



Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince welcome Bhutan's King at Bayan Palace



Left: His Highness the Amir receives King of Bhutan. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince receives King of Bhutan.

Amiri Diwan/Crown Prince Diwan photos

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received visiting King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on Wednesday.

Senior state officials were present at the reception.

In a separate meeting on the same day, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and his delegation at Bayan Palace, with senior officials present for both receptions.

Asian woman nabbed after disturbing video goes viral



Mol photo

Left: Asian woman in custody after arrest. Right: Disturbing screen-shot from a viral video depicting the suspect allegedly torturing her compatriot.

Clip exposes torture ring

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Personnel from the Criminal Investigations Department – the Saad Al-Abdullah Investigations Unit, have taken into custody an unidentified Asian woman for torturing a compatriot.

According to the Ministry of Interior statement the arrest came after a video clip went viral on the social media showing the woman torturing the man, with his hands tied behind his back.

In the video clip she is seen kicking the man and grabbing him by the hair and hitting his head on the

floor.

She has since then been referred to the security authorities for further interrogation and legal action.

It is widely believed, the woman is a member of a gang, who lures unsuspecting victims into her apartment after gaining their confidence and uses torture tactics to rob them.

The Ministry of Interior emphasized it will take all necessary legal measures to deter such criminal acts, ensuring community safety and upholding the law without exception.

‘TIMELY WAGE PAYMENTS NON-NEGOTIABLE’  
Kuwait tightens grip on residency law violators

Top security meeting focuses on public safety

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah headed on Wednesday a meeting of the assistant under-secretaries to discuss organizing traffic in the governorates.

The Ministry of Interior, in a statement, quoted the minister as calling during the session for exerting further efforts, intensify follow-up and enhancing effective and continuing presence of the personnel at the public

places to strengthen security throughout the country.

He also stressed on the necessity of handling issues promptly and firmly, applying the laws on everyone, increasing traffic awareness campaigns and ensuring adherence to the traffic law. Moreover, he lauded the efforts exerted by the ministry's various divisions for persevering the homeland security, instructing the senior officers to activate measures to confront any offenses.

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PM urges unity as new ministers take office



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah presides over the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, opening the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday afternoon, welcomed the newly-appointed Minister of Education Jalal Abdulmehsen Al-Tabtabei and Minister of Oil Tareq Suleiman Ahmad Al-Roumi.

He wished both ministers, who were sworn in earlier Tuesday, to succeed in shouldering their respective ministerial responsibilities at the current important stage under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister asked the Cabinet members to redouble their efforts and work as one team to accelerate the development process and realize the aspirations of the citizens, said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Abdullah Al-Mousherji.

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Newswatch

Kuwait targets foreign investment as key driver of economic growth

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait is adopting an ambitious approach to promote foreign investment and turn it into main economic momentum by taking steps that aim at revamping the investment environment.

The State of Kuwait is eyeing partnership with major global companies, marking investments that would drive the wheels for economic growth forward.

In this regard, meetings of representatives of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the 79th UNGA reflected the country's desire to bring in foreign investors who would contribute to the overall economic development of the state and benefit partners.

An instance of moving matters forward could be seen in the last few weeks when Kuwait and China activated the previously signed seven deals inked during His Highness the Amirs visit to China in September of 2023.

Kuwait had received several Chinese delegations who met with a number of Kuwaiti officials to explore venues of cooperation and also initialize previously signed agreements.

On the part of the Chinese, the Asian country expressed trust in the future of Sino-Kuwaiti relations. This was seen in the visit of the CCC Chinese company to Kuwait recently.

The Kuwaiti Cabinet, in return, tasked ministers and state entities to implement signed agreement with the Chinese side and also called for more measures to enhance investment climate in Kuwait to support the Kuwait's transformation to a hub of commerce, trade,

and investments.

The Cabinet also has a vision to include the private sector in some of its projects including for example developing the framework to the Gulf of Sulaybikhat project and the Jahra waterfront corniche.

On the monetary side, the Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, and Acting Minister of Oil Nora Al-Fassam stressed the importance of maintaining the monetary and financial stability of the state via bolstering the national economy, diversifying non-oil income, attracting foreign investments, supporting national cadres. Al-Fassam reiterated such points during her meeting with the mission chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Francisco Parodi.

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Kuwait partners with UK for 'agricultural advancements'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti delegation recently joined an agricultural program in the United Kingdom aimed at fostering knowledge exchange and expertise in agricultural and greentification efforts between Kuwait and the UK.

The program aims to advance sustainable agricultural practices in Kuwait and enhance cultural and environmental connections between Kuwait and the UK.

The Kuwaiti delegation, including Sheikhha Sharifa Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Al-Zainah Al-Babtain, and Dana Al-Mutawa, expressed pride in representing Kuwait in the program, held in collaboration with the UK-based "The

King's Foundation," as part of the celebrations marking the 125th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

They highlighted the unique opportunity to visit the King's residence, Highgrove House, and experience the sustainable gardening practices in the Highgrove Gardens.

The delegation also visited the royal residence Dumfries House in Scotland, where they explored sustainable horticultural strategies and toured various gardens and institutions specialized in advanced agricultural techniques.

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Photo by Sharifa Al-Sabah  
Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafie with the Kuwaiti delegation.

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the legislation issued by the Israeli occupation to ban the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in occupied Palestinian territories, which will limit the Agency's ability to provide support and humanitarian services to defenseless Palestinian refugees.

In a press release, the Foreign Ministry said Kuwait considers such legislation as part of a series of flagrant violations by the Israeli occupation forces of international law, international humanitarian law, and international resolutions, most notably Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2417, which strongly condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a method of combat in conflict situations. (KUNA)

□ □ □

KUWAIT CITY: President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh (Eng.) Humoud Mubarak Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Hideko Sasahara on Tuesday to discuss the prospects of enhanced cooperation between the two countries in civil aviation.

The two sides explored the possible preferential treatment that could encourage airlines to increase their operating capacity and flights, and help more airlines serve passengers between the two countries, according to a DGCA statement. (KUNA)



Editor-in-Chief  
Ahmed Al-Jarallah  
meets Palestinian  
Ambassador



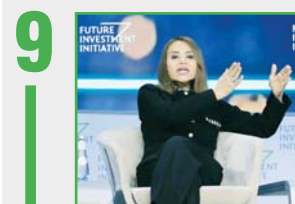
KIB Group's net  
profits during 9  
months of 2024  
reach KD 16 mln



Boursa Kuwait  
reports 14.5% net  
profit growth in 9  
months of 2024



Gulf Bank records  
KD 40.2 million in  
net profit for first  
nine months of '24



Shaikha Al-Bahar  
highlights AI as  
key enabler driving  
banking growth and  
empowerment

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:39	Asr .....	14:40
Sunrise ..	05:59	Maghrib ..	17:04
Zohr .....	11:32	Isha .....	18:22

# Local

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Rather hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

**By Night:** Mild to rather cold

## Weather

and cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	28	20

Kuwait Airport	29	14
Abdaly	29	12
Bubyan	28	10
Jahra	30	17
Fallaka Island	27	11
Salmiyah	27	22
Ahmadi	28	14
Jal Aliyah	29	15
Nuwaisib	30	17

## Turkish National Day Celebration



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sönmez at the National Day celebrations.



Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sönmez inaugurates the Diplomatic Documents Exhibition at the Avenues Mall.

## ‘Türkiye, Kuwait relations solid, destined to touch new heights’

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: On the occasion of the celebration of 101st anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye, the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait hosted a National Day Reception at St Regis Hotel on 29th of October, 2024.

In her inauguration speech of the reception, Ambassador Tuba Nur Sönmez emphasized that under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and His Highness, Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the fraternal ties between Türkiye and Kuwait have been further strengthened, and it is destined to reach new heights in every field. Her Excellency also affirmed that the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait remains dedicated to enhancing these connections and promoting initiatives that mutually benefit both nations. Additionally, she highlighted the solidarity and close collaboration that Türkiye and Kuwait have demonstrated during challenging times.

Ambassador Sönmez concluded her remarks by thanking to the sponsors of the event, Kuwait Finance House, Al-Ghanim Industries (Platinum sponsors), National Bank of Kuwait and LİMAK Holding (gold sponsors), Turkish Airlines, MU-SIAD Kuwait, and Kuwait Danish Dairies (silver sponsors) for their generous support as well as bronze sponsors Ajjet, Armada Group, Hafız Mustafa, MADÖ, Pegasus Airlines, Jazeera Airways, and Sun Express.

After her speech, the video message of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Türkiye was screened. Subsequently, Ambassador Sönmez presented a commemorative gift from the Turkish State Archives to the Guest of Honor, H.E. Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Ajeel Al-Askar, Minister of Commerce and Industry. They then proceeded to the cake-cutting ceremony.

After the cake-cutting ceremony, two talented young Turkish artists, Ms. Eda Seviniş on piano and Mr. Umur Sağlam on cello, presented a memorable performance to the guests.

Following the concert, guests participated in a raffle drawing which gave away 18 round-trip tickets to Türkiye.

During the Reception, a diplomatic documents exhibition titled “60 Years of Diplomatic Relations, Enduring Friendship Between Türkiye and Kuwait: Documents From Archives” was on display. The exhibition showcased selected documents from the Turkish State Archives, including press reports, diplomatic communications, and photographs, which illustrate the deep-rooted ties and enduring friendship between Türkiye and Kuwait. A commemorative booklet, prepared with the sponsorship of MUSAİD Kuwait and including materials from the exhibition, was also presented to the guests.

Moreover, a Khatt Exhibition, featuring artworks from renowned Turkish calligraphists was displayed at the Reception hall. The artworks were presented in collaboration with the SaİSabeel Charity Society to support the victims of the February 2023 earthquake disaster in Türkiye.

Ambassador Tuba Nur Sönmez was accompanied by H.E. Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Ajeel Al-Askar, Minister of Commerce and Industry, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Lüt-fihak Alpkan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Tokdemir, Director of the State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye; Prof. Dr. Uğur Ünal, Rector of Gazi University and former Director of the State Archives of Türkiye; as well as the members of the diplomatic corps, cultural envoys, high-level Kuwaiti officials, CEOs, representatives of companies and NGOs.

## Kuwait outlines measures taken against torture, cruel practices

GENEVA, Oct 30, (KUNA): Kuwait has made tangible progress in national measures aiming to clamp down on torture and other cruel practices, in line with the relevant 1996 UN treaty, a senior diplomat said on Tuesday, citing the UN convention against torture.

Outlining the measures his country has taken in line with the UN treaty, Kuwait’s permanent delegate to the UN and other international organizations Nasser Al-Heyn said a routine report Kuwait has assembled on the matter is a testament to its unflinching commitment to the protection of human rights, which is embedded in national policies, he underlined.

Amid an international gathering of international human rights organizations in Geneva, he spoke of measures including incorporating human rights principles into school curricula and improving prison conditions through easing over-crowdedness and lecturing security personnel on the proper treatment of detainees, all of which illustrate national commitment to the UN treaty.

On other similar steps, the Kuwaiti diplomat highlighted the importance of ensuring the “independence” of the judiciary and respecting national laws, as outlined in the Kuwaiti constitution, pointing to the right of a “fair trial” for those indicted for various crimes as a case in point.



KUNA photo

The meeting in progress.

## Kuwait, GCC justice ministers meet

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA): Minister of Justice and Minister of Endowment and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi, is heading the Kuwaiti delegation to the 34th justice ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting, held in Qatar.

During a speech at the event, Dr. Al-Wasmi commended Qatar for organizing the meeting and the GCC

Secretariat General for their diligent work. The Minister also extended warm welcome to member states as Kuwait is slated to host the upcoming justice ministerial the following year. As for Qatari Justice Minister, Ibrahim Al-Muhandi, he said that a strategic plan boosting cooperation and having a positive impact among GCC members is currently in the works.

# Kuwaiti tourists visiting Germany have doubled; 40,000 visas in '23

## Envoy pledges to overcome language barrier

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz revealed that the consular section issued over 40,000 visas in 2023, indicating that, “We may reach the same number this year.”

In a statement to reporters during the promotional exhibition hosted by the German National Tourism Office for the Gulf States at his residence, the ambassador indicated that this figure does not reflect the actual number of Kuwaiti tourists, as many hold multiple-entry Schengen visas from other European countries.

He stressed that Germany is a popular travel destination, and the embassy organizes this exhibition annually to promote travel to Germany and showcase new attractions.

Ambassador Hans-Christian acknowledged that it can be challenging for Kuwaitis to learn about Germany’s tourism offerings in just one hour, but he highlighted their commitment to making this information accessible.

He explained that the number of Kuwaiti tourists visiting Germany has doubled for various reasons, including investment, tourism, and medical care.

Despite the existing academic cooperation between the two countries, students are often hesitant to study in Germany, primarily due to the requirement to master the German language. Although approximately 40 percent of programs offer bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English, this language barrier remains a challenge. To address this, more German language instructors will be recruited to Kuwait, something that can be expedited through cooperation between the two countries in this area.

Studies in Germany are mostly practical than theory, as students often work in companies to gain hands-on skills. This practical focus is essential for Kuwait’s development in non-oil sectors.

## Studies

German universities participate in educational exhibitions in Kuwait, but the educational system in Germany expects students to be self-reliant. This self-directed learning is intended to equip students with real-life experience beyond just a university degree. Also, university education in Germany is free for all students, regardless of nationality, with only accommodation and food costs to cover.

Ambassador Hans-Christian said, “Our approach to university education promotes independence, allowing students to choose their paths and learn autonomously, which is reflected in their assessments.”

Regarding the interest of German companies in Kuwait projects, Ambassador Hans-Christian stated that these companies are actively monitoring Kuwaiti offers to identify opportunities that align with their interests.

On health cooperation with Germany, he emphasized that German clinics and the healthcare sector have long been recognized for their excellent reputation.

The ambassador highlighted the availability of specialized clinics that provide comprehensive patient check-ups and accurate diagnoses, along with tailored recommendations for treatment. He also highlighted the existence of renowned rehabilitation clinics, explaining that treatment visas can be issued for extended periods depending on the nature of the treatment.

In terms of security cooperation between the two countries, he expressed optimism, revealing that they are currently preparing a memorandum of understanding in this area, which is set to be signed soon.

In addition, the Director of Marketing and Sales at the German National Tourism Office for the Gulf States Yamina Sofu revealed that they are collaborating with specialized travel agencies to highlight the beauty of Germany’s tourist areas to travelers from Kuwait. She affirmed that Germany offers a wealth of attractions for Kuwaiti tourists, including archaeological sites, cultural heritage areas, shopping malls, and luxury hotels available year-round.

Sofu highlighted their efforts to introduce Kuwaiti tourists to German regions that many have yet to explore, indicating that there are currently no direct flights from Kuwait to Germany, but travelers can fly via Qatar, the Emirates, or Istanbul.

She reported that approximately 1.3 million Gulf tourists visited Germany in 2023, marking a 15 percent increase compared to 2022. While the numbers were promising until mid-year, she said statistics from last summer have not yet been released. Nevertheless, Germany has consistently remained a favored destination for Gulf tourists.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

German Ambassador to Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz talking to the press.

## Other Voices

## Concept of sustainability in field of humanitarian work

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wanda

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

The term “Sustainability” is no longer unfamiliar or rarely spoken of by both the public and specialists. It has become widely known and constantly present in most forums and across various fields. So, what can we add to the discussion about this term and its relation to the charitable and humanitarian sector? To what extent should we positively engage with the standards that sustainability demands in this sector? Are there charitable organizations that apply sustainability standards while others do not? Are there specific standards or reports relevant to this sector in the first place? These and many other questions we will attempt to address in this series, which we hope will be useful, beneficial, and help clarify some aspects of this topic.

The concept of sustainability primarily revolves around continuity, derived from the verb “to sustain” - It is important to note that not all forms of continuity are necessarily positive. However, when we use the term “Sustainability” without any standards or qualification, it generally recalls positive aspects. This is what we often observe in contemporary discussions on sustainability among those concerned with environmental issues, as well as economics, not to mention society and people. These are the key areas or dimensions in which sustainability either exists or does not, and where attention to or neglect of it may vary, as we will explore this in more detail later.

The question here is: Is the concept of continuity the only mean-

ing intended by sustainability? Is this the technical or scientific definition commonly understood among specialists and those concerned? Did this term emerge with a clear and agreed-upon meaning from the beginning, accepted by those involved, or has it undergone expansions, restrictions, generalizations, and specifications, like many other terms, before finally settling into its current meaning?

Moreover, the term sustainability has been closely linked to the concept of development, often used together as “sustainable development”. When specialists refer to sustainability, they typically mean “sustainable development,” a concept defined by the Brundtland Commission in its 1987 report, Our Common Future - the report defines sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

As you can see, this definition emphasizes the balance between meeting the current needs of people and the requirements for living in the present, while ensuring that we do not negatively impact the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and live sustainably. In other words, we are developing the present with an eye on the future. We utilize and preserve what exists, ensuring its growth, and recognizing our responsibility not only toward those who will come after us but also toward those who are with us in the present.

To be continued

## Kuwait, UNEP ink 4 environmental pacts to up anti-climate shift drive

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Environment Public Authority and the United Nations Environment Program’s (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia signed four major environmental project agreements today to strengthen Kuwait’s environmental protection and climate change resilience, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The EPA Acting Director General, Eng. Samira Al-Kandari, noted that these projects aim to enhance international and regional cooperation, in line with Kuwait’s Environmental Protection Law No. 42 of 2014 and the Kuwait Vision 2035 for sustainable development.

A centerpiece of this collaboration is Kuwait’s National Environmental Strategy 2035, which focuses on reducing emissions, promoting clean energy, combat desertification and conserving natural resources.

The second initiative involves creating a comprehensive environmental

data system to improve decision-making and resource management.

Al-Kandari highlighted Kuwait’s progress in waste management, mentioning the completed National Strategy for Integrated Waste Management 2040, developed with Germany’s Fraunhofer Institute, as part of a sustainable waste management and circular economy initiative.

Further efforts include developing Kuwait’s national strategy to combat desertification, aligned with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. This plan will enhance sustainable agriculture, rehabilitate degraded lands, and strengthen institutional capabilities.

Sami Dimassi, UNEP’s Regional Director for West Asia, emphasized the shared commitment to these initiatives as a foundation for a sustainable future in Kuwait, with implementation expected over the next two years.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## Occupying ‘Zionist’ entity weaker than spider’s web

“THE ongoing war in Gaza, which has persisted for over a year, has exposed the Zionist entity occupying Palestine as weaker than a spider’s web,” columnist, Constitutional Expert **Dr Mohammad Al-Moqatei** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“The ability of the Palestinian resistance to breach the defenses of this fragile entity and navigate its sophisticated technological systems, executing swift operations that disable its espionage and military intelligence, stands as a testament to its inherent vulnerability. The capture of enemy soldiers and incursions into settlements further illustrate this fragility.



Al-Moqatei

“For more than a year, the façade that this entity projected -- of being an invincible military force -- has crumbled. Faced with defeat, it has reverted to its infamous cowardly tactics, reminiscent of the treachery depicted in Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice.

“Rather than confront the resistance directly, it has unleashed its air force to destroy buildings, homes, hospitals, and essential infrastructure, targeting civilians, including children, women, and the elderly. This reliance on such brutal methods underscores its weakness.

“The entity’s failure to confront the legendary resilience of the people of Gaza directly has led it to impose a siege, cutting off electricity, water, medicine, and food, revealing its cowardice.

“Despite the backing of American and European arsenals, and the significant shortcomings of the Arab and Islamic world, the entity has not achieved its objectives over these 13 months of war. It will soon find itself grappling with disappointment and humiliation, further affirming our belief that it is indeed “weaker than a spider’s web.”

“Its demise is not only possible but inevitable -- a divine promise. A spider’s web, no matter how many times it is rebuilt and reinforced, remains fundamentally fragile, crumbling at the slightest disturbance, much like the strength of the resistance, which remains unyielded despite relentless assaults.

“The Palestinian children armed with stones have emerged as symbols of unwavering resistance, embodying the spirit that this fragile entity cannot withstand.

“The imminent future holds promise, as the reality of this crumbling entity’s weakness is once again exposed through its reckless ventures in Lebanon.

“Here, Hezbollah’s missiles have revealed the vulnerabilities of its structure, prompting a wave of insecurity among its ranks and increasing the exodus of those who have defiled lands that are not theirs.

“In desperation, they have sought assistance from the Americans, requesting the THAAD missile defense system. But their situation remains precarious; it is impossible for the threads of a spider’s web to maintain stability as long as a resilient people exist who embrace resistance as their path.

“The tragic events in Gaza have unleashed a spirit that threatens to dismantle this fragile usurping entity. A global awakening is underway, reshaping public sentiment and governmental positions in support of the Palestinian cause, a return to rights that is increasingly assured. As the saying goes, ‘And God is predominant over His affair, but most people do not know’.”

### Also:

“The region is currently grappling with numerous challenges, with the events surrounding the Gaza massacre and the ongoing tensions in Lebanon drawing significant attention,” columnist **Dr Nada Al-Mutawa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Meanwhile, the global stage is closely watching the outcomes of the upcoming US elections. While this article does not aim to explore the complexities of the Middle East crisis, it will focus on local issues to highlight the challenges we face. Perhaps, amid all this turmoil, we can identify strategies worth studying and implementing.

“So, ‘What is the problem’....? we find that the core issue lies in the plethora of costly advisory reports and studies addressing various projects and proposals.

“Despite widespread discussions, very few of these studies transition into actual implementation. This raises the question of why there is a persistent failure to activate these initiatives and why we continue to engage consultants to produce expensive studies without establishing sound implementation strategies.

“Advisory teams of researchers and interested stakeholders have consistently sought to understand critical issues, including education, demographics, and the labor market.

“They have immersed themselves in documents and conducted interviews with specialists, culminating in

comprehensive reports that address existing challenges. Yet, we must ask: Where do these studies go? Why do decision-makers return to square one?

“Today, let us examine a few key issues such as the demographic structure. The studies have highlighted the growing number of expatriates compared to the declining population of Kuwaitis, leading to a demographic imbalance.

“Many thought leaders have proposed potential solutions, such as naturalizing the children of Kuwaiti women or introducing new criteria related to innovation and rare specializations for citizenship. Concurrently, we must acknowledge the Ministry of Interior’s efforts to purify Kuwaiti citizenship by organizing data and implementing biometric fingerprinting.

