



Ali Marafi: The Bank sustains growth momentum, thanks to the efficiency of our business model, the prudence of our risk framework, and the agility of our balance sheet structure.



Opinion

Do we have ministers overseeing national efficiency?

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

I WAS impressed to learn that the U.S. President-elect Donald Trump established a ministry called "National Efficiency" and appointed Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk to lead this ministry that is more advisory than executive in

nature.

This is the first time in American history that such a ministry has been created.

What is particularly striking is the ministry's mission, as Trump stated, is to dismantle government bureaucracy, reduce excessive regulations, cut wasteful spending, and restructure federal agencies.

This means that the current Republican administration, over the next four years, will be tasked with reducing the federal budget, which currently stands at a staggering \$6.5 trillion.

Trump believes that through this min-

istry, he can reduce government spending by about two trillion dollars.

While it is true that some leaders have advisory and secretive follow-up teams that provide recommendations, their influence is often limited by bureaucracy, especially in democracies where powers are subject to checks and balances.

This stands in contrast to the situation in Kuwait over the past 50 years, where there has been huge overlap between the government and the National Assembly.

Over the past five decades, the influence of the National Assembly on successive governments has grown to such

an extent that the Council of Ministers would often resign when some MPs announced their intention to withdraw confidence from a minister, or even more.

In addition, entities were created to serve tribal, sectarian, and personal interests, which ultimately contributed to Kuwait's struggle with corruption.

In recent months, we have witnessed the trials of high-profile figures who were once expected to be highly competent and honest, yet they did the opposite.

In some countries, including the United States, there is the so-called "100-day period" during which the general outlines

of a new government's program become clear.

Unfortunately, this concept does not exist in Kuwait, where all government programs often amounted to little more than rhetorical phrases that were copied and pasted.

Continued on Page 5

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UFO off Kuwait coast gains spotlight during US House committee hearing

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: During a hearing by the US House Oversight Committee, Kuwait emerged as a focal point in discussions -- not for political or economic reasons but due to its association with unidentified flying objects (UFOs), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

A 13-minute high-definition video of a UFO, technically referred to as an "unidentified space object," was presented at the hearing on Thursday.

The clip, reportedly filmed 20 miles off the coast of Kuwait from a helicopter, depicted a white spherical object, later joined briefly by a second identical sphere. The footage was sourced from the US Department of Defense's Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet), which handles classified information.

Journalist Michael Shellenberger, who obtained the video from an undisclosed source, shared the details during the session.

According to the American Sky News network, the video provides one of the clearest documentations of UFOs over the Middle East.

A report by Raseef22, an electronic magazine, highlighted Kuwait's history with UFO sightings, noting that the country ranks prominently among Arab nations experiencing such phenomena.

The report attributes Kuwait's geographical loca-

tion, in a region that has witnessed significant wars (e.g., the Iraq-Iran War and the Second Gulf War), as a potential factor for the increased frequency of sightings.

The Raseef22 report recounted notable UFO incidents in Kuwait:

■ 1970: A cylindrical object, larger than an airplane, was sighted over the Umm Al-Aish area.

■ 1978: Eyewitnesses reported a UFO landing near the media complex in the capital, temporarily disrupting television broadcasts.

■ 1986: Radar systems detected a mysterious object near Ahmadi, approximately 15 kilometers from the border, exhibiting unusual movement.

A study by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) suggested that UFO sightings are more frequent in regions of military conflict, adding credibility to the correlation between war zones and such phenomena.

The hearing and the accompanying revelations about Kuwait bring the UFO debate closer to the Middle East, emphasizing the need for global cooperation in studying unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs). Whether these sightings hold scientific, security, or extraterrestrial significance remains an open question.

Kuwait 'tightens' charity oversight

'Country's reputation a red line'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: All registered charitable societies and associations are being reviewed to ensure strict compliance with the laws and organizing decisions, while some are in the process of being dissolved.

Sources told the newspaper that some charities were dissolved recently due to the violations they committed, while others were inactive and failed to perform

their role -- a confirmation that they are no longer needed.

Sources warned that any charity or association, regardless of its name, will be dissolved if proven to have committed violation because Kuwait's reputation in this field is a red line and will not be tolerated under any justification.

Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah had earlier issued four ministerial decisions to dissolve 15 charitable societies. After their dissolution, the funds of these charities will be transferred to the ministry, which will then determine the party for transferring the funds, sources revealed.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait rolls out survey

12,000 participants to shape health strategy

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Ministry of Health has launched the first phase of the National Population Health Survey -- one of the nation's development projects being carried out as per the Council of Ministers' directive and in collaboration with various entities.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed this project falls under the pillar of promoting health and well-being for everyone and it is part of the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

It affirmed that the survey is one of the scientific ways to collect information on the health status of a group. Its goal is to give a complete picture of people's health and identify disease trends by creating a database that will be used to develop future health policies that will enhance public health, the ministry added.

In the past three decades, Kuwait has seen significant changes in its population, lifestyle and social and economic standing, which have resulted in a new health reality and changes in the prevalence and spread of certain diseases, including chronic non-communicable diseases like obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure; as well as other diseases and risk factors that affect the quality of life of citizens and expatriates.

Continued on Page 5



Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Abdulaziz Bushehri joins Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in a tree-planting campaign along the highways of Ahmadi Governorate, collaborating with state institutions and civil societies to promote environmental sustainability. — See Page 2

Lebanon sees 1.2 million displaced due to Israeli aggression

Kuwait calls for UN action on Israeli occupation

NEW YORK, Nov 16, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has called on the UN member states to force the Israeli occupation authorities into fulfilling the recommendations contained in the latest report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel.

Delivering Kuwait's speech to the UN Committee

on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) on Friday, the country's diplomatic attache Rashed Al-Abhoud warned against the attempts of the Israeli occupation authorities to abort the efforts aiming to establish the independent state of Palestine.

The Commission demanded, first of all, putting an immediate end to the unlawful occupation of the Palestinian territories, the Syrian Golan

Heights and the Lebanese Sheba Farms.

The Commission urged halting the Israeli settlement expansion, dismantling the settlements illegally built on occupied territory, and ensuring return of refugees to their homes, the Kuwaiti diplomat reminded.

Continued on Page 5

PACI scraps 361 more addresses

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced that it has deleted the residential addresses of 361 individuals from its records, either based on the owner's declaration or due to the demolition of the building.

According to PACI, the affected individuals must visit the authority to register their new address and provide the necessary supporting documents within 30 days.

Continued on Page 5



UAE's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi plants a tree at Al Abdaliya Nature Reserve. — See Page 9

Kuwait joins Arab trade liberalization agreement

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Council of Ministers has approved Kuwait joining the Agreement on the Liberalization of Trade in Services between Arab Countries, which is aimed at creating a free trade area for services in the Arab region, gradually easing trade restrictions through successive rounds of multilateral negotiations, enhancing the mutual interests of the parties involved, and ensuring a balance between rights and responsibilities while taking into account the objectives of national policies in this regard.

According to economic expert Muhammad Ramadan, the agreement will have a more positive impact on economic activity in Arab countries more than in Kuwait.

The decree law No. 159/2024, published in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm yesterday, stated that the agreement will take

Continued on Page 5

Recession outlook sinks gold's luster

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: A number of gold experts and traders confirmed that the decline in gold prices in the global and local markets has cast a dark shadow on the local gold market and led to its stagnation, as consumers are waiting for further price declines and gold buyers prefer not to buy when prices decrease.

These experts attributed the current decline in gold prices to several factors, most notably the victory of Donald Trump in the United States presidential elections; as he promised to ease tensions in Ukraine and Gaza, in addition to ruling out the outbreak of war between Israel and Iran.

Gold trader Mohammad Hadi said the gold market has been going through recession for about a week now, especially after the decline in buying and selling transactions that harmed gold traders.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman discussed with French President Emmanuel Macron the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

In a phone conversation, initiated by President Macron, both sides reviewed the efforts aiming to restore stability and security in the region, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

They expressed desire to enhance cooperation in various fields. (KUNA)

RIYADH: Saudi Minister of Defense Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz received his British counterpart John Healey on Thursday to discuss the Saudi-British strategic partnership and explore ways to enhance defense cooperation.

They also reviewed the joint efforts to address regional challenges and ensure security and stability on both regional and global levels, according to a Saudi Press Agency (SPA) report. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a Shiite militia group, on Saturday claimed responsibility for five drone attacks on sites in southern and northern Israel.

According to its statements, the group's fighters launched four drone attacks on southern Israel, two of which targeted "vital" sites in the port city of Eilat, two others on "military" sites in the area, and the fifth targeted a "military" site in northern Israel.

The statements did not provide further details about the targeted sites or report any casualties. (Xinhua)

8 NREC announces net profit of KD 3.7 mln for 9M/2024



8 KFH announces strategic partnership with Moody's

10 Gulf Bank boosts risk management expertise with comprehensive training

10 Zain reinforces commitment to sustainability and clean energy

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:50 Asr 14:32
 Sunrise .. 06:12 Maghrib .. 16:53
 Zohr 11:33 Isha 18:13

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Rather hot with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for fog forming at night.
By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather

with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.	Kuwait Airport	28	13
	Abdaly	28	12
	Bubyan	28	13
	Jahra	29	16
	Failaka Island	30	16
	Salmiyah	26	21
	Ahmadi	31	15
	Nuwaisib	30	15
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	29	17	

Kuwait keen to enhance cooperation: Al-Awadhi

AMR ministerial conference pledges to achieve UN goals by 2030

JEDDAH, Nov 16, (KUNA): The fourth high-level global ministerial conference on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Saturday, urged member States to commit to its pledge and work on achieving goals set in the Political Declaration of the UN General Assembly on AMR by 2030.

This came in the conclusion of the conference, which launched in Jeddah during 14 to 16 of November, where the Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi participated.

Saudi Health Minister Fahad Al-Jalajel explained that the commitments included in the Jeddah Declaration represent the cornerstone of a program that reflects their decisions in the UN, that enable member states and international bodies to take effective and serious steps to fight antimicrobial resistance.



Dr. Al-Awadhi

Jeddah Declaration adopted what was included in the International Declaration on AMR issued at the 79th UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting held last September, aiming to interpret international will into practical implementable steps.

The commitments of the Jeddah Declaration highlight the importance of international cooperation and the role of the Quadrilateral Joint Secretariat on AMR (FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOH) in providing the necessary support to governments.

The declaration also included the establishment of a One Health Learning Center for AMR and a Regional Center for Access to Antibiotics and Logistics in Saudi Arabia, which aim to enhance global cooperation and improve access to essential antibiotics and diagnostics.

Furthermore, another declaration's commitment is to establish a global scientific panel to address antimicrobial resistance, launching a Biotech Bridge to promote research and innovation, and establishing a learning hub

to raise public awareness about the issue.

The conference underscored the need for global unity in addressing AMR, ensuring the continued effectiveness of antimicrobials, and protecting public health worldwide.

Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed Saturday his country's keenness to enhance cooperation with UN Organizations, international and regional partners, private sector and civil society to actively fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

This came in Al-Awadhi's speech in the fourth high-level global ministerial conference on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), launched in Jeddah on Friday.

Kuwait has taken steps to increase training programs for healthcare providers to encourage the responsible use of antibiotics, increase research and development in this field, and spread awareness of antibiotic resistance, Al-Awadhi added, in an effort to achieve a positive sustainable change in societal behavior.

He stated that Kuwait is moving steadily towards achieving the global goals for which the year 2030 has been set as a time-frame, including increasing the use of antibiotics rate to 70 percent and reducing deaths associated with antimicrobial resistance by 10 percent, and reduce the use of antibiotics in the animal and agricultural sectors.

Al-Awadhi affirmed full support for "Jeddah Declaration" issued from this conference, held under the slogan (From Declaration to Implementation), which reflects the collective commitment to address antimicrobial resistance and the threat it represents to global progress achieved in the public health field.

The Minister noted committing to the Political Declaration on AMR issued by the UN high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, stressing that Kuwait is taking strategic and coordinated steps based on the "One

Health" approach, noting it imposed strict restrictions on antibiotics use without a prescription.

He pointed out that Kuwait has achieved remarkable progress in the WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), and has also enhanced its performance in the AWARE system for classifying antibiotics according to their priorities of use.

The Kuwaiti delegation to the conference included, in addition to Minister Al-Awadi, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi, Director of the Minister's Office Dr. Dhari Al-Hashash, Minister's Office Supervisor Dr. Abdul Latif Jamal, Head of Antimicrobial Resistance Unit Dr. Hussein Al-Shammari, acting Charge d'Affaires of Kuwaiti Consulate in Jeddah Minister Plenipotentiary Nasser Al-Khalidi.

The two-day high-level conference was attended by over 40 ministers from health, environment, and agriculture sectors from various countries, in addition to several heads of international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The fourth high-level global ministerial conference on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) officially commenced on Friday, in Jeddah with the participation of Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

In his opening speech, Saudi Health Minister Fahad Al-Jalajel stated that hosting the conference in the Kingdom is a clear declaration of Saudi Arabia's commitment to the global fight against this worldwide challenge that slows down economic and social growth.

In a similar speech, Saudi Deputy Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture Eng. Mansour Al-Mishaiti stressed that microbial resistance to antibiotics has become a greater threat than ever, posing a major risk to human health and safety and challenging global food and agricultural systems.

Other Voices

Nations diversity, consistency of sustainable development

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wandah

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

Our discussion continues in our journey regarding sustainability, focusing on how it is viewed within the humanitarian sector and how we can leverage global literature, documents, and activities to activate values of sustainability that align with our own principles. We've reached the point of discussing the United Nations' adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the mechanisms and indicators used to measure their achievement.



Dr Al-Wandah

Our discussion today is about how countries or organizations achieve these goals and objectives set by the United Nations. According to paragraph 55 of the resolution adopting the goals, the United Nations left this matter to the capacity and capabilities of each country. The document states that 'the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets are integrated and indivisible, and they are global in nature and universally applicable, considering different national realities, capacities, and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities... Each government sets its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition, but considering national circumstances. Each government also decides on the ways to incorporate these ambitious global targets into national planning processes, policies, and strategies. It is important to consider the link between sustainable development and other ongoing processes in the economic, social, and environmental fields. The third point is that there are many organizations con-

cerned with monitoring the achievement of these goals, whether they are affiliated with the United Nations, such as the Economic and Social Council, or regional organizations, which we will discuss later.

Dear reader, know that these seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are relevant to and fall within the scope of work and responsibilities of all sectors in the state, whether the governmental, private, or third sector. Thus, working towards achieving these goals, bearing in mind their purposes, is an important objective for the charitable and humanitarian sector. Another important point to keep in mind, dear reader, is a very crucial observation: some involved in the humanitarian and charitable sector focus on the concept of sustainability only in terms of financial sustainability for the sector. While financial sustainability is indeed of great importance to the sector, understanding the broader issues of sustainability and its other dimensions, as well as their impact on one another, remains essential. This awareness must be present in the minds of decision-makers in the charitable and humanitarian sectors. Therefore, it is crucial to promote education on sustainability, raise awareness about it, and adapt and align projects and initiatives to fulfill these goals.

Therefore, charitable organizations, for example, should adopt these goals in their entirety and strive to achieve them as much as they can, given their capacity as voluntary humanitarian institutions. This should be done considering our community's values and guidelines, alongside reviewing and reflecting on certain aspects of these goals through the lens of our Islamic understanding of sustainability, and this will be the subject of our next discussion.

To be continued

GIG extends letters of warranty for terminated 'Afia 3' contract

MoH may seek comp in unsettled finances

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Gulf Insurance Group Company announced in a disclosure to the Boursa Kuwait Thursday that it had received notifications from two local banks regarding the Ministry of Health's request to extend letters of guarantee totaling 47.7 million Kuwaiti dinars for the terminated "Afia 3" contract, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The contract was officially ended by the Ministry in September 2024.

The company confirmed extending three letters of guarantee -- 22.32 million dinars through the National Bank of Kuwait, valid for three years from its expiration date on December 31, 2024; 3.38 million dinars through the National Bank of Kuwait, valid for one year and 22 million dinars through Burgan Bank, valid for one year and expiring at the end of 2024.

The GIG has emphasized in its disclosure that it is currently unable to determine the financial impact of the extension due to unresolved issues surrounding the contract's termination.

Economic expert Mohamed Ramadan told Al-Seyassah that the Ministry of Health's request to extend the letters of guarantee underscores that a financial settlement between the Ministry and the company remains incomplete.

Ramadan noted the possibility of the Ministry seeking financial compensation from Gulf Insurance as part of the contract termination process.

He added that the disclosure highlights the pending nature of settlement discussions, leading the company to assert its inability to assess the financial implications of the extension until an actual resolution is achieved.

The development leaves the financial ramifications of the "Afia 3" contract termination uncertain, signaling ongoing negotiations between the parties involved.

PAHW gears up for lighting of roads in Mutla'a suburb

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) is now preparing for the lighting of roads in six suburbs in Mutla'a -- about 14,429 plots.

PAHW offered two tenders for the supply, installation and implementation of road lighting works in N1, N2, N3, N4, N5 and N12 suburbs to local companies; calling for the submission of proof that the bidder previously implemented works similar to the tender as a contractor for a period of 10 years.

The authority confirmed that participation in the tenders will not be allowed for companies with contracts under implementation and are late in delivering any part of the project from the date of contractual completion -- a delay of 50 percent of the total contract period from the applicant for a new tender until the contract under implementation is settled.

It stated that businesses penalized due to failure to do their part in State projects and tenders will not be permitted to participate unless they meet all other requirements, such as obtaining a classification certificate in the electrical works category with the approval of Ministry of Electricity and Water.

On the other hand, Deputy Director General for Planning and Design at PAHW Nasser Khuraibet met with Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Michal Mlynár. They discussed opportunities for cooperation and partnerships to make housing cities more flexible and sustainable.

Mlynár cited his participation in the 12th World Urban Forum organized by UN-Habitat in Cairo, Egypt; where he presented a working paper entitled, "Urban Projects in the State of Kuwait". He highlighted Kuwait's efforts in urban development and sustainability.

He added the institution's representative, Nasser Khuraibet, participated in the regional session at the World Urban Forum entitled, "Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts for Housing Strategies in the Arab Region."

This is the second most important global event in the United Nations agenda, whose main title is "Everything Starts Locally: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities."



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Boushehri and other officials at the site.

KUNA photo
Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Mahmoud Boushehri, participates in planting seedlings.

Governor, minister part of team

Campaign launched to plant 100,000 trees in Ahmadi area

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: As part of Kuwait's ongoing efforts to promote environmental sustainability and enhance quality of life, Ahmadi Governorate, in collaboration with the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), launched a tree-planting campaign along the highways in the governorate.

The campaign, which was held under the slogan of "#Together_We_Plant", is aimed at planting 100,000 seedlings throughout Ahmadi.

The launch event of the first phase, during which trees will be planted along a section of the highways, took place on Saturday, November 16 under the patronage and in the presence of Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Boushehri, and representatives from various entities such as the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health's Emergency Medical Department, Ministry of Education represented by Muhammad Al-Nashmi Secondary School, Kuwait Fire Force, and the

Hadiya Cooperative Society were present at the launch event.

Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud explained that the campaign aims to raise environmental awareness, contribute to sustainable development, and expand green spaces along highways. This effort will help combat pollution, beautify public roads in the governorate, and add an aesthetic touch to the area. The campaign encourages the community to actively participate in environmental preservation, and supports volunteer work in afforestation. There are plans to extend the initiative in various areas of Ahmadi Governorate.

Sheikh Hamoud highlighted that the campaign would continue through several stages, involving all segments of society.

Meanwhile, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Boushehri expressed his pride in being part of the campaign and thanked everyone for their contributions.

He said the campaign is being organized in all governorates to promote community awareness of ornamental agriculture, and expressed his gratitude to all the participating organizations.



KUNA photo

Minister of Social Affairs and Governor of the Capital Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah during the opening.

'Makashat 3' project to attract some 200,000 Kuwaitis, expats

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Minister of Social, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah officially launched "Al-Makash 3" project on Saturday evening on the northern island of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Bridge. The event will run until the end of March 2025.

In her opening speech, Dr. Al-Huwailah explained that Al-Makash 3 project reflects the ministry's commitment to offering an integrated entertainment experience suitable for all members of society. The project

features a range of amenities, including children's play areas, a mini zoo, expansion of popular cafes, and an increase in the number of restaurants to meet visitors' needs.

The project aims to attract around 200,000 visitors, which will enhance social interaction and provide a safe, enjoyable environment for families.

The ministry has exerted efforts to ensure accessibility by offering free entry for children up to the age of four and for people with special needs. Electronic reservations are available through the EVENTAT application, which aims to streamline visitor access and improve the entry process.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'All talk and scant work leave us behind in comity of nations'

"IN AN ERA dominated by rapid news cycles and visual media, the pursuit of sensationalism has reached unsettling levels. News outlets often chase after tragedies, wars, and disasters, broadcasting harrowing images of victims — sometimes even children," columnist **Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Jiran** wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"These stories are frequently delivered by presenters who have spent hours in preparation, adorned as though attending a gala, an incongruous contrast to the gravity of the news they report."

"Such practices raise questions about public taste, the feelings of audiences, particularly Muslims, and the ethical responsibilities of media professionals."

"This phenomenon is not confined to international news. Locally, too, information spreads rapidly, often accompanied by striking images or videos, only for it to be later debunked."

"These trends have begun to foster a sense of cynicism and despair in viewers, particularly among Arab and Kuwaiti audiences. The emerging generation is especially vulnerable, as they find themselves filling the void left by disillusionment with endless scrolling and celebrity culture, neglecting opportunities for growth and learning."

"The youth of today stand at a critical juncture. This stage of life, marked by the peak of intellectual vigor, should ideally be spent cultivating knowledge and skills. Instead, precious hours are lost to trivial pursuits and curiosity about celebrities' lives. Where is the dedication to study, discovery, and innovation in classrooms, libraries, and laboratories?"

"Time is fleeting, and each moment — like a breath — is irreplaceable. The wise recognize its value, using every instant to accomplish meaningful work. "For every moment that passes without purpose, an opportunity is lost forever. As life races by, one must strive to fill every breath with productivity and intention, seeking help from God and avoiding idleness."

