



Water Sports Association Chair expresses joy over Kuwait hosting the Gulf Summit
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KD 300 FEE FOR S.M.E. WORKER TRANSFERS AFTER ONE YEAR Kuwait cancels 'over-60' decision

Renewal reverts to previous process

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Kuwait has taken a significant step in revising its labor policies for older expatriate workers. Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, has issued a decision to cancel Article 1 of the Public Authority for Manpower's decision No. 294/2023.

The now-cancelled provision had specifically targeted expatriate workers aged 60 and above with high school diplomas or lower, requiring them to pay an additional annual fee of 250 Kuwaiti dinars and obtain an irrevocable comprehensive health insurance policy to renew their work permits. This decision marks a notable change in the approach to managing older foreign workers in Kuwait's labor market.

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Fitch: Islamic banks in Kuwait hold firm

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Fitch Ratings has projected that the standalone credit performance of Islamic banks in Kuwait will remain positive and supported by a stable operating environment in 2025, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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Gulf Bank 642 Marathon unites 107 nationalities and over 10,000 runners in Kuwait's largest sporting event

Kuwait strengthens Palestine solidarity

VIENNA, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwait reiterated its full solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle to have their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Talal Al-Fassam said this in a speech on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The Kuwaiti envoy renewed Kuwait's firm backing for the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights of self-determination in line with UN resolutions.

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Marrakech Festival opens with 'The Order'

Liquor pool exposed in Abdali raid

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Security Sector of the Criminal Investigations Department, recently raided the largest local liquor manufacturing factory in the Abdali agricultural area, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting security sources.

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi
Against the stunning backdrop of Kuwait's sky, the flags of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states soar together, weaving a vibrant tapestry of unity and hope that embodies the spirit of collaboration and a shared vision for a prosperous future among the Gulf nations.

TASK FORCE MOBILIZED TO SAFEGUARD SUMMIT ATTENDEES Kuwait steers pivotal 45th GCC Summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Task Force (Khaleej) is fully ready to protect and ensure the safety and security of the delegations of the 45th Session of the GCC Supreme Council, set to kick off on Sunday, said the force's commander, Brigadier Saad Mubarak.

In a statement to KUNA on Saturday, Brigadier Mubarak said the force had been preparing for the

event, after the Cabinet issued an order to task the National Guard with protecting security during the summit.

The force had set a complete security plan for the Sheraton, the St. Regis and Four Points hotels, he noted.

On his part, deputy commander Colonel Mutar Bader told KUNA that the force will facilitate the

delegations' entry to the hotels, while also setting check points for vehicles and luggage inspection.

The National Guard will use top-notch and well-developed equipment to prevent any sabotage attempts, including surveillance cameras and communication devices, he said.

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Kuwait welcomes the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries at the 45th GCC Supreme Council Summit
المستقبل خليجي



stc

المستقبل ■ خليجي

حلّتم أهلاً.. ونزلتم سهلاً..
في بلدكم الكويت

يسرّنا أن نرحب بضيوف
حضرة صاحب السمو أمير البلاد
الشيخ مشعل الأحمد الجابر الصباح
حفظه الله ورعاه
أصحاب الجلالة والسمو قادة دول مجلس
التعاون الخليجي المشاركين في
الدورة الخامسة والأربعين
لقمة المجلس الأعلى لدول الخليج العربية.





Minister of Information tours the media center and accompanying exhibition.



Representatives of Gulf news agencies at KUNA photo exhibition accompanying the 45th Gulf Summit.

KUNA hosts photo exhibition on GCC 45th summit to GCC agencies reps

Info Minister Al-Mutairi inaugurates media center for 45th GCC Summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi opened on Friday the media center accompanying the 45th GCC Summit to be hosted by Kuwait on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters in remarks, Al-Mutairi affirmed Kuwait's eagerness to organize this event in a manner that lives up to its regional position, and deep-rooted ties with GCC member states.

"We are keen on making the best organization and reception to mirror deep-rooted bonds and brotherly ties among GCC states," the minister said.

"This summit is an opportunity to stress 'our' belief in the shared destiny and action for a prosperous and successful future which is part of the goals of the GCC leaders," he noted.

Ties between Kuwait and GCC states are deep-seated and an exemplary on regional level, he said, indicating that GCC ties have been outstanding that helped make a paradigm shift in varied fields.

Shared history transformed into unified action which serves issues and enhances GCC path, he said.

Equipped with state-of-the-art studios, modern computers, auditoriums and developed internet access, the center is ready for 80 journalists, media people and guests to cover the Gulf Summit and its activities, he elaborated.

The center also includes six-pavilion media exhibition of the GCC member states and the Secretariat, he noted.

It aims to shed light on the GCC path and historic accomplishments, and the most important issues which concern the region's nations, the minister concluded.

Photo exhibition: Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) hosted a photo exhibition for representatives of the Arabian Gulf news agencies on Friday, on the upcoming GCC 45th Summit, which will be hosted by Kuwait the day after tomorrow, Sunday.

KUNA photo exhibition, held at the Avenues Mall and continuing until tomorrow, aims to enhance public

awareness of the history of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and shed light on the historical events that accompanied the establishment of such prosperous organization and the important role of the Council in promoting stability and development in the region.

The exhibition includes carefully selected photos from KUNA archives and news agencies in the GCC countries, and sheds light on various stages of the Council's history and journey, including the previous 44 Gulf summits and meetings that included the leaders of the GCC countries, in addition to prominent eras that contributed to strengthening the unity of the Gulf.

The exhibition also represents a window into the history of the Cooperation Council by documenting its achievements and journey since its establishment in 1981 until next Sunday's summit, presenting along the way pictures and documentation the Council's vision and mission in strengthening joint Gulf action.

Media center, expo: The media center and the exhibition accompanying the 45th GCC Summit to be hosted by Kuwait on Sunday are a fully equipped and complete integrated platform, which facilitates media people's work to cover the summit.

The Ministry of Information and Culture has completely equipped the center for more than 80 journalists, media people, from Kuwait and beyond, to facilitate following up the Gulf Summit and transmitting its activities.

The center is equipped with state-of-the-art studios, modern computers, auditoriums and developed internet access for this purpose.

The center, inaugurated by Minister of Information and Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, also includes seven-pavilion media exhibition of the GCC member states and the Secretariat.

Each pavilion shows media production of every country and a presentation for the most important achievements.

Kuwait's investment landscape, financial resilience in focus

American Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait organizes event

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The American Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait organized an event titled "Kuwait's Investment Landscape and the Resilience of the Financial Sector", in collaboration with Al-Tamimi & Company and in partnership with "The Business Year" magazine and the Kuwait Investment Companies Association.

The event brought together prominent industry leaders, decision-makers, and key stakeholders from the finance, banking, and investment sectors to discuss practical strategies for enhancing Kuwait's economic future.

A representative of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait Aisha Al-Qabandi highlighted the event's objectives, which included reviewing main initiatives shaping Kuwait's investment market, strengthening financial resilience, driving sustainable growth, and encouraging collaborative dialogue among stakeholders.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General of the Investment Companies Association Fadwa Darwish provided valuable insights into Kuwait's investment market, and affirmed the importance of strategic planning, adaptability, and innovation to strengthen the country's financial sector.

Also, Head of the Commercial Companies Department at Al-Tamimi & Company

in Kuwait Ola Saab highlighted the crucial role of legal expertise in dealing with the evolving investment landscape in Kuwait.

Furthermore, Chair of the Banking and Finance Focus Group at the American Chamber of Commerce Ahmed Al-Bastaki praised the active participation of attendees, and stressed the significance of ongoing dialogue and partnerships to enhance innovation and drive economic growth.

The meeting included a dialogue session moderated by the World Bank Representative in Kuwait Dr. Ziad Nakat, with the participation of key industry leaders, including the Secretary General of the Union of Investment Companies Fadwa Darwish, CEO of Citi Kuwait Omar Amira, Partner at Ernst & Young and Treasurer at the American Chamber Amit Arora, Vice President and Head of Business Development at Rasameel Hamad Al Sheikh Musaed, and Chair of the Board of Directors of Al Safat Consulting Company Eng. Saheb Saleh Kajah.

The session focused on practical strategies to enhance financial resilience, such as benefiting from sustainable investment opportunities, diversifying investment portfolios, encouraging local investment in Kuwait, and addressing tax-related challenges.

The session concluded with practical recommendations to improve the investment landscape, with a particular emphasis on the role of small and medium enterprises in the economy.

The event also recognized and honored the main supporters and partners, including representatives from "The Business Year" magazine, for their vital role in promoting constructive dialogue and collaboration.

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Photo provided by the College of Allied Medical Sciences.

Event to be held on Feb 12 and 13

KU's confab to explore advancements in healthcare imaging and informatics

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Under the patronage of the acting Director of Kuwait University Prof. Dr. Osama Al-Saeed, the College of Allied Medical Sciences at Kuwait University will organize a conference titled "Next-Generation Healthcare: Integrating Imaging & Informatics for Collaborative Care" on February 12 and 13, 2025, at the Salwa Hall in Marina Hotel.

According to a press release issued by the College of Allied Medical Sciences, the conference aims to bring together experts and specialists in healthcare to discuss the latest advancements in imaging and health informatics, and their pivotal role in enhancing healthcare outcomes, as well as improving collaboration among the allied medical specialties to improve patient care.

The conference will feature scientific

lectures, workshops, and student exhibitions, with participation from both private and public institutions inside and outside of Kuwait. It is specifically designed for doctors and specialists in health informatics, medical laboratories, radiology, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and hearing sciences.

Participants will also have the opportunity to earn accredited CME (10) points and receive training certificates in first aid (BLS). This event provides a unique opportunity for professionals and students to exchange experiences, and stay updated on the latest innovations in healthcare.

It is important to note that registration is free via the QR code available on the college website <https://ahs.ku.edu.kw> or on the invitation cards.



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distinguished guests of His Highness
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We wish

**Their Majesties and Highnesses,
the esteemed leaders of the Gulf
Cooperation Council**

and their accompanying delegations, a pleasant
stay in their second home, Kuwait



مجموعة الشايح
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Historic chance to renew focus on Palestinian cause solution

"THE leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries will gather as honored guests in the State of Kuwait on December 1st for the 45th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit," Dr. **Mohammad Hussain Al-Dallal** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This summit will take place under exceptionally sensitive and significant local, regional and international circumstances, impacting the Gulf, Arab, Islamic and global arenas. In this article, we highlight several of these critical factors.

"The upcoming Gulf Summit occurs during a time of profound global transformation. At the Gulf level, globalization, media and electronic openness have shaped the mindset of the Gulf peoples, both positively and negatively.

"The Gulf individual has become more aware of and engaged with social, political and economic developments. These shifts in mentality require the Arab Gulf states to guide these changes in a positive direction, reinforcing Gulf, Arab and Islamic identity.

"This also presents an opportunity to harness human potential – expertise, intellect and talent – which, if nurtured well, can drive development and progress.

"However, it is essential that this is done within the framework of fostering participation, openness and responsible public freedoms.

"The Gulf Summit is also taking place against a backdrop of complex and highly sensitive regional circumstances that directly affect both the Gulf and Arab worlds.

"The Palestinian issue, despite the ongoing resistance of the Palestinian people in their struggle for liberation from Zionist occupation, remains unresolved and in some ways, is receding in international focus. Meanwhile, the Zionist aggression continues, marked by crimes such as genocide, displacement and starvation against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

"Furthermore, leaders of the occupying Zionist entity are asserting their claims to expand into parts of Arab countries, violating international laws, human rights and regional and international peace agreements.

"It is crucial for the Gulf Arab states to consider the ongoing regional and international shifts during their upcoming summit. The occupying Zionist entity and its allies are currently facing one of their most challenging phases in the Arab region.

"On one side, they are confronted with fierce resistance in Gaza and other parts of Palestine, which has caused significant losses. The Zionist entity is increasingly condemned by much of the international community, including human rights organizations, as a perpetrator of war crimes, racism and violations of international resolutions.

"Some of its leaders face arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court, accused of war crimes against the Palestinian people. This growing global and popular support for the Palestinian resistance strengthens the case for defeating the occupation and establishing the Palestinian state.

"These new developments in the Palestinian issue, which is central to Arab concerns, present a historic opportunity for the Arab world to renew its focus on Palestine, ensuring that it remains the top priority for Gulf and Arab states.

"This includes restoring the usurped rights of the Palestinian people, ending the occupation of Palestine and working toward the liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites. Given the shifting dynamics in the region and globally, it is critical to take a firm Arab stance, compelling the occupying Zionist entity to adhere to international resolutions.

"The Zionist entity, now widely recognized as a rogue state in international law, has caused immense suffering to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. It is a morally, legally and politically illegitimate entity that has been embedded in the Arab world like a plague, causing devastation and destruction. Confronting and removing it is a necessity to prevent further harm to the Arab region.

"In addition to regional issues, international power dynamics are also undergoing significant change. The world is moving away from a unipolar Western-dominated system towards a more multipolar world with multiple influential political, economic and security powers.

"This underscores the need for the Gulf and Arab states to strengthen their joint efforts and avoid isolating themselves or engaging in conflict with the emerging global powers. A decline in coordination or internal division would only harm the Gulf and Arab nations.

"One of the most pressing issues at the summit will be the need for organized crisis management and preparedness within the Gulf States. While the Gulf States have made efforts in this area, they have not been sufficient to address the security challenges of the region effectively.

"The summit must focus on adopting swift and decisive actions to enhance coordination and develop strategies to manage crises and threats.

"As we welcome the leaders and officials of the Arab Gulf States to their upcoming summit in Kuwait, we pray for unity among them, for their hearts and actions to align in pursuit of good and for their leadership to play a pivotal role in supporting the Palestinian cause and ending the brutal Zionist occupation. May their efforts bring success for the betterment of the region and its peoples."



Dr. M. Al-Dallal

Also:

"In a state that claims to be governed by the rule of law, decisions must be based on principles of justice, fairness and accountability," columnist **Hassan Al-Essa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"However, Kuwait finds itself at a critical juncture as the revocation of citizenship from dozens and potentially hundreds, of women challenges these very ideals.

"Whether married, divorced, or widowed, these women -- many of whom are mothers of Kuwaiti citizens -- are now facing the devastating consequences of a decision that undermines their basic human rights and legal standing.

"For Kuwait to truly embody a state of law, it is not enough for the government to issue orders and implement laws without oversight. A robust judicial system must be empowered to review and challenge government actions.

"Unfortunately, legislative barriers prevent the judiciary from examining nationality-related decisions, leaving these actions unchecked and fostering a climate of uncertainty.

