



golf
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Deaf athletes shine as Amir vows more state support



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince and Acting Prime Minister, visits the Diwaniya of Nabat Poets.



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince and Acting Prime Minister, visits the Kuwait Sport Club for Deaf (KSCD).

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

The Amir of Justice ... 'If souls are great, bodies will tire in achieving their goals'

WITH carefully chosen words, His Highness the Amir addressed the judiciary, which issues rulings in his name.

His message was clear and open to interpretation. In his statement, His Highness the Amir defined the meaning of self-accountability, particularly for judges, who must rule based on their conscience and remain impartial, regardless of temptations, reasons, or motives.

For the first time, the Head of State has outlined the principles to be followed, placing his words in their proper context, fully convinced that no one is above justice.

His Highness was direct in his message: "Just as you are judged, you will be judged... above your authority is an overseer and a conscience. So, feel that God is watching you, speak the truth, and your affairs will be set right."

It is true that judicial rulings are based on the law, but justice is not solely dependent on written texts. Justice is primarily based on conscience and spirit. There is no room for courtesies in judicial rulings that may lead to imbalance, which is one of the gravest sins before God Almighty.

Because His Highness the Amir bears the burdens of the state, he is guided by his conscience to ensure that rulings issued in his name are free from any flaws. Therefore, he emphasized, "Issuing conflicting and contradictory rulings raises doubt and suspicion." This undermines the pursuit of justice, which is the foundation of state stability.

In many countries, judges are given a blank check, allowing them to specify the amount they require, to avoid any suspicion of bribery

or undue influence from parties seeking their judgment.

Justice is the foundation of governance, as His Highness's words about the most important institution in the country clearly indicate. His statement rings true: "The executive and judicial authorities are the two wings of government in the country."

To ensure that accountability for officials and lawbreakers remains indivisible, there is a fine line between right and wrong. His Highness the Amir emphasized that this line is clear and crucial for maintaining justice.

To avoid any suspicion of bias within the judiciary, His Highness was clear in highlighting the core issue and stirring up stagnant waters in various state institutions, not just the judiciary.

His Highness the Amir spoke frankly about a fundamental pillar of the state, guided by his conscience as the head of all authorities.

These are the finest practices that reflect the essence of a ruler who can accurately distinguish between right and wrong, a quality that very few are capable of embodying.

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Amir champions poetry role in national identity

KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah as well as other senior state officials, paid a visit to Kuwait Sport Club for Deaf (KSCD) on Monday evening.

Upon his arrival, he was warmly welcomed by Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Acting Director General of the Pub-

lic Authority for Sport Bashar Abdullah Al-Salem and KSCD Board Chairman Anwar Manif Al-Harbi.

Greeting the audience in a speech, His Highness the Amir said, "With you we meet again. Together with my brother His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and my brother companions, we have the pleasure of congratulating you on the holy month of Ramadan."

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Kuwait readies security for Ramadan, Eid rush



KUNA photo
Acting Prime Minister chairs a meeting with Assistant Undersecretaries of the Ministry of Interior to review security preparations for the last ten days of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr.

'Firm action'

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: The Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah held a meeting with the assistant undersecretaries of the Ministry of Interior and several senior security officials, in the presence of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef praised

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3 Ban on 'niqab' while driving based on old gov't decision



5

Indian Ambassador hosts Ramadan Ghabqa, celebrating shared heritage



9 stc General Assembly for year ended Dec 31 2024 approves cash dividend of 35 Kuwaiti fils per share

Ramadan Timings

Ifthar Wednesday 17:59
Imsak Thursday 04:32

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call from Egyptian President Abdelfattah El-Sisi on Tuesday, to discuss bilateral ties and the recent regional and international developments.

During the call, El-Sisi wished His Highness the Amir a long healthy life, while His Highness Sheikh Meshal, on his part, thanked him for his kind feelings that reflect the two countries' strong relations, wishing the Egyptian President a long healthy life. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: President of the Kuwaiti Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) Dr. Adel Boursesli on Tuesday convened an emergency council meeting to look into Amiri subjects and directives.

