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STRICTER EXPAT RESIDENCY LAW WITH HARSHER PENALTIES ROLLED OUT Kuwait imposes 5-year residency cap

Info minister opens Red Fort, arms museum

Details Page 2



Photo by Rezk Tawfik

- Notify Interior Ministry within two weeks if passport is lost or damaged
- Expats on visit can stay maximum of 3 months unless granted extension or residency
- Residency violators could face one year in prison, fines of up to KD 1,200

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The government of Kuwait has introduced a new set of regulations governing expatriate residency, following the approval of a draft decree-law on November 12, reports Al-Rai daily.

This new law, which consists of seven chapters and 36 articles, imposes stringent penalties for residency violations and trafficking, including prison sentences of up to five years and fines of up to KD 10,000, and outlines detailed provisions for the entry, stay, and regulation of foreigners in Kuwait.

The regulations are designed to enforce strict control over expatriate residency and impose severe penalties for violations related to residency and employment practices.

Below is a summary of the main regulations:

- **Reporting loss or damage of passports:** Expatriates must notify the Ministry of Interior within two weeks if their passport is lost or damaged.
- **Hotel and Accommodation Reporting:** Hotels and providers of furnished accommodations must report the arrival and departure of foreign guests within 24 hours.
- **Visit Duration:** Expatriates visiting Kuwait can stay for a maximum of three months unless granted an extension or a residency permit.
- **Residency Duration:** Temporary residency permits are limited to three months but may be extended for up to one year. Regular residency is capped at five years, with exceptions allowing up to ten years for children of Kuwaiti women, property owners, and up to 15 years for investors.
- **Domestic Workers:** Domestic workers are not allowed to remain outside Kuwait for more than four months without prior permission from the Ministry of Interior.
- **Notification by Sponsors:** Sponsors must inform the ministry if a foreigner's visa expires or if the foreigner overstays their permitted duration.
- **Penalties for Violations:**

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Kuwait third worldwide in mobile internet speed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait has secured an impressive third-place ranking globally and in the Arab world for mobile internet speed, achieving an average speed of 258.51 Mbps, according to the October 2024 Speed Test Global Index, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This accomplishment places Kuwait among the global leaders in mobile connectivity.

The United Arab Emirates topped the list both globally and regionally, with an exceptional mobile internet speed of 428.53 Mbps. Close behind, Qatar ranked second globally and regionally, boasts of an average speed of 356.7 Mbps.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries demonstrated strong performances in the index --

Saudi Arabia ranked fourth in the Arab world and 11th globally, with a mobile internet speed of 121.9 Mbps; Bahrain placed fifth regionally and 13th globally, recording an average speed of 116.6 Mbps and Oman secured sixth place in the Arab world and 29th globally, with a speed of 89.3 Mbps.

Beyond the GCC, the following index highlighted the performance of other Arab nations:

Morocco ranked seventh in the Arab world and 67th globally, with an average speed of 42.5 Mbps; Iraq followed in eighth place regionally and 77th globally, achieving 34.7 Mbps and Lebanon came in ninth place in the Arab world and 83rd globally, with an average speed of 30.8 Mbps.

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Ministry of Communications collected KD 35m in 90 days

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Ministry of Communications has announced that it collected KD 35 million in dues over the past three months for the services it provided to customers.

The ministry explained that this amount is nearly double the collections from the previous year. This achievement aligns with the directives of the Council of Ministers and in implementation of the instructions of the Minister of Communications Omar Al-Omar to develop a clear and streamlined plan that allows customers to easily access information about their dues and pay them without unnecessary procedures.

The collection mechanism developed to collect dues from customers was designed with the public interest in mind, with the aim of protecting public funds. This was achieved by regularly notifying customers of their financial

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KUNA photo
The envoy of His Highness the Amir, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivers the invitation from His Highness to the King of Bahrain to attend the Gulf Summit in Kuwait.



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Amir envoy hands summit invitation to Bahraini leader

MANAMA, Nov 25, (KUNA): Envoy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, on Monday, delivered a letter to Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, which included an invitation to attend 45th GCC Summit on December 1 in Kuwait.

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

The invitation was delivered during Al-Yahya's meeting with Crown Prince of Bahrain and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa.

Roads, infrastructure readiness in focus

Kuwait National Guard preps for GCC Summit security operations

By Mohammed Ghanem and
Enaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Undersecretary, Lieu. Gen. Hashem Al-Rifai conducted an inspection tour on Monday of the Task Force (Khaleej), assigned to ensure the security of the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit on December 1.

A KNG statement said that Al-Rifai emphasized the critical importance of the summit to Kuwait, and highlighted the preparations conducted by the task force to ensure optimal preparedness and the highest level of security for the event, especially within the vicinity of the St. Regis Hotel.

He urged all participating forces to strictly adhere to security and disciplinary protocols throughout the summit to ensure the mission's success and the country's organizational skills and professionalism.

Meanwhile, major efforts are underway by the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport to ensure the country's roads and infrastructure are ready to welcome the delegations.

Special attention has been given to the roads leading to the airport and Bayan Palace, the venue for the summit.



National Guard photo

Undersecretary of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai conducting a thorough inspection of the Gulf Task Force responsible for securing the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit, scheduled to take place in Kuwait on December 1.

Efforts include placing traffic signs, repairing cement walls separating traffic directions and filling potholes to enhance both safety and aesthetics.

Al-Seyassah sources highlighted the active involvement of Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan.

Along with the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and the Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Re-

sources, Dr. Al-Mashaan conducted an inspection tour of the airport road. She emphasized the importance of clearing obstacles and ensuring the airport and Amiri Airport roads are well-maintained before the summit.

In the meantime PAAAFR has been planting ornamental plants and trees along key routes leading to the airport and Bayan Palace.

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Kuwait combats fraud with e-real estate broker system

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: After being limited to the residential sector initially, the Ministry of Commerce and

Rain to sweep Kuwait with varying intensity

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Meteorological Department forecasted varying intensities of rain, between mild to moderate and heavy beginning with Monday, and could be intermittently accompanied with thunder.

Acting Chief Dhirar Al-Ali told KUNA that the rains would be accompanied by slight to moderate wind, affecting vision and sea wave levels.

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Industry launched the final version of the electronic real estate broker system project yesterday, which now covers all real estate sectors. This includes investment, commercial, and heir contracts, as well as integration with the platform of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA). The system also activates notifications for parties via the Sahel app, and authenticates the "My Identity" app.

During a press conference in the presence of ministry's Undersecretary Ziad Al-Najem and the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) Jaber Al-Kandari, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel stated that the electronic system will provide accurate pricing information for traded properties, and will also strengthen efforts to combat money laundering in the real estate market, an issue that has adversely affected the sector.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Director General of Strategic Planning and Development at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdulaziz Al-Nasser praised,



Al-Nasser

Monday, achievements and services presented to Gulf citizens in health, education and other areas. This came during a lecture held by the GCC Secretariat General at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training as part of the activities leading up to the 45th Gulf Summit, scheduled in Kuwait on December 1.

The lecture covered the establishment of the GCC, its strategic objectives, areas of joint Gulf cooperation, and achievements made. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:56 Asr 14:30
 Sunrise .. 06:20 Maghrib .. 16:50
 Zohr 11:35 Isha 18:11

Local

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Mild and clouds to partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind changing to northwesterly wind later on with speeds of 12-45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

By Night: Mild to rather cold and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind changing to northerly wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	25	20
Kuwait Airport	28	21
Abdaly	29	19
Subyan	25	22
Jahra	27	20
Failaka Island	27	23
Salmiyah	23	22



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah receives the new Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Manuel Hernandez Gamallo. Saud Al-Farhan and Faisal Al-Jazzaf also attended the meeting.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah receives the new Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Manuel Hernandez Gamallo. Various local and international issues were discussed.

Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times receives new Spanish envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received in his office this morning the new Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, Manuel Hernandez Gamallo, who recently began his diplomatic duties in Kuwait.

They discussed a range of topics of mutual interests, with a particular focus on enhancing media cooperation between the two

countries and exploring ways to strengthen bilateral relations in this field.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Al-Jarallah extended his best wishes to the ambassador for success in his new role, and commended his efforts to strengthen closer ties between Kuwait and Spain.

The meeting was also attended by Major General Eng. Faisal Al-Jazzaf and Saud Al-Farhan.

Regional wars ruining local economies, says Egypt FM

More Kuwaiti investments sought

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: During his visit to Kuwait, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry highlighted pressing regional issues, particularly the escalation in the Red Sea and its impact on global trade.

Speaking at a press conference following his meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Shoukry addressed concerns about militarization in the region and its detrimental effects on global maritime traffic, trade and Egypt's economy.

"The current escalation in the Red Sea, fueled by tensions in Gaza and Lebanon, is unacceptable," Shoukry stated, while at the same time emphasizing that resolving the root causes of instability -- namely Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon -- is crucial for achieving lasting peace and stability.

Shoukry underscored the strength of Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations, describing them as "close and solid." He conveyed a message from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, reaffirming the strong brotherly ties between the two nations and their mutual desire to enhance cooperation across various sectors.

On economic cooperation, Shoukry lauded the contributions of Egyptian workers in Kuwait and acknowledged the significant role of Kuwaiti investments in Egypt's development.

"We hope to attract more Kuwaiti investments, particularly in energy, agriculture, food industries and construction, leveraging the reforms in Egypt and the expertise of our companies," he said.

Shoukry also referenced the productive meeting of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Cooperation Council, led by Mohammed Jassim Al-Saqr and expressed anticipation for a high-level delegation of Kuwaiti businessmen to visit Egypt, building on the success of a previous delegation involving 46 major investors.

Discussing regional developments, Shoukry reaffirmed Egypt's opposition to Israeli aggression against Arab nations. "Egypt condemns any threats or attacks on Palestine, Lebanon, or Iraq. We firmly stand with any Arab country facing aggression," he stated. He criticized international inaction in response to Israeli aggression, describing it as "shameful silence" and calling for more robust global efforts to address the ongoing violence.

Shoukry reiterated Egypt's commitment to peace and stability, highlighting ongoing diplomatic efforts at Arab and regional levels to halt aggression and foster dialogue. "Our efforts will not stop until the aggression ends," he declared.

British Council opens new IELTS test center

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The British Council has opened a new IELTS testing center as part of an agreement with the International School of Kuwait (ISK) to serve students, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Director of the British Council in Kuwait Tony Skinner announced the approval of the new IELTS testing center at ISK, explaining that it is the first of such a center in the region, and it will serve a large number of students and individuals who are seeking to enhance their English language skills.

In a press statement issued after the signing of an agreement between the British Council and the CEO of the Kuwait International Schools Group Wadh Al-Sayegh for the opening of the IELTS testing center, Skinner said, "The British Council is always seeking to develop partnerships with entities such as universities, institutes, and schools in Kuwait".

He expressed his happiness at signing this new partnership with the International School of Kuwait (ISK), which is one of the country's leading schools that is known for its outstanding facilities.

Skinner said, "This year is particularly significant for the British Council, as it marks the 90th anniversary of its global establishment."

He revealed that, "We have a number of agreements with partner schools across Kuwait. We are pleased to welcome the International School of Kuwait to be part of this family."

Call renewed to end violence: UK envoy

1 in 3 women faces physical or sexual abuse worldwide: UN

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Every year on November 25, the world unites to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the pervasive issue of gender-based violence and advocating for its eradication.

This significant day serves as a stark reminder of the challenges women face globally, while also amplifying the voices calling for justice, equality, and the protection of women's rights.

Gender-based violence is a global epidemic, affecting women across all cultures, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

According to UN Women, nearly 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime, a statistic that does not include the countless cases that go unreported. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the issue, with reports of domestic violence surging as lockdowns confined victims with their abusers.

Forms of violence against women in-

clude domestic abuse, sexual harassment, human trafficking, female genital mutilation, child marriage, and online abuse. These acts not only harm individuals but also weaken the fabric of societies by perpetuating inequality and undermining women's contributions.

2024 Theme: "United Against Violence"

On this occasion, the British Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Belinda Lewis said, "On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which marks the beginning of the annual 16 days of activism campaign, the British Government renews its call for an end to gender-based violence.

"While of course we want to see the elimination of all violence, there are certain forms which are experienced more by women and girls -- for example, domestic violence.

"Tackling gender-based violence is a key part of our efforts to promote women and girls' rights and voices at home and overseas.

"The UK is investing £67.5 million in the second phase of its global "What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls" program, which focuses on effective and innovative interventions to stop violence before it starts," the British envoy said.

All benefits pulled gradually

Surge in divorces, legal issues after withdrawal of nationality

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: With 1,158 individuals impacted by the withdrawal of Kuwaiti nationality through four decrees and three decisions published in the Official Gazette, the ramifications of this decision are beginning to take shape across various legal and social landscapes.

Legal experts anticipate significant changes in the legal status of those affected, predicting an uptick in lawsuits as courts address disputes stemming from these developments.

Sources within the Ministry of Social Affairs confirmed to Al-Seyassah that the Family Care Department has suspended social assistance for individuals whose nationalities have been revoked.

The ministry's Cooperative Sector has also taken steps to ensure the withdrawal of contribution funds from cooperative societies, as Kuwaiti citizenship is a prerequisite for such contributions.

The suspension of aid is part of a coordinated effort between government bodies to verify the names of those affected and enforce the regulations tied to their new legal status.

Contributions from cooperative societies will either be reclaimed or reassigned, as the loss of citizenship disqualifies individuals from participating in such associations.

Legal expert Nafeh Al-Mutairi highlighted that the revocation of nationality disrupts the legal standing of affected individuals and their associates.

This disruption extends to interactions with state departments, commercial entities and administrative contracts that require Kuwaiti citizenship.

Al-Mutairi predicts that this change will lead to a wave of legal disputes, including challenges involving licenses, holdings and commercial partnerships.

"The legal arena will witness arguments raised for the first time," he remarked, emphasizing the complexity of resolving issues tied to revoked citizenships.

The decision has also had profound implications for family relationships. Lawyer Muhammad Safar revealed that courts have already seen an increase in divorce cases tied to nationality revocation.

In some cases, wives have sought divorce to avoid losing the opportunity for their children to acquire Kuwaiti citizenship, which could affect their future opportunities, including access to certain jobs.

Conversely, other wives have filed for divorce to distance themselves from spouses who can no longer offer the benefits of Kuwaiti nationality.

Many prefer to return to their home countries rather than face the challenges posed by the loss of citizenship.

Amid these upheavals, lawyer Ahmed Hussein assured that family court rulings related to custody and alimony would remain valid. "Decisions issued under Sunni and Jaafari personal status laws will continue to stand," he stated, clarifying that revocation of nationality does not nullify existing court rulings on family matters.

The withdrawal of Kuwaiti nationality has cast a spotlight on the intersection of legal frameworks, social welfare and personal relationships.

As the courts prepare for a surge in cases, the broader implications of this decision -- ranging from disrupted social support systems to altered family dynamics -- underscore the profound impact of citizenship on individual and societal stability.

The unfolding legal, social and economic ripple effects serve as a reminder of the far-reaching consequences of such decisions, which will undoubtedly shape Kuwait's legal and societal landscape for years to come.



Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi at one of the stalls in the Red Fort.

Restoration of the Red Palace

Info minister opens Red Fort, arms museum

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and Chair of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi says the Red Palace is an integral part of Kuwait's national memory, and its cultural and civilizational heritage.

In a speech during the opening ceremony of the project for the restoration and rehabilitation of the historic Red Palace and the inauguration of the Weapons Museum in Jahra, Al-Mutairi affirmed that heritage is not just a reflection of the past but a foundation for the future.

He said, "From the struggles of our ancestors, we derive the strength that propels us forward in our journey of construction and progress."

Al-Mutairi stated that, "Historical sites are not merely physical structures but living symbols of the civilization and culture of countries. These sites serve as testimonies to the interaction between people and their environment, and reflect the values

and aspirations of past generations.

They represent a vibrant memory for the generations, and a cultural message that we must preserve and share with care and integrity. We cannot build a promising future without honoring and preserving our civilizational and human heritage."

Al-Mutairi said, "The project for the restoration of the Red Palace in Jahra plays a great role in preserving this great heritage.

Built in 1896 based on the order of the late Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, the palace stands as a symbol of resilience and history, and serves as a testament to the national spirit and courage shown by the people of Kuwait in defending their land."

Al-Mutairi stressed that Kuwait's rich historical legacy, which spans multiple eras, is subject of the devoted care and attention of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah.

He added that this legacy is not only a message to the people but also a means of enhancing cultural connection and understanding.

Kuwait pioneer in support for people with disabilities

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah says the State of Kuwait is a leading country in supporting people with disabilities, especially with the law No. 8/2010, which is one of the pioneering laws that align with United Nations' standards.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

During a symposium titled "Joint Gulf Decisions on People with Disabilities" held as part of Gulf Weeks, the minister announced plans to review certain laws related to people with disabilities to provide enhanced services for this community.

In this regard, Director of the Social Affairs Department in the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Ministers of Social Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council Dr. Saleh Al-Ghadouri affirmed that the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries place great importance on supporting people with disabilities, empowering them in society, and providing them with an appropriate environment.

He revealed that the Ministers of Development and Social Affairs of the Council countries were informed during the ninth meeting last year about the Supreme Council's decision in its 41st session regarding the unified guiding law for empowering people with disabilities.

Dr. Al-Ghadouri explained that it was decided to "establish a working group of specialists and legal experts from the member states and to take the recommendation of the Permanent Committee of Legislative Department Officials to amend the wording of the texts in the unified law aimed at empowering persons with disabilities in the GCC countries. The goal is to expedite the submission of the law to the Supreme Council for approval after receiving the approval of all member states."

MoH, IAEA workshop draws global experts

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: As part of its ongoing collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Ministry of Health on Sunday inaugurated a regional workshop entitled, "Evaluation and Completion of the Joint Regional Comparison Process between the IAEA and the Chinese Institute of Radiation Protection (CIRP)".

The workshop, which brings together experts from 24 countries, was officially opened in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi.

Meanwhile, Director of the Radiation Protection Department Ilham Al-Fares disclosed that the workshop includes a thorough review and assessment of the outcomes of the joint regional exercise between the IAEA and CIRP. It focuses on evaluating performance in the individual monitoring of external radiation exposure. More than 40 trainees, including eight international experts, are participating in the workshop, which runs from Nov 24-28, he added.

Besides reviewing performance outcomes, the participants will discuss with IAEA experts the occupational radiation protection services and ensure they are in line with international safety standards, Al-Fares stated.

He also pointed out that the workshop reflects the commitment of Kuwait to advance international cooperation in radiation safety. "It underscores Kuwait's role as a leader in hosting regional events that enhance the efficiency of radiation safety practices and foster the exchange of scientific expertise among participating nations," he affirmed.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

ICC ruling moral win for justice in 'double standards' of West

"THE International Criminal Court's (ICC) groundbreaking ruling against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Galant marks a historic and courageous decision in the fight for justice," columnist **Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"This landmark ruling, aimed at addressing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip, is a testament to the ICC's mission under the Rome Statute, which became effective in 2002 with the approval of 124 nations.



Talal Al Arab

"Despite the objections of seven countries -- notably the United States, Israel and China -- the ICC's decisions remain binding for its member states.

"The court's mandate to investigate and prosecute genocide and war crimes is a vital tool for upholding human rights. However, enforcing this decision poses significant challenges, particularly in nations that either opposed the Rome Statute or abstained from voting.

"The United States, for instance, has expressed contradictory stances toward ICC rulings. While it has supported the court's actions against figures like Sudan's Omar al-Bashir and Russia's Vladimir Putin, it vehemently rejects the arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Galant, citing jurisdictional concerns and alleged procedural flaws.

"This double standard is glaring. The US criticizes Israel's excessive use of force against unarmed civilians and mourns the loss of Gaza's children, yet continues to arm Israel, veto ceasefire resolutions and even threatens punitive measures against ICC judges for their ruling.

"The ICC's decision, though symbolic in certain circles, serves as an international moral victory for Palestine. It highlights the need for consistent accountability across the globe.

"To truly uphold justice, the ICC must expand its focus to other perpetrators of atrocities in the region. From the massacres in Iraq and Syria to the suffering in Yemen and Lebanon, countless victims demand accountability for crimes of torture, displacement and genocide. "The path to justice is long and fraught with political obstacles, but the ICC must remain steadfast, ensuring that no criminal escapes accountability -- no matter their rank or alliances."

Also:

"The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has exposed a glaring contradiction in US foreign policy. On one hand, Washington repeatedly calls for an end to Israel's war on Gaza, suggesting a rift with Israeli leadership over their aggressive policies," columnist **Walid Ibrahim Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"On the other, its actions tell a different story. Last Wednesday, the United States used its fourth veto to block a UN resolution calling for an end to the violence, leaving 14 other nations in unanimous agreement.

