



soccer
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Amiri Diwan Minister opens GCC Secretariat Pavilion

Kuwait in full prep mode for GCC Summit



Portraits of GCC leaders showcased at the GCC Secretariat Pavilion in Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center on Wednesday.

By Mohammed Ghanem and Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Higher Committee for the Preparation and Arrangement of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit convened today at Seif Palace, chaired by Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works.

In her address Dr. Al-Mashaan welcomed the attendees and expressed her gratitude for the efforts made in preparing for Kuwait to host the summit.

She emphasized the importance of dedicating all resources to elevate Kuwait's

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1,535 lose Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Supreme Committee on the Kuwaiti Citi-

zenship. The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the commission decided to strip 1,535 individuals of Kuwaiti citizenship, indicating that the decision would be submitted to the Cabinet.

Nazaha refers MoH staff for embezzlement investigation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has referred supervisors and employees at the Ministry of Health to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of embezzling public funds.

Nazaha confirmed, on its X account on Thursday, that it would continue efforts to collect evidence and investigate all well-founded information at its disposal to fight corruption and protect public funds.

Trainer scouts schools for operetta singer

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: As part of the preparations for the operetta marking the 64th National Day and the 34th Anniversary of Kuwait's Liberation in 2025, the Assistant Undersecretary

for Educational Development and Activities at the Ministry of Education Maryam Al-Enezi has requested the assistant undersecretary for Public Education Affairs to allow the Technical Supervisor of the Hawally Educational Zone Badour Al-Sayed

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Drugs fuel Kuwait crime surge

Addiction crisis corrupting youth values

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The recent tragic murder in Sabah Al-Salem area where a Kuwaiti woman in her forties was killed by her 28-year-old son, who also injured his ten-year-old brother, has sparked discussions on the reasons behind the rise in domestic violence and family crimes in Kuwait.

In an investigation conducted by the daily, several experts attributed the rise in such

crimes to the increasing abuse of drugs.

They said, "Despite the Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to combat addiction and drug trafficking, progress can only be made through collective action. Just as it is not possible to clap with one hand, no single entity can deal with this problem alone".

The experts highlighted the importance of addressing the root causes for the rise in the addiction rates by intensifying community-wide awareness campaigns in this regard.

The former Director General of the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) Bader Al-Ghadouri attributed the tragic incident that occurred recently, when a 28-year old man murdered his mother and injured his little brother, to the rising prevalence of drug abuse and trafficking.

Al-Ghadouri said, "Despite the Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to combat this issue, the growing rates of addiction are having a devastating impact, particularly on the values and behaviors of young people.

In the past, the common motive for murders was often disputes over women, but now the cause is often linked to drugs.

In light of the increasing addiction rates, many lawyers that I met have reported that drug-related cases now make up about 60 percent of court cases, compared to 40 to 45 percent in the past."

Al-Ghadouri also highlighted unemployment as a major contributing factor to drug abuse, particularly among those receiving unemployment support, in addition to the influence of bad company.

He stressed the need for increased efforts to address the behaviors of addicts and drug dealers, particularly in prisons, especially since the young man who killed his mother in Sabah Al-Salem had committed the crime shortly after being released from prison.

Absence of the role of schools

Al-Ghadouri expressed his concern over the lack of an effective role played by both government and private schools in providing awareness and prevention programs to protect students from falling into the trap of addiction.

He explained that some schools hold occasional lectures on drug awareness, but these efforts are often scattered and inconsistent. Unfortunately, these lectures have become

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■ Drug cases account for 60 pct of court load

■ Unemployment major contributing factor to drug abuse

■ Call for community-wide awareness campaigns

'Boost crisis response'

Greater GCC security alliance vital: Kuwait

DOHA, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Lt. General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stressed on Wednesday the importance of enhancing security cooperation and integration among the GCC countries to confront security challenges.

This came during the meeting of the Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Interior of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in Doha, where Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf chaired the Kuwaiti delegation, Kuwait Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The conferees at the meeting, which comes in preparation for the (41) meeting of the Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, exchanged information to tighten security control in order to preserve the security and safety of the citizens of the GCC countries, the statement added.

It indicated that Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf stressed the need to enhance the efficiency of the security services among the GCC countries and to achieve more coordination to combat crimes including electronic crimes, fraud, drug trafficking and psychotropic substances.

Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf conveyed to the participants the greetings of the political leadership of the State of Kuwait and the greetings of the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and their wishes for success and guidance for the meeting

The meeting comes within the framework of the periodic meetings of the Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Interior of the GCC countries, aims of following up and submitting recommendations to Their Highnesses and Excellences the Ministers of Interior in the next meeting, which will contribute to strengthening joint security work and unifying efforts to maintain the security and safety of the citizens of the GCC countries

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Pigeons soar and perch on yachts at Kuwait marina on Thursday, as moderate days and cool nights are forecasted for the weekend.

Photo by Rezk Tawfik

Kuwait to enjoy moderate weekend weather

The Kuwait Meteorological Department has predicted moderate weather during the day and cooler temperatures at night over the upcoming weekend, accompanied by scattered clouds. Acting Director Dharar Al-Ali informed KUNA that the country is currently experiencing the effects of a high-pressure system combined with a dry air mass, resulting in light

to moderate northwesterly winds.

On Friday, the forecast indicates moderate conditions with northwesterly winds blowing at speeds ranging from 8 to 30 km/h. The maximum temperature is expected to be between 25 and 28 degrees Celsius, while the sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves measuring between 1 and 3 feet.

Looking ahead to Friday night, temperatures are anticipated to drop to a moderate to cool range, with partly cloudy skies. Winds will continue from the northwest at speeds between 12 and 35 km/h, and minimum temperatures will fall between 16 and 19 degrees

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Minister of Foreign Affairs **Abdullah Al-Yahya** on Thursday held talks with the visiting Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council **Jassem Al-Budaiwi**, examining preparations for Kuwait's takeover of the GCC next session's chairmanship and its planned hosting of the GCC summit.

Following the meeting, minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, on behalf of the State of Kuwait Government, and the GCC secretary general, signed the treaty of setting up the headquarters of the GCC Joint Program Production Institution -- with attendance of the institution's Director General **Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah**.

Minister Al-Yahya indicated at instructions by Their Highnesses leaders of the GCC states for boosting integration among the Arabian Gulf countries, attaining sustainable development and prosperity for peoples of the region. (KUNA)

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Gaza conditions echo 'doomsday'

DOHA, Nov 14, (KUNA): Director General of the World Health Organization Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday described conditions in the war-battered Gaza Strip as the worst in the world and likened them to the end of human existence.

UN reports say that the situation there is similar to the end of the globe, said Dr. Ghebreyesus during a session of the third World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), noting that 80 percent of the population have been suffering from recurring coercive displacement amid lack of secure shelters.

The WHO chief called on influential states to push for an urgent political solution to the crisis in Gaza and end the war.

Up to 80 percent of the medical facilities in Gaza can no longer serve, the remaining ones have continued to operate partially and their needs are mounting day after another, he said, likening this particular dilemma to collective punishment.

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Bahrain 2024 International Airshow kicks off

Aviation fairs key to sector growth: DGCA chief

MANAMA, Nov 14, (KUNA): The visiting President of Kuwait's Directorate General for Civil Aviation, Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, on Wednesday affirmed that participation in international and regional fairs, where exper-



A participant undergoes blood sugar check at Dasman Diabetes Institute's World Diabetes Day event on Thursday. - See Page 13

Photo by Samer Shiqer

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8 KIPCO reports KD 12.52 million profit for first 9 months of 2024

8 Zain employees embark on 20th annual Omrah trip

9 GIG posts net profit of KD 22.1m for 9M of '24

11 45th Cairo Int'l Film Festival kicks off with strong Chinese participation

15 NBK hosts Sports Day as part of preparation for annual run

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:49 Asr 14:33
Sunrise .. 06:11 Maghrib .. 16:54
Zohr 11:33 Isha 18:13

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
By Night: Mild to rather cold with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind,

Weather

with speeds of 08-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	27	19
Kuwait Airport	28	19
Abdaly	29	13

Bubyan	27	15
Jahra	29	18
Failaka Island	28	20
Salmiyah	27	20
Ahmadi	27	16
Jal Aliyah	28	15
Nuwaisib	29	18

Azerbaijan thanked for warm reception, hospitality

Kuwait Amir Representative commends UN Chief on COP29

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, sent on Wednesday a cable to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, commending him on the 29th Conference of Parties on climate change (COP29).

In the cable, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed deep appreciation of the UN and host Azerbaijan for holding the conference in Baku, which began on November 11 and continues until the 22nd, which adds to the success of the COP event.

He lauded the UN chief's role in bolstering cooperation amongst members of the organization especially in the domain of climate change and environment protection, stressing that Kuwait would continue to support all efforts by the UN worldwide.

His Highness the Crown Prince affirmed that Kuwait would continue to contribute to world security and peace through international organizations, namely the UN.



Guterres

Accompanying the Representative of His Highness the Amir and the Crown Prince was an official delega-

tion that included Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and senior officials from the Crown Prince's office. Upon his return, His Highness the Representative of His Highness the Amir and the Crown Prince sent a cable to express his gratitude to President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. He also voiced his deep appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality extended by Azerbaijan.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled commended Azerbaijan's prominent global role in hosting the summit and the exceptional organization that ensured its success, and voiced optimism that the summit's positive outcomes would inspire greater international cooperation in combating climate change, mitigating its effects, and developing practical solutions for sustainable development, ultimately leading to a better future for coming generations.

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KUNA photo
Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah speaking at the summit.



KUNA photo

Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority, Eng. Samira Al-Kandari.

World must join efforts, counter climate change for planet future

By Zahra Al-Kazemi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): The international community must drum up efforts to counter climate change for the sake of the future of the planet, Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Eng. Samira Al-Kandari said on Thursday.

Speaking at the 29th Conference of Parties on climate change (COP29) -- held Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 11-22 -- Al-Kandari, who heads Kuwait's technical delegation, said that Kuwait was keen on contributing to this just environmental cause.

She indicated that the framework agreement on climate change aimed at subsiding harmful gas emissions, noting that Kuwait was committed to this venture via a clear commitment to the 2050 low carbon strategy as stated in the Paris agreement.

Kuwait's delegation to COP29, headed by the EPA, gathered the "creme de la creme" of national institutes dedicated to renewable energy and the environment.

She indicated that the COP29 would come out with resolutions in favor of efforts to decrease climate change as well as forcing industrial countries to stick with their commitment towards the environment.

KD 5,000 fine for setting up campsite without approval

No tampering with land plot; carry away your garbage

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Director of the Public Relations Department and official spokesperson for Kuwait Municipality Mohammad Sandan revealed that an integrated plan has been developed by the administration, which pays great attention to raising awareness among visitors to the camping sites approved by the municipality in order to reduce violations of seasonal camping regulations.

He explained that the municipality has completed the preparation of comprehensive regulations for the camping season, in collaboration with the Municipal Council. These regulations aim to organize the camping process effectively and include stringent fines for non-compliance. However, the implementation of these regulations is pending official approval from the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs.

The electronic reservation system for spring camps will be launched on the municipality's official website at exactly 12:00 midnight on Thursday, November 15. Through this system, individuals and companies will be able to apply for camping licenses, with sites allocated based on the priority of reservation for registered applicants.

Wildlife

The new regulations impose fines ranging from KD 3,000 to KD 5,000 for anyone who sets up a spring camp or conducts activities at designated seasonal camping sites without obtaining a license from the municipality. It also applies to individuals who set up camps outside the authorized camping period, which begins tomorrow according to the Environmental Protection Law, or those who acquire a license through fraudulent means. Violations also include camping or engaging in activities outside the specified area, limits, and period set by the municipality, as well as using or training with firearms of any kind at the campsite.

The regulations also focus on preserving the natural environment and protecting wildlife, prohibiting the establishment of permanent structures made from construction materials, and banning the creation of earthen barriers or any harmful fences to demarcate camp locations.

Furthermore, the regulations prohibit activities such as digging trenches, excavating soil, and transporting earth across the site. It also forbids the use of construction materials like asphalt, cement, or other harmful substances to level or modify the campsite, as well as the use of heavy machinery and equipment for soil leveling when present at camp sites.

The new regulations prohibit the dumping, burning, or burying of any type of waste in the wild environment. Licensees are required to dispose of waste only in designated areas and must remove it at the times specified by the municipality. The regulation also forbids activities such as grazing, hunting, or disturbing wildlife within camping sites.

Furthermore, the regulations mandate that all waste generated during the spring camp or associated activities must be removed at the end of the camping season or upon the expiry of the license. The campsite must be restored to its original condition as it was when the license was granted.

Call for transparency in aid for needy in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, reaffirmed the country's commitment to bolstering its humanitarian role both locally and internationally, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She emphasized Kuwait's dedication to providing charity work that adheres to the highest standards of transparency and professionalism.

This statement was made during her meeting with the Al-Najat Charity Society, where they discussed the unified aid system designed to enhance transparency and governance in aid distribution to needy groups within Kuwait.

Dr. Al-Huwailah commended the efforts of the Al-Najat Association in developing this innovative system, which aims to streamline charitable operations and ensure that aid is efficiently delivered to those who need it most.

The Minister stressed the importance of continued collaboration between the Ministry of Social Affairs and charitable organizations to support the most vulnerable groups and to align with Kuwait's broader sustainable development goals.

The new unified system is designed to consolidate charitable efforts by organizing aid operations through a structured, supervised documentation process overseen by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

This system ensures that aid reaches deserving recipients with complete transparency, while also simplifying the application process and preventing the duplication of aid disbursements.

The ultimate goal is to enhance the efficiency of support distribution, making charitable efforts more effective and impactful.

Other Voices

How are the sustainable development goals set?

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wandah

International Consultant, Sustainable Development, Deputy General Manager -- Al-Najat Charity

In our previous articles discussing the definition of sustainability and its relationship to the charitable humanitarian sector and the associated challenges, we mentioned the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations. The UN has emphasized the importance of activating these goals and measuring their real-world achievement, establishing specific targets and purposes for each of the seventeen goals. In total, there are 169 targets for these goals, each with 1 to 3 indicators that measure the achievement of these "targets." For example, the first goal, which is "to end poverty in all its forms everywhere," has 7 targets. The first of these is "to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030," which is currently



Dr Al-Wandah

measured by the number of individuals living on less than \$1.25 a day. Its performance indicator is "the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line, classified by sex, age group, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural)." This pattern applies to each goal. Overall, there are 304 indicators measuring the achievement of these seventeen goals.

Arab countries have established an indicator system to assess the achievement of the SDGs, comprising 105 indicators, each assigned a specific score (0-100) and a color from traffic light signals (green, yellow, orange, or red) to indicate performance. These indicators aim to measure the progress made toward achieving the SDGs, highlighting gaps in both implementation and data in Arab countries, and making this information available to those interested in sustainability in the Arab world.

It is important to note that these goals were selected in a "democratic" manner, as stated by the UN, with 193 countries participating in their formulation, along with many global civil society organizations. The UN emphasizes this point to highlight the inclusivity of these goals and the consensus surrounding their content and relevance.

To be continued

Tenders out for maintenance

MEW gears up for summer 2025

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is currently working on the awarding of six tenders for the maintenance of power and water distillation plants at a total cost of KD 44.401 million.

Sources said these tenders are part of the ministry's plans for the summer of 2025, which include preparing the stations to efficiently handle summertime responsibilities by conducting maintenance works to prevent malfunctions or burning, as it occurred in certain stations last summer when the approval of maintenance tenders was delayed due to the appointment of the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT).

Sources enumerated the six stations targeted for maintenance and the amounts

stipulated in the contracts as follows: Shuwaikh power stations (KD 3.904 million), South Al-Shu'aya (KD 6.775 million), East Doha (KD 7.465 million), West Doha (KD 9.625 million), South Zour (KD 8.992 million) and Subiya (KD 7.340 million). Sources said the work includes the annual maintenance of equipment and precision devices in the power stations.

Sources revealed the ministry recently sent a recommendation to CAPT regarding the awarding of these six tenders. Sources said the ministry was asked to prepare a valuation budget with the companies recommended for awarding the tenders in accordance with Article 60 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016 and to submit the recommendation to the agency before making the decision to award the tenders. The State Audit Bureau will review and audit the tenders, then the contracts will be signed, signaling the start of maintenance works, sources added.



Dr. Al-Huwailah



Campsite set up in the desert near a residential locality.



Participants in the awards ceremony.

KUNA photo

UAE honours Kuwait Women's Sports Federation chairperson

ABU DHABI, Nov 14, (KUNA): United Arab of Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday bestowed the Arab Sports Pioneers Award on Sheikhha Naima Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah - the Chairperson of the Kuwait Women's Sports Federation and Honorary Chairwoman of the Organising Committee for Women's Sports in the GCC.

Sheikha Naima expressed her gratitude in a press conference following the Fatima Bint Mubarak Women Sports Award 2024 ceremony held in Abu Dhabi today.

She also thanked Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak the "Mother of the Nation", Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF).

The award is an honour for Sheikhha

Naima Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah in recognition of her prominent role in raising the status of women's sports in the State of Kuwait and the Gulf region.

The ceremony also featured award presented to Sana bint Hamad Al Busaidi, Chairwoman of the Oman Women's Sports Committee and Advisor to the Minister of Education, for her pioneering role in women's sports in the Sultanate of Oman and her leadership in numerous influential initiatives.

During the ceremony, Maryam Ahmad Abdullah Al Zeyoudi from the UAE was awarded Best Paralympic Athlete, Marwa Al Amri from Tunisia was honored as Best Female/Male Coach, Nahla Nabil Bouzidi Al Maghribi from Sudan received the award for Best Sports Media Personality, and Latifa Mohammad Khalifa Al Falasi from the UAE was recognized as Best Youth Athlete.

The Zamalek Women's Volleyball Team from Egypt was awarded Best Team after winning the African Tournament trophy, and "Best Sports Mother" awarded was given to Ruqayya Ahmed Abdullah Al Zaabi from UAE.

GCC transport sector needs revamp

CAIRO, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwait has called to develop the transport sector between Arab states, through strategic partnerships and policy coordination between Arab transport networks.

This came about in a speech by Acting Director General of the Roads and Land Transport Authority, (Eng.) Khaled Al-Osaimi, as president of the delegation before the 37th session of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers held in Alexandria.

There are a few areas that deserve special care by Arab countries to develop the transport sector, including modernizing infrastructure, investing in strategic projects, linking ports, airports, and roads networks, to ensure higher efficiency and facilitate the movement of goods, added Al-Osaimi.

The transition to sustainable transports requires the adoption of environmental policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions, and using eco-friendly vehicles, he added.

He also stressed that enhancing security and safety in the transport sector requires the latest international safety procedures.

Al-Osaimi said that cooperation between Arab countries is essential to exchanging experiences in the field of training and qualifying cadres specialized in logistics and safety.

He called on continuing efforts of Arab countries and international organizations to enhance the Arab transport sector.

Al-Osaimi assured Kuwait's keenness to fulfilling continued economic prosperity in the Arab transport sector, and the participation in the 37th session.

'Let us all embrace tolerance to inculcate societal balance'

"THE world celebrates "International Day for Tolerance" every year on November 16, a day designated by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 95/51. The goal of this day is to honor diversity, promote tolerance in practice, and remind us to create space for each other's opinions," columnist **Dr. Hind Al-Shoumer** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"While we may find certain views or ideas unacceptable or indefensible, it is our responsibility to address and refute them constructively. At the same time, we must strive to understand differing perspectives, foster dialogue, and build mutual understanding, which ultimately leads to peaceful coexistence."



Dr. Al-Shoumer

"Tolerance holds a prominent place in Islam, which encourages the values of moderation, respect, and cultural diversity. It advocates providing room for others' opinions, promoting a balanced approach to life, and spreading values of respect and harmony."

"This day was first observed in 1995, following the racial and cultural conflicts in Africa that led to the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia. At the time, the message was clear: 'To prevent conflicts and promote human rights, we must foster values of tolerance and peace among all peoples'."

"UNESCO emphasizes that education for tolerance must aim to combat the influences of fear and exclusion. It should help young people develop critical thinking, independent judgment, and moral reasoning. The diversity of religions, languages, cultures, and races in our world is not a reason for conflict; rather, it is a treasure that enriches us all."

"Observing this occasion underscores the commitment of nations to uphold peaceful coexistence among all members of society, both citizens and residents, through openness to the world."

"Tolerance means understanding and excusing others, even when they err, while seeking the reasons behind the mistakes and helping them correct their path for the benefit of both individuals and society. Tolerance is a language of happiness and a lifeline from the flood of hatred and animosity."

"Forgiveness and tolerance contribute to building healthy relationships, improving mental well-being, and reducing anxiety, hostility, and tension. As Allah says: 'But if someone pardons and makes reconciliation, their reward is due from Allah' (Surah Ash-Shura, 40). 'And to forego is nearer to righteousness' (Surah Al-Baqarah, 237)."

"Forgiving and letting go of certain rights is a virtue of noble and generous individuals, as it strengthens social bonds within the community and fosters mutual trust."

"This trust becomes a powerful force that enhances the quality of life for everyone. Nelson Mandela aptly said, 'No one is born hating another person because of the color of their skin, their background, or their religion.'"

"Tolerance is respecting the rights of others to express their opinions or engage in practices, without necessarily agreeing with those opinions or practices. It is not a surrender of rights out of humiliation or weakness but arises from the purity of the heart, filled with love, compassion, and empathy."

"Tolerance is not born of fear or helplessness but stems from strong will and genuine determination to rise above personal egos positively."

"Let us all embrace tolerance toward one another to preserve harmony in our society and purify our hearts in our interactions with others."

Also:

"An audio recording of an individual circulating public remarks calling on the Council of Ministers to address various forms of corruption in the country, including the alleged corruption within the judiciary, has raised significant legal and ethical concerns," columnist **Ahmad Baqer** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The person accused the judiciary of corruption, making repeated statements that were widely disseminated in the media. These comments have sparked debate, as they appear to violate the law and challenge the independence and reputation of Kuwait's judicial system."

"The first concern is that the individual's public remarks harm the reputation of the Kuwaiti judiciary. By referring to the 'corruption of the judiciary' multiple times, the individual has potentially violated Article 21, Paragraph 2 of the Press and Publications Law, which prohibits 'insulting or belittling members of the judiciary and members of the Public Prosecution.' This provision aims to protect the integrity and neutrality of the judiciary, and by labeling it corrupt without substantiated evidence, the individual may have infringed upon this legal protection."

"The second aspect of concern revolves around the individual's suggestion that the Council of Ministers should intervene in the issue of judicial corruption. Such a statement directly contradicts the constitutional principle of judicial independence."

"Over the years, successive Kuwaiti councils, including the 85th and 92nd, have worked tirelessly to safeguard the judiciary's independence. Under the Constitution, the judiciary operates independently from the executive branch, and the Council of Ministers holds no authority over judicial matters, other than to request

the referral of a complaint to the competent judicial authority."

"The individual's remarks undermine this separation of powers by implying that the executive should intervene in what is essentially a matter for the judiciary. It is important to note that the Council of Ministers cannot directly influence the actions of judges or members of the judiciary. The proper legal process involves submitting any allegations of corruption to the judicial authorities, who are the only competent body to investigate and prosecute such claims."

"If the individual had any credible evidence of corruption involving members of the judiciary, the proper course of action would have been to submit the complaint with supporting evidence to the appropriate judicial authorities."

"Under Article 40 of the Judicial Organization Law, the judiciary is the sole authority responsible for considering accusations against its members. This ensures that the matter is handled in accordance with the law, preserving the integrity and honor of the judiciary. Making such claims publicly without providing evidence only serves to mislead the public and tarnish the reputation of this sensitive institution."

"The Kuwaiti Constitution explicitly outlines the importance of judicial integrity. Article 162 states, 'The honor of the judiciary is the integrity and fairness of judges, the basis of governance and the guarantee of rights and freedoms.' Therefore, it is in the best interest of the nation to protect the judiciary's honor and prevent any unfounded accusations that could diminish public trust in its ability to uphold justice."

