



basketball Pages 14 & 15



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Amir's Representative affirms Kuwait's climate goals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (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 said State of Kuwait has been committed to environmental sustainability, honoring climate framework agreement and the Kyoto protocol through a series of national measures.

His Highness the Crown Prince, addressing the COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, Wednesday said the State of Kuwait was committed to achieving economic growth in parallel with low-carbon development as well as having flexibility in addressing climate change by 2050.

Kuwait, he added, sought to reach carbon neutrality by 2060 through adoption of many strategic projects aimed at cutting carbon emissions, including promotion of clean energy projects.

The State of Kuwait, said His Highness the Crown Prince, also sought to produce 50 percent of electricity from solar power by 2050.

Kuwait, he went on, wanted to use new low-carbon technologies, develop long-term partnerships for sustainable energy investment, and looking forward to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2040.

His Highness the Crown Prince, meanwhile, said the State of Kuwait supported initiatives of the presidency: "truce COP" and "water for climate change."

Kuwait, he added, called on advanced countries to honor their commitment under the framework agreement, provide financial and technical assistance as well as building capabilities of developing coun-



KUNA photo
Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince, addressing the COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan on Wednesday.

tries and least developed countries (LDCs) to enable them address climate change and carry out national programs.

"There is no doubt that climate change has become a global anxiety, posing a threat to many countries, including the State of Kuwait, which witnessed tangible and rapid repercussions of climate change, including rising temperature, dust storms and rare rain fall that affect daily life," said His Highness the Crown Prince.

He said the State of Kuwait contributed to addressing climate change through Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) which supported developing countries through a bundle of projects aimed at minimizing impacts of climate change.

He said KFAED offered USD 23 billion worth of 1,330 loans and grants to achieve this objective.

The World Leaders Climate Action Summit, the highest-level event of COP29, concluded on Wednesday, focusing on developing effective strategies to address global warming and achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Following the summit, 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, and his accompanying delegation left Azerbaijan after leading Kuwait's delegation attending the World Leaders Climate Action Summit of the 29th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP29), held in Baku.

He was seen off at the airport by Azerbaijani Justice Minister Farid Ahmadov and Kuwaiti Embassy's Chargés d'Affaires in Azerbaijan Counselor Ahmad Al-Harbash.

Sheikh Mubarak Humoud named chief of Nat'l Guard

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): An Amiri decree was issued on Wednesday appointing Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as chairman of the National Guard.



Ministry of Information photo
Newly-approved official logo and official color.

Kuwait debuts official emblem as part of new 'visual identity'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information launched on Wednesday the country's visual identity, including a comprehensive guide that highlights the components of the identity, represented by the emblem and the national blue color.

The ministry said in a press release that the guide explains the emblem's cultural importance, which symbolizes the country's identity and history, as well as guidelines for its use.

The statement added that Kuwaiti expert Mohammad Sharaf assisted the ministry in planning and drawing the emblem and maintaining its authentic elements, such as the ship and the falcon.

The Cabinet appointed the Ministry of Information to address all government sectors regarding the visual identity and the use of the new emblem on all official websites.

Audit Bureau scrutinizes Education Ministry staffing records, absences

MoE to open seven new schools in Mutlaa

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: As part of the collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the State Audit Bureau (SAB), head of the team assigned by SAB to audit the Ministry of Education has sent a letter to the Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs and Administrative Development Matrouk Al-Mutairi with specific requests for employee data.

These requests include:

- a list of all non-Kuwaiti employees, with details such as their names, dates they were hired, educational backgrounds, job titles, and types of contracts.
- a list of employees who have been absent from work since March 1, 2024
- a list of Kuwaiti employees categorized by their specializations, along with their names, job titles, academic qualifications, and appointment dates.
- a list of employees whose contracts were terminated since March 21, 2023, with details such as their academic backgrounds and reasons for leaving.

In response to the letter sent by the SAB team head, the Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative

Continued on Page 5

Activities seek to jump-start tourist-commercial sector

Info minister, governors review National Days prep

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi on Wednesday examined with the governors preparations for the National Days.

They looked into the planned initiatives coinciding with the National Days and Occasions, including "the light city" project, due to be set up in Sabbiya, "Al-Metlaa Views" venture in Metlaa district, the sports competition in Bnaider and other activities to be promoted via the digital platform 51.

The Ministry of Information said in a statement that there was a visual presentation during the session about "Kuwait shopping festival," featuring offers, discounts and rewards, presented by participants in the festival.

Minister Al-Mutairi said during the meeting that such activities constitute an initiative to stimulate the tourist-commercial sector, create opportunities for overhauling local works, launch new start-ups, indicating that the marketing campaign dur-



Ministry of Information photo
Minister of Information during his meeting with the governors.

ing the activities would promoted via all media outlets.

He also indicated at coordination between the public and private sectors to provide top-level performance and ensure impeccable activities to boost the local tourism and lure visitors from regional countries.



5 Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times/Al-Seyassah receives French ambassador



8 NBK celebrates graduation of NBK Academy's Wave 29 of Kuwaiti fresh grads



9 Agility reports Q3 2024 net profit of KD 10 mln

Day by Day

GLOATING over others' misfortunes and exploiting their mistakes are among the most harmful traits a person can possess. Such behavior not only sows division but also fuels racism and discrimination.

None of us can predict what tomorrow holds or where our journey in life will end.

I pray to God Almighty to grant us the wisdom to avoid harming others and resist the urge to defame or gloat over anyone's mistakes.

... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait, France tackle joint military concerns

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed on Wednesday with French military attaché to Kuwait Colonel Francois Dickes military topics and issues of common interest in the field.

A Chairmanship of Staff statement said that during the meeting, both sides discussed matters of joint interest and means to enhance military cooperation between the State of Kuwait and France.



KUNA photo
Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army with French military attaché to Kuwait.

Kuwaiti-Chinese ties built on strong foundation: Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi has underlined the strong Kuwaiti-Chinese ties.

The minister made the statement while representing His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in the opening of the conference on "Distance and Close Relations: Silk Road connects two worlds", organized by Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah in Yarmouk Cultural Center on Wednesday, in cooperation with the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait.

The minister said that the Kuwaiti-Chinese relations are built on strong and steady foundation, noting the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to China in September 2023, where the two sides signed memorandums of understanding in different fields.

The conference is part of Kuwait's commitment to preserve its heritage and culture, and a representation of the plan of the National Council for



Zhang Jianwei - Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait

Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) in promoting knowledge and supporting intellectual creativity, he added.

On his part, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei affirmed that his country is eager to enhance cultural exchange with the world, as part of the Chinese President's Global Civilization Initiative, which calls on the world to develop dialogue and promote tolerance and sharing knowledge between nations.

Continued on Page 5

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan Hamish Falconer reiterated the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon to continue the work of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Speaking to KUNA, Falconer said that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is "catastrophic and we reiterate the need for an immediate ceasefire", calling for steps to take all necessary measures to allow UNRWA's work to continue. (KUNA)

CAIRO: The Arab League called on Wednesday on all legal, human rights and media institutions to assume their responsibilities towards the educational process in Palestine, amid the war waged by the Israeli occupation on the occupied territories.

This came at the conclusion of the meeting of the Educational Programs Committee directed to Arab students in the occupied territories in its 108th session. (KUNA)

Kuwait minister, Google Cloud VP discuss digital infrastructure boost

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar met Wednesday with Vice President of Europe, the Middle East and Africa at Google Cloud Anthony Cirot discussing means of enhancing Kuwait's digital infrastructure.

In a statement to KUNA, Minister Al-Omar said the meeting addressed ways to strengthen the partnership between the ministry and the company in the fields of telecommunications and technology, the exchange of expertise and best practices, in addition to re-



KUNA photo
Minister of Communications receives Vice President of Europe, the Middle East and Africa at Google Cloud Anthony Cirot.

viewing the latest technological solutions.

The meeting also covered the implementation of the framework agreement signed with the Kuwaiti government in 2023, which serves as a key foundation for strengthening strategic cooperation between the two parties and supporting digital transformation efforts, the statement added.

The opening of the Google Cloud office in Kuwait in July 2023, licensed by the Direct Investment Promotion Authority, underscores the company's commitment to enhancing its presence in the Kuwaiti market and supporting the country's digital transformation efforts through the development of digital infrastructure and the provision of innovative solutions, the Minister said.

Both parties emphasized the importance of developing strategic partnerships that benefit all sectors and contribute to achieving the vision of "New Kuwait 2035," which aims at attaining digital transformation and building a smart, sustainable economy, the statement said.

Continued on Page 5

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:48 Asr 14:33
Sunrise .. 06:10 Maghrib .. 16:54
Zohr 11:32 Isha 18:14

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Warm and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather

and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station Max Exp Min Rec
Kuwait City 32 20
Kuwait Airport 31 21

Abdaly	31	18
Bubyayn	30	19
Jahra	31	20
Failaka Island	30	22
Salmiyah	30	21
Ahmadi	32	18
Jal Aliyah	30	18
Nuwaisib	31	19

Kuwait Amir Rep meets IMF Chief, Iraq President on COP29 summit sidelines



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 meets the Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva.



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 meets the Iraqi President Abdullatif Rashid.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (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, met on Wednesday with Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva, on the sidelines of Baku's COP29 summit.

His Highness the Crown Prince relayed the greetings of His Highness the Amir and his desire of facilitating the exchange of expertise.

During the meeting, the two delved into topics of economics and investment as well as latest global developments and ways of boosting cooperation between them.

His Highness the Crown Prince affirmed keenness on enhancing and polishing Kuwaiti youth skillsets through IMF's expertise.

Attending the meeting were Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Al-Essa and Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Bader Al-Tunaib.

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, also met with the Iraqi President Abdullatif Rashid, on the sidelines of COP29 summit.

His Highness the Crown Prince relayed the greetings of His Highness the Amir to the Iraqi President.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to boost the bilateral relations in various fields, as well as regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at His Highness' the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Al-Essa and Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Bader Al-Tunaib.

Ministry responds to woes

Auction-related issue resolved, reassures union of fishermen

By Marwa Al-Bahawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Kuwaiti Fishermen's Union (KFU) has confirmed that, following the instructions of Minister of Commerce Khalifa Al-Ajeel, Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Control Ahmad Al-Mutairi met with union representatives to discuss their concerns.

The union had requested that the shares be divided after each auction, and that only one auction be held, in accordance with Ministry of Commerce Resolution No. 421 of 2019.

In response to the union's request, Al-Mutairi listened attentively and expressed a clear understanding of their concerns.

The Ministry's prompt action

has been well-received by the fishermen, who expressed their satisfaction and hope that other stakeholders in the fishing sector will follow suit in addressing their challenges.

The union emphasized that the Ministry of Commerce's quick response exemplified an open-door policy that is proving effective in resolving issues and fostering collaboration.

In a statement, the union reassured all fishermen that the auction-related issue had been resolved.

Moreover, the union reiterated its commitment to addressing other pending matters, with particular focus on restoring the subsidized diesel share that has been a long-standing issue.

This ongoing problem, which has affected the fishermen for two years, has significantly disrupted operations, especially during the shrimp season, resulting in considerable losses for both fishermen and local residents.

The union remains dedicated to resolving this issue, ensuring a sustainable and fair working environment for Kuwait's fishing community.



Al-Mutairi

Mixed reactions from girl students

Arabic school's 'Abaya Day' event sparks controversy on X platform

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Arabic Language Department of a school is planning to organize the "Abaya Day" event as part of its regular school activities, with the aim of strengthening identity and heritage.

However, the event has sparked considerable controversy on the X platform, where opinions have been divided and generated more discussion than the actual event itself.

The event is scheduled for on Thursday, and female students have been encouraged to wear the traditional "Abaya", in order to remind them about the Kuwaiti heritage and promote a connection to the country's traditional, modest dress.

The call for the "Abaya Day" event sparked widespread interaction within the community, with many parents and students welcoming the initiative as an opportunity to strengthen Kuwaiti values and traditions, particularly in light of the cultural and social changes occurring in society.

Even before the event took place, it generated controversy, with differing opinions. Some view it as an opportunity to promote Kuwaiti heritage and traditions, while others oppose it on the grounds of freedom of choice and individual liberation.

Dialogue

Regardless of these differing views, the most important aspect is promoting open dialogue and understanding within society on such matters, in a way that serves the public interest and strengthens the shared national identity.

Supporters of the event affirmed its significance in preserving Kuwaiti identity and promoting modest dress as a reflection of national heritage. They see it not merely as a celebration of traditional attire, but as a way to raise awareness about the importance of preserving Kuwaiti heritage, which forms

an integral part of the community's identity. Many praised the school's role in guiding students to appreciate and respect their heritage and history.

The mother of one of the students said the event is a beautiful initiative because it enhances students' love for their heritage.

She emphasized that wearing the abaya is an important part of Kuwaiti identity, adding, "We should take pride in our heritage, and make a conscious effort to showcase it on various occasions."

Criticism

On the other hand, the event attracted criticism from some members of the community who felt that dedicating a day to "the abaya" at school could be seen as imposing a specific dress code on students.

One of the criticisms raised was the perceived inconsistency in how different cultural events are approached. Some said if the event were linked to occasions like "Halloween Day," it likely would not have faced similar objections.

One commenter on the X platform said, "While we often discuss freedom and inclusiveness, when it comes to our heritage and religion, those opposing this event seem to view it as a mere reminder of traditional dress, which shouldn't be interpreted negatively."

Many social and educational activists called for a more balanced and open-minded approach to school events that promote national heritage and culture.

They emphasized the importance of events that reflect diversity and respect all viewpoints, while ensuring that no particular direction is imposed on students in a way that could lead to controversy.

One educator said, "Schools are part of society and should reflect its diversity. We must be open to different ideas and teach our children to respect their heritage and history, while also understanding and appreciating other perspectives."

KASCO pledges to overhaul systems, reform staff skills

'Company on right track to touch pinnacles of success'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Board of Directors of Kuwait Aviation Services Company (KASCO), which was formed recently under the chairmanship of Abdulaziz Al-Shabib, has taken important steps to improve the services provided by the company.

Sources told the newspaper that KASCO provides various food services to the aviation sector, starting with Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) -- the parent company, and a wide range of other airlines.

Sources revealed the most important steps taken include focusing on the improvement of food preparation services, full preparation for the new airport before its operation, increasing contracts with airlines to provide meals, and developing the skills of work teams within the company by organizing training courses for them on the latest methods and standards of food safety; especially since the company's crews include chefs with the highest degree of specialization in international, local and regional cuisines.

Sources said the Board of Directors called for tightening supervision and continuous follow-up of services, stressing that KASCO is keen on offering food products free of preservatives.

Sources added KASCO is also working on the development of business class lounges to further the excellence in the global aviation services market.

Sources confirmed that the decision of the Board of Directors of KAC, headed by Captain Abdul Mohsen Al-Faqan, to restructure the Board of Directors of KASCO was one of the reform steps aimed at correcting the course of the company's business and to achieve the goal of developing KASCO's services, while protecting its financial situation from waste; hence, the need to tighten control over its expenditures.

According to the sources, KASCO is keen on offering food equipment services to hospitals that are on par or better than those offered in airplanes, so the patients receive exceptional care. They pointed out that KASCO founded the hospital food equipment sector in 2003 and is consistently praised by the Ministry of Health.

Sources said the Board of Directors of KAC is closely coordinating with its KASCO counterpart to develop the business and to continue providing the best services, while employing nationals in the first place.

The new Board of Directors KASCO consists of the following: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Shabib as chairman and Abdulrahman Al-Essa as his deputy; while Mohammad Al-Rashid, Saleh Al-Rakhees, Abdullah Al-Mukhaizem, Yousef Al-Jarallah and Abdullah Bursali are the board members. Abdulrahman Al-Kandari is the acting chief executive officer (CEO) of the company.

Global efforts needed to protect rights of disabled

AMMAN, Nov 13, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah stressed on Wednesday the importance of international cooperation to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities, in light of current global challenges.

In a statement KUNA, Sheikha Jawaher highlighted the need to remember and support this "marginalized group amid wars, natural disasters, and climate change."

This statement came during the opening of the regional preparatory conference for the 2025 Global Disability Summit for the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia, which will be held in Berlin.

Sheikha Jawaher emphasized the need to keep pace with advancements in at the level of rights of persons with disability, particularly in artificial intelligence and sustainable solutions that promote social inclusion and equality, and reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to protecting these particular rights.

Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri echoed Sheikha Jawaher's sentiments, emphasizing Kuwait's dedication to protecting the rights of people with special needs since ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013.

Ambassador Al-Marri noted Kuwait's focus on empowering people with special challenges to lead independent lives by ensuring access to opportunities and services that enable full participation in society.

Sheikha Jawaher and Acting Deputy Chief for Medical, Psychological and Social Services, Dr. Khalifa Al-Haila, are set to participate in the conference.



Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah welcomes US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Hideko Sasahara.

Deputy FM meets US envoy

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday received US Ambassador in Kuwait Karen Hideko Sasahara. During the meet-

ing, they discussed bilateral relations between both friendly countries and ways of promoting them, along with issues of mutual interest. (KUNA)



President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

Civil aviation cooperation eyed

President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday received British Ambassador Belinda Lewis, where they discussed joint cooperation in civil aviation.

During the meeting, they also considered several matters pertinent to both friendly countries'

aviation and the significance of promoting and developing bilateral relations in this domain, according to a DGCA release.

They underlined that closer aviation cooperation between Kuwait and the UK would open fresh horizons for fruitful cooperation between both sides. (KUNA)

Boost eyed in energy sector

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia discuss water issues

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmood Boushehri held talks on Wednesday with the Saudi Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud on cooperation between the two Gulf states in the energy sector.

The ministry said in a statement that it was underscored during the meeting that the State of Kuwait was a founding member of the Riyadh-headquartered Global Water Organization, forecast to be an international platform for boosting cooperation among states at the level of innovating solutions for water issues and pushing forward for securing sustainable water resources for all nations.

In September 2023, Saudi Arabia announced

establishment of the Global Water Organization, based in Riyadh, to address water challenges, secure water sustainability, facilitate exchange of expertise while advancing technology, fostering innovation, and sharing research and development experiences.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that includes Oman, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar. The two regional countries along with the other council's member states closely coordinate in diverse fields since the GCC was formed in early 80s of the past century.

Water is a basic need in the largely arid Gulf region, with the regional countries largely depending on sea water desalination.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Gov't must redefine policies for sustainable development'

"KUWAIT has experienced numerous phases in which policies, systems, and procedures were introduced, only to be abruptly overturned by a new official, minister, or prime minister," columnist, constitutional expert **Dr. Mohammad Al-Moqatei** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"This recurring pattern of inconsistent decision-making -- often made without justification, studies, or a clear roadmap -- has left institutions disoriented and the nation's interests vulnerable to contradiction and confusion.

"In education, for example, the system has undergone constant experimentation. From the traditional single-year system with its scientific and literary tracks, Kuwait shifted to a two-semester system, then to a curriculum-based system, only to revert to two semesters again.

"The education ladder itself changed repeatedly -- from four years for each stage to five, four, and three years -- all largely driven by improvisation or personal decisions made by ministers.

"Similar patterns are evident in other sectors such as the healthcare where policies have oscillated without coherent direction; retirement and insurance where decisions have often been short-lived and inconsistent; housing where the plans like the one under Minister Al-Subaih's tenure were overturned within months under a new minister and finally the development where the Council of Ministers has shifted priorities, such as favoring the private sector in one phase and the public sector in another, creating instability in the planning process.

"Even leadership appointments have not been spared, with approvals and implementations reversed with the arrival of new officials, perpetuating a state of disorder.

"This recurring instability underscores the absence of a clear, overarching reference for the country's general policies. At a time when sustainability, governance, and digital transformation are critical, Kuwait cannot afford to continue managing its state affairs through improvisation.

"As such, I strongly align with my colleague Iqbal Al-Ahmad's argument regarding institutionalizing governance to ensure continuity in national priorities, particularly in vital areas such as the citizenship and demographic restructuring, illegal residents, corruption and organized crime; education, health, and economic policies and public policy agency.

"To address this systemic issue, I propose the creation of a Public Policy Agency composed of Kuwait's most reputable leaders. This body, consisting of nine individuals, would operate under the presidency of His Highness the Crown Prince to ensure alignment with the political leadership's vision and the nation's long-term goals.