"This move enables the continuation of Israel's military operations, undermining any pretense of disagreement or disapproval.

"Historically, the US has wielded the veto in the UN Security Council 83 times, with the majority of those votes serving to protect Israel.

"This pattern raises serious questions about the effectiveness of the Security Council in defending human rights when the ultimate power rests with the five permanent members -- namely, the US, China, France, Russia and the UK.

"America's unwavering support for Israel has led to widespread skepticism about the United Nations' ability to fulfill its mission of maintaining international peace and security.

"The US provides not only military aid but also critical political cover, allowing Israel to act with impunity.

"This duality was starkly evident in a recent statement by the Biden administration, which claimed that Israel was not obstructing humanitarian aid to Gaza, despite acknowledging the worsening humanitarian crisis in the region.

"Such contradictions are emblematic of broader US foreign policy, marked by double standards. While the current administration portrays itself as a defender of human rights, it has continuously blocked efforts to hold Israel ac-

countable for its actions.

"If this is the stance under Biden, one wonders how policies might shift under a potential Trump administration.

"Meanwhile, Israeli politicians like Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich openly advocate for expansionist policies, including claims to territories in Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

"These statements, coupled with unwavering US support, underscore the strategic alignment between the two nations, framed under the guise of combating Hamas.

"The Gaza crisis is not just a humanitarian tragedy but also a reflection of systemic failures in international governance, where power politics overshadow the pursuit of justice and human rights. Thanks, America -- for reminding the world where your true priorities lie."

"I am surprised by the constitutional fatwas issued by some respected individuals, who seem to be attempting to dominate the political scene through their misguided interpretations of the constitution. They talk about the children of naturalized citizens, whose nationalities have been elevated by a law amended by the National Assembly. As a result, these individuals are now considered original citizens, with their nationalities reflecting this status," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"We support the new muftis in principle, but let us pause for a moment to consider the origin that granted the right to citizenship through naturalization.

"If the original nationality was obtained through forgery, false information, fraud, or bribery, do the children of such individuals have their nationalities protected simply because they were amended by a law issued by the National Assembly?"

"In religion, the constitution, and all worldly customs, there is a universally agreed-upon rule: "Everything built on falsehood is falsehood." These new muftis and constitutional jurists, who claim to be heirs of Sanhoury, ask, "What fault lies with the children, who are now considered original citizens?"

"We respond: "What fault lies with our children when they compete for jobs, housing, and other opportunities in their homeland, only to face competition from individuals whose fathers or grandfathers obtained citizenship through fraudulent means?"

"Fear God in us and do not obstruct the process. Let the concerned authorities clean up the citizenship file, which is riddled with corruption. Let them remember that, at one time, the "basement" of the citizenship department was run by expatriates, who had control over the files, and added and deleted entries without any supervision or accountability.

"The legal department in the citizenship office was a hotbed of corruption at that time. Verbal instructions were issued by those without authority for the benefit of those who did not deserve it. Unfortunately, all these violations were carried out based on these verbal orders.

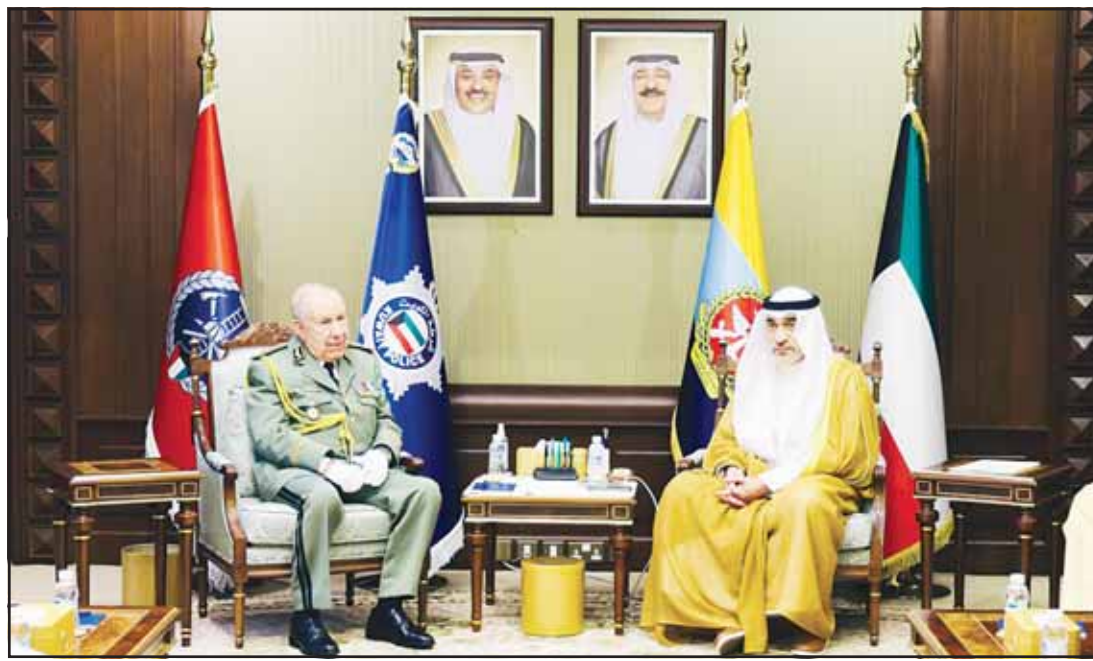
"It must be noted that the current group of experts and muftis were in positions of responsibility at that time and did nothing to address these issues. Only now, after all these years, have they begun to take notice.

"Moreover, the esteemed Court of Cassation made a historic ruling, written in letters of gold, stating that the issue of citizenship is a sovereign matter that cannot be discussed or questioned. So, why not leave matters of sovereignty to the sovereign?"

"For everyone's information, there are many files that need thorough review, and strong decisions must be taken to restore things to their rightful place. I challenge anyone to find a genuine citizen who is free from fraud or forgery, and whose nationality or the nationality of their children has not been compromised.

"Finally, we cannot, under any circumstances, accept that we are being competed with in our own country by a family of about 300 individuals, all of whom are forgers. And what is hidden is even greater."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes/ Mahmoud Attiyeh**



The Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef receives the Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defense and Chief of Staff of the Algerian Army Lieutenant General Said Chengriha, along with his accompanying delegation.

Acting PM receives Algerian military delegation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef welcomed today at Bayan Palace the Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defense and Chief of Staff of the Algerian National People's Army, Lieutenant General Said Chengriha, along with his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef expressed his warm welcome to the delegation, describing Kuwait as their "second home."

He emphasized the strong and enduring relations between Kuwait and Algeria, highlighting the deep cooperation between the two nations, particularly in military affairs. The discussions underscored the shared commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing collaboration at all levels.

2 expats gang up, live on free meals

Girl victim of traffic brawl

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25 : Two expatriates were arrested for running a scheme to order meals repeatedly from restaurants without paying for them, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, several incidents in this regard were recorded, some of which were officially registered while others were dismissed due to the minor value involved.

The pair would place a meal order by phone, direct the delivery driver to a location behind their building, and then block the driver's contact number after receiving the meal to avoid paying for it via a bank link.

They were arrested after the owner of a restaurant in Hawally reported that an unknown person had made a phone call to order two meals worth KD 7 with delivery but did not pay after receiving the order. A theft case No. 512/2024 was filed at the Hawally Misdemeanor Court.

Investigators from the Criminal Security Sector traced the phone number used to place the order, and discovered it was linked to an expatriate, whom they arrested in Adailiya.

He identified his accomplice, and admitted they had both been involved in the scam. He said the second suspect had used his phone to place the order, and then went down to meet the delivery driver.

When the second suspect was arrested and questioned, he confessed to being the one who placed the call, received the food, and then blocked the delivery driver afterward to avoid making the payment via a bank link.

The suspects admitted to doing this several times by ordering meals from multiple restaurants, sending delivery drivers to a location behind their building, and then asking the drivers to send a bank link for payment before blocking the number.

The delivery driver who works for the restaurant in Hawally was able to identify

the second caller immediately during a legal identification lineup.

Traffic brawl worsens: A search has been launched by the Capital Investigations Department to find and arrest the driver of a 4WD vehicle who deliberately collided with a young Kuwaiti woman's car and insulted her on a public road following a traffic dispute. The incident was witnessed and corroborated by another young woman who was with the victim at the time, reports Al-Anba daily.

The 20-year-old Kuwaiti woman filed a report with the Shamiya Police Station, claiming that she was subjected to "insults, slander, and an indecent act."

According to her statement, the incident occurred around 1:30 pm in Shuwaikh Industrial. A silver luxury 4WD vehicle attempted to overtake her in a dangerous manner. In response, she tried to prevent the vehicle from merging into her lane, but the motorist forced his way in recklessly. He then committed an indecent act by opening his window, shouting loudly, "I will be in front of you by force", and then spitting into the air.

She then followed the motorist to photograph the license plate of his vehicle. However, he suddenly stopped, reversed, and deliberately collided with her car, causing damage. He then insulted her before fleeing the scene.

Another woman, who was with the complainant in the vehicle at the time, expressed her willingness to testify and corroborated the victim's account.

She confirmed that she heard the motorist shout inappropriate words at the complainant during the incident.

The complainant provided the authorities with details of the suspect's vehicle, using which a case was filed and then referred to the investigations department for further action.

Investigations have been launched and are ongoing to find the suspect, against whom an arrest order has been issued.



Kuwait Army Deputy Chief-of-Staff Air Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Algerian top brass.

Kuwait Army deputy chief receives Algeria top brass

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Kuwait Army Deputy Chief-of-Staff Air Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday Algerian Army Chief-of-Staff Lieu. Gen. Said Chengriha and his accompanied delegation.

According to an Army General Staff statement, key mutual interests, particularly enhancing and developing military cooperation between the two countries, were discussed.

Chengriha visited Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College and learned about its role in training military leaders, as well as its academic programs.

DGCA demands proof of mandatory army service

By **Mohammad Al-Enezi**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has instructed its departments to notify employees who were part of Military Service Batch 50, who completed the mandatory military service on Oct 29, about the need to submit a certificate issued by the National Military Service Authority and a special leave certificate to avoid any penalties.

Sources told the newspaper that the National Military Service Office in the Administrative and Financial Affairs Sector of the directorate has been designated to follow up issues concerning the conscripts.

Sources said the DGCA issued a directive to the departments to make sure that the concerned employees will submit proof of their military service enrollment to the National Military Service Office, especially since Batch 51 will begin their compulsory military service in January 2025.

These measures are part of the DGCA's ongoing collaboration with the concerned authorities to ensure the smooth and compliant execution of all procedures related to mandatory military service, in line with applicable regulations and to support operational efficiency, sources added.

Victim of drugs

Six children injured as car topples at Subbiya

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: A vehicle toppled on Subbiya Road resulting in injuries to six children, who were immediately transferred to the nearest hospital.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident on Subbiya Road toward Jaber Bridge, security teams and ambulances were quickly dispatched to the scene. They discovered that six children had been injured, and immediately transferred them to the nearest hospital for treatment.

Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the accident.

Victim of drugs use: An expatriate man in his thirties was rushed to Al-Adan Hospital under police custody after his mother reported that he had fallen into convulsions and lost consciousness due to drug consumption, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the mother, born in 1967, called the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior, and reported that her son experienced convulsions and then fainted. She was unable to identify the substance he had taken, but she confirmed that his condition was linked to his ongoing drug use.

She also revealed that he had been struggling with drug addiction for some time, and despite her efforts, he had not been able to overcome it.

A security patrol and an ambulance were immediately dispatched to the scene, and the man was promptly transported to the hospital for medical treatment. A sample was taken to determine the drug responsible for his condition.

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HH Amir congratulates Suriname on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to the President of Suriname Chan Santokhi on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the presi-

dent and his people more progress, development, and welfare.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Chan Santokhi, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Santokhi good health and well-being.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Chan Santokhi on the occasion.

New CSC mechanism aims to filter out 'non-serious' job candidates

Move to help save administrative efforts, financial resources

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: In an effort to provide more job opportunities and further support job seekers, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) is set to establish a mechanism for those registered in the central employment system who have rejected a job nomination more than once, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to informed sources, CSC is working on creating a system that addresses individuals who repeatedly decline nom-

inations, as this would help ensure job openings in government agencies are filled by candidates who are serious about government work.

It is currently reviewing the legal controls and standards to implement this mechanism. Possible measures include setting a maximum number of times a candidate can reject a nomination, either in general or within a specific period, or developing additional criteria to ensure fairness, transparency, and equal opportunities for job seekers committed to government employment.

The benefits of this mechanism include providing nomination opportunities for those who are gen-

uinely interested in the positions and focusing on individuals who are more serious and prepared to fulfill their job responsibilities.

CSC aims to enhance commitment and accountability, support serious candidates, and encourage them to take the nomination process seriously, as well as prevent unnecessary crowding by those who are not committed to accepting the job.

Another advantage highlighted by the sources is the reduction of wasted time and effort by relevant sectors.

By preventing repeated nominations of non-serious candidates, the mechanism helps save administrative efforts and financial resources used in the sorting and

selection processes, either by CSC or government agencies.

It was stated that, if this mechanism is implemented, it will provide more job opportunities, further supporting job seekers and increasing the availability of qualified citizens to participate in government work.

This will help fill the actual staffing needs of government agencies, rather than repeatedly engaging with non-serious candidates. In addition, it will improve the image of government institutions by selecting suitable, committed candidates, which will enhance public confidence in the performance of the government sector and reduce the number of rejecters and those who are rejected.



Top and below: some photos from the KU event.

Event held ahead of 45th Gulf Summit

KU kicks off Gulf Week activities in partnership with Sec-Gen of GCC

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait University has launched its Gulf Week activities, in collaboration with the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which coincide with the 45th Gulf Summit that Kuwait will host on Dec 1.

The activities started Sunday with a lecture on the founding of the GCC and its core objectives at the College of Arts. Eng. Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Director General of the General Administration of Strategic Planning and Development at the GCC Secretariat General, delivered the lecture.

The second lecture, which was held at the College of Administrative Sciences, focused on the achievements of the Gulf Common Market, with Lulwa Al-Mishari – Head of the Gulf Common Market Department in the Economic Affairs Sector at the GCC Secretariat General – as lecturer.

Present at the event were acting Director of Kuwait University Prof. Osama Al-Saeed, university officials and members of the GCC Secretariat General.

In his speech at the launching of the Gulf Week activities in Sabah Al-Salem University City, Al-Saeed enumerated the goals of the initiative as follows: strengthening ties and cooperation between Kuwait University and the GCC, raising awareness about the GCC's role and achievements, and fostering deeper bonds of brotherhood among the Gulf nations.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdul Mohsen Al-Mudaij, acting Dean of the College of Arts, warmly welcomed the representatives of the GCC Secretariat General. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to host lectures that familiarize Kuwait University students and faculty with the GCC's significant accomplishments and areas of collaboration.

Al-Nasser then took the stage to discuss the founding of the GCC, its strategic goals, and various areas of Gulf cooperation, highlighting the key achievements that have shaped the council's journey so far.



Furthermore, acting Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences Prof. Dr. Talaa Al-Daihani presented an overview of the Gulf Common Market; explaining its main provisions, benefits and the opportunities it offers to the citizens of the GCC countries. He stressed the importance of GCC's contributions to different sectors; such as investment, education, services and healthcare. He affirmed that such lectures play a crucial role in raising awareness among GCC citizens.

Al-Mishari presented the Gulf common market's objectives, which include creating a unified economic space where GCC citizens can benefit from greater opportunities and economic advantages. She cited the goal of ensuring equal treatment for all GCC nationals in economic matters, fostering investment, and maximizing the economic potential of the region.

These lectures and discussions aimed to deepen understanding of the GCC's pivotal role in regional integration and its ongoing efforts to strengthen economic, social and cultural cooperation among member states.

Other Voices

Organizations concerned with sustainable development

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wandah

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

In this article, we aim to review and highlight the most important organizations and institutions concerned with sustainable development, tracking the indicators of achieving its goals, or following up on their reports, or issuing these reports.

In general, we can say that any institution or organization that deals with one of the pillars or three dimensions of sustainability, whether local, regional, or global, is concerned with sustainability. The data and reports issued by any entity that falls within the scope of interest and work of such an institution are also relevant.

Among the local institutions concerned with sustainability and its reports in our beloved country is the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, which, through its General Secretariat, issues voluntary reports on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has issued two voluntary reports: one in 2019 and another this year (July 2023), presented at the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations). The General Secretariat of the Council holds many workshops and meets with relevant government entities, civil society organizations, academic institutions, private sector institutions, and UN organizations to prepare this disclosure, discuss its data, and finalize its content.

At the regional level, one of the organizations that has a presence and a role in monitoring sustainability matters is the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistical Center, which is the official source of data, information, and statistics related to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. These statistics are naturally reflected in sustainability reports and disclosures, as they cover the environment, economy, and various societal issues such as education,

employment, and population statistics.

Another important regional organization is ESCWA (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), which was established to improve economic activity among member states and enhance cooperation between them. It monitors and is concerned with sustainable development matters in these member states.

Additionally, the League of Arab States and its associated entities concerned with sustainable development, such as the Arab Labor Organization, the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science (ALECSO), the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), and the Arab Network for NGOs, also play key roles.

There is also the Regional CSR Network, which focuses on corporate social responsibility in the region.

As for international organizations, they are numerous, with the most prominent being the United Nations, the World Environment and Development Organization, and the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB).

It is worth mentioning that there are many observatories that monitor progress in achieving these goals, and they have well-known websites on the internet. Some of the most important include the SDG Gateway, the Arab Observatory for SDGs, the Arab Center for Climate Change Policy, the Sustainability Compass, the Sustainability Reports Gateway, the Knowledge and Learning Platform, and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which we will discuss in detail in the next article, as Allah willing.

Why are we discussing these organizations and institutions? First, to provide examples and demonstrate the multitude of organizations concerned with this important issue. Second, to highlight the need to learn from the experiences of these institutions in dealing with data, information, and reports. Third, to encourage these organizations and institutions to benefit from the reports issued by your charitable organization on sustainability.

To be continued

PAAET to launch fingerprint app on employees' smartphones

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) is working on introducing an electronic "fingerprint" application system for its employees' phones, similar to the step taken by Kuwait University to update its attendance and departure system via mobile phones, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative is aimed to reduce the time spent waiting in lines and to ease congestion

at the fingerprint devices in various locations in PAAET, particularly after the recent implementation of the "third fingerprint" for proving presence in the workplace.

To support this, PAAET has launched Tender No. 2024-49/2025 for upgrading and updating the attendance and departure system, including the mobile application, in accordance with the terms and specifications outlined in the practice docu-

ments.

PAAET has called on companies and institutions interested in participating in the tender to visit PAAET's website to purchase the bid documents listed under "Public Services" in the electronic services section. Bids must be submitted to PAAET's office in the Shuwaikh Educational Zone's Supplies Department within two weeks, with a non-refundable fee of KD 75.



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AUK students during the NBK's fraud awareness session.

'Let's Be Aware' campaign

NBK holds fraud awareness session for AUK students

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote financial and banking awareness among all sectors under the umbrella of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign introduced by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) delivered an awareness session on fraud techniques and preventive measures to the students of the American University of Kuwait (AUK).

The session covered various types of financial fraud, including phishing scams, identity theft, and cybersecurity, all of which target individuals online using advanced AI technology.

In addition to highlighting fraud techniques, NBK team provided prevention measures and tips to be followed in case of any suspicious activity. By understanding these schemes, students learned to recognize red flags and took away practical steps for safeguarding their personal and financial information, especially in an increasingly digital financial landscape.

Through interactive examples, real-life scenarios, and a Q&A session, students were able to engage, ask questions, and discuss concerns about digital security in their daily lives. This session wasn't just about raising awareness—it was about empowering students to be vigilant and proactive in protecting their assets and personal data as they enter the workforce and begin managing their own finances.

The team also advised students to be cautious when dealing with suspicious e-mails, as e-mail phishing is typically made using the logos of well-known organizations such as banks, telecom or big companies, so that the user cannot distinguish between real and fake e-mails.

They also urged students to check that e-mails are from official entities, not clicking links included in e-mails before verifying their source, and to always reject authentication requests from untrusted sources, especially if they have a sense of urgency.

The session also familiarized students with fraud schemes using identity theft, including name, address, account number, or passwords, especially as social media has become part of our daily lives. Therefore, the team

warned of sharing any personal or sensitive information on social media, in addition to not clicking the links of fake ads that appear on social media, and not responding to scam calls made using artificial intelligence to steal personal and financial information.

NBK team affirmed that the bank will never ask customers for personal information via e-mail, SMS or phone calls, warning of responding to such messages representing fraud attempts to steal banking or sensitive information or money.

Speaking on this, Sarah Al-Amad, Senior Communications Officer at National Bank of Kuwait said, "NBK always aims to raise financial and banking awareness among all sectors of society, including school and university students. Such visits help promote financial awareness among the youth, especially with the increasing reliance on digital banking".