"In times of widespread confusion and misinformation, abstaining from consuming news for a valid, temporary purpose has historical precedent. During the tumultuous period of Ibn Al-Zubayr's sedition, the scholar Al-Mutraf bin Abdullah refrained from seeking or sharing news for nine years."

"Similarly, the judge Shuraih avoided news entirely during this period, understanding that truth and falsehood were often indistinguishable amidst the chaos. "The wisdom of the popular proverb, "Stay away from evil and channel it," underscores the importance of creating distance from harm. Immersing oneself in the endless churn of news often detracts from faith, knowledge, and meaningful action, replacing them with idle chatter and false confidence."

"In Kuwait, as elsewhere, much time is spent discussing challenges, but little tangible progress is made. The reality is sobering: if our achievements matched our rhetoric, we would have outpaced the world. Instead, many are caught in a cycle of passive observation, mistaking it for participation in reform and progress."

"As the proverb aptly warns, 'He fasts and breaks his fast with an onion', signifying wasted effort that yields unsatisfying results."

"The current situation demands a reassessment of priorities, particularly among the youth. It is essential to shift focus from fleeting distractions to pursuits that benefit individuals and society. The race against time is a race toward meaningful achievements, and each moment spent wisely is a step closer to fulfilling potential."

"Let us strive to fill our lives with purpose, guided by faith and driven by a commitment to contribute positively to the world around us. Only then can we ensure that our breaths — those precious, fleeting jewels — are not wasted."

Also:

"In these trying times, it is striking — and disappointing — to witness the silence of former members of the National Assembly and opposition figures. This silence can only be attributed to one explanation: they have never adopted a comprehensive, scientifically-grounded program of reform to address the pressing needs of society and the evolving demands of the people," columnist **Naji Al-Mulla** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Their lack of a clear vision and actionable solutions has left the nation grappling with unresolved crises, rooted in the failures of the rentier state system. "The fundamental antidote to Kuwait's economic stagnation lies in privatization and transitioning the surplus national workforce into the private sector."

"This transition, coupled with strong support for labor integration, would cultivate an economic structure that hones citizens' talents and transforms them into a productive force."

"Such measures would eliminate the disguised unemployment that now plagues the public sector, where an alarming 80 percent of the national workforce is employed, devouring the lion's share of government revenues through ever-increasing salaries, wages, and benefits."

"Meanwhile, the private sector remains heavily reliant on expatriate labor, creating a distorted economic model. With 200,000 job seekers expected to enter the labor market in the

next decade, the absence of a strategic framework to absorb this influx only worsens the crisis."

"Kuwait's demographic structure has become alarmingly skewed, with citizens now a minority in their own country. The strain on infrastructure and services has reached critical levels."

"Overcrowded hospitals, congested streets, and high rates of traffic accidents with devastating fatalities highlight the scale of the crisis. Yet, policymakers have failed to present concrete solutions to these issues, further exacerbating public frustration."

"Housing remains one of Kuwait's most pressing challenges. With 130,000 pending housing requests and an annual increase of 8,000 new applications, the situation has reached unsustainable levels."

"The citizens are burdened by skyrocketing rents that consume their salaries, while retirees deplete their savings to support their married children. Families are forced into crippling debt, with no clear path to relief."

"The failure to address fundamental issues in education and healthcare has compounded societal dissatisfaction. Poor-quality services, coupled with inadequate infrastructure, continue to drag the nation down."

"Despite decades of promises, these challenges remain unaddressed by those in power."

The silence of former parliamentarians and opposition figures in the face of such challenges is not surprising."

"Many of these individuals never truly engaged with the core issues affecting society. Their political actions often served personal agendas, focusing on stirring public emotions rather than delivering meaningful change. With the government now actively combating corruption, these figures have lost the scandals they once exploited for political gain. The "electoral circus" has been dismantled, leaving its players with no stage or audience."

"Now, more than ever, Kuwait requires a comprehensive reform program rooted in scientific principles and clear objectives."

"Such a program must transition the economy away from dependence on the rentier state; integrate the national workforce into the private sector, fostering productivity and innovation; address demographic imbalances to ensure sustainable growth; improve education, healthcare, and infrastructure to enhance quality of life and resolve the housing crisis with time-bound, actionable solutions."

"This reform agenda must be free of populist rhetoric and focused on achievable, measurable outcomes. By setting specific goals and aligning them with the latest global developments, Kuwait can emerge stronger, with an effective society that produces its own necessities and sustains its prosperity through the efforts of its citizens."

"The time for silence is over. It is the duty of all stakeholders — social, economic, health, housing, and educational institutions — to develop innovative, practical solutions to these challenges."

"Public opinion must be mobilized, and the government must be engaged with sound advice and expertise. Together, Kuwait can transcend the limitations of the welfare state and build a future of self-reliance, productivity, and prosperity."

"This is not just a dream — it is a necessity. The path forward requires courage, collaboration, and a commitment to the greater good. Let this be the moment we rise to the challenge."

"The US presidential battle between Harris and Trump was raging and intense. All tools and various types of political discourse were used, including those that violated and exceeded red lines, leading to a major division in American society," Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Nevertheless, after this battle ended in favor of Donald Trump, the American democratic institutional system will work to contain this and return the democratic process to its institutional and constitutional frameworks, and according to the

rules of the known political game and its limits, as there is a minimum level of mutual respect and respect for constitutional institutions."

"Until that happens, we raise some questions: Will the Democrats use the 'barcode' to elect the heads of the House of Representatives and the Senate? Will their opposition be through loudspeakers? Will some representatives sit in the ministerial seats to prevent them from attending the sessions? Will voices rise to interrupt the Speaker of the House of Representatives whenever he speaks? Will everyone who supports him be accused of opportunism? Will the parliamentary discourse turn into insults, threats and intimidation? Will the two councils — the Senate and the House of Representatives — be dissolved until the path is corrected?"

"I do not think that the answer to any of these questions is 'yes'."

"These questions are neither day-dreams nor dreams, as they are rather projections from memory whose purpose is to advise and clarify the difference between a constructive policy and another that is difficult to describe, and whose results are ineffective. Hence, lessons and morals should be taken from them."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/Mahmoud Attiye



A storehouse is sealed by the fire department.



KUNA photos

Inflammable material is stored without a fire extinguisher.

KFF shuts 41 shops for failure to meet safety standards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA) : Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) said Friday that 41 shops and institutions have been shut down Friday for violating

the regulations and fire safety.

The stores in questions had failed to get the necessary fire safety licenses and were previously

warned of possible closure if they did not correct their status, the KFF noted in a press release.

Kuwaiti teacher caught stealing hospital staff cash, belongings

Cash collector gets greedy, embezzles funds

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The General Department of Criminal Investigations, through the Capital Governorate Investigations Department, has resolved two previously unsolved cases by arresting a female Kuwaiti citizen, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The suspect works as teacher in a government school and is reportedly involved in thefts.

The CID men have reportedly found in her possession sums of money linked to the thefts. According to the Ministry of Interior, the case came to light amid reports of an unidentified person roaming around a hospital, entering employees' offices and stealing personal belongings while the employees were absent.

Following a thorough investigation, including the use of modern tracking techniques, it was determined that the perpetrator was a female citizen employed as a teacher. Once her location was identified, she was arrested and is now being held for legal action by the competent authorities.

Cash collector steals some: Hawally detectives referred an expatriate, who works as an account collector at a pharmaceutical company, to the Public Prosecution on charges of breach of trust and the amount involved is about KD15,500; while the owner of the company confirmed that the inventory is ongoing to determine the actual amount embezzled by the accused, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

This came after the company owner lodged a report at Hawally Police Station, stating that the collector closed the system for issuing invoices to customers due to their delayed payments and called the accountant asking the latter to reopen the billing system for one of the pharmacies. When asked about the reasons for

his request to reopen the account although the pharmacy had arrears, he said the pharmacy is updated in its payments; but he did not deposit the payments to the treasury, because he was going through a financial problem and that he would deposit KD4,000 he had in his possession to treasury. The collector also asked the accountant not to inform the owner of the pharmacy.

The complainant added that the accountant informed him about his conversation with the collector. After investigating the matter, it became clear that the collector repeated this act with more than one pharmacy, so he embezzled a total of KD15,459,580. He then submitted the list of pharmacies he called and confirmed that they handed over their payments to the collector who issued receipts. It turned out that the accused wrote details of the cash payments only on the first copy of the receipts, not the other copies, the complainant revealed.

Bizarre death probed: A 40-year-old expatriate died when a solid object fell on his head, causing a skull fracture and bleeding, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The expatriate's colleague informed the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior that a solid object fell on the head of the victim while he was at work.

A case was registered and detectives have been instructed to conduct a thorough investigation to ensure there is no foul play.

'Remove encroachments': The Kuwait Municipality has announced that its team dedicated to removing encroachments on state property continues its operations in the southern region in coordination with relevant authorities, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In its latest campaign at Kilo 7, the team took decisive action to address violations. The Municipality urged violators to take the initiative to remove encroachments themselves to avoid legal consequences.

2,511 persons issued citations

33 arrested in Khaitan traffic raid

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Ministry of Interior recently conducted a large-scale traffic security campaign in the Khaitan area.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Several key field sectors participated, including the General Traffic Department, General Department of Rescue Police, Public Security Sector, Special Security Forces, and a notable contribution from female police officers.

The campaign led to the issuance of 2,511 traffic violations and the arrest of 33 individuals. Among those arrested, 19 were found to be violating residency and labor laws, 5 were wanted for absconding, 8 had outstanding arrest warrants, and 1 person was detained without proper identification. Additionally, 13 wanted vehicles were seized, and one individual was arrested in an abnormal condition.

This campaign underscores the Ministry's commitment to enhancing traffic safety and maintaining public security through coordinated and effective enforcement efforts.

Cousins give away fraud of fake Kuwaiti national

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Criminal Court Thursday decided to adjourn to Dec 5 for the presentation of pleas in the case related to forgery of Kuwaiti nationality filed against a Kuwaiti citizen and a Syrian national.

During the session, the first defendant - the Kuwaiti citizen - was interrogated on his role, and he defended his actions by insisting that the second defendant, the Syrian, is his son's cousin.

He explained that the Syrian came to Kuwait with him after the Iraqi invasion when he was just two months old, and he subsequently registered him in his file, which led to him obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship.

He denied receiving any money or making any requests from the Syrian, claiming that "his cousins betrayed him."

It is worth mentioning that the Public Prosecution has charged the first defendant with forging official documents, including a birth certificate, a certificate of Kuwaiti nationality, and a passport for the second defendant, making it appear that these documents were genuine.

MPW begins 7th Ring Road, internal roads maintenance

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Ministry of Public Works has started the implementation of new contracts for the maintenance of the expressway and internal roads on the Seventh Ring Road.

Sources also confirmed that the ministry started the repair works on Salmi Road through a Turkish company. Sources said this is one of 18 contracts signed by Ministry of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan at a cost of KD400 million -- 12 contracts for roads in governorates and six for expressways.



Three hurt as car rams into light pole.

Trio cheat death as car swerves into lamppost

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) said after the Operations Room received a report on a freak accident near the Abdali Farms, firemen and emergency medical services personnel rushed to the area to deal with the report, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Upon reaching the site the firemen saw three men badly injured near a vehicle which had run out of control and crashed into a lamppost.

The men were given first aid by EMS personnel and taken to the nearby hospital.

The cause of the accident is being probed.



Al-Rai photo

A food truck selling various items.

Transfer, renting of food truck license put on hold

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Khalifa Al-Ajeel, has issued a directive to suspend the transfer of food truck licenses, whether through sale or assignment to others, according to sources speaking to **Al-Rai**.

This decision follows a meeting of the bilateral committee chaired by Al-Ajeel and the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Housing Affairs, Abdul Latif Al-Mishari. During the discussion, the committee addressed issues surrounding the circulation of mobile cart licenses and decided to suspend their transfer.

Additionally, the decision includes canceling mobile cart licenses for operators who fail to comply with designated locations or meet licensing requirements.



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Kuwait Embassy officials with EU High Representative Josep Borrell and Gulf, Arab ambassadors accredited in Brussels.

KUNA photo

Kuwait Embassy in Brussels hosts EU High Representative Borrell

CAPT okays tender for major road upgrades at Jaber Al-Ahmad City

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: According to informed sources, Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) recently approved the Ministry of Public Works' request to launch a tender for the project to develop the entrances and exits of Jaber Al-Ahmad City, with a timeline of 540 days.

CAPT stipulated that the procedures be conducted through a public tender, in accordance with article 17 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016.

This project is one of the important road projects aimed at constructing and upgrading the entrances and exits to the city at sites 1 and 2. It is designed to safeguard the oil sector's services and the services of other ministries in the area, in addition to providing essential infrastructure, such as rainwater drainage, lighting, traffic control systems, traffic signs, protective barriers,

and collision mitigation measures.

The works will be held in two primary sites:

- the southern entrances and exits of the city linking to Jahra Road
- the eastern entrances and exits, linking to Doha Road.

The ministry has included this project in its development plan for the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Works recently submitted a KD 51.959 million project to the State Audit Bureau for study, auditing, and approval in order to proceed with contracting the selected company to begin work.

The project aims to establish, complete, develop, and maintain roads and intersections along Maqwa Road that will serve the new passenger terminal at Kuwait International Airport.

According to sources, the ministry is committed to ensuring that all tender documents are completed in strict compliance with laws and regulations. This will allow the project to move forward smoothly during the implementation stages and prevent any potential financial violations. This is particularly important as the ministry is one of the government agencies under the oversight of the State Audit Bureau.

BRUSSELS, Nov 16, (KUNA): The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of its Missions to the European Union and NATO, Nawaf Nafeea Al-Enezi, hosted a meeting at his residence in Brussels (Bayt Al-Kuwait) with the Vice President of the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell.

The meeting was attended by several Gulf and Arab ambassadors accredited in the Belgian capital, Brussels.

In a statement received by KUNA on Friday, Ambassador Al-Enezi expressed Kuwait's appreciation for Borrell's positions and his prominent role during his mandate since 2019, particularly regarding the development and strengthening of Kuwait-EU relations on one hand, and Gulf-EU relations on the other. This has led to significant progress, culminating in the historic first summit between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union, which laid the foundation

for a promising future for their relationship.

Ambassador Al-Enezi emphasized that Borrell represents a voice of wisdom and moderation at the international level, having adopted an advanced stance in defending global peace and stability, protecting international multilateralism, international law, and international humanitarian law.

He added that Kuwait and the EU share many positions and principles on various regional and international issues, as reflected in various dialogues between the two sides, as well as in international forums. Both sides are fully committed to contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The ambassador also affirmed Kuwait's readiness to chair the GCC's work starting in December and its eagerness to work closely with the EU to implement the outcomes of the Gulf-European summit, which addressed various areas of cooperation and coordination between the two sides.



Officials exchanging the signed documents.

Al-Seyassah photo

Workshops on emergency situations eyed

GCC Sec-Gen and Kuwait University sign MoU on research and studies

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi praised the high academic level of Kuwait University and its crucial role in developing plans, training programs, projects, and studies that contribute to enhancing the capabilities of GCC citizens.

He affirmed the importance of education for GCC countries. "In a bid to strengthen coordination between the two parties, the Secretariat General of the GCC and Kuwait University signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on research and studies. We are holding workshops and seminars about emergency situations and present studies that will protect the GCC countries and provide them with everything they need," he disclosed.

Al-Budaiwi, acting Director of Kuwait University Professor Osama Al-Saeed and leaders of the two institutions were present at the MoU signing in the University Council Hall in Sabah Al-Salem University City.

The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration between the two organizations in

education, training, scientific studies and research.

"The Secretariat General of the GCC looks forward to strengthening relations and cooperation through the MoU by activating it as soon as possible. It falls under the agreements through which the GCC is seeking to improve coordination and integration of efforts in the educational and cognitive fields among the GCC countries," Al-Budaiwi explained.

Al-Saeed affirmed that Kuwait University is proud to host the Gulf Week that will be held along with the 45th Gulf Summit. He said the Gulf states are focusing on education as a key component in raising educational standards, guaranteeing sustainable development, and securing cooperative bridges against any obstacles.

He expressed his satisfaction over the two parties' concerted efforts and reaffirmed his continuous support for the enhancement of innovative elements that help build nations through cognitive and cultural cooperation between the university and the Secretariat General.

"This collaboration is the result of joint efforts to advance the objectives, particularly the investment in human capital, to attain sustainable development," he concluded.

Ministry of Electricity and Water reviews service improvements with engineering offices: official

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Electricity and Water Access Index team from the Ministry of Electricity and Water met recently with representatives from engineering offices and ministry-accredited offices.

The meeting, led by the team's deputy head Eng. Abdullah Al-Asimi, was aimed at assessing the satisfaction of these offices with the processes used to deliver water and electricity services through the ministry's electronic services portal.

The discussion focused on improving these processes and enhancing the functionality of the portal.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Al-Asimi stated that the Electricity and Water Access Index team, in collaboration with the World Bank and the Direct Investment Promotion Authority, is working to improve the business climate, expedite transaction processing, and streamline procedures for investors.

He indicated that the participants of the meeting discussed the engineering offices' observations and proposals, as well as the challenges they encountered when submit-

ting their clients' transactions.

Al-Asimi also presented the new reforms and procedures for electricity delivery, and provided clarification on updates related to electronic connections with government agencies.

To streamline transactions, reduce steps, and complete the documentation process electronically, he highlighted the development of new website software and the redesign of new services on the electronic services portal.

Al-Asimi affirmed that the representatives provided valuable suggestions during the meeting, including updates to green spaces, improved coordination with the Kuwait Municipality, and revisions to certain lists and features in the electronic system.

He also revealed that the ministry had sent out a questionnaire to engineering offices and residential customers to gather feedback on the offices' satisfaction with the ministry's services and processes, covering everything from transaction completion and obtaining permission to connect electricity, to the stages of meter installation and inspection.

Al-Asimi indicated that the meetings with engineering offices and firms will continue.



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LOCAL

Do we

Continued from Page 1

These programs failed to take into consideration the real needs of the people, which is why they were never implemented. Instead, the focus shifted to controlling the decision-making process and exploiting the nation's resources by enslaving institutions to powerful individuals and political agendas, rather than acting in the best interests of the people and the country.

We can say that the future holds greater promise for reform, as signs of a new era are already emerging. This is in line with the hopes of the people, who, in recent years, raised their voices calling for a change in the parliamentary and governmental behavior that undermined the country's interests and neglected nearly four hundred essential laws.

The fact that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad is actively following up these matters, either directly or through capable yet discreet support staff, shows that Kuwait's new era has progressed beyond Trump's decision to establish a Ministry of Government Efficiency.

When His Highness told the ministers, "The people's trust is precious and invaluable. Working day and night is the price of being appointed and tasked. We are in a serious phase, and I will hold the negligent accountable," it reflected a clear commitment to change.

If there is a genuine ministerial will to work, then nothing should stand in the way of achieving results.

Kuwait has about 19 government bodies, and we do not need a separate Ministry of National Efficiency like the United States. What the people want is for ministers to be held accountable, so they can streamline state institutions, reduce financial waste, shorten bureaucratic processes, and pass laws that align with modern international standards.

We echo His Highness the Amir's words when he received the members of the government and told them: "The people are monitoring your work, and so am I."

Kuwait 'tightens'

Continued from Page 1

Al-Huwailah based these decisions, which were published in Kuwait Al-Youm, on the recommendations of the Committee for the Declaration, Evaluation, and Dissolution of Public Benefit Societies and Charities and in the interest of the public.

Dissolution decision numbers 235, 236, 237 and 238 covered Badour Charity, Intellectual and Social Development, National Unity, Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Malik, Kuwaiti Public, Al-Sabil Charity, Manasik Al-Khair, Al-Manara Charity, Mubarak Abdul Aziz Al-Hasawi, Talib Al-Ilm (formerly Saleh Al-Abdali), Soruh Charity, Dar Al-Tannia Charity, Al-Ashraf Charity, Ajman Charity and Khair Kuwait Charity.

PACI scraps

Continued from Page 1

Failure to do so will result in a penalty as per Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which imposes a fine of up to KD 100, multiplied by the number of people affected.

Recession outlook

Continued from Page 1

He disclosed that the price of a gram of 21-carat gold was KD23.397 on Nov 10 and then the price went down to KD22.392 on Saturday – a decline of about KD1.

He added the price of a gram of 22-carat gold fell to KD23.467, compared to KD24.520 on Nov 10; while the price of a gram of 24-carat gold went down from KD26.736 to KD25.591, and 18-carat gold from KD20.54 to KD 19.193.

Another gold trader, Ali Al Hindi, stated that gold shops in the country are currently witnessing a decline in sales; because many consumers expect further price reduction in the coming period. At the same time, he advised consumers not to trust the price decline, as it may rise suddenly without warning.

Abdullah Haddad, also a gold trader, revealed he does not prefer to buy gold from consumers now due to the price decline; especially since indicators show that markets will witness further price decline. He said the sales of all gold shops, including his shop, went down by about 20 to 25 percent, compared to about a month ago.

He explained that the gradual rise in the price of gold in the past led to inactivity of local gold shops, as many consumers feared the price hike. He thinks one of the reasons behind this rise is that many global economic companies pinned their hope on the victory of Trump's opponent in the US presidential elections, but things turned out differently; hence, the decline in gold prices.

Murtada Daoud said the stagnation in the gold market is the status quo now, wishing for stability of gold prices. He pointed out this stagnation affects the monthly profits of gold shops and traders; urging consumers to buy, as estimates indicate that the decline in gold prices will not be exaggerated as some are thinking now. He added majority of consumers buy gold in small quantities for personal use, so the price decline does not really affect the purchase of a piece of about 10 grams of gold.

Rajab Tanudla affirmed the current movement of gold sales is very slow due to many reasons that he did not want to mention. He clarified there are gold purchases during this period, but most of them are for those who are about to get engaged or get married. He said some tend to sell their gold for fear of any upcoming collapse of gold, but they are very few.

Al-Wasmi Mohammad disclosed that he used to sell gold worth about KD10,000 weekly; but sales have decline by 65 percent, indicating most of those who sell their gold are those who are financially forced to do so.

He believes Trump's victory will change the American economic scene in the coming years; as the latter promised to rely on local oil, in addition to his pursuit of the strength of the dollar by reducing the volume of imports of oil and many other goods in order to avoid trade deficits.

He cited Trump's plan to impose high customs duties on Chinese products, indicating this measure will enhance the value of the dollar, because imposing duties on products that America used to import will lead support the local American product.