"Such an agency would safeguard against sudden policy reversals and provide continuity across administrations. Its responsibilities would include overseeing the implementation of the political leadership's vision; stabilization of national policies and coordination between executive agencies and administrative institutions.

"The time is ripe for the government to issue a decree establishing this policy agency. Kuwait faces critical challenges that impact its very existence, and without a stable framework, progress in essential areas will remain elusive.

"A Public Policy Agency would provide the structure and consistency needed to navigate these challenges effectively.

"Have I not conveyed the message? O God, bear witness."



Dr Al-Moqatei

exporting young people to conflict zones, where they face a high likelihood of perishing. For many, a natural death is a rarity; violence claims their lives in other ways.

"This troubling cycle calls for urgent introspection and meaningful action to address the underlying causes of such widespread unrest."

"The 2024 US presidential elections concluded with former Republican President Donald Trump defeating Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris," columnist **Sultan Ibrahim Al-Khalaf** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"In a surprising development, a significant portion of Muslim voters, 51 percent, cast their ballots for independent Jewish candidate Jill Stein of the Green Party. Stein garnered support for her strong condemnation of the Zionist entity's actions and her demand to end the war of extermination against Gaza's besieged residents.

"This stance resonated with many Muslims who had hoped for similar advocacy from Kamala Harris. Harris's failure to address these concerns led to a dramatic decline in Muslim support for the Democratic Party, dropping to 20 percent from the 70 percent that President Biden had secured in the 2020 elections.

"This shift highlights the Gaza war as a decisive factor influencing Muslim voters, overshadowing other issues such as minority rights and combating racism, traditionally championed by the Democratic Party.

"Notably, 21 percent of Muslims voted for Donald Trump, swayed by his statement during a visit to Dearborn, Michigan, where he declared, 'The war must stop'. Trump's victory in Michigan, a swing state with a large Arab and Muslim population, underscores the significance of this issue.

"In contrast, the Gaza conflict held less weight for the majority of American Jews, who consistently vote for Democratic candidates. As a minority group, they prioritize protection from the growing influence of right-wing Christian extremists, a core Republican base.

"This cycle, 78 percent of Jewish voters supported Kamala Harris. However, her defeat has heightened fears within the Jewish community about the implications of another Trump presidency, recalling the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue attack that left 11 Jews dead during Trump's first term. Concerns over rising anti-Semitic sentiments and hate crimes linger in the wake of his controversial rhetoric.

"Despite these anxieties, the position of Jews in America remains markedly better than that of Muslims. The US government, whether under Democratic or Republican administrations, actively safeguards Jewish citizens and continues to support the Zionist entity. In contrast, Muslims and Arab Americans face systemic discrimination, loss of rights, and higher rates of racist attacks.

"As the election results settle, the dynamics of voter priorities -- spanning global conflicts, civil rights, and domestic security -- offer a window into the complex interplay of identity and politics in America."



Al-Khalaf

"O people of Kuwait, listen and understand. In one session of the Supreme Nationality Committee, it was decided to withdraw the Kuwaiti nationality of 960 individuals who obtained it illegally through bribery, forgery and provision of false information," **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The number is extremely terrifying and the average person cannot easily comprehend it, because the issue is much bigger than we have ever thought or imagined. It never occurred to any of us that forgery had reached this level. If this was the result of one session, what will the situation be after more than one session? Even the Supreme Nationality Committee, we only know its name.

"Obviously, the committee has weight. It issues respected sovereign decisions and plays a major role in preserving the national identity. If only every Kuwaiti citizen looked at himself, he would find that all of us feel the big mistake and danger surrounding us. We do not know where the mistake is or where it came from. None of us imagined that tampering and forgery would reach the citizenship files. We anticipated that the increase in the number of expatriates, marginal workers, visa traders and fictitious companies was the reason, but it turned out it is just part of the reason, not the only reason.

"The real reason lies in the forgery of nationality. When those who are not Kuwaiti and have no connection with Kuwait enter the demographic structure, power is given to those who are not the country's people. This is how the corrupt caused the loss of our national identity. We do not know where we are heading. The worse and more bitter truth is that majority of the sons of the forgers have become leaders. They have spread in various joints of the State. The most dangerous of them are those who belong to the 'Muslim Brotherhood Party'. It is a disaster if one is an 'Ikhwani', and a greater disaster if he is a forger and an 'Ikhwani'!

"Thank you for filling the heavens and the earth with the protector of the national identity, our beloved Amir, may Allah protect him and preserve him. Thank you, Sheikh Mishal of Kuwait, for saving us, by Allah's grace, from a dark future and from the encroachment of forgers on everything Kuwaiti. Thank you for choosing Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf. You have selected the best, strong and trustworthy..."

"The American society, known for its achievements, also carries the legacy of a violent past. The so-called "playful generation" descends from settlers and cowboys who often chose violence over cultivation, symbolically planting bullets instead of wheat.

"By the late 1990s, US prison populations reached staggering numbers, with over six million adults incarcerated. Prisons became overcrowded, prompting judges to reconsider sentencing policies, often opting for fines rather than imprisonment.

"A recent Reuters report highlights that violence in American schools and universities is fracturing families. Efforts have shifted from punishment to prevention and rehabilitation.

"In an unexpected twist, some youth are being sent to Israel for military recruitment, almost as if it were an extension of the United States. These recruits are reportedly given the choice to serve domestically or in Israel, with the latter seen as a spiritual or ideological mission.

"Meanwhile, troubling trends such as rising suicide rates, rampant drug abuse, and widespread weapon possession among youth paint a grim picture.

"Violence in educational institutions has become so pervasive that international students from Eastern countries now prioritize safety when choosing universities.

"Reckless behavior, like driving under the influence, has further heightened the dangers. Many young people seem indifferent to the consequences, laughing in the face of risk, whether to themselves or others.

"The families live in fear for their children, as the culture of crime seems intertwined with financial gain and societal pressures.

"In response, American media outlets are calling for increased awareness campaigns to curb this wave of violence. However, the search for solutions often leads to



Abdullah Khalaf

Compiled by PFX Fernandes / Mahmoud Attiyeh



Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassim Al-Budaiwi poses for a picture at the Mubarak Al-Abdullah College of Joint Command and Staff.

GCC chief delivers lecture at Kuwaiti army facility

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassim Al-Budaiwi delivered on Wednesday a lecture at the Mubarak Al-Abdullah College of Joint Command and Staff.

The Ministry of Defense stated in a statement that the Secretary-General Al-Budaiwi was received by Deputy Chief of the Army General Staff and Acting Commander of the Air Force, Major General Staff Pilot Sabah Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and a number of college officers.

The lecture was addressed to participants in the Joint Command and Staff Course No. 29 and was attended by a number of senior commanding officers in the army.

Citizen stabs mother to death, critically injures little brother

Man steals gold, cash from sponsor, fools girlfriend

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (Agencies): A 28-year-old Kuwaiti man was arrested after allegedly stabbing his 48-year-old mother and 10-year-old brother, resulting in the mother's death and serious injuries to the child, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

According to security sources, after the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received a report on Wednesday morning regarding the stabbing incident in the Sabah Al-Salem area, police forces and paramedics quickly arrived at the scene. They discovered that the mother had succumbed to her injuries, while the young boy was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The perpetrator was apprehended at the scene and referred to the relevant authorities. It was revealed that the suspect had a prior criminal record.

The body of the deceased was sent to the Forensic Medicine Department. An investigation has been opened into the case to determine the causes and motives of the crime.

Cannot escape law forever: The Public Prosecution referred an expatriate to the Central Prison on charges of stealing gold and money from a jewelry company estimated at more than KD150,000 over the course of two years, while the woman he intended to marry was summoned after the accused revealed that he gave her a large portion of the stolen goods, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

A security source said the owner of a jewelry company filed a report at a police station in the Capital Governorate, stating his driver informed him that he accidentally saw a piece of gold in the possession of the expatriate who was hiding it in his clothes. The driver added that the accused asked him to "cover for him" and he would give

him money in exchange for his silence and for not informing his sponsor.

The plaintiff confirmed that he issued instructions to conduct an inventory in the store, which revealed a deficit exceeding KD150,000.

Immediately after the registration of the case, the accused was arrested. When questioned, he confessed that for more than a year, he had been stealing gold and money on a regular basis. He sent part of the money to his family and spent the rest on the woman he intended to marry, in addition to the pieces of gold he gave to her.

The couple used to frequent the most luxurious restaurants and hotels. An inquiry into the expatriate's accounts, revealed that he had transferred large amounts, much more than his salary.

The woman was arrested, but she denied knowing about her boyfriend's theft, indicating he made her believe that he worked as a manager at the company and receiving more than KD3,000 salary, not KD400.

Officers, families welcomed

Mol set to inaugurate spring camp Friday for 2024 season

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has announced the completion of preparations for the annual spring camp at the Police Officers Club, in partnership with the General Department of Relations and Security Media.



Sheikh Salem

The camp is ready to welcome Ministry of Interior officers, retired officers, and their families, offering a variety of programs and activities, according to a press release by the ministry.

The camp promises a range of recreational services to provide a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere for families and children. Amenities include entertainment areas, organized parties, competitions, cafes, restaurants, and special events. Visitors will also have access to dedicated children's play areas, large screens for match viewings, a

football field, and markets exclusively for Ministry of Interior employees.

Additionally, the General Department of Relations and Security Media will set up an awareness booth to showcase the services offered by the Ministry to its officers and retirees. The booth will feature information, events, and exclusive offers for Ministry employees.

The spring camp is scheduled to run from November 15 to March 15 each year. The official opening, under the patronage of His Excellency the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Sabah, will take place this Friday, with military music and a cavalry display as part of the inauguration.

The camp is open daily from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. for Ministry officers, retirees, and their families. Tent reservations for members with active memberships can be made through the Police Officers Club's website at www.policclubkw.com, where officers can also apply for new memberships or renew expired ones to gain access to private tents in the camp.



The teacher who expired at work.

Expat teacher expires on duty at Farwaniya school

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Ministry of Education has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of esteemed educator Maher Al-Adwan, who died while fulfilling his duties at Saud Al-Abdul Razzaq Intermediate School for Boys in the Farwaniya Educational District, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

Education Minister Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, along with the entire Ministry of Education, extended heartfelt condolences to the family of the dedicated teacher. They prayed for God Almighty's mercy upon him and for strength and comfort for his loved ones during this difficult time.



Mol photo from the grocery workers. A cocktail of drugs and huge amount of cash confiscated from the grocery workers.

Drugs found on 2 expat mobile grocery workers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Ahmadi security men, referred two expatriates working in a mobile grocery shop to the General Department for Combating Drugs. Attached to the referral file were a variety of narcotic substances (shabu, hashish, and pills), and an amount exceeding 1,000 dinars, the proceeds of the sale, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

According to a security source, a security patrol, during a tour on the expressway, was surprised by two expatriates running from the grocery store as soon as they saw the patrol. They were pursued on foot, as the initial belief was that they were violators of residency. During the chase, one of them threw a small bag after it was seized by the two security officers. Upon searching it, various drugs and a sum of money were found inside, which the two accused admitted was the proceeds of selling drugs to people who frequented the grocery store.



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Formation of joint working team discussed

Kuwaiti, Saudi housing ministers discuss real estate co-operation



A photo from the meeting between Kuwaiti and Saudi ministers.

KUNA photo

RIYADH, Nov 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Municipality and Housing Abdullatif Al-Mishari discussed with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing Majid Al-Hojail cooperation in real estate sector on the sidelines of Cityscape Global 2024.

The meeting with Minister Al-Mishari touched on housing experiences and the ministry's programs such as housing support, guarantees, and housing

development, in addition to exchanging visions on expanding construction and supporting real estate developers, said the Saudi minister on X Tuesday.

He also stated that they agreed to form a joint working team between the two countries to transfer experiences in several tracks that serve the real estate sector and enhance the integration of efforts to achieve sustainable development in this field.

Amir congratulates Botswana president

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable to the President of Botswana Duma Gideon, congratulating him on being elected and taking the constitutional oath.

His Highness the Amir wished the president success in leading his nation and its people more progress and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Duma Gideon, congratulating him on being elected and taking the constitutional oath.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Duma Gideon who took the constitutional oath after being elected.

CSC set to nominate 1st batch of candidates for government jobs

'Association committed to investing in Kuwaiti youth'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Civil Service Commission has announced that it will nominate the first batch of candidates from the central employment system tomorrow to work in government institutions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These candidates include those who were not previously nominated or who were rejected by the establishments to which they were initially nominated. The nominations will be based on the staffing needs, as approved by the Civil Service Commission.

In an effort to maximize the use of national talent, the Commission also stated that a second

batch will be readied soon, following the comprehensive employment plan approved by the Civil Service Council. This batch will consist of the same category of individuals who have not yet been appointed to government positions.

The Commission highlighted its commitment to creating job opportunities for those with specialized qualifications that have not been in demand by government entities for an extended period.

The efforts will be made to align job needs with these underutilized specializations, offering individuals positions that closely match their qualifications -- either in roles directly related to their fields of expertise or in newly-created job titles that align with their academic credentials and meet the labor market's requirements.

Investment in youth: Bader Al-Mubarak, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Association for Needy Families, has stressed on the association's commitment to investing in Kuwaiti youth by participating in the Student Talent Forum and Exhibition at the Kuwait University, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Mubarak explained that the association recognizes the importance of helping young people develop their abilities and skills, positioning them as essential pillars in shaping Kuwait's future.

He highlighted that the forum serves as a significant platform for showcasing the innovations of students and creativity across various fields.

Al-Mubarak further noted that the association is dedicated to offering unwavering support to talented students, whether through guidance or by providing necessary resources to help them achieve their goals and aspirations.

'Artistic forums important'

Forum focuses on art education's role in achieving 'New Kuwait 2035' Vision

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: In collaboration with the Himma Educational Team, the Department of Art Education at the College of Basic Education in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) hosted an artistic forum titled "The Role of Arts Education in Achieving New Kuwait 2035 Vision" at the Central Library Theater on PAAET's main campus in Shuwaikh.

The event was attended by the college dean Prof. Mubarak Al-Dharwa, head of the Art Education Department Dr. Nabil Al-Ali, and the forum's general coordinator Dr. Khaled Al-Haylam Al-Zoman.

Prof. Al-Dharwa affirmed the importance of such artistic forums, highlighting that art is a universal language understood across the globe, through which cultures and civilizations share their unique identities.

He expressed his pride in the exceptional contributions made by both the college's male and female students, as well as prominent artistic organizations and bodies.

Prof. Al-Dharwa said these contributions provided a comprehensive view of Kuwaiti artistic creativity, and showcased artwork that reflected both the rich Kuwaiti heritage and the nation's future aspirations.

In this regard, Dr. Al-Ali said, "Kuwait has long been a breeding ground for creativity. Art holds a unique and distinguished place in the hearts of Kuwaitis, dating back to the era of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem. As a result, Kuwait continues to support and nurture creative artistic energies and talents."

Furthermore, Dr. Al-Zoman highlighted how art serves as a bridge between generations, preserves heritage and transmits human experiences and societal values.

He stressed that art helps in creating a sophisticated and open-minded generation that is receptive to new ideas and creative possibilities.

Dr. Al-Zoman also noted that this forum provides participants with a valuable opportunity to showcase their artwork to the public through the exhibition held on the sidelines, adding that it also offers the chance to engage in panels and discussions that bring together a select group of academics, artists, and art enthusiasts.

In addition, the forum featured three dialogue sessions that highlighted the significance of investing in the arts and art education, as well as their role in shaping and preserving cultural identity.

In conclusion, the participants and organizers of the forum were honored in recognition of their efforts and contributions.

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Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber receives the South Korean ambassador.

Deputy FM welcomes S. Korean envoy

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday received South Korean Ambassador in Kuwait Park Chong-Suk.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation between both friendly countries and ways of coordination regarding several regional and international issues. (KUNA)

PAAET adjusts working hours

WC qualifiers seats for outstanding G12 students

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: In collaboration with Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Education Minister Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei has launched an initiative for students to support their national team's bid to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

This initiative aims to honor the academic efforts of outstanding students, and promote the values of patriotism and sense of belonging to the homeland.

Kuwait Football Association and the Ministry of Education announced the availability of 100 seats for outstanding Grade 12 students during the 2023/2024 academic year. These students will watch Kuwait's national football team play against South Korea in the Asian qualifiers for the World Cup (2026). The match will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday in Jaber International Stadium.

In a press statement, the ministry clarified that the allotted seats will be divided among the stadium's main cabin -- 50 seats for male students and 50 seats for female students. It also affirmed its commitment to motivate students to work harder and keep on achieving academic success.

It added that the goal of this initiative is to help the students integrate their academic and athletic lives in order to improve their sense of accountability and belonging and

to encourage them to actively participate in national events.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) announced an adjustment in official working hours and lectures at the Colleges of Basic Education and Business Studies on November 14 and 19, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Working hours will end at 12 noon, and all lectures scheduled afterward will be suspended. This decision is to facilitate the organization of major sporting events at Jaber International Stadium and ensure their success.

In a press release, PAAET highlighted that the move follows coordination between the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, and the Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, both of whom emphasized the importance of supporting these events, which are expected to draw a large crowd.

Director General of PAAET, Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, noted that the adjustment follows a request from the Kuwait Football Association to assist in organizing the matches.

The Kuwaiti national football team is set to play against South Korea on Thursday, November 14, and Jordan on Tuesday, November 19, as part of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

The changes aim to ensure smooth fan entry and exit and contribute to the success of Kuwait's hosting efforts.



Photos by Rizk Taufiq

Left-right: Ahmed Al-Jarallah receiving the French ambassador in his office.

Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times/Al-Seyassah receives French ambassador

The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received in his office at Al-Seyassah Press House the French Ambassador to Kuwait His Excellency Olivier Gauvin, who was accompanied by the Political and Press Advisor at the embassy David Abdelkader Corrhons, and the Press and Communication - Public Rela-

tions Officer Hayat Bennis.

Editor-in-Chief Al-Jarallah wished Ambassador Gauvin great success in his tenure, and expressed confidence that the ambassador's efforts would contribute to strengthening cooperation between his country and Kuwait. He highlighted the importance of furthering the bonds of friendship

between the two countries and expanding opportunities for partnership in various fields, particularly in the media field to ensure an accurate and objective portrayal of current issues. Also present in the meeting were Arab Times and Al-Seyassah CEO Mishal Al-Jarallah, Kamel Al-Harami, Saud Al-Farhan, and Abdulaziz Al-Farhan.

HH Crown Prince, PM send similar cables

HH Amir offers condolences to Colombia on victims of floods

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to President of Colombia Gustavo Petro on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by heavy rains.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed sincere condolences over fatalities, wished speedy recovery for the injured and for Colombia to overcome the repercussions of this natural disaster.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Gustavo Petro on the tragic loss of life and widespread damage to property caused by heavy rains.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed his condolences over the victims and wished speedy recovery for the injured.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to President Gustavo Petro on the tragic loss of life caused by heavy rains.

Banks see notable shift in financing trends for industrial sector in Sept

Financing surges by KD50.2 million on annual scale

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: In September 2024, local banks in Kuwait observed a notable shift in financing trends for the industrial sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Monthly financing dropped by 11.4 million dinars, or 9.5 percent, settling at 107.4 million dinars, down from 118.7 million dinars in August.

However, on an annual scale, financing surged by 50.2 million dinars, or 87.7 percent, compared to 57.2 million dinars in September 2023. Over the first nine months of 2024, the cumulative financing for the industrial sector totaled approximately 680 million dinars.

The accumulated balance of industrial financing experienced a significant monthly decline of 42 million dinars, falling from 2.629 billion dinars in August to 2.587 billion dinars in September.

On an annual basis, the decline reached 5.6 percent, or 156 million dinars, compared to 2.743 billion dinars in September 2023. Notably, the financing balance peaked in August 2024, with 118.7 million dinars, while the lowest point was in April at just 25.3 million dinars.

The Central Bank of Kuwait highlighted a downward trajectory for industrial financing in 2023, with a 31 percent annual de-

cline, equating to a 466 million dinar drop. Financing fell from 1.499 billion dinars at the end of 2022 to 1.033 billion dinars in 2023. The highest monthly financing in 2023 was recorded in December at 198.9 million dinars.

Over the past three years, the industrial sector has grappled with a multitude of challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted operations, with bans and supply chain breakdowns compounding issues. Demand dropped, and new projects were scarce, leaving local industrial projects struggling.