The meeting focuses on recent instructions and orders came in an address given by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his meeting with the judicial authority's members on Sunday evening, said the Justice Ministry in a press release. (KUNA)

CAIRO: The Arab Parliament strongly condemned the Israeli occupation's resumption of military operations on Gaza, which killed over 350 people and injured dozens early Tuesday.

Speaker of the Arab Parliament Mohammad Al-Yamahi said in a statement that this action is a war crime and is a clear violation of the international law, noting that the Israeli occupation is destroying the international community's efforts to implement the ceasefire deal. (KUNA)

Gold prices in Kuwait break \$3,000 barrier as safe-haven demand soars

KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA): Gold prices in Kuwait surged to new highs on Tuesday as global spot gold surpassed the \$3,000 mark for the second time in a week, driven by economic uncertainty linked to U.S. tariff policies. By 05:49 Kuwait time, spot gold edged up 0.2% to \$3,008.08 an ounce, after peaking at a record \$3,012.05 earlier in the session. U.S. gold futures climbed 0.4% to \$3,017.60.

Gold has gained over 14% since the beginning of the year as geopolitical instability fueled investor demand for safe-haven as-

sets. Since U.S. President Donald Trump took office, the precious metal has hit record highs 14 times, largely due to escalating trade tensions. Analysts attribute the rise to a weaker dollar and market uncertainty surrounding U.S. tariffs, including 25% levies on steel and aluminum imposed in February.

Meanwhile, the dollar index fell to a five-month low, making gold more attractive to foreign buyers. Other precious metals also saw gains, with silver rising 0.2% to \$33.89 an ounce, platinum up 0.5% to \$1,004.65, and palladium climbing 0.5% to \$969.60.

Day by Day

THE campaign by the Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah to "donate to pay off the debts of debtors" is commendable.

Kuwait is the only country that criminalizes issuance of a check without sufficient funds, a law that was enforced under pressure and insistence from those known as "rights holders", including usurers.

In every other country, issuing a check without funds is considered a civil misdemeanor, not a criminal of-

fense, and is not punishable by imprisonment.

Unfortunately, our government seems to have become a collector for creditors. However, the Islamic principle states that responsibility for debt lies not with the debtor but with the negligent party, as they gave their money to someone who could not repay it.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

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Humanitarian legacy recognized

Kuwait Ambassador to Belgium praises Kuwait's efforts in Syria

BRUSSELS, March 18, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to Belgium and head of its missions to the EU and NATO, Nawaf Al-Enezi said on Monday that Kuwait contributed to the establishment of donor conferences to support the humanitarian situation in Syria since 2013.

This came in during Al-Enezi's speech during the Ninth Brussels Conference on Syria in the presence of Syria's Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani, as well as a number of international and Arab participation.

He pointed to the success of Kuwait by hosting the first three donor conferences, in reaching generous

international pledges and fulfilling them by more than 90 percent.

He stressed that Kuwait is keen on respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria, and rejecting foreign interference in its internal affairs.

Al-Enezi pointed out that since the fall of the former regime in Syria, Kuwait sent an air bridge loaded with tons of aid and medical relief needed to secure supplies for the Syrian people, and will continue to stand by and support them.

He thanked the EU for convening this meeting, which confirms the Union's keenness to providing appropriate conditions to Syria.



Brussels 9th Conference 2025

KUNA photo

Kuwait Relief Society hosts Ramadan Ghabqa to 'advance' Gaza aid efforts

Over 75 charities collaborate to address crises

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

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: The Kuwait Relief Society organized a Ramadan Ghabqa at the Regency Hotel recently, showcasing the expertise of charitable organizations and charities in providing relief to the people in Gaza Strip.

This gathering serves as a model of effective charitable work and a shining example in the humanitarian journey.

In a speech delivered on behalf of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah; Director of the Charitable Organizations and Charities Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi, said "we praise and thank Allah for providing relief to the afflicted and affected, and for serving humanity wherever it may be. These efforts have been one of the reasons behind raising Kuwait's flag high among nations and for it to be on the path of humanitarian giving. We are proud of the contributions made by more than 75 Kuwaiti charitable organizations in the fields of humanitarian work in and outside the country."

