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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024 / JUMADA AL AWWAL 25, 1446 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18760

16 PAGES

150 FILS



Opinion

Dear Minister of Social Affairs, charity work has become a business

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THERE is no doubt that the majority of people highly appreciate the efforts of the Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah in eliminating the negative practices that have long plagued social and charity work for over thirty years.

The charity sector and cooperative societies have been working in accordance with the agendas of their officials who pursue ideological agendas, which eventually led them into unethical practices, including human trafficking.

This situation mirrors the case of fictitious companies, which were established based on the influence of certain parliamentarians and had fraudulently obtained labor quotas from the Public Authority for Manpower. This manipulation resulted in an influx of loose and marginal labor into the country. It is inconceivable for a company to employ ten thousand

workers without a single active project to justify their presence.

The owners of these fictitious companies issue visas to expatriates for a fee of KD 1,000, sometimes charging even more than the cost of the visa itself. After a year, they pocket an additional KD 400 to KD 500 for renewals, and as they say, "you can do the math."

As a result, the population census file has been inflated, while the entity responsible for addressing this issue, which is the National Assembly, was complicit in this crime. The Council of Ministers made the right decision by approving the

amendment to the Foreigners' Residence Law.

This situation calls for the urgent amendment of the Charity Work Law, especially after witnessing how some MPs defended suspicious organizations and entities that perpetuated these harmful crimes.

Over the past thirty years, many such organizations were established under dubious names and operated in a state of chaos, prompting multiple international warnings concerning their activities.

What is truly perplexing is that some of these associations exploit the

process of assessing the need for their workers and engage in human trafficking, much like fictitious companies. They view it as a lucrative source of income, even though it is illegal. These individuals have little regard for Kuwait's interests or reputation because they are hustlers.

Continued on Page 5

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9 NBK Wealth hosts exclusive forum featuring global investment leaders

10 Gulf Bank hosts renowned marketing expert Kolster for an inspiring lecture on building iconic brands

12 Kuwait unveils 57 rare Islamic artifacts at Saudi arts expo

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, handed on Tuesday a letter from His Highness to King Salman bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia, inviting him to the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit, slated to be hosted by Kuwait on Dec 1.

The letter, received by Minister of State and Council member Prince Turki Bin Mohammad Bin Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, also touched upon deep-rooted relation between the two brotherly countries.

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received a letter on Tuesday from Tajik counterpart, Sirojiddin Muhriddin, on strengthening bilateral ties and developing them across various sectors, as well as cooperation on regional and international fronts.

According to a Ministry statement, this was during Al-Yahya's reception of Tajik Ambassador to the country Zubaydullo Zubaydov. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The risk management center of the GCC Secretariat held on Tuesday a workshop as part of the Gulf Week ahead of the 45th GCC Summit to be held in Kuwait on December first.

GCC Center researcher Bandr Al-Husseini said during the workshop that the center was eager to explore means to enhance Gulf cooperation within risk management, exchanging expertise on the matter. (KUNA)



MoFA photo
The Minister of Foreign Affairs during his meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Rami Tahboub.

Palestinian leader updates Amir on relations, key developments

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter on Tuesday from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The letter on bilateral ties and developments of the current situation in occupied Palestinian lands, as well as efforts to achieve regional security and stability, was received by Minister of

Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya during his reception of Palestinian Ambassador to the country Rami Tahboub.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait vehemently condemned on Monday Israeli occupation legislation banning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait nabs fraudster duo selling residency permits for KD 300-500

600 workers traced to companies tied to accused



Ministry of Defense photo
Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister, Defense and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah poses for a group photo with his counterparts from the Gulf Arab region during the 21st session of the GCC Defense Ministers meeting in Doha on Tuesday.

Kuwait DM joins counterparts for talks in Qatar

GCC drills key to stronger defense: Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef

DOHA, Nov 26, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Acting Prime Minister, Defense and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah met his counterparts from across the wider Gulf Arab region for talks in Qatar on Tuesday, saying the gathering comes amid highly complex circumstances.

Ahead of a pan Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit due in Kuwait next week, he addressed the 21st session of the GCC Defense Ministers meeting,

saying his country is committed to push forward bloc-wide defense cooperation in a bid to protect the region's stability and security.

He went on to heap praise on a spate of joint GCC military drills that had taken place as of late, saying that such exercises are instrumental in bringing effective "defense strategies" to fruition, hoping the gathering would ultimately achieve its objectives.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef arrived in Qatar, Tuesday, to attend the 21st session of the GCC Defense Ministers.

Qatari Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Defense Affairs Sheikh Saud Al-Thani, senior GCC military officials, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Qatar Khaled Al-Mutairi received Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

Continued on Page 5

DGCA affirms commitment to boost aviation safety, ensure sustainability

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Acting Chief Duajj Al-Otaibi affirmed Tuesday commitment to enhancing aviation safety standards and ensuring a safer and more sustainable future for the aviation industry.

Al-Otaibi made these remarks while inaugurating the fifth aviation safety summit of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Middle East Office.

He asserted that aviation safety is a priority in the face of increasing challenges of rapid advancements, growth of air traffic and evolving regulatory framework.

The summit will address innovation

Continued on Page 5

'No changes after allocation draw'

Updated housing care rules protect beneficiaries, heirs

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Minister of State for Housing Affairs, and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Acting Chief Duajj Al-Otaibi

(PAHW) Abdullatif Al-Mishari issued a ministerial decision for amending certain provisions of the housing care regulations.

According to the decision, the third paragraph of Article 62 of the housing care regulations has been revised.

Continued on Page 5

Malware threats on rise

Beware of bogus deals in e-shopping, says Mol

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Ministry of Interior has issued a warning to consumers about suspicious advertisements promising high discounts, cautioning that these promotions could potentially be linked to malware, reports Al-Seyassah

daily. In a recent post on the X platform (formerly Twitter), the Ministry emphasized the importance of safe online shopping practices.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwaiti jet ski champion sets Guinness record for 4th time

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): The Guinness World Records on Tuesday honored Kuwait's world-famous jet ski champion Mohammad Burbayea for setting a new Guinness record for the fourth time by winning 28 medals during world jet ski events.

Burbayea was awarded during a ceremony organized on Tuesday under the patronage of Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

Addressing the event, which was attended by the minister's representative, Acting Director-General of the Public Authority for Sports Bashar Abdullah, and Guinness Envoy Kenzy Al-Defrawi, Burbayea said that he was proud of this great achievement, which, he said, raised the name of Kuwait worldwide.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
Kuwait's world-famous jet ski champion Mohammad Burbayea.

MEW shows disappointing 18% 'spending rate' on dev projects

Power supplied to 116 public buildings in Al-Mutla'a

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has reported an 18 percent spending rate on its projects during the first six months of the current fiscal year, relative to the total estimated budget for purchasing non-current assets for these projects, say sources who criticized this decline.

Sources pointed out that the allocated budget for this item is KD565.354 million and only KD105.226 million of which has been spent, leaving a balance of KD415.816 million. Sources have raised concerns about the discrepancy between the ministry's low spending rate and its commitment to launching 21 vital projects included in its development plan for the current fiscal year. Despite this commitment, only a few of these projects have been initiated or completed during the designated period, sources revealed.

Sources stated that one key project that remains delayed is the Nuwaiseeb power generation station, which is expected to produce 3,600 megawatts in its first phase. The station has not been

launched yet, despite the urgent need for additional electricity generation to avoid power outages or the need to purchase energy from the Gulf Interconnection Network, as it occurred during the summer months of this year.

On the other hand, the ministry has encouraged citizens to adopt modern energy-efficient air conditioning systems that operate with Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) technology, which can reduce energy consumption by up to 30 percent. It also urged homeowners to ensure their properties are properly insulated, which would help save electricity and reduce the load on the electrical grid.

Initiative

This initiative was part of the ministry's participation in the 13th Industries and Construction Exhibition, being held at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel from Nov 25-28.

Dalal Al-Otaibi, Senior Mechanical Specialist in the Ministry's Electrical Extensions Department, explained that the ministry's participation aims to raise awareness about energy-saving air conditioning systems and the benefits of building insulation.

In a press statement Monday, Al-Otaibi confirmed that VRF systems offer year-round energy savings, as they operate according to specific needs and can be individually controlled by room. "In contrast, older air conditioning systems consume more energy and put added strain on the na-

tional grid," she stated.

While there have been proposals to encourage the adoption of such energy-saving technologies, Al-Otaibi emphasized that these measures have not yet been implemented. "The ministry continues to push for wider adoption of these systems to both reduce consumer energy costs and alleviate pressure on the electrical grid," she added.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare has announced the completion of electricity supply to all 116 public buildings across the residential suburbs N6 to N11 in Al-Mutla'a Residential City, with the Fire Department building being the last to be connected, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Rashid Al-Anzi, PAHW Acting Director General, confirmed that 113 buildings had already been handed over to the beneficiaries and coordination is underway to deliver the remaining building.

These public buildings, including schools, mosques, police stations, citizen service centers and health facilities, provide essential services to citizens.

Al-Anzi also revealed that the second phase of public building construction in Al-Mutla'a has started, with work underway in 68 buildings.

Work on operating the lighting network for remaining roads in other suburbs, including N5 and N12, is ongoing, with cooperation from the Ministry of Electricity and Water to ensure the completion of services for the public.



The new board of directors

Al-Seyassah photo

Public Relations Association elects new board members

The Kuwait Public Relations Association held its General Assembly, during which members approved the new Board of Directors in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The elected board members are as follows - Jamal Al-Nasrallah, President; Mohammed Al-Mousawi, Vice President; Mohammed

Al-Yassin, Secretary; Waad Al-Kandari, Treasurer and members of the Board of Directors are Mazid Al-Maousharji, Bashar Al-Hunaidi, Yousef Abbas, Mubarak Al-Mansour and Hamad Al-Humaidi.

Jamal Al-Nasrallah, the newly elected president, emphasized the association's commitment to advancing the public relations profession in Kuwait.

He highlighted the importance of aligning the association's efforts with sustainable development goals.

Al-Nasrallah also welcomed new members and encouraged others interested in the field of public relations to join the association, reaffirming its role as a platform for professional growth and collaboration.

Municipal Council's technical committee to meet

Amendment to building regulations on agenda

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Technical Committee of the Municipal Council will be holding its 13th meeting of the third legislative term, chaired by Munira Al-Amir, to discuss six items on its agenda.

These six items include:

- the letter from the Director General of Kuwait Municipality for the study and preparation of a draft amendment to the building regulations

- the proposal submitted by the Vice Chair of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi and member Fahad Al-Abdul Jader for the construction of five floors for administrative and service buildings within suburban centers.

- the request to add activities to chart No. 18, related to integrated and distinguished project buildings (residential neighborhoods)

- the letter from Kuwait National Petroleum Company re-

garding the allocation of new sites for fuel stations on expressways.

