



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Enhance the role and status of governors

ACCORDING to global norms, governors are the local leaders of their governorates. Besides privileges, they have responsibilities. They oversee the operations within their governorate, keep tabs on all issues, and manage local security by leading the police and fire departments. In many countries, governors have the authority to implement certain measures, such as imposing levies on specific roads or issuing citations for violations. These are some of the responsibilities that are widely accepted as part of their role.

Governors also have the power to propose initiatives to the central government aimed at benefiting their governorate. They can develop plans to improve infrastructure, and organize festivals and events to promote trade, industry, and tourism within their governorate.

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Constitutional oath seals KNG Chief appointment



His Highness the Amir, alongside His Highness the Crown Prince, receives Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right), the newly-appointed Chief of the Kuwait National Guard, who has taken the constitutional oath.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received at Bayan Palace Monday newly-appointed Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh

Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sheikh Mubarak took the constitutional oath before His Highness the Amir. Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and senior officials of the state attended the oath-taking ceremony.

Conference slated Nov 19-21

Kuwait advances sustainable urban growth with bold plans

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait, in accordance with Vision 2035, is focusing efforts to pursue sustainable urban development that would usher in an age of vast economic wealth, social integration, and financial ambition.

Kuwait's urban development began back in the 1950s through the establishment of the construction committee, which focused on mapping architectural and housing policies as well as taking on infrastructural development.

Seven decades on, Kuwait vastly improved its infrastructural and architectural sectors with a focus on sustainability and establishing "smart cities" friendly towards the environment and super developed.

Nowadays, the government instructed several state entities including the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to speed up the construction of new housing projects in addition to their infrastructures and services to accommodate the needs of the masses.

A 2023-24 report by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) showed that six policies were undertaken to construct sustainable infrastructure, which were currently executed.

The policies are connected with 36 projects some of which were completed, a number were in the process of being handed over to the government, while the rest were still in preparation phase.

In regards to environment friendly housing areas, the SCPD report revealed that four policies were implemented out of five in 14 development projects.

Meanwhile, the 2040 Fourth Kuwait Master Plan reflected the country's desire to shape development through plans sectioning Kuwait into four zones contributing to urban, economic, social, and environmental areas to serve population growth.

In a step to deepen the concept of smart cities, Kuwait would hosting on November 19th until the 21st the conference for smart administration and creativity for sustainable cities, which would be under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The conference will witness the participation of experts and specialists in the domain of smart cities.

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Kuwait fortifies earthquake preparedness at conference

Gulf experts converge to mitigate seismic risks

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The 12th Gulf Seismic Conference was launched on Monday at the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center under the auspices of acting Director General of Kuwait

Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan and it will continue until Nov 20.

KISR organized the conference in collaboration with Kuwait Society for Earth Sciences, Kenimetrics Company, Al-Alam Al-Bi'a Company, Al-Jari Holding Group and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

Participants include a group of experts and researchers from Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC), Arab and foreign countries. The conference aims to review the latest findings of these participants' scientific research on the region through several main axes as follows: seismic monitoring networks, tectonic activity, earthquake engineering and risk reduction.

The conference includes the presentation of 38 scientific papers that address many of the abovementioned topics in a systematic and scientific manner for the benefit of specialists and agencies in different countries.

This is in addition to a workshop on the State's emergency plans and earthquake preparedness; with the participation of the Directorate General of Civil Defense, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), Municipal Council, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Kinemetrics Company. It focuses on the latest technologies for earthquake monitoring, preparedness and early warning.

Moreover, the GCC Emergency Management Center, which is affiliated with the GCC Secretariat General, will present its objectives and activities during the workshop.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) plans to ratchet up cooperation with its counterparts from the Gulf and Arab regions in a bid to ensure the persistent delivery of development aid, its acting chief said on Monday.

Affirming the Fund's keenness on joint coordination, alongside its counterparts in GCC and Arab states, **Waleed Al-Bahar** was cited as saying in a KFAED statement that such efforts would determine the priorities regarding financing projects and extending development assistances in Arab and other developing nations. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: Israeli occupation's attacks on Lebanon continued unabated Sunday and its warplanes bombing several cities, including the capital Beirut, killing at least seven people and injuring dozens others.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Health stated that the victims included two paramedics who were killed when the Israeli warplanes hit their health centers in the South Governorate. Several other paramedics were wounded in the Israeli raids, added the Ministry.

Also in the South, at least three people were killed and nine others injured in Israeli attacks on the cities of Tyre and Al-Marwanayah. (KUNA)



Group photo taken during the 12th Gulf Seismic Conference held in Kuwait.

Photo by Samer Shiker

8 Kuwait banks boost trade sector financing by 23 pct in September



NBK RISE advances its mission, paving the way to empower women in leadership

10 Warba Bank recognized as leader in sustainability, Islamic digital banking



12 Hollywood stars gather for honorary Oscars event

Annual reviews hinge on attendance, DGCA warns

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation has called on all its affiliated sectors to ensure strict adherence to the attendance system for employees.

Sources informed Al-Seyassah daily that the Administrative and Financial Affairs Sector has requested other departments to closely monitor the system, as it plays a crucial role in the annual evaluation process for 2024, particularly as the year draws to a close.

No legal case against senior official – MoH

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Ministry of Health has strongly refuted recent rumors circulating on social media regarding the referral of one of its senior officials to legal authorities.

In a statement, the Ministry clarified that it had indeed referred certain employees, specifically from the supervisory and employee categories, to the Anti-Corruption Commission (Nazaha).

However, the Ministry emphasized that these referrals did not involve any senior officials, as suggested by the false reports.

The Ministry stressed that all circulating news on this matter is entirely untrue

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The sector has also asked departments to report any issues employees may face with the system and provide detailed accounts of these problems.

The goal is to resolve any challenges before the year's end, ensuring that employees' performance evaluations are based on accurate and reliable attendance data.

This initiative is part of the DGCA's preparations to guarantee the precision and integrity of the annual evaluation process, which is grounded in attendance and discipline standards.

Day by Day

KUWAIT is home to numerous charity organizations, many of which are difficult to count. Their declared objectives and the individuals they serve remain unclear, and their operations are often not fully transparent.

I would like to express my gratitude to Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila for her recent decisions aimed at addressing these organizations.

Her efforts to eliminate those that offer illegal personal privileges and benefits to select individuals are commendable.

Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Filipino expat remittances from Kuwait record minimal increase

By Mahmoud Shendi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Remittances from Filipino workers in Kuwait showed a slight increase during the first nine months of 2024.

The total amount reached \$432.67 million, reflecting a modest rise of \$27,000, or 0.11 percent, compared to \$432.2 million in the same period of 2023.

Looking at remittances from all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, there was a more notable increase of 5.12 percent year-on-year, totaling approximately \$4.25 billion in the first nine months

of 2024, up from \$4.04 billion in 2023.

These remittances accounted for 96.46 percent of the total remittances from Filipino workers in the Middle East region, which amounted to \$4.40 billion during the same period.

Among the GCC countries, the UAE led the growth in remittances with a 6.71 percent increase, followed by Saudi Arabia with a 6.39 percent rise.

Kuwait, however, saw the smallest growth at just 0.11 percent. The largest remittance contributions from the GCC came from Saudi Arabia, with \$1.56 billion, while Bahrain recorded the lowest at \$194.79 million.

NCCAL, KOC collab on Ahmadi preservation

KUWAIT, Nov 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) has inked an agreement with the Kuwait Oil Com-



Photo taken during the signing ceremony between NCCAL and KOC.

pany (KOC) to preserve Ahmadi City's historic heritage.

The signing ceremony took place at KOC Ahmad Al-Jaber exhibition for oil and gas, in the presence of NCCAL head Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar, and KOC CEO Ahmad Al-Aidan, acting Assistant Secretary General of the NCCAL's museum and monuments sector Mohammad bin Redha and Deputy CEO for Planning and Innovation Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel, the company said in a statement on Sunday.

Al-Aidan extolled standing collaboration to maintain the city's legacy due to its historic, cultural and heritage importance, it added.

Al-Jassar said establishing the city is a paradigm shift in Kuwait's history, culture and architecture.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:51 Asr 14:32
 Sunrise .. 06:14 Maghrib .. 16:52
 Zohr 11:33 Isha 18:12

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Mild and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain and a chance for light fog forming at night.
By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	28	21	
Kuwait Airport	29	18	
Abdaly	28	16	
Bubyan	26	20	
Jahra	31	20	
Falaka Island	27	22	
Salmiyah	25	23	
Ahmadi	25	17	
Jal Aliyah	28	18	
Nuwaisib	30	17	

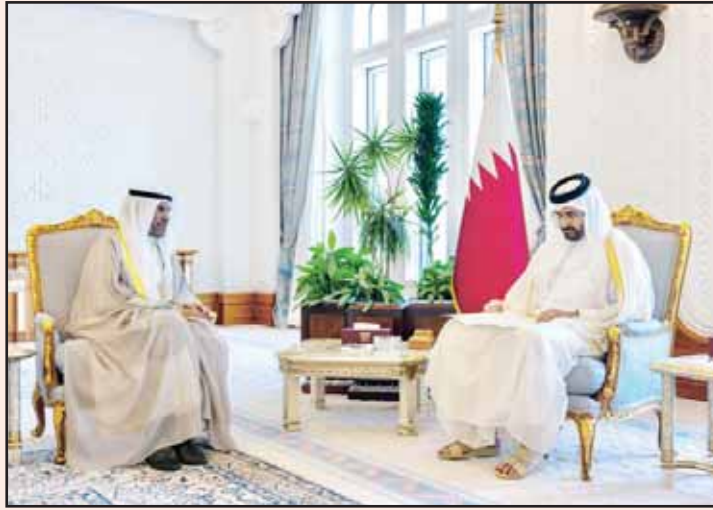
Kuwait Amir envoy delivers GCC Summit invitation to Oman's Sultan, Qatar's Amir



Amir Representative delivers a written message from His Highness to the Sultan of Oman containing an invitation to attend the Gulf Summit in Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): Envoy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya has handed out Oman's counterpart Badr Al Busaidi a letter from His Highness the Amir to Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. The letter was delivered during Minister Al Busaidi's reception of Minister Al-Yahya in Muscat on Sunday.

The letter included an invitation for Sultan Haitham for the upcoming GCC Summit to be hosted by Kuwait on December 1.



Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya meets the Deputy Amir of Qatar.

It also touched upon the deep-rooted, historic and sisterly relations between the two countries and their nations.

Envoy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya delivered on Monday a letter to Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, which included an invitation to attend Kuwait's GCC Summit on December first.

The letter also focused on bilateral and historic relations between the two countries.



HH the Amir Representative discusses fraternal relations and the latest developments with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar.

The invitation was delivered during Al-Yahya's meeting with Qatari Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Envoy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya met in Doha on Monday with Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

The two officials discussed ways to bolster ties in all possible domains, regional and international developments, as well as issues of common interest.

Other Voices

Sustainability & fighting poverty

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wandah

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

In our previous article, we discussed some aspects of positively engaging with sustainability goals in light of our culture. Today, we continue the discussion by exploring this point further and offering some of our suggestions and reservations regarding some of these goals.

We begin by recalling that our heritage is rich with examples of how to positively engage with the three pillars of sustainable development (economy, environment, and people/society), stemming from a desire to sustain the positive economic impact on people, preserve the clean environment conducive to development, and nurture communities while safeguarding resources to ensure their sustainability. All of this is rooted in the belief that we are stewards of the Earth, entrusted to develop and care for it, and held accountable for our actions toward it, ourselves, and others.

Building on this positive engagement with these goals, we proudly affirm our commitment to and activation of our values, civilization, and authentic traditions. Our approach to these goals should ensure that they are logical and achievable from our perspective, so we do not feel overwhelmed by them or view them as unrealistic or in conflict with reality and possibility. This way, we can remain connected to our values, civilization, traditions, and customs, without blindly imitating others or accepting what they may find acceptable based on their own circumstances. Our reservations about certain goals or their wording do not imply a rejection of their positive

content or a lack of responsiveness to them.

We can provide several examples of our reservations regarding the wording and context of certain goals. For instance: The first goal is "to eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere" - We suggest approaching this goal with the phrasing "combatting poverty in all its forms everywhere". This is because our understanding stems from the idea of activating potential, capacity, and possibility, and aligning with universal laws rather than opposing them. From this perspective, no one can claim they can completely "eradicate" poverty. If someone does, we would ask: What is the standard for this "eradication of poverty"? On what basis is it measured? One might be considered rich by some and poor by others. Moreover, the correct methodology for "combatting poverty," in our view, starts with two key aspects: perception and implementation. In terms of perception, there should be discouragement of accepting and succumbing to poverty. In terms of implementation, people should be encouraged to work, with opportunities facilitated and paths opened for them. Despite this approach, no rational person has ever claimed to have the full ability to "eradicate" poverty. The logical pursuit is to focus on "combatting" poverty and closing off the paths that lead to it.

Another example is the second goal: "to eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." We believe that it should be approached through "combating" hunger and "improving" food security and nutrition. What we mentioned in the proposal for the first goal can also be said and reiterated here. This approach aligns with the logic of things and what can realistically be achieved ... we shall address additional reservations later...



Dr. Jaber Al-Wandah

Sustainability plans discussed

Confab focuses on challenges related to food, drugs security

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, emphasized the Authority's commitment to promoting awareness across various scientific disciplines, particularly in the areas of food and drug security, during the opening of the Kuwait Food and Drug Security Conference.

The conference, held under the theme "Stimulating Continuity, Awareness, and Spending Capacity in the Field of Food and Drug Security," is organized by the Authority and will run for three days.

Dr. Al-Fajjam praised the efforts of the College of Health Sciences for organizing the event, which aims to address the challenges related to food and drug security while discussing strategies for sustainability and their crucial role in human health.

Dr. Badr Al-Khalaf, Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Chairman of the Confer-

ence Organizing Committee, highlighted the importance of food and drug security in ensuring individual well-being and societal stability amidst global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crises, and wars.

He stressed that the conference serves as a platform to enhance crisis preparedness and adaptation, offering sustainable solutions and fostering effective partnerships between the public and private sectors to achieve local and regional self-sufficiency.

Dr. Maysa Al-Saleh, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the College of Health Sciences, shared that the conference aligns with global challenges and the increasing need for sustainability.

She noted that food and drug security are fundamental pillars for societal stability and well-being. Dr. Al-Saleh also highlighted the Department's role in supporting sustainability in the health sector by training technicians to ease the burden on pharmacists, meeting the growing demand for pharmacy technicians in the labor market.

The conference covers various key topics aimed at enhancing public health through awareness, education, technology development, and the adoption of best international practices. It also aims to build a local and regional cooperation network, exchanging ideas and visions to achieve self-sufficiency in the sector.



Dr. Al-Fajjam

'Fall in oil prices to continue, diversify sources of income'

KPC to focus on urgent projects: CEO

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: International indicators show that oil prices will continue to decline in 2025 and 2026, especially since the Donald Trump administration in the United States confirmed its plan to rely on American oil and gas by intensifying exploration operations for these two minerals, and considering Trump stated that he does not care about the quality of oil and the environmental conditions, sources revealed.

On the methodology of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) for preventing any crisis that the oil industry might face, sources told the newspaper that KPC Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah has instructed the officials of oil companies affiliated with the corporation to exert more efforts to diversify their sources of income in order to increase profits in the coming years. Sources said the corporation's strategy in the coming years will focus on supporting urgent priority projects that ensure stability and increase in oil and gas quantities.

Sources stressed that KPC will pay more attention to expanding the petrochemical industries, indicating a study is being conducted to boost participation and acquisition of local and international petrochemical projects. Sources affirmed KPC has surplus oil refining materials, while the internal and external refineries of the country have a combined refining capacity of about 1.83 million barrels per day.

Sources said KPC welcomes the entry of the Kuwaiti private sector into the petrochemicals industry to participate in the latter's renaissance, taking into consideration that the industry is gaining global popularity.

Sources confirmed KPC has local and international participation in the petrochemicals industry as follows:

- 49 percent of SKY Pic Global project located in South Korea, in partnership with a South Korean Company producing propylene glycol, propylene oxide and monomethyl ether among many others;
- 25 percent of SK Advance Company in South Korea – a propylene production company;
- 80 percent of Kuwait Paraxylene Production Company – a private company located in Kuwait and produces benzene and paraxylene;
- 42.5 percent of Equate Petrochemical Company whose products include polyethylene and ethylene glycol;
- 42.5 percent of Kuwait Olefins Company which produces ethylene glycol;
- 33.3 percent of Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in partnership with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain producing ammonia, urea and methanol;
- 46 percent of Kuwait Styrene Company, which produces styrene.



The Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Greek Ambassador to Kuwait, Ioannis Plotas at his office.

Kuwait, Greece share deep-rooted, strong relations, says ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic (Greece) to Kuwait His Excellency Ioannis Plotas at his office in the headquarters of Ahmadi Governorate recently.

According to a press release issued by Ahmadi Governorate, the meeting served as an opportunity for introducing each other and having friendly discussions, particularly about the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to further enhance them in all areas.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to develop their joint cooperation.

The governor expressed his best wishes to Ambassador Ioannis Plotas, and wished him success in his diplomatic duties and for the continued advancement of the relations between the two nations.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Plotas expressed his happiness and gratitude for the warm reception.

He praised the exceptional care and attention that the Greek diplomatic mission and Greek citizens receive in Kuwait, both officially and at the community level.

The ambassador reaffirmed that Greece and Kuwait share deep-rooted and strong relations.

Bid to inculcate creativity, skills

Informatics Award launches 2nd hackathon competition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): The 24th edition of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award launched on Monday the second Kuwait Hackathon competition, which is part of its platform to encourage creativity and excellence among the youth.

A hackathon is an event where a large group collaborates on projects related to computer programming.

Chairman of the high organizing committee of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award Eng. Bassem Al-Shammari told KUNA that the second Kuwait Hackathon aimed at developing national economy via encouraging digital entrepreneurship among the youth.

He affirmed that the competition would help shape the skills of the youth and release their creativity.

Member of the Board of Trustees and the Higher Organizing Committee Rajab Al-Aloush revealed that 84 Hackathon projects within Kuwait registered until last October, revealing that 15 entities had cooperated in organizing the event.

He indicated that the first stage of the competition resulted in the inclusion of 22 teams in creation development camp from November fourth until the ninth.

He noted that this stage provided participants with technical and pioneering knowledge for their respective digital projects and also enabled them to exchange views with expertise.

Teams were now working on winning one of the first positions of the competition during the final stage, Al-Aloush said.

The first Kuwait Hackathon was launched in 2019 to help participants provide creative programming solutions to issues pertaining to the country and society. The participants are the "creme de la creme" of university students who were positively impacted by the competition.



Eng Al-Shammari

Tunisia seeks upgrade of bilateral ties with Kuwait

TUNIS, Nov 18, (KUNA): The fourth Tunisian-Kuwaiti high committee launched on Monday.

The Director General of Public Relations with Arab Countries at the Foreign Ministry Samir Al-Munassar expressed, during his speech, Tunisia's willingness to increase cooperation and investment with Kuwait through partnerships in a number of different fields.

For his part, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab World Affairs and Head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Ahmad Al-Bakr, noted that the two-day event is expected to see the signing of more than 14 agreements in various fields.

The current committee is continuing upon the last meeting held in Kuwait in 2015.

The fourth high level Kuwaiti-Tunisian ministerial meeting in Tunisia will further boost ties between the two countries, said a Tunisian diplomat on Monday.

Speaking to KUNA, Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Boudali indicated that the three-day meeting came to reflect both leadership's desires to bolster relations.

The preparatory meetings of the committee today and Tuesday would witness the signing of 14 agreements on numerous domains, revealed the Ambassador, adding that the meetings came to finalize the works of the commercial and military committees meetings held in November 2023 and October 2024 respectively.

On Wednesday, the ministerial meeting would be headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and Tunisian counterpart Mohammed Nafti, said the ambassador who affirmed that the gathering was important in the quest of both countries to solidify cooperation in all aspects.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Widespread reforms essential to curtail misuse of authority'

In a remarkable display of accountability, Kuwait recently witnessed a decisive action against administrative violations when the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior took a firm stance against an officer and several military personnel who fabricated charges against an innocent individual in a drug case," columnist **Dr. Al-Jarallah** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"This incident went beyond a mere administrative measure -- it delivered a powerful message about the necessity of combating what is often termed "public employee overreach."

"This overreach is akin to an administrative cancer, thriving in the shadows where certain government employees misuse their authority for personal gain or to impose unwarranted control. Such behavior represents a deviation from professional ethics and a blatant defiance of the laws -- both written and unwritten -- that are meant to serve citizens.



Dr. Al-Jarallah

"The issue is pervasive, spanning all levels of the administrative hierarchy. It ranges from entry-level employees who obstruct citizens' transactions to senior officials who exploit their influence to foster favoritism and nepotism.

"Manifestations of this problem include deliberate delays, selective handling of requests, and the exploitation of authority for personal benefits. These practices sow seeds of injustice, erode public trust in government institutions, and hinder national development.

"The lack of oversight and accountability creates an ideal environment for such misconduct to flourish. Employees shielded by influential managers or officials often feel above the law, emboldened to act without fear of repercussions. This sense of impunity fosters devious practices that, while not always overt, have profound impacts on citizens' lives.

"The Ministry of Health exemplifies this issue. Citizens face significant disparities in service quality and delivery speed due to the absence of clear performance metrics.