CEO of one of the largest gold companies in the country and an expert in the field of gold jewelry Saleh Al-Jimaz attributed the decline in gold prices to Trump's victory in the US elections.

He thinks this is among the main reasons behind gold price decline, because Trump promised to strengthen the economy and the dollar, as well as calm the political situation. Trump stressed that he would stop the war in Ukraine and follow calming policies in Gaza, and the reassurance to calm the strikes against Lebanon played a role in the decline in the price of gold, he elaborated.

Kuwait joins

Continued from Page 1

into consideration the conditions of the least developed Arab countries, and the importance of liberalizing trade in services between Arab nations in a way that is in line with contemporary regional and global economic trends.

The agreement consists of 36 articles, divided into six parts. The first part has three articles that outline the scope, definitions, terms, and expressions contained in the agreement and its objectives.

The second part of the agreement consists of 18 articles covering topics such as treatment of most-favored nations, labor market integration agreement, transparency requirements, information disclosure, preferential treatment for the least developed Arab countries, trade practices to limit competition, and security exceptions, among others.

The third, fourth, and fifth parts include three articles each, and they focus on market access, national treatment, additional obligations, gradual liberalization, specific negotiation obligations, institutional provisions for dispute resolution, and the tasks of the Economic and Social Council.

The sixth and final part contains six articles detailing the ratification process, final provisions, and withdrawal rules.

Ramadan stated that no party can withdraw until three years after the agreement comes into effect.

12,000 participants

Continued from Page 1

For this reason, it is important to ensure that this national survey provides accurate data to support future planning based on scientific evidence to improve public health and update the type and quality of health services offered in Kuwait, the ministry explained.

According to the ministry 12,000 participants of various ages and nationalities were randomly selected from 8,000 family units in different governorates. It revealed that the head of the family will receive a notification through 'Sahel' or 'Kuwait Mobile ID' applications. In the event this is not feasible, the team shall contact the head of the family through the ministry's hotline number 151. If this also fails, the team that was approved and qualified shall visit the family's home to give them information about the survey. The team consists of a doctor, a nurse and a field researcher to conduct the survey and examinations after the approval of the head of the family.

The ministry further stated that following the consultation, approval and coordination with the head of the household; the questionnaire is created using smart devices and certain special tests either at home or at the nearest health center based on the preference of the head of the household. These tests include the measurement of height and weight, examination of the mouth, teeth, eyes, blood pressure and respiratory system, as well as some laboratory tests like blood ratio and cholesterol. The time allotted for the questionnaire and tests is a maximum of two hours, and the results of the analyses and tests are obtained through the 'Kuwait Health' or 'Sahel' applications.

The survey shall contribute to the provision of information that helps the ministry and other national authorities lay down plans based on evidence, determine health needs, make decisions regarding health-related policies, evaluate current health indicators, analyze the population's health status, and assess the prevalence of certain health conditions and associated risk factors. Everyone's participation in this survey is voluntary and it contributes significantly to improving health care services. It also helps to improve disease monitoring, evaluate patterns of health service utilization, and provide the most recent health data to support scientific research for widespread publication, as long as it maintains the confidentiality of participants' personal information to the highest standard, the ministry added.



Farwaniya Governorate pics

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser with the officials.

Farwaniya governor meets with several top officials

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah chaired a meeting on Thursday morning at his office in Farwaniya Governorate with a number of important officials.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the attendees of the meeting included:

- Director General of Farwaniya Security Command Brigadier General Saleh Aqila Al-Azmi,
- Director of General Investigation Department Brigadier General Mohammed Abdul Ghafor Al-Awadhi,
- Deputy Director of the Aesthetic Agricultural Department at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Fajr Al-Hanyan,

Director of the Roads and Networks Maintenance Department at the Ministry of Public Works Eng. Fawaz Ghazi Al-Shammari,

■ Director of Farwaniya Municipality Eng. Mubarak Al-Ajmi,

■ Director of the General Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department Eng. Mohammed Abdulhadi Al-Jabaa

■ Head of the Farwaniya Department at PAAAFR Salem Al-Anzi.

At the beginning of the meeting, the governor

Sheikh Athbi warmly welcomed the attendees and emphasized the importance of cooperation among

all leaders and departments within Farwaniya Governorate.

He stressed the need to work together to provide the best services and to deal with any obstacles that may hinder the smooth functioning of operations.

Sheikh Athbi also highlighted his commitment to strengthening the bonds of mutual cooperation between the governorate and all government agencies, each within their respective areas of expertise.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the governor reiterated his constant readiness to support all efforts aimed at improving service and administrative performance in various sectors.

5 firms vying for Doha Water Distribution Complex project

CAPT opens financial bids for tender during Nov 11 meeting

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Informed sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy have revealed that five out of six companies are competing for the project related to the establishment, completion, maintenance, and development of the existing and new Doha Water Distribution Complex, and the installation of a water line from the complex to the United Nations Roundabout. The sixth company was excluded in accordance with Article 45 of the Public Tenders Law.

The sources explained that the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) opened the financial bids for the tender during a meeting held on November 11. The results showed that five companies were qualified, with the lowest bid priced at KD 97.386 million and the highest bid at KD 188.760 million, as per the data released by CAPT after the meeting.

More than three years was spent in procedural discussions between the ministry and the relevant authorities.

However, with the opening of the bids, it is expected to move forward soon, which means the implementation will begin soon. This is one of the important water projects that the ministry is relying on to develop and modernize the water networks sector.

The project is expected to significantly enhance the country's water infrastructure, contributing to an increase in water storage capacity by 130 million imperial gallons and boosting the pumping capacity to 220 million imperial gallons per day. This will ensure a reliable water supply to residential areas, particularly during the summer months and periods of high consumption. According to the ministry's plan, the project is set to be completed in 60 months.

CAPT is expected to refer the financial bids of the five qualified companies to the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy for a technical review by a specialized committee. This review is scheduled to take place within a month, in accordance with the tender law.

Following the technical evaluation, the bids will be returned to CAPT, which will then make a decision on awarding the contract to the company with the best bid. The contract will then undergo review and auditing by the State Audit Bureau before obtaining final approval. Once the approval is secured, the project will proceed with its implementation.

KISR organizes free trips for students of public schools

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), a subsidiary of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and in partnership with Warba Bank, has announced the organization of free trips for public sector school students throughout the month of November.

According to a press release issued by KFAS recently, this initiative aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore the world of science and

technology, build a greater interest in scientific fields among them, and raise awareness about environmental issues.

KISR seeks to offer an integrated educational experience that combines entertainment with knowledge. Students will have the chance to explore scientific topics and engage in interactive activities that promote their skills, and encourage curiosity and research. This initiative is part of KISR's ongoing commitment to support education and enrich curricula in

a creative and sustainable way.

In this regard, Deputy Director of the Visitors Department at The Scientific Center Mohammed Al-Sanousi said this month has seen a significant increase in the number of visitors to the center, particularly students.

He attributed this rise to the fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Warba Bank.

Al-Sanousi expressed hope to further enhance this cooperation to inspire a new generation that is more engaged and concerned about science.

Kuwait calls

Continued from Page 1

In its third report to the UN General Assembly, released in Geneva on October 9, the Commission traced treatment of detainees and hostages, and the attacks on medical facilities and personnel from October 7, 2023 to August 2024.

Finding that constant handcuffing and inadequate medical care caused some detainees to have limbs amputated, the Commission demanded halting the maltreatment of detainees at Israeli jails and bringing to justice all accomplices in human rights abuses.

It also urged the Israeli occupation prison authorities to provide information on the names and whereabouts of Palestinian prisoners and missing persons as well as the bodies of dead persons they withhold. Al-Abhoud pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti diplomat commended the Madrid Joint Statement on Implementation of the Two-State Solution, adopted by the Ministerial Joint Contact Group of the League of Arab States and Organization of Islamic Cooperation in September, 2024.

The statement reflected a clear international consensus on support to the Arab peace initiative of 2002 and the relevant UN resolutions as suitable ground for solving the Middle East conflict, he concluded.

Also in New York, Kuwait said that the Israeli occupation parliament's (Knesset) ratification of a draft law classifying the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) as a "terrorist organization" represented a blatant violation of the international organization and its agencies and charter.

This came in a speech by the Permanent Delegation of Kuwait to the UN, delivered by Diplomatic Attaché Dhari Edhbayah on Thursday evening, during the meeting of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly concerned with special political issues and decolonization.

Edhbayah said the Israeli occupation forces violated international law, international humanitarian law, international legitimacy, and Security Council resolutions, including Resolution (2417), which strongly condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a method of combat in conflict situations.

He expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation of the two pieces of legislation issued by the Knesset to ban UNRWA from operating in the occupied Palestinian territories, which will limit the agency's ability to provide support and humanitarian services to defenseless Palestinian refugees.

Ongoing Israeli occupation attacks on Lebanon have resulted in the displacement of at least 1.2 million persons, 200,000 of whom moved to refugee centers, a Lebanese report revealed on Saturday.

This was mentioned in the report about relief and food aid run by the governmental emergency committee that was distributed to all governorates across Lebanon until November 8.

Lebanon is currently receiving in-kind aid, including medicine and medical supplies, from friendly and sisterly countries, Lebanese expats and international organizations via the airport and port.

Handing out this aid is carried out through some bodies; the ministry of health, the higher commission for relief, international institutions and the emergency committee, it stated.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة

RECALL INFORMATION

Mercedes-Benz
Model: 294,295,296,297
Model year: 2023-2024
Total Vehicles: 67

RECALL REASON

It has come to the attention of Mercedes-Benz AG that the software of the battery management system in certain vehicles of model series EQE SUV (BR 294), EQE (BR 295), EQS SUV (BR 296) and EQS (BR 297) could lead to deactivation of the high-voltage system in specific situations. In this case, the contactors of the high-voltage battery could open. As a result, an unannounced loss of propulsion cannot be ruled out, which could increase the risk of an accident.

REMEDY

As a precautionary measure, the software of the battery management system will be updated in the affected vehicles. The required work certainly be fixed free.

CONTACT

Please contact Al Mulla Automobiles Co
Phone 1-887-888
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwailh Industrial Area-9 street
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwailh Industrial Area -13 Street
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre for Passenger Cars- Al Ahmadi -29 street

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and 48) of no.27/2015 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection.



Firefighters attend to the wildfires as they burn along the New York and New Jersey border in Greenwood Lake, New York on Nov 13. (AP)

Firefighters closer to taming wildfire across NJ-NY border

Firefighters were getting closer Friday to taming a wildfire burning across the New Jersey-New York border on Friday, increasing their encirclement of the hard-to-access blaze.

The fire, named the Jennings Creek blaze, was 90% contained on the Passaic County, New Jersey, side of the border, and about 70% contained on the Orange County, New York side.

It had burned 7 1/2 square miles (19.4 square kilometers) across the two states, although New York of-

ficials said that number is likely to increase somewhat in coming days.

Stronger winds were forecast for the weekend, which could complicate efforts to bring it under complete control. The forecast does not call for rain until Thursday, and firefighters said they will remain on the scene until significant rainfall occurs.

The blaze claimed the life of a New York parks workers who was assisting firefighting crews last week. (AP)

Liberals urge Senate Dems to confirm more Biden judges while they can

WASHINGTON, Nov 16, (AP): Demand Justice, a progressive organization focused on the judiciary, is set to bombard Capitol Hill with a message for the closing weeks of the 118th Congress: Do "whatever it takes" to confirm President Joe Biden's nominees as a second Donald Trump presidency looms.

The Republican president-elect's victory and the GOP takeover of the Senate leaves just seven weeks of Democratic control of the chamber.

Democrats have confirmed 213 of Biden's judicial nominees during his presidency. Another few dozen are still pending. To add to those confirmations, Senate Democrats would need to stay in Washington far longer than they had planned and also navigate a razor-thin margin that hamstrung them at times on other Biden priorities.

Trump focused heavily on filling court vacancies in his first term, getting 234 judges confirmed, including three to the Supreme Court. Democrats are seeking to deny him more opportunities to name conservative judges as the party determines its path forward after a sweeping defeat that will leave it out of power come January.

"Senate Democrats cannot give up and go home just because they lost the chamber," said Skye Perryman, a senior



US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, speaks with reporters at the Capitol in Washington on Nov 13. (AP)

adviser to Demand Justice, whose push will include widespread lobbying, Capitol Hill events and targeted ads. "It is even more critical now that good, qualified, fair-minded judges are confirmed so they can serve as a backstop and uphold the rights of ordinary people and

protect our Constitution."

According to the United States Courts website, 17 pending judicial nominees have advanced out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, eight are waiting for votes from the committee and six are waiting for committee hearings. The White House announced new judicial nominees in October and November.

The Senate returned this week from their break around the election. The Senate calendar has the legislative body being out of town around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. But the calendar is subject to change, and it is common for senators to leave Washington for extended weekend breaks.

Asked about the effort to pressure Senate Democrats to do all they can to confirm these nominees, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said, "We are going to get as many done as we can."

Trump on Sunday urged Republicans to oppose Schumer's efforts. "No Judges should be approved during this period of time because the Democrats are looking to ram through their Judges as the Republicans fight over Leadership," he wrote. Sen Dick Durbin, the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he hoped Republicans would not seek to delay confirmation votes for judges.

This is going to be a red alert moment for American democracy: Murphy

Trump already testing US Congress, daring Republicans to oppose him

WASHINGTON, Nov 16, (AP): After a resounding election victory, delivering what President-elect Donald Trump and Republicans said is a mandate to govern, an uneasy political question is emerging: Will there be any room for dissent in the US Congress?

Trump is laying down a gauntlet even before taking office challenging the Senate, in particular, to dare defy him over the nominations of Matt Gaetz, Robert F. Kennedy Jr and other controversial choices for his Cabinet and administration positions.

The promise of unified government, with the Republican Party's sweep of the White House and GOP majorities in the House and Senate, is making way for a more complicated political reality as congressional leaders confront anew what it means to line up with Trump's agenda.

"This is going to be a red alert moment for American democracy," Sen Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said on CNN after Trump tapped Gaetz for attorney general.

Trump is returning to the White House at the height of his political power, having won both the Electoral College and the popular vote for the first time in decades. The trifecta in Washington offers a tantalizing political opportunity for Republicans, opening up a universe of political and policy priorities - from tax cuts to mass deportations to the gutting of the regulatory and federal bureaucracy, along with Trump's vows to seek vengeance and prosecution of his perceived enemies and pardon those who attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

But for Congress, it's also a potentially existential moment, one that is testing whether its status as a co-equal branch of US government can withstand a second Trump administration.

"One of the possible futures for Congress is that it becomes a rubber stamp," said Phillip Wallach, a scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, who writes extensively about Congress.

Wallach said the threat to Congress has been on his



US Senate Minority Whip John Thune, joined (at left) by Sen John Barrasso, meets with reporters after he was elected to succeed longtime GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, at the Capitol in Washington on Nov 13. (AP)

mind, but he also believes it would be more pronounced if Republicans had won larger majorities. The House, in fact, may end up with slimmer numbers, and the Senate's 53-seat advantage, while more than the simple majority need-

ed to confirm nominees, can hardly be seen as mandates. Besides, "they're not wimps," he said of elected lawmakers. "There's no reason for them to just turn themselves into a doormat."

It's a changed Washington from Trump's first term. Congress has been purged of his strongest critics. At the same time, the Supreme Court has shifted dramatically rightward, with three Trump-appointed justices, and a majority decision over the summer that granted the president broad immunity from prosecution.

Trump's Cabinet picks are posing the biggest early test for Congress.

While Trump's choice of Sen Marco Rubio, R-Fla., for secretary of state is expected to have somewhat broad support, including from Democrats, others like Kennedy, Tulsi Gabbard for director of national intelligence and Pete Hegseth as defense secretary are raising more scrutiny.

The choice of Gaetz, a fierce Trump loyalist who talks about the wholesale upheaval of the Justice Department, is all the more troubling for senators because of a House ethics probe over alleged sexual misconduct and illicit drug use. He denies the allegations but submitted his resignation from Congress as soon as he was nominated, effectively shutting down the probe.

Sen. Dick Durbin, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would consider the Gaetz nomination, called on the House to "preserve and share their report" with the panel.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, a Republican member of the Judiciary committee, said he expects "any and all" information on the nominees will be made available.

Other Republicans in the House and Senate stood with Gaetz, supporting his effort to take on the Justice Department over what they see as perceived bias, particularly over its prosecutions of Trump for trying to overturn the 2020 election ahead of the Capitol attack and for hoarding classified documents.

"I know the Democrats are clutching their pearls right now, and they're very, very upset about everything," said Sen. Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., on Fox News.

'The job you've done is incredible'

Trump meets with Argentina's leader Milei

PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 16, (AP): Donald Trump met Thursday at his Mar-a-Lago club with Argentine President Javier Milei, the first foreign leader to meet with the president-elect since his victory in last week's election.

The meeting was confirmed by a person who insisted on anonymity to discuss an event that hadn't yet been announced publicly. The person said the meeting went well and said Milei also met with investors.

A short time later, Milei, a self-described "anarcho-capitalist" and frequent recipient of Trump praise, addressed the America First Policy Institute gala at Mar-a-Lago. He spoke briefly in English, then gave a longer speech in Spanish, pausing to allow an interpreter to translate, in which he slammed left-wing ideologies and saluted Elon Musk, the owner of X, saying his social media site is helping to "save humanity."

Milei criticized a political ruling class that he said was responsible for a system that used unfair tax systems



Argentina's President Javier Milei arrives to speak before President-elect Donald Trump during an America First Policy Institute gala at his Mar-a-Lago estate on Nov 14, in Palm Beach, Fla. (AP)

to force "the redistribution of wealth at gunpoint."

The president of Argentina also congratulated Trump on his "resounding victory" in the election, saying, "Today the winds of freedom are blowing much stronger" and calling the victory "proof positive that the forces of heaven are on our side."

Trump also spoke to the gala crowd, congratulating Milei "for the job you've done for Argentina" and saying it was an "honor" to have Argentina's president at his club.

"The job you've done is incredible. Make Argentina Great Again, you know, MAGA. He's a MAGA person," Trump said to applause. "And you know, he's doing that."

Shortly after Milei's election in November 2023, Trump posted on social media, "You will turn your country around and truly Make Argentina Great Again!"

Milei first met Trump in February at the Conservative Political Action Conference, or CPAC, in the Washington area.



Residents are moved out of the nursing home where at least 10 people have died in a fire in Zaragoza, Spain on Nov 15. (AP)

10 killed in Spain nursing home fire

At least 10 people died and others were injured in a blaze at a nursing home near Zaragoza in northeastern Spain, before firefighters managed to extinguish the flames, local authorities said Friday.

The alarm was raised just before 5 am on Friday in Villafranca de Ebro, about 28 kilometers (18 miles) from the city of Zaragoza. Two people remained in critical condition, officials said.

The cause of the fire was not yet known. Local media said 82 people had been living in the Jardines De Villafranca nursing home,

which focused on treating people with dementia and mental health issues.

Jorge Azcón, head of the regional government of Aragon - which includes Villafranca de Ebro, population 840 - told reporters outside the nursing home that an investigation would be opened into the cause of the fire.

The immediate priority was to transfer the remaining uninjured residents to other facilities, he said, including one in the city of Huesca, about 90 kilometers (56 miles) away. (AP)



Russian President Vladimir Putin, (left), speaks with the head of Russian state space corporation Roscosmos Yuri Borisov during their meeting at Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside of Moscow, Russia on Nov 15. (AP)

Scholz discusses Ukraine with Putin

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke Friday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin leader's first publicly announced conversation with the sitting head of a major Western power in nearly two years. Scholz urged Putin to be open to negotiations with Ukraine, his office said.

The Kremlin leader responded that

any peace deal should acknowledge Russia's territorial gains and security demands, including that Kyiv recognize joining NATO.

Government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said Scholz urged Putin in the hour-long call to withdraw his troops and end the full-scale invasion launched in February 2022. (AP)

America

Crash kills candidate:

A Democratic candidate for the Arizona state Senate was killed when his vehicle was hit by a suspected drunk driver Friday morning, a day after he conceded the race to his GOP rival.

John McLean, 68, was driving a Toyota RAV4 in his hometown of Tucson at about 6 a.m. when a Ford Explorer failed to stop at a stop sign and struck McLean's vehicle at a high rate of speed as it passed through an intersection, the Tucson Police Department said. (AP)

'Watches turned over':

A representative for Rudy Giuliani says the former New York City mayor is relinquishing his cherished watches ahead of a Friday deadline to turn over his assets to two former Georgia election workers who won a \$148 million defamation judgment against him. (AP)

Japan's minister visits Ukraine to stress mutual concern over N.Korean troops

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 16, (AP): Japan's foreign minister arrived in Kyiv on Saturday to discuss North Korea's deepening military alliance with Russia, including the deployment of thousands of troops to support Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya will meet his Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiba, to reaffirm Japan's "strong support" for Ukraine against Russia's invasion and to discuss further sanctions against Moscow, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

High on the agenda was Tokyo's "grave concern" over growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, the ministry said.

According to US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, up to 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia as part of a major defense treaty between the countries.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire following a Russian attack in Odesa, Ukraine, on Nov 14. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

Another storm looms

Typhoon Usagi wrecks more damage, misery in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 16, (AP): Typhoon Usagi swamped rural villages in floods, knocked down power and displaced thousands more people before blowing away on Friday from the northern Philippines, which has now been pounded by five major storms in less than a month.

A new storm in the Pacific could strengthen into a powerful typhoon before hitting the Philippine archipelago on Sunday, according to state forecasters.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the onslaught caused by Usagi, which was blowing toward southern Taiwan on Friday.

In Cagayan province in the northernmost tip of the main Luzon region, a key concrete bridge connecting two towns partly collapsed Thursday after logs swept by rampaging river currents smashed into it. Several other bridges were engulfed in floodwaters and were unusable, provincial officials said.

Usagi made landfall in the northeastern Philippines on Thursday, just two days after the last typhoon, Toraji, exited after setting off floods and forcing more than 82,500 people to flee



A man tries to secure his boat as rain caused by Typhoon Usagi pours at Santa Ana, Cagayan province, northern Philippines on Nov 14. (AP)

from their homes in northern provinces.