- a letter submitted by Kuwait Commute Company about the development of building regulations for new buildings to improve accessibility for people with disabilities,

- a proposal from Issa Hussein Al-Yousefi and Sons Company regarding amendments to the requirements and specifications for residential complex buildings both inside and outside Kuwait City.

Meanwhile, the Hawally Committee of the Municipal Council will hold its sixth meeting of the third session, chaired by Nasser Al-Jadaan.

The meeting will address several important items, including a letter from the heirs of the late Ahmed Al-Sayegh regarding the relocation of an electrical transformer before construction facing Plot No. 57 in Mishref.

The committee will also discuss the approval of entrances and exits for parking lots serving Ghanima Al-Waqyan and Saad Al-Adasani Mosques in Saddiq, as well as the parking lot opposite the Public Authority for Civil Information.

Amir congratulates newly-elected Uruguay president

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of congratulations to President-elect of Uruguay, Yamandu Orsi, on winning the elections.

His Highness the Amir wished

success and wellbeing to the president, and the friendly people of Uruguay further progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President-elect Yamandu Orsi, on winning the elec-

tions, wishing him success in all his endeavors.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President-elect Yamandu Orsi, on winning the elections.



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The six governors during their meeting with State Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Welfare Abdullah Al-Mishari.

Governors meet with Minister Al-Mishari

Meet discusses executing development projects related to Kuwait Municipality

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The governors of Kuwait (Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi, Hawally Governor Ali Salem Al-Asfar, Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Ali Al-Sabah, Mubarak Al Kaber Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Jahra Governor Hamad Jassem Mohammad Al-Habashi and Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah) held a meeting with the State Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Welfare Abdullah Al-Mishari.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was aimed at discussing and expediting the implementation of development projects related to Kuwait Municipality, and addressing the obstacles that are hindering their com-

pletion.

The minister affirmed that he, from the time he took office, has been keen about taking the necessary decisions to ensure the success of these projects.

The governors highlighted the importance of the projects in the six governorates linked to Kuwait Municipality due to their vital role and extreme significance.

Meanwhile, the Farwaniya Governor stated that the meeting was the result of ongoing correspondence between the governors and the State Minister of Municipal Affairs Abdullah Al-Mishari.

He indicated that the discussions also covered other essential issues, such as improving the hygiene standards and managing urban expansion, which requires high-level coordination.

Warba Bank announces winners of Al Sunbula weekly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Warba Bank, Kuwait's premier provider of corporate and investment banking services, today announced the winners of the latest Al Sunbula weekly draw as part of its continued commitment to reward loyal customers. The draw was held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in addition to Warba Bank officials.

This week, ten Al Sunbula account holders each received a cash prize of KD 1,000. The winners are as follows: Ms. Amal Khaled Ali Al-Sihan, Mr. Mishal Rashid Raghian Al-Sharie, Ms. Khalida Hamad Fahad Al-Juwaid, Mr. Mubarak Mudhi Mubarak Al-Azmi, Mr. Fahad Sanat Shamroukh Al-Otaibi, Mr. Omran Mohammad Latif Karim, Mr. Ahmad Fahad Al-Rashed Al-Rashed, Ms. Huda Abdullah Abdul Karim Al-Saeed, Mr. Sultan Shabib Jariou Al-Ajmi, and Ms. Dima Khaled Yousef Al-Awadhi.

Designed to support customers' savings goals, Al Sunbula account offers a unique savings opportunity, combining attractive returns on their savings with the chance to win cash prizes through regular draws year-round.

Explained the eligibility criteria, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait, Area Man-

ager of the Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank, said, "Customers are required to deposit a minimum of KD 100 to qualify for both the weekly and grand Al Sunbula draws. For every KD 10 in their account, customers receive one entry based on the lowest monthly balance, increasing their chances of winning as their balance grows. The balance must remain in the account for a full month to be eligible to the weekly draw, and two months to be eligible to the grand draws. What differentiates Al Sunbula is that there are no restrictions on deposits or withdrawals, and the more a customer deposits, the higher their chances of winning."

In addition to the benefits of Al Sunbula account, Warba Bank recently introduced its latest banking solution, Customer Onboarding, as part of its ambitious five-year strategy. This innovative digital service allows non-Warba customers to easily open an Al Sunbula account online via the Bank's website, without the need to visit a branch. Through this new automated system, unique within Kuwait's banking sector, new customers can complete their account setup in five minutes, at any time and from any location.

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



Al-Bakhait



Michael Boulos and his wife Tiffany Trump, Lara Trump, Eric Trump and Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump listen as Donald Trump Jr., speaks at a campaign rally at Van Andel Arena on Nov 5 in Grand Rapids, Mich. (AP)

Trump Jr emerges as political force of his own as he helps his father launch a second term

NEW YORK, Nov 26, (AP) — When Donald Trump, House Speaker Mike Johnson, Elon Musk and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. circled up aboard the president-elect's plane over some McDonald's burgers and fries recently, Donald Trump Jr. was seated in the center of that power foursome.

The central spot occupied by Trump's eldest son, as captured in a photo widely shared online, reflects how Trump Jr. has become a prominent player in his father's political orbit and a potential heir to his Make America Great Again movement.

For the son of a president-elect, Trump has already had an outsized impact on the next White House. He lobbied hard for the former president to choose his good friend, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, to be his running mate.

"I exerted 10,000% of my political capital," Trump Jr. said of his effort in an interview with Tucker Carlson on the night of the election. "I may get a favor from my father in like, 2076. I used it all."

As an honorary chair of the Republican president-elect's transition team,

Trump Jr. is part of a core group of people deciding who will fill top jobs in the next White House, and his imprint is clear.

Trump Jr. pushed in particular for roles for former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, whom the president-elect has chosen to be director of national intelligence, and Kennedy, who is in line to lead Health and Human Services.

Another close ally, Sergio Gor, will be running the personnel office. He and Trump Jr. run a publishing company, Winning Team Publishing, which has published two of the former president's books.

The younger Trump has said he has no plans to join his father's administration in the way his younger sister Ivanka Trump did during the first Trump term. His brother Eric is also an honorary chair of the transition but hasn't been as much of a political player. Eric's wife Lara has been more involved, serving as co-chair of the Republican National Committee.

Trump Jr. is expected to continue to be a vocal supporter of his father and his agenda and has made it clear he

wants to be an influential voice from the outside, according to a person familiar with his thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning.

The president-elect's style — brash, indelicate and pugilistic — is distilled in his son. Donald Trump Jr. often takes a more aggressive tack than his father, in his calls for disrupting government as usual, in the way he dives into the culture wars with gusto and in his enthusiasm for trolling.

"He's probably the best embodiment of the take-no-crap attitude of the Republican Party," said Scott Jennings, a Republican political strategist.

Trump Jr.'s attitude and the way he communicates don't make him sound like a regular political figure, Jennings said, and that's part of the appeal.

"I think that's one thing about the Trumps that is probably broadly true but certainly for him: They just don't participate in the normal political pabulum that sort of pre-Trump politicians were schooled in or trained to do."

Epshteyn isn't accused of doing anything illegal

Trump transition team suggests sidelining top adviser over pay-to-play allegations

WASHINGTON, Nov 26, (AP) — The top lawyer on Donald Trump's transition team investigated a long-time adviser to the president-elect over allegations he used his proximity to Trump to score payments from those seeking roles or influence in the new administration.

The review conducted by lawyer David Warrington recommended that Trump aides sharply constrain adviser Boris Epshteyn's access to the president-elect, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an internal matter.

The personnel drama spotlights the unusual and often-disorganized cast of characters around Trump who contributed to the chaos of his first term, some of whom are part of the transition to the second as he looks to build out his administration before he takes office on Jan. 20.

Among those Epshteyn is alleged to have sought payments from is Scott Bessent, Trump's nominee to be treasury secretary. Bessent mounted a months-long campaign to win the job but was opposed by Epshteyn allegedly after the hedge fund executive didn't agree to pay

him a substantial retainer.

The review also examined a complaint from former Missouri Gov Eric Greitens, who resigned in scandal but has expressed interest in joining Trump's administration. Greitens signed a declaration last week recounting a Nov 7 conversation with Epshteyn that alleged that his "overall tone and behavior gave me the impression of an implicit expectation to engage in business dealings with him before he would advocate for or suggest my appointment to the President. This created a sense of unease and pressure on my part."

Epshteyn isn't accused of doing anything illegal — securing fees for access to senior government officials is the bread and butter of Washington's lobbying establishment — but the investigation appeared designed to weaken or eliminate his prominent position within Trump's orbit. The president-elect has long chafed at those he viewed as using him for their own personal gain.

"As is standard practice, a broad review of the campaign's consulting agreements has been conducted and completed, including as to

Boris, among others," said Trump communications director Steven

Cheung. "We are now moving ahead together as a team to help

President Trump Make America Great Again."

Veterans of other presidential campaigns and transitions said such a review was anything but standard, and Cheung did not comment on Epshteyn's role going forward.

Epshteyn, who served briefly in a mid-level role in Trump's first White House, became a central player in Trump's life after he left office in 2021. He was one of the architects of Trump's legal team and strategy as the former president faced an array of criminal and civil threats after the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol and his efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

Epshteyn himself was indicted on state charges in Arizona related to alleged efforts by Trump allies to subvert that election and has pleaded not guilty. He holds the title of senior counsel and senior adviser to Trump, but even before the review he was not expected to take a role in the incoming administration.

"I am honored to work for President Trump and with his team," Epshteyn said in a statement. "These fake claims are false and defamatory and will not distract us from Making America Great Again."

Eric Trump, the president-elect's son who went to college with Epshteyn, told Fox News that if the reported allegations were true, his old friend might not be around the campaign much longer.

"Listen, I have known Boris for years, and I have never known him to be anything but a good human being," Eric Trump said Monday. "So, that said, I will tell you, my father's been incredibly clear. You do not, you do not do that under any circumstance. And, believe me, there will be repercussions if somebody was."

The investigation into Epshteyn was first reported by the conservative website Just the News.

"I suppose every President has people around them who try to make money off them on the outside. It's a shame but it happens," Trump told the website. "But no one working for me in any capacity should be looking to make money. They should only be here to Make America Great Again."

During the 2022 midterms, some in Trump's orbit also represented candidates seeking his endorsement, leading to accusations that aides were profiting off their proximity to the former president.



This combination photo of US President-elect Donald Trump's longtime friends, aides and allies shows Boris Epshteyn, from top row left, Richard Grenell, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Howard Lutnick, from center row left, Linda McMahon, Stephen Miller, Elon Musk, Brooke Rollins and from bottom row left Lara Trump, Dana White and Susie Wiles. (AP)

Ukraine says Russian attack sets new record for the number of drones used

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 26, (AP) — Russia launched 188 drones against most regions of Ukraine in a nighttime blitz, the Ukrainian air force said Tuesday, describing it as a record number of drones deployed in a single attack.