"Laws are meant to provide stability, predictability and a sense of security for the people they govern. They must be general, abstract and applied consistently, allowing individuals to understand and anticipate the consequences of their actions. Most importantly, they should not be retroactive, particularly in criminal and punitive contexts.

"The recent actions of the Kuwaiti government fall far short of these standards. Women who acquired citizenship under Article 8 of the Nationality Law -- legally and with proper authorization at the time -- are now being stripped of their citizenship on the grounds that decrees were not issued to formalize their status.

"However, such decrees were not required under the law when their citizenship was granted. The Minister of Interior held the authority to confer or deny citizenship based on the law as it stood.

"The justification for this mass revocation appears to be the claim that the previous process was exploited in isolated cases. "If true, those responsible for manipulating the system should be held accountable. Instead, the punishment has fallen on the women themselves -- a vulnerable group that bears no responsibility for the alleged misconduct of powerful individuals in the past.

"The consequences of this decision are profound. Many of these women have taken out loans, mortgage homes and built lives around the assumption that their citizenship was secure.

"Widows and divorcees who have no other nationality or support system now face the terrifying prospect of statelessness. Where can they turn? Who will provide them with the protection and stability they once relied upon?

"If the government's aim is to correct past abuses, it should focus on the real perpetrators: those who exploited power to manipulate the law for their benefit. Instead of targeting women who followed the law as it existed, authorities should hold accountable the influential figures who facilitated any irregularities."

□ □ □

"A Syrian expatriate was found to have forged his Kuwaiti citizenship, which was subsequently revoked. Despite the forgery, he was not deported for some unknown reason, and he was allowed to remain in the country to spread corruption. After some time, he was arrested again, this time for forging his civil ID, which had been revoked after his citizenship was withdrawn. He had forged the civil ID to continue with his transactions. Following his arrest, he was sentenced to three years in prison," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"My brother, his citizenship was revoked from the very beginning, and it was proven to you that he is of Syrian nationality. He should have been sent back to Syria immediately, where the Syrian intelligence would greet him as he deserves.

There was no reason for him to remain here for forging documents and committing new crimes. Imprisoning him was not necessary, as his deportation alone would have served as a punishment he will never forget, especially when he would be welcomed in Syria as a deportee from the State of Kuwait.

"This is not the only case; there are many similar cases that require a decision. Anyone whose citizenship has been revoked after it has been proven that they hold another country's citizenship should be deported to their country of origin. We don't need to create new problems to solve, as we are already struggling with existing issues, such as the problem of stateless persons and illegal residents, for which we are still seeking solutions. On top of that, we have created a new issue of our own accord, which we call the "children of Kuwaiti women."

"In most countries, a child inherits their father's nationality, but here, the child inherits the mother's nationality if she is Kuwaiti. The state is now trying to impose obligations on these children by providing them with jobs and treating them as Kuwaitis, and even attempting to naturalize them. Some of these mothers became Kuwaiti through Article 8 (i.e., they obtained citizenship after divorce from their Kuwaiti husbands and then remarried men from their home countries), and now they want to impose their children on us."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes/
Mahmoud Attiyeh

No loss of life as huge 'Shaqaya' fire tackled

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Five firefighting teams from the Al-Shaqaya Jahra Crafts, Al-Istiqlal, Al-Isnad, and Hazardous Materials Centers successfully contained a fire at an electrical power generation station in the Al-Shaqaya area, on Friday evening.

The station, which contained highly flammable materials, was secured without the fire spreading to nearby locations, according to a press release by the Kuwait Fire Force.

The Public Relations and Media Department confirmed that the operation was carried out under the direct supervision of Major General Talal Muhammad Al-Roumi, Chief of the General Fire Force, and Brigadier General Ahmad Haif Hamoud, Deputy Chief of the Firefighting Sector.

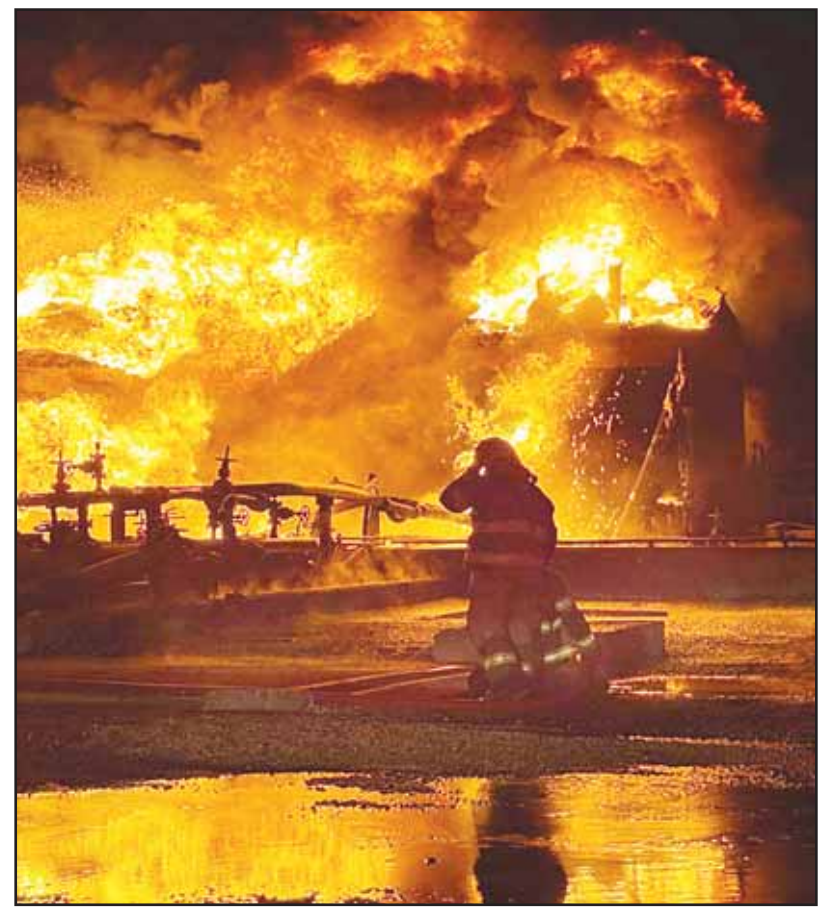
Both leaders were present at the scene, ensuring efficient coordination and management of the firefighting efforts.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research announced that firefighters extinguished a limited fire at the solar power unit of Al-Shaqaya Renewable Energy Complex on Friday, says Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

The fire was put out and no human losses were reported, KISR's Executive Director of the Marketing and Commercial Operations Sector Abdulmohsen Al-Haroun said in a press statement.

Al-Haroun, however, noted that the blaze caused limited material damage to the site.

A probe into the incident would be launched to identify its causes, he confirmed.



Al-Shaqaya Renewable Energy Complex burns in an inferno before the blaze was contained. KFF photo

Kuwaiti woman, child perish in car, truck crash on Abdali Road

Fire Dept shuts 258 shops violating rules

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: A tragic traffic accident on Abdali Road, at Kilo 40, involving a collision between a vehicle carrying a Kuwaiti family and a truck resulted in the deaths of a female Kuwaiti citizen and a child.

The security sources said, five others sustained injuries of various degrees and were taken to the Jahra Hospital in an air ambulance.

The accident site was secured by security personnel to oversee the response efforts and managing traffic in the area.

Meanwhile, the authorities are continuing their investigation into the cause of the collision.

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KFF shuts 258 shops: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) continued its inspection campaigns targeting facilities that violate safety regulations. It closed 258 shops and establishments last week for failing to meet the safety requirements and lacking a fire license.

KFF stated that these establishments had been previously warned about the violations and were given instructions to rectify them. However, their failure to comply resulted in their closure.

According to a source from KFF, such inspection campaigns to monitor safety viola-

tions will continue in all shops throughout the country.

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Dawn traffic raids net scores: At the break of dawn on Thursday, the Ministry of Interior launched a major security and traffic campaign across Kuwait's main streets and expressways, involving multiple field sectors, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The operation was designed to uphold security and public order and it yielded significant results.

In total, 1,790 traffic violations were issued during the campaign, signaling a strong enforcement of traffic laws.

Nine individuals reported absconding were apprehended and 11 others who were subject to arrest warrants.

The authorities also detained 12 people for violating residency and work laws and one individual was arrested for possessing narcotic substance.

The operation also targeted illegal vehicles, leading to the seizure of three wanted vehicles and 41 others for serious traffic offenses.

Additionally, four individuals were referred to the juvenile investigations department for further action.

The Ministry of Interior emphasized that this comprehensive campaign is part of an ongoing strategy to ensure a safe and stable environment throughout the country, continuing its efforts to arrest violators and

wanted individuals in all regions.

Meanwhile, during a recent surprise traffic campaign in the Ahmadi Governorate on Al-Wafra Road 101 traffic citations were issued, including for reckless driving, failure to follow traffic regulations and driving without a license, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Moreover, two juveniles were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution Office. They were caught driving vehicles under the legal age.

In total, 10 vehicles were impounded and taken to the Municipality garage.

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Legal, legislative affairs: Kuwait Society of Lawyers held a seminar recently on the GCC efforts in the fields of legal, legislative affairs, AI and digitization, in collaboration with the GCC Secretariat General, reports KUNA.

The head of the legislative affairs at the back-up secretariat for legal and legislative affairs, justice Abdulmajid Al-Saadi, said in a statement during the session that the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah had played a pivotal role in establishing the GCC Secretariat General.

The Economic treaty inked by the GCC member states in 1981 is the basis for the pan-Gulf cooperation, he said.

The society secretary general, Khaled Al-Suwaifan, said in remarks to KUNA that the session addressed laws in the GCC countries and how the AI is being employed for updating them.

Significant step: Dr. Al-Fajjam

PAAET nods fire technology department

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: In a landmark decision aimed at advancing technical education in Kuwait, the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) has approved the establishment of a Fire Engineering Technology Department at the College of Technological Studies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This new department will offer Bachelor's and Diploma programs, developed in collaboration with the Kuwait Fire Force, which played a key role in bringing the initiative to fruition.

The announcement came during a meeting chaired by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, alongside PAAET's Director General, Dr. Has-

san Al-Fajjam and board members.

Dr. Al-Fajjam hailed the decision as a significant step forward in equipping students with specialized skills to meet the nation's needs in fire safety and engineering.

In addition to the new academic offer, the Board approved the promotion of 34 faculty members -- 17 promoted from assistant professor to associate professor and another 17 promoted from associate professor to professor.

The Board also adopted several policy updates, including:

-- Master's Degree Service Credit: Time spent earning a master's degree will now count as part of the service period, provided the qualification aligns with the faculty member's specialization.

-- Early Promotion Requests: Faculty

members may now submit promotion requests three months before completing the legal period, with final approval granted after fulfilling the required timeframe.

-- Exemptions for Research Publication: The Arabic Language and Islamic Education Departments at the College of Basic Education were exempted from the mandate to publish scientific research in foreign journals.

The establishment of the Fire Engineering Technology Department underscores PAAET's commitment to aligning its programs with national development goals.

It also reflects a broader effort to support faculty growth and flexibility, ensuring both students and educators benefit from a dynamic, forward-looking academic environment.

GCC sharing of electric power key agenda item

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: On the eve of the Gulf Summit, set to be hosted by Kuwait on Sunday under the theme "The Future is Gulf", one of the key agenda items is the Gulf electricity interconnection project.

A significant part of this project is the Al-Wafra station, which is set to open at the end of this year. This station marks the beginning of the Gulf electricity interconnection with the world, extending into southern Iraq.

Initially, the Al-Wafra station will supply Iraq with 500 megawatts of electrical capacity, with plans to increase this based on demand, ultimately reaching over 3,000 megawatts as the project expands.

The Al-Wafra station covers an area of 62,000 square meters and connects Kuwait's electricity grid to the Gulf electricity network. It does so via four overhead transmission lines spanning 256 kilometers to the Fadhili station in

Saudi Arabia, which is part of the Saudi Interconnection Authority.

This connection will eventually link the Gulf electricity grid to Iraq and from there, the network aims to extend to Turkey and Europe in the future.

The project, which is funded by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Qatar Development Fund, aims to strengthen the national electricity grids of the Gulf countries and improve their reliability.

It will ensure a sustainable and consistent power supply, particularly during the summer months when electrical demand peaks.

Additionally, the project involves the construction of overhead lines and the installation of necessary electrical infrastructure, including circuit breakers, electrical reactors and control systems at various stations, including Al-Wafra, Al-Fadhili and Al-Faw.

This expansion will allow the network to support an electrical capacity of around 2,500 megawatts.



Gulf electricity interconnection expansion project on GCC Summit agenda.



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, (center right), with North Korean Defense Minister No Kwang Chol, (center left), is welcomed on his arrival at Pyongyang airport, North Korea on Nov 29. (AP)

North Korean leader Kim vows steadfast support for Russia's war in Ukraine

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 30, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed his country will "invariably support" Russia's war in Ukraine as he met Russia's defense chief, the North's state media reported Saturday.

A Russia military delegation led by Defense Minister Andrei Belousov arrived in North Korea on Friday, amid growing international concern about the two countries' expanding cooperation after North Korea sent thousands of troops to Russia last month.

The official Korean Central News Agency said that Kim and Belousov reached "a satisfactory consensus" on boosting strategic partnership and defending each country's sovereignty, security interests and international justice in the face of the rapidly-changing international security environments in a Friday meeting.

Kim said that North Korea "will invariably support the policy of the Russian Federation to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity from the imperialists' moves for hegemony," KCNA said.

North Korea has supported Russia's

invasion of Ukraine, calling it a defensive response to what both Moscow and Pyongyang call NATO's "reckless" eastward advance and U.S.-led moves to stamp out Russia's position as a powerful state.

Kim slammed a U.S. decision earlier in November to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with U.S.-supplied longer-range missiles as a direct intervention in the conflict. He called recent Russian strikes on Ukraine "a timely and effective measure" demonstrate Russia's resolve, KCNA said.

According to U.S., Ukrainian and South Korean assessments, North Korea has sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia and some of them have already begun engaging in combat on the frontlines. U.S., South Korean and others say North Korea has also shipped artillery systems, missiles and other conventional weapons to replenish Russia's exhausted weapons inventory.

Both North Korea and Russia haven't formally confirmed the North Korean troops' movements, and have steadfastly denied reports of weapons shipments.

South Korea, the U.S. and their part-

ners are concerned that Russia could give North Korea advanced weapons technology in return, including help to build more powerful nuclear missiles.