“Despite initiatives to attract young Kuwaitis, the government sector continues to dominate the job market, luring new graduates with its substantial benefits and job stability, often without productivity requirements. With the implementation of the third fingerprint, some employees may choose to expedite their retirement. Will the government maintain a focus on competencies?

“Given the rising expenditure on education and the increasing number of student missions, it is crucial to stimulate the research apparatus within the Ministry of Education to establish a study unit focused on student behavior and spending indicators. This should include opportunities for evening studies and the recruitment of retirees to teach in these classes.

“There is a pressing need to encourage individuals to take initiative, innovate, and make decisions. Similar to practices in Gulf countries regarding social media influencers, we could require licenses before individuals commence work in certain sectors.

“In summary, the path to solving these issues is unfolding through various government initiatives. Notable steps include mandating employees to remain at their posts via the fingerprint application, as well as verifying nationality and implementing biometric measures.

“These are vital mechanisms for administrative reform and organization, and we can expect further developments to emerge.”



“THE problem with some of us, though not all, is that we occupy ourselves with other people’s issues, and become a topic of discussion between supporters and opponents. This leads to criticism directed at our own country due to irresponsible posts on social media! Despite having enough local issues that deserve our attention, some insist on being the world’s watchdog, believing it is their right, while refusing to acknowledge any mistakes,” columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“At this critical time, it is more appropriate for us to focus on strengthening our internal front and ensuring that our country is spared from the horrors of wars raging around us. This is far better than meddling in matters that do not concern us, taking sides, or slandering others, regardless of our stance. The most important thing we can say is, “May God relieve them and protect us from such trials!”

“The Kuwaiti people have known the bitterness of occupation and the cruelty of displacement, having been forced to leave their homeland due to the brutality of the occupying Iraqi forces. They even killed Kuwaiti citizens in front of their homes and children, claiming they were resisting the occupation, and then demanded that the victims’ families pay for the bullets used against them! There are countless documented examples of this, which compel us to empathize with the suffering of others more than anyone else.

“Yes, some have betrayed us and supported the tyrants against us, even though we were in the right. Many glorified and continue to glorify the tyrant despite his demise, forgetting the pit that marked the end of his life! Despite all this, we feel their pain and help as much as we can, never forgetting our humanitarian duty.

“To every opinion holder or social media activist, I say - either speak good or remain silent. Do not be the reason for others to attack you or your country. There are those waiting for the slightest mistake to criticize Kuwait and its people. It pains us to see a Kuwaiti citizen become a target for insults, teaching others how to shoot arrows at them. At the same time, it also troubles us when a Kuwaiti citizen insults or makes inappropriate comments about a chaste woman or about people who are being massacred simply for trying to hold on to their homeland.

“We know for certain that the responsibility is individual, but who can tell these people that such individuals do not represent the state’s views?

“As the Creator Almighty Allah says in Surah Al-An’am, “And do not insult those whom they invoke besides Allah, lest they insult Allah in transgression, without knowledge. Thus, We have made pleasing to every nation its work. Then to their Lord is their return, and He will inform them of what they used to do.”

“We will stop here for now.”

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



Camping tents set up in the desert opposite a Kuwaiti locality.

## ‘Uphold morality, respect traditions, avoid actions disapproved by public’

Municipality outlines camping guidelines

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality, Manal Al-Asfour, has issued a circular on the organization of spring camps for the 2024-2025 season, outlining several key guidelines, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

Among the primary requirements are upholding public morality, respecting community traditions, and avoiding any actions that could infringe on public taste.

Al-Asfour directed all sectors and branches of the municipality across governorates to strictly adhere to these regulations, ensuring camps are set up only in designated locations approved by the Municipality and abide by the following specific conditions:

- The applicant must be at least 21 years old.
- Only one license per individual is permitted.
- The maximum area allowed per license is 1,000 square meters.
- A non-refundable fee of fifty dinars must be paid to the municipality.
- A temporary deposit of 100 dinars is required, which can be reclaimed after the camping season, pending approval from the Environment Public Authority.
- All fees and deposits are to be paid in a single transaction via (Kent), with 50 dinars retained by the municipality as fees and the remainder returned according to standard procedures.
- Licenses issued by the municipality are temporary, allowing the municipality to alter or revoke the site at any time without obligation to the license holder or others and without needing to provide justification.
- Applicants must personally inspect the site to confirm it is obstacle-free; the municipality is not liable for any third-party issues caused by the license holder.
- Applicants must select their site from designated options within the electronic licensing system to avoid legal repercussions, fines, or penalties.
- License holders must notify the municipality to vacate the site by the designated clearance date.

However, for government agencies, ministries, public associations, and similar entities, Al-Asfour specified that each entity is allowed one camp location, limited to 5,000 square meters, with a 100-meter space between camps, and compliance with public order and traffic regulations as mandated by the Ministry of Interior.

Lastly, the licensees must maintain public decency and respect societal norms when using the camp premises, ensuring no activities conflict with established customs or community standards.

Meanwhile, the Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality confirmed that the inspection teams in the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department in Jahra Governorate have intensified their field work to maintain cleanliness and ensure that the authorized camping sites for fiscal 2024/2025 are free of any obstacles in preparation for accepting camping permit applications in mid-November, reports Al-Anba daily.

Director of the department Nawaf Al-Mutairi revealed that the recent inspection campaign led to the impounding of 310 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), in addition to 10 vehicles in Mutla’a and Subiya.

The Municipality urged the public to refrain from setting up camping sites before the official period, which starts on Nov 15, 2024 and ends on March 15, 2025, warning that its inspection teams will demolish any camping site set up prior to the specified period and strictly deal with any other violation.

## Man nabbed for stealing cars left with ignition on

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Officers from Hawally Investigation Department arrested a 32-year-old man for stealing vehicles that were left running by their owners after three expatriates of different nationalities reported that their cars were stolen, reports Al-Anba daily.**

A security source said the department formed a task force to investigate the vehicle thefts, leading to the arrest of the thief who found a bank card in one of the cars he stole and then withdrew money.

He was questioned about the video recording of his crime, so he confessed during the initial investigation and provided details about the cars he stole.

A case was registered and investigations are continuing to confirm the other car thefts that the accused committed.

## Kuwait inks deals with UK, UAE to boost navy abilities

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30, (KUNA):** Kuwait’s First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah signed separate deals on Wednesday with the UAE and Britain as part of efforts to beef up the national Coast Guard’s capabilities.

The agreements with Abu Dhabi and UK-based SRT Marine Systems meet the highest “maritime quality” standards, representing a step towards enhancing Kuwait’s maritime security, according to an interior ministry statement.

The deals are part of a broad “overhaul” of the nation’s maritime security apparatus, added the statement, singling out the agreement with Abu Dhabi as being a testament to the camaraderie shared between the two Gulf Arab neighbors.

The ministry is determined to employ the latest “technological means” in an effort to ensure the security of Kuwaiti territorial waters and navy personnel alike, the statement underlined.



KFF team at the ‘Best Cybercrime Warrior’ competition.

## KFF takes part in e-crime contest

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) participated in the 10th edition of the Best Cybercrime Warrior competition, which was organized by the Cyber Operations Department of the Kuwait Army in collaboration with US Central Command and under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of De-**

fense Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah. According to a press release issued by KFF, Kuwait Fire Force was represented by a team from its Information Technology department.

The competition aims at enhancing innovation and competitiveness in order to boost national capabilities in the fight against cybercrime.

## Display Kuwait flag properly: Mol

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30:** The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior has issued a directive to the Ministry of Education emphasizing the need for all public and private institutions to display the Kuwaiti flag in accordance with official specifications.

The initiative aims to uphold the flag’s integrity and strengthen national identity by removing any flags that do

not meet these standards.

The directive follows multiple reports highlighting violations in how the flag is displayed on various buildings and at events, with some displays detracting from the flag’s official appearance and symbolism.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department has clarified that this measure is intended to guide concerned entities in adhering to the correct specifications for displaying the Kuwaiti flag, ensuring its respectful and proper representation.



# Kuwait commits to global sustainability at FII forum

Al-Fassam meets leaders to advance development

RIYADH, Oct 30, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir (of the State of Kuwait) Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Nora Al-Fassam said on Tuesday Future Investment Initiative (FII) contributes to securing sustainable future to mankind.

Speaking in a joint statement to Kuwait TV and KUNA, Al-Fassam expressed pride for representing His Highness the Amir in this initiative held in Saudi Arabia.

“Our participation in the initiative comes in support to our brothers in Saudi Arabia, and their great role played in achieving sustainable development,” she said.

The FII aims to address challenges facing the world, like climate change, food security and energy future, through some panel discussions held among senior governmental officials and leaders of private sectors partaking in the FII from all over the world, His Highness the Amir’s representative noted

Kuwait’s participation seeks to discuss solutions to all issues and set strategic plans that contribute to boosting sustainable development in Kuwait, she pointed out.

“We are now, in Kuwait, in a phase of bolstering growth and economy, and providing major projects, which contribute to cementing integration among GCC member states, she said.

His Highness the Amir’s representative held some meetings with international investors and officials on the sidelines of the FII, she said.

The meetings focused on Kuwait’s Vision 2035 and strategy as well as projects to be accomplished such as Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, renewable energy and others, she added.



KUNA photo  
Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Nora Al-Fassam with Brookfield Asset Management CEO Bruce Flatt.

## MEW forms committee to select candidates for external training

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri has formed a committee to select candidates for external training courses and programs. The committee will be chaired by the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning, Training, and Information Systems Ali Shaaban.

The committee has been tasked with interviewing and selecting candidates to participate in training courses and programs based on the criteria outlined in the Civil Service Commission’s decisions and circulars, particularly circular No. 9/2016, which pertains to external training courses and programs.

The committee will hold its meetings at the ministry headquarters upon the invitation of the chairperson or deputy chairperson. Meetings are valid only when a majority is present, including both the chair and deputy chair.

The committee has the authority to contact any department within the ministry to facilitate its tasks, and all sectors are required to fully cooperate. The committee may also seek assistance from any qualified individuals it deems necessary to carry out its tasks.

The decision stipulates that the committee will operate for one year from the date of its formation, provided that the president or his designee submits the committee’s reports and activities to the undersecretary of the ministry.

## Infrastructure completion rates rise

# Minister Al-Mishari visits housing care projects in southern Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Housing Affairs, Abdullatif Al-Mishari, embarked on an inspection tour of various housing care projects in southern Kuwait, including the Housing Care Complex in the Sabah Al-Salem area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Accompanying him on the tour were prominent figures such as Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Sabah, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Sheikha Bibi Al-Sabah, Head of the Women’s Housing Affairs Team, and Rashid Al-Enezi, the Director General of the housing institution and several other officials.

During the visit to the Sabah Al-Salem Housing Care Complex, Minister Al-Mishari reviewed the range of services provided to residents and noted specific observations that would help improve these services. He emphasized the need for immediate actions to rectify any violations identified during the inspection.

The Minister also inspected the vertical housing project in the investment suburb of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, which comprises 60 buildings and a total of 1,110 apartments. He received updates on the project’s progress, completion status, and readiness for allocation to designated housing care categories.

Al-Mishari also toured the South Sabah Al-Ahmad project, where he evaluated the advancement of infrastructure works in several suburbs of the project. He noted that the actual completion rate of these infrastructure contracts has reached 34.6 percent as of October 2024, demonstrating significant progress in meeting project timelines.

During the inspection, Al-Mishari praised the efforts of the institution’s work team and the specialists overseeing the infrastructure contracts.

He stressed the importance of collaboration and determination to address any challenges that may arise during the implementation of the housing and infrastructure projects, underscoring the government’s commitment to enhancing housing care services for citizens.



KUNA photos  
Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari during his inspection of a number of housing projects in the south of the country.

## Ministry approves bonuses for Jahra teachers & staffs

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Education Matrouk Al-Mutairi has approved the excellent job performance bonus for eligible employees at Jahra Educational District – teachers and administrators in schools, confirming that work is underway to transfer

the bonus to the bank accounts of beneficiaries soon.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Mutairi disclosed this bonus is granted to eligible employees annually based on standards and conditions related to the quality of performance in achieving pedagogical goals. He said the ministry is committed to protecting the rights of employees and expediting the completion of their financial transactions; thereby, motivating them and developing the pedagogical environment in schools.

## Other Voices

# Yes, we have a problem ...!

By Ahmad alsarraf

Yes, we have a problem. Some people resist modernizing our education system, insisting instead on their outdated methods, even though time has shown these to be ineffective and regressive, with poor results that are clear for all to see.

Our education standards have dropped to the lowest levels in the Gulf and regionally, let alone globally.

Over a century ago, Kuwait led the region in formal education. It was the first to teach English and even offered French in commercial schools for three years.

Kuwait also introduced various modern subjects across all schools. However, this progress stalled when religious parties gained influence in government positions, undermining curricula across the board.

The state has been trying to rescue education from decline for the past sixty years. But one major setback came with the founding of the Teachers’ Institute, which aimed to “Kuwaitize” education in an unproductive way, largely directed by a Brotherhood-affiliated administration.

Then, there was an initiative to adopt Singapore’s successful educational model, but after years of planning, a Brotherhood-influenced Minister of Education dismissed the idea.



alsarraf

Further attempts followed, culminating about three years ago in an agreement with the World Bank to revitalize education.

The ministry made substantial progress, reaching promising stages, only for the project to be abruptly halted by a Brotherhood-inclined minister.

The project was terminated within hours, and all recommendations from the global team were discarded, like the many previous studies before it.

It later emerged that much of the resistance to these reforms centered around one issue: the persistent emphasis on religious instruction.

Nearly every study recommended adjusting the heavy focus on religious subjects in the curriculum, emphasizing that the hours allocated to these subjects should be better balanced with vital academic disciplines that students cannot as easily learn outside of school.

Kuwaiti education today resembles a boat adrift in a stormy sea, with no sail, no captain, and its course changing with every wave.

The policies adopted by the Ministry of Education seem unclear, and worse, no one appears interested in addressing the tragic state of the system or its purpose.

Should we remain with outdated, simplistic methods, or should we embrace the world’s educational innovations? It seems no one has an answer.

The education in Kuwait does not appear aimed at producing morally aware, knowledgeable citizens ready to engage with the world, but rather at preparing students solely for religious ideals.

□ □ □

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



# October

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Professor Al-Saeed with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Kuwait.



Professor Al-Saeed with the Ambassador of Benin to Kuwait.

## Acting KU Director hosts Uzbekistan, and Republic of Benin Ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Acting Director of Kuwait University Professor Osama Al-Saeed received in his office the Ambassadors of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Benin.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, the meetings with both ambassadors were aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and promoting student exchange and academic collaboration.

Professor Al-Saeed first met with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Kuwait Ayub Khan Yunisov, and then the Ambassador of Benin to Kuwait Majaidou Soumano Issoufou.

During the meetings, Prof. Al-Saeed affirmed Kuwait University’s commitment to expanding scientific and cultural cooperation globally. He highlighted the importance of student exchange and joint programs between

the two parties with the aim of learning about the latest academic developments and the important research and scientific advancements.

Both ambassadors expressed their enthusiasm for the ongoing academic and cultural cooperation with Kuwait University, recognizing it as a prestigious university that is known for its educational programs and distinguished teaching methods, as well as having the best academics among the universities of the Arabian Gulf.

They highlighted the potential for increasing scientific exchange between universities to enhance academic and research capabilities in their countries, adding that they are looking forward to an increased number of specialized missions and more fruitful academic cooperation between Kuwait University and educational institutions in their countries.



# Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah meets Palestinian Ambassador



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah with H.E. Rami Tahboub, and Deputy Editor-in-Chief Suleiman Al-Jarallah, along with colleagues.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah received Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait Rami Tahboub in his office within the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah premises.

During the meeting, various topics of mutual interest were discussed, focusing on current developments,



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah with H.E. Rami Tahboub, the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait.

## Cultural ties through joint initiatives

### GCCJPPI chief advocates Gulf media cooperation to promote Arab values

DOHA, Oct 30, (KUNA): GCC Joint Program Production Institution (GCCJPPI) Director General Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Sabah affirmed on Wednesday the importance of constant cooperation and coordination between Gulf media organizations.

This came in statement by the institution, reported by KUNA, during Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah's visit to Qatar Media Corporation where he met with the CEO Abdulaziz bin Thani Al Thani, and discussed ways of joint co-operation and supporting media initiatives.

During the meeting, Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Thani highlighted the importance of the institution in highlighting Gulf values and Arab heritage, and in turn Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah said that collective work contributes more to developing the Gulf media in facing various challenges.

The GCCJPPI Director General also visited Qatar Foundation where he met with Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, discussing joint cooperation, supporting youth talents, and creating constructive media materials, especially directed to the children's segment.

GCCJPPI is a Gulf regional institution concerned with cultural ties between the Council countries, preserving Gulf heritage, and raising the quality of media production in a way that contributes to educating Gulf youth.

Established in 1995, Qatar Foundation's missions are integrated to develop societies in Qatar and the world.



GCCJPPI Director General Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with the CEO of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani Al-Thani.



Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al-Thani, both from the Joint Program Production Corporation of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

# Kuwaiti official highlights increasing 'interest' in AI

## ASBU expands digital efforts

TUNIS, Oct 30, (KUNA): Digital media is constantly expanding within the media space, which immediately requires keeping pace with all developments in technology and digital intelligence and their uses in the field, a visiting Kuwaiti official said on Tuesday.

The Kuwaiti official is the Head of the New Media Committee at the Arab States Broadcasting Union and Assistant Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Information Ministry for Media Services and New Media, Saad Nafel Al-Azmi.

He explained in his statement at the meeting of the Permanent Committee for New Media at the Arab States Broadcasting Union's headquarters in the Tunisian capital that there is a growing interest in using artificial intelligence in the media field, thus Arab media must keep pace with this emerging trend.

Al-Azmi further noted that the New Media Committee's scope of work at the ASBU has significantly expanded, underscoring the Union's commitment to this field. This was exemplified by the inclusion of a special competition for new media in the Arab Radio and Television Festival, for the first time, in the last session.

The Director General of the Union, Abdul Rahim Suleiman, pointed out the growing interest of radio unions worldwide in the issue of artificial intelligence in its relationship with the media and its uses.

Suleiman highlighted the positive impact of AI in media, which ranges from enhancing efficiency to improving audience engagement, and fostering a sense of optimism among the audience.

He reassured the audience that the ASBU is committed to staying at the forefront of technological advancements in the media field. He pointed out the Union's work plan in this field, which includes constantly keeping pace with the latest technological developments and making them available to its member bodies.

This commitment is further demonstrated through the Union's provision of training courses on the use of artificial intelligence in media production and broadcasting, which instills confidence in the audience about the Union's preparedness for the future. He also highlighted that the Union is a leading example in the use of artificial intelligence technologies.



Brigadier General Yousef Saeed Al-Azmi during the 17th Arab Conference in Tunisia.

## Arab States meet in Tunisia

### Kuwait joins border security conference

TUNIS, Oct 30, (KUNA): The 17th Arab Conference of Heads of Borders, Airports, and Ports Security kicked off Wednesday at the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers in Tunisia, with the participation of official border security agencies from Arab states' interior ministries, including Kuwait.

The League of Arab States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences participated at the conference, with the aim of enhancing communication between border security agencies in Arab countries to confront security threats.

In his opening speech, Secretary-General of the Council Mohammad Koman said that Arab countries face major challenges related to cross-border security amid the tension and armed conflicts in the region and the world, forcing thousands of civilians to migrate and seek asylum.

He pointed out that smuggling methods have taken on new forms, including drones and submarines, which requires coordinating efforts to confront them and sharing best practices among Arab countries to address them.

He explained that the General Secretariat of the council is working to cooperate with counterpart security bodies in regional groups such as the African Union and the European Union.

Koman indicated that the situation is getting worse due to the world suffering from high cost of living and climate fluctuations that threaten traditional development patterns, saying that this would increase the misery of many, force them on the paths of illegal immigration, and lead them to fall prey to terrorist and crime organizations.

He explained that Arab countries are more exposed than others to the problems of drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and human trafficking due to the geographical location of the Arab world between source and destination countries.

The conference would discuss a number of important topics, including a mechanism for communication between national operations rooms for border security in Arab countries.

It would also review the experiences of member states in the field of linking border crossings within the country, and in the field of confronting the use of drones and submarines in smuggling, as well as consider the results of the work of the Second Euro-Arab Border Security Conference.

Representing Kuwait at the conference Brigadier Yousef Saeed Al-Azmi, Brigadier Abdullah Mohammad Al-Ajmi, and Brigadier Ahmad Mustafa Khan.

## Kuwait tightens

### Continued from Page 1

The statement indicated that the minister was briefed during the session about the intensive campaigns against the outlawed and violators of residency and work laws.

The officers also discussed various other issues, means of combating all forms of crimes and setting the priorities of the security tasks in the foreseeable future.

The session was attended by the Undersecretary, (Lieut. Gen.) Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Also, Kuwait's human rights reputation is a redline and it goes hand-in-hand with the timely payment of laborers, said First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Wednesday.

This came in a statement issued by the Interior Ministry's Public Relations and Security Media following Sheikh Fahad Al-Youssef's meeting with representatives of labor force companies in the presence of Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower Marzouq Al-Otaibi.

The meeting discussed the cabinet's decision concerning regulating companies' workers' pay on a timely basis.

Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef affirmed that the full force of the law would be used against companies violating the cabinet's decision in this regard, saying that no one was above the law.

Companies would be paying their laborers in a timely manner without any delays, he reiterated, saying that those failing to do so would face scrutiny and investigation and legal action would be taken against violators.

He affirmed that all amenities and resources would be provided to companies to ensure fair treatment of its laborers in accordance to the law.

## PM urges

### Continued from Page 1

The Cabinet meeting, held at Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations, was apprised of the Amir Decree 183 (2024), naming Al-Tabtabai as Minister of Education

and Al-Roumi as Minister of Oil.

The meeting was also informed of the contents of letters to His Highness the Amir from leaders of some friendly countries on ways to promote cooperation between Kuwait and those countries, Sher-eeda Abdullah Al-Mousherji noted in a press release.

Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi briefed the Cabinet on the specifications of the New Maternity Hospital, one of the biggest maternity facilities in the region.

He thanked His Highness the Prime Minister and the Cabinet members for visiting and inspecting the hospital.