Most of the drones were intercepted, according to the air force, but apartment buildings and critical infrastructure such as the national power grid were damaged. No casualties were immediately reported in the 17 targeted regions.

Russia has been hammering civilian areas of Ukraine with in-

creasingly heavy drone, missile and glide bomb attacks since the middle of the year.

At the same time, Russia's army has largely held the battlefield initiative for the past year and has been pushing hard in the eastern Donetsk region where it is making significant tactical advances, according to Western military analysts.

Ukraine faces a difficult winter, with worries about the reliability of the electricity supply amid Russia's attacks and how much U.S. support it can count on next year after President-elect Donald Trump takes of-

fice in January.

The air raid alert in the Kyiv region overnight lasted more than seven hours. Russia is trying to unnerve civilians and wear down their appetite for the almost 3-year-old war.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Tuesday its forces destroyed 39 Ukrainian drones overnight over Russian regions near the border with Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's General Staff said Tuesday that over the past 24 hours roughly half of the clashes along the about 1,000-kilometer (600 mile) front line occurred near Pokrovsk and Kurakhove in the Donetsk region.

Ukraine has a critical manpower problem on the front line, and though the Russian army's gains have been incremental its momentum is adding up as the Ukrainians yield ground.

The Russian advance is threatening important supply routes in Donetsk, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said late Monday.

Ukrainian defenses in Donetsk are not in danger of being overrun, however, the think tank said. It also noted that Russia would need to capture more than 8,000 square kilometers (3,000 square miles) of territory to achieve the Kremlin's goal of seizing the whole of Donetsk.



In this photo taken from video released by the Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Nov 26, a Russian T-80 tank rolls in Donetsk region in Ukraine.

Scuffles, fistfights in Serbian parliament

BELGRADE, Serbia, Nov 26, (AP) — Scuffles and fistfights broke out between ruling party and opposition lawmakers in Serbia's parliament on Monday, weeks after a deadly rail station roof collapse that ignited tensions in the Balkan state.

The opposition wanted to discuss who is responsible for the crash that killed 15 people in the northern city of Novi Sad on Nov 1, while governing officials, who have a majority in Serbia's legislature, sought to adopt a bill on next year's state budget.

The opposition displayed a banner showing a red hand print reading "blood is on your hands." The ruling party responded with a banner accusing the opposition of wanting "war while Serbia works."

Scuffles erupted when the two sides tried to grab each other's banner.

The rail station, a major hub, was recently renovated as part of a Serbian-Chinese partnership. Critics allege that corruption, poor oversight and inadequate construction work contributed to the tragedy.



Ruling party lawmakers, opposition members, and some ministers fight during Serbia's parliament session, which was scheduled to debate the 2025 budget, in Belgrade, Serbia on Nov 25. (AP)



Floodwater covers parts of the Billing Aquadrome in Northamptonshire, England on Nov 25, after Storm Bert caused 'devastating' flooding over the weekend.

Storm Bert leaves two dead in Britain

Britain remained Monday on high alert after the second major storm of the season battered the country over the weekend, leaving at least two people dead and disrupting road and rail travel.

Hundreds of homes in England and Wales battled the floodwaters on Monday and several rail operators canceled services after Storm Bert lashed Britain with heavy rains and wind gusts up to 80 mph over the weekend. As much as 130 millimeters (5.1 inches) of rain fell in some areas, causing some rivers to overflow their banks and turning roads into waterways.

A man in his 80s died after his car entered the water at a ford in Lancashire in northwest England on Saturday, and a body believed to be that of a missing dog walker was found the same day near the Afon Conwy river in North Wales.

"Further flooding is sadly likely over the next few days as water levels rise in slower flowing rivers such as the Severn and the Ouse," Environment Secretary Steve Reed told the House of Commons. "The Environment Agency anticipates that any impacts should be less severe than we've seen in recent days."

More than 130 flood alerts re-

mained in effect across England, Wales and Scotland late Monday.

A severe flood warning, meaning there is danger to life, was issued for the River Nene in Northampton as water levels continued to rise. Hoping to escape, people holding shopping bags filled with necessities waded through deep water Monday.

Stan Brown, 67, who has lived in the region for 25 years, said he had no choice but to go.

"I've got somewhere else to go but I'm one of the few," he said. "Other people have spent their life savings to buy a place there, and now they've got nowhere else to go." (AP)

Zourabichvili rejects results

Georgian lawmakers to pick new prez on Dec 14

TBILISI, Georgia, Nov 26, (AP) — Georgia's parliament set a date Tuesday for national and local lawmakers to pick a new president, paving the way for the ruling Georgian Dream party to choose an ally following its victory in a controversial election.

The announcement comes just a month after Georgian Dream won an Oct 26 general election that the opposition insists was rigged. Current president Salome Zourabichvili rejected the results.

European election observers said the balloting took place in a "divisive" atmosphere marked by instances of bribery, double voting and physical violence.

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

A 300-seat electoral college consisting of members of parliament, municipal councils and regional legislatures



A woman holds an EU flag in front of police blocking the entrance of the Parliament's building during a rally to demand new parliamentary elections in the country, in Tbilisi, Georgia on Nov 25. (AP)

will elect a new president for the South Caucasus nation on Dec. 14. It's a new procedure, which will be used for the first time since a 2017 constitutional reform eliminated direct elections for the presidency.

Georgian Dream has a majority in the electoral college and is expected to choose an ally to replace Zourabichvili.

The outgoing president was elected by popular vote in 2018, and her six-year term will end in December. The new president will be elected for five years.

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

NBK Wealth hosts exclusive forum featuring global investment leaders



Mr. Isam Al-Sager delivers his speech.



Mr. Faisal Al-Hamad, as a speaker.

Bringing together top experts and CEOs from leading asset management firms worldwide to explore the evolving global investment landscape

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: NBK Wealth, the region's premier wealth management group, recently held an exclusive client insight forum titled "Strategies for a New Era". The event featured lectures and panel discussions that offered critical investment insights and strategic guidance, shedding light on key trends shaping the global investment landscape.

The conference, was attended by NBK Group's Executive Management, spearheaded by Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait, alongside Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO of NBK Kuwait, Mr. Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO of NBK Wealth Group, Mr. Nabil Maroof, Chief Executive Officer - Global Asset Management at NBK Wealth, and Mr. Malek Khalife, CEO- Global Private Banking and Switzerland at NBK Wealth.

The conference kicked off with a speech delivered by Al-Sager, who highlighted the event's significance in shaping the future of wealth management. In his address, Al-Sager emphasized the bank's commitment to strategic partnerships aimed at navigating the challenges and opportunities within the global market. The speech underscored NBK's goal of providing customers with access to high-quality global financial services and products, reinforcing the bank's leadership in wealth management.

The forum also brought together the strategic partners of NBK Wealth, JPMorgan Asset Management, InterVest Capital Partners, and private equity specialist Revcap. This exclusive event convened industry experts who engaged in in-depth discussions on prevailing market trends and untapped investment opportunities.

This was followed by a lecture by Patrick Thompson, CEO, EMEA, J.P. Morgan Asset Management, titled 'Collaboration and Innovation: Key to Achieving Superior Customer Outcomes'. In his notes, Thompson explored the strategic partnership between NBK Wealth and JPMorgan Asset Management, highlighting its role in delivering exceptional value to customers by combining global expertise with local insights and introducing innovative investment solutions.

The agenda also featured a lecture on private credit and the US commercial real estate market, where Mike Gontar, CEO of InterVest Capital Partners, discussed the growing appeal of private credit as an alternative asset class, and provided insights into the current state of the US commercial real estate sector.

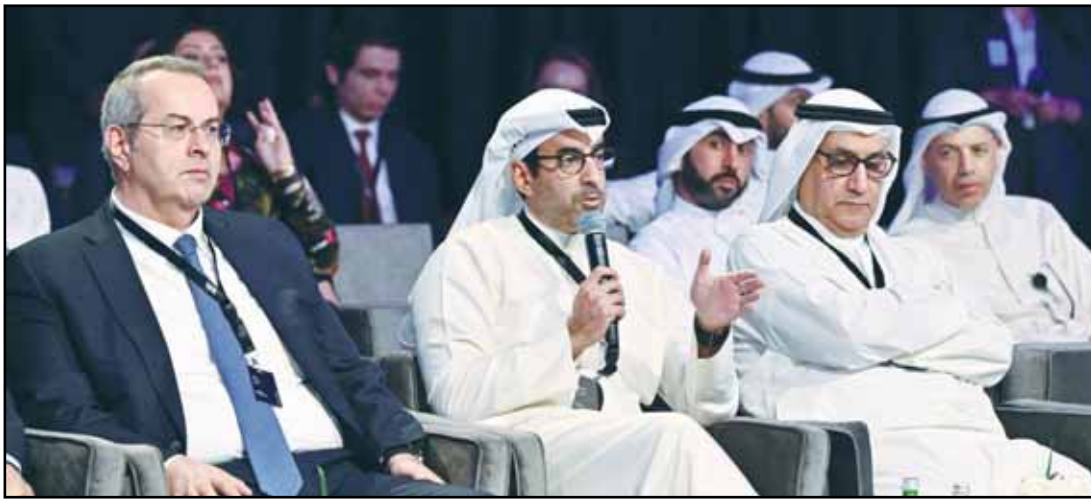
Meanwhile, Andrew Pettit, Founding Partner of private equity firm Revcap, analyzed the recovery trajectory of European property markets, with a special focus on UK real estate. His insights highlighted growth drivers amidst shifting economic dynamics and evolving property demand, for both commercial and residential properties.

Another highlight of the conference was the panel discussion which delved into the evolving private markets and their significant growth potential. The conversation explored the increasing diversity of opportunities in private equity and venture capital, emphasizing long-term prospects for investors.

The panel discussion featured Patrick Thompson, CEO of J. P. Morgan

Al-Hamad:

- Hosting this key event is a testament to NBK Wealth's reliability as a trusted partner in navigating market complexities
- The forum reflects the Group's commitment to equipping clients with insights on the latest trends and opportunities
- We brought together experts to analyze global investment prospects and innovative strategies
- The panel discussions focused on key wealth strategies tailored for dynamic and evolving market environments



Faisal Al-Hamad, alongside Salah Al-Fulaij and Nabil Maroof.



Mr. Patrick Thompson



Mr. Mike Gontar



A discussion panel on the sidelines of the conference.



Isam Al-Sager, Salah Al-Fulaij, Faisal Al-Hamad, Nabil Maroof, and Malek Khalife.



Abdulmohsen Al-Mudhaf from the National Team for Resources.

Asset Management EMEA; Vincent Giovinco, Managing Director at J. P. Morgan Asset Management; Mike

Gontar, CEO of InterVest Capital Partners; and Andrew Pettit, Founding Partner of Revcap, with Fares

Hammami, Head of Strategy at NBK Wealth, moderating the discussion. NBK Wealth brought together in-

dustry experts and thought leaders to equip its clients with the knowledge and resources needed to make

informed investment decisions. The event served as a platform for meaningful discussions, fostering valuable connections, and exploring innovative strategies for navigating the investment landscape.