"Further, Article 163 guarantees the independence of the judiciary, affirming that no entity has authority over a judge in their judgment. The law ensures that judges and judicial members are protected from arbitrary dismissal and interference. Article 23 of the Judicial Organization Law also specifies that judges and members of the Public Prosecution cannot be dismissed except through disciplinary procedures outlined in the law."

"Additionally, Article 60 of the law stipulates that the Minister of Justice holds no authority over the Public Prosecution in any criminal case, ensuring that the prosecution remains independent in its work."

"The newly appointed Minister of Justice, who comes from within the judiciary, understands the importance of maintaining judicial independence and protecting its reputation. He is expected to uphold these constitutional principles and ensure that any genuine complaints or allegations against judiciary members are investigated thoroughly and impartially."

"However, the Minister of Justice, in his capacity, is expected to maintain the dignity and honor of the judiciary, ensuring that no baseless or damaging claims are allowed to tarnish its standing."

"The comments made in the audio recording not only seem to violate the Press and Publications Law but also pose a threat to the integrity and independence of Kuwait's judicial system. While the individual's right to free speech is protected, there is a responsibility to ensure that public statements do not cause harm to the reputation of institutions or undermine their independence."

"The judiciary remains the cornerstone of governance and the protector of rights and freedoms, and as such, it must be shielded from unwarranted attacks that could erode public confidence in its fairness and integrity. Any legitimate accusations against members of the judiciary should be handled through the appropriate legal channels, respecting the rule of law and the constitutionally enshrined independence of the judiciary."



"In a long-overdue move, the Ministry of Education has established student support centers across all educational districts for the 2024-2025 academic year," columnist **Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"These centers aim to assist students struggling academically and provide advanced opportunities for high achievers at minimal cost to parents."

"As part of this initiative, the Ministry also announced plans to penalize unlicensed private tutors, recognizing that enforcing the law is essential to curb the harmful effects of unregulated tutoring on the country's education system."

"Private tutoring has become a deeply entrenched issue in Kuwait, with some describing it as an 'educational mafia' driven by individuals prioritizing profit over educational integrity."

"The impact of these services has been significant, as exam leaks and unqualified tutors continue to undermine the quality of learning, turning the education sector into a national concern."

"Efforts to address the issue have been attempted before. Years ago, at the Hassan Al Jarallah School, a pilot 'Project to Reduce Private Lessons' was launched, featuring smart classrooms with interactive technology for struggling students, under the guidance of the Kuwait Society for Student Aid. Though initially promising, the project's current status remains unclear."

"The cost of private tutoring remains alarming, with a 2013 report estimating parents spent 1.3 billion dinars annually on private lessons."

"This staggering expense underscores the need for effective government intervention to address a problem that has persisted to limited action by educational authorities."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/
Mahmoud Attiyeh



KUNA photo

The Kuwait Fire Force and Public Authority for Industry officials during the meeting.

KFF, PAI study plans, check licenses

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: As part of a collaborative meeting, officials from the Kuwait Fire Force and the Public Authority for Industry gathered today to discuss preventive strategies and building licenses for Authority-affiliated facilities. The meeting, held at the Kuwait Fire Force's prevention sector headquarters, was initiated under the directives of Major General Talal Al-Roumi, Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Fire Department issued a statement highlighting that the agenda included implementing safety measures and examining building licenses, in addition to address-

ing topics of mutual interest. The prevention sector was represented by Brigadier Mohsen Abdullah, Director of the Ahmadi Governorate Prevention Department; Eng. Muhammad Boland, Director of the Jahra Governorate Prevention Department; and various senior officers from the Fire Force.

Representing the Public Authority for Industry was Deputy Director General for Development and Licensing, Salman Al-Jahedli, along with several Authority leaders. This meeting reflects the joint commitment to ensuring safety and regulatory compliance within industrial sites and affiliated buildings.

Cop jailed for expat blackmail, extortion

Foul play in 'chase murder'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Criminal Court sentenced a police officer to five-year imprisonment and imposed a KD 2,000 fine in a case filed against him for exploiting his position to demand bribes and deport expatriates by fabricating charges of alcohol trafficking.

The Public Prosecution had ordered the detention of the officer who was stationed at a police station for investigations on accusations leveled against him of soliciting bribes from Asian expatriates after falsely accusing them of alcohol trafficking, detaining them under unlawful conditions and then blackmailing them.

The accused officer was interrogated and confronted with the charges against him.

Following this, the Ministry of Interior issued a press release confirming that the accused police officer had been referred to the Public Prosecution.

The officer was apprehended by the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigations' Criminal Investigation and Licensing Department, for abusing his authority.

He was found to have accepted large bribes in exchange for detaining and deporting members of the Asian community after fabricating charges of alcohol trafficking against them.



Top brass detained: In the case of accidental homicide -- when a man was shot dead and his companion was injured in a police chase, the Public Prosecution ordered the detention of two police officers and six others for 21 days at the Central Prison.

Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf decided to refer two police officers -- a colonel and a lieutenant colonel, and six officers assigned in

the Public Security Sector to the prosecution.

The man's father, a Bedoun, complained that the forensic evidence report showed that his son was shot twice -- shoulder and back, stressing he wants justice for his son. He said his son was killed in a police chase by the Special Task Force Unit in the Public Security Sector, while the police officers and members of the unit involved in the crime claimed that his son died when the latter's vehicle overturned.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf then ordered the formation of an investigation committee and to provide him with all the details, in addition to the detention of the officers involved in the chase.

The investigation committee revealed that a security team consisting of a colonel, a lieutenant colonel and six members of the special unit was pursuing a wanted person who escaped from the Capital's detectives a week ago, after being arrested in a drug case and he was taken to Razi Hospital as he sustained injuries during the arrest.



Jail annulled for ex-MP: The Court of Cassation has annulled the 20-month prison sentence issued by the Court of Appeals against the former MP Salman Al-Hulaila in the vote-buying case, and instead refrained from pronouncing any further punishment other than imposing a fine of KD 500.

Previously, the Court of Appeals had sentenced Al-Hulaila to one year and eight months of prison time with hard labor in connection with his involvement in vote-buying during the 2020 National Assembly elections.

Al-Hulaila, who had voluntarily turned himself in upon his arrival at Kuwait International Airport, was sent to the Central Prison based on the Criminal Court's ruling on charges related to vote-buying during the 2020 elections.

During the trial, the investigation officer provided testimony before the Criminal Court, but Al-Hulaila denied the charges against him. Similarly, the other defendants in the case also rejected the accusations when they were questioned by the Public Prosecution.

'46 drills conducted'

863 injury cases carried by air ambulance: EMS

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14 : Director of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti says approximately 863 cases were transported by air ambulance during the first ten months of this year. Also, the department received 109,600 urgent reports and handled 137,345 cases during this period.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Shatti explained that the latest statistics from the EMS Department revealed that the total number of cases transferred to hospitals by ambulances between January 1 and October 31 amounted to 113,363 cases.

This includes 78,791 urgent cases and 34,572 non-urgent cases. Also, EMS teams responded to approximately 8,776 traffic accidents and conducted 66 medical evacuations as part of the Ministry of Health's services.

The Operations Unit of the EMS Department conducted 46 mock exercises, covered 6,708 different events, and facilitated the transportation of 516 patients to and from Kuwait through its ports.

Dr. Al-Shatti said the statistics on medical emergencies during the first months of the year reflect the effectiveness of the response and the ability of medical teams to handle emergency situations.

He also announced that the EMS teams and training centers participating in the October CPR activities would be honored on Thursday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel's wedding hall.



Al-Shatti



Talal Al Arab



Ahmad Baqer

MPW taps SAB

KD51m cost to maintain roads around new airport

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) recently submitted to the State Audit Bureau a project worth KD 51.959 million for the establishment, completion, development, and maintenance of roads and intersections to serve the new passenger terminal at Kuwait Airport on Al-Maqwa Road.

The State Audit Bureau's role is to review, audit, and approve the contract with the selected company before work can commence.

Since the ministry is one of the government agencies that fall under the State Audit Bureau's oversight, the ministry has been committed to ensuring that all tender documents are prepared in full compliance with laws and regulations. This is to guarantee the project proceeds smoothly during its implementation phases and to prevent any potential financial violations.

According to sources, the project is one of the major initiatives aimed at improving the road network on Maqwa Road and the surrounding area to accommodate the increased traffic resulting from the expansion of the new airport.

The project is designed to ensure that anticipated traffic volumes are effectively managed, traffic safety is upheld, and an adequate level of services is provided.



KFF photo

The cars and property damaged in the Jleeb garage fire.

Probe begins as vehicles destroyed in garage fire

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Fire broke out in a garage in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and engulfed a number of vehicles that were parked in front of it.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the Control Room of KFF received information about the garage on fire, firefighters from Al-Samoud and Ardiya fire stations rushed to the location and controlled the fire before it spread further. No casualties were reported. Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

10 years jail for lawyer in KD2 mln fraud case

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Criminal Court yesterday upheld the ruling issued in absentia to sentence a lawyer to ten-years imprisonment with hard labor and impose a fine of KD 1,005,983, as well as the repayment of the equivalent of the funds involved in the real estate fraud case, totaling two million dinars. The lawyer was charged with money laundering for acquiring and possessing funds amounting to KD 2,011,960 with the knowledge that they were obtained through criminal activities.

According to the Public Prosecution, the accused obtained the money from victims, whose names appeared in the documents, for investing in the real estate sector through his company. He deposited the funds into his personal bank accounts and made internal and external transfers to those bank accounts as though they were being used for real estate investments in order to mask the illicit origin of the money.

The accused fraudulently embezzled two million dinars through deceptive practices designed to mislead the victims. He created a false project and induced the victims to believe in the promise of non-existent profits by making announcements about the launch of real estate investments via newspapers, social media platforms, and text messages.



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Two Kuwaiti students honored with certificate for best performance

Kuwait's Al-Saheli wins bronze medal in Arab Mathematics Olympiad

By Saud Al-Ajmi

DOHA, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwaiti student Fajer Al-Saheli won on Thursday a bronze medal in the Fourth Arab Mathematics Olympiad 2024 held in Doha, Qatar.

In a statement for KUNA, head of the Kuwaiti delegation, first technical mentor at the Ministry of Education Shaikha Al-Hajraf expressed her joy over Al-Saheli's positive

achievement in the Olympiad.

She said that all Kuwaiti students that participated in the Olympiad went through a training program in the beginning of the school year to achieve such positive results amidst strong competitiveness between Arab countries.

She mentioned that two Kuwaiti students, Marwa Al-Azmi and Sarah Al-Humaidi, were honored with a certificate for best performance during the

closing ceremony of the Olympiad.

The Fourth Arab Mathematics Olympiad 2024 kicked off on Sunday in Doha until November 14.

The Olympiad is organized by the Qatari Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in partnership with the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science.



A delegation from the Ministry of Education participating in the Mathematics Olympiad.

KUNA photo

MEW to add 17,350 MW of new power capacity in next 5 years

Deal inked for Subiya station expansion

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri confirmed that the total electricity production capacity expected to be added successively over the next five years will reach 17,350 megawatts; 30 percent of which is renewable energy, with total investment estimated at KD5 billion while the private sector's contribution exceeds 90 percent.

The minister made the statement on Tuesday, during the signing of the contract for the expansion of Subiya station with a production capacity of up to 250 megawatts and valued at KD118 million after obtaining approval from the regulatory authorities.

On the sidelines of the contract signing, the minister disclosed this

project is the first step towards the development of the electricity network in the country. He said his ministry is currently carrying out procedures for the launching of a tender for the expansion of Subiya station (Phase IV) with a production capacity of up to 900 megawatts.

Meanwhile, the minister confirmed that the Public-Private Partnership Authority started receiving bids from qualified companies for the construction of North Zour station (phases two and three), with a production capacity of 2,700 megawatts.

He stated that the ministry is also working with the authority to prepare the tender documents for the construction of Khairan station, which will have 1,800 megawatts production capacity.

Regarding renewable energy, he

said the joint teams have selected six companies to build Shaqaya station (phases two and three) with 1,700 megawatts production capacity.

He added the ministry is currently working with its Finance and Foreign Affairs counterparts to finalize a long-term partnership agreement with China to establish Abdaliah and Shagaya (four and five) renewable energy stations with a total of 3,400 megawatts production capacity.

He revealed the ministry is also completing the legal requirements to build two power generation stations based on the independent producer (supplier) system in Abdally and Nuwaseeb with a production capacity of up to 6,600 megawatts, indicating this is in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority.

It is worth mentioning that once the new power generation stations start operating, some existing stations will be gradually eliminated as their lifespan has ended and the high cost of operating and maintaining them make them economically unfeasible.



Dr. Bushehri

Kuwait highlights digital transformation plans at ARADO Executive Council meeting in Rabat

RABAT, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwait participated in the meeting of the Executive Council of the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) in its 118th session, held in Rabat during the period from November 11 to 13.

Head of the Kuwaiti delegation and Chairman of the Civil Services Commission (CSC) Dr. Essam Al-Rubaiaan said, in a statement to KUNA, that the meeting discussed a number of proposals aimed at developing and modernizing administration in Arab countries to rise to

the levels of challenges, including the use of information technology.

He pointed to the proposal submitted by ARADO on governance of the strategic plan management for digital transformation 2023-2027, as well as reviewing the initiatives and projects included in the plan, stressing the importance of this plan in building capacities, developing performance and achieving efficiency.

Al-Rubaiaan noted the efforts made by ARADO in developing effective administrative practices

in Arab countries, improving services provided to beneficiaries, raising performance and efficiency through digital transformation, and raising the efficiency of human cadres in the administrative fields.

The Arab Administrative Development Organization was established in 1961 as one of the specialized organizations emanating from the Arab League in order to achieve administrative development in the Arab countries.

Al-Safa charity to take part in contest

Ministry of Endowments to appoint new leadership positions soon: min

By Mohammed Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Dr. Mohamed Al-Wasmi, the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, confirmed that leadership positions in the ministry are expected to be determined in the near future.

Dr. Al-Wasmi made the announcement during the opening ceremony of the 13th session of the Kuwait International Award for Memorizing, Reciting, and Tajweed of the Holy Quran, which was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad.

In his speech, Dr. Al-Wasmi emphasized that Kuwait, along with its leadership, government and people, is deeply committed to serving the Book of God, cherishing its memorization, following its teachings, and honoring its significance.

Dr. Al-Wasmi also praised Kuwait's role in annually hosting delegations of youth from across the Islamic world to participate in the Quran memorization and recitation competition, underscoring the importance of the award and its contribution to spreading the knowledge and reverence of the Quran globally.

Meanwhile, Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, highlighted the remarkable growth of the Kuwait International Award, noting that this year's competition attracted 127 contestants from 75 countries, further solidifying the event's standing among international competitions.

Al-Mutairi credited the generous patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, for the competition's continued success and its increasing

prominence on the regional and international stage. He also acknowledged the efforts of the award's organizers and staff in upholding Kuwait's reputation as a leader in Quranic work.

The competition, which runs until Nov 20, features 75 participants in the memorization category, 16 in readings, 13 in recitation and 23 in the young memorizers category.

Meanwhile, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Safa Charitable Humanitarian Society, Abdul Aziz Al-Shaya, has praised the significant attention given to the Kuwait Grand Competition for Memorizing and Reciting the Holy Quran, which is set to begin its 27th edition under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, Al-Shaya announced that Al-Safa Humanitarian Society will participate this year with 121 male and female participants across various categories, including the general competition and specific categories for youth, special needs and others related to glory, goodness and blessing.

Al-Shaya emphasized that one of the key aspects of Al-Safa's participation is the establishment of an intensive review program by qualified sheikhs to prepare the participants for this prestigious Quranic event.

The society will also offer valuable prizes to the top three winners in each category.

He expressed gratitude to the General Secretariat of Awqaf for organizing this distinguished Quranic competition on an international level, highlighting its role in offering charity organizations the opportunity to participate and fostering a new generation of skilled reciters and memorizers.

This marks the third consecutive year of participation for Al-Safa Humanitarian Society, which has previously earned top positions in various competition categories.



Dr Al-Wasmi

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There has been heavy traffic congestion across various areas in Kuwait following the start of the school season. Above: one of the streets in Kuwait on Thursday.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq



The KRCS announces the formation of its new Board of Directors. KUNA photo

'Keen on assisting most vulnerable groups'

KRCS board chair highlights role of society in current global situation

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Ambassador Khaled Al-Maghamis affirmed the importance of KRCS' humanitarian responsibility, especially in light of the current challenges posed by both natural and man-made disasters.

In a press statement issued recently following the formation of the 2024/2025 Board of Directors of KRCS, Ambassador Al-Maghamis highlighted that the board is closely monitoring developments in the international humanitarian arena, and staying responsive through strategic plans that strengthen Kuwait's leadership role in global humanitarian efforts.

He revealed that the Board of Directors has been formed under his chairmanship, with Dr. Nasser Faisal Al-Tanak serving as Vice Chair, Judge Hamoud Hamad Al-Sanea as Secretary-General, Dr. Latifa Khaled Al-Meer as Treasurer, and Yousef Abdullah Al-Zaben, Fahad Ahmed Al-Mandil, and Saud Abdulrahman Al-Mukhaizeem as board members.

Ambassador Al-Maghamis said, "With the cooperation and solidarity of humanitarian organizations and institutions, as well as the continued support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his faithful Crown

Prince, KRCS continues its humanitarian and relief efforts for those affected by natural and man-made disasters".

He praised the national competencies of the Board of Directors and their expected contribution to advancing the path of humanitarian work. This reflects the KRCS' goals of maintaining its leadership in providing aid and support both inside and outside Kuwait, in line with its humanitarian mission.

In keeping with the humanitarian principles of the State of Kuwait and its leadership in this field, Ambassador Al-Maghamis highlighted the new board's commitment to working as a team and focusing on assisting the most vulnerable groups.

He stated that the KRCS' leadership and excellence in the wide spectrum of humanitarian efforts will continue to inspire all members to intensify their efforts to alleviate suffering and uphold human dignity.

In addition, Ambassador Al-Maghamis announced that the fourth relief plane will depart for Lebanon on Saturday, in collaboration with the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Social Affairs, under the direction of the political leadership.

He also expressed his hope for the success and direction of the newly appointed Board of Directors, emphasizing their role in guiding KRCS towards greater sacrifice and humanitarian efforts.

Court rejects 3 appeals by KCCI board against Law No. 122/2023

Rules government supervision of KCCI is constitutional

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 13: The Constitutional Court, headed by Counselor Adel Al-Bahou, has ruled to reject three direct appeals filed by the chairman and members of the General Assembly of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the directors of a number of companies to challenge the constitutionality of Law No. 122/2023 regarding KCCI.

The appeals filed regarding the alleged unconstitutionality of Law No. 122/2023 were documented by the court's Clerical Department on February 22, 2024.

According to the statement, the contested law was issued following its approval by the National Assembly in a session held on November 28, 2023 when it was passed in two deliberations during a single session. This revealed the urgency and lack of deliberation, which led it to fall into the circle of suspicions of unconstitutionality that affected the key provisions within the law.

Also, the appellants contended that the law included provisions that deviated from legislative norms, including the establishment of a transitional committee to replace the current board of directors of KCCI. The first appellant served as chairman of this committee, and the other appellants as its members. Consequently, they were removed from the board before the end of their term, which was chosen by the general assembly under the previous 1959 Law.

In the grounds of its ruling, the Constitutional Court stated that the contested Law No. 122/2023 concerning KCCI was issued with the



KCCI photo
The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) hosted the Turkish Businessmen's Delegation (DEIK) on Wednesday. The delegation, led by Serdar Bakır, was accompanied by the Ambassador of Turkey to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez. According to a press release issued by KCCI, the delegation included representatives from 15 Turkish companies from various sectors, including energy and renewable energy, tourism, portfolio management, financial and banking services, defense industry, consumer goods, machinery and equipment, among others. In addition, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and a number of Kuwaiti investors and businessmen were present during the meeting.

intention of establishing a comprehensive legal framework for KCCI, more than 60 years after its founding.

Non-profit

The legislator classified KCCI as a non-profit institution with legal personality, and set the rules that regulate its powers, structure, management, and the provisions governing its general assembly, board of directors, and funds.

Recognizing KCCI's connection to the state's economic activities, the legislator sought to strike a balance between the right of individuals affiliated with KCCI to manage its affairs and the state's right to oversee and monitor its operations. The objective was to ensure the integrity of its work and activities and verify their compliance with the relevant legislation and regulations.

The legislator subjected KCCI to the supervision of the competent minister, and outlined specific areas requiring this oversight. This included the minister's approval for certain actions and decisions, such

as the sale, mortgage, or purchase of immovable property, as well as the acceptance of gifts or donations.

In this context, the ministry's representative is tasked with presiding over the assembly, overseeing the elections for the board of directors, and approving KCCI's executive regulations. The submission also addressed KCCI's refusal to accept membership applications, its handling of general assembly attendance as an observer, and its failure to convene an extraordinary general assembly when the board of directors does not take action.

The court concluded that by placing KCCI under state supervision and establishing a new legislative body that follows this pattern, the intention was to serve the public interest.

Therefore, the court emphasized that the texts related to this supervision should be interpreted with the presumption of constitutionality without compromising KCCI's legal nature, independence, and status as a private entity governed by its general assembly and board of directors,

in accordance with the law.

The state does not impose arbitrary guardianship over KCCI, subject it to subordination, or replace its decision-making authority. This supervision does not equate to domination or interference that would hinder KCCI's ability to carry out its activities. Instead, the state's involvement is limited to what the law explicitly requires, as specified in the legal texts, and is intended to prevent violations while protecting and serving the public interest.

The court affirmed that, "The minister's supervision of KCCI's affairs does not conflict with Article 130 of the Constitution, which designates the minister's role in overseeing his ministry's operational matters. Although the minister's authority originates from the decree establishing the structure and competencies of his ministry, the legislator is free to assign additional responsibilities beyond those initially outlined. As such, the minister can exercise these powers within the scope granted by the legislator without violating Article 130 of the Constitution."

Drugs fuel

Continued from Page 1

more of a routine process aimed at fulfilling a requirement, rather than an effective means of addressing the issue. As a result, they fail to achieve the desired impact.

Al-Ghadouri stressed the need for the Ministry of Education to take a more proactive approach by urging schools to intensify their efforts in monitoring and supporting students.

He called for greater involvement of psychological and social specialists, with more focused and specialized follow-up on students' well-being, adding that it is important to include these specialists in training courses.

Furthermore, Al-Ghadouri recommended that the Ministry of Education mandate all schools to provide students with a questionnaire for their families to assess their social and environmental backgrounds, behavioral issues, academic performance, and other relevant factors.

He affirmed the importance of activating the role of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs by organizing more lectures and forums for educating both parents and students about the dangers of addiction, so that strong religious values can be instilled in children to help protect them from falling into addiction.

Al-Ghadouri also called on the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to send messages to society that emphasize faith-based perspectives and warn against the risks of addiction.

He urged the Ministry of Health to expand the network of addiction treatment centers to ensure that all individuals suffering from addiction have access to the support and care they need.

Divorce rates

Al-Ghadouri highlighted the importance of involving civil society institutions in discussions about the factors contributing to the rise in divorce rates in the country.

He pointed out that the high rate of divorces is one of the key factors leading to children's behavioral issues and their susceptibility to addiction.

Al-Ghadouri referred to recent statistics from the Kuwaiti Society for the Prevention of Family Disintegration, which were based on data from the Ministry of Justice.

He said the figures of July 2024 revealed that approximately 835 divorce cases were recorded during that month, while around 1,314 marriages took place in the same period.

The addict who sold his honor

In a related context, Professor of Psychology at Kuwait University Dr. Khader Al-Baroun explained that murder cases, especially family murders, often have various motives, one of which is the rising rates of addiction.

An addict, in desperate need of money to buy drugs, may resort to extreme measures, including murder, similar to the tragic case of a young man who recently killed his mother.

An addict may be willing to sacrifice everything, including his dignity and integrity, in order to feed his addiction. Addicts have been known to sell their country, steal, and even offer their wives, daughters, or sisters to drug dealers in exchange for a dose

of drugs. In extreme cases, an addict might even be willing to sell his honor just to get access to more drugs.