"For example, obtaining a medical license for a private center might take two months in one instance and over a year in another, with no explanation beyond favoritism and mediation. Similarly, appointment times for surgeries or examinations vary widely, reflecting a system plagued by inefficiencies and bias.

"Disparities are also evident in enforcement. Private sector violations are addressed swiftly and decisively, while equivalent infractions in the public sector often go unchecked.

"Furthermore, private clinics must secure international accreditation to ensure quality, whereas government clinics face no such requirements, undermining public confidence in government healthcare services.

"Internationally, many countries have tackled this issue through innovative approaches. Dubai, for instance, employs performance monitoring systems that evaluate departments and employees regularly, leveraging advanced technology to enhance transparency and deter violations.

"In Europe, open complaint systems allow citizens to report employee misconduct without fear of reprisal. Independent committees investigate these complaints impartially, fostering trust and accountability.

"To address public employee overreach in Kuwait, a framework of good governance -- centered on transparency, accountability, and clear performance standards -- is essential.

"Digital monitoring systems should be integrated into the national strategy to ensure accurate, ongoing performance evaluations while minimizing opportunities for misconduct. Independent oversight committees with the authority to investigate complaints and enforce accountability are critical for achieving justice.

"Furthermore, comprehensive training programs must be established to instill the values of integrity and transparency in public employees, emphasizing that serving citizens is their foremost responsibility.

"Confronting this issue is not merely an administrative challenge but a battle for values and principles that safeguard citizens' rights and enhance institutional efficiency. The firm action taken by the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior is a commendable start, but it must be expanded and institutionalized across all sectors, particularly within the Ministry of Health.

"Kuwait requires a holistic reform vision that places citizens at the core of administrative processes, anchored by transparency and accountability. Only through justice can trust in government institutions be restored, and only independent oversight can ensure this justice."

Also:

"The World Children's Day, observed annually on November 20, commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly," columnist **Dr. Hind Al-Shoumer** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Since 1990, this day has been celebrated globally to improve children's well-being, foster international solidarity, raise awareness of children's rights, and create a world where every child is safe, educated, and empowered to achieve their potential and dreams.

"Countries worldwide dedicate efforts to ensuring the safety and well-being of children, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and commitment to safeguarding their future.

"This occasion is an opportunity to shed light on the challenges faced by

millions of children who lack access to education, healthcare, and basic necessities. It also underscores the importance of guaranteeing children's rights in all social, health, educational, and cultural domains -- because children represent the foundation of our future.

"Raising awareness about children's rights can be achieved through educational, social, and cultural activities that explain the significance of this day.

"These initiatives should highlight children's entitlement to healthcare, adequate nutrition, clean water, proper clothing, safe shelter, and spaces for sports and recreation. It is also vital to educate them about resisting exploitation and to ensure their protection, safety, quality education, and a dignified life while preserving their privacy.

"Moreover, society must address issues that threaten children's security, work collaboratively to ensure their well-being, and protect them from violence, abuse -- whether physical, emotional, or sexual -- and neglect.

"Respecting children's opinions and providing economic support where needed are also crucial aspects of fulfilling their rights.

"In Kuwait, children's rights have always been a priority, from birth through adolescence. The country has enacted laws to safeguard their well-being, such as mandatory education up to a certain age and provisions for healthcare, social, and economic support.

"Measures have also been taken to ensure children grow up in a safe, clean environment, free from violence or harm.

"It is also important to remember that Islam guarantees and mandates the rights of children, including the rights to breastfeeding, nurturing, and financial support. Islam places the responsibility on parents to provide proper upbringing, care, and protection, shielding children from harm and ensuring they grow up in a supportive and healthy environment.

"Teaching children responsibility is equally essential. Encouraging them to participate in daily chores and assist with household tasks instills values of respect for parents and elders.

"These values help nurture children into capable, responsible individuals who will one day illuminate the path for their communities when raised with sound principles and guidance.

"Children are the buds of tomorrow, and when nurtured with care, they will blossom into the leaders who shape a brighter future for society. Let us strive collectively to ensure every child's rights are respected and fulfilled."

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"A very important piece of news was published recently on the front page of our newspaper, and we ask Allah Almighty to protect this news from the eyes of our enemies. The report stated that Kuwait's state budget has shifted from a deficit to a surplus", columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"However, we must be cautious. Remember Allah, for wealth is often envied by its possessors. There are those who eagerly await our budget surpluses, with the hope of benefiting from them either through soft loans, donations, or other means. Perhaps the closest example of this is the reconstruction of southern Lebanon, which has sparked interest among senior politicians who are now planning a Gulf tour, starting with Kuwait, to collect a staggering \$15 billion in donations.

"While we welcome the announced budget surpluses, we wish they were directed toward internal needs with firm resolve, without exceptions. Those seeking donations, gifts, and soft loans must understand that we urgently need our own resources to catch up with modern civilization. How much we need to invest in building a nuclear power plant, after years of struggling with scheduled power outages, frequent blackouts, and the dreaded three-color electricity indicator. This indicator has become a source of anxiety for us, as we fear losing power at the very moment our country records the highest temperatures in the world. May Allah protect us from that indicator and its woes.

"We are also in urgent need of new housing developments to shorten the waiting period for citizens seeking housing. Many have grown older while waiting for their turn, their hair graying and their salaries drained by the rising rent costs.

"Let them know that some of our official institutions still operate from temporary or rented buildings. Take, for example, the General Administration of Customs, which shares a building with the Ministry of Communications. The new customs building remains abandoned, overrun by stray dogs and street cats. This building, still incomplete, stands as one of the most glaring symbols of corruption. There are no plans to demolish, renovate, or build a new facility for such an important institution.

"Also, our border crossings and centers are on the brink of collapse. They can hardly be compared to any border facility in the world. Lacking modern technology, they are ill-equipped to handle the increasingly sophisticated smuggling tactics, particularly at the Abdali crossing. There is no need to delve into the heart-wrenching details of their deficiencies.

"It is important to understand that only certain "friends" and "brothers," and those in positions of influence, will benefit from the budget surplus. It will likely be funneled into donations, gifts, and soft loans. And when the due date arrives, they will ask for extensions. Allah is the Helper."

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The scene of the explosion.

KFF photo

1 dead in Amghara junkyard blast

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force announced on Monday death of one worker and injury of another in an explosion of a tank truck in Amghara scrapyard. In a statement, the KFF stated that Fire-fighting teams are handling the explosion.

An explosion at the Amghara scrapyard has tragically claimed the life of an Egyptian national and left several others injured,

reports **Al-Seyassah** daily .

Authorities have launched an investigation, with security personnel and forensic teams examining the site to uncover the cause of the incident. A security source confirmed the explosion but provided no further details as the investigation remains ongoing.

Ruling set for Dec 16 in judge arson attack

Man acquitted in drugs case

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Court of Appeals has scheduled the session of December 16 to deliver its verdict in the case of the arson attack on the house of Judge Sultan Bourseli.

The court rejected the request to suspend the sentences of two defendants, who were convicted and sentenced to four years and 15 years in prison respectively for possession of weapons and drugs.

Earlier, the Criminal Court had ruled in the case involving the burning of Judge Sultan Bourseli's house and vehicle. The first defendant, a ruling family member, was acquitted, but the second defendant received a 15-year prison sentence, and the third defendant was sentenced to four years in prison.

The charges against the defendants included possession of drugs, weapons, and ammunition, as well as using arson to set fire to Judge Bourseli's house and car.

However, the defendants denied all charges.

The ruling family member had appeared before the court and denied any involvement in the case.

Acquitted in drugs case: The Court of Appeals overturned the verdict issued by a lower court which sentenced an individual to four-year imprisonment with hard labor, imposed a fine of KD 1,000, and revoked his driving license for driving under influence and causing an accident, and possessing morphine. He was acquitted of all charges.

According to the case file, the defendant was driving his car when he collided with other vehicles, resulting in injuries that required medical treatment. The medical report indicated that he had used narcotics or other substances.

The defendant fled the hospital before completing his treatment but later voluntarily reported to the police, who referred

him to the General Department of Investigations.

Based on the medical report and the traffic incident, the investigator sent him for further examination, and a sample taken from the defendant tested positive for morphine.

During the session at the Court of Appeals, Lawyer Bashar Al-Nassar insisted that the collection of the sample, and his client's arrest and search, were invalid. He presented evidence to support his client's denial of the charges, asserting that the arrest and search were invalid because the defendant was not directly implicated in causing the accident.

Furthermore, Lawyer Al-Nassar said the hospital report merely raised suspicion of narcotic use, which, he stressed, did not constitute a flagrant crime justifying the arrest and search.

Jail term annulled: The Court of Cassation has acquitted a citizen accused of consuming psychotropic substances, overturning the previous rulings by the Criminal and Appeal Courts that sentenced him to two years of imprisonment with hard labor, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The case began when the Public Prosecution charged the first defendant with possession of psychotropic substances for personal use. The second defendant, who was accompanying him, faced charges of possessing hashish and psychotropic substances and driving under their influence.

According to the arresting officer, the incident occurred during a security patrol in the Dhahr area. The officer claimed he observed a vehicle emitting loud, disturbing noises. Upon stopping the car, he noticed the driver and his companion exhibiting unusual behavior. When the officer requested the driver's license and the companion's identification, the driver admitted he did not have a license. At this point, the officer reported seeing a bag containing pieces of crystal fall from the second defendant. Upon questioning, the second defendant handed over three additional bags. Subsequent testing revealed that both defendants had consumed psychotropic substances and hashish.

KAC addresses issue of quarrel by airport staff

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) has issued a statement regarding the recent arrest of two of its employees for allegedly assaulting security inspectors at Terminal 4, an incident that was shared on some social media platforms.

According to the statement, KAC coordinated directly with security authorities and submitted a detailed report on the incident.

The airline confirmed that it handles such rare cases firmly in full compliance with legal frameworks, and stated that it will not hesitate to apply penalties as outlined in its service regulations.

Informed sources explained that the Board of Directors of KAC, led by Abdul Mohsen Al-Faqan, convened this morning to discuss the implementation of strict measures for preventing such incidents from happening again. This incident was the first of its kind in KAC.

KAC affirmed its trust and respect for the security authorities at Kuwait International Airport, adding that there is ongoing cooperation and coordination between KAC and all security agencies at Kuwait International Airport.

The sources indicated that a final decision on the matter may be forthcoming.

'Forgotten cars' lifted: The Public Hygiene and Road Occupation Department of Ahmadi Municipality held a campaign that resulted in the removal of ten abandoned cars and the issuance of 29 warnings and pledges, reports **Al-Shahed** daily.

The campaign was held in Fahaheel area and will cover other areas in Ahmadi Governorate in the coming days.



Al cameras somewhere in Kuwait City.

Cars, bikes seized

Record traffic violations in one week crackdown

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The General Traffic Department (GTD) has released its weekly report, covering activities from November 9 to 15. During this period, traffic patrols recorded 39,170 traffic violations, seized 105 vehicles, and impounded 55 motorcycles for violations of Article 207 of the Executive Regulations of the Traffic Law. Additionally, authorities confiscated 48 vehicles wanted in various cases and arrested 21 individuals sought by other authorities, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Four individuals were referred to the General Department for Combating Narcotics on suspicion of possessing narcotics, while one person found in an abnormal state was handed over to the competent authorities. Traffic control centers also received 2,548 reports and recorded 1,589 traffic accidents, including 1,394 collisions and 195 incidents involving injuries.

From November 10 to 16, the General Department of Rescue Police reported significant operations as well. They apprehended 211 wanted individuals, seized 122 vehicles involved in legal cases, and detained six individuals in possession of suspected alcoholic beverages. The department responded to 13 reports of suspicious activities, resolved 13 disputes, and provided humanitarian assistance in 249 cases.

During this time-frame, 5,464 traffic violations were recorded, and 20 vehicles were impounded in a detention garage. Authorities also referred 17 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution and imposed precautionary measures on 32 violators.

The Ministry of Interior remains committed to enforcing traffic laws, enhancing road safety, and addressing public security concerns.

PAS forwards Cup deal for Audit Bureau's nod

Al-Seyassah exclusive report

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) on Monday forwarded direct contracting requests for hosting the upcoming Gulf Cup to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for further study and review before signing them.

In accordance with Article 19 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016, the authority obtained approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) last Wednesday. These direct contracting requests include contracts with five hotels to host delegations at a total value of KD1.041 million; \$10.578 million (equivalent to KD3.2 million) for the tournament's opening and closing ceremonies; KD189,000 for the special application; KD321,970 for the public transport company to provide vehicles for the delegations; KD165,000 for marketing campaign requirements; and KD229,294 for publications and banners.

Meanwhile, earlier, in preparation for the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup Football Championship, the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) had secured approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders for 10 direct contracting requests. The total allocated budget stands at 5.146 million dinars, reflecting Kuwait's commitment to hosting a world-class tournament.

The approved funds will cover various essential aspects of the championship, ensuring smooth operations and an enhanced experience for participants and spectators alike.

Accommodation -- 1.041 million dinars will be used to secure contracts with five hotels to host delegations and participants.

Opening and closing ceremonies are budgeted at \$10.578 million, equivalent to 3.200 million dinars, showcasing a grand spectacle for attendees.

A specialized mobile application for the event will cost 189,000 dinars, providing digital solutions for fans and organizers.

The public transport company will supply vehicles for delegations at a cost of 321,970 dinars.

In addition to this 165,000 dinars has been set aside to fund the tournament's promotional activities and campaigns.

Materials for publications and banners will cost 229,294 dinars, ensuring a visually engaging event atmosphere.

This comprehensive budget demonstrates Kuwait's dedication to delivering an exceptional championship that meets international standards.



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Water supply to be restored to South Abdullah Al-Mubarak area in 2 weeks

Long-awaited development a 'major achievement': Al-Daihani

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Khaled Al-Daihani, head of the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak Residential Area Committee, announced that fresh water will be supplied to 3,200 plots in the area within the next two weeks.

In a statement to Al-Seyassah, Al-Daihani described the long-awaited development as a "major achievement," especially after the residents endured over three years without reliable water supply.

The ministry has started activating the main pumps in preparation for distributing water to the area.

Al-Daihani expressed gratitude for the ministry's response, highlighting that the provision of water is a vital demand of the local community.



Al-Daihani

However, he emphasized that the area still requires more essential services to ensure residents' comfort and stability.

He called on the relevant ministries and authorities to expedite the delivery of remaining services, including the opening of schools across all educational levels, as well as improvements to traffic exits to alleviate congestion caused by growing population density.

He also stressed the need for infrastructure development to meet the residents' aspirations, including the establishment of healthcare centers and recreational spaces.

Al-Daihani reaffirmed the committee's commitment to continuing collaboration with government agencies to ensure the successful implementation of projects that serve the interests of the citizens.

In another announcement, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare revealed the offering of sites for the temporary use of vacant lands for central mixing units in Al-Mutlaa Residential City.

This move aims to support ongoing construction projects in the city. The offered sites will be available for an annual usufruct fee of 3.5 dinars per square meter, with a 12-month usufruct period and an area of 5,000 square meters per site.

Kuwait focuses on advancing dental health with new clinics, technologies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: On behalf of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Services at the Ministry of Health Dr. Ahmed Asad inaugurated the 24th Kuwait Dental Conference organized by Kuwait Dental Association with the participation of 2,000 doctors, reports Al-Anba daily.

In his speech, Asad pointed out that an elite group of doctors from different countries participated in the conference to discuss multiple topics like cosmetic and preventive dentistry, uses of lasers, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and gum diseases. He revealed the agenda of the conference includes understanding the challenges that the field of dental health is currently facing, exchange of experience, and activation of cooperation protocols.

He also informed reporters after the conference that the ministry has taken important

steps to improve digital health services, citing the electronic linking of patients' files among health centers and hospitals through the PICS system in primary healthcare and the HIS system in specialized hospitals.

He confirmed that as part of efforts to expand health services, Sabah Al-Ahmad Health Center has dental clinics operating at night to serve the neighboring areas; in addition to the opening of Jahra Specialized Center for Pediatric Dental Treatment, which consists of 52 clinics providing integrated services for children, and the establishment of integrated dental departments in other health centers like Sabah Al-Ahmad, Wafra and Mutla'a centers.

He reiterated that dental services have expanded at the level of primary healthcare centers, specialized centers or school health programs. He said these expansions, which started

last year, are in accordance with the directives of the Council of Ministers and the health minister; indicating seven integrated dental health centers have been opened so far.

On the other hand, President of Kuwait Dental Association and the conference Dr. Mohammad Dashti revealed that a group of international experts discussed the latest technological developments in Dentistry and digital treatment at the conference.

Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Secretary General of the association Dr. Iyad Al-Muqait stressed that the conference is an ideal platform for exchanging knowledge and innovations, as it highlights the latest developments in this vital field. He clarified that Dentistry is not just about teeth and mouth treatment, as it is a fundamental pillar in improving the general health of the individual and society.

HH Crown Prince, PM send greetings

HH the Amir 'congratulates' Latvia on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable to President of Latvia, Edgars Rinkevics, congratulating him on the Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president well-being and the people of Latvia further progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Edgars Rinkevics, congratulating him on the Independence Day, and wishing him good health.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Edgars Rinkevics, congratulating him on the Independence Day.



Director of 'MILSET Asia' Dawood Al-Ahmad with the first place winners after their honoring.

Abdulrahman bin Abi Bakr School for Boys wins Eighteenth Kuwait School Contest for Industrial Applications

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The International Organization for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology (MILSET Asia) has announced the results of the final qualifying events for the 18th Kuwait School Competition for Industrial Applications, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This year's competition, which was organized by the office for middle schools for boys, took place under the patronage of Maryam Al-Enezi, the Assistant Undersecretary for the Educational Development and Activities Sector at the Ministry of Education, and in cooperation with the General Technical Guidance for Practical Studies.

Dawood Al-Ahmad, Regional Director of the MILSET Asia Office, confirmed that the competition's arbitration committee revealed the top three winning schools. The winners were recognized for their performance in the development and execution of a grass-cutting machine project.

The final rankings are as follows -- First Place: Abdulrahman bin Abi Bakr School - Boys (Ahmadi Governorate) with a total score of 187.43; Second Place: Salem Al-Hussainan School - Boys (Capital Governorate) with a total score of 184.35 and Third Place: Al-Harith Al-Saadi School - Boys (Jahra Governorate) with a total score of 184.17.

The competition focused on assessing students' skills in two main areas -- measurement skills and manual tool usage and mechanical assembly.

The students worked on the grass-cutting machine project, which was evaluated based on pre-established criteria, including quality, precision in measurements, and the time taken to complete the task.

Judges looked for indicators such as assembly integrity (no loose or missing parts), and the accuracy of their measurements.

A total of 102 students, representing 34 middle schools for boys from various educational regions, participated in the final rounds.

They were divided into groups to compete in the two sections of the event, showcasing their technical proficiency and creativity in industrial applications.

The competition not only highlighted the technical and mechanical abilities of the students but also reinforced the importance of practical studies and innovation in the Kuwaiti educational system.

With continued support from the Ministry of Education, this competition plays a vital role in fostering future engineers and innovators who can contribute to Kuwait's development in industrial technology.

Other Voices

'Need to respect beliefs of others'

By Ahmed alsarraf

One peculiar behavior observed in some people is their apparent satisfaction in provoking others' emotions, disregarding historical friendships, mocking their circumstances, and disrespecting their beliefs -- deliberately.

This was evident in a loud advertisement aired by a "charitable" association, where the presenter enthusiastically declared: "Contribute to buying a church and converting it into a mosque for just 10 dinars ... Don't miss the opportunity; the reward awaits you!"

This phenomenon, unfortunately, has gained acceptance in our societies, exploited by certain supervisors of charitable organizations.

Periodically, they disseminate similar advertisements, videos, or audio messages urging citizens and residents to donate as little as ten dinars to fund the purchase of a temple or church and convert it into a mosque -- repeating this message as if it signifies a triumph over others and a suppression of their beliefs.

These campaigns are often accompanied by visuals showing the targeted amount for collection, with an ascending counter displaying the funds raised thus far.

In the most recent instance of this kind, I noticed that the target amount seemed insufficient. Based on my experience, it wouldn't realistically cover the costs of purchasing a church located on prime streets, let alone the expenses of conversion -- materials, construction, supervision, municipal fees, and more.

Additionally, a portion of the donations, around 12 percent, typically goes to those managing the fundraising in Kuwait, while a slightly higher percentage is allocated to the association or its representatives abroad.

My doubts regarding the adequacy of

the target amount were later validated. Once the collection goal was reached, the association triumphantly announced the campaign's success, only to launch a second campaign -- this time to raise funds specifically for converting the church into a mosque.

The initial campaign's slogan had focused solely on gathering enough to purchase the church and transform it into a mosque.

The drawbacks of such activities far outweigh any perceived benefits. As experience has shown, their primary objective is often to bypass the stringent oversight of the Ministry of Social Affairs and generate revenue for the association and its founders.

These projects, despite often receiving official approval and being conducted under government supervision, tend to have significant negative consequences both locally and internationally.

One of the most troubling aspects is the offense caused to the communities from whom these buildings are purchased, only to be converted into spaces serving a completely opposite purpose. This not only disrespects their beliefs but also sows discord and fosters resentment.

The harm becomes even more pronounced when the affected community belongs to a friendly nation -- one that has consistently stood by us, responding with sincerity and strength in times of need.