Last week, South Korean national security adviser Shin Wonsik told a local SBS TV program that Seoul assessed that Russia has provided air defense missile systems to North Korea. He said Russia also appeared to have given economic assistance to North Korea and various military technologies, including those needed for the North's efforts to build a reliable space-based surveillance system.

Belousov also met North Korean Defense Minister No Kwang Chol on Friday. During a dinner banquet later the same day, Belousov said the two countries' strategic partnership was crucial to defend their sovereignty from aggression and the arbitrary actions of imperialists, KCNA said.

In June, Kim and Putin signed a treaty requiring both countries to provide immediate military assistance if either is attacked. It's considered the two countries' biggest defense deal since the end of the Cold War.

Philippine president says impeaching VP Duterte, his rival, would be waste of time

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 30, (AP): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Friday that filing impeachment complaints against the vice president, who is facing a legal storm after publicly threatening to have him killed, would be a waste of time for Congress.

It was unclear whether Marcos' remark would stop plans by several groups to file impeachment complaints against Duterte over a number of criminal allegations, including her alleged misuse of confidential government funds and her recent public threat to have the president, his wife and the speaker of the House of Representatives killed if she herself were killed in a plot she has not detailed.

The legal troubles facing the vice president and her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, are unfolding in the backdrop of their worsening feud with Marcos. It's the latest battle between the country's most powerful families in a long-unwieldy democracy that has been dominated for decades by political dynasties.

But Marcos played down the political showdown. "It's a storm in a teacup," he told reporters.

"This is not important. This will not make any difference to even one single Filipino life, so, why waste time on it?" he said of an impeachment. Impeachment complaints are being prepared for



Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte, (center), walks while a hearing she is attending is suspended at the House of Representative in Quezon City, Philippines on Nov 25. (AP)

filing before the House, which is led by Marcos' cousin and political ally, Martin Romualdez.

Duterte regards Romualdez as a bitter opponent. Both are seen as potential presidential candidates in 2028.

Duterte has ruled out a political reconciliation with Marcos. They were running mates in 2022 and won by landslides in a campaign of national unity but later had a falling out on several issues, including over their support

for China or the United States.

Marcos has strengthened a defense alliance with the U.S. as the Philippines faces an increasingly aggressive China in the disputed South China Sea.

The vice president has refused to condemn China's assertive actions and her father nurtured close ties as president with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, and Russian leader Vladimir Putin while criticizing U.S. and Western security policies.

6 Democratic lawmakers from Connecticut report bomb threats against their homes

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Nov 30, (AP): Six Democratic members of Congress from Connecticut were targeted by bomb threats on their homes, the lawmakers or their offices said.

Sen Chris Murphy and all five House members - Reps. Jim Himes, Joe Courtney, John Larson, Jahana Hayes and Rosa DeLauro - reported being the subject of such threats. Police who responded said they found no evidence of explosives on the lawmakers' properties.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal told reporters Friday he did not receive a bomb threat on Thursday but was targeted as recently as a couple weeks ago, adding of such threats, "Unfortunately, very regrettably, they are part of our life."

The bomb threats against Democrats happened a day after a number of President-elect Donald Trump's most prominent Cabinet picks and appointees reported that they had received such threats, as well as "swatting attacks," in which perpetrators initiate an emergency law enforcement response against a victim under false pretenses.

Murphy's office said his Hartford home was the target of a bomb threat, "which appears to be part of a coordinated effort involving multiple members of Congress and public figures." Hartford Police and US Capitol Police determined there was no threat.



Democratic incumbent US Rep Joe Courtney speaks during the 2nd Congressional debate at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, Conn., Oct. 21, 2010. (AP)

DeLauro said in a Thursday evening post on X that the New Haven Police Department's bomb squad responded to the threat and "determined no bomb was present at our home. I am thankful for their swift response & relieved no one was harmed."

Hayes said the Wolcott Police Department informed her Thursday morning that it had received "a threatening email stating a pipe bomb had been

placed in the mailbox at my home." State police, US Capitol Police, and the House sergeant at arms were notified. Wolcott and state police responded "and no bomb or explosive materials were discovered."

Courtney's Vernon home received a bomb threat while his wife and children were there, his office said.

Himes said he was told of the threat against his home during a Thanksgiving celebration with his family. The U.S. Capitol Police, and Greenwich and Stamford police departments responded.

Hines extended his family's "utmost gratitude to our local law enforcement officers for their immediate action to ensure our safety." Echoing other lawmakers who were threatened, he added: "There is no place for political violence in this country, and I hope that we may all continue through the holiday season with peace and civility."

Larson also said Thursday that East Hartford Police responded to a bomb threat against his home.

The FBI declined to give details on the latest episodes except to say it is investigating them in partnership with other agencies.

The threats follow an election season marked by violence. In July, a gunman opened fire at a Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, grazing him in the ear and killing one of his supporters.



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump speaks at the Palm Beach County Convention Center during an election night watch party on Nov 6 in West Palm Beach Florida. (AP)

Wisconsin election chair certifies Trump's victory in back-to-routine teleconference

MADISON, Wis., Nov 30, (AP): Wisconsin's election commission leader quietly certified Donald Trump's victory on Friday, moving past the chaos that surrounded the 2020 election results in the battleground state.

Commission Chair Ann Jacobs certified results that show Trump won the state with 1,697,626 votes compared to Democrat Kamala Harris' 1,668,229 votes during a morning Zoom teleconference that lasted six minutes.

The certification felt almost anticlimactic compared with the aftermath of the 2020 election, when Trump refused to accept that Joe Biden had won the state by about 21,000 votes.

Trump forced a recount in Dane and Milwaukee counties, the state's two Democratic strongholds, but it didn't change the outcome. Trump later sued to disqualify more than 221,000 ballots in the two counties.

He wanted to disqualify absentee ballots cast early and in-person, saying there wasn't a proper writ-

ten request made for the ballots; absentee ballots cast by people who claimed "indefinitely confined" status; absentee ballots collected by poll workers at Madison parks; and absentee ballots where clerks filled in missing information on ballot envelopes.

The state Supreme Court dismissed the case in December 2020, finding four of Trump's claims were filed too late and the other was without merit. A federal judge that same month dismissed another lawsuit filed by two Republican legislators, voting rights groups and others seeking to overturn the results.

Facing pressure from Trump, Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Rob Vos hired former state Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman in the spring of 2021 to investigate allegations of fraud and abuse related to the election.

The probe ultimately turned up nothing. The state Office of Lawyer Regulation filed a complaint against Gableman last week accusing him of violating multiple rules of con-

duct during the investigation. The state Supreme Court will decide what sanctions, if any, Gableman will face.

The election commission's non-partisan administrator, Meagan Wolfe, found herself the target of conspiracy theorists and election skeptics who falsely claimed she was part of a plot to rig the 2020 election for Biden. Republican legislators are trying to fire her but the commission has filed a lawsuit to keep in her post. That case is currently before the state Supreme Court.

Trump's national victory in November has calmed conservative anger but a vocal faction of the GOP remains deeply skeptical of election processes, particularly the use of mail ballots and scanners to tally votes. Still, several states that saw tumultuous certifications during the 2020 election and 2022 midterms have smoothly approved their results in recent weeks, including Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and New Mexico.



Demonstrators use firecrackers against police as police block a street to prevent protesters rallying against the government's decision to suspend negotiations on joining the European Union for four years, outside the parliament's building in Tbilisi, Georgia on Nov 30. (AP)

More than 100 arrested in Georgia

More than 100 demonstrators were arrested overnight in Georgia as protesters clashed with police following the government's decision to suspend negotiations to join the European Union, the country's Interior Ministry said Saturday.

It was the second straight night of protests after Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze of the country's ruling Georgian Dream party announced the decision the previous day. Demonstrators faced off against police late Friday in a number of major Georgian cities, including the capital, Tbilisi, and the Black Sea port of Batumi.

The Associated Press saw protesters in Tbilisi being chased and beaten by police as demonstrators rallied in front of the country's parliament building.

Riot police used water cannons to push protesters away from the building and later moved to force them farther back along Rustaveli Avenue, the city's main boulevard. (AP)

Police also used heavy force against members of the media and used loudspeakers to shout profanities and insults at the crowds. (AP)

Poland's Prime Minister Tusk visits defensive fortifications on border with Russia

DABROWKA, Poland, Nov 30, (AP): Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk traveled Saturday to his country's border with the Russian region of Kaliningrad to inspect progress in the construction of military fortifications along the eastern frontier, calling it "an investment in peace."

Tusk's visit comes a month before Poland is to take over the rotating presidency of the 27-member European Union. Polish officials say their priority is to urge Europeans to beef up defenses at a time of Russian aggression and with change coming soon in Washington. Some European leaders are concerned that the incoming administration of Donald Trump might be less committed to Europe's defense.

Poland's government and army began building the system dubbed East Shield this year. It will eventually include approximately 800 kilometers (500 miles) along the Polish borders with Russia and Belarus, at a time when Western officials accuse Russia of waging hybrid attacks against the West that include sabotage, the weaponization of migration, disinformation and other hostile measures.

"The better the Polish border is guarded, the more difficult it is to access for those with bad intentions," Tusk said at a news conference near the village of Dabrowka as he stood in front of concrete anti-tank barriers.

Poland has been at the mercy of aggressive neighbors over the past centuries and has become a leading European voice for security at a

time when France and Germany are weakened by internal political problems. Poland aims to spend 4.7% of its gross domestic product on defense next year, making it one of NATO's leaders in defense spending.

Tusk's government estimates that the strategic



Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk speaks to reporters in Dabrowka, Poland, during a visit to Poland's border with Russia on Nov 30. (AP)

military project will cost at least 10 billion zlotys (\$2.5 billion). Poland's borders with Russia, Belarus - as well as Ukraine - are the easternmost external borders of both the European Union and NATO.

Tusk said he expected the East Shield to eventually be expanded to protect the small Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

"Everything we are doing here - and we will also be doing this on the border with Belarus and Ukraine - is to deter and discourage a potential aggressor, which is why it is truly an investment in peace," Tusk said. "We will spend billions of zlotys on this, but right now the whole of Europe is observing these investments and our actions with great satisfaction and will support them if necessary."

He said he wants Poles "to feel safer along the entire length of the eastern border." Tusk also said the fortifications would include Poland's border with Ukraine, a close ally, but did not elaborate.

Along the frontier, anti-tank barriers known as "hedgehogs" will be integrated with natural barriers like ditches. Tusk said parts of the project are not visible to the naked eye, but it is nonetheless the largest project of its nature in Europe since the end of World War II.

The plans also include the construction of appropriate threat reconnaissance and detection systems, forward bases, logistics hubs, warehouses and the deployment of anti-drone systems, the state news agency PAP reported.

Kuwait oil price up to USD 72.76 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30, (KUNA): The price of Kuwait oil went up by 50 cents to USD 72.76 per barrel (pb) on Friday, compared to USD 72.26 pb a day earlier, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

At the global level, the Brent crude fell by 34 cents

to USD 72.94 pb, and the West Texas Intermediate dropped by 72 cents to USD 68 pb.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan in October fell 46.4 percent from a year earlier to 2.04 million barrels, or 66,000 barrels per day (bpd), down for the 13th consecutive month, government data showed Friday.

Business

Economic climate improves though geopolitical factors weigh on outlook

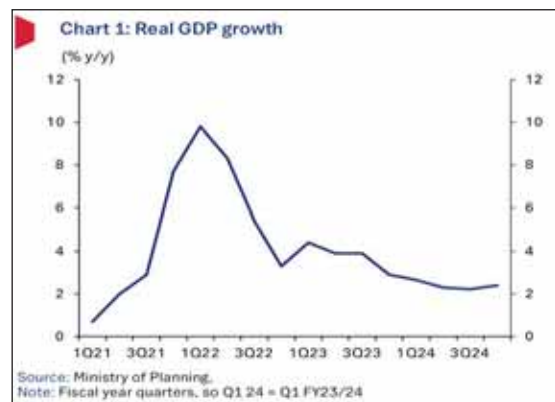
By National Bank of Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Nine months on from the sharp currency devaluation in March, Egypt's macro-fiscal situation has substantially stabilized. Foreign inflows and financing catalyzed by the Ras El-Hekma deal with the UAE have transformed the economic climate, restoring fiscal and external buffers and setting off a fiscal reform process, centered initially on hikes to energy prices, that shows promise in terms of bringing the country's public finances under control. Inflation, meanwhile, has trended lower as the central bank (CBE) has maintained interest rates at elevated levels, with policy rate cuts expected before long. Finally, the pound has been fairly valued with the virtual elimination of the parallel market so far. There are also signs from the credit and PMI numbers that economic growth is finally accelerating.

Risk factors stem largely from the external front, with ongoing regional conflict and tensions spilling over into Egypt on various fronts including via the impact on Red Sea shipping trade. Egypt's Suez Canal receipts slumped 50% y/y to \$6 billion in H1 2024, imports of natural gas from Israel are being pressured, while inflows of refugees from Sudan, Libya, Palestine and elsewhere are estimated at around 10 million. To contain the repercussions, the authorities have asked the IMF for some leeway on the pace of reform implementation.

Economic growth to accelerate to 3.5-4.0% in FY24/25

GDP growth in the final quarter of the fiscal year (Apr-Jun FY23/24) ticked up to 2.4% y/y from 2.2% in Q3. (Chart 1.) This is amid improved FCY liquidity ensuing from the devaluation in March.



■ Macro-financial indicators have stabilized since the currency devaluation in March amid large foreign investment flows and the introduction of critical reforms including a more flexible exchange rate regime, subsidy cuts and moves to privatize some state assets.

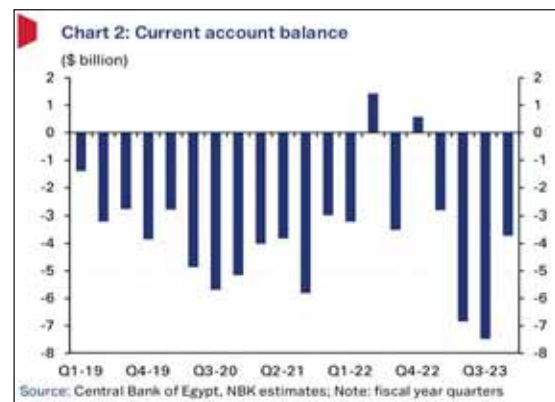
■ Improving high-frequency indicators augur well for economic growth prospects, to be helped by falling inflation and interest rates. GDP grew by only 2.4% in Q4 FY23/24 but could improve to 4% this year.

■ The government may negotiate a revision to some key points in the IMF program updated earlier this year, possibly including extending the period for key subsidy cuts. A first sovereign credit rating upgrade by Fitch since 2019 capped the economic and fiscal progress the authorities have made in 2024.