The young man who killed his mother was not acting out of absent-mindedness but was instead fully driven by the need to acquire money for drugs, at any cost.

Dr. Al-Baroun highlighted several contributing factors to addiction, including lack of supervision and excessive spending on children, which can lead to boredom and a sense of emptiness.

He emphasized the importance of providing young people with meaningful work opportunities after graduation to prevent them from falling into destructive habits.

Dr. Al-Baroun also identified other causes of addiction, such as feelings of frustration related to sexual impotence, the influence of bad company, emotional failure, and academic setbacks. In many cases, individuals struggling with these issues may turn to drugs as a way to escape from their reality.

- Addiction indicators**
- Dr. Al-Baroun highlighted several warning signs of addiction that families should be aware of in their children. These include:
 - Frequent and persistent requests for money, often without clear explanation.
 - Withdrawal and isolation, with the child spending extended periods of time alone in their room.
 - Visible needle marks on the arms.
 - Missing money or jewelry from the house.
 - A constantly runny nose, which can be a physical sign of substance abuse.
 - Presence of small spoons with burn marks in their room or the kitchen.
 - Deliberate absences from the house for more than two days.

The mother was not spared

An Advisor to the Kuwait Journalists Association Lawyer Hamdan Al-Namshan condemned the recent horrific crime in which a young man killed his mother, calling it a heinous act.

He highlighted the gravity of the crime, as the mother, who carried him in her womb for nine months, is the very person whom Islam has commanded to honor and respect.

Lawyer Al-Namshan referenced a famous Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), where a man asked the prophet, "Who among people is most deserving of my good treatment?" and the prophet replied, "Your mother". The man asked again, "Who next?" and the prophet repeated, "Your mother". Upon a third inquiry, the prophet again responded, "Your mother." Only after the fourth question did the Prophet (PBUH) say, "Then your father."

He explained that the young man's willingness to murder his mother, in order to obtain money for drugs or other purposes, reveals the extent to which his mind was detached from reality. He was willing to kill his own mother and brother in his desperate pursuit of money.

It is important for families to closely monitor their children from a young age and instill Islamic values in them, given that a significant portion of cases currently in the courts are drug-related, whether addiction or trafficking, with such cases now accounting for over 60 percent of the total cases in recent years.

Despite the great efforts made by the state through the Ministry of Interior to combat the issue, drugs continue to spread, largely due to the drug trafficking mafia's ability to innovate new methods for smuggling substances into the country.

Drug-related offenses are considered serious felonies, whether for addiction or trafficking. A convicted addict may face a prison sentence of more than five years, though a judge might consider the individual's future, particularly if it is their first offense. On the other hand, drug dealers can face sentences of ten years or more, with the potential for the death penalty if the arrest involves both trafficking and distribution.

While the laws are stringent and intended to be deterrent, the real challenge remains the lack of public awareness regarding the dangers of drug use and trafficking.

Lawyer Al-Namshan expressed regret that a small group of lawyers often exploit legal loopholes in the judicial process, allowing some accused individuals to escape punishment.

He emphasized that rulings should be based on certainty and conviction, not on doubt.

Family crimes

Social sciences expert Dr. Ahmed Salama linked the rising rates of addiction in the country to the increasing cases of family crimes.

He said, "For addicts, the driving force behind such crimes is often the need to obtain money by any means, particularly when drugs have a strong hold over their behavior."

Dr. Salama indicated that the onset of criminal behavior in adolescents often begins with negative peer influences.

He also highlighted the role of rising divorce rates, which lead to family fragmentation and may push children toward addiction, particularly in the absence of strong family support.

Dr. Salama affirmed the need for civil society institutions to come together and organize forums and lectures to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs.

He stressed the importance of awareness campaigns in schools, through the media and through the collective efforts of all ministries in the country.

Dr. Salama revealed that the majority of recent murders in the country appear to be drug-related, with offenders' use of various psychotropic substances leading to a loss of mental clarity and impulse control.

Kuwait in

Continued from Page 1

standing in regional forums and conferences and urged overcoming any challenges that may arise during the preparation process.

The committee reviewed a detailed briefing from representatives of the relevant authorities, outlining the specific tasks and responsibilities assigned to each entity in relation to the summit's preparations.

On Wednesday, Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah reviewed with Minister of Information and Culture and Minister

of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi the preparations of the Ministry of Information for Kuwait hosting of the 45 GCC Leaders' Summit, due on December 1.

During his visit to the Ministry, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef spoke highly of the cooperation among the ministries of defense, interior and information, particularly in raising public awareness about social and security issues.

The Acting Prime Minister highlighted the importance of inter-agency cooperation in realizing the objectives of the government action and countering the common challenges.

Accompanied by Al-Mutairi and senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef made an inspection tour of the Ministry's TV and Radio studios, and museum which sheds light on the development of history of mass media in the State of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, officially inaugurated the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat Pavilion at the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center on Wednesday. This event marks a significant milestone as it coincides with the upcoming 45th GCC Summit, scheduled to take place in Kuwait on December 1.

The newly established pavilion is designed to serve as a vital platform for showcasing the GCC's achievements and initiatives over the past four decades. It aims to enhance public awareness of the Cooperation Council's contributions to regional development and integration. The opening ceremony was attended by prominent officials, including Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works and Head of the Supreme Committee on Preparation for the Summit; Noura Al-Fassam, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment; GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi; and Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with ambassadors from GCC member countries.

In her opening remarks, Minister Al-Mashaan highlighted the significance of choosing the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center as the venue for this distinguished exhibition. She noted that this cultural landmark reflects Kuwait's commitment to promoting culture and knowledge as essential values for fostering unity and integration among Gulf nations. "This center is a civilized symbol that attracts visitors from both inside and outside Kuwait, particularly the younger generation eager to explore science, technology, and space," she stated.

Al-Mashaan emphasized that the GCC Pavilion complements Kuwait's cultural landscape by embodying the journey initiated by the Council's founders—a journey aimed at establishing a beacon of Gulf solidarity and a protective shield against regional challenges. She celebrated over four decades of fruitful cooperation among GCC countries, attributing this success to the wise directives of their leaders.

The pavilion showcases major development projects and cooperation initiatives that have significantly contributed to growth and sustainability in the region. "This exhibition proudly highlights our collective progress in various fields such as economy, infrastructure, transportation, education, environment, and health," she

remarked. "It serves as a testament to our commitment to advancing joint efforts and enhancing awareness of the GCC's achievements."

Minister Al-Mashaan also expressed her appreciation for Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and the Amiri Diwan for their generous support in establishing the pavilion. She thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of the Supreme Committee for their dedicated efforts in ensuring that this event was completed on time.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi extended his gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his fellow GCC leaders. He expressed his pleasure that Kuwait will host the pavilion during this significant summit.

"This initiative aligns with our leaders' directives to inform GCC citizens about our achievements and progress in integration," he stated.

Al-Budaiwi highlighted that since its establishment, the Cooperation Council has achieved significant successes that have enhanced prosperity and security for its people while elevating its status on a global scale. He noted that the pavilion's opening coinciding with the Gulf Summit allows citizens and residents to learn about the Council's progress while strengthening perceptions of Gulf cohesion.

The pavilion will feature a comprehensive schedule of visits tailored for different age groups, aiming to promote communication and awareness regarding joint GCC efforts. "We hope this inaugural pavilion will pave the way for future exhibitions at subsequent Gulf summits," he added.

Walid Al-Hamoud, head of the pavilion team, provided an overview of its development, showcasing its value to Gulf citizens and highlighting accomplishments achieved through joint efforts within the GCC framework.

The Pavilion will remain open until December 13, offering insights into the establishment of the Cooperation Council and its achievements over the past four decades. This initiative represents a unique opportunity for visitors to explore how collaboration among Gulf nations has fostered growth, stability, and unity in an increasingly interconnected world.

Continued from Page 1

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Trainer scouts

Continued from Page 1

Ibrahim - the trainer - to go to various schools in all educational zones for selecting those with the talent to sing in order to participate in the national celebrations.

In preparation for this important event, Al-Enezi instructed schools to collaborate with the relevant authorities in planning and coordinating the celebration.

She emphasized the importance of supporting the artistic group that is tasked with overseeing the technical training of the participating teams to ensure effective preparation.

Al-Enezi also stressed the need for full cooperation and the provision of necessary resources to ensure successful participation, with the aim of presenting the celebrations in a way that reflects the significance and deep symbolism of this national occasion.

Kuwait to

Continued from Page 1

Celsius. The sea will remain light to moderate, with waves reaching heights of 2 to 4 feet.

For Saturday, the weather is expected to remain moderate with variable winds shifting from northwesterly. Wind speeds will range from 8 to 35 km/h, alongside some scattered clouds. Maximum temperatures are projected to be between 29 and 32 degrees Celsius, while the sea conditions will again be light to moderate, with waves between 2 and 5 feet.

Saturday night is forecasted to bring moderate to cool weather with variable winds blowing at speeds of 8 to 30 km/h and scattered clouds continuing. Minimum temperatures are expected to range from 16 to 20 degrees Celsius, and the sea will remain light to moderate with waves measuring between 1 and 3 feet. (KUNA)

Greater GCC

Continued from Page 1

In other news, improving reactionary measures against emergencies and crises is necessary for all countries in the region, Head of the GCC Emergency Management Center, part of the GCC Secretariat, Brigadier Dr. Rashed Al-Marri said on Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA at the conclusion of the four-day high level meeting with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Al-Marri affirmed that the event successfully came out with decisions that would speedup measures against catastrophes and crises.

Aviation fairs

Continued from Page 1

He emphasized the country's commitment to advancing priority sectors that drive economic diversification.

He recalled Bahrain's through its long-standing experience in organizing exhibitions and conferences, placing a great importance on ensuring the sustainability of its organizational successes.

Prince Salman praised the success of the Bahrain International Airshow over its 14-year journey as one of the key platforms in the aviation industry, commending the efforts of the Higher Organizing Committee for the Bahrain International Airshow.

Gaza conditions

Continued from Page 1

Elsewhere, the Israeli occupation forces committed on Thursday a new inhumane act in the Gaza Strip, killing in the process 23 people and injuring 112 others in the last 24 hours.

According to a statement by Gaza's health authority, the number of those killed in the 405 days of genocide reached 43,736, while those injured were at 103,370.

Johnson wins GOP nomination to remain in job

Republicans win 218 House seats, giving Trump and party control of govt

WASHINGTON, Nov 14, (AP) - Republicans have won enough seats to control the U.S. House, completing the party's sweep into power and securing their hold on U.S. government alongside President-elect Donald Trump. A House Republican victory in Arizona, alongside a win in slow-counting California earlier Wednesday, gave the GOP the 218 House victories that make up the majority. Republicans earlier gained control of the Senate from Democrats. With hard-fought yet thin majorities, Republican leaders are envisioning a mandate to upend the federal government and swiftly implement Trump's vision for the country. The incoming president has promised to carry out the country's largest-ever deportation operation, extend tax breaks, punish his political enemies, seize control of the federal government's most powerful tools and reshape the U.S. economy. The GOP election victories ensure that Congress will be onboard for that agenda, and Democrats will be almost powerless to check it. When Trump was elected president in 2016, Republicans also swept Congress, but he still encountered Republican leaders resistant to his policy ideas, as well as a Supreme Court with a liberal majority. Not this time. When he returns to the White House, Trump will be working with a Republican Party that has been completely transformed by his "Make America Great Again" movement and a Supreme Court dominated by conservative justices, including three that he appointed. Trump rallied House Republicans at a Capitol Hill hotel Wednesday morning, marking his first return to Washington since the election. "I suspect I won't be running again unless you say, 'He's good, we got to figure something else,'" Trump said to the room full of lawmakers who laughed in response.

Smith is winding down two federal investigations into Trump for plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate. Still, with a few races still uncalled the Republicans may hold the majority by just a few seats as the new Congress begins. Trump's decision to pull from the House for posts in his administration - Reps. Gaetz, Mike Waltz and Elise Stefanik so far - could complicate Johnson's ability to maintain a majority in the early days of the new Congress. Gaetz submitted his resignation Wednesday, effective immediately. Johnson said he hoped the seat could be filled by the time the new Congress convenes Jan. 3. Replacements for members of the House require special elections, and the congressional districts held by the three departing members have been held by Republicans for years.



The Capitol is seen in Washington on Nov 4. (AP)

House Speaker Mike Johnson, who with Trump's endorsement won the Republican Conference's nomination to stay on as speaker next year, has talked of taking a "blowtorch" to the federal government and its programs,

eyeing ways to overhaul even popular programs championed by Democrats in recent years. The Louisiana Republican, an ardent conservative, has pulled the House Republican Conference closer to Trump during the campaign season as they prepare an "ambitious" 100-day agenda. "Republicans in the House and Senate have a mandate," Johnson said earlier this week. "The American people want us to implement and deliver that 'America First' agenda." Trump's allies in the House are already signaling they will seek retribution for the legal troubles Trump faced while out of office. The incoming president on Wednesday said he would nominate Rep. Matt Gaetz, a fierce loyalist, for attorney general. Meanwhile, Rep. Jim Jordan, the chair of the powerful House Judiciary Committee, has said GOP lawmakers are "not taking anything off the table" in their plans to investigate Special counsel Jack Smith, even as



US Sen. Marco Rubio, arrives before Republican presidential candidate former president Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Doral, Fla. on July 9. (AP)

Trump picks Gaetz for AG, Rubio for secretary of state

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 14, (AP) - US President-elect Donald Trump chose Rep Matt Gaetz of Florida to serve as his attorney general on Wednesday, bypassing more experienced options in favor of a loyalist who has built a national reputation as a disruptor and whom Trump has tasked with dramatically overhauling the Justice Department. Trump also announced that he had tapped Sen Marco Rubio of Florida as his nominee for secretary of state. And he selected Tulsi Gabbard, a former Democratic member of Congress and presidential candidate, to serve as his director of national intelligence. The choices continued a pattern of Trump stocking his Cabinet with those he believes he can trust to execute his agenda rather than longtime officials

with experience in their fields. Gaetz's selection, in particular, was seen as a shock. The Florida lawmaker was not among the more established attorneys who had been mentioned as contenders for the job, and even his colleagues in Congress appeared stunned by the news. "Everybody was saying, 'Oh my,'" said Republican Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho. "That was about as big a surprise as I've had in a long time." Gaetz resigned from his House seat Wednesday evening. Trump announced the decision in a post in his Truth Social network, saying Gaetz would "root out the systemic corruption at DOJ, and return the Department to its true mission of fighting Crime, and upholding our Democracy and Constitution."

'It's nice to win' Trump promises to turn Washington upside down

WASHINGTON, Nov 14, (AP) - The fireplace was crackling in the Oval Office on Wednesday morning as US President Joe Biden shook hands with Donald Trump and congratulated him on his election victory. "Welcome back," Biden told Trump, who said the transition "would be as smooth as it can get." It was a cordial exchange that was jarringly at odds with the strangeness of the political moment. Here was Biden, who once made it his mission to prevent his predecessor from becoming his successor, preparing to hand over power to Trump, who never conceded his defeat to Biden four years ago. But official Washington, which still feels the aftershocks of Trump's chaotic first term, appeared resigned to the potential earthquake of his second. There were no protests on the streets and no surprises during the past-and-future president's nearly four-hour visit.



US President Joe Biden meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House on Nov 13 in Washington. (AP)

Trump visited the city after his shocking victory over Hillary Clinton eight years ago. Back then, the country was still trying to figure out the real estate mogul and former reality television star, and Trump seemed somewhat nervous in his Oval Office meeting with outgoing President Barack Obama. Now, Trump is undeniably triumphant and confident in his return, solidifying his place in American politics by overcoming two impeachments, a criminal conviction and two assassination attempts to win a second term in the White House. The victory lap began as soon as Trump touched down in his trademark red-white-and-dark-blue plane with

his name emblazoned on the side. "It's nice to win," Trump told House Republicans during his first meeting of the day. He also hinted that he may not want to leave when his term was over. "I suspect I won't be running again unless you say 'He's so good we got to figure something else out,'" Trump said. The lawmakers laughed. Was it really a joke? Or a suggestion that Trump views the constitutional prohibition on serving more than two terms as malleable? There was no way to know for sure, an uncertainty that recalled the did-he-really-mean-that tone of Trump's original stint in Washington. Either way, it seemed unlikely that Trump

would face much resistance from a Republican Party that has been remolded in his image and will likely control all branches of the federal government. "If Donald Trump says, 'Jump three feet high and scratch your head,' we all jump three feet high and scratch our head," said Rep. Troy Nehls of Texas. He wore a "Make America Great Again" tie and gold Trump sneakers. As if to demonstrate his dominance, Trump announced a series of loyalists for top administration positions, including Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz for attorney general and former Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard for national intelligence director. Concerns about their lack of qualifications could make it difficult for them to win Senate confirmation - but only if Senate Republicans decide to cross Trump by opposing them. The meeting with House Republicans took place in a hotel conference room blocks from the U.S. Capitol, which Trump had urged his supporters to march on Jan. 6, 2021, as Congress was ceremonially certifying Biden's election victory. Fueled by Trump's false claims of voter fraud, rioters smashed windows, fought with police officers and tried to prevent the transfer of power. They failed, but in subsequent years, Trump convinced Americans to set aside concerns about his attempt to remain in power and trust him to address their economic malaise and concerns about migration. He won a decisive victory over Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice president who replaced Biden at the top of the ticket after a disastrous debate performance crystallized concerns about his age over the summer. When Trump finished on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, his motorcade whisked him to the White House for the meeting with Biden. A few dozen Trump supporters stood outside the gate before he arrived, one holding a sign saying, "Welcome back." Scores of journalists crowded onto the grounds in hopes of catching a glimpse of Trump - so many the Secret Service ran out of the temporary passes that are given to visiting reporters. Harris kept her distance. A person familiar with her schedule said she was holding private meetings at her official residence. Trump's campaign said his visit to Washington was "a harbinger of the sweeping change to come in a few short weeks."

'Significant step in securing the country'

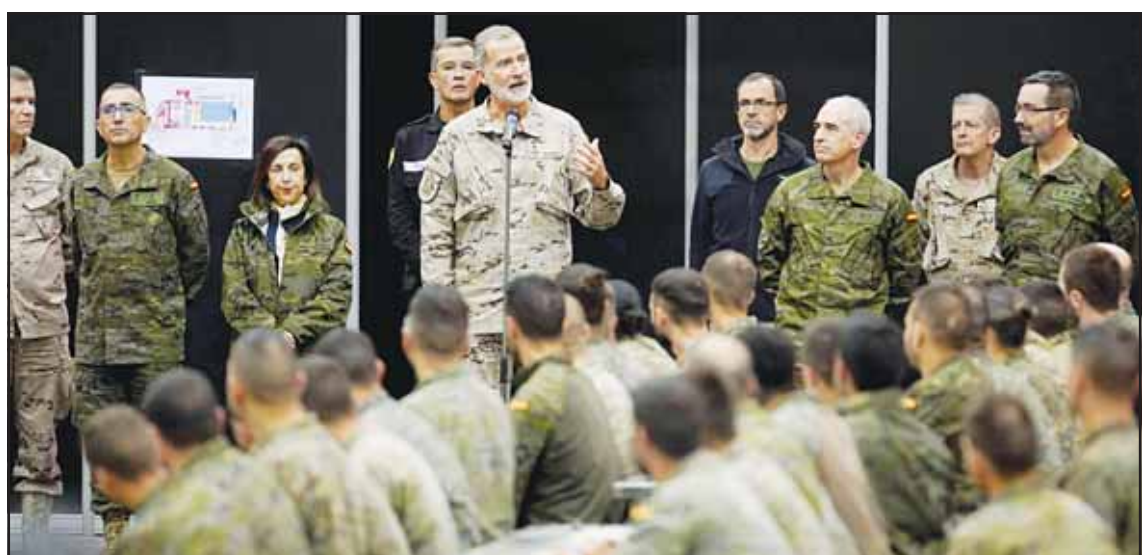
US, Polish officials open missile defense site

WARSAW, Poland, Nov 14, (AP) - US and Polish officials inaugurated a NATO missile defense base in northern Poland on Wednesday, with Polish officials welcoming it as a significant step in securing the country and the NATO alliance at a time of war in neighboring Ukraine. The US missile defense base, which is being integrated into NATO's defenses, was originally planned under US President George W. Bush as a way to protect Europe from ballistic threats from Iran. Poland, however, has always seen it as a form of US protection in case of Russia aggression, fears that have grown since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Kremlin protested the plan from the start, and on Wednesday denounced the base as a challenge to its own military potential that would require measures "to ensure parity." Polish officials, who gathered with the US ambassador and other officials, welcomed it as historic step that increases the US commitment to the security of Europe at a time of uncertainty due to the war



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, (right), meets with Poland's President Andrzej Duda, (left), in Warsaw, Poland on Nov 13. (AP)

that this is not Russia's sphere of interest anymore." Polish President Andrzej Duda said at the ceremony in Redzikowo. "From the Polish point of view, this is strategically the most important thing." Poland's Defense Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz called the opening of the base with its hundreds of US Navy personnel "an extraordinary event in the history of the security of Poland, the US and NATO." He said the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East are showing the importance of air defenses. "The base in Redzikowo means the eternal presence of American and allied troops on the territory of the Republic of Poland and, strategically for Poland, it is one of the most important events in history after 1989," he said. The facility is equipped with the US Navy's modern Aegis Ashore system, which can detect, track and destroy ballistic missiles in the initial phase of their flight. It is the second land element of Aegis Ashore in Europe after the first such installation went into operation in Romania in 2016.



Spain's King Felipe VI, speaks to the troops as he visits a military base on the outskirts of Valencia after floods left hundreds dead or missing in the Valencia region in Spain on Nov 12. (AP)

New storms, flooding threaten Spain's hard-hit Valencia again

New storms in Spain caused school closures and train cancellations on Wednesday, two weeks after flash floods in Valencia and other parts of the country killed more than 220 people and destroyed thousands of homes. Coastal areas of Valencia were placed under the highest alert on Wednesday evening. Forecasters

said up to 180 millimeters (7 inches) of rain could fall there within five hours. Cleanup efforts in parts of Valencia hardest hit by the Oct 29 storm were still continuing, and there were concerns over what more rain could bring to streets still covered with mud and debris. In southern Malaga province,

streets were flooded, while 3,000 people near the Guadalhorce river were moved from their homes as a preventive measure. Schools across the province were closed, along with many stores. Train service was canceled between Malaga and Madrid, and between Barcelona and Valencia. (AP)

Europe

'Activist may ask for pardon'

Imprisoned Belarusian opposition activist Maria Kolesnikova is considering asking the country's authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko for a pardon after more than four years behind bars, her father said Wednesday. Alexander Kolesnikov spoke to The Associated Press a day after seeing his daughter at a prison near Gomel where the 42-year-old musician-turned-activist is serving her 11-year sentence. The meeting in the prison's hospital took place after her family and friends had not heard anything from the popular and charismatic symbol of resistance for more than 20 months. "I finally could embrace her," Kolesnikov said, adding that she "was in relatively normal condition." He said he couldn't comment further



Kolesnikova

because authorities only allowed the brief meeting on condition that he not release any other details. Kolesnikov said he and his daughter discussed the possibility of appealing to Lukashenko for a pardon. "She is thinking about it," he said. In November 2022, Kolesnikova was moved to an intensive care ward to undergo surgery for a perforated ulcer. Former inmates told her sister, Tatiana Khomich, that the 5-foot-9-inch Kolesnikova weighed only about 45 kilograms (100 pounds). (AP)

Teen charged in stabbings: A teen charged with killing three girls and wounding 10 other people in a stabbing rampage at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in England this summer is scheduled to go on trial early next year, a judge said Wednesday. Axel Rudakubana, 18, will face trial Jan. 20 in Liverpool Crown Court on three counts of murder, 10 counts of attempted murder and additional charges related to possessing the poison ricin and for having an al-Qaida manual. Family members and friends of the girls killed and injured, as well as one of the class instructors who was badly wounded, attended the hearing in person as Rudakubana appeared by video

link from Belmarsh prison in south London. (AP)

'2 yrs sentence for Le Pen'

Paris prosecutors on Wednesday requested a 2-year prison sentence for far-right leader Marine Le Pen and an additional 5-year period of ineligibility to run for office, in a trial over the suspected embezzlement of European Parliament funds where her ability to participate in the 2027 presidential race is at stake. The National Rally party and 25 of its officials, including Le Pen, are accused of having used money intended for European Union parliamentary aides to instead 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. Prosecutors asked the court to declare Le Pen guilty and impose a 300,000-euro fine and three more years of suspended prison sentence. They requested that the period of ineligibility be declared effective immediately, independent of whether Le Pen files an appeal or not. The nine-week trial is scheduled to finish Nov. 27, with a verdict at a later date. Defense lawyers are to speak in the next couple of weeks. (AP)

Italy prez rebukes Musk over comments on X about migration court rulings

ROME, Nov 14, (AP) - Italian President Sergio Mattarella sharply rebuked Elon Musk on Wednesday for weighing in on Italian court rulings that have stymied the government's plans to process some asylum-seekers in Albania. Musk, who is expected to have a top advisory role in Donald Trump's new administration, wrote Tuesday on X that "these judges need to go." He was referring to the latest Italian court ruling against right-wing Premier Giorgia Meloni's much-touted Albania immigration deal. "This is unacceptable. Do the people of Italy live in a democracy or does an unelected autocracy make the decisions?" he wrote in a subsequent post Wednesday. The posts concerned a Rome court's refusal to rule on a formal request to detain seven migrants rescued at sea and transferred to Albania for processing. Monday's ruling resulted in the men being brought to Italy for processing. Mattarella didn't cite Musk by name but - in an unusually piqued statement



Italian President Sergio Mattarella speaks before a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Nov 8. (AP)

"Italy is a great democratic country and ... knows how to take care of itself while respecting its Constitution," Mattarella said in a statement issued by his spokesman. "Anyone, particularly if as announced is about to assume an important role of government in a friendly and allied country, must respect its sovereignty and cannot attribute to himself the task of imparting prescriptions," the statement said. Trump announced Tuesday that Musk, one of the most influential people around the U.S. president-elect, would help lead a Department of Government Efficiency, essentially an independent advisory panel to eliminate waste and fraud. Musk is a supporter of Meloni and has met with her in Rome on a few occasions, and in September joined her at an awards ceremony on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. Photos of them together made such news that Musk seemingly felt the need to tamp down speculation by posting "We are not dating."