Challenges

The key challenges include limited availability of developed industrial plots, bureaucratic hurdles in industrial transactions, low reliance on national products, inadequate export facilities for Kuwaiti goods and dependence on imports and rising factory rents.

These hurdles significantly impacted the sector's ability to secure financing, as evident in 2023's declining figures compared to 2022.

Despite challenges in the industrial sector, overall loan growth was observed in Kuwait. Between January and September 2024, local banks granted 2.27 billion dinars in new loans to residents and non-residents, raising the cumulative credit balance to 55.83 billion dinars by September, a 4.2 percent growth

from December 2023's 53.55 billion dinars. Loans to residents grew to 48.86 billion dinars, up by 1.18 billion dinars (or 2.5 percent) over nine months, while loans to non-residents rose by 1.09 billion dinars, reaching 6.97 billion dinars (an 18.6 percent increase).

Personal loans, particularly housing loans, saw growth. By September, housing loans amounted to 16.32 billion dinars, reflecting a 1.9 percent increase from December 2023. Consumer facilities grew by 4.1 percent, totaling 2.05 billion dinars, while personal facilities overall reached 19.12 billion dinars, marking a 1.9 percent growth.

Loans for purchasing securities rose by 4.8 percent in 2024, reaching 3.67 billion dinars by September. Meanwhile, financing for the oil and gas sector declined by 5.4 percent, falling to 2.37 billion dinars compared to 2.51 billion dinars in December 2023.

While loan growth in some areas indicates resilience, the industrial sector's persistent challenges underscore the need for reforms. Addressing structural inefficiencies, improving access to industrial plots, and fostering reliance on local products could help revitalize this critical sector.

For now, financing figures reflect both the challenges and opportunities that define Kuwait's broader economic landscape.



Officials signing the cooperation protocol.

Social Welfare Homes Complex and Social Reform Society sign cooperation protocol

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Social Welfare at the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Jassim Al-Kandari announced the signing of a cooperation protocol between the Charity Fund of the Social Welfare Homes Complex and the Social Reform Society's Namaa Charity Foundation. The agreement is part of the ongoing community partnership between the government sector and civil society organizations.

According to a press release, the signing ceremony was attended by members of the Charity Fund's Board of Directors, Vice President of the Social Reform Society Mohammad Ali Al-Omar, and representatives from the Namaa Charity Foundation.

Al-Kandari affirmed that the collaboration between the government and civil society institutions, including charity associations, foundations, and NGOs, is one of the most important objectives in the government's sustainable development program due to the positive impact such partnerships have on the country

and its citizens.

He said, "We are proud of the community partnership between the Charity Fund of the Social Welfare Homes Complex and the Social Reform Society, represented by the Namaa Charity Foundation. This partnership aims to support the most needy groups of residents in the social care sector, including orphaned children, the elderly, and youth at risk of delinquency, by providing comprehensive services in health, education, culture, recreation, and more."

Al-Kandari concluded his statement by commending the pivotal role played by the Social Reform Society's Namaa Charity Foundation in offering various forms of care to residents of the social care sector.

He also called on all charity societies and foundations to activate their community partnerships with the Charity Fund of the Social Welfare Homes Complex in a way that supports the humanitarian role that Kuwait has long championed on the global stage.

Kuwaiti-Chinese

Continued from Page 1

He hailed the role of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyah (DAI) in boosting cultural exchange between the two countries, as the center has a wide collection of valuable Chinese artefacts.

Meanwhile, acting assistant secretary general for Islamic monuments at the DAI Sheikh Dr Al-Anoud Al-Sabah said that Dar Al-Athar plays a great role in presenting Kuwait's cultural and heritage side around the world, since its establishment in 1983, as part of the seventh article of Kuwait vision 2035 on preserving and supporting the country's culture and heritage.

She underlined the importance of Al-Sabah collection of Islamic and pre-Islamic objects, which will be presented soon. The collection is a story of cultural closeness and history connecting the two worlds since the Tang Dynasty age through the Silk Road, until our current time.

The conference included seminars on trade affairs between the Gulf and China, Arab writers documents on China and future travels across the Silk Road.

The event was attended by general supervisor of Dar Al-Athar Sheikh Hessa

Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, NCCAL Secretary General Dr Mohammad Al-Jassar and a number of senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the China Cultural Center in Kuwait and ambassadors.

Kuwait minister,

Continued from Page 1

They also stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation through the organization of workshops and training sessions to develop national competencies and technical skills, which would help accelerate the pace of digital transformation in Kuwait and support the ministry's future goals.

Cirot praised Kuwait's ambitious efforts toward digital transformation and expressed Google Cloud's readiness to support these efforts through its advanced technological solutions and global expertise in cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

He also highlighted Google Cloud's commitment to supporting the "New Kuwait 2035" vision by providing the latest technologies in cloud computing while empowering national competencies through capacity-building programs to contribute to the development of a thriving and sustainable digital economy in Kuwait.

Audit Bureau

Continued from Page 1

Affairs and Administrative Development at the Ministry of Education Matrouk Al-Mutairi wrote to the Assistant Undersecretary for General Education asking for the requested data.

The letter stated that SAB, through the letter dated November 3, 2024, had requested a list of the names of all employees who had been absent from work at the ministry since March 1, 2024.

To facilitate the ministry's response to SAB, the assistant undersecretary instructed the relevant officials at the Ministry of Education to promptly compile and submit the required data. In order to ensure a prompt response to the SAB team, the necessary data must be submitted as soon as possible. The data should include the names of all employees who were absent from work during the specified period.

In another development, the Ministry of Education, based on the directives of the Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, has announced plans to open and officially name seven new schools in Mutlaa, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Jahra Educational Zone, in time for the second semester of the 2024/2025 academic year.

The ministry's decision to open these seven new schools in Mutlaa City is a response to the area's growing population and the increasing student density there.

The new schools will include one kindergarten, two elementary schools (one for boys and one for girls), two intermediate schools (one for boys and one for girls), and two high schools (one for boys and one for girls).

The Jahra Educational Zone will provide the necessary administrative and educational staff, as well as technical equipment and furniture, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, to ensure the schools are fully operational by the start of the second semester of the current academic year.

According to informed sources, the schools that opened in the first semester saw a significant increase in student enrollment, with some schools reaching nearly a thousand students. This surge in numbers has led to overcrowding in classrooms and educational facilities.

The population growth and the continued influx of students into Mutlaa schools have prompted the ministry to expedite the opening of additional schools to accommodate the rising numbers and ensure a conducive learning environment.

Meanwhile, the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Special and Qualitative Education Mansour Al-Dhafiri announced that applications for registration in the Charity Fund for the 2024/2025 academic year will begin on Sunday, November 17.

In a press release, Al-Dhafiri explained that the Charity Fund will continue to accept applications from students who meet the admission requirements until November 27, 2024.

Applicants may submit their applications at

the General Administration of Private Education building in Mubarak Al-Kabeer between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm, provided they schedule an appointment via the Meta platform.

In addition to the student's birth certificate and the mother's ID, applicants must include the student's original and valid civil ID card, along with a copy. They are also required to provide the father's original civil ID card and a copy of it, as well as a copy of the student's civil ID card.

Applicants must submit a copy of the student's most recent educational qualification, which is necessary for admission, along with the original certificate from the school, if applicable, and a recent academic record.

In line with current procedures, the authority overseeing the Charity Fund will conduct a thorough review of the registration lists to ensure the student's enrollment and continued attendance at the school before disbursing the first and second installments.

Al-Dhafiri affirmed the private and qualitative education sectors' commitment to tighten control over the charitable fund's operations and ensure greater control over the disbursement process.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education received an official letter from the Ministry of Information regarding advertisements published in an advertising magazine.

The letter, signed by the undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, requested an audit of commercial and industrial advertisements featured in the magazine, specifically those promoting private lessons by certain teachers of academic subjects.

The letter cited law No. 167/2016, which prohibits the publication of such advertisements. This is based on article 6, which bans the promotion of commercial advertisements and private lessons, as well as any publications or advertisements that could disrupt the educational system or violate the regulations in place at various educational stages.

The letter also emphasized that it is prohibited to prepare, print, or publish books, study materials, advertisements, receipts, or similar commercial content without prior approval from the competent authorities in the ministry.

It reminded the ministry about the importance of adhering to official instructions regarding the prohibition of promoting advertisements for private lessons that violate the applicable regulations and laws.

In a different context, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Prof. Nader Al-Jalal, conducted an inspection of the sites of the projects of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

He was accompanied by the Director General of PAAET Dr. Hassan Mohammed Al-Fajjam, the Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs Dr. Mishaal Al-Mansouri, the Deputy Director General for Applied Education and Research and acting Dean of the College of Technological Studies Dr. Muhammad Al-Hayyan, the acting Deputy Director General for Planning and Development Dr. Anwar Hassan, and the acting Deputy Director General for Training Engineer Khaled Al-Rasheed, along

with other officials responsible for the construction projects.

In a statement issued following the tour, Minister Al-Jalal explained that these projects reflect the government's commitment to developing a modern infrastructure for applied education and training. They align with the vision to enhance the quality of education in Kuwait and form an essential part of an ambitious national plan aimed at strengthening the education sector to meet the demands of the labor market and support the goals of national development.

He explained that the goal of expanding the PAAET's construction projects in all governorates of Kuwait goes beyond merely increasing the number of buildings. It is part of a larger vision to ensure that education and training services are accessible to all regions. This expansion aims to promote educational justice, provide equal opportunities for all citizens to access high-quality applied education and vocational training, and empower Kuwaiti youth and equip them with the skills necessary to become leaders in the development process.

Minister Al-Jalal said, "Through this initiative, we aim to achieve balanced development in line with New Kuwait 2035 vision, which seeks to build a diversified and sustainable economy by investing in education and enhancing the efficiency of the national workforce."

He explained that the tour was intended to monitor the design and implementation of the new educational facilities, and ensure they meet the highest quality standards. These facilities are being developed to create an integrated educational environment that meets the needs of male and female students, and provide them with access to modern technologies and advanced training resources. This will enhance their capabilities and prepare them to compete in both the local and international labor markets to support Kuwait's aspirations to become a regional hub for educational excellence.

Minister Prof. Al-Jalal expressed his gratitude to the Director General of PAAET Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam and everyone who contributed to the completion of these projects, and commended their hard work and dedication.

Emphasizing his commitment to closely monitoring the implementation of these initiatives, the minister stressed the importance of careful planning and close cooperation with all relevant parties, so that these projects could serve as a model for the construction of outstanding educational institutions.

He prayed to Almighty Allah for the success of all those involved in completing these projects on time, so that the fruits of their efforts may be realized and added to Kuwait's achievements in the fields of education and training.

In addition, Director General of PAAET Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam highlighted that many projects have already been completed in various governorates, and work is ongoing to design and implement new projects in emerging areas such as Sabah Al-Ahmad, Mutlaa, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Jahra, and others for meeting the growing demand for educational facilities in these areas.



This image taken from video from WHAS 11 News shows damage after an explosion injured multiple employees at Givaudan Sense Colour on Nov 12 in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

2 dead in explosion at Kentucky factory

Two employees have died following an explosion at a Louisville, Kentucky, factory that caused a partial collapse of the building and blew out windows in nearby homes and businesses, the company said Wednesday.

The explosion occurred Tuesday afternoon at Givaudan Sense Colour, which produces colorings for food and drinks.

"We are grieving with the families, friends, and loved ones of those that were lost and injured during this very difficult time," the company said in a statement.

Firefighters rescued and evacu-

ated many people from the building, including some with life-threatening injuries, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said in a statement Tuesday night. Greenberg said officials have accounted for everyone who was working at the plant at the time.

It was earlier reported that at least 11 employees were taken to hospitals.

The cause was under investigation. Greenberg said officials spoke to employees inside the plant and they "initially conveyed that everything was normal activity when the explosion occurred." (AP)

Musk, Ramaswamy will form outside group to advise WH on govt efficiency, says Trump

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (AP): US President-elect Donald Trump said Elon Musk and former GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy will lead a new "Department of Government Efficiency" - which is not, despite the name, a government agency.

The acronym "DOGE" is a nod to Musk's favorite cryptocurrency, dogecoin. Trump said in a statement that Musk and Ramaswamy will work from outside the government to offer the White House "advice and guidance" and will partner with the Office of Management and Budget to "drive large scale structural reform, and create an entrepreneurial approach to Government never seen before." He added that the move would shock government systems.

It's not clear how the organization will operate. It could come under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which dictates how external groups that advise the government must operate and be accountable to the public.

Federal employees are generally required to disclose their assets and entanglements to ward off any poten-



Vivek Ramaswamy speaks before Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally at Madison Square Garden on Oct 27 in New York. (AP)

tial conflicts of interest, and to divest significant holdings relating to their work. Because Musk and Ramaswamy would not be formal federal workers,

they would not face those requirements or ethical limitations.

Musk posted on X: "Department of Government Efficiency. The merch will be (fire emojis)." Later he added: "Threat to democracy? Nope, threat to BUREAUCRACY!!!"

Musk has been a constant presence at Mar-a-Lago since Trump won the presidential election.

The president-elect has often said he would give Musk a formal role overseeing a group akin to a blue-ribbon commission that would recommend ways to slash spending and make the federal government more efficient. Musk at one point suggested he could find more than \$2 trillion in savings - nearly a third of total annual government spending.

Trump had made clear that Musk would likely not hold any kind of full-time position, given his other commitments.

"I don't think I can get him full-time because he's a little bit busy sending rockets up and all the things he does," Trump said at a rally in Michigan in September. "He said the waste in this country is crazy. And we're going to get Elon Musk to be our cost cutter."

Ramaswamy suspended his campaign in January and threw his support behind Trump.

Trump said in his statement the two will "pave the way for my Administration to dismantle Government Bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure Federal Agencies."

Meanwhile, Trump stunned the Pentagon and the broader defense world by nominating Fox News host Pete Hegseth to serve as his defense secretary, tapping someone largely inexperienced and untested on the global stage to take over the world's largest and most powerful military.

The news was met with bewilderment and wide-eyed worry among many in Washington, as Trump passed on a number of established national security heavy-hitters and chose an Army National Guard captain who is well-known in conservative circles as a co-host of Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends Weekend."

While some Republican lawmakers had a muted response to the announcement, others called his combat experience an asset or said he was "tremendously capable."

GOP ready to deliver on Trump's 'America First' agenda: Johnson

Trump makes victor's return to Washington to meet with Biden, Republicans

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (AP): US President-elect Donald Trump is making a victor's return to Washington.

President Joe Biden was to welcome him to the White House on Wednesday for an Oval Office visit that is a traditional part of the peaceful handoff of power - a ritual that Trump himself declined to participate in four years ago.

Trump also planned to meet with Republicans from Congress as they focus on his Day 1 priorities and prepare for a potentially unified government with a GOP sweep of power in the nation's capital. His arrival amid Republican congressional leadership elections could put his imprint on the outcome.

It's a stunning return to the US seat of government for the former president, who departed nearly four years ago a diminished, politically defeated leader after the Jan 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol but is preparing to come back to power with what he and his GOP allies see as a mandate for governance.

Ahead of the visit, House Speaker Mike Johnson said that Republicans are "ready to deliver" on Trump's "America First" agenda.

After his election win in 2016, Trump met with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office and called it "a great honor." But he soon was back to heaping insults on Obama, including accusing his predecessor - without evidence - of having wiretapped him during the 2016 campaign.

Four years later, Trump disputed his 2020 election loss to Biden, and he has continued to lie about widespread voter fraud that did not occur. He didn't invite Biden, then the president-elect, to the White House and he left Washington without attending Biden's inauguration. It was the first time that had happened since Andrew Johnson skipped Ulysses S. Grant's swearing-in 155 years ago.

Biden insists that he'll do everything he can to make the transition to the next Trump administration go smoothly. That's despite having spent more than a year campaigning



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump watches a video screen at a campaign rally at the Salem Civic Center on Nov 2 in Salem, Va. (AP)

for reelection and decrying Trump as a threat to democracy and the nation's core values. Biden then bowed out of the race in July and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to succeed him.

In the wake of the election, the president has abandoned his dire warnings about Trump, saying in a speech last week, "The American experiment endures. We're going to be okay."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden is committed to "making sure that this transition is effective, efficient and he's doing that because it is the norm, yes, but also the right thing to do for the American people."

"We want this to go well," Jean-Pierre added. "We want this to be a process that gets the job done."

Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan echoed that sentiment, saying the administration will uphold the "responsible handoff from one president to the next, which is in the best tradition of our country."

Wednesday's visit is more than just a courtesy call.

"They will go through the top issues - both domestic and foreign policy issues - including what is happening in Europe and Asia and the Middle East," Sullivan told CBS of Wednesday's meeting. "And the president will have the chance to explain to President Trump how he sees things ... and talk to President Trump about how President Trump is thinking about taking on these issues when

he takes office."

Traditionally, as the outgoing and incoming presidents meet in the West Wing, the first lady hosts her successor upstairs in the residence - but Melania Trump isn't expected to attend.

After his 2016 meeting with Obama, Trump also visited lawmakers on Capitol Hill and will be doing the same Wednesday - not far from where a mob of his supporters staged a violent January 2021 attack on the US Capitol to try and stop the certification of Biden's election victory.

When Trump left Washington in 2021, even some top Republicans had begun to decry him for his role in helping incite the Capitol attack. But his win in last week's election completes a political comeback that has seen Trump once again become the unchallenged head of the GOP.

It's not the first time Trump has returned to the Capitol area since the end of his first term, though. Congressional Republicans hosted Trump over the summer, as Trump was again solidifying his dominance over the party.

'Fall short of veto-proof supermajority'

Democrats in Nevada keep legislative control

LAS VEGAS, Nov 13, (AP): Nevada Democrats will maintain their power in the statehouse but have fallen short of securing a two-thirds supermajority in both chambers that would have stripped the Republican governor of his veto power when they convene early next year.

Democrats lost their razor-thin supermajority of 28 seats in the state Assembly after Republicans

successfully flipped a competitive district on the southern edge of Las Vegas. All 42 seats in the chamber were up for grabs this year. Democrats won 27 seats and Republicans clinched 15.

In the Senate, Democrats will retain at least 12 of the 21 seats, enough to keep their majority in the chamber. A race for a Las Vegas district was still too early to call on Tuesday, but its outcome can't tip

the balance of power to Republicans. Ten state Senate seats were up this year for election.

First-term GOP Gov. Joe Lombardo was not on the Nov. 5 ballot, but legislative control was put to the voters in a state where Democrats have controlled both houses of the Legislature all but one session since 2009.

A supermajority in both houses would have allowed Democrats to override any vetoes from Lombardo and pass tax and revenue increases without a vote from state GOP lawmakers.

Lombardo, who was elected in 2022, vetoed a record-breaking 75 bills in the 2023 session, including one that would have made the western swing state the first in the country to make it a crime to sign certificates falsely stating that a losing candidate has won. He also axed a slate of gun-control bills, including one that sought to raise the eligible age to possess semiautomatic shotguns and assault weapons from 18 to 21, and another that would have barred firearm ownership within a decade of a gross misdemeanor or felony hate-crime conviction.

The Legislature meets every two years. The next 120-day session begins Feb. 3.



Blue skies sit above the Nevada Legislature building in Carson City, Nev. on May 30, 2023. (AP)



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service on Nov 13, rescue workers put out a fire of a building which was destroyed by a Russian strike in Brovary, outside Kyiv, Ukraine. (AP)

Russia launches 1st missile attack on Kyiv in months

Russia attacked the Ukrainian capital Kyiv with a sophisticated combination of missiles and drones for the first time in 73 days on Wednesday, authorities reported, as the Pentagon said most of the North Korean troops sent to help Moscow's war effort are fighting to drive Ukraine's army off Russian soil in the Kursk border region.

Air raid warnings blared for hours as Russia targeted eight regions of Ukraine, firing six ballistic and cruise missiles and 90 drones, the Ukrainian air force said.

Air defenses downed four missiles and 37 drones, and another 47 drones were stopped by electronic jamming, the statement said. The damage was being assessed. (AP)

America

Oliver harassed: New Mexico's top elections regulator said Tuesday that she has been the target of harassing and threatening comments on social media after affirming President-elect Donald Trump's national election victory in an attempt to halt conspiracy theories.