Commenting on the event, Faisal Al-Hamad, CEO, NBK Wealth, emphasized that hosting this major event reflects NBK Wealth Group's unwavering commitment to equipping its clients with cutting-edge insights and innovative strategies to navigate the complexities of the global investment landscape.

He noted, "Through events like these, we aim to empower our clients to capitalize on emerging opportunities, mitigate risks, and achieve their long-term financial objectives as their trusted partner in an ever-changing market."

Al-Hamad further underscored the significance of fostering direct engagement with clients and collaborating with global leaders in asset and wealth management. These efforts, he explained, highlight NBK Wealth Group's extensive market expertise, global reach, and relentless pursuit of innovation to deliver unparalleled value to clients.

NBK Wealth Group has strengthened its standing as a market leader, offering an array of bespoke services that go beyond traditional investment solutions. Supported by a team of over 115 investment experts, brokers, and 70 relationship managers, the group delivers tailored wealth management solutions, including asset management, financial advisory, and exclusive services for high-net-worth clients.

In line with its commitment to innovation, NBK Wealth recently unveiled a strategic partnership with J. P. Morgan Asset Management, one of the world's largest asset management firms. This collaboration aims to offer diversified and cutting-edge investment portfolios designed to deliver superior performance and cater to the long-term objectives of its clients; giving them access to integrated investment portfolios designed to operate efficiently under various market fluctuations and promote sustainable growth over the long term.

About NBK Wealth

NBK Wealth, a cornerstone of the NBK Group, stands as the premier wealth management firm in the Middle East. As of the end of 2023, the company's Assets Under Management (AUM) exceeded \$20 billion. With a strong presence across nine cities in five countries, NBK Wealth offers a comprehensive suite of services, including private banking, financial planning, asset management, and advisory services. The group adopts a client-centric, solutions-driven approach tailored to meet the distinct financial objectives of high-net-worth individuals and institutions. For more information, please visit: www.nbkwealth.com

NBK Wealth is a registered brand under National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.P. ("NBK"), representing the Asset Management business of NBK, including its affiliated entities such as Watani Investment Company K.S.C.C. ("NBKW"), a leading investment firm, alongside the Private Banking services offered worldwide by NBK, one of the largest and oldest financial institutions in the region.



Mr. Andrew Pettit, as a lecturer.



One of the panel discussions during the conference.

Artifacts



The Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Sheikha Al-Anoud Al-Sabah.



KUNA photos

Some of the Islamic artifacts on display.

'Cultural exchange'

Kuwait unveils 57 rare Islamic artifacts at Saudi arts expo

RIYADH, Nov 26, (KUNA): Kuwait is putting on display some 57 rare and historic artifacts at a Saudi Arabia-hosted arts exhibition, all of which depict the "beauty" of Islamic craft, said an official on Monday. Such events would ratchet up "cultural exchange" while pushing forward Kuwait's 2035 development vision, Assistant Director General for Islamic Artifacts at Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah Sheikha Dr. Al-Anoud Al-Sabah told KUNA. She noted the Al-

Sabah Collection was marveled at the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, which is hosting the second Islamic Art Conference in Dhahran.

Praising the "cultural cooperation" with larger neighbor Saudi Arabia, Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters' communications and media chief Youssef Al-Jamaan said the gathering would be instrumental in "shining the spotlight" on Kuwaiti heritage.

Lamar disc track row

Drake alleges UMG inflated popularity of 'Not Like Us'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 26, (AP): Drake alleged in a court filing Monday that Universal Music Group (UMG) falsely pumped up the popularity on Spotify and other streaming services of Kendrick Lamar's "Not Like Us," a song that viciously attacked Drake amid a bitter feud between the two hip-hop superstars.

The petition in a New York court by the rapper's company Frozen Moments LLC demands the preservation and divulgence of information that might be evidence in a potential lawsuit against UMG, which is the distributor for the record labels of both Drake and Lamar.

In allegations that UMG calls "offensive and untrue," the filing says the record company "launched a campaign to manipulate and saturate the streaming services and airwaves with a song, 'Not Like Us,' in order to make that song go viral, including by using 'bots' and pay-to-play agreements." It said the company and Spotify "have a long-standing, symbiotic business relationship" and alleges that UMG offered special licensing rates to Spotify for the song.

The petition also says UMG has fired employees seen as loyal to Drake

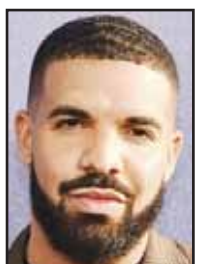
"in an apparent effort to conceal its schemes."

Universal Music Group said in a statement in response that the "suggestion that UMG would do anything to undermine any of its artists is offensive and untrue. We employ the highest ethical practices in our marketing and promotional campaigns. No amount of contrived and absurd legal arguments in this pre-action submission can mask the fact that fans choose the music they want to hear."

"Not Like Us," the wildly popular Lamar single released in May as part of a flurry of dueling tracks by the two artists, includes the lyrics, "Say, Drake, I hear you like 'em young. You better not ever go to cell block one." It has gotten more than 900 million plays, according to figures listed on Spotify.

Spotify representatives declined immediate comment, but in a statement on a previous case, the company said it "invests heavily in automated and manual reviews to prevent, detect, and mitigate the impact of artificial streaming on our platform," and in broader public statements has said it has gone to great lengths to mitigate the effects of bad actors on streaming numbers and royalties.

The feud between Drake, a 38-year-old Canadian rapper and singer and five-time Grammy winner, and Lamar, a 37-year-old Pulitzer Prize winner who is set to headline the next Super Bowl halftime, is among the biggest in hip-hop in recent years, with two of the genre's biggest stars at its center.



Drake

Obituary

Iconic author of 'A Woman of Substance'

Bestselling novelist Barbara Bradford dies at 91

NEW YORK, Nov 26, (AP): Barbara Taylor Bradford, a British journalist who became a publishing sensation in her 40s with the saga "A Woman of Substance" and wrote more than a dozen other novels that sold tens of millions of copies, has died. She was 91.

Bradford died Sunday at her home in New York City, a spokesperson said Monday.

Starting with "A Woman of Substance," published in 1979, Bradford averaged nearly a book a year as one of the world's most popular and wealthiest writers, her net worth estimated at more than \$200 million and her fame so high that her image appeared on a postage stamp in 1999. In 2007, Queen Elizabeth II awarded her an OBE (The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

Her books were published in 40 languages and sold more than 90 million copies around the world.

With titles like "Breaking the Rules" and "Act of Will," she specialized in stories of women fighting for love and power in a man's world. Her favorite among her books was "The Women In His Life," inspired by her husband's escape from the Nazis.

Bradford was married for 56 years to German-born film producer Robert Bradford, who died in 2019.

A native of Leeds, West Yorkshire, she was an only child in a working class family who loved



Author Barbara Taylor Bradford after she received her Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, London, Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007. (AP)

books early. As a girl, she had a story published in a local magazine. By age 16, she left school against her parents' wishes to become a reporter for the Yorkshire Evening Post. Over the next 30 years, she would work as fashion editor of Woman's Own Magazine, cover a variety of beats for the London Evening News and, in the United States, write a syndicated column about interior design.

Although she wrote children's stories and advice books, novels were her dream. "A Woman of Substance" was a multi-generational chronicle of the trials and triumphs of retail baron Emma Hart, who would be featured in several other Bradford novels. The book has sold more than 30 million copies and was the basis of a 1984 television miniseries starring Jenny Seagrove as a young Emma and Deborah Kerr as Emma late in life.

"And if you want to meet the real Emma, meet me," Bradford told the Telegraph of London in 2009. "Emma had to be tough and ruthless at times: but then so am I. I have to be, as a businesswoman. And I'm a bloody good businesswoman."

Bradford and Emma Hart were linked by more than money: both had family secrets. As a young woman, Emma became pregnant by a man who refused to marry her and gave birth to a daughter. Years later, Bradford learned through her biographer that her own mother had been born out of wedlock. It is now believed that Bradford's maternal grandfather was Frederick Oliver Robinson, the second Marquess of Ripon and owner of the Studley Royal estate in Yorkshire, which is now a World Heritage Site.

Seagrove, who became friends with Bradford after starring in the miniseries, described her as a "powerhouse of glamour and warmth" and a "force of nature" who stayed true to her roots.

Variety

LONDON: Rod Stewart will play the "legends" slot at Britain's Glastonbury Festival next year, more than two decades after he headlined the music festival, the organizers said Tuesday.

Stewart, 79, said on social media that he was "proud and ready and more than able to take the stage again to pleasure and titillate my friends at Glastonbury in June."

The rock star, who headlined Glastonbury in 2002, was the first musical act announced for the June 2025 festival at Worthy Farm in the southwest of England. (AP)

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LONDON: If life imitates art, a vandal in the English countryside may be haunted by The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Police in the town of Shrewsbury are investigating how a tombstone that marked the fictional grave of Ebenezer Scrooge was destroyed. The movie prop used in the 1984 adaption of "A Christmas Carol" was kept in place and became a tourist attraction.

Town Clerk Helen Ball said the town is discussing what should be done to fix or replace the stone that is "hugely popular" with residents and visitors. This time of year, organized tours of locations used in the movie visit the grounds of St. Chad's Church to see the marker. (AP)

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MEXICO CITY: Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum said Monday she has a plan to reduce the popularity of "narco corridos," a musical genre often linked to drug cartel violence.

Sheinbaum vowed to launch a campaign to promote other, less violent musical styles that aren't as linked to drug traffickers in an effort to stop glorifying them.

The campaign includes "a competition among corrido bands that have some other kind of lyrics, that glorify other behaviors, other cultural visions," Sheinbaum said, noting that "prohibiting them is not an option." Instead, she said, "it's about promoting another vision." (AP)

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NEW YORK: The National Broadcasting Company (NBC), which has had the broadcast rights of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City since 1953, is trying to hammer down a pricey deal with the retail chain to keep the event on the network and its Peacock streaming service for the next decade, reported The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on Monday.

"Under the terms being discussed, a new deal would kick in next year with an average annual fee of more than 60 million US dollars, up from around 20 million dollars in the current contract," it said.

The price increase is indicative of the value of live programming to media companies as viewers flee traditional television for streaming services, noted the report. (Xinhua)



Angelina Jolie poses with the Star of the Mole award, in Turin, Italy, Sunday, Nov. 24. (AP)



This image released by Netflix shows Samuel L. Jackson in a scene from 'The Piano Lesson.' (AP)



Denzel Washington, (right), producer of 'The Piano Lesson,' poses with cast member Erykah Badu, (center), and his son Malcolm, the film's director and co-writer, at the premiere of the film on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at The Egyptian Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

New Wilson film a family collaboration

Wrestling with 'Piano Lesson's' ghosts

LOS ANGELES, Nov 26, (AP): The piano on the set of "The Piano Lesson" was not a mere prop. It could be played and the cast members often did. It was adorned with pictures of the Washington family and their ancestors. It was, John David Washington jokes, "No. 1 on the call sheet."