"We always call the students to follow the tips provided across the bank's digital platforms, as scammers tend to employ new methods using AI techniques, therefore, we are intensifying the awareness content published on our pages, in addition to reposting the Central Bank of Kuwait's related communications," she added.

"NBK's efforts in educating customers and combating fraud are instrumental in its strategy, as we believe early education on scams and preventive measures can minimize potential risks and promote financial stability," she emphasized.

NBK employs its strong customer communication capabilities as well as all its sector-leading digital channels to maximize the exposure of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign's objectives among the public.

Launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), the "Let's Be Aware" campaign is the largest across the GCC region focusing on raising banking and financial awareness among banks' customers. The campaign covers a variety of crucial topics including: anti-fraud tips, maximizing benefit from banking services, promoting savings and investment culture, as well as other related topics.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key promoter and partner in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among all sectors. As the leading financial institution in Kuwait, the bank frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector.

156 plots said allocated for educational development in Mutlaa Residential City

112 plots earmarked for construction of schools

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: As part of the ongoing efforts to develop infrastructure and services in Al-Mutlaa Residential City, education sources have announced the allocation of 156 vacant plots of land designated for educational purposes.

This initiative aims to establish an integrated educational environment to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population in one of Kuwait's largest housing projects.

Out of the allocated plots, 112 are earmarked for the construction of schools covering all educational stages, from kindergarten to high school.

These schools will cater to students and are designed according to the latest educational standards.

The designs include modern facilities such as science laboratories to enhance hands-on learning; classrooms equipped with advanced technologies to foster interactive education and sports fields and green spaces to promote physical and mental well-being.

These initiatives aim to provide high-quality education and create a conducive environment for academic and psychological growth.

Beyond schools, the remaining plots will host various other educational establishments to enrich the community, including vocational training centers to support technical education and skill development for youth; public libraries to encourage reading and scientific research; specialized educational institutes offering tailored training programs and courses and facilities for people with special needs, ensuring inclusivity in education.

The infrastructure plans also include essential support services such as parking lots and public parks to complement the educational landscape.

These developments align with Kuwait's vision for sustainable development, as outlined in the 'New Kuwait 2035' initiative.

The project reflects the government's commitment to enhancing education infrastructure in new residential areas and underscores its dedication to elevating the quality of education across the country.

Educational officials emphasized that the establishment of such facilities is a cornerstone in achieving the state's goals for sustainable growth, ensuring that residents of Al-Mutlaa Residential City benefit from world-class educational services.

By prioritizing the educational needs of families in Al-Mutlaa, this project reinforces the government's vision of fostering a knowledge-based society while supporting the overall development of the city's infrastructure.

Warba Bank announces winners of Salary Transfer Campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Warba Bank continues to offer its customers rewards and benefits with its Salary Account Campaign for the year 2024, giving them the opportunity to get an exceptional travel experience, in addition to cash prizes of up to KD 1,000, 25 grams of gold, 35,000 Oasis Club miles from Kuwait Airways, and a cash gift of up to KD 15,000.

The campaign targets Kuwaiti customers with a salary exceeding KD 500, allowing them to automatically benefit from these unique rewards and benefits when opening a Salary Account with Warba Bank, as well as entering the weekly and monthly draws.

In this week's draw, three winners were announced. Ms. Afrah Mohammad Al-Ajmi won a cash prize of KD 1,000, Mr. Waleed Tarki Al-Otaibi won 25grams of gold, and Mr. Abdulrahman Fayeze Ali earned 35,000 Oasis Club miles provided in partnership with Kuwait Airways.

Speaking of the campaign, Mr.

Ahmed Mohammad Al-Mutawa – Area Manager Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank, said: "We are committed at Warba Bank to offer a unique banking experience through campaigns and exclusive benefits that are tailored to our diverse customer base. This year's Salary Transfer Campaign delivers unparalleled rewards and privileges for Kuwaitis earning over KD 500, ensuring a unique and rewarding banking experience."



Al-Mutawa

Al-Mutawa added: "Transferring salaries to Warba Bank provides customers with access to innovative banking solutions, including advanced digital services and cutting-edge payment systems. These services ensure a banking experi-

ence that is not only secure and convenient but also premium and seamless.

He further emphasized that this year's campaign benefits were designed to align with customers' needs and seasonal trends, underscoring the bank's dedication to delivering value-driven offers.

Al-Mutawa also highlighted that customers who transfer their salaries gain access to exclusive banking and investment solutions. Additionally, Warba Bank customers benefit from Kuwait's largest banking network, encompassing branches and ATMs, enhancing accessibility and convenience.

He further explained that customers can perform their banking transactions efficiently through Warba Bank's digital platforms, particularly its mobile banking application. "We are continuously enhancing our mobile banking app to meet our customers' demand. Today, it facilitates the majority of banking transactions, reaffirming its role as an indispensable tool for our customers," he said.



JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY

Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from 26 NOV 2024 up to 19 DEC 2024 for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Thursday, 26 DEC 2024 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	024487-R1	VANE TYPE FOR GAS SCRUBBER, AKER KVAERNOR	5
2	025184-R1	S/F PACIFIC PUMP	5
3	025181-R1	S/F HOWMAR DESALTER VESSEL	15
4	025177-R1	S/F FLOWAY BRACHISH WATER PUMPS	15
5	025174-R1	S/F DAVID BROWN PUMPS	15
6	028346	S/F SULZER PUMP	35
7	028347	CONTROL & RECIRCULATION VALVES	25
8	028348	FLOWMETER, KROHNE OR EQUIVALENT	5
9	028350	S/F WELL HEAD PROCESS CONTROL SCADA SYSTEM, EPRODUCTION SOLUTIONS	5
10	028526	METAL PLATE, ANGLE & CHANNEL	35
11	BPT# 264/24	BLANKET PURCHASE TENDER FOR M/S CLYDE UNION PUMP ITEMS (3 YRS)	35
12	BPT# 265/24	BLANKET PURCHASE TENDER FOR M/S MILTON ROY LTD (3 YRS)	5
13	BPT# 266/24	BLANKET PURCHASE TENDER FOR M/S ATLAS COPCO ITEMS (3 YRS)	5

Notes: Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGO or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and CBMS@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact: Telephone No.: 23983639 - Ext.: 2502 - 3477

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Construction of the Rabat Casablanca Continental highway OPEN TENDER N° 70 / 24 / S NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT

It is brought to the attention of all companies wishing to participate in the open tender relating to the execution of the works of Construction of the Rabat Casablanca Continental highway, that the date for opening bids, initially set for November 28th, 2024 at 10:00 p.m., is postponed to December 17th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

View our notices of calls for tenders and competitions at : www.adm.co.ma.

ADM market regulations can be downloaded from the same address.

PAAAFR organizes first of its kind exhibition Nov 26 to 28

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources has announced the inaugural 'Halal' exhibition, scheduled from Nov 26 to 28, 2024, at the Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref, Hall 4.

This event, the first of its kind in Kuwait, will focus on agricultural, animal and environmental sectors, bringing together livestock breeders, farmers, fisheries, feed companies, agricultural suppliers, nurseries and renewable energy providers.

The exhibition aims to foster a commercial and investment environment within the livestock, fisheries and agricultural sectors.

The Embassy of the United States of America Will Hold

A Public Auction

The auction will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2024, in the parking lot outside of the front gate of U.S. Embassy in Bayan, Al-Masjed Al-Aqsa Street. Auction items will be available for public viewing starting at 8:00 a.m., with the auction officially commencing at 9:00 a.m. Auction items will include used vehicles, used shipping containers, used household/office furniture, office equipment, appliances, drapes, carpets, computers, printers, and various electrical and repair supplies that have reached the end of their useful life or are no longer needed by the U.S. Embassy. All items will be sold "as is" to the highest bidder, and all sales will be in local currency paid by K-Net cards or in cash.

The following used vehicles will be up for auction:
1. Ford Expedition, 2014 2. Ford F-150, 2013
3. Ford Expedition, 2015 4. Ford Expedition, 2013
5. Ford Explorer, 2013

For more information please call :
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22591094 - 22591267

Ministry of Commerce and Industry



RECALL INFORMATION



Mercedes-Benz
Model: 290,213,238,257
Model year:2019-2022
Total Vehicles: 33

RECALL REASON

Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that the electrical connector for the transmission wiring harness may not have been manufactured correctly in certain AMG vehicles of the E-Class (model series 213), E-Class Coupe/Cabrio (model series 238), CLS (model series 257) and AMG GT 4-door (model series 290) with all-wheel drive. This may lead to the ingress of water into the plug and, over time, cause a short circuit. As a result, the short circuit could lead to thermal overloading of the connector coupling after the vehicle has been parked.

REMEDY

As a precautionary measure, the Mercedes-Benz service organization will replace the two-piece wiring harness – including the connector coupling – with a new, one-piece variant in the affected vehicles. The required work certainly be fixed free.

CONTACT

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

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

INTERNATIONAL



Supporters of imprisoned former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, board on vehicles as they start a rally for Islamabad to demand Khan's release, in Peshawar, Pakistan on Nov 24. (AP)

Khan supporters defy lockdown, arrests to head to Islamabad

Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan have defied a lockdown, massive tear gas shelling by police and widespread arrests to head to the capital on Monday to demand his release.

Authorities said at least one police officer was killed and several officers and demonstrators were injured in

clashes. The marchers appeared determined to reach Islamabad, where the lockdown, which has been in place for two days, has disrupted daily life.

Khan, who has been in jail for over a year and faces more than 150 criminal cases, remains popular. His party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or PTI, says the cases are politically motivated. (AP)

Delgado concedes defeat

Orsi wins Uruguay's run-off presidential election

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Nov 25, (AP): Uruguay's leftist opposition candidate, Yamandú Orsi, became the country's new president in a tight runoff Sunday, ousting the conservative governing coalition and making the South American nation the latest to rebuke the incumbent party in a year of landmark elections worldwide.

Even as the vote count continued, Álvaro Delgado, the presidential candidate for the center-right ruling coalition, conceded defeat to his challenger while surrounded by sullen-looking family members and colleagues.

"The country of liberty, equality and fraternity has triumphed once again," Orsi said to sprawling crowds of supporters that waved flags and shouted their support. "I will be the president who calls for national dialogue again and again, who builds a more integrated society and country."

As initial exit polls began showing Orsi, 57, a working-class former history teacher and two-time mayor from Uruguay's Broad Front coalition, holding a lead over Delgado, cheers rang out across Montevideo's beaches.

Delgado told supporters gathered at his own party's headquarters in the capital of Montevideo that he had lost. The crowd was hushed.

"With sadness, but without guilt, we can congratulate the winner," he told them. "But it's one thing to lose the elections and another to be defeated.

We are not defeated," he added, generating a burst of applause.

A political heir to former President José "Pepe" Mujica, an ex-Marxist guerrilla who became a global icon for transforming Uruguay into one of the most liberal and environmentally sustainable nations in the region, Orsi rode to power on promises of safe change and nostalgia for his left-wing party's redistributive social policies.

He struck a conciliatory tone, vowing to unite the nation of 3.4 million

people after such a tight vote.

"Let's understand that there is another part of our country who have different feelings today," he said, as fireworks erupted over his stage overlooking the city's waterfront. "These people will also have to help build a better country. We need them too."

With nearly all the votes counted, electoral officials reported that Orsi won 49.8% of the vote, ahead of Delgado's 45.9%, a clear call after weeks in which the opponents appeared tied in polls.



Yamandú Orsi, candidate for the Broad Front (Frente Amplio), and running mate Carolina Cosse, left, celebrate their victory in the presidential runoff election in Montevideo, Uruguay on Nov 24. (AP)

National police, military immediately boosted security of Marcos

Philippine showdown: President says he'll fight VP's plot to have him killed

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 25, (AP): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr on Monday described a public threat by the vice president to have him killed by an assassin as a criminal plot and vowed to fight it, in a looming showdown between the country's two top leaders.

Vice President Sara Duterte said Saturday in an online news conference that she has contracted an assassin to kill the president, his wife and the speaker of the House of Representatives if she herself is killed, in a threat she warned was not a joke.

The national police and military immediately boosted the security of the president, and the justice department said it would summon the vice president for an investigation. The National Security Council said it considered the threat a national security concern.

The vice president, a lawyer, later tried to walk back her remarks by saying it was not an actual threat but an expression of concern about her own safety over an unspecified threat.

"Why would I kill him if not for revenge from the grave? There is no

reason for me to kill him. What's the benefit for me?" Duterte told journalists.

"That criminal plot should not be allowed to pass," Marcos said in a televised statement, without mentioning Duterte by name. "I'll fight it."

"As a democratic country, we need to uphold the rule of law," Marcos said.

Marcos ran with Duterte as his vice-presidential running mate in May 2022 elections and both won landslide victories on a campaign call of national unity. In the Philippines, the two positions are elected separately.

The two leaders and their camps, however, soon had a bitter falling out over key differences, including in their approaches to China's aggressive territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea. Duterte resigned from the Marcos Cabinet in June as education secretary and head of an anti-insurgency body.

On Monday, Justice Undersecretary Jesse Andres said in a news conference that Duterte would be subpoenaed to face an investigation.

Andres called the vice president the "self-confessed mastermind" of a "premeditated plot to assassinate the president." All government resources and law enforcement agencies would be mobilized to identify the alleged assassin and determine criminal ac-

countability, he said.

"We have to maintain order in a civilized society by adherence to the rule of law and we will apply the full strength and force of the law on this," Andres said.

Under Philippine law, such public

remarks may constitute a crime of threatening to inflict a wrong on a person or their family and are punishable by a jail term and fine.

The Philippine Constitution says that if a president dies, sustains a permanent disability, is removed from office or resigns, the vice president takes over and serves the rest of the term.

Duterte said she was ready to face investigators or an impeachment complaint in Congress, but added she would also demand answers to her allegations against Marcos and his allies.

"I will also not allow what they did to me to pass," she told reporters.

The vice president is the daughter of Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, whose police-enforced anti-drug crackdown when he was a city mayor and later president left thousands of mostly petty drug suspects dead in killings that the International Criminal Court has been investigating as a possible crime against humanity.

Like her equally outspoken father, the vice president became a vocal

critic of Marcos, his wife Liza Araneta-Marcos and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, the president's cousin, accusing them of corruption, incompetence and politically persecuting the Duterte family and its supporters.

Last month, the vice president told reporters her relationship with Marcos had "gone so toxic" that she has imagined "cutting his head."

Romualdez told the House of Representatives that the vice president was trying to distract attention from her alleged misuse of public funds, which Congress is investigating. Several legislators reaffirmed their trust in the House speaker and condemned Duterte's remarks.

Her latest tirade was set off by the decision by House members allied with Romualdez and Marcos to detain Duterte's chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, who was accused of hampering a congressional inquiry into the possible misuse of Duterte's budget as vice president and education secretary. Lopez has been detained in a hospital after being traumatized by a plan by legislators to temporarily detain her in prison.



Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte, (center), listens as she attends a hearing at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, Philippines on Nov 25. (AP)

Fight over authority just beginning

US senators took down one Trump Cabinet pick

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, (AP): It's a short phrase in the Constitution, mentioned in passing. But it's already taking on an outside significance as President-elect Donald Trump charts his return to office.

The withdrawal of Matt Gaetz as Trump's nominee for attorney general dramatically affirmed that the Senate still maintains its "advice and consent" powers when it comes to vetting and installing a president's Cabinet. Yet it may be only a brief reprieve from the intense struggles to come as Senate Republicans try to preserve their constitutional role.

Trump has been making his Cabinet announcements at a rapid clip, often over social media, and frequently

catching GOP senators off guard. Gaetz's selection on Nov 13, in particular, left Republicans shocked and momentarily dumbfounded. His withdrawal just over a week later came just as suddenly, leaving many grasping for words.

Within hours, Trump had moved on, announcing on social media that he had selected another loyalist, former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, to run the Justice Department. Over the weekend, Trump filled out the rest of his Cabinet selections.

The dizzying speed of the picks has given Trump's second term in office a bracing start, a show of force from a president-elect who has made clear he intends to fill his administration with

officials who are willing to upend the ways of Washington. His desire to pack the government with loyalists and wield executive power in expansive ways seems certain to result in frequent clashes with Congress, even with Republicans in control.

"From what I'm hearing from my Republican colleagues on everything from defense secretary to other posts, it sounds like they are ready to roll over for Mr Trump," Sen Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois Democrat, said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Republican senators are choosing their words carefully as they size up Trump's proposed Cabinet, while also issuing gentle reminders about their role in the confirmation process.

"The constitutional directive is clear, and it does not change based upon the personalities involved," said Sen. Mike Rounds, a South Dakota Republican. "The way I approach it, the president has a responsibility to make nominations, and we give him the benefit of the doubt, but we do have a responsibility for 'advice and consent.'"

With Democrats ready to oppose Cabinet nominees they view as unqualified and extreme, Trump's margin for error is narrow. Republicans are set to have a 53-47 majority in the next Senate, so defections from just four Republicans would mean defeat for any nominee that doesn't enjoy bipartisan support.

Other Cabinet picks also face a complicated path to confirmation. Trump's transition team has so far not signed the requisite agreements that allow the FBI to screen his personnel choices, sending nominees before the Senate without the typical vetting that happens beforehand.



Lithuanian Emergency Ministry employees work at the site where a DHL cargo plane crashed into a house near Vilnius, Lithuania on Nov 25. (AP)

DHL cargo plane crashes into Lithuania house, killing crew member

A DHL cargo plane crashed on approach to an airport in Lithuania's capital and skidded into a house Monday morning, killing a Spanish crew member, officials said. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

A surveillance video from a nearby company showed the plane descending normally as it approached the airport, and then exploding into a huge ball of fire behind a building. The moment of impact could not be seen in the video.

The head of the country's fire-

fighting service said that the plane skidded a few hundred meters (yards), and photos showed smoke rising from a damaged structure in an area of barren trees.

"Thankfully, despite the crash occurring in a residential area, no lives have been lost among the local population," Prime Minister Ingrida Simonytė said after meeting with rescue officials.

Rescue workers sealed off the area, and fragments of the plane in the company's trademark yellow color could be seen amid wreckage

scattered across the crash site.

The cargo aircraft was carrying four people when it crashed at 5:30 a.m. local time. One person, a Spanish citizen, was declared dead and the other three crew members - who were Spanish, German and Lithuanian citizens - were injured, said Ramnas Matonis, the head of communications for Lithuanian police in an email.

The DHL aircraft was operated by Swiftair, a Madrid-based contractor. Neither DHL nor Swiftair offered immediate comment. (AP)



US President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to be attorney general, former rep Matt Gaetz, closes a door to a private meeting with Vice President-elect JD Vance and Republican Senate Judiciary Committee members, at the Capitol in Washington on Nov 20. (AP)

Russia captures Briton fighting for Ukraine

MOSCOW, Nov 25, (AP): Russia's military captured a British national fighting with Ukrainian troops who have occupied part of Russia's Kursk region, according to reports Monday, as Moscow began daylight drone attacks on civilian areas of Ukraine and its ground forces accelerated gains along parts of the front line.

The Briton was identified by state news agency Tass and other media as James Scott Rhys Anderson. Tass quoted him as saying that he had served as a signalman in the British army for four years and then joined the International Legion of Ukraine, formed early on in Russia's nearly 3-year-old war against its neighbor.

On the battlefield, Ukrainian forces are straining to hold at bay a push by Russia's bigger army at places in the eastern Donetsk region.



In this photo taken from a video released by Russian Defense Ministry press service on Nov 25, Russian servicemen operate a Russian Uragan self-propelled multiple rocket launcher in an undisclosed location. (AP)

Romania in shock after far-right populist enters presidential election's runoff with most votes

BUCHAREST, Romania, Nov 25, (AP): Romania's political landscape is reeling after a little-known, far-right populist secured the first round in the presidential election, electoral data showed Monday, going from an obscure candidate to beating the incumbent prime minister.

Calin Georgescu, who ran independently, will face off against reformist Elena Lasconi in a runoff in two weeks.

It's the first time in Romania's 35-year post-communist history for the PSD not to have a candidate in the second round of a presidential race, serving a huge blow to the country's most powerful party and underscoring voters' anti-establishment sentiment.

After polls closed on Sunday, 9.4 million people - about 52.5% of eligible voters - had cast ballots, according to the Central Election Bureau.



Calin Georgescu, running as an independent candidate for president, speaks to media after registering his bid in the country's presidential elections, in Bucharest, Romania on Oct 1. (AP)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN - Nikkei 225	+1.30	38,780.14	SAUDI - TASI	-0.65	11,787.72
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.10	98,032.81	EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.42	30,270.51
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+1.03	6,850.00			
DUBAI - DFMGI	+0.95	4,768.32			

Business

Bursa starts week with limited losses amid low liquidity, geopolitical pressures

General Index drops 44.57 points

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (Agencies): Bursa Kuwait ended Monday's trading session with the General Index dropping 44.57 points, or 0.61%, to close at 7,259.12 points.