We urge the dedicated individuals within the government and the esteemed Minister of Social Affairs to step in and put an end to these harmful practices, which tarnish Kuwait's reputation.

If someone wishes to construct a mosque abroad, particularly in a European country, they should simply purchase land and build a mosque from the ground up.

This approach respects the beliefs of others, avoids inciting hostility and prevents unnecessary hatred and resentment. Let us prioritize harmony and uphold Kuwait's values and reputation.

□ □ □

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Prof Al-Hamdan and Dr Al-Shammari attend event

Over 3,000 individuals participate in second KU Marathon

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In a festive atmosphere filled with positive sporting energy, and under the generous patronage of the Acting Director of Kuwait University Prof. Osama Al-Saeed, the Deanship of Student Affairs organized the second edition of the Kuwait University Marathon for the 2024/2025 academic year on Saturday, November 16 at Sabah Al-Salem University City.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, the event witnessed the participation of over 3,000 male and female competitors of all ages and categories, both from inside and outside the university, along with a large turnout of participants' families and sports enthusiasts.

The marathon was organized by the Sports Activities Department in the Deanship of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Public Authority for Sports and a number of supporting organizations, including the Public Relations and Media Department, the Security and Safety Department, the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, Visions Company, and the Ambition Sports Club for Mental Disabilities.

The marathon was attended by the Acting Dean of Student Affairs Prof. Jassim Al-Hamdan, and the Assistant Dean of Student Activities Dr. Salem Al-Shammari. They both expressed their pride in the continued success of this sporting event. Enthusiasts from all walks of life, including people with disabilities, also took part, making the marathon a truly inclusive sporting experience.

Warm-up

The marathon's activities began at 7:00 am with warm-up exercises, followed by the men's race, then the women's race, and concluding with the race for people with disabilities.

To ensure smooth organization, participants' sports jerseys were distributed three days before the event at the visitors' center in Sabah Al-Salem University City.

The second edition of the marathon was highlighted by a variety of accompanying activities, including thrilling sports shows, entertainment competitions, and performances by the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences band. The event also featured a military parade, a children's play area, and food carts offering coffee and healthy snacks, adding to the festive atmosphere.

During the event, valuable prizes worth over KD 6,000 were awarded to the winners, sponsored by the Commercial Bank of Kuwait and supported by the Public Authority for Sports. Medals of appreciation were distributed to all participants in a festive atmosphere that filled the crowd with a spirit of competition and joy.

Winners and First Places

After the contestants crossed a distance of five kilometers, the results of the races were

announced, with the most notable results being:

- Kuwait University Affiliates Category (18-35 years):

1st Place: Noura Abdullah; 2nd Place: Thamara Al-Shalal; 3rd Place: Batoul Bou Abbas

- Kuwait University Affiliates Category (36 years and above):

1st Place: Rawan Eidan; 2nd Place: Farah Al-Suwailem; 3rd Place: Maha Al-Qaoud

- Men from Outside the University Category (18-35 years):

1st Place: Yamani Al-Hamr; 2nd Place: Abdullah Younis; 3rd Place: Hamid Al-Janati

All participants with disabilities were also honored with medals and appreciation awards from Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Youth.

At the conclusion of the event, Assistant Dean for Student Activities Dr. Salem Al-Shammari expressed his satisfaction with the success of the marathon.

He stressed that the main goal was to inspire the university community to engage in sports and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Sustainable
Dr. Al-Shammari also highlighted how the marathon contributes to achieving sustainable development goals, particularly the objective of increasing physical activity rates to 40 percent as part of New Kuwait 2035 vision.

He extended his gratitude to the supporting organizations, including private companies, sports institutions, and academic entities, praising their collective efforts in making the event an outstanding sports experience.

It is worth noting that the marathon was sponsored by a diverse group of organizations, including Kuwait University Employees Social Security Fund, Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company, Emergency Medical Department of the Ministry of Health, Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, Public Authority for Youth, Kuwait Sports for All Federation, Jabriya Cooperative Society, Kuwait Feather Team, Kuwait Hospital, Cherry Kids for Recreational Trips, From Bumper to Bumper, ASICO, Mopar International Team, Kuwait Pulse Volunteer Team, Visions, Triple Oud, Telefonati, Flex Fitness, Fun Zone, Ultimate Explorer, The Soul, 48 East, Valhalla Valkyries, Jm Klinik, Flame Fitness, Sara Kalndar, Jump, Climbing Wall, and TLC.

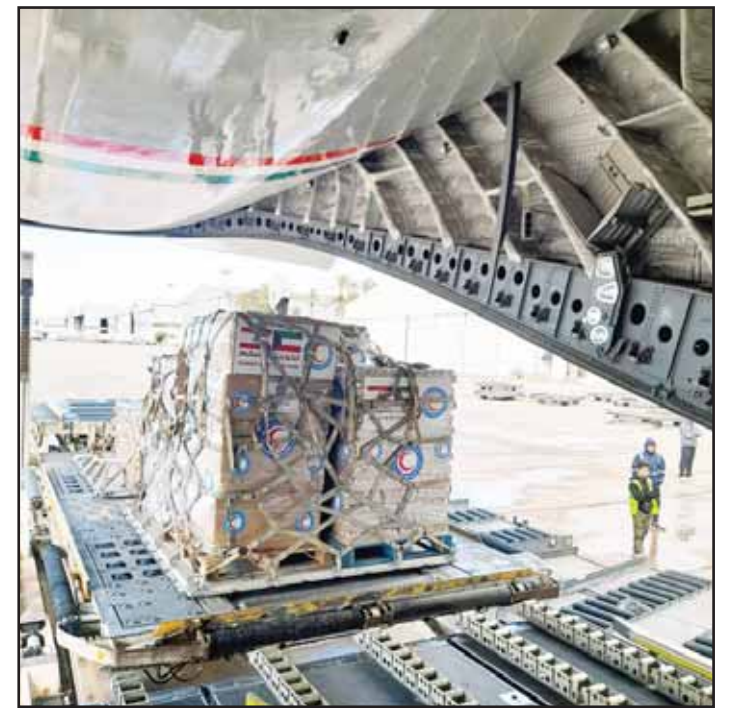
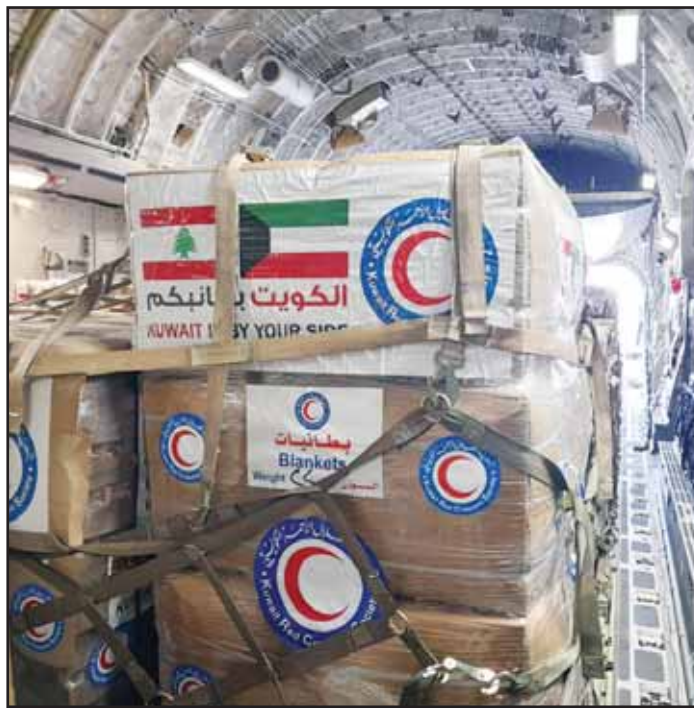
The marathon concluded to enthusiastic applause from the attendees, who praised the efforts exerted to organize such a high-level sporting event.

This successful event reflected Kuwait University's ongoing commitment to its social role in promoting sports and public health for all.



Participants in action during the 2nd edition of KU Marathon 2024/2025 academic year.

KU photos



Kuwait Red Crescent's aid to Lebanon within the framework of the Kuwaiti relief air bridge.

KUNA photos

40 tons of various aid relief supplies sent: KRCS

Kuwait's 4th air bridge flight departs to Lebanon

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on Monday, the departure of the fourth humanitarian aid flight from Kuwait's air bridge to Lebanon, carrying 40 tons of various aid relief supplies.

KRCS Chairman of Board of Directors Ambassador Khaled Al-Maqamis, told KUNA that the aid flights being carried out was a reflection of Kuwait's solidarity with the Lebanese people,

offering necessary support, especially in light of their urgent need for food and medicine.

KRCS is constantly monitoring the humanitarian situation in Lebanon and is actively contributing to alleviating the sufferings caused by the current circumstances, he said.

The society will spare no effort in providing assistance, stressing Kuwait's commitment to stand with Lebanon in this difficult time, he added.

Al-Maqamis expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Ministry of Defense, Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, in addition to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as donors, employees, and volunteers of KRCS for their role in facilitating the humanitarian air bridge operation from Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base.



Male and female winners.



Minister Al-Huwailah launches greening initiative to support social care homes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, said Monday that social initiatives reflect responsibility and encourage voluntary work, contributing to a sustainable and positive change.

Al-Huwailah's statement came on sidelines of a greening initiative launch at the Social Care Homes Complex with aim of beautifying its facilities and supporting voluntary work.

Participating in the initiative were college students, children of the home care, Scout Association and a number of senior citizens.

The minister underlined importance of continuing to support such initiatives to enhance life quality.

She hailed efforts of the "role models" who worked on the initiative.



The Minister of Social Affairs is participating in tree planting.

December 17 set as closing date for submitting bids

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In confirmation of the article titled "Entrances and Exits of Jaber Al-Ahmad City on the Track of Implementation" published by the daily on Friday, November 15, the Central Agency for Public Ten-

ders (CAPT) announced recently the launch of the project's tender based on the request of the Ministry of Public Works, and has set December 17 as the closing date for submitting bids.

According to informed sources, the announcement marks the start of the bidding process, with companies wishing to compete

required to submit their financial bids to CAPT within the specified period. Afterward, the bids will be opened and referred to the Ministry of Public Works for review, with a decision on the award to be made within a month.

The sources explained that this project is one of the important road projects aimed at constructing and improving the entrances and exits to Jaber Al-Ahmad City at Sites 1 and 2. The project is necessary for safeguarding the services of the oil

sector and other ministries in the region. It will also include essential infrastructure such as rainwater drainage systems, lighting, and ground traffic control, as well as the installation of traffic signs, protection barriers, and collision prevention measures.

The project will be executed in two locations - the first covers the city's southern entrances and exits with a connection to Jahra Road, and the second involves the city's eastern entrances and exits with a link to Doha Road.

Enhance the

Continued from Page 1

Governors and governorate councils have many responsibilities, not only toward the local community but also toward the leadership and government of the state.

One of their main obligations is to contribute to the national treasury, particularly in countries that host local festivals and events. Any revenue exceeding the governorate's immediate needs is transferred to the state treasury and recorded as a surplus, which can be used when required.

There are several examples of what a governor can do in practice. In the UK, for instance, the Mayor of London plays a vital role in managing the capital. The mayor is responsible for setting plans, strategies, and policies for the city and the surrounding areas within the jurisdiction.

He oversees a huge budget to manage essential services, including transportation, police, and fire services, while also working to boost the local economy, and he represents London both locally and internationally.

for the state.

These governors have the potential to make significant contributions and meaningful changes in their governorates, and work toward their development, given their expertise in the tasks they have already undertaken. They can also propose new initiatives, such as adjusting service rates, to promote growth in their areas.

For example, they could impose levies on large palaces that waste resources like water and electricity among other things that place a burden on public finances. By doing so, they would not only alleviate pressure on public services but also contribute to strengthening public finances.

In many countries around the world, governors compete to promote the beauty and organization of their governorates, and are not satisfied with the protocol.

There is much work to be done today, and everyone must contribute, especially executive officials, who need to work tirelessly to repair the damages caused by the political chaos fueled by the interventions of lawmakers, their supporters, and powerful individuals who have even attempted to strip authority from administrative employees.

Furthermore, the role of the governor has been reduced to little more than that of a supervisor in a diwaniya, rather than a local leader with a wide range of responsibilities and powers.

It is necessary for everyone to think outside the box and let go of the preconceived ideas shaped by decades of political turmoil. For fifty years, conflicts over positions and management have allowed influential individuals and parliamentarians to carve out pieces of the national cake. But now, Kuwait is entering a new era, which requires development in all forms.

Kuwait fortifies

Continued from Page 1

In his speech, Al-Humaidan pointed out this conference, which is held every two years in a GCC country, is vital in enhancing the exchange of expertise and information in a bid to present recommendations that achieve the desired goals.

"It is also an important platform that brings together experts in seismology and seismic engineering, with the aim of benefiting from modern research and technology to take the necessary measures to reduce seismic risks, human suffering and material losses resulting from these risks in various parts of the world, especially in the Arabian Gulf region. The regularity of this conference contributes to expanding communication channels and the exchange of seismic data, linking stations, training Gulf professionals,

organizing seminars and workshops, and signing of many agreements," he revealed.

He added the Kuwait National Seismic Network at KISR continuously conducts scientific studies and research on earthquakes and their risks. He stressed that the institute is committed to develop its research programs in line with the country's comprehensive development plans. "Aside from programs at the Environmental and Life Sciences Research Center, KISR also established the Environment and Climate Change Program for the assessment of environmental challenges and to meet the need for a central infrastructure to identify risks and mobilize methods to deal with them in order to support decision-makers in crisis management, relying on advanced technology and highly efficient human resources with vast experience in risk assessment, as well as information and communications technology.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of the organizing committee Farah Hamoud Al-Jari confirmed that this conference is an extension of the previous conferences hosted by other GCC and neighboring countries to strengthen cooperation and exchange of expertise between earthquake monitoring centers and scientific institutions in these countries. She said this paves the way for presenting the results of scientific research on earthquakes to

identify their dimensions and mitigate their risks in the region.

Al-Jari affirmed as well the importance of having a large amount of data culled from statistical and inductive programs and mathematical models, along with advanced technology for monitoring and communication devices, rapid data handling, and full coordination between the concerned executive bodies in these countries, under the umbrella of effective media to develop communication lines between agencies and segments of society before, during and after the crisis. She added that the integration of seismic databases is the first step toward building decision-making support systems for mitigating earthquake risks.

Kuwait advances

Continued from Page 1

Back to the Public Authority of Housing Welfare, the state entity included smart and sustainable systems in the designs of its recent projects to catch up with the latest developments in addition to meeting the housing demands for citizens.

PAHW is currently working on six projects in Al-Mutla city, the south Abdullah Al-Mubarak, south Saad Al-Abdullah, South Sabah Al-Ahmad, and east Sabah Al-Ahmad cities to complete infrastructure and services.

Such projects were meticulously planned through numerous participation in conferences and working committees to view the most feasible approach to housing and urban development.

In the last decade, Kuwait had delivered thousands of housing units for citizens in addition embarking on new housing projects in service of the country.

Currently, Kuwait is in negotiation with South Korea to work on the south Saad Al-Abdullah housing project with a MoU signed to design a smart city.

The urban development scheme is sure to bring on foreign investments whether in constructing houses or infrastructure and services.

This claim is evident in the signing of a MoU between Kuwait's PAHW and China to develop housing projects in Kuwait.

The MoU, signed back in September 2024, is one of seven agreements to create a longstanding strategic communication to develop housing projects in Kuwait with the involvement of China.

No legal

Continued from Page 1

and urged the public to verify information through official channels.

It further called for caution in the dissemination of rumors, emphasizing the potential harm to the reputation of the health sector in Kuwait.

'I am disappointed but not surprised'

Some Arab Americans concerned about Trump's picks for key positions

LANSING, Mich., Nov 18, (AP) — Just a week after winning a majority of the votes in several of the nation's largest Arab-majority cities, President-elect Donald Trump has filled top administration posts with staunch Israel supporters.

Meanwhile, the two Trump advisers who led his outreach to Arab Americans have not secured positions in the administration yet.

The selections have prompted mixed reactions among Arab Americans and Muslims in Michigan, which went for Trump along with all six other battleground states. Some noted Trump's longstanding support for Israel and said their vote against Vice President Kamala Harris was not necessarily an endorsement of him. Others who openly supported him say he will be the final decision maker on policy and hope he will keep his promise of achieving an end to the conflicts in the Middle East.

Albert Abbas, a Lebanese American leader whose brother owns the Dearborn, Michigan, restaurant Trump visited in the campaign's final days, stood beside the former president during that visit and spoke in support of him.

Now, Abbas says it's "too early" to judge Trump and that "we all need to take a deep breath, take a step back and let him do the work that he needs to do to achieve this peace."

"I just want you to think about what the alternative was," said Abbas, referring to the current administration's handling of Israel's war in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon. He added, "What did you expect from myself or many members of the community to do?"

Beyond promising peace in the Middle East, Trump has offered few concrete details on how he plans to achieve it. His transition team did not respond to a request for comment.

Throughout the campaign, his surrogates often focused more on criticizing Harris than outlining his agenda. And visuals of the conflict - with tens of thousands of deaths collectively in Gaza and Lebanon - stirred anger among many in Arab and Muslim communities about President Joe Biden and Harris' backing of Israel.

Amin Hashmi, a Pakistani American in Michigan who voted for Trump, urged him to stay true to his campaign commitments to bring peace.

"I am disappointed but not sur-



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump, (center), listens to Albert Abbas, owner of The Great Commoner, (left), as Massad Boulos looks on during a visit to the cafe on Nov 1 in Dearborn, Mich. (AP)

prised," said Hashmi, who urged Trump to "keep the promise you made to the people of Arab descent in Michigan."

Those in the community with concerns have specifically pointed to for-

mer Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, nominated as Trump's ambassador to Israel.

While Huckabee has sparked the most concern among community members, other Trump Cabinet picks

have strongly spoken in Israel's favor as it targets Hamas following the militant group's Oct 7, 2023, attack in which it killed 1,200 Israelis and took hundreds more as hostage.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, nominated for secretary of state, has opposed a ceasefire in the war, stating that he wants Israel to "destroy every element of Hamas they can get their hands on."

Trump's pick to be his ambassador to the United Nations, New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, led the questioning of university presidents over antisemitism on campuses. She has also opposed funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency, which oversees aid to Gaza.

The Republican Jewish Coalition, which organized for Trump in Michigan, has been outspoken in its support for many of Trump's Cabinet picks.

Among the reasons some Arab American voters supported Trump was that they believed his prominent supporters would be key in the next administration.

Massad Boulos, a Lebanese businessman and father-in-law of Trump's daughter Tiffany, led efforts to engage the Arab American community,

organizing dozens of meetings across Michigan and other areas with large Arab populations. Some sessions also featured Richard Grenell, former acting director of national intelligence, who was well-regarded by those who met with him.

Neither Boulos nor Grenell has been tapped yet for the coming administration, though Grenell was once considered a potential secretary of state before Rubio was selected. Boulos declined to comment and Grenell did not respond to a request for comment.

"Some people expected Trump to be different and thought Massad would play a significant role," said Osama Siblani, publisher of the Dearborn-based Arab American News, which declined to endorse a candidate in the presidential race.

Siblani himself turned down a suggested meeting with Trump after the non-endorsement announcement.

"But now people are coming to us and saying, 'Look what you've done,'" Siblani said. "We had a choice between someone actively shooting and killing you and someone threatening to do so. We had to punish the person who was shooting and killing us at the time."

Biden authorizes Ukraine to use US-supplied longer range missiles for strikes inside Russia



US President Joe Biden, (left), participates in a wreath laying ceremony with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the memorial wall outside of St Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral during an unannounced visit, in Kyiv, Ukraine on Feb 20, 2023. (AP)

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 18, (AP) — US President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with US-supplied long-range missiles was met with ominous warnings from Moscow, a hint of menace from Kyiv and nods of approval from some Western allies.

Biden's shift in policy added an uncertain but potentially crucial new factor to the war on the eve of its 1,000-day milestone.

Washington is easing limits on what Ukraine can strike with US-made weaponry, US officials told The Associated Press on Sunday, after months of ruling out such a move over fears of escalating the conflict and bringing about a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO.

The decision allowing Kyiv to use the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMs, for attacks farther inside Russia comes as President Vladimir Putin positions North Korean troops along Ukraine's northern border to try to reclaim hundreds of miles of territory seized by Ukrainian forces.

Biden's move also follows the presidential election victory of Donald Trump, who has said he would bring about a swift end to the war and raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine.

The scope of the new firing guidelines isn't clear.

Russia is also slowly pushing Ukraine's outnumbered army back-

ward in the eastern Donetsk region. It has also conducted a devastating and deadly aerial campaign against civilian areas in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday referred journalists to a statement made by Putin in September, in which he said allowing Ukraine to target Russia would significantly raise the stakes in the conflict.

It would change "the very nature of the conflict dramatically," Putin said at the time. "This will mean that NATO countries - the United States and European countries - are at war with Russia."

Peskov claimed that Western countries supplying long-range weapons also provide targeting services to Kyiv. "This fundamentally changes the modality of their involvement in the conflict," Peskov said.

Last June, Putin warned that Russia could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets in response to NATO allies allowing Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory. He also reaffirmed Moscow's readiness to use nuclear weapons if it sees a threat to its sovereignty.