Oliver

New Mexico Secretary of State **Maggie Toulouse Oliver** shared her concerns as she briefed a legislative panel about administration of the general election. (AP)

Newhouse re-elected: US Rep Dan Newhouse, one of two remaining House Republicans who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump, won re-election Tuesday in Washington state's 4th Congressional District.

In his bid for a sixth term, Newhouse survived a challenge from Jerrod Sessler, who was endorsed by Trump. (AP)



Leader of the French far-right National Rally Marine Le Pen (left) and the lead candidate of the party for the upcoming election Jordan Bardella during a political meeting on June 2, in Paris. (AP)

Le Pen rejects embezzlement claims

PARIS, Nov 13, (AP): For weeks, Marine Le Pen has thrown all her energy into fighting what she calls unfair accusations that her party embezzled European Parliament funds. France's leading far-right figure is now facing a crucial moment in a high-profile trial where her eligibility to run for president in 2027 is at stake.

Le Pen is anticipating a guilty verdict, as prosecutors wrap up their case Wednesday and lay out their proposed

sentence. The trial is scheduled to finish Nov. 27, with a verdict at a later date.

The National Rally and 25 of its officials, including Le Pen, are accused of having used money intended for EU parliamentary aides instead to pay staff who worked for the party between 2004 and 2016, in violation of the 27-nation bloc's regulations. The National Rally was called the National Front at the time.

Biden sending aid to help Ukraine keep fighting next year, says Blinken

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 13, (AP): The Biden administration is determined in its final months to help ensure that Ukraine can keep fighting off Russia's full-scale invasion next year, sending it as much aid as possible so that it might hold Russian forces at bay and possess a strong hand in any potential peace negotiations, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday.

"President Biden has committed to making sure that every dollar we have at our disposal will be pushed out the door between now and Jan. 20," when president-elect Donald Trump is due to be sworn in, Blinken said.

NATO countries must focus their efforts on "ensuring that Ukraine has the money, munitions and mobilized forces to fight effectively in 2025, or to be able to negotiate a peace from a position of strength," Blinken said during a visit to Brussels.

The US will "adapt and adjust" with the latest equipment it is send-



United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks during a media conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Nov 13. (AP)

Russia attacked the Ukrainian capital Kyiv with a sophisticated combination of missiles and drones for the first time in 73 days on Wednesday. That came a day after the Pentagon said most of the North Korean troops sent to help Moscow's war effort are fighting to drive Ukraine's army off Russian soil in the Kursk border region.

Ukraine is also straining to hold back a monthslong Russian onslaught in the eastern Donetsk region.

Political uncertainty over how a US administration under Trump will change Washington's policy on the war is a key new factor in the conflict. US military aid is vital for Ukraine, but Trump has signaled that he doesn't want to keep giving tens of billions of dollars to Kyiv.

Air raid warnings blared for hours as Russia targeted eight regions of Ukraine on Wednesday, firing six ballistic and cruise missiles and 90 drones, the Ukrainian air force said.

INTERNATIONAL



Police officers patrol near the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Nov 12. (AP)

US prohibits airlines from flying to Haiti

The Federal Aviation Administration prohibited US airlines from flying to Haiti for 30 days after gangs shot three planes and the United Nations also Tuesday temporarily suspended flights to Port-au-Prince, limiting humanitarian aid coming into the country.

Bullets hit a Spirit Airlines plane when it was about to land in the capital Monday, injuring a flight attendant

and forcing the airport to shut down. Photos and videos obtained by The Associated Press show bullet holes dotting the interior of a plane.

On Tuesday, JetBlue and American Airlines announced that postflight inspections found their planes also had been shot Monday while departing Port-au-Prince. American suspended flights to the capital until Feb. 12. (AP)



Passengers look at a flight information board after a number of flights are cancelled due to the eruption of Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali, Indonesia on Nov 13. (AP)

Indonesia's volcanic eruption grounds Bali flights

Several international airlines canceled flights to and from Indonesia's tourist island of Bali on Wednesday as an ongoing volcanic eruption left travelers stranded at airports. Tourists told The Associated Press that they have been stuck at Bali's airport since Tuesday after their flights were suddenly canceled.

"The airline did not provide accommodation, leaving us stranded at this airport," said Charlie Austin from

Perth, Australia, who was on vacation in Bali with his family. Another Australian tourist, Issabella Butler, opted to find another airline that could fly her home.

"The important thing is that we have to be able to get out of here," she said.

Media reports said that thousands of people were stranded at airports in Indonesia and Australia, but an exact number wasn't given. (AP)

China holds combat exercises at disputed shoal west of Philippines

Indonesia, Australia hold military drills after signing new defense agreement

SITUBONDO, Indonesia, Nov 13, (AP) — The Indonesian and Australian militaries began joint combat drills off Indonesia's main island of Java on Wednesday with about 2,000 troops training in air, maritime, amphibious and land operations.

They'll participate in a live-fire exercise near Banongan beach of East Java's Situbondo district with tanks, artillery, infantry and attack helicopters, a joint landing operation and a non-combat evacuation used for a disaster.

The four-day Keris Woomera 2024 exercise highlighted the cooperation between the countries strengthened by the recent signing of the Australia-Indonesia Defense Cooperation Agreement.

Although Indonesia is often presented as one of Australia's most important neighbors and strategic allies, the relationship has fluctuated.

Recent disagreements include allegations that Australia had wiretapped private phone calls of a past Indonesian president, Indonesia's use of capital punishment on Australian drug smugglers, and the smuggling of migrants.

"This joint exercise aimed to

strengthening the partnership between Indonesia and Australia as we are building trust and to increase capabilities and interoperability," said Lt. Col. Empir Airudin, who lead the Indonesian delegation. "It can also be regarded as a way of maintaining security and stability in the region."

The exercise is also part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2024, Australia's largest international engagement activity in the region, taking place in Australia and Indonesia. Commander of the Australian Amphibious Task Force Captain Chris Doherty told reporters.

"This bilateral exercise will test all facets of the Australian Amphibious Task Force, and allow all its components to work effectively together as a cohesive team with our Indonesian partners," he said, adding that the KW24 could provide the troops of the two nations with the ability to rapidly deploy forces in response to a range of missions.

Analysts consider Indonesia's defense a priority of new President Prabowo Subianto. He wants to expand his military by buying submarines, frigates and fighter jets and wants to initiate more defense coop-



Australian soldiers and Indonesian marines conduct a maneuver during a joint amphibious landing exercise on Banongan Beach, Situbondo, Indonesia on Nov 13. (AP)

eration with various countries.

Indonesia has held military exercises with other countries, including the Russian navy on Nov. 4 in Indonesia's East Java seas, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine brought renewed concerns over China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

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

Meanwhile, China held sea and air combat drills Wednesday at disputed Scarborough Shoal, an uninhabited area of reefs and rocks it had seized from the Philippines in the South China Sea.

China on Sunday published new baselines for the shoal including geographic coordinates. A nation's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone are typically defined as the distance from the baselines.

Tensions between China and the Philippines have been building over their competing claims to Scarborough Shoal and other outcrops in the South China Sea. Clashes have occurred including the Chinese coast guard firing water cannons at Filipino ships.

"This is a patrol and guard activity carried out by the theater troops in accordance with the law," the People's

Liberation Army's southern command said in a short statement.

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

There was no immediate comment from the Philippine government to China's drills, but it has repeatedly asserted its sovereignty over Scarborough Shoal, which it says lies within its internationally recognized exclusive economic zone, a 200-nautical-mile (370-kilometer) stretch of waters where it has an exclusive right to tap resources.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed two laws last week reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea, in a move that angered China.

China's claims to almost the entire sea overlap with claims by the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and other governments.



Former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte, (center), takes his oath during a joint committee hearing of the House of Representatives investigating the war on drugs during his administration at the House of Representative in Quezon City, Philippines on Nov 13. (AP)

Philippine govt to cooperate if ICC seeks Duterte's custody over drug killings

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 13, (AP) — The Philippine government said Wednesday its law enforcement agencies will be bound to cooperate if the International Criminal Court seeks the custody of former President Rodrigo Duterte as part of an investigation into thousands of deaths during his crackdown on illegal drugs.

The Hague-based court has been investigating the widespread killings that took place while Duterte was mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president from 2016 to

2020, as a possible crime against humanity.

Human rights groups estimate the deaths could exceed 20,000 during Duterte's presidency alone. The bloody campaign alarmed Western governments and led to complaints that sparked the investigation by the ICC, a court of last resort for crimes that countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute themselves.

Under intense grilling in a televised congressional inquiry Wednesday, the brash-speaking Duterte gave con-

flicting statements whether he would submit himself to the global court for investigation.

"The ICC does not scare me a bit. They can come here anytime," Duterte told members of the House of Representatives conducting the inquiry. "I'm asking the ICC to hurry up and come here and start the investigation tomorrow."

"This issue has been hanging for many years and I may already die," the 79-year-old said. "If I'm found guilty, I can go to prison and rot there for all time."

'It's important to build close personal friendship'

Yoon takes up golf again to forge bond with Trump

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 13, (AP) — South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has dusted off his golf clubs in an attempt to forge a bond with President-elect Donald Trump, an avid lover of the game. The presidential office said Tuesday that Yoon began practicing the game for the first time in eight years in preparation for a possible round of golf with Trump.

Since his election, Trump's "America first" approach has raised concerns it could negatively affect the US defense commitment to South Korea and hurt the trade interests of the Northeast Asian country in various ways, including increased tariffs.

Some experts say it's important to build a close personal friendship with Trump during the transition period before he formally takes office in January.

"Much could depend on whether Yoon is able to strike up positive chemistry with Trump immediately during the transition and foster a close



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol attends a news conference at the Presidential Office in Seoul, South Korea on Nov 7. (AP)

personal friendship to convince him to want to support and advance Seoul's

interests," said Duyeon Kim, a senior analyst at the Center for a New American Security in Washington.

Yoon and Trump discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation and agreed to hold an in-person meeting soon during a phone call on Thursday. The South Korean president told reporters later that while things couldn't remain the same as under the Biden administration, "we have been preparing to hedge these risks for a long time."

And apparently, a game of golf may be what's needed.

Local media said Yoon went to a Seoul golf course on Saturday, but the presidential office said it couldn't confirm the reports.

A senior presidential official, speaking on condition of anonymity in a background briefing, said that while he didn't know how hard Yoon practiced golf, training was necessary as "our president also has to hit a ball properly to get conversations going on" with Trump, who has "outstanding" golf skills.



Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake waves with other candidates during a public rally ahead of Thursday's parliamentary election in Gampaha, Sri Lanka on Nov 11. (AP)

Sri Lankan president seeks party win in poll to help him push economic reforms

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov 13, (AP) — Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake is looking to consolidate his party's power in Thursday's parliamentary election to help him implement his election pledges to solve the country's economic woes and foster good governance.

The Marxist-leaning Dissanayake won the presidential election on Sept.

21 in a victory that marked a rejection of the traditional political parties that have governed the island nation since its independence from British rule in 1948.

However, Dissanayake's failure to secure more than 50% of the vote has fueled concerns over his party's outlook in the parliamentary election. His National People's Power party

must increase its votes significantly - from the 42% it won in the presidential election - if it is to secure a minimum of 113 seats to take control of the 225-member Parliament.

Dissanayake, while campaigning for his party's candidates, has called on voters to help elect them to Parliament so he won't need to rely on a coalition to enact the reforms he promised.

Lat/Am

15 inmates killed in Ecuador jail:

A fight among inmates in Ecuador's largest and most dangerous prison left 15 dead and 14 wounded, authorities said Tuesday, in the bloodiest prison episode faced by President Daniel Noboa's government.

Authorities attributed the outbreak to internal tensions among inmates, but offered no further details. The Litoral Penitentiary has a history of violent disturbances, most notably the 2021 massacre that claimed 119 lives.

The latest violence underscores the ongoing challenges faced by the Noboa administration in addressing the country's severe prison crisis. In January, a series of coordinated riots



Noboa

of inmates, some of them shouting in desperation for loved ones, rushed to the gates. (AP)



Mexico ex-prosecutor arrested:

A former prosecutor and local police official was arrested Tuesday in connection with the grisly decapitation of a mayor on Oct. 6.

Officials in the southern state of Guerrero confirmed that Germán Reyes was arrested on charges of homicide for the killing of Alejandro Arcos just a week after he took office as mayor of the state capital, Chilpancingo.

The arrest was shocking, because officials had previously blamed the killing on a local drug and extortion gang, and Reyes was formerly employed as special prosecutor for Guerrero state, a high-level position. (AP)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI - DFMGI	+31.41	4,732.81	SAUDI - TASI	-117.22	11,930.45
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+190.68	93,423.25	JAPAN - Nikkei 225	-654.43	38,721.66
			PHILIPPINES - PSEi	-95.78	6,714.33
			EGYPT - EGX 30	-149.38	31,433.01

Business

Intensive 7-month training equips new NBK employees with banking skills

NBK celebrates graduation of NBK Academy's Wave 29 of Kuwaiti fresh grads

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) celebrated the graduation of NBK Academy's Wave 29 of newly hired employees who successfully met admission criteria for this intensive course specially designed for Kuwaiti fresh university graduates.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Mr. Omar Bouhadiba, CEO of International Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait, Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman, CEO - Consumer and Digital Banking Group, Mr. Mohammad Al-Kharafi, COO - Head of Group Operations and Information Technology, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, GM - Group Human Resources, Mr. Ahmed Bourisly, GM - Corporate Banking Group, Mr. Jad Zakhour, GM - Head of Treasury Group, and Mr. Hisham Al-Nusif, GM - Consumer Banking Group, along with a number of NBK's executives and officials.

The program lasted for 7 months, during which fresh graduates from different majors received intensive training on technological, behavioral and other skills that allow them to build a sustainable career at NBK.

The course covered various areas of banking principles, such as design thinking and increasing productivity, training on creativity, innovation, and digital trends in the banking sector, in addition to banking business, and comprehensive understanding of all NBK groups and departments.

The participants presented new ideas to the heads of different departments within the "Innovation Challenge" program, which aims



Maryam Al-Nasrallah

to stimulate trainees' creativity and ability to generate innovative solutions for the various training aspects covered in the Academy.

The program included various Blended Learning interventions through in-person and virtual courses in addition to on-site training at different departments to better understand work nature in the banking sector.

On this occasion, Maryam Al-Nasrallah, Talent Management Manager, Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "NBK Academy program embodies the bank's strategy of investing in the human capital by preparing young national banking leaders who are qualified as per the latest and best international standards to sustain the bank's successful story over many decades."



NBK Academy celebrates graduation of Wave 29.

"With a legacy of success spanning over 16 years, NBK Academy is a program specifically designed for university graduates with the aim of recruiting, developing and empowering newly graduated national talent to join the banking sector," she added.

"NBK maintains its leadership in the private sector in terms of

attracting, training, upskilling national talent and qualifying them to join the banking sector. The bank also stands out as the employer of choice for national professionals, with the highest Kuwaitization and employee retention ratios across the private sector," she explained.

The Academy reflects NBK's

vision to foster sustainable human capital development as one of its top strategic priorities and a shared responsibility between the various governmental institutions and the private sector.

It is worth mentioning that the content of NBK Academy program is regularly enhanced to keep pace with the latest trends in banking,

and administrative sciences.

Launched in 2008, the Academy aims to pave the way for fresh Kuwaiti graduates to join the banking services sector by providing them with the best training programs developed in cooperation with leading international institutions and universities to meet the demands of the labor market.

Daily refining rate surpasses 98%

KNPC aims to boost profits with strategic spending cuts

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Following a decline in the profits of local government oil companies in 2023/2024 fiscal year, and in line with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC)'s directive to its subsidiaries to rationalize spending to improve net profits, informed sources revealed that CEO of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Wadha Al-Khatib instructed team heads and leaders to reduce spending on refinery operations.

They explained that KNPC, along with its fuel stations, has been able to rationalize spending in the last year through its strategic approach based on KPC's vision. It aims to save at least USD 650 million in 2024/2025 fiscal year, which is expected to have a positive impact on the company's profits.

In addition to a decline in fuel sales to the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy during 2022/2023 fiscal year, the net profit index fell to KD 520 million in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, which is over one billion dinars less than the previous year. This drop was an inevitable result of several factors, with the decline in local fuel sales being the primary cause.

KNPC is working to expand the production capacity of the Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah refineries in order to reach a refining capacity of 800,000 barrels per day by 2025 based on an ambitious plan to boost profits in the current 2024/2025 year.

The company has increasingly relied on routine maintenance, which is completed as quickly as possible using the latest technologies due to Kuwaiti expertise.

To maintain refining stability and avoid reducing annual output rates, it is now essential to shorten maintenance periods at the refineries.

The efforts exerted by KNPC, under the leadership of its CEO Wadha Al-Khatib who has consistently motivated the administration and staff, have resulted in a daily refining rate exceeding 98 percent, with a production rate of 786,000 barrels per day.

The company is currently working on improving the refineries' energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions. Effective maintenance, coupled with the increased operational capacity of both refineries, has helped in reducing energy consumption during their operations.

According to their statement, the Kuwait Aviation Fueling Company (KAFCO) had a highly successful year in 2023/2024 fiscal year, selling over 1.081 billion liters of jet fuel, which is an increase of 144 million liters compared to the previous year.

The sources projected a further increase in KAFCO's sales for the current year, following its successful bid in the Arab Air Carriers Organization tender to supply aircraft outside Kuwait.

KAFCO was selected to supply fuel to Sabiha Airport in Turkey and Colombo Airport in Sri Lanka. In addition, the company has signed several aircraft fueling contracts in recent months.

OPEC+ oil production rises

Kuwaiti oil price drops to \$72.07 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price went down by two US dollars to USD 72.07 per barrel on Tuesday, compared with USD 74.07 pb the previous day, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

Internationally, the prices of the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate went up by six and eight cents respectively, settling at USD 71.89 pb and USD 68.12 pb each.

Also:

VIENNA: Crude oil production by the countries participating in the OPEC Plus group increased by 210,000 barrels per day (bpd) in October as compared to last month, reaching some 40.34 million bpd, according to its monthly report.

On the growth of global demand for oil this year, the report slightly lowered down the figure by 107 million bpd, from the previous month's assessment of 1.8 million bpd, while global oil supply for non OPEC Plus states is expected to grow by 1.2 million bpd this year, unchanged from last month's assessment, with the main growth drivers being the US and Canada.

On this year's assessment, non

OPEC Plus supply growth forecast is expected to grow by 1.1 million bpd, also unchanged from last month, with the increase in growth anticipated to be mainly driven by the US, Brazil, Canada, and Norway, it showed.

In October, the OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) value increased by 86 cents, or 1.2 percent to average USD74.45 per barrel, while the ICE Brent increased by 3.4 percent to average USD 75.38 per barrel, with the NYMEX WTI increasing by USD 2.19 or 3.2 percent to average USD 71.56 per barrel, it added.

The report touched on economic growth expected in a number of countries, including China, where the figure remains unchanged at 4.9 however, the recently announced stimulus measures led to an upward revision of the economic growth forecast for 2025 to 4.7 percent, according to the report.

In India, economic growth forecasts remain unchanged at 6.8 percent for 2024 and 6.3 percent for 2025, while forecasts for Brazil are revised up to 2.9 percent for 2024 and 2.1 percent for 2025, with Russia seeing growth forecasts revised up to 3.5 percent for 2024 and 1.7 percent for 2025, it added.



Rasha Othman, Executive Vice President of Investment Banking



Rasha Othman engaging in panel discussions.

Markaz partakes as strategic partner in MoneyTech 2024 for the third year

Fostering innovation and collaboration in the Fintech Sector

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" participated in Aljarida MoneyTech 2024, which took place on November 10 at the Grand Hayat Hotel.

This annual flagship event gathered industry pioneers, innovative thinkers, decision makers, and key stakeholders to explore and shape the rapidly evolving landscape of financial technology in the region.

Markaz's participation as a sponsor and a speaker in one of the key panel discussions for the third year highlights its ongoing keenness to driving innovation and collaboration within the fintech sector.

The event provided a unique platform for exchanging insights, exploring emerging trends, and showcasing transformative solutions that are reshaping financial services.

Ms. Rasha Othman, Executive Vice President of Investment Banking (Capital Markets and Fixed Income) at Markaz, participated in a panel discussion titled "The Road to Public and Private Markets for Homegrown Businesses," alongside a group of experts in the

sector.