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan court rejects plea for acquittal from ex-PM Khan and wife in graft case

ISLAMABAD, Nov 14, (AP): A Pakistani court on Thursday rejected a plea for acquittal from former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has been held in prison for more than a year in a graft case, a defense lawyer said.

The court order was another blow to Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi, who were accused of retaining and selling state gifts in violation of government rules when he was in power. The couple will be formally indicted

in the case on Nov. 18 when the next court hearing is held. Khan and Bibi have denied the charges, saying they were not involved in any wrongdoing. Naeem Panjutha, a lawyer for Khan, who remains a popular opposition figure, confirmed that the court had turned down the acquittal plea from the former premier and his wife. He gave no further details.

Under Pakistan's laws, government officials and politicians are allowed to retain gifts given to them by foreign dignitaries, but they must correctly declare the market value of those gifts and declare any money they earned after selling those gifts. The couple is accused of buying state gifts including wrist watches and jewelry at reduced prices when Khan was in power.

Authorities have registered multiple cases against Khan since 2022 when he was ousted from power through a vote of no-confidence in the parliament. The former leader was convicted over corruption, unlawful marriage and revealing national secrets, and was given sentences ranging from three to 14 years to be served concurrently under Pakistani law.



Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan, (right), and Bushra Bibi, his wife, speak to the media before signing documents to submit surety bond over his bail in different cases, at an office of Lahore High Court in Lahore, Pakistan, on July 17, 2023. (AP)



People queue up to cast their votes at a polling station during the parliamentary election in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Nov 14. (AP)

Voting ends in Sri Lanka's parliamentary election

Sri Lankans voted in a parliamentary election Thursday that is key for the country's new, Marxist-leaning president to consolidate his party's power and follow through on promises of economic recovery.

Voting ended at 4 pm local time with more than 17 million people eligible to vote. Details on the voter turn-

out were not immediately available.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake won the presidential election on Sept. 21 in a victory that marked a rejection of the traditional political parties, which have governed the island nation since its independence from British rule in 1948. (AP)

India appears to be welcoming the change

Modi likely to find comfort in Trump's return and a shared worldview

NEW DELHI, Nov 14, (AP): Donald Trump's return to the White House has made many countries anxious and recalculating where they stand with the US, but India appears to be welcoming the change that may embolden nationalist leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I know today a lot of countries are nervous about the US, let's be honest about that," India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said over the weekend. India was "not one of them." A call from Modi "was among the first three calls, I think, that President (elect) Trump took," he added.

A second Trump presidency is likely to play out in New Delhi's favor, experts say, especially as Modi seeks to reset India's relationship with the West after recent frictions over his refusal to join sanctions against Russia or condemn its 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Modi has also been criticized over India's democratic backsliding.

"Trump's victory means that the Indian policies that have put New Delhi at odds with the West ... will no longer be a cause of concern for Washington," said Michael Kugelman, South Asia director at the Wil-

son Center.

There could be ruptures on trade, immigration and climate change goals - but on balance, "the return of Trump means that India's relations with the West - and specifically its most powerful country - will get a boost," he added.

Modi has sought to cast India as a rising global player with a fast-growing economy that can counter China. But critics say his authoritarian politics and right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party have deeply polarized the country with minorities increasingly marginalized and the right to free speech and press under attack.

When President Joe Biden honored Modi with a state visit last year, he walked a tightrope as activists and groups pressured him to confront Modi over his human rights record. Still, the two leaders rolled out new business deals on defense and technology.

Such concerns won't be an issue with Trump, said Uday Chandra, an expert on South Asia and foreign policy. "He is a refreshing reset from the Indian perspective ... he is much more transactional."

Trump, long an open admirer of Russian President Vladimir Putin, is



US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, (left), share a laugh together during a bilateral meeting at the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France on Aug. 26, 2019. (AP)

also likely to be more understanding of India's strategic partnership with Moscow, which dates back to the Cold War, its record purchases of Russian crude, and its refusal to pick a side in the war in Ukraine. "This was the real sort of them in India-US relations over the past two years ... but with Trump, I don't see this being

an issue," Chandra said.

One hot-button issue is trade. In his first term, trade differences between the two countries came to the fore with Trump calling India the "tariff king" over disagreements on farm goods, Harley Davidson motorcycles and medical devices. In 2019, he canceled the country's special

trade privileges and India responded by slapping tariffs on more than two dozen U.S. goods.

This time, Trump wants to impose a "universal" tax of 10% or 20% on all imports and raise tariffs on Chinese goods to 60%. India, which counts the U.S. as its second-largest trading partner, won't be an exception.

"New Delhi will have to do more than just tinkering with its policies to deal with Trump's emphasis on fair trade," said C Rajamohan, a professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore.

Immigration could turn into a sore point if Trump attempts to also curb skilled migration. Indians have often been the largest group applying for the H-1B work visa but Trump had called the visa program "very bad" and "unfair" for U.S. workers.

Progress on climate change and clean energy could also be hit.

"India and the U.S. have done quite a lot on this front over the past four years - but this is something that could unravel because a Trump administration is more aligned with the fossil fuel industry than with green technology," said Milan Vaishnav, South Asia Program director at the Carnegie Endowment for Interna-

tional Peace.

Both Trump and Modi embody strongmen tactics, count on an impassioned support base and have ramped up polarization to consolidate votes. And unlike liberal leaders in the West, Trump doesn't view Modi's policies at home problematic - or even relevant, said Kugelman.

"They're both ardent nationalists committed to making their nations stronger at home and abroad," he added.

Analysts also point to the personal bond between the two. When Trump visited India in 2020, Modi threw him an event in the world's largest cricket stadium.

The year before that, Trump held a massive rally for Modi in Texas and likened him to Elvis Presley for his crowd-pulling power. In his congratulatory post to Trump on X last week, Modi shared photos of the two leaders hugging, smiling and holding hands.

"There's a bromance between the two," said Chandra. "But they're also united by a shared worldview - that we are in a post-liberal world - that liberalism as an ideology for conducting global politics is no longer viable. That's as true in India as it is in America."



Residents of Santa Ana, Cagayan province, northern Philippines arrive at a school used as a temporary evacuation center as Typhoon Usagi approaches on Nov 14. (AP)

Strong typhoon prompts more evacuations in Philippines

The fifth major storm in three weeks slammed into the northeastern Philippines on Thursday, prompting more largescale evacuations and a United Nations call for emergency funds to help the government address the plight of hard-hit rural villagers.

Typhoon Usagi had sustained winds of up to 175 kilometers (109 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph) when it slammed into the coastal town

of Baggao in Cagayan province at the northern tip of Luzon, the country's most populous agricultural region. Locally named Ofel, the typhoon was barreling northwestward and was forecast to blow away overnight toward southern Taiwan.

Another storm was brewing in the Pacific and may hit the northern Philippines this weekend, according to forecasters. (AP)

US ambassador denies its violence problem

'Mexico closed doors on security cooperation'

MEXICO CITY, Nov 14, (AP): US Ambassador Ken Salazar lashed out Wednesday at Mexico's failure to accept aid in the fight against drug cartels, claiming the country "closed the doors" on security cooperation.

In a press conference, Salazar launched his harshest criticism yet of rampant violence, police corruption and the Mexican government's mistaken attitude that "there is no problem."

"When they just say 'there is no problem, we have these statistics to show people there is no problem,' that is not based on reality," Salazar said. "There is a very big problem."

Mexico sent a diplomatic note to the US embassy "expressing its surprise" at Salazar's statement, the foreign relations ministry said in a statement later Wednesday.

Salazar cited violence in recent days in the northern state of Sinaloa as an example. Sinaloa state police chief Gerardo Mérida said Wednesday authorities found a pile of between five and seven bodies on a roadside there, but were still counting body parts to see how many there were.

"There is a pile of various bodies,



US Ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar speaks during a press conference at the new embassy still under construction, in Mexico City on Oct 29. (AP)

with what we have found we have identified five bodies, but some are in pieces, they have been dismembered, there are mentions of seven," said

Mérida.

Sinaloa's embattled governor, Ruben Rocha, seemed to typify Mexico's attitude when he said Tuesday - after a similar number of dead bodies were dumped on roadsides - that "we're doing well, we'll get over this soon."

Salazar countered that in Sinaloa "the dead can be seen everywhere."

Salazar had previously defended many of the Mexican government's actions, but he now says former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's "hugs not bullets" strategy of not confronting the cartels "did not work."

López Obrador left office on Sept. 30, but his successor, President Claudia Sheinbaum, has pledged to continue the policy, even though under her leadership troops appear more willing to open fire.

Fighting between two factions of the Sinaloa drug cartel broke out after two drug capos - one from each faction - flew to the United States and were arrested there on July 25.

Drug lords Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada and Joaquín Guzmán López were apprehended in the United States after flying there in a small plane.

Russia defense official to reaffirm ties

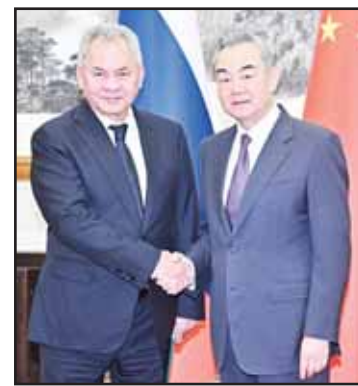
Shoigu visits China premier army showcase

ZHUHAI, China, Nov 14, (Agencies): A top Russian defense official has attended China's premier military showcase in a show of unity between the countries as Russia continues its invasion of Ukraine.

Sergei Shoigu, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, was in the southern city of Zhuhai to view Chinese and Russian aircraft and other military hardware on Thursday. They included Chinese J22 and J35A stealth fighters that China says are rivals to the latest US jets in the same class.

Shoigu, a former defense minister, appeared to be on a mission to reaffirm ties between the countries as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has largely stalemated and Moscow has turned to North Korean soldiers to boost its troop numbers.

China is not known to have directly provided military support to Russia, but has sold it dual-use technologies that could boost its ability to attack Ukrainian targets. China is also a major customer of Russian oil and gas amid international



Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Sergei Shoigu, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, co-chair the 19th round of the annual strategic security consultation between China and Russia in Beijing, capital of China on Nov 12. (Xinhua)

sanctions blocking Russia's access to global financial markets.

Weeks before Russia's February 2022 full-on invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Beijing and the sides signed a lengthy cooperation agreement pledging an unlimited partnership. The countries have held several joint military exercises and aligned their foreign policies to challenge the US-led liberal Western order.

China and Russia held the 19th round of their annual strategic security consultation in Beijing on Tuesday, with both sides exchanging in-depth views on major issues of common concern related to strategic security.

The meeting was co-chaired by Wang and Shoigu.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia, Wang said that under the leadership of the two heads of state, China-Russia relations have maintained sound, stable momentum amid changes in global affairs.



A screen shows live footage of Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speech during a news program in Nairobi, Kenya on Nov 6. (AP)

In Africa, meager expectations and some hopes for a second Trump presidency

ABUJA, Nigeria, Nov 14, (AP): African leaders may have been quick to congratulate Donald Trump on his election, professing a desire for mutually beneficial partnerships, but there are meager expectations that his presidency will change things for this continent of over 1.4 billion people.

In the wake of Trump's win, Ken-

ya's William Ruto said his country "stands ready" to deepen its ties with Washington. Nigeria's Bola Tinubu spoke of a second Trump administration ushering in an era of "earnest, beneficial, and reciprocal" cooperation.

Still, observers say African coun-

tries - once described by Trump as

"shithole countries" - are definitely

not going to be high on his to-do list.

U.S. foreign policy has not made Africa a priority for a long while - beyond seeing the continent through the lens of countering rivals such as Russia and China, said Charles Ray, chair of the Foreign Policy Research Institute's Africa Program.

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
EGYPT	-	EGX 30	SAUDI	-	TASI
	+29.20	31,462.21	DUBAI	-	DFMGI
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225
	+817.44	94,240.67	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi
				-139.27	11,791.18
				-3.58	4,729.23
				-185.96	38,535.70
				-157.24	6,557.09

Business

General index up 0.15%

Boursa Kuwait closes with gains across major indices

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Boursa Kuwait concluded Thursday's trading session with positive momentum, showing incremental growth across its major indices. The General Index rose 11.13 points (0.15%), closing at 7,298.84 points. Market activity remained robust, with 438.7 million shares traded through 23,301 cash transactions, totaling KD 83 million (approximately USD 253 million).

The Main Market Index demonstrated stronger performance, climbing 26.79 points (0.41%) to 6,621.85 points. This segment saw 298.8 million shares ex-

changed through 13,825 transactions, valued at KD 36.2 million (USD 110.4 million). The Premier Market Index also advanced, rising 7.51 points (0.10%) to reach 7,830.71 points. Trading in this market involved 139.9 million shares across 9,476 transactions, worth KD 46.7 million (USD 142.4 million).

The Main 50 Index similarly showed growth, increasing 22 points (0.34%) to 6,538.15 points. This index saw 183.2 million shares traded through 8,528 cash transactions, valued at KD 24.2 million (approximately USD 73.8 million).

150 real estate deals registered

Ministry of Justice reports 22% rise in real estate transactions

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice has confirmed the registration of around 150 real estate transactions from Nov 3-7 -- an increase of 33 transactions or 22 percent compared to the previous week, which recorded 117 real estate transactions worth KD83.1 million.

The ministry's statistics revealed that 110 private real estate transactions worth KD43.69 million were registered within the abovementioned period, along with 40 transactions in investment real estate with a trading value of KD39,454 million; while there was no or limited transaction in commercial, coastal, craft, exhibition, warehouse and industrial real estate.

It also disclosed the increase in the trading index in private real estate by 21 properties compared to last week and 18 properties in investment real estate, while the trading index in

commercial real estate decreased by five and the coastal real estate has only one property. It affirmed the stability of the index in the rest of the properties.

As for the governorates, Ahmadi Governorate witnessed the largest number of deals with 58 worth KD15.13 million, followed by Hawally Governorate with 29 deals worth KD31 million, Farwaniya Governorate with 22 deals worth KD12.87 million, Capital Governorate with 17 deals worth KD8.648 million, Jahra Governorate with 13 deals worth KD4 million, and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate with 13 deals worth KD4.3 million.

In addition, two plots in the Capital Governorate were sold in a public auction -- an investment plot measuring 1,000 meters in Sharq was sold for KD4,651 million and a residential plot in Granada measuring 1,020 meters was sold for KD722,760. A residential plot in Riqqah in Ahmadi Governorate measuring 400 square meters was sold for KD500,000.

Kuwait's e-commerce set to reach KD 1.61 billion in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Information technology expert and former Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Eng. Qusay Al-Shatti expects that the volume of e-commerce in the country will reach KD 1.61 billion in the current year -- an increase of more than KD 500 million according to Technavio Consulting and Research Center, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Shatti said the growth rate of e-commerce in the country from 2018 to 2023 reached 11.33 percent, while the compound annual growth rate of e-commerce in Kuwait is expected to rise by 12.57 percent from 2024 to 2028, indicating these rates put Kuwait among the markets with rapid e-commerce growth.

He affirmed these figures and rates are based on the volume of online trade in the sectors of fashion, clothing, electronics, beauty and personal care products, toys and children's supplies, food, meals and beverages. He disclosed these transactions include those sent through all kinds of courier or delivery services, as well as those paid electronically or cash on delivery.

Digital infrastructure

Al-Shatti explained the quality of the digital infrastructure is a major factor in the growth of e-commerce in the country, as it is considered the basic enabling tool for this trade and plays a major role in its growth, especially since more than 99 percent of the Kuwaiti population can access the Internet with broadband and fast capacities and at competitive prices that allow them to use the Internet easily and practically.

He added smartphones are within the reach of all residents of the country, regardless of their income and standard of living. This year, Kuwait is the first country throughout the world to adopt the fifth generation technology for communications, according to data from the International Telecommunication Union. The country occupies this position for the second year in a row; hence, its infrastructure is one of the main factors in the growth of e-commerce, he revealed.

Continuing growth

Al-Shatti expects the growth in the volume of e-commerce to continue in the medium term, not only in Kuwait, but also globally, at the expense of traditional shopping through various branches, where the percentage of buying and selling will continue to decline, which has become clear and evident worldwide. In the United States of America, many retail companies have closed their stores due to bankruptcy, such

as Sears stores, for example. The same is happening in the United Kingdom, particularly Debenhams. Many retail companies have reduced their branches, because of the consumers' trend towards e-commerce and online shopping, he elaborated.

He said e-commerce and online shopping will completely replace shopping centers and stores in the near future. According to the report issued by the Ipsos Center for Studies (IPSOS) on e-commerce in Kuwait, 53 percent of the segment covered by the report made purchases and shopped online and 60 percent of the segment stated at the same time that the actual shopping experience in malls and stores cannot be replaced by online shopping, although 39 percent of this segment also stated that most of their shopping in the future will be online. This pattern does not only apply to Kuwait or the region, as it also applies to various countries around the world, he stated.

Global e-commerce

Al-Shatti added the volume of e-commerce globally, according to the report issued by the eMarketer Research Center, is expected to reach \$6 trillion by the end of this year, as China alone accounted for \$3 trillion of the volume of e-commerce globally in 2023. The volume of e-commerce in the Chinese market reached 47 percent of the total retail market. The same report states that the volume of retail trade globally amounts to \$29.7 trillion, 19.5 percent of which is e-commerce. This is an indication that e-commerce still has more room for accelerated growth at the level of various countries, while traditional shopping is still the main sales channel in the retail market, he affirmed.

Asked about the reasons behind the changing consumer behavior and their interest in e-shopping; Al-Shatti pointed out that with the development and increasing use of electronic payment methods, the consumer segment in Kuwait is encouraged to move towards this type of shopping for many reasons like saving time, ease and practicality in shopping, greater product diversity, promotional offers, digital marketing, and price preference.

He went on to say that Technavio Center cited other vital factors like the development of global trade platforms towards improving and facilitating the e-shopping experience, ease of sending and receiving products, reliance of global companies in the retail market on multiple sales channels, which is called the Omnichannel concept, and popularity of the concept of marketing through social networking platforms.

KIPCO reports KD 12.52 million profit for first 9 months of 2024

CEO highlights growth across core businesses in 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: KIPCO -- Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) -- announced a net profit of KD 12.52 million (US\$ 41.1 million) for the first nine months of 2024. This represents a 7.2% increase over the KD 11.68 million (US\$ 38.3 million) reported in the corresponding period of 2023.

Earnings per share for the first nine months of the year compared to the same period in 2023 remained unchanged at 1.7 fils per share (US\$ 0.56 cents).



Sheikha Dana Naser Al Sabah

In the third quarter (the three months ended September 30, 2024), the company reported a net profit of

KD 1.36 million (US\$ 4.5 million), an increase of 4% from the KD 1.31 million (US\$ 4.3 million) reported for the corresponding quarter of 2023.

KIPCO's consolidated revenue for the first nine months of 2024 came to KD 1.1 billion (US\$ 3.6 billion), an increase of 16.6% over the KD 0.94 billion (US\$ 3.1 billion) reported for the same period in 2023.

Consolidated assets came to KD 12.7 billion (US\$ 41.7 billion) at the end of the first nine months of 2024, up from KD 12.3 billion (US\$ 40.3 billion) reported at year-end 2023. Equity increased to KD 625 million (US\$ 2.1 billion) from KD 611 million (US\$ 2.0 billion) reported at the end of 2023.

Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer, said:

"The first nine months of 2024 have shown growth across KIPCO's core businesses, underlying our continued efforts to strengthen our operations and enhance stakeholder value. During the third quarter, our local and regional banking operations continued to show positive performance trends, alongside our operations in the food industry, industrial services and energy operations. We look to close the year with an overall enhancement of our capital structure and strengthened performance of our portfolio companies."

As part of its efforts to impart practical experience to students

KIB delivers its third workshop on investment fundamentals and real estate appraisal at KU

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait International Bank (KIB), represented by its Real Estate Department, conducted its third specialized workshop on the fundamentals of investment and real estate appraisal at Kuwait University. The workshop aimed to strengthen students' skills and deepen their knowledge in line with local market needs and international standards. This initiative is part of KIB's comprehensive social responsibility program, focusing on educational support, practical knowledge transfer, and expanded collaboration with academic institutions. It also underscores the Bank's commitment to implementing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles to actively contribute to community development.

The workshop included the participation of Real Estate Advisor Arch. Basil Salem, and Engineer Ahmad Al-Yaqoub, Manager at the Real Estate Appraisal Department at KIB, as well as several university faculty members and a group of university students.

Commenting on the event, Basil stated: "This workshop follows the success of the previous two workshops in capturing students' interest and enriching their practical knowledge in real estate valuation and investment. This initiative reflects KIB's commitment to strengthening collaboration with academic institutions as part of implementing



KIB's Basil Salem

the memorandum of understanding signed with several universities, aimed at integrating practical studies within the university's academic curriculum."

He added: "Our involvement in such initiatives stems from the Bank's identity as a specialized institution in providing financing and real estate appraisal services since its inception. Through this workshop, the Real Estate Department aimed to deliver comprehensive educational content covering all aspects of real estate appraisal and investment, including global real estate appraisal standards and essential factors, such as the cost approach, the income capitalization approach, and the market sales comparison approach."

On his part, Al-Yaqoub said: "We



KIB's Ahmad Al-Yaqoub

are pleased to continue this collaboration with Kuwait University to raise awareness and understanding of the real estate sector among students and faculty members. These events offer a unique opportunity to engage directly with students, sharing expertise and knowledge that enrich their academic journey. They also underscore the Bank's commitment to its comprehensive social responsibility strategy, which embraces the application of ESG principles."