Trump, who takes office in about two months' time, has raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine. He has also vowed to quickly end the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy gave a muted response to the approval that he and his government

have been requesting of Biden for more than a year.

"Today, much is being said in the media about us receiving permission for the relevant actions," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Sunday.

"But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves," he said.

Russian officials and Kremlin-backed media bashed the West over what they said was an escalatory step, and threatened a harsh response from Moscow.

"Biden, apparently, decided to end his presidential term and go down in history as 'Bloody Joe'," senior lawmaker Leonid Slutsky told Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

Senator Vladimir Dzhabarov, in comments to state news agency Tass, called Biden's decision "a very big step toward the beginning of the third world war."

Russian newspapers offered similar predictions of doom. "The madmen who are drawing NATO into a direct conflict with our country may soon be in great pain," Russia's state newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta told its readers.

The foreign minister of NATO member Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, said he's not "opening the champagne" yet as it remains unclear exactly what restrictions have been lifted and whether Ukraine has enough of the US weapons to make a difference.



New Orleans Police block the Almonaster Avenue Bridge after a deadly shooting during a second line celebration in New Orleans on Nov 17. (AP)

2 killed, 10 hurt in shootings near New Orleans parade route

Two people were killed and 10 others were wounded in two separate shootings along a New Orleans parade route and celebration attended by thousands on Sunday, authorities said. There were no immediate arrests.

Officers responding to reports of gunfire shortly after 3:30 pm on an avenue in the city's St Roch neighborhood found eight victims with gunshot wounds, according to a news release from the New Orleans Police Department. All eight were taken to hospitals in unknown condition. Police later said a ninth wounded person arrived at a hospital via a private car.

About 45 minutes later, police received another report of gunfire as revelers were crossing the Almonaster Avenue Bridge, just over half a mile (.8 km) to the north. One person died at the scene and

another died at a hospital, police said. A third victim was driven to a hospital in a private vehicle and is in stable condition, police said.

No arrests were announced and no suspect information was released. The St. Roch neighborhood is outside the city's French Quarter that is popular with tourists, located several blocks northeast of the quarter.

The Almonaster Bridge was closed in both directions during the investigation.

Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick said detectives didn't immediately know if the incidents were related.

"They were ... different kinds of approaches," she said of the shootings, which occurred in the area where a "second line," a celebration following a parade, was taking place. (AP)

'Government takes our freedom'

Slovak opposition rallies against govt of Fico

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia, Nov 18, (AP) — Thousands of protesters gathered in Slovakia's capital on Sunday, the 35th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution that brought an end to decades of communist rule in Czechoslovakia, to oppose the policies of populist Prime Minister Robert Fico.

The protest united the opposition, including the liberal Progressive Slovakia, pro-business Freedom and Solidarity and the conservative Christian Democrats who all said Fico's a threat to democracy.

"The government takes our freedom and democracy," a banner in the crowd read.

"Slovakia is and will be part of the Western civilization," a conservative political veteran František Mikloško, who was one of the Slovak leaders in 1989, told the crowd at downtown SNP square. "We don't want anyone to move us toward Moscow."

Czechoslovakia peacefully split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993.

Freedom and Solidarity leader Branislav Gröhlung said Fico is leading the country "to an authoritarian regime



Thousands of protesters gather to mark the 35th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, which brought an end to decades of communist rule in Czechoslovakia, and to oppose the policies of populist Prime Minister Robert Fico, in Bratislava, Slovakia on Nov 17. (AP)

like in Russia and communist China," Michal Šimečka, the head of Pro-

gressive Slovakia, which is currently the most popular party in the country, said the opposition will do what it takes to protect freedom and democracy.

"Slovakia is and will be a nation of free people. And free people won't be silent," he said.

Fico and his leftist Smer (Direction) party won last year's won parliamentary elections on a pro-Russia and anti-American platform.

His government has pushed through a plan to overhaul public broadcasting - a move critics said would give the government full control of public television and radio.

That, along with a move to amend a penal code and eliminate a special anti-graft prosecutor, has led opponents to worry that he would lead Slovakia down a more autocratic path, following the direction of Hungary under populist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

His views on Russia's war on Ukraine and other issues sharply differ from the European mainstream. Fico ended his country's military aid for Ukraine, opposes EU sanctions on Russia, wants to block Ukraine from joining NATO and plans a trip to Russia.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters extinguish the fire following a Russian rocket attack that hit a multi-storey apartment building in Sumy, Ukraine on Nov 17. (AP)

Russian ballistic missile kills 11, injures 84 in Ukraine

A Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions struck a residential area of a northern Ukraine city, killing 11 people including two children and injuring 84 others, officials said Monday.

The two children killed in the strike on Sumy late Sunday were a 9-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl, the regional prosecutor's office said. Six injured children are in critical condition, it said.

The attack damaged 15 build-

ings, including two educational facilities, the prosecutor's office said. A search and rescue operation continued Monday, on the eve of the war's 1,000-day milestone.

Sumy lies 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the Russian border.

"Today, much is being said in the media about us receiving permission for the relevant actions. But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for them-

selves," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address.

Earlier, Zelenskyy said that Russia had launched a total of 120 missiles and 90 drones in a large-scale attack across Ukraine, including Sumy. Russia deployed various types of drones, he said, including Iranian-made Shaheds, as well as cruise, ballistic and aircraft-launched ballistic missiles. (AP)

Protesters in Georgia call for new elections

TBILISI, Georgia, Nov 18, (AP) — Demonstrators in the capital of Georgia have set up tents on one of the city's main thoroughfares and vowed Monday to stay there around the clock to demand new parliamentary elections in the country.

An election held in October kept the governing Georgian Dream party in power, but opponents say the vote was rigged.

Several large protests have been held since then and on Sunday demonstrators closed one of the avenues that leads into the center of Tbilisi, the capital.

Critics have accused Georgian Dream, established by a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia, of becoming increasingly authoritarian and tilted toward Moscow. The party recently pushed through laws similar to those used by the Kremlin to crack down on freedom of speech.

Many Georgians viewed the October election as a referendum on the country's effort to join the European Union.



Protesters' tents are seen in a street during a rally against the results of the parliamentary elections amid allegations that the vote was rigged in Tbilisi, Georgia on Nov 18. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

Concerns over China grow

Japan troops to train with US, Australia forces

CANBERRA, Australia, Nov 18, (AP): Japan will send troops for joint training with US Marines and Australian forces in northern Australia, the countries' defense ministers said Sunday, as they expressed concern about a spate of confrontations with China's increasingly assertive military.

Australia's Defense Minister Richard Marles hosted his US and Japanese counterparts, Lloyd Austin and Nakatani Gen for talks in Darwin.

The ministers announced trilateral amphibious training between Australia, Japan and the US Marine rotational force in northern Australia from 2025, beginning with Exercise Talisman Sabre. Australia will also join Exercise Orient Shield in Japan for the first time next year.

A joint statement reiterated "serious concern" about destabilising actions in the East and South China seas including "dangerous conduct" by the Chinese military against Philippine and other vessels from the region. China claims the South China Sea almost in its entirety.

The ministers also urged the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has stepped up military harassment with frequent drills around the island.

Marles, who is also Australia's de-

fense minister, said following talks with his Japanese counterpart in September that both nations looked to ways to build greater familiarity between their forces. One of the "obvious opportunities" was for Japan to participate in activities during the US Marine rotation in Australia, he said Sunday.

"Having a more forward-leaning

opportunity for greater training with Japan and the US together is a really fantastic opportunity," he said.

Asked if the increased military cooperation would anger Beijing, Marles said the decision was about building "the best relationships possible with like-minded countries, with our friends and with our allies."



Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara, (left), Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, (second left), Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles, (right), pose for a photo in Queensland, Australia on Sept 5. (AP)



Australian Senator Lidia Thorpe, (left), disrupts proceedings as Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla attend a Parliamentary reception hosted by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and partner Jodie Jaydon at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia on Oct 21. (AP)

Australian senate censures lawmaker who yelled at King Charles III

Australian senators on Monday voted to censure an Indigenous colleague who yelled at King Charles III during a reception in Parliament House last month.

The censure of independent Sen Lidia Thorpe is a symbolic gesture

that records her colleagues' disapproval of her conduct during the first visit to Australia by a British monarch in 13 years.

The motion was carried 46 votes to 12. Government leader in the Senate Penny Wong said Thorpe's

outburst sought to "incite outrage and grievance."

"This is part of a trend that we do see internationally which, quite frankly, we do not need here in Australia," Wong told the Senate. (AP)



Motorists ride past a part of a roof suspended on electric wires blown by strong winds caused by Typhoon Man-yi along a street in the municipality of Baler, Aurora province, northeastern Philippines on Nov 18. (AP)

Man-yi leaves 7 dead in Philippines

Typhoon Man-yi left at least seven people dead in a landslide, destroyed scores of houses and displaced large numbers of villagers before blowing away from the northern Philippines, worsening the crisis wreaked by multiple back-to-back storms, officials said Monday.

Man-yi was one of the strongest of the six major storms to hit the northern Philippines in less than a month and had sustained winds of

up to 195 kilometers (125 miles) per hour when it slammed into the eastern island province of Catanduanes on Saturday night.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met President Ferdinand Marcos Jr in Manila and offered his prayers, announcing an additional \$1 million in humanitarian aid for typhoon victims. He told Marcos he has authorized US troops to help Filipino forces provide lifesaving aid. (AP)

Philippines, US sign pact to secure shared military intelligence and weapons technology

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 18, (AP): The United States and the Philippines signed an agreement on Monday to secure the exchange of highly confidential military intelligence and technology in key weapons the US would provide to Manila.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, signed the legally binding General Security of Military Information Agreement in Manila at a time when the longtime treaty allies have boosted their defense and military engagements, including large-scale joint combat drills, largely in response to China's increasingly aggressive actions in Asia.

The outgoing Biden administration has taken steps to strengthen an arc of military alliances across the Indo-Pacific region to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan or in the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing has claimed almost in its entirety.

That has dovetailed with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's thrust to strengthen his country's external defenses given an alarming

escalation of territorial confrontations between Chinese and Filipino forces in the South China Sea.

The Department of National Defense in Manila said the agreement aims to ensure the security of classified military information that would

be exchanged between the U.S. and the Philippines.

It will "allow the Philippines access to higher capabilities and big-ticket items from the United States," the Philippine defense department said.

Neither side provided more details

or released a copy of the agreement.

Two Philippine security officials, however, have told The Associated Press that such an agreement, similar to ones Washington has signed with other allied countries, would allow the U.S. to provide the Philippines with higher-level intelligence and more sophisticated weapons, including missile systems.

It would also provide the Philippine military access to US satellite and drone surveillance systems with an assurance that such intelligence and details about sophisticated weapons would be kept highly secure to prevent possible leaks, the two Philippine officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive issue publicly.

Philippine efforts to obtain sophisticated weapons from the US military in the past have been hampered by a lack of such an intelligence deal, including when Filipino forces were scrambling to fight a 2017 siege by Filipino and foreign militants aligned with the Islamic State group in southern Marawi city.



US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, (right), and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr pose for a photograph during a courtesy call at the Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines on Nov 18. (AP)

Bangladesh tribunal tells investigators to finish probe against Hasina by next month

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Nov 18, (AP): A special tribunal in Bangladesh on Monday told investigators they have one month to complete their work on ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her close aides, who face charges of crimes against humanity after hundreds of people were killed in a mass uprising this summer.

Golam Mortuza Majumdar, the head judge of the three-member International Crimes Tribunal, set Dec. 17 for investigators to finish their work, as the tribunal heard updates Monday from police about what the country's security agencies have done to arrest Hasina and her close aides.

The decision came after prosecutors sought more time for the investigation.

Mohammed Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of the tribunal, told the judges during Monday's hearing that they were working in line with an extradition treaty signed earlier with India to make Hasina's return possible.

Hasina has been living in exile in India since Aug. 5 when she fled the country amid the student-led protests. The Dhaka-based tribunal on Oct. 17 issued arrest warrants for Hasina and 45 others, including former Cabinet ministers, advisers and military and civil officials. The country is now being run by an interim government headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus.

At least 13 people, including a former law minister and a businessman

who was Hasina's private-sector adviser, appeared before the tribunal on Monday, said B.M. Sultan Mahmud, a prosecutor at the tribunal. One former Cabinet minister was not brought to the tribunal as he was in custody for police interrogation in a separate case. A further six people will appear on Wednesday, tribunal officials said. At least 20 suspects have been arrested in the case.

The tribunal will also seek updates from police on their progress in arresting the other suspects, including Hasina.

After the hearing on Monday, the tribunal's head judge ordered authorities to send all 13 suspects to jail, pending investigation.



Bangladesh's former social welfare minister Dipu Moni is taken to the International Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Nov 18. (AP)



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, (center), attends a meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Nov 15. (AP)

Bid to counter US-led threats

N.Korea's Kim calls for expanding nuke forces

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 18, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un renewed his call for a "limitless" expansion of his military nuclear program to counter US-led threats in comments reported Monday that were his first direct criticism toward Washington since Donald Trump's win in the US presidential election.

At a conference with army officials on Friday, Kim condemned the United States for updating its nuclear deterrence strategies with South Korea and solidifying three-way military cooperation involving Japan, which he portrayed as an "Asian NATO" that was escalating

tensions and instability in the region.

Kim also criticized the United States over its support of Ukraine against a prolonged Russian invasion. He insisted that Washington and its Western allies were using Ukraine as their "shock troops" to wage a war against Moscow and expand the scope of US military influence, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim has prioritized his country's ties to Russia in recent months, embracing the idea of a "new Cold War" and displaying a united front in Russian President Vladimir Putin's broader conflicts with the

West.

He has used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to accelerate the development of his nuclear-armed military, which now has various nuclear-capable systems targeting South Korea and intercontinental ballistic missiles that can potentially reach the US mainland.

Kim has yet to directly acknowledge that he has been providing military equipment and troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine and the KCNA's report didn't mention whether Kim made any comments toward Trump, whose election win has yet to be reported in the North's state media.

Africa

Gabon votes yes: Voters in Gabon overwhelmingly approved a new constitution, authorities said Sunday, more than one year after mutinous soldiers overthrew the country's long-time president and seized power in the oil-rich Central African nation.

Over 91% of voters approved the new constitution in a referendum held on Saturday, Gabon's Interior Minister Hermann Immongault said in a statement read on state television. Turnout was an estimated 53.5%, he added.

The final results will be announced by the Constitutional Court, the interior minister said.

The draft constitution, which proposes sweeping changes that could prevent dynastic rule and transfer of power,



Immongault

needed more than 50% of the votes cast to be adopted.

In 2023, soldiers toppled President Ali Bongo Ondimba and put him under house arrest, accusing him of irresponsible governance and

massive embezzlement that risked leading the country into chaos. The junta released Ondimba a week later on humanitarian grounds, allowing him travel abroad for medical treat-

ment. (AP)

2 civilians killed in Niger: Two civilians were killed and two others wounded in a suspected terrorist attack Friday on a position of the Nigerian Defense and Security Forces, at the entrance of the town of Gaya in western Niger, the army said Sunday.

The civilians were doing road maintenance work when they were attacked by an armed group of about 15 people, the army said in a bulletin.

"Alerted as soon as the first shots were fired, reinforcements were dispatched to the scene. By the time they arrived, the attackers had retreated into neighboring Nigeria," the bulletin said. (Xinhua)



Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, (center), leaves after casting his vote during the parliamentary election in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Nov 14. (AP)

Sri Lanka's president appoints his Cabinet

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov 18, (AP): Sri Lanka's new Marxist-leaning president swore in a 22-member Cabinet on Monday after his party secured a two-thirds parliamentary majority in last week's election.

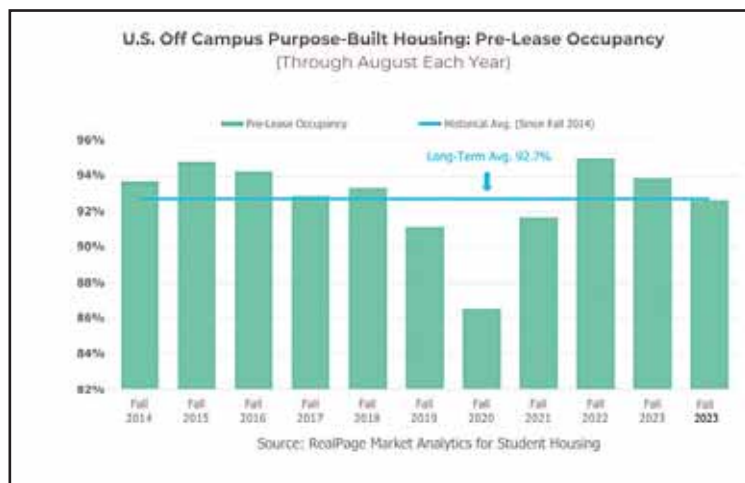
The margin of victory will allow President Anura Kumara Dissanayake to make sweeping reforms, including a campaign promise of a new constitution, without needing support from other parties.

Sri Lanka is struggling to emerge from the worst economic crisis in its history, having declared bankruptcy after defaulting on its external debt in 2022.

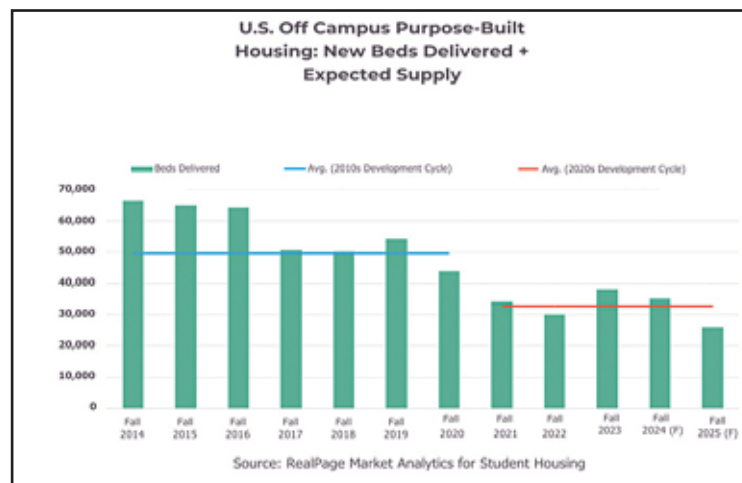
Market Movements 18-11-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
SAUDI - TASI	+18.40	11,830.38	DUBAI - DFMGI	-27.10	4,712.66
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+84.70	6,761.35	JAPAN - Nikkei 225	-422.06	38,220.85
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+328.19	95,031.81	EGYPT - EGX 30	-387.73	30,864.34

Business



Pre lease occupancy.



U.S. Off Campus Purpose-Built Housing New Beds Delivered + Expected Supply.



U.S. Student Housing YoY Effective Asking Rent Change.

US student housing rent growth slows, but remains above average

InvestGB research report on US student housing: From cyclical to sustainable growth

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: A report issued by InvestGB, the investment arm of Gulf Bank, titled "Student Housing in the United States: From Cyclical to Sustainable Growth", provides an overview of the sector's dynamics, key drivers, and future outlook. The report highlights that the student housing sector has experienced strong occupancy rates, particularly in purpose-built properties near leading universities.

The report noted that while pre-leasing rates for 2024 were lower than the exceptional levels seen in 2022 and 2023, they remain in line with historical averages, reflecting a degree of stability amid economic uncertainty. This stability is attributed to Tier 1 universities, which maintain steady demand from students, according to data from RealPage.

Pre-Lease Occupancy Rates Remain Resilient

The student housing sector has exhibited robust occupancy rates, particularly in purpose-built properties near leading universities. RealPage's data illustrates that although pre-leasing figures for 2024 trailed the exceptional rates of 2022 and 2023, they remain consistent with historical averages, reflecting a degree of stability amid economic uncertainty. The occupancy trend is particularly favorable at Tier 1 universities, which continue to attract consistent student demand.

Supply / Demand Dynamics

The limited availability of supply has significantly contributed to the recovery of the student housing market. PwC reports a 35% decline in the delivery of new student housing in the 2020s relative to the 2010s. The observed decline is noteworthy when viewed as a proportion of the current inventory levels. In Fall 2024, new deliveries accounted for 3% of the total student housing stock, marking a substantial decrease from the approximately 8% of annual additions seen over the past ten years. This has led to a contraction in supply.

Moreover, on the supply side, an increase in the availability of competitive student buildings (see footnote) may account for the decline in off-campus purpose-built student housing deliveries, as well as the slight softening in demand for the sector.

Enrollment Growth Trends

On the demand side, the observed trend of declining enrollment growth pre-2024 may be impacting the demand dynamics within the student housing market. Prior to 2024, overall enrollment experienced a modest decline; however, this year has witnessed a reversal. Preliminary data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center shows a 3% increase in undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2024, with growth being across all sectors. However, this overall increase contrasts with a 5% drop in freshman enrollment compared to last year, suggesting mixed signals. The drop in freshman enrollment raises concerns about the long-term demand for higher education among recent high school graduates. This trend may be influenced by various factors, including evolving views regarding college, economic constraints, or a movement towards alternative educational and career options. This combination of increasing overall enrollment with a declining freshman cohort introduces a level of uncertainty regarding the sustainability of growth in the forthcoming years.

