signed a contract extension that will see him host the national broadcaster's coverage of the FA Cup and the 2026 World Cup.

"After 25 seasons Gary is stepping down from MOTD. We want to thank him for everything he has done for the show, which continues to attract millions of viewers each week," Director of BBC Sport Alex Kay-Jelski said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 63-year-old Lineker earns 1.35 million pounds (\$1.7 million) a year and has hosted MOTD since 1999. He has courted controversy over his political views but has remained hugely popular.

Lineker recently launched his own successful podcast production company, which includes "The Rest is Politics" and "The Rest is Football," which he co-hosts with Alan Shearer and Micah Richards.

Lineker was temporarily removed from MOTD last year in the wake of his criticism of the British government's new asylum policy. On social media he compared lawmakers' language about migrants to that used in Nazi Germany.

With over eight million followers on X, he is one of the most influential media figures and his comments sparked a backlash. But the BBC's decision to stand him down led to his colleagues refusing to appear without him, meaning the show ran without presenters or punditry. The broadcaster reversed its decision and Lineker was soon back on air.

During the European Championship this year he used an expletive when analysing England's 1-1 draw with Denmark on his podcast. His comments made headlines in the English media and earned rebuke from captain Harry Kane.

The BBC said MOTD had 33 million viewers last season. It did not say who would replace Lineker.

As a player, Lineker was one of England's greatest strikers and was fourth on its scorers list with 48 in 80 appearances. He was the top scorer at the 1986 World Cup and played for leading clubs like Everton, Barcelona and Tottenham.

After retiring, he reinvented himself as a television presenter and became a household name to a whole new audience.



British Broadcaster Gary Lineker speaks, during the English FA Cup match between Leicester City and Manchester United, in Leicester, England, March 21, 2021. (AP)

Renault cuts in-house F1 engine program

Alpine to use Mercedes power units from 2026

ENSTONE, England, Nov 12, (AP): The struggling Alpine Formula 1 team will use engines and gearboxes from Mercedes starting in 2026 after parent company Renault cuts its in-house F1 engine program.

With new engine rules coming at the end of next season, Alpine said on Tuesday that Mercedes will be its power unit supplier "for the duration of the new regulation era, from 2026 until at least 2030."

"The team remains focused on performing in the strongest way possible in the 2024 and 2025 seasons."

Alpine said in September that Renault is converting the factory at Viry-Chatillon on the outskirts of Paris into an engineering center focusing mostly on other projects.

Renault has a history of success as an F1 engine manufacturer going back to the 1970s,



Alpine driver Pierre Gasly, of France, steers his car during the sprint qualifying session, ahead of the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix auto race at the Interlagos racetrack, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Nov. 1, 2024. (AP)

when it pioneered turbocharged engines.

Fernando Alonso won the drivers' championship with the works

Renault team in 2005 and 2006, and the French company supplied title-winning engines for teams like Benetton, Williams

and Red Bull. The last driver to become champion with a Renault engine was Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel in 2013.

The announcement comes nine days after Alpine achieved a surprise double podium finish in Brazil with Esteban Ocon second and Pierre Gasly third behind race winner Max Verstappen of Red Bull.

It was a rare success in an otherwise dismal season for Alpine, which hadn't had either car finish higher than ninth until then.

The team, which has had numerous staffing changes in senior roles this year, more than doubled its points haul for the entire season in one race and is sixth out of 10 teams in the constructors' standings with three races to go.

Alpine is still planning to use Renault power units in 2025, when Australian Jack Doohan will replace Ocon as Gasly's teammate.



Germany's Alexander Zverev reacts during the singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals against Russia's Andrey Rublev, at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 11, 2024. (AP)



Nabila Al Ali and Waleed Al Jassem in Abu Dhabi for the meetings.

Al-Ali engages with equestrian leaders in meetings

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Nabila Al-Ali, Secretary-General of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation and member of the Executive Office of the Arab Equestrian Federation, confirmed that productive meetings took place with Prince Abdullah bin Fahd, President of the Saudi and Arab Equestrian Federation, and all members of the Executive Office. The discussions covered various topics, including the foundational system set to be approved at the next Arab Federation meeting, which will be held during the International Federation meetings in the UAE.