■ The most significant downside risk to the outlook is the unstable regional geopolitical environment, with Egypt dependent on valuable Suez Canal receipts, gas imports and pressured by refugee inflows.

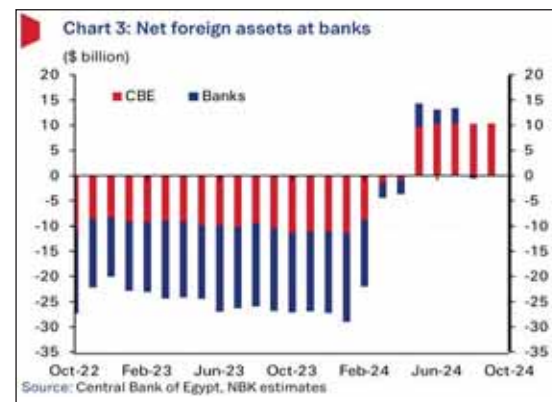
In the months that followed the initial devaluation, the pound stabilized at around EGP48/49/\$1, which helped lower inflation and facilitate the recovery in household purchasing power that has lifted consumer spending and credit activity. We expect growth to accelerate from Q2 FY24/25 onwards. The PMI gauge of private sector activity rose to 50.4 in August from an average of 48.9 in Q4, surpassing the 50-neutral benchmark for the first in about four years (although it has edged back down since). This was mainly driven by a recovery in local order books, boosted by cooling inflation. Business optimism is on the rise as well, with firms looking ahead to interest rate cuts that would boost the outlook. With this in mind, we think growth could accelerate in the current year (FY24/25) to 4.0% from 2.4% in FY24 – albeit still below what we believe is Egypt's long-term potential rate.

Current account deficit balloons in FY23/24



The current account deficit more than quadrupled in FY23/24 to \$20.8 billion from \$4.7 billion in FY22/23 as Egypt's energy exports plummeted by almost 60% due to gas production declines, especially at the giant offshore Zohr field, and as Suez Canal receipts fell by 24% (\$2.1bn) amid ongoing troubles in the Red Sea. Tourism revenues, however, surprised on the upside, growing by a strong 5% y/y despite elevated regional tensions.

A closer look at the impact of the EGP devaluation on the current account in Q4 FY23/24 shows the effect was most pronounced in (1) remittances, where volumes rose by 50% y/y as more Egyptians living abroad transferred money back through official channels, and (2) in non-petroleum exports, which rose 17%. These gains resulted in a sharp narrowing of the current account deficit to \$3.7 billion from \$7.4 billion in Q3 FY23/24. (Chart 2.)



That said, the improvement was likely an immediate response to the devaluation and not likely to be repeated in the immediate future. We therefore expect the deficit to remain large at \$15-20 billion in FY24/25, mainly on the back of an inflated energy import bill. Moreover, as interest rates drop and consumption picks up, imports will likely increase, by a minimum of 10-15%. Critical to preventing the deficit from spiraling out of control is the maintenance of a more flexible exchange rate.

No further rises in foreign reserves expected – or needed

In our last quarterly report, we hinted that further improvement in foreign reserves and banks' net foreign assets will be limited as repeating investments of the magnitude of the giant \$35 billion Ras El Hekma deal and the large post-devaluation portfolio inflows would be unrealistic. The latest data confirm this to an extent, with CBE FX reserve levels in October at \$46.9 billion unchanged since June (\$46.4 billion). In addition to commercial banks' NFAs declining by \$2.96 billion (-118% m/m) in September, the first decrease in eight months (with a small recovery in October), which reflects the large energy import bill. (Chart 3.)

While we maintain our view that there is no need to raise foreign reserves and NFAs to higher levels, we reiterate that a sustained government commitment to a flexible exchange rate is imperative to prevent these external buffers from eroding and to allow Egypt to negotiate a path through the current and future geopolitical landscape – especially given what we forecast will be a high net cumulative financing gap of \$10 billion to FY25/26. These external buffers, in tandem with progress on reforms made so far including fuel and utility price hikes, have managed to limit the impact of recent external shocks on key risk indicators. Yields on Egypt's 5-yr Eurobonds remain at 8.6%, unchanged since July, and 5-yr CDS levels (a measure of default risk) were also mostly unchanged at 578 bps from 570 bps in mid-July. We believe this is much lower than would have been the case had reforms and investor optimism in Egypt's economic prospects not been forthcoming. Indeed, as a vote of confidence, Fitch in November upgraded Egypt's credit rating to 'B' (outlook stable) from 'B-' , and other agencies could follow with upgrades of their own reflecting the move towards a more flexible exchange rate, the significant improvement witnessed in the NFA position and the strong external support the sovereign has received this year.

To be continued

OPEC Plus meetings moved to Dec 5 amid Gulf Summit

VIENNA, Nov 30, (KUNA): The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies (OPEC Plus) have decided to postpone their meetings scheduled for early December to the fifth of the same month.

The Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee and the Alliance Ministerial Meeting of OPEC said in a statement that the reason for the postponement is that many of the OPEC Plus oil and energy ministers will attend the 45th Gulf Summit hosted in Kuwait this Sunday, which necessitated postponing OPEC Plus meetings for four days.

The statement added that "the 57th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee and the 38th Ministerial Meeting of the Alliance will be held on Thursday, December 5th via video conference" to determine production policies for the next stage.

Dollar dips

Gold prices rise amid geopolitical tensions



Al-Seyassah photo
A file photo of Gold bars and dollar notes.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Gold prices saw an increase on Friday, supported by a slight dip in the dollar and escalating geopolitical tensions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Spot gold rose by 0.8 percent to \$2,662.78 per ounce, while US gold futures gained 0.9 percent, reaching \$2,662.20.

Despite this uptick, gold is on track to experience its largest monthly decline in over a year, largely due to concerns over Donald Trump's re-election as US president.

The geopolitical climate contributed to the rise, as the Israeli military conducted airstrikes on a Hezbollah facility in southern Lebanon and Russia launched a major attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Brian Lan from Gold Silver Central in Singapore noted that investors are turning to gold, hoping for potential price increases amid these tensions and the slight decline in the dollar has further supported gold prices.

Kuwait and UK strengthen trade investment relations



Alastair King, Lord Mayor of the City of London talking to the press.

Commerce grows 14.8%, reaching £5.9 billion

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: "Over the past year, the UK-Kuwait trade reached £5.9 billion, a 14.8 percent increase from the previous 12 months, said Alastair King, Lord Mayor of the City of London"

The Lord Mayor also highlighted the robust relationship between the UK and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), citing the growing trade volume between the UK and Kuwait during a press interaction at the British Embassy premises in Kuwait.

He underscored the historic and contemporary strength of investment ties, symbolized by the Kuwait Investment Office's 71-year presence in the City of London and the Sovereign Investment Partnership signed during His Highness the Amir's state visit to the UK last August.

Addressing the impact of the UK's exit from the European Union and the recent change in government, Lord Mayor assured journalists of London's continued dominance as a global financial hub.

He pointed out that the city's financial and professional services sector has grown significantly, with over 100,000 more employees compared to pre-Brexit levels.

To emphasize London's scale, he noted that the number of people working in the sector exceeds the entire population of Frankfurt, Germany.

The Lord Mayor extended a warm invitation to Kuwaiti investors, emphasizing the UK's openness to business while at the same time highlighting the UK's strong political and fiscal stability, robust legal framework and London's highly international workforce, with approximately 40 percent of

workers in its financial services sector coming from abroad. These factors, he said, make the UK a uniquely attractive destination for foreign investors seeking reliable financial returns.

King also outlined his vision for deepening UK-Kuwait collaboration, particularly in four key sectors – insurance services, legal services, asset management and banking.

He emphasized the UK's expertise in tailoring financial solutions, including those adhering to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria and Sharia compliance.

Furthermore, he expressed his aim to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the UK while encouraging more British businesses to leverage opportunities in Kuwait, where over 100 UK firms are already operational.

He expressed optimism about the future of bilateral ties as both nations continue to celebrate 125 years of official diplomatic relations and look forward to further growth and cooperation.

This visit underscores the enduring and dynamic partnership between the UK and Kuwait, fostering opportunities for mutual prosperity in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

During his two-day visit – marking the third and final stop on his inaugural overseas trip in the role – King explored avenues to expand the already substantial trade and investment ties between Kuwait and the UK.

His engagements included meetings with senior officials such as His Highness the Crown Prince, the Minister of Finance, the Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority, the Governor of Kuwait's Central Bank and the Acting Director General of the Public Institution for Social Security. He also met with representatives of private investors, including commercial banks, businesses and leading trading families with established connections to London.

Concluding his visit, King expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by his Kuwaiti hosts and reaffirmed his commitment to nurturing UK-Kuwait relations.

Other Voices

OPEC+ delays talks, compliance at risk

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

COMPLIANCE – this is the key word for the oil organization, as they adjourn their meetings until December 5 due to the meeting to be held among the GCC heads of state in Kuwait on December 1.

The postponement may give OPEC+ some space and time to prepare for their meeting. However, some of its members, such as Kazakhstan and Iraq, are yet to clarify their commitment to the production quotas.

Despite recent visits by OPEC+ ministers, oil prices remain around \$72-\$73 per barrel, and production stands at 28.6 million barrels per day. However, demand remains weak, and production from non-OPEC countries continues to grow, raising concerns among OPEC and its partners. The question now is: where does OPEC+ go from here?

The delay of a few days in the OPEC+ meeting will neither improve the current oil situation nor help push oil prices higher. In fact, the upcoming OPEC+ session may put downward pressure on oil prices, as it is unlikely to produce any constructive outcomes or resolutions. The group will also face challenges in pressuring its non-compliant members to adhere to their commitments, knowing that some oil will inevitably slip into the open market regardless.

Looking ahead, it appears that next year may not be more promising than the current one. Oil prices are expected to remain weak and could average at a lesser rate than in 2024. The anticipated outcome of OPEC+ extending production cuts for another year, coupled with a lack of significant global demand growth, will likely contribute to weaker oil prices.

This means that oil production will likely require further budget cuts to balance the books by the end of the year. Many Arabian Gulf countries are facing deficits and will need to continue searching for long-term solutions and resolutions.

For the time being, oil prices are expected to remain weak, but there is hope that they will not fall further below \$70 per barrel. Today's political crisis is not helping oil prices move forward either.

As a result, OPEC+ members have little choice but to comply with the agreed-upon resolutions. It is their only option moving forward.

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Al-Harami

Boursa sees positive performance in Nov 2024, despite week of declines

By Mahmood Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Boursa Kuwait recorded a positive performance in November 2024 for the second consecutive month, with market gains totaling 522 million dinars.

The general market index ended the month at 7,245.99 points, reflecting a 1.23 percent growth, or 88.27 points. The main market index also rose by 1.30 percent to 6,608.47 points, gaining 84.72 points.

At the close of trading, the market value of shares reached 42.84 billion dinars, a 1.23 percent increase from the previous month.

Sector-wise, 8 sectors saw growth, led by basic materials, which rose by 10.76 percent. However, 5 sectors declined, with consumer goods experiencing the largest drop of 10.55 percent.

Analysts noted that the completion of third-quarter corporate disclosures, showing growth for listed companies, supported the market's positive performance.

They expect continued momentum in the coming period, driven by positive market factors and investor expectations for dividends from large stocks.

Despite this, the stock exchange indices declined at the end of the last week of November, following four consecutive weeks of gains.

Kuwait aspires to strengthen partnership with China: diplomats

By Fahad Al-Saeed

ZHUHAI, China, Nov 30, (KUNA):

Two Kuwaiti female diplomats affirmed that their country attached great importance to the efforts aiming to enhance the strategic partnership with China, particularly in areas like the economy, trade, investment, infrastructure, transport and energy.

The launching of joint ventures in these areas could deepen the dialogue and understanding between the two nations and open new horizons for sustainable development, said Fatima Al-Mesbahi and Sarah Al-Hasawi, diplomatic attaches at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

They made the comments at panel discussions during the Third China-Ar-



Fatima Al-Musabahi, Diplomatic Attaché at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Sarah Al-Hasawi, Diplomatic Attaché at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ab States Young Political Leaders Forum being held in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, south China, on Wednesday and Thursday under the theme of "con-

tribution of youth strength to building of shared China-Arab destiny in new era." Addressing a discussion on "role

of China in Middle East issues," Al-Mesbahi said, "The Kuwait-China cooperation grew rapidly in various areas and contributes remarkably in regional stability and prosperity."

"As both countries celebrate the 53rd anniversary of their diplomatic ties this year, Kuwait is proud of being the first Gulf country to have such relations with China."

"The relationship kept growing in the recent years to form a firm ground for strategic partnership and contribute to prosperity of both nations," she noted.

The bilateral trade volume grew from USD 12.3 billion in 2013 to USD 22.39 last year, which has made China the biggest trade partner of Kuwait since 2015, Al-Mesbahi added.

Gulf Bank 642 Marathon unites 107 nationalities and over 10,000 runners in Kuwait's largest sporting event



Thousands of participants from inside and outside Kuwait compete in the Gulf Marathon.

Record-breaking participation in the 10th edition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: In a vibrant and festive atmosphere, the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, one of Kuwait's largest and most prominent sports and social events, took place yesterday morning. As the only internationally recognized marathon in Kuwait, this prestigious event attracted over 10,000 participants from 107 nationalities, including 600 runners who traveled specifically to take part in the event.

As the countdown concluded at 7:00 AM, participants from various categories began their race from the starting line at Souq Sharq. The excitement grew as the marathon route took them past some of Kuwait City's most iconic landmarks, including the Kuwait Towers, the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, the Grand Mosque, Souq Al-Mubarakia, and more.

The marathon offered a range of open categories for participants of all athletic levels, including a 5-kilometer walk or run, a 10-kilometer race, a half marathon of 21 kilometers, and a full marathon of 42 kilometers. Participants as young as 11 years old could join the 5-kilometer race, while those aged 16 and above were eligible for the 10-kilometer race, and those 18 and older could compete in the half marathon.

Record-Breaking Participation
Gulf Bank's Chief Marketing Officer, Mrs. Najla Aleisa, expressed: "We are delighted with the record participation in the 10th edition of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, with a diverse range of participants from all walks of life – athletes, beginners, and people of all ages. This reflects Gulf Bank's dedication to promoting community sustainability and providing an opportunity for everyone to enjoy an active, family-oriented day in Kuwait."