Nevertheless, on a more granular level, data on RealPage's 175 tracked campuses, which serve as a proxy for Tier 1 or Institutional-grade universities, shows that these institutions have sustained a more

- Despite economic challenges and changing demographics, the U.S. student housing market has proven to be a robust and evolving sector.
- With high occupancy rates, steady rent growth, and increased institutional interest, student housing stands out as an attractive subsector within real estate.
- This report provides an overview of sector's dynamics, key drivers, and future prospects.

stable enrollment base compared to the broader U.S. enrollment figures. This suggests that there is a growing disparity among campuses, with the divergence in enrollment trends at the campus level largely influenced by robust growth at well-known institutions with strong brand recognition.

Rental Growth Rates Still Above Historical Norms

The student housing sector experienced a notable increase in rental growth in recent years, surpassing its historical averages. The effective asking rent changes for off-campus purpose-built housing have consistently exceeded the historical average of 2.6% on a year-over-year basis since Fall 2014, according to RealPage Analytics. Notably, Fall 2023 saw an exceptional rent growth of 7.8%, which is the highest annual increase recorded in this period. According to PwC's 2025 Emerging Trends in Real Estate report, the student housing rent growth outpaced conventional multifamily in 34 of 56 months since early 2020, highlighting the sector's robust performance. The momentum continued into Fall 2024, with rent growth reaching 5.0%. Whilst still well above the long-term average, the sector is experiencing a normalization of rent growth. The increased availability of competitive student housing, as noted earlier, is another factor contributing to moderation of rent growth.

The data from RealPage above further supports the notion that convergence may be occurring between the broader multifamily sector and student housing markets.

According to PwC's report, the U.S. student housing sector is transitioning into a more mature asset class, characterized by enhanced stability and predictability. The normalization and moderation in rental growth are typical of a mature market, where high volatility gives way to steady, income-focused performance. A key indicator of sector maturity is the shift from what PwC refers to as the "shakeout phase," a period characterized by an increase in market consolidation as competitive dynamics begin to stabilize. This, according to the report, post-shakeout phase is evident, with the majority of off-campus beds now under the control of the top 25-30 ownership groups. This level of consolidation aligns with a mature market profile, where larger players dominate and smaller operators are less prevalent.

Slowdown in transaction activity

The sector has also experienced a decline in transaction volume,

largely attributed to rising interest rates and a more conservative lending landscape. Walker & Dunlop's (W&D) data indicates that transaction activity in student housing dropped significantly in 2023, a 71% decline from the peak levels observed in 2022. This contraction is consistent with broader trends in real estate, where elevated borrowing costs have made it challenging for investors to obtain favorable financing terms.

As a result, transaction volume has shifted toward well-capitalized private investors and institutional players that have the capacity to allocate equity with minimal dependence on debt financing. W&D reports that private capital was the primary driver of transaction activity in 2023, accounting for around \$5.7 billion in total sales. W&D adds that significant institutional investors are currently engaging in asset acquisitions within premier markets, focusing on purpose-built properties located near major campuses.

The recent rise in competitive student housing availability, coupled with a declining population of 18-24-year-olds, presents challenges for the sector. Going forward, investors should be more selective in their strategy. Prime markets are expected to maintain consistent occupancy levels and experience gradual rent increases, closer to their sustainable historical levels. Yardi Matrix projects that occupancy levels will stabilize at approximately 94-95% within major universities, reinforcing the sector's resilience in high-demand markets.

The capital markets outlook for student housing remains cautiously optimistic for high-quality assets near top universities. As lenders become more selective, financing is expected to concentrate on properties with stable occupancy and strong rental income, particularly in high-demand Tier 1 university markets.

Cap rates have adjusted upward to reflect higher interest rates, but we anticipate potential cap rate contraction as interest rates decline, creating a more favorable environment for refinancing and transaction activity.

Ultimately, for investors, the path forward lies in selective investment in high-demand markets. The sector is anticipated to sustain its position as a robust investment opportunity within the real estate market, offering investors appealing risk-adjusted returns.

Disclaimer: The content herein is intended to provide general information and does not constitute financial or investment advice. Readers are strongly encouraged to seek professional or specialist advice before making any investment decisions based on the information provided in this article.

While every effort is made to ensure that the content is accurate, complete, and up-to-date, no representations, warranties, or guarantees, whether express or implied, are made regarding the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information.

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Kuwait banks boost trade sector financing by 23 pct in September

Annual trade financing up 52% to KD 369.7 mln

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In September 2024, the local banks in Kuwait demonstrated significant growth in their financial support to the trade sector, with an increase of 70 million dinars, or 23.1 percent, compared to the previous month.

The total financing extended to the trade sector reached 369.7 million dinars by the end of September, up from 300.1 million dinars in August.

On an annual basis, this financing rose by 51.7 percent, reflecting an increase of 126.1 million dinars from 243.6 million dinars in September 2023. Over the course of the first nine months of the year, total financing to the sector amounted to a whopping 2.2 billion dinars.

The Central Bank of Kuwait's monthly statistics revealed a decline in the accumulated balance of commercial financing. In September 2024, it decreased by 1.3 percent, or 50 million dinars, to 3.755 billion dinars, compared to 3.805 billion dinars in August 2024.

However, on a year-over-year basis, this balance showed an increase of 152 million dinars, or 4.2 percent,

compared to 3.603 billion dinars in September 2023.

The syndicated financing for the trade sector saw a substantial increase in 2023, rising by 33.5 percent, which equates to about 766 million dinars.

This brought the total syndicated financing up from 2.282 billion dinars in 2022 to 3.048 billion dinars in 2023, underscoring the banks' growing support for the trade industry.

Trade finance, an essential service provided by local banks to support both domestic and foreign trade, includes mechanisms like commercial transactions, letters of guarantee, and letters of credit.

These services facilitate payment guarantees where the bank undertakes to pay the seller after verifying that all required documents comply with the terms and conditions.

In terms of import financing, the first nine months of 2024 saw a significant total of 5.84 billion dinars in financing provided by local banks. Of this total, 80 percent, or 4.67 billion dinars, was financed in US dollars, with the Euro coming in second at 5.68 percent (about 332.3 million dinars).

Other currencies, including the Saudi riyal, UAE dirhams, and British pounds, contributed smaller proportions, reflecting the diverse nature of Kuwait's trade financing.

When broken down by financing type, the largest share -- 68.9 percent, or 4.02 billion dinars -- was provided through other payment orders, followed by documentary credits at 25.86

percent, worth 1.51 billion dinars, and collection bills at 5.2 percent, or 303.8 million dinars.

In terms of month-over-month performance, import financing increased by 24.7 percent in September, reaching 858.8 million dinars -- an increase of 170.4 million dinars from 688.4 million dinars in August. However, there was a 5.8 percent decrease in annual terms, as September 2023 saw 912.1 million dinars in import financing.

The overall credit facilities extended by local banks to both residents and non-residents reached a significant total of 55.83 billion dinars by the end of September 2024, showing a growth rate of 4.2 percent from 53.55 billion dinars at the end of December 2023.

Loans granted to residents accounted for 48.86 billion dinars, while loans to non-residents totaled 6.97 billion dinars.

Among the various sectors benefiting from credit facilities, housing loans -- which are long-term personal loans for the purpose of purchasing, building, or renovating residential properties -- accounted for 16.32 billion dinars by the end of September 2024.

This represents an increase of 1.9 percent, or 312 million dinars, over the previous year.

The ongoing trend of growth in bank lending and trade financing highlights the resilience and strength of Kuwait's banking sector, ensuring that it continues to play a vital role in supporting economic development, trade, and investment across the country and beyond.

Protecting customer data is top priority, says Al-Suwaidan

KIB launches awareness campaign for International Fraud Awareness Week

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its participation in International Fraud Awareness Week with a comprehensive awareness campaign across all its digital platforms, alongside various initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness of financial fraud risks and prevention methods. This campaign reflects KIB's ongoing commitment to promoting banking awareness, enhancing financial literacy, and offering guidance to help protect customers from fraudulent activities. Additionally, it marks KIB's fourth consecutive year supporting the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) campaign, an initiative launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in collaboration with local banks.

Commenting on the occasion, Basil Al-Suwaidan, General Manager of the Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department, said: "With the continuous advancements in the digital landscape and the growing sophistication of fraud attacks, protecting our customers' data is a top priority. Our involvement in International Fraud Awareness Week is part of our commitment to raising awareness and educating customers on the importance of financial security, helping them avoid falling victim to various types of fraud, and protecting their financial and personal assets."

Al-Suwaidan also emphasized the critical role of customer awareness in protecting personal and banking data through adherence to best practices and banking procedures. He noted that KIB continuously seeks to explore innovative strategies and implement robust action plans to mitigate fraud risks and ensure a secure banking environment for its customers.

Al-Suwaidan noted that fraud can take various forms, including phishing, identity theft, and cyber fraud. He shared several recommendations for customers, such as immediately reporting any suspected breach or fraud, or any unusual or suspicious activity on bank accounts or debit and credit cards, by contacting the customer service center at 1866866. He also advised customers to avoid responding to suspicious emails or text messages or clicking on any links they may contain, suggesting instead that they forward any suspicious emails to phishing@kib.com.kw.

He also pointed out the importance of activating notifications to monitor the details of each banking transaction and ensure its accuracy and security, especially when making payments through electronic and digital channels. Furthermore, he advised regularly checking account and credit card transactions and frequently updating PINs and passwords.

It is worth noting that KIB is dedicated to its leading role in educating the community on various aspects of the bank-



KIB's 'Diraya' campaign

ing sector, a cornerstone of its comprehensive social responsibility program. The Bank is committed to launching initiatives that broadly promote financial literacy and actively participating in numerous events and campaigns, helping customers develop stronger financial management skills and empowering them to make informed financial decisions.

About KIB

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

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

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

CBK announces latest Bonds & Tawarruq offering

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KWD 200 million for 3 months with Rate of Return 4.125%.

NBK RISE advances its mission, paving the way to empower women in leadership



Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar speaks during the launch of the second edition of NBK RISE.



Shaikha Al-Bahar (center) with Ali Khalil and Abdullatif Al-Nusif.



Isam Al-Sager, Salah Al-Fulaiji, Imad Al-Ablani, Hisham Al-Rifai, Yaqoub Al-Rifai, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain and Ali Khalil listen to an explanation of the program.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Following the success of its inaugural edition, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has announced the launch of the second edition of NBK RISE, the pioneering program created to empower women leaders and prepare them for senior roles.

The launch ceremony was marked by the presence of Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait, Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait, Mr. Salah Al-Fulaiji, CEO of NBK-Kuwait, and Mr. Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO of NBK Wealth, Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman, CEO - Consumer and Digital Banking Group, Mr. Mohammad Al-Kharafi, COO - Head of Group Operations and Information Technology, alongside several of the bank's top executives.

The event was also attended by prominent public figures, industry leaders, CEOs, and representatives from major organizations, including Mr. Hesham Al-Refae, Managing Director of Human Resources & Corporate Services at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, CEO of Ooredoo Kuwait; Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai, Secretary General of Kuwait Banking Association, Mr. Mohammed Abul, CEO of ABYAT, and Ms. Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, Mr. Ali Khalil, CEO of Kuwait Financial Centre - Markaz, Mr. Abdullatif Al-Nusif, Managing Director - Wealth Management and Business Development at Markaz, in addition to representatives from J's Bakery, and Intervest Capital Partners New York. All participants exemplified a strong, collective commitment to advancing women's representation in leadership roles through their collaboration and dedication, as part of the NBK RISE pledge.

NBK is committed to supporting the NBK RISE program and its mission to foster professional growth and leadership development in women, creating a path of learning and opportunity that empowers them to ascend to higher leadership roles and secure positions on boards and executive committees.

This nine-month program incorporates a blend of training courses and events in partnership with IE Business School and INSEAD, focusing on essential competencies, confidence building, strategic initiative development, transformational leadership, and effective decision-making. Participants also benefit from mentorship, coaching by industry leaders, and collaborative projects that turn ideas into impactful outcomes.

The program is structured in modules targeting lead-

ership and strategic skills, communication, and interaction, with a clear goal of preparing participants for distinguished leadership roles.

Furthermore, the initiative will support a diverse group of participants, including female employees and trainees from the bank, as well as representatives from establishments involved in this year's initiative. NBK is committed to advancing diversity and inclusion, with a particular focus on the critical role of empowering effective women leaders.

This year, the program includes 25 participants from diverse professional backgrounds, including NBK employees in Kuwait and international locations, as well as representatives from partner organizations whom NBK Group fully sponsors. The program's participants comprise a diverse cohort, including:

- 12 representatives from NBK Kuwait.
- 3 participants from NBK's international branches (Egypt, Singapore, and Bahrain).

- 5 participants from esteemed regional companies: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Ooredoo, Kuwait Banking Association, Abyat, and Gulf Bank.

- 2 participants from NBK Wealth and 3 from Kuwait Financial Centre - Markaz, J's Bakery, and Intervest Capital Partners, New York.

NBK is dedicated to fostering a culture of women's empowerment throughout the entire organization, with a focus on expanding their presence in leadership roles. By offering guidance and career development opportunities, the bank provides specialized programs and workshops in collaboration with renowned universities and international training centers, equipping women leaders with the skills and strategies needed to excel in leadership positions.

NBK RISE serves as a powerful platform for ambitious women to harness their potential and achieve their professional goals, building on the exceptional success of the inaugural edition. The Bank will persist in its unwavering efforts to empower women in the workplace and advance their careers, grounded in its belief that diversity and inclusion are essential to ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of all organizations.

Furthermore, NBK is deeply committed to promoting equal opportunities and fostering diversity, equality, and inclusion within the workplace. Through a range of strategic initiatives and specialized programs designed to support and develop women leaders, the Bank has significantly increased the number of women in leadership and supervisory positions.

- NBK remains committed to fostering women's empowerment and expanding their leadership presence
- The Bank's vision is to create a diverse and inclusive workplace that nurtures and supports talented women to take on leadership roles
- NBK RISE serves as an ideal platform for ambitious women to un-

lock their potential and pursue their career goals

- The program aims to prepare participants for prominent leadership positions in the future

- Spanning nine months, the program offers a comprehensive series of activities and training courses in partnership with leading global universities



Isam Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Hisham Al-Rifai, Mohammed Abel, Salma Al-Hajjaj, and Yaqoub Al-Rifai.

Enhancing the representation of women in leadership and providing them with opportunities to engage in critical decision-making is a key strategic priority for global institutions. This is especially important as women increasingly contribute to addressing social issues, helping to foster an environment that supports sustainable development and generates a lasting positive impact on society.

NBK RISE is an inspiring initiative that goes beyond the bank's efforts, extending to several leading organizations in Kuwait that have signed the pledge to increase the representation of women in leadership roles. This collective commitment reinforces their determination to work together to achieve the goals of this global program.

NBK RISE has earned prestigious recognition, including awards from Euromoney Magazine and the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), along with MEED Magazine's award for "Best Initiative for Women in Business".

NBK takes pride in its leadership in upholding the principles of workplace equality across all its international locations, where women account for 49% of the Group's workforce. Additionally, women represent 29.7% of the national workforce in senior management and above. The bank is also proud of the absence of any gender wage gap among its employees. The NBK RISE initiative stands as a testament to the Group's leading role in fostering and advancing its institutional impact on society.

In partnership with renowned universities and training centers globally, NBK consistently offers specialized programs and workshops to develop women leaders while raising awareness of gender differences and how to leverage these differences to enhance productivity and foster innovation. Additionally, NBK is expanding its commitment to diversity and inclusion by launching products and services tailored for female customers and entrepreneurs, and will continue to advance these efforts as part of its ongoing dedication to promoting financial inclusion.

NBK remains dedicated to building a workplace culture where women's empowerment flourishes, providing ongoing support for their professional journey and ensuring a sustainable legacy of diversity and inclusion across its global network.



Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar signs the pledge on behalf of the National Bank of Kuwait.



Abdulaziz Al-Babtain signs the pledge on behalf of Ooredoo.



Mohammed Abul signs the pledge on behalf of Abyat Company.



Hesham Al-Refae signs the pledge on behalf of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.



Dr Yaqoub Al-Rifai signs the pledge on behalf of the Kuwait Banking Association.



Participants of the second edition of the program.



Attendees listen to an explanation of the program.



Faisal Al-Hamad, Mohammed Al-Othman, Grant Lowen, Nabil Marouf, Ali Fardan and Salma Al-Hajjaj.



Ali Khalil, Abdullatif Al-Nusif, Isam Al-Sager, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Shaikha Al-Bahar.

Honored for leadership in ESG and cutting-edge solutions

Warba Bank recognized as leader in sustainability, Islamic digital banking

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Warba Bank was awarded the titles of "Most Sustainable Bank in Kuwait 2024" and "Best Islamic Digital Banking Services in Kuwait 2024" by the International Business Magazine...

It also promotes a collaborative approach to sustainability by equipping participants with the knowledge needed to identify sustainable investment opportunities...



Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, CEO of Warba Bank.

Through its Express Finance product, existing customers can access Sharia-compliant financing of up to KD 250,000 without visiting a branch.

The magazine's jury further noted Warba Bank's Financial Advisor feature, available through its app, which provides personalized banking recommendations to enhance customer experiences.

On this occasion, Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, CEO of Warba Bank, said: "We are proud to receive these prestigious awards from the International Business Magazine. At Warba Bank, we firmly believe that sustainability is a collective responsibility, vital for protecting the future of the next generations."

future while prioritizing our customers' financial prosperity."

Al-Ghanem added that Warba Bank's technologically advanced digital banking services have become a priority for customers, reinforcing the bank's position as a leader in the Islamic banking sector.

The International Business Magazine Awards is a renowned platform celebrating global excellence in business and finance. It recognizes outstanding achievements by industrial leaders and organizations worldwide.

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

Trump taps fossil fuel exec Wright as energy secretary

Brendan Carr named as new chairman of FCC

PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 18, (AP): President-elect Donald Trump has selected Chris Wright, a campaign donor and fossil fuel executive, to serve as energy secretary in his upcoming, second administration.

CEO of Denver-based Liberty Energy, Wright is a vocal advocate of oil and gas development, including fracking, a key pillar of Trump's quest to achieve U.S. "energy dominance" in the global market.

Wright has been one of the industry's loudest voices against efforts to fight climate change, and could give fossil fuels a boost, including quick action to end a year-long pause on natural gas export approvals by the Biden administration.

Frequently criticizing what he calls a "top-down" approach to climate by liberal and left-wing groups, Wright has argued that the climate movement around the world is "collapsing under its own weight." He has never served in government, but has written that more fossil fuel production is needed around the globe to lift people out of poverty.

Consideration of Wright to head the administration's energy department won support from influential conservatives, including oil and gas tycoon Harold Hamm.

Hamm, executive chairman of Oklahoma-based Continental Resources, a major shale oil company, is a longtime Trump supporter and adviser who played a key role on energy issues in Trump's first term. Hamm helped organize an event at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in April where Trump reportedly asked industry leaders and lobbyists to donate \$1 billion to



President-elect Donald Trump speaks at a meeting of the House GOP conference, on Nov. 13, 2024, in Washington. (AP)

Trump's campaign, with the expectation that Trump would curtail environmental regulations if reelected.

Mike Sommers, president of the American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry's top lobbying group, said Wright's experience in the energy sector "gives him an important perspective that will inform his leadership" of the Energy Department.

"We look forward to working with him once confirmed to bolster American geopolitical strength by lifting DOE's pause on LNG export permits and ensuring the open access of American energy for our allies around the world," Sommers said.

Jackie Wong, senior vice president for climate and energy at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, called Wright "a champion of dirty fossil fuels" and said his nomination to lead the Energy Department was "a disastrous mistake."

"The Energy Department should be doing all it can to develop and expand the energy sources of the 21st century, not trying to promote the dirty fuels of the last century," Wong said.

"Given the devastating impacts of climate-fueled disasters, DOE's core mission of researching and promoting cleaner energy solutions is more important now than ever."

Meanwhile, President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday named

Brendan Carr, the senior Republican on the Federal Communications Commission, as the new chairman of the agency tasked with regulating broadcasting, telecommunications and broadband.



Wright



Carr



Farmers block a highway to protest the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, Monday, Nov. 18, 2024 in Velizy-Villacoublay outside Paris. (AP)

Unions warn of unfair competition

French farmers mobilize against EU-Mercosur deal amid G20 talks

PARIS, Nov 18, (AP): French farmers are mobilizing for widespread protests called Monday targeting the EU-Mercosur trade agreement. They argue the deal threatens their livelihoods by allowing a surge of South American agricultural imports produced under less stringent environmental standards.

Protests are planned nationwide, including gatherings at prefectures and traffic circles. One group blocked a highway south of Paris on Sunday night with tractors, and scattered actions have been held recently building up to this week's protests.

The European Union and the Mercosur trade bloc, composed of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia, reached an initial agreement in 2019, but negotiations stumbled due to opposition from farmers and some European governments.

The new protests come amid fears the agreement could be finalized at the G20 summit in Brazil on Nov. 18-19, or in the coming weeks. EU farm ministers are also meeting in Brussels on Monday.

Leading the charge of the new protests are unions like FNSEA and Young Farmers, who oppose provisions such as duty-free imports of beef, poultry and sugar, which they say create unfair competition. Coordination Rurale, a union linked to the far right, has promised an "agricultural revolt," including food freight blockades beginning Tuesday in Auch and Agen, in southwestern France.