The discussion offered valuable insights into how homegrown businesses can successfully get financing in both public and private markets through IPOs and other financial tools including bonds. Panelists examined the role of investment bankers in facilitating these transitions.

Reflecting on the discussion, Ms. Othman remarked: "Providing financing to companies starts with understanding the purpose of financing, whether it's for expansion purposes, executing a project, or to address financial challenges, and then conduct a financial and operational due diligence to enable us structure a financing mechanism that not only achieve the financing objectives of the business but also achieve optimal capital structure and financial stability."

The session also touched on Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). Ms. Othman indicated that initial public offerings and listings of Companies on stock markets are efficient routes to secure financing as it provides them with wider access to capital.

IPOs address other issues such as succession or family businesses and it is a route for Governments seeking to privatize their companies to diversify their economies and increase effi-

ciencies.

She emphasized that investors tend to favor subscribing to IPOs of companies that are "listing-ready," possessing a robust set of attributes that bolster their appeal.

These include a solid financial track record, a seasoned and capable management team, and the implementation of comprehensive governance policies - all of which are critical in enhancing investor confidence and mitigating perceived risks.

Ms. Othman further highlighted that Markaz collaborates closely with its corporate clients, guiding them through the rigorous process of IPO readiness to maximize the likelihood of a successful listing and to ensure the offering's long-term performance in the market.

Markaz's involvement aligns with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, which focuses on building human capacity, advancing sustainable development, and promoting good governance within the business community. By supporting initiatives such as the MoneyTech Summit, Markaz continues to drive economic growth, knowledge enrichment, and innovation within the financial sector, while participating in key discussions to enrich the sector.

Zour Port imports 6.5 mln tons of fuel

KIPIC welcomes 295th LNG tanker amid rising gas demand

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The gas terminal at the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) recently welcomed the Qatari tanker "Lusail" that is carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG), which has become the 295th tanker to arrive at the terminal since the start of its operations.

Due to the rising demand for gas imports, informed sources explained that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has instructed its affiliated oil companies to increase the LNG quantities in the coming years, with the aim

of reducing reliance on imports amid growing demand for LNG.

Gas imports surged by 22 percent in the 2023/2024 fiscal year compared to the previous fiscal year of 2022/2023.

In terms of fuel consumption, the sources explained that power stations have experienced an abnormal increase in fuel usage in recent years.

In the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the consumption of liquid and gaseous fuels in power stations accounted for about 42.8 percent of imported liquefied gas, while locally produced lean gas made up about 21.5 percent. Fuel oil from refineries represented 29.8

percent, diesel accounted for around 2.1 percent, and crude oil around 3.8 percent.

The Zour Port imported 6.5 million tons of fuel during 2023.

The gas import terminal at Zour is the largest in the world in terms of storage capacity, with eight tanks, each capable of holding 225,000 cubic meters.

It is worth noting that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Qatar Energy signed a long-term agreement in August, under which Kuwait will import up to three million metric tons of LNG annually for 15 years.

The actual implementation of this agreement is set to begin in 2025.

BUSINESS



Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Fuqaan are flanked by the Kuwaiti delegation at the participating booth in the exhibition.

KAC showcases fleet innovations

Kuwait Airways partakes in 7th edition of Bahrain Int'l Airshow

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Airways participated in the 7th edition of the Bahrain International Airshow held from 13-15 November 2024, as part of the delegation from the State of Kuwait, represented by the President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Sheikh Eng. Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and in the presence of Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fuqaan and an accompanying delegation of KAC officials.

The airshow was attended by exhibitors and partners from across the aviation industry, including around 223 civil and military delegations representing more than 56 countries and 60 regional and international companies. Additionally, more than 135 local, regional, and international companies showcased exhibits across exhibition halls, airport spaces, chalets and five international pavilions.

The Kuwait Airways pavilion during the exhibition witnessed successful participation and attendance from visitors, hosting various officials and aviation enthusiasts. This provided a platform for the company to showcase its latest products and services, in addition to the extent of development of technology and methods adopted in KAC's fleet. The pavilion also highlighted KAC's role as a distinguished national carrier with its legacy of notable achievements since 1954 to the visitors and attendees present.

The President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Sheikh Eng. Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah emphasized on the importance of the Bahrain International Airshow and its significant role in bringing together large number of aviation companies and experts in the industry from the region and around the world under one platform. At the same time, he congratulated His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the tremendous success achieved by the exhibition and attaining the highest levels of excellence, whether in terms of organization, or the presence of advanced technology that was well received by the visitors, or the participation of major international companies displaying the latest types of aircraft.

Al-Humoud valued the strong, historic relations between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Bahrain on all levels, including economic, social, cultural, and other aspects, stressing on the extent of these relations that unite the two countries and their distinction, as well as their long history at the level of political leadership.

Al-Humoud pointed out on the extensive efforts of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to develop prospects of joint cooperation between the State of Kuwait and countries of the world in the air transport sector, thereby enhancing the State of Kuwait's presence at all meetings and to develop its strategic relations with them.

On his part, Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fuqaan stated, "Kuwait Airways is pleased to participate in one of the most important exhibitions in the region, the Bahrain International Airshow in its seventh edition. The company also extends its sincere felicitations to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and acknowledges the Kingdom of Bahrain's achievement and efforts in organizing the airshow, which has witnessed a remarkable presence at the regional and international levels by major companies specialized in the air transport sector."

Al-Fuqaan added, "Kuwait Airways' participation in the airshow reflects its commitment to be present at major international events, especially as the national carrier and representing the State of Kuwait among international airlines. Exhibitions like the Bahrain International Airshow are significant, providing a unique platform for gathering the world's leading airlines."

Al-Fuqaan stated that the airshow enables Kuwait Airways to showcase its achievements and the remarkable developments it has achieved recently in terms of its modern fleet, the new passenger services that provide increased comfort to its valued customers and its role in establishing the latest standards and providing a pioneering travel experience with high-end features which are evident. Moreover, Kuwait Airways' presence at the exhibition is a unique opportunity to discuss the prospects of new partnerships and agreements with other companies and to benefit from the latest developments in the world of aviation and modern technology of aircraft whether related to entertainment system or comfortable services, in addition to closely examining future projects and plans related to the world of aviation.



Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Captain Abdulmohsen Al-Fuqaan during their presence at the exhibition.

Al-Humoud:

- The exhibition is a great success, distinguished by its organization, technological advancements and level of participation

Al-Fuqaan:

- A remarkable presence from the world's biggest airlines
- The airshow has been successful in linking aviation companies, and engine manufacturers under one platform



Shahen Alghanem



Dalal Al-Mutawa



Ahmad AlQatami



Photo during the launching for Warba Bank's Royal Banking service.

Tailored solutions to elevate banking experience for high-net-worth clients

Warba Bank launches 'Royal Banking' for affluent customers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Warba Bank, a leader in innovative and Sharia-compliant banking in Kuwait, has introduced the Royal Banking segment, a new account catering to affluent customers. This segment is designed to provide an exclusive and personalized banking experience that meet their unique banking and investment needs. It also reflects the bank's strategy to broaden its service offering, ensuring every customer interaction is exceptional.

Speaking of the new segment, Director of Affluent Department, Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank, Ms. Dalal Fawzi Al-Mutawa, said:

"Warba Bank is dedicated to enhancing its services and increasing their value, ultimately providing our affluent customers with a superior experience that reinforces the trust they've placed in our bank. The Royal Banking segment offers a comprehensive and innovative banking experience aligned with the sophisticated lifestyles of high-net-worth customers, which comes from a deep understanding of their needs, focusing on their financial goals and adapting to the rapidly evolving global landscape."

Al-Mutawa explained that this segment aims to cement Warba Bank's leadership in Kuwait's banking sector by de-

Al-Mutawa:

- An unparalleled banking experience in a step to enhance long-standing relations with affluent customers
- Exclusive lounges in over 8 branches across Kuwait
- Tailored digital services for seamless banking transactions

livering high-quality services tailored to the economic and investment sectors, and addressing a market gap by offering comprehensive services for a growing segment of affluent customers.

Al-Mutawa also noted that the Royal Banking segment offers specialized solutions and services designed with the highest levels of quality and professionalism to become the primary banking partner for high-net-worth individuals. She added, "The Royal Banking account serves affluent individu-

als whose demanding lifestyles and frequent travel require flexible, integrated services that ensure their comfort and privacy."

She concluded by reiterating that Warba Bank's commitment to deepening its relationships with valued customers by offering services that exceed their expectations and support their financial aspirations.

Royal Banking customers benefit from direct access to a dedicated team of experienced relationship managers. These professionals provide financial consultations, respond to banking inquiries, and help execute transactions smoothly and tailored to each client's preferences. Additionally, exclusive digital solutions and access to private lounges in over eight branches across Kuwait ensure a sophisticated and comfortable customer experience.

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

Agility reports Q3 2024 net profit of KD 10 mln

33% EBIT growth, 14% revenue jump

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Agility, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, today reported Q3 2024 EBIT of KD 44.8 million. This represents a 33% increase from the same period a year earlier. Revenue for the same period stood at KD 411 million which represents a 14% increase from Q3 2023.

Agility's third-quarter net profit stood at KD 10.1 million or 4.04 fils per share. Note this quarter's net profit is not comparable to the previous year due to the increase in minority interest as a result of the in-kind dividends distribution representing 49% of Agility Global PLC.

For the first nine months of 2024, earnings were KD 34.8 million, or 13.93 fils per share, EBIT grew 18% to KD 129.4 million, and revenue increased 11% to KD 1,122.7 million.

Agility Vice Chairman Tarek Sultan said: "Agility's performance in Q3 has continued to deliver strong results as our operating entities grow and seize new opportunities."

Agility Global, our main subsidiary, reported 36% EBIT growth, driven by the performance of its three largest businesses: Menzies, Tristar and Agility Logistics Parks (ALP). Menzies saw growth in new operations in Europe and Asia; Tristar has also shown good growth; and ALP grew in Saudi Arabia and is expanding in the Kingdom. On the investment side, DSV's share price increased on the news of DSV's acquisition of Schenker, resulting in an increase in the carrying value of Agility Global's investments."

Sultan said other entities within Agility, mainly in Kuwait, are pursuing their growth strategies and looking for opportunity to deliver the best value and return for shareholders.

Recap of Agility KSCP Q3 2024 Financial Performance

	Q3 2024 (Million KD)	Q3 2023 (Million KD)	Variance (%)	9M 2024 (Million KD)	9M 2023 (Million KD)	Variance (%)
Revenue	411.0	360.8	14%	1,122.7	1,009.2	11%
Net Revenue	260.0	212.8	22%	720.0	599.7	20%
EBITDA	70.0	58.7	19%	204.2	179.6	14%
EBIT	44.8	33.8	33%	129.4	110.1	18%
Net Profit	10.1	28.0	-64%	34.8	57.5	-40%
EPS (fils)	4.04	11.23	-64%	13.93	23.03	-40%

Numbers above are rounded.



Tarek Sultan, Agility Vice Chairman



Agility logo

■ Agility's net profit was KD 10.1 million and EPS was 4.04fils.

■ Agility's EBIT increased 33% and EBITDA increased 19% to KD 70 million.

■ Agility's revenue increased 14% to KD 411 million and net revenue increased 22%.

■ Agility enjoys a healthy balance sheet with KD 4.1 billion in assets.

■ Agility reported an operating cash flow of KD148.1million for the first nine months of 2024.

CIIE China Focus: US businesses reaffirm commitment to Chinese market



Visitors look at the RISE technology demonstrator program model at the exhibition area of General Electric during the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 5, 2024. (Xinhua)

SHANGHAI, Nov 13, (Xinhua): At the ongoing seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE), exhibitors at the American food and agriculture pavilion saw a robust start, securing deals worth about 600 million U.S. dollars within an hour after the launch of the pavilion.

"We've only been here for two hours and we've had a good amount of interest," said Manuel Garibay, manager of industrial sales at Royal Ridge Fruits, adding that the company looks to foster partnerships with Chinese importers to tap the increasingly dynamic market.

Despite a challenging global environment and lackluster economic recovery, the CIIE, held once a year since 2018, has been a testament to China's determination to open its door wider. Notably, U.S. firms have since the first edition been at the forefront in terms of exhibition area and exhibitor numbers.

This year, a large number of U.S. enterprises, including Fortune 500 companies such as General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, and Honeywell, have once again emerged as focal points of the expo. They have showcased a diverse array of products, such as food items, automobiles, advanced smart technology, high-end equipment, medical devices and healthcare products, reflecting a strong interest in exploring the Chinese market.

"Trade can help solve the biggest challenges facing the world," said Jason Hafemeister, acting deputy under secretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "An event like this, which promotes trade, is a real opportunity."

Irresistible market

Covering over 240 square meters, the American Food & Agriculture Pavilion features 14 exhibitors, including state representatives, national trade associations, food manufacturers and export packaging companies. It showcases the diversity of the American agriculture and food industry, displaying a range of products such as beef, potatoes and pet food.

Steve Reinhard, chairman of the United Soybean Board (USB), told Xinhua that China has been a major destination for American soybean exports, accounting for 54 percent of all exported U.S. soybeans, while adding that U.S. soybeans are among the top three sources of China's soybean imports.

Reinhard said the USB supports free trade and is ready to align more closely with China's opening-up drive.

American food giant General Mills, meanwhile, is using its presence at the 2024 CIIE to showcase a wide array of new products of its three major brands, namely Haagen-Dazs, Wanchai Ferry and Blue Buffalo.

"China is the irreplaceable growth engine and



A sorting robot arm is on display at the booth of DHL during the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 5, 2024. (Xinhua)

one of the most important overseas markets of General Mills," said Su Qiang, president and managing director of General Mills China, noting that the Chinese market is of great potential for consumer companies considering its "growing middle class, thriving digital economy, industrial upgrading and green initiatives."

Widely known to Chinese consumers for its baby formula products, American healthcare company Abbott is participating in the CIIE for the fifth time. It has exhibited some of its latest technologies and innovations in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritional products and pharmaceuticals.

"China is a vital market for us," said Fanny Chen, vice president of Abbott Core Diagnostics. "There is a substantial market opportunity

here, and we also appreciate the established infrastructure tailored for the Chinese market."

China is currently the world's second-largest consumer market, boasting a middle-income group that exceeds the total population of the United States.

Over the past 45 years, bilateral trade between China and the United States has seen an over 200-fold expansion. More than 70,000 U.S. companies have invested and operated in China, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

Expecting a better future

At the opening of the 7th CIIE, Premier Li Qiang said China is capable of promoting sound and steady economic growth, adding that the country will open up its enormous market even



A staff member shows smart logistics solutions at the booth of UPS during the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 5, 2024. (Xinhua)

further.

Many participants from the United States at this year's CIIE have expressed appreciation for China's dedication to opening up, while conveying their aspirations for mutually beneficial cooperation in the context of globalization.

U.S. carmaker Ford is attending the expo for a seventh consecutive year. At its booth, a diverse range of car models, highlighting innovative designs and high-quality craftsmanship, has drawn the attention of many visitors.

Sam Wu, vice president of Ford Motor Company and president and CEO of Ford China, said the company's appearance at the expo is based on its belief that "collaboration in the global economy will make everybody stronger."

At its CIIE booth, GE Aerospace is showcasing its Revolutionary Innovation for Sustainable Engines (RISE) program model, a revolutionary demonstration initiative aimed at developing more sustainable engine technologies.

The company has benefited from the rapid development of China's aviation industry during the past decades, said Xiang Weiming, vice president of GE Aerospace and president of GE Aerospace Greater China, adding that the company will further expand its investment in China, capitalizing on the growing opportunities presented by the country's thriving aviation market.

At the expo, Johnson Controls' 300-square-meter booth is divided into a new product display area, a digital solution display area, and a smart city demonstration area.

"China is not only a key market and manufacturing base, but also a globally significant source of green innovation and sustainable development. We are full of confidence in China's economy," said Anu Rathinde, Johnson Controls Asia Pacific president.

The upgrading of China's manufacturing industry and its emphasis on green development align with the company's goals, he said. "Johnson Controls will continue to fulfill its long-term commitment to the Chinese market."

"Our companies are in China for China," said Eric Zheng, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. "China has a critical role to play in leading the globalization process in the new decades to come," Zheng added.

Zheng emphasized the importance of communication between the United States and China, saying, "It's important for the U.S. and Chinese governments to coordinate and work together, so that their policies will be beneficial, not only to these two countries, but also to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the world."



British Ambassador Belinda Lewis, (from left) Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan and MP Hamish Falconer cut the ceremonial cake.



British Ambassador Belinda Lewis, (from left) Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, waters the plant as Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan and MP Hamish Falconer look on.



A photo from the event.

British ambassador highlights key milestones in 125th anniversary year

Kuwait, UK celebrate 125 years of diplomatic relations

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah has reaffirmed the deep-rooted and historic relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

Speaking on the sidelines of the British Embassy's celebration of King Charles III's birthday at the British Embassy in Kuwait, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef told the Kuwait News Agency, that the enduring partnership between the two nations this year marks 125 years of robust diplomatic collaboration.

The event, which was attended by Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, high-level officials and heads of diplomatic missions in Kuwait, underscored the breadth of cooperation across various sectors.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef recalled his personal experience training under British military guidance, reflecting the strong defense ties between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the British Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Belinda Lewis, said "I am honored by the attention that HH Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has paid to the special relationship between the UK and Kuwait," and emphasized the significance of 2024 for bilateral relations, the milestone year that

witnessed numerous events and achievements that deepened cooperation.

"We've celebrated this 125th anniversary in many different ways," she said, seeking to highlight the broad and historical partnership between the United Kingdom and Kuwait.

Among these milestones, she added, was the introduction of a digital visa application system, making travel to the UK more convenient for Kuwaitis.

The British envoy also highlighted advancements in military and security collaboration, including the joint exercise "Iron Shield," which strengthened the readiness of Kuwaiti and British forces to address regional challenges

Exchange

She went on to say, the cultural exchange played a pivotal role in fostering ties, with initiatives such as a collaborative mural in Kuwait's Mubarakiyah Market and the blending of Kuwaiti Sadu art with Scottish traditions in London earlier this year.

Ambassador Lewis expressed her gratitude to Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly the Europe Affairs team, and extended special thanks to sponsors, including Huetech, Ali Abdul Wahab Al Mutawa, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, BP, Shell, IDS, and Brinks, for their invaluable support in making the year's celebrations a success. MP Hamish Falconer, the UK's

Minister for the Middle East, echoed similar sentiments, noting that the relationship between Kuwait and the UK goes beyond diplomatic milestones.

He referenced the trade ties that began in 1775, now valued at £6 billion annually, and anticipated further growth with the impending free trade agreement between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the UK.

Falconer also highlighted the profound connections between the two peoples, mentioning the presence of 10,000 Kuwaiti students pursuing education in the UK as an example of the strong cultural and educational bonds.

He marked his first official visit to Kuwait since assuming office in July, engaging with senior officials and highlighting the depth of UK-Kuwait relations across diplomacy, security, and trade.

During his visit, Minister Falconer held productive discussions with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The talks focused on the pressing situation in the Middle East, exploring ways for the UK and Kuwait to collaborate as close allies in addressing regional tensions. The two officials also reviewed bilateral priorities, including last month's agreement for the UK's SRT Marine Systems to enhance the capabilities of the Kuwait Coastguard, further under-



British Ambassador Belinda Lewis (left), MP Hamish Falconer (right) with one of the Kuwaiti officials.

scoring the strength of the countries' defense and security partnerships.

The Minister met with Ghanem Al-Ghenaiman, Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority, to discuss advancing economic cooperation.

A key focus was the Sovereign Investment Partnership, signed in August 2023, and the ongoing negotiations on a UK-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) free trade agreement. Minister Falconer emphasized the UK's com-

mitment to economic growth and collaboration, noting that UK-GCC trade reached £57 billion in 2023.

In a roundtable discussion with representatives of British businesses operating in Kuwait, the Minister explored ways to bolster trade and investment ties, highlighting the significant contributions of British companies in Kuwait and their role in fostering mutual economic prosperity.

In his remarks, the Minister underscored the wide-ranging partnership between the two nations, spanning trade, defence, culture, and education. Reflecting on his visit, Minister Falconer emphasized the UK's dedication to fostering stability and humanitarian efforts in the Middle East.