Mrs. Aleisa added: "The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, now in its tenth year, has become one of the most distinguished annual sporting events in Kuwait. It is not just a one-day race, but a call for lifestyle change, encouraging regular physical activity and making exercise and walking an integral part of daily life for individuals and families from all walks of life."

She emphasized that the marathon is a sports, social, and health initiative aimed at tackling the rising rates of diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, which have become significant concerns for society. This highlights the need for increased emphasis on physical activity and lifestyle changes.

She highlighted that the bank's continued sponsorship of the marathon is intended to support the country's efforts in fostering a sports culture within society, aligning with its sustainable development goals, which focus on investing in human capital and enhancing the community's capabilities.

On his part, Mr. Ahmed Al-Majed, Chief Operations Officer of Suffix, said, "We are proud to continue our partnership with Gulf Bank in organizing this outstanding social and sports event, which has grown



Group photo of Gulf Bank and Suffix officials, with Waleed Khalid Mandani, CEO of the bank in the middle.



Najla Aleisa honors the winners.

Najla Aleisa:

- We are thrilled with the record-breaking participation and the diversity of individuals from all segments of society.
- This achievement highlights our dedication to fostering community sustainability by supporting sports and raising awareness about diabetes and heart health.
- We are proud to contribute to the country's efforts to build a stronger sports culture, recognizing it as a key pillar of sustainable development.

Ahmed Al-Majed:

- We take pride in continuing our partnership with Gulf Bank to organize this exceptional social and sporting event.
- Over the past ten editions, the marathon has welcomed 63,000 participants and contributed KD 3 million to the national economy.
- We are excited to further enhance the standard of sporting events in the region by organizing more outstanding initiatives.



Participants in action during the marathon.

experience." Al-Majed noted that the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is the largest local sporting event held in the heart of Kuwait City, passing by several iconic landmarks. It is the only marathon in Kuwait to be recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) with a Road Race Label and is listed among the international races in the Association of International Marathons (AIMS). Additionally, participants in the Gulf Bank Marathon can earn points toward qualifying for the World Championship for age groups over 40 (AbbotWMM Wanda Age Group World Rankings).

Kuwait's Largest and Only Internationally Recognized Marathon

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon stands as the largest in Kuwait by

participant numbers and attendance, and is the only marathon in the country to be internationally recognized.

Key Statistics of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon

- 63,000 total participants across 10 editions
- 1142 runners in the first edition
- 10,000 runners in the 10th edition
- 4,000 international participants
- 107 represented nationalities
- \$50,000 total prize pool
- 500 volunteers organizing the marathon

Sawa'ed Al-Khaleej
Over 500 volunteers helped organize this major event, including many members of "Sawa'ed Al-Khaleej," the bank's dedicated volunteer team that supports all its events.

Supporting Local Talent

To showcase local talent, the bank

actively involves folk music teams and works with Kuwaiti artists to design the winner's medals for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon.

Competition Launched for 'Diraya' Campaign

In line with its commitment to promoting financial literacy across all segments of society and supporting the "Diraya" financial awareness campaign, led by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association, Gulf Bank has launched a competition centered around the campaign's key themes, offering cash prizes to the winners.

Special Marathon Discounts for Employees

Along with professional athletes, amateur runners, and participants from various community groups, Gulf Bank encourages its employees to join the marathon, providing them

with a special discount on registration fees as an added incentive.

GB Challenge Team Sets New Records with Support from Key Sponsors

The GB Challenge team, consisting of six runners, achieved their dreams by setting new records in the marathon after being supported physically, nutritionally, and athletically for a month and a half by Gulf Bank, SUFFIX Sports Events Management.

Ali Abdulwahab AlMutawa Company, DISC (Diversified Integrated Sports Clinic), and Basic Diet Kuwait. The team members expressed their gratitude to Gulf Bank, the other sponsors, and their coach, Mohammed AlHathal.

A Memorable Sports Day Along Gulf Road

Amidst the beautiful weather, a large number of runners' families gathered to enjoy a memorable sports day along Gulf Road.

"Khaleejona Wahid" Featured in Celebration of the 38th GCC Summit

In celebration of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Kuwait, the organizers ensured the inclusion of the song "Maseerna Wahid" also known as "Khaleejona Wahid". This patriotic song, which has become a symbol of unity across the Gulf, was written in Gulf Arabic by poet Abdul Latif Al-Banai, composed by musician and composer, Marzouk Al-Marzouk, and performed by the Kuwait TV folk arts group in December 1984, during the 5th GCC summit held in Kuwait.



Persistence and determination of people with disabilities.



All categories and ages participate in the marathon.



A family sports day par excellence.

What's On

Dr Genge thanks Kuwaiti friends for their unwavering hospitality during his tenure

South African Ambassador bids farewell at Al-Qadiri Gallery

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Republic of South Africa Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E Dr. Manelisi Genge, visited Al-Qadiri Gallery in Mishref last Monday, to a bid farewell after the end of his mission in the State of Kuwait. H.E Dr. Manelisi Genge was welcomed by Mr. Mohammed Al-Qadiri the general manager of Al-Qadiri Gallery, and his wife Kuwaiti artist and writer Thuraya Al-Baqsmi, who presented the ambassador with a gift of one of her recent paintings as a token of friendship and as a nice memoir of Kuwait.

In his turn the H.E. Dr Manelisi Genge address the audience by saying:

Excellency Dear Friend Ambassador Mohammed Al-Qadiri and Spouse, Ms Thuraya Albaqsmi Excellencies and Dear Colleagues, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to my dear friend, Ambassador Al-Qadiri and his wife for their warm hospitality and for opening their doors for me during my tour of duty to the State of Kuwait, as well as for hosting this wonderful event for me. I consider it as an honour and privilege to be amid such wonderful circle of your friends. On my arrival to this beautiful country, Kuwait,



Dr. Genge receives a gift from artist Thuraya Al-Baqsmi as a memoir of Kuwait.

when I was still getting acquainted with the new host country, you and your wife opened your doors and received me with warm hearts and since then we have become close friends. You are the true Ambassadors of Kuwait providing we, the Ambassadors accredited

to Kuwait, a feel of the real life of a Kuwait family. I would like to thank both of you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity.

Your hospitality was a breath of fresh air for those of us who were new to the country. Your regular Diwaniya's open to diplomats, and your hosting us at your farm, made us feel at home and welcomed to Kuwait. Our friendship holds a special place in my heart, which I will forever cherish for the rest of my life. Thank you so much for this special gift, which will always remind me of our friendship and Kuwait. I'm confident that my successor will be in good hands, as you have done with me and my family.

I hope to receive you and your wife in South Africa and share with you the experience of my beautiful country, "ikhaya lethulikhaya lenu" - our home is your home. Until we meet again, I wish you all the best and good health to you, your dear wife, Thuraya and family.

Thank you for your attention, Ndiyabulela, Shukran!!!

Many ambassadors, diplomats, and friends attended the event.

ACI-Kuwait Chapter will hold Annual Awards Banquet on Tues 3rd of Dec

The Kuwait Chapter of American Concrete Institute will hold its Annual Awards Banquet on 3rd December, 2024. His Excellency the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Ministry of State for Housing Affairs, Eng. Abdulatif Hamed Al-Meshari, will be the guest of honor.

ACI-Kuwait Chapter is a non-profit professional organization, affiliated to American Concrete Institute International of USA. The Chapter's main objective is to develop and share technical knowledge and information for improving quality of concrete and related construction practices in Kuwait. This is done through technical seminars, training courses, conferences, publications, webinars and other informative activities.

The President of ACI-Kuwait Chapter, Mr. Ghassan Alghawas, has announced that two prestigious awards shall be bestowed during this year's function. The Award of Excellence for the Year 2023 shall be presented to a local project of outstanding merit, in terms of its design, engineering quality and use of concrete technology. The award will be presented to the developer of the project; and recognition will be given to the design and engineering consultants, general contractor and main concrete supplier. The Award of Achievement 2023 shall be bestowed on an individual in recognition of his or her life-long contribution to the engineering profession, higher education and to development in the State of Kuwait.



Mr. Ghassan Alghawas

Mr. Alghawas highlighted that these awards, which the Chapter has been giving since 2001, are highly respected and appreciated in Kuwait's design, engineering and construction fraternity. He also expressed appreciation that His Excellency, Eng. Abdulatif H. Al-Meshari has kindly agreed to grace the function. This clearly reflects his interest in the engineering profession, and his desire to promote the quality of design and construction in the State of Kuwait.

The Awards Function will be held in the main auditorium of College of Engineering and Petroleum (South Campus), Kuwait University, Sabah Al Salem University City, starting at 7.30 pm. Engineers and guests wishing to attend the function may call on the following phone number for more details: # 66246751.



Dr. Genge poses for a group photo with ambassadors, diplomats, and friends during the event.

Dr Pillai inspires students

Lecture on space innovation attracts over 1,250 attendees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Institution of Engineers (India) - Kuwait Chapter, in collaboration with FAIPS-DPS, successfully organized an enlightening lecture titled "Innovation in Space Science and the Future of Humanity" on Sunday, November 24, 2024, at the Auditorium of FAIPS-DPS Ahmadi, Kuwait. The event featured Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai, a globally renowned space scientist and visionary, as the Chief Guest. Known for his pivotal contributions to India's defense and space programs, Dr. Pillai captivated an audience of over 1,250 students from FAIPS-DPS and three other leading schools in Kuwait, making the event a monumental success.

The event was meticulously conducted by the talented students of FAIPS-DPS, who served as the Masters of Ceremony, showcasing their professionalism and poise throughout the program.

The program officially commenced with the Kuwait National Anthem, marking the start of the event. Bouquets were presented to the dignitaries, including Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, Principal of DPS, Chief Guest Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai, distinguished scientist at DRDO and ISRO, Ms. Vineeta Munshi, Vice Principal (Admin), Dr. Sheeba Balraj Kdyan, Vice Principal (Academics), by key members of the IEI Kuwait Chapter, including Dr. Mahendran, Past Chairman, Eng. Sam Ananth, Honorary Chairman, Eng. Sudhir Menghani, Honorary General Secretary, and Eng. Karthikeyan Manickam, Treasurer. This ceremonial gesture set the tone for an inspiring session ahead. The opening inauguration address were delivered by Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, Principal of FAIPS-DPS, who emphasized the importance of nurturing curiosity and inspiring students to dream big in science and technology also reiterated the importance of shifting the focus from purely academic oriented education to life skill based education in order to help the students to adapt well in the uncertain future where many of the current professions would become obsolete. The Chief Guest, Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai, was introduced by a FAIPS-DPS student highlighting his remarkable achievements as the Found-



Photo from the event

er, MD, and Former CEO of BrahMos Aerospace, as well as a distinguished scientist at DRDO and ISRO.

Dr. Pillai's keynote lecture was the highlight of the event. He explored the transformative potential of innovation in space science, emphasizing its role in shaping the future of humanity. His speech delved into technological advancements, sustainability, and the critical role of engineers and scientists in addressing global challenges. His words left a profound impact on the young audience, inspiring them to think creatively and boldly about their future careers in science, technology, and engineering.

The interactive Q&A session provided students with an opportunity to engage directly with Dr. Pillai. Their thoughtful questions about space exploration, artificial intelligence, and sustainability reflected their enthusiasm and curiosity. Dr. Pillai answered each query with great enthusiasm, further fueling their passion for learning. As a token of appreciation, mementos were presented to the dignitaries. Dr. Mahendran honored Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai with a memento, and in turn, Dr. Pillai presented mementos to Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, Principal of DPS, this exchange of mementos highlighted the collaborative spirit of the program, bringing together educators, engineers, and students in a shared journey of learning and inspiration.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Eng. Sudhir Menghani, Honorary General Secretary of the IEI Kuwait Chapter.

GUST's festival strengthens Kuwait-South Korea cultural ties

Korean Street Food Festival 2024, celebration of culture and cuisine

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with Gulf University for Science & Technology (GUST), hosted the "2024 Korean Street Food Festival" on Nov 28, offering a vibrant celebration of Korean culture and cuisine.

The festival provided a rare opportunity to savor authentic Korean street food favorites, including Gim-bap, Tteokbokki, Bulgogi and an array of Korean-style chicken dishes for all those who attended the event.

A highlight of the event was two interactive sessions showcasing the preparation of Kimchi, Korea's iconic fermented dish, allowing visitors to delve deeper into this culinary tradition.

A diverse crowd, including GUST faculty, students, distinguished guests and Kuwaitis from all walks of life, joined in the festivities.

The event also featured participation from renowned Korean restaurants such as Kim's House, Korea Gwan, Seoulian, Sinjeon Tteokbokki, The Kimchi and Thomas Bbokki, ensuring an authentic gastronomic experience.

This year's festival marked the seventh edition of the event and was particularly special due to its venue at GUST.

The collaboration underscores the growing interest of young Kuwaitis in Korean culture, an enthusiasm further fueled by global milestones like Han Kang's 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature.

The 2024 Korean Street Food Festival not only celebrated culinary delights but also strengthened cultural ties between Kuwait and South Korea.

By introducing more Kuwaitis, especially university students, to the rich traditions of Korea, the festival further cemented the enduring friendship between the two nations.



Some of the dignitaries who attended the event pose for a photo with the Korean Ambassador.



Authentic dishes and cooking sessions delight attendees.

The Korean street food is a vibrant and essential part of Korea's culinary culture, offering a variety of flavors and textures. Popular items include -- Tteokbokki - Spicy stir-fried rice cakes in a sweet and spicy

chili sauce; Gim-bap - Seaweed rice rolls filled with vegetables, egg and sometimes meat or fish, often likened to sushi rolls; Hotteok - Sweet pancakes stuffed with brown sugar, nuts and cinnamon, perfect for colder weather.

This is in addition to Bungeop-

pang - Fish-shaped pastries filled with sweet red bean paste or custard; Odeng (Eomuk) - Skewered fish cakes served in hot broth, a comforting and savory treat and the Korean Fried Chicken - Crispy chicken coated in a variety of sauces, ranging from soy garlic to spicy chili.

Sizzling fun awaits at LuLu 'BBQ & Grill-Time to Chill' promotion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Fire up grills and turn up the fun as LuLu Hypermarket presents the much-awaited 'BBQ & Grill-Time to Chill' promotion. From 27 November to 3 December, BBQ enthusiasts across Kuwait can enjoy unbeatable deals, exciting activities, and a week-long celebration of grilling at all outlets of LuLu Hypermarket. This sizzling extravaganza promises something for everyone, whether a seasoned grill master or simply a lover of the flavors of a perfectly grilled feast.