It is worth noting that KIB's Real Estate Department provides comprehensive property services, backed by extensive, pioneering experience since the Bank's founding. It also serves as a trusted resource for prominent government entities, banking institutions, and investment

and real estate companies in Kuwait.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

Company's staff strengthen bonds of faith at Holy Mosque in Makkah

Zain employees embark on 20th annual Omrah trip

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Zain organized its 20th annual Omrah trip to the Holy Mosque in Makkah, with a group of employees from various departments across the company joining the journey along with their families. The trip aimed to foster the spiritual aspect and strengthen bonds between employees beyond the workplace.

Through such initiatives, Zain remains committed to supporting the wellbeing of its employees in all aspects of their professional and personal lives. Under the umbrella of its internal communications strategy, the company presents a wide range of programs and initiatives throughout the year, including the annual Omrah trip. With this strategy, Zain focuses on key pillars

such as health and sports, spirituality, academia and culture, recreation, and social activities, and more, to create a positive impact that caters to the wellness of its employees.

The Omrah trip aims to strengthen the spirit of teamwork and cultivate a sense of belonging and unity among Zain employees. Every year, the company witnesses enthusiastic participation from employees and their families, who praise the seamless organization and diverse activities of this trip.

The company is dedicated to enriching direct and effective communication with its workforce both inside and outside the work environment through initiatives like spiritual journeys, Holy

Quran recitation competitions, awareness campaigns, health programs such as vaccination drives, blood donations, regular check-ups, along with sports tournaments, cultural sessions, workshops, and much more.

From time to time, Zain also invites experts from a variety of fields to hold special talks for employees to widen their horizons and enrich their knowledge. The company believes that active and ongoing communication with its staff elevates their workplace experience and positively impacts their productivity. Zain considers its workforce the main reason behind its success and leadership in the market and will always foster their growth and cater to their needs.



Participating employees and their families in a group picture.

AI-Oula performance marks a robust recovery

Kuwait oil price increases to \$72.16 per barrel

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (Agencies): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up 9 cents to reach USD 72.16 per barrel on Wednesday compared to USD 72.07 pb on Tuesday, according to the price announced by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

At the global market, Brent crude rose 39 cents to USD 72.28 pb, the West Texas Intermediate rose 31 cents to reach USD 68.43 pb.

Also:

KUWAIT CITY: Al-Oula Investment Company recorded a significant turnaround in its financial performance during the third quarter of 2024 and the first nine months of the year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The company posted a net profit of 82,930 dinars for the three months ending September 30, compared to

a loss of 203,340 dinars in the same period last year.

For the first nine months of 2024, Al-Oula reported a profit of 2.45 million dinars, a stark contrast to the 404,010 dinars loss during the same period in 2023.

The profitability improvement was attributed to an increase in returns from associated entities contributed positively to the financial results and reversal of

provisions related to lawsuits, amounting to 2.80 million dinars.

Al-Oula's return to profitability was first observed in the second quarter of 2024, with the company achieving a profit of 2.37 million dinars, compared to a loss of 216,070 dinars in Q2 2023. The company's performance marks a robust recovery and reflects the effectiveness of its strategic and operational adjustments.

Global Finance's annual private banks awards

NBK Wealth named Best Private Banking Services in Kuwait 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Leading magazine Global Finance, recognized for its focus on financial markets and investment banking, has presented NBK Wealth Group with the prestigious Best Private Banking Services Award in Kuwait. This accolade was unveiled during the tenth edition of the magazine's annual awards, which celebrate the World's Best Private Banks 2025.

Global Finance announced the winners across various regional categories, drawing on comprehensive evaluations by the magazine's editorial team. The selection process incorporated insights from hundreds of banking experts, officials, analysts, senior advisors, and executives worldwide, alongside independent research. This year's rankings considered both objective and subjective factors, assessing performance from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

NBK Wealth received this prestigious accolade based on several key criteria, primarily its excellence in delivering private banking services. The award recognizes the Group's ability to meet the needs of high-net-worth clients while adapting to their evolving aspirations through innovative solutions.

The award underscores the strength of NBK Wealth brand, the largest wealth management group in Kuwait and one of the largest in the region. This recognition is bolstered by the legacy of NBK Group, a leading institution both regionally and globally, known for its long history of achievements and international accolades in the banking sector.

The award also highlights NBK Wealth Group's distinctive strategy in providing an extensive array of comprehensive private banking solutions.

- This recognition highlights the Group's effective strategy in delivering comprehensive private banking solutions
- The award acknowledges NBK's exceptional ability to meet the needs of high-net-worth clients, addressing their evolving aspirations through innovative approaches
- NBK Wealth stands as the preferred and trusted partner, offering pioneering services designed to aim to support our clients in building legacies for themselves and generations to come

These include financial planning, wealth management, and investment advisory services, all supported by a global network of integrated operations spanning nine cities across five countries worldwide.

NBK Wealth serves as a vital pillar of the NBK Group and stands as one of the leading wealth management companies in the Middle East. With over \$20 billion in Assets Under Management (AUM) as of the end of 2023, it boasts a broad geographical presence across nine cities in five countries. The group provides a comprehensive range of services, including private banking, financial planning, asset management, and advisory services. Adopting a customized, solution-focused approach, NBK Wealth is dedicated to addressing the individual needs of each client, ensuring alignment with the unique financial goals of high-net-worth individuals and institutions.

NBK Wealth Group is committed to addressing the financial and investment needs of high-net-worth individuals by offering comprehensive and tailored solutions designed to meet their unique requirements. The Group focuses on delivering results that align with each client's ambitions while considering their individual risk profile and financial objectives.

The Group's mission extends beyond merely aiming to enhance its customers' wealth; it aims to be the premier and trusted choice in wealth management. This is achieved by delivering innovative, specialized, and comprehensive solutions that evolve with customers' needs. The Group is dedicated to creating added value, making a positive impact, and aiming to support clients building legacies that will endure across generations.

Global Finance magazine, established in 1987 and based in New York, is a highly regarded publication focused on the finance and economics sectors. With a readership exceeding 50,000 executives and strategic decision-makers in financial institutions across 193 countries, the magazine plays a crucial role in the industry. Each year, it conducts numerous surveys on innovation and profitability among banks and financial institutions worldwide, culminating in the selection of the best performers at both regional and global levels.

■ NBK Wealth is a brand registered under the name of National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.P ("NBK"), for use by the Asset Management business of, among other NBK group entities, Watani Investment Company K.S.C.C., a leading investment firm and its affiliates worldwide, combined with the Private Banking services of NBK worldwide, which is one of the largest and oldest financial institutions in the region.



One of KFH branches.

Accessible facilities both inside and outside branches

KFH offers inclusive banking services for customers with special needs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers comprehensive banking services to its customers with special needs. This confirms KFH's commitment to meeting customer expectations and reinforcing its CSR leadership.

KFH is committed to ensuring that customers with special needs can easily access banking services. To achieve this, KFH provides trained staff to assist with banking transactions and offers alternative communication channels to meet individual needs.

KFH has 76 trained employees across 12 well-equipped branches, fully experienced in sign language to assist customers.

KFH is keen to enable all its customers, regardless of their disability, to benefit from its banking services. Therefore, KFH has allocated branches equipped with a thorough set of features and services that support its main objectives. These include designated parking for individuals with special needs and wheelchair-accessible entrances to ensure easy, quick access upon arrival, access to ATMs, headphone features in ATMs, safety deposit boxes, in addition to staff trained in sign language.

KFH employees receive extensive training in sign language to assist customers with hearing impair-

ments. Moreover, account opening forms, contracts, and transaction documents are printed in Braille. In the digital sphere, KFH doors are equipped with sensors to facilitate smooth transitions between customers, automatically closing until the transaction is completed.

KFH is willing to conclude strategic partnerships with entities concerned with people with special needs and provide appropriate training. Notably, KFH has established a partnership with the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped (KSH) aimed at integrating individuals with disabilities into the community. This partnership focuses on providing training and development opportunities that lead to sustainable job placements, improved psychological well-being, and a more inclusive work environment for people with disabilities. Since this partnership in 2021, KFH has delivered extensive training programs to employees across KFH functions and departments, enhancing their ability to contribute meaningfully to the Bank.

In partnership with the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), KFH is the first bank in Kuwait to launch a comprehensive program to integrate people with special needs, offering them practical training programs and full-time jobs.

Fed likely to cut rates

US inflation rises in Oct, driven by rising rents, used car prices

WASHINGTON, Nov 14, (AP): Inflation in the United States ticked up in October, driven by costlier rents, used cars and air fares, a sign that price increases might be leveling off after having slowed in September to their lowest pace since 2021.

Consumer prices rose 2.6% from a year earlier, the Labor Department said Wednesday, up from 2.4% in September. It was the first rise in annual inflation in seven months. From September to October, prices edged up 0.2%, the same as the previous month.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, "core" prices rose 3.3% from a year earlier, just as in September. From September to October, core prices rose 0.3% for a third straight month. Over the long run, core inflation at that pace would exceed the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

Most economists, though, think inflation will eventually resume its slowdown. Consumer inflation, which peaked at 9.1% in 2022, has since fallen steadily, though overall prices are still about 20% higher than they were three years ago.

The price spike soured Americans on the economy and on the Biden-Harris administration's economic stewardship and contributed to Vice President Kamala Harris' loss in last week's presidential election.

Yet Donald Trump's victory has raised uncertainty about where inflation might be headed and how the Fed would react if it reaccelerated. Trump has vowed to reduce inflation, mostly by ramping up oil and gas drilling. But mainstream economists have warned that some of his proposals, notably his plan to substantially increase tariffs on imports and pursue mass deportations of migrants, would worsen inflation if fully implemented.

Most of the September-to-October increase in consumer prices reflected a rise in rents and housing costs, a trend that Fed officials expect to fade in the coming months. As a result, Wednesday's figures could keep the Fed on track to cut its key rate for a third time in December, as its officials have previously indicated they likely would.

"Inflation is proving to be a little sticky, but not a big issue," said Ryan Sweet, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, a consulting firm. "What I think that means for the Fed is that they can still cut in December."

If it reduces its key rate again in December by an expected quarter-point, Sweet said, the Fed will have cut rates by a full percentage point. He thinks the policymakers will then pause to gauge the effects of their rate cuts on the economy and inflation.

"A pause is coming," Sweet said. "The path for interest



Prices are displayed at a grocery store in Chicago on Sept. 19, 2024. (AP)

rates next year is a lot murkier."

Stock prices surged in the wake of Trump's election victory, mostly on optimism that his proposed tax cuts and deregulation would boost the economy and corporate profits. But bond yields also moved higher, partly reflecting fear that inflation could accelerate.

In addition, the economy is growing faster than many economists had expected earlier this year. It has expanded at nearly a 3% annual rate over the past six months, with consumers, particularly those with higher incomes, spending freely and fueling growth.

Gas prices fell 0.9% from September to October, helping to hold down overall inflation. Prices at the pump have since fallen further on average nationwide, to 3.08 a gallon on Wednesday, according to AAA. That's down from \$3.20 a month ago.

Grocery prices ticked up just 0.1% from September to October and are up just 1.1% over the past year, providing some relief to consumers after food costs surged roughly 23% over the past three years. Egg prices continue to be highly volatile. They fell 6.4% just last month, though they're up more than 30% from a year earlier.

Used car prices jumped 2.7% just from September to October, after having mostly declined for months before that. But that spike may prove to be an anomaly. Auto dealers have mostly rebuilt their inventories after they were depleted during COVID, and in some cases dealers have had to offer incentives again to entice buyers. Compared with a year ago, average used car prices are still down 3.4%.

GIG posts net profit of KD 22.1m for 9M of '24

Insurance revenue up 12.2%, total assets at KD 1.20bn

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Gulf Insurance Group (GIG) announced a net profit of KD 22.1 million (US\$ 72.5 million), with earning per share of 77.84fils (US\$ 0.26) per share, for the first nine months of 2024 compared to KD 21.4 million (US\$ 70.2 million), with earning per share of 75.46fils (US\$ 0.25) per share for the same period last year an increase of 3.3 percentage.

Shareholder equity reached KD 240.6 million (US\$ 788.2 million) as at September 30, 2024 compared to KD 236.3 million (US\$ 774 million) as at December 31, 2023, an increase of KD 4.3 million or 2 percent, while book value per share reached 845 compared to 833 as at December 31, 2023.

Insurance revenue reached KD 678.6 million (US\$ 2.2 billion) compared to KD 604.7 million (US\$ 2 billion) for the same period last year, an increase of KD 73.9 million (US\$ 242.2 million) or 12.2 percent.

Net investment income including interest income and share of result from associates reached KD 43.7 million (US\$ 143 million) for the first nine months of 2024, rep-



Khalid Al Hasan
GIG Vice Chairman & CEO



GIG logo

resenting an increase of 10 percent compared to KD 39.7 million (US\$ 130.2 million) for the same period last year.

Total assets came to KD 1.20 billion (US\$ 3.94 billion) as at Septem-

ber 30, 2024, compared to KD 1.18 billion (US\$ 3.85 billion) as at December 31, 2023, an increase of KD 27 million (US\$ 88.4 million) or 2 percent.

Mr. Khaled Saoud Al Hasan, GIG's Vice Chairman & CEO, said:

"Our results for the nine months of 2024 reflect the strength of GIG as a Group, its continuous growth, soundness in taking risks thanks to diversified revenue sources and ability to preserve stakeholders' benefits and protect their rights. We endeavor to provide the best insurance services to our valued customers in all markets we operate in (Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, Jordan and GCC) by adopting the necessary strategies which today prioritize digital transformation in our operations, digital distribution of products, digital claims services and other supporting functions that all together strengthen the GIG brand and enable us to focus on shaping a valuable insurance ecosystem for the MENA region."

He added, "We thank our valued customers for these achievements, as well as the unlimited support from our shareholders, namely FAIR-FAX, and all honorable board members of the Group. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their sincere efforts and all the concerned authorities in the State of Kuwait for their continuous cooperation to develop the Kuwaiti insurance sector."



GIG's 9M 2024 KPIs

US dollar strengthens, market shifts

Gold falters after Trump victory

NEW YORK, Nov 14, (AP): After ripping higher for much of this year, the price of gold has suddenly become not so golden since Donald Trump's victory in the presidential election.

Gold fell more than 4% in the four days since Election Day, when the broad U.S. stock market climbed nearly 4%. That's even though investors are expecting a Trump White House to drive tax rates lower and tariffs higher. Such a combination could push the U.S. government's debt and inflation higher, which are both things that can help gold's price.

That's left gold at \$2,618 per ounce, as of late Monday, down from a record of roughly \$2,800 set late last month. It also means gold has lost some luster as the best performing investments of the year. The largest exchange-traded fund that tracks the price of gold has seen its gain for 2024 drop back below 27% from nearly 35% a couple weeks earlier.

What's going on? Part of the decline has coincided with the strengthening of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies. Tariffs and trade wars instigated by the United States could push down the value of the euro and other countries' currencies, and a strong U.S. dollar makes it more expensive for buyers using those other currencies to purchase gold.

Trump's preference for lower taxes and higher tariffs is also forcing Wall Street to ratchet back expectations for how many cuts to interest rates the Federal Reserve will deliver next year. Fewer rate cuts would mean Treasury bonds pay more in interest than previously expected, and that in turn could hurt gold's price. Gold, which pays its owners zero dividends or income, can look less attractive when bonds are paying more.

Gold, of course, still has its reputation for offering a safer place for investors when things are shaky around the world. Whether it's been because of wars or political strife, investors often flock to gold when they're not feeling confident about other investments. And with wars still raging in the Middle East, Ukraine and elsewhere, while political tensions still seem as high as ever, gold will likely stay in many investors' portfolios.

"Gold continues to be the safe haven asset class of choice for both investors and central banks," according to money managers at Robeco, which handles investments for big institutional investors.



Gold bars are shown stacked in a vault at the United States Mint on July 22, 2014 in West Point, N.Y. (AP)

EU fines Meta nearly 800mn euro over 'abusive' practices

LONDON, Nov 14, (AP): European Union regulators hit Facebook parent Meta with a fine of nearly 800 million euros on Thursday for what they call "abusive practices" involving its Marketplace online classified ads business.

The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive branch and top antitrust enforcer, issued the 797.72 million euro (\$841 million) penalty after its long-running investigation found that the company abused its dominant position and engaged in anti-competitive behavior.

The commission had accused Meta of distorting competition by tying its online classified ad business to its social network, automatically exposing Facebook users to Marketplace "whether they want it or not" and shutting out competitors.

It was also concerned that Meta was imposing unfair trading conditions with terms of service that authorized the company to use ad-related data - generated from competing classified ad platforms who advertise on Facebook or Instagram - to benefit Marketplace.

Philippine Ambassador and OWWA Administrator to grace Barrio Fiesta 2024

Pinoy Arabia ME marks 10th anniversary with 'Barrio Fiesta' in Salmiya

By Michelle Fe Santiago

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Pinoy Arabia ME, the leading and only Filipino online radio station and only Filipino social media platform duly licensed in Kuwait by the Kuwait Ministry of Information will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on November 15, 2024 dubbed "Pinoy Arabia Barrio Fiesta 2024" with a wide array of festive activities, fun and surprises at the City Hyper (former City Centre) in Salmiya from 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

The momentous event will be graced by Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Administrator Arnell Ignacio as the Guest of Honour along with Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Jose Cabrera III, Labor Attache Manuel Dimaano as well as other officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy and Migrant Workers Office – OWWA Kuwait.

The event with the "Barrio Fiesta" theme will showcase the rich and colorful culture of the Philippines to mark Pinoy Arabia's a decade journey of providing pure entertainment and verified news and information to Overseas Filipino Workers in Kuwait, the Middle East and across the globe.

Among the activities during the Barrio Fiesta will be the Philippine Embassy Consular and MWO-OWWA Mobile Services for OFWs at the venue from 9:00 am-12:00 pm such as passport renewal, authentication of documents, OEC processing, OWWA membership renewal, PAG-IBIG Fund and SSS services.

A festive program is all set featuring the 14 Pinoy Arabia DJ Questors namely Mr Ruba Ruba, Koppivhin, Mr O, Manoy Abroad, Magic Jigz, JC Summer, Buddy Jake, Gem, Papa Sandro, Glenn One-Man Show, Bini Donzkie, Eva, Kc Kring and Christina Morena who will vie for the grand prize and be a part of the Pinoy Arabia theme. The grand winner will be receiving KWD1,000 cash prize, a round-trip ticket to Manila and will have his/her own show on Pinoy Arabia.

There will also be fun games and raffle draw with fabulous prizes at stake such as a round-trip ticket to Manila, cash prizes, electronic items and gift vouchers.



Pinoy Arabia DJ Quest 2024

The Pinoy Arabia Barrio Fiesta 2024 is fully supported by the Philippine Embassy and Migrant Workers Office-OWWA Kuwait and sponsored by City Hyper Kuwait, Ooredoo, Gulf Air, Al Muzaini Exchange, X-Cite,

Bazooka Fried Chicken, Nail It Salon Season 19, Al-Rashed International Travel, Worldwide Connections Kuwait, Kout Food (Burger King & Pizza Hut), Dadabhai Travel, Alzoba Co. W.L.L., Al Alamia International Manpower Services, Grand Majestic Hotel, Yaazeemir International Manpower Agency, X-7 Saloon & Spa for Men, ICSA, Vinta Restaurant & Café, Stylistics Salon, Al-Ghanim & Al-Maya Gen.Trading Co., Time House, Etha Marzouk Al-Azmi Office, Dampa Kuwait & Chautari Restaurant, Juddeng Production, Mados Beauty Salon, Dr. Emerlita Grantos Clinic, Cheys the Look Salon, Arabica Coffee House, Wok N Go Sushi Kuwait, Future Nutrition, Soom Lite, Smart Educational Academy, Marissa Fernandez, Dr. ArtermioUsana, Lush and Baking Studio.

"Come one, come all. We welcome everyone to the festive event! Experience the rich and colourful Philippine culture," stated Mark Fernandez, Pinoy Arabia ME Program Director.

Now on its 10th year, Pinoy Arabia ME continues to sizzle and conquer the airwaves with its new programs to inform and entertain its over almost half a million organic followers.

Broadcasting live from the Ooredoo Tower in Kuwait, Pinoy Arabia ME, since its launch on October 30, 2014 at Marina FM, has generated a sensational following and a great number of listeners not only in Kuwait but in the GCC countries and beyond.

Pinoy Arabia ME fully supported by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait and Filipino community organizations, plays Filipino and English current and old hits with regular guests from the Philippine Embassy and other visiting Philippine government officials as well as known personalities and dignitaries in Kuwait. It caters to Filipino community events and other vital announcements. Pinoy Arabia has become one of the trusted sources of information among the Filipino community especially at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pinoy Arabia ME has carved its niche as a reliable source of information for Overseas Filipinos and a venue of pure entertainment.

Pinoy Arabia ME's core value is public service at its finest – the heart that propels Pinoy Arabia ME to do what it does best.

Open an Alfouz account with ABK for a chance to win big

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait announces Mahmoud Abdelfatta as Alfouz KD 10,000 draw winner

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is excited to announce Mahmoud Ahmed Abdelfatta has the winner of the Alfouz KD 10,000 weekly draw on Monday, 11 November 2024. The draw took place in the presence of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative, ensuring transparency.

From the highly coveted mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for 10 years to its KD 10,000 weekly prize, the account has attracted significant attention in the Kuwaiti market. Based on the account's great success, ABK decided to go above and beyond to reward customer loyalty.

With a KD 100,000 quarterly draw, in addition to an exciting KD 20,000 monthly draw, the Alfouz account continues to surpass expectations and deliver even more customer satisfaction.



Alfouz account flyer

To top it off, ABK has simplified the ability to

open the account and win! Customers can enter the draws and get extra entry chances for every KD 10 deposited. The more you save, the higher your chance to be the next Alfouz winner!

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account or increase their balance to participate in the upcoming draw, which is scheduled to take place on Monday, 18 November, 2024.

Open an Alfouz account today and enjoy increased opportunities to win the lifestyle you've been waiting for!

To learn more about the Alfouz account and its range of exciting draws and prizes, please follow ABK's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.



Poster of the festival

Indian Classical Music celebrated at Lakshmi Narayana Festival in Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) Kuwait presents the Lakshmi Narayana Global Music Festival, celebrating the rich tradition of Indian classical music which boasts of a rich and ancient tradition that spans thousands of years, deeply rooted in the spiritual and cultural fabric of the country.

It is built on two primary systems: Hindustani classical music, prevalent in the northern regions, and Carnatic classical music, associated with the south. Both traditions emphasize the importance of improvisation, raga (melodic structure), and tala (rhythm), creating a profound connection between the musician and the audience.

Rooted in ancient texts such as the Natya Shastra, Indian classical music has been a cornerstone of rituals, celebrations, and storytelling, with its intricate melodies and rhythms evoking

a wide array of emotions. Over centuries, this music has evolved while maintaining its essence, continuing to inspire and enrich generations. The art form's ability to transcend language and cultural boundaries has made it a globally respected symbol of India's artistic and intellectual legacy.

The event – presenting the father-son duo of Dr. L. Subramaniam and Ambi Subramaniam, accompanied by mridangam virtuoso V.V. Ramana Murthy; acclaimed tabla maestro Tanmoy Bose; T.N. Radhakrishnan who is continuing a legacy of rich Carnatic tradition and world-renowned morning artiste G. Satya Sai – is held under the patronage of the Embassy of India, Kuwait on Nov 18, 2024, at the National Theater – Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Center (JACC).

This exclusive festival promises an evening of exquisite performances, with entry strictly by invitation on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Over 200 teachers attend conference

KU, British Council host conf on English & AI in education

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Language Center at Kuwait University, in collaboration with the British Council, organized the conference entitled, "The Future of English and Artificial Intelligence in Learning", at the Conference Center in Sabah Al-Salem University City under the sponsorship of acting Kuwait University Director Prof. Osama Al-Saeed.

The conference aims to shed light on future trends in English teaching and learning based on recent research that promotes the use of the Future of English Program.

Acting Director of the Language Center Dr. Lamis Al-Bustan stated that Kuwait University has always been a leader in organizing such successful and productive conferences; and that the center, in coordination with the British Council, has been successful in creating the best opportunity for experience sharing, which has led to the development and improvement of teaching methods.