"For over a century and a quarter, the UK and Kuwait have shared strong diplomatic relations. This landmark anniversary year has provided us with the opportunity to reflect on our shared history, whilst also strengthening current and future collaboration.

"With a focus on ensuring regional stability, the UK is committed to working alongside Kuwait on de-escalating tensions across the Middle East and securing unimpeded aid access into Gaza," he said.

Minister Falconer's visit to Kuwait is part of a broader Gulf tour. Following his engagements in Kuwait, he travels to Saudi Arabia to discuss efforts to secure ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon and promote regional de-escalation.

The visit highlighted the enduring strength of UK-Kuwait relations and the shared commitment to addressing critical regional and global challenges. The celebration not only honored historical milestones but also showcased the future potential of Kuwaiti-British relations, reinforcing their shared commitment to progress in economic, military, cultural, and people-to-people ties.

The best account of its kind in Kuwait

KIB announces Al Dirwaza weekly draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The second weekly draw, based on customers' October deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded Deemah Khaled Saad Abdullah, Rashed Abdullah Sunaideh Almuwaizri, Awatef Khudhair Abdulrahman Alkhamies, Fadhila Shehab Ouda Alfadhli, Walid Ahmed Ali Abdelrehim, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Ahmed Hanafy Hassan Elsayed, Ashraf Mohamed Elsouda Mohamed, Mariam Hussain Murad Alkandari, Abdulwahab Mustafa Mohammad Alkandari, Haya Haneef Dhawi Alo-taibi, Mansour Aayed Mubarak Alobaidan, Shareefah Ahmad Ali Alkandari.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for



individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the cus-

tomers' account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in

tomers' account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in

the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

20 customers win prizes worth KD 1,500 each

KFH announces winners of Al-Rabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the Al-Rabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each for the 44th and 45th weeks of 2024, additionally, KFH announced Anfal Al-Banna as the monthly winner of 1 kilo Gram of KFH Gold for the month of October 2024.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Sundus Al-Meshal, Abdulrahman Al-Obaidli, Ibrahim Al- Hussain, Johar Al-Maqroun, Ghadeer Al-Dahham, Tahani Al-Azmi, Rania Mohsen, Tariq Yousef, Aseel Al-Saeed, Nasser Al-Abdulhadi, Talal Mohammad, Tahani Al-Azmi, Ahmad Al-Marzouq, Abdullah Hamed, Waleed Al-Suwailem, Reem Al-Namori, Abdulrahem Al-Awadhi, Tukhaimah Al-Azmi, Ali Al-Ostath, Saif Al-Omari.

The Al-Rabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer cus-



A campaign visual

tomers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's

ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and condi-

tions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of KD 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 kg of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and KD 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.



KFAS logo

STEM activities, workshops

KFAS kicks off Science Month '24 with focus on space tech

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has announced the commencement of Science Month 2024, set to run from November 16 to December 12 under the theme "Journey through Innovation and Discovery."

This month-long celebration aims to stimulate public interest in science, enhance scientific knowledge, and encourage participation across various fields of science and technology. The program is designed to appeal to different age groups, fostering a culture of scientific research and highlighting innovative scientific developments.

A key focus of this year's Science Month is "From Space to Earth: Pioneering Environmental Solutions Using Space Technology." The event will showcase how space technology contributes to addressing environmental challenges through workshops, lectures, and exhibitions on satellite technology and its role in environmental monitoring and disaster management.

The Scientific Center will host STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Days every Thursday, offering family-oriented

activities that explore space through a blend of discovery and entertainment. Another theme, "A Step Towards Nature: Rediscovering Our Ecosystems," will engage the community in environmental preservation, featuring activities such as "Birds of Kuwait" in collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Research and the Kuwait Environmental Lens Volunteer Team.

Additionally, the Scientific Center will launch "Tracing the Steps to Success: A Journey to Rehabilitate and Release Turtles," highlighting efforts in marine conservation. A Nature Masterclass workshop will also be held to equip researchers with essential skills in scientific communication and publishing.

Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhel, Director General of KFAS, emphasized the importance of Science Month in inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. "Our goal is to make science accessible and exciting for everyone, from children to adults. We believe that by showcasing the practical applications of science in our daily lives, we can inspire more young people to pursue careers in STEM fields," he stated.



ASSP executives meet with the KSE chairman.

ASSP-KC meet with KSE chairman

The American Society of Safety Professionals - Kuwait Chapter (ASSP-KC) met with Kuwait Society of Engineers Chairman, Eng. Faisal Al-Atal, to discuss various issues related to cooperation and support between the two Societies that have Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between them since the year 2001 aimed at strengthening mutual support and collaboration between the two organizations.

The training and awareness pro-

grams was the important part in the meeting where both parties agreed to work together to serve the society people in different types of professional jobs training and utilizing KSE training center and facilities.

The meeting was attended by Engineer Eng. Fadhel Al Ali, chairman, Mr. Bader Mubarak Hadhrani, President and Eng. Hanan Almo-hammad, Deputy Director of the 12th International HSSE and Loss Prevention Professional Development Conference 2025.



Samantha Harvey poses with the trophy after winning the Booker Prize award 2024, in London, Tuesday, Nov. 12. (AP)

A wonder-filled novel

Harvey's 'Orbital' wins Booker Prize

LONDON, Nov 13, (AP) - British writer Samantha Harvey won the Booker Prize for fiction on Tuesday with "Orbital," a short, wonder-filled novel set aboard the International Space Station that ponders the beauty and fragility of Earth.

Harvey was awarded the 50,000-pound (\$64,000) prize for what she has called a "space pastoral" about six orbiting astronauts, which she began writing during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. The confined characters loop through 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets over the course of a day, trapped in one another's company and transfixed by the globe's ever-changing vistas.

"To look at the Earth from space is like a child looking into a mirror and realizing for the first time that the person in the mirror is herself," said Harvey, who researched her novel by reading books by astronauts and watching the space station's live camera. "What we do to the Earth we do to ourselves."

She said the novel "is not exactly about climate change, but implied in the view of the Earth is the fact of human-made climate change."

She dedicated the prize to everyone who speaks "for and not against the Earth, for and not against the dignity of other humans, other life."

"All the people who speak for and call for and work for peace - this is for you," she said.

Writer and artist Edmund de Waal, who chaired the five-member judging panel, called "Orbital" a "miraculous novel" that "makes our world strange

and new for us."

Gaby Wood, chief executive of the Booker Prize Foundation, noted that "in a year of geopolitical crisis, likely to be the warmest year in recorded history," the winning book was "hopeful, timely and timeless."

Harvey, who has written four previous novels and a memoir about insomnia, is the first British writer since 2020 to win the Booker. The prize is open to English-language writers of any nationality and has a reputation for transforming writers' careers. Previous winners include Ian McEwan, Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Hilary Mantel.

De Waal praised the "crystalline" writing and "capaciousness" of Harvey's succinct novel - at 136 pages in its U.K. paperback edition, one of the shortest-ever Booker winners.

"This is a book that repays slow reading," he said.

He said the judges spent a full day picking their winner and came to a unanimous conclusion. Harvey beat five other finalists from Canada, the United States, Australia and the Netherlands, chosen from among 156 novels submitted by publishers.

American writer Percival Everett had been the bookies' favorite to win with "James," which reimagines Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" from the point of view of its main Black character, the enslaved man Jim.

The other finalists were American writer Rachel Kushner's spy story "Creation Lake"; Ca-

nadian Anne Michaels' poetic novel "Held"; Charlotte Wood's Australian saga "Stone Yard Devotional"; and "The Safekeep" by Yael van der Wouden, the first Dutch author to be shortlisted for the Booker.

Harvey is the first female Booker winner since 2019, though one of five women on this year's shortlist, the largest number in the prize's 55-year history. De Waal said issues such as the gender or nationality of the authors were "background noise" that did not influence the judges.

"There was absolutely no question of box ticking or of agendas or of anything else. It was simply about the novel," he said before the awards ceremony at Old Billingsgate, a grand former Victorian fish market in central London.

Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize is open to novels originally written in English published in the U.K. or Ireland. Last year's winner was Irish writer Paul Lynch for post-democratic dystopia "Prophet Song."

Lynch handed Harvey her Booker trophy at the ceremony, warning her that her life was about to change dramatically because of the Booker publicity boost.

Harvey said she was "overwhelmed," but remained down-to-earth about spending her prize money.

She said she'd disburse "some of it on tax. I want to buy a new bike. And then the rest - I want to go to Japan."

Actor jokes about the title

John Krasinski named 2024 Sexiest Man Alive by People

LOS ANGELES, Nov 13, (AP) - Let the office debates begin - John Krasinski is People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2024.

The magazine announced the actor-writer-director as its pick Tuesday night during "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

Krasinski starred in "The Office" before launching the "Quiet Place" franchise and leading the action series "Jack Ryan." He joked in an interview with the magazine that he's hoping his wife, fellow actor Emily Blunt, makes good on a promise to plaster the cover as wallpaper at their home.

He takes the mantle from last year's honoree, Patrick Dempsey.

Krasinski, 45, told People that his immediate reaction to the honor was "just immediate blackout, actually. Zero thoughts." He added that he thought he might be getting pranked.

He burst to fame playing the floppy-haired, lanky Jim on the US version of the mockumentary "The Office," and transitioned into the clean-cut, muscular action star on Amazon's "Jack Ryan," playing the Tom Clancy character previously portrayed by Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck on the big screen.

He also co-wrote, directed and starred in "A Quiet Place," which has grown into a three-film franchise, and created the short-lived but immensely popular pan-



John Krasinski poses for photographers upon arrival at the UK Premiere of the film 'IF' in London, May 7, 2024. (AP)

demic-era webseries "Some Good News."

Earlier this year, he debuted his sixth directorial effort, "IF," a film about imaginary friends that also featured Blunt.

The couple have two daughters together. Krasinski told People in the issue that's on newsstands on Friday that the honor is likely to result in more than just jokes at home.

"I think it's going to make me do more household chores," he quipped.

Now in its 40th year, the first Sexiest Man Alive was Mel Gibson. Other past recipients include Brad Pitt, George Clooney, John F. Kennedy Jr., David Beckham, Michael B. Jordan, John Legend, Dwayne Johnson, Paul Rudd and Pierce Brosnan.



Janet Jackson performs at the Essence Festival in New Orleans, July 8, 2018. (AP)

Diverse group of legends lead 2025 nominees

Jackson, Eminem and Crow get Songwriters Hall of Fame nods

NEW YORK, Nov 13, (AP) - Eminem, Boy George, George Clinton, Sheryl Crow, Janet Jackson, the Doobie Brothers, N.W.A. and Alanis Morissette are among the nominees for the 2025 class at the Songwriters Hall of Fame, an eclectic group of rap, rock, hip-hop and pop pioneers.

Joining them on the ballot are Bryan Adams, with radio staples like "Summer of '69" and "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman?," and Mike Love of the Beach Boys, hoping to get in 25 years after band founder Brian Wilson. David Gates, co-lead singer of the pop-music group Bread, is also looking for entry.

The Hall annually inducts performers and non-performers alike, and the latter category this year includes Walter Afanasieff, who helped Mariah Carey with her smash "All I Want for Christmas Is You;" Mike Chapman, who co-wrote Pat Benatar's "Love Is a Battlefield;" and Narada Michael Walden, the architect of Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know" and Aretha Franklin's "Free-way of Love."

Eligible voting members have until Dec. 22 to turn in ballots with their choices of three nominees from the songwriter category and three from the performing-songwriter category. The Associated Press got an early copy of the list.

Several performers are getting another shot at entry, including Clinton, whose Parliament-

Funkadelic collective was hugely influential with hits like "Atomic Dog" and "Give Up the Funk," and The Doobie Brothers - Tom Johnston, Patrick Simmons and Michael McDonald - with such classics as "Listen to the Music" and "Long Train Runnin'." Steve Winwood, whose hits include "Higher Love" and "Roll With It," has also been on the ballot before.

Hip-hop this year is represented by Eminem - whose hits include "Lose Yourself" and "Stan" - and N.W.A. members Dr. Dre, Eazy E, Ice Cube, MC Ren and DJ Yella. Already in the Hall are hip-hop stars like Jay-Z, Snoop Dogg and Missy Elliot. Tommy James, with hits including "Mony Mony," "Crimson and Clover" and "I Think We're Alone Now," has also earned a nod.

If Jackson, whose 1989 album "Rhythm Nation" was a landmark, gets into the Hall, it will be more than two decades after her late brother Michael. The Canadian songwriter Morissette, whose influential "Jagged Little Pill" has won Grammys, Tonys, Junos and MTV awards would also add to the Hall's rocking women. (Glen Ballard, who helped produce and write the album, is already in.)

As would Crow, the "All I Wanna Do" and "Everyday Is a Winding Road" singer-songwriter, is having a critical resurgence after being inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2023. Boy George lifts the flag for '80s New Wave with the

Culture Club hits "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me."

Other nominees for the non-performing category include Franne Golde, who co-wrote Selena's "Dreaming of You;" Tom Douglas, who wrote country hits for Tim McGraw, Lady Antebellum and Miranda Lambert; Ashley Gorley, fresh off his co-writing smash "I Had Some Help" by Post Malone and Morgan Wallen; and Roger Nichols, who co-wrote The Carpenters' "We've Only Just Begun."

They join Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins, who contributed to the hit "The Boy Is Mine" by Brandy and Monica; Sonny Curtis, former member of the Crickets who wrote and performed the theme song for "The Mary Tyler Moore Show;" "Love is All Around," and British composer Tony Macaulay, who wrote "Build Me Up Buttercup."

The Hall also put forward three songwriting teams: Steve Barri and P.F. Sloan, who wrote "Secret Agent Man;" and Dennis Lambert and Brian Potter, who penned the Four Tops hit "Ain't No Woman (Like the One I've Got);" and Dan Penn and Spooner Oldham, who wrote the Percy Sledge tune "Out of Left Field."

The Songwriters Hall of Fame was established in 1969 to honor those creating the popular music. A songwriter with a notable catalog of songs qualifies for induction 20 years after the first commercial release of a song.

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Variety

NEW YORK: Percival Everett's "James" has received yet another literary nomination. Everett's reworking of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is among the finalists for an Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence, \$5,000 honors for fiction and non-fiction presented by the American Library Association.

"James" already is a finalist for the National Book Award and the Booker Prize and has won the Kirkus Prize for fiction. One of the Carnegie nominees for nonfiction



Everett

is Adam Higginbotham's "Challenger: A True Story of Heroism and Disaster on the Edge of Space," the Kirkus winner for nonfiction.

On Tuesday, the library association announced that the other Carnegie fiction nominees are a pair of debut novels: Jiaming Tang's "Cinema Love" and Kaveh Akbar's "Martyr!," which is also a National Book Award finalist. (AP)

ROME: Italian authorities say a network of European art forgers who painted fake Warhols, Banksys and Picassos and then tried to sell them to unsuspecting buyers with the help of complicit auction houses has been dismantled.

Thirty-eight people have been placed under investigation, including six in Spain, France and Belgium. Italian authorities say the network could have done 200 million euros (\$212 million) in economic damage by flooding the art market with fake works.

Italy's culture ministry said Monday the seizures in Italy, France, Spain and Belgium netted 2,100 fake works attributed to more than 30 famed artists, including Andy Warhol, Amedeo Modigliani, Banksy, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Francis Bacon, Wassily Kandinsky, Henry Moore and Gustav Klimt. (AP)

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia: The second edition of the International Film Criticism Conference, organized by the Saudi Film Commission, concluded after running from November 6 to 10, in Riyadh. The conference saw a great turnout of culture enthusiasts, industry professionals, filmmakers, and cinema audiences.

Under the title "Sound in Cinema," the conference explored various facets of cinema, with a focus on the impact of sound on the film experience and its influence on the film industry. The topic covered included original soundtracks, sound effects, and the sounds of nature. (AP)

Diabetes in youth a growing concern

Thriving with diabetes: How to lead balanced and healthy life

Dr. Jibin John Thomas MD
Internal Medicine specialist



Dr. Jibin

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Diabetes is one of the most common chronic conditions worldwide, impacting millions of individuals. While it requires consistent management, diabetes doesn't have to define your life. With the right strategies, you can lead a healthy, balanced, and fulfilling life, even in the face of the challenges that come with diabetes. Diabetes, once considered a condition primarily affecting older adults, has become increasingly prevalent among children, adolescents, and young adults in recent years. This shift reflects changes in lifestyle, dietary habits, and other risk factors that young people face in today's world. Understanding how diabetes affects youngsters and the steps that can be taken to manage their health is critical for ensuring they lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

World Diabetes Day is observed annually on November 14th to raise global awareness about diabetes, its impact, and the importance of prevention and management. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2024 is Diabetes and Well being.

Living with a chronic condition like diabetes can take a toll on emotional health, often leading to stress, anxiety, or depression due to the daily demands of managing the condition. However, there are ways to enhance emotional and psychological well-being while living with diabetes.

Stress management: Chronic stress can elevate blood sugar levels, making diabetes more difficult to control. Practicing stress-relief techniques such as mindfulness meditation, deep breathing exercises, or yoga can help alleviate stress and promote relaxation.

Support systems: A strong support network plays a crucial role in managing diabetes. Whether it's family, friends, or a healthcare team, having people to share the challenges of living with diabetes can help reduce feelings of isolation and stress.

Psychological counseling: When diabetes-related stress becomes overwhelming, seeking professional support from a counselor/psychologist or psychiatrist can provide valuable emotional guidance and practical coping strategies. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is especially effective in managing anxiety and depression related to diabetes.

For individuals living with diabetes, preventing long-term complications is a key priority. This requires regular check-ups, blood sugar management, and making healthy lifestyle choices.

Cardiovascular health: Diabetes significantly increases the risk of heart disease, making cardiovascular health a top concern. Engaging in regular physical activity, eating a heart-healthy diet low in saturated and trans fats, controlling cholesterol and blood pressure levels, avoiding smoking are ways in which cardiovascular well being can be achieved.

Eye care: Diabetic retinopathy, caused by damage to the blood vessels in the retina, can lead to vision loss if untreated. Regular eye exams and early intervention are crucial for preventing severe complications.

Foot care: People with diabetes are more prone to foot infections due to nerve damage and reduced blood circulation. Regular foot inspections and proper care can help prevent ulcers and infections, which could lead to more serious issues.

Kidney health: Diabetes can cause kidney damage over time. Regular urine tests, along with maintaining good blood pressure and blood sugar control, are essential for protecting kidney function.

Raising the level of self awareness
Understanding diabetes is fundamental to self-management. Learning to monitor blood sugar, adjust insulin or medication, and make lifestyle changes empowers people with diabetes to take control of their health.

Technology in diabetes management

Advances in technology have made diabetes management more precise and convenient. Tools like continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), insulin pumps, and smartphone apps allow for real time blood sugar monitoring. These technologies help individuals make informed decisions about diet, exercise, and insulin use.

While healthcare providers play a vital role, much of diabetes management happens in daily life. Taking personal responsibility for self-care whether it's monitoring blood sugar, maintaining a healthy diet, or staying physically active is essential for long-term well-being.

Dietary management for diabetes control

Dietary management is essential for controlling diabetes, particularly in Type 2 diabetes, where lifestyle choices significantly impact blood sugar levels. A well-planned diet not only helps regulate blood sugar but also maintains a healthy weight and prevents complications.

A balanced diet is crucial for achieving better glycemic control, improving overall health, and reducing the risk of complications.

Carbohydrate/starch management:

Carbohydrates have the most significant effect on blood sugar levels, so understanding how different types affect the body is vital for effective diabetes management.

Glycemic Index (GI): Foods with a low glycemic index raise blood sugar levels more gradually than high-GI foods. Opting for low-GI options can aid in managing blood sugar levels effectively.

Low glycemic index foods involve: Whole grains, barley, quinoa, brown rice, whole oats (steel-cut or rolled), legumes, lentils, chickpeas, black beans, kidney beans

Whole grains: Choose whole grains such as brown rice, quinoa, and whole-grain bread instead of refined grains. Whole grains are higher in fiber, which helps stabilize blood sugar levels.