Many of the displaced were still in

emergency shelters when Usagi hit, according to welfare officials, who have scrambled to transport large numbers of food packs and other aid to more than 300 evacuation centers as the back-to-back storms and typhoons lashed the region.

The government has struggled to deal with the impact of the multiple storms, which left at least 160 people dead, displaced more than 9 million others and devastated farmland and infrastructure, mostly in Luzon.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration has spent more than 1 billion pesos (\$17 million) for food and other aid for hundreds of thousands of storm victims, Welfare Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlaog said.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, who oversees disaster-response efforts, sought the help of neighboring countries, including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, in providing additional aircraft to transport food, water and other aid to villages isolated by the storms. The United States, Manila's longtime treaty ally, deployed cargo aircraft with food and other assistance.

The U.N. Humanitarian Country

Team in the Philippines said it was raising \$32.9 million to help the government provide assistance to about 210,000 people in critical need of aid and protection, especially women, children and people with disabilities, in the next three months.

"The Philippines is facing an exceptionally challenging tropical cyclone season, with successive cyclones reaching unprecedented locations and scales," the U.N. team said in its emergency plan. "Local authorities, who are often impacted themselves, are overwhelmed as they simultaneously respond to the crisis and coordinate rescue efforts for affected families."

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year. It is often hit by earthquakes and has more than a dozen active volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest recorded tropical cyclones, left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattened entire villages and caused ships to run aground and smash into houses in the central Philippines.



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

Malaysia protests Philippine maritime laws

Malaysia has protested new maritime laws in the Philippines that it says encroach on its territory, a government official said Friday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamad Alamin said Malaysia sent a protest note on Thursday over the Philippine laws. Experts have found that reference documents related to the laws restated Manila's

long-standing claim over the oil-rich Malaysian state of Sabah in northern Borneo, he said.

Last week, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed the Philippine Maritime Zones act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes act, which reaffirmed the country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea. (AP)

'I'm proud of how far we've come'

Biden praises cooperation at meeting with S.Korean, Japanese leaders

LIMA, Peru, Nov 16, (AP): US President Joe Biden on Friday praised the cooperation between South Korea, Japan and the U.S. at countering what he described as North Korea's "dangerous and destabilizing cooperation with Russia."

Biden spoke at the start of a meeting in Peru with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. The talks came amid heightened concerns about North Korea's growing military partnership with Russia and Pyongyang's stepped-up cadence of ballistic missile tests.

Biden celebrated the partnership between Japan and South Korea, two countries that have historical enmity but under Biden's presidency are now tightening security and economic ties as their corner of the world becomes more complicated.

Biden noted that it would be his last meeting with them but that the trilateral partnership should be preserved for years to come.

"I'm proud of how far we've come," Biden said. "Whatever the issue, we've taken it on together."

It comes as North Korea has deployed thousands of troops to Russia to help Moscow try to claw back land in the Kursk border region that Ukraine seized earlier this year.

"As we can see from the recent deployment of DPRK troops to Russia, the challenging security environment within and outside the region once again reminds us the importance of our trilateral cooperation," Yoon said, using the initials for North Korea's formal name and speaking through a translator.

Ishiba also emphasized the importance of the three nations acting as a bulwark against North Korea and pointed to recent military exercises between the three nations as a sign of cooperation.

A three-day exercise in June was geared toward improving joint ballistic missile defense, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance and other skills and capabilities and to help the three countries improve their ability to share missile



US President Joe Biden listens during a trilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan Shigeru Ishiba and the President of South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol in Lima, Peru, on Nov 15. (AP)

warnings - increasingly important as North Korea tests ever-more sophisticated systems.

"I look forward to furthering our partnership in response against North Korea and in many other areas," Ishiba said through a translator.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered a series of ballistic missile tests in the lead-up to this month's U.S. election and is claiming progress on efforts

to build capability to strike the U.S. mainland.

White House officials are concerned that Pyongyang could be dialed up for more provocative action ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration and the early days of his administration.

"I do not think we can count on a period of quiet with the DPRK," said White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan. "The transitions have historically been time periods when the DPRK has taken provocative actions both before and after the transition from one president to a new president."

Biden, Yoon, and Ishiba's conversation largely focused on the growing threat caused by North Korea and Russia's cooperation, according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversations. The official said Trump and how the change in administration might affect the trilateral relationship did not come up.

Biden is on a six-day visit to Latin America for the final major international summit of his presidency, following up APEC with a gathering in Brazil of leaders from the Group of 20 top economies. He's likely to face questions from world leaders about the incoming administration as they turn their attention to what Donald Trump's return to the White House will mean for them.

Biden took part in an informal meeting with other APEC leaders and met with Peru President Dina Boluarte. Biden thanked her for Peru's efforts to counter drug trafficking and noted the \$65 million the U.S. is providing her country over the next five years to assist in that effort, including nine Blackhawk helicopters.

Biden also met one-on-one with Ishiba - their first in-person since the Japanese prime minister took office on Oct. 1 - ahead of the three-country meeting focused on North Korea-Russia ties.

The introduction of North Korean troops to the Russia-Ukraine conflict comes as Moscow has seen a favorable shift in momentum. Trump has signaled that he could push Ukraine to agree to give up some land seized by Russia to find an end to the conflict.



South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung, (center), leaves the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul, South Korea on Nov 15. (AP)

S.Korean opp'n leader gets suspended jail term for violating election law

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 16, (AP): South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung was convicted of violating election law and sentenced to a suspended prison term Friday by a court that ruled he made false statements while denying corruption allegations during a presidential campaign.

If it stands, the ruling could significantly shake up the country's politics by potentially unseating Lee as a lawmaker and denying him a shot at running for president in the next election. But Lee, who faces three other trials over corruption and other criminal charges, is expected to challenge any

guilty verdict and it remains unclear whether the Supreme Court will decide on any of the cases before the presidential vote in March 2027.

Lee told reporters that he plans to appeal Friday's verdict by the Seoul Central District Court, which gave him a sentence of one year in prison, suspended for two years. Under South Korean law, Lee would lose his legislative seat and be barred from running in elections for five years if he receives either a penalty exceeding a 1 million won (\$715) fine for election law violations or any prison sentence for other crimes.

"There are still two more courts left in the real world, and the courts of public opinion and history are eternal," he said, apparently referring to plans to take the case to the Supreme Court. "This is a conclusion that's impossible to accept."

Lee, a firebrand liberal who narrowly lost the 2022 election to conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, has steadfastly denied wrongdoing. Choo Kyung-ho, the floor leader of Yoon's People Power Party, said the verdict showed that "justice was alive" and called for the judiciary to conclude the case swiftly.

Kim calls for mass production

N.Korea tests exploding drones: state media

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 16, (AP): North Korea tested exploding drones designed to crash into targets and leader Kim Jong Un called for accelerating mass production of the weapons, state media said Friday.

The country's latest military demonstration came as the United States, South Korea and Japan engaged in combined military exercises involving advanced fighter jets and a US aircraft carrier in nearby international waters, in a display of their defense posture against North Korea.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency published photos of Kim talking with officials near at least two different types of unmanned aerial vehicles. They included those with X-shaped tails and wings that look similar to the ones the country disclosed in August, when Kim inspected another demonstration of drones that explode on impact.

The drones flew various routes and accurately struck targets, KCNA said. Its images showed what appeared to be a BMW sedan being destroyed and old models of tanks being blown up.

Kim expressed satisfaction with the weapons' development process and stressed the need to "build a serial production system as early as possible and go into full-scale mass production," noting how drones are becoming crucial in modern warfare.

KCNA paraphrased Kim as saying drones were easy to make at



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows a burning vehicle during tests of drones designed to crash into targets, at an undisclosed location in North Korea on Nov 14. (AP)

ing nuclear and missile program, which includes various nuclear-capable weapons targeting South Korea and intercontinental ballistic missiles that can potentially reach the U.S. mainland.

Kim is also allegedly sending military equipment and troops to Russia to support President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, which raised concerns in Seoul that he would get Russian technology in return to further develop his arsenal.

In addition to his intensifying nuclear threats, Kim has also engaged in psychological and electronic warfare against South Korea, such as flying thousands of balloons to drop trash in the South and disrupting GPS signals from border areas near the South's biggest airport.

South Korean officials say North Korea will be a key topic in a trilateral summit between South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba this week at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in Peru.

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met on the margins of the APEC on Thursday and discussed "strong concerns" over deepening ties between Pyongyang and Moscow, particularly the deployment of North Korean troops to support Russia's war against Ukraine, the U.S. State Department said.

Tensions in the region have escalated as Kim flaunts his advanc-

Subcontinent

Nepal van accident kills 8: A passenger van veered off a mountain road early Friday in western Nepal, killing eight people and injuring four others, the army said.

The van rolled about 200 meters (650 feet) below the road before dawn near the village of Shaileshikar, about 600 kilometers (375 miles) west of the capital, Kathmandu. (AP)

NPP wins majority: The party of Sri Lanka's new Marxist-leaning President Anura Kumara Dissanayake won a two-thirds majority in parliament, according to official election results Friday, providing a strong mandate for his program for economic revival.

Dissanayake's National People's Power Party (NPP) won 159 of the 225 seats, according to the Elections Commission. (AP)



A woman rushes a child to the emergency ward after a fire broke out in a neonatal intensive care unit at Jhansi Medical College hospital in Jhansi, India on Nov 15. (AP)

India hospital fire kills 10 newborns

A fire tore through a neonatal intensive care unit in a hospital in northern India, killing 10 newborn babies and injuring 16 others, authorities said.

The fire occurred late Friday at a hospital in Jhansi city in India's Uttar Pradesh state. Officials said the blaze spread quickly through the ward,

where 55 infants were being treated. Forty-five babies were rescued and are receiving medical care, said Bimal Kumar Dubey, a local official.

It was not immediately clear what sparked the blaze. Brajesh Pathak, the deputy chief minister of the state, visited the hospital and met with families on Saturday. (AP)

Lat/Am

Belize on alert: Belize issued tropical storm warnings for the Central American country's coast on Friday as Tropical Storm Sara stalled in the western Caribbean, dousing Honduras' northern coast with heavy rain.

Sustained rain fell overnight in the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula, with no immediate sign of serious flooding. (AP)

Court overturns order: A Guatemalan appeals court on Friday overturned the order freeing journalist José Rubén Zamora and ordered his return to jail.

Zamora, founder of El Peridico newspaper, had spent more than two years in jail awaiting trial before a judge granted him house arrest in October. Prosecutors appealed the order and on Friday another court ordered the 68-year-old journalist to continue waiting in jail. (AP)



Police officers and private security personnel stand by the opening of a reformed gold mineshaft where illegal miners are trapped in Stilfontein, South Africa on Nov 15. (AP)

'Bring illegal miners to the surface'

The South African government said on Friday it has put together a team including mine rescue experts to come up with a plan to bring to surface illegal miners who remain under a disused gold mine.

The move signaled the government was taking a more conciliatory approach compared to earlier this week,

when it said it wouldn't send help to the miners under the disused Stilfontein gold mine in the North West province. Officials have closed entrances to the mineshaft used to bring them food, water and other basic necessities as part of a government strategy to force them to return to the surface and be arrested. (AP)

Gold prices stable amid strong dollar

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Gold prices held steady on Friday but were on track for their worst weekly performance in over three years, weighed down by a stronger US dollar, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Spot gold rose by 0.1 percent, reaching \$2,569.69 per ounce as of 0308 GMT, recovering

slightly after a five-session losing streak.

Despite this, gold has dropped by more than 4 percent during the week, and it is down over \$220 from its record high set last month. US gold futures also saw a modest gain of 0.1 percent, reaching \$2,574.50 per ounce.

Business

NREC announces net profit of KD 3.7 mln for 9M/2024

Operating revenue KD 3.7 million

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: National Real Estate Company (NREC) reported its financial and operational results for the periods ended September 30, 2024. The Company announced a net profit of KD 3.7 million and earnings per share (EPS) of 1.94 fils for 9M 2024, compared to a net loss of KD 1.5 million and a loss per share of 0.79 fils for the same period in 2023.

The Company's operating revenue for the first nine months of 2024 reached KD 3.7 million, reflecting a 62% decline compared to the same period in 2023. Total assets stood at KD 551 million, as of September 30, 2024.

For Q3 2024, the Company reported a net profit of KD 2.0 million, a profit per share of 1.07fils, and operating revenue of KD 1.1million.

Commenting on the Company's results, NREC Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, said: "The profitability achieved in Q3 2024, along with year-to-date profits growth compared to last year, underscores our ongoing commitment to maximizing value for shareholders, even amid a challenging geopolitical and economic environment."

Sultan added: "This performance reflects our continued focus on delivering sustainable financial results, and highlights the effectiveness of the Company's operational strategies and the resilience of our robust risk management measures in adapting to a dynamic market environment."

Company Project Updates

Reem Mall – Abu Dhabi: 183 Actively Trading Units and Promising Growth Prospects

Sultan stated: "As of the end of Q3 2024, we had 183 actively trading units in Reem Mall, reflecting a year-to-date increase of 45 units. This is a positive indicator of the mall's growing appeal and operational success. This upward trend highlights strong demand and a healthy retail environ-



Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa – NREC Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

ment, demonstrating that Reem Mall continues to attract new businesses and foster a thriving commercial atmosphere. The ongoing growth reflects confidence in the mall's strategic location and its potential for continued progress."

"We remain confident in the promising future of Reem Mall, particularly given Abu Dhabi's strong economy, ongoing infrastructure development, and rising consumer demand. With Reem Island's inclusion in the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) as a free zone, the mall is well-positioned for continued growth, benefiting from a business-friendly environment and streamlined regulations", added Sultan.

NREC is a co-investor in Abu Dhabi's \$1.3 billion Reem Mall on Reem Island. The mall spans an area of 186,000 sqm GLA, making it one of the largest malls in the region. With more than 400 stores, including 80 F&B concepts, and 6,400 parking spaces, it caters to visitors from all over the UAE and beyond.

With digital innovations like an aggregated mobile app for hands-free shopping, in-mall navigation, and smart parking, Reem Mall is leading the way in integrated online and in-person shopping.

Grand Heights Residential Development in Egypt: 82% of Units Sold to Date

The Company's residential project in Egypt, Grand Heights forms part



of a more extensive parcel of land owned by NREC's subsidiary KUWADICO and is presently being developed in different sections by three sub-developers. Covering an area of 3.8 million square meters, the project addresses the surging housing needs of the growing population in Cairo and its suburbs.

Sultan said: "The percentage of units sold across the whole project as of the end of Q3 2024 was 82%."

"Total sold units across the entire project in Egypt stood at 7,359 and the remaining unsold units stood at 1,617 by quarter-end."

South Aqaba Investment Park – Jordan: Strong Occupancy and Stable Rental Revenues Despite Geopolitical Tensions in the Region

Sultan said: "Jordan's South Aqaba Investment Park maintained a solid occupancy rate of 98% for warehouses and full occupancy for industrial buildings."

"Year-to-date rental revenues totaled KD 728 thousand, showing a slight 1% decline compared to the same period last year, highlighting a stable operational performance, despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region," added Sultan.

Strategic Asset Divestment, Restructuring, and Active Evaluation of Investment Opportunities for Shareholder Value Optimization

"We are committed to our strategy of selectively divesting assets to maximize shareholder value," said Sultan.

"As part of this value-maximization strategy, management is actively evaluating several investment opportunities and restructuring options to further strengthen our portfolio and enhance returns for our shareholders."

Established in 1973 and listed in Boursa Kuwait, National Real Estate Company (NREC) is a real estate investment, development and property manager based in the Middle East and North Africa. The Company's portfolio comprises a mix of retail, commercial and residential properties in the region.

Financial Highlights for the Periods Ended September 30, 2024 (Million KD)

Item	Q3 2024	Q3 2023	Variance (%)	9M 2024	9M 2023	Variance (%)
Revenue	1.1	3.1	-66%	3.7	9.8	-62%
Net Revenue	0.6	1.7	-63%	2.1	5.8	-64%
EBITDA	4.4	5.1	-13%	10.7	6.4	68%
Net Profit	2.0	2.3	-13%	3.7	-1.5	347%
EPS (fils)	1.07	1.25	-14%	1.94	-0.79	346%

NREC financial highlights

Training program dedicated to PBWM employees

KFH announces strategic partnership with Moody's

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced a strategic partnership with Moody's Analytics, a globally renowned provider of financial studies, research, and learning solutions. Through this partnership, KFH has launched a training program titled "Wealth Management Practitioner" for employees of KFH Private Banking and Wealth Management, as well as employees of KFH Capital, the Group's investment arm.

From November 2024 to February 2025, the program will provide twenty employees with training on various topics, including financial planning, client needs analysis, investment strategies, portfolio management, asset allocation, ESG, corporate governance, and business strategy.

KFH Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer, Zeyad AlOmar, said that "We are proud of this partnership, which we hope will elevate the professional competence of our workforce and empower them on both regional and global scales. This training initiative will enrich their expertise in wealth management, thereby enhancing KFH's global standing as a provider of world-class financial consultancy services".

He explained that the program is designed to cope with international training and qualification standards. It will include advanced knowledge and skills required for Private Banking and Wealth Management employees. These skills enable them to provide the best service standards and boost customers' experience at all levels.

He pointed out that the strategic partnership with Moody's Analytics aligns with KFH's strategy, which targets human capital investment and empowerment. "Our workforce is one of the major factors of success and development," AlOmar commented. "Through collaborations with global universities and learning institutions, we aim to create a progressive work environment that is capable of keeping abreast of changes and the latest developments worldwide to maintain KFH's leadership."

He highlighted that the training calendar of the HR department is enriched with various training programs each year. He also stressed that the department's efforts are ongoing to enhance and hone employees' professional skills and knowledge in addition to developing their career paths. These efforts also aim to sustain success, drive development and increase productivity.

Meanwhile, Deputy Group CEO Private Banking, Wealth Management and Business Excellence, Alexander Liddle, said that partnerships in the training fronts play a significant role in enhancing the capabilities and competencies of employees. He added that these tailored training



Zeyad Al-Omar



Alexander Liddle

AIOmar:

- KFH's training calendar offers a variety of programs to empower employees year-round

Liddle:

- KFH fully supports its Private Banking clients, leveraging the Group's substantial capabilities



Zeyad Al-Omar speaking to participants.



Alexander Liddle speaking to participants.

programs provide hands-on experience, directly contributing to the delivery of exceptional, high-standard services to Private Banking clients."

Liddle further explained that Private Banking clients expect top-notch service. The Bank is fully committed to supporting this segment, leveraging the Group's substantial capabilities. "These efforts pave the way for new investment opportunities that cater to the aspirations of our clients," he remarked.

Liddle pointed out that one of

the primary goals of Wealth Management services is to partner with clients to thoroughly understand their financial aspirations, both current and future. "This enables us to design tailored plans and offer solutions that align with their specific objectives. The Wealth Management training provided by Moody's will empower our Relationship Managers (RMs) with the expertise required to engage in meaningful discussions and provide valuable guidance to our clients," Liddle concluded.

Boursa Kuwait renews partnership with KACCH, BAACH for seventh year in a row

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: As part of its prominent role in supporting humanitarian and societal initiatives, Boursa Kuwait has renewed its longstanding collaboration with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) and Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BAACH) for the seventh year in a row, contributing over 34 thousand services to ailing children and their families in nine hospitals all around Kuwait. The company also sponsored the redesign of uniforms for Child's Play specialists across affiliated hospitals, which were inspired by children's drawings and artwork and aimed to support mental wellbeing and support the specialists with the treatment of children in hospitals.

President of KACCH & BACCH Dr. Hilal Musead Al-Sayer hailed Boursa Kuwait's continued support of the healthcare initiatives, saying, "I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait for their unwavering support of the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital and Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice, which is part of an on-going partnership since 2017. Their generous contributions have transformed children's spaces in many of Kuwait's hospitals, helping provide relief to countless children and their families and impacting their lives positively. This year alone, their sponsorship of playroom supplies across nine hospitals has resulted in nearly 34,000 services for children and families, nurturing environments where therapeutic play helps children express their emotions, manage anxiety, and face medical challenges with greater courage."

Boursa Kuwait is committed to offer a safe and engaging environment that serve the emotional and psychological needs of young patients and their families. Previously, the company has contributed to the renovation of the paediatric complex care ward at Al-Sabah Hospital, which provides joy and comfort to over 100 children annually. Additionally, Boursa Kuwait has taken a proactive role in acquiring vital medical equipment designed to alleviate the distress often associated with procedures like intravenous injections. These actions underscore Boursa Kuwait's dedication to improving the overall patient experience and ensuring young patients receive the highest quality of care during their treatment journey.

Senior Director of Marketing and Communication at Boursa Kuwait Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi affirmed the company's commitment to its role



President of KACCH & BACCH Dr. Hilal Musead Al-Sayer during the collaboration renewal with Boursa Kuwait.

as a humanitarian entity, saying: "We are committed to continuously supporting the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals and Bayt Abdullah, driven by a deep belief in the importance of creating a safe, supportive environment for children facing serious health challenges. Through this partnership, we aim to enhance the emotional and psychological well-being of patients and contribute to a better treatment experience by providing innovative therapeutic settings."

He added, "This partnership also reflects Boursa Kuwait's steadfast commitment to supporting the community in which we operate and highlights our investment in initiatives that benefit future generations as we aim to create a positive, lasting impact by working with organizations that share our vision and values. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital and Bayt Abdullah for their dedicated humanitarian efforts and we look forward to strengthening this strategic partnership to achieve even greater successes in the future."

Boursa Kuwait's continuous support for KACCH & BACCH and its mission in hospitals and in Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice comes in line with the objectives of the 'Community' pillar of its Corporate Sustainability (CS) strategy and is in line with Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

KACCH & BACCH currently operates child life programs in eight hospitals: Al Amiri, Al Farwaniya, Al Jahra,

Jaber Al Ahmed, Al Adan, Ibn Sina, Al Razi, and NBK Specialized Children's Hospital, providing specialized child life and therapeutic play programs for children and their families in hospital wards, playrooms, bedside, and other hospital departments where children are treated. They work closely with doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals to support children undergoing difficult procedures anywhere in the hospital. Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice also provides support for children in Kuwait facing life-threatening health conditions, focusing on multidisciplinary palliative care to ensure the best possible quality of life for these children.