Al-Bustan confirmed "the center worked hard to achieve academic excellence, particularly in language learning – one of its initial goals. To this end, the center has expanded its cooperation with teachers from various public and private entities to adopt and adapt to teaching methodologies and new technology in language learning. We hope that future cooperation with the British Council will be possible. The center would like to thank all those responsible for the conference's success and support from various sectors, colleges and departments."

Country Director at British Coun-

cil Anthony Skinner stated that he is proud and honored "to be an integral part of the fabric of Kuwaiti society throughout these years. This reflects the strength of the connection and the strengthening of cultural and educational relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom. This is in line with the 125th anniversary of the cooperation agreement between Britain and Kuwait, as well as the 61st anniversary of the British Council in the State of Kuwait."

He went on to say that thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, the Language Center, on behalf of Kuwait University, hosted this prestigious conference and supported this significant occasion.

He thanked all department heads and teachers in both public and private schools for their attendance and support for the conference; indicating that the British Council discussed the findings of its most recent research report on the future of the English language, explored the ideas for the future of language education, and aspects that teachers must take into consideration to support students, especially since communication and cultural exchange have become more important than ever.

Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy Stuart Summers affirmed that the conference shed light on the impact of artificial intelligence on learning the English language, taking into account the most important research of the British Council. He said "English is the most widely spoken language in the world, and one of the most flexible and adaptable languages due to its ability to adopt many foreign and linguistic words."

Sahir Ludhianwi and Mahatma Gandhi remembered

Writers' Forum celebrates legends with 'tributes' and 'ghazals' at October event

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: October is the month when all Indians remember the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, who was born on the 2nd of October, a day that is celebrated in India as Gandhi Jayanti.

For the Urdu lovers worldwide, October is also the month when they remember legendary Urdu poet and one of the greatest film lyricists of the 20th century Sahir Ludhyanwi whose death anniversary falls on 25th of October.

Both these legends were well remembered at the Writers' Forum meeting held on 26th October at the residence of Ms. Sabiha Bilgrami.

The meeting started with Ms. Nazneen Ali the general secretary of the forum inviting Dr Rajesh Gupta as the president of the evening and Syed Muzammil Qadar as the chief guest of the evening.

The first session of the meeting was a tribute to the two legends with the President of the forum Mrs. Maimuna Chougale reading an enlightening article on the life of Sahir Ludhyanwi and Nazneen Ali paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi through her short story titled "Mujassma e Amn", the Statue



Group photo during the event.

of Peace. Pankaj Tiwari's article on life and relations was equally captivating making the first session a memorable one.

The poetry session of the meet-

ing was equally mesmerizing with a blend of languages and versatility of subjects. Ms Nazneen Ali and Dr. Vinod astonished the audience by showcasing different angles to

a same subject addressing failure through their Hindi poetry. Ms Ikhlās brought intensity through her emotional poem for Mother while Ms. Sabiha Bilgrami added wit through her Gujrati poem Jaman meaning meal. The charm and charisma of Urdu poetry was witnessed through the Ghazal by Sayeed Nazar Kadpawi and nazm by Shabih Ahmed.

After a stunning poetry session the meeting progressed into its last session where meaningful insight about the evening and each of the presentation was given by the Chief Guest Syed Muzammil and President Dr. Rajesh. The variation in language and the correct placement of words was then enjoyed by all through an Urdu Ghazal by Syed Muzammil while Dr Rajesh took creativity to next level through his Ghazal that was on the rhythm and style of Sahir's ghazal.

The meeting ended with Ms.Nazneen Ali thanking the hosts for the wonderful arrangements and the members enjoying delicacies served by Ms. Sabiha Bilgrami and her brother Mr Zayed.

Dr. Tessa Thomas & AI expert Rahul J. Nair highlight career guidance

CBSE Career Guidance Festival 2024 held in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) – a national level board of education in India for public and private schools, controlled and managed by the Government of India – brought together more than 900 students, along with 100 teachers and principals from 24 CBSE Indian schools across Kuwait, with the goal of inspiring and guiding students toward their future career paths.

The event held under the title 'CBSE Career Guidance Festival 2024' was officially inaugurated with a lamp-lighting ritual led by Sanjay Kumar Muluka, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

The day began with a prayer and a welcoming address by Principal Radhakrishnan C., followed by a cultural dance performance.

The festival featured a range of insightful speakers, including Dr. Biswajit Saha from CBSE, who highlighted the significance of skills and lifelong learning in an

ever-evolving world.

Dr. Tessa Thomas delivered a keynote address "The Magic of Science: How Curiosity Shapes the Future," emphasizing how curiosity drives scientific progress.

Other key presentations were delivered by Rahul Easwar on resilience, Rahul J. Nair on AI's role in career guidance, and a futuristic session by Ms. Laya, the world's first humanoid career coach.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, a valedictory ceremony, and a career expo featuring workshops on emerging career trends.

The festival – the first international edition held in partnership with Lifology and hosted organized by the United Indian School – left a lasting impact and emphasized the importance of career guidance and personal development for future success of the students.



Participants in the festival.



American actor Eric Roberts poses on the red carpet during the opening ceremony of the 45th Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) in Cairo, Nov. 13. (AP)



Actors and guests pose for photos on the red carpet for the opening ceremony of the 45th Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) in Cairo, Egypt, on Nov. 13. (Xinhua)



Egyptian actress Nelly poses on the red carpet during the opening ceremony of the 45th Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF). (AP)

45th Cairo Int'l Film Festival kicks off with strong Chinese participation

The 45th Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) kicked off Wednesday evening at Egypt's Cairo Opera House with strong Chinese participation. Egyptian veteran movie star Hussein Fahmy, the festival's president, expressed appreciation for the presence of Chinese films at the 45th CIFF.

"We have 18 Chinese guests today and about seven Chinese films participating in the 45th CIFF. We have always been interested in Chi-

nese cinema, and I have watched Chinese films since I was a student at the cinema institute," Fahmy told Xinhua on the red carpet during the opening gala.

He added that cooperation with China could lead to future co-productions, noting that the CIFF signed a memorandum of understanding with China Media Group (CMG) in late July, which focused on creating joint content on international films, exchanging artistic and cultural expertise,

and sharing professional guests, films, and jury members.

Among the Chinese movies participating in the festival is Brief History of a Family, directed by Lin Jianjie, which competes in the International Critics' Week Competition with seven other films.

Launched in 1976, the CIFF is the oldest internationally accredited annual film festival in the Arab world, Africa, and the Middle East. This year's festival runs from Nov. 13 to 22. (Xinhua)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: The 2024 Latin Grammy Awards are here and back in Miami. It's a big year: the award show is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and Latin music genres have never been bigger globally. So, what should you expect?



Barrera

Edgar Barrera - the producer and songwriter known for his work with such artists as Madonna, Karol G, Peso Pluma, Shakira, Grupo

Frontera and beyond - leads the 2024 Latin Grammy nominations for a second year in a row. This year, he's up for nine awards; last year he received 13 nominations and won three.

Barrera is nominated for producer, songwriter, record and album of the year. He's also nominated twice in the best Regional Mexican song category, and three times in the song of the year category, for his work on Shakira and Grupo Frontera's "Entre Paréntesis," Karol G's "Mi Ex Tenía Razón," and Maluma and Carin León's "Según Quién." (AP)

LAS VEGAS: Former "Dances with Wolves" actor Nathan Chasing Horse is set to stand trial early next year in Las Vegas on charges that he sexually abused Indigenous women and girls, a significant development in the sweeping criminal case after more than a year of stalled court proceedings while he challenged it.

His trial in Clark County District Court is currently scheduled to begin on Jan. 13, court records show. He pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to 21 felonies, including sexual assault, kidnapping and producing and possessing videos of child sexual abuse, KLAS-TV in Las Vegas reported.

Prosecutors are now able to move forward with their case because Chasing Horse was again indicted last month following a Nevada Supreme Court decision that his original indictment be dismissed. The high court's order left open the possibility for the charges to be refiled, and prosecutors quickly took their case before another grand jury. (AP)

BANGKOK: In case you can't get enough of the little pygmy hippo Moo Deng from Thailand, there's now an official song featuring the internet's favorite baby animal - released in four languages for her global fans.

The upbeat 50-second song "Moodeng Moodeng," available in Thai, English, Chinese and Japanese versions, features simple lyrics like "Moo Deng Moo Deng, boing boing boing/Mommy mommy, play with me." Its music video consists of short clips of the baby hippo bouncing, playing with her keeper or hanging out with her mom Jona.

The catchy number was produced and written by well-known Thai composer Mueanphet Amara, and released by one of Thailand's largest music companies, GMM Music. (AP)

Film



This image released by Prime shows Kristofer Hivju, (left), and Dwayne Johnson in a scene from 'Red One.' (AP)

Johnson, Evans lead flashy Santa adventure

'Red One' tries to supersize the Christmas movie

LOS ANGELES, Nov 14, (AP): Ah, the Christmas movie. That old chestnut. That cozy perennial pastime where - let's just pick one scene from "Red One" - Dwayne Johnson, playing Santa's body guard, faces off with a witch-possessed mercenary (Nick Krall) and ice-sword-wielding CGI snowmen on the sandy beaches of Aruba. Can't you just taste the eggnog?

Such are the ugly-sweater clashes of "Red One," a big-budget gambit to supersize the Christmas movie. Countless movies before have wrestled with who Santa is. Does he really exist? But "Red One" is the first one to answer doubters with a superhero-like St. Nick who runs his North Pole operation like the army, who bench presses and counts carbs and who, given that he's played by J.K. Simmons, looks like he could teach one heck of a jazz class.

There is ample time during "Red One," which opens in theaters Thursday, to ponder who, exactly, put a Marvel-ized Santa on their wish list. The movie, directed by the "Jumanji" reboot filmmaker Jake Kasdan and scripted by the veteran "Fast & Furious" screenwriter Chris Morgan, was conceived by producer Hiram Garcia as the start of a holiday franchise for Amazon MGM Studios - presumably to satisfy those who have pined for a Christmas movie but with, you, know, more military industrial complex.

"Red One," which is brightened by its other A-list star, Chris

Evans, is a little self-aware about its own inherent silliness. But not nearly enough. There is a better, funnier movie underneath all the CGI gloss. But overwhelmed by effects and overelaborate world building (there are trolls, ogres and a headless horseman here, all loosely connected as mythical creatures), "Red One" feels like an unwanted high-priced Christmas present.

"I love the kids. It's the grown-ups that are killing me." So announces Callum Drift (Johnson), a long-serving security operative for Santa. He's not an elf but a member of ELF, Enforcement Logistics and Fortification. (Don't you just feel the holiday cheer welling up inside?) But after years, even centuries on the job, Callum's faith in Christmas traditions is waning. For the first time, those on the naughty list outnumber the nice. On a mall visit two days before Christmas, he looks despondently at adults bickering over presents, if not outright stealing them.

Callum and other operatives with earpieces shuttle Santa ("Red One" in their secret service-styled lingo) in a fleet of Suburbans to his sleigh, which, while pulled by reindeer, moves more like a spaceship. Back at the North Pole - picture a sort of wintry Abu Dhabi - Santa is kidnapped. The culprits leave only spilt milk behind. The ensuing hunt, overseen by the chief of a special ops group protecting mystical beings (Lucy Liu), leads immediately to a hacker who helped an anonymous client geolocate Santa.



Lucy Liu in a scene from 'Red One.' (AP)

The for-hire hacker, Jack O'Malley (Evans) is a deadbeat dad to his son (Wesley Kimmel), and, we're informed, a "level-four naughty-lister." Evans might be most famous for his Captain America, but smarmy smart-aleck (like in "Knives Out") is really his wheelhouse. And he gives "Red One" some comic energy as it transitions into a sort of buddy comedy with him and Johnson.

Shakespearean and British drama icon

Timothy West, acclaimed British actor, dies at 90

LONDON, Nov 14, (AP): British actor Timothy West, who played the classic Shakespeare roles of King Lear and Macbeth and who in recent years along with his wife, Prunella Scales, enchanted millions of people with their boating exploits on Britain's waterways, has died, He was 90.

In a statement Wednesday, his children said that West died "peacefully" in his sleep "with his friends and family at the end."

"After a long and extraordinary life on and off the stage, our darling father Timothy West died peacefully in his sleep yesterday evening," his children Juliet, Samuel and Joseph said.

West was a regular presence on stage and screen, his ver-

satility allowing him to play a broad range of characters. He excelled as a leading actor in numerous Shakespeare productions, including playing Falstaff in a 1996 production of Shakespeare's "Henry IV" opposite his son Samuel, who played Prince Hal. Other notable performances include his portrayal of Claudius in a 1977 production of "Hamlet," in which Derek Jacobi played the titular role.

An array of credits on stage and screen, including short stints in British television's two most popular soap operas, "Coronation Street" and "Eastenders," kept him in the public eye in later life.

"Timothy West was an icon of British drama, and at the BBC we feel incredibly privileged that he was on our screens across the decades," said Lindsay Salt,

director of BBC Drama.

West, who was born in the north England city of Bradford, made his London stage debut in 1959, before joining the Royal Shakespeare Company in the 1960s, where he earned his acting chops.

On television, he had roles in adaptations of Charles Dickens' novels, including "Bleak House" and "Hard Times," the latter which was parodied in ITV's "Brass" from 1982 to 1990, in which West played a ruthless self-made businessman. He clearly had the look, as well as the depth, to play Britain's wartime leader Winston Churchill three times, first in 1979's "From Churchill and the Generals," then in "The Last Bastion" five years later and finally in "Hiroshima" in 1995.



Timothy West (left) and his wife Prunella Scales leave Lamb House in Rye, East Sussex, England, May 16, 2024. (AP)

Broccoli, Wilson join Hollywood legends with Oscar honor

James Bond producers reflect on legacy and future of 007

LOS ANGELES, Nov 14, (AP): For the late James Bond producer Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, receiving the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award was a true high point in his career. He said as much accepting the prize, a non-competitive honorary Oscar, at the Academy Awards in 1982.

Roger Moore presented it to him that night while his family in the audience looked on, including his daughter, Barbara Broccoli, who was reduced to a puddle of tears, and her brother, Michael G. Wilson.

"He always treasured it," Barbara Broccoli said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "It was the most important physical possession he had."

The award, then a bust of the inimitable "boy wonder" producer of Hollywood's early years, sat on his mantelpiece for many years. Now, Broccoli, 64, and Wilson, 82, are following in "Cubby's" footsteps as the 40th recipients, collecting the Oscar statuette Sunday at the 15th Governors Awards in Hollywood.

"It's a rare honor, and I think that makes it extra special," Wilson said.

Since its inception in 1937, the award has only been given 39 times, celebrating creative producers for a lifetime of quality films. The roster of honorees is a



Barbara Broccoli, (left), and Michael G. Wilson appear at the World premiere of the film 'No Time To Die' in London on Sept. 28, 2021. (AP)

who's-who of Hollywood legends from David O. Selznick and Walt Disney to Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. And only once before Broccoli has it gone to a woman, Kathleen Kennedy in 2018.

"It's very humbling," Broccoli said. "I think of so many people who have come before us, so many people I wish had been given the honor who

aren't with us anymore."

Though she is quick to point out all the others she thinks more deserving, the fact is that no one quite occupies the space that Broccoli and Wilson do as the guardians of the Bond franchise, one of the longest running film series in history.

Since Cubby and Harry Saltzman purchased the rights to Ian Fleming's

novels in 1961, the 25 films released by EON productions have grossed over \$7.6 billion at the global box office. And despite all odds, the major creative decisions, including who gets to be Bond, have stayed in the family through massive changes in the business, including new corporate overlords.

For many years, EON split profits with MGM, which financed and distributed the movies. But that got slightly more complicated in May 2021, several months before the last Daniel Craig Bond, "No Time to Die" opened, when Amazon purchased MGM for \$8.45 billion. The siblings continue to own 50% of Bond and maintain creative control over its future. They're also adamant about theatrical.

"People are playing it very safe. I think in times of crisis like this, you've got to be brave," Broccoli said. "It's certainly a new era in the movie business, so we're trying to figure it out."

Broccoli has been entrenched in the world of Bond her entire life. She was only a year old when the deal was signed and spent much of her youth on sets around the world. One of her earliest memories was filming "You Only Live Twice" in Japan.

She was 6.

Her father's passion for the films was infectious and she followed him into the business, learning the trade from the ground up. Though she didn't quite start without connections, as Cubby had when he came to Hollywood in 1934, she never shied away from doing "the dirty work." During one indie shoot, she remembers scrubbing toilets before the wrap party.

Wilson came into the family when his mother married Cubby in 1959. With two actor parents, he didn't imagine a career in entertainment for himself. Instead, he pursued law. Then Cubby asked for his advice during a dispute, Wilson "caught the bug" and never looked back.

Cubby passed the torch to the kids in 1995; he died the next year. Since then, Wilson has operated as the business affairs person and Broccoli as more of a creative and practical producer. Their different skills and interests were compatible.

"I think it worked out pretty well," Wilson said. "We were a good team."

During their tenure, they bid farewell to the Pierce Brosnan era and welcomed Daniel Craig as the seventh Bond; firm in their decision, despite the immense backlash. They also produced non-Bond films, like

"Till."

But the spotlight on them has intensified as the world awaits official word on Bond No. 8. People are always playing the guessing game with the role, whether it was the long-running fan campaign for Idris Elba or any number of promising young actors who pop on the scene. The latest, stickiest rumor is Aaron Taylor-Johnson, but Broccoli and Wilson are staying tight-lipped on even a general timeline for when an announcement might come.

"It's a big decision," she said. "They've teased some things: It will be a man. He'll likely be in his 30s. Whiteness is not a given. And whoever says yes is doing so with the expectation of at least a decade's worth of films. One thing is certain: There's going to be a period of adjustment for audiences in the transition. Every Bond had its detractors, especially at the start. Broccoli saw firsthand the vitriol of the internet era when Craig was cast ("anti-Daniel nonsense," she called it.)

But when people finally saw "Casino Royale," the sentiment shifted to love. The five Craig Bonds are the highest grossing in the series, not adjusting for inflation. It remains one of her proudest moments. And a new Bond means new opportunity.

Music



Dolly Parton appears at an event to celebrate the expansion of the Imagination Library of Kentucky at the Lyric Theatre in Lexington, Ky., on Aug. 27, 2024. (AP)

'Smoky Mountain DNA' is her favorite album

Parton sings her family's story on new album

NEW YORK, Nov 14, (AP): Dolly Parton's musical story starts further back than most might expect - to the British Isles of the 1600s. That's where her ancestors hail from, eventually landing in the hollers of East Tennessee and its familiar mountain ranges, bringing their songs with them. A new album out Friday, "Smoky Mountain DNA: Family, Faith & Fables" credited to Dolly Parton and Family, explores the great legacy of the Partons and the Owens, her maternal family, as she performs alongside five generations of family members.

"My grandpa used to say when I got famous, he said, 'Well, she came out crying in the key of D,'" she told The Associated Press. "I think we all did."

"Smoky Mountain DNA" was an inevitable labor of love, one that taught Parton more about her family line.

"We're kind of like the Carter family. We go back generations," Parton said. (The Carters are widely considered the first family of country music.)

"I would imagine this will be my favorite album," Parton said. "This really involves, you know, my grandmas and my grandpas, my uncles and my aunts and all the people going all the way back that had the biggest influence on my life. The ones that I remember from being little, and it even goes on farther back from there."

Richie Owens - Parton's cousin, who she describes as "the family historian" - produced "Smoky Mountain DNA." He says that the family has long been archivists, but the idea to curate a record started around 2010 and 2011, delayed by a few deaths. Then, right before the pandemic, Parton approached Owens and said, "we need to get together and start trying to get all this information (and) material together," he recalls. Because Owens had already been working on a family story, specifically tied to his grandfather's fiddle, they teamed up for what is now "Smoky Mountain DNA."

For some of the new songs, Owens utilized digital technology - what he compares to the AI-assist on the last

new Beatles song. "Now and Then," used to extract John Lennon's voice from an old demo for a new composition - for "restoration work."

"With the technology that's been available, we were able to achieve wonderful, miraculous situations where we were able to go in and build new music tracks" from previous vocal recordings of deceased family members, he says. It was about cleaning up the crackles and noise - not about creating doctored recordings.

"I got very, very emotional many times when I was singing, especially with the ones that have already passed and just remembering their voices, hearing them," Parton says. "It just kind of threw me in to a deep emotional place, just like I had them back again. So, the whole thing was very heart wrenching. But it was really amazing and very restoring. It had so

many colors of emotions in it."

Parton and Owens started curating the album by finding songs that she had co-written with deceased family members - or those of deceased family members that she had recorded previously. Others were hits and integral to the story of their heritage, and the songs recorded with younger members of the family - including those born in the 21st century - included more Parton co-writes, but with styles that felt true to each person.

That's one of the many reasons the album, which is centered in country, folk, hymns and bluegrass, spans a wide swath of genres, including a kind of soulful R&B performance (like on "Not Bad" with Shelley Rená), swamp pop ("I Just Stopped By" with Parton's late uncle Robert "John Henry" Owens), various rock genres ("Where Will We Live

Tomorrow" with Rebecca Seaver and "Crazy in Love with You" with Richie Owens' daughter Estelle).

The album revisits Parton's own career, too: There is a delightful cover of "Puppy Love," originally recorded when she was 13, now sang with some of the youngest members of her family.

"Some of the little ones," she says, "remind me so much of myself when I was young and playing the guitar."

"Smoky Mountain DNA" could only end with one song: "When It's Family," originally co-written by Parton and released as "Family" on her 1991 album "Eagle When She Flies." It's a moving song about acceptance, Parton singing: "Some are preachers, some are gay / Some are addicts, drunks and strays / But not a one is turned away / When it's family."

"I don't condemn nor condone anything. I just love and accept people where they are for who they are," she explains. "And I don't judge because I've said before, I've got some of everybody in my immediate family, whether they be trans, whether they be gay, whether they be drag queens or whatever. I mean, we've got drunks, we've got strays, we've got drug addicts - you always have that when you got a family as big as ours. And you love them all."

So, what about all the material that isn't included here? "I'm sure we'll be doing compilation albums," says Parton. "We're doing a docuseries as well, taking all the music back to the old country with a lot of our relatives over there that are still singing all those old songs that got brought over here... It's really moving."

In the meantime, she's working on a musical based on her life, scheduled to hit Broadway in 2026. It, like "Smoky Mountain DNA," is an opportunity to reflect on her career, and maybe even what her legacy will become five more generations down the line.

"I hope that a lot of my songs may last that long," she says. "And I hope I'll be remembered as somebody that tried to do some good in the world and left, you know, a few good things."

Third in 150 years

Rustioni named principal guest conductor of Met

NEW YORK, Nov 14, (AP): Daniele Rustioni will become just the third principal guest conductor of the Metropolitan Opera in its nearly century-and-a-half history, leading at least two productions each season starting in 2025-26 as a No. 2 to music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Rustioni agreed to a three-year term, the company announced Wednesday. He is to helm revivals of "Don Giovanni" and "Andrea Chénier" next season, Puccini's "La Bohème" and "Tosca" in 2026-27 and a new production of Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra," possibly in 2027-28.

"This all started because of the chemistry between the orchestra and me and the chorus and me," Rustioni said. "It may be the best opera orchestra on the planet in terms of energy and joy of playing and commitment." Nézet-Séguin has conducted four-to-five productions per season and will combine Rustioni for about 40% of a Met schedule that currently includes 18 productions per season, down from 28 in 2007-08.

The music director role has changed since James Levine led about 10 productions a season in the mid-1980s. Nézet-Séguin has been Met music director since 2018-19 and also has held the roles with the Philadelphia Orchestra since 2012-13 and of Montreal's Orchestre Métropolitain since 2010.

"Music directors today typically don't spend as much time as they did in past decades because music directors typically are very busy fulfilling more than one fulltime job," Met

general manager Peter Gelb said. "In the case of Yannick, he has three, plus being very much in-demand as a guest conductor of the leading orchestras like Berlin and Vienna. To know we have somebody who's at the very highest level of the world, which I think Daniele is, to be available on a consistent basis is something that will provide artistic surety to the Met."