"We tried to haunt the piano itself, to charge it with that kind of spirit," says Malcolm Washington, the film's director and John David's brother.

In "The Piano Lesson," August Wilson's 1987 play, the piano is a central symbol of heritage, the past and survival. In 1930s Pittsburgh, it sits, unplayed, in the home of Berniece Charles (Danielle Deadwyler), having been passed down as a family heirloom from the days of slavery. But Berniece's visiting brother, Boy Willie (John David Washington), wants to sell it to buy the Mississippi land upon which their ancestors once toiled as slaves.

"The Piano Lesson," which is currently playing in theaters and streaming on Netflix, is an impassioned family drama but it is also a profound ghost story. For the Charles family, wrangling over the piano is a reckoning with their family's past, and the legacy of slavery. At its bone-rattling crescendo, it's an exorcism.

"It's an exorcism and a possession," says Deadwyler. "You're releasing the thing that never worked and inviting in the thing that was always present but you might not have known."

Adapting "The Piano Lesson," a play about ancestors and heritage, was fittingly a work of family. It's the third

in a sterling string of Wilson adaptations produced by Denzel Washington, following "Fences" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." But it's the first Washington mostly left to his family to make.

"Costanza, August's widow, came to me I don't know how many years ago and asked me to shepherd these plays. I said, 'I'm the man for the job,'" Washington said an interview alongside producer Todd Black. "So I've been more of an administrator. I read the play a couple times to think about how can we get this made, is this a movie? In this case, a week or so into shooting, I was like, 'There's nothing for me to do. This kid knows what he's doing. He's done his homework. I'm just hanging around.'"

Legacy

If Denzel Washington has been moved to carry on the tradition of Wilson by a sense of legacy, it's something he passes down in "The Piano Lesson." The film marks the directorial debut of Malcolm, 33, who also cowrote the script with Virgil Williams.

John David Washington, the "BlackKkLansman" and "Tenet" star, made his Wilson debut in a 2022 Broadway production of "The Piano Lesson," playing Boy Willie. That production also featured Samuel L. Jackson, who originated the role of Boy Willie in 1987 at the Yale Repertory Theatre, playing Berniece and Boy Willie's uncle, Doaker Charles, a role he carries over in the film.

"You have all these great artists playing these notes — you have the

OGs, the Wilsonians, playing it," says John David. "Then you have the newcomers playing it. You start jamming together and you find it together."

In Wilson, there's no greater musicality than the language, the blues poetry of Wilson's slang-drenched rhythms. The brash, fast-talking Boy Willie, in particular, is a verbal force — one that John David was enthralled by.

"It feels freaking so good when the truth is coming out and you know the truth is coming out and you're discovering new meanings in these monologues that you go over and over in your head," says John David. "When it's happening, it's a beautiful feeling. I live for those moments."

For the actors, finding the music of "The Piano Lesson" meant channeling generations worth of pain and perseverance in Black American life. Much of it they understood instinctually. Some of it they found together.

"Berniece has a massive amount of weight and put on top of that is grief and loss and longing," says Deadwyler, the "Till" star. "Those are things that have been with me and in women I've witnessed all my life. You think about the lives these women have lived and you carry it and you bear it."

The cast and filmmakers were also mindful of a legacy of performance they were working in. When Harry Belafonte died during the shoot, Malcolm played a song of his on set. The day before "The Piano Lesson" played at the Toronto International Film Festival, James Earl Jones, who starred in the original production of "Fences," died.

1 in 4 adults worldwide suffer from knee problems

Knee pain worsens with age: Expert shares treatments

By Angie Brown
Quinnipiac University

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

Knee injuries are common in athletes, accounting for 41% of all athletic injuries. But knee injuries aren't limited to competitive athletes. In our everyday lives, an accident or a quick movement in the wrong direction can injure the knee and require medical treatment. A quarter of the adult population worldwide experiences knee pain each year.

As a physical therapist and board-certified orthopedic specialist, I help patients of all ages with knee injuries and degenerative conditions.

Your knees have a huge impact on your mobility and overall quality of life, so it's important to prevent knee problems whenever possible and address pain in these joints with appropriate treatments.

The knee joint bones consist of the femur, tibia and patella. As in all healthy joints, smooth cartilage covers the surfaces of the bones, forming the joints and allowing for controlled movement.

Muscles, ligaments and tendons further support the knee joint. The anterior cruciate ligament, commonly known as the ACL, and posterior cruciate ligament, or PCL, provide internal stability to the knee. In addition, two tough pieces of fibrocartilage, called menisci, lie inside the joint, providing further stability and shock absorption.

All these structures work together to enable the knee to move smoothly and painlessly throughout everyday movement, whether bending to pick up the family cat or going for a run.

Two major causes of knee pain are acute injury and osteoarthritis.

Ligaments such as the ACL and PCL can be stressed and torn when a shear force occurs between the femur and tibia. ACL injuries often occur when athletes land awkwardly on the knee or quickly pivot on a planted foot. Depending on the severity of the injury, these patients may undergo physical therapy, or they may require surgery for repair or replacement.

PCL injuries are less common. They occur when the tibia experiences a posterior or backward force. This type of injury is common in car accidents when the knee hits the dashboard, or when patients fall forward when walking up stairs.

The menisci can also experience degeneration and tearing from shear and rotary forces, especially during weight-bearing activities. These types of injuries often require rehabilitation through physical therapy or surgery.

Knee pain can also result from injury or overuse of the muscles and tendons surrounding the knee, including the quadriceps, hamstrings and patella tendon.

Both injuries to and overuse of the knee can lead to degenerative changes in the joint surfaces, known as osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis is a progressive disease that can lead to pain, swelling and stiffness. This disease affects the knees of over 300 million people worldwide, most often those 50 years of age and up. American adults have a 40% chance of developing osteoarthritis that affects their daily lives, with the knee being the most commonly affected joint.

Age is also a factor in knee pain. The structure and function of your joints change as you age. Cartilage starts to break down, your body produces less synovial fluid to lubricate your joints, and muscle strength and flexibility decrease. This can lead to painful, restricted movement in the joint.

There are some risk factors for knee osteoarthritis that you cannot control, such as genetics, age, sex and your history of prior injuries.

Fortunately, there are several risk factors you can control that can predispose you to knee pain and osteoarthritis specifically. The first is excessive weight. Based on studies between 2017 and 2020, nearly 42% of all adult Americans are obese. This obesity is a significant risk factor for diabetes and osteoarthritis and can also play a role in other knee injuries.

A lack of physical activity is another risk, with 1 in 5 US adults reporting that they're inactive outside of work duties. This can result in less muscular support for the knee and more pressure on the joint itself.

An inflammatory diet also adds to the risk of knee pain from osteoarthritis. Research shows that the average American diet, often high in sugar and fat and low in fiber, can lead to changes to the gut microbiome that contribute to osteoarthritis pain and inflammation.

Increasing physical activity is one of the key elements to preventing knee pain. Often physical therapy intervention for patients with knee osteoarthritis focuses on strengthening the knee to decrease pain and support the joint during movement.

The US Department of Health and Human Services recommends that adults spend at least 150 to 300 minutes per week on moderate-intensity, or 75 to 150 minutes per week on vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity. These guidelines do not change for adults who already have osteoarthritis, although their exercise may require less weight-bearing activities, such as swimming, biking or walking.

The agency also recommends that all adults do some form of resistance training at least two or more days a week. Adults with knee osteoarthritis particularly benefit from quadriceps-strengthening exercises, such as straight leg raises.

Conservative treatment of knee pain includes anti-inflammatory and pain medications and physical therapy. (AP)



A teenager uses his mobile phone to access social media, Sydney, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024. (AP)

Robot performs cancer surgery

Study highlights online harm for young children

WELLINGTON, Nov 26, (Xinhua): More than a quarter of New Zealand kids at eight have experienced at least one type of online content that worried or upset them, like bullying, peer pressure, or adult content, showed a study published on Tuesday.

The survey of almost 5,000 New Zealand eight-year-olds produced the self-reported data from children, alongside their parents' assessments of their emotions, behavior, and access to digital devices and media.

Children with behavioral difficulties or more personal devices were at higher risk of online harm and experiencing online harm was linked with depressive symptoms and lower self-worth, according to the researchers from the University of Canterbury.

As young children are spending an increasing amount of their time online, there is a risk that children come across content or experiences that are upsetting or distressing, including inappropriate or adult content, cyberbullying, and interactions with strangers, said Megan Gath, senior lecturer at the Child Well Being Institute, University of Canterbury.

Gaming devices had the greatest impact on increasing the risk of online harm, followed by computers or laptops, and TVs. Children who own personal devices may be at greater risk of online harm if they are using these away from adult supervision, said Gath, also an author of the study.

The study recommended that parents limit access to personal devices and use collaborative, rather than controlling, strategies to manage children's digital media use.

Robot surgery: Using a Chinese-made robot, a French surgeon has made a significant medical advancement by performing a remote prostate cancer surgery for a patient in Morocco, who was 12,000 kilometers away.

This stunning procedure was made possible by Toumai Robot, which allowed for real-time, high-definition imaging and precise control of the machine from a great distance.

This intercontinental operation, with a two-way transmission distance exceeding 30,000 kilometers, set a new record as the longest remote human surgery. It came after an October renal cyst minimally invasive surgery completed with the aid of Toumai Robot between Shanghai and the port of Cotonou in Benin with a round-trip transmission distance of 27,000 kilometers.

On Nov. 16, French doctor Youness Ahallal took less than two hours to complete the surgery, with a one-way latency of just over 100 milliseconds. The robotic arm in Morocco reproduced every command from the surgeon's console in Shanghai, removing the prostate tumor and completing the suturing process while preserving the vascular-nerve bundle and maximum length of the urethra.

Dairy recall

US detects bird flu in raw milk

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Nov 26, (Agencies): The bird flu virus was detected in a retail sample of raw milk from a dairy in Fresno, California, state health officials said.

The sample obtained at a store tested positive Nov. 21 during routine screening by Santa Clara County health officers, the state Department of Public Health said Sunday.

The dairy, Raw Farm, issued a voluntary recall for one batch of cream top, whole raw milk with a best buy date of Nov. 27.

"Consumers should immediately return any remaining product to the store where it was purchased," the state health department said in a statement.

Pasteurized milk remains safe to drink, the department said.

On Friday, health officials confirmed bird flu in a California child - the first reported case in a U.S. minor.

The child had mild symptoms, was treated with antiviral medication and is recovering, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

There have been at least 55 US bird flu cases this year, including 29 in California, the CDC said. Most were farmworkers who tested positive with mild symptoms. H5N1 bird flu has been spreading widely in the US among wild birds, poultry and a number of other animals over the last few years.