Diabetic diet and nutrition:
Fruits and vegetables: Low glycemic index fruits

Unripe (green) banana (GI: 30-40), ripe banana (GI: 51-60), strawberries (GI: 41), blueberries (GI: 53), raspberries (GI: 32), blackberries (GI: 43), cherries (GI: 20), apples (GI: 38), pears (GI: 38), plums (GI: 40), peaches (GI: 42), oranges (GI: 40), kiwi (GI: 52), grapefruit (GI: 25), avocado (GI: 15)

Lean proteins: Incorporate lean proteins like chicken, turkey, fish, legumes, tofu, and low-fat dairy products. These help maintain muscle mass and promote satiety.

Understanding serving sizes: Be mindful of portion sizes to avoid overeating. Measuring cups or a food scale can assist in controlling portions.

Plate method: Visualize portions using the plate method: fill half your plate with non-starchy vegetables, a quarter with lean protein, and a quarter with whole grains or starchy vegetables.

Monitor carbohydrate intake: Distributing carbohydrates evenly across meals and snacks, rather than consuming large amounts at once, can help maintain stable blood sugar levels.

Choose healthy fats
Limit saturated and trans fats: Opt for healthy fats found in avocados, nuts, seeds, and olive oil. Limit saturated fats from fatty cuts of meat and full-fat dairy products, and avoid trans fats present in many processed foods.

Omega-3 fatty acids: Include sources of omega-3 fatty acids, such as fatty fish (salmon, mackerel), flaxseeds, and walnuts, which are beneficial for heart health.

Stay hydrated: Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water (3 litre/day) and avoiding any sugary drinks. Be careful of consuming Fruit Juices, fresh or processed both have high amounts of Glycemic Index.

Uncontrolled high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) poses significant health risks that can lead to serious short- and long-term complications. The primary consequences include:

Acute complications

■ **Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA):** Often seen in type 1 diabetes or severe cases of type 2, the body starts breaking down fat for energy, producing ketones. High ketone levels lead to DKA, a life-threatening condition marked by nausea, vomiting, dehydration, and confusion. DKA requires immediate medical intervention.

■ **Hyperosmolar Hyperglycemic State (HHS):** Predominantly affecting older adults with type 2 diabetes, HHS is characterized by extremely high blood sugar levels and severe dehydration. Without prompt treatment, it can lead to coma or death.

■ **Vascular damage:** Prolonged hyperglycemia can damage blood vessels, leading to complications across various organs.

■ **Kidneys (diabetic nephropathy):** High blood sugar can lead to kidney damage or failure, often necessitating dialysis or a kidney transplant.

■ **Eyes (diabetic retinopathy):** Blood vessel damage in the eyes can cause vision impairment and blindness.

■ **Nerves (diabetic neuropathy):** Nerve damage causes pain, numbness, and tingling, especially in the extremities, and may impair digestive and urinary functions.



Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi, Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan, and Waleed Al-Khashti with officials from the Ministry of Health and Zain.



Great turnout on the first day of the conference.

Company sponsors 46th Otorhinology Conference

Zain, MoH team up for ENT innovations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Zain announced its sponsorship of the 46th Otorhinology Conference, organized by the Zain ENT Hospital and the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS). Held over three days, the conference aims to highlight the latest research and surgical techniques in otorhinology. It comes under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al Awadhi.

Zain participated in the opening ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Kuwait, attended by the event patron's representative, the Undersecretary of Public Health Affairs at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi; Head of the ENT Council at MOH and Head of the ENT Department at Zain Hospital, Dr. Mutlaq Al-Sihan; Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer, Waleed Al-Khashti; along with officials, medical professionals, and specialists from local, regional, and international organizations.

Zain's annual support for this conference reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting Zain Hospital's initiatives. It is also a part of the company's fruitful collaboration with the Ministry of Health throughout the year to support various initiatives aimed at enhancing public health within the community.

The conference covers the latest advancements in research and surgical techniques in various fields, including head and neck surgery, robotic surgery, sinus and skull base surgeries, balance and hearing disorders, speech difficulties, and more. It features lectures, workshops, panel discussions, and the presentation of over 40 scientific papers and research studies.

The conference underscores the Ministry of Health's commitment to continuous medical education, the development of research and technical capabilities for physicians in both public and private sectors, and providing opportunities to explore and adopt the latest global surgical technologies.

Zain's support for the event demonstrates its belief in the importance of this mission.

Zain Hospital, established by Zain, features state of the art medical equipment and facilities, and specializes in ear, nose, and throat cases. The hospital served over 42,000 patients this year and hosted 19 visiting doctors from various specialties. It conducted approximately 4,120 surgeries, with Zain's volunteer team visiting the center on multiple occasions throughout the year, including during the National Day, Ramadan, and the Eid holidays.

In another collaboration between Zain and the Ministry of Health, the two entities launched a nationwide awareness campaign this year to promote the Child Protection Helpline 147. The dedicated hotline, which was first provided by Zain to MoH's Child Protection Office in 2016, establishes a direct and confidential point-of-contact to report all forms of child abuse, neglect, or harm in Kuwait.

Kuwait expands respiratory disease tracking

Health Ministry launches EMFLU.2 system

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi has launched the electronic system for monitoring respiratory diseases (EMFLU.2) as part of his ministry's strategy to guarantee the efficiency of health response, monitoring and early intervention systems to maintain the health and safety of society.

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi said the platform shall collect and share information about the spread, severity and impact of respiratory diseases in sentinel sites in order to create a comprehensive picture of the epidemiological situation in the country.

He affirmed that the platform is operating in 12 monitoring centers in different parts of the country, indicating a primary care center has been allocated in each governorate or health district to monitor

acute respiratory infection cases.

He went on to say this is in addition to following up acute and severe respiratory infection cases in public hospitals in order to ensure the efficiency of the health response mechanism and curb the spread of respiratory diseases.

He also confirmed the ongoing efforts to develop preventive measures and support informed decision-making to control respiratory diseases and ensure full preparedness for any health challenges.

A flyer of the diabetes awareness campaign by the Dasman Diabetes Institute.

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SPORTS

Sinner beats Fritz again in 'rematch' of US Open final

Medvedev back in contention at ATP Finals

TURIN, Italy, Nov 13, (AP): The soccer-like "Ole" chants. The vast array of fans dressed in his theme color of orange. The banners and signs - one of which declared, "Sinner for president."

Late in the second set of his victory over Taylor Fritz at the ATP Finals on Tuesday, Jannik Sinner used all the adulation in his home country to his advantage.

When the top-ranked player produced a backhand passing shot up the line while on the run, he held his finger up to his ear to encourage the crowd to cheer louder.

"I read a little bit where he was playing and I just tried to pass him somehow because if not, it would have been a very easy volley for him," Sinner said. "The crowd is helping me a lot. This is a very special occasion for me."

"I've always liked playing at home. If you like the fans and the people supporting you, it's a big help," Sinner added.

Sinner made it two wins in two matches before his home fans at the finals, beating Fritz 6-4, 6-4 in a rematch of the U.S. Open final that the Italian also won in straight sets.

Sinner turned up his intensity when it mattered most. He survived a marathon service game midway through the first set then broke his American opponent with a huge forehand up the line on his first set point.

During and after the match, the



Italy's Jannik Sinner returns the ball to United States' Taylor Fritz during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 12, 2024. (AP)

crowd inside Inalpi arena chanted, "Ole, Ole, Ole; Sin-ner, Sin-ner."

Sinner saved the only break point that he faced and nearly matched

Fritz with six aces to the American's seven.

But Fritz tested Sinner over two close sets and thought his performance was a step up from the U.S. Open final.

"There's a lot of positives I can take out of it," Fritz said. "For all of the match, I didn't feel overwhelmed. I felt like I was right there."

Sinner, who beat Alex de Minaur in his opening match at the season-ending event for the top eight players, improved to 23-1 in his last five tournaments.

Earlier, Daniil Medvedev moved back into contention with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over De Minaur following a temper tantrum in his previous match.

Medvedev didn't face a single break point and was generally much sharper than in his straight-set loss to Fritz on Sunday - during which he smashed his racket and lost his cool twice. Sinner leads the group while Fritz and Medvedev are next with one win each.

De Minaur, who is making his debut at finals, lost both of his opening matches.

The top two finishers from each round-robin group advance to the semifinals.

On Thursday, Medvedev faces Sinner and De Minaur plays Fritz in the final matches of the group.

In the other group on Monday, Alexander Zverev and Casper Ruud beat Andrey Rublev and Carlos Alcaraz, respectively.

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.

When his match was over, Medvedev closed his eyes and held his

fingers to his ears. Then he wrote on a camera lens, "Block the noise."

"I went into this match also blocking the noise even from myself," Medvedev said. "No like tantrums and stuff. Just block the noise. And I really didn't care what was happening on the court. I just tried to play and it was a good feeling."

Medvedev won the finals in 2020 - the last edition held in London.

"The more popular you become, the more fans you get, the more haters you get, the more attention you get. And sometimes even the good noise can make you off balance," Medvedev said.

"You know, you win everything and everyone thinks you're a god. ... Then you lose two matches and everyone is like, 'Finished, your career is finished.' So sometimes it's good just (to) block it," Medvedev added.

Baylor overwhelms Sam Houston

Cramping hampers Duke as Kentucky edges out victory

ATLANTA, Nov 13, (AP): Duke's young players are still having issues with cramping.

While Cooper Flagg made it to the end of the game Tuesday night against Kentucky, scoring 26 points and grabbing 12 rebounds in a 77-72 loss, another freshman was forced out with the same issue that has plagued Flagg.

Center Khaman Maluach began cramping in the first half and wound up playing only 23 minutes. He finished with 10 points on 5-of-5 shooting, to go along with seven rebounds and two blocks.

The 17-year-old Flagg, who has been projected as the possible top pick in next year's NBA draft, had cramping issues in No. 6 Duke's first two games, both victories. That prompted Scheyer to lash out at his staff for not getting his prized recruit in the best possible condition.

That wasn't a problem against No. 19 Kentucky, though Flagg appeared to be struggling physically in the closing minute as he turned the ball over twice, allowing the Wildcats to pull out the victory.

Baylor 104, Sam Houston 67

In Waco, Texas, Jayden Nunn had 19 points with five 3-pointers to lead seven Baylor players scoring in double figures and the 12th-ranked Bears won their home opener 104-67 over Sam Houston.

The Bears (2-1) got double-doubles from Miami transfer Norchad Omier (18 points and 10 rebounds) and freshman VJ Edgcombe (13 points and 10 rebounds). They haven't trailed in their two games since a 38-point loss in a top-10 matchup at Gonzaga, including a win over then-No. 16 Arkansas.

Duke transfer Jeremy Roach had 12 points and eight assists while Josh Ojjanwuna's 11 points included a dunk only 10 seconds into the game that put Baylor ahead to stay. Robert Wright III and Jalen Celestine both had 10 points.

Lamar Wilkerson had 19 points for reigning Conference USA champion Sam Houston (1-2). Josiah Hammons had 14 points, and Dorian Finister 13.

Oregon St 94, W. Oregon 58

In Corvallis, Oregon, Nate Kingz's 18 points helped Oregon State defeat Western Oregon 94-58.

Kingz added four steals for the Beavers (3-0). Isaiah Sy shot 6 for



Duke guard Cooper Flagg (2) takes a shot as Kentucky forward Brandon Garrison (10) defends during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, on Nov. 12, 2024, in Atlanta. (AP)

9, including 3 for 6 from beyond the arc to add 15 points. Michael Rataj shot 5 of 8 from the field and 2 for 3 from the line to finish with 13 points.

The Wolves were led in scoring by Anjay Cortez, who finished with 14 points and two steals. Western Oregon also got nine points from Mario Williams Jr.. Brady Grier finished with nine points.

Portland St 85, San Diego 76

In San Diego, Jaylin Henderson's 23 points helped Portland State defeat San Diego 85-76.

Henderson also contributed six rebounds for the Vikings (2-1). Terri Miller Jr. added 15 points while shooting 5 of 10 from the field and 4 for 6 from the line and also had six rebounds and four steals. Hayden Curtiss and Shane Nowell both had 11 points.

The Toreros (1-2) were led by Keyon Kensie, who recorded 20 points. Steven Jamerson II added 13 points, nine rebounds and two blocks for San Diego. Kody Clouet finished with 13 points and three steals.

UC Riverside 70, Cal Baptist 69

In Riverside, Calif., Barrington Hargress had 25 points in UC Riverside's 70-69 victory against Cal Baptist.

Hargress shot 9 of 17 from the field, including 2 for 4 from 3-point range, and went 5 for 8 from the line for the Highlanders (1-2). Jack Whitbourn scored 12 points and added 13 rebounds. Joel Armotrading and Isaiah Moses both added 10.

Dominique Daniels Jr. finished with 20 points for the Lancers (2-1). Cal Baptist also got 10 points and 10 rebounds from AJ Braun and Kendal Coleman.

Colorado St 74, Denver 65

In Fort Collins, Colo., Jalen Lake had 19 points in Colorado State's 74-65 win against Denver.

Lake went 7 of 10 from the field (3 for 6 from 3-point range) for the Rams (3-0). Jaylen Crocker-Johnson scored 14 points and added six rebounds. Nique Clifford shot 4 for 9 (1 for 4 from 3-point range) and 3 of 3 from the free-throw line to finish with 12 points.

Isaiah Addo-Ankrah finished with 16 points for the Pioneers (1-2). Isaiah Carr added 13 points and six rebounds for Denver. DeAndre Craig finished with 11 points, four assists and two steals.



Baylor forward Norchad Omier (15) works to the basket against Sam Houston State's Dorian Finister in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Waco, Texas, on Nov. 12, 2024. (AP)

Gleason, Bowers power Toledo past Central Michigan 37-10

Ogbonna's 5 TDs lift Buffalo over Ball State

BUFFALO, N.Y., Nov 13, (AP): C.J. Ogbonna accounted for five scores that included a 14-yard touchdown pass to Lamar Spurling in overtime to give Buffalo a 51-48 win over Ball State on Tuesday night.

Jackson Courville kicked a 36-yard field goal in the first possession of overtime for Ball State.

Ogbonna completed 19 of 37 passes for 264 yards and threw three touchdown passes and two interceptions. He added 55 yards on the ground and two scores. Al-Jay Henderson had 126 yards rushing on 27 carries with two touchdowns for Buffalo (6-4, 4-2 Mid-American Conference). JJ Jenkins made eight catches for 131 yards and Victor Snow had six for 74 and each had a touchdown catch.

Kadin Semonza was 25-of-37 passing for 327 yards and threw four touchdown passes and an interception for Ball State (3-7, 2-4), which was playing at Buffalo for the first time since 2016. Justin Bowick made two touchdown catches and finished with 148 yards receiving. Cam Pickett accounted for two scores and 111 yards of offense.

Ball State scored 17 unanswered points between the third and fourth quarters before Ogbonna broke

loose on a 26-yard TD run to pull the Bulls to 45-37 with 5:43 remaining in regulation. Ogbonna threw a 33-yard touchdown pass to Jenkins to cap a 10-play, 73-yard drive that tied the game at 45-all with 1:49 to play.

Ball State then drove to the Buffalo 41-yard line but punted the ball on fourth-and-10 with 13 seconds left to force the extra period.

Toledo 37, C. Michigan 10

In Ohio, Tucker Gleason accounted for three touchdowns and the Toledo defense had five takeaways - including a 45-yard interception return for a touchdown by Nasir Bowers - to help the Rockets beat Central Michigan 37-10.

Gleason was 13-of-23 passing for 136 yards, including a 27-yard touchdown to Zy'marion Lang that made it 34-3 midway through the third quarter, and added 66 yards rushing and two TDs on eight carries.

Gleason scored on a 9-yard run that gave Toledo the lead for good with 4:26 left in the first quarter and added a TD run from 30 yards out to make it 17-3 with about 5 minutes to go in the second. Bowers jumped in front of a pass from Jacy Glasser near midfield ran

down the right sideline for a TD with 22 seconds left and, on the next play from scrimmage, Jackson Barrow recovered a fumble caused by D'Andre Ragin's strip-sack of Glasser 13 seconds later.

Dylan Cunanan kicked a 32-yard field goal as time in the first half expired to make it 27-3 at halftime. Cunanan also made a 30-yard field goal early in the second quarter and a 40-yarder with about 10 minutes to play.

CMU's Marion Lukes had 19 carries for 80 yards and a touchdown, a 2-yarder that capped the scoring with 1:28 to play.

Toledo (7-3, 4-2) has won back-to-back games since a 41-26 home loss to Mid-American Conference-leading Bowling Green (6-4, 5-1). Central Michigan (3-7, 1-5) has lost five games in a row.

Bowling Green 31, W. Michigan 13

In Bowling Green, Ky., Quarterback Connor Bazalak accounted

for three touchdowns and Terrian Stewart ran for 150 yards and Bowling Green beat Western Michigan 31-13 to move into a half-game lead atop the Mid-American Conference.

Bazalak threw a 25-yard touchdown to Harold Fannin Jr. with 5:12 left before intermission to give the Falcons a 10-7 lead and they never trailed again.

Jacorey Benjamin intercepted Hayden Wolff on the first play of the Broncos ensuing drive, and three plays later, Bazalak ran it in following a 23-yard run by Stewart to the 1.

On the opening drive after halftime, the Falcons drove 65 yards on seven plays with Stewart running it in from 17 yards for a 24-7 lead. Bowling Green closed its scoring with Bazalak throwing a 10-yard touchdown to Fannin.

Stewart reached his rushing total in 15 carries with a touchdown and Fannin had 137 receiving yards on 10 receptions with two touchdowns.

The Broncos posted their only lead when Jalen Buckley ran it in from the 6 for a 7-3 lead with 10:36 before halftime.

Buckley ran for 73 yards on 17 yards and scored twice.



Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns the ball to Australia's Alex de Minaur during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 12, 2024. (AP)

Marques steps in with title at stake

Wittich replaced as F1 race director with 3 races to go

PARIS, Nov 13, (AP): Formula 1 race director Niels Wittich will be replaced in a surprise move with three races to go and the title yet to be decided.

The series' governing body, the FIA, said on Tuesday that Wittich had "stepped down" and would be replaced starting from next

week's Las Vegas Grand Prix by Rui Marques, who had been race director for Formula 2 and 3.

However, German publication motorsport-magazin.com quoted Wittich, who is German, as saying: "I did not resign." The FIA did not immediately comment on that report.

"The FIA can confirm that Niels Wittich has stepped down from his position as F1 race director to pursue new opportunities," the FIA said in a statement, without explaining the timing of his departure.

"Niels has fulfilled his numerous responsibilities as race director with professionalism and dedication. We thank him for his commitment and we wish him the best for the future."

The FIA added that Marques "brings a wealth of experience" to the role.

Wittich's departure signifies more upheaval at the FIA, which has already seen other senior officials leave over the last year. Drivers also last week criticized the FIA and President Mohammed Ben Sulayem over decisions that punished top drivers for swearing.

Marques' first event as race director could decide the drivers' title if Max Verstappen finishes

ahead of his nearest challenger Lando Norris in Las Vegas on Nov. 23.

The role of race director focuses largely on safety and discussing any concerns with the drivers, though it became the focus of controversy in 2021.

Then-race director Michael Masi's decision to resume racing on the last lap of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix after a safety car period allowed Verstappen to overtake Lewis Hamilton and win his first world title.

It sparked protests from Hamilton's Mercedes team, which were denied, and long-running debate over how F1 races should be overseen.

The FIA later ruled that Masi made a "human error" in overseeing the restart and that radio calls from team leaders at Mercedes and Verstappen's Red Bull placed Masi under pressure. The FIA ended direct radio communication between the race director and teams.

Masi was replaced ahead of the 2022 season, initially by Wittich and Eduardo Freitas sharing the race director role, before Wittich took over sole responsibility.

Wittich was also the race director in Miami in 2022 when he attempted to implement an FIA push to crack down on drivers wearing jewelry. Hamilton responded by turning up to the event wearing numerous necklaces, watches and rings.

While there has been debate over how F1 races have been administered this season, it has generally centered on how other officials - the stewards - interpret the rules on overtaking, and the penalties for overly aggressive driving, as Verstappen and Norris have fought on the track.



Wittich

I believe we can qualify: Saudi coach

Struggling Australia, Saudi Arabia play crucial World Cup qualifier

MELBOURNE, Nov 13, (AP): Australia hosts Saudi Arabia in a crucial World Cup qualifier at Melbourne on Thursday while Japan and South Korea can take a big step towards North America in 2026 when the third round of Asian qualifying reaches the halfway stage.