His Highness the Prime Minister, in turn, extolled the health minister and Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Muhammad Khaled Al-Mashaan, as well as leaders all competent agencies, for their efforts to carry out the hospital project.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet on the outcomes of his visit to sisterly Qatar on October 28-29 where he attended the opening ceremony of the 14th edition of Milipol Qatar, the Global Exhibition and Conference for Homeland Security and Safety.

The event, organized by the Qatari Ministry of Interior, gathered 240 exhibitors from 22 countries to showcase their latest products, solutions and services related to cybersecurity, AI safety, and applications of modern technology in smart cities and forensic medicine.

## Over 2,700

### Continued from Page 1

This initiative was launched under the guidance of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, who affirmed the importance of supporting citizens facing financial crises and providing necessary assistance, particularly for those burdened by accumulating debts.

These efforts demonstrate the ministry's commitment to offering practical and sustainable solutions that help citizens overcome their

financial challenges.

Al-Ajmi also expressed gratitude to major donors who contributed to the debt settlement initiative, notably Kuwait Finance House, which donated KD 7 million.

He also highlighted the contributions from cooperative societies, charity organizations, and many individuals, all of whom played a vital role in the humanitarian effort to alleviate the debts of those in need, adding that this reflects the spirit of solidarity and generosity within Kuwaiti society.

Al-Ajmi commended the pivotal role played by the Head of the General Department for Sentences Enforcement at the Ministry of Justice Abdullah Al-Othman through his constructive cooperation in streamlining the procedures, which was crucial to the initiative's success and achieving its goals effectively.

## 18,000 MW

### Continued from Page 1

The ministry plans to allocate funding in its annual budget for the next five years for the establishment of power generation stations to meet this projected demand, in line with the plans designed to meet the increasing energy needs driven by urban, industrial, and commercial growth in the country.

The ministry and the Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority have outlined a plan to implement 40 projects in stages with the aim of producing 19,600 megawatts of electricity to meet the growing demand.

The main projects include:

- North Zour (second and third phases), with a capacity to produce 2,700 megawatts
- Nuwaiseeb Station, which will be developed in two phases to generate 7,200 megawatts
- Khairan Station, planned over three phases to produce 5,400 megawatts
- Shaqaya Station, to be implemented in four phases to produce 4,300 megawatts.

In addition, the Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority has made great progress in the procedures for offering the North Zour and Khairan Station projects. The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has also included the Nuwaiseeb Station in its annual plan for the current fiscal year of 2024/2025, and is scheduled to begin the offering procedures before the end of the fiscal year.

## Kuwait targets

### Continued from Page 1

In August, Kuwait set the new foundation to encourage more foreign investments in Kuwait and this came in a decision made by the 2013established Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), which allowed entities with less than a year of operation to submit to the authorities papers allowing for privileges and exemptions.

Moreover, Kuwait's 2024-25 development plan called for the establishment of a specialized economic development zone of unique laws aimed at attracting global investors of high value and also encourages transparency in managing financial resources.

Last August, Kuwait agreed via a decree on the MoU signed with Oman within the framework of direct investments.

Kuwait also signed this year a MoU with South Korea to bolster economic cooperation, and mutual investment, and encourage direct investment visits between the two sides.

## Kuwait partners

### Continued from Page 1

The delegation played a role in crafting a future exchange training program, a significant step toward sustainable agricultural development in Kuwait.

Sheikha Sharifa has shared her success in cultivating diverse ornamental plants, trees, and shrubs in Kuwait's desert climate since 2012, driven by a passion inspired by her mother, as she aims to prove the viability of such plants in hot and arid environments like Kuwait. She has cultivated over 30 plant species from seeds sourced worldwide, which were previously thought unsuitable for Gulf climates, and her garden, Gulf of Julaiah, opens twice annually to raise awareness about horticulture in Kuwait and the Gulf. She also documents her experience on Instagram at (evergreen\_kwt).

Al-Zainah Al-Babtain emphasized her passion for organic gardening, aiming to promote a healthy lifestyle from among Kuwaiti and Gulf communities.

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‘New York rally was an absolute lovefest’

VP Harris urges voters to reject Trump’s efforts to sow division and fear

WASHINGTON, Oct 30, (AP): Kamala Harris stood before an overflowing crowd near the White House on Tuesday and promised Americans she would fight for them every day as she urged voters to reject Donald Trump’s efforts to sow division and fear, declaring, “It doesn’t have to be this way.”

One week out from Election Day, the vice president tried to drive home the contrast with Trump by delivering her closing argument from the same spot on the grassy Ellipse where the Republican former president had fomented the Capitol insurrection in 2021, pledging that she would work to improve people’s lives while arguing that her Republican opponent is only in it for himself.

“I’ll be honest with you: I’m not perfect,” she said. “I make mistakes. But here’s what I promise you: I will always listen to you, even if you don’t vote for me. I will always tell you the truth, even if it’s hard to hear. I will work every day to build consensus and reach compromise to get things done. And if you give me the chance to fight on your behalf, there is nothing in the world that will stand in my way.”

Harris began her capstone speech by reminding voters of Trump’s role in the chaos of Jan. 6, 2021, when he spewed falsehoods about the 2020 presidential election that inspired a crowd to march to the Capitol and try unsuccessfully to halt the certification of Democrat Joe Biden’s victory. She brought up his threats to use the military against his political rivals and his labeling of those who disagree with him as “the enemy from within.”

“Look, we know who Donald Trump is. He is the person who stood at this very spot nearly four years ago and sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol to overturn the will of the people in a free and fair election,” she said. Trump, she added, “has spent a decade trying to keep the American people divided and afraid of each other.”

“This is not a candidate for president who is thinking about how to make your life better,” she said, branding Trump a “petty tyrant” and “wannabe dictator.”

Harris continued: “But America, I am here tonight to say: That’s not who we are.” She added, “It doesn’t have to be this way.”

Harris sought to use her largest re-



Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a campaign rally at Desert Diamond Arena on Aug 9 in Glendale, Ariz. (AP)

maintaining stage before polls close to make a broader case for why voters should reject Trump and consider what she offers, while still introducing herself to voters clamoring for more information.

The White House gleaming behind her, Harris encouraged the crowd to visualize their divergent futures depending on who wins on Election Day.

Harris went on to list key policy goals, including expanding Medicare coverage of home health care, boosting the supply of housing in the country and working to restore nationwide

access to abortion.

Her speech drew a massive crowd to Washington, with supporters spilling out toward the Washington Monument on the National Mall. More critically, her campaign hopes the setting will help catch the attention of battleground state voters who remain on the fence about whom to vote for - or whether to vote at all.

Meanwhile, urged by some allies to apologize for racist comments made by speakers at his weekend rally, Trump took the opposite approach on Tuesday, saying it was an “honor to be involved” in such an event and calling the scene a “lovefest” - the same term he has used to describe the Jan. 6 insurrection at the US Capitol.

Trump gathered supporters and reporters to his Mar-a-Lago resort two days after a massive rally at Madison Square Garden featured a number of crude remarks by various speakers, including a set by comedian Tony Hinchcliffe in which he joked that Puerto Rico was a “floating island of garbage.” Some of Trump’s top Republican allies have condemned the remarks, and his campaign took the rare step of publicly distancing itself from Hinchcliffe’s joke, though not the other comments.

But given the opportunity to apologize at multiple events and in interviews Tuesday, Trump instead leaned in. Speaking at his Florida resort, he said that “there’s never been an event so beautiful” as his Sunday rally in his hometown of New York.

“The love in that room. It was breathtaking,” he said. “It was like a lovefest, an absolute lovefest. And it was my honor to be involved.”

On Tuesday night, he told Fox News’ Sean Hannity that he knows nothing about Hinchcliffe but said, “I can’t imagine it’s a big deal.” He later agreed, though, that “probably he shouldn’t have been there.”

With just a week before Election Day, some Trump allies have voiced alarm that the rally, which was supposed to highlight the Republican presidential nominee’s closing message in grand New York fashion, has instead served as a distraction and even a liability, given the electoral importance of Puerto Ricans who live in Pennsylvania and other key swing states.

‘Shah ordered campaign targeting Sikh separatists’

Canada opp’n party wants to topple PM’s govt in Parliament

MONT-TREMBLANT, Quebec, Oct 30, (AP): A Quebec nationalist party said it will work with other opposition parties in Canada’s Parliament to topple Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s minority government.

Trudeau’s Liberals have only 153 seats in the 338-seat House of Commons and must rely on an opposition party to pass legislation. With the parliamentary election approaching and Trudeau hoping for a fourth term, his party has been trailing the Conservatives in polls with Canadians feeling frustrated by the rising cost of living, coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet said Trudeau’s “days are numbered” after the Liberals failed to meet his demand to boost old age security payments for seniors. However, the party will need the leftist New Democratic Party and the Conservatives - who are eager to force an election - to take down Trudeau’s Liberals.

The NDP has been supporting Trudeau’s Liberals but their leader recently announced it would decide based on each proposed bill.

Trudeau said last week he will lead his Liberal Party into the next federal election - which could come any time between this fall and October 2025 - dismissing a request by some members of his own party not to run again. The party recently suffered upsets in special elections in two districts in Toronto and Montreal that it has held for



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrives for a meeting in Ottawa on Oct 29. (AP)

years, raising doubts about the prime minister’s leadership.

The Conservatives have also been leading in the latest Nanos Research poll 39% to 26%, with the NDP following at 20%. The poll of 1,047 respondents has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, according to the Canadian public opinion and research company.

“The NDP does not want an election now because it fears struggling to

retain the seats it currently holds,” said Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto. “The party’s upside is still limited. It is hoping that the unpopular Trudeau stays and that it overtakes his Liberals in the polls.”

Trudeau channeled the star power of his father in 2015 when he reasserted the country’s liberal identity after almost 10 years of Conservative rule. But the son of late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau is now in trouble.

Meanwhile, a Canadian official alleged that Indian Home Minister Amit Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison told Parliament members of the national security committee that he had confirmed Shah’s name to The Washington Post, which first reported the allegations.

“The journalist called me and asked if it was that person. I confirmed it was that person,” Morrison told the committee.

Morrison did not say how Canada knew of Shah’s alleged involvement.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a year ago that Canada had credible evidence agents of the Indian government were involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June 2023.

Canadian authorities have repeatedly said they have shared evidence of that with Indian authorities.

Indian government officials have re-

peatedly denied Canada has provided evidence and have called the allegations absurd. India’s embassy in Ottawa didn’t immediately respond to messages for a request for comment on the allegation against Shah.

On Oct. 14, Canada expelled the Indian high commissioner and five other diplomats, alleging they were persons of interest in multiple cases of coercion, intimidation and violence aimed at quieting a campaign for an independent Sikh state known as Khalistan.

Canada is not the only country that has accused Indian officials of plotting an assassination on foreign soil. The United States Justice Department announced criminal charges in mid-October against an Indian government employee in connection with an alleged foiled plot to kill a Sikh separatist leader living in New York City.

In the case announced by the Justice Department, Vikash Yadav, who authorities say directed the New York plot from India, faces murder-for-hire charges in a planned killing that prosecutors have previously said was meant to precede a string of other politically motivated murders in the United States and Canada.

Nathalie Drouin, Trudeau’s national security adviser, told the committee Tuesday that Canada has evidence the Indian government first gathered information on Indian nationals and Canadian citizens in Canada through diplomatic channels and proxies.



A damaged ballot drop box is displayed during a news conference at the Multnomah County Elections Division office on Oct 28, 2024, in Portland, Ore. (AP)

About 475 damaged ballots retrieved from burned drop box in Washington

VANCOUVER, Wash., Oct 30, (AP): About 475 damaged ballots were retrieved from a ballot box that was burned early Monday in southwest Washington, a county official said Tuesday.

Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey said workers on Wednesday will begin searching through the damaged ballots for voter information in order to contact them about getting a new ballot. He said officials believe that although damaged, the workers will be able to pull voter information from the ballots.

The damaged ballots are separate from an unknown number that were destroyed, Kimsey said.

Incendiary devices damaged and destroyed hundreds of ballots at a drop box in Vancouver, Washington, and damaged three ballots at a box in Portland, Oregon, in what federal, state and local officials have decried as an attack on democracy before a heated Election Day.

Authorities have said that enough material from the incendiary devices was recovered to link the two fires on Monday, as well as an Oct. 8 incident, when an incendiary device was placed at a different ballot drop box in Vancouver. No ballots were damaged in that incident.

Albania’s opposition rally, blocks roads

TIRANA, Albania, Oct 30, (AP): Albanian opposition activists blocked major roads for several hours Tuesday in a nationwide rally demanding that the government be replaced by a technocratic caretaker Cabinet before the 2025 parliamentary election.

Lawmakers led hundreds of opposition supporters in rallies that blocked traffic at a main highway into the capital, Tirana, and at five other major roads around the country.

“Civil blockade, today or never!” was the motto of the protest on the website of the main opposition Democratic Party. In Tirana, opposition lawmakers parked their cars to block traffic for three hours. In other places, opposition supporters staged sit-ins at the roadside or burned tires.

The conservative Democrats led by former Prime Minister Sali Berisha have long accused Prime Minister Edi Rama’s Socialists of corruption, manipulating earlier elections and usurping the powers of the judiciary.

Thousands of police were deployed to protect government buildings, traffic and the rule of law, and there were sporadic clashes between officers and



Albanian opposition protesters burn tyres during a blockade of a main avenue demanding that the government be replaced by a technocratic caretaker Cabinet, in Tirana, Albania on Oct 29. (AP)

activists before the rallies ended in the late evening.

The opposition activists lifted their

blockades when their leaders pledged to take unspecified anti-government action later.

N.Korea’s top diplomat visits Moscow

Russia, Ukraine exchange scores of drone strikes

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 30, (AP): Russia and Ukraine exchanged scores of drone strikes Wednesday as North Korea’s top diplomat arrived in Russia for talks after his country reportedly deployed thousands of soldiers to help Moscow’s war efforts.

Ukraine’s air force said that Russia launched 62 drones and one missile overnight, adding that 33 of them were intercepted and 25 were jammed.

The drones struck a residential building and a kindergarten in Kyiv, injuring nine people, including a child, according to the city administration. “Russian drones did not change their constant tactics - they approached the capital from different directions, at different heights,” it said.

Russian attacks also targeted other regions of Ukraine, killing at least four and injuring about 30 others over the past 24 hours, authorities said.

At the same time, Russian forces have pressed their slow-moving offensive in eastern Ukraine. In Moscow, the Defense Ministry announced the capture of the village of Kruhlyakivka

in the Kharkiv region.

The ministry said that air defenses downed 25 Ukrainian drones over several regions in the country’s west and southwest.

The new attacks come as North Korea’s Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui



North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui enters a hall in Moscow, Russia, on Jan 16. (AP)

arrived in Moscow for talks that South Korea’s spy agency said could involve discussions on sending additional troops to Russia and what the North would get in return.

The Pentagon said North Korea has sent about 10,000 troops to Russia, and that they will likely fight against Ukraine “over the next several weeks.”

Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said Tuesday that a “relatively small number” of North Korean troops are now in the Kursk region, where Russia has struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion.

South Korean and Western officials have voiced concern that Russia may offer technology that could advance the threat posed by North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile program.

Moscow and Pyongyang have responded vaguely to South Korean and Western claims of the North Korean troop deployment to Russia, emphasizing that their military cooperation conforms with international law, without directly admitting the presence of the North’s forces in Russia.



Residents look at cars piled up after being swept away by floods in Valencia, Spain on Oct 30. (AP)

64 people die in devastating flash floods in eastern Spain

At least 64 people have died in eastern Spain after flash floods swept away cars, turned village streets into rivers and disrupted rail lines and highways in the worst natural disaster to hit the European nation in recent memory.

Emergency services in the eastern region of Valencia confirmed a death toll of 62 people on Wednesday. The central government office for Castilla La Mancha region add-

ed that an 88-year-old woman was found dead in the city of Cuenca.

Rainstorms on Tuesday caused flooding in a wide swath of southern and eastern Spain, stretching from Malaga to Valencia. Floods of mud-colored water tumbled vehicles down streets at high speeds, while pieces of wood swirled in the water with household items. Police and rescue services used helicopters to lift people from their homes

and rubber boats to reach drivers trapped on the roofs of cars.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said dozens of towns had been flooded and warned that the danger is not over. “For those who are looking for their loved ones, all of Spain feels your pain,” Sánchez said in a televised address. “Our priority is to help you. We are putting all the resources necessary so that we can recover from this tragedy.” (AP)



A view of BAE Systems’ Barrow-in-Furness shipyard in Cumbria on Oct 30. (AP)

No N-risk after fire at Britain’s nuke sub shipyard: police

Two people have been hospitalized after a fire broke out at the shipyard that builds Britain’s nuclear-powered submarines, but there is “no nuclear risk,” police said Wednesday.

Cumbria Constabulary said a “significant” fire broke out soon after midnight at the BAE Systems shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, northwest England.

Video shared on social media overnight showed flames shooting

out from the Devonshire Dock Hall building while alarms blared.

“When I opened the front door, we just saw a lot of black smoke,” said Donna Butler, who lives next to the shipyard. “It was a lot of black smoke, like really thick black smoke, and it was very loud.”

The force said two people were taken to hospitals with suspected smoke inhalation and there were no other casualties. It advised people

living nearby to stay indoors and keep doors and windows closed.

The 150-year-old shipyard, about 220 miles (350 kilometers) northwest of London, is currently building several nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Navy. It is also where the four subs that carry the U.K.’s nuclear missiles were constructed, and where replacements for those vessels, due to enter service in the 2030s, are being constructed. (AP)



## Powerful typhoon nears Philippines, with shelters still crammed after recent storm

MANILA, Oct 30, (AP): Villagers in northern Philippine provinces were forced to evacuate on Wednesday as a powerful typhoon approached the nation still reeling from a recent storm that left at least 182 dead and missing and emergency shelters crammed with displaced people.

Typhoon Kong-rey was last tracked 350 kilometers (217 miles) east of northern Cagayan province, with sustained winds of up to 185 kph (115 mph) and gusting up to 230 kph (143 mph). Forecasters said it could further strengthen at sea.

It was blowing northwestward and was predicted to pass near the northernmost Philippine province of Batanes before slamming into southeastern Taiwan on Thursday.

“We are still recovering from the two previous typhoon and storm and here we go again,” Batanes Governor Marilou Cayco told The Associated Press.

“We’re going around now to supervise the forced evacuation of people, specially those whose houses were severely damaged by the last storm,” Cayco said.

Elsewhere across the northern Philippines, more than 300,000 people displaced last week by Tropical Storm Trami, remained in emergency shelters as the new typhoon approached, Office of Civil Defense officials said.

Forecasters also warned of a “life-threatening storm surge reaching 2 to 3 meters (6.5 to 9.8 feet)” that could

be whipped up by Kong-rey in low-lying coasts of Batanes and the nearby Babuyan cluster of islands.

All ships and cargo vessels were advised to remain in ports and those at sea should seek shelter or safe harbor as soon as possible until winds and waves subside.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., who oversees disaster-response efforts, ordered the forced evacuation of people in high-risk areas threatened by Kong-rey, which is locally called Leon. “We always aim for zero casualty in the event of disasters, so we strongly urge the public to heed our protocols,” Teodoro said. While Kong-rey was expected to blow off the northern Philippines, its extensive rain band with a width of more than 600 kilometers (373 miles) could lash the entire main northern region of Luzon, the country’s most populous, the government said.

Tropical storm Trami, which blew out of the northern Philippines last Friday, left at least 145 dead and 37 missing mostly in widespread flooding and landslides and affected more than 7 million people in nearly 11,000 mostly rural villages, the government’s disaster-mitigation agency said. More than 111,000 houses were damaged, many inundated by floods and swollen rivers. Trami dumped up to two months’ worth of rain in just 24 hours in some regions, setting off flash floods that swept away cars and trapped people on their roofs.



Rescuers work at the site after a recent landslide triggered by Tropical Storm Trami struck Talisay, Batangas province, Philippines leaving thousands homeless and several villagers dead on Oct 26. (AP)

‘N.Korean troops sent to Russia may be pleased to be there’

## N.Korea appears poised to conduct nuclear and ICBM tests: South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 30, (AP): South Korea’s military intelligence agency told lawmakers Wednesday that North Korea has likely completed preparations for its seventh nuclear test and appears to be preparing to test a long-range missile capable of reaching the United States.

In a closed-door hearing, the agency also said some advance units of North Korean troops sent to Russia may have arrived at battlefronts as the forces prepare to move to the Kursk region, where Russia has struggled to push back a Ukrainian incursion, according to two lawmakers who attended the meeting.

Earlier this month, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol told The Associated Press earlier this month that he expects North Korea to stage major provocations like nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests around the US election to dial up pressure on Washington and its allies.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has also flaunted his military nuclear program in recent months, testing various missile systems and disclosing a secretive facility for producing weapons-grade uranium in September.

The agency believes that North Korea has finished preparations to conduct a nuclear test at its testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri, with the detonation likely to be carried out at tunnel No. 3, said Lee Seong-kweun, one of the lawmakers who attended the hearing. North Korea conducted its sixth and last nuclear test in 2017.

The agency also said it’s detecting signs, including the placement of launch vehicles, that the North is preparing to test launch an ICBM designed to reach the US mainland, said Lee and Park Sun-won, another lawmaker. The agency believes the ICBM test could take place sometime in November.

Meanwhile, the thousands of young soldiers North Korea has sent to Russia,



In this photo distributed by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, (center), walks near what it says is a Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on the launcher at an undisclosed location in North Korea on March 24, 2022. (AP)

reportedly to help fight against Ukraine, are mostly elite special forces, but that hasn’t stopped speculation they’ll be slaughtered because they have no combat experience, no familiarity with the terrain and will likely be dropped onto the most ferocious battlefields.

That may be true, and soon. Observers say the troops are already arriving at the front. From the North Korean perspective, however, these soldiers might not be as miserable as outsiders think. They may, in fact, view their Russian tour with pride and as a rare chance to make good money, see a foreign country for the first time and win preferred treatment for their families back home, according to former North Korean soldiers.

“They are too young and won’t understand exactly what it means. They’ll just consider it an honor to be selected as the ones to go to Russia among the many North Korean soldiers,” said Lee Woong-gil, a former member of the same special forces unit, the Storm Corps. He came to South Korea in 2007. “But I think most of them won’t likely come back home alive.”

Worries about North Korea’s likely participation in the Russian-Ukraine war were highlighted this week when the Pentagon said North Korea has sent about 10,000 troops to Russia, and that they will likely fight against Ukraine “over the next several weeks.” NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said Monday that some North Korean military units were already in Russia’s Kursk border region, where Russia has been struggling against a Ukraine incursion.