This meeting will also include the President of the International Federa-

tion, Ingmar de Vos, and members of the General Assembly.

Kuwait was represented in these meetings by Al-Ali and Walid Al-Jassem, Technical Director of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.

Al-Ali noted that the General Assembly reviewed the activities of the Seventh Equestrian Group and met with officials from all departments of the International Federation.

These officials commended the progress of equestrianism in the Arab region (Group Seven), and members of the group engaged in fruitful exchanges of views.

Mitchell scores 36 as Cavaliers edge Bulls for 12th straight win

Wemba's 34 pts, 14 rebounds, Paul's double-double lead Spurs past Kings

CHICAGO, Nov 12, (AP): Donovan Mitchell scored a season-high 36 points, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Chicago Bulls 119-113 on Monday night to become the eighth NBA team to begin a season with 12 straight wins.

Darius Garland scored 17 points for Cleveland, and Evan Mobley had 15 points and 11 rebounds. The Cavaliers scored at least 110 points for the 11th time.

Garland rolled in a layup with 24 seconds left, and Mitchell made two free throws to help close it out.

Zach LaVine scored 26 points for Chicago, which lost for the fifth time in six games. Coby White and Nicola Vucevic each had 20 points.

The Bulls opened a nine-point lead with 4:26 left in the third quarter before Cleveland bounced back late for a second straight game.

Spurs 116, Kings 96

In San Antonio, Victor Wembanyama had 34 points and 14 rebounds, Chris Paul added 12 points and 11 rebounds and the San Antonio Spurs rolled to a 116-96 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

De'Aaron Fox had 24 points, Domantas Sabonis finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds and DeMar DeRozan added 21 points for Sacramento.

San Antonio snapped a four-game skid against Sacramento.

Harrison Barnes had 10 points in his first game against Sacramento since being traded to San Antonio in the offseason.

Thunder 134, Clippers 128

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored a career-high 45 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Los Angeles Clippers 134-128 in their first game this season without Chet



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Ty Jerome yells after making a basket against the Chicago Bulls during the second half in an NBA basketball game in Chicago. (AP)

Holmgren.

Holmgren will miss at least eight weeks with a pelvic fracture after a hard fall during Sunday's loss to Golden State. The 7-foot-1 forward/center had been one of the league's most efficient scorers and top shot blockers.

Gilgeous-Alexander picked up the slack by making 13 of 21 field goals and 15 of 16 free throws. He also had nine assists. Jalen Williams scored 28 points and Lu Dort added 19 for Oklahoma City.

With their tallest starter at 6-foot-6, the Thunder ran relentlessly, yet committed just 11 turnovers. They were outrebounded 47-29.

Nets 107, Pelicans 105

In New Orleans, Cam Thomas scored 10 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer for the lead in the final minute, and the Brooklyn Nets defeated New Orleans 107-105 to extend the Pelicans' losing streak to five games.

Cameron Johnson and Noah Clowney each scored 15 points and Dennis Schroder scored 14 for the Nets, who snapped a two-game skid.

Brandon Ingram led New Orleans with 24 points, but scored just 2 points on a pair of free throws in the second half. Rookie center Yves Missi had 17 points and 11 rebounds - both career highs - and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl had 15 points for the Pelicans, who did not score during the final 3:35.

Rockets 107, Wizards 92

In Houston, Alperen Sengun scored 27 points for a second straight game and added 17 rebounds, leading the Houston Rockets to a win over the Washington Wizards.

Sengun hit 12 of 19 shots and added three blocks. Jalen Green scored 18 points, Amen Thompson had 13, and Jabari Smith Jr. and Aaron Holiday each added 11.

With Fred VanVleet out due to a hamstring injury that coach Ime Udoka said was a day-to-day issue, rookie Reed Sheppard and Holiday saw increased minutes. Sheppard matched his early career high with seven points.