It began spreading in US dairy cattle in March. California has become the center of that outbreak, with 402 infected herds detected there since August.

Gut health: Christopher J. Cifelli, senior vice president of nutrition research at the US National Dairy Council, has stressed the role of dairy foods for supporting healthy and sustainable eating patterns, reported USA Today on Monday.

"Most people, when they think of milk and dairy foods, think of calcium and vitamin D for strong bones. But dairy is so much more than that," said Cifelli, who has researched the topic for over a decade. In fact, dairy foods, such as milk, yogurt and kefir, can help promote gut health.

Fermented dairy foods, such as yogurt and kefir, have live microbes that help maintain a healthy gut microbiota. These beneficial bacteria support digestion and immunity, which keep the body healthy and strong, according to the doctor.

1 in 5 patients may struggle

Why blockbuster obesity drugs don't work for everyone: study

NEW YORK, Nov 26, (AP): Unlike scores of people who scrambled for the blockbuster drugs Ozempic and Wegovy to lose weight in recent years, Danielle Griffin had no trouble getting them.

The 38-year-old information technology worker from New Mexico had a prescription. Her pharmacy had the drugs in stock. And her health insurance covered all but \$25 to \$50 of the monthly cost.

For Griffin, the hardest part of using the new drugs wasn't access. It was finding out that the much-hyped medications didn't really work for her.

"I have been on Wegovy for a year and a half and have only lost 13 pounds," said Griffin, who watches her diet, drinks plenty of water and exercises regularly. "I've done everything right with no success. It's discouraging."

In clinical trials, most participants taking Wegovy or Mounjaro to treat obesity lost an average of 15% to 22% of their body weight - up to 50 pounds or more in many cases. But roughly 10% to 15% of patients in those trials were "nonresponders" who lost less than 5% of their body weight.

Now that millions of people have used the drugs, several obesity experts told The Associated Press that perhaps 20% of patients - as many as 1 in 5 -



Donna Cooper holds up a dosage of Wegovy, a drug used for weight loss, at her home, March 1, 2024, in Front Royal, Va. (AP)

may not respond well to the medications. It's a little-known consequence of the obesity drug boom, according to doctors who caution eager patients not to expect one-size-fits-all results.

"It's all about explaining that different people have different responses," said Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford, an obesity expert at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The drugs are known as GLP-1 re-

ceptor agonists because they mimic a hormone in the body known as glucagon-like peptide 1. Genetics, hormones and variability in how the brain regulates energy can all influence weight - and a person's response to the drugs, Stanford said. Medical conditions such as sleep apnea can prevent weight loss, as can certain common medications, such as antidepressants, steroids and contraceptives.

Agency confronts political changes

CDC chief urges focus on health threats

NEW YORK, Nov 26, (AP): The outgoing head of the nation's top public health agency urged the next administration to maintain its focus and funding to keep Americans safe from emerging health threats.

"We need to continue to do our global work at CDC to make sure we are stopping outbreaks at their source," Dr. Mandy Cohen, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press. "We need to keep that funding up. We need to keep the expertise up. We need to keep the diplomacy up."

Cohen, 46, will be leaving office in January after about 18 months in the job. President-elect Donald Trump on Friday night said he picked Dave Weldon, a former Congressman from Florida, to be the agency's next chief.

Cohen said she hasn't met Weldon and doesn't know him. She previously voiced concern about Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the anti-vaccine advocate and CDC critic nominated to oversee all federal public health agencies.

The CDC, with a \$9.2 billion core budget, is charged with protecting Americans from disease outbreaks and

other public health threats. The staff is heavy with scientists - 60% have master's degrees or doctorates.

The last eight years have been perhaps the most difficult in the agency's history. The CDC once enjoyed a sterling international reputation for its expertise on infectious diseases and other causes of illness and death. But trust in the agency fell because of missteps during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, political attacks and resistance to infection-prevention measures like wearing masks and getting vaccinated.

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'Women's sports have become a tangible reality in Kuwait'

Kuwait Women's Sports Committee focuses on advancing athletes in regional competitions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Women's Sports Committee of the Kuwait Olympic Committee held its regular meeting with the bodies and federations at the committee's headquarters in Hawalli, in the presence of the head of the Women's Sports Committee, Fatima Hayat, and members of the committee, Sheikha Bibi Al-Salem and Rabaa Al-Hajri, and the heads of the women's committees in all federations.

The attendees discussed the achievements and activities of women's sports in Kuwait during the past four years, and the report of the Women's Sports Committee on the most important obstacles to women's activity and the proposed solutions, in addition to the reports of the women's committees on the 2023-2024 sports season and the next season.

Hayat said, "Women's sports have become a tangible reality in Kuwait. It came after years of work, during which many achievements were achieved, which puts us in front of new challenges, perhaps the most important of which is taking women's sports to an advanced stage of development, and this requires more cooperation and work from various parties, to reach the competition for advanced positions regionally and Asia."

Secretary of the Squash Federation and Head of the Women's Committee, Hamed Al-Omran, said, "We discussed the necessity of approving partial professionalism for female players in accordance with the laws and regulations of the General Sports Authority, and we received reassuring promises in this regard. We demanded the necessity of including women's com-



Members pose for a group photo after the meeting.

petitions in the General Excellence Cup, and providing an independent budget for the technical teams for

women's sports. We hope that all the proposals will be translated into a tangible reality in the coming pe-

riod; to develop women's sports." In addition, Head of the Women's Sports Committee at the Handball

Federation, Dr. Al-Jazzy Al-Munes, confirmed that the most prominent obstacles hindering the progress of

women's sports are the lack of sufficient sports facilities for the player to practice her favorite sport.

Davis rescues point for Udinese as Lecce 'steals' win at Venezia



Udinese's Keinan Davis scores during the Serie A soccer match between Empoli and Udinese at the Carlo Castellani Stadium in Empoli, Italy. (AP)

Napoli club and fans pay tribute to Maradona

EMPOLI, Italy, Nov 26, (AP): Englishman Keinan Davis scored with 14 minutes remaining for Udinese to draw at Empoli 1-1 in Serie A and snap the visitor's three-game losing streak.

The former Watford and Aston Villa striker rose to head home a near-post corner with 76 minutes gone.

Pietro Pellegri put Empoli ahead midway through the first half with his third goal in three games.

The on-loan Torino striker has endured a lean season but a goal in the 1-0 win over Como was followed by another in the 1-1 draw with Lecce before the international break.

The result was the first point in four games for Udinese, after consecutive defeats to Atalanta, Juventus and Venezia, and meant that both sides retained their mid-table positions.

Udinese was ninth and Empoli 10th.

Later, Venezia missed a chance to move off the foot of the table when it went down at home to Lecce 1-0.

Venezia was dominant for most of the game, with Gaetano Oristanio and Jay Idzes hitting the woodwork and Wladimiro Falcone outstanding in the Lecce goal.

But the home side paid for its profligacy after 70 minutes.

Antonino Gallo's sublime cross from the left was met by Patrick Dorgu at the far post and he steered the ball into the far corner to give Lecce all three points.

Lecce, which started the night only two places above bottom side Venezia, jumped into 15th place.

Meanwhile, Napoli fans and club officials paid tribute to Diego Maradona on the fourth anniversary of his death, flocking to murals of the Argentine great around the city.

Napoli coach Antonio Conte, captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo and president Aurelio De Laurentiis laid flowers at two of the murals, while fans gathered below the huge mural of Maradona in the Quartieri Spagnoli that acts as an unofficial museum to Maradona.

Fans chanted Maradona's name and lit smoke in the blue color of the shirt Maradona wore both with Napoli and Argentina.

Maradona died at 60 on Nov. 25, 2020 of a heart attack, two weeks after being released from a hospital in Buenos Aires following brain surgery.

He led Napoli to its first two Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990 and the club's stadium was renamed Stadio Diego Armando Maradona upon his death.

Napoli won its third Italian league title in 2023 and again leads Serie A this season.

Al-Qadsia heavily favored vs Al-Yarmouk

Kuwait Club targets back-to-back victories in the basketball league

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The basketball league resumes today after a two-week pause due to the international break and the Super Cup match, where Kuwait Club defeated Al-Qadsia last Sunday to claim the title.

Two matches are scheduled in the third round of the competition, both to be held at the Union Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex. The first game kicks off at 5:00 pm with Kuwait Club facing Al-Sulaibikhat, followed by a clash between Al-Qadsia and Al-Yarmouk at 7:00 pm.

In the opening match, Kuwait Club, buoyed by its recent Super Cup triumph, aims to build on its momentum and secure a second league victory after defeating Al-Tadamon in its opener. Meanwhile, Al-Sulaibikhat, also with two points, looks to make a statement this season. After an impressive win over Kazma, it aspires to pull off another upset against the defending champion.

Under the leadership of German coach Peter Schommers, Kuwait Club will rely on their star-studded lineup, including American players Weber, Augustine, and Sampson, alongside local talents Turki Hamoud, Alexander Al-Ghais,



Al-Qadsia and Kuwait Club return to the basketball league action.

Hamad Adnan, and Abdulaziz Ramadan. Al-Sulaibikhat, guided by national coach Fahad Barjas, will counter with American professionals Dixon, Isaiah, and newcomer Alingah Minnie, who is set to make his debut.

In the second match, Al-Qadsia, fresh off a win against Al-Tadamon, takes on Al-Yarmouk, who has one point following a loss to Al-Arabi. Al-Qadsia is heavily favored, given its technical superiority and professional depth, compared to an Al-Yarmouk squad devoid of foreign players. Al-Qadsia will aim to capitalize on its advantages and secure a vital win to climb the standings.

Southgate pondering where his future lies

LONDON, Nov 26, (AP): Five months after leaving his job as England coach, Gareth Southgate is still pondering where his future lies.

It might be outside soccer.

In a long post on social media platform LinkedIn, Southgate said he is searching for his next "purpose" in life after his time as the coach of the England men's national team from 2016-2024 - a high-pressure role in which any comment, about soccer or beyond, was heavily scrutinized.

"This higher purpose kept me on track, gave me structure, made my life more fulfilling and is going to be extremely difficult to replicate," Southgate wrote Tuesday.

"It's why I'm not limiting my future options to remaining as a football coach."

Southgate, who left the England job after losing the European Championship final in July, was linked with becoming Manchester United manager because of his connections with some members of the

club's board, but the team chose to hire Ruben Amorim after firing Erik ten Hag last month.

Otherwise, Southgate has slipped out of the limelight, with England having moved on - initially with an interim coach in Lee Carsley and, from Jan. 1, with a full-time replacement in Thomas Tuchel.

Southgate said much of his focus has been on his chosen charities.

"After eight years serving in one of the highest-profile roles in world football, I'm consciously taking time to reflect on what I lived through and thinking deeply about what comes next," he wrote.