The 'LuLu BBQ & Grill-Time to Chill' promotion was launched on 28 November at the Jahra outlet of LuLu Hypermarket by Abdullah Owaid Al-Hathal, Member of the Kuwaiti Municipal Council along with top management of LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait and Alyoum, the main sponsor of the promotion.



Photos during the launch of 'LuLu BBQ & Grill-Time to Chill' promotion.

The opening day delivered a dynamic lineup of activities, headlined by a Live BBQ contest where more than 100 participants showcased their grilling skills. With Alyoum as the main sponsor and Sadia, Americana, and Seara as co-sponsors, it

was a chicken-fest as contestants competed for grand prize

The first, second, and third place winners of the competition were presented with gift vouchers worth KD150, KD100, and KD75 respectively, by the top management of



LuLu Kuwait and representatives of the sponsors. To ensure every participant in the competition was a winner, consolation prizes were presented to all participants.

Visitors to LuLu Jahra on the big day enjoyed a spectacular array

of attractions. From a full-fledged range of BBQ products and accessories to master and enjoy grilling, to food sampling counters from the sponsors, which provided delectable products that were offered to taste and savor.

The lively atmosphere was further elevated by food trucks, a special kids' play zone, and captivating performances, including an LED water drum show, a live music band, a bubble show, and appearances by mascots and a towering entertainer known as 'The Tallest Man.'

The 'LuLu BBQ & Grill-Time to Chill' promotion gives customers the chance to explore unbeatable discounts on a variety of BBQ essentials, including premium meats, fresh fish, flavorful sauces, grilling sets, and accessories.

With smoking deals and mouth-watering flavors, the promotion is more than just a shopping event, it is a celebration of community, food, and fun. Head to your nearest LuLu outlet before 3 December to experience the joy of grilling like never before, and to make your BBQ dreams come to life.



Handlers guide a Santa Claus balloon down Sixth Avenue during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Nov. 28, in New York. (AP)



The Spider-Man balloon floats in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. (AP)



The Dora the Explorer balloon floats in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. (AP)

From Santa to celebrities, the annual Macy's Parade in pictures

A giant, golden Thanksgiving turkey in a top hat rode on a float through confetti in the colors of fall leaves. A muscular Spider-Man balloon floated in the air, crouched in a web-spinning pose. From a sled piled high with presents, Santa Claus waved to spectators.

These were some of the sights at the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as it wended its way along a 2.5-mile (4-kilometer) route through

central Manhattan on Thursday, 100 years after it was first staged in 1924. This year's revelry featured 17 helium-filled character balloons, including a yellow-skinned, blue-overalled Minion from the "Despicable Me" animated franchise, and 22 floats, one of them topped by a torch-hoisting Statue of Liberty.

Eleven marching bands came from as far away as Texas and South Da-

kota to join 700 clowns, 10 performing groups and celebrity guests in the procession.

Despite a soaking rain and temperatures hovering around 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 Celsius), onlookers crowded the parade route, clad in plastic ponchos and huddled under umbrellas. From inside buildings, kids pressed up against glass windows to marvel at the spectacle. (AP)

Variety

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.: Josh Allen's latest kneel-down had nothing to do with football.

The Buffalo Bills quarterback and actor **Hailee Steinfeld** posted a photo to their Instagram followers on Friday - 20.3 million for Steinfeld and a mere 1.3 million for Allen - of Allen on one knee proposing marriage. The picture was taken on a grassy ridge overlooking water, with the couple surrounded by candles and framed by a large arch covered in flowers.

The NFL reposted the picture on X to congratulate the pair on their engagement, with a message ending with a ring and heart emoji.

The setting was likely somewhere on the California coastline, where Allen lives in the offseason. And the proposal likely occurred sometime last week, when the Bills had a bye.

Allen didn't reveal the engagement during his weekly news conference on Wednesday as the AFC East-leading Bills (9-2) prepare to host the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night. But he did smile widely when asked how he enjoyed his bye week.

"Fantastic. It was great. Got some sun. Hung out with family. It was fantastic," he said.

Allen and Steinfeld were first linked in the spring of 2023, when they were photographed dining together in New York City. Months later, Allen acknowledged the two were dating, but asked The Associated Press not to mention Steinfeld by name in a bid to maintain a semblance of privacy. (AP)



Steinfeld

Allen and Steinfeld were first linked in the spring of 2023, when they were photographed dining together in New York City. Months later, Allen acknowledged the two were dating, but asked The Associated Press not to mention Steinfeld by name in a bid to maintain a semblance of privacy. (AP)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.: Pop superstar Taylor Swift was spending Black Friday amid a sea of red to watch her boyfriend, Travis Kelce, and the rest of the Kansas City Chiefs as they played the Las Vegas Raiders in a chilly matinee at Arrowhead Stadium.

Swift had the Thanksgiving weekend off from her Eras Tour before it wraps with three shows in Vancouver beginning Dec. 6.

Swift walked down the tunnel into Arrowhead Stadium wearing a black outfit and red jacket as camera flashes created a strobe-like effect. Her arrival at Chiefs games over the past year-plus - ever since she started dating Kelce, who had reached out to her with an invitation to a game - has become a red-carpet moment for both local and national media.

Earlier in the day, Target stores across the country began selling an exclusive book devoted to the Eras Tour along with a bonus edition of her "The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology" that it said would only be available in stores on Black Friday. (AP)

MEXICO CITY: Silvia Pinal, an actress from Mexico's Golden Age of cinema in the 1940s and 50s, has died. She was 93.

Over her 60-year career, Pinal appeared in movies with Mexican comics like Cantinflas and Tin Tan, heartthrobs like Pedro Infante, and starred in Luis Buñuel's 1961 film "Viridiana." Pinal went on to appear in two other Buñuel films, "The Exterminating Angel" in 1962, and "Simon of the Desert" in 1965.

She was one of the few Golden Age actresses who also adapted to a subsequent career in television, after the quality of Mexican film began tapering off in the 1960s. She also worked as a producer, and served in Congress.

Earlier this month, her family said she had been hospitalized for a urinary tract infection. Her death was confirmed by Mexico's Culture Secretary, Claudia Curiel de Icaza.

"Her legacy as an artist and her contributions to our culture are unforgettable. Rest in peace," Curiel de Icaza wrote in her social media accounts.

She is survived by her ex-husband, Enrique Guzmán, and her daughters, actress Sylvia Pasquel and rock singer Alejandra Guzmán. (AP)

Film



Jury members, (from left to right), Virginie Efira, Ali Abbasi, Patricia Arquette, Santiago Mitre, Luca Guadagnino, Nadia Kounda, Andrew Garfield, Zoya Akhtar and Jacob Elordi, pose during the opening ceremony of the 21st Marrakech International Film Festival, in Marrakech, Morocco, Friday, Nov. 29. (AP)

Festival highlights Middle Eastern, African cinema

Marrakech Festival opens with 'The Order'

MARRAKECH, Morocco, Nov 30, (AP): One of the Middle East and North Africa's largest film festivals opened Friday in Morocco, drawing actors and directors from throughout the world to present 70 features from 32 countries.

The Marrakech International Film Festival, now in its 21st year, will showcase Oscar contenders and screen films for members of the public. But unlike larger festivals in Venice, Cannes or Toronto, it places unique emphasis on emerging directors and films from the Middle East and Africa.

The roster of actors and directors who will participate in this year's conversations and tributes includes Sean Penn, Alfonso Cuarón and David Cronenberg.

Remi Bonhomme, the festival's artistic director, said what makes the festival unique is its ability to draw talent on par with the world's largest festivals while also spotlighting up-and-coming directors from Morocco, the Middle East and

Africa.

"We pay a lot of attention to countries that are underrepresented in cinema," he said. "We support filmmakers who have their own voice, who develop a story that is in a specific context, whether it is Iran, Morocco or the US."

"But they don't have to be the voice of their country. They have the need to have the freedom to express their own personal vision," he added.

Among the themes that Bonhomme is excited about in this year's films is family. Filmmakers, including "The Seed of the Sacred Fig" director Mohammad Rasoulof, are "exploring social and political impact through the scale of a family," Bonhomme said.

The festival opened Friday with "The Order" - a thriller starring Jude Law that chronicles an FBI manhunt for the leader of a white supremacist group.

The jury competition contains 14 first or second films. The nine-person jury includes actors Jacob Elordi and Andrew Garfield as well as Ali Abbasi, the Iranian-Danish director of "The Apprentice." Luca Guadagnino, the Italian-Algerian director of "Queer" will preside over the jury.

The films in competition include Saïd Hamich's "Across the Sea" about a young Moroccan man's immigration to Marseille and Damian Kocur's "Under the Volcano," Poland's Oscar entry for Best International Feature.

The festival - founded by Morocco's King Mohammed VI and is presided over by his brother Prince Moulay Rachid - plays a major role in showcasing and promoting Moroccan films and directors.

It has rarely shied away from diverse subject matter and this year will screen Moroccan films about immigration, homosexuality, bar performers and Moroccan communist Jews.

Motorsports icon leaves lasting legacy in racing

'Motorcycle Mary' McGee dies ahead of doc release

GARDNERVILLE, Nev., Nov 30, (AP): Mary McGee, a female racing pioneer and subject profiled in an Oscar-contending documentary "Motorcycle Mary," has died, her family said. She was 87.

"McGee's unparalleled achievements in off-road racing and motorcycle racing have inspired generations of athletes that followed in her footsteps," her family said in a statement.

The family said McGee died of complications from a stroke at her home in Gardnerville, Nevada, on Wednesday, the day before the release of the short documentary "Motorcycle Mary" on ESPN's YouTube channel. Seven-time Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton was an executive producer on the film, which became available globally on Thursday. Its premiere was at the Tribeca Festival in June.

"Mary embodied resilience, grace, and optimism," McGee's family wrote on social media. "She was a historic athlete and a motorsports pioneer who embraced life's chal-



In this undated image provided by Breakwater Studios shows Mary McGee during an interview. (AP)

lenges, cared deeply for others, and made time to brighten the lives of those around her. While we are deeply saddened by this loss, we are comforted knowing that her light will continue to shine in everyone she touched."

McGee had an accomplished racing resume, first in auto racing and later in motorcycle racing. She became the first person - man or woman - to complete the grueling

Baja 500 off-road race in Mexico solo, which she did in 1975.

The film about her was directed by Haley Watson. Two-time Oscar winner Ben Proudfoot also was an executive producer.

"I'm deeply saddened by this news, but I am comforted to know that Mary was surrounded by friends and family at the time of her passing," Watson said. "In early 2022, I was researching stories when I came across Mary's. That discovery marked the tipping point into uncovering a much larger and truly incredible career in motorsports and life journey."

Shortly after her family announced her death, Hamilton paid tribute on his Instagram account: "I'm deeply saddened to hear that Mary McGee, the first woman to road race motorcycles in the U.S and the first person to solo the Baja 500 has passed on." Hamilton wrote. "My condolences to her family and everyone who she's inspired. Her legacy will live on as a trailblazer in the world of motorsports and beyond."

Born in Juneau, Alaska, during World War II, McGee and her older brother were sent to Iowa to live with their grandparents. Her brother became a race car driver and encouraged his sister to take up the sport, even though it was almost unprecedented for women at that time.

Racing team owner Vasek Polak persuaded McGee to drive a Porsche Spyder, and she won races. Polak later persuaded her to try motorcycle racing and she also excelled.

Steve McQueen, the late actor and racing enthusiast, was the one who persuaded McGee to take part in the Baja 500.

McGee was the first woman to race motocross in the United States, the first to compete in an international motocross competition and the first to receive sponsorships from major brands.

She was one of the most influential women in the history of motorsports and known for her mentorship of other women in racing.

McGee was inducted into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 2018.

HEALTH



A special seminar with Dr. Ibrahim Al-Rashdan, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, on maintaining heart health.



NBK headquarters lit in blue to mark World Diabetes Day.

Bank HQ lights up blue to raise awareness on prostate cancer and diabetes

NBK promotes staff wellness with November Health Campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: On World Diabetes Awareness Day, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched a health campaign to raise awareness during the month of November focusing on increasing awareness of diabetes and prostate cancer.

This Health Campaign is a part of NBK's Staff Wellbeing program that aims to improve employees' health and lifestyle.

The campaign included several health-focused activities and events at NBK's headquarters. The building was lit in blue to mark World



Yaqoub Al-Baqer

Diabetes Day and promote awareness of the importance of early detection for prostate cancer. The NBK clinic offered specialized screenings for male employees and host two separate consultations with an endocrinologist specializing in diabetes and a specialist in prostate health.

Yaqoub Al Baqer, NBK Public Relations Senior Manager, commented on this occasion: "This initiative is part of a series of awareness campaigns regularly held under NBK's Employee Wellness

Program, which aims to provide comprehensive support and care for our staff". "NBK takes a holistic approach to employee wellness, going beyond professional development to also prioritize mental and physical health, ultimately contributing to long-term sustainable performance," He added.

"This awareness campaign reflects NBK's commitment towards our employees who represent a completely foundational priority at NBK, and is one of our six main sustainability focus areas," he noted.

In partnership with Al Hajery Pharmacy, a booth was set at NBK Headquarters, where employees can purchase the latest blood glucose monitors or exchange their older models for new ones. This provided employees with convenient access to the latest technology to help them monitor and manage their health.

The campaign also featured a special seminar with Dr. Ibrahim Al Rashdan, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, to provide guidance on maintaining heart health and

share lifestyle tips for disease prevention.

This campaign reflects NBK's role as a leader in social responsibility and its dedication to the wellbeing of the Kuwaiti community. NBK strives to highlight its support to its employees as part of this commitment through health and well-being activities and events. NBK remains committed to supporting the health sector through a variety of initiatives, including blood donation drives and ongoing support for hospitals and healthcare organizations.

Emotional debate

UK MPs give initial nod to bill on assisted dying

LONDON, Nov 30, (AP): British lawmakers gave initial approval on Friday to a bill to help terminally ill adults end their lives in England and Wales, following an impassioned debate that saw people sharing personal stories of loss and suffering.

Members of Parliament approved the assisted dying bill by a 330-275 vote, signaling their approval in principle for the bill, which will undergo further scrutiny before it goes to a final vote.

Friday's vote came after hours of debate - emotional at times - that touched on issues of ethics, faith and law. There was no braying and shouting that often marks debates in the House of Commons and speeches were considered respectfully and heard in silence.

"Let's be clear, we're not talking about a choice between life or death, we are talking about giving dying people a choice about how to die," the bill's main sponsor, Kim Leadbeater, said as she presented the bill to a packed chamber.

Supporters said the law would provide dignity to the dying and prevent suffering, while protecting the vulnerable.