Washington forward Kyle Kuzma returned from a five-game absence due to a right groin strain and led Washington with 18 points on 7-for-18 shooting in 24 minutes. Jordan Poole had 11 points and eight turnovers.

Houston led 55-40 at halftime and never trailed.

Kuwait Olympic team heads to Doha for a training camp

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Kuwait Olympic team will depart today for Doha, Qatar, to begin a training camp that will run until November 27. During this period, the team will play two friendly matches against Qatar on November 15 and 19 as part of its preparations for upcoming competitions.

The team's training sessions started last Thursday at the subsidiary stadium of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, as part of the buildup for the Asian Cup qualifiers set to begin in September 2025.

Croatian coach Dario Bacic has

selected 26 players for the camp, including Mohammed Al-Suraie, Abdul-Ridha Shehab, Mohammed Al-Sharifi, Fahad Al-Azmi, Salem Al-Khatlan, Abdullah Al-Ghaniman, Omar Al-Azmi, Jassim Al-Matar, Saleh Al-Muhattab, Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Jarrah Al-Hulaili, Mohsen Falah, Omar Al-Saleem, Talal Al-Hajraf, Ahmed Boudi, Saad Al-Ajmi, Mohammed Al-Rashed, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Bandar Al-Barazi, Omar Al-Matar, Eid Talal, Bader Al-Mansour, Jassim Al-Enezi, Mohammed Al-Kandari, Dari Al-Masri, and Hamoud Al-Sanousi.



Kuwait Olympic team players hold last training in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti referee Al-Attar selected for World Parkour Championship



Mohammed Al Attar

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Kuwait Gymnastics Federation announced that international referee Mohammed Al-Attar will participate in overseeing the 2024 World Parkour Championship, set to take place in Tokyo, Japan, from November 14 to 18. Al-Attar's involvement comes following an invitation from the Japanese Parkour Federation.

The Federation highlighted that Al-Attar's selection for this prestigious role underscores the confidence placed in him at the international level. It extended its best wishes for his success in the championship and expressed gratitude to the Public Authority for Sports for its continued support in facilitating his participation in this important international event.

Best of the Rest

Yedder gets suspended jail sentence: French soccer star Wissam Ben Yedder received a suspended sentence of two years in prison on Tuesday after his trial last month in France for assaulting a woman, one of his lawyers told The Associated Press.

The prosecutor requested a jail sentence of two years, six months, including 18 months suspended.

Lawyer Marie Roumiantseva said Ben Yedder, who was accused of assault while intoxicated, was ordered to pay compensation of 5,000 euros (\$5,300) to the victim. The court in the southern city of Nice also imposed on Ben Yedder a duty to follow treatment.

The plaintiff's lawyer, Frank Michel, said during the trial that the victim was in a state of shock and asked for 25,000 euros in damages. (AP)

Penaud and Cros ruled out of test: France winger Damian Penaud and flanker Francois Cros have been ruled out of Saturday's rugby test against New Zealand.

They won't be replaced in coach Fabien Galthie's group of 42 players for the autumn series, the French rugby Federation said on Tuesday.

Penaud, France's record try-scorer with 36, missed the 52-12 win over Japan on Saturday to illness.

Cros was replaced at halftime against Japan after a knock to the head. (AP)

Grady to miss Wallabies, SA visits: Winger Mason Grady will miss the rest of Wales' autumn rugby tests due to an ankle injury in the loss to Fiji.

Grady limped off on Sunday after 17 minutes, which coincided with Wales' decline and Fiji's comeback to win 24-19. Fiji beat Wales for the first time in Cardiff.

Scans on Monday confirmed the 15-cap Grady will need surgery. Wales' 10th straight test defeat equaled its worst streak in history. Wales hosts Australia this weekend, then world champion South Africa visits next week. (AP)

Velez stumbles to leave race open: Nicolas Caro scored a second-half equalizer as Deportivo Riestra held top side Velez Sarsfield to a 1-1 home draw in Argentina's Primera Division on Monday.

The visitor took the lead just before halftime when Braian Romero converted from the penalty spot after a Brian Sanchez handball.