"I'm comfortable," he added, "with this period of 'exploration' and not having all the answers. I'm following the advice I would give to any young person, without a clear career vision. Keep learning, build or explore your network, seek different life experiences and when you decide what's next, there will be no right or wrong, just one path or another."

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Iceland coach resigns ahead of 2026 World Cup qualifying games

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, Nov 26, (AP): Veteran coach Áge Hareide has resigned from the Iceland national team ahead of the start of World Cup qualifying, and said he plans to retire.

The Icelandic soccer federation announced the 71-year-old Hareide's decision to leave in a statement late Monday.

"I have enjoyed my time with the Icelandic national team, but I believe that now is the right time to retire," Hareide

was quoted as saying in the federation statement.

He added that there are "exciting times ahead" for a team with emerging young leaders.

The next coach's first games are against Kosovo in March in a promotion-relegation playoff in the Nations League where the winner advances to the second tier in the next edition of the tournament.

Iceland will be in the pot of third-seed-

ed teams when FIFA makes the draw for World Cup qualifying groups for Europe on Dec. 13. Only group winners advance directly to the 2026 tournament being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Iceland has played at one World Cup, in 2018 in Russia, becoming the smallest nation ever to qualify.

An international defender for Norway, Hareide coached the Norwegian national

team for five years through 2008. He later took Denmark to the 2018 World Cup - losing to eventual finalist Croatia in a penalty shootout in the round of 16 - and helped it qualify for the European Championship played in 2021.

Hareide joined Iceland for the Euro 2024 qualifying program and the team was one game from the tournament, losing a playoff final against Ukraine in March.

Al-Qadsiya eyes redemption in Bahrain

Kuwait Club clings to Champions League 2 qualification hopes

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Al-Qadsiya and Kuwait Club are aiming for their first victories in their respective international campaigns. The "Yellow" faces Bahrain's Al-Riffa at 6:00 pm at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town, in the third round of Group Two in the Gulf Club Champions League. Meanwhile, Kuwait Club will visit Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi at 5:00 pm at Markazi Stadium in the fifth round of Group Four in the AFC.

For Al-Qadsiya, the mission is to overcome the challenges that have plagued its earlier matches, including a 1-1 draw against Qatar's Al-Arabi and a narrow 1-0 loss to Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq. Luck and refereeing decisions have so far eluded them, but they are determined to "break the jinx" this time around. Al-Arabi will also play Al-Ettifaq tonight at 8:00 pm at Al-Thumama Stadium in the same group.

Currently, Al-Qadsiya sits in third place with one point, trailing Al-Riffa in second with three points. Al-Ettifaq leads the group with six



Al-Qadsiya and Kuwait Club looking for their first away wins.

points, while Al-Arabi is at the bottom with one point.

In the AFC Champions League 2, Kuwait Club approaches its match against Nasaf Qarshi with a "glimmer of hope" to stay in contention for a spot in the next round. Al-Hussein Irbid and Shabab Al-Ahli will also clash today at 7:00 pm at Amman International Stadium in the same group.

Kuwait Club is last in Group Four with two points, behind leader Al-Hussein Irbid (9 points), Shabab Al-Ahli (7), and Nasaf (4). To advance, they must win both its remaining matches — against Nasaf and Al-Hussein Irbid on December 5 — while hoping for Shabab Al-Ahli to lose its final two games.

Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovicic emphasizes that victory is essential to reignite the team's momentum. Despite leading the local league undefeated, Kuwait Club has struggled in international play, failing to secure a win in its past four matches. A win today would not only restore confidence but also keep its slim qualification hopes alive.

Vicario says he played for hour against City with fractured right ankle

West Ham halts Newcastle's momentum

NEWCASTLE, England, Nov 26, (AP): Newcastle's winning run in the English Premier League came to an abrupt end when goals from Thomas Soucek and Aaron Wan-Bissaka gave West Ham a surprise 2-0 win at St. James' Park.

The Hammers rose into 14th place and the pressure on coach Julen Lopetegui was eased.

The London club has been inconsistent all season and Monday's win was just its fourth in 12 league games.

West Ham was worth it in the end but the three points came courtesy of slack defending by the home side. Emerson whipped in an out-swinging corner after 10 minutes and, with Newcastle defenders rooted to the spot, Soucek stole in to nod home the opener.

Then eight minutes into the second half, captain Jarrod Bowen found Wan-Bissaka in the penalty box and he was left unchallenged and had time to fire an angled drive past Nick Pope.

"The second goal if you settle on a lead it can come back to haunt you," Bowen said.

Newcastle brought on Harvey Barnes, and then Callum Wilson returned from a long-term back injury to make his first appearance of the season, but to no avail.

"I said we needed a performance and we did that," Bowen said. "Newcastle always score at home so to keep them to a clean sheet and score twice ... it's a tough place to come to. We did that perfectly."

The defeat ended a three-game winning streak for Newcastle and left the Saudi Arabia-owned club in ninth place, four points outside the top four.

Meanwhile, Tottenham goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario says he played for an hour against Manchester City with a fractured right ankle that has since required surgery.



West Ham United's Michail Antonio, right, and Newcastle United's Joelinton, left, challenge for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and West Ham United in Newcastle, England. (AP)

Vicario pulled off a series of saves and managed to keep a clean sheet in Tottenham's stunning 4-0 win at Etihad Stadium on Saturday, despite needing treatment on his ankle during the first half. He played the full game.

"Sometimes football gives you its

highs, and sometimes it challenges you in ways you don't expect," the Italy international wrote on Instagram late Monday. "I played 60 minutes at the Etihad with a broken bone in my ankle, giving absolutely everything I had for the team. Unfortunately there was no way around

this one. I needed surgery."

Tottenham confirmed the 28-year-old Vicario had an operation on Monday.

Fraser Forster, 36, is likely to come into the team as cover.

"The operation went well, and from tomorrow I'll be working hard to come

back stronger, fitter, and ready to give my all for you again," Vicario wrote.

Vicario's injury revived memories of the late Man City goalkeeper Bert Trautmann continuing to play to the end of the FA Cup final in 1956 after breaking his neck in the 73rd minute.

Ayub smashes maiden ODI hundred in Pakistan thumping win over Zimbabwe

Tourists make amends for stunning loss

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Nov 26, (AP): Saim Ayub smashed a maiden ODI hundred off 53 balls as Pakistan romped to a 10-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second one-day international on Tuesday.

Ayub, the left-handed opening batter, hit 17 fours and three sixes in his unbeaten 113 off 62 balls and sped Pakistan to 148-0 in 18.2 overs. It was the third-fastest century for Pakistan in ODIs.

Pakistan leveled the three-match series and made amends for its stunning 80-run loss on the DLS method in the rain-affected first match on Sunday.

Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed had earlier snared 4-33 in his debut ODI and off-spinner Salman Ali Agha chipped in with 3-26 to dismiss Zimbabwe for 145 in 32.3 overs after the home team won the toss and elected to bat.

"The way the guys started with the ball, they performed very well and gave us the foundation," Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan said. "After that, Saim Ayub's innings was exceptional."

Dion Myers showed flashes of brilliance in his 30-ball knock of 33 with six fours, but the rest of the Zimbabwe batters struggled against both spinners on a wicket conducive for slow bowlers.

Abrar, who bowled alongside new ball bowler Aamer Jamal, struck in his second over when he clean bowled Joylord Gumbie (5) with a sharp turning delivery. Gumbie had earlier been involved in the second successive run-out of the series when Tadiwanashe Marumani fell short of his crease while going for a tight single.



Zimbabwe's Craig Ervine, left, at the wicket as Pakistan's wicket keeper Mohammad Rizwan catches the ball, during the second ODI cricket match between Zimbabwe and Pakistan, at Queens Sports Club, in Bulawayo. (AP)

The Zimbabwe batters couldn't gauge the off-spin of Salman with Myers dismissed lbw on the back-foot and captain Craig Ervine (18) smartly caught by wicketkeeper Rizwan as the batter tried to cut the off-spinner.

Sikandar Raza smashed two sixes in his brief knock of 17 before getting holed out at mid-off as Zimbabwe slumped to 5-97. Sean Williams (31) tried to rebuild the innings but his dismissal saw Zimbabwe losing its last five wickets for 24 runs with Abrar mopping up the tail quickly.

Williams could read the length of Ayub's off-spin and was out plumb leg before wicket while going for an extravagant reverse

sweep that opened the tail.

"We did not apply ourselves for long enough and did not build any substantial partnerships," Ervine said. "Guys need to take a hard look at themselves, including myself and be a little hard on each other. In hindsight, we might have bowled first, (but) now we have to regroup and put up a good performance on Thursday."

Ayub hurried the run-chase with some exquisite drives on both sides of the wicket and raised his half century off 32 balls with his signature pulled shot over fine leg for a six to Trevor Gwandu.

Ayub's opening partner Abdullah Shafique (32 not out) escaped an earlier dropped catch of Bless-

ing Muzarabani before he watched his partner smashing boundaries at will. Ayub reached his century off 53 balls when he hit Brandon Mavuta for a boundary over mid-wicket as the leg-spinner conceded 47 runs off his four wicketless overs.

Flamboyant former international batter Shahid Afridi still holds the record of fastest ODI hundred for Pakistan. He made 102 off 37 balls against Sri Lanka at Nairobi in 1996 and then scored 102 off 45 balls against India at Kanpur in 2005.

The third and final ODI will be played at the same venue on Thursday before the teams will meet in a three-match T20 series.

Al-Arabi takes top spot, Al-Salmiya slips to third

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Al-Arabi achieved a significant victory over Al-Salmiya, winning 26-22 in the ninth round of the preliminary phase of the Handball League. This win propelled Al-Arabi to the top of the standings with 12 points, while Al-Salmiya, also with 12 points, slipped to third place due to the defeat.

In other matches, Burqan narrowly edged past Al-Qadisiya with a 27-26 win, and Khaitan secured a high-scoring 38-36 victory over Al-Qurain.

Burqan now sits in second place with 13 points, while Al-Qadisiya remains in eighth with 8 points, jeopardizing its chances of securing one of the six Premier League qualification spots. The team's record of 4 wins and 5 losses has left its position precarious.

Burqan's performance continues to showcase its strength as a contender for the top positions, while Khaitan climbed to ninth place with 6 points. Al-Qurain, despite



Al-Arabi attacks Salmiya defense.

its close match, remains in seventh with 8 points.

Looking ahead, two matches are scheduled for today at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex. Kuwait Club faces Al-Nasr at 5:00 pm, and Kazma takes on Al-Sulaibikhat at 6:30 pm. Both Kuwait Club and Kazma are unbeaten in the tournament so far, each holding 8 points from four matches.

Sanchez receives a big boost

MADRID, Nov 26, (Xinhua): Girona coach Michel Sanchez has received a big boost as his side prepares for a vital UEFA Champions League visit to Austria on Wednesday after he was named Manager of the Month for November in La Liga.