Proponents of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement argue that it would significantly boost economic ties between Europe and South America by eliminating tariffs on European exports, notably for machinery, chemicals and cars, thereby enhancing market access and creating lucrative opportunities for European businesses.

Earlier this year, farmers staged protests across France and elsewhere in Europe, blocking roads and buildings to protest EU regulations and financial problems, demand fairer agricultural policies and oppose the trade agreement. French Agriculture Minister Annie Genevard has publicly opposed the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, citing risks of deforestation and health concerns linked to hormone-treated meat.

In an interview with TF1, she said: "We don't want this agreement because it's harmful. It will bring in products, including substances banned in Europe, at the cost of deforestation. It will unfairly compete with our domestic production."

President Emmanuel Macron has also criticized the agreement unless South American producers meet EU standards.

Farmers say they are further frustrated by a European Commission audit that flagged hormone use in Brazilian beef exports. Their demonstrations aim to pressure the French government and EU officials to block or renegotiate the agreement.

Nikkei dips as yen strengthens; Samsung lifts South Korea

Asian shares mixed after Wall St slumps

BANGKOK, Nov 18, (AP): Shares started out the week mixed in Asia after U.S. stocks fell to their worst loss since Election Day.

U.S. futures were higher, with the S&P 500 contract up 0.3% and that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 0.1% as speculation mounted over who President-elect Donald Trump might nominate to be his Treasury secretary.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index dropped 1.1% to 38,220.85 as the yen initially regained some strength against the U.S. dollar after the central bank governor, Kazuo Ueda, indicated that the Bank of Japan will continue to raise interest rates as conditions permit.

The dollar inched up to 154.58 Japanese yen from 154.54 yen late Friday. It had been trading above 156 yen last week.

South Korea's Kospi jumped 2.2%

to 2,469.07 after Samsung Electronics, the country's biggest company, announced a share buyback plan. Samsung's shares jumped 6%.

Chinese markets were mixed. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 0.8% to 19,572.34, while the Shanghai Composite index shed early gains to close down 0.2% at 3,323.55.

Elsewhere in Asia, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.2% higher, to 8,300.20. Taiwan's Taiex lost 0.9% and the SET in Bangkok picked up 0.8% as the government announced that Thailand's economy grew more than expected in the last quarter.

In other dealings early Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil added 13 cents to \$67.15 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude climbed 27 cents to \$71.31 per barrel.



A passerby moves past an electronic stock board showing Japan's stock prices outside a securities firm in Tokyo, on Oct. 11, 2024. (AP)

Bank of Japan governor hints continued gradual rate hikes

TOKYO, Nov 18, (Xinhua): The Bank of Japan (BOJ) will continue incremental interest rate hikes to align with the nation's economic and price improvements, its governor Kazuo Ueda said Monday.

Speaking at a financial meeting in Nagoya, Ueda emphasized that the timing of future rate hikes would depend on various factors, including global economic conditions, particularly developments in the United States, and domestic wage trends, Nikkei reported.

He noted a shift in Japan's inflation drivers from import costs to domestic wage

growth and highlighted October's Tokyo consumer price index as evidence of this change.

Adjusting the interest rates would support sustainable economic growth and help achieving long-term inflation targets, he explained.

The BOJ ended its negative rate policy in March this year with the first rate hike in 17 years, followed by another increase in July. It kept its policy rate unchanged at September and October meetings.

Ueda also reiterated the need for flexibility in policy adjustments based on real-time economic data.

Financial losses pile up and debt payments loom

Spirit Airlines files for bankruptcy

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): Spirit Airlines said Monday that it has filed for bankruptcy protection and will attempt to reboot as it struggles to recover from the pandemic-caused swoon in travel and a failed attempt to sell the airline to JetBlue.

Spirit, the biggest U.S. budget airline, has lost more than \$2.5 billion

since the start of 2020 and faces looming debt payments totaling more than \$1 billion over the next year.

Spirit said it expects to operate as normal as it works its way through a prearranged Chapter 11 bankruptcy process and that customers can continue to book and fly without interruption.

Shares of Miramar, Florida-based

Spirit dropped 25% on Friday, after The Wall Street Journal reported that the airline was discussing terms of a possible bankruptcy filing with its bondholders. It was just the latest in a series of blows that have sent the stock crashing down by 97% since late 2018 - when Spirit was still making money.

Government backs digital transformation

Egypt's largest ICT exhibition kicks off

CAIRO, Nov 18, (Xinhua): The 28th edition of the Cairo ICT expo, Egypt's largest information and communications technology (ICT) exhibition, kicked off on Sunday with the participation of more than 400 international and local exhibitors.

The five-day event, held in the

Egyptian capital Cairo, was inaugurated by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and a number of ministers.

Under the theme "The Next Wave," the expo showcases cutting-edge technologies, including advancements in 5G, AI-driven solutions, blockchain

innovations, and satellite communications.

"The communications sector represents hope for Egypt's youth and the real train of development on which all other sectors depend," Madbouly said while touring the expo's pavilions.

What's On



AmCham photo from the event

US Ambassador and key figures attend Kuwait's disability forum

American Business Council Kuwait reaffirms dedication to 'inclusivity'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In collaboration with the American Business Council Kuwait (ABCK), the Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall has reaffirmed its dedication to inclusivity by sponsoring the 2024 Solidarity Forum for Disabilities.

This significant event, held in Fahaheel, highlights Hyatt's ongoing commitment to fostering accessibility and equal opportunities for all, ensuring a welcoming environment for people of all abilities within Kuwait's hospitality industry.

The forum was patronized by Dr. Amthar Al-Huwaila, Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs, and HE Sheikhha Suhaila Salem Al-Sabah. The US Ambassador to Kuwait HE Karen Sasahara was among the high-profile personalities in addition to senior officials and ad-

vocates from the ABCK and the Kuwaiti Society for Follow-up on Disability Issues, with the aim of promoting inclusivity and raise awareness about accessibility challenges in Kuwait.

Walid El Awadly, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall, said, "At Hyatt, 60 years ago, we set forth with a vision to create a world of care, where our purpose is to ensure that our people can be their best. We thrive through community to foster an inclusive environment that supports everyone in our community."

As part of Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall's broader commitment to Kuwait's national goals of inclusivity, the property recently achieved the prestigious Green Key certification for its sustainable practices.

This recognition underscores the hotel's dedication to socially responsible initiatives. By partnering with organizations such as ABCK, Hyatt aims to inspire societal change and demonstrate that inclusivity is a key aspect of delivering exceptional guest experiences.

The National Day of Solidarity for People with Disabilities 2024 forum marked a milestone in advancing diversity and accessibility within the community.

Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall continues to lead the way in redefining world-class hospitality in Kuwait, ensuring that inclusivity remains a cornerstone of its operations.

The American Business Council (AmCham) Kuwait is a non-profit organization that has been advocating for American business interests in the State of Kuwait since 1985.

Comprising Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized businesses, and prominent entrepreneurs from both American and Kuwaiti backgrounds, AmCham Kuwait fosters a strong business community and promotes mutual growth and understanding. For more information, visit www.amchamkuwait.org or follow @abck1985 on social media.

Dickson family reconnects with Kuwait's historical figures and sites

Grandchildren of late Col. Dickson visit Kuwait to celebrate 125 years of diplomatic relations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: As the United Kingdom and Kuwait continue their celebrations marking 125 years of official diplomatic relations, two grandchildren of the late Lt. Col. Harold Dickson, who served as the British Political Agent to Kuwait from 1929-1936 and again from May to August 1941, along with his wife Violet, popularly known as Umm Saud, have arrived in Kuwait for a week-long visit, says a press release issued by the British Embassy in Kuwait.

The visit, organized by Mr. Essa Yahya Dashti BEM, a researcher on Kuwaiti-British relations, in collaboration with the National Library of Kuwait, will include Stephen and Penny Freeth inaugurating an exhibition titled "Dickson Family Memories in Kuwait" at the National Library.

During their stay, they will reconnect with old family friends, such as the Al-Hendal family, Her Excellency Sheikhha Halah Bader Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Mrs. Claudia Al-Rashood, and Mrs. Vera Al-Mutawa.

They will also visit several historically significant sites in Kuwait City, including Dickson House, where they lived with their late grandmother Violet until 1990.

The Freeths' program began with a special "Service of Thanks" at the British Embassy, where they paid tribute to their late grandfather, Lt. Col. Harold Dickson, at his graveside. Notable attendees included the Reverend Dr. Michael Mbona, Mrs. Belinda Lewis, British Ambassador to Kuwait, Mr. Jaber Al-Hendal, a long-



Seen in the picture are grandchildren of the late Lt. Col. Harold Dickson.



The British envoy speaking at the event.

time family friend, and Mr. Essa Yahya Dashti BEM.

Mr. Essa Yahya Dashti BEM expressed his joy at hosting the Dickson family once again: "I am pleased to cooperate with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters -- specifically the National Library of Kuwait -- to host, for the second time, the family of the late Lt. Col. Harold and Mrs. Violet Dickson in the State of Kuwait.

The Dickson family has a strong connection to Kuwait's history and remains dearly loved by the Kuwaiti people, as reflected in our ongoing commitment to preserving Dickson House, their home for 61 years. This visit symbolizes the strength of the relations between the Kuwaiti people and our British friends, who, despite differences in language and traditions, are united by respect and affection."

The British envoy added: "The Dickson family is part of the very fabric of Kuwait, with a legacy of significant contributions to diplomacy, the economy, horticulture, and tribal society. Today's service was a tribute to our shared history of progress, which we will continue to reflect on throughout Stephen and Penny's visit."

Stephen Freeth, grandson of Lt. Col. Harold and Mrs. Violet Dickson, stated: "Penny and I are delighted to be back in Kuwait.

"We have always been extremely proud of our grandparents' genuine love for the Arab people and culture, as well as their contributions to local history. We hope the relationship between Kuwait and Britain continues to grow, grounded in mutual respect, admiration, and cooperation."



Poster of the event showing Paco de Lucía

Spain Embassy in Kuwait to host tribute concert for Paco de Lucía

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Embassy of Spain in Kuwait will host a special concert to honor Paco de Lucía, (1947-2014) the Spanish virtuoso flamenco guitarist, composer and one of the most influential figures in the history of flamenco music.

The performance will feature Diego Amador (piano and vocals) and José María Bandera (flamenco guitar), who have dedicated themselves to meticulously restoring Paco de Lucía's iconic repertoire. The duo will present a comprehensive musical tribute to the master of flamenco guitar, offering music lovers in Kuwait a unique opportunity to experience his timeless works.

The concert will take place at the Yarmouk Cultural Center, Dar Alathar Al Islamiyya, on Sunday, November 24, at 7:00 pm.

Paco de Lucía, was known for his extraordinary technical skill, innova-

tive style, and emotional depth, he revolutionized flamenco by blending traditional elements with jazz, classical music, and other genres.

His groundbreaking albums, such as El Duende Flamenco and Siroco, transformed the flamenco guitar, introducing complex rhythms and harmonies while maintaining its cultural roots.

De Lucía's collaborations with other artists, including Camarón de la Isla, further cemented his legacy as a pioneering force in world music.

On the tenth anniversary of Paco de Lucía's death, tribute was paid to the legendary guitarist who rose from the streets of Algeciras to redefine flamenco music.

Born Francisco Sánchez Gómez in 1947, Paco began playing guitar at age five, under the strict guidance of his father.



Grand prize of 1,000,000 reward points.

Students can win 1 mln 'tam' points

'tam' digital bank launches prize campaign for student customers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: "tam" Digital Bank, Kuwait's first Sharia-compliant digital bank, has recently launched a campaign of prizes and awards for student customers who transfer their allowance to "tam". Customers will be granted the golden badge, allowing them to gain from an array of offers and exclusive benefits.

During the campaign duration, customers who transferred their student allowance to "tam" and received the golden badge will enjoy various exclusive benefits. These include a draw entry to win the grand prize of 1,000,000 "tam" reward points for 40 winners. Additionally, there are chances to win monthly rewards throughout the campaign, with 100 winners receiving 100,000 reward points and purchasing coupons of KD 50 for 300 winners. Customers who are awarded the points will have the chance for cash back of up to KD 1,000.

The recently launched campaign will continue until January 2025, allowing customers with student allowances to recommend a friend through "tam" app.

This feature will grant the customer an additional 5,000 reward points for the first referral who opens an account at "tam". To benefit from this feature, customers can simply copy a code and send it to several friends and relatives. These points can be enjoyed by redeeming them with purchasing vouchers from several top global brands participating in the "tam" app.

The Transfer Your Allowance campaign underscores "tam" Digital Bank's commitment to investing in its young customers and attracting a new generation of clients with top-tier features and rewards. "tam" is particularly focused on the youth segment and those seeking the highest quality of digital banking.

It is worth noting that a team from "tam" is present in various locations, including universities and Winter Wonderland, to communicate directly with customers and respond to all their inquiries. "tam" Digital Bank is committed to continuing the initiatives and activities that cater to the youth's needs.

Cardinal Cleemis presents prestigious awards to industry pioneers in Kuwait

KMRM honors business leaders at Pearl Jubilee

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: As part of the monumental Pearl Jubilee and Harvest Festival celebrations of the Kuwait Malankara Rite Movement (KMRM), the esteemed Business Excellence Award was bestowed upon three luminaries in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to Kuwait's social, cultural, and industrial spheres. The recipients included Mr. Mustafa Hamza, Chairman and CEO of Metro Medical Group, Sivi Paul, pioneering Managing Director of Boubian Gas, and Sunil Parakkadathu, innovative Managing Director of Phoenix Group of Products.

In a stirring ceremony, His Beatitude Basilio Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, Head and Father of the Malankara Catholic Church, presented these awards, celebrating the honorees for their remarkable dedication to humanity and their tireless efforts to uplift the community. In his address, Cardinal Cleemis lauded the awardees as beacons of compassion, commending their ability to transcend distinctions of religion, politics, caste, and color, and encouraging others to embrace a life devoted to service and unity.

The event featured heartfelt messages from KMRM Spiritual Director Rev. Dr. Thomas Kanjiramakalil, Cor Episcopo Rev. John Thundiyath (GCC Coordinator of the Malankara Catholic Church), and visiting dignitaries Rev. Dr. Titus John Cheravallil O.I.C., Rev. Fr.

Severios Thomas, Jojimon Thomas, Chairman-Advisory Board and Mr. Joel Jacob the director of United Indian International School.

Mr. Mustafa Hamza, deeply moved by the honor, conveyed his sincere gratitude, emphasizing the profound significance of receiving this award from His Beatitude Cardinal Cleemis, a symbol of his unwavering commitment to service.

The ceremony opened with an inspiring welcome by KMRM General Secretary Binu K. John, while Treasurer Rana Varghese offered a powerful vote of thanks, sealing the evening with an enduring sense of purpose and gratitude. This grand event left an indelible mark, celebrating exceptional leadership and a shared vision of compassion and progress.



KMRM honors Hamza, Paul, Parakkadathu with Business Excellence Award.

Quincy Jones, Bond producers, and more recognized

Hollywood stars gather for honorary Oscars event

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 18, (AP) — The family of Quincy Jones was not sure they wanted to attend the Governors Awards.

Their father died two weeks before he could accept his second honorary Oscar, alongside Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, filmmaker Richard Curtis and casting director Juliet Taylor.

But the Jones family decided to show up for the event Sunday night in Hollywood for a celebration of his life and work with humor from Jamie Foxx, a rousing performance by Jennifer Hudson and a moment with his family: His daughter Rashida Jones even read the speech he had been working on up until a month ago.

"We felt like we wanted to celebrate his beautiful life and career," she said. "His music has literally defined an entire century of culture spanning genres."

It was a moving end to a celebratory evening that had Hugh Grant roasting Curtis for getting a "kind of Oscar" and Daniel Craig celebrating the legacy of the James Bond films.

The audience in the Ray Dolby Ballroom was starrier than even the Oscars. The event, put on by the film academy's board of governors, is also a de-facto campaign stop for Oscar hopefuls as awards season gets underway.

Everywhere you looked there were famous faces greeting one another: Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson at the bar ordering a margarita on the rocks; Jude Law and Kristen Wiig exchanging hellos; Zoey Deschanel sipping champagne; Brooklyn Beckham and Nicola Peltz Beckham wandering around; Saoirse Ronan and Elizabeth Olsen deep in conversation; Sharon Stone hugging Kieran Culkin; Jesse Eisenberg chatting with Elle Fanning; and Jeremy Strong taking a selfie with Guy Pearce.

Others remained near their seats, like Jennifer Lawrence, June Squibb and Angelina Jolie, who attended alongside her son Knox Jolie-Pitt. They sat beside her "Maria" director Pablo Larraín and across from "His Three Daughters" stars Natasha Lyonne and Olson. At another table, Barry Keoghan kept making his way to Margot Robbie's side, squeezing in between her and Demi Moore.

But most of the schmoozing subsided for the main event. With no television cameras or band to play anyone off during a speech, it is a night during which friends and colleagues can pay tribute to the year's honorary Oscar recipients.

Broccoli and her brother Wilson followed in her father's footsteps receiving the rarely given Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, celebrating the work of producers. Albert "Cubby" Broccoli accepted his own trophy, then a bust of Thalberg, at the 1982 Academy Awards as they looked on from the audience.

"It's heavier than I thought," Wilson said, holding the Oscar statuette. Broccoli also commented on the importance of producers, a credit she said that lately is being handed out like party favors.

They got some gentle ribbing from Craig beforehand. Broccoli, he said, "cackles, I mean, crackles with passion." But for a man who has always had a seemingly conflicted relationship with his Bond era, his admiration for them was evident.

"I can't tell you how much I admire your integrity," Craig said. "These (Bond movies) are the most expensive independent films ever made."

Grant was less delicate but infinitely funnier paying tribute to Curtis, who has written for and directed him in many films including "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "Notting Hill" and "Love, Actually."

"Would we call it an Oscar? It's a kind of Oscar," Grant said. "It's a better than nothing Oscar."

Curtis may be best known for his contributions to romantic comedies, but the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award was for a lifetime of charitable work, which Grant said was "annoying and frankly selfish." In his acceptance speech, Curtis made a plea to the room to set aside a small portion of film budgets to hire an impact producer.

Nicole Kidman presented the honorary Oscar to Taylor, a casting director unaccustomed to being publicly celebrated for her contributions to cinema. In her career of more than four decades, she cast classics like "Annie Hall," "Working Girl," "Sleepless in Seattle" and "Schindler's List." Squibb, at the event with her "Thelma" director



Richard Curtis, (from left), Michael G. Wilson, Juliet Taylor, Martina Jones, Rashida Jones, Kenya Kinski-Jones, Quincy Jones III, and Barbara Broccoli pose with their awards during the 15th Governors Awards on Sunday, Nov. 17, at The Ray Dolby Ballroom in Los Angeles. (AP)



Martina Jones, (from left), Rashida Jones, and Quincy Jones III accept a posthumous Honorary Award for Quincy Jones. (AP)



Juliet Taylor accepts an Honorary Award during the 15th Governors Awards. (AP)



Jamie Foxx speaks during the 15th Governors Awards. (AP)



Elle Fanning arrives at the 15th Governors Awards. (AP)



Knox Leon Jolie-Pitt, (left), and Angelina Jolie arrive at the 15th Governors Awards. (AP)



Tilda Swinton, (from left), Pedro Almodóvar and Julianne Moore arrive at the Governors Awards. (AP)



Selena Gomez, (from left), Zoe Saldana, and Karla Sofía Gascon arrive at the Governors Awards. (AP)



Kate Winslet arrives at the 15th Governors Awards. (AP)



Mikey Madison arrives at the 15th Governors Awards.



Saoirse Ronan arrives at the 15th Governors Awards. (AP)



Julia Louis-Dreyfus arrives at the Governors Awards. (AP)



Sharon Stone arrives at the Governors Awards. (AP)



Jennifer Lopez arrives at the Governors Awards. (AP)

Josh Margolin, said that Taylor cast her in her first film, Woody Allen's "Alice."

"I don't know if I'd have a career in motion pictures without it," Squibb said.

While Taylor was excited about her award, she was even happier that her peers are soon going to be regularly recognized. Starting with films re-

leased in 2025, the film academy will give a new competitive Oscar to

casting directors.

There were many somber refer-

ences throughout the evening to the events of the "last few weeks,"

although no one speaking from the stage said anything much more specific. Jamie Foxx, introducing the Quincy Jones tribute, did his own little impersonation of President Elect Donald Trump.

"Why is everyone so down on these few weeks," he said.

Foxx quickly got back on track to speak about Jones, whose celebration closed out the evening on a cathartic note. "He was really excited to attend tonight," Rashida Jones said. "He has so many friends in this room. Well, actually, probably in every room to be honest because wherever he went he made connections with everyone. Real ones. He knew how to stay present, to stay curious, to stay loving."

Jones invited the audience to listen on the way home, to go for the deep-cuts.

"There's an entire universe waiting in his seven decades of music," she said. "And while you listen, hear him, hear how he imbued love into every single second of music he made. That was his real legacy: Love."

Variety

SYDNEY: Retired Sydney radio broadcaster and former Australian national rugby coach Alan Jones was charged Monday with multiple sex crimes against males over two decades, police said.

The 83-year-old will appear in a Sydney court on Dec. 18 on 24 charges relating to eight alleged victims from 2001 to 2019, Assistant Police Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald said the youngest of the alleged victims was 17 when the first offense allegedly occurred.