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

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

Other Voices

Kuwait vows clean environment by 2060

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

IN HIS speech at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Deputy Amir of Kuwait had highlighted the global climate challenges affecting our future, and stressed the need to take immediate action to protect global environmental health. He also highlighted Kuwait's active participation in both domestic and global efforts to tackle climate change.

He had outlined the main environmental factors that lead to rising temperatures, increased dust storms, and declined rainfall leading to severe droughts, and many others that cannot be avoided.

Kuwait has contributed over \$23 billion to assist developed countries in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

It is aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as CO2 and methane from sources like gasoline and coal by 80 percent before the end of the year 2040. Another important goal is to transition to solar energy for electricity generation by 2050. Kuwait is determined to meet these challenging objectives by working in cooperation with other countries that have already made progress, and learning from their experiences.

Kuwait has provided more than 1,330 loans totaling \$23 billion to developing countries for projects



Al-Harami

related to green energy and environmental protection.

We do not work in isolation. Our contributions aim to improve the well-being of humankind and ensure the long-term safety of our planet for future generations.

The ultimate goal is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, which is approximately 30 years from now. This ambitious target is a clear and firmly held commitment by the State of Kuwait. Our dedication goes beyond words; it is reflected in our financial contributions, which stand as a testament to our resolve to protect the global environment, both locally and worldwide.

Kuwait is also calling on developed countries to honor their commitments to providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries in the fight against climate change.

As usual, Kuwait will continue to fulfill its financial and technical promises with all available resources. We will continue to be dedicated to protecting the planet and ensuring a safe and sustainable future for generations to come. Our efforts are in line with our strong commitment to achieving carbon neutrality.

The Deputy Amir's speech before the world was a clear and unwavering statement of Kuwait's determination to work toward a cleaner environment in a steadfast and relentless manner.

Email: naftikuwait@yahoo.com

Strong results for nine months ending 30 September 2024

ABK-Egypt net profit jumps 131% to EGP 5.4 bln

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait – Egypt (ABK-Egypt) proudly announced its robust 9-month 2024 financial results, once again affirming its position as a leading financial institution.

Financial Strength

ABK-Egypt has demonstrated remarkable growth across all major financial metrics for the nine-month period ending 30 September 2024. The Bank achieved a significant increase in Net Profit of 131%, reaching EGP 5.4 billion, compared to EGP 2.3 billion in the same period last year. Additionally, Net Interest Income rose by 63% to EGP 4.7 billion, up from EGP 2.9 billion in the same period last year. Net Fees and Commissions Income also saw a 44% increase, reaching EGP 1.2 billion compared to EGP 838 million during the same period last year.

According to the Bank's recently released financial results, Total Assets increased by 40%, reaching EGP 136.9 billion, up from EGP 97.6 billion in December 2023. Total Customer Deposits grew by 41%, amounting to EGP 117 billion compared to EGP 83.1 billion in December 2023, reflecting the increasing trust of the Bank's customers. Additionally, the Total Gross Loans Portfolio expanded by 51%, reaching EGP 74.8 billion compared to EGP 49.5 billion at the end of 2023. Lastly, the Non-Performing Loans (NPL) ratio stood at 1.30% at the end of September 2024, down from 1.48% in December 2023.

Commenting on the results, Ali Marafi, Chairman of ABK-Egypt, stated, "We take pride in the robust financial performance achieved over the past nine months. This success reflects our steady efforts to strengthen the Bank's position in the Egyptian market and underscores our commitment to serving the best interests of our customers and shareholders. ABK Group maintains a positive outlook on ABK-Egypt's ability to sustain its growth momentum, thanks to the efficiency of its business model,



Ali Marafi, Chairman of ABK-Egypt.



Khaled El Salawy, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director ABK-Egypt.

Ali Marafi:

- ABK-Egypt sustains growth momentum, thanks to the efficiency of our business model, the prudence of our risk framework, and the agility of our balance sheet structure, which has enabled us to adapt to market fluctuations and effectively navigate the evolving economic landscape.

Khaled El Salawy:

- We are advancing with ambitious and measured steps in implementing our phased strategy, focused on enhancing and diversifying revenue streams while maximizing customer and shareholder value.

the prudence of its risk framework, and the agility of its balance sheet structure, which has enabled us to adapt to market fluctuations and effectively navigate the evolving economic landscape."

Setting the Sustainability Standard

Marafi further emphasized ABK-Egypt's commitment to implementing sustainability standards and actively participating in corporate social responsibility as key drivers of economic development. He stated that the Bank will continue to finance major development projects and support national

initiatives led by the Egyptian government to promote economic stability and growth.

The Chairman added that, reflecting its commitment to sustainability, ABK-Egypt recently published its first annual Sustainability Report and Carbon Footprint Report for 2023, adhering to GRI standards.

Concluding his statement, Marafi commended the efforts of the Central Bank of Egypt in achieving fi-



ABK logo

Executive Management team for their contributions in solidifying the Bank's position in the Egyptian market, achieving record growth rates.

He commended their efficiency in executing the Bank's ambitious growth strategy, which is based on resilience and innovation. He also

noted that the upcoming period will emphasize enhancing performance across all business lines to maximize business volumes and profitability.

Strategic Direction

Further affirming the strength of the Bank's financial position, Khaled El Salawy, CEO and Managing Director of ABK-Egypt, stated, "We are advancing with ambitious and measured steps in implementing our phased strategy, which focuses on enhancing and diversifying revenue streams while maximizing value for our customers and shareholders. The Bank has indeed achieved strong and sustain-

able growth rates, as evidenced by all financial performance indicators throughout the year. Profit Before Tax reached EGP 6.4 billion, reflecting a growth rate of 115% compared to EGP 3 billion. These results would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our team and the immense trust of our customers, which we take pride in as we continue on our path to success."

El Salawy further noted that these results demonstrate the success of the Bank's integrated strategy, which emphasizes achieving steady growth and maintaining long-term financial stability. He also highlighted that the Bank has made substantial investments to enhance its digital platforms, expand its geographical reach, and improve its offerings to meet the highest standards of the banking industry while aligning with the needs and aspirations of both retail and corporate customers.

El Salawy said, "Despite the global and local economic challenges, we still see significant opportunities for growth ahead. We remain committed to developing our strategies to capitalize on these opportunities and strengthen our brand in the market. Our strategy is based on the principles of sustainable growth, striking the right balance between improving financial performance and making meaningful contributions to the broader community. ABK-Egypt's social responsibility has consistently focused on supporting national initiatives in key areas: enhancing the healthcare system, improving access to quality education, supporting youth, unemployed females, and individuals with special needs. This is in addition to combating poverty to elevate the living standards of underprivileged segments."

The Bank is committed to supporting and financing all vital sectors in the Egyptian market, reflecting its belief in the significance of collaborative efforts to achieve national development plans and Egypt's Vision 2030, aimed at supporting economic stability and maximizing benefits for society as a whole.



A group photo of the participants in the environmental initiative (Plant) in the Abdali Reserve.

Company, UAE Embassy plant 1,000 desert seedlings

'KOC keen on preserving environment'

By Khaled Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) is eager to maintain environment and ensure sustainability, said KOC Deputy CEO for Planning and Innovation Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel on Saturday.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement during a ceremony co-organized by the company and UAE's Embassy to plant 1,000 desert seedlings at Al Abdaliya Nature Reserve, in the presence of some ambassadors and officials, Al-Abduljaleel affirmed continued efforts aiming to curb carbon emissions.

He stressed the need of raising awareness with the best sustainable practices to curb carbon footprint and maintain environment.

He referred to the company's firm commitment to achieving the strategy of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to achieve Net-Zero by the year 2050.

Meanwhile, UAE's Ambassador



Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel, Executive Vice President of Planning and Innovation at Kuwait Oil Company.

to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi expressed at launching this initiative with the KOC as it comes at important timing.

He affirmed Kuwait and UAE's keenness to boosting sustainable ef-



KUNA photos The Emirati ambassador while planting a plant in the Abdali Reserve.

orts, saying this move came to embody this commitment.

Trees planted today do not need much water and could bear high temperature, Al-Neyadi told KUNA in a similar statement.

On Kuwait-UAE ties, Al-Neyadi said they have witnessed accelerated growth in different sectors and fields, in light of much attention paid by the two countries' leadership.

He referred to the recent visit of UAE's President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Kuwait.

He pointed to continued coordination and cooperation in all fields as well as identical visions between the two sides, out of their shared destiny.

There is growth at trade exchange, and big economic and investment opportunities in the two countries, he highlighted.

Nasser Al-Hajri, a KOC official, said the move aims to raise greening to combat climate change and curb its effects.

Seedlings planted will help improve public health of population and reduce carbon emissions, he told KUNA.

The reserve is built on an area of 1.2 million square meters, west Kuwait, he stated.

Egypt reoperates El-Nasr auto Co as part of localizing industry

CAIRO, Nov 16, (KUNA): Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli witnessed on Saturday reoperating El Nasr Automotive Manufacturing Company, affiliated with the country's business sector, after a 15-year suspension as part of a localization (nationalization) scheme.

In an aural speech at the company's headquarters in the presence of some ministers, ambassadors and officials, Madbouli said reoperating the state-owned company was a strategic decision, stressing that Egypt targets the optimal use of the state's assets.

Egypt is seeking to maximize and exploit these assets to maintain their production, he said.

The government is working on entering partnerships with an efficient private sector to run and operate the

state's assets, he noted.

The needs of local market are about 500,000 varied vehicles annually, and this will increase by 20230 with population growth, he said.

Meanwhile, Khaled Shedid, CEO of the company, said the firm targets exploiting all factories to operate them.

The company also seeks to invest in some growth-related industries with diversifying outcomes to include Golf cars, light-duty vehicles, and tok tok cars, he said.

During the ceremony, Madbouli witnessed signing a contract between the company on one hand and Singapore-Taiwan and UAE companies on the other to manufacture the first 24-passenger minibus, with a production capacity of 300 buses in 2060.



KUNA photo Egypt restarts Al-Nasr Automotive Company as part of plans to localize industry in the country.

Bahrain International Airshow '24 continues aircraft shows, displays

MANAMA, Nov 16, (KUNA): Amidst an atmosphere full of excitement and thrill, the Bahrain International Airshow 2024 continued its air shows in the Kingdom's skies, in addition to displaying a variety of old and modern aircraft.

The fixed aircraft display area was 86,000 square meters to display more than 120 different types of aircraft participating in fixed and air shows.

A group of specialized teams participated in the air shows, most notably

the Saudi Falcons Team, the Global Stars Team, the Sarang Helicopter Team, and displays of Typhoon and F16 aircraft, as well as commercial civil aircraft.

The exhibition, which was held from November 13 to 15, witnessed a remarkable presence at the regional and international levels, as it displayed the latest products and technologies in the aviation industry with the participation of the largest international companies.



KUNA photo A number of aircraft participating in static displays at the Bahrain International Air Show.

Tourism revenue hits \$1.9bn with 8.6mn visitors

Tunisia attracts \$673 mln foreign investments

TUNIS, Nov 16, (KUNA): Tunisia has lured foreign investments estimated at USD 673 million in the first nine months of this year, a rise of 14.4 percent compared with the same period of 2023, official statistics said.

Industry sector came first of these investments with USD 390 million followed by energy with USD 169 million, statistics, issued by Tunis Afrique Presse (Tap) on Friday, showed.

All sectors recorded a rise in foreign investments, which have contributed to creating 9,906 new jobs, it stated.

France maintained its position as the largest investor in Tunisia followed by Germany, Italy, Qatar and the US, it revealed.

Tunisia is planning to attract foreign investments evaluated at USD 1.07 billion during 2025 and USD 1.2 billion in 2026.

Meanwhile, Tunisian Minister of Tourism Sofiane Tekaya declared on Friday that the country lured 8.6 million tourists in the first ten months of 2024, securing proceeds estimated at 6.2 billion Tunisian dinars (USD 1.9 billion).

Minister Tekaya, addressing a joint session of the parliament and the districts' councils, said the tourism revenues rose six percent compared to the

corresponding period of 2023, when the number of the tourists grew 8.6 percent.

Investments in the sector during the same period were valued at 146 million Tunisian dinars (USD 46.3 million)

Tourism that accounts to nine percent of the GDP provides 400,000 jobs for some 12 percent of the whole labor force in the country.

Employees gain critical skills in Treasury and ALM for effective risk navigation

Gulf Bank boosts risk management expertise with comprehensive training

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: In its continuous effort to enhance the professional development of its employees, Gulf Bank successfully organized a comprehensive training program in collaboration with Euromoney Learning, led by renowned consultant Dr. Mark Holder, who is an advisor for global banks and exchanges. Known for his expertise in derivatives and risk management, he has trained top firms like Goldman Sachs and authored over 50 articles, delivering complex insights with clarity.

The program, which focused on Treasury Risk Management and Asset-Liability Management (ALM), aimed to strengthen the integration of key risk factors such as credit risk, funding costs, collateral adjustments, gap management, and market risks within the banking sector.

The program was designed to enhance the risk management expertise of Gulf Bank's employees, particularly in treasury functions, and aligns with the bank's ongoing commitment to adhering to global best practices in the field of risk management.

Throughout the training, participants explored a variety of topics essential for mastering risk management, including:

- **Understanding Risk:** A comprehensive overview of various types of risks and the causes of financial crises, including "Black Swan" events.



A group photo of the trainees, with global advisor Mark Holder in the middle.

- **Market Risk and Gap Management:** The effects of market risk and balance sheet gaps, and the application of duration-based risk management techniques.

- **Foreign Exchange and Derivatives Risk Measurement:** Key metrics for measuring foreign exchange and derivatives risk, along with effective

- **Funding and Liability Costs:** A detailed review of funding costs and associated risks on the liability side of the balance sheet.

Upon completing the program, participants shared their positive feedback, emphasizing the significant knowledge and skills gained,

which will enable them to navigate the complexities of risk management in their daily roles with greater efficiency.

Reflecting on the program's success, Ms. Sarah AlRifaai, Executive Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank stated: "This program represents a crucial step in our ongoing

commitment to developing the risk management capabilities of our employees. By equipping them with the latest tools and knowledge, we ensure that Gulf Bank remains aligned with global best practices, further enhancing our ability to manage risks effectively and efficiently."

She further added, "The partici-

pants not only gained a deep understanding of risk management practices and tools but were also able to apply these concepts in real-world scenarios, which helped assess their skills and abilities in tackling complex challenges."

Gulf Bank continues to invest in the professional development of its workforce, reinforcing its role as a leader in the Kuwaiti banking sector and ensuring that its employees are equipped to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

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

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

UK growth dips in Q3



Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves delivers her first Mansion House speech on financial services in the City of London, during the Financial and Professional Services Dinner, in the Egyptian Hall of Mansion House, on Nov. 14, 2024. (AP)

Treasury chief not satisfied

LONDON, Nov 16, (AP): Britain's Treasury chief Rachel Reeves said Friday that she is "not satisfied" by official figures showing the British economy's rebound from recession slowed down sharply in the third quarter of the year, with most sectors stagnating.

The Office for National Statistics said growth during the July to September period was just 0.1%. That was lower than the 0.5% recorded in the previous three-month period and below market expectations for 0.2%.

The statistics agency said overall output in September actually shrank, a development that has further fueled accusations from critics of the new Labour government that its pessimism dragged the economy down in its first few weeks in office.

On coming to power in July for the first time in 14 years, the government described its economic inheritance from the former Conservative administration as the bleakest in decades, requiring urgent action to fix the public finances. The Conservatives' Treasury spokesperson, Mel Stride, sought to pin the blame for the slowdown on the new government,

saying the deterioration in business and consumer confidence was a direct result of it "talking the economy down."

Reeves used the budget to raise taxes sharply, mainly on business, as well as increasing spending on public services, such as the state-run National Health Service, and borrowing on investments.

"Improving economic growth is at the heart of everything I am seeking to achieve, which is why I am not satisfied with these numbers," Reeves said following Friday's figures.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has said raising economic growth his government's number one priority over the next five years. Since the global financial crisis in 2008-9, the British economy has underperformed relative to previous years and actually slipped into a modest recession in 2023.

The Resolution Foundation think tank said the British economy has been a "rollercoaster" over the past year and that its medium-term performance has been "staid and stagnant"

As a result of the third-quarter slowdown, the think tank said the U.K. has fallen below the U.S. at the top of the growth leaderboard of the Group of Seven leading industrial economies.

"This all serves to highlight that the government's mission to renew strong economic growth is both extremely hard, and absolutely necessary," said Simon Pittaway, the think tank's senior economist.

Xi dynamizes G20 cooperation in uncertain world

BEIJING, Nov 16, (Xinhua): As a representative mix of the world's major economies, the Group of Twenty (G20) has become the premier forum the world looks up to today in moments of global economic turmoil and crisis.

With a thorough grasp of the G20's unique role, Chinese President Xi Jinping has consistently championed the G20's joint efforts to follow the spirit of sailing in the same boat and join hands to live up to their respective duty.

"All G20 members should take the responsibility inherent in being major international and regional players, and should lead by example in promoting development of all nations, improving the well-being for the whole mankind, and advancing progress of the entire world," he once said.

Now as Xi joins other leaders for the 19th G20 summit in Brazil, the interna-

tional community is keen to see how they will address the great uncertainties troubling today's world, particularly what solutions China will propose for building a better future for all.

When G20 leaders gathered for their first summit in November 2008 in Washington, they were struggling to cope with an unprecedented global financial meltdown. By championing a collec-

tive drive, the group helped steer the global economy away from the brink of an abyss and put it onto the path of recovery.

Over the past few years, China has joined other G20 members in tackling another ma-

jor crisis, the most serious global pandemic in a century and ensuing economic slump. This time the battle is even more onerous. As Xi observed, the impact was even worse than that of the 2008 maelstrom.

To rejuvenate post-pandemic global economic recovery, Xi called on all G20 members to rise to the challenge, enhance international macro-economic policy coordination, jointly stabilize global industrial and supply chains, and reduce trade barriers, including tariffs. "It is imperative that we apply the right prescriptions to address both symptoms and root causes of the problems we face," he said at the 2021 G20 summit.

Xi's multi-pronged measures "are systematic, comprehensive and focused," said Lu Feng, an emeritus professor of economics at Peking University. "They have enriched G20's policy toolkit, and enhanced its proactivity and foresight in governing global economy."

One of the key problems the G20 members jointly addressed was the debt burden that was straining low-income countries' resources for fighting the pandemic and safeguarding lives. In April 2020, the G20 announced a Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) to help vulnerable countries, an exceptional financial safety net that was extended through December 2021.

Under Xi's leadership, China implemented the G20's DSSI in all respects, and suspended the largest amount of debt service payment among all G20 members.

"China fulfilled its role fairly well as a responsible G20 stakeholder" in helping address African countries' sovereign debt problem, said a report by the China Africa Research Initiative at the Johns Hopkins University, a program dedicated to understanding the political and economic aspects of China-Africa relations.

Company installs solar panel setup at car park in headquarters

Zain reinforces commitment to sustainability and clean energy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: In a step that aligns with its corporate sustainability strategy, Zain has installed a solar panel setup at the outdoor car park in its headquarters. The initiative promotes the use of clean energy to contribute to powering the company's buildings and reducing its carbon emissions.

Through this step, Zain renews its commitment to investing in sustainable energy solutions aimed at meeting its strategic sustainability goals, which include decarbonizing its operations and transitioning towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

This new solar panel setup contributes to powering the company's main buildings, marking an impactful step towards reducing reliance on conventional energy and accelerating the use of renewable energy.

The step also reduces Zain's carbon dioxide emissions, highlighting the impact of this initiative on the company's carbon footprint and furthering its environmental sustainability goals to tackle climate change.

In recent years, Zain has taken major strides to promote climate action and transition to a net-zero economy to mitigate climate risks. This step underscores Zain's proactive approach to environmental responsibility, as part of its overarching strategy to embed sustainable practices across all its operations.

Zain continues to exert more efforts into reducing the environmental footprint of its operations, including preserving natural resources, reducing energy consumption, recycling e-waste, implementing green solutions for water and electricity management, monitoring the company's overall effects on climate change, network optimization, and more.

Through its corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy, Zain is committed to building climate change scenarios that are aligned with the Paris Agreement (2015) to reduce carbon emissions



Zain solar panel setup

and mitigate physical and environmental risks. The company is well aware of the urgent need to tackle the climate crisis the world is facing today.

Last year, Zain scored A- through its participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), a reflection of its success in meeting the standards and requirements of the project. Zain is also one of the few companies in the region's markets to have a membership in the CDP.

The company also developed its first comprehensive Scope 3 inventory process aligned with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol guidelines for

a more accurate and transparent evaluation of its value chain emissions. This allows it to not only disclose and report in a more concise manner but be able to identify areas in which it can reduce its GHG emissions.

Zain continues to explore opportunities to address climate change impacts under its sustainability strategy. The company views this as a core pillar, with three main focus areas: network and energy consumption, strategy and communication, and waste management and circular economy.

Americans showed continued willingness to spend

Retail sales up solidly in October



Shoppers peruse merchandise at a Kohl's department store in Ramsey, N.J., Oct. 10, 2024. (AP)

WASHINGTON, Nov 16, (AP): Americans stepped up their spending at retailers last month in the latest sign that healthy consumer spending is driving the economy's steady growth.

Retail sales rose 0.4% from September to October, the Commerce Department said Friday, a solid increase though less than the previous month's robust 0.8% gain.

A 1.6% jump in sales at auto dealers drove much of the gain. Purchases climbed 2.3% at electronics and appliances stores and 0.7% at restaurants and bars. Though some of October's rise in retail sales reflected higher prices, it mainly indicated increased purchases.

Sales in some categories fell - furniture stores, clothing outlets and drug stores, among them - though economists said that weakness likely resulted, at least in part, from last month's hurricanes. Sales at home and garden stores rose, potentially reflecting rebuilding activity after the storms.

"The moderation in the pace of price growth is allowing consumers to ratchet up spending," said Tim Quinlan, an economist at Wells Fargo. "People may not love how much it costs to go out to eat, but their bar and restaurant spending is growing faster than prices are."

Friday's report arrives as retailers are poised to enter the critically important holiday shopping season in less than two weeks. Analysts envision a solid holiday shopping season, though perhaps not as robust as last year's, with many shoppers under pressure from overall still-high prices despite the easing of inflation.