Wins against Leganes, Getafe and Espanyol have lifted Girona to seventh place in La Liga after a difficult start to the campaign as they struggled to combine the demands of domestic and European football for the first time in the club's history.

As well as losing key players such as top-scorer Artem Dovbyk, Yan Couto and Savinho over the summer, Girona's season has been hit by a continued stream of injuries, with Michel at times forced to put out a team with half of his first-team squad

on the sidelines.

The injuries are at last clearing up, while new arrivals Bryan Gil and Bojan Miovski look to be forming an understanding in attack, as Girona has scored nine goals in its last three league outings.

Now it has to transform the domestic upturn to Europe, with Wednesday's visit to play Sturm Graz giving it the chance to move towards a playoff place.

Girona is 29th out of the 36 teams with three points from its opening four games, while Sturm Graz is 33rd after losing all four of its matches to date, scoring just one goal.

A win does look vital as Girona's next rival is Liverpool, who has a 100 percent record ahead of its match against Real Madrid.

Best of the Rest

Naeher quits US: U.S. women's national team goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher is retiring from international soccer.

Naeher is on the team's roster for a pair of upcoming matches in Europe but those games will be her last after a full 11 years playing for the United States.

Over the course of her career, Naeher was on the U.S. team that won the Women's World Cup in 2019 and the gold medal at the Olympics this summer in France. She's the only U.S. goalkeeper to earn a shutout in both a World Cup and an Olympic final.

She made a key one-handed save in stoppage time to preserve the Americans' 1-0 victory over Brazil in the Olympic final. Mallory Swanson, who scored the only goal, ran down the length of the field to embrace Naeher at the final whistle.

Naeher announced her retirement on social media Monday. (AP)

□ □ □

Whitecaps fire coach: Coach Vanni Sartini was fired by the Vancouver Whitecaps on Monday, 2 1/2 weeks after the team's elimination in the MLS playoffs.

Sartini became the 10th MLS coach to depart since the start of the 2024 season. He took over from Marc Dos Santos in August 2021 at first as an interim coach and then was given the job that November.

Vancouver had 13 wins, 13 losses and eight draws in MLS this season, beat Portland 5-0 in the play-in round of the postseason and lost to Los Angeles FC in a three-game, first-round series that ended Nov. 8.

"The desperation on my side is absolutely there," CEO and sporting director Axel Schuster said. "I had to make a professional decision (for) how we can get the biggest impact to make this step forward and to get to a progression." (AP)



Al-Kuwari with Al-Musallam after the renewal of the agreement.

Sports

Asian Olympic Council headquarters remains in Kuwait for another five years

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, and the Olympic Council of Asia, represented by First Vice President Timothy Focke, along with Second Vice President Dr. Thani Al-Kuwari and Director General Hussein Al-Musallam, signed the renewal agreement to host the headquarters of the Olympic Council of Asia in Kuwait.

Al-Kuwari expressed his joy at the five-year renewal of the agreement, which is automatically renewable, and noted, "The headquarters was origi-

nally in India, and since 1982, it has been moved to Kuwait."

He extended his sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the renewal, particularly His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, a steadfast supporter of Asian sports, and Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya. He also thanked the Kuwaiti government and people for their trust in hosting the council, emphasizing the positive impact this would have on the Asian sports movement.

Al-Musallam, speaking on behalf of the Asian sports community, ex-

pressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and the Kuwaiti government for renewing the agreement. He highlighted that Kuwait has been hosting the Olympic Council of Asia since 1982, contributing significantly to the continent's development in both technical and organizational aspects, as well as to the success of its champions on the international stage. He added, "The renewal is based on Law No. 6 of 2006, and this agreement, which had been suspended since 2015, has now been reinstated."

Kuwait soccer team concludes local training

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Kuwait's national team will conclude its local training today at 8:00 pm at the Health Institute in Bayan, ahead of its departure tomorrow for a training camp in Doha, which will run until mid-December.

This camp is part of Kuwait's preparations for the upcoming "Khaleeji Zain 26" tournament, set to take place in Kuwait from December 21 to January 3. During the Doha 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 were drawn into Group B.

Several key players will miss Kuwait's local training sessions, including Al-Qadsia players Khalid Ibrahim, Khalid Al-Rashidi, Eid Al-Rashidi, Rashed Al-Dosari, Mubarak Al-Fanani, and Moaz

Al-Dhafiri, as well as Kuwait players Fahad Al-Hajri, Sami Al-Sanea, Abdulrahman Kamil, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Reda Hani, Mishari Ghannam, Faisal Zayed, Mohammed Daham, Yousef Nasser, and Khaled Al-Kharqawi.

These players are committed to their respective clubs in the Gulf Clubs Championship and the AFC Champions League.

They are expected to join the national team on December 5, after their club duties conclude.



Kuwaiti players work out in the gym.

Kuwait Club maintains perfect record as Burgan edges Al-Arabi in 5-set nail-biter

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26: Kuwait Club secured its fourth consecutive victory in the Federation Volleyball Championship, defeating Yarmouk 3-0 in their fourth-round match. The round also saw Burgan claim a hard-fought 3-2 win over Al-Arabi.

With this victory, Kuwait Club increased its tally to 12 points, keeping Yarmouk scoreless. Burgan's win brought its total to 10 points, while Al-Arabi remains at 3 points.

Kuwait Club dominated Yarmouk, easily taking all three sets with scores of 25-11, 25-12, and 25-13.

The second match provided intense competition as Al-Arabi initially appeared headed for a comfortable win after claiming the first two sets 25-21 and 25-18. However, Burgan staged a remarkable comeback, winning the next two sets 25-19 each to force a tie-breaker. Burgan narrowly clinched the final set 15-13, sealing its victory.

In the championship, teams earning a 3-0 or 3-1 win receive the full three points, while losers earn none. A 3-2 win awards two points to the victor and one point to the defeated team. The tournament follows a single-round league format, with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals. The first-place team faces the fourth, and the second takes on the third, with the winners moving on to the final match.



Kuwait Club player goes for spike as Yarmouk defends.

Ronaldo puts Al-Nassr on 'brink' of Asian CL playoffs, Al-Ahli advances

Toney scores twice in four minutes

AL RAYYAN, Qatar, Nov 26, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia defeated Al-Gharafa of Qatar 3-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite group stage.

Al-Nassr is virtually assured of a place in the knockout stages.

Ronaldo had two early shots well saved by goalkeeper Sergio Ricom, and half an hour in he placed the ball on the penalty spot. Sadio Mane went down in the area under a challenge from Matias Nani and the referee awarded a penalty. But the VAR overturned the decision.

Ronaldo then missed the best opportunity of the first 45 minutes, heading a free kick just wide from close range.

He made amends in the new half, heading home powerfully from an Angelo cross. Angelo then went around the goalkeeper for 2-0 in the 58th.

Ronaldo sealed the victory six minutes later, shooting home from inside the area.

Former Real Madrid striker Joselu pulled a goal back for Al-Gharafa.

Earlier, Ivan Toney scored twice as Al-Ahli of Saudi Arabia won at defending champion Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates 2-1 to become the first team to book a place in the knockout stages with three group games to spare.

The England striker, who arrived in Jeddah from English Premier League team Brentford in August, came off the bench in the second half and scored twice in four minutes.

Both came from Riyad Mahrez crosses; Toney headed home the first and stretched to guide in the second.

"Coach (Matthias) Jaissle told me to come on and make a difference," Toney said. "It was challenging because I've missed many games, but I stepped in and delivered a good performance."

It was a fifth win in five by Al-Ahli, which moved into first place in its 12-team group. The tournament is divided into two groups, with the top eight from each progressing to a round of 16.

Porzingis scores 16 in season debut

Nets rally from 18-point deficit to defeat Warriors

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 26, (AP): Dennis Schroder scored 31 points, Cam Thomas added 23 and the undermanned Brooklyn Nets rallied to beat Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors 128-120 on Monday night.

Curry made a 3-pointer with 3:26 left and pulled the Warriors within three, but Golden State couldn't make the crucial stops and squandered an 18-point lead. Curry scored 28, and Andrew Wiggins added 18 points.

Schroder's 3 with 11:10 remaining tied the game at 92, and he put his team ahead with another at the 9:43 mark.

Celtics 126, Clippers 94
In Boston, Jayson Tatum scored 20 points and the Boston Celtics made 22 3-pointers in a win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Payton Pritchard added with 20 points for Boston, which extended its season-high win streak to six games.

Kristaps Porzingis finished with 16 points on 6 of 12 shooting, to go along with six rebounds and two blocks in his season debut following offseason ankle surgery. He made the start and played 23 minutes with Al Horford (illness) and Luke Kornet (hamstring) out.

Thunder 130, Kings 109
In Sacramento, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 37 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder's bench players combined for 40 points in win over Sacramento that extended the Kings' losing streak to four.

Jalen Williams scored 28 points and Isaiah Hartenstein returned from a stint on the injured list with 17 points for the Thunder.

Knicks 145, Nuggets 118
In Denver, OG Anunoby scored a career-high 40 points, Jalen Brunson had 17 of New York's team record-tying 45 assists and the Knicks rode a torrid start to a rout of the Denver Nuggets.

Brunson had 23 points to go with his career-best assist performance. The Knicks' 45 assists matched the single-game team record set against Cleveland on Nov. 24, 1979.

Mavericks 129, Hawks 119
In Atlanta, Kyrie Irving had 32 points, six assists and seven rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Atlanta Hawks without star Luka Doncic.

Jaden Hardy had a season-high 23 points in his first start of the season for



New York Knicks guard Jalen Brunson, right, drives the lane past Denver Nuggets forward Peyton Watson in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Denver. (AP)

Dallas, which has won five of six. Naji Marshall and Spencer Dinwiddie had 22 points each.

Grizzlies 123, Trail Blazers 98
In Memphis, Ja Morant had 22 points and 11 assists in his return to the lineup after missing eight games with a hip injury, leading the Memphis Grizzlies to victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Morant shot 6 of 12 from the field, including 2 for 3 from 3-point range. Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 21 points, and Santi Aldama finished with 13 points and a career-high 17 rebounds.

Pistons 102, Raptors 100
In Detroit, Jaden Ivey hit a jumper as time expired to give the Detroit Pistons a victory over the Toronto Raptors.

The Raptors took a 98-96 lead on RJ Barrett's 3-pointer with 1:47 left, but Ivey's driving layup tied it with 1:07 to go.

Pacers 114, Pelicans 110
In Indianapolis, Tyrese Haliburton finished with 34 points and 13 assists and made a season best nine 3-pointers, leading the Indiana Pacers past the short-handed New Orleans Pelicans.

Haliburton's tiebreaking 3 with 3:06 to go and Benedict Mathurin's alley-oop dunk off Haliburton's pass with a minute left finally secured the win.



Portland Trail Blazers guard Shaedon Sharpe, left, and Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) struggle for control of the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Tenn. (AP)