"In regards to the victims, we will allege that the accused knew some of them personally, some of them professionally. And we'll also allege that some of the victims when the alleged offense took place, was the first time they ever met the accused," Fitzgerald told reporters. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Beyoncé is coming to your home on Christmas - provided you have Netflix and are tuning in to

the Baltimore Ravens-Houston Texans game.

Netflix announced late Sunday that the megastar would perform during halftime of a Christmas Day matchup in her hometown of Houston.

The streaming service didn't reveal details about the per-



Beyoncé

formance but teased that it would likely feature guest appearances from her "Cowboy Carter" album, which delivered her a leading 11 Grammy nominations earlier this month.

Netflix is streaming two NFL games this Christmas. Its first game will be between the Kansas City Chiefs and Pittsburgh Steelers - setting up the possibility that two of the world's biggest superstars will be part of the events. (AP)

TYLER, Texas: Country singer Sundance Head, a winner on "The

Voice," is recovering at home after he was accidentally shot in the stomach while handling a firearm on a hunting trip at his East Texas ranch, his agent said Sunday.

Head, winner of the 11th season of NBC's "The Voice" in 2016, was leaning into his vehicle to grab his .22 caliber pistol when it fell out of its holster and onto the exterior of the vehicle and fired off a shot that hit Head in the stomach, his agent, Trey Newman said in an email. (AP)

BEIJING: Tsui Hark's big-screen ad-

aptation of Louis Cha's wuxia novel "The Legend of the Condor Heroes" has secured its release for the 2025 Spring Festival holiday, debuting on Lunar New Year's Day, Jan. 29.

The announcement follows news of Wuershian's eagerly awaited "Creation of the Gods II" and the latest installment of the family-favorite Boonie Bears franchise, "Boonie Bears: Future Reborn," both set for Spring Festival debuts. Together, these titles are likely to shape the upcoming holiday into a highly competitive box office season. (Xinhua)

HEALTH



Nawaf Al-Gharabally and Dr. Faisal Al-Refaei with officials from Zain and Dasman Diabetes Institute.



A photo from the event at Assima Mall.

Company supported awareness day at Assima Mall in partnership with DDI

Zain contributes to raising awareness on World Diabetes Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Zain announced its exclusive support for the awareness day held at Assima Mall to commemorate World Diabetes Day, which takes place annually on November 14. The event was organized by Dasman Diabetes Institute – a center of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) – with the goal of raising public awareness about diabetes, offering medical checkups and consultations, and sharing tips on prevention and treatment.

The event was attended by Zain Kuwait CEO, Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Dasman Diabetes Institute Acting



Open Day featured medical checkups and awareness activities.

Director General, Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Refaei, and officials from both organizations.

Zain's support for this initiative stems from the company's commitment to contribute and engage with various efforts and activities led by public and private sector institutions to enhance public health within the community, especially when it comes to raising awareness about chronic diseases like diabetes, which is highly prevalent in Kuwait.

The awareness day – organized by Dasman Diabetes Institute for the 17th consecutive year – featured a range of health and awareness activ-

ities, including free medical tests for blood sugar and vital signs, medical and nutritional consultations, fitness exercises and tips, podiatry advice, and special activities for children.

The event also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about the institute's research initiatives, with a specialized team present to explain ongoing research efforts and encourage community members to participate in various health research projects.

Dasman Diabetes Institute organized this open day as part of its mission to combat diabetes in Kuwait through research, prevention, training, education, and treatment.

The institute remains committed to organizing awareness programs throughout the year to highlight this disease and deliver a message to all members of the community on managing diabetes, understanding its risks, and learning preventive measures.

Zain is keen to strengthen its collaboration with various health organizations across the nation – including Dasman Diabetes Institute – to deliver interactive programs and initiatives that help achieve shared goals and support the healthcare system, while also enhancing public health awareness within the community.

E. coli sickens dozens

New Delhi closes schools as pollution hits season's worst

NEW DELHI, Nov 18, (AP): Authorities in India's capital shut schools, halted construction and banned non-essential trucks from entering the city on Monday after air pollution shot up to its worst level this season.

Residents of New Delhi woke up to thick, toxic smog enveloping the city of some 33 million as the air quality became increasingly hazardous. It rose further into the severe category, according to SAFAR, the country's main environmental agency, which measures tiny particulate matter in the air that can enter deep into the lungs.

The deadly haze covered monuments and high-rise buildings in the capital, with visibility so low that airlines warned of delays.

In several areas of the city, pollution levels were more than 50 times higher than the World Health Organization's recommended safe limit. Forecasts say the poor air quality will continue into the week.

Air pollution in northern India rises every year, particularly in winter, as farmers burn crop residue in agricultural areas. The burning coincides with colder temperatures, which trap the smoke in the air. The smoke is then blown into cities, where auto emissions add to the pollution.

Emissions from industries and the burning of coal to produce electricity are also linked to the pollution, which has been steadily ticking up in recent weeks.

Starting Monday, authorities began enforcing stage 4 of a graded response action plan, or GRAP 4, based on the severity of the air pollution. Earlier stages of the plan were already in place, and stage 4 includes stricter curbs.

Classes for all grades except 10 and

12 will be held online and no trucks will be allowed to enter the city except for those carrying essential items. Some older, diesel guzzling vehicles have been banned inside the city, and all construction activities have been halted. Authorities also urged children, the elderly and others with chronic diseases or respiratory issues to avoid going outside as much as possible.

□ □ □

E. coli: An outbreak of E. coli has infected dozens of people who ate bagged organic carrots, and one person died from the infection in the US.

Altogether, 39 people were infected and 15 were hospitalized in 18 states after eating organic whole and baby carrots sold by Grimmway Farms, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Sunday.

Grimmway Farms, based in Bakersfield, California, has recalled the carrots, which included whole and baby organic carrots sold in bags under multiple brand names including 365, Cal-Organic, Nature's Promise, O-Organics, Trader Joe's and Wegmans, among others.

The carrots are no longer in stores, but the CDC is warning consumers to not eat recalled bag carrots and to check their refrigerators or freezers and throw away any carrots that fit the description. Most of the infected people live in New York, Minnesota and Washington, followed by California and Oregon, although infections have been reported in states throughout the country, according to the CDC.

There have been several E. coli outbreaks in recent months. In October, more than 100 McDonald's customers were sickened by an E. coli outbreak in the U.S. linked to sliced onions.

Physical, emotional wounds haunt war-stricken children of Lebanon

BEIRUT, Nov 18, (AP): Curled up in his father's lap, clinging to his chest, Hussein Mikdad cried his heart out. The 4-year-old kicked his doctor with his intact foot and pushed him away with the arm that was not in a cast. "Make him leave me alone!" he cried. His father reassured him and pulled him closer, his eyes tearing in grief – and gratitude that his son was healing.

Hussein and his father, Hassan, were the only survivors from their family when an Israeli strike last month collapsed their home in Beirut, killing 18 people – including Hussein's mother, his two sisters and his brother.

Doctors at the American University of Beirut Medical Center repaired Hussein's fractured thigh and the torn tendons in his arm. Hussein should be able to walk again in two months, albeit with a lingering limp, they say.

A prognosis for Hussein's invisible wounds is much harder. He is back in diapers and has begun wetting his bed. He hardly speaks. He hasn't asked about his mother and siblings, his father said.

The Israeli military said the Oct. 21 strike hit a Hezbollah target, without elaborating.

Children have often been the victims as Israel has escalated its bombardment in Lebanon since late September. More than 100 have been killed and hundreds wounded in the past six weeks, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. Of the 14,000 wounded by Israeli fire the past year, around 10% are children.

'Prognosis for invisible wounds much harder'

Israel has vowed to cripple Hezbollah to stop the Lebanese militant group's fire on northern Israel, which began just after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack triggered the war in Gaza. It says Hezbollah hides its fighters and infrastructure in residential areas.

Increasingly, strikes have been hitting homes and killing families.

"It leaves us with a generation of physically wounded children, children who are psychologically and emotionally wounded," said Ghassan Abu Sittah, a renowned British-Palestinian reconstructive surgeon who is also

treating Hussein.

Beirut's Lebanon Hospital Geitaoui has nearly tripled the capacity of its burns center – already one of Lebanon's largest – since September to accommodate war wounded, said its medical director Naji Abirached.

About a fifth of newly admitted patients are children.

Ivana Skakye turned 2 last week in one of burns center ICU units. The tiny girl remains wrapped in gauze around her head, arms and lower body – six weeks after an Israeli strike left her with third-degree burns over 40% of

her body.

Fatima Zayoun, her mother, was in the kitchen when the Sept. 23 strike hit outside their home in a southern village. The house was damaged and a fire broke out.

Zayoun rushed to grab her two daughters, who were playing on the terrace. They were covered with black ash, she said.

Ivana was unrecognizable, her hair burned away. "I told myself, 'That is not her,'" Zayoun said.

Ivana's 7-year-old sister Rahaf had burns to her face and hands and has recovered more quickly. Ivana could be discharged in a few days, said her doctor, Ziad Sleiman. But the family has no home to return to, and Zayoun worries Ivana could suffer infections in the crowded displaced shelters.

Zayoun was 17 last time Israel and Hezbollah were at war, in 2006. Displaced with her family then, she said she almost enjoyed the experience, riding out of their village in a truck, mixing with new people, learning new things. They returned home after the war.

"But this war is hard. They are hitting everywhere," she said. "What do they want from us? Do they want to hurt our children? We are not what they are looking for."

Abu Sittah, the surgeon, said that for children, an attack on their home can have lasting effects.

They "for the first time lose that sense of security – that their parents are keeping them safe, that their homes are invincible," he said.



Hassan Mikdad, holds his son Hussein Mikdad, 4, who was injured on Oct. 2 in an Israeli airstrike at a densely-populated neighborhood south of Beirut, as he cries during a check up by his doctor at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), in Beirut, Lebanon, Nov. 5, 2024. (AP)

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SPORTS

Sinner beats Fritz to win ATP Finals

Another big title added with doping case still pending

TURIN, Italy, Nov 18, (AP): Top-ranked Jannik Sinner added another big title to his tremendous year, beating U.S. Open runner-up Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday for the ATP Finals trophy before his home fans - and before a final verdict is reached in his doping case.

Sinner won his first two Grand Slam titles at the Australian Open and U.S. Open in 2024 and had already clinched the year-end No. 1 ranking.

"The work will never stop. We know we still have room for improvement," Sinner said. "But it's been an incredible season and there's no better place to finish the season than here."

Sinner, however, has off-court issues after he tested positive in two separate drug tests in March. A decision to clear him of wrongdoing was appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency in September. A final ruling is expected from the Court of Arbitration for Sport early next year.

Sinner's explanation was that the banned performance-enhancer entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist, who had used a spray containing the steroid

to treat his own cut finger.

Sinner maintained his recent mastery over Fritz, having also beaten the American in the U.S. Open final in September and in the group stage this week at the elite event for the year's top eight players.

By sweeping all five of his matches en route to the trophy, Sinner earned \$4.8 million - the largest winner's prize on the men's tour.

Sinner became the first Italian to win the finals and he went one step further than last year, when he lost the championship match to Novak Djokovic, who withdrew this time. And he did so without dropping a set - which was last accomplished by Ivan Lendl in 1986.

"I just tried to understand whatever works best for each opponent," Sinner said. "It was a very high-level tournament from my side. At times, I couldn't play better."

The crowd inside Inalpi Arena included multiple clusters of fans wearing orange - a tribute to Sinner's red-and-orange-colored hair, and how he once ate carrots during a match. There were orange carrot costumes, orange wigs, orange hats, jackets and plenty of other orange items, too.

Some fans even had carrots in their mouths. The crowd broke into its customary chant of "Ole, Ole, Ole; Sinner, Sinner" when Sinner produced a drop-shot winner to break for a 4-3 lead in the first set.

Sinner faced a break point while

servicing for the first set but saved it with a big serve out wide that Fritz couldn't return. Then he served an ace - his 10th of the set - to close it out.

Another break by Sinner early in the second and the match was virtually over.

In the final game, Sinner produced another delicate forehand drop-shot winner to conclude a long rally. Two points later and the match was finished.

Sinner served better than he had all week, leading 14-8 in aces without any double-faults. He also had 28 winners to Fritz's 19 and fewer unforced errors than his opponent.

"He served absolutely lights out. So many lines," Fritz said. "He placed the serve great. He took a lot of risk on the second serve as well. I think that was probably one of his main game plans, to not let me attack his second serve."

"He did a great job of not only mixing up the second but being very aggressive with it," Fritz added.

Sinner extended his winning streak to 11 matches. He's won 26 of his last 27 matches and ends the ATP season with eight titles and an overall record of 70-6.

Fritz was attempting to become the event's first American champion since Pete Sampras beat Andre Agassi in the title match 25 years ago.

Still, Fritz will rise to a career-high No. 4 in the rankings on Monday after beating No. 2 Alexander Zverev in a third-set tiebreaker in the semifinals on



Italy's Jannik Sinner holds the trophy after winning the final match of the ATP World Tour Finals against Taylor Fritz of the United States at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024. (AP)

Saturday. That will make him the highest-ranked American man since Andy Roddick was No. 4 in August 2007. It's the latest in a series of achieve-

ments for Fritz, whose run in New York made him the first American man to reach a Grand Slam singles final since Roddick lost to Roger Federer at

Wimbledon in 2009.

"I feel like I've gone up a level and I'm much more confident in my game," Fritz said.



Baylor guard Robert Wright III (1) drives between Tarleton State guards Nick Krass, left, and Izzy Miles, right, during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, in Waco, Texas. (AP)

Baylor thrashes Tarleton State

Milicic, Zeigler lead Tennessee to 103-68 win over Austin Peay

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Nov 18, (AP): Igor Milicic scored 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds, and Zakai Zeigler had 19 points and eight assists to lead No. 11 Tennessee to a 103-68 victory over Austin Peay on Sunday afternoon.

Jordan Gainey scored 15, Cade Phillips added 13 and Felix Okpara had 12 points to help the Volunteers (4-0). Jahmai Mashack also scored 10 for Tennessee.

Isaac Haney had 22 points, and LJ Thomas scored 20 to lead the way for the Governors (3-1).

Austin Peay: Picked to finish second in the Atlantic Sun Conference, the Governors played well against Tennessee. Thomas, an NC State transfer, adds credibility to the lineup, and one-armed player Hansel Emmanuel is a motivating factor for the team.

Tennessee: Tennessee utilized a trapping defense that caused Montana problems in the second half last week. After having success with it against the Gov-

ernors, that could be something the Vols can count on.

Tennessee's 21-2 early in the first half set the tone for the rest of the game, and Milicic, Phillips and Okpara combined for 12 of those points.

The Vols held a 64-22 advantage for points in the paint and outrebounded the Governors 43-25.

Austin Peay plays at Morehead State Wednesday, and Tennessee plays Virginia on Thursday in the semifinals of the Continental Tire Baha Mar Championship in Nassau, Bahamas.

Baylor 104 Tarleton State 41

In Waco, Texas, Cal transfer Jalen Celestine had 20 points and four 3-pointers off the bench to lead six Baylor players scoring in double figures as the 12th-ranked Bears cruised past Tarleton 104-41 on Sunday night.

The Bears (3-1) got 17 points from VJ Edgcombe

while Duke transfer Jeremy Roach had 14 points and freshman Robert Wright had 12 points and nine assists. Jayden Nunn scored 11 and Josh Ojjanwuna 10.

Baylor hasn't trailed in its three games since a 38-point loss in a season-opening top-10 matchup at Gonzaga.

The Texans (1-4) were led by Joseph Martinez with 11 points. He got into double figures with a 3-pointer in the final minute.

Tarleton State: The Texans struggled to break Baylor's full-court press and find ways to score as they mesh a new roster that returns less than 5% of its scoring and field goals made from last season. They played the second of three power conference opponents in a four-game span on Sunday night. Baylor: The Bears had an efficient scoring night as they connected on 47% of their 3-pointers (15 of 32) and assisted on 22 of 31 made shots.

Stolz garners four golds at Speed Skating Champ'ships

TOKYO, Nov 18, (Xinhua): American world champion Jordan Stolz emerged as the biggest winner at the ISU Four Continents Speed Skating Championships, claiming four gold medals after adding two more in Sunday's men's team pursuit and 1,000m competitions in Hachinohe, Japan.

The 20-year-old had broken the 1,500m track record on Friday and secured victory in the 500m event the following day. On Sunday, he teamed up with Ethan Cepuran and Emery Lehman for a team pursuit win before stepping on the ice for the 1,000m race, where he set a new track record of 1:08.04, completing his sweep of three individual golds, mirroring his performance at the recent two world championships.

The men's 1,000m podium featured the same skaters from the 500m event, but Tatsuya Shinhama and Laurent Dubreuil swapped positions, with the Japanese skater clocking 1:08.38 to take silver, 0.66 seconds ahead of the Canadian Olympic silver medalist.

The women's 1,000m title was claimed by Olympic bronze medalist Brittany Bowe of the United States in 1:15.65. Nadezhda Morozova of Kazakhstan (1:17.16) and American skater Kimi Goetz (1:17.23) took silver and bronze, respectively.



Jordan-Stolz

China, represented by Yang Binyu, Ahenaer Adake, and Jin Wenjing, won gold in the women's team pursuit. The men's and women's mass start titles were claimed by Vitaliy Chshigolev of Kazakhstan and Ivanie Blondin of Canada, respectively.

Next on the ISU speed skating calendar is the first World Cup of the 2024-2025 season, which will take place in Nagano, Japan, from November 22 to 24.

Ugochukwu wins Macao GP after perfect weekend

MACAO, Nov 18, (Xinhua): McLaren junior Ugo Ugochukwu successfully negotiated four safety car restarts to take a pole-to-flag win in a stop-start FIA FR World Cup race at the 2024 Macao Grand Prix.

Although the race took place in the dry, rain earlier in the day had left damp patches on the tarmac, and with uneven conditions on the Guia Circuit's start-finish straight, officials elected to start the race behind the safety car.

When it peeled off after one lap, Ugochukwu led convincingly away from Oliver Goethe and Noel Leon, but the race was red-flagged when James Wharton ran wide and hit the outer wall at the notorious Lisboa Bend, triggering a multi-car pile-up that blocked the circuit as several other drivers ploughed unsighted into the wreckage.

The race was restarted under the safety car after the debris had been cleared, and again Ugochukwu made the perfect start, but the race's rhythm was disrupted once more when Liu Ruiqi, the race's only Chinese runner, clouted the wall in Guia's tricky uphill section, triggering another safety car deployment to clear the wreckage.

Racing resumed four laps later, but was quickly neutralised yet again to allow marshals to clear the stricken car of Sofa Ogawa, who stopped on track just after turn 1. A two-lap dash to the finish ensued, and with separate incidents occurring at different sections of the track on the final lap, the race ended under Safety Car conditions, with Ugo-

chukwu becoming the first American winner of the Macao Grand Prix since Bob Earl in 1981.

"I can't describe the feeling. It was quite a tricky race, pushing the whole way, but I was confident in the pace," said Ugochukwu, who had a perfect weekend, having won Saturday's qualification race after having also set the fastest time in Friday qualifying.

"Ever since [qualifying] we've been really quick. Of course, I won the qualification race as well, but there was still the most important one, and we managed to do it. We had a great weekend, and super happy to finally get the job done."

"Every Safety Car restart I had to make sure I got perfectly, otherwise with the slipstream I would have had to be really defensive into the first braking zone, so that was my full focus, getting good restarts and nailing the last two corners to give myself a bit of a gap."

"Every time I saw a Safety Car I thought 'oh, again', because my gap got cut back to zero, but I managed to stay in the lead every time. I was pushing as hard as I could in the rest of the lap, definitely got close to some walls, but managed to keep it together."

Behind Ugochukwu, Goethe and Leon rounded out the top three, with Shanghai-born Enzo Deligny fourth ahead of Matteo De Palo.

First held in 1954, the Macao Grand Prix has grown to become one of the world's most prestigious single-seater races, and is widely seen as an important stepping stone for young drivers on their way to Formula 1.

Having been run as a Formula 3 event for the majority of its existence, this year saw the Macao Grand Prix run for the first time to Formula Regional specification, equivalent to three tiers below Formula 1.

England wins T20 series 3-1 after final match vs West Indies is abandoned after only 5 overs

GROS ISLET, St. Lucia, Nov 18, (AP): England sealed a 3-1 win Sunday in its Twenty20 series against West Indies when the fifth and final match was abandoned after five overs because of rain.

West Indies reached 44-0 at the end of the fifth over after losing the toss when torrential rain began to fall. Evin Lewis was 29 not out and Shai Hope on 14.

With no hope of the rain abating and the outfield already soaked, the umpires made the decision to call off play about 6:15 p.m. local time with no result.

England won the first three matches of the series by eight wickets, seven wickets and three wickets respectively. West Indies won the fourth match on Saturday by five wickets in a record run chase.

The home team previously won the one-day international series 2-1. All seven completed matches were won by the team that won the toss and batted second.



England's John Turner bowls against West Indies during the fifth T20 cricket match at Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024. (AP)

Event Africa's largest road race

50,000 participate in 24th edition of Great Ethiopian Run

ADDIS ABABA, Nov 18, (Xinhua): The 24th edition of the Great Ethiopian Run International 10-kilometer road race was held Sunday in Addis Ababa, with 50,000 runners participating in Africa's largest road race.

According to the organizers, this year's race drew the highest turnout yet, attracting well-known athletes from 20 countries, including Kenya and Uganda, as well as participants from various other nations.