North Korea’s troop deployment could mark a serious escalation of the almost three-year war. It caught many outside observers by surprise because North Korea has its own security headache, a festering standoff with the United States and South Korea over its nuclear program.



Charred homes sit in piles of ash in Mwe Tone village of Pale township in the Sagaing region, Myanmar on Feb 1, 2022. (AP)

‘Conflict escalating’

## UN special envoy Bishop warns Myanmar in crisis

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 30, (AP): The UN special envoy for Myanmar warned that the Southeast Asian nation is in crisis, with conflict escalating, criminal networks “out of control” and human suffering at unprecedented levels.

Julie Bishop told the UN General Assembly’s human rights committee on Tuesday in her first report since being appointed by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last April that “Myanmar actors must move beyond the current zero-sum mentality.”

The army in Myanmar ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021 and suppressed widespread nonviolent protests that sought a return to democratic rule, leading to increasing violence and a humanitarian crisis.

In the past year, three powerful ethnic armed militias have gained territory, keeping the government’s ruling military increasingly on the back foot in fighting that has forced hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes. According to the UN, 3 million people are displaced across Myanmar and some 18.6 million need humanitarian assistance.

Bishop called for an end to the violence, stressing that “There can be little progress on addressing the needs of the people while armed conflict continues across the country.”

The former Australian foreign minister said she has engaged with the government, including Senior Gen.

Min Aung Hlaing in Myanmar’s capital, Naypyidaw, as well as opposition representatives, ethnic armed organizations, women’s groups, human rights defenders and numerous countries. She gave no details about the meetings.

She said she has engaged with the current, previous and incoming ASEAN chairs in Vientiane, Laos; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The U.N. envoy said she has also visited Myanmar’s neighbors China and Thailand and will soon visit India and Bangladesh, “continuing to urge neighboring countries to leverage their influence.” She said she will also return to Naypyidaw but gave no time frame. She gave no details about any of the meetings.

At the recent summit between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, known as ASEAN, Bishop said Secretary-General Guterres backed strengthened cooperation between the U.N. envoy and the ASEAN chair “on innovative ways to promote a Myanmar-led process.”

This includes “effective implementation” of a five-point ASEAN plan Myanmar’s rulers agreed to in April 2021 but have done little to fulfill. It calls for the immediate cessation of violence, a dialogue among all concerned parties mediated by an ASEAN special envoy, provision of humanitarian aid and a visit to Myanmar by the association’s special envoy to meet all concerned parties.

## ‘2nd graft trial linked to 1MDB scandal’

### Malaysia high court orders Najib to enter defense

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 30, (AP): Malaysia’s High Court on Wednesday ordered imprisoned former Prime Minister **Najib Razak** to enter a defense in his second corruption trial over the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund.

Najib set up the 1Malaysia Development Berhad state fund shortly after taking power in 2009 to promote economic development, but the fund amassed billions in debt. Investigators allege more than \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by his associates to finance Hollywood films and extravagant purchases.

The prosecution established its case on four charges of abuse of power to obtain over \$700 million from the fund that went into Najib’s bank accounts between

2011 and 2014, and 21 counts of money laundering involving the same amount, trial judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah said Wednesday.

He said evidence showed Najib had a vested interest in 1MDB, and his pivotal role in all relevant transactions that eventually plunged the fund into debt. Testimony by witnesses also contradicted Najib’s claim that the

funds in his bank accounts were a donation from the Saudi Arabia royal family, the judge said.



Najib

The court called on Najib to make his defense, with the trial set to resume Dec. 2. Calm in a blue suit throughout the proceedings, Najib, 71, told the court he would testify under oath.

Defense lawyer Mohamed Shafee Abdullah told reporters that Najib was disappointed with the court ruling.

“We are not giving up and we are going to fight this case,” he added.

The 1MDB scandal upended Najib’s government and he was defeated in the 2018 election. He faces a slew of legal cases and started serving time in 2022 after losing his final appeal in his first graft case linked to 1MDB.

Najib’s current trial began in August 2019. It ties him directly to the scandal and involved 50 witnesses testifying over more than 230 days of hearing.



A view of debris from the partially collapsed Dubrovnik Hotel, in Villa Gesell, Argentina on Oct 29. (AP)

### Hotel collapses in Argentina, 1 dead and several trapped

A 10-story hotel under renovation in Argentina collapsed Tuesday, leaving one person dead and at least seven trapped in the debris, authorities said.

Firefighters searching for survivors rescued a woman who was alive from the rubble of the Dubrovnik Hotel in Villa Gesell, a coastal city 217 miles (350 km) south of the capital Buenos Aires.

A prosecutor opened an investigation to determine the

cause of the collapse, but Villa Gesell’s municipality said in a press release that the hotel was undergoing a renovation without the proper permits. Javier Alonso, security minister for the Buenos Aires province, told journalists that an 80-year-old man died in the collapse and a woman was taken alive from the debris. He added that between seven and nine people, presumably masons working on the hotel’s restoration, remain trapped. (AP)

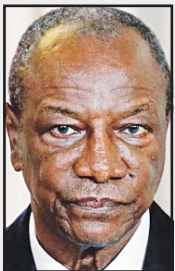
## Africa

**Political parties dissolved:** Guinea authorities dissolved dozens of political parties and placed two major opposition ones under observation late Monday, while the transitional government has yet to announce a date for elections.

The West African country has been led by a military regime since soldiers ousted President **Alpha Conde** in 2021. The West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS has pushed for a return to civilian rule and elections are scheduled for 2025.

The mass dissolution of 53 political parties and required observation of 54 others for three months is unprecedented in Guinea, which held its first democratic election in 2010 after decades of authoritarian rule. The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization announced the

moves based on an evaluation of all political parties begun in June. The evaluation was meant to “clean up the political chessboard,” according to the ministry.



Conde

ty of former President Alpha Conde, and another major opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea. (AP)

**‘Civilians at risk in Burkina’:** Burkina Faso’s government unnecessarily exposed civilians to danger during a militant attack earlier this year, Human Rights Watch said in a report released Tuesday.

In August, at least 100 villagers were killed by fighters from a militant group linked to al-Qaida in central Burkina Faso, in one of the deadliest attacks this year in the conflict-battered West African nation.

Villagers in the Barsalogho commune, which is 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the capital Ouagadougou, were forcibly helping security forces dig up trenches to protect security outposts and villages when fighters with the Jama’at Nasrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin group invaded the area and opened fire on them, according to the report. The JNIM group, which claimed responsibility for the attack, said that all of the villagers targeted were members of militias affiliated with Burkina Faso in its response to the report. (AP)

## Botswana votes with ruling party seeking to stay in power for another 5 years term

GABORONE, Botswana, Oct 30, (AP): Polls opened in a national election in Botswana on Wednesday as voters decide if one of Africa’s longest-ruling parties stays in power for another five-year term.

The Botswana Democratic Party has governed the southern African nation for 58 years, since independence from Britain in 1966. The election will determine the makeup of Parliament and lawmakers will later elect the president. President Mokgweetsi Masisi, a 63-year-old former high school teacher who also previously worked for UNICEF, is seeking a second and final term.

Botswana has been held up as one of Africa’s success stories - a peaceful and stable democracy with one of the



A man assisted by a relative walks towards a voting booth during an election to decide if it keeps faith with one of Africa’s longest-ruling parties, in Gaborone, Botswana on Oct 30. (AP)

best standards of living in the region - but is facing new economic challenges that have pushed the ruling party to concede that policy change is needed.

That’s largely because of a global downturn in demand for diamonds, which Botswana’s economy relies on. Unemployment in the nation of some 2.5 million people has risen to 27% this year, and is significantly higher for young people.

The ruling party says it has listened to the concerns of voters and will pursue changes that could diversify an economy where diamonds account for more than 80% of Botswana’s exports and a quarter of the GDP, according to the World Bank. One of its campaign slogans has been “Changing Together, Building Prosperity.”



KIB Group’s net profits during 9 months of 2024 reach KD 16 mln

Recording a NP growth of 138%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah has revealed the Bank’s financial results for the nine months of 2024. During this period, KIB achieved KD 16 million in net profit attributable to shareholders, an increase of 138% compared to KD 6.8 million during the nine months of 2023, with earnings per share (EPS) standing at 8.62 fils, an increase of 172% during the nine months of 2024. Total operating income rose by 24% to reach KD 65 million compared to nine months of 2023.

Commenting on the latest financial results, Al-Jarrah said: “The results of the nine months of 2024 clearly reflect the diligent and focused efforts aimed at enhancing performance and operational efficiency to maintain the Bank’s financial stability. They also reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable approach embedded in our comprehensive strategy, as we strive toward more innovative and advanced horizons in the realm of customer service and product offering.”

He added: “The financial results further highlight our dedication to service excellence and maintaining flexibility in executing the core principles of our business model. We have made significant progress in empowering all sectors and departments to adapt to diverse circumstances, thanks to the extensive experience and expertise of our executive team and employees. Together, they continue to achieve success through growth plans focused on continuous development and the innovation of new digital products, services, and solutions that meet – and exceed – customer expectations.”

Delving into the Bank’s financial statements at the end of 30 September 2024, Al-Jarrah stated that KIB’s total assets grew by 6% to reach almost KD 3.60 billion compared to KD 3.40 billion as at 30 September 2023. The growth in total assets was a result of an increase in the financing portfolio by 8% to reach KD 2.67 billion as of 30 September 2024 compared to KD 2.48 billion for the same period of last year. Meanwhile, its investment and high-quality Sukuk portfolio grew by KD 151million or 49%, reaching almost KD 460 million as at 30 September 2024, compared to KD 308 million for the same period of last year.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Jarrah emphasized that KIB continuously seeks strategic investment opportunities that benefit its shareholders, customers, and employees – whether in innovation, digital infrastructure investment, or developing human capital, among other key opportunities. These efforts are evident in the KIB’s leading position among local banking institutions, its advanced level of customer service, its constant focus on expanding operations, and the real growth achieved across all sectors.

On his part, Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and CEO of KIB, said: “We are proud to announce these positive financial results, which confirm KIB’s success in making further progress during the nine months of 2024. This achievement is closely tied to our ability to embrace a culture of excellence, guided by best banking practices and responsible risk management. It also reflects our commitment to ensuring complete customer satisfaction through the development, innovation and delivery of top-quality financial services that meet their vital needs and exceed their expectations.”

Bukhamseen presented in detail the key financial results for the nine months of 2024 compared to the same period of last year, where financing income increased to reach KD 135 million, compared to almost KD 125 million, with a growth rate of 8%, and net financing income



Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman.



Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and CEO.

Major Financial results for the 9 Months 2024			
	9M 2024	9M 2023	
Net Financing Income 'KD Million'	48	37	28% ↑
Operating Income 'KD Million'	65	52	24% ↑
Profit attributable to shareholders 'KD Million'	16.2	6.8	138% ↑
EPS 'Fils'	8.62	3.17	172% ↑
Financing Receivables 'KD Billion'	2.67	2.48	8% ↑
Total Assets 'KD Billion'	3.60	3.41	6% ↑
Depositors' Accounts 'KD Billion'	2.24	1.99	13% ↑
Equity attributable to shareholders 'KD Million'	351	314	12% ↑

KIB's Q3 2024 results.

increased to reach an KD 47.8 million, compared to almost KD 37 million, with a growth rate of 28%, and an increase in fees and commission income to reach KD 12.8 million, compared to an KD 9 million, with a growth rate of 43%, as this contributed to an increase in total operating income to reach almost KD 65 million compared to KD 52 million, with a growth rate of 24%.

In terms of the financial position as at 30 September 2024, Bukhamseen said that KIB’s customers’ deposits grew by 13% to reach KD 2.24 billion as at 30 September 2024 compared to KD 1.99 billion for

the same period of last year. In addition, the total shareholders equity grew 12% to reach KD 351 million as at 30 September 2024 compared to KD 314 million for the same period of last year, noting that KIB continues to maintain high levels of total capital adequacy ratio, in accordance with Basel III instructions, of 19.25% at the end of the third quarter of 2024.

On a similar note, Bukhamseen commended KIB’s continued support for the “Let’s Be Aware” (Diraya) banking awareness campaign, overseen by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association, in collaboration with local banks. He emphasized KIB’s ongoing efforts to educate customers and the community about their financial rights and responsibilities, while also sharing specialized materials designed to protect their banking and personal data at all times. Through these initiatives, KIB remains a true partner to the community and a key pillar in its sustainable growth and development.

Bukhamseen concluded by noting that KIB continues to win excellence awards, affirming its leading position in the Kuwaiti banking sector. Recently, the Bank received the ‘Best Real Estate Solutions Provider MENA 2024’ award from Capital Finance International (CFI.co) magazine. The award recognized its extensive expertise in the real estate sector spanning over 50 years, as well as its commitment to a comprehensive strategy focused on excellence and innovation. This recognition reflects the Bank’s long-standing dedication to offering the best real estate solutions and digital services to all customer segments. Additionally, KIB was awarded ‘Best Retail Banking Product’ award for the year 2024 from World Finance magazine, acknowledging the successful upgrade of its KIB Mobile app, designed to deliver an advanced level of digital banking services to individual customers.

In their closing remarks, both Al-Jarrah and Bukhamseen commended the dedicated efforts of all teams at KIB. They also expressed their gratitude to the Central Bank of Kuwait for its exceptional regulatory and supervisory role and ongoing support, as well as to the Capital Markets Authority for its efforts in fostering a competitive and attractive investment environment in Kuwait.

About KIB

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

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

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



Faisal Al Mutawa welcomes new French Ambassador to AAW headquarters.

AAW hosts French envoy for Business Talks

Chairman and CEO of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW), Mr. Faisal Al Al Mutawa, received the new French Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Olivier Gauvin, along with the Head of the Trade Commission, Mr. Rabi Soufangi, and the Head of the Economic Department, Mr. Bernhard Hechenberger, at the company’s headquarters. The two parties discussed ways to strengthen business relations between AAW and French private companies.

Mr. Faisal Al Mutawa extended his congratulations to Ambassador Gauvin on his new role as the French Ambassador, saying, “We value our continued dialogue with the French

Embassy and are always pleased to explore new collaboration opportunities with French companies in different sectors, leveraging our shared commitment to quality and excellence”. He added, “It was an honor to host the French Ambassador, and we look forward to meeting with him again and we wish him all the best in his new role.”

AAW is a leading company in the wholesale and retail sectors, representing and distributing products from over 200 brands across various industries. The company collaborates with numerous French companies to offer high-quality products, particularly in the fields of pharmaceuticals and healthcare products.

Assets grow over 10%

Jordan Kuwait Bank Group posts 105.8% surge in net profit for '24

AMMAN, Oct 30: Jordan Kuwait Bank Group has reported its financial results for the nine months ending September 30, 2024, achieving net profits of approximately JOD 148.4 million (KD 63.9 million). This represents a substantial increase from JOD 72.1 million (KD 31.1 million) during the same period in the previous year.



Sheikha Dana

Commenting on the results, Sheikhha Dana Nasar Sabah Al Ahmad AlSabah, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, stated, “Despite the political events that the world in general and neighbouring countries in particular are witnessing, and the economic repercussions of these events, the Group is proceeding steadily to achieve more accomplishments. These are reflected in the record profits and the solid financial position, supported by a reassuring capital adequacy ratio.”

Jordan Kuwait Bank CEO, Haethum Buttikhi, expressed his pride in the financial outcomes, remarking, “We are reaping the rewards of our strategic plan that was established over the past years. Its foundation is to provide the

best banking and financial solutions to our customers locally and regionally through our presence in Jordan, Cyprus, and Iraq. We are fully confident



Haethum Buttikhi

in the Group’s ability to continue achieving sustainable growth.” Buttikhi highlighted the key financial indicators and ratios: net profits surged by 105.8% over the same period last year to JOD 148.4 million (KD 63.9 million), assets grew by 10.2% to exceed JOD 5.7 billion (KD 2.4 billion), and equity grew by 16.5% to JOD 847.9 million (KD 365.4 million). The return on equity exceeded 25%, and the capital adequacy ratio reached 21.77%.

Sheikha Dana AlSabah extended thanks to the Group’s clients and all shareholders for their trust, and to the regulatory authorities in Jordan, Cyprus, and Iraq for their continuous support. She also commended the members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Management, and all employees for their efforts that have elevated the Group to its prestigious position.

Active trading accounts grow by 19.3%, market maker activity doubles

Boursa Kuwait reports 14.5% net profit growth in 9 months of 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Boursa Kuwait announced its interim consolidated financial information for the nine months ended 30 September 2024, increasing its net profit by 14.5% to reach KD 14.43 million (USD 47.08 million), compared to KD 12.60 million (USD 41.11 million) recorded during the corresponding period in 2023. Meanwhile, the company’s operating profit increased by 21.27 percent from KD 14.79 million (USD 48.25 million) in 2023 to KD 17.93 million (USD 58.50 million) for the corresponding period in 2024.

Boursa Kuwait’s total operating revenues increased by 16.42 percent to KD 26.20 million (USD 85.48 million) during the first nine months of 2024 compared to KD 22.50 million (USD 73.41 million) during the corresponding period in 2023, while earnings per share rose from 62.75 fils to 71.85 fils, an increase of 14.50 percent. Additionally, consolidated assets increased 4.34 percent from KD114.04 million (USD 372.05 million) in 2023 to KD 118.99 million (USD 388.21 million) in the nine months ended 30 September 2024, while shareholders’ equity (attributable to the equity holders of the parent company) rose from KD61.03 million (USD 199.11 million) to KD 63.80 million (USD 208.15 million), representing an increase of 4.53 percent.

Commenting on these results, Boursa Kuwait Chairman Mr. Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi said: “Boursa Kuwait’s exceptional financial results for the period ended 30 September 2024 are a testament to the company’s strong performance and strategic foresight. This success is driven by a robust operating model and a solid financial foundation, enabling us to achieve our long-term goals. The significant increase in net profit reinforces our unwavering commitment to delivering strong shareholder value and indicates investor confidence in our sustainable growth trajectory.”

Al-Humaidhi added, “Driven by our strategic objectives, Boursa Kuwait is actively enhancing market performance and efficiency. This commitment, achieved through adherence to international governance and corporate sustainability practices, strengthens our position among emerging finan-



Hamad Al-Humaidhi

cial markets and fosters sustainable growth within the Kuwaiti financial landscape. I sincerely thank my fellow Board members, the Executive Management team, and all Boursa Kuwait employees for their unwavering dedication and diligent efforts, which have secured our position as a leading exchange in the region and a true success story in the Kuwaiti financial scene.”

Boursa Kuwait recorded much-improved performances during the nine months ended 30 September 2024, thanks to the growth in traded volume, which grew by 53.54 percent from approximately 28.55 billion shares to approximately 43.83 billion shares. Additionally, traded value increased by 35.8 percent from KD 7.51 billion (USD 24.49 billion) to KD10.20 billion (USD 33.27 billion) while average daily traded value (ADTV) increased by 33.59 percent from KD 41.72 million (USD 136.06 million) in 2023 to KD 55.74million (USD 181.78million) in 2024.

“Boursa Kuwait’s results for the period ended 30 September 2024 indicate the strength of the Kuwaiti capital market, which has demonstrated remarkable resilience despite the global economic headwinds and geopolitical risks. The company saw remarkable growth in traded values and volumes, as trading value saw a 35.82% increase to reach KD 10.20 billion, while traded volumes increased 53.54% to 43.83 billion shares, a strong indicator of the stability of the Kuwaiti capital market and investor confidence in it.”

The increase in trading volumes during the third quarter of



Mohammad Al-Osaimi

2024 was driven by increased activity in the “Main” Market, which accounted for 35% of traded value during that period, a marked increase from the corresponding quarter in 2023 when it accounted for approximately 25%. Retail investors made up 38% of the traded value in 2024, an increase from 33% in 2023, while institutional investors continued their dominance of the market, accounting for 62% of the total traded value in the Kuwaiti capital market. Additionally, foreign participation in the market improved as trade confirmations went from 605 thousand in 2023 to 836 thousand in the period ended 30 September 2024, an increase of 38.04%.

Local investors comprised 83% of the traded value of the Kuwaiti capital market in 2024, while international investors (including GCC nationals) accounted for the remaining 17%. In addition, the total number of active trading accounts grew from 18.8 thousand in September 2023 to approximately 22.4 thousand at the end of September 2024, representing an increase of 19.3%, while market maker trading activity went from KD1.05 billion in 2023 to KD 2.04 billion in 2024, an increase of 93.61%.

Al-Osaimi added, “We’ve seen significant growth in trading activity, particularly in the “Main” Market, demonstrating its appeal to individual investors. Additionally, we have seen a 93.61% increase in market maker traded value, indicating its effectiveness and efficacy.” He emphasized that Boursa Kuwait remains a compelling destination for institutional in-

vestors, who comprise the majority of the market, further enhancing its stability.

“The exchange continues to attract international investors,” Al-Osaimi noted, “strengthening Kuwait’s position as a regional investment hub.” He attributed this success to Boursa Kuwait’s strategy of diversifying its investor base and stimulating liquidity. “These results are extremely encouraging,” he said, “and we remain committed to achieving sustainable growth.”

Al-Osaimi concluded by expressing his gratitude to Boursa Kuwait’s partners and investors. “Thank you for your confidence in the company and its vital role in supporting the national economy,” he remarked.

Boursa Kuwait has been a key driver in the development of the Kuwaiti capital market and the diversification of the national economy, in line with the goals of the “New Kuwait” vision. Since its inception, the company has worked diligently to create a thriving capital market that attracts local and foreign investors through a broad spectrum of new products and services, infrastructure upgrades and market reform initiatives, as part of its multi-phase market development plans.

Boursa Kuwait was fully privatized in 2019, the first government entity in the country to successfully undergo the process, bringing about greater levels of efficiency. It has also been self-listed since September 2020 and has made great strides in sustaining its operations and business continuity in the face of uncertainties and challenges.

The company has rolled out numerous market reforms and new initiatives as part of its comprehensive multi-phase market development (MD) plans and showcases some of the standout listed companies and the investment opportunities that reside in the Kuwaiti capital market through its series of Roadshows and Corporate Days, putting these companies in touch with some of the world’s leading investment firms and financial institutions and highlighting their financial health and business strategies and outlooks, to help investors gain an in-depth understanding of the benefits and opportunities of investing in Kuwaiti companies.