The latest retail sales figures suggest that the economy is growing briskly again in the current October-December quarter, after having expanded at a sturdy 2.8% annual rate in the previous quarter. Since peaking at 9.1% more than two years ago, inflation has sunk to 2.6%, not far above pre-pandemic levels. And Americans' take-home pay, on average, has surpassed inflation for about 18 months.

Still, the post-pandemic inflation spike has left prices about 20% higher than they were three years ago and dimmed Americans' outlook on the economy. That was a key reason why Donald Trump was able to capitalize on public discontent with the Biden-Harris administration and recapture the White House in last week's election.

Despite high price levels, though, Trump inherits an economy in which spending is strong, growth is solid and unemployment low.

Other recent economic reports have also pointed to a healthy economy. In a sign that households, whose purchases drive most of the economy, will continue spending, the Conference Board's most recent consumer confidence index posted its biggest monthly gain since 2021. The proportion of consumers who expect a recession in the next 12 months dropped to its lowest point since the board first posed that question in 2022.

'We are in the same boat'



Xi

What's On



Photos from the event.

Event honors Kuwaiti children's visionary art and innovation

ALSAYER celebrates 17th Toyota Dream Car Art contest winners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: To honor the Kuwait National winners in the 17th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest (TDCAC), Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L. (MNSS) and ALSAYER Corporate Excellence Department hosted an award ceremony at MNSS Toyota Shuwaikh Showroom in the presence of ALSAYER management, winners, parents, teachers, and well-wishers from the community.

This year over 717 amazing artworks were submitted by children aged between 4-15 years. Their creativity addressed innovative mobility concepts be it renewable energy, tackling environmental and pollution issues, or showing the importance of upholding peace, love, and care for human beings.

ALSAYER Group management appreciated the winners and distributed awards to each age category. They observed and cherished children's remarkable creativity and ideas beyond their age and experience. It is called the power of dreams. The ceremony



Photos from the event.

National Winners	Category	Age	Title of Artwork
1. Diyaksha Sunil Kumar	A	7	The marine plastics recycler
2. Emmanuel Binoy	A	6	Eco-Friendly Car
3. M.Y Fathima Aafya	A	6	The flying car

National Winners	Category	Age	Title of Artwork
1. Saraswata Roy	B	9	Toyota Savior
2. Samith Wagle	B	8	Driver Assistant - Accident Free Toyota Car
3. Yassin Amr Rajai	B	11	AI Car

National Winners	Category	Age	Title of Artwork
1. Khadija Mahmoud	C	14	Flying Gas Station
2. Yousef Nawaf Al Gharabally	C	15	The Lunar Skylines
3. Moukthika Manikandan	C	12	The Toyota Hydrovolt

17th Toyota DCAC Regional Awards for Middle East & Central Asia		
MECA Regional Award / Mobility for All Award Winners	Age	Title of Artwork
Diyaksha Sunil Kumar	7	The marine plastics recycler
Moukthika Manikandan	12	The Toyota Hydrovolt

was attended by Ibrahim Mohamad Al-Fouzan Senior Business Director Toyota Group Service, Theo Kruger General Manager Toyota Sales, Nehad Mohammad Al Haj Ali Group Manager Corporate

Excellence, Riyadh Mohammad Al Salem - Senior Manager Toyota Sales, and Shibu Mohammed CSR Manager.

It is important to mention this year also two winners from Kuwait

have achieved the Toyota Middle East and Central Asia (MECA) Award. Diyaksha Sunil Kumar has won Category 1 MECA award and Moukthika Manikandan has received the Mobility for All award. These winners are granted USD 3,000 each to be used for their educational purposes.

The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest encourages children all over the world to dream, imagine, and create artworks expressing the mobility of the future.

Since 2004, Toyota has inspired nearly 9.4 million children from 144 countries to unleash their creativity and enjoy having a dream. This contest inspires the next generation of inventors, thinkers, and dreamers to have unlimited imaginations and make the world a better place. ALSAYER promotes Toyota DCAC to help young talents from Kuwait to learn new skills, be innovative and express creativity which covers relevant sustainability development goals as part of our Corporate Sustainability & Responsibility objectives.



Photos from the Student Talent & Innovation Forum and exhibition.



150 projects showcase vision for New Kuwait 2035

KU hosts Student Talent & Innovation Forum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: To support the vision of New Kuwait 2035 and to prepare an internationally competitive generation, the Student Talent and Innovation Forum and Exhibition was launched under the theme "Challenge-Innovation-Sustainability".

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, the event was held on November 12-13 at the College of Arts (South Campus) in Sabah Al-Salem University City by the Deanship of Student Affairs, represented by the Department of Cultural and Artistic Activities, and was under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Prof. Dr. Nader Al-Jalal.

The forum was aimed at highlighting the achievements of innovative students and entrepreneurs who are capable of leading the development process in line with Kuwait's future aspirations.

The opening of the forum was attended by a distinguished group of officials, including Acting Director of Kuwait University Prof. Osama Al-Saeed, Acting Secretary-General of Kuwait

University Dr. Mishari Al-Aifan, Director of the Program for Stimulating Participation in Sciences at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Nada Al-Fares, Senior Administrator for External Communication at the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Dalal Al-Nouri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Association for Needy Families Bader Hamad Al-Mubarak, Head of Public Relations, Media, and Endowment Development at the General Secretariat of Endowments Shaima Al-Shatti, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Social Workers Association Abdullah Al-Radwan, Head of the United Nations Mission to the Gulf and Kuwait Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, and a number of other leaders from Kuwait University.

The forum began with the Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Al-Hamdan explaining that the "Student Talent and Innovation Forum and Exhibition 2024" was designed in a new and distinctive format to showcase the talents and innovations

of exceptional students in various fields and colleges at Kuwait University. This event is in line with Kuwait University's ongoing efforts to contribute to the "New Kuwait 2035" vision.

The Deanship of Student Affairs, represented by the Department of Cultural and Artistic Activities, has successfully organized this forum to highlight and support student talents, as well as encourage innovation and creativity. This success is due to the collaborative efforts and support from the sponsoring organizations, which serve as a model for cooperation between academic institutions and various sectors.

The forum featured 150 innovative student projects and 50 student teams, which reflects the strong interest students have in innovation.

Dr. Al-Hamdan extended his gratitude to the government agencies, private sector entities, and public benefit associations that participated in the forum, acknowledging their contributions to investing in youth and supporting innovation. These included the Kuwait Pe-

troleum Corporation, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, the Kuwait Society for Needy Families, Al-Hajri Pharmacy, the General Secretariat of Endowments, and the Public Authority for Youth.

Dr. Al-Hamdan presented a plaque to the Acting Director of Kuwait University Prof. Osama Al-Saeed in recognition of his support for hosting events that empower and support students.

The forum's sponsors were also honored, including the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, the Kuwait Society for Needy Families, Al-Hajri Pharmacy, the General Secretariat of Endowments, and the Public Authority for Youth.

The event featured a short theatrical performance titled "We Have a Theater", directed by Nassar Al-Nassar.

In addition, the forum and exhibition included several workshops led by faculty members from various colleges that focused on the importance of innovation in sustainable development.

Bank rewards Visa cardholders

NBK offers 15% cashback on flight bookings with 4 airlines

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has announced offering 15% Cashback on selected airlines when using eligible NBK Visa credit/prepaid cards.

The offer comes within the bank's dedication to rewarding customers all year round through a diverse package of exclusive benefits and offers tailored to meet their needs and expectations.

NBK mentioned that eligible cardholders can redeem 15% of the value of their tickets when booking them between November 15, 2024 and January 31, 2025 directly through the participating airlines app or website, to any destination worldwide, and the travel period is flexible to allow customers take advantage of this offer.

The participating airlines are Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Emirates, and Etihad Airways, whereas eligible Credit/

Prepaid cards are as follows:
 ■ NBK KWT Visa Infinite Credit Card
 ■ NBK-Kuwait Airways (Oasis Club) Visa Infinite Credit Card
 ■ NBK-Kuwait Airways (Oasis Club) Visa Signature Credit Card
 ■ NBK Visa Infinite Credit Card
 ■ NBK-KPC Visa Infinite Credit Card
 ■ NBK Visa Signature Credit Card
 ■ NBK Visa Platinum Credit Card
 ■ NBK 247 Cashback Visa Platinum Prepaid Card
 ■ NBK-Kuwait Airways Visa Platinum Credit Card



■ NBK Avios Visa Signature Prepaid Card
 ■ NBK Visa Infinite Privilege Credit Card

Commenting on this offer, Anwar Al-Ballam, Senior Products Manager, Consumer Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait, said, "We always strive to elevate customer banking experience by providing premium offers in partnership with leading organizations across different sectors"

"In the new offer, the bank is collaborating with four international airlines to reward eligible NBK Visa credit/prepaid cardholders, by reducing their travel expenses through a 15% cashback on their tickets booked during the offer period, from mid-November through the end of January 2025," he explained.

NBK Visa Credit/Prepaid Cards provide customers with a variety of benefits, in addition to exclusive offers and discounts, giving them a unique lifestyle with rewards all year round.

NBK offers a wide range of banking products and services that are relevant to customers' lifestyles, as they can choose from NBK Credit Cards that are tailored to meet their different needs and provide them with various benefits and rewards.

Salman Khurshid graces the event as chief guest

AMU Old Boys' Association Kuwait marks Sir Syed Day 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Sir Syed Day is more than just a tribute, it is a call to engage in the pursuit of knowledge, social reform, and community betterment. As we honor Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's legacy, we are inspired to continue his mission of education and reform, ensuring that future generations are equipped to face the challenges of an ever-evolving world.

In order to pay tribute to the founder of Aligarh Muslim University and an architect of modern education- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a grand event was organized by AMUOBA Kuwait Chapter on 8th of November 2024 in Zumerida Hall and more than 450 AMU Alumni, their families & guests attended it. This year the event was graced by the dignity and poise of a laudable chief guest who is near to the hearts of millions of people in the entire world. The more the accolades, the shorter they will fall. His intelligence, humbleness, and down-to-earth nature is always appreciated. He is none other than Salman Khurshid Khan. His name is self-explanatory. His personality is a witness of his struggle for the betterment of the nation. He is a grandson of the former President of India, Dr. Zakir Hussain. Service to the nation is in his blood. He is a senior advocate

of the Supreme Court, former minister of law & justice, minority affairs and external affairs in Govt of India. Hon. Fellow. St. Edmund hall, Oxford. Currently, he is the President of the India Islamic Cultural Centre, Delhi.

The day was crucial for the Alumni of AMU in the entire world as the minority status of the institution was at stake. In India, the bench of judges along with the

CJI were discussing the minority status of the institution. Before the advent of the event, we got the good news that the status will not be taken back and now the regular bench will discuss and decide the way of moving forward. The happy and cheered faces of the alumni and the EC magnified the celebration. Everyone was happy and greeting each other taking a sigh of relief.

The honorable Chief Guest, Mr. Salman Khurshid, in his lucid speech, explained the entire process in such a simple language that even non-Alig could understand. He emphasized the need of the hour is dialogues between every section of the society. He was of the view that we should all understand the commonalities and differences among each section of society and

work in coordination.

A large number of alumni of the association, the dignitaries, head of the associations, academicians and wellknown personalities from different sections of the Indian diaspora living in Kuwait attended the event.

The program started with the recitation of holy Quran by Samia Adil. Followed by speeches and quizzes, and the much sought-after university tarana were lined up. Mr. Sabihuddin an alumnus of AMU put light on Sir Syed and his mission. The President Mr. Aslam Parvez in his speech welcomed everyone wholeheartedly. President expressed his gratitude towards the Chief Guest, Guests of Honor, Guest Speaker, Distinguished Guests, alumni & sponsors for their gracious presence.

The members of the AMUOBA Executive Committee team under the leadership of the President Aslam Parvez worked tirelessly for the success of the event. The achievements of the year 2024 was presented by the General Secretary Ms. Shazia Mansoor. It was evident from her speech that AMUOBA kept its alumni engaged throughout the year. And how it is working for the society.

The Guest of Honor Wael Al Jasssem TL- Mega Projects, PIC Kuwait

and Abdullah Hasan Thakur of AID-how VC fund delivered their speeches. Guest speaker Ayub Shahab with his poetry and speech connected with the audience.

Following the University Union traditions, Sapasnama was presented by the President Aslam Parvez in honor of the Chief Guest Salman Khurshid.

A very senior poet, Mr. Amir Qidwai who is also a childhood friend of the chief guest, recited poetry in honor and love for his friend. The souvenir "Samar e Syed 2024" was released under the aegis of Chief Editor Dr. Anis Ahmed Khan carrying literary and artistic work of the Alig community.

Later, Academic Excellence Award was conferred on the students of grades 10th and 12th whose academic performance during the year demonstrates remarkable consistency at the highest level of achievement.

The most thrilling part of the event was the quiz organized by Joint Secretary, Mr. Mohd. Khurshid Anwar. It was a chance for the audience to show off what they know and earn exciting prizes on the spot.

The winners of senior and junior football teams were conferred with a rolling trophy by the coordinator, Shahnawaz Siddiqui.



A group photo from the event.

Awards celebrate 25th anniversary with stellar performances

Juan Luis Guerra triumphs at Latin Grammys

MIAMI, Nov 16, (AP) — Juan Luis Guerra 4.40 took home the album of the year trophy at the 2024 Latin Grammy Awards for his “Radio Güira,” not long after receiving record of the year for “Mambo 23.”

“Let me share this with all the nominees, it is a great privilege to be with you,” Guerra said onstage, speaking in Spanish. “I love you, I admire you, and after 40 years of (my) career, I feel joyful to be with you,” said Guerra. “The idea of ‘Radio Güira’ was from Jesus, completely from Jesus, he gave us wisdom and he gave us understanding so all the glory and honor goes to him.”

It was the performances that stood out Thursday night, and a tribute to salsa really bringing the house down: Marc Anthony and La India powerfully dueted “Vivir Lo Nuestro,” a vivacious set jumpstarted by “De Mí Enamórate,” as performed by Tito Nieves and Christian Alicea. Make no mistake: the Latin Grammy Awards brought the fun on its 25th anniversary, and from the very beginning.

Like with “Si Si Si”! It’s the song that Carlos Vives opened the night with in his medley, and a perfect distillation of the spirit of the event. There was a lot to say “yes” to — especially when he was joined by fellow Colombian musicians Juanes, Sebastián Yatra and Camilo.

He was honored as the Latin Grammys’ Person of the Year at a ceremony the night before, and given his award on stage Thursday night by Jon Bon Jovi. Past winners include Juanes, Laura Pausini, Marco Antonio Solís, Rubén Blades and more.

The first award of the night was given out shortly thereafter: best contemporary Música Mexicana album to Carín León for his “Boca Chueca, Vol. 1.” Then Joe Jonas and Ela Taubert teamed up for a bilingual take on her viral hit, “¿Cómo Pasó?” A few hours later, she’d take home the coveted best new artist trophy, delivering a heartfelt speech.

Moment

“I think any musician or artist dreams of a moment like this,” she said through tears. “I want to thank God because he gave me this dream, to my mother for having believed in me from the beginning... to all the nominees, this is yours, I admire and respect you very much, to the people who listen to my music, you brought me here, thank you very, very much.”

Song of the year went to Jorge Drexler for his composition, “Derrumbe.”

Performances hit hard and fast: Kali Uchis, Luis Fonsi, Elena Rose, The Warning, Myke Towers with “La Falda” into “Lala” and Juan Luis Guerra 4.40’s brought his modern merengue “Mambo 23,” Danny Ocean’s “Amor” bled into Alvaro Díaz’s emo-trap rock “Quién te quiere como el nene.”

Pitbull and Jon Bon Jovi teamed up “Now or Never,” a remix song of the latter’s huge hit, “It’s My Life.”

Anitta brought bossa nova to the awards show, paying tribute to the late great Sergio Mendes, her fellow Brazilian.

Traditional pop vocal album went to Puerto Rican singer-songwriter Kany García for her album, “García.” And Draco Rosa won pop/rock album for his 2024 record, “Reflejos de Lo Eterno.”

Karol G won música urbana album “Mañana Será Bonito (Bichota Season).” Pop vocal album went to Luis Fonsi for “El Viaje.”

It’s a big year: the three-hour award show celebrated the Latin Grammys’ 25th anniversary, held at the Kaseya Center in Miami, in a time when Latin music genres have never been bigger globally.

Most of the awards at the Latin Grammys were presented a few hours before, at the Latin Grammy Premiere. There, Édgar Barrera — the producer and songwriter known for his work with such artists as Madonna, Karol G, Peso Pluma, Shakira, Grupo Frontera and beyond — who led the nominations for a second year in a row, picked up three trophies. Nathy Peluso did the same.

Barrera was up for nine awards. This year, he took home songwriter of the year, producer of the year and best regional Mexican song — alongside Keytin — for cowriting Grupo Frontera and Grupo Firme’s “El Amor de Su Vida.”



Gloria Estefan and Andy Garcia speak during the Latin Grammy Award ceremony. (AP)



Marc Anthony and La India perform during the 25th Latin Grammy Awards ceremony. (AP)



Juan Luis Guerra poses with four awards at the 25th Latin Grammy Awards ceremony, Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, in Miami. (AP)



Pitbull and Jon Bon Jovi perform at the Latin Grammy Awards ceremony. (AP)



Carlos Vives performs during the 25th Latin Grammy Award ceremony. (AP)



Chiquis poses after winning an award for best banda album. (AP)



Luis Fonsi poses after winning an award. (AP)



Grupo Frontera poses after winning an award for best norteno album. (AP)



Nathy Peluso holds her three awards. (AP)

Singer makes a romantic return to mellow rock

Stefani’s ageless voice shines on ‘Bouquet’

LOS ANGELES, Nov 16, (AP) — Words and phrases like “nostalgia” or “back to her roots” come to mind when listening to Gwen Stefani’s fifth studio album, “Bouquet” — and it is in no way negative.

Across 10-tracks, the powerhouse singer leans into the mellow rock of her youth — think Hall & Oates, Chicago, Fleetwood Mac — with dashes of country vibes here and there. Her voice is ageless, unaltered and distinctive, immediately recalling the early aughts when No Doubt still existed, and Stefani was still a bit of a ska girl.

Thematically, however, the songs are about a woman who’s been through the ringer — but life gave her a reprieve in her second act, and she found stability, lots of flowers and no mo’ drama. In that way, “Bouquet” is a not so furtive ode to husband Blake Shelton — who she met and fell in love with while they were both coaches on the singing reality competition show, “The Voice.” At the time, they were both going through divorces to Gavin Rossdale and Miranda Lambert, respectively.

On “Bouquet,” the Stefani-Shelton romance ar-



This album cover image released by Interscope Records shows ‘Bouquet’ by Gwen Stefani. (AP)

rives through yacht rock sounds and flowery language in songs with titles like “Marigolds,” “Late

to Bloom” and “Empty Vase.” When the album reaches its end, it is with a duet with Shelton on “Purple Irises.”

If the album tells a story of her relationship, it starts with the opener “Somebody Else’s.” Stefani starts off the proceedings by listing her previous romantic entanglement and bad choices. “I don’t know what a heart like mine/Was doin’ in a love like that, ah,” she sings. “I don’t know what a woman like me/Was doin’ with a man like you, ooh.”

It’s a direct counter to the title track, where the focus appears to be back on Shelton: “We met when my heart was broken/Thank God that yours was, too,” she shares. “So lucky that you were goin’/ Through what I was goin’ through.”

In “Late to Bloom,” she decries the fact that they met so late in life.

A nice bass progression, a clever turn of the phrase and a great voice are what it takes to get this album going. Add a cohesive theme, a pleasant vibe and a charismatic star — and that’s coming up roses.

Variety

NEW YORK: A year after turning to comedian Jimmy Kimmel for the second time to host their big show, the Academy Awards will pivot to another familiar TV funnyman — Conan O’Brien.

“America demanded it and now it’s happening: Taco Bell’s new Cheesy Chalupa Supreme. In other news, I’m hosting the Oscars,” O’Brien said in a statement Friday.

It will be his first time as Oscar host, but he’s emceed other high-profile awards shows, like the Emmy Awards in 2002 and 2006 and the White House Correspondents’ dinner in 1995 and 2013. The Oscars will air live on ABC on March 2.

O’Brien is best known for hosting the late-night talk shows “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” “The Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien” and “Conan.” Before his TV hosting career, O’Brien was a writer for “Saturday Night Live” and “The Simpsons.”

O’Brien joins the list of Oscar hosts that includes Johnny Carson, Billy Crystal, David Letterman, Whoopi Goldberg, Chris Rock, Jon Stewart, Hugh Jackman and Neil Patrick Harris.

“He joins an iconic roster of comedy greats who have served in this role, and we are so

lucky to have him center stage for the Oscars,” said Craig Erwich, president, Disney Television Group. (AP)

NEW YORK: Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs has tried to reach out to prospective witnesses and influence public opinion from jail in a bid to affect potential jurors for his upcoming sex trafficking trial, prosecutors claimed in a court filing urging a judge to reject his latest bail request.

The government accusations were made in a Manhattan federal court filing late Friday that opposes the music mogul’s latest \$50 million bail proposal. A bail hearing is scheduled for next week.

Prosecutors wrote that a review of recorded jail calls made by Combs shows he has asked family members to reach out to potential victims and witnesses and has urged them to create “narratives” to influence the jury pool. They say he also has encouraged marketing strategies to sway public opinion.

“The defendant has shown repeatedly — even while in custody — that he will flagrantly and repeatedly flout rules in order to improperly impact the outcome of his case. The defendant has shown, in other words, that he cannot be trusted to abide by rules or conditions,” prosecutors wrote in a submission that contained redactions. (AP)

NEW YORK: Shel Talmy, a Chicago-born music producer and arranger who worked on such British punk classics as The Who’s “My Generation” and The Kinks’ “You Really Got Me,” helped oversee hits by Manfred Mann and the duo Chad & Jeremy and was an early backer of David Bowie, has died. He was 87.

Talmy’s publicist announced that he died Wednesday at his home in Los Angeles. The cause was complications from a stroke.