A total of 437.5 million shares changed hands through 22,636 cash transactions, amounting to KD 107 million (USD 326.3 million).

Key Index Movements:

Main Market Index: Fell by 37.61 points (0.56%) to reach 6,651.07 points, with 253.9 million shares traded in 12,013 transactions valued at KD 33 million (USD 100.6 million).

Premier Market Index: Decreased by 48.58 points (0.62%) to close at 7,770.77

points, with 183.5 million shares traded through 10,623 transactions worth KD 74 million (USD 225.7 million).

Main 50 Index: Dropped by 40.78 points (0.62%) to settle at 6,532.38 points, with trading of 151.3 million shares across 7,000 transactions valued at KD 22.8 million (about USD 69.5 million).

The Bursa Kuwait began this week with a performance similar to the previous week, as the market saw a decline and recorded limited losses.

The General Market Index dropped by 0.21 percent, losing 15.63 points to close at 7,303.69 points.

The liquidity remained low, with 61.2 million dinars in trades, representing 356.6 million shares through 18,301 transactions. Of the 130 shares

traded, 55 gained, 52 lost, and 23 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index also experienced a decrease, falling 0.21 percent or 16.62 points to close at 7,819.35 points, with a liquidity of 23.9 million dinars.

Meanwhile, the Main Market Index declined by 0.22 percent, losing 14.72 points to finish at 6,688.68 points, with 37.2 million dinars in liquidity.

While the early trading session showed promise with a 25-point increase in the general market index and higher liquidity, the market later faced pressure.

The decline in liquidity was driven by the performance of leading stocks like KFH, which saw a drop to 739 fils, despite strong participation from small stocks like Inovent and Wataniya D.Q.

The Arab Holding stock, which

gained 11.5 percent, led liquidity for a period, followed by other small and medium stocks such as Al-Safa and ASICO, which saw gains of 2.5 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively.

Despite the notable performance of certain stocks, the session ended in the red due to the poor performance of major stocks, with pressures from geopolitical events and global market factors.

The GCC markets showed mixed performance, with Saudi Arabia and Qatar seeing gains, while Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman faced declines.

Investors were also impacted by ongoing geopolitical tensions, especially between Ukraine and Russia, which kept oil prices elevated, closing at \$75 per barrel at the end of trading on Friday.



KUNA photos
Top: Minister of Oil during his visit to the headquarters of Kuwait National Petroleum Company. Above: The Minister of Oil during his meeting with oil leaders at the headquarters of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company in Ahmedi City.

Oil Minister visits KNPC, KIPIC

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Oil and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Tariq Al-Roumi paid an inspection visit to Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC).

The visit is his first since taking office last October, accompanied by members of the board of the corporation.

KNPC told KUNA that Al-Roumi praised the two companies' performance in terms of health, safety, and environmental

aspects, reaffirming his support for cooperation and integration among all oil companies.

KPC Deputy Chairman and CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah stressed the importance of harmonization between KPC and its subsidiaries to overcome any challenges ahead.

For her part, KNPC CEO and KIPIC Acting CEO Wadha Al-Khateeb underlined the interest of increasing profitability and enhancing productivity through innovative solutions.

After the meeting, Al-Roumi toured Mina Abdullah refinery.

GCC banks see nine-quarter high in customer deposits growth at 3.2%

Kuwait banking sector reports steady loan growth amid non-oil expansion

This is the last part of KAMCO Invest's GCC Banking Sector Report – Q3-2024.

The increase was mainly led by a 0.3% growth in domestic credit that more than offset the decline in foreign credit by 1.5%. Within domestic credit, the month saw 1.2% growth in credit to the government sector and 0.7% increase in credit to the private sector that more than offset a 1.9% decline in credit to GREs and 1.2% decline in credit to NBFCs.

Domestic credit for the Qatari banking sector recovered to a three-quarter high growth of 1.9% during Q3-2024 to reach QAR 1.3 Trillion as compared to a sluggish growth of 0.5% during the previous quarter. The growth reflected a strong q-o-q growth in lending to the Real Estate sector by 4.3% followed by 3.8% and 2.4% growth in lending to the Consumption and Public Sector, respectively. This growth more than offset the decline in credit to Industry (-3.1%) and to Contractors (-0.2%).

Outstanding credit facilities in Kuwait witnessed a marginal growth of 0.4% during Q3-2024 to reach KWD 48.8 Bn. The increase was led by higher lending mainly to Real Estate, Personal Facilities, Construction and Trade that was partially offset by a decline in outstanding credit facilities mainly for the Oil & Gas and Industry sectors.

Listed banks experience wide-spread growth in lending

Aggregate lending by listed banks in the GCC continued to show q-o-q growth during Q3-2024, backed by growth in all GCC markets. Aggregate gross loans reached a new record high of USD 2.12 Trillion after registering the strongest q-o-q growth in thirteen quarters at 3.1% while the y-o-y growth came in at 10.1%. Banks in Saudi Arabia reported the biggest q-o-q gross loan growth in nine quarters during Q3-2024 mainly led by healthy lending in almost all sectors. Gross loans growth for Saudi-listed banks came in next at 3.7% to reach USD 737.4 Bn during Q3-2024. Data from Bloomberg showed that the asset yields for banks in Saudi Arabia improved during the quarter led by loans to SMEs and rising mortgage and fixed-rate balances. Moreover, during the quarter, short-term credit facilities were up by 15%, according to Bloomberg, while medium to long term lending increased by 8% each.

Omani and UAE-listed banks were next with lending growth of 3.6% and 3.4%, respectively, while Qatari banks registered a growth of 2.5%. In terms of type of banks, both Islamic banks and conventional banks reported almost equal growth in lending during the quarter at 3.2% and 3.1%, respectively. Aggregate gross loans for conventional banks stood at USD 1.5 Trillion while Islamic banks loan book stood at USD 631 Bn.

Deposit growth at 9-quarter high

Total customer deposits reported by listed GCC banks registered a nine-quarter high growth of 3.2% during Q3-2024 to reach USD 2.5 Trillion. The growth was led by higher q-o-q customer deposits across the countries in the GCC. The increase was led by a strong q-o-q growth in deposits reported by banks in Saudi Arabia. Total customer deposits reported by Saudi Banks reached USD 781.2 Bn at the end of the quarter registering a growth of 4.6%. The increase in deposits comes as a big support for the Saudi banking sector as with the current trend in lending, banks can face liquidity issues, in which case they will have to rely on external funding. Banks in the region typically rely on domestic CASA deposits as the major share of their deposits that had remained stable even at times of stress and provides a much cheaper source of funding. Banks in UAE also reported a healthy growth in customer deposits during the quarter that reached USD 828.0 Bn, the highest in the GCC, registering a growth of 3.1% as compared to Q2-2024.

Loan-to-deposit ratio stays elevated at 81.4%

The aggregate loan-to-deposit ratio for the GCC banking sector remained elevated at over the 80% mark for the second consecutive quarter, backed by a resilient growth in lending across the GCC. At the country level, banks



in Saudi Arabia witnessed a small q-o-q decline in the ratio that reached 92.8% in Q3-2024 vs. 93.6% in Q2-2024. However, despite the decline, the Kingdom continued to boast the highest loan-to-deposit ratio in the GCC. Banks in Kuwait also reported a small decline in the ratio that reached 76.9% at the end of the quarter vs. 77.5% at the end of Q2-2024. On the other hand, the rest of the country aggregates showed q-o-q growth. UAE-listed banks registered a small increase of 30bps with the ratio reaching 69.3%, still the second lowest in the GCC after Bahrain which recorded the ratio at 66.1%. Qatar and Oman registered loan-to-deposit ratio of over 80% at 89.1% and 86.7%, respectively.

In terms of liquidity needs, banks in the UAE continue to remain in a comfortable position to finance future growth as the loan-to-deposit ratio remains the lowest in the GCC. On the other hand, banks in Saudi Arabia may face headwinds and may have to rely on external funding as the loan-to-deposit ratio for banks in the Kingdom remains the highest in the GCC. In addition, with oil trading at around USD 70/b and with a strong project pipeline, banks in Saudi Arabia would require more debt issuance in the near term to fund the growing market.

Net interest income reached a new record high

Aggregate net interest income reported by banks listed in the GCC reached a new record high of USD 22.1 Bn during Q3-2024. The q-o-q growth came in at a four-quarter high level of 2.8% while the y-o-y growth stood at 5.3%. The increase came after five out of the six country-aggregates in the GCC showed growth during the quarter. Qatari banks recorded the biggest increase of 6.2% during the quarter with net interest income reaching USD 3.5 Bn during the quarter. Saudi-listed banks were next with a growth of 3.5% to register net interest income of USD 7.5 Bn. Omani and UAE-listed banks also reported growth of 1.2% and 1.8%, respectively, during the quarter while Kuwaiti banks showed flat growth in net interest income.

The impact of elevated central bank rates was reflected in the increase in net interest income for listed banks in the GCC. The quarter reported one of the highest quarterly total interest incomes that reached USD 54.2 Bn with yield on credit averaging at 4.2%, slightly below the peak seen over the last four quarters. On the other hand, a relatively smaller increase in interest expense from USD 30.7 Bn in Q2-2024 to USD 32.1 Bn in Q3-2024 resulted in the overall growth in net-interest income. The increase in total interest expense was also reflected in the cost of funds that reached 5.0% at the end of Q3-2024, one of the highest levels on record for the GCC banking sector, from 4.8% during Q2-2024 and a much smaller 3.7% during Q3-2023.

Growth in total bank revenues driven by both NII and non-interest income

Total bank revenues witnessed a healthy q-o-q growth during Q3-2024



that came in at a 3-quarter high level of 4.1% after a much smaller growth of 1.2% during the previous quarter. The growth was led by higher net interest income and a stronger growth in non-interest income. Total bank revenues reached USD 32.9 Bn during the quarter backed by growth in all countries in the GCC barring Kuwait which recorded a decline in non-interest income more than offsetting the marginal growth in net interest income for Kuwaiti banks. Saudi Arabia recorded the strongest q-o-q growth in total bank revenues at 6.2% followed by Qatar and Oman each with a growth of 5.8%. UAE-listed banks also recorded healthy q-o-q growth of 3.9%.

Total non-interest income increased by a 3-quarter high level growth of 6.9% during Q3-2024 reflecting broad-based growth in almost all countries in the GCC. Barring Kuwait that recorded a 14.6% decline in non-interest income, rest of the GCC country aggregates witnessed healthy growth during the quarter. Omani banks registered the biggest q-o-q growth at 16.8% followed by Saudi Arabian and UAE-listed banks with q-o-q growth of 12.4% and 7.5%, respectively. Qatari banks also reported a healthy growth of 4.9% during the quarter.

Impairments increased indicating mean reversal

Impairments booked by banks in the GCC increased during Q3-2024 after reaching one of the lowest levels in at least 33 quarters during Q2-2024. Aggregate impairments reached USD 2.5 Bn during Q3-2024 after four out of the six country aggregates showed higher impairments during the quarter vs. the previous quarter. The biggest increase was seen in the UAE with impairments more than doubled q-o-q to USD 0.8 Bn during the quarter as compared to USD 0.4 Bn in Q2-2024. Saudi Arabian banks were next with a growth of USD 0.14 Bn with aggregate impairments reaching USD 0.63 Bn in Q3-2024 as compared to USD 0.49 Bn during Q2-2024. Banks in Oman and Bahrain reported slightly smaller growth in loan loss provisions during the quarter. On the other hand, Qatari and Kuwaiti banks recorded a fall in loan impairments by 6.7% and 0.2%, respectively.

Meanwhile, despite the increase in impairments, the cost of risk (ratio of 12-month provisions vs. average loans) continued to remain low compared to recent quarters at 0.50% for the aggregate GCC banking sector. The low ratio as compared to historical levels indicates recoveries, strong economic indicators as well as stable asset quality. The ratio was highest in the case of Omani banks at 0.92% in Q3-2024 followed by Qatari banks at 0.78%. The ratio was the lowest in the case of Saudi and Kuwaiti banks at 0.34% and 0.35%, respectively, while UAE-listed banks showed slightly higher cost of risk of 0.50%.

Higher operating expenses affect bottom-line growth

Aggregate operating expenses for listed banks in the GCC increased for

the second consecutive quarter during Q3-2024. Total operating expenses reached USD 13.1 Bn during Q3-2024 with a q-o-q increase of 4.1%, the biggest growth in four quarters. The increase was mainly led by higher expenses reported in four out of six country aggregates in the GCC. Banks in UAE reported the biggest q-o-q growth in expenses that increased by 7.7% to reach USD 4.6 Bn followed by Saudi Arabian banks that reported an increase of 4.2% to reach USD 4.3 Bn in Q3-2024 as compared to USD 4.2 Bn in the previous quarter. Banks in Oman and Qatar also reported marginal growth during the quarter that was partially offset by a 1.7% and 1.2% q-o-q decline in operating expenses reported by Kuwaiti and Omani banks, respectively.

Nevertheless, despite the increase in absolute operating expenses during the quarter, the cost-to-income ratio for GCC banks declined by 40bps to reach 39.9% during Q3-2024 as compared to 40.3% during Q2-2024. The increase reflected an increase in the ratio for five of six country aggregates. At the country level, UAE-listed banks reported the biggest q-o-q decline in the ratio and continued to show the lowest ratio at 37.6% during Q3-2024 vs. 38.2% during Q2-2024. Banks in Saudi Arabia and Qatar were next with cost-to-income ratios of 39.6% and 39.8%, respectively.

NIM stayed flat for six quarters in a row at 3.2%

The aggregate net interest margin reported by GCC-listed banks have remained stable for the last six quarters at 3.2% indicating the peak for the ratio as the higher interest rates over the last four quarters are fully priced. The ratio showed minimal changes at the country level, with only Kuwaiti banks showing a small increase, while the rest of the GCC countries showed minimal changes indicating a saturation point for the sector as both lending and cost of deposit and funding reflect elevated interest rate levels. UAE banks once again ranked first in the GCC in terms of NIMs that reached 3.42% in Q3-2024 as compared to 3.47% during Q2-2024. The higher margins as compared to gulf peers reflect ample liquidity that allows UAE banks to capitalize on the tightening interest rate cycle with more modest asset growth. Saudi Arabian banks were next with a NIM of 3.10% followed by Kuwaiti and Qatari banks at 2.99% and 2.97%, respectively. We expect NIM to come under pressure as the cost of funding in the local markets remains high as banks make efforts to attract depositors. Moreover, with the expected rate cuts in the coming quarter, NIMs could come under pressure and slide downwards until cheaper sources of funding and well as continued growth in lending offsets the downward pressure.

GCC banking RoE remains flat q-o-q

Aggregate return on equity (RoE) for the GCC banking sector remained flat q-o-q during Q3-2024 at one of the highest levels over the last few years at 13.6%. The ratio also improved in terms of y-o-y comparison by 40 bps supported by an increase in aggregate 12-month profitability coupled with a relatively smaller growth in shareholders' equity. Total shareholder equity reached USD 435.6 Bn at the end of Q3-2024, registering a growth of 2.3% as compared to Q2-2024. Meanwhile, rate cuts in the US could be accretive for RoE in the near term as it supports lower cost funding. However, this would also require steady customer deposits as any tightening of liquidity would increase the reliance on debt.

At the country level, UAE-listed banks once again topped in the region with the highest RoE at the end of Q3-2024 at 16.8%, a slight 10bps drop from the previous quarter, followed by Saudi Arabian and Qatari banks with RoEs of 12.8% each, flat as compared to the previous quarter. The biggest y-o-y growth in RoE was also seen for Omani-listed banks at 80 bps which was mainly led by elevated profits as well as a relatively smaller growth in total shareholders' equity. ROEs for Kuwaiti banks stayed elevated at a double-digit level of 10.4% while Bahraini and Omani banks reported RoEs at 9.4% and 9.1%, respectively.

ME deal volume rose 7% Focused and future-ready Mideast M&A market drives economic diversification

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Middle Eastern mergers and acquisitions (M&A) continue to forge ahead with resilient investment and a strong focus on economic diversification. According to BCG's 2024 M&A Report, Middle East deal volume rose 7% in the first nine months of 2024, even as global deal volume declined by 13%.

Middle Eastern investors are expanding into crucial sectors like logistics, energy, and advanced technology, reflecting the region's commitment to a diverse, future-ready economy. Despite a cautious global outlook, energy, financial services, and technology companies are pushing forward with strategic deals that promise to reshape industries. At the same time, increased transactions in consumer sectors reflect a rising appetite for transformative deals. Sectors such as healthcare, technology, and energy are expected to drive M&A activity in the months ahead.

AI-Enabled Tools Enhance M&A Processes

Advances in AI-enabled tools are now integral to M&A, streamlining the entire deal lifecycle, from target identification to due diligence and integration. AI-based solutions improve productivity and accuracy, rapidly analyzing structured and unstructured data to support quicker decision-making in an increasingly complex landscape. Virtual data rooms equipped with AI-driven contract redaction and information extraction capabilities enhance documentation workflows, a critical factor during complex M&A negotiations. These digital advancements are essential as Middle Eastern firms position themselves to navigate today's evolving M&A landscape effectively.

"As the next wave of M&A builds, Middle Eastern investors are demonstrating their preparedness with strategic investments in technology and talent," added Samuele Bellani, Managing Director & Partner at BCG. "In this period of relative calm, proactive preparation will separate successful dealmakers from those caught off guard. With AI-powered tools transforming the M&A process, the most prepared firms will shape the future of M&A by combining digital efficiencies with bold, forward-thinking acquisitions."

The Middle East's M&A landscape is set for steady growth, driven by strategic investments and diversification efforts that respond to evolving global dynamics. As regulatory changes alter the playing field, dealmakers will need to adapt their approaches, from building pipelines to planning execution, to navigate longer closing periods and increased scrutiny. In this rapidly changing environment, successful dealmakers will stand out by effectively pitching deals, managing complexities, and staying agile in the face of new challenges.

"The Middle East's M&A landscape demonstrates intentional growth and resilience," said Samuele Bellani, Managing Director & Partner at BCG. "Investors in the region are strategi-



Bellani
Strategic Growth Across Key Sectors in

Middle East M&A

Middle Eastern dealmakers focus on high-value acquisitions across critical sectors, aligning with regional economic diversification strategies. Noteworthy sector investments include:

■ **Industrial and Logistics:** The logistics sector is seeing continued growth, with a recent \$1 billion acquisition by a UAE-based energy player, enhancing supply chain infrastructure. The industrial sector also saw a \$3.2 billion bid in engineering, indicating sustained interest in expanding industrial capacities.

■ **Technology and Telecommunications:** Technology assets are increasingly central to Middle Eastern M&A. Prominent transactions include a \$2.6 billion acquisition in satellite communications and a \$250 million investment in telecommunications in Africa. Additionally, a \$350 million investment in energy-focused AI demonstrates the region's commitment to digital and AI-driven transformation.

■ **Energy and Renewables:** The region's traditional strength in energy is evolving to include renewables, with a significant \$2.7 billion renewable energy transaction reflecting this shift. Middle Eastern oil companies, including national oil players, remain actively engaged in monetizing and optimizing downstream assets, further diversifying their energy portfolios.

Zain in Silicon Valley: empowering Kuwaiti entrepreneurs to embrace the AI future

Part of the award-winning Zain Great Idea tech startup accelerator program



NVIDIA Founder and CEO Jensen Huang with the ZGI participants.



The Kuwaiti entrepreneurs in San Francisco.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Zain has successfully concluded the most engaging phase of its award-winning Zain Great Idea tech startup accelerator program — the international acceleration phase, which brought Kuwaiti tech startup entrepreneurs to Silicon Valley, the global center of entrepreneurship and innovation and home to the world's biggest tech companies.

The global acceleration phase featured an extensive program that included masterclasses, one-on-one consultations, and visits to major tech companies. The aim was to give participants an up-close look at the dynamics of entrepreneurship by interacting with leading experts and specialists in business, innovation, and technology.

The program also provided participants with a unique opportunity to network with startup founders, visit accelerators, pitch their startups to investors, and build connections while gaining insights into the global startup ecosystem. The program was organized in collaboration with Vibranium VC, a Silicon Valley-based venture capital fund specializing in startup investments.

NVIDIA visit and meeting with Jensen Huang

The highlight of the journey was the visit to NVIDIA's headquarters, where participants met Jensen Huang, the company's founder and CEO. Huang is considered one of today's most influential tech leaders, with his vision and leadership driving NVIDIA's market value to an astounding \$3.58 trillion, making it the world's most valuable company, surpassing even the biggest tech giants.