Caro put his side on level terms just after the hour by sweeping home a first-time effort from the edge of the six-yard box after Alan Barriounevo's cross from the left side of the penalty area.

Velez, who has just one victory from its past five league outings, remains a point clear of second-placed Huracan in the 28-team standings with five match days remaining. Deportivo Riestra is ninth, 12 points off the pace.

In other Primera Division fixtures on Monday, Argentinos Juniors won 1-0 at home to Banfield, Defensa y Justicia romped to a 4-0 win at Tigre, Lanus was held to a goalless home draw by Platense, and Belgrano secured a 3-1 home victory over Instituto Cordoba. (Xinhua)



Houston Rockets' Alperen Sengun (28) shoots as Washington Wizards' Alexandre Sarr (20) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Houston. (AP)



Denmark's Albert Groenbaek and Rasmus Hoejlund attend a training prior to Nations League soccer match against Spain on Nov. 15, in Helsingoer. (AP)

Sports



Kuwait and Bahrain junior teams pose for a group photo before their friendly encounter.

Kuwait U-14 team draws with Bahrain

The Kuwait U-14 team drew 1-1 with Bahrain in a friendly match at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium's subsidiary field. Badr Al-Daoud scored for Kuwait.

The Kuwait Football Association aims to provide optimal preparation for its youth teams across all age categories, ensuring they are well-equipped for upcoming Gulf, Arab, Asian, and international competitions.



Players fight for the ball during a friendly match between Kuwait and Bahrain.

Gold rush for Kuwait



Kuwaiti shooters celebrate on the podium with other winners as the officials look after the awarding ceremony.

Korea-Palestine match relocated to Amman

Kuwait's head coach Pizzi fine tunes strategy for South Korea showdown

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait has completed its final training session at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in preparation to face South Korea on Thursday in the fifth round of Group Two qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. Kuwait's last practice session will be held at 6:30 pm, while the South Korean squad will train at 5:00 pm.

Head Coach Juan Pizzi and the technical staff, along with administrative personnel, have focused over recent days on detailed meetings with players to reinforce the coach's strategies, address areas for improvement from their last match against Palestine, and refine their approach for the upcoming game.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef, Chairman of the Federation, along with Board members, attended the training sessions daily to show their support, motivating the players to aim for their best performance and achieve a positive result.

All players are actively participating in training except for Hussein Ashkanani, who is undergoing intensive treatment for a muscle injury under the care of Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-Bannai, Director of the Federation's Health Department. Ashkanani's chances of playing against Korea are slim, and Kuwait will also miss Ahmed Al-Dhafiri due to a yellow card suspension. Players who missed earlier sessions,

including Youssef Nasser, Hamad Al-Harbi, Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, and Youssef Majed, have rejoined daily training.

A press conference featuring coaches and players from both Kuwait and South Korea will be held at Jaber Stadium, alongside a technical meeting earlier at the same venue.

The Asian Football Confederation has rescheduled the match between Palestine and South Korea, originally part of Group Two Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, to a neutral location at Amman International Stadium in Jordan. The game will now kick off next Tuesday at 5:00 pm.



Kuwaiti players hold their final training session before World Cup qualifying match against South Korea on Thursday.

Odegaard misses Norway's Nations League games

OSLO, Nov 12, (AP): Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard will not play for Norway in its upcoming Nations League matches so he can continue his rehabilitation after two months out injured.

Odegaard made his return from an ankle injury last week, coming off the bench against Inter Milan in the Champions League and playing the full game in the 1-1 draw at Chelsea in the English Premier League.

The midfielder joined up with Norway ahead of matches against Slovenia and Kazakhstan and underwent tests with

the medical team, the Norwegian Football Federation said on Tuesday.

The NFF said Odegaard's body "is not 100%" after a complicated injury.

"After thorough research and conversations, we have agreed that Martin will not be ready to play for the matches against Slovenia and Kazakhstan," team doctor Ola Sand said. "In consultation with him, we have agreed that it is better for him to go home to London to continue his rehabilitation there."

Sheikh Salman praises the high-caliber participation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwaiti shooters achieved outstanding results at the annual His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Shooting Championship and the ongoing Arab Shotgun Championship, held at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Range Complex with participants from 15 Gulf and Arab countries.