Biniam Mehari emerged victorious in the men's race, marking his second win at this prestigious event in Ethiopia. In the women's competition, Asayech Ayichew crossed the finish line first, securing her first victory in the race.

"I found the race very inspiring. I am very happy I won the race for the second time. It was a fierce competition," said Mehari, noting that he had undergone rigorous training to prepare for the event. He added that such races provide valuable opportunities for young athletes to develop successful sporting careers.

Haile Gebrselassie, a two-time Olympic gold medalist in the



Haile Gebrselassie, a two-time Olympic gold medalist in the 10,000 meters and founder of the Great Ethiopian Run, runs during the 24th edition of the Great Ethiopian Run in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, Nov. 17, 2024. (Xinhua)

10,000 meters and founder of the Great Ethiopian Run, emphasized the event's significance in enhancing Ethiopia's international image and promoting tourism.

"The Great Ethiopian Run remains the greatest race in Africa, attracting 50,000 runners this year. We have been the largest in Africa for 20 years," Gebrselassie told Xinhua.

Ethiopian Minister of Tourism Selamawit Kassa echoed Gebrselassie's sentiments, noting that the Great Ethiopian Run, in addition to advancing athletics, plays a crucial role in enhancing Ethiopia's global image and promoting tourism. It attracts both domestic and international participants, as well as members of the diplomatic community.

Kenyan marathoner Ruth Chepngetich, the new women's world record holder in the marathon, attended the 24th Great Ethiopian Run as a guest.

"I am so excited to come to Ethiopia and see Africa's biggest road race. I used to hear about the race from my friends," Chepngetich said.

Elected unanimously

Azevedo is new FIVB president

GENEVA, Nov 18, (Xinhua): The 39th World Congress of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) unanimously elected Fabio Azevedo as the new president of the world volleyball governing body in Porto, Portugal, on Saturday.

Azevedo succeeds Dr. Ary S. Graca F, who had served as FIVB president since 2012. Azevedo will lead the organization for the next eight years, until 2032.

"I am honored, humbled, and grateful to be elected to serve the Global Volleyball Movement for the next eight years. Over the past 12 years, volleyball has experienced remarkable growth, development, and modernization worldwide, and we have the opportunity to build on very strong foundations," Azevedo said in an FIVB statement.

"With the support of the international volleyball community, I am

ready to guide the sport of volleyball into the next phase through the Strategic Vision 2024-2032, which is led by the motto 'Together as One' and the key pillars of professionalism, integration, empowerment, and mass participation."

Azevedo appointed Hugh McCutcheon, who has served as a senior advisor to the FIVB for several years, as the secretary general.

"I am truly honored and excited to be taking on this new role within the FIVB. From player to coach, to sports administrator in both the global FIVB and US collegiate arenas, and now taking on this position, I feel privileged to continue contributing to the sport I love in meaningful new ways. This moment feels both surreal and deeply rewarding, and I'm grateful to be part of a journey that will help shape the sport's next chapter," McCutcheon said.

Grotheer gets second straight men's victory

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea, Nov 18, (AP): Olympic and world champion Christopher Grotheer of Germany, followed by British teammates Marcus Wyatt and Matt Weston, took the top three places in a World Cup men's skeleton race on Sunday.

It was exact same order - Grotheer winning, Wyatt second and Weston third - as the result of Saturday's season-opening race on the 2018 Olympic track. Grotheer won a World Cup race for the eighth time in his career.

In Sunday's women's race, Freya Tarbit of Britain got the victory - the first win and first medal in 10 races in her World Cup career. The win, combined with her fourth-place finish in a race Saturday, gave her the World Cup standings lead after two races.

Olympic champion Hannah Niese of Germany was second and Janine Flock of Austria was third.

American sliders failed to reach the

top 10. Austin Florian tied for 11th in the men's race, and Sara Roderick was 12th in the women's race.

The skeleton World Cup tour continues next weekend on the 2022 Olympic track in Yanqing, China.

World Cup bobsled races - typically held in conjunction with skeleton races - start for the season in Altenberg, Germany, on the weekend of Dec. 7-8. The bobsled and skeleton seasons conclude at Lake Placid, New York, in March with the world championships.

World Cup luge season starts Nov. 30 in Lillehammer, Norway.



Grotheer

Takes on Slovakia

Britain knocks out Canada, advances to BJK Cup semis

MALAGA, Spain, Nov 18, (AP): Britain kept alive its hopes of winning the Billie Jean King Cup for the first time by defeating defending champion Canada in Sunday's quarterfinals in Malaga.

Katie Boulter clinched the 2-0 victory with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Leylah Fernandez after Emma Raducanu defeated Rebecca Marino 6-0, 7-5 in the first singles match of the tie.

"I think we have got a great team. We've always got a great chance," Boulter said. "I think every single day anything can happen. We're just going to keep believing, keep trusting it, and just keep enjoying it. I think that's really important. It's worked so well for us so far."

Four-time finalist Britain is yet to win the title, though it's the second time in three years that it has made it to the last four. Canada clinched its first title last year.

"You know what? We can't win them all, and I think credit to Team Great Britain, because I think both

girls played complete matches today," Canada captain Heidi El Tabakh said.

Britain next faces Slovakia in the semifinals.

"It's fantastic. It really is a brilliant achievement for the team," Britain captain Anne Keothavong said. "But like I said on court, you know, the job is far from over."

Slovakia followed up its win over the United States with a 2-0 victory against Australia to reach the last four.

Rebecca Sramkova cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Ajla Tomljanovic to clinch Slovakia the victory after Viktorija Hrucakova rallied to defeat Kimberly Birrell 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-3 for her sixth straight BJK Cup win counting singles and doubles.

Slovakia had beaten the U.S. - the competition's most successful nation - in the first round of the finals in Malaga.

Iga Swiatek's Poland, seeking its first title, will face Italy in the other semifinal.

Italy lost last year's final to Canada.



Emma Raducanu of Britain celebrates after winning the match against Canada's Rebecca Marino during the Billie Jean King Cup Finals, at the Martin Carpena Sports Hall, in Malaga, southern Spain, on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024. (AP)

McIlroy wins his 6th title



Nelly Korda holds the championship trophy after winning the LPGA Annika golf tournament at Pelican Golf Club, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, in Belleair, Fla. (AP)

Korda bags her 7th LPGA title this year

DUBAI, Nov 18, (AP): Rory McIlroy capped off a tumultuous year by winning the World Tour Championship and his sixth title as Europe's No. 1 player. He birdied two of the last three holes Sunday for a 3-under 69 to win by two over Rasmus Hojgaard.

McIlroy hit wedge to within a foot on the 16th hole to break out of a tie with Hojgaard, then closed with a 6-foot birdie for his third title in the European tour's season finale.

He won the Race to Dubai - previously known as the Order of Merit - for the sixth time in his career, leaving him two behind the record held by Colin Montgomerie and tying him with the late Seve Ballesteros.

Hojgaard, who rallied to stun McIlroy in the Irish Open in September, didn't make a birdie over the final 11 holes and had to settle for a 71.

Antoine Rozner tied for third and was one of 10 players who earned PGA Tour cards next year. Hojgaard leads the list. Tom McKibbin of Northern Ireland birdied the final hole to get the 10th and final card.

In Belleair, Fla., Nelly Korda was back to competition for the first time in nearly two months and didn't miss a beat. She ran off five straight birdies on the back nine to stage another Sunday comeback, closing with a 3-under 67 to win The Annika for her seventh LPGA Tour title this year.

Korda had a rough start and said she didn't have many happy thoughts



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland poses with the DP World Tour Championship trophy and the Race to Dubai trophy after winning the World Tour Golf Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024. (AP)

when she made the turn at 2 over for the day, two shots behind Charley Hull. Starting with a birdie on No. 11, she made five in a row on her way to a three-shot victory.

Korda, who earlier this year tied an LPGA record with five straight victories, became the first player to win seven times in a season since Yani Tseng in 2011. No other American had won seven times in a season since Beth Daniel in 1990.

Hull, going for a wire-to-wire win, simply couldn't keep up. She closed with a 1-over 71 and tied for second with LPGA rookie Jin Hee Im (68) and Weijie Zhang (70).

In Southampton, Bermuda, Rafael Campos felt like he was living a fairy tale Sunday when he went from being on the verge of losing his PGA Tour card

to winning the Bermuda Championship, just six days after his wife gave birth to their first child in time to let him play.

Campos hit 2-iron to 2 feet for eagle on the par-5 seventh hole during a surge that carried him to a 3-under 68 for a three-shot victory, joining the late Chi Chi Rodriguez as the only players from Puerto Rico to win on the PGA Tour.

The 36-year-old Campos has never played in a major. Now he's going to the Masters. This was only his second full year on the PGA Tour. The win makes him exempt through 2026.

He won by three shots over Andrew Novak, who shot 71 for his best PGA Tour finish. Campos, who finished at 19-under 265, earned \$1.242 million and a two-year exemption.

In Miyazaki, Japan, Max McGreevy won for the third time this year, clos-

ing with a 2-under 69 that keeping a strong field at bay to capture the Dunlop Phoenix on the Japan Golf Tour.

McGreevy won by four shots over a group that included Japan's biggest golf star, Hideki Matsuyama, who closed with a 66 and shared runner-up status with Akshay Bhatia and Shaun Norris.

McGreevy, a 29-year-old from Oklahoma, won twice on the Korn Ferry Tour this year that allowed him to regain his PGA Tour card. He was playing on a sponsor exemption at the Dunlop Phoenix, one of the top Japan Golf Tour events with past champions that include Tiger Woods, Seve Ballesteros and Tom Watson.

Lucas Herbert won for the first time on home soil, making up a four-shot deficit in the fourth round against Cameron Smith with a 4-under 67 to win the New South Wales Open on the PGA Tour Australasia. Herbert and Smith are teammates in LIV Golf.

Smith, who started the final round with a two-shot lead, did not make a birdie until the ninth hole and shot 75 to tie for second with Alexander Simpson (70) and Corey Lamb (72). ... Suteepat Prateetienchai closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory in the Taiwan Glass Taifong Open on the Asian Tour. ... Dean Burmester closed with a 6-under 66 for a seven-shot victory in the Vodacom Origins of Golf Final-Oubaai on the Sunshine Tour. ... Miyuu Yamashita closed with a 3-under 68 and defeated Ai Suzuki by two shots to win the Daio Paper Elleair Ladies Open. Yamashita has two wins and eight runner-up finishes this year on the Japan LPGA. ... Da Som Ma won for the third straight week on the Korea LPGA with a 5-under 67, winning with a birdie on the second playoff hole in the Wemix Championship.

Kenyan Kusimba wins Xuzhou Marathon

XUZHOU, China, Nov 18, (Xinhua): Kenyan runner Dennis Kemboi Bera Kusimba claimed the men's title at the Xuzhou Marathon on Sunday.

Kusimba completed the race in two hours, 16 minutes, and 23 seconds, finishing ahead of China's Yang Bowen, who took second place. Kenyan Shadrack Kipkoge finished third.

In the women's race, China's Li Caixia won with a time of 2:47:52, while Kenyans Josphine Chepkirui and Ruth Chepkoech finished second and third, respectively.

In the half-marathon events, Wen Min of China won the men's title, and Kenyan Naomi Kakoko Limamurei took the women's title.



Lemi Berhanu Hayle of Ethiopia crosses the finish line during the Beijing Marathon 2024 in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 3, 2024. (Xinhua)



Italy's Davide Frattesi, centre, challenges for the ball with France's Lucas Digne, right, during the Nations League soccer match between Italy and France, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on Nov. 17, 2024. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait eyes redemption against Jordan in crucial WCup qualifier

Players vow to repay fans

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): Kuwait national football team coach Juan Pizzi said on Monday that the team is aiming to achieve a positive result in its match against Jordan, which will take place Tuesday, as part of the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

Pizzi expressed, during a press conference ahead of the match, his strong confidence in the players, their abilities, and their determination to deliver an honorable performance to keep their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup alive.

He added that the Kuwaiti team is capable of competing with the



Part of the press conference of the national team coach and player.



KUNA/Al-Seyassah photos
Kuwait national football team practice ahead of the match.

strongest teams in the Asian continent, while acknowledging the difficulty of the task at this stage of the qualifiers.

For his part, Kuwaiti national team player Eid Al-Rashidi said during the press conference that the players are eager to repay the fans who have supported them throughout the qualifiers. He emphasized that victory is the only objective in tomorrow's match to reignite the team's chances of qualifying for the World Cup. He also called on sports fans to continue supporting the "Blues," as they always have.

On the other hand, Jordanian national team coach Jamal Al-Salami stressed during the conference the challenge posed by the match against Kuwait, the

host country. He confirmed that his team is well-prepared to achieve a positive result.

Al-Salami noted that the Kuwaiti national team has remarkable capabilities, which it has demonstrated in several group matches, including its ability to score against South Korea.

Meanwhile, Jordanian national team player Abdullah Naseeb said that matches between the Jordanian and Kuwaiti teams are always intense, filled with enthusiasm and rivalry. He added that the qualifiers have entered their final stages, making each match more challenging than the last. Naseeb stressed the importance of securing victory in tomorrow's match to edge closer to the World Cup.

Al-Kuwait face Kazma in quarters

Kuwait topples Qatar 34-31 in Asian Handball Championship

DOHA, Nov 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's Al-Kuwait Club on Sunday defeated Qatar's Al-Rayyan Club 34-31 in the 27th Asian Handball Club Championship for Men, held in the Qatari capital, Doha.

The first half of the match ended with the Qatari team leading 17-14. In the second half, Al-Kuwait made a comeback against Al-Rayyan and secured the victory with a final score of 34-31.

As a result, Al-Kuwait will face Kuwait's Kazma in the quarterfinals, which will begin on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Al-Rayyan will play against Al-Duhail of Qatar, Mes Kerman of Iran will face



Photo during the match.

Al-Sharjah of the UAE, and Al-Khaleej of Saudi Arabia will play against Al-Shabab of Bahrain.

Al-Masila Equestrian Club preps riders skills for int'l tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Badr Al-Malim, President of Al-Masila Equestrian Club, highlighted that the club is home to riders across various skill levels, from beginners to intermediates, along with a group of seasoned riders. This diverse range helps foster the next generation of equestrian talent, who will play a crucial role in the future, reports Al-

Seyassah Daily. Al-Masila Club is renowned for organizing numerous tournaments, giving riders the opportunity to enhance their skills and prepare for upcoming challenges.

Al-Malim noted that both local and international competitions held in Kuwait significantly contribute to improving riders' technical abilities, while also motivating them to stay engaged in the sport. He emphasized that Kuwait stands out for its abundance of equestrian clubs and training centers, which has encouraged many to take up equestrian sports, particularly show jumping.

Furthermore, Al-Malim pointed out, "Kuwait is fortunate to have a distinguished group of male and female judges, who have demonstrated their expertise and experience in overseeing local and even international competitions. Gulf and Arab nations have regularly sought their guidance in managing equestrian events, whether in show jumping or Arabian horse beauty contests."



Al-Seyassah photo
Badr Al-Malim with rider Ali Al-Khorafi.

France beats Italy 3-1

Kane sparks England's victory to gain Nations League promotion

LONDON, Nov 18, (AP): Harry Kane's 69th international goal sparked a second-half scoring spree that fired England back to the top tier of the UEFA Nations League on Sunday.

In temporary head coach Lee Carsley's final game in charge, a 5-0 win against Ireland secured promotion and ensured England will be back among Europe's leading nations in the next edition of the competition.

England won its group on goal difference ahead of second-placed Greece, which beat Finland 2-0. Kane's 53rd-minute penalty at Wembley was a record-extending goal for his country after Liam Scates brought down Jude Bellingham in the box and was sent off for a second yellow card offense.

Within five minutes England was 3-0 up through Anthony Gordon in the 55th and Conor Gallagher in the 58th.

Substitute Jarrod Bowen made an immediate impact, scoring with his first touch in the 75th and Taylor Harwood-Bellis, making his debut, headed in another four minutes later.

England, which is set to welcome new head coach Thomas Tuchel in January, needed to match Greece's result to top Group B2.

Anastasios Bakasetas had put Greece ahead in the 52nd in Finland, with Kane's England opener coming a minute later.

Christos Tzolis scored the second for Greece, which faces a playoff to try to win promotion.

After five wins from six games, Carsley will now return to his permanent role as head coach of England's under 21s. Tuchel begins in January and will lead the campaign to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

He should have plenty of options when he selects his first squad after Carsley handed debuts to eight players during his short reign.

In his final game, Gordon, Gallagher, Bowen and Harwood-Bellis all scored their first senior goals for England.

Adrien Rabiot scored two goals as France beat Italy 3-1 to win Group A2.

Both teams had already secured their places in the quarterfinals before the match in Milan, but France needed to win by at least two goals to take top spot.

Rabiot headed the visitors in front just inside two minutes.

France shocked San Siro into silence in the 33rd when Lucas Digne curled in a magnificent free kick from 25 yards that went into the top left corner via the underside of the bar and Guglielmo Vicario. It went down as an own-goal from the Italy goalkeeper, who was a late replacement after Gianluigi Donnarumma fell ill with a stomach bug.

Italy pulled a goal back two minutes later when Andrea Cambiaso volleyed past Mike Maignan.

But Rabiot grabbed his second in the 65th with another header - the sixth goal in a row Italy has conceded from set plays.

While the match had started with the Italy fans booing the French anthem, it finished with France supporters proudly singing the same song in triumph.

It was the first time Italy had lost a home game by two or more goals since 1983, according to soccer statistician Opta.

Also in the group, No. 6-ranked Belgium fell to a surprise 1-0 loss against Israel - ranked 81st. Yarden Shua's goal settled the game, which was held in Budapest, Hungary, in the 86th. Israel was relegated to League B despite the win.



Ireland's Liam Scates fouls England's Jude Bellingham, right, during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between England and the Republic of Ireland at Wembley stadium in London, on Nov. 17, 2024. (AP)

Randle's buzzer-beater propels Wolves' thrilling win over Suns

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov 18, (AP): Julius Randle hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to cap his 35-point night and lift the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 120-117 win over the Phoenix Suns on Sunday afternoon.

Randle and the Wolves got the ball back with just 2.1 seconds remaining and called a timeout to advance the ball. The ball found Randle, who hit a 24-footer as time expired.

Minnesota overcame a season-high 44 points from Devin Booker, who needed to carry the offensive load for a Suns team still missing Kevin Durant and Bradley Beal with injuries.

Anthony Edwards added 24 points for Minnesota, most of that coming in the second half. He also picked up a technical foul on the same day he was fined by the league for an obscene gesture he made in Friday's win over Sacramento.

Grayson Allen scored 18 points off the bench for Phoenix, including a few 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

Pacers 119, Heat 110

In Indianapolis, Myles Turner scored a season-high 34 points, and Benedict Mathurin added 21 points and 12 rebounds to lead Indiana to a victory over Miami.

Pascal Siakam added 23 points for the Pacers, who shot 52% from the field, and Tyrese Haliburton finished with 16 points and 13 assists.

Tyler Herro scored 28 points, and Bam Adebayo had 24 for the Heat, who were without six-time All-Star Jimmy Butler because of a sprained ankle. Miami was outscored 62-28 in the paint.

The Pacers bounced back from Friday's debacle, a 124-111 loss to the Butler-less Heat that coach Rick Carlisle said left him "ashamed." Indiana never trailed in the rematch.

Cavaliers 128, Hornets 114

In Cleveland, Darius Garland scored 25 points, Ty Jerome matched his career-high with 24 in place of Donovan Mitchell and Cleveland stayed unbeaten with a win over Charlotte.

The Cavs are the fourth team to start 15-0, joining the Golden State War-

riors (2016), Houston Rockets (1994) and Washington Capitals (1949). The Warriors set the league record by winning their first 24 games on the way to a 73-9 season.

Evan Mobley had 23 points and 11 rebounds and Jarrett Allen had 21 and 15 rebounds for Cleveland, which will play at defending champion Boston on Tuesday.

LaMelo Ball had 31 points and 12 assists, and Miles Bridges scored 19 for the Hornets.

Pistons 124, Wizards 104

In Washington, Cade Cunningham had 21 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds to lead Detroit over Washington.

Jaden Ivey scored 28 points and Malik Beasley added 26 for Detroit. Cunningham has four triple-doubles this season, two behind league leader Nikola Jokic.

It was the eighth straight loss for

Washington, which was home after a five-game trip. Jordan Poole and Kyle Kuzma scored 22 points apiece for the Wizards.

Detroit held Washington to 18 points in the first quarter and led 65-53 at halftime. The lead was never in single digits after that, with the Pistons going on a 12-3 run to take an 85-64 advantage on a dunk by Jalen Duren.

Wizards center Alex Sarr, the No. 2 pick in this year's draft, had four points on 1-of-7 shooting.

Grizzlies 105, Nuggets 90

In Memphis, Tenn., Jaren Jackson scored 20 points, and Memphis built a 24-point lead in the fourth quarter in a victory over short-handed Denver in the opener of a two-game set.

The teams will meet again Tuesday night in Memphis in an NBA Cup game.

Nuggets star center Nikola Jokic



Phoenix Suns guard Tyus Jones (21) brings the ball up court past Minnesota Timberwolves guard Mike Conley in the second half of an NBA basketball game, on Nov. 17, 2024, in Minneapolis. (AP)