NVIDIA is the leading company globally in designing and engineering graphics processing units (GPUs) and electronic chips used in AI applications. Its technologies are integral to fields like cloud computing, gaming, AI applications, high-performance computing, and more.

This visit offered the Kuwaiti entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to witness NVIDIA's pioneering journey up close, explore how AI technologies could be integrated into their startups, and learn how to leverage these technologies for sustainable success in a highly competitive market. Additionally, they were inspired by Jensen Huang's success story, which centered on innovation as a key driver of growth and excellence.

The visit also gave the participants an invaluable chance to apply to NVIDIA's Inception Program for Startups, designed to nurture startups, providing co-marketing support, engineering guidance, access to NVIDIA software and hardware, technical training, opportunities to connect with NVIDIA experts, and exposure to the venture capital community. Some of the ZGI participants were already accepted into the program.

Field visits to enhance the innovation ecosystem

In addition to NVIDIA, the ZGI journey featured a notable visit to IDEO, the leading global design and innovation firm, where the participants learned about transforming businesses to create a sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for their startups. The program also included visits to prestigious universities like Stanford, where the participants met Mike Lepech, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Berkeley, where they met Ronda Shrader, Executive Director and Professional Faculty of Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

The program also included a visit to the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), where participants gained an in-depth understanding of the bank's critical role in supporting the innovation economy, including startups and venture capital firms, and how it meets the unique financial needs of the tech sector. They learned about SVB's financial services for innovators and entrepreneurs and the opportunities for connecting entrepreneurs with investors.

In addition, participants visited Google's San Francisco office, where they were introduced to AI and cloud solutions, and delved into the opportunities available via Google for

- Comprehensive program featured a visit to NVIDIA HQ and a special meeting with founder and CEO, Jensen Huang
- Series of workshops, consultations, and site visits to understand the dynamics of entrepreneurship
- Participants learned how to integrate advanced technologies into their startups for sustainable growth



Startups and Google Cloud. Following that, the participants visited SAP's headquarters, where the participants learned about the company's leading experience in enterprise software and got invaluable tips on building partnerships with large enterprises, including how to get a startup's product onto their shelf and into their marketplace.

Next, the ZGI participants attended a live recording of the Silicon Zombies Podcast, hosted by Nick Larson with guests Peter Walker, Keith Teare, and Alexander Johnson, who are some of the most influential voices of technology and innovation in Silicon Valley, and founders of companies like TechCrunch, Carta, SignalRank and Velvet.

Other visits included a tour at the Computer History Museum to gain insights into the history of technology, and visits to Escalon, a company specializing in supporting entrepreneurs, and Zendesk, the platform that enables startups to provide exceptional customer experiences.

These visits broadened the participants' perspectives, giving them a glimpse into work environments centered on innovation, collaborative spaces, and initiatives encouraging employee engagement. They also saw how software solutions could give startups a competitive edge and discussed current tech trends, challenges, and strategies employed by Silicon Valley companies.

Masterclasses to develop skillsets

Alongside these visits, the journey featured numerous masterclasses, workshops, one-on-one consultations, and interactive programs to enhance participants' skills in various areas. The program kicked off with an introductory session by Zamir Shukho from Vibranium VC, who outlined the program's goals and highlighted the importance of building partnerships to create added value and achieve success.

The program also included a special session with Alex Dang, co-author of the bestseller *The Venture Mindset*, who shared insights on the latest tech trends and the impact of the AI revolution on startups.

Stanford professor Pedram Mokrian spoke about investing in new technologies and innovative business models to accelerate startups and explored the Silicon Valley startup ecosystem. Ali Moiz discussed market strategies in the U.S. and how best to implement them for business success.

Other sessions included discussions on setting up a legal structure and the importance of partnerships by Aravinda Seshadri, a lecture on AI and software platforms for product development by Oleg Sotnikov, and a session on user



From the session by bestselling author Alex Dang.

experience and interface fundamentals with AI by Ario Jafarzadeh.

The journey also featured sessions with Ella Shukhofrom 500 Global on acceleration ecosystems in Silicon Valley, Maria Kitaygora on sales strategies. Patricia Liu provided insights into pitching projects to investors, Peter Mebert covered financial modeling and planning, and Jason Diehl from TriNetshared insights on human resources and building and expanding teams, among many other activities.

Ambitious Kuwaiti entrepreneurs

The journey featured ambitious Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and their partners, selected by a judges panel during the Super Saturday event. The ZGI participants utilized the expertise and skills they acquired in the first phase, the ZGI Bootcamp, to prepare the final business pitches of their startups and present them to the judges panel.

Participants included Lama Aloraiman and Ksenia Ozkok from BLU DOT — the platform that transforms access to space, Dalal Thani from Akrem — the app that enables secure and easy tipping to service providers, Raghad Al Zamel from MAWADA — the ultimate gifting platform, Hamad Althunayan, Nasser Al Qimlas, and Ryan Dougherty from DAW-RATY — the quality education platform, and Abdulrahman Al Hamdan from Nextbite — the platform that revolutionize the dining and hospitality experiences.

Also joining the program are Faisal Tawfiqi, Fahad Alzuabi, and Maxime Rousselet from USim — the seamless

internet roaming app, Eissa Alloughani from STAX — the app that offers one membership to access the best gyms in Kuwait, Abdullah Albusairi from EYON — the Arab live streaming platform, Abdullah Shaban from Mawqif — the ultimate parking app, and Talal Alzafiri from Q8MAPS — the e-mapping and GIS solutions app.

Unlocking growth and investment opportunities

ZGI was recently launched in strategic partnership with Rasameel Investment Company, continuing its decade-long mission to open sustainable growth and investment doors for entrepreneurs and startups in Kuwait.

For more than 14 years, Zain Great Idea has been a unique success story, establishing itself as one of the most impactful business accelerators locally and regionally. It has provided numerous opportunities for hundreds of ambitious entrepreneurs and startups, connecting many with leading tech companies and organizations in places like Silicon Valley, to gain first-hand experience.

Through this program, Zain aims to empower Kuwait's tech startup ecosystem and foster an innovation-driven environment that creates tangible economic and social impact. This step also translates the company's strategic plans as a business that seeks promising opportunities for diversification and sustainable growth in a highly competitive market. Additionally, Zain may acquire shares in the ZGI startups to boost their potential and commercialization drive.



The program featured intensive and engaging sessions.



Two aspiring ZGI participants.



A participant pitches his startup.



ZGI entrepreneurs pitch their startups.



Recognizing a participant for successfully completing the program.

Project aims to support Tunisia's economic and social development

Kuwait Fund provides KD10 mln loan to Tunisia for railway development

TUNIS, Nov 25: On November 20th, 2024, in Tunis, a loan agreement was signed between the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia. Under this agreement, the fund will provide a loan of 10 million Kuwaiti Dinars (KWD) (equivalent to approximately 32 million US dollars) to contribute to financing the renewal and development of railway lines for phosphate transport in Tunisia.

The agreement was signed by His Excellency Mohamed Ali Al-Nafti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad, on behalf of the Tunisian government and by His Excellency Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Kuwait Fund's Board of Directors.

Objective of the Project

The project aims to support Tunisia's economic and social development by renewing and developing railway lines in the Phosphate Triangle region in the south of the country. It seeks to transport larger quantities of phosphate at lower costs, positively impacting this vital sector. The project also aims to reduce the burden on road infrastructure, alleviate traffic congestion, and decrease accidents. It is a cornerstone of Tunisia's national transport strategy.

Project Components

The project includes renewing and developing railway lines spanning approximately 190 kilometers in the



The Kuwaiti and Tunisian sides during the signing of the agreement.



The two sides exchanging protocols of the agreement.

Phosphate Triangle region. The upgrades will enhance the lines' capacity to accommodate new electric and fuel-powered locomotives capable of transporting larger quantities of phosphate and derivatives. The improvements will also double train speeds to 80-100 km/h, contributing to reduced carbon emissions.

The project also involves constructing and equipping a concrete sleeper plant, along with providing consultancy services for implementation oversight to ensure quality and adherence to required standards. The implementation period is expected to be three years, with project completion anticipated in the first half of 2028.

Financial Details

The total project cost is estimated at 536 million Tunisian Dinars, equivalent to 53.6 million Kuwaiti Dinars, of which approximately 37.5 million KWD will be in foreign currency, accounting for about 70% of the total cost.

■ The Kuwait Fund will contribute 10 million KWD through the proposed loan.
■ The Saudi Fund for Development will provide 55 million USD as an additional loan.
■ The Tunisian government will cover the remaining required funding and any cost overruns.
The loan has a repayment period of

27 years, including a four-year grace period.

It will be repaid in 46 semi-annual installments, with the first due after the grace period.

The loan carries an interest rate of 2% per annum, in addition to a 0.5% annual fee for administrative and execution costs.

Background on Kuwait Fund's Support to Tunisia

This is the 39th loan provided by the Kuwait Fund to Tunisia. The fund has previously extended 38 loans totaling 282.4 million KWD, of which approximately 191.8 million KWD (67.9%)

has been disbursed. Tunisia has repaid around 95.9 million KWD (33.9% of the total loan value).

The fund has also provided two technical grants to Tunisia:

1. 100,000 KWD to finance feasibility studies for the Monastir Bay reclamation and development project, of which 78,000 KD has been disbursed.

2. 300,000 KWD to finance feasibility studies for establishing and equipping a cancer treatment center, which has not yet been disbursed.

About the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development

The Kuwait Fund For Arab Eco-

nomics Development is the first institution in the Middle East that took an active role in international development efforts.

The Kuwait Fund extends Loans on concessionary terms to finance development projects in developing countries. The Fund also provides technical assistance to finance the costs of the feasibility studies of projects, as well as the training of nationals of the borrowing countries. In addition, the Fund subscribes in the capital of international and regional development institutions. Today, the Kuwait Fund forms a solid bridge of friendship and solidarity between the state of Kuwait and the developing nations.

Advertising tech in focus

Judge to hear arguments on Google monopoly case

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Nov 25, (AP): Google, already facing a possible breakup of the company over its ubiquitous search engine, is fighting to beat back another attack by the U.S. Department of Justice alleging monopolistic conduct, this time over technology that puts online advertising in front of consumers.

The Justice Department and Google are scheduled to make closing arguments Monday in a trial alleging Google's advertising technology constitutes an illegal monopoly.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema in Alexandria, Virginia, will decide the case and is expected to issue a written ruling by the end of the year. If Brinkema finds Google has engaged in illegal, monopolistic conduct, she will then hold further hearings to explore what remedies should be imposed.

The Justice Department, along with a coalition of states, has already said it believes Google should be forced to sell off its ad tech business, which generates tens of billions of dollars annually for the Mountain View, California-based company.

After roughly a month of trial testimony earlier this year, the arguments in the case remain the same.

The Justice Department contends Google built and maintained a monopoly in "open-web display advertising," essentially the rectangular ads that appear on the top and right-hand side of the page when one browses websites.

Google dominates all facets of the market: A technology called "DoubleClick" is used pervasively by news sites and other online publishers, while "Google Ads" maintains a cache of advertisers large and small looking to place their ads on the right webpage in front of the right consumer.

In between is another Google product, AdExchange, that conducts nearly instantaneous auctions matching advertisers to publishers.

In court papers, Justice Department lawyers say Google "is more

concerned with acquiring and preserving its trifecta of monopolies than serving its own publisher and advertiser customers or winning on the merits."

As a result, content providers and news organizations have never been able to generate the online revenue they should due to Google's excessive fees for brokering transactions between advertisers and publishers, the government says.

Google argues the government's case improperly focuses on a narrow niche of online advertising. If one looks more broadly at online advertising to include social media, streaming TV services, and app-based advertising, Google says it controls only 25% of the market, a share that is dwindling as it faces increased and evolving competition.

Google alleges in court papers that the government's lawsuit "boil(s) down to the persistent complaints of a handful of Google's rivals and several mammoth publishers."

Google also says it has invested billions in technology that facilitates the efficient match of advertisers to interested consumers and it should not be forced to share its technology and success with competitors.

"Requiring a company to do further engineering work to make its technology and customers accessible by all of its competitors on their preferred terms has never been compelled by U.S. antitrust law," the company wrote.

The Virginia case is separate from an ongoing lawsuit brought against Google in the District of Columbia over its namesake search engine. In that case, the judge determined the search engine constitutes an illegal monopoly but has not decided what remedy to impose.

The Justice Department said last week it will seek to force Google to sell its Chrome Web browser, among a host of other penalties. Google has said the department's request is overkill and unhinged from legitimate regulation.

China's low-altitude economy expo unveils cutting-edge tech innovations

HANGZHOU, Nov 25, (Xinhua): The first edition of China's low-altitude economy expo has unveiled cutting-edge tech innovations and demonstrated new directions for industry development.

Held by the China Air Transport Association in Shaoxing, east China's Zhejiang Province, from Saturday to Monday, the exhibition showcased over 500 ones, electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft and helicopters, according to the association.

The low-altitude economy is an economic concept that relies on low-altitude airspace, involving low-altitude flight, air tourism, passenger transportation, general aviation services, and scientific research and education.

Among the new products and technologies displayed at the expo, a tethered drone drew attention. Due to its ability to hover for a long period of time, the drone, powered by a hundred-meter-long tethered cable, has the potential to

be used in emergency communication, lighting and traffic assistance.

According to its developer, the product has achieved a maximum tethered height of about 300 meters and a maximum endurance of 24 hours, and can operate stably under special conditions, such as 4,000 meters above sea level and strong winds.

"With the rapid development of drones, BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, 5G communication and artificial intelligence technologies, China's low-altitude economy has entered a new phase of widespread application," said Xiang Jinwu, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering at the expo.

The size of China's low-altitude economy as of the end of last year was estimated at more than 500 billion yuan (about 69.52 billion U.S. dollars), with its scale expected to rise to 2 trillion yuan by 2030, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

BERLIN, Nov 25, (Xinhua): Ford Motor Co. has announced plans to cut 4,000 jobs across Europe by the end of 2027, citing weak electric vehicle (EV) demand, economic headwinds and increasing competition.

The downsizing will affect 14 percent of the automaker's 28,000 European employees and 2.3 percent of its global workforce of 174,000. The majority of the layoffs will take place in Germany, with 2,900 positions to be eliminated, followed by 800 in Britain and 300 across other European nations. Ford emphasized that the layoffs would be carried out in consultation with labor representatives.

The move underscores the difficulties automakers face in Europe, where high operational costs and sluggish demand are hindering the adoption of EVs, despite the region's ambitious climate goals.

Ford's move is part of a broader trend affecting the European automotive sector. Weak demand in key markets, coupled with rising costs, has spurred a wave of job cuts by major carmakers and suppliers. Other companies such as Stellantis, Continental, ZF, Bosch, and Schaeffler have all announced plans to reduce their workforce, with Germany being the epicenter.

Continental is set to cut around 7,150 jobs in its automotive division by 2025, with 40 percent of the reduction in Germany. ZF aims to reduce its German workforce by 11,000 to 14,000 employees by 2028. Schaeffler, following its merger with Vitesco Technologies, plans to lay off 4,700 workers across Europe, including 2,800 in Germany. Bosch is expected to cut more than 7,000 jobs, largely in its automotive segment.

"The global auto industry is undergoing significant disruption as it transitions to electrified mobility," Ford said in a statement. The company highlighted Europe's unique challenges, including competitive pressure, stricter carbon dioxide emission regulations, and misaligned consumer demand for EVs.

Ford eyes downsizing workforce



Visitors look at an electric car of Volkswagen at the exhibition of Vienna Electro Days in Vienna, Austria, Sept. 13, 2023. The exhibition is held in Vienna from September 13-17, featuring new electric cars and supporting equipment from major car makers like Audi, Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz. (Xinhua)

Ford has already reduced working hours at its Cologne plant in Germany, where it produces the Explorer and Capri EVs, following disappointing sales despite a 2-billion-euro (1.9 billion U.S. dollars) investment to transform the facility into an EV manufacturing hub.

Ford's struggles are also reflected in its market performance. The automaker reported a 26-percent drop in its third-quarter net profit to 892 million dollars. According to the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), Ford's market share in Europe fell to 3.35 percent as of October 2023, with year-to-date passenger car sales down 17.5 percent compared to 2022.

Volkswagen is also grappling with restructuring challenges. Its Audi unit will close its EV plant in Brussels by February 2025. The company has indicated plans to close at least three of its 10 factories in Germany, potentially cutting tens of thousands of jobs, and is reportedly considering a 10-percent pay cut across its workforce as part of cost-saving measures.

Germany's position as the epicenter of job cuts is linked to its high labor

and energy costs. Markus Wassenberg, general manager of Ford Germany, highlighted that these costs have become unsustainable.

Automakers in Germany face additional challenges, including regulatory pressures to transition to EVs and a sluggish European market, prompting companies to reevaluate their operations and cut costs to stay competitive.

"Collapsing demand from Germany and abroad, high energy and labor costs, and burdensome taxes and bureaucracy are weighing heavily on business prospects and finances," said the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ford CFO John Lawler urged Germany to implement clear policies to support e-mobility, such as expanded charging infrastructure, consumer incentives, and greater flexibility in meeting CO2 targets. He emphasized Ford's commitment to climate goals but warned that stronger measures are needed to ensure the industry's competitiveness and success.

Economic challenges in Germany are mounting, with stagnant global demand, a skilled labor shortage, and

intensifying competition. Its economy is forecasted to contract for a second consecutive year in 2024, making it the weakest performer among the G7 advanced economies.

The German federal government has revised its 2024 economic growth forecast downward from 0.3 percent to minus 0.2 percent, reflecting an economy slipping into recession.

Adding to the bleak picture, business bankruptcies in Germany soared by 22.9 percent in October compared to the same month last year, signaling the continued struggles of the European economy in general.

Excluding June 2024, monthly insolvency rates have seen double-digit year-on-year growth since June 2023, the German Federal Statistical Office reported on Thursday.

"High energy costs, excessive regulation, aging infrastructure, and shortages of skilled workers and raw materials are all contributing to Germany's economic malaise," said Zheng Chunrong, director of the Center for German Studies at Tongji University. "It remains uncertain whether Germany can keep pace with the United States and emerging markets."

Country facing worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation

Nigeria turns to natural gas as transport prices soar after petrol subsidies removed

ABUJA, Nigeria, Nov 25, (AP): When Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu ended the costly subsidies that made petrol affordable for many in Africa's most populous country, Ahmed Halilu knew his e-hailing cab business in the capital, Abuja, was about to run into huge losses.

Transportation costs skyrocketed as the price of petrol more than tripled in the months that followed last year's decision, resulting in the country's worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation. That meant a massive drop in the number of Halilu's passengers and ultimately in his earnings.

In what they said would eventually lower transportation costs by almost 50%, Nigerian authorities in August introduced a compressed natural gas (CNG) initiative to tap its huge gas reserves - Africa's largest - and roll out CNG buses while switching petrol-

powered vehicles to use it.

More than 100,000 vehicles have been adapted to run on CNG or with the hybrid option of CNG and petrol, and at least \$200 million has been invested by the government under the initiative, according to its director, Michael Oluwagbem.

The government aims to convert 1 million of Nigeria's over 11 million vehicles in the next three years, but analysts say the process has been slow, pointing to poor implementation and limited infrastructure.

Although Nigeria is one of Africa's top oil producers, it depends on imported refined petroleum products because its refineries are struggling, with production at its lowest in decades amid massive oil theft.

Together with other reforms introduced by Tinubu after coming to

power in May last year, the removal of subsidies was supposed to save the government money and shore up dwindling foreign investments.

However, it has affected the price of just about everything, and soaring transportation costs force people to abandon their vehicles and walk to work.

Switching over to gas is hard. In addition to the lack of an adequate network of CNG conversion and filling stations - available in 13 of Nigeria's 36 states - the success of the government's initiative also has been limited by low public awareness.

That has left room for misinformation and hesitancy among drivers.

"People are not keen about it because of a lack of orientation," Halilu said. He converted his vehicle and now saves \$240 monthly on petrol costs in his e-hailing business.

Some drivers have expressed fear that their cars could explode with the CNG conversion - claims that regulatory agencies have said are untrue unless the equipment is installed appropriately. In southern Edo state, authorities found that a CNG-powered vehicle that exploded had been worked on by an unaccredited vendor.

Even in Abuja and the economic hub of Lagos, filling stations are scarce and the few available conversion workshops are often lined with commercial vehicles waiting for days to switch to CNG at subsidized rates.

Meanwhile, the cost for private vehicles to switch is 20 times Nigeria's minimum monthly wage of \$42.

A colleague had to travel about 200 kilometers (124 miles) to Abuja to refill his cylinder, said Abdul Manasseh, an e-hailing taxi driver in Abuja.



Photos from the IIT-IIM Alumni Association, IBPC Kuwait annual quiz extravaganza.