In the Arab Championship, Nasser Al-Muqalled claimed the gold medal in the men's individual "trap" competition, with his compatriot Abdulrahman Al-Faihan taking silver and Omani shooter Hussein Al-Shahoomi winning bronze.

In the team event of the same competition, the Kuwaiti team – comprising Al-Muqalled, Talal Al-Rashidi,

and Al-Faihan – secured the gold medal. Oman, represented by Al-Shahoomi, Butti Al-Shabli, and Saud Al-Khatri, won the silver, while the Qatari team of Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, Rashid Al-Athba, and Ali Al-Athba took bronze.

In the women's individual "trap" competition, Kuwaiti shooter Sarah Al-Hawal continued her team's success by winning the gold medal, while Bahrain's Marwa Buarki and Maryam Al-Sulaiti claimed silver and bronze, respectively.

In the team category for women's "trap," Bahrain achieved its first gold medal through shooters Al-Sulaiti, Buarki, and Fatima Nasrallah. Kuwait's team, featuring Sarah Al-Hawal, Shahad Al-Hawal, and Reem Al-Zamanan, took silver, and Qatar's team of Maitha Al-Binali, Kholoud Al-Khalaf, and Anma Al-Abdullah won bronze.

In His Highness the Crown Prince's Championship, a competition reserved for Kuwaiti shooters in individual events, Abdulrahman Al-Faihan captured the gold in the "trap" event, followed by Abdulaziz Al-Daihani with silver and Khaled Al-Mudhaf with bronze.

In the women's competition, Sarah Al-Hawal won gold, Shahad Al-Hawal took silver, and Reem Al-Zamanan claimed bronze.

Hamad Al-Namshan earned the gold medal in the men's "10-meter air pistol" event, with Ali Al-Mutairi taking silver and Saad Al-Ajmi winning bronze. In the women's "10-meter air pistol" category, Ghazlan Ali secured gold, Athari Al-Balushi earned silver, and Israa Bahman won bronze.

Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Hamoud, President of the Asian Shooting Federation and Honorary President of the Shooting Club, praised the high-caliber participation from Kuwaiti, Gulf, and Arab champions, which he said added strength to the competitions. He applauded Kuwait's shooters for their achievements and highlighted the role of the organizing committee, Public Authority for Sports, and state agencies in supporting the championship.

Obaid Al-Asimi, Secretary of the Shooting Club, expressed gratitude to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for his patronage, acknowledging his significant support for the championship.

Kuwait Club begins journey in the Asian Clubs Handball Championship vs Sharjah

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Nov 12: Kuwait Club will begin its campaign in the 27th Asian Clubs Handball Championship against Sharjah of the UAE at 4:45 pm, in the opening match of Group One. The tournament is being held in Doha, Qatar, and will run until November 27. Later in the day, Kazma will play its second match of the competition against Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej at 6:30 pm in Group Two, which will also feature a match between Qatar's Al-Duhail and Oman's Ahli Sidab. Both groups will follow a single-round league format, with one team from Group Two eliminated after the first round. The leader of Group One will face the fourth-place team from Group Two, while the second and third positions in both groups will also meet in the next round.

Kuwait Club aims for a strong start against Sharjah, having prepared for the tournament with an external camp in Bahrain, where it played a friendly match. The team, led by Haitham Al-Rashidi, relies on a mix of local and foreign talent, including Qatari professionals Frankis



Kuwait Club is looking for a positive start against Sharjah.

Maroz and Miguel Hernandez, along with tournament professionals such as Algerian Osama Al-Jaziri, Portuguese Semedo, and Brazilian Guillermo Santista.

Kuwait Club is determined to secure a win and top its group, aiming to face the fourth-place team from Group Two

in the next round. Meanwhile, Sharjah is equally focused on delivering a strong performance, having bolstered its squad with three professionals: Zarko Markovic from Al-Gharafa, Warhad Aljodizic from Al-Arabi, and Ryan bin Mahmoud from Shabab Al-Ahli.