Talmy was a recording engineer in his mid-20s when he visited London for a planned vacation and ended up in the midst of the emerging 1960s British rock music scene. As one of the rare independent producers of the time, he signed up The Kinks and oversaw many of their biggest hits during the mid-’60s, from the raw breakthrough single “You Really Got Me” to the polished satire of “A Well Respected Man” and “Dedicated Follower of Fashion.” (AP)

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



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issuing the executive bylaws of law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection

Gulf Conference highlights advances in diabetic foot care

Educating people on diabetes risks declines LLA: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi announced Friday that the recent focus on raising awareness about chronic diseases, especially diabetes, has contributed to a significant decrease in the rates of lower-limb amputations (LLA) compared to previous years, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Awadhi's statement was delivered on his behalf by Dr. Ahmed Asad, Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs, during the opening of the Seventh Gulf Conference on Diabetic Foot.

In his speech, Dr. Asad emphasized that the Ministry of Health has been proactive in establishing specialized centers for diabetic foot care in all hospitals across the country.

These centers provide both preventive and therapeutic services under the supervision of medical teams specializing in diabetic foot surgery. The Ministry has also been promoting preventive programs, emphasizing that prevention is always better than treatment.

Dr. Asad highlighted the severe complications associated with diabetes, including the risk of amputation, heart disease, poor eyesight, and issues with arteries, kidneys, and nerves.

He stressed that early detection and regular medical follow-ups are essential in preventing diabetic foot complications, and that awareness campaigns have played a crucial role in reducing amputation rates.

The conference, which runs for two days, also focuses on corrective foot surgery, diabetic neuropathy,

innovations in pressure and temperature measurements inside shoes, and negative pressure technology for wound treatment.

Dr. Munira Ben Nakhi, Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at Al-Adan Hospital and Chairperson of the conference, noted that the global number of diabetes patients has reached 540 million, with projections of 783 million by 2045.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have high rates of diabetes, with infections affecting 20-25 percent of the population.

Dr. Bin Nakhi also stressed the need for a specific protocol for the GCC countries that includes preventive methods and best practices for managing diabetic foot diseases and their complications.



Representative of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Asad being honored at the 7th Gulf Conference on Diabetic Foot Care.

Kuwaiti envoy lauds volunteerism

Kuwaiti students in Bahrain praised for raising awareness on Sickle Cell

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, commended the charitable and humanitarian initiatives of Kuwaiti students, emphasizing that such efforts reflect the deeply rooted culture of volunteerism within the Kuwaiti identity, reports Al-Rai daily.

This statement was made on the sidelines of a two-day awareness campaign on Sickle Cell Anemia, organized by a group of Kuwaiti medical students from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Bahrain.

The campaign, held at Avenues Bahrain Mall, was aimed at enhancing health awareness about one of the most common genetic diseases in Gulf societies.

Sheikh Thamer described the students' commitment to these activities as a "source of pride and honor," highlighting their role in fostering personal development and strengthening social responsibility.

He also extended his gratitude to RCSI Bahrain for its ongoing support of Kuwaiti students, particularly acknowledging the efforts of Dr. Muhammad Al-Daghim, Head of the Cultural Office, in overseeing the students' welfare.



A photo from the event.

The ambassador also praised the National Bank of Kuwait's Bahrain Branch for its sponsorship of the event, reflecting its dedication to supporting student-led volunteer initiatives.

Dr. Muhammad Al-Daghim echoed the ambassador's sentiments, emphasizing that such events not only highlight students' scientific and practical skills but also demonstrate their commitment to contributing to society. He noted the importance of these ac-

tivities in showcasing the positive role of Kuwaiti students in the health sector and beyond.

Representing the student team, coordinators Nada Al-Saleh and Omar Al-Awadhi stated that the campaign stemmed from a strong sense of social responsibility.

They aimed to educate Bahraini and Gulf communities about Sickle Cell Anemia, including its symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment methods.

New digital linkages streamline patient care

MoH continues to modernize and enhance digital services: minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Thursday confirmed that the Ministry has taken important steps in enhancing digital health services, as patient files can now be electronically linked to health care centers.

Night dental clinics at Sabah Al-Ahmad Health Center are now operating to serve the neighboring areas, said the Assistant Undersecretary for Dentistry Affairs Dr. Ahmad Asad, on behalf of Dr. Al-Awadhi, during the 24th Kuwait Dental Conference.

He pointed out the opening of the Al-Jahra Specialized Dental Center,

which includes 52 clinics that provide services for children, and the opening of dental centers in Sabah Al-Ahmad, Wafra, and Al-Mutlaa.

Emergency dental services are now provided throughout the weekends and official holidays, and the opening of clinics for people with special needs in all specialized centers, he added.

The conference includes doctors from different countries and discusses multiple topics related to dentistry, like cosmetic and preventative dentistry, the use of lasers in dental surgery, and the latest technology in the dentistry field, he said.

Dr. Asad added that a new specialized dental center is to be built in Al-Mutlaa area, as well as the completion of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Dental Center next January.

For his part, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee Dr. Ayad Al-Mugait added that the conference is a great platform for the exchange of knowledge and modern innovations, as well as a pillar in improving public health.

In turn, the Consultant Orthodontist Dr. Mubarak Al-Saeed confirmed that Kuwait is advanced in the fields of dentistry, pointing out the tremendous development in dental care.



A group photo from the event.

Institute provides health insights and support

DDI hosts annual World Diabetes Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), recently hosted its annual World Diabetes Day event for the 17th consecutive year. The event, held on November 14, 2024, at Assima Mall, provided a platform for individuals to engage with diabetes specialists and dietitians, access medical information, and learn about healthy lifestyle modifications.

DDI showcased various research and studies being conducted by the Institute, inviting eligible individuals to participate and benefit from ongoing research initiatives. The

event featured booths offering educational sessions on proper dietary habits, pharmacotherapy counseling, physical activities, as well as glucose and pressure testing, and vital signs assessment.

We express our gratitude to Zain for sponsoring this year's event and to Assima Mall for hosting it.

The event aligns with DDI's mission to prioritize health promotion and awareness, emphasizing the importance of prevention over cure. Since its establishment in 2006, DDI has been actively involved in organizing events and campaigns to raise awareness about diabetes and related conditions.

Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Refaei, Acting Director-General of DDI, emphasized the Institute's commitment to promoting awareness about diabetes, striving for positive health outcomes in diabetes management, and empowering individuals affected by diabetes to enhance their quality of life proactively.

The primary objective of the event was to foster awareness about diabetes, promote long-term health outcomes, and empower individuals to take control of their health and well-being. The event was well attended by numerous visitors and their families who benefited from the services offered during this event.

Canada confirms bird flu

Pakistan declares health emergency as smog sickens nearly 2 mln people

LAHORE, Pakistan, Nov 16, (AP): A Pakistani province declared a health emergency Friday due to smog and imposed a shutdown in two major cities.

Smog has choked Punjab for weeks, sickening nearly 2 million people and shrouding vast swathes of the province in a toxic haze.

A senior provincial minister, Marriyum Aurangzeb, declared the health emergency at a press conference and announced measures to combat the growing crisis.

Time off for medical staff is cancelled, all education institutions are shut until further notice, restaurants are closing at 4 p.m. while takeaway is available up until 8 p.m. Authorities are imposing a lockdown in the cities of Multan and Lahore and halting construction work in those two places.

"Smog is currently a national disaster," Aurangzeb said. "It will not all be over in a month or a year. We will evaluate the situation after three days and then announce a further strategy." Average air quality index readings

in parts of Lahore, a city of 11 million, exceeded 600 on Friday. Anything over 300 is considered hazardous to health.

The dangerous smog is a byproduct of large numbers of vehicles, construction and industrial work as well as burning crops at the start of the winter wheat-planting season, experts say.

Pakistan's national weather center said rain and wind were forecast for the coming days, helping smoggy conditions to subside and air quality to improve in parts of Punjab.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, a professor at Jinnah Hospital Lahore and Al-lama Iqbal Medical College, said the government must take preventative measures well before smog becomes prevalent.

"It is more of an emergency than COVID-19 because every patient is suffering from respiratory tract infections and disease is prevailing at a mass level," he told The Associated Press earlier this week.

The UN children's agency on Monday warned that the health of 11 mil-

lion children in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province is in danger because of air pollution that experts say has become a fifth season in recent years.

Bird flu: The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Wednesday confirmed the first domestically acquired human case of H5N1 avian influenza in Canada.

A teenager in British Columbia was hospitalized and tested presumptive positive for H5 avian influenza on Nov. 9, and was later confirmed to have been infected with H5N1 virus on Wednesday, PHAC said in a statement.

The genomic sequencing result indicated that the virus is related to the avian influenza H5N1 virus from the ongoing outbreak in poultry in British Columbia, said PHAC, adding that no other human infections have been detected so far, and investigation is underway to determine how the individual got infected.

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Victory a disputed decision

Taylor beats Serrano again in another slugfest

ARLINGTON, Texas, Nov 16, (AP): Katie Taylor retained her unanimous super lightweight championship with another disputed decision over Amanda Serrano on Friday night in a slugfest remarkably similar to the original two years ago.

Taylor was scored a 95-94 winner by all three judges, drawing boos from the crowd at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys before the co-main event of Jake Paul and Mike Tyson.

The 38-year-old from Ireland remained the undisputed champion and in the super lightweight and lightweight divisions. It was the

third victory since the first professional loss for Taylor (24-1, six knockouts).

Serrano, who kept punching despite getting a nasty cut over her left eye in the sixth round, was the crowd favorite much the same way she was in the other disputed decision at Madison Square Garden in 2022.

In that sold-out slugfest, they were the first women headlining a combat sports event at the storied venue. The 36-year-old Serrano, a seven-division champion, is 47-3-1 with 31 knockouts.

It might have started a little more slowly than the New York meeting, but things changed

when Serrano sustained the nasty cut, which forced the referee to call a timeout in the middle of the sixth round.

Serrano never stopped punching, though, and appeared to have Taylor teetering as the final seconds ticked away in the 10th round.

Taylor was deducted a point for head-butting in the eighth round.

Taylor was fighting for the first time since avenging her only professional loss by beating Chantelle Cameron for the undisputed super lightweight title in a rematch in her home country a year ago.



Amanda Serrano hits Katie Taylor during their undisputed super lightweight title bout, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Only woman to win the 'triple crown'

Ex-cycling world champ Deignan to retire at the end of next season

LONDON, Nov 16, (AP): British cyclist Lizzie Deignan, a former world champion and the only woman to win the 'triple crown' of monuments, will retire at the end of next season.

Deignan was the first British athlete to win a medal on home soil at the 2012 London Olympics, earning silver in the women's road race. She competed in her fourth Olympics in Paris this year and was 12th in the road race.

Her Lidl-Trek team said in a statement on Friday she agreed on a one-year contract extension and will put an end to her almost two-decades-long career at the end of the 2025 season.

The 35-year-old Deignan was successful on the track first then morphed into a one-day race specialist. She won the rainbow jersey at the 2015 world championships, one of her many professional road victories at the biggest races.

She's won all three women's monuments: The Tour of Flanders in 2016, Liege-Bastogne-Liege in 2020, and

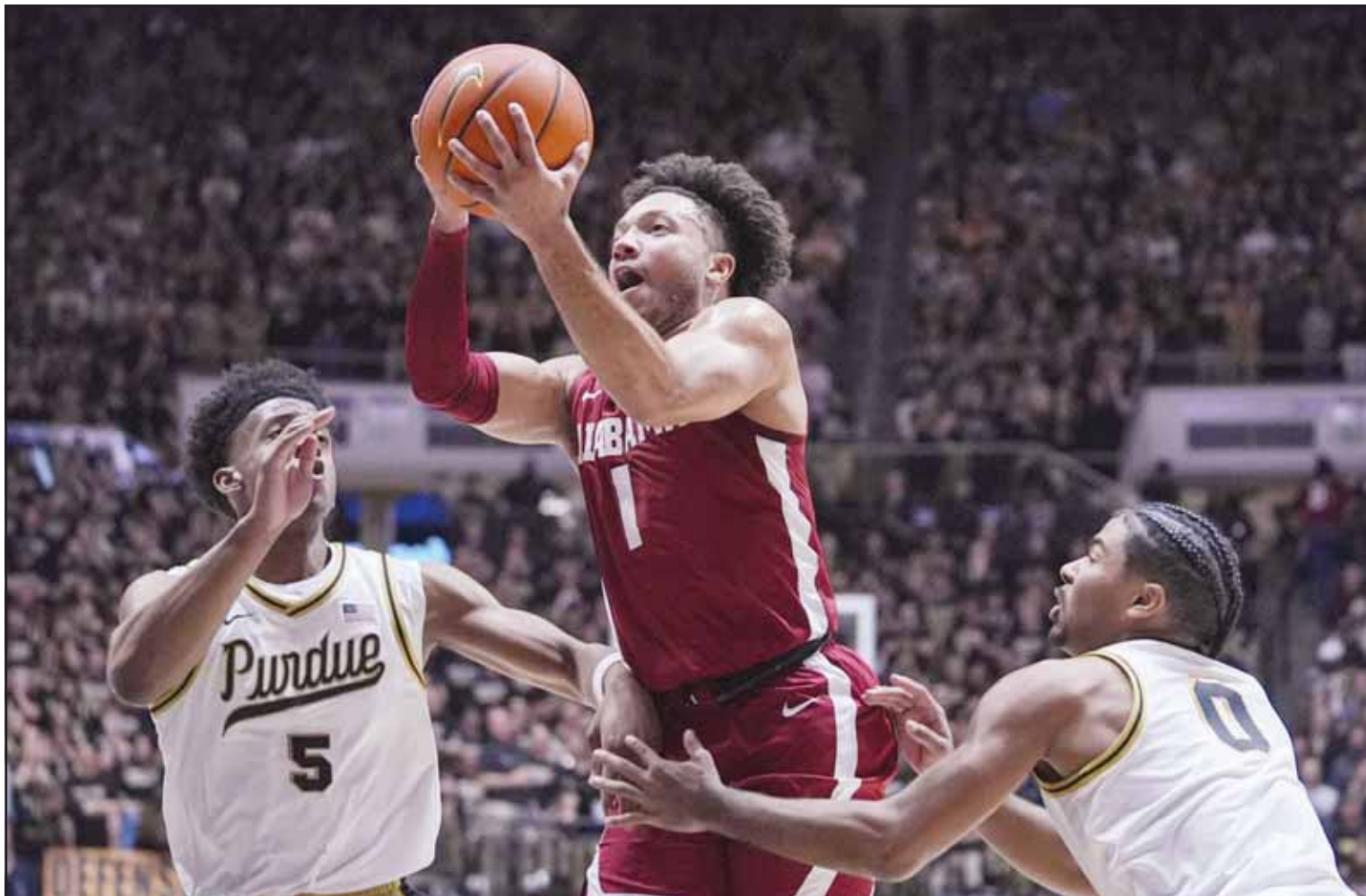
the inaugural Paris-Roubaix Femmes in 2021.

"Often people say, 'Retire on the top.' But I have no ego or necessity to retire at the top. I'm really happy to go full circle and be somebody that helps other people win bike races again," she said.

Deignan put her career on pause in 2018 when she had her first child, and planned to retire earlier but was convinced to carry on by her team.

"The reason I initially wanted to retire was because I no longer have the motivation for my own results," she said. "They spoke to me and offered me a contract in the vein of being a road captain and somebody that can mentor the younger riders coming through. That kind of sparked a bit of motivation in me and I thought, yeah, actually that's something that I am really motivated by. I really enjoy bringing out the best in the people around me. I still love cycling."

Kaufman-Renn scores 26 pts to lead Purdue past Alabama



Alabama guard Mark Sears (1) shoots between Purdue guard Myles Colvin (5) and guard C.J. Cox (0) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in West Lafayette, Ind., Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. (AP)

Cincinnati beats Nicholls State 86-49

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind., Nov 16, (AP): **Trey Kaufman-Renn scored a career-high 26 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and freshman C.J. Cox scored nine of his 11 points during a game-turning 13-0 run midway through the second half to help No. 13 Purdue get past No. 2 Alabama 87-78 on Friday night.**

The Boilermakers (4-0) have won 21 consecutive home games and 25 straight in November. They have not lost a regular-season nonconference game since December 2020.

Braden Smith had 17 points and 10 assists as he moved into third place on Purdue's career assists list with 483. Fletcher Loyer also scored 17.

Alabama (3-1) was led by freshman Labaron Philon, who had a season-high 18 points off the bench before fouling out with 2:02 to play. Grant Nelson added 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Mark Sears scored 15 in a matchup between two of last season's Final Four teams.

Cincinnati 86, Nicholls State 49

In Cincinnati, Simas Lukosius had 19 points including five 3-pointers, Jizzle James scored 15 of his 19 points in the second half, and No. 17 Cincinnati eased by Nicholls State 86-49 on Friday night.

Dillon Mitchell had 12 points and nine rebounds and Arrinten Page added 11 points for Cincinnati, which returned after a week off following an 83-56 victory over Morehead State on Nov. 8.

The Bearcats have now started 3-0 in each of Wes Miller's four years at the helm. He earned his 250th win last Friday.

Jamal West Jr. scored 12 points to lead Nicholls State (2-3).

Nicholls State coach Tevon Saddler played for Miller at UNC-Greensboro from 2013-15, earning Southern Conference freshman of the year honors. Saddler, at 29, is the youngest Division I coach in the nation.

Cincinnati was without Dan Skillings Jr., its lead-

ing scorer and rebounder last season, after he suffered a knee injury in a season-opening win when he finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Cincinnati did not miss Skillings as the Bearcats shot 54% and outrebounded Nicholls State 46-32. Aziz Bandaogo, a 7-foot senior had four of Cincinnati's 14 blocked shots.

Cincinnati pulled away midway through the first half when Page started a 9-0 run with five straight points and Bandaogo made a basket on back-to-back possessions for a 25-12 lead. The Bearcats led by double figures the rest of the way.

Cincinnati held Nicholls State to 26% shooting in the first half to build a 42-22 lead. The Colonels, who didn't have a double-digit scorer until the 13:24 mark of the second half, finished 21 of 69 from the field (30%).

Nicholls State plays host to Towson on Wednesday.

Cincinnati plays at Northern Kentucky on Tuesday.

Florida 87, Florida State 74

In Tallahassee, Fla., Walter Clayton scored 16 of his 25 points in the first half and No. 20 Florida held off a late rally to beat Florida State 87-74 on Friday night.

Florida's Todd Golden coached his first road game after allegations of sexual harassment and stalking surfaced last week. Golden was greeted by boos from a sold-out Florida State student section.

Alijah Martin added 17 points and five rebounds, Alex Condon had seven points and 12 rebounds and Florida (4-0) won its fourth straight rivalry game vs. Florida State.

Florida State trailed by 15 with just under eight minutes to go but chipped away and cut Florida's lead to 77-73 with 2:23 to go. But Clayton and Martin made 3s to help Florida secure the win.

Jamir Watkins had 19 points and seven rebounds for the Seminoles (3-1). Justin Thomas hit three 3-pointers in the second half, finishing with 11 points.

Florida: The Gators had 13 offensive rebounds and produced 16 second-chance points.

Florida State: The Seminoles forced 19 turnovers, producing 16 points off turnovers, but the defensive effort wasn't enough.

The Gators made 3s on back-to-back possessions to punctuate a 14-2 run, extending their lead to 37-19 with 5:36 until halftime.

Florida was shooting 26% from 3-point range in its first three games but were 7 of 15 (46.7%) from beyond the arc in the first half as they raced to a 44-31 lead at the break.

Florida hosts Florida A&M on Tuesday, the same day Florida State hosts Hofstra.

Rutgers 98, Monmouth 81

In Piscataway, N.J., Dylan Harper scored 20 points, fellow freshman Ace Bailey had 17 in his college debut and No. 24 Rutgers beat Monmouth 98-81 on Friday night.

After missing the first two games of the season with what coach Steve Pikiell called a "basketball injury," Bailey made the first shot of the game - a 3-pointer from the right corner. The guard added six rebounds, two steals and a blocked shot in 30 minutes.

Harper has scored at least 20 points in each game this season for Rutgers (3-0). He added five rebounds and six assists.

Zach Martini added 18 points, and Lathan Somerville had 10 points and seven rebounds.

Abdi Bashir Jr. led Monmouth (0-4) with a career-high 38 points. He was 10 of 17 from 3-point range. Madison Durr added 17 points.

Rutgers never trailed. The Scarlet Knights were 11 of 20 from 3-point range and made 25 of 32 free throws.

Monmouth: The Hawks have an average losing margin of 21 points.

Rutgers: The Scarlet Knights continue to feast on mid-majors. They are 63-7 in nonconference home games under Steve Pikiell since the 2016-17 season.

Ace Bailey's alley-oop dunk off a turnover gave Rutgers a 42-25 lead.

Rutgers shot 61% from the field (30 of 52)

Monmouth is at Wichita State on Monday night. Rutgers hosts Merrimack on Wednesday night.



Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Deignan celebrates on the podium winning La Course by Le Tour de France women's cycling race, in Nice, southern France, Aug. 29, 2020. (AP)



Sporting's head coach Ruben Amorim shouts instructions during the Portuguese league soccer match between SC Braga and Sporting CP at the Municipal stadium in Braga, Portugal, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024. (AP)

Amorim has declared his mission for Man United

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 16, (AP): Ruben Amorim has told Manchester United fans he will do everything to bring the good times back to the 20-time English champion.

United's new coach has been charged with ending more than a decade of decline at Old Trafford since former manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and its Premier League dominance fizzled out.

Amorim - hired from Sporting Lisbon this month - is embracing the challenge and said on Friday, "I will try to do everything to put this club in the place that it belongs. And I believe a lot that we are going to succeed."

The 39-year-old Portuguese is the sixth permanent manager/coach since

Ferguson retired after winning his 13th league title.

David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Erik ten Hag all failed to return United to the summit of English and European soccer in a period when Pep Guardiola's Manchester City has dominated domestically.

It is unlikely Amorim will change that this year after coming in partway through a season in which United made its worst league start since 1986.

"We know that we need time, but we have to win time. To win time is to win games," Amorim told United's in-house channel. "But the most important thing for me is identity. So since day one we will start with our identity."

Alcaraz misses out as Zverev & Ruud complete semifinal field at ATP Finals

TURIN, Italy, Nov 16, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz was the big name missing when the last two semifinal spots were filled at the ATP Finals on Friday.

Alcaraz's 7-6 (5), 6-4 loss to Alexander Zverev meant the French Open and Wimbledon champion - who has been sick this week - was eliminated from the elite, eight-man tournament.