# Gulf Bank records KD 40.2 million in net profit for first nine months of '24

An increase of 4.5% in operating profit

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. announced its financial results for the first nine months ending 30 September 2024. The Bank reported a net profit of KD 40.2 million, representing a decline of KD14 million or 25.3% compared to a net profit of KD 53.8 million for the same period in 2023.

Additionally, Gulf Bank recorded an operating income of KD 146 million for the first nine months of 2024, an increase of 4.2% compared to the same period of last year. Furthermore, operating profit has increased to KD 78.6 million, indicating a robust growth of 4.5% compared to the first nine months of 2023.

For the third quarter of 2024, the Bank reported a net profit of KD 12.0 million, a decline of 33.2% over the third quarter of 2023. Operating income for the third quarter of 2024 was KD 49.2million, an increase of 2.7% compared to the same period of last year and operating profit was KD 26.1 million, with an increase of 0.5% over the same period of last year.

The decline in net profit for the first nine months of 2024 is primarily attributed to an increase in total provisions and impairments, which increased by KD 17.6million for the first nine months compared to the same period last year. Nevertheless, the Bank remains committed to prudent risk management practices, building on its strong financial position to contribute and support future growth opportunities.

Regarding asset quality, the non-performing loans (NPL) ratio was 1.3% as of 30 September 2024, compared to the prior year level of 1.2%. The Bank also maintains a significant non-performing loans coverage ratio of 334% including total provisions and collaterals.

As of 30 September 2024, total credit provisions reached KD 275 million, whereas IFRS 9 accounting requirements (i.e., ECL or expected credit losses) were KD 175 million. This results in a substantial excess provision level of KD 99 million, over and above what is mandated by IFRS 9 accounting requirements.

In comparison to 31 December



Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi

**Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi:**

- We remain optimistic about the Bank's outlook and expect recent rate cuts to alleviate financial burdens and encourage lending activity.
- We are confident in achieving sustainable growth through our strategic discipline, commitment to innovation, strong financial performance, and customer-centric approach.

2023, total assets increased by 4.2% to KD 7.5 billion, with net loans and advances rising by 6.9% to KD 5.6 billion. Total deposits also grew by 6.9% to KD 5.7 billion, while total Shareholders' equity reached KD 814 million.

The Bank's regulatory Tier 1 ratio of 14.2% was 2.2% above the regulatory minimum of 12%, and the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 16.3% was 2.3% above the regulatory minimum of 14%. This solid capital position reinforces the Bank's ability to foster long-term development while adhering to regulatory standards.

**Performance and growth**

Commenting on Gulf Bank's financial results for the first nine months 2024, Mr. Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Gulf Bank's Chairman, stated: "While the Bank's performance during this period reflects the impact of increased credit costs, our operating profit maintains its growth trajectory momentum reaching KD 78.6 million for the first nine months of 2024 representing an increase of 4.5% when compared to the same period of last year." He added: "The recent 50 basis point rate cut by the Federal Reserve, followed by a 25-basis point reduction in the discount rate by the Central Bank of Kuwait, represents a positive step towards stimulating economic growth. We expect these rate cuts to help alleviate financial burdens and encour-

age lending activity, providing us with opportunities to support our customers and contribute to economic recovery. Although challenges persist, we are confident that this development will create favorable environment for improved performance in the upcoming quarters."

Mr. Waleed Khaled Mandani, Gulf Bank Acting CEO, commented on the current credit costs and provisions at Gulf Bank, stating: "Our credit profile has demonstrated considerable resilience this quarter, largely attributed to the resolution of selected non-performing legacy corporate accounts. This proactive approach has allowed us to continue to maintain one of the lowest Stage Two loan ratios in the local banking sector, reflecting our commitment to a sound risk management framework and a robust asset quality."

**Financing Opportunities**

Mr. Mandani, emphasized on the significant advancements in Kuwait's project development landscape and its positive impact on the banking sector, particularly in the corporate space. He stated: "Recent developments in Kuwait's project landscape have led to strong growth in capital spending within the infrastructure and energy sectors, presenting significant opportunities for the banking industry. In its 2024-2025 fiscal budget, Kuwait has planned total expenditure worth of KD 24.6 billion of which 9.3% is allocated



Waleed Khaled Mandani

**Waleed Khaled Mandani:**

- Our credit profile has shown remarkable resilience this quarter as we continue to have one of the lowest Stage Two loan ratios in the local banking sector.
- Gulf Bank is committed to supporting its customers with customized banking and advisory services tailored to meet their diverse banking needs.

for capital expenditure. In 2024, major announcements were made related to transportation and construction projects, with a multimillion worth of contracts already awarded this year, particularly within sectors like energy, infrastructure, and residential developments."

Mr. Mandani added: "These large-scale infrastructure investments will drive demand for corporate lending and financing solutions, creating avenues for banks to engage in funding and advisory roles. At Gulf Bank, we are well-positioned to support these initiatives, leveraging on our robust financial capabilities and corporate expertise to participate in these investments. We are committed to playing a pivotal role in financing Kuwait's future growth ambitions, ensuring that we provide flexible and customized banking and advisory services meeting the diverse banking needs of our stakeholders."

**Merger with Boubyan Bank**

Gulf Bank has been actively pursuing strategic initiatives to enhance its growth and shareholder value. On 11 June 2024, the Bank's Board of Directors approved the engagement of an international consultant to conduct a feasibility study on converting Gulf Bank into a Sharia-compliant institution. This decision, made in alignment with Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) guidelines, reflects the Bank's commit-

ment to exploring new avenues for development in compliance with Islamic principles.

Subsequently, on 30 July 2024, Gulf Bank's Board approved a proposal for a potential merger with Boubyan Bank. The proposed merger aims to create a unified entity compliant with Islamic Sharia, with the intent of expanding the Bank's reach and capabilities. Gulf Bank promptly initiated the necessary feasibility study and due diligence, as per the CBK's regulatory framework. The Bank's communication with Boubyan Bank has since progressed, culminating in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, which was disclosed on 17 September 2024. This MoU lays the groundwork for independent assessments of the merger, ensuring that any actions taken are in the best interest of both banks' shareholders and investors, while adhering to regulatory requirements.

In the most recent disclosure regarding the merger, Gulf Bank has announced the CBK approved consultancy firms that will be carrying out the feasibility study and due diligence for the merger including Goldman Sachs as the Investment Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Financial and Tax Consultant, International Counsel Bureau as the Local Legal Consultant, and Fresh fields Bruckhaus Deringer as the International Legal Consultant.

Throughout this process, Gulf Bank remains fully committed to complying with all applicable regulations and obtaining the necessary approvals from the CBK and other regulatory bodies. The Bank will continue to update its shareholders and the market on any material developments as they arise.

**Credit Worthiness**

Gulf Bank continues to be well recognized internationally in terms of its credit worthiness and financial strength by international credit rating agencies for its sound capitalization, improving profitability and strong asset quality. As of 30 September 2024, Gulf Bank has an affirmed 'A3' Long-Term Deposit Rating and 'Positive' outlook from Moody's Investor Services. In addition, The Bank has an affirmed Long-Term Issuer Default Rating at 'A' with a 'Stable' Outlook and a Viability Rating of 'bbb-' by Fitch Ratings. Moreover, Gulf Bank has also an affirmed Long-Term Foreign Currency Rating of 'A+' with a 'Stable' Outlook from Capital Intelligence Ratings.

**Appreciation**

Mr. Al-Kharafi concluded his remarks by stating: "Looking ahead, we are confident in our ability to achieve sustainable growth, driven by our strategic discipline, along with our commitment to innovation, strong financial performance, and a customer-centric approach." He added: "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank our shareholders for their ongoing trust, and our employees for their commitment and dedication. I would also like to thank the Regulatory Authorities for their continuous support. Finally, I want to thank our customers for their loyalty and reiterate our commitment to offering them the best banking experience."

Key Financial indicators for the first nine months 2024:

- Nine months 2024 net profit of KD 40.2 million.
- Nine months 2024 operating income of KD 146 million, an increase of 4.2% compared to same period of last year.
- Operating profit reached KD 78.6 million, an increase of 4.5% compared to same period of last year.
- Net loans and advances grew by 6.9% year-to-date to reach KD 5.6 billion.
- Non-performing loan ratio as of 30 September 2024 is 1.3%, with a strong non-performance loan coverage ratio of 334%.
- Capital ratios as of 30 September 2024, Tier 1 ratio was 14.2% and Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) was 16.3%.

## Shaikha Al-Bahar highlights AI as key enabler driving banking growth and empowerment

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Future Investment Initiative (FII) held in Riyadh hosted a panel discussion on the rapidly evolving financial landscape, the crucial roles of traditional banks, AI, and FinTech in defining the future of the banking industry. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), participated in the panel discussion, offering her valuable insights.

The panel discussion themed "Can Traditional Banks Compete with AI and Fintech Disruptors?", included leading international figures from financial services and technology, explored the challenges and opportunities that AI, FinTech, and traditional banks face as they seek to coexist – or outcompete – in the digital age. In a world where financial technology is changing the rules of the game, Shaikha Al-Bahar provided brilliant insights into how NBK is not only keeping pace with these innovations but also leading the charge.

**Redefining the Banking Landscape**

"Fintech has been labeled a 'revolution' in banking, but the data tells a more nuanced story," Shaikha Al-Bahar opened the discussion. "Despite billions of dollars in investments, not a single FinTech company ranks among the top 250 global banks. The reality is that FinTech isn't a revolution that will replace traditional banking. Rather, it challenges us to evolve."

Al-Bahar pointed out that, contrary to popular belief, the banking industry's business model has proven remarkably resilient, withstanding multiple disruptions over the past decade. She emphasized that traditional banks, including NBK, are integrating new technologies to enhance rather than replace core banking functions. "The progress we've seen from the digital era isn't about FinTech replacing us," she continued. "It's about integrating digital innovations into a more comprehensive and inclusive business model. At NBK, our digital transformation allows us to build on the solid foundation of traditional banking while leveraging technology to enhance customer experiences."

**Collaboration vs. Competition: Banks and FinTechs in the New Financial Ecosystem**

The panel discussed whether traditional banks and FinTech companies are destined to compete or collaborate. Al-Bahar argued that the future of banking will be defined not by head-to-head competition, but by co-operation. "Banks and FinTechs have historically competed for customers,



Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), participates in the panel discussion.

but we are entering an era of collaboration," she remarked. "Traditional banks have the financial capacity, while FinTechs have agility and innovation. The key is finding the right balance between these strengths. It's not about one outdoing the other, but about leveraging each side's advantages."

As a case in point, Al-Bahar referenced NBK's own digital bank, Weyay. "We at NBK operate both our traditional bank and Weyay, a fully digital bank. Both operations complement each other and interact seamlessly, providing a unique, customer-centric journey. That is the real revolution in banking."

**Navigating the Balance of AI within Banking Frameworks**

As the panel discussion shifted to the role of AI, the conversation turned to the immense potential and risks associated with artificial intelligence in the financial industry. Banks have already invested billions in AI-powered systems for fraud detection and risk management, but concerns remain about whether AI might introduce new vulnerabilities into the system.

"AI is a great enabler – it allows banks to analyze vast amounts of data, recognize patterns, and simulate scenarios," Al-Bahar explained. "But while AI enhances our capabilities, we must ensure that it does not make us complacent. Human oversight is critical. Technology recommends, but humans must decide."

- Human oversight is critical. Technology recommends, but humans must decide
- At NBK, our commitment to integrating digital technologies demonstrates our relentless pursuit of delivering exceptional services to our customers
- AI provides powerful insights; however, it is essential to ensure that these insights are based on real, verifiable data
- AI and machine learning make processes more efficient, allowing financial institutions to be more responsive and dynamic
- Technology could revolutionize risk management, and regulators have created 'sandboxes' – safe environments for testing new FinTech solutions
- In a rapidly changing landscape, competition requires a vision that surpasses technology investment and fosters cultural transformation within organizations
- Industry leaders are encouraged to cultivate a culture of innovation that integrates seamlessly across all aspects of their organizations
- Future success hinges on adaptability, innovation, and a commitment to the core values that have long upheld traditional banking as a cornerstone of the global economy

Al-Bahar highlighted the importance of transparency and accountability in AI systems, stressing that while AI can provide powerful insights, banks must ensure that these insights are based on real, verifiable data. She cautioned against an over-reliance on AI, noting, "We cannot let AI be the sole decision-maker. It's crucial to have a pilot behind the wheel, to monitor, review, and intervene when necessary."

**Transforming Banking from the Inside**

While much of the FinTech discussion focuses on customer-facing applications, Al-Bahar offered a compelling argument that the true potential of AI lies behind the scenes – in back-office operations, regulatory compliance, and capital allocation.

"At NBK, we've automated over 100 processes using Robotic Process Automation (RPA), and the results

have been remarkable. AI and machine learning don't just make processes more efficient; they redefine them, allowing us to be more responsive and dynamic."

She noted that AI could revolutionize risk management by continuously learning from new data points and adjusting risk profiles in real-time. This, she believes, is where AI's most transformative impact will be felt in banking – areas where rule-based, data-driven tasks can be optimized for greater accuracy and speed.

**The Balancing Act Between Regulation and Innovation**

The panel also addressed the complex relationship between innovation and regulation. In a rapidly evolving industry, governments are struggling to keep pace with technological advancements. Al-Bahar argued that regulators are playing a crucial role in safeguarding the financial system while supporting innovation.

"Regulators have been quick to recognize the importance of digital technologies in banking," she said. "Many have created 'sandboxes' – safe environments for testing new FinTech solutions. However, I believe regulators' primary role should remain that of protectors of the financial system. Banking is highly regulated for good reason – its role in the global economy is critical, and any disruptions can have far-reaching consequences."

**Embedded Finance: Will the**

**Bank Brand Become Irrelevant?**

Another intriguing topic was the rise of embedded finance – the integration of banking services into non-banking platforms. With more companies offering financial services through digital ecosystems, some have predicted that "bank as a brand" may become obsolete. Al-Bahar was quick to point out that traditional banks still have a vital role to play.

"This new model works well on a smaller scale – like payment wallets and transfers – but banks will remain the backbone of the financial system. Embedded finance is just another example of how the industry is evolving to meet changing customer demands. Banks will need to adapt by developing their own technologies or partnering with FinTechs to provide these services."

She also pointed out that some digital banks are reverting to traditional models, opening offline branches and offering human-based customer service to enhance growth – a sign that even FinTech leaders recognize the value of traditional banking services.

**Leading the Change Through A Holistic Approach to Innovation**

Finally, the panel addressed the leadership challenge facing traditional banks. Al-Bahar argued that to remain competitive in an era of rapid technological change, banks must go beyond simply investing in technology – they must transform their organizational culture.

"Industry leaders need to foster a culture of innovation that permeates the entire organization. It's not just about adopting digital technologies, it's about aligning every decision-making process with a digital mindset, from junior staff hires to strategic planning at the executive level."

Al-Bahar also emphasized NBK's leadership in digital transformation, expressing immense pride in the bank's accomplishments.

"Our journey towards integrating digital technologies while preserving the stability and trust of traditional banking is a testament to our commitment to providing the best for our customers," Al-Bahar noted.

Looking forward to 2030, Al-Bahar concluded with a bold prediction: "The CEOs who strike the right balance between traditional banking and Fintech agility will define the future of the industry. Success will depend on being able to adapt, innovate, and evolve – without losing sight of the core values that have made traditional banking such a pillar of the global economy."



Albenali: ABK's digital efforts aim to reduce environmental impact

# ABK sponsors 'Green Day' at Al Shaab Health City

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Based on its social responsibility and belief in environmental sustainability, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) sponsored 'Green Day' at Al Shaab Health City, held under the patronage and presence of the Governor of Hawally, Ali Salem Al-Asfar, the Bank's representatives and a crowd of environmental activists at Mohammed Al-Arabi Park.

The event featured several activities, including an awareness panel discussion on agriculture in which environmental specialists had participated. This is in addition to the distribution of free seedlings that were planted in cooperation with the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources.



Albenali

ABK's participation reflects its commitment to strengthening its presence within society. It also showcases the Bank's commitment to educate various segments about the importance of the environment and agriculture and its positive impact in reducing the problems of desertification and the challenges of hot weather and high temperature in Kuwait.

On this occasion, Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer at ABK, said, "This sponsorship affirms our strive to be a key partner in development and a supporter of initiatives aimed at



The Governor of Hawally honors the bank during the event.



Part of the afforestation process.



Group photo of the participants.

spreading environmental and community awareness. This is especially relevant given its great importance to public health, improving quality of life, and creating a sustainable green environment for future generations."

Albenali stated that this initiative reflects the great impact institutions have in enhancing environmental sustainability in Kuwait, indicating that ABK's participation should encourage others in the banking, amongst other sectors, to join the cause.

He added that ABK is keen to sponsor related initiatives, in cooperation with many partners, to positively impact various segments of Kuwaiti society. 'Green Day' is one of many similar environmental events that ABK partook in, including the Shuwaikh Free Zone beach cleanup, the COP28 United Nations Climate Change Conference in the United Arab Emirates, amongst others.

In addition to this, ABK implements various internal efforts to reduce its environmental impact, such as reducing the use of paper, adopting digital technologies within its branches, and providing different digital solutions through its website and mobile app.

Concluding his statement, Albenali stressed that ABK will continue to support upcoming environmental events and meet the needs of society as part of its role as a responsible banking institution. He thanked Al Shaab Health City for its efforts in making the event a success, stressing the importance of cooperation between public and private sector institutions in successfully facing environmental challenges.

## ICSK Senior hosts Gyanotsav '24 celebrating science & innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Indian Community School, Senior warmly welcomed an impressive array of budding scientists and innovators on 24th October for the much-anticipated Gyanotsav 2024, an event dedicated to celebrating knowledge and creativity. This remarkable day witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 1,100 students hailing from 33 diverse academic departments within the ICSK, including disciplines such as English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Economics, Mass Media, Psychology, Home Science, Physical Education, Fashion Studies, Computer Science, Entrepreneurship, Sociology, Arts, Music, Dance, Arabic, French, Hindi, Information Technology, Business Administration, Geography, Accountancy, Marketing, Food Production, Artificial Intelligence, Applied Art, Commercial Art, Tourism and Applied Mathematics.

The ceremony was graced by eminent Chief Guest H.E. Ms. Karen Hideko Sasahara, U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Guest of Honour, Mr. Mohmoud Zaman, Head of the Technology Development Department, KFAS Centre, Kuwait and Special Guest H.E. Mr. Mazen Al Essa, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs in the Office of The Crown Prince, Kuwait. Among the dignitaries were Mr. Shaikh Abdul Rahiman, Hon. Chairman to the Board of Trustees, Mr. Amer Mohammed, Hon. Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Ms. Geetika Ahuja, Principal of Aspire Indian International School, Mrs. Sabahat Khan, Kuwait Chapter Convenor, CBSE Gulf Sahodaya and Principal of Kuwait Indian School, Dr. Anis Ahmad, Principal of Salmiya Indian School, Fr. James, Principal of Indian English Academy School, Mr. K. Gangadhar Shirsath, Principal of ICSK Khaitan, Mr. Rajesh Nair, Principal of ICSK Amman and Mrs. C Sheeja, Principal of ICSK Junior.

The celebration commenced with a formal inaugural ceremony. The day began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by a heartfelt prayer song that created a divine atmosphere, inviting blessings from the Almighty. The gathering then honoured the national anthem of Kuwait followed by the national anthem of the United States. To further enrich the cultural experience, the talented dancers of ICSK performed a captivating classical dance, showcasing the richness of Indian heritage.

Dr. V. Binumon, Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK, extended a cordial welcome to the gathering. In his address, he inspired the students to seize opportunities, embrace change and strive for excellence as they aspire to reach the pinnacle of their potential and wisdom.

The eminent Chief Guest H.E. Ms. Karen Hideko Sasahara, Guest of Honour, Mr. Mohmoud Zaman and Special Guest H.E. Mr. Mazen Al Essa accompanied by Dr. V. Binumon participated in the tradi-

tional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing knowledge and enlightenment. H.E. Ms. Karen Hideko Sasahara commended the institution for providing a dynamic platform for students to express their passions and skills. She advised the young audience to acknowledge their parents for their unconditional love and selfless sacrifice. She also encouraged them to explore diverse cultures and opportunities that the world offers.

H.E. Mr. Mazen Al Essa accompanied by Dr. V. Binumon presented a memento to the Chief Guest, H.E. Ms. Karen Hideko Sasahara, marking a significant moment of appreciation. As a token of gratitude, the Chief Guest received a beautifully crafted portrait painted by Mr. Suraj from the Department of Arts.

The young musicians of ICSK then took the stage, captivating the audience with a vibrant cultural song that resonated with their heartfelt expressions. In his address, Mr. Mohmoud Zaman acknowledged the contributions of each individual in making Gyanotsav a successful event and motivated the students to pursue every opportunity that could lead them to achieve greatness. Mr. Shaikh Abdul Rahiman, Hon. Chairman to the Board of Trustees accompanied by Dr. V. Binumon presented a memento to the eminent Special Guest, in recognition of his presence and support.

Scintillating dance performance presented by the young dancers captivated the audience. The inaugural ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Mrs. Sarita Umesh, Chief Coordinator of Gyanotsav 2024, signifying the official commencement of the exhibition. The unveiling of the Centre exhibit 'Chandrayaan' by H.E. Ms. Karen Hideko Sasahara marked the formal inauguration of the Gyanotsav 2024. This notable event underscored the importance of India's contributions to space exploration and science, while also inspiring the young minds to engage in the celebration of knowledge and innovation that the festival represents. The unveiling served as a powerful reminder of the nation's ambitions and achievements in the field of space technology.

The exhibition was organized into two sessions—morning and evening—allowing students from nearby schools, as well as parents and teachers, to partake in the festivities. The classrooms of ICSK were adorned with 450 exhibits comprising still models, working models, digital displays, subject-related puzzles, drama and on-the-spot exhibits innovated and designed by the students.

Each project was a testament to the hard work, passion and curiosity of the students—qualities that are essential for innovation and leadership in the 21st century world. The projects encompassed a broad range of subjects, from scientific explorations to artistic expressions, each addressing critical global challenges.



Photos during the event.