A 41-year-old Italian, Rustioni made his Met debut leading a revival of Verdi's "Aida" in 2017 and conducted new productions in a pair of New Year's Eve galas, Verdi's "Rigoletto" in 2021 and Bizet's "Carmen" last December. He took over a 2021 revival of Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" on short notice when Nézet-Séguin withdrew for a sabbatical and Rustioni also led Verdi's "Falstaff" in 2023.

"I dared to try tempos in this repertoire that they know very well," Rustioni said of the orchestra. "I offered and tried to convince them in some places to try to find more intimacy and to offer the music with a little bit more breathing here and there, maybe in a different space than they are used to."

Valery Gergiev was the Met's principal guest conductor from 1997-98 through 2008-09, leading Russian works for about half of his performances. Fabio Luisi assumed the role in April 2010 and was elevated to principal conductor in September 2011 when Levine had spinal surgery. The role has been unfilled since Luisi left at the end of the 2016-17 season.



This image released by the Metropolitan Opera shows Daniele Rustioni conducting the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra during a rehearsal on Feb. 9, 2023 in New York. (AP)

Variety

SEOUL, South Korea: Song Jaelim, a South Korean actor known for his roles in K-dramas "Moon Embracing the Sun" and "Queen Woo," was found dead at his home in capital Seoul.

He was 39. Officials at Seoul's Seongdong district police station didn't immediately comment Wednesday on the cause of death.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing anonymous police sources, reported that police found a note at Song's home, where he was discovered Tuesday by a friend who came to have lunch with him, and that there were no signs of foul play. (AP)



Song

COSTA MESA, Calif.: Alexander Shelley will become music director of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra for the 2026-27 season following the 35-year tenure of Carl St. Clair.

The 45-year-old will be just the third music director for the orchestra after founder Keith Clark (1979-88) and St. Clair, who started in 1990 and turned 72 in June. St. Clair will become music director laureate in 2025-26.

Shelley will have the title of music director designate in 2025-26 before starting a five-year contract as mu-

sic director, the orchestra announced Wednesday. He will conduct four subscription weeks in 2025-26, and St. Clair three. (AP)

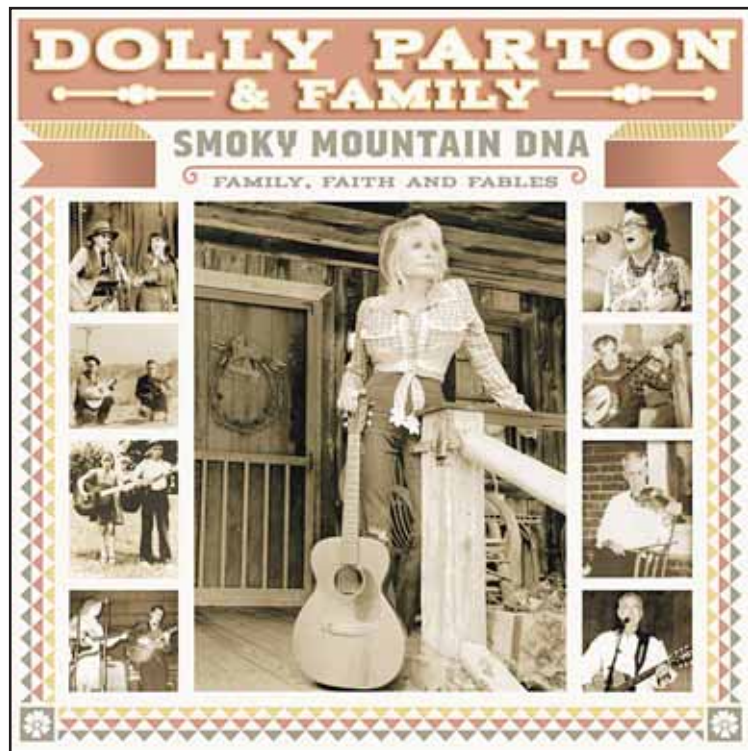
NEW YORK: James Patterson's latest philanthropic project marks a deepening of ties to his undergraduate alma mater.

The bestselling author is teaming with Manhattan University on the James Patterson Honors Program, which has a mission to "provide a strong foundation in critical thinking, writing, and creative problem-solving to prepare top students for fulfilling careers in a wide range of industries," the school announced Wednesday. The honors program, which launches next fall, will include workshops, internships, mentorships and networking opportunities. (AP)

ST. LOUIS: Rapper Nelly won't face drug charges following his arrest this summer at a St. Louis-area casino, a prosecutor said.

"We don't believe the facts in this case warrant the issuing of charges," St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell said in a statement Tuesday.

Nelly, 49, whose birth name is Cornell Haynes II, grew up in the area. His lawyer, Scott Rosenblum, has said the search that led to Nelly's August arrest was unwarranted. (AP)



This cover image released by Owepar Records shows 'Smoky Mountain DNA: Family, Faith and Fables' by Dolly Parton. (AP)

Bank promotes early prostate cancer detection

Warba joins 'Movember' health drive at GUST

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: In its commitment to supporting community initiatives and the youth, Warba Bank sponsored the "Movember" health awareness campaign at the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), organized in collaboration with the university's Marketing Club. The campaign focused on raising awareness about prostate cancer, its prevention, early detection, and health promotion.

Emphasizing the bank's dedication to health awareness, Warba Bank's Chief Marketing and Corporate Communication Officer, Dr. Mohammad Barakat, said: "Our participation in the Movember campaign reflects our values and national responsibility towards our local community. We are proud to expand our support for meaningful initiatives, particularly in the health sector."

The campaign, which spanned three days, saw Warba Bank engage with students and visitors at its pavilion, where it hosted various activities and competitions, including a FIFA 2025 tournament. These events were designed to attract visitors and encourage important conversations about prostate cancer.

Dr. Barakat emphasized the importance of early detection in combating the cancer. He highlighted modern diagnostic methods such as the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test, which can identify potential cancerous tumors.

He said: "Early detection makes treatment more effective and significantly increases the chances of improving outcomes and saving lives."

Recent reports indicate that prostate cancer is one of the most prevalent cancers among Kuwaiti men, underscoring the urgent need for more awareness programs. "By encouraging men to adopt healthier lifestyles and undergo regular medical check-ups, we can help reduce

their risk of developing cancer," Dr. Barakat added.

Warba Bank focuses on supporting causes and programs that add value to its local community, with a particular focus on initiatives that educate the youth and promote healthy lifestyles.

The bank has previously collaborated with GUST's Marketing Club to organize events and activities that enrich students' knowledge and foster both academic and professional development.

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.



A photo from the event.

'It just gives me energy ...'

What makes walking so great for your health and what else you need to do

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov 14, (AP) - Janet Rapp strode briskly down a paved path through the city zoo, waving at friends and stopping briefly to greet emus she knows by name.

The 71-year-old retiree starts each morning this way with a walking club. "I'm obsessed," she said. Not only does it ease her joint pain, "it just gives me energy ... And then it calms me, too."

Medical experts agree that walking is an easy way to improve physical and mental health, bolster fitness and prevent disease. While it's not the only sort of exercise people should do, it's a great first step toward a healthy life.

"You don't need equipment and you don't need a gym membership," said Dr. Sarah Eby, a sports medicine physician with Mass General Brigham. "And the benefits are so vast."

Walking can help meet the U.S. surgeon general's recommendation that adults get at least 2 1/2 hours of moderate-intensity physical activity every week. This helps lower the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, dementia, depression and many types of cancer.

Walking also improves blood sugar levels, is good for bone health and can help you lose weight and sleep better, added Julie Schmied, a nurse practitioner with Norton Healthcare, which runs the free Get Healthy Walking Club.

Another advantage? It's a low-impact exercise that puts less pressure on joints as it strengthens your heart and lungs.

James Blankenship, 68, said joining the walking club at the Louisville Zoo last year helped him bounce back after a heart attack and triple bypass in 2022.

"My cardiologist says I'm doing great," he said.



Members of the Get Healthy Walking Club walk the paths past the animal enclosures during the morning at the Louisville Zoo in Louisville, Ky., Friday, Oct. 18, 2024. (AP)

For all its benefits, however, walking "is not enough for overall health and well-being" because it doesn't provide resistance training that builds muscle strength and endurance, said Anita Gust, who teaches exercise science at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

That's especially important for women's bone health as they age.

Experts recommend adding such activities at least twice weekly - using weights, gym equipment or your own body as resistance - and doing exercises that improve flexibility like yoga or stretching.

Nearly everyone has heard about this walking goal, which dates back to a 1960s marketing campaign in Japan. But experts stress that it's just a guideline.

The average American walks about 3,000 to 4,000 steps a day and it's fine to gradually work up to 10,000,

Shmied said.

Setting a time goal can also be useful. Schmied suggests breaking the recommended 150 minutes per week into 30 minutes a day, or 10 minutes three times a day, for five days. During inclement weather, people can walk in malls or on treadmills.

As they become seasoned walkers, they can speed up the pace or challenge themselves with hills while still keeping the activity level moderate.

"If you can talk but not sing," Eby said, "that's what we consider moderate-intensity exercise."

Walking with friends - including dogs - is one way.

Walking clubs have popped up across the nation. In 2022, New York personal trainer Brianna Joye Kohn, 31, started City Girls Who Walk with a TikTok post inviting others to walk with her.

Kuwait leads in ENT specializations

1,000 ENT surgeries performed in 10 months

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Head of the Otorhinolaryngology Department at Jahra Hospital Dr. Salma Al-Houli revealed that about a thousand surgeries in various Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specializations were performed at the hospital over the last 10 months; affirming the diversity of surgeries such as the ears, adenoids, sinuses, head and neck cancers, and others for adults and children.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Houli confirmed that Kuwait is one of

the advanced countries in ENT specializations. She praised the efforts of the Ministry of Health in the early detection of genetic diseases in children by launching the early screening program for newborns in order to prevent such diseases, indicating that speech and hearing problems constitute 2.5 percent of these diseases.

She also announced the organization of an open day next Wednesday to raise public awareness on speech and hearing problems in children entitled, "Communication Disorders in Children". She said language is one of the basics of dealing with children

and that hearing problems in children affect them in the future. "Our mission is to educate citizens and expatriates on how to care for the senses of hearing and speech in children and to identify the signs of communication disorders," she revealed.

She also pointed out that lack of response to sounds and not turning to the source of the sound are among the signs of hearing problems in newborns, urging parents to closely monitor their baby's reactions to sound in order to detect hearing problems early and prevent the exacerbation of health problems.

World marks Diabetes Day to raise awareness

Rising childhood obesity in Kuwait fuels spike in type-2 diabetes cases

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): The world marks Diabetes Day on November 14 under the slogan, "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps," to raise awareness and educate people about the nature of the disease and how to deal with it.

In a statement to KUNA, Dr. Yousef Bu-Abbas, a consultant of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at Al-Amiri Hospital, said that diabetes is a chronic disease that affects millions, and Kuwait is one of the countries with the highest rates of type-II diabetes.

According to statistics, the rate of getting type-II diabetes has reached 25.5 percent, and about 90 percent of them are linked to obesity.

Dr. Bu-Abbas said that the increase in obesity among children, which has reached 50 percent according to ministry reports, has led to an increase of type-2 diabetes among adolescents between the ages of 14-18.

He stressed that type II diabetes at this early age is violent and can include damage to the eyes, kidneys, heart, arteries and nerves compared to those who get type-II diabetes after the age of 50.

Consultant of endocrinology and pediatric obesity at Al-Sabah Hospital Dr. Zaidan Al-Mazidi, spoke to KUNA about type-I diabetes which affects children, saying that

it is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or stops producing it completely.

Insulin is the hormone responsible for regulating blood sugar levels, they can rise excessively in the blood leading to serious complications without it, type-I diabetes often appears in children and adolescents and may require careful management throughout life.

Symptoms

He said that symptoms develop quickly over several weeks, including excessive thirst, frequent urination, excessive hunger, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, tiredness, blurred vision, irritability, mood swings and recurring infections.

Type-I diabetes is diagnosed through various blood tests to determine the sugar level and evaluate the function of the pancreas, including a random and fasting blood glucose test, a glycated hemoglobin test, and an autoantibody test to determine the presence of antibodies that attack pancreatic cells.

Al-Mazidi explained that treating type-I diabetes requires careful monitoring of blood sugar levels using a glucose meter, with regular doses of insulin given by injection or an insulin pump, proper nutrition from a balanced healthy diet and regular physical activity.

However, Endocrinology and Internal Medicine Consultant Dr. Amna Shaghoul told KUNA that type-III diabetes, which is gestational diabetes, occurs only during pregnancy and goes away completely after birth.

She explained that it is important because high sugar levels may lead to problems during pregnancy and the birth process, gestational diabetes occurs because of hormonal and genetic changes and the body's response to insulin during pregnancy.

According to recent studies, the placenta secretes a group of hormones, such as human placental lactogen and cortisol, that help the fetus grow but also increase the body's resistance to insulin, making it difficult for the body to control sugar levels.

Insulin resistance naturally increases during pregnancy, especially with women who have a history or family history of diabetes or are overweight, which leads to the body not responding efficiently to insulin.

Treatment methods include healthy eating and appropriate exercise, and if sugar levels remain high then insulin treatment is required until the time of delivery, if a woman has previously suffered from gestational diabetes, she is at greater risk of developing type-II diabetes.

Promotes healthy living

KU Pharma College hosts diabetes awareness drive

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The College of Pharmacy at Kuwait University held an awareness event in conjunction with the global campaign to raise diabetes awareness. The initiative aimed to inform students, faculty, and staff about the causes, spread, and prevention of diabetes, a condition that significantly affects Kuwaiti society, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event featured presentations from the Dasman Diabetes Institute, the Kuwait Diabetes Association, and various private companies.

Dr. Maitham Khajah, Acting Dean of the College of Pharmacy, welcomed attendees and highlighted the importance of awareness due to the increasing prevalence of diabetes, particularly among the middle-aged and elderly populations in Kuwait.

Dr. Khajah emphasized that Type 2 diabetes can be prevented through regular screening, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, proper nutrition, and regular exercise.

He stressed the importance of periodic checkups for effective prevention.

Kuwaiti groups back prostate cancer awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): As part of Kuwait campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer for people aged 50, a sports day was launched on Wednesday, engaging cases of special challenges.

The event was organized by leading personnel from the Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN), Kuwait Urological Association, with cooperation of peers from Warba Sport Club for the Disabled.

Participants, including special needs cases, enjoyed their time in friendly sports games and earned rewards.

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Broome, Johnson lead No. 5 Auburn win over Kent State

Karaban, Ball power UConn's 90-49 rout over Le Moyne

HARTFORD, Conn., Nov 14, (AP): Alex Karaban scored 11 of his 17 points in the first half and No. 3 UConn routed Le Moyne 90-49 on Wednesday night.

Liam McNeeley added 15 points for two-time defending national champion UConn (3-0). Solo Ball scored all 12 of his points in the second half. Tarris Reed Jr. added 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Hassan Diarra had 10 points and six assists.

Dwayne Koroma led Le Moyne (1-3) with 13 points and five rebounds. Fred Bagatskis had 11 points.

UConn had missed nine of its first 10 from 3-point range and only led 21-16 when Alex Karaban and Liam McNeeley had back-to-back 3-pointers to give the Huskies their first double-digit lead.

UConn has scored at least 90 points in each of its first three games for the first time since the 1994-95 season.

Auburn 79, Kent State 56

In Auburn, Ala., Johni Broome had 18 points and 12 rebounds and Chaney Johnson also scored 18 points to lead No. 5 Auburn to a 79-56 victory over Kent State.

The Tigers (3-0) raced to a fast start and then fought off a second-half rally on the heels of a 74-69 win at then-No. 4 Houston that vaulted them six spots in the AP poll.

Chad Baker-Mazara and Denver Jones had 12 points apiece for Auburn. Broome made 8 of 12 shots and Johnson 8 of 11.

VonCameron Davis led Kent State (2-1) with 19 points despite playing just 18 minutes after getting into early foul trouble. Jalen Sullinger added 16 points and made 3 of 5 3-pointers.

Houston 91, Louisiana 45

In Houston, Terrance Arceneaux



UConn guard Hassan Diarra (10) makes a basket as Le Moyne guard Will Amica (22) defends in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Nov. 13, 2024, in Hartford, Conn. (AP)

had 14 points off the bench, Milos Uzan scored 13 points and No. 8 Houston routed Louisiana 91-45.

Mercy Miller had 12 points off the bench, and J'Wan Roberts and Emanuel Sharp each added 11 points for Houston (2-1), which rebounded after losing to Auburn 74-69 on Saturday night.

The Cougars, who have won a 24 straight at home, shot 45.6%, including 10 of 23 from 3 and outrebounded Louisiana 46-28.

Christian Wright had eight points, and Chancellor White, Kentrell Garnett and Kyndall Davis each scored seven points for Louisiana (1-2). The Ragin' Cajuns shot 32.6%.

Tennessee 92, Montana 57

In Knoxville, Tenn., Igor Milicic Jr. had 18 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, and No. 11 Tennessee beat Montana 92-57.

Chaz Lanier, Felix Okpara and Cameron Carr each scored 13 points for the Volunteers (3-0). Zakai Zeigler had 11

points, seven assists and six rebounds. The 6-foot-10 Milicic also had two steals and made two 3-pointers.

Money Williams led Montana (2-2) with 30 points.

A 13-2 run to start the second half allowed Tennessee to turn a nine-point halftime lead into an 18-point advantage that gave the Vols some

breathing room. Chaz Lanier had eight of those points.

Creighton 78, HCU 43

In Omaha, Neb., Ryan Kalkbrenner scored 16 points, Steven Ashworth added 13 and No. 14 Creighton blew out Houston Christian (HCU) 78-43 to make Greg McDermott the Bluejays' all-time coaching wins leader.

McDermott has won 328 games at Creighton since taking over for Dana Altman in 2010. Altman, now at Oregon, won 327 games from 1994-2010.

The Bluejays (3-0) held Houston Christian (1-2) to 25% shooting and the lowest point total against them since 2017.

Arkansas 65, Troy 49

In Fayetteville, Ark., Adou Thiero and Zvonimir Ivisic scored 19 points apiece, and No. 18 Arkansas used a big second-half run to beat Troy 65-49.

Arkansas (2-1) struggled until putting together a 19-6 run midway through the second half, with Ivisic, Thiero, Boogie Fland and Johnell Davis accounting for all the Razorbacks' scoring in the stretch.

Thiero finished 8 for 15 from the field with seven rebounds, while Ivisic was 6 for 8 - including 6 for 7 on 3-pointers - and had three blocks.

St. John's 66, Wagner 45

In New York, Deivon Smith drained a 3-pointer midway through the second half to start an 18-0 spurt that propelled No. 22 St. John's past Wagner 66-45 for its first victory as a ranked team in almost 10 years.

RJ Luis Jr. had 13 points, Aaron Scott scored 11 and the 6-foot Smith grabbed a team-high eight rebounds as St. John's (3-0) pulled away down the stretch following a sloppy performance over the first 30 minutes.

Alcaraz's drop shot precision keeps semifinal dreams alive

Zverev wins again

TURIN, Italy, Nov 14, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz had his drop shot clicking and it helped him overcome physical issues to claim a 6-3, 7-6 (8) victory over Andrey Rublev at the ATP Finals on Wednesday.

The win put Alcaraz back into contention for a spot in the semifinals of the year-ending tournament for the top eight players, after he was beaten by Casper Ruud in straight sets in his opener.

Also, Alexander Zverev made it two wins in two matches by beating Ruud 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Zverev leads the group, Alcaraz and Ruud have one win each, and Rublev dropped to 0-2 after losing to Zverev in their opener.

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner leads the other group ahead of Taylor Fritz, Daniil Medvedev and Alex de Minaur.

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

Alcaraz said after the Ruud match on Monday that he hadn't been feeling well and was "uncomfortable in the stomach." The Spaniard then cut short a practice session on Tuesday.

"I just tried to be focused on my game, on what I have to do, and forget about that I'm not feeling well, I'm sick and all that stuff," Alcaraz said.

Alcaraz wore a pink nose strip to help with his breathing. "It is something that I'm going to wear more often," he said. "I could recover better between points."

Alcaraz produced several drop-shot winners, and on the occasions when Rublev did run down the short balls, the Spaniard hit winners into the open court on his next shot.

Late in the second set, Alcaraz even produced a drop-shot approach volley winner. In the second set tiebreaker, he saved two set points.

"I felt like the last month I couldn't hit good drops," said Alcaraz, who dropped behind Alexander Zverev to No. 3 in the rankings this week. "And I was thinking, 'What's going on?' You know, my style, my game is about playing these kind of shots ... so I tried to do it today."



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning the singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals against Russia's Andrey Rublev, at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 13, 2024. (AP)



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Norway's Casper Ruud during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, on Nov. 13, 2024. (AP)

Ohio dominates Eastern Michigan 35-10

Northern Illinois rolls past Akron

DEKALB, Ill., Nov 14, (AP): Telly Johnson Jr. and Gavin Williams each ran for more than 100 yards, wide receiver Trayvon Rudolph accounted for two scores and Northern Illinois shut out Akron in the second half in a 29-16 victory on Wednesday night.

Johnson had 104 yards rushing on 21 carries. Williams ran nine times for 101 yards that included a 71-yard touchdown run that ended the scoring with 7:56 remaining. Rudolph scored on a 58-yard reverse and threw a 39-yard touchdown pass to Dane Partridge, each in the first quarter. Ethan Hamilton's 32-yard touchdown pass to Grayson Barnes stretched the Northern Illinois lead to 23-16 with 5:32 to play before halftime.

Hamilton was 9-of-16 passing for 105 yards for Northern Illinois (6-4, 3-3 Mid-American Conference).

Ben Finley tossed a 40-yard touchdown pass to Adrian Norton for Akron (2-8, 1-5). Finley completed 19 of 52 passes for 205 yards. Noel Roach also blocked a punt for a touchdown for the Zips.

Miami (Ohio) 34, Kent State 7

In Oxford, Ohio, Keyon Mozee ran for a career-high 196 yards, Brett Gabbert threw two touchdowns passes, and Miami of Ohio rolled past still-winless Kent State 34-7.

Gabbert completed only 40% of his passes in the first half, going 8 for 20, but averaged 23 yards per completion. Among his 187 yards were his touchdowns of 69 yards to Reggie Vigil and 34 yards to Javon Tracy. The RedHawks led 17-7 at halftime and added two touchdowns in the third quarter, the second one being Mozee's 74-yard run that blew open the game at 31-7.

The RedHawks (6-4, 5-1 Mid-American Conference)

climbed back into a tie for first place with Bowling Green, which defeated Western Michigan 31-13 on Tuesday, and Ohio, a 35-10 winner over Eastern Michigan on Wednesday.

Gabbert finished with 10 completions in 22 attempts for 202 yards. Miami had 275 yards rushing for a total of 477 yards.

Tommy Ulatowski was 10-for-21 passing for 82 yards with a touchdown for the Golden Flashes (0-10, 0-6). Kent State was held to 178 total yards.

Ohio 35, Eastern Michigan 10

In Athens, Parker Navarro passed for a career-high 277 yards and ran for 106 yards and four touchdowns to lead Ohio to a 35-10 win over Eastern Michigan.

Anthony Tyus III contributed a rushing touchdown and Coleman Owen had eight receptions for 139 yards for the Bobcats (7-3, 5-1 Mid-American Conference), who remain in the hunt for a berth in the conference championship game.

The defense contributed a season-high four takeaways against an Eagles team that had seven turnovers coming in. All of the Eastern Michigan giveaways went to quarterback Cole Snyder, who came in with three interceptions but threw one on three consecutive drives. He also suffered a strip sack.

Those turnovers led to 21 points. The breakthrough was the third, when Tank Person jumped an inside route and nabbed the ball at the Eastern Michigan 25 for his second pick. On the next play Navarro went around the left side to make it 21-7.

Eastern Michigan answered with a 16-play, 64-yard drive taking almost eight minutes but only got a field goal. The Bobcats then went 85 yards for a score and then just 19 yards after Ben McNaboe, who earlier had an interception, forced a fumble Kaci Seegars jumped on. Both TDs were short Navarro runs.