Renowned quizmaster Giri Balasubramaniam lights up quiz event

IIT-IIM Alumni, IBPC Kuwait host Q8OQ Quiz 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: IIT IIM Alumni Association conducts its 9th Annual Kuwait open quizzical extravaganza titled Quiz Q8OQ-2024 in grand style yet again in succession, with their event partner, IBPC, Kuwait. IBPC has been associating with IIT-IIM Association for the last four years. The Alumni Association of India's Premier Institutions, IITs & IIMs, organized its spectacular annual open quiz program Q8OQ-2024 for the ninth year running on Nov 22, at the Indian Embassy Auditorium in Kuwait.

The IIT IIM Alumni Association in Kuwait is an association of alumni of the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Registered as a professional association with the Embassy of India in Kuwait, the association functions under the auspices of the Honorable Ambassador of India to Kuwait as its patron. The Association represents a vast blend of talent and experience from very senior executives to the high energy of youngsters who have just embarked on their professional journeys.

With every passing year IIT-IIM Alumni Association's open quiz popularity is growing in geometric progression among the quiz aficionados and the general public alike.

The uniqueness of this event is, it is open to all irrespective of age, qualification, gender or profession and the entry is free to everyone. The quiz was conducted by the very renowned globetrotting Asia's best quizmaster and an alumnus of Harvard Business School, Giri Balasubramaniam from India, popularly known across the world as "Pickbrain".

Giri Balasubramaniam is a world-renowned leading quizmaster, seen every weekend on several Indian television channels hosting quiz shows. He has presented close to 2000 shows across 92 destinations in India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Japan, Kuwait, Middle East, UK and USA. Mr. Giri is known for his distinctive techno savvy style of quizzing, sense of humor coupled with great flair and approachable easy nature, which has earned him several accolades. Tata Crucible Business Quiz for Colleges & Corporates, TCS IT WIZ quiz for Schools, Reserve Bank of India IQ quiz, Times of Oman

Quiz are some of the most popular shows hosted by Giri. He began his career as a media sales executive in 1992. In the year 2000, he quit a division of Walt Disney India Pvt. Ltd to pursue his passion for quizzing as a profession. Now, he heads Greycaps India Pvt. Ltd, India's largest onstage quiz Company, headquartered in Bangalore.

He is also a very popular author and creator of several knowledge based books and architect of designing educational programs for schools across India. A popular speaker, educator, motivator and youth mentor who is regularly invited to deliver Keynotes or as a guest of honor at various educational institutions. He received several prestigious awards and he holds seven Limca records for quizzing. He is an alumnus of the iconic elite Harvard University. He holds a Master's degree on the Gandhian Philosophy.

Proceedings

The event proceedings began by the young comely anchor, Qusai Kapadia, welcoming all the dignitaries, members of IIT-IIM and IBPC, VIPs, Sponsors, the Contestants and all the spectators. He invited the Quiz Master, Balasubramaniam to take over the proceedings. Giri after taking the stage, gave a brief introduction on the importance of knowledge quest in this modern world where human's intelligence is being increasingly challenged with ruthless efficiency of machines. He also mentioned how and why the younger school going children are more courageous, enthusiastic and ready for such quizzes rather than the adults. He crisply and clearly spelt out the salient features of the competition, the format and the dos and don'ts of the whole process.

The format of the contest was at three levels -- written prelims, two semi-finals and a grand finale. However, the process of qualifying teams from each school itself began several months ago, with each school conducting their intra-school qualifying tests set by GreyCaps before forwarding their best teams to the main event day prelims. Open teams of course joined directly into the written prelims, unlike the

school kids. Every team consisted of three contestants. Initially all the teams went through a qualifying round of tough 20 common questions. The first two top teams from prelims directly made to the finals while top two teams from each of the category semis made to the grand finals.

The inaugural 2014 as well as the subsequent six years from 2015 to 2022 events were resounding successes with more than 100 teams (3 members a side) from different nationalities, age groups, professions and schools participating for the top honors. The bar of the quiz standard in this quiz competition is being raised continually by both the contestants and the quiz master. This year the program has reached new scales of outstanding quality with the enthusiastic participation of over a thousand quiz participants and admirers from all walks of life, sizes, ages, gender, including many ankle biters from class 3 and 4. The quizmaster too was an exception, with his distinctive style of high quality quizzing, great sense of humor, impromptu quick wit and spontaneous wordplays. The quiz participants and the avid enthusiastic audience were enthralled with a great range of interesting questions posed from every field. Experienced Giri along with his deputy Ms Rashmi, simply sailed through the whole process with flawless ease aided by the unique format, state of the art electronic gadgets, audio-visual systems and software.

Dignitaries

Once the written test was completed, while the answer papers were being corrected, the audience consisting of teachers, dignitaries, contestants, members of IIT-IIM Alumni association, Indian Business and Professional Council, Kuwait, school children, families etc. were kept busy by the highly gifted, much admired quizzing and the only current popular woman quizzing of India, Ms. Rashmi. She conducted an equally engrossing and challenging multiple rounds of quizzing, open to all the audience. This has kept the audience attention and interest at the peak level as there were many fabulous spot prizes were at stake. Many well-informed and enthusiastic passionate quizzers

in the audience got several valuable prizes. They returned home feeling proud, cheerful and happy with something to cherish.

This year, the quiz had a special round on "Bharat Ko Janiye", a drive by the Ministry of External Affairs, India for all the NRI's to learn and know more about their country, India through a quiz with lots of prizes for the winners. It was indeed remarkable to learn many new historical facts about India through this quiz round.

The President, Peeyush Jain, felicitated and thanked the Chief Guest, H. E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, for gracing the occasion. The semi-finals and main grand finale event began after the felicitation.

The president also felicitated the sponsors and co-hosts. Peeyush Jain, the President of the IIT-IIM Alumni Association thanked the Star Quiz master, Giri the Pickbrain, the dignitaries and distinguished guests who graced the occasion making it a grand success. He expressed his gratitude to all those who wholeheartedly supported the association like Indian Business and Professional Council, Kuwait (IBPC), who stood by IIT-IIM Alumni in organizing this event as an event partner, well represented by the large presence of their members led by Gaurav Oberoi (Vice chairman of IBPC). The IIT-IIM Association also felicitated, him who continue to be a great motivator and ardent supporter of the association's proceedings, be it music or any other literary event.

IITs and IIMs are the prime educational institutions of India and being the alumni in Kuwait, we always believe that the main foundation of education is built in schools. We are indeed privileged to be associated with all the schools in Kuwait, personally and institutionally. Since, the main pillars of the schools are their Principals, our association strongly believe that they play a major role in achieving our common goals, values and objectives of imparting competitive spirit, instilling the quest for knowledge and preparing future generations to excel in all spheres of life. The school Principals, along with their institution have been our constant partner and a source of mutual cooperation, guidance and inspiration.

Best account in Kuwait

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza's weekly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The fourth weekly draw, based on customers' October deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Loyal Dsouza Isac Dsouza, Mohammad Hadi Barrak Aldousari, Nawal Abdullah Barrak Lafi, Hamid Albarjas, Khalid Abdulmohsen Khalid Alkhuzam, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Neseeren Mohammad Khair Alsharif, Mohamed Shehata Ismail Ali, Fouzeyah Abdulaziz Naqi, Saqer Abdullah Muhalli Alnesafi, Basem Mohammad Soubat Alfadhli, Nourhan Abdelaty Abdelaziz Mousa, Mohammad Abdullatif Najem Alkhuder.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited

into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

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

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



A photo from the BSK trip to Romania.

BSK organizes Adventure & Sports trip to Romania

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The British School of Kuwait (BSK) organized a successful trip to Transylvania, in Romania. A group of 20 students and 3 teachers enjoyed a fun filled adventure holiday as part of their Term break.

The trip was for 6 days in the Predeal region which is a beautiful mountain resort especially in the autumn with an altitude of 1600 meters and located very close to Brasov City in Transylvania.

During the trip, the students took part in a range of sporting and adventure activities with professional coaches. These included Tubing, Zipline, Obstacle Course, Bowling, Team

Building Games, Hiking, Archery, Escape room, Swimming at Brasov Paradise Aqua Park and Therme Bucharest which is the largest relaxation and entertainment centre in Europe.

The boys from BSK had also an amazing opportunity to play a friendly football match with Viitorul Predal Football Team where they made new Romanian friends.

All these activities were planned in advanced special for BSK Students with Spotlynx Romania who is a Destination Management Company based in Bucharest specialized for organizing tours for groups and individuals in Romania. BSK students also enjoyed visits to many of Ro-

mania's unique tourist venues such as Dracula's Castle where they celebrated the Halloween, Peles Palace, Brasov City, and they also travelled 2000 meters to the top of the mountains by Cable Car in Sinaia.

The trips culminated with a surprise when a Magician was invited to perform special for BSK Students.

Another great event was "BSK Got Talent Show" where most of the students participated and the Awards Evening where all received medals, certificates and souvenirs of this historic trip to Romania.

Toyota ALSAYER launches mega campaign 'Win 6 kilos of Gold'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. launched its Mega year-end campaign titled: "Win 6 Kilos of Gold" from November 14, 2024 to January 30, 2025. This offer represents a great opportunity for our valued customers to win valuable prizes totaling 6 kg of gold. Up to 2 kg per month will be awarded to the winners during the promotion period.

For every KD 500 paid to purchase a new Toyota – excluding commercial vehicles – from any ALSAYER Retail showroom, the customer gets one chance to enter the gold draw for that month. During each month during the promotion period, 5 winners will be selected to be awarded as follows:

1. First prize: 1 kg gold
 2. Second prize: 500 grams of gold
 3. Third prize: 300 grams of gold
 4. Fourth prize: 100 grams of gold
 5. Fifth prize: 100 grams of gold
- Note that the deadline for participation is January 30, 2025
- The winners of the three draws will be announced respectively as follows:
6. First draw on December 1, 2024
 7. Second draw on January 2, 2025
 8. Third draw on February 2, 2025

Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons thanks all our valued customers for the great response to this huge offer and wishes everyone all the best and success.

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Musical and epic sequel bring much-needed lift to box office sales

'Wicked' and 'Gladiator' make gravity-defying theater debuts

NEW YORK, Nov 25, (AP): With a combined \$270 million in worldwide ticket sales, "Wicked" and "Gladiator II" breathed fresh life into a box office that has struggled lately, leading to one of the busiest moviegoing weekends of the year.

Jon M. Chu's lavish big-budget musical "Wicked," starring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, debuted with \$114 million domestically and \$164.2 million globally for Universal Pictures, according to studio estimates Sunday. That made it the third-biggest opening weekend of the year, behind only "Deadpool & Wolverine" and "Inside Out 2." It's also a record for a Broadway musical adaptation.

Ridley Scott's "Gladiator II," a sequel to his 2000 best picture-winning original, launched with \$55.5 million in ticket sales. With a price tag of around \$250 million to produce it, "Gladiator II" was a big bet by Paramount Pictures to return to the Coliseum with a largely new cast, led by Denzel Washington and Paul Mescal. While it opened with a

touch less than the \$60 million predicted in domestic ticket sales, "Gladiator II" has performed well overseas. It added \$50.5 million internationally.

The collision of the two movies led to some echoes of the "Barbenheimer" effect of last year, when "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" launched simultaneously. The nickname this time, "Glicked," wasn't quite as catchy and the cultural imprint was also notably less. Few people sought out a double feature this time. The domestic grosses in 2023 - \$162 million for "Barbie" and \$82 million for "Oppenheimer" - were also higher.

For Universal, which distributed "Oppenheimer" last year, the weekend was more a triumph of "Wicked" than it was of "Glicked."

"We saw an opportunity to dominate a weekend and get a very large running start into the Thanksgiving holiday," said Jim Orr, distribution chief for Universal. "We're very confident that it will play ridiculously well through the Christmas corridor and into the new year."



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Paul Mescal, (left), and Pedro Pascal in a scene from 'Gladiator II.' (AP)

But the counter-programming effect was still potent for "Wicked" and "Gladiator II," which likewise split broadly along gender lines. And it was again the female-leaning release - "Wicked," like "Barbie" before it - that

easily won the weekend. About 72% of ticket buyers for "Wicked" were female, while 61% of those seeing "Gladiator II" were male.

"Standing on their own, each of these movies may have done pretty much

what they did, but it's hard to know," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "Raising awareness can indeed lead to an increase in box office. Let's put it this way: They didn't hurt each other at all."

While "Barbenheimer" benefitted enormously from meme-spread word-of-mouth, both "Wicked" and "Gladiator II" leaned on all-out marketing blitzes.

The "Gladiator II" campaign featured everything from a much-debated Airbnb cross-promotion with the actual Colosseum in Rome to simultaneously running a one-minute trailer on more than 4,000 TV networks, radio station and digital platforms.

The "Wicked" onslaught went even further, with pink and green themed "Wickedly Delicious" Starbucks drinks, Stanley mugs and Mattel dolls (some of which led to an awkward recall). Its stars made appearances at the Met Gala and the Olympics.

"We had roughly 400 global brand partners on 'Wicked,' so the campaign was inescapable, said Orr. "And our

cast, led by Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, worked so hard on this. They were everywhere. They did everything we asked them to do."

Going into the weekend, box office was down about 11% from last year and some 25% from pre-pandemic times. That meant this week's two headline films led a much-needed resurgence for theaters. With "Moana 2" releasing Wednesday, Hollywood might be looking at historic sales over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"This weekend's two strong openers are invigorating a box office that fell apart after a good summer," said David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment.

Though "Wicked" will face some direct competition from "Moana 2," it would seem better set up for a long and lucrative run in theaters than "Gladiator II." Though some have dinged "Wicked" for running long, at 2 hours and 40 minutes, the film has had mostly stellar reviews.

Artifact wonders

Expo displays ancient China

NEW YORK, Nov 25, (Xinhua): The Memor Museum in New York City officially unveiled its much-anticipated exhibition, "Sanxingdui Encounter," with a lively opening ceremony on Thursday.

Located in the heart of Manhattan's Metropolitan Museum Historic District, the museum has brought one of China's most mysterious ancient civilizations to life through interactive exhibits and cutting-edge technology.

The exhibition, running from Oct. 11, 2024 to Jan. 19, 2025, is part of a prestigious international tour that has previously been showcased in Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Doha IN Qatar. This opportunity offers the public a fresh perspective and a vital window for understanding ancient Chinese civilization.

Willa Ao, president of the Memor Museum, expressed her excitement about the exhibition's debut in the Big Apple.

"With the experience we've gained from previous showcases, we are excited to engage an even broader public audience this time. Our goal is to create an accessible and impactful experience for all visitors. And we are thrilled to see that the local community has responded enthusiastically, with many visitors already coming to explore the exhibit. We hope this growing interest continues to inspire a deeper appreciation for these remarkable cultural artifacts," said Ao.

The artifacts have been meticulously curated over the past four years to guarantee the authenticity and accuracy of the cultural treasures on display, said Ao.

Jiyuan Shang, Cultural Counselor at the Chinese Consulate in New York, shared her insights on the significance of this exhibition and the broader impact it has on promoting Chinese culture abroad.

"Fundamentally, we would love to share, and proudly share the development of Chinese culture to the world. Sanxingdui is a wonder, it serves as a testament to the remarkable achievements of early Chinese civilization and the enduring legacy of Chinese culture," Shang told Xinhua at the event.

Technology

The "Sanxingdui Encounter" goes beyond static displays to offer a multi-sensory experience.

The 12K micro-viewing display utilizes ultra-HD technology to capture intricate details of key artifacts, blending virtual and tangible elements to reconstruct historical depth and to observe close details such as fine carvings, textures, and time-worn marks on the artifacts. Both Chinese and American teams have collaborated closely to develop original music and visuals to create this immersive experience.

The VR immersive archaeological experience allows visitors to feel as if they are able to travel directly to the Sanxingdui Museum's iconic halls in China and explore iconic artifacts including the Sacred Tree and Bronze Standing Figure. Additionally, participants are able to explore a recreated virtual archaeological excavation site which provides a realistic and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to discover the restricted area.

The "Sanxingdui Encounter" features over 10 1:1 scale replicas approved by the National Cultural Heritage Administration. All of the replicas have been meticulously crafted and studied to replicate the original materials and details. The replicas are transported using innovative, patented "C-Tech Relic Boxes," equipped with temperature and humidity controls, GPS tracking, and lightweight materials.

The interactive areas include activities for both children and adults. The themed activities include mystery "blind boxes" to reveal, acrylic pouring, and stamp collection crafts.

Tradition



Sheikha Bibi Duaij Al Sabah at the Kuwaiti Al-Sadu Society pavilion.



Kuwait's Al-Sadu Society members with Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of the Al-Fozan Award.



Photos of the Kuwaiti pavilion at the Al-Fozan Award in Dhahran.

Al-Sadu Society partakes in Saudi Al-Fozan award, Banan expo

Kuwait's Al-Sadu Weaving Cooperative Society took part on Sunday in the Saudi Abdullahif Al Fozan Award for Mosque Architecture and the Saudi International Handicrafts Week Exhibition "Banan".

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, chairperson of society Sheikha Bibi Duaij Al-Sabah affirmed keenness on maintaining Kuwait's traditional textile and handicraft skills in order to transfer them for current and upcoming generations.

It also aims to boost the role of traditional crafts as cultural symbols, she added.

Society's participation in these events comes within the framework of efforts aiming to shed light on handicraft and traditional arts, which are part of Islamic cultural heritage.

The Society's pavilion includes a presentation on techniques of Al-Sadu sewing by weavers Sharifa Bu Shalfa and Amal Al-Shammari, in addition to some textile items.

Meanwhile, Al-Sadu also participates in the Saudi International Handicrafts Week Exhibition "Banan" in Riyadh to highlight Kuwaitis' skills and showcases.

Al-Sadu society partakes in the exhibition to shed light on preserving the country's handicrafts as part of cultural identity.

Al-Sadu is a non-profit, self-sustained organization dedicated to preserving, documenting, and promoting Kuwait's rich and diverse textile heritage. (KUNA)

Variety

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: Kim Dotcom, the internet entrepreneur fighting deportation from New Zealand to the United States on charges relating to his file-sharing website Megaupload, has suffered a "serious stroke", a post on his X account said Monday.

"I have the best health professionals helping me to make a recovery. I will be back as soon as I can. Please be patient and pray for my family and I," the post said.

Dotcom's lawyer, Ira Rothken, confirmed to The Associated Press that the contents of the statement were accurate. Rothken would not say whether Dotcom or someone else wrote the post and did not provide further details.

News of his ill health comes during a protracted battle by the US government to extradite the Finnish-German millionaire to the

United States from New Zealand to face charges of copyright infringement, money laundering and racketeering.

In August, New Zealand's justice minister decided that Dotcom should be surrendered to the United States to face trial, a ruling intended to cap a 12-year legal battle. A date for the extradition was not set, and Paul Goldsmith, the minister, said Dotcom would be allowed "a short period of time to consider and take advice" on the decision. (AP)



Dotcom

TUNIS: The 25th Carthage Theater Days (JTC) festival kicked off on Saturday evening in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, and will run until Nov. 30.

Under the theme "Theatre is Resistance and Art is Life," the opening ceremony was held at the Municipal Theater of Tunis, attended by Tunisia's Minister of Culture Amina Srafi, alongside numerous diplomatic representatives, theater professionals, cultural figures, and media personnel from different countries.

Mohamed Mounir Argui, director of the 25th JTC, highlighted in his opening remarks that this year marks the silver jubilee of the festival, now recognized as one of the oldest theatre festivals in the Arab world and Africa.

After the opening ceremony, the guests attended a show entitled "Star-Returning," which was performed by artists from Southwest China's Liangshan at the Opera Theatre in the City of Culture. (Xinhua)

CAIRO: A joint Egyptian-German archeological mission discovered a temple dating to the Ptolemaic period, which spanned from 332 BC

to 30 BC, in the southern Egyptian province of Sohag, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said in a statement on Saturday.

"The discovery is the nucleus for unveiling more elements of the temple," the statement said, noting the 51-meter-wide temple facade is divided into two towers separated by the entrance gate. The inclination angle of the towers indicates the original height of the temple could be 18 meters, which is similar to the Luxor Temple, the statement added.

During the cleaning works of the main gate of the temple, some hieroglyphic texts were found adorning the exterior facade and the interior walls, in addition to engravings of scenes depicting a king receiving the goddess "Repyt," represented by the head of a female lion, according to the statement. (Xinhua)

Initial studies of cartouches found in the entrance and some walls indicated the temple was established during the reign of King Ptolemy VIII, who might be the founder of the temple. (Xinhua)

RSV vaccines offered for infants in hospitals and health centers

Kuwait offers 30,000 anti-respiratory virus jabs to protect infants

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
 KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Head of Pediatrics Department at Sabah Hospital and Chairperson of the Second Pediatrics Conference Dr. Eman Al-Enezi has announced that 30,000 doses of the antibody for the prevention of respiratory viruses among newborns and infants will be distributed to the hospitals.