Expanding on its dedicated strategy for sustainable human capital development

## Burgan Bank sponsors and participates in 2024 AU career fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Burgan Bank recently concluded its sponsorship of and participation in the annual career fair hosted by the Australian University in Kuwait (AU). This comes as part of the Bank's dedicated strategy for sustainable investment in Kuwait's aspiring talents and top calibers.

"We were delighted to renew our collaboration with the Australian University in Kuwait and sponsor their 2024 career fair as part of our robust strategy for sustainable investment in Kuwait's national talents," said Mr. Abdulwahab Abdulraheem, Executive Manager – Talent Acquisition at Burgan Bank. "Career fairs, such as the outstanding event organized by AU, help job seekers find the right opportunities that match their expertise, interests, and aspirations. This is further enriched by creating the space for in-person conversations, where students can find out a lot more about their vacancies of interest beyond the job responsibilities. It also allows us to screen candidates and determine more accurately if they are suitable fits for the Bank and vacant roles."



Abdulraheem

Burgan representatives were available at the Bank's designated booth throughout the event, answering students' questions about the Bank's various departments, work environment, growth and development, benefits, and more. In addition, they spread essential financial literacy information, as part of Burgan's committed support of the national banking awareness campaign, "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) – launched and supervised by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), with the support of Kuwaiti banks. This included introducing visitors to Burgan Bank's latest products and services that are tailored to each segment's needs, enabling customers to manage their finances soundly and safely.

Besides Burgan's participation in the AU's career fair, the Bank continues to regularly support and take part in numerous employment fairs across the country, including those organized by the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), the American University in Kuwait (AUK), and the American University of the Middle East (AUM), as well as Kuwait's biggest employment fair, Watheefi. This stems from the Bank's commitment to hiring and developing Kuwait's most aspiring and promising talents and putting them on a steady trajectory of growth and development, as part of Burgan's robust human capital development strategy and its dedica-



The Burgan team with Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Melissa Kelly and AU President Professor Isam Zabalawi.

tion to empowering a generation of Kuwaiti leaders in the banking sector.

### About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), and Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression –

which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO /IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/IEC 20000-1: 2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.

Store provides pick-up-only orders at the store or through the new 'Joe' app

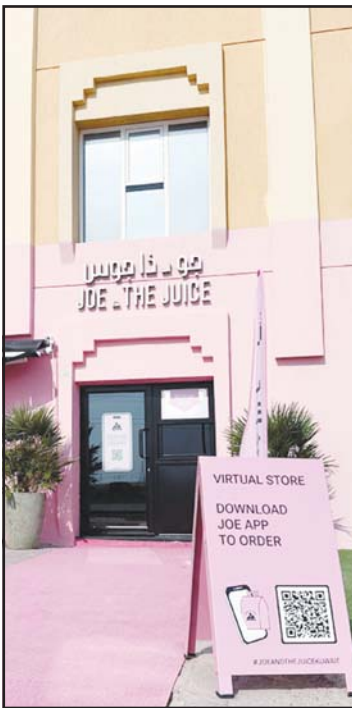
## Joe & The Juice opens a pickup-only store in Bnaider

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Light Food, a subsidiary of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW), announced today the opening of a new Joe & The Juice store in the Bnaider area. The opening coincides with the launch of its "Joe" app, enabling a quick and easy way for customers to place their orders before arrival.

The Joe & The Juice store located in Bnaider Resort aims to serve customers from the Bnaider and nearby chalets. It introduces a new concept where customers can place their orders through the "Joe" app or at the store's window and enjoy the convenience of pre-ordering and payment. Customers can also collect points with every purchase and receive a variety of tailored rewards and benefits as they progress in the "Joe" loyalty program.

The opening of this store reflects Joe & The Juice's commitment to enabling customers to enjoy healthy food and beverage on the go, aligning with the younger generation's modern and fast-paced lifestyle.

Joe & The Juice's other Kuwait locations are in Argania Complex in Shuwaikh, Argan Square in Salmiya, The Walk Mall in Ardiya, Al Andalus Complex in Hawally, The Warehouse in South Sabahiya, Sahara Golf Re-



sort next to Hunting and Equestrian Club, GUST campus in West Mishref, Al Khiran Mall, Arraya Centre in Ku-



Joe & The Juice's Bnaider store

wait City, and Kuwait International Airport Terminal 1- Arrivals, Murouj in Sabah Al Salem, and Vibes Com-

plex in Abu Al Hasaniya, and Bnaider Resort, which operates 24 hours a day from Thursday to Saturday.



## ‘What a Relief,’ a blend of beauty and melancholy

### Katie Gavin of Muna makes solo debut with folky album

LOS ANGELES, Oct 30, (AP): On “What a Relief,” the debut solo album from Katie Gavin, the Muna frontwoman tackles love, family and selfhood through folk and country twang that departs from the band’s usual dance-forward pop.

Don’t worry, this isn’t the end of Muna - the trio of Gavin, Naomi McPherson and Josette Maskin are still making and performing music together. Her bandmates participate here, too, with Maskin playing on seven of the 12 songs. But Gavin’s solo project - the first away from the band for any of the three since it formed in 2013 - is a defined, separate entity. These songs, written over seven years, are the introverted folk siblings of the band’s extroverted pop.

Take “Sparrow,” a striking song that opens with the sounds of birds. Over a guitar melody, Gavin sings about longing for a sparrow’s call, a sig-

nal she’s assigned to a lover. “Come winter, come winter/I lost my lover,” she sings, her tone steady. “Just like the birds/She’d up and gone.”

While she waits, sick trees are treated with chemicals, inadvertently killing the birds that call them home. “The earth had been poisoned,” she explains. “And I was still listening/For sparrow song.”

A closer listen reveals that the chirps aren’t taken from nature after all, but electronic.

That combination of natural and synthetic forces, of beauty alongside melancholy, is at the heart of “What a Relief.”

Another example: On “The Baton,” Gavin considers motherhood on top of an airy synth, flexible fiddle and drumbeat. It’s the fiddle that amplifies lyrics about generational trauma, healing and learning, like a folk tale shared across generations. The synth,

swelling underneath, is Gavin’s modern twist.

“I’d pass her the baton and I’d say you better run,” she sings of a hypothetical daughter. “‘Cause this thing has been going/For many generations/But there is so much healing/That still needs to be done.”

Gavin’s album reveals her specific inner life, examining relationships less frequently covered in Muna’s work - like the ones between mother and daughter, mother and dog, Mother Earth and her creatures.

Romantic relationships aren’t ignored, however, but they are made complicated. Indie rock singer-songwriter Mitski duets with Gavin on “As Good As It Gets,” a happy-sad ode to a partnership that has reached a leveling point. Perhaps it’s for the best, the duo concedes, when love’s magic melts into the mundane.



Katie Gavin of Muna performs at the Reading Music Festival, England, on Aug. 27, 2023. (AP)

## Obit

### Bright legacy

### Comedy icon Teri Garr dies

PARIS, Oct 30, (AP): Renowned French actor Anouk Grinberg says the sexual assault trial against fellow actor Gérard Depardieu reflects the slow path toward awareness of sex abuse in France, especially in the film industry, after years of silence.

Grinberg, 61, who has appeared in about 30 films, spoke Monday at what was supposed to be the start of Depardieu’s trial but which was postponed until March because of concerns over the 75-year-old actor’s health.

She has known Depardieu for over three decades, appearing with him in a 1991 film and in the film “The Green Shuttlers.” The trial centers around the alleged sexual assault of two women, a production designer and a director’s assistant, on the set of the latter film in 2021.

Depardieu has denied any wrongdoing.

In recent months, Grinberg has decided to speak out on the need for change, joining other French actors who decided to shine a light on the repulsive underside of the country’s industry.

“For several years, I witnessed this ... without any reaction, like everyone else,” she told The Associated Press. “Because I was overwhelmed by the violence and also because at the time, we didn’t think of it as violence.”

Yet with the #MeToo movement and more women speaking out, something “has changed” in recent years, she said. “And I’ve taken the measure of this violence.”

Grinberg also said she personally knows actor Charlotte Arno, who accuses Depardieu of two rapes allegedly committed in August 2018 in a separate case. Depardieu was charged in 2020 with rape and sexual assault in that case, but a magistrate has yet to decide whether to send it to trial.

“What’s complicated in cases of sexual violence is that most of the time, women don’t move, don’t defend themselves. And it’s not because they consent, it’s because they’re just petrified. Something has died inside them, paralyzed by terror, by disgust,” Grinberg said.

“That’s where we have to educate the society as well as the justice system,” she added.

Grinberg described with graphic details Depardieu’s obscene comments she said he kept making on “The Green Shuttlers” film set.

“The society as a whole has really been a great accomplice in these actions, these excesses, these deviances,” Grinberg said. “I’ve been a witness, on movie sets who were entirely silent or sniggering at this verbal violence.”

### Victims

She said many in the cinema world remained silent because they were afraid they would not be able to work anymore if they spoke out against powerful people in the industry.

Depardieu’s trial shows that times have changed, especially since the alleged victims did not have high-profile roles. The “little hands” working in the cinema industry “are speaking out and saying enough is enough. Enough is really enough,” Grinberg said.

Earlier this year, French actor Judith Godrèche called on France’s film industry to “face the truth” on sexual violence and physical abuse during the Cesar Awards ceremony, France’s version of the Oscars. “We can decide that men accused of rape no longer rule the (French) cinema,” Godrèche said.

Last year, one of France’s top actors, Adèle Haenel, announced she was quitting French film industry that she denounced for “complicity toward sexual aggressors.”

Haenel, star of the 2019 Cannes entry “Portrait of a Lady on Fire,” published an open letter in the Telereama magazine in which she said Cannes and other pillars of the French film industry are “ready to do anything to defend their rapist chiefs.”



American actress Teri Garr is seen in this April 1987 photo in Los Angeles, California. (AP)

## Fashion

Grammy award winner celebrated for pushing the boundaries

### Erykah Badu honored as fashion icon by CFDA

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): Erykah Badu was bestowed the fashion icon award by the Council of Fashion Designers of America, playfully saying it was an honor she’d been hoping to get most of her life.

Wearing a headdress of jewels and a Thom Browne jacket, Badu accepted the award Monday night in Manhattan, said she’s been trying to win the icon award since she was 6 years old. Badu described dressing up as a sport, therapy and her husband.

Andre 3000 brought out an orange caution cone to the stage as he introduced Badu, who is the mother of his son.

“The world is a private joke between me and my things,” she said. Andrew 3000 took the cone as he walked off with Badu.

The Grammy Award winner has become one of the great fashion disruptors of red carpets over the years, shaking up black tie conformity with her own Afro-centric style of tall hats and headwraps, oversized jewelry and talismans and layers of patchwork fabric adorned with accents that move and make music.

The CFDA Fashion Awards were held at the American Museum of Natural History at a ceremony that attracted celebrities like Katie Holmes and Kylie Jenner, designers and fashion industry giants to honor the best in design. Star of the movie “Wicked” Cynthia Erivo hosted the evening in a Zac Posen hooded gown.

### Emotion

The final award of the night went to Rachel Scott of Diotima for womenswear designer of the year. Scott was overwhelmed with emotion while accepting her award and thanked her mother and the women in Jamaica, where she is from, who crochet her designs.

“I’ve spent so much of my career on design teams so I’m really unaccustomed to this recognition,” she said.

Scott, known for her exquisite knit designs, was awarded the emerging designer of the year award in 2023.

Popstar Troye Sivan presented the menswear designer of the year award to Willy Chavarria, making this his second menswear win. Chavarria said it’s a strange time for him working on his autumn/winter 2025 collection with an upcoming election so close.

“I do know so many people in this room are very concerned about their rights,” he said. “Diversity in humanity makes us much stronger.”

This year, Chavarria was up against Mike Amiri of Amiri, Emily Adams Bode Aujla of Bode, Thom Browne and Todd Snyder for the award.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand opened the night by encouraging the influencers, fashion designers and celebrities dining in the room to tap into their collective influence to drive their following to the polls on Tuesday. “If we wake up on Wednesday and we don’t recognize this country, and we didn’t leave it out on the field, we have no one to blame but ourselves.”

Designer and CFDA chairman Thom Browne also drove home the message of voting: “Fashion like democracy is about choice.”

Actor Molly Gordon and designer Brandon Maxwell presented the award for emerging designer of the year award to Russian-born designer Henry Zankov, who is known for his colorful knitwear. (Maxwell as a previous emerging designer winner.) Other contenders for the honor were Presley Oldham of Presley Oldham, Tanner Richie and Fletcher Kasell of Tanner



Erykah Badu attends the CFDA Fashion Awards at the American Museum of Natural History on Monday, Oct. 28, in New York. (AP)



Kylie Jenner attends the CFDA Fashion Awards. (AP)

Fletcher, Jackson Wiederhoeft of Wiederhoeft and Connor McKnight.

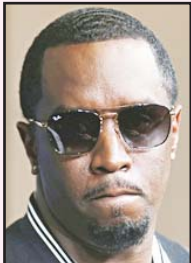
Celebrity duo Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie teamed up to present the award for accessory designer of the year to Raul Lopez of Laur. Lopez said the win is for everyone like him, who grew up the child of immigrants.

“I’m just a vessel in this industry to guide the kids that come after me to see they can do it to,” he

broadcasts of NFL games, including the “ManningCast” during “Monday Night Football” and playoff games. (AP)



**NEW YORK: Sean “Diddy” Combs** is accused in one of two lawsuits filed Monday of drugging and sexually assaulting a 10-year-old boy in a New York City hotel room in 2005.



Combs

The second lawsuit accuses the jailed hip-hop mogul of similarly assaulting a 17-year-old would-be contestant on the reality television series “Making the Band” in 2008.

The lawsuits filed in state Supreme Court in New York are the latest in a wave of lawsuits in which accusers allege they were sexually assaulted by Combs at parties and meetings over the last two decades.

Combs’ lawyers denied the two new claims

said.

Lopez beat out nominees Ana Khouri, Stuart Vevvers for Coach, Catherine Holstein for Khaite and Tory Burch.

Monday and accused the plaintiffs’ lawyer, Anthony Buzbee, who also represents accusers in earlier lawsuits, of seeking publicity.

“Mr. Combs and his legal team have full confidence in the facts and the integrity of the judicial process,” an emailed statement said. “In court, the truth will prevail: that Mr. Combs never sexually assaulted or trafficked anyone-man or woman, adult or minor.”

Combs, 54, is incarcerated in a New York City jail after pleading not guilty to federal sex trafficking charges contained in an indictment unsealed the day after his Sept. 16 arrest. Charges include allegations he coerced and abused women and silenced victims through blackmail and violence.

The 10-year-old boy who was not identified in the lawsuit was an aspiring actor and rapper who had traveled with his parents from California for meetings with music industry representatives. (AP)



**WARSAW, Poland:** A Polish radio station said Monday that it has ended an “experiment” that involved using AI-generated “presenters” instead of real journalists after the



Katie Holmes attends the CFDA Fashion Awards. (AP)



Kathryn Hahn attends the CFDA Awards. (AP)

Another icon shaking up the fashion industry, Daniel Roseberry of Schiaparelli was honored as the international designer of the year. Roseberry’s designs have been dominating red carpets with Schiaparelli’s unconventional couture and surrealist pop of gold embellishments. Actor Nicole Kidman stunned at the Venice Film Festival when she walked the carpet in one of Schiaparelli’s couture corseted looks with beaded fringe and a deconstructed neckline.

Roseberry is the first American to lead a French couture company.

Other honors of the night included the Amazon Innovation Award which was awarded to Stuart Vevvers with Coach, famed photographer Annie Leibovitz received the media award and the positive change award went to Michael Kors. Designer Stephen Burrows was honored at the event with the lifetime achievement award. Burrows was one of the five US

designers who competed in the 1973 “Battle of Versailles” fashion show.

With her latest award, Badu now joins the ranks of celebrities like Serena Williams, Kim Kardashian and Zendaya who previously took home the “fashion icon” title.

move sparked an outcry.

Weeks after dismissing its journalists, OFF Radio Krakow relaunched last week using virtual characters created by AI as its presenters.

Across Poland, people were angry, expressing fears that humans were being replaced by AI.

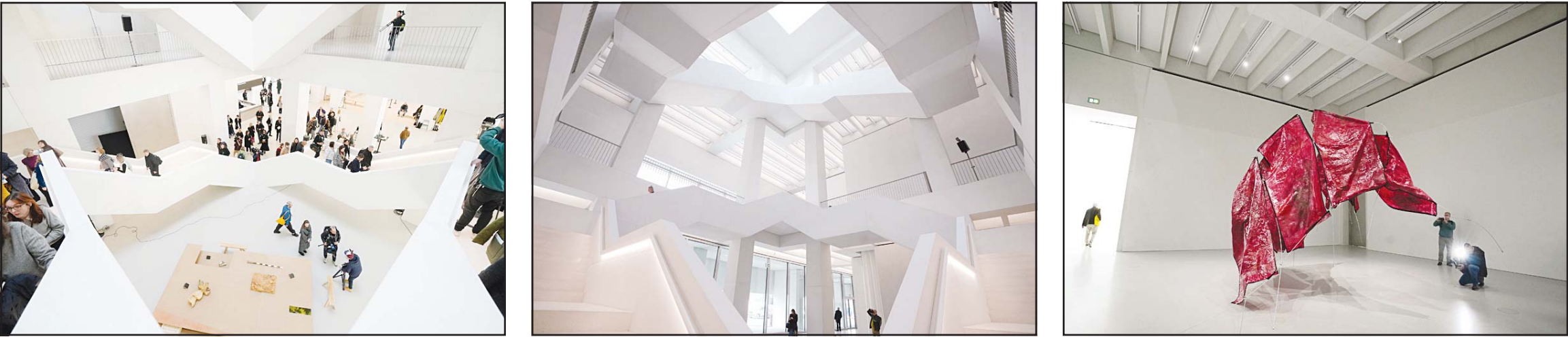
The station’s editor, Marcin Pulit, said in a statement Monday that the aim had been to spark a debate about artificial intelligence, and that it had succeeded. He said the experiment had been meant to last three months but that it saw no reason to go on.

“After a week, we had collected so many observations, opinions, and conclusions that we decided that its continuation was pointless,” Pulit wrote.

He said the station was “surprised by the level of emotion that accompanied this experiment, attributing to us non-existent intentions and actions, harsh judgments formulated on the basis of false reports.”

The station in the southern city of Krakow had said its avatars were designed to reach younger listeners by speaking about cultural, art and social issues including the concerns of LGBTQ+ people. (AP)





Photos show the Museum of the Modern Art in the Polish capital on Oct 24, in Warsaw, Poland. (AP)

### Modern museum set to transform city’s cultural landscape

## Warsaw opens new modern art museum symbolizing openness

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 30, (AP): A modern art museum designed by American architect Thomas Phifer opened its doors in the Polish capital Friday - a minimalist, light-filled structure that is meant to be a symbol of openness and tolerance as the city tries to free itself from its communist legacy.

The Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw sits like a bright white box on a major city street. Inside, a monumental staircase with geometric lines rises to upper floors, where large windows flood the gallery rooms with light.

City and museum officials say the light and open spaces are meant to attract meetings and debate - and become a symbol of the democratic era that Poland embraced when it threw off authoritarian communist rule 35 years ago.

Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski said the museum’s opening is a “historic moment for Warsaw” and that the project, which will later include a theater, will help to create a new city center no longer dominated by a communist symbol.

“This place will change beyond recognition, it will be a completely new center,” he said last Thursday. “There has not been a place like this in Warsaw for decades, a place that would be created from scratch precisely to pro-

mote Polish art, which is spectacular in itself.”

Warsaw was turned to rubble by occupying German forces during World War II and was rebuilt in the gray, sometimes drab, style of communist regimes across Eastern Europe. But years of economic growth in the post-communist era have produced modern glass architecture, cutting-edge museums and revitalized historic buildings.

The museum was built on the site of a former parking lot near the Palace of Culture and Science, a dominating Stalinist skyscraper. Though long hated by many who saw in it as a symbol of Moscow’s oppression, the ornate palace remains an icon of the city today - perhaps even the city’s most recognized building.

The museum responds with its bright white minimalism and smaller scale.

“It is very important that this building is located opposite the Palace of Culture and Science and symbolically changes the center,” museum director Joanna Mytkowska said. “This is a building dedicated to open, equal and democratic culture.”

American and other Western architects are putting their mark on Warsaw. The city skyline includes a soar-

ing luxury tower created by Daniel Libeskind, the renowned Polish American architect. The firm of British designer Norman Foster created the Varso Tower, which at 310 meters (1,017 feet) is the tallest skyscraper in the European Union. A Finnish architectural team designed the city’s landmark Jewish history museum.

**Practice**

Phifer’s New York-based practice is known in the United States for projects including the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Corning Museum of Glass and the Glenstone Museum expansion in Potomac, Maryland.

Asked by a reporter if he viewed the Warsaw museum as his masterpiece, the 71-year-old did not hesitate with his answer. “Of course,” he said.

He said from the time he began working on the museum 10 years ago, he was aware that his work was part of Warsaw’s “remarkable renaissance.”

The city financed the 700,000 million zloty (\$175 million) project. In the first weeks it will hold performances and present several large-scale sculptures and installation pieces by female artists, including Magdalena Abakanowicz, Alina Szapocznikow, Sandra Mujinga and Cecilia

Vicuña. The full opening with its larger collection is scheduled for February.

The area around the building is still under construction and will eventually become what the architect calls a “forum space,” including a garden and a theater with a black facade, also designed by Phifer.

Not everyone loves the new museum’s austerity, and some residents have compared it to a concrete bunker.

Phifer said he believes the critics will feel differently when they enter the building and see its design and how the white background gives space for the art “to come alive.”

“The museum is what I would call a magic box. There is a bit of mystery to it,” he said. “You don’t really understand this work until you come inside and experience it with the art.”

Trzaskowski, the mayor, said all ambitious architectural projects are bound to stir up emotions.

“Every large project that has been built from scratch in the world, such as the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Guggenheim in Bilbao or the pyramid in the Louvre, has stirred up controversy,” Trzaskowski said. The real controversies, he added, are yet to come when the avant-garde museum starts staging its exhibitions.

### Theater

#### Stargazing game

## Hollywood top stars shine on NYC stages

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): There are so many Hollywood stars on New York theater stages or on the way that you might want to level up your stargazing game. Why not play some bingo?

Sure, Robert Downey Jr., Daniel Dae Kim, Jim Parsons, Mia Farrow, and Katie Holmes are currently in New York, and **George Clooney**, Denzel Washington, Nick Jonas and Jake Gyllenhaal are on deck for spring.