In Saturday's semifinals, Zverev will meet Taylor Fritz and top-ranked Jannik Sinner will play Casper Ruud.

"My goal," Alcaraz said, "(is) to be at the end (of tournaments) all the time. Every tournament that I'm going to play at least reach the semifinal, final. So I have to work. ... In 2025, I hope to be a better player and (have) more consistency."

Ruud advanced by beating Andrey Rublev 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

Zverev finished with a perfect three victories to win his round-robin group. Ruud had two wins, Alcaraz had one and Rublev had none.

Alcaraz turned on the style in the final game but lost a crucial point when he couldn't fully reach a Zverev passing attempt and ended up sprawled on the court.

"He turns into a different person. He really plays his best at the most important moments," Zverev said. "The last game was the most entertaining game of the



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. (AP)

match."

Sinner won the other group ahead of Fritz.

Alcaraz again wore a pink nose strip after struggling

with breathing issues in his opening loss to Ruud.

Zverev leapfrogged Alcaraz to No. 2 in the rankings this week and took a 6-5 edge in their career meetings.

It was a measure of revenge for Zverev, who was beaten by Alcaraz in five sets in the French Open final. Zverev has bigger goals than reaching No. 2 for next year.

"It's no secret, I'm searching for that Grand Slam title. I'm searching for world No. 1," he said. "If it's not Roland Garros, but it's Australia, I'll sign the paper right now."

Alcaraz was already looking ahead to Malaga and next week's Davis Cup finals, where he will play for Spain in Rafael Nadal's swansong.

"I really want him to retire with a title," Alcaraz said. "It's going to be really, really emotional and a really special tournament for me."

Ruud lost his opening match in six of his seven previous tournaments. But he's into the semifinals for the third time in three appearances at the finals.

"Tennis is interesting sometimes. I don't know what I'm doing better this week than the last weeks," Ruud said. "The only thing I can really feel is serving: I'm serving really good, so hopefully I can keep it going tomorrow - I'm going to win it."

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Qatar hosted event

Kuwaiti Girls Club wins W. Asia Table Tennis Championship

DOHA, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait's Al-Fatat Club won the West Asia Women's Table Tennis Championship in Doha on Friday, defeating Qatar SC 3-2.

Al-Fatat Club player Sheikh Al-Hamad told KUNA that she was thrilled to win the title after overcoming Qatar SC. She noted that the match was tough, but the team secured first place with eight points to claim the championship.

Al-Hamad added that this victory provides strong motivation for further achievements and for elevating Kuwait's name in various international and regional sports forums. She also expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the event.

Kuwait's Al-Fatat Club participated in a group alongside Qatari Women's Club, Emirati Al-Orouba Club, Jordanian Orthodox Club, and Qatari Al-Arabi Club.

The championship, which began last Wednesday, is being held on six tables during both morning and evening sessions and is officiated by 14 referees from the Qatari Table Tennis Federation.



The girl's club participating in the tournament.

KUNA photo

Handball league thrills

Al-Arabi, Al-Qadisiya beat Al-Nasr, Al-Qurain

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Al-Arabi SC handball team defeated Al-Nasr 31-27, while Al-Qadisiya defeated Al-Qurain 27-25 on Thursday at the end of the seventh week of the first division (preliminary round) of the Kuwaiti League Championship (merger) for the season (2024-2025).

In first game, hosted at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Hall, Al-Arabi was able to maintain its position among the top teams by defeating (Al-Nasr) in an equal-level match whose first half ended in a draw (13-13).

Al-Arabi imposed control in the match's second half to achieve its sixth victory against one defeat this season.

The match between Al-Qadisiya and Al-Qurain was a thrilling display of handball prowess. The first half ended with a score of 17-14 in favor of the former.

In the second half, Al-Qurain made a valiant effort to return, but Al-Qadisiyah's unwavering lead throughout the match was a testament to their resilience and determination. The seventh week's matches witnessed Salmiya's victory over Al-Yarmouk (33 - 28) and Burqan's victory over Al-Sulaibikhat (28 - 22).



KUNA photo

Photo from one of the matches.

Al-Tadamon won a tie on penalty kicks after a thrilling match that ended in a draw (29 - 29) in its match with Al-Sahel.

The matches between (Kuwait) and (Kazma) continue to be postponed due to their participation in the 27th Asian Clubs Championship, a prestigious handball tournament, qualifying for the World Championship (Super Globe 2025), a major international handball event, in the Qatari capital, Doha.

Hits don't match the hype

Paul beats 58-year-old Tyson

ARLINGTON, Texas, Nov 16, (AP): Mike Tyson is set for his first sanctioned fight since 2005 as the 58-year-old former heavyweight champion takes on much younger YouTuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul in Texas.

The eight-round bout Friday night at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys will be streamed on Netflix, which has more than 280 million subscribers globally.

Texas regulators sanctioned the bout with limited rounds at just two minutes per round. Tyson and the 27-year-old Paul also will use heavier gloves, which in theory limits the power of punches.

Tyson retired with a 50-6 record and 44 knockouts after losing to Kevin McBride 19 years ago. Paul debuted as a pro boxer about four years ago and is 10-1 with seven knockouts fighting mostly mixed martial artists and journeymen boxers.

The fight was originally scheduled for July 20 but had to be postponed when Tyson was treated for a stomach

ulcer after falling ill on a flight.

Tyson said his entertaining exhibition against Roy Jones Jr. with no fans during the pandemic in 2020 made him believe he could fight for real again. He grew agitated with the hype as fight week progressed, slapping Paul to cut short the final faceoff at the weigh-in Thursday night.

According to reports, Paul is getting \$40 million to \$20 million for Tyson. Paul mentioned his number during a news conference promoting the fight in the summer. Tyson has a history of legal and financial troubles but has said he isn't fighting Paul for the money.

The co-main event is for the undisputed women's super lightweight championship as Ireland's Katie Taylor takes on Amanda Serrano of Puerto Rico.

It's a rematch of a disputed split decision won by Taylor in a slugfest at sold-out Madison Square Garden two years ago. Taylor and Serrano were the first women to headline a boxing event at the storied venue.



Mike Tyson hits Jake Paul during their heavyweight boxing match, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Green, Curry lead Warriors to 123-118 win over Grizzlies

Timberwolves edge Kings

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 16, (AP): Draymond Green had 13 points, eight rebounds and seven assists before a late ejection after two technical fouls in a 33-second span, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Memphis Grizzlies 123-118 on Friday night in a physical NBA Cup game.

Stephen Curry overcame a slow start to finish with 13 points, eight rebounds and five assists, while Buddy Hield had 18 points and Moses Moody scored 14.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 32 points for Memphis in a matchup of teams with deep rotations who rely heavily on their reserves.

Curry, who had scored 36 and 37 points the past two games, respectively, shot 4 for 9 with three 3-pointers.

Grizzlies: Star guard Ja Morant has begun doing some on-court shooting work and will undergo imaging on his injured hip and pelvis area early next week once the team is home. "He's got that itch to get back on the court, so that was under-control shooting," coach Taylor Jenkins said.

Warriors: G Lindy Waters III made his second start of the season, then fell to the floor after blocking a shot with 1:58 left in the second quarter. Waters didn't return because of a hyperextended left knee.

A foul initially whistled against Green with 1:40 remaining before halftime when Jake LaRavia hit him in the face was challenged by the Warriors and the call was overturned. The foul was issued instead to LaRavia. Golden State won another challenge midway through the fourth.

Curry didn't make a field goal until a 3-pointer 2:40 before halftime, shooting just once in 11 minutes of first-quarter action and scoring his two points on free throws. He missed his initial three shots.

The Grizzlies host Denver on Sunday and Tuesday.

Golden State travels to Los Angeles to face the Clippers having dropped the last four in the series overall and five on the road.

Timberwolves 130, Kings 126 (OT)

In Sacramento, Calif., Anthony Edwards had 36 points, and the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the short-handed Sacramento Kings 130-126 in overtime on Friday night despite a franchise-record 60 points from De'Aaron Fox.

Fox had 26 points in the fourth quarter and overtime, but it wasn't enough for a Kings team without DeMar DeRozan (lower back tightness) and Malik Monk (ankle). Julius Randle had the go-ahead basket on a driving layup with under a minute to play to put the Timberwolves ahead by two.

Minnesota made its first four shots in the extra session - including five straight by Edwards after Fox opened the scoring with a 3-pointer.

Randle added 26 points, and Naz Reid had 16 for Minnesota. Domantas Sabonis added 23 points and 12 rebounds for Sacramento.

The Timberwolves gave up a 20-point lead in the second half after the Kings began the fourth on a 14-0 run. Fox had 21 points in the first half, but Minnesota led 62-54 after jumping out to a double-digit advantage in the first quarter.

Timberwolves: Seven Minnesota



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) moves the ball while defended by Memphis Grizzlies forward Jake LaRavia during the first half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, in San Francisco. (AP)

players and all five starters finished in double figures, as the Timberwolves showed resilience after Sacramento's fourth-quarter comeback.

Kings: Sacramento couldn't overcome the loss of DeRozan, its second-leading scorer, despite an all-time game from Fox.

Fox missed a floater that would have tied the game after Randle's layup. Edwards grabbed the rebound and then made a deep 2-pointer on the other end to push the lead to four with 14.1 seconds to play.

Fox recorded the first 50-point game for the Kings since 2016, when DeMarcus Cousins scored 56. Jack Twyman had 59 points for the Cincinnati Royals in 1960, which was the prior franchise record.

Timberwolves host the Suns on Sunday, and the Kings host the Jazz on Saturday.

Thunder 99, Suns 83

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 28 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the short-handed Phoenix Suns 99-83 on Friday night in an NBA Cup game.

Lu Dort had 15 points and nine rebounds, Jalen Williams added 14 points and eight rebounds and Isaiah Joe scored 11 points to help Oklahoma City improve to 11-2.

Oklahoma City led by 25 points in the second half en route to its third straight victory without injured center Chet Holmgren.

Josh Okogie had 15 points and nine rebounds for Phoenix, which played again without Kevin Durant, Bradley Beal and Grayson Allen.

Devin Booker added 12 points as the Suns dropped to 9-4. He missed his first six shots and finished 2 of 10 from the field.

Holmgren will miss at least eight weeks with a pelvic fracture after a hard fall during Sunday's loss to Golden State.

Oklahoma City led by 18 points, 43-25, midway through second quarter but Phoenix scored 11 of the next 13 to cut

it to 45-36. That was close as the Suns would get.

Oklahoma City outrebounded Phoenix 53-50.

The Suns are at Minnesota on Sunday, while the Thunder host Dallas on Sunday night.

Knicks 124, Nets 122

In New York, Jalen Brunson made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 6.2 seconds left after the Knicks had blown a 21-point lead, and New York edged the Brooklyn Nets 124-122 on Friday night to improve to 2-0 in the NBA Cup.

Brunson missed a potential game-winning shot in a loss to Chicago on Wednesday but came through when the Knicks needed him this time and finished with 37 points. OG Anunoby added 25 and Mikal Bridges had 22 against his former team before partially blocking Dennis Schroder's layup attempt on the final possession.

Cam Thomas scored a season-high 43 points for the Nets, his ninth career 40-point game and second at Madison Square Garden.

Playing without starting center Karl-Anthony Towns, who rested a bruised left knee, the Knicks led 98-77 with 30 seconds left in the third quarter before barely pulling out the opener of a weekend series between the teams. They meet again Sunday at Madison Square Garden - with the court back to its normal color after it was orange Friday for the tournament game.

Nets: With starting center Nic Claxton out at least a week with a lower back strain that required an epidural injection Friday, a Nets team already short on size is now even smaller. They were outrebounded 45-37 on Friday.

Knicks: New York missed a chance for a comfortable victory margin, which could come into play for tie-breaker purposes in the tournament.

Nets coach Jordi Fernandez challenged a call with 4:15 left on a ball that was ruled out of bounds off Doran Finney-Smith. Referees reviewed the play and ruled that Anunoby had

fouled Finney-Smith before the ball went out and called him for his sixth foul, knocking out one of the Knicks' best players.

108-107. The Knicks regained the lead in the all-time series between city rivals.

Pelicans 101, Nuggets 94

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram scored 29 points to lift the New Orleans Pelicans to a 101-94 victory Friday night over the Denver Nuggets, who played without three-time MVP Nikola Jokic.

Ingram twisted his left ankle in the second half but stayed in the game to help the injury-riddled Pelicans snap a six-game skid and end the Nuggets' five-game winning streak.

Brandon Boston Jr. scored 19 points and Trey Murphy III had 17 points for New Orleans.

Michael Porter Jr. led Denver with 24 points and Peyton Watson added 18. Jamal Murray scored 16 points for the Nuggets but struggled from long range, making 2 of 8 from beyond the arc.

Nuggets: Denver entered the game shooting 40.4% from 3-point range but made only 10 of 37. With Jokic out for personal reasons, the Pelicans double-teamed Murray and slowed down Denver's high-powered offense. Assistant coach David Adelman took over head coaching duties while Michael Malone remained in Colorado to watch his daughter, Bridget, compete in the state volleyball playoffs.

Pelicans: New Orleans has scored only 88 points in two of its previous three losses but had much better spacing and outshot the Nuggets from the perimeter. Ingram, Murphy and Boston combined to shoot 26 of 54 from the floor.

Denver closed within 87-86 on Russell Westbrook's 3-pointer with 6:19 left, but the Pelicans scored the next eight points, including 3s by Javonte Green and Boston.

Boston, a third-year player from Kentucky, has averaged 19.9 points in his last four games.



Scotland's Anthony Ralston, left, duels for the ball with Croatia's Mario Pasalic during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Scotland and Croatia at Hampden Park in Glasgow, Scotland, on Nov. 15, 2024. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait dominates Crown Prince shooting tourney

Local shooters bag 13 medals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): The annual shooting competition of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Arab shotgun weapons tournament, held on its sidelines, concluded on Friday.

The seven-day tournaments involved shooters from 15 Arab states, with the Kuwaiti contenders grabbing the lion's share of the top trophies.

The Crown Prince championship for the Kuwaiti shooters was held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Shooting Range Complex. The Olympic competitions involving men and women featured the categories of shotgun shooting, skeet, trap, pistol and rifle, the bow and arrow.

The Kuwaiti shooters bagged 13 medals, including seven gold medals and six silver ones. Bahrain ranked second, winning nine medals including two gold trophies, a single silver and five bronze medals. Qatar ranked third with a single gold, also one silver and three bronze.

Al-Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah said after conclusion of the games that he was honored for handing the cups to the winners.

This championship was marked with broad participation by shooters from Kuwait, Gulf and Arab states, he said, lauding the orderly organization by the Kuwaiti steering committee that acted with support by the Chair of the Asian Shooting Confederation Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The head of the Kuwaiti and Arab shooting federation, Duajj Al-Otaibi, expressed gratitude to His Highness the Crown Prince for his gracious support for holding this grand championship.

In the final day of the contests, specialized for the individuals, the Kuwaiti shooter Turki Al-Shemmari won in the rifle 3position category (men), the silver was won by Abdullah Al-Harbi while his fellow citizen Ali-Mutairi came third with the bronze. In the arrow and bow (men), Ali Al-Zaid was



Crowning the winners of the mixed doubles skeet shooting competition.

crowned as the champion, next came Habes Al-Shemmari who bagged the silver, while his Kuwaiti peer Abdullah Al-Fodari settled with the bronze. In the same competition for women, Nour Al-Sharhan came first, Reem Al-Naqeb

was second while Suad Al-Bahr ranked third. The shooter Abdullah Malallah won the gold in the arrow and bow, followed by Badr Saleh and third came Ahmad Al-Shatti.

KUNA photo

Scotland grabs crucial win over Croatia

Ronaldo stars, Portugal reach quarters

MADRID, Nov 16, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo scored a penalty and an overhead kick as Portugal beat Poland 5-1 to guarantee a place in the Nations League quarterfinals on Friday.

Scotland had its first win in nine games to keep alive its hopes of staying in the tournament's top tier.

The match between Romania and Kosovo was suspended in stoppage time and later abandoned with the score 0-0 in Bucharest. There were scuffles between players from both teams and Kosovo players walked off the pitch.

European soccer body UEFA did not explain why the game was cut short but Kosovo players were reportedly upset at hearing pro-Serbian slogans.

"The UEFA Nations League match between Romania and Kosovo has been abandoned. UEFA will communicate further information in due course," it said on its website.

After historic tensions were heightened by the 1990s Balkans conflicts, in 2008 majority ethnic Albanians in Kosovo declared independence for the former Serbian province. Serbia refuses to recognize that independence and considers Kosovo the cradle of its statehood.

Games involving Kosovo, Albania and Serbia have been a tinder box in recent years. Spain, which had already secured first place in Group A4, beat Denmark 2-1 in Copenhagen, and in the same group Serbia grabbed a late equalizer in Switzerland to condemn the Swiss to relegation into the second tier.

France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and Por-



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo steps on the foot of Poland's Kacper Urbanski during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Portugal and Poland at the Dragao stadium in Porto, Portugal, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. (AP)

tugal are all assured one of the eight quarterfinal spots. The games will be held from March 20-23.

The eight teams are also guaranteed a spot in Pot 1 for the qualifying draw for the 2026 World Cup.

Ronaldo turned in a man-of-the-match performance in a blistering second half.

Portugal took its time to overcome a hapless Poland but three goals in the last 10 minutes clinched the match. Rafael Leão broke the deadlock with a fine header 14 minutes into the second half and then Ronaldo got his 134th international goal from the penalty spot 13 minutes later.

Ronaldo made it five - and 135 - with a deft overhead kick three minutes from time. The result ended Poland's hopes of making the quarterfinals.

Scotland had its first win in nine games with a late John McGinn goal giving the home side the slimmest of wins over a 10-man Croatia in Group A1.

Petar Susic was sent off for a second yellow card offense two minutes before half-time but Scotland struggled to capitalize.

It wasn't until four minutes from time that substitute McGinn broke the deadlock to the delight of the Hampden Park crowd.

The result left Scotland with two points and Poland with four. The teams meet in Warsaw on Monday with Scotland needing a win to avoid relegation to the second tier.

Denmark had not beaten Spain since 1993 and it got off to a bad start when Mikel Oyarzabal took advantage of poor defending to give the visitors the lead after 15 minutes.

The European champions were on top throughout, with Oyarzabal and Ayoze Pérez combining well up front. Pérez hit the bar early but later he took a pass from Olmo and finished clinically with 58 minutes gone.

The Danes are in second place with seven points, two ahead of Serbia. The sides meet in Leskovac on Monday. Last-place Switzerland will drop to League B.

In Zurich, Zeki Amdouni put Switzerland ahead after 79 minutes and looked to be on course for its first win in the tournament.

But with three minutes left, Serbia broke upfield and Aleksa Terzić provided the finish to level the scores. Gregor Kobel saved a penalty from Serbia's Aleksandar Mitrović early in the second half.

Basil Al-Sabah racers take podium spots

Kuwaiti competitors excel in Qatar Sand Drag Championship first round

DOHA, Nov 16, (KUNA): Basil Al-Sabah Racing Club's competitors achieved advanced positions in the first round of the Qatar Sand Drag Race Championship on Thursday. Competitor Dhari Al-Ansari won second place, while Fahad Dashti secured third place in the Modified Superstock category. Hashem bin Hassan also took third place in the Modified Pro category. In the open category, competitor Abdullah Al-Hazzaa earned third place.

Director of Basil Al-Sabah Racing Club, Saif Al-Mutairi, expressed his happiness with the club's competitors' performance in securing

advanced positions in the championship, noting that the club will participate tomorrow in the Sand Drag category. Al-Mutairi also thanked the organizers for their excellent organization, reception, and hospitality, wishing all competitors success in achieving positive results in various competitions.

The first round of the Qatar Sand Drag Race Championship kicked off today, Thursday, and the competitions will continue until April 2025, with wide participation from car and motorcycle racing champions.



Basil Al-Sabah Club racers take podium spots in Qatar Sand Drag race.

KUNA photo

Celebration of health, community and competition

Kuwait University hosts thrilling 5km marathon

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait University kicked off its second annual 5-km marathon Saturday at Sabah Al-Salem University City, buzzing with energy and enthusiasm. The

event drew enthusiastic participation from students, individuals with disabilities, and families spanning all age groups.

The marathon aims to highlight the importance of an active life-

style, promoting the physical and mental health benefits of sports while fostering a sense of community and friendly competition among participants.

The event also saw collaboration

from various state institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector contributors.

Outstanding athletes will be recognized and celebrated during a special awards ceremony.



Photo during the start of the second marathon at a distance of 5 km.

Photo by Rezk Tawfik

Peru, Chile stay bottom of standings

Uruguay's last-gasp goal seals win over Colombia in qualifier

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Nov 16, (AP): Uruguay beat Colombia 3-2 on Friday with a last-minute goal in South American World Cup qualifying, and eased the pressure on coach Marcelo Bielsa.

It was Uruguay's first home win in a year and its first victory overall since the latest Copa America edition in July.

Juan Fernando Quintero opened the scoring for the visitors in the 31st minute with a surprising direct free kick shot from the left edge of the penalty box. The hosts equalized in the 57th minute with an own goal by Davinson Sánchez.

Rodrigo Aguirre put the hosts in front three minutes later in front of 40,000 raucous fans with a crossed shot - his first national team goal.

The most dramatic moments of the match in Montevideo came in injury time. André Gomez equalized for Colombia in the 96th minute from close range, but Manuel Ugarte gave the hosts the victory four minutes later with a shot from the edge of the box.

Later, Peru and Chile drew 0-0 in Lima. They will remain at the bottom of the standings.

Bielsa has been under fire since October, when just-retired striker Luis Suárez criticized him for the way he treated players during the Copa America, saying the "friction" hurts. Other Uruguay players did not defend their coach from the criticism, and Bielsa himself admitted his grasp over the team was shaken.



Colombia's Richard Rios (6) and Uruguay's Federico Valverde battle for the ball during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Montevideo, Uruguay, on Nov. 15, 2024. (AP)

"I believe that wins like tonight's are healing," Bielsa said at a media conference. "It was a thrilling match. It was evident that the players' willpower was needed for such a victory, though it looked impossible after an equalizer so late in the match. We needed this."

Colombia coach Néstor Lorenzo said he was frustrated.

"Uruguay has players of a lot of skill, they demand a lot from us, we can't make mistakes," Lorenzo said.