Obituary

Farewell to a legend

Olympian & shot put icon Dallas Long passes away

LOS ANGELES, Nov 14, (AP): Dallas Long, a three-time NCAA shot put champion who won a gold medal at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, has died. He was 84.

He died of natural causes Sunday in Whitefish, Montana, USC said Tuesday after being informed by a family member. No further details were provided.

Long ruled the shot put in the 1960s, winning three consecutive NCAA titles from 1960-62.

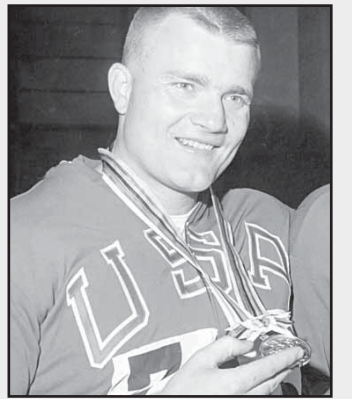
His gold-medal performance in Tokyo included a then-Olympic record throw of 66 feet, 8.50 inches. He earned a bronze medal at the 1960 Rome Games behind fellow Americans Bill Nieder and Parry O'Brien.

Long set the shot put world record 11 times from 1959 to 1965 and was ranked No. 1 in the world three times. His best effort was 67-10.25.

He was a member of USC's 1961 NCAA championship team. His throw of 65-10.50 set in 1962 still ranks sixth on USC's all-time list. His freshman mark of 63-7 set in 1959 stood until 2015.

Long was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1996, as well as the Arizona Hall of Fame in 1964, the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and the USC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003.

Born Dallas Crutcher Long on June 13, 1940, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, he first came to national prominence in the event as a senior at North High in Phoenix,



In this file photo, American Dallas Long poses with the gold medal he won in the shot put event competition Oct. 17, 1964. (AP)

Arizona, where he set a national prep record in the shot put.

Long earned a dental degree from USC and a doctor of medicine degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He worked as a dentist and then practiced emergency medicine.

He served as a defense witness in the Rodney King trial against Los Angeles Police Department officers Laurence Powell and Stacey Koon in early 1993. Long did not treat King, whose beating by officers was captured on videotape in 1991.

He is survived by children Kristen Long, Kelly Nordell, Karin Grandsire and Ian Long, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was twice divorced.

Olympic gold medalist Steveson heads back to college wrestling

MINNESOTA, Nov 14, (AP): Gable Steveson, who won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, said Tuesday he is coming out of retirement and will return to the University of Minnesota for a fifth and final season of college wrestling.

Steveson won gold as a freestyle heavyweight in Tokyo at age 21, then won his second national title at Minnesota in 2022 before retiring.

Now 24, the two-time Hodge Trophy winner as the nation's top collegiate wrestler returns on a 52-match win streak.

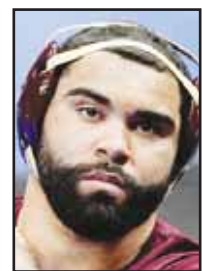
"Minnesota has given me everything, and now it's my turn to give it right back to them: to put my feet back on the wrestling mat, to be the champ, one more time," Steveson said in a video announcing his come-

back. Steveson has an extra year of eligibility because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Minnesota said he is expected to make his season debut on Nov. 24 against Campbell.

"Gable has the burning desire to compete for the Maroon and Gold one last time," Eggum said. "We are thankful he has chosen the opportunity to add to his historic legacy with our program. He is one of the best to ever compete in the sport of wrestling, and we are grateful for the impact he has had at our program."

Steveson tried professional wrestling with World Wrestling Entertainment and performed up mostly in NXT, the company's developmental brand. After his release this year, he tried out for the NFL's Buffalo Bills despite never having played organized football. He did not make the roster.

He has continued to train with Minnesota wrestling coach Brandon Eggum, and considered trying to compete in the Paris Olympics before deciding against it.



Steveson

Event to feature various training sessions led by specialized fitness trainers

NBK hosts Sports Day as part of preparation for annual run

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: NBK is organizing a Sports Day on Saturday at Kuwait Towers, on November 23, 2024, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. to encourage the community to engage in sports and prepare for the upcoming NBK Run, scheduled for December 14, 2024.

The event will feature various training sessions led by specialized fitness trainers to help participants get ready for race day. Several booths from NBK's strategic partners will also be present during the event.

Commenting on the event, NBK Public relations Senior Manager Yaqoub Al Baqer said: "At NBK, we view this annual run as an important initiative to inspire healthy lifestyles and community engagement. This event is not just about physical activity but about bringing people together and supporting causes that uplift society, including our focus this year on Para athletes, in collaboration with EQUATE."

Al Baqer added: "A group of trainees from various sports disciplines will be present at different times throughout the day with the aim of working with those interested in participating across various types of physical and mental



Yaqoub Al Baqer

Al Baqer: This event is not just about physical activity but about bringing people together

sports, as well as proper breathing techniques during exercise, to ensure they are fully prepared for the competition on December, 14."

The NBK Run will begin on December 14, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. with two distance options, both starting and finishing at Kuwait Towers. The 10 km race will head toward Souq Sharq, turn back along the Gulf Road to 200 meters before the Green Island intersection, and loop back to Kuwait Towers. The 5 km race will follow a similar route, reaching the Officers' Club before returning to Kuwait Towers.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in both races. The 10 km race offers KD 1,000, KD 700, and KD 500 for the top three finishers, while the 5 km race will reward KD 500, KD 400, and KD 300.

The event's closing ceremony will include a special raffle for all registered participants. Al Babtain Group will raffle off a 2024 Nissan X-Trail, and Ooredoo will offer a KD 5,000 Platinum Line. Touristic Enterprises Company will provide 18,000 entry tickets to its parks, including Winter Wonderland and South Sabahiyah Park, to all participants. Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa will also offer prizes from their "Intersport" and "Joe & The Juice" brands, and CHIP will give



A flyer of the NBK Sports Day.

Apple devices to two lucky winners.

These exciting prizes, provided by NBK's strategic partners, will be raffled off under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, along with additional surprises and fun activities.

This year's event includes a special collaboration with EQUATE Petrochemicals, which will sponsor the Para athletes category. This category welcomes wheelchair users,

the visually impaired, and those with prosthetics, with cash prizes awarded to the top five finishers in both men's and women's 5 km categories. The prizes are KD 500, KD 400, KD 300, and two additional awards of KD 100.

Ooredoo, another strategic partner, will provide iPhones, Apple Watches, and "Shamel" packages to the top three winners in both categories.

Participants can still register un-

til all spots are filled, with race kits available for pick-up from December 12 to December 13, between 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., next to Kuwait Towers.

The NBK Run is part of the bank's long-standing commitment to social responsibility, reflecting its dedication to organizing a variety of social, humanitarian, charitable, educational, sports, and environmental initiatives to support and enhance the community.



Kuwait youth team delegation.

Kuwait youth handball team aims for glory at the Arab Championship

HAMMAMET, Tunisia, Nov 14: The Kuwait youth handball team is set to compete in the second Arab Championship for players born in 2008, which kicks off tomorrow at Fawzi Al-Sahli Hall in Hammamet, Tunisia. The tournament will run until the 23rd of this month and features four teams: Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria, and Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti delegation arrived in Tunisia yesterday, led by Handball Federation treasurer Khaled Taleb. The team includes administrator Shaker Arti, head coach [coach's name], assistant coach Khaled Al-Mulla, and several players.

Following the tournament's format, the teams will play two rounds of "home and away" matches. Kuwait's junior team will open the Arab

Championship tomorrow against Saudi Arabia, followed by a match with Algeria the next day. The first round will conclude on the 19th of this month with a game against Tunisia. The second leg will follow the same order, and the team with the most points by the 23rd will be crowned champion.

Captain Dhari Fawaz Al-Radini expressed the team's determination to represent Kuwaiti handball with pride and strive for the title. He thanked the Handball Federation's Board of Directors for their unwavering support and for overcoming challenges, as well as the technical and administrative staff for their efforts. Al-Radini promised an honorable performance from the Blue Cubs in the Arab Championship.

Kuwait Club continues good run

Kazma suffers second straight loss at Asian Handball Clubs Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Nov 14: The Kuwait Club's first handball team continued its strong performance in the 27th Asian Handball Clubs Championship in Doha, Qatar, which runs until the 23rd of this month. Kuwait Club achieved its second consecutive victory, defeating Bahrain's Al-Shabab 33-25 in Group A. Previously; Kuwait Club narrowly won its first match against Sharjah (UAE) with a score of 30-29, placing them at the top of the group with four points.

Meanwhile, Kazma, the second Kuwaiti team in the tournament, experienced its second consecutive loss in Group B, falling to Qatar's Al-Duhail. Kazma had



Mishari Saiwan penetrates the Bahrain's Al-Shabab defense.

earlier secured two points from an opening victory over Oman's Ahli Sidab but later lost to Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej with a score of 24-36. With a rest day scheduled today, both Kuwaiti teams will return to action on Saturday for

the fourth and penultimate round of the preliminary stage. Kazma is set to face Iran's Mes Kerman, while other key matchups include Sharjah versus Al-Shabab and Al-Duhail against defending champion Al-Khaleej.

The preliminary round will conclude on Sunday, determining which teams advance to the quarterfinals. According to the tournament's format, the top four teams from each group qualify for the quarterfinals, with the fifth-place team in Group B being eliminated. In the quarterfinal matchups, teams from Group A will face their respective counterparts from Group B based on their standings.

In domestic league play, Al-Arabi defeated Al-Nasr at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall, bringing Al-Arabi's points to 10, while Al-Nasr remained at six points. Al-Salmiya maintained its league lead by overcoming Al-Yarmouk 33-28, Burgan defeated Al-Sulaibikhat 28-22, and Al-Tadamon earned its first league win against Al-Sahel, winning 3-1 in penalty throws after a 29-29 tie in regular time. Al-Salmiya now leads the standings with 12 points, three points ahead of second-place Burgan. The matches for Kuwait Club and Kazma were postponed due to their participation in the Asian Championship in Qatar.

Al-Qadsiya eyes strong start in title defense against Al-Shabab



Al-Qadsiya begins its journey to defend the volleyball title.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: In today's opening round of the Federation Volleyball Championship, defending champion Al-Qadsiya will face Al-Shabab at 5:00 pm, followed by Kazma taking on Yarmouk at 7:00 pm. Both matches will be held at the Federation Hall within the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex.

This season, nine clubs are participating in a single-round league format: Kuwait Club, Al-Qadsiya, Al-Arabi, Kazma, Al-Nasr, Al-Sulaibikhat, Burgan, Al-Shabab, and

Yarmouk. The top four teams will advance to the semi-finals, where the first-ranked team plays the fourth and the second meets the third, with the winners proceeding to the final match.

As titleholder, Al-Qadsiya is looking for a strong start and hopes to secure a win over Al-Shabab to launch its title defense successfully. The team has renewed its contract with Bahraini coach Reda Ali for a second season and brought in Iranian player Mohammad Reza Beyk and Dutch player Thijs Ter Horst, replacing Brazilian Moreira and Venezuelan Rivas.

James has third straight triple-double as Lakers rally past Grizzlies

Cavaliers become 6th NBA team to start season 13-0

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 14, (AP): Donovan Mitchell scored 11 of his 23 points in the final three minutes of the game and the Cleveland Cavaliers became the sixth team in NBA history to start a season 13-0 with a 114-106 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Mitchell also grabbed 13 rebounds and added nine assists as Cleveland became the first team since the 2015-16 Golden State Warriors to win 13 straight to begin a season. That Warriors team holds the record for most wins to begin a campaign at 24 straight.

Darius Garland scored 25 points while Evan Mobley had 14 points with seven rebounds.

Lakers 128, Grizzlies 123

In Los Angeles, LeBron James had 35 points, 14 assists and 12 rebounds for his third straight triple-double and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied to beat the Memphis Grizzlies.

Anthony Davis scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter. He picked up his fifth foul with 3:51 remaining in the third quarter, then came back in with 6:48 left and hit a couple of pivotal baskets, including a 3-pointer with 4:51 remaining to put Los Angeles up for good at 111-108. James was 13 of 22 from the field, hitting 4 of 7 3-pointers.

Spurs 139, Wizards 130

In San Antonio, Victor Wembanyama had a career-high 50 points and the San Antonio Spurs rolled to a victory over the Washington Wizards.

Wembanyama was 8 for 16 on 3-pointers, also setting a career high, as San Antonio won its second straight. Jordan Poole had 42 points for Washington,

which lost its sixth straight. At 20 years 314 days, Wembanyama is the fourth-youngest player to score 50 points, trailing only Brandon Jennings (20/52), LeBron James (20/80) and Devin Booker (20/145).

Celtics 139, Nets 114

In New York, Jayson Tatum had 36 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, Jaylen Brown added 24 points and 12 rebounds and the Boston Celtics beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Payton Pritchard had 23 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Celtics, who quickly and emphatically bounced back with their highest points total of the season after a surprising 117-116 home loss to Atlanta on Tuesday night.

Rockets 111, Clippers 103

In Houston, Jalen Green had 21 points and Amen Thompson and Tari Eason added 18 each to lead the Houston Rockets to a 111-103 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers in the opener of a two-game set.

The Rockets trailed by 11 early but had taken a five-point lead by halftime. They used a huge run at the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth to push the lead to 19.

The Clippers used a 9-2 run to cut the lead to four with about 90 seconds remaining, but Alperen Sengun had a dunk followed by a three-point block on the other end to secure Houston's third straight victory.

Kings 127, Suns 101

In Sacramento, De'Aaron Fox had 29 points and 10 assists, Kevin Huerter scored a season-high 22 points

and the Sacramento Kings beat the Phoenix Suns.

Domantas Sabonis added 11 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to help the Kings to their second victory in four days against the Suns, who were without Kevin Durant for the third straight game because of a strained calf.

Trail Blazers 106, Timberwolves 98

In Portland, Shaedon Sharpe scored 33 points, Donovan Clingan narrowly missed a triple-double with 17 points, 13 rebounds and eight blocks, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Minnesota Timberwolves for the second straight night 106-98.

Anthony Edwards scored 24 points as Minnesota squandered an early lead and dropped its third straight game.

Bulls 124, Knicks 123

In New York, Zach LaVine scored 31 points and Colby White had 22, including the winning free throws with three seconds left, as the Chicago Bulls outlasted the New York Knicks 124-123 on Wednesday night.

The Bulls led by as many as 22 in the third quarter, but the Knicks rallied and went ahead 123-121 on Jalen Brunson's bucket with four seconds remaining.

Magic 94, Pacers 90

In Orlando, Franz Wagner scored 29 points, Jalen Suggs hit two free throws with 9.8 seconds left and the Orlando Magic beat the Indiana Pacers to remain unbeaten at home.

Orlando is 6-0 at home this season and has won 13 in a row overall at home.



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo tries to get past Detroit Pistons' Tobias Harris during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Milwaukee. (AP)



Kuwaiti players training for the friendly match against Saudi Arabia.

Sports

Curtains fall on Crown Prince Shooting Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah annual shooting championship concluded at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Range with the final rounds of the 75-plate mixed skeet and the 50-meter rifle 3-position events.

Obaid Al-Osaimi, Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations, expressed his satisfaction with the success of the championship, which saw strong participation from shooters across Kuwait, the Gulf, and Arab countries. He thanked His Highness the Crown Prince for his patronage, which motivated competitors



Obaid Al-Osaimi

to achieve excellent results for Kuwait.

Al-Osaimi also praised the intense competition and the support provided by the Shooting Club and Federation, as well as the Arab Federation. He congratulated Kuwaiti shooters for topping the overall rankings and wished the national team success in future events.

The championship featured all Olympic shooting disciplines, including shotgun (skeet and trap), lead shotgun (pistol and rifle), and archery (composite and Olympic), with the club also organizing the Arab Championship for shotgun events.

Salmiya holds strong lead in handball league

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Salmiya extended its lead in the Handball League after securing a 33-28 win against Yarmouk in the seventh round of the competition. In other matches, Burgan triumphed 28-22 over Sulaibikhat, and Al-Tadamon won 3-1 on penalty kicks following a 29-29 draw with Al-Sahel.

With this victory, Salmiya increased its points tally to 12, staying 3 points ahead of second-place Burgan. Al-Tadamon earned its first point of the season after defeating Al-Sahel in the penalty shootout. Yarmouk remains in 13th place without points, ahead of last-placed Al-Sahel on goal



Salmiya's player makes a goal attempt against Yarmouk.

difference, while Al-Sulaibikhat stayed in eighth place with 8 points.

The league follows a single-round system, with the top six teams advancing to the Premier League, which will be played in a three-division league format. These teams will carry over their points from the preliminary round, while teams finishing in seventh to fourteenth place will compete in a two-division league to determine rankings.

The matches between Kuwait Club and Kazma were postponed due to their participation in the ongoing Asian Championship in Bahrain.

Kuwait's World Cup qualifying hopes dim after loss to SKorea

Electronic gates ensure smooth entry for fans; Australia, Saudi Arabia draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (Agencies): The Kuwait soccer team fell to South Korea 3-1 on Thursday in a Group 2 match of the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. This victory puts Korea at 16 points, while Kuwait remains at three. Kuwait's next match in the sixth round will be against Jordan on Tuesday at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

Earlier, the stadium saw a smooth flow of fans, thanks to the noticeable cooperation of staff during the national football team's match against South Korea in the 2026 World Cup qualifying finals. Fans entered the stadium through electronic gates using barcode scanning, while vendors inside were prepared to serve light snacks and beverages to the crowd.

Meanwhile, Australia and Saudi Arabia drew 0-0 in Asian qualifying for the 2026 World Cup on Thursday.

While there was late drama there was little quality on display.

Near time, Sultan Al-Ghannam's low shot from just inside the area went in and seemed to give a vital win for Herve Renard, the second-time Saudi coach who replaced Roberto Mancini last month. To the relief of the majority of the 27,491 fans, the goal was disallowed for offside.

Australia was given a penalty after 12 minutes after Mitch Duke went down under a challenge from Saudi goalkeeper Ahmed Al-Kassar but VAR ruled the foul was outside the area.

Saudi Arabia, like Australia aiming for a seventh World Cup appearance, went closest with a shot from Nasser Al-Dawsari forcing a save from Joe Gauci at the near post.

There were fewer opportunities in the second half, the best falling to Australia six minutes from the end. In a two-on-one situation inside the area, Riley McGree's goal-bound shot was blocked by Saud Abdulhamid.

Both teams remained level on six points from five games, four points behind Group C leader Japan.

Only the top two of six in each group will qualify automatically. The third- and fourth-place finishers will advance to the next stage.



Fatima Hayat takes part in GCC Women's Sports meeting in UAE.

Fatima Hayat participates in GCC Women's Sports meeting in UAE

ABU DHABI, Nov 14: Fatima Hayat, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the Advisory Committee for Women's Sports in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), participated in the third meeting of the Advisory Committee for Women's Sports of the Executive Office of the Presidents of the GCC Olympic Committees in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

During the meeting, the digital identity of Gulf female athletes was launched on the unified platform for Gulf women's sports. This initiative aims to showcase their achievements and enhance the digital environment that supports the comprehensive development of women's sports in the

region. Additionally, the committee emphasized the continued success of the Gulf Women's Sports "Hackathon" program, which will now be held annually.

Fatima Hayat commended the collaborative spirit of the meeting and the commitment to advancing women's sports across the GCC countries. She highlighted the importance of organizing sports activities and tournaments in line with the approved plan of the Executive Office of the Gulf Olympic Committees.

Looking ahead, she noted that the next meeting will unveil the 2025 plan for women's sports activities and championships.



Players challenge for the ball during the World Cup qualifying match between Kuwait and South Korea.

Maxwell power-hitting & Australia pace flatten Pakistan

BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 14, (AP): Glenn Maxwell's robust 43 off 19 balls helped Australia thump Pakistan by 29 runs in a rain-shortened first Twenty20 on Thursday.

After a nearly three-hour delay due to lightning and rain, the match was shortened to seven overs per side.

Maxwell powered Australia to 93-4 and Pakistan reached only 64-9 after slumping to 16-5 inside the first 15 balls.

Nathan Ellis (3-9) and Xavier Bartlett (3-13) ran through the top order before No. 8 batter Abbas Afridi's unbeaten 20.

"Certainly had a lot of fun out there," Maxwell said. "We thought we had enough on the board ... the bowlers did a great job. There was a few of us who had packed our bags expecting the game to be called off, so it was a mad rush to get ready."

Maxwell followed scores of 0, 16, 0 in the preceding one-day international series won by Pakistan 2-1 by smacking three sixes and five boundaries. He played some extravagant lap shots to third man against the pace of Haris Rauf (1-21) and Naseem Shah (1-37).

Maxwell fell in the penultimate



Australia's Marcus Stoinis bats during the T20 cricket international between Pakistan and Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)

over when he hooked Abbas Afridi (2-9) to backward square leg but Marcus Stoinis provided a final flourish with an unbeaten 21 off seven balls. Stoinis smashed 20 runs

in Shah's last over with two fours and six.

None of the top six Pakistan batters reached double figures.

Sahibzada Farhan hit Spencer

Johnson for two successive boundaries off the first two balls he faced before mistiming a pull shot off the fourth ball and holing out at mid-wicket.

Mohammad Rizwan, in his first match as the Pakistan skipper, fell to the first ball when he top-edged Bartlett to point. Usman Khan was caught at third man in the same over.

Ellis struck twice in his first over when Babar Azam was caught in the deep and Jake Fraser-McGurk snapped his third catch as Irfan Khan also offered a tame catch at deep midwicket.

Pakistan was 24-6 in the fourth over when Salman Ali Agha scored only 4 in his debut T20, guiding a sharp, short Bartlett delivery to Australia first-time captain Josh Inglis on the run.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa clean-bowled Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah off successive balls in the last over to complete the rout.

"It was difficult to keep things normal in a seven-over game," Rizwan said. "Got to give credit to Maxy, his style worked really well."

The second T20 is in Sydney on Saturday, and the last in Hobart on Monday.

Kuwait Winter Games Club honors junior hockey team

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait Winter Games Club Chairman Fahid Al-Ajmi recently honored the junior players from the club's ice hockey school following their impressive 7-1 victory over the Omani team in a friendly match held last Friday in Muscat.

Al-Ajmi highlighted the club's commitment to nurturing young talent across its various sports, emphasizing that these age groups represent the future of Kuwaiti winter sports. He mentioned that the club is focused on preparing these young athletes to represent Kuwait in the 2029 Asian Winter Games, set to take place in Neom, Saudi Arabia.

He also noted the club's dedication to enhancing the players' skills through intensive training camps and regular official and friendly matches. Al-Ajmi praised the unwavering support of the players' parents, acknowledging their vital role in helping to elevate the team's technical abilities.



Al-Ajmi honoring one of the players.

During the ceremony, parents also honored Al-Ajmi for his dedication to the players' growth. Additionally, the team's coach and the administrative and technical staff at the Ice Hockey School received recognition for their valuable contributions.

Kuwait set for friendly vs Saudi Arabia

Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

JEDDAH, Nov 14: The Kuwaiti basketball team will face off against the Saudi team this evening in Jeddah in a friendly match as part of its preparation for upcoming events.

The Kuwaiti delegation arrived in Jeddah two days ago, led by Federation Vice President Mohsen Al-Sahmi. The team includes Serbian coach Oliver Kostic, assistant coach Khaled Al-Qallaf, and 12 players: Turki Hamoud, Hamad Adnan, Alexander Al-Ghais, Im-

ran Jawhar, Musaed Al-Otaibi, Youssef Al-Hamdan, Hussein Al-Khabbaz, Abdulrahman Al-Juma, Abdulmohsen Murtada, Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi, Nawaf Al-Enezi, and Talal Al-Obaidi.

This friendly match against the Saudi Arabia is part of the training program organized by the Federation's training committee in coordination with the national team's technical and administrative staff. As per the plan, experimental matches with various teams are scheduled during international breaks to optimally prepare the team for future competitions.