Opponents said the disabled and elderly were at risk of being coerced, directly or indirectly, to end their lives to save money or relieve the burden on family members. Others called for the improvement of palliative care to ease suffering as an alternative.

The proposed bill would allow adults over the age of 18 who are expected to have fewer than six months to live to request and be provided help to end their life, subject to several safeguards.

They would have to be capable of taking the fatal drugs themselves, and two independent doctors and a High Court judge will have to sign off on any decision. The bill will not apply to Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Backers of the bill told heart-wrenching stories about constituents and family members who suffered in the final months of their lives and dying people

who committed suicide in secret because it is currently a crime for anyone to provide assistance.

Danny Kruger, who led the argument against the bill, cautioned lawmakers not to back a "state suicide service." He argued that no amount of safeguards will stop many vulnerable people feeling the pressure to make a request to end their lives.

Kruger voiced his disappointment at the outcome but said there's a chance lawmakers will reject the bill when it comes back for a vote in the next few months. Some of those voting in favor said they only did so to examine the details further and could potentially vote against it in the future.

"I still think we can stop it," he said. Although the bill was proposed by Leadbeater, a member of the ruling center-left Labour Party, it was an open vote with alliances formed across the political divide.

The government is widely expected to come up in the next few months with assessments on how assisted dying will be funded and how it would impact the U.K.'s state-funded National Health Service, hospice care and the legal system.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer did not show his hand ahead of the vote, but backed the change. Others in his Cabinet, including Health Secretary Wes Streeting and the Justice Minister Shabana Mahmood, voted against. There were similar divisions across other political parties.

Long-time British campaigner Esther Rantzen, who is terminally ill with lung cancer and played a leading role in advocating the need for a vote on assisted dying, voiced her joy at the "wonderful" outcome and said it will give people an "equal choice."

When diagnosed with her terminal illness, Rantzen said she would travel to Switzerland to bring an end to her life, where the law allows assisted dying for non-residents.



The speakers at the workshop.

KUNA photo

Advanced hybrid imaging devices adopted

Kuwait enhances nuclear medicine services

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Dr. Abdul Redha Ismail, Head of the Nuclear Medicine Departments Council, announced that Kuwait's nuclear medicine departments handle approximately 20,000 cases annually across various hospitals.

He highlighted the significant progress made in the field, particularly the integration of advanced

hybrid imaging devices at Al-Jahra Hospital.

During the opening of the workshop on "Imaging Kidney and Urinary Tract Diseases in Nuclear Medicine," which was held under the patronage of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Dr. Ismail emphasized the commitment of nuclear medicine departments to adhere to international standards and protocols.

This includes using radiation safely to protect both patients and healthcare workers.

Dr. Zeina Al-Banna, the workshop's Vice President, shared that the workshop aims to enhance the Ministry of Health's role in improving healthcare services through the latest nuclear medicine technologies.

The event focused on the latest developments in molecular imaging and its application in diagnosing kidney and urinary tract diseases, featuring interactive discussions and lectures with attendees.

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'We are delighted to be part of this event through our sport and lifestyle brand'

AAW & INTERSPORT sponsor the 9th Flare Fitness Festival



Left-right: Photos from the 9th Flare Fitness Festival.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) and INTERSPORT, one of its leading sports brands, announced today the sponsorship of the 9th edition of the Flare Fitness Festival, which took place November 21-23 at Marina Crescent.

The INTERSPORT booth featured a range of sports activities with prizes and vouchers throughout the three-day Flare Fitness Festival that aimed to motivate and encourage participants and spectators to engage in sports activities at the event.

AAW's Corporate Relations Manager, Mr. Khaled Bader Al Mutawa, said: "We are delighted to be part of this event through our sport and lifestyle brand, INTERSPORT. We will continue to support and encourage initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles within the community among all age groups."

Flare Fitness Festival is one of the largest fitness competitions in Kuwait. The event provides athletes with a platform to compete in obstacles and challenges across various sports. Tournaments include The Heat endurance race, The Hindrance obstacle race, The Student Competition, The Barbell weightlifting challenge, The Knockout, and the Sea-Master



One of the events in progress.

water challenge.

AAW has a long-standing commitment to supporting local sports initiatives. In recent years, the company has supported the first kids' marathon organized by "Omniaty", a national non-profit project granting wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. AAW has also supported and participated in the "Hyatt Breast Cancer Foundation's Hayatt First Pink Walkathon", a non-profit organization providing treatment for cancer patients across Kuwait. Additionally, the company sponsored "RunQ8", Kuwait's largest charity event for children, hosted by the non-profit organization Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute.

INTERSPORT offers a wide range of sports gear, accessories, and apparel for sports such as running, training, football, swimming, tennis, padel, squash, and badminton, from global brands such as Speedo, Nike, adidas, Reebok, On Running, New Balance, Under Armour, Babolat, and more. INTERSPORT stores are located at Murouj Complex, The Avenues, Al-Bairaq Mall, Manara Complex, the Proshop At Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait, Assima Mall, Tilal Complex, Bnaider 264, Al-Andalus Mall, and SVN Resort.

Hawks hand Cavaliers second loss of season



Minnesota Timberwolves forward Nickeil Alexander-Walker, top, fouls Los Angeles Clippers forward Amir Coffey, bottom, as they vie for a loose ball in the third quarter of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)

Trail Blazers stay alive in NBA Cup

ATLANTA, Nov 30, (AP): De'Andre Hunter scored 23 points off Atlanta's bench and the Hawks beat Cleveland 117-101 on Friday in the NBA Cup, handing the Cavaliers a loss for the second time in three days.

The Cavaliers (17-3) still boast the NBA's best record but they once again couldn't match the Hawks' scoring depth. Trae Young had 21 points and 11 assists, and Jalen Johnson added 17 points, nine rebounds and seven assists as Atlanta finished with six scorers in double figures.

Darius Garland led Cleveland with 29 points and Evan Mobley added 24 points, including seven dunks.

Atlanta won 135-124 at Cleveland on Wednesday night as Young set a career high with 22 assists. Young leads the NBA in assists 12.5 per game.

Trail Blazers 115, Kings 106

In Portland, Deandre Ayton had 26 points and nine rebounds to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 115-106 victory over the Sacramento Kings in an NBA Cup game.

Anfernee Simons added 21 points and nine assists and Deni Avdija had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Blazers. Dalano Banton scored 17 off the bench and also had a career-high five steals.

Malik Monk led the Kings with 29 points off the bench. De'Aaron Fox added 22 points and Domantas Sabonis had 21.

With the win, the Blazers are now 2-1 in the Western Conference's Group

A behind the Rockets, who lead the group at 3-0, and remain in contention to advance after the Lakers lost 101-93 to the Thunder on Friday. The Kings are 0-3 in the NBA Cup.

Thunder 10, Lakers 93

In Los Angeles, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 36 points, including 15 in the fourth quarter, and the Oklahoma City Thunder held on for a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in an NBA Cup game.

It is the fifth time in the past six games Gilgeous-Alexander has scored at least 30 points. Jalen Williams added 19 points as the Thunder won their fourth straight.

Dalton Knecht scored 20 points, in-

cluding five 3-pointers for the Lakers, who have dropped four of their last five. D'Angelo Russell had 17 points off the bench.

With the loss, Los Angeles can not advance to the quarterfinals after winning the inaugural NBA Cup tournament last year.

Heat 121, Raptors 111

In Miami, Jimmy Butler scored 26 points, Tyler Herro added 23 and the Miami Heat beat the Toronto Raptors.

The Heat were 21 of 54 on 3-pointers in the game, the third-most attempts from beyond the arc in franchise history. Miami has taken 56 in a game twice. Bam Adebayo had a triple-double for Miami - 14 points, 10 assists and 10 re-

bounds, the last of those boards coming after Butler airballed a jumper in the final seconds. Jaime Jaquez Jr. scored 15 points for the Heat, who moved back over .500 at 9-8.

Scottie Barnes had a triple-double for Toronto with 24 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. RJ Barrett scored 25 for Toronto and Jakob Poeltl - on 10-for-11 shooting - finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds.

Pistons 130, Pacers 106

In Indianapolis, Cade Cunningham had 24 points and 11 rebounds in his return from a three-game absence. Jaden Ivey added 23 points and the Detroit Pistons beat the Indiana Pacers.

Cunningham hit four of Detroit's 18 3-pointers as the Pistons improved to 3-0 in NBA Cup play. Malik Beasley added 22 points for Detroit, which moved into a first-place tie with Milwaukee in East Group B.

Pascal Siakam scored 21 points for the Pacers, who fell to 0-3 in the NBA Cup and were eliminated from the knockout round. Tyrese Haliburton had 19 points and five assists.

The Pistons led by 10 points at half-time and pulled ahead by 22 early in the fourth quarter.

Timberwolves 93, Clippers 92

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 21 points on 7-for-21 shooting to help the Minnesota Timberwolves-top a four-game losing streak by holding off the Los Angeles Clippers.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker had 12 points and 10 rebounds and Julius Randle added 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who overcame 22 turnovers and another blown double-digit lead.

Event slated for April 18, 2025

Thrilling Red Bull Flying Day to make its 'comeback' in Kuwait



A file photo of participants in action.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Kuwait is set to welcome the thrilling Red Bull Flying Day on April 18, 2025, at Marina Beach, marking its return after more than a decade. This exciting event will see local participants competing to "fly" in unique, self-designed flying vehicles, showcasing their creativity and engineering skills in a fun-filled atmosphere before making a splash in the water.

Aspiring participants eager to take on this challenge must submit their most imaginative flying vehicle designs, featuring distinctive and unconventional shapes. Once selected, teams of four to five mem-

bers will construct their creations, gearing up for a test of human-powered flight from an 8.5-meter-long platform. Participants will aim to defy gravity, impress the crowd, and earn the coveted title of "Red Bull Flying Day" champion.

Open to anyone aged 18 and above, applicants must submit their entries by January 12, 2025, through the following link: [redbull.com/flyingdaykuwait](https://www.redbull.com/flyingdaykuwait).

With over nine million spectators globally and more than 20,000 fans attending each local competition in Kuwait over the years, Red Bull Flying Day continues to soar in popularity.

Norris hands PIASTRI victory in Qatar F1 sprint, defying McLaren orders

LUSAIL, Qatar, Nov 30, (AP) - Lando Norris ignored team orders as he handed his McLaren teammate Oscar PIASTRI the win in the sprint race at the Qatar Grand Prix on Saturday.

With McLaren eyeing its first Formula 1 constructors' title in 26 years and George Russell close behind for Mercedes, Norris was told by the team over the radio to "finish in this order," ahead of PIASTRI.

He chose to gift his teammate the win anyway, easing off to the right on the exit of the final corner and then swooping back across in front of Russell, who finished third.

"The team told me not to do it, but I thought I could get away with it and we did," Norris said. "Honestly, I don't mind. I'm not here to win sprint races, I'm here to win races and the championship, but that's not gone to plan."

Norris was paying PIASTRI back for doing the same in the sprint race in Brazil when Norris was still fighting

Max Verstappen for the drivers' title.

"I made my mind up in Brazil when it happened," Norris said. "I needed to do something to give it back."

PIASTRI said he hadn't expected Norris to take the risk.

"I was aware it could happen. I was a bit surprised that with George half a second (away) it did," PIASTRI said. "It just shows off our teamwork and the lack of egos within the team."

It continues a season where McLaren's race tactics have often been a talking point, such as when Norris and PIASTRI swapped for the lead in Hungary after a lengthy and often-awkward radio exchange with the team.

On Saturday, Norris started on pole position and kept the lead at the start as PIASTRI squeezed past Russell for second. As Russell repeatedly attacked PIASTRI for second, Norris dropped back instead of building a lead. That put PIASTRI within one second of Norris, allowing the Australian to use the DRS overtaking aid for extra speed.



McLaren driver Oscar PIASTRI of Australia crosses the finish line followed by his teammate McLaren driver Lando Norris of Britain and Mercedes driver George Russell of Britain during sprint race at the Formula One Qatar Grand Prix, at the Lusail International Circuit in Lusail, Qatar. (AP)

'Gulf countries serve as role model'

Water Sports Association Chair expresses joy over Kuwait hosting the Gulf Summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: The Chair of the Arab and Asian Associations for Water Sports Sheikh Khalid Al-Bader Al-Sabah expressed his happiness over Kuwait hosting the 45th Gulf Summit, and shared the hopes of the people for security, safety, and prosperity in all fields.

He affirmed that the unity, strong spirit of brotherhood, and solidarity among the people of the GCC countries have al-

ways been distinctive characteristics for enhancing collaboration in various sectors, including sports.

Sheikh Khalid highlighted that the Gulf countries serve as a model for successfully organizing international and global sports events, which reflects the ongoing development and progress that GCC leaders strive to achieve.

This includes ensuring security, safety,

stability, and the well-being of all citizens.

He concluded by offering sincere prayers to God Almighty, asking for continued blessings of security, safety, stability, and unity for the leaders and people of the GCC countries, and for guiding them toward further progress and prosperity, adding that Kuwait has shone brightly, and has been enriched by the presence of its esteemed guests.



Sheikh Khalid Al Bader Al Sabah

Al-Salmiya regains lead in the handball league

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Al-Salmiya regained its lead in the Handball League with a dominant 39-17 victory over Al-Tadamon in the tenth round of the preliminary stage. Meanwhile, Khaitan secured a hard-fought 34-31 win against Al-Yarmouk in the same round.

Al-Salmiya controlled the game from the outset, ending



Al-Salmiya player makes a goal attempt against Al-Tadamon.

the first half with a commanding 23-10 lead. It maintained its dominance in the second half to seal the win, leaving Al-Tadamon still searching for its first victory.

Khaitan, on the other hand, celebrated its second consecutive win with an impressive performance.

It built momentum with a strong first half and maintained its edge in the second to collect its eighth point.

The round kicked off with an intense derby between Al-Qadisiya and Al-Arabi. Al-Qadisiya triumphed 29-20 in a thrilling match characterized by fierce competition.

Leading 16-10 at halftime, Al-Qadisiya continued to outshine its rival in the second half, bolstering its chances of finishing among the Premier League's top six.

Elsewhere, Al-Qurain defeated Al-Fahaheel 35-28. Al-Qurain led 19-16 at halftime and extended its advantage in the second half, earning a critical victory to climb further in the standings.

Al-Qurain aims for an upset as Al-Arabi eyes another win

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Al-Arabi will seek its second win in the basketball league when it faces Al-Qurain at 7:30 pm in the fourth round of the tournament. The day's action will also feature a clash between Al-Tadamon and Al-Yarmouk at 5:00 pm. Both matches are set to take place at the Union



Al-Arabi seeks new victory in the basketball league.