A photo from the conference.

This initiative is part of a comprehensive national program aimed at reducing acute respiratory illnesses, including bronchiolitis and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), in newborns and infants.

During a press conference held Sunday to mark the conclusion of the Second Pediatrics Conference, Al-Enezi explained that the antibody

doses are part of Kuwait's broader health strategy. She also affirmed

the country's commitment to protect the health of its youngest citizens.

She urged mothers to consult pediatricians about obtaining the preventive dose for children under one year old. She confirmed that babies born in government hospitals will automatically receive the antibody, while those born in private hospitals can obtain it at local health centers.

She said the collaboration between the Ministry of Health and health-care professionals reflects a unified commitment to improve healthcare services and secure a healthy future for Kuwaiti children. This initiative positions Kuwait as a leader in adopting innovative health solutions for pediatric care, she added.

Meanwhile, Dr. Maryam Khader, who chairs the Association of Premature Pediatricians and Neonatologists, revealed that the preventive doses are administered to newborns

and infants during the winter season (September to March). She said this significantly reduces emergency visits and hospitalizations by up to 80 percent, clarifying that RSV is not a new virus and a single dose of the antibody provides protection for more than five months.

Head of Kuwait Pediatric Association and Chairperson of the Scientific Committee for the conference Dr. Sondos Al-Shuraidah expressed pride in introducing this innovative solution in Kuwait. She pointed out that the treatment is already registered in 52 countries and has been administered to over a million children globally; including in countries such as France, Spain, and the United States of America. She added that Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East

to offer this preventative measure, which clinical studies have shown can reduce the risk of hospitalization by up to 80 percent.

Moreover, in his opening remarks at the conference, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi underscored the importance of this innovation in reducing respiratory infections in children. He emphasized that the program plays a pivotal role in improving public health and supporting societal progress.

He also explained that the antibody targets RSV, which is the leading cause of hospitalization in infants; indicating that RSV causes 63 percent of acute respiratory infections worldwide; disproportionately affecting children under 12 months of age; hence, its prevention is a priority for the health sector.

Kuwait improves quality of medical services

MoH opens 8 new specialized clinics to enhance primary health care services

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: In a step aligned with Kuwait's national health strategy and the government's ongoing efforts to improve healthcare accessibility, Dr. Nadia Al-Juma, Assistant Undersecretary for Health Care Affairs at the Ministry of Health, announced the opening of eight specialized clinics across various primary health care centers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Juma emphasized that these clinics aim to improve the quality of medical services while ensuring citizens can access specialized care within their local areas.

The new clinics were strategically established to cater to the specific needs of patients in different regions:

■ In Jahra Health District: Diabetes Clinic and Chronic Diseases Clinic at Al-Mutlaa Health Center (11N) to address the growing demand for specialized care for diabetes and chronic illnesses in the area.

■ Ahmadi Health District: Osteoporosis Clinic at the Eastern Sabahiya Health Center to provide diagnostic and treatment services for bone health.

■ Smoking Cessation Clinic at the Fintas Specialized Center to support individuals in quitting smoking through targeted programs and counseling.

■ Healthy Child Clinic at the Wafra Residential Center to focus on preventive and therapeutic pediatric care; Doha Health Center; Northwest Su-

laibikhat Health Center and Ibrahim Haji Hussein Maarefi Health Center in Bneid Al Qar.

Dr. Al-Juma highlighted that these clinics are part of a broader initiative to provide comprehensive care that combines preventive and therapeutic services.

By addressing chronic and lifestyle-related health conditions, the clinics aim to reduce the burden on secondary and tertiary care facilities while promoting community health.

This initiative underscores the Ministry of Health's dedication to strengthening Kuwait's healthcare infrastructure and ensuring high-quality services are accessible to all citizens.

Dr. Hafila warns of diabetes surge in Kuwait, calls for early detection

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Dr. Hamed Hafila, an internal medicine and heart specialist at Al-Saqr Specialized Center, revealed that type 2 diabetes affects approximately 21.5 percent of Kuwait's population, while type 1 diabetes is observed in about 37 cases per 100,000 individuals.

Speaking exclusively to Al-Seyassah during the center's recent celebration of World Diabetes Day, Dr. Hafila shed light on the prevalence of diabetes and the efforts to combat it.

He explained that there are three main types of diabetes: juvenile diabetes (type 1), adult diabetes (type 2) and gestational diabetes.

Of these, type 2 diabetes is the most common in Kuwait, largely influenced by genetic factors, obesity and poor dietary habits. Dr. Hafila emphasized that type 2 diabetes can be managed and even reversed with a commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

To combat the growing prevalence, Dr. Hafila recommended regular health check-ups every six months for early detection.

These should include weight assessment, blood sugar monitoring, cumulative sugar tests, lipid and cholesterol evaluations, cardiac efficiency testing and examinations of the eye's fundus and feet.



Dr Hamed Hafila during the exhibition.

Photo by Rizk Tawfiq

The Al-Saqr Specialized Center is well-equipped to support diabetes patients, with four dedicated diabetes treatment clinics staffed by specialists, as well as a nutrition clinic focusing on diabetes management.

The center also provides advanced medical devices, including those for blood sugar monitoring, fundus and foot examinations and body mass measurement.

In conjunction with World Diabetes Day and under the banner of Adailiya Global Health City, the center hosted a celebration and health exhibition aimed at raising awareness about diabetes within the Adailiya community.

Attendees benefited from free consultations and tests to measure cumulative sugar levels, blood pressure and cholesterol. Additionally, the event featured the distribution of free diabetes monitoring devices and provided answers to patient inquiries about prevention, treatment and living with diabetes.

Dr. Hafila reiterated the importance of education and preventive measures to mitigate the adverse effects of diabetes, underscoring the center's commitment to fostering community health and supporting patients in their journey toward better management and prevention of the disease.

T1D cuts 32 years of healthy life

Stem cell advances could ease Type 1 diabetes insulin treatment: research

By Vinny Negi

University of Pittsburgh

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Diabetes develops when the body fails to manage its blood glucose levels. One form of diabetes causes the body to not respond to insulin at all. Called Type 1 diabetes, or T1D, this autoimmune disease happens when the body's defense system mistakes its own insulin-producing cells as foreign and kills them. On average, T1D can lead patients to lose an average of 32 years of healthy life.

Current treatment for T1D involves lifelong insulin injections. While effective, patients taking insulin risk developing low blood glucose levels, which can cause symptoms such as shakiness, irritability, hunger, confusion and dizziness. Severe cases can result in seizures or unconsciousness. Real-time blood glucose monitors and injection devices can help avoid low blood sugar levels by controlling insulin release, but they don't work for some patients.

For these patients, a treatment called islet transplantation can help better control blood glucose by giving them both new insulin-producing cells as

well as cells that prevent glucose levels from falling too low. However, it is limited by donor availability and the need to use immunosuppressive drugs. Only about 10% of T1D patients are eligible for islet transplants.

In my work as a diabetes researcher, my colleagues and I have found that making islets from stem cells can help overcome transplantation challenges.

Islet transplantation for Type 1 diabetes was FDA approved in 2023 after more than a century of investigation.

Insulin-producing cells, also called beta cells, are located in regions of the pancreas called islets of Langerhans. They are present in clusters of cells that produce other hormones involved in metabolism, such as glucagon, which increases blood glucose levels; somatostatin, which inhibits insulin and glucagon; and ghrelin, which signals hunger. Anatomist Paul Langerhans discovered islets in 1869 while studying the microscopic anatomy of the pancreas, observing that these cell clusters stained distinctly from other cells.

The road to islet transplantation has faced many hurdles since pathologist Gustave-Édouard Laguesse first speculated about the role islets play in hormone production in the late 19th century. In 1893, researchers attempted to treat a 13-year-old boy dying of diabetes with a sheep pancreas transplant. While they saw a slight improvement in blood glucose levels, the boy died

three days after the procedure.

Interest in islet transplantation was renewed in 1972, when scientist Paul E. Lacy successfully transplanted islets in a diabetic rat. After that, many research groups tried islet transplantation in people, with no or limited success.

In 1999, transplant surgeon James Shapiro and his team successfully transplanted islets in seven patients in Edmonton, Canada, by transplanting a large number of islets from two to three donors at once and using immunosuppressive drugs. Through the Edmonton protocol, these patients were able to manage their diabetes without insulin for a year. By 2012, over 1,800 patients underwent islet transplants based on this technique, and about 90% survived through seven years of follow-up. The first FDA-approved islet transplant therapy is based on the Edmonton protocol.

Islet transplantation is now considered a minor surgery, where islets are injected into a vein in the liver using a catheter. As simple as it may seem, there are many challenges associated with the procedure, including its high cost and a limited availability of donor islets. Transplantation also requires lifelong use of immunosuppressive drugs that allow the foreign islets to live and function in the body. But the use of immunosuppressants also increases the risk of other infections. (AP)

'Wait for age tech review'

Social media sites urges Australia to delay its ban on 'children under-16'

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 25, (AP): An advocate for major social media platforms told an Australian Senate committee Monday that laws to ban children younger than 16 from the sites should be delayed until next year at least instead of being rushed through the Parliament this week.

Sunita Bose, managing director of Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia including X, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok, was answering questions at a single-day Senate committee hearing into world-first legislation that was introduced into the Parliament last week.

Bose said the Parliament should wait until the government-commissioned evaluation of age assurance technologies is completed in June.

"Parliament is asked to pass a bill this week without knowing how it will work," Bose said.

The legislation would impose fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (\$33 million) on platforms for systemic failures to prevent young children from holding accounts.

It seems likely to be passed by Parliament by Thursday with the support of the major parties.

It would take effect a year after the bill becomes law, allowing the platforms time to work out technological solutions that would also protect users' privacy.

Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said she looked forward to reading the Senate committee's assessment of the proposed law, which "supports parents to say 'no'" to children

wanting to use social media. "Social media in its current form is not a safe product for them," Rowland told Parliament.

"Access to social media does not have to be the defining feature of growing up. There is more to life than constant notifications, endless scrolling and pressure to conform to the false and unrealistic perfectionism that can be served up by influencers," she added.

Bose received heated questions from several senators and challenges to the accuracy of her answers.

Opposition Sen. Ross Cadell asked how his 10-year-old stepson was able to hold Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube accounts from the age of 8, despite the platforms setting a nominal age limit of 13.

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Vieira's debut as Genoa coach ends in draw

Lukaku scores against ex-club Roma as Napoli reclaims lead

ROME, Nov 25, (AP) — Romelu Lukaku scored against his former club and Napoli beat struggling Roma 1-0 to reclaim the Serie A lead and spoil Claudio Ranieri's debut with the Giallorossi.

Napoli moved one point ahead of Atalanta, Inter Milan, Fiorentina and Lazio. Fiorentina won 2-0 at Como for its seventh consecutive victory and Lazio beat 10-man Bologna 3-0.

Lukaku redirected in a cross from Napoli captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo early in the second half at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.

Roma had a chance to equalize but Artem Dovbyk's header banged off the crossbar.

Lukaku played for Roma last season but was one of the main transfer targets when Antonio Conte was hired at Napoli for this season.

Ranieri was hired 10 days ago as Roma's third coach of the season, replacing the fired Ivan Juric, who had in turn replaced Daniele De Rossi.

Still, Roma remained in 12th place, four points above the relegation zone.

Yacine Adli put Fiorentina ahead with a long-range strike early on. Then Moise Kean redirected in a cross midway through the second half for his ninth goal of the season.

Fiorentina last won seven straight in a single Serie A campaign in 1960, when it won eight in a row.

Bologna was reduced to 10 men when Tommaso Pobega picked up two yellows during the first half.

But it took a while until Lazio took control with second-half goals from Samuel Gigot, Mattia Zaccagni and Fisayo Dele-Bashiru.

Patrick Vieira's debut as Genoa coach was a 2-2 draw with Cagliari.

Both of Cagliari's goals came on penalties, including Roberto Piccoli's equalizer in the 88th.

Vieira was hired on Wednesday to replace the fired Alberto Gilardino. Mario Balotelli came on late for Genoa and didn't make an impact. Torino and Monza drew 1-1.



Napoli's Romelu Lukaku scores during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Napoli and Roma at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples, Italy. (AP)

Vasco da Gama sacks manager

Corinthians keeps alive
Copa qualifying hopes

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 25, (Xinhua) — Rodrigo Garro scored two goals and set up another as Corinthians continued its impressive recent form with a 3-1 home win over Vasco da Gama in Brazil's Serie A championship on Sunday.

Gustavo Henrique opened the scoring at Corinthians Arena with a towering header following Garro's out-swinging corner.

Garro doubled the lead by lashing home a first-time effort from 16 yards following Angel Romero's layoff.

Argentine playmaker Garro made

it 3-0 as he capitalized on chaotic defending to smash a 20-yard drive into the bottom-right corner.

The visitor pulled a goal back when Jose Rodriguez's powerful effort left goalkeeper Hugo Souza with no chance.

The result marked the sixth consecutive league victory for Corinthians, who is now ninth in the 20-team standings with realistic hopes of qualifying for next year's Copa Libertadores.

Vasco - who has lost four consecutive Serie A matches - fell to 11th, four points further back.

In other Brazilian top-flight fixtures on Sunday, Internacional won 4-1 at home to Bragantino, and Atletico Paranaense drew 1-1 at Bahia.

Rafael Paiva has been sacked as manager of Vasco da Gama amid a poor run of results, the Rio de Janeiro club said on Sunday.

"[Rafael] will no longer be with us," Vasco president Pedrinho Oliveira told reporters after the match at Corinthians Arena.

"I want to thank him publicly for the work he did during this period. Unfortunately it's a decision that has to be made but nobody is happy about it." Vasco is currently 11th in the 20-team standings, six points clear of the relegation zone with three games remaining in the season.

Assistant coach Felipe Loureiro is expected to fill the vacant position on a caretaker basis.



Atlanta United's Luis Abram, top, jumps over Orlando City's Duncan McGuire, bottom, to control a head ball during the second half of an MLS Semifinal Conference playoff soccer match in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

Galaxy, Orlando City advance to conference finals

CARSON, Calif., Nov 25, (AP) — Gabriel Pec, Joseph Paintsil and Dejan Joveljic each scored two goals Sunday to help the LA Galaxy beat Minnesota United 6-2 to advance to the Western Conference finals.

The Galaxy, the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference, will play host to the fourth-seeded Seattle Sounders for the conference title on Saturday.

LA set an MLS record with 15 goals in a span of three playoff games. The Galaxy swept its best-of-three first-round series against Colorado, beating the Rapids 5-0 and 4-1.

Joveljic gave the Galaxy the lead for good in the 18th. Marco Reus played a free kick into the area where Joveljic flicked a header inside the back post to make it 2-1.

No. 4 seed Orlando City, in its first trip to the conference final, will host the

seventh-seeded New York Red Bulls next Saturday or Sunday with a trip to the MLS Cup final on Dec. 7 on the line. The Red Bulls have made the playoffs in 14 straight seasons but never won the Cup.

Orlando City grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 39th minute on an unassisted goal by Ramiro Enrique, who scored off a corner kick that struck the chest of teammate César Araujo near the goal. It was the first goal contribution for Enrique in seven playoff appearances. He scored eight times in the regular season - his second in the league.

Gallese did not have to make a save in his 10th career postseason start - all with Orlando City. Three of his five shutouts in the playoffs have come in the past two seasons. He had eight clean sheets during the regular season.



Orlando City's Cesar Araujo (5) tries to move the ball between Atlanta United's Ajani Fortune, left, and Jamal Thiare (29) during the first half of an MLS Semifinal Conference playoff soccer match in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Nantes loses 2-0 at home: Riot police played their part as Le Havre won 2-0 at Nantes on Sunday in a French league match interrupted and then restarted during second-half stoppage time after disgruntled home fans tried to get on the field.

The police formed a line in front of one of the stands, which houses the main ultras group, called Brigade Loire. Referee Jérôme Brisard then led the players off, with only about three minutes remaining in stoppage time.

After the Brigade Loire had left the Stade de La Beaujoire, the match was deemed safe to resume 35 minutes later, and the final three minutes were played in a somber atmosphere. (AP)

Leicester sacks coach: Leicester City sacked coach Steve Cooper on Sunday after just 12 games in charge.

Leicester won two of Cooper's 12 games at the helm, drawing four and losing six. The former Nottingham Forest boss leaves with the recently promoted club sitting in 16th place in the Premier League after Saturday's 2-1 defeat at home to Chelsea, who is now coached by Cooper's predecessor in Leicester, Enzo Maresca. (Xinhua)

14-time Olympic medalist McKeon retires

SYDNEY, Nov 25, (AP) — Emma McKeon, Australia's most decorated Olympian, announced her retirement from competitive swimming on Monday.

McKeon holds the Australian record of 14 Olympic medals - six of them gold - won over three Summer Olympics, while her seven-medal haul at Tokyo 2020 is the most ever by a female swimmer at a single Games and equal most for any female athlete from any sport at a single Olympics.

The 30-year-old McKeon had previously hinted that the 2024 Paris Games - where she won gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay - would be her final Olympics, but she had not said whether she would continue to swim competitively.

"I am proud of myself for giving my swimming career absolutely everything, both physically and mentally. I wanted to see what I was capable of, and I did," McKeon said on social



In this file photo, Emma McKeon of Australia poses after winning the gold medal in the Women's 50 meters butterfly final during the swimming competition of the Commonwealth Games. (AP)

media.

"Swimming has given me so much. From the dream igniting at 5 years old, right through to my third Olympic games - I have so many les-

sons, experiences, friendships and memories that I am so thankful for."

McKeon's 14 medals came across the Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Games, with six Olympic gold, three silver and five bronze.

She's second only to Katie Ledecky in terms of Olympic swimming gold medals won. The American has won nine across four Olympics in her tally of 14.

"Emma has added her own incredible chapter to Australia's history at the Olympic Games," Australian Olympic Committee President Ian Chesterman said in a written statement. "Emma has been an extraordinary athlete who has etched herself a special place in Australian sporting landscape, particularly through her success at the Olympics."

"Her performances during Tokyo were particularly stunning. Emma is recognised not just in Australia, but around the world, as one of the greatest Olympians ever."

Sinner leads Italy past Netherlands
for second straight Davis Cup title

The Italian team celebrates with the Davis Cup trophy after the final between Netherlands and Italy at the Martin Carpena Sports Hall in Malaga, southern Spain, as Italy wins its second consecutive Davis Cup title. (AP)

Berrettini played a vital role

MALAGA, Spain, Nov 25, (AP) — Italy went nearly a quarter-century without winning the Davis Cup. Then along came Jannik Sinner, and now the country is celebrating its second consecutive title.

The No. 1-ranked Sinner clinched the championship in the annual team event and capped his breakthrough season by beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 for a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the final of the Davis Cup.

Matteo Berrettini put Italy ahead with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botić van de Zandschulp - the last man to beat Rafael Nadal - in the opening singles match on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in southern Spain.

The Italians, backed by a loud contingent of singing fans playing drums and armed with megaphones in the crowd of 9,200, became the first team to win the Davis Cup twice in a row since the Czech Republic in 2012 and 2013.

Italy's women won the Billie Jean King Cup by defeating Slovakia on Wednesday.

After Sinner finished off his win, Berrettini and other teammates rushed onto the court to begin the party, wrapping their arms around one another and bouncing in unison. Volandri grabbed Sinner and lifted him off the ground.

It was clear who was key to this success. Sinner went 4-0 in Malaga, including a victory in doubles with Berrettini against Argentina in the quarterfinals.

Berrettini played a vital role, too, after replacing Lorenzo Musetti for singles. Berrettini was the runner-up

at Wimbledon in 2021 but since then went through a series of injuries and illnesses that have limited his playing time. He has spoken about the mental challenges he faced.

He needed some time to find his groove against the 80th-ranked van de Zandschulp. But Berrettini took control by grabbing the opening set's last three games, and Sinner left his front-row seat behind Italy's bench to head to the locker room and prepare to close the deal.

He hit 15 aces against the 40th-ranked Griekspoor and stretched his unbeaten streak in tour-level singles competition to 14 matches and 26 sets, including a title at the ATP Finals a week ago.

Sinner's ascension is one of the year's biggest stories in tennis. He went 73-6 with eight singles titles in 2024, with his first two Grand Slam

titles at the Australian Open and the U.S. Open. The latter came shortly after he was cleared of wrongdoing in a doping case connected to two positive tests for steroids in March; the World Anti-Doping Agency's appeal of that ruling is still pending.

The Netherlands reached the Davis Cup final for the first time.

Griekspoor, who fell to 0-6 against Sinner, held his own until the first-set tiebreaker, which was preceded by dueling chants of "Italia! Italia!" and "Let's go, Tallon! Let's go!" Sinner was steadier, more ready for the moment, and he built a substantial lead before ending it with an ace.