But if you really want to impress, why not connect the stars, like playing bingo with the stars of “Frasier”? Catch Bebe Neuwirth (who played chilly Lilith) now in “Cabaret” on Broadway; Dan Butler (who played Bulldog on the TV show) in the off-Broadway play “Another Shot;” and then in a few months, see David Hyde Pierce (who played Niles) in “The Pirates of Penzance.”

If a little TV stardust is enough to convince theatergoers to see Butler in the witty and deep recovery play “Another Shot” at The Romulus Linney Courtyard Theatre, the actor says he’s game.

“I love that it would bring people there, and you would just hope that they get bitten by that thing theater can do that no other medium can do,” he says. “Hopefully, it brings you in the doors again.”

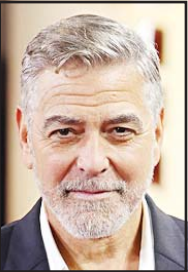
Laura Stanczyk, a veteran casting director and producer who has cast dozens of Broadway, off-Broadway and international plays and musicals, knows many shows secure a bankable star to try to stand out.

“When you have actors like Robert Downey Jr. who are finally showing up and participating in the New York theater scene, it becomes even more important to have someone who has some kind of notoriety,” she says.

She is producing the play that Butler is starring in by Spike Manton and Harry Teinowitz, in which a deadpan Butler plays a radio DJ in recovery. “It’s sort of like Bulldog goes to rehab,” jokes the actor.

Movie and TV celebrities have been part of Broadway’s DNA for decades - one recent big wave was in 2010 with the arrival of Robin Williams, Chris Rock, Kiefer Sutherland, Daniel Radcliffe, Pee-wee Herman, Vanessa Redgrave, Ben Stiller and Edie Falco - but their presence this season is particularly striking.

Kit Connor and Rachel Zegler are starring in “Romeo & Juliet;” Nicole Scherzinger has “Sunset Boulevard;” Peter Gallagher and Julianna Margulies are in “Left on Tenth” and Sean Astin is playing Santa in “Elf the Musical.”



Clooney

#### Musical

Stanczyk says it’s not too surprising to see so much star wattage since many of the TV and movie stars have their roots in theater. Margulies studied stage, and that’s also where Connor and Zegler got their starts. Scherzinger studied musical theater at Wright State University.

“People forget that these great actors got a lot of their start in theater,” she says. “I do think some directors gravitate towards that because they know those folks - it’s in their bones and there’s a common language.”

The reason “Frasier” Bingo is possible is because so many associated with the show are theater veterans, starting with James Burrows, the director who helped craft the “Cheers” spinoff. Burrows started in the theater and is the son of the legendary playwright and director Abe Burrows, behind “Guys and Dolls” and “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.”

Butler - who was recently cheered on by Pierce during a visit to “Another Shot” - said “Frasier” often had a stage feel. “It sort of felt like doing a short play in front of a live audience every time we filmed,” he said.

Other TV shows - like “Law & Order;” “The Good Wife;” “The Gilded Age;” “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend” and “Only Murders in the Building” - share that stage vibe since they also have leaned into casting from the theater.

So hot is New York that the stars are even coming off-Broadway, like Adam Driver in “Hold On to Me Darling,” Marisa Tomei in “Babe,” Kenneth Branagh in “King Lear,” T.R. Knight in “The Merchant of Venice” and Christian Slater and Calista Flockhart in “Curse of the Starving Class.”



Khatia Buniatishvili poses for a portrait on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, in New York. (AP)

### Music

#### Classical music superstar conducts her own part

## Buniatishvili honors Mozart in her own way

NEW YORK, Oct 30, (AP): Khatia Buniatishvili has been one of the most well-known classical musicians for more than a decade, but she prefers to keep the chatter about her celebrity buried beneath the crescendo of her music and charismatic performances.

“If I start to talk about my charisma, I think it might be the end. It’s like the peak of narcissism, right?” Buniatishvili said bashfully in a recent interview.

But it’s her command of the stage, combined with her expressive performance energy and glamorous exterior that has made her a household name in classical music. The pianist, born in the country of Georgia, along with a new generation of artists like Icelandic pop-jazz singer and cellist Laufey, French violinist Esther Abrami, Nigerian opera singer Babatunde Akinboboye and even pop superstar Lizzo, a classically trained flutist, are helping remove the elitist stigma often attached to the genre and are attracting millennial and Gen Z audiences.

“I’m the happiest person when I hear that ... young people, it’s the movement of life,” said Buniatishvili, a two-time winner of Germany’s top award for classical performers, the Opus Klassik. “You can bring new life to them - to composers - thanks to these young people who are listening to it. I think it’s the major achievement you might have in life.”

The 37-year-old French-Georgian, who has collaborated with major mainstream artists like Coldplay and

ASAP Rocky, released her sixth solo album Friday, “Mozart: Piano Concertos Nos. 20 & 23” with the Academy of St Martin In The Fields chamber orchestra.

Buniatishvili, who first performed with the Tbilisi Chamber Orchestra at just 6 years old, talked with The Associated Press about notoriety, Mozart, and creating a more level playing field in classical music. The answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** With as much fanfare that surrounds you, why do you shy away from talking about fame? You specifically mentioned narcissism.

**Buniatishvili:** It’s very easy to become (narcissistic) if you don’t pay attention to it, I think, when you’re an artist because it might seem like everything is around one person, but actually, it’s much more than that. It’s not about one person. It’s about what you leave.

I think it’s a very important thing to give an example to the younger generation also that it’s nice to have a mirror and to have selfies - that’s very nice - but it’s very important not to miss life in those moments.

**AP:** How did you develop your lifelong connection with the piano?

**Buniatishvili:** It was there from the very beginning. Like my parents and my sister, they were there when I was born, but also, the piano was there. ... Even though I could do different things in life, this was there like my family, and it felt comforting.

**AP:** What was the recording process like for creating “Mozart: Piano Concertos Nos. 20 & 23?”

**Buniatishvili:** What was special in this recording was that it was with the orchestra, a chamber orchestra, but without conductors - I was directing the orchestra. So, this was a very special feeling because you communicate with the orchestra and you have to be convincing for them because you are not a conductor. ... You have to make them feel what they are actually: quite special and very unique and irreplaceable. And at the same time, you have to achieve your own interpretation.

**AP:** Why did you choose to create this album without a conductor?

**Buniatishvili:** I wanted to do something as I felt it. And sometimes conductors, they can help with that. Sometimes they propose something different and you might like it or might not like it. ... I really wanted to do it in my way.

**AP:** What are you most proud of professionally?

**Buniatishvili:** I’m proud that I achieved - independently from conductors, from male powers or even female. Sometimes I was not invited by the best orchestras in the world. But I would think, “No problem, I’ll play alone.” ... Actually, I achieved my career with my recitals being alone on stage because, often, I was not part of this great power or great systems.

We should work on the equality things because not everybody has this chance.

### Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** Robert Downey Jr. doesn’t think Marvel executives would ever recreate his portrayal of Tony Stark using artificial intelligence. But if they did, he would lawyer up - even posthumously.

On a recent episode of the “On With Kara Swisher” podcast, the Oscar-winning actor said he intends to “sue all future executives” who allow an AI-created version of him. Speaking about his role as Iron Man, Downey said he does not want his likeness recreated by



Downey Jr.

Swisher noted that those executives would eventually be replaced.

“Well, you’re right,” Downey said. “I would like to here state that I intend to sue all future executives just on spec.” (AP)

□ □ □

**NEW YORK:** CNN has banned conservative writer Ryan Girdusky from the network following a contentious on-air exchange in which he told panelist Mehdi Hasan that “I hope your beeper doesn’t go off.”

“Did you just say I should die?” Hasan said.

He was responding to Girdusky’s apparent reference to September’s attacks where pagans and walkie-talkies used by hundreds of Hez-

bollah members in Lebanon and Syria exploded simultaneously, killing 39. The attack was widely believed to be carried out by Israel.

Hasan and Girdusky were on a panel on “News Night” Monday night, talking about Donald Trump’s rally at Madison Square Garden, where speakers made a variety of racist comments and referred to Puerto Rico as a “floating island of garbage.” The panel discussion devolved into back-and-forth bickering after Girdusky said to Hasan, a commentator and founder of the media company Zetco, that “you’ve been called an anti-Semite more than anyone else at this table.” (AP)



Pink October initiative

Awqaf, MoH unite to promote cancer prevention awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has launched an awareness campaign aimed at preventing cancer in women, under the theme 'Pink October', reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative took place at the Grand Mosque, drawing attention to the critical importance of cancer awareness and prevention.

Qaisar Al-Khanfar, Director of the Public Relations Department, said the campaign's primary objective is to foster a health-conscious culture among female employees.

The official expressed appreciation for the high level of awareness and enthusiasm displayed by the participants, emphasizing their eagerness to learn about the causes and treatments of cancer.

Al-Khanfar reiterated the department's commitment to educating female employees on health matters and strongly encouraged them to undergo early detection screenings as a proactive measure in the fight against cancer.

This initiative reflects the ministry's dedication to improving health awareness and supporting women's health in the community.



A group photo of participants from the educational seminar on breast cancer.

Gulf Association of Endocrinology and Diabetes honors Al-Ozairi with gold medal.

GAED awards gold medal to Al-Ozairi

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

Gulf Association of Endocrinology and Diabetes (GAED) has awarded the gold medal to Chief Medical Officer at Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) Dr. Ebaa Al-Ozairi in recognition of her exemplary work in diabetes research.

Since its inception in 2013, the award has been granted to physicians who conduct research in diabetes and endocrinology in order to acknowledge their contributions to the Arabian Gulf. The concept is to choose a distinguished doctoral

researcher whose work has been published in internationally peer-reviewed journals at the Arabian Gulf. The awardee is then invited to deliver a lecture on his scientific and practical career and reasons for granting him the award.

Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) established DDI where Al-Ozairi currently serves as chief medical officer. She has won numerous awards, published many research articles in international journals, and invited several times to deliver scientific lectures in the Middle East, Europe, America and the Gulf.



Bank empowers women through activities, events

KFH concludes its breast cancer drive

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded its annual "You are Stronger" campaign that took place throughout the month of October, coinciding with the World Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The campaign encompassed a variety of supportive and educational activities, events and initiatives, highlighting the importance of early screening, a crucial measure in breast cancer prevention.

Under the campaign, KFH held an educational seminar for its female employees aimed at enhancing their awareness and prevention of breast cancer. In collaboration with health care providers, KFH also organized seminars, lectures and workshops on cancer prevention and offered free examinations and gifts for the participants.

The annual campaign was designed to motivate women to take proactive measures towards maintaining their health by offering discounts at various

stores. These include up to 30% from Tuning on selected packages, 20% discount from Diet Box, 15% discount from Provin Company, in addition to discounts from Thrive Fitness Center and Revive Physiotherapy Center.

The "You are Stronger" campaign also focuses on raising awareness and preventing breast cancer by sharing real-life experiences of breast cancer survivors to benefit from their experience and provide inspiration and hope to women currently battling the disease.

This annual campaign reflects KFH's commitment towards addressing major social concerns in the community through its initiatives, including promoting health awareness and health-related initiatives.

KFH is dedicated to disseminating awareness messages to women as part of the campaign and actively engaging its employees in a variety of interactive activities and events. They are hosted

across multiple locations, facilitating public interaction with medical experts and health specialists. KFH program not only boosts health awareness within the Kuwaiti community but also encourages women to adopt healthier lifestyle.

KFH is also keen on utilizing its social media channels to raise awareness by sharing messages, videos and hosting competitions, events and seminars. These efforts are often in collaboration with specialized medical professionals who provide insights into early detection and prevention of breast cancer.

It is worth noting that KFH has a track record of achievements in supporting the health sector, a key focus of its social responsibility strategy. This support extends to sponsoring various health-related initiatives such as diabetes awareness events, first aid courses, blood donation campaigns in addition to numerous other campaigns aimed at preventing a variety of diseases.

Indian Embassy marks 9th Ayurveda Day

Ayurveda promotes holistic health and wellness worldwide

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: On the occasion of the 9th Ayurveda Day, the Ambassador of India HE Dr Adarsh Swaika said Ayurveda employs nutrition, lifestyle adjustments, and natural remedies to promote balance and overall well-being, while specific treatments address particular health conditions.

In his opening remarks, the Ambassador explained the core philosophy of Ayurveda, translating as "the science of life," which originated in India over 3,000 years ago rooted in the understanding that all forces in the universe are interconnected.

While highlighting the theme 'Ayurveda Innovation for Global Health', he called it an apt reflection of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision who has emphasized the importance of generating quality evidence through innovation in Ayush to establish Ayurveda as a leading approach to holistic and sustainable healthcare globally.

Stressing on the Indian government's



Indian Ambassador delivering his address



Photo from the event.

ment's commitment to Ayurveda, the Ambassador pointed to the establishment of the Ministry of Ayush in 2014, marking a significant focus on promoting Ayurveda both in India and globally.

Efforts by the Ministry and Indian missions abroad, he said, have yielded legal recognition of Ayurveda in several countries, facilitated the export of Ayurvedic products, and led to the signing of bilateral MoUs for Traditional Medicines with numerous nations.

He went on to say to date, 13 MoUs have been secured for establishing Ayush Academic Chairs in international universities and institutes, and 33 Ayush Information Cells have been launched worldwide to provide accurate information on Ayurvedic systems.

The Indian envoy disclosed, Ayurveda has also become part of international engagements such as the SCO Expert Working Group on Traditional

Medicine, the BIMSTEC Taskforce on Traditional Medicines, and the BRICS High-Level Forum on Traditional Medicines.

Additionally, collaboration between the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization (WHO) has resulted in WHO publishing benchmarks for Ayurveda training and practice, as well as the establishment of the Global Traditional Medicine Centre (WHO-GTMC) in Jamnagar, Gujarat, with Ayush's support.

The Ambassador acknowledged the openness of the GCC region, including Kuwait, to diverse traditions, noting Ayurveda's popularity, particularly in external therapies. In recent years, demand for Ayurvedic treatments, wellness centers, and health retreats has risen in the Gulf region.

Kuwait hosts several Ayurvedic wellness centers and spas, and Indian Ayurvedic medicines and cosmetics are increasingly available, reflecting a broader trend of embracing Ayurveda's

holistic health principles for individuals and communities alike.

During the event Jeevan Jayadevan gave a presentation on benefits of Ayurveda, Dr Anoop S. Anand and Roopesh Sevadarshan gave power point presentation on 'Ayurveda in my day' (Dinacharya).

Kuwaiti, Loyal Al Mutawa, the founder of Kuwait's first medical wellness center, AB Wellness, while highlighting the deep, longstanding connection between India and Kuwait that goes beyond wellness -- a bond that resonates personally with many. She called Ayurveda "one of India's invaluable gifts to the world".

In her remarks, Loyal said, Ayurveda has profoundly influenced both her personal life and professional journey. "Ayurveda is not merely a method of healing; it's a way of living, a philosophy that reshapes one's perspective on health."

"It reminds us that true wellness lies in achieving balance -- a pursuit that is essential, not a luxury, amid our modern, busy lives. Ayurveda teaches that we are all made of five elements, and maintaining harmony among them brings authentic health," she said.

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De Zorzi struck 177

SA in total control of 2nd test vs. Bangladesh after declaring on 575

CHATTOGRAM, Bangladesh, Oct 30, (AP): South Africa tightened its grip on the second and final cricket test against Bangladesh on Wednesday thanks to three batters hitting maiden centuries.

Tony de Zorzi struck 177 and Wiaan Mulder made 105 not out as South Africa declared its first innings at 575-6 on Day 2. That came after Tristan Stubbs made 106 on the opening day.

The visitors then took absolute command of the game by reducing Bangladesh to 38-4 at stumps, leaving the hosts in danger of following on.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam claimed 5-198, his second straight five-wicket haul in the series, but that mattered little as De Zorzi and David Bedingham continued their good work after resuming at 307-2.

They kept the Bangladesh bowlers at bay by playing a variety of shots, especially sweep and reverse sweep against the spinners.

Taijul, who took eight wickets in the first test that Bangladesh lost by seven wickets, then triggered a mini collapse as South Africa lost three wickets for just five runs to be reduced to 391-5 from 386-2.

De Zorzi reached 150 from 235 balls, smashing a tossed-up delivery of Taijul through mid-wicket for a four but the bowler rattled Bedingham's stump with a quicker delivery to end a 116-run partnership.

Bedingham, who raised his third fifty off 70 balls, was dismissed on 59.

An over later, de Zorzi missed the line to be trapped leg-before. That ended his marathon 269-ball stand,

which included 12 fours and four sixes.

Kyle Verreynne, the centurion of the first test, also missed a sweep shot to be trapped leg-before for a duck, handing Taijul his 14th five-for.

Pacer Nahid Rana (1-83) further troubled South Africa, dismissing Ryan Rickelton for 12 after he nicked a delivery to wicket-keeper Mahidul Islam.

After taking four wickets for 37 runs, Bangladesh sensed a chance to expose the South African tail but Mulder and Senuran Muthusamy came up with steely resolve to further frustrate the hosts.

The declaration came after Mulder, who struck fifty in the side's seven-wicket victory in the first test, completed his century from 150 balls by hitting Taijul Islam for a six over the top.

Mulder and Muthusamy shared 152 runs for the unbeaten seventh-wicket stand.

Muthusamy also hit his maiden half-century and remained not out on 68 off 75 with the help of five fours and two sixes.

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada who is back at No. 1 in the ICC test rankings, then struck twice to reduce Bangladesh to 21-2 in the fifth over, dismissing Shadman Islam for a duck and Zakir Hasan for 2.

His new ball partner Dane Paterson had Mahmudul Hasan (10) caught by Aiden Markram before left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj removed nightwatchman Hasan Mahmud.

Mominul Haque was batting on 6 with captain Najmul Hossain Shanto on 4.

New York edges Crew for first road win in MLS Cup playoffs since 2017



Columbus Crew defender Yevhen Cheberko, left, and New York Red Bulls midfielder Lewis Morgan, right, head the ball in the second half of a first-round soccer match of the MLS Cup playoffs in Columbus, Ohio. (AP)

Diaz scores decisive goal in shootout as Minnesota beats RSL

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Oct 30, (AP): Felipe Carballo scored his first goal with New York in the 25th minute and the Red Bulls beat the Columbus Crew 1-0 on Tuesday night in the opening game of the best-of-three series.

New York won a road game during the MLS Cup playoffs for the first time since 2017. It was also the Red Bulls' first postseason win in Columbus following four straight losses.

Carballo volleyed home a header from Dylan Nealis on a corner kick.

New York's scoring leader Lewis Morgan nearly doubled the lead in the 37th when he sent a fast-break shot just wide of the far post. Morgan also had a one-on-one opportunity in the 67th when he rounded goalkeeper Patrick Schulte but could not get a shot away.

New York goalkeeper Carlos Coronel made a huge save of DeJuan Jones' close-range shot in the 83rd. Coronel is the first New York goalkeeper to record at least eight saves in a postseason match since Ryan Meara (8) against the Crew in 2020.

The Red Bulls will host Columbus on Sunday.

Jefferson Diaz scored the decisive goal in a 5-4 shootout after Minnesota and Real Salt Lake played to a scoreless draw in regulation, and United beat RSL in the first game of a best-of-three series.

It marked Minnesota's first MLS Cup playoff win via a penalty kick shootout in club history. United can clinch a spot in the Western Confer-

ence semifinals with another victory over RSL on Saturday.

Diaz sent RSL goalkeeper Zac MacMath the wrong way in the sixth round and then Braian Ojeda had a shot deflect off the crossbar.

Minnesota goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair secured his eighth clean sheet of the season.

MacMath dove to his left to deny Minnesota defender Michael Boxall in the third round of penalty kicks, but RSL defender Justen Glad followed with a shot that sailed the crossbar to keep it even at 2.

MacMath guessed correctly in the fourth round, but Jeong Sang-Bin's shot went under him into the back of the net.

RSL's last home playoff loss occurred in 2019 against Seattle.

Brazil's side reaches Copa Libertadores final

Atletico Mineiro draws at Argentina's River Plate



Alan Franco of Brazil's Atletico Mineiro, right, and Miguel Angel Borja of Argentina's River Plate battle for the ball during a Copa Libertadores semifinal second leg soccer match at Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 30, (AP): Brazil's Atletico Mineiro drew 0-0 at Argentina's River Plate on Tuesday and reached the final of the Copa Libertadores for the second time.

The team of veteran striker Hulk had beaten its rivals 3-0 in the first leg of the semifinal.

The festive atmosphere at the full Monumental de Nunez Stadium with more than 80,000 fans did not affect the Brazilian side, which had some of the clearest chances to score.

Brazilian teams have won the tournament for the past five years.

The final will be played on Nov. 30 at the same Monumental de Nunez Stadium in Buenos Aires.

Atletico's win also affected the race to be the last South American qualifier for the 2025 Club World Cup, as it eliminated Olimpia of Paraguay from contention.

Olimpia would have advanced to the 32-team tournament in the United States had River Plate won this Copa Libertadores edition. River Plate already qualified based on its consistent results in the continental competition across four seasons.

FIFA will make the draw for the June 15-July 13 tournament on a date in early December it has not yet confirmed.

United shows interest in Sporting coach

Amorim says future 'hasn't been decided'

LISBON, Oct 30, (AP): Sporting Lisbon coach Ruben Amorim said his future "hasn't been decided yet" amid interest from Manchester United.

"Nobody knows if this was my farewell match, or if there will be a farewell match," Amorim said in quotes reported by Portugal's sports daily A Bola after Sporting's 3-1 win over Nacional in the Portuguese League Cup quarterfinals.

Hours earlier, Sporting released a statement to the Lisbon Stock Exchange, saying it has told United that Amorim has a release clause worth 10 million euros (\$10.8 million) in his contract.

The Portuguese champions said United "has shown interest" in paying that amount for Amorim.

United is looking to replace Erik ten Hag, who was fired on Monday with the team languishing in 14th place in the Premier League.

Ten Hag was the 20-time English champions' fifth permanent manager since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

United hasn't won the league since Ferguson's departure.

The 39-year-old Amorim has coached Sporting since 2020, leading the team to Portuguese league titles in 2021 and last season.

Sporting leads the league this season, too, having won all nine of its games, bolstering Amorim's reputation as one of Europe's most talented coaches.

"We have to wait a little bit more to explain everything I need to explain. It will be very clear," he said.