Hall within Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex.

Al-Arabi comes into the game on the back of an 85-66 victory over Al-Yarmouk in the first round. The team has bolstered its lineup with Iranian player Salar Monji and Cape Verde's Anderson Gomez and aims to continue its strong performances to solidify its position among the league leader. Al-Qurain, on the other hand, narrowly lost to Al-Nasr in its opener, falling short by just one point (79-80). It now looks to secure its first win and prove its competitive potential against a formidable Al-Arabi squad.

In the earlier matchup, Al-Tadamon and Al-Yarmouk will square off under similar circumstances. Both teams have yet to secure a victory in the league, each holding two points from two losses. The game presents an opportunity for either side to claim its first win and gain momentum in the tournament.

Southampton 'denied' by a controversial VAR decision



Southampton's Flynn Downes, left, and Brighton and Hove Albion's Joao Pedro battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match at the American Express Stadium, Brighton and Hove, England. (AP)

Brighton held at home

BRIGHTON, England, Nov 30, (AP): Southampton was denied a priceless victory by a controversial VAR decision and ended up drawing with host Brighton 1-1 in the English Premier League.

Kaoru Mitoma spectacularly headed Brighton into a first half lead and Flynn Downes hammered the equalizer an hour in. Then minutes later teammate Cameron Archer converted a cross from Saints substitute Ryan Fraser.

A VAR check of more than four minutes eventually decided Archer was outside but then penalized Adam Armstrong, who was offside but did not touch the ball, for interfering with goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen.

"I find it hard to accept," Southampton manager Russell Martin told broadcaster Sky Sports.

"We were told it affects Bart Verbruggen's ability, and if Adam's run moved Verbruggen from his position then I would understand the decision, but he hasn't moved. I cannot see how



Southampton's Flynn Downes, right, celebrates scoring during the English Premier League soccer match at the American Express Stadium, Brighton and Hove, England. (AP)

it has affected the goalkeeper.

"It is still human error in my opinion. The mistake is, it's not clear and obvious enough to be corrected. The on-field decision carries weight. I am frustrated." It meant Saints, still on the bottom of the league, had to settle for a first away point.

Martin was proud of his team: "They have been creeping up with belief. We

were excellent and went toe to toe with a team who have gone second."

Brighton's point lifted it up to second on the table, level on points and goal difference with Manchester City.

The disallowed goal was brilliantly set up. Tyler Dibling wriggled clear of three Brighton players inside his own half and spread the ball to Fraser. The midfielder's low cross evaded Arm-

strong and was finished at the far post by Archer - only to be chalked off to the dismay of Martin.

The official explanation was "Armstrong was in an offside position and deemed to be impacting Verbruggen's ability to play the ball."

There was more drama towards the end of 13 minutes of added time when Brighton sub Simon Adingra's effort beat Saints goalkeeper Joe Lumley in his league debut but flicked the outside of the far post.

At fulltime, managers Martin and Fabian Hurlzeler squared up to each other, and later accused the other of disrespect.

Both of them were booked during the bad-tempered match; Hurlzeler for waving an imaginary yellow card in the first half and Martin for his reaction to more protesting from the Brighton boss after a foul by Downes.

"It's important to respect each other and how you talk to each other," Hurlzeler said. "That's how I was educated."

Martin was unimpressed with Hurlzeler's touchline antics.

"The manager decided to say something about respect," Martin said. "I've never known a manager try to get as many players booked as that. Respect is reciprocal. It's mutual."

'The conditions favorable for seamers'

Jansen takes 11 wickets, SA beats Sri Lanka by 233 runs in 1st test

DURBAN, South Africa, Nov 30, (AP): South Africa wrapped up a 233-run win over Sri Lanka and medium-pacer Marco Jansen finished with 11 wickets in the first test at Kingsmead on Saturday.

Sri Lanka was set an improbable 516 target and started the fourth day in a deep hole at 103-5. It was all out for 282, hastened by the dismissal of Dinesh Chandimal, who led the resistance with 83.

After Chandimal was out caught and bowled by Gerald Coetzee, Sri Lanka's last three wickets folded for 11 runs in the next six overs.

Jansen, the 2.06-meter left-armer, took the last two wickets for 4-73 in the innings and 11-86 in the match for his maiden 10-for in his 14th test.

"The conditions were favorable for seamers," Proteas captain Temba Bavuma said. "We were confident that if they could put us in trouble, we could do so. Batting always felt tricky, you never felt in."

South Africa, trying to reach its first World Test Championship final, moved up to second on the table, behind India and above Australia. The Proteas are unbeaten in seven tests since February, winning six.

"The conversation (about the WTC) has been there, we are not too loud about it. It will come," Bavuma said. "Our focus needs to be more internally, what we have been doing as a team and control



South Africa's Kyle Verreynne, left, attempts stumping out Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis, during the fourth day of the first Test cricket match between South Africa and Sri Lanka, at Kingsmead stadium in Durban, South Africa. (AP)

that, let whatever happens happen."

The second and last test against Sri Lanka starts on Thursday in Gqeberha.

Sri Lanka was fighting uphill in Durban from the time it was out for a record-low 42 on Thursday.

The odds favored the visitor's second innings ending before lunch on Saturday. But the 10th wicket wasn't taken until about an hour afterward.

Only one wicket fell in the morning. Chandimal and captain Dhananjaya de Silva resisted at four runs an over. De Silva started on zero and 29 runs behind Chandimal, and caught up to his partner by mid-morning, notching his 50 in the next over.

De Silva couldn't believe it when their 95-run stand ended. He tried turning spinner Keshav Maharaj and chipped the ball instead straight to Tristan Stubbs at midwicket. The captain scored 59 off 81.42 of those runs to the boundary or beyond.

Chandimal fell next. To his 174th delivery, he gave a leading edge back to the bowler Coetzee. His patient 83 included a dozen boundaries.

Kusal Mendis lashed out with nine boundaries in his 48 and was the game's 10th wicket for Jansen, who came round the wicket and induced an edge behind.

Asitha Fernando was the last man out, bowled by Jansen.

"Never thought I would get 10 wickets (in a match)," Jansen said. "It is a dream and that is what we work for."



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, center, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers guard Gabe Vincent, left, and guard D'Angelo Russell, right, defend during the second half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP) - See Page 14

Sports

Kuwait schedules friendlies against Syria, Lebanon & Yemen ahead of Khaleeji Zain 26

DOHA, Nov 30: Kuwait has finalized its schedule for three friendly matches during their training camp in Doha. The team will face Syria on December 9, Lebanon on December 12, and conclude against Yemen on December 15.

The "Al-Azraq" training camp began last Thursday in Doha as part of their preparations for the Khaleeji Zain 26 tournament, which Kuwait will host from December 21 to January 3.

The tournament draw placed Kuwait in Group A alongside Qatar, the UAE, and Oman. Group B includes Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Football Federation President Adnan Darjal announced

that Iraq's national team will return to Kuwait immediately after completing its camp in Qatar to gear up for the Gulf tournament.

Darjal noted that several Iraqi players based overseas would be unavailable for the tournament due to club commitments. However, he expressed confidence in Iraq's prospects for both the Khaleeji Zain 26 and its World Cup qualification campaign.

He highlighted Iraq's strong position in the World Cup qualifiers, saying, "We are just three points behind the leading Korean team, sitting in second place. We are close to achieving significant results and securing our spot in the 2026 World Cup."



Kuwait players training for the Khaleeji Zain 26.

Barca loses at home for 1st time this season

Catalans fall to Las Palmas

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 30, (AP): Barcelona lost at home for the first time this season when the Spanish league leader was stunned 2-1 by Las Palmas on Saturday.

Barcelona had played superbly in the first three months under new coach Hansi Flick and was flying high after convincing victories over Real Madrid in the domestic competition and Bayern Munich in the Champions League. It had won all eight home games overall.

But it has now gone three rounds of La Liga without a win. Prior to the loss to Las Palmas, it fell 1-0 at Real Sociedad and drew 2-2 at Celta Vigo.

Madrid, despite its own troubles especially in the Champions League, can now move ahead of Barcelona in the Spanish league. It trails Barcelona by four points with two games more to play.

Sandro Ramirez and Fábio Silva scored for the Canary Islands club on either side of Raphinha's equalizer.

Barcelona's Lamine Yamal returned from a right ankle injury that had sidelined with for three weeks as a halftime substitute, but Jasper Cillessen saved his best shot. The Las Palmas goalkeeper also did well to palm a Raphinha free kick over his bar in the final minutes.

Barcelona's new mascot, a large yellow feline named "Cat," has made its debut as part of the Spanish club's 125th anniversary.

The mascot cavorted on the field at Lluís Com-

panys Olympic Stadium before Barcelona hosted Las Palmas in a Spanish league game Saturday. The visitors won 2-1.

It wears Barcelona's burgundy and blue shirt and shorts, and its mouth opens to reveal the same soccer ball icon found on the club's emblem.

The club describes the mascot as a "friendly, positive puss that is especially passionate about football, but also embraces all sports that are part of FC Barcelona's multi-sport ethos, whether male or female, pro or amateur."

In addition to its champion women's soccer team, Barcelona competes in other sports, including basketball, handball, indoor soccer, and roller hockey.

A previous mascot, "Clam," was created for the club's 100th anniversary.



Barcelona's Pau Victor, left, controls a ball chased by Las Palmas' Adnan Januzaj during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

'The Saudi bid committed to working with the ILO'

FIFA inspection praises Saudi Arabia bid to host 2034 WC

GENEVA, Nov 30, (AP): Ahead of giving Saudi Arabia the men's 2034 World Cup to host, FIFA approved the quality of its bid in a 110-page evaluation Saturday.

FIFA's in-house inspection team noted Saudi Arabia must invest "significant effort and time" to fulfill promises for the tournament that comply with international standards.

The Saudi bid also was scored by FIFA staff as "medium risk" for huge construction projects to build most of the 15 stadiums and dozens of new hotels needed, plus picking which months to play the 48-team, 104-game tournament.

Shortly past midnight local time, FIFA published a mandatory evaluation of the Saudi project that is the only candidate since a fast-track bidding process was unexpectedly started in October last year. FIFA president Gianni Infantino has built strong ties in recent years to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

On Dec. 11, in a scheduled online meeting of 211 national soccer federations, FIFA will ask them to acclaim without an itemized vote both Saudi Arabia for the 2034 World Cup - for which only Asian and Oce-

ania members could bid - and the Spain-Portugal-Morocco co-hosting bid for the 2030 edition. That project also gives one game to each of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, which was the original World Cup host in 1930.

FIFA said Saudi Arabia is promising "the establishment of robust workers' welfare systems to protect workers connected to tournament infrastructure." The Saudi bid has committed to working with the ILO but not international trade unions or rights groups.



In this file photo, a general view shows the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on the eve of the Spanish Super Cup Final soccer match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid. (AP)

The 32-team World Cup in Qatar was played in just 28 days in November and December, outside the traditional time of June-July when temperature in the region routinely exceed 40 Celsius (104 degrees).

The November-December slot for a 48-team World Cup of about 38 days would be difficult for Saudi Arabia. Riyadh is hosting the multi-sport Asian Games in the first two weeks of December 2034 and the holy month of Ramadan also runs from mid-November to mid-December.

Another clash for international sports in 2034 is the Winter Olympics being hosted in two weeks in February by Salt Lake City, Utah.

On climate issues, FIFA noted the Saudi World Cup will have "a reliance on air travel" between the five cities proposed: Riyadh, Jeddah, Al Khobar, Abha and Neom.

There has been speculation Saudi Arabia could eventually give some of the 104 games to neighboring states and emirates.

On the financial prospects for FIFA, the inspection report cited a "strong commercial position" with a "substantial hospitality footprint proposed."

FIFA said it put a cap of 25% of the tickets being offered for corporate hospitality packages in the stadiums which range from 46,000 capacity to 92,000 seats for the planned King Salman International Stadium in Riyadh that will stage the final.

FIFA signed a World Cup sponsorship in April with Saudi oil firm Aramco and more deals are expected to follow the Dec. 11 win, including for the Club World Cup tournament that relaunches next June in the United States.



Al-Omran and Hayat award the title to Al-Anzi.

Al-Anzi claims title at 17th Federation Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Kuwaiti squash player Ali Al-Anzi claimed the singles title in the 17th Federation Squash Championship for Individuals, held at the late Salem Al-Sabah Center, located at the Federation's headquarters in South Surra.

Al-Anzi secured the title after a hard-fought 3-2 win over Saif Heikal of Al-Qurain, who finished as the runner-up. Third place went to Khaithan's Qadir Joul, while Abdulrahman Al-Maghribi of Al-Qurain claimed fourth.

Following the final match, the Vice President of the Federation, Khalid Al-Habib, and Secretary Hamed Al-Omran, along with Kuwaiti Olympic

Committee member and Women's Committee head Fatima Hayat, presented the trophies and medals to the winners.

In the women's category, Basmala Al-Shami of Al-Arabi clinched first place, with Salwa Club's Sarah Al-Ali finishing as runner-up. Qanout Habib of Al-Qurain took third place.

Fatima Hayat commended the technical skills displayed by both male and female players, highlighting the Squash Federation as one of Kuwait's most successful federations. She noted that women's competitions are among the most notable achievements in female sports across all federations.



Kazma and Al-Sulaibikhat players in action during the volleyball league.

Kazma sweeps Al-Sulaibikhat to continue impressive streak

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 30: Kazma secured its fourth victory in the volleyball league, defeating Al-Sulaibikhat 3-0 in the fifth round of the preliminary stage. The round also featured Al-Shabab's commanding 3-0 win over Al-Yarmouk.

Kazma dominated the match, comfortably taking the first set 25-12. The second set saw more resistance from Al-Sulaibikhat, but Kazma edged it out 25-23 before wrapping up the match with a decisive 25-15 victory in the third set.

In the other game, Al-Shabab delivered a strong performance, defeating Al-Yarmouk in straight sets with scores of 25-21, 25-11, and 25-18.

With this win, Kazma increased its tally to 12 points, placing third in the standings, while Al-Sulaibikhat remains seventh with no points after five consecutive losses. Al-Shabab climbed to fifth with 7 points, leaving Yarmouk at the bottom without any points.

The round began on Thursday, where Kuwait Club defeated Al-Arabi, and Al-Qadisiya triumphed over Al-Nasr, both with 3-0 scores. The tournament follows a single-round league format, with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals. The first-ranked team will face the fourth, and the second will meet the third, with the winners progressing to the final.