With only the top two teams from each of the three groups of six progressing automatically to the expanded 48-team tournament, Australia and Saudi Arabia both have only five points from four Group C games, five behind leaders Japan.

The sputtering form of the two teams has already resulted in coaching changes since the third round began. Graham Arnold stepped down as Socceroos head coach in September and was replaced by Tony Popovic while Saudi Arabia fired Roberto Mancini in October after a 0-0 draw with Bahrain in Jeddah.

Herve Renard is back in Riyadh to take over the Saudi team for a second spell.

"I believe we can qualify; otherwise, I wouldn't be here," Renard, who left Riyadh in March 2023 to take over the French women's national team, told local media. "I know the players well. We're not in an ideal situation, but it's far from hopeless. We still have six games remaining, four of them away."



Herve Renard

Renard led Saudi Arabia to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, topping a qualification group above Japan and Australia. It then defeated eventual

champion Argentina 2-1 in its opening game in Qatar before losing its next two games and finishing last in its group, failing to qualify for the knockout rounds.

"Many of these players were part of the squad that qualified for the 2022 World Cup," Renard said. "They must draw on that experience, keep their spirit high, and do everything necessary to reach the 2026 World Cup."

Saudi Arabia is hoping that a coaching change can produce the same upturn in results that Popovic delivered for Australia in his first two games in October, with a win over China at home followed by a 1-1 draw in Japan.

Those were the first points that Japan, which has appeared in every World Cup since 1998, dropped in qualification. The Samurai Blue is expected to beat Indonesia despite playing in front of an expected 78,000 fans in Jakarta, before traveling to China.

"If you look at the FIFA rankings and the games in the World Cup qualifiers so far, you might think that the advantage is with Japan," said coach Hajime Moriyasu. "But we are playing both games away and I think it will be tough."

In Group A, Iran and Uzbekistan are six points clear of the rest of the group and face respective away games against North Korea and Qatar.

Kuwait Club locks horns with Al-Nasr

Battle begins in Federation Volleyball Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Federation Volleyball Championship, the first tournament of the season, kicks off with two exciting matches. Kuwait Club will face Al-Nasr at 5:00 pm, followed by a match between Burgan and Al-Sulaibikhat at 7:00 pm. Both games will take place at the Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex. Tomorrow, the first round will conclude with Al-Qadisiya playing Al-Shabab at 5:00 pm and Kazma taking on Al-Yarmouk at 7:00 pm, also in the same venue.

The Federation Volleyball Championship began after the conclusion of Kuwait's participation in the Arab Championship, where it secured sixth place.

Nine clubs are competing in the Federation Championship: Kuwait Club, Al-Qadisiya, Al-Arabi, Kazma, Al-Nasr, Al-Sulaibikhat, Burgan, Al-Shabab, and Yarmouk.

The tournament follows a single-round league format, with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals. The first team will face the fourth, while the second meets the third. The winners of these semi-finals will move on to the final match.

In the opening match, Kuwait Club is favored



Kuwait Club volleyball team seeks opening win.

to win against Al-Nasr, which returns to competition after a long absence. Kuwait Club boasts a strong squad led by Turkish coach Taner Atik, and the team has strengthened with Cuban players Fernando Hernandez and Brazilian Rafael

Vieira, both of whom played in the recent Asian Championship in Iran. The second match between Burgan and Al-Sulaibikhat is expected to be closely contested, as both teams are similar in skill level.

Ecuador, Bolivia face off in Guayaquil

Vinicius back for Brazil, Martínez for Argentina in Cup qualifying

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 13, (AP): Argentina and Brazil will have two of their leading stars available again as South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup resumes with the last two rounds of games this year.

Defending World Cup champion Argentina will once again count on goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez, who was suspended for two international matches in October. Brazil will bring back winger Vinicius Júnior, who missed the last two qualifiers through injury but has recovered.

South American leaders Argentina will play at Paraguay on Thursday, shortly after fourth-place Brazil visits Venezuela.

Also on Thursday, host Ecuador and Bolivia will face off in Guayaquil.

Potentially the most interesting match of the 11th round will be played on Friday in Montevideo, where third-place Uruguay hosts second-place Colombia. The bottom two in the 10-team standings, Peru and Chile, will meet the same day.

All teams play again next Tuesday in the 12th round of games, when Argentina hosts Peru and Brazil has a home game against Uruguay.

Argentina currently has 22 points, three more than Colombia, with Uruguay and Brazil third and fourth with 16 points each. Ecuador and Paraguay, with 13 points, complete the top six which are direct spots in the next World Cup.

Bolivia has 12 points, and its seventh place would qualify the Andean team for an international playoff. Venezuela (11), Peru (6) and Chile (5) complete the standings.

Argentina can move even closer to a spot at the World Cup by beating Paraguay and Peru.

Captain Lionel Messi will be his team's best hope for goals once again after his hat trick and two assists in the 6-0 win against Bolivia in October, with the 37-year-old the top scorer in the current South American qualifying.

Argentina will travel to Asunción with an additional challenge since Paraguay has been unbeaten since coach Gustavo Alfaro, an Argentine, took over in the middle of the year. In September, the Paraguayans beat Brazil 1-0.

Coach Lionel Scaloni faced a last-minute injury that could force even more changes in Argentina's defense. Lisandro Martínez suffered an apparent abdomen injury during Manchester United's 3-0 Premier League victory over Leicester and was discharged from international duty. Scaloni had already lost Germán Pezzella.

Pressure on Brazil coach Dori-



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Osasuna at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

val Júnior was eased in October after two wins in qualifying over Chile and Peru. And Vinicius wasn't on duty in either of them.

Fans will pay close attention to the winger's performances against tough defenses at Venezuela and later against Uruguay, as he tries to reproduce for Brazil the same decisive performances for Real Madrid.

Brazil once again will not have Neymar, who picked up a muscular injury earlier this month. There's no big name as a center forward because Rodrygo is injured, too, and Endrick was not chosen. Vinicius will likely have to link up effectively with Raphinha and Luiz Henrique.

Vinicius will face two teams that are in a degree of turmoil. Venezuela hasn't won any of its last six qualifiers, and Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa is still under fire from former players for his handling of the team.

Two wins for Brazil won't secure the team a spot at the next World Cup just yet, but they will give fans and players some reassurance after a turbulent year.

Colombia is hardly expecting a friendly reception in Montevideo on Friday. After all, there's unfinished business with Uruguay since their turbulent semifinal encounter at the Copa América in the United States in July.

Colombia's victory kicked off a brawl between Colombian fans and relatives of the Uruguay players. Led by striker Darwin Núñez, the Uruguayans went into the stands to defend their relatives. Núñez was later suspended for five matches.

Uruguay's Bielsa will be without two key midfielders, Nicolás de la Cruz and Giorgian de Arrascaeta, both injured. Uruguay has not won since its third-place match at the Copa America.

Curry steals the show in Thompson 'emotional' return to Chase Center

Anunoby leads Knicks past struggling 76ers in Embiid's debut

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 13, (AP): Stephen Curry scored 37 points, including Golden State's final 12, to rally the Warriors past Klay Thompson and the Dallas Mavericks 120-117 on Tuesday night in an NBA Cup game.

Thompson finished with 22 points in an emotional return to Chase Center for the first time since he departed to join Dallas in July.

Luka Dončić started and had 31 points, eight rebounds and six assists after the team decided his left groin strain was healthy to play once he went through his warmup routine.

Knicks 111, 76ers 99

In Philadelphia, OG Anunoby scored 24 points and the New York Knicks spoiled 76ers star Joel Embiid's season debut, beating Philadelphia in the opener of NBA Cup group play for both teams.

Embiid finished with 13 points and 26 minutes and was unable to lift the struggling Sixers, who fell to 2-8.

Suns 120, Jazz 112

In Salt Lake City, Devin Booker scored 31 points and Bradley Beal added 24 to help the Phoenix Suns open NBA Cup pool play with a victory over the Utah Jazz.

Grayson Allen chipped in 15 points for the Suns. Booker, Beal and Allen combined to make 13 3-pointers. Mason Plumlee finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds while starting in place of injured center Jusuf Nurkic.

Bucks 99, Raptors 85

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points to lead the Milwaukee Bucks past the Toronto Raptors in an NBA Cup game between teams that entered with the two worst records in the league.

Bobby Portis added 17 points off the bench for Milwaukee (3-8). Brook Lopez scored 13 points while AJ Green and Ryan Rollins had 12 apiece.

Grady Dick paced the Raptors (2-10) with 32 points, a career high for the second-year player. Jakob



New York Knicks' Karl-Anthony Towns, center, goes up for a shot past Philadelphia 76ers' Paul George, left, during the second half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game in Philadelphia. (AP)

Poeltl scored 13 points and Chris Boucher had 12.

The Bucks began to pull away midway through the third quarter and pushed their lead to 21 points early in the fourth. Toronto got within 10 points with less than five minutes remaining but did not get closer.

The Bucks were without star guard Damian Lillard, who is in the concussion protocol, while the Raptors' Immanuel Quickley sat out with an elbow injury.

Hawks 117, Celtics 116

In Boston, Onyeka Okongwu tipped in a missed shot with 6.1 seconds left, and Jaylen Brown missed a jumper at the buzzer as the Atlanta Hawks overcame a 15-point, second-half deficit to beat the Boston Celtics in their NBA Cup opener.

Dyson Daniels scored a career-high 28 points, and Jalen Johnson had 18 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. Atlanta snapped a two-game losing streak despite playing without star Trae Young.

Pistons 123, Heat 121 OT

In Detroit, Malik Beasley made a tiebreaking free throw with 1.1

seconds left in overtime after Miami was given a technical foul for calling a timeout when it had none left, and the Detroit Pistons edged the Heat.

Tyler Herro's jumper put Miami up 121-119 with 1.8 seconds left,



Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green (23) shoots against Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Dončić during the second half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

but after a timeout, Cade Cunningham hit Jalen Duren with an alley-oop on the inbound pass.

Trail Blazers 122, Timberwolves 108

In Portland, Robert Williams and Jerami Grant each scored 19 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a win over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Williams, who recently returned from a knee injury, also had nine rebounds and three assists.

Naz Reid led Minnesota with 28 points in the loss while star guard Anthony Edwards pitched in 26 points.

Magic 114, Hornets 89

In Orlando, Franz Wagner scored 32 points and Jalen Suggs hit his first seven shots, including three 3-pointers, to lead the Orlando Magic to a win over the Charlotte Hornets.

LaMelo Ball scored 16 of his 35 points in the first quarter for the Hornets in the opening round of Group A play in the NBA Cup. Coming off a career-high 38 points in Sunday's overtime loss at Philadelphia, Ball added six rebounds and seven assists.

Best of the Rest

SAFA president arrested: South African soccer chief Danny Jordaan, who helped bring the first-ever FIFA World Cup tournament to Africa, has been arrested on fraud and theft charges. Jordaan is accused of using about R1.3 million (\$72,372) of South African Football Association (SAFA) funds to hire a PR firm and a private security company for his personal benefit.

Jordaan is president of the association and led the country's World Cup bid committee which secured the rights to host one of the biggest sporting events in South Africa in 2010.

His arrest follows a raid by the country's Special Investigating Unit at the offices of SAFA in March "where an assortment of electronic gadgets and files were seized for further investigation, thus leading to the arrest," police spokesperson Katlego Mogale said.

According to the police, Jordaan was arrested with one other official and a businessman. They are expected to appear in the Palm Ridge Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

SAFA did not immediately re-

spond to requests for comment. (AP)

Scottish club calls for donations: A lowly Scottish soccer club, which once had "James Bond" actor Sean Connery on its books, has been given a six-point deduction for having a sloping field.

Now Bonnyrigg Rose is calling on its fans to help raise more than 100,000 pounds (\$127,000) to level out the playing surface and ensure the team doesn't receive any further punishments.

Bonnyrigg was promoted to Scottish League Two - the fourth and last tier in the country's professional league structure - in 2022 but has faced pressure from soccer authorities to fix the uneven field at its New Dundas Park home to meet the minimum requirements of the league.

On Tuesday, Bonnyrigg received its points deduction for breaching the league's rules regarding the gradient of the field, and was told the club has to provide details by the end of January of funding arrangements and the program of works to level it from next summer. (AP)



England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford practices during a training session at St George's Park, Burton upon Trent, England. (AP)

Sports

PAS reaffirms support for squash team following champ's success

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah, recently reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to providing financial and moral support for Kuwait's squash team following their victory at the fifth West Asian Championship held in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq.

Bashar welcomed the team, including players Ammar Al-Tamimi, Mohammed Al-Masoud, Adhbi Jumaan, and Jassim Al-Gharib, along with coach Salem Fayez. Also present were Federation Vice President Khalid Al-Habib, delegation head and Board member Ahmed Al-Adwani, and Board member Adel Al-Gharib.

In his remarks, Bashar praised

the players for their championship win, emphasizing that Kuwait's squash team has established a strong international presence. He expressed his hopes for continued victories that would further elevate Kuwait's reputation in sports.

He added, "The Authority will remain steadfast in providing both financial and moral support to help the team advance to the highest levels."

In response, Khalid Al-Habib thanked Bashar for his ongoing support, noting that it enables the Federation to implement key programs that enhance players' technical skills and foster success in international competitions. Al-Habib pledged to bring more achievements in the future.



The Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah welcomes the squash team.

Kuwaiti shooters continue dominance

Bahrain takes Trap gold

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwaiti shooters Rami Al-Mutairi and Mariam Rzuqi each won gold medal on Tuesday in the men's and women's 10-meter rifle events, respectively, at the annual His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Shooting Championship. Al-Mutairi secured first place, ahead of Abdullah Al-Harbi, who won silver, and Bandar Al-Mutairi, who took bronze. Rzuqi was followed by Retaj Al-Zeyadi in second place and Al-Jouri Mansour in third.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's team claimed gold in the Arab Shotgun Championship's 'Trap' event, held alongside the Crown Prince's Shooting Championship. Kuwait's team—comprising Abdulrahman Al-Faihan and Sara Al-Hawal—took silver, while Qatar and Oman's shooters shared the bronze.

Duaij Al-Otaibi, President of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations, along with Obaid Al-Osaimi, Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti Shooting Club, awarded medals to the winners.

Today's events will feature the 50-plate skeet competition (men and women), the skeet finals, and the 25-meter rapid-fire pistol competition.

Duaij Al-Otaibi praised the high technical standards observed in both championships, highlighting outstanding performances by Kuwaiti and Arab shooters. He affirmed that advancing Arab shooting talent is a key objective of this sports gathering. Al-Otaibi expressed gratitude to His Highness the Crown Prince for supporting this championship, which aims to foster shooting sports in Kuwait and the Arab world.

Kuwaiti shooter Sarah Al-Hawal, who earned four medals—two gold and two silver—expressed joy in her achievements, noting the championship's high level and its role in developing Arab women's shooting.

Bahraini shooter Marwa Bouarki, who won two golds and a silver, commended the Kuwaiti organizers for their support. She acknowledged the efforts of Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, head of shotgun shooting at the Bahrain Shooting Federation, whose support played a vital role in Bahrain's success.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa lauded Bahrain's team for their success, attributing the four medals (two gold, one silver, and one bronze) to dedicated ef-



Duaij Al-Otaibi, President of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations awards the winners.

orts by the players and Bahrain Shooting Federation. He also praised the organization of His Highness the Crown Prince's Championship and the Arab Championship for fostering excellence in the sport.

Al-Qadsiya looks to boost league hopes vs Al-Qurain

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Al-Arabi seeks victory today as it faces Al-Nasr at 5:00 pm in the seventh round of the Handball League's preliminary stage. The round will also feature a second matchup between Al-Qadsiya and Al-Qurain at 6:30 pm, with both games taking place at the Sheikh Saad Indoor Hall Complex.

Al-Arabi, currently in fourth place with 8 points from four wins and one loss, aims to secure another victory against Al-Nasr, who stands in eighth place with 6 points. Al-Nasr has won 3 of its 5 matches, showing strong performances throughout the tournament.

In the second game, "stumbling" Al-Qadsiya, in 11th place with 4 points, hopes to return to winning ways and revive its chances of qualifying among the top six for the Premier League. With only 2 wins against 4 losses, Al-Qadsiya recently signed Tunisian coach Amin Al-Qafsi to help the team re-



Players fighting for the ball.

gain its competitive edge and satisfy fans' expectations.

Meanwhile, Al-Qurain enters the match in seventh place with 6 points, aiming to continue its winning momentum and strengthen its position in the top six for a potential promotion.

We are not afraid of South Korea: Al-Hajri

World Cup hopes on the line as Kuwait takes on South Korea

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: Kuwait will face a challenging match against South Korea at 5:00 PM this evening at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in the fifth round of Group Three in the qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

In the same group, Iraq will meet Jordan in Basra at 7:15 pm, while Oman will play against Palestine at the Sultan Qaboos Complex in Muscat at 7:00 pm.

Currently, Kuwait sits in fifth place with 3 points, while South Korea leads the group with 10 points. Iraq is in second place with 7 points, edging out Jordan on goal difference. Oman holds fourth place with 3 points, and Palestine is at the bottom with 2 points.

However, Kuwait's task tonight will not be easy due to the significant technical gap between the two teams, especially considering their previous encounters in the first four rounds of the group's competition.

Kuwait began the qualifiers positively with a 1-1 draw against Jordan and a goalless draw against Iraq, before suffering a heavy 4-0 defeat to Oman. They later tied 1-1 with Palestine in the last round.

The Blues' Argentine coach, Juan Pizzi, made several changes to the squad for today's match against South Korea and the upcoming clash with Jordan (set to be hosted by Kuwait next Tuesday in the sixth round). The changes are due to injuries to goalkeepers Suleiman Abdul Ghafoor, Saud Al-Hoshan, and Hussein Ashkanani, as well as the suspension of Ahmed Al-Dhafiri due to accumulated yellow cards. The coaching staff has called

up Khaled Al-Rashidi, Ahmed Adi, Ali Khalaf, and Fawaz Ayed, in addition to three youth team players under the age of 20: Nasser Khader, Montaser Abdul Salam, and Khaled Al-Kharqawi.

Victory today will not come easily, as the team faces one of Asia's strongest sides. Kuwait has struggled against South Korea in the past, with just one victory over it in the 2000 Asian Cup. In the seven meetings since then, South Korea has won six times, with one draw (1-1) in the 2014 World Cup qualifiers in September 2011. On the other hand, despite a slow start for South Korea, drawing 0-0 with Palestine in the opening round, the team quickly regained form, securing a 3-1 win over Oman and a 2-0 victory over Jordan in the second and third rounds. South Korea also claimed a hard-fought 3-2 win over Iraq in the last round.

The Korean "Taeguk Warriors" will also be bolstered by the return of Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min, who has recovered from injury. However, South Korea's coach, Hong Myung-bo, emphasized his caution with Son's health, ensuring he is not overburdened during the match. South Korea also boasts other key players such as Oh Se-hoon, Oh Hyun-joo, and Lee Jae-sung.

Pizzi, affirmed the team's readiness for today's match, expressing confidence in securing a positive result despite the challenge posed by their opponent.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Football Association at Jaber

Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Pizzi acknowledged that some players are dealing with health issues but emphasized that the team has a strong group prepared to represent the Blues.

"We are fully aware of the strength of our opponent, but I have great faith in our players," Pizzi stated. "The Blues approach every match as a final, regardless of the opponent's ranking, and we are always focused on achieving a positive result."

Captain Fahad Al-Hajri also spoke about the team's motivation, saying, "We aim for a satisfactory result after the loss and draw in the previous two rounds."

"We are not afraid of Korea. We've faced tough teams before and secured convincing results. Our goal is to perform better today," Al-Hajri added.

Meanwhile, South Korea's coach, Hong Myung-bo, emphasized the importance of every away match, describing it as "difficult."

"Our focus is on preparing well for Kuwait and Palestine. We will raise our concentration to ensure victory," Hong said, also noting that the historical record of past encounters between the two teams "is irrelevant now."

Regarding the fitness of Tottenham striker Son Heung-min, the coach commented, "We will assess his readiness."

South Korean player Hwang In-bum expressed his hopes for the match, saying, "We are aiming to secure all three points."



Kuwait players work out on the eve of the World Cup qualifier against South Korea.



Kuwait Argentine coach, Juan Pizzi addresses the media during a press conference.



Kuwait player attends final training session for the World Cup qualifier on Thursday.