Amorim said he expects to still be in Lisbon on Sunday, when United hosts Chelsea in the Premier League, but when pressed he laughed and said "I don't know."

He reportedly held talks with West Ham last season and was linked with replacing Jurgen Klopp at Liverpool before Arne Slot was hired.

Amorim is a former Portugal midfielder who spent the majority of his club career at Benfica.

His contract at Sporting expires in 2026.

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola was asked earlier Tuesday if he thought Amorim has what it takes to succeed in the Premier League.

"All I can talk about is the experience of playing twice against Ruben's Sporting Lisbon team (in the Champions League's round of 16 in 2022), and the pressure was really, really good," Guardiola said.

"I spoke with (current City player) Matheus Nunes, and he was his player, and he speaks highly about him. And look this season, he is unbeaten and winning all the games in the Portuguese league and (in) the Champions League, (they have) the same points as us. So a high manager. I have the feeling that Man United, what I hear, that they are thinking about him, it's because he's a good manager."

Ten Hag's assistant at United, Ruud van Nistelrooy, will take interim control of the team for Wednesday's English League Cup match against Leicester at Old Trafford.

Best of the Rest

**Son wins award:** Tottenham forward Son Heung-min was crowned as Asia's International Player of the Year for the fourth time by the Asian Football Confederation at its annual awards ceremony Tuesday.

Son, who captains both Tottenham and the South Korea national team, also won the prize in 2015, 2017 and 2019 and takes the trophy from compatriot Kim Min-jae of Bayern Munich.

Australia's Ellie Carpenter, who plays for French club Lyon, became the inaugural winner of the women's international award.

The AFC has a separate prize for players based overseas and awarded its main player of the year awards to Akram Afif of Qatar and Japan's Kiko Seike.

Afif led Qatar to the Asian Cup title in February and finished the tournament as top scorer with eight goals. He also won the AFC award in 2019.

"I will try my best to win this award for a third time," he said.

Seike took the women's prize after helping the Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies win a second straight Japanese league title, setting a record for goals scored in one season. She signed for Brighton in England in July.

"I will continue to do my best for my club, the national team and to raise the value of Asian football," Seike said in a video message. (AP)



# Dawri Zain ‘Player of the Round’ winners honored



Nawaf Al Gharabally and Sheikh Ahmad Al Youssef with the winners and officials from Zain and KFA.

Company continues to inspire promising talent and motivate players to excel

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30:** Zain has recognized the top-performing athletes in the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain), during a special ceremony held at the company’s headquarters in Shuwaikh. The event celebrated the winners of Zain’s ‘Player of the Round’ awards for the first eight rounds of the league, in partnership with the Kuwait Football Association (KFA).

The Dawri Zain stars were recognized by Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-gharabally and Sheikh Ahmad Al Youssef Al Sabah, with attendance from KFA Acting Secretary-General Dr. Saleh Al Majroub, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, Head of the Technical Committee Thamer Enad, committee members Jamal Mubarak and Waleed Ali, along with Zain officials.

The company presented its ‘Player of the Round’ award (KD 500) to the following athletes: Arabi SC’s Ali Khalaf (1st round, presented during the Arabi and Qadisiya derby), Kuwait SC’s Yousef Nasser (2nd and 5th rounds), and Fahaeel SC’s Abdulmohsen Al Ajmi (3rd round).

The following players were also honored: Tadamun SC’s Talal Al Ansari (4th round), Kuwait SC’s Redha Hani (6th round), Salmiya SC’s Muath Al Osaima’ (7th round), and Qadisiya SC’s Eid Al Rashidi (8th round).

The Kuwait Football Association has formed a special committee to oversee and outline the criteria on which the prize winners will be selected. The committee is membered by former players, coaches and experts: Thamer Enad (committee head), Jamal Mubarak, Faisal Bourguba, Waleed Ali, and Mubarak Al Wugayan.

For the third season running, Zain continues to deliver on its promise to support athletes, players, and fans with its prizes, offering over KD 60,000 per season, the biggest prize pool in the local league’s history. The company



Awarding Kuwait SC star Yousef Nasser.



Awarding Salmiya SC star Muath Al Osaima.

strives to inspire promising talent, motivate players to excel, and help bring thrilling experiences to the most passionate fans.

This support reflects Zain’s belief in the vital role of the Kuwaiti private sector in promoting and advancing local sports to new levels. Such steps have added excitement and intensity to the previous seasons, creating a renewed experience for fans and football enthusiasts alike.

The 2024-2025 season’s prizes from Zain include: Player of the Season (KD 10,000), Player of the Round (KD 500 per round), Season’s Top Pro Scorer (KD 5,000), and Season’s Top Local Scorer (KD 5000).

The prizes also include Goalkeeper of the Season (KD 5,000), Coach of the Season (KD 3,000), Rising Star of the Season (KD 2,000), and Best Photo of Season (KD 1000). For the Zain First Division League, the company presents a Player of the Round prize (KD 200 per round).

Zain also offers over KD 10,000 of prizes to winners of the Zain Fantasy League competition, bringing the thrills of Kuwaiti football to the digital space. The game aims to engage fans in the excitement of the league in an innovative way.

Sheikh Al-Youssef sponsors Al-Zaabi retirement ceremony

## Kuwait Handball Association honors Egyptian handball president

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30:** Kuwaiti Handball Association member Talal Zaid Al-Otaibi presented a commemorative shield to Dr. Muhammad Al-Amin, President of the Egyptian Handball Association, in recognition of his efforts in supporting Kuwaiti handball teams. This includes facilitating their participation in tournaments and organizing external training camps in Cairo.

Additionally, the retirement ceremony for national team star Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, who has made significant contributions to Al-Salmiya Handball Club, will take place alongside a friendly match between the Kuwaiti national team and the Bahraini handball team on November 7. This event will be held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall in Sabah Al-Salem and is part of the inaugural Kuwait International Championship. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Youssef Al-Sabah will sponsor Al-Zaabi’s retirement match.

Al-Zaabi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Sheikh Ahmad Al-



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Youssef sponsors Al-Zaabi’s retirement.

Yousef for his support, acknowledging him as a long-standing advocate for athletes across various sports. He also thanked his teammates, administrative staff, and coaches for their collaboration throughout his career.

In recent league action, the Al-Sulaibikhat handed Al-Qadisiya its third defeat of the season with decisive 34-23 victory in the fifth round. This victory brings Al-Sulaibikhat’s total



Talal Al-Otaibi honors Dr Muhammed Al-Amin.

points to six, placing them in sixth position, while Al-Qadisiya sits in tenth with four points from two wins and three losses. In another match, Al-Fahaeel triumphed 35-32 over Khaitan, leaving both teams with four points but positioning Al-Fahaeel in ninth and Khaitan in seventh place.

The sixth round of the league is scheduled to take place tomorrow and the day after.

## Wolfsburg increases pressure on Sahin

# Dortmund’s losing run hits new low with elimination from German Cup

**WOLFSBURG, Germany, Oct 30, (AP):** Borussia Dortmund’s losing run hit a new low with elimination from the German Cup in a 1-0 second-round loss to Wolfsburg to increase the pressure on coach Nuri Sahin.

Dortmund’s injury-hit team struggled to generate scoring chances in a drab 90 minutes before Wolfsburg forward Jonas Wind settled the game in extra time with a 116th-minute goal.

That consigned last season’s Champions League runner-up Dortmund to a third straight loss in all competitions, a fifth defeat in a row in away games, and its earliest cup exit since the 2010-11 season.

“It’s not about my personal situation, it’s about moving the club forward, getting back to winning ways as soon as possible, winning our games,” the 36-year-old Sahin, who took over from Edin Terzic in the off-season, told broadcaster Sky. “Believe me, it’s extremely bitter and disappointing for me too that we’re in a situation like this right now, but we can’t do anything other than keep going.”

The frustration was visible as goalkeeper Gregor Kobel hurled his gloves against the bench after the final whistle.

Even playing extra time was a problem for Dortmund, given its lengthy injury list.

Midfielders Pascal Gross and Emre Can had to fill gaps in the defense and Sahin, who was already under pressure after Dortmund’s losses at Real Madrid and Augsburg last week, made only one substitution in the 90 minutes, bringing on American forward Cole Campbell for only his second senior Dortmund game.

Marcel Sabitzer made an extra-time cameo off the bench despite carrying a back injury, but his most notable

contribution was losing the ball to Wind for the Danish striker to score Wolfsburg’s goal.

Dortmund’s busy schedule doesn’t let up with a game against Leipzig in the Bundesliga on Saturday and a visit from Austria’s Sturm Graz in the Champions League next week.

Last season’s German Cup winner Bayer Leverkusen cruised into the third round with a 3-0 win over second-tier Elversberg. Patrik Schick scored twice in the first nine minutes and Aleix Garcia converted a free kick for his first goal since joining Leverkusen from Girona for this season.

Leipzig beat St. Pauli 4-2 to avoid a repeat of last season’s second-round exit when it was the two-time defending champion in the cup.

Leipzig had a 3-1 lead after 30 minutes but St. Pauli got back into the game with Eric Smith’s lob in the 58th and was pushing to level the score. The 19-year-old Norway winger Antonio Nusa dribbled past two defenders and scored Leipzig’s fourth to secure the win.

Stuttgart had to work hard to break down last season’s cup finalist Kaiserslautern in a 2-1 win settled by Chris Führich’s first goal of the season in the 75th.

Second-tier Cologne upset Bundesliga club Holstein Kiel 3-0, while Augsburg beat second-division Schalke 3-0 to reach the third round for the first time since 2018-19. The lowest-ranked team left in the competition, fourth-tier Kickers Offenbach, was beaten 2-0 by second-division Karlsruhe.

Ten-man Jahn Regensburg held on to beat Greuther Fürth 1-0 after goalscorer Rasim Bulic was sent off for a dangerous tackle.



Dortmund’s Nico Schlotterbeck, right, battles for the ball with Wolfsburg’s Patrick Wimmer during a second-round German Cup soccer match in Wolfsburg, Germany. (AP)

### Best of the Rest

**Torch, medal, anthem unveiled:** The torch, medals and anthem for the 2025 Asian Winter Games in Harbin were officially unveiled on Wednesday.

The height of the torch is 735mm, with a top diameter of 115mm and a grip diameter of 50mm. The theme of the design, “Surging”, aims to capture the vibrant and dynamic energy of life in nature. It symbolizes that the 9th Asian Winter Games will be filled with vitality and passion. The overall torch design incorporates international aesthetic features while blending classical and modern Chinese art.

The design takes the form of a blossoming lilac, integrating colors such as China Red, Lilac Purple, and Snow White, symbolizing the sincerity, warmth, openness, and inclusivity of Heilongjiang Province and the characteristics of the host city, Harbin.

The torch features a burner nozzle that combines a lilac floral design with a hollow center, creating a three-dimensional effect. The outer wall of the upper combustion chamber is designed with hollow snowflakes, harmonizing the beauty of order with the overall biomimetic natural aesthetic, blending culture and technology with natural artistry. The outer shell resembles a blossomed lilac, transitioning from transparent ice crystal to Snow White. The inner core transitions from China Red to Lilac Purple. When lit, the torch presents an effect of ice and fire merging, highlighting the radiant energy of winter sports that springs from challenge and passion. (Xinhua)

**Miedema has another surgery:** Manchester City star Vivianne Miedema has had another operation on her left knee, the club said Wednesday.

The 28-year-old Netherlands forward first tore her ACL in December 2022 when playing for Arsenal and was out for most of the next year, including the 2023 Women’s

World Cup.

Miedema needed a minor operation last season and the latest surgery was successful, Man City said.

The club gave no timetable for Miedema’s expected return in a season where her new team is unbeaten and top of the English league and its Women’s Champions League group.

Man City beat European champion Barcelona on Oct. 9 and the return in Spain is in the final round of group games on Dec. 18. (AP)

**UEFA pledges to spend \$1 billion:** UEFA pledged Wednesday to steer 1 billion euros (\$1.08 billion) toward all levels of women’s soccer over the next six years as part of a comprehensive strategy to grow the game in Europe.

UEFA’s goal is to make “football the most-played team sport for women and girls in every European country,” as well as doubling the number of fully professional national leagues to six and raising the number of professional players from 3,000 to 5,000.

“It is our promise to keep investing and collectively lead the game forward, with all European national associations, leagues, clubs, players, fans and partners part of our journey,” UEFA’s director of women’s soccer Nadine Kessler said in a statement.

The UEFA plan, dubbed “Unstoppable,” includes developing paths for women and girls to play, coach and referee from the grassroots level.

Still, Kessler acknowledged in the 31-page document that there are “persistent challenges and obstacles to overcome” in getting more girls and women into the game.

The previous UEFA women’s soccer strategy in 2019 aimed for 2.5 million registered players across its 55 member federations and the latest document reported 1.6 million last season. (AP)





Fatima Al-Fulaijawi explaining the dangers of stimulants during the workshop hosted by KFA.

# Sports

## Al Arabi boosts semifinals hopes

‘Every match is challenging’

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: Al Arabi kept its hopes alive for a spot in the West Zone semi-finals of the Asian Challenge League Championship with a decisive 2-0 victory over Maldives’ Maziya Sports Club at Kuwait Club Stadium in the second round of Group Two matches. This win brought Al Arabi’s total to 3 points, placing them in a competitive position, while Maziya’s second straight defeat ruled them out of

the race. Meanwhile, Turkmenistan’s Arkadag tops the group with six points, and Kyrgyzstan’s Abdish Atta is third, also with three points.

Learning from its initial match against Abdish Atta, Al Arabi came out strong, controlling the game early. Youssef Majed opened the scoring in the seventh minute, and Ali Khalaf doubled the lead just two minutes later. Despite several missed opportunities to further extend their lead, Al Arabi’s performance has raised their chances of advancing as group leaders.

In its next and final group match against Arkadag, Al Arabi will need a two-goal win margin to ensure quali-

fication at the top, provided Abdish does not secure a four-goal victory in its match against Maziya. The top team from each of the three groups will qualify for the next round, along with the best runner-up across the groups.

Reflecting on the victory, Al Arabi’s Coach Nasser Al-Shatti praised his team’s performance but noted missed finishing opportunities. Speaking at a press conference, he mentioned the team has “turned the page” on the Maziya game and is focused on preparing both mentally and physically for the crucial upcoming match against Arkadag. Emphasizing the tournament’s competitive nature, Al-Shatti stated, “Every match is challenging, and we are fully committed to securing a positive result to advance.”



Al Arabi coach Nasser Al-Shatti.



Al Arabi players celebrate their victory.

## Al-Otaibi makes mark at Southeast Asia Championship



Al-Otaibi displays Kuwaiti flag during the coronation.

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30, (KUNA): Kuwaiti modern pentathlete Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi secured two silver medals at the Southeast Asia Laser-Run Championship, which concluded in the Philippines.

In a statement to KUNA on Wednesday, Nasser Al-Waleed, head of the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Federation, revealed

that the Kuwaiti team participated in an international training camp prior to the tournament, alongside athletes from ten Asian countries. This camp focused on enhancing skills in various disciplines, including fencing, swimming, equestrian show jumping, laser pistol shooting, and cross-country running.

Al-Otaibi competed in the under-17 category, while fellow athlete Nasser Al-Azmi represented Kuwait in the junior’s category. Al-Waleed highlighted that both athletes are currently preparing for the upcoming Arab Pentathlon Championship in January and the UIPM 2025 Pentathlon World Cup set to take place in Cairo in February.

### Kings run past the punchless Jazz

## Mavericks fend off Timberwolves in West finals rematch behind Irving’s 35 points

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct 30, (AP): Kyrie Irving scored 16 of his 35 points in the third quarter, Luka Doncic had a late surge to finish with 24 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks held off the Minnesota Timberwolves 120-114 in the first rematch of last season’s Western Conference finals.

Anthony Edwards had 24 of his 37 points in the first quarter to set a Target Center record, going 7 for 13 from 3-point range. He also went just 6 for 12 from the free-throw line.

Doncic put his stamp on the game with a 33-footer with 1:04 left to stretch the lead to eight points, barking at fans as he skipped back to the bench after a timeout. That was his only make in eight tries from behind the arc.

P.J. Washington added 17 points and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who played on back-to-back nights after beating Utah 110-102 at home on Monday. Doncic went 5 for 22 from the floor and 1 for 9 from 3-point range for 15 points against the Jazz.

Irving went 6 for 8 from 3-point range, including a swish with 2:31 left and Randle tightly guarding him at the top of the key after the Timberwolves pulled within 109-107.



Denver Nuggets’ Nikola Jokic (15), of Serbia, looks to pass away from Brooklyn Nets’ Nick Claxton, left, and Cam Thomas (24) during overtime of an NBA basketball game in New York. (AP)

Edwards has five-plus 3-pointers in all four games this season, the longest streak in team history.

The Mavericks host Houston on

Thursday night and the Timberwolves host Denver on Friday.

### Nuggets 144, Nets 139 OT

In New York, Nikola Jokic had 29 points, 18 rebounds and 16 assists, becoming only the second player in NBA history to reach those totals in a game, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Jamal Murray and Aaron Gordon each scored 24 points for the Nuggets, while Russell Westbrook added 22.

Dennis Schroder scored 28 points for Brooklyn, which led by 17 in the second quarter. Cam Thomas scored 26 and Cam Johnson had 20. Nic Claxton added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Thomas gave the Nets a 127-125 lead with the first basket of overtime, but the Nuggets scored the next eight points and led the rest of the way.

### Kings 113, Jazz 96

In Salt Lake City, Domantas Sabonis had 28 points and 11 rebounds, De’Aaron Fox added 19 points and the Sacramento Kings dominated the reeling Utah Jazz.

Jordan Clarkson scored 21 points and John Collins tallied 18 for the Jazz, who opened the season with four straight defeats

and lost starting forwards Taylor Hendricks (broken leg) and Lauri Markkanen (back spasms) on back-to-back nights.

The Jazz have lost their last two home games by a combined 58 points. Rookie Kyle Filipowski got his first extended playing time and scored 12 points.

DeMar DeRozan had 20 points and eight assists for the Kings, who have won two straight after starting 0-2. Kevin Huerter and Keegan Murray each scored 14 for the Kings, who led by as many 27 points.

### Warriors 124, Pelicans 106

In San Francisco, Buddy Hield scored a season-best 28 points, Brandin Podziemski had 19 points and fueled a furious second-half comeback, and the Golden State Warriors rallied from 17 down to beat the New Orleans Pelicans.

Zion Williamson had a season-high 31 points on 12-for-20 shooting and eight rebounds for New Orleans. Brandon Ingram scored 30 points.

Jonathan Kuminga, who started the initial three games for Golden State but was averaging 8.0 points on 33.3% shooting, came off the bench to score 17. Reserve Lindy Waters III had 21 points and nine rebounds in his best game yet for Golden State.

### Kuwait in Group C for Socca WC in Oman

MUSCAT, Oct 30: The draw for the FIFA Hexagonal World Cup “Socca World Cup Oman 2024” was held t at the Oman International Convention and Exhibition Centre, setting the stage for Muscat to host the tournament from November 28 to December 8. This mark the first time the event will be held in the Middle East, featuring 40 teams from across the globe.

In Group C, Kuwait will face Greece, Belgium, Cyprus, and Iraq. Oman, the host nation, is in Group A along with the United

States, Italy, Canada, and Qatar. Group B includes Germany, Bulgaria, Georgia, Libya, and Serbia. In Group D, Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Colombia, and Iran will compete, while Group E features Poland, France, Turkey, Pakistan, and Haiti. Group F consists of Mexico, Latvia, Albania, Peru, and Australia. Group G brings together Kazakhstan, England, Romania, Uruguay, and Sudan, and Group H includes Croatia, Hungary, Argentina, Tunisia, and South Africa.



The Socca World Cup draw in progress.

## Al-Nassr bows out of King’s Cup

RIYADH, Oct 30: Al-Nassr exited the King’s Cup in the round of 16 following a 1-0 loss to Al-Taawoun at Al-Awal Park. This marked Al-Nassr’s first defeat under Italian coach Stefano Pioli, ending his seven-game winning streak across all competitions, which included four league victories, two wins in the Asian Elite League, and one in the King’s Cup.

The streak was interrupted by a 3-3 league draw with Al-Khulud, and Al-Taawoun capitalized on this to hand Al-Nassr its first defeat with Pioli at the helm. This is the second tournament

Al-Nassr has exited this season, having previously lost the Saudi Super Cup title to rival Al-Hilal.

The match’s decisive goal was scored by Al-Taawoun’s Walid Al-Ahmad in the 70th minute, while Cristiano Ronaldo missed a late penalty. Al-Taawoun advanced to the quarterfinals, while Al-Nassr now faces a morale test as it prepares to meet league leader Al-Awal Park on Friday. In other matches, Al-Hilal defeated Al-Ta’ee 4-1, Al-Raed won 1-0 over Al-Najma, and Al-Fayhaa edged Al-Arabi 1-0.



Ronaldo missed his first penalty kick with Al-Nassr.

## Kuwait Football Association hosts vital doping awareness workshop

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 30: The acting Secretary-General of the Kuwait Football Association, Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub, emphasized the importance of the awareness workshop on combating doping, stating that it plays a crucial role in educating players and the technical, administrative, and medical staff. This workshop was held at Jaber Stadium in collaboration with the Kuwait Anti-Doping Agency and focused on outlining the rules of doping prevention and the implementation of associated programs.

Dr. Al-Majroub urged all clubs to participate in such workshops due to their significance, expressing hope that they would benefit attendees and help prevent unintentional suspensions caused by ignorance of doping rules. He made these remarks in a statement to Al-Seyassah.

Fatima Al-Fulaijawi, the Director of the Results Follow-up and Penalty Implementation Department at the Kuwait Anti-Doping Agency, highlighted the prior neglect in educating athletes and staff about doping, which has led to unfair consequences for many players. She noted that some sports institutions have not taken the issue seriously, underscoring that anti-doping regulations are now mandatory for international participation.

Al-Fulaijawi stated that their mission is to promote awareness, emphasizing the dangers of doping and educating athletes on their rights and responsibilities. She assured that collaboration with all federations is ongoing and that the Kuwait Anti-Doping Agency welcomes engagement from all sports institutions.

Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-Bannai, Director of the Medical Department at the Kuwait Football Association and Head of the Medical Committee, explained that the primary aim of these workshops is to protect players from the health risks associated with stimulants and to ensure fair competition without cheating.