From 2-1 in the second set, Sinner wouldn't drop another game. Soon, he was joining Berrettini, Volandri, Musetti and the rest of the squad in raising the silver hardware that once again belongs to them.



Italy's Matteo Berrettini competes against Netherlands' Botić van de Zandschulp during the Davis Cup final tennis match. (AP)

Change Name

I, Rayamarakkar Salma Muhamed Hashim Father of Abdul Razak Rayamarakkar Muhamed Hashim holding Indian passport no.X5361853, here by changing my son's name to Salmaan Hashim Abdul Razak for all purposes. Also I undertake to carry this name in all his documents

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3,500 participants with over 8,000 attending the 3-day event

stc sponsors 'Flare Festival' for the fifth consecutive year in line with its Corporate Sustainability Strategy



Group photo of all winners and organizers.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, sponsored the 'Flare Fitness Athletes Games 2024' also known as 'Flare Festival' for the fifth consecutive year. The festival took place from November 21st till the 23rd at the Marina Crescent. stc's sponsorship of the fitness event comes under the Company's 'weyak' initiative, a program launched under stc's extensive sustainable corporate social responsibility which focuses on supporting local entrepreneurs.

Flare Festival is considered one of the largest events of its kind in Kuwait with a successful track record in attracting a large group of competitors from around the region. Every year, the festival witnesses a massive turnout of attendees who are eager to cheer on participating athletes as they compete for various championship titles. This year the festival welcomed over 3,500 registered competitors across all tournament events, with a total of over 8,000 attendees over the course of three days.

The Corporate Communications team led by Ahmad Al Nuwaibet, PR & Social Media Manager at stc Kuwait along with members from stc's sofara'a program were present throughout the 3 days event and even took part in the organization aspect of the festival and answered customers' enquiries about stc's latest activities and initiatives.

As one of the most anticipated fitness festivals in Kuwait, 'Flare Festival' serves as a recognized platform for athletes wanting to compete in various sports including

The Heat, The Hindrance Race, The Student Competition, The Barbell, The Gravity, The Sea-Master, and the Knock-out. Each tournament organized under the festival represents a unique athletic event where athletes can showcase their unique athletic abilities. Competitors winning the championship title in each sporting event were recognized for their performance and crowned champions during the closing ceremony.

In recognition of its continuous support and sponsorship role, stc was honored during the closing ceremony in the esteemed presence of Vice President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The Company expressed its gratitude towards the individuals and teams whose contributions were integral to the festival's success. stc's role in the festival also represented the Company's stand in supporting local sport initiatives that have gained regional recognition for their positive societal impact in organizing such events.

stc had also set up its booth at the event, welcoming both competitors and attendees to explore its range of telecom and digital solutions. The Company also organized several competitions to engage with the attendees in order to enhance its ongoing communication with different segments of the society and to promote a healthy lifestyle, especially among the younger generation, in addition to encouraging them to adopt a culture of teamwork. The Company also awarded a range of prizes to the winners of the festival various competitions in the presence of stc's Corporate Communications Team. Additionally, as it does throughout its years of spon-

soring the event, stc encouraged its employees to participate in the event as part of its ongoing commitment to promote a sustainable culture of health and teamwork.

Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "We are proud to enhance and develop our strategic partnership with Flare Fitness under the umbrella of 'weyak' to sponsor the Flare Festival for the fifth consecutive year. Our sponsorship of this initiative and event comes within the framework of the company's continuous support to enable a healthy lifestyle and enhance the culture of teamwork among various segments of society, by providing them with the necessary tools and capabilities within these events to achieve the set goals. It is also a strategic approach supported by stc within its workplace where stc promotes wellbeing amongst its employees to enhance the work culture for better productivity.

She added: "Our sponsorship of 'Flare Festival' has become an annual contribution under our comprehensive sustainable CSR program, especially given the witnessed impact this event has within the local sports community. Such events reflect the level of engagement and sportsmanship that stc strongly supports when it comes to sporting events and activities that bring various members of the community together that include individuals and youth of all ages."

Commending Flare Fitness for their effort in organizing the event, AlJasem thanked the various teams involved and the management team at Flare Fitness and she extended her thanks to stc's Corporate Communications team and stc's sofara'a program members. She emphasized stc's successful

approach as a key market player in partnering and forming strategic and sustainable alliances with a network of organizations and businesses in Kuwait, both government and private, to serve the community. stc has had a longstanding partnership with Flare Fitness that extends beyond its sponsorship role within the festival, as the strategic partnership will include diverse events and activities throughout the coming year within a comprehensive agenda in line with stc's integrated CSR program.

Managing Partner at Flare Fitness, Yousef Ahmad Al Shaya, said "We are proud to witness another successful season of 'Flare Festival' and would like to thank stc for being by our side as active sponsors throughout the past five years. Their support has contributed to the festival's growth, which has become a prominent event within the local and regional sports community. Flare Festival brings together participants from across the region, celebrating health, fitness, and community spirit, and provides a platform for athletes to showcase their skills in an engaging environment."

Al Shaya added, "Our longstanding partnership with stc has proven to be a fruitful one that is dedicated to highlighting our abilities in organizing activities and events that promote health and fitness within the community. Together, we have been able to create experiences for people of all ages, encouraging active lifestyles and uniting individuals through a shared commitment to wellness. This partnership not only strengthens our mission but also amplifies our impact, making it possible to reach more people and inspire positive lifestyle changes within our community."



Honoring the company in the presence of Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al-Sabah, Vice President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee.



Children participating in the event.

Reaffirming commitment to supporting sports sector and athletes

Burgan Bank concludes sponsorship of Flare Festival

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Burgan Bank recently concluded its participation as a strategic sponsor in the ninth edition of Flare Festival, Kuwait's biggest fitness competition. The three-day festival took place at Marina Crescent, attracting a record number of 8,000 visitors and 3,500 participants of different ages and genders. The Bank's renewed sponsorship of Flare Festival comes as part of its comprehensive social responsibility program, unwavering dedication to fostering an active and healthy lifestyle across Kuwait, and commitment to embedding environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles in its community initiatives.

This year's edition featured a wide range of new fitness competitions for all ages and fitness levels, including The Hindrance Race for adults and kids, The Student Comp., The Heat, The Fit, The Barbell, and The Knockout. It also included designated areas where non-competing visitors can have an unforgettable experience, such as the NetLand children's play area and The Sea-master, where friends and families can enjoy various beach activities.

At the closing event, the Flare Festival organizing committee and the Deputy Chair of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, awarded Burgan Bank, represented by Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager – Corporate and CSR Communications, a trophy in recognition of its consistent support and contribution to the growth of the mega sporting event.

As a strategic sponsor and a committed champion of sporting events, Burgan Bank played an active role in the success of the 9th Flare Festival, from organizing fitness competitions to handing out daily gifts and cash prizes to both male and female winners throughout the event. The Bank's representatives, stationed at the dedicated Burgan booth, were also highly engaged with the festival visitors, presenting them with different physical fitness challenges.

"We are delighted to have been the strategic sponsors of the largest sporting event in Kuwait, and I would like to congratulate the Flare Festival organizing team on another successful edition and all the winners on their commendable performance and praiseworthy achievement," commented Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah. "Fortifying Kuwait's sports sector and supporting young athletic talents is a vital aspect of our



A group photo of the Burgan Bank and Flare Fitness teams



Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager – Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank.



Mr. Yousef Al Shaya, CEO of Flare Fitness.

social responsibility program. The Bank also continuously seeks to support sporting events and activities that contribute to improving the lifestyle of community members."

On his part, Mr. Yousef Al Shaya, CEO of Flare Fitness, said: "Flare Festival reflects the growing interest among the youth segment in sporting events as an opportunity for fun and entertainment. Reflecting on this year's unprecedented volume of participation, we are very grateful for having had the support of Burgan Bank as strategic sponsor, whose

dedication to the development of Kuwait's sports culture is key to our continued success."

In addition to its wellness-related contributions, Burgan representatives were also engaged in fruitful conversations with the festival visitors and participants to enhance banking literacy and promote financial inclusion. This comes as part of the Bank's committed support for the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) financial literacy and banking awareness campaign – launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Kuwait



Ms. Al-Najadah receiving the festival's shield of honor from Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah.

Banking Association (KBA), with the support of Kuwaiti Banks.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank's contributions to the development of Kuwait's sports sector include various sponsorships that have been extended to sporting committees, institutions and events – such as the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC), Kuwait Equestrian Federation (KEF), and Kuwait Women's Football League (KWFL); as well as individuals – including Tareq Al-Qallaf, Kuwait's wheelchair fencing world champion; and Olympians – such as Amal Al Roumi, Ameena Shah, Lara Dashti, Soaad Al-Faqan, Khaled Al-Mudhaf, Mohammad Al-Daihani, Mohammad Zubaid, Yousef Al-Shamlian, and Yaqoub Al-Youha.

India 'dominates' Aussies in opener

Tourists win set up by Jaiswal, Kohli

PERTH, Australia, Nov 25, (AP): India routed Australia by 295 runs in the opening Border-Gavaskar test to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series with more than a day to spare at Perth Stadium on Monday.

Set a formidable 534 runs to win, Australia was bowled out for 238 runs soon after tea on the fourth day as India secured its biggest win against the hosts in Australia following the 222-run win at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in December 1977.

Travis Head top scored for the home side with 89 runs off 101 balls with eight fours. Head tried to delay the inevitable defeat first with Steve Smith (17), sharing 62 runs for the fifth wicket to lift Australia from 17-4 soon after it resumed the day from an overnight 12-3.

Then in the company of hard-hitting Mitchell Marsh (47), Head added 82 runs for the sixth wicket before fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah forced the lefthander to edge to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.

Bumrah finished with a match-haul of 8-72 (5-30 and 3-42) and increased his wicket tally in Australia to 40 at an average of 18.80 in eight test matches. Bumrah passed off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (39 wickets) as the third most successful Indian bowler in Australia behind swing bowler Kapil Dev (51 in 11) and legspinner Anil Kumble (49 in 10).

"I am very proud of the team," Bumrah said. "After being bowled out for 150 we showed character and didn't lose belief. Going forward, we can take a lot of confidence from that. I am very happy the way we came back."

Fast bowler Mohamed Siraj took 3-51. Fast bowler Harshit Rana, in his debut test, bowled Alex Carey for 36 to seal a big win for India.

It was also India's second biggest win in terms of runs against Australia in all tests since the 320-run win at home in Mohali in October 2008.

Australian skipper Pat Cummins conceded that his side was outplayed.

"It is not an ideal way to start the summer. It's a big series. We were outplayed this week," he said.

"They bowled terrifically well and put a dent into us," Cummins added of Australian first innings batting captain-



India's captain Jasprit Bumrah bowls a delivery on the fourth day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia. (AP)

lation after restricting India to 150.

Cummins urged his side to come back with a strategy to combat Bumrah, who was unplayable at times.

"He's one of the best in the world. We need to come up with a game plan," he said.

India's comfortable win was set up by two majestic centuries – Yashasvi Jaiswal's 161 and an unbeaten 100 by greenhorn Virat Kohli – as the tourists set Australia the highest-ever run chase on a pitch that was getting increasingly difficult to bat on.

Playing only its fourth five-test series since its first tour here in 1947-48, India secured only its 10th win in 53 tests on Australian soil and only its second in Perth in six test matches. India last won in Perth in 2008 at the old WACA ground.

India had gone into the test without skipper Rohit Sharma, who stayed home for the birth of his second child and batsman Shubman Gill who broke a finger during an intra-squad practice match.

But a young and inexperienced team under Bumrah redeemed itself and turned its fortunes around following an embarrassing 3-0 home series loss to New Zealand leading into this test series.

After an eventful start to the test that saw 17 wickets fall on the first day, India took control of the test as it plundered 487-6 declared. This was after it was bowled out for 150 after winning the toss and then dismissed Australia for a paltry 104.



Cleveland Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell (45) shoots as Toronto Raptors' Ochai Agbaji (30) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Cleveland. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Club reigns supreme once again

Whites win 9th Super Basketball Cup; Al-Sarraf officially retires

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait Club secured the Super Basketball Cup title in its 10th edition, defeating Al-Qadsiya 105-88 in a thrilling match held at the Union Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex.

This victory marks Kuwait Club's first title of the season and its ninth Super Cup win out of 10 editions, with Kazma having claimed the title two seasons ago.

The match also featured a special moment as Abdullah Al-Sarraf, a former star of Al-Qadsiya and Kuwait, officially retired. The event included an exhibition

game featuring past stars from both teams, such as Mohammed Rashid, Amer Moatouq, Saad Saleh, Fahad Al-Subaie, and Saqr Abdul-Redha from Al-Qadsiya, alongside Waleed Ali, Hussein Hakim, Fahad Awad, Abdullah Jassim, Yahya Al-Bahr, and Osama Farhan representing Kuwait Club.

The game began with intensity, as Al-Qadsiya took an early 12-7 lead in the first four minutes, led by Abdulaziz Al-Humaidi's driving plays. However, Kuwait Club's American trio — Weber, Turki Hamoud, and Hamad Adnan — dominated from beyond the arc, ending the first quarter with Kuwait Club leading 30-25.

Kuwait Club extended its lead in the second quarter, capitalizing on Al-Qadsiya's disorganized attacks and frequent turnovers. Quick counterattacks by Alexander Al-Ghais and Turki Hamoud widened the gap to 34-25. Although Al-Qadsiya briefly rallied with strong performances from American player Alono and Croatian Zebic, Kuwait Club finished the quarter strongly,

leading 60-46.

The third quarter saw Kuwait Club tighten their grip on the match, dominating rebounds and exploiting their opponent's missed opportunities. They extended their advantage to 78-59 by the quarter's end.

In the fourth quarter, Al-Qadsiya attempted a comeback, narrowing the gap to 12 points through three-pointers from Mohammed Al-Dakhil and Abdulaziz Al-Humaidi. However, Kuwait Club's professional player Sampson (scoring 25 points) led a resurgence, securing a commanding 105-88 victory.

Bader Al-Osaimi, Vice President of Kuwait Club and Director of Basketball, expressed his delight at the team's Super Cup triumph. He praised the players, technical staff, and administrative team for their dedication, which led to the season's first championship win.

This achievement solidifies Kuwait Club's dominance in the Super Basketball Cup and sets the tone for another promising season.



Super Basketball Cup champions Kuwait Club celebrates on the podium with officials.

'30 players currently training'

Kuwait finalizes squad for Khaleeji Zain 26

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait will hold its only training session in Kuwait today at 5:00 pm on the subsidiary field of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. However, players from Al-Qadsiya and Kuwait Club will be absent due to their participation in the Gulf Clubs Championships and the AFC Cham-

ions League 2, respectively.

The Blues began their preparations yesterday at the Bayan Youth Center, affiliated with the Public Authority for Sports. The team training in Bayan will conclude tomorrow before it departs for a training camp in Doha on Thursday. The camp, which will run until mid-December,

is part of their preparation for the upcoming "Khaleeji Zain 26," which will be held in Kuwait from December 21 to January 3. During the camp, Kuwait will play three friendly matches against Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon.

The draw for the "Khaleeji Zain 26" placed Kuwait in Group A alongside Qatar, the UAE, and Oman, while Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen are in Group B.

Ayman Al-Husseini, a member of the Football Association's Board of Directors, shared that Blues' head coach, Argentine Juan Pizzi, and has selected 35 players for the national team roster, in line with Gulf Arab Federation regulations. Al-Husseini noted that 30 players are currently training in Qatar, and the team's full squad will be completed in Doha on December 5 after the players from Kuwait and Al-Qadsiya join.

The Football Association also held a meeting with the technical and administrative staff, discussing recent match events, including South Korea's and Jordan's games in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers. The team's roster and player injuries were also addressed during the meeting.

Al-Husseini emphasized, "All players aspire to be part of the Khaleeji Zain 26," but the coach must select a limited number of players in accordance with the regulations. The coach's decision in the selection process remains final, even if there is some debate over one or two players."



The Blues hold only training session in Kuwait today.



The Kuwaiti officials selected for the AFC Champions League in South Korea.

Kuwaiti officials appointed for AFC CL match in South Korea

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has appointed an elite refereeing team, led by referee Ahmed Al-Ali, with assistants Abdulhadi Al-Enezi and Ahmed Sadiq, along with fourth referee Saud Al-Samhan, to officiate the upcoming AFC Champions League match. The match will feature Guangzhou FC of South Korea facing Shanghai Shenhua of China, scheduled for next Wednesday in South Korea.

Additionally, Abdullah Al-Kandari and Hashem Al-Ibrahim have been assigned to oversee the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology for this high-profile encounter in the AFC Champions League's elite stage.

Kuwait's Ali Al-Kharafi wins gold in Riyadh equestrian championship

RIYADH, Nov 25: Kuwait Equestrian Club rider Ali Al-Kharafi expressed his joy after claiming victory in the Grand Prix event at a height of 145 cm during the "Longines International" Championship held in Riyadh. The prestigious event featured riders from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Brazil, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq.

Al-Kharafi extended his gratitude to everyone who congratulated him on this significant achievement, emphasizing his commitment to raising Kuwait's flag high in international competitions.

He secured the gold medal in the 145 cm category with his horse "I" at the championship's conclusion. Additionally, he achieved first place and another gold medal with his horse "Krat" in the 135 cm category and claimed third place with "I" in the 140 cm event.

Ali Al-Sahli, Head of the Technical Committees at the



Ali Al-Kharafi celebrates after winning the gold.

Saudi Equestrian Federation, presided over the awarding ceremony, honoring the outstanding performances of the championship's champions.

Al-Arabi crowned champion in youth tournament



The victorious Al Arabi youth team.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Clubs Championship for players born in 2013 concluded recently, organized by the Kuwait Football Association in collaboration with the Blue Academy and the International Federation of Football Associations. The event was attended by Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for Technical Affairs Osama Hussein, alongside Board members Ayman Al-Husseini, Fahd Al-Ham-

lan, Hanan Al-Hardan, and Secretary-General Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub.

The championship featured 11 participating clubs, with Al-Arabi clinching first place, Kuwait Club securing second, Al-Nasr taking third, and Al-Qadsiya finishing fourth. The Football Association honored the top four teams, celebrating their achievements in this competitive event.

Cavaliers improve to 17-1

Celtics beat Timberwolves with late defensive stand

BOSTON, Nov 25, (AP): Jaylen Brown scored the Celtics' first 15 points on five consecutive 3-pointers and finished with 29 points, before Boston withstood a late charge to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 107-105 on Sunday.

Jayson Tatum added 26 points and eight rebounds to help Boston post a season-high fifth straight victory.

Anthony Edwards had 28 points and nine rebounds for Minnesota, which has lost five of its last seven.

Julius Randle added 23 points, and Rudy Gobert finished with 10 points and 20 rebounds, his eighth double-double of the season.

Pacers 115, Wizards 103

In Indianapolis, Pascal Siakam scored 22 points, Tyrese Haliburton had 21 points and nine assists, and Indiana snapped a three-game losing

streak with a victory over Washington.

Rookie Alexandre Sarr and Bilal Coulibaly each had 17 for the Wizards, who have now lost 11 in a row and have the NBA's worst record at 2-13. Sarr also had a game-high 14 rebounds.

Benedict Mathurin had 16 points, Moses Brown 15 and T.J. McConnell 12 for the Pacers.

Clippers 125, 76ers 99

In Philadelphia, James Harden had 23 points and eight assists, Ivica Zubac had 16 points and 12 rebounds and Los Angeles coasted to a win over Philadelphia.

The 76ers fell to 3-13, an improbable record for a team that opened the season as a strong betting favorite to win the Eastern Conference. The Sixers played again without injured All-Stars Joel Embiid

and Paul George, both out with knee injuries.

Heat 123, Mavericks 118, OT

In Miami, Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 33 points, leading Miami past Dallas in overtime.

Bam Adebayo had 19 points and 11 rebounds, Tyler Herro had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Alec Burks scored 15 and Pelle Larsson added 14 for Miami.

Kyrie Irving had 14 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter for Dallas, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. P.J. Washington scored 21, Naji Marshall had 20, Klay Thompson scored 15 and Dereck Lively II had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Dallas.

Cavaliers 122, Raptors 108

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell and Ty Jerome scored 26 points apiece as Cleveland improved to

17-1 and stayed perfect at home with a win over Toronto.

The Cavs, who opened the season 15-0 before losing at Boston last week, are 10-0 on their home floor for the first since the 2017-18 season, when they won their first 13 games at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

Nets 108, Kings 103
In Sacramento, Cam Thomas scored 34 points and Brooklyn beat the Kings in Nets coach Jordi Fernandez's return to Sacramento.

Fernandez served as the Kings' associate coach the last two seasons under his mentor, Sacramento coach Mike Brown.

The Nets' 19-point first-half lead evaporated, but with the score tied at 88-all after three quarters, they held the Kings to 15 points in the fourth.