He explained that Kuwaiti humanitarian work -- both public and official -- demonstrates the inherent love for charity and the desire to help people affected by disasters,



Among the honored organizations.

crises and wars. "It also strengthens bonds between Kuwait's leadership, government and people; and our people in Palestine and the Gaza Strip."

He stated that Kuwaiti charitable organizations -- by showcasing their field experience in urgent and rapid humanitarian interventions during the recent war on Gaza --

aim to achieve a certain degree of integration; identify the most important risks, obstacles and challenges; ways to confront them; and exchange experiences in these areas.

He also emphasized that such events aim to exchange experiences and come up with successful recommendations in the field of humanitarian and charitable works, especially in the field of rapid intervention in disasters, crises and wars, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

He added "we thank His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his generous directives, which have greatly facilitated and accelerated the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of the Gaza Strip; as well as His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, the supervising and organizing bodies, and State institutions supporting Kuwaiti humanitarian work."

In the first symposium entitled, "Experiences in the Field," the charitable organizations reviewed field efforts and observations recorded by relief workers. This provided a clearer picture of the nature of the urgent needs in Gaza, as they explored ways to achieve early recovery and alleviate the suffering of affected families.

The second symposium entitled, "Observations of the Medical Team," discussed direct observations from relief teams regarding the situation in Gaza and identified projects in need of urgent funding.

Minister Al-Mutairi appoints new acting Director General of KUNA

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

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi issued a decision appointing Deputy Director General for the Administrative, Financial and Communications Sector at Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Mohammad Al-Mannai as acting Director General of KUNA.

Sources told the newspaper that the appointment decision was issued after the resignation of KUNA Director General Dr. Fatima Al-Salem, indicating that the minister accepted the resignation in the interest of the public.

Over 7,800 donors back effort

800 requests filed for debt aid in nat'l donation drive

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: In the past two days, approximately 800 assistance requests have been submitted for participation in the third national campaign to collect donations aimed at repaying the debts of eligible citizens, say sources from the Ministry of Social Affairs, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Sources told the daily that citizens whose civil identification cards are invalid or who need to update personal information; such as residential address, civil identification number or photo, will be unable to participate in the campaign.

So far, the campaign has raised around KDI.57 million from 7,800 donors. Launched last Friday in collaboration with prominent charitable organizations in the country, the campaign is dedicated to providing assistance to Kuwaiti citizens struggling with financial obligations.

The ministry emphasized that applications will only be accepted from those who meet the following criteria: the applicant must be a Kuwaiti citizen in default on non-criminal financial obligations, and they must provide official documentation proving their inability to pay. Furthermore, the participating charitable organizations will carefully review these applications to

ensure compliance with campaign requirements.

Contributions raised by the campaign will be directed to the relevant authorities for debt settlement. This includes the Civil Enforcement Department at the Ministry of Justice for individuals facing enforcement measures such as travel bans, vehicle seizures or salary deductions, and the General Department for the Implementation of Criminal Judgments at the Ministry of Interior for those incarcerated due to debt. This process will be carried out with utmost transparency.

The campaign will not cover debts arising from illegal activities or transactions, nor will it address debts to telecommunications companies or informal lenders (subcontract financing), as these are not deemed humanitarian priorities.

The campaign is expected to raise more millions of Kuwaiti dinars in the coming weeks. It will continue for a month and aligns with the government's commitment to support citizens in need. A structured system has been put in place to ensure aid reaches those most in need, with clear criteria and standards enforced in cooperation with recognized charitable organizations. These organizations will collect donations through their own channels, while ensuring fair and transparent distribution of funds.

'No more math in final period'

MoE deploys 400 fingerprint devices to enhance security

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Acting Director of the Information Systems Department at the Ministry of Education Mona Salem has confirmed the supply, installation and operation of 400 fingerprint devices and their accessories in various educational districts and external departments affiliated with the ministry, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a letter addressed to the undersecretary of the ministry, Salem stated that the first change order for Contract No. 103, which is part of Tender M.A./7/2021-2022, was issued for the procurement, installation, operation and maintenance of fingerprint attendance devices and their accompanying software for public schools; in compliance with the directive of the undersecretary.

Salem affirmed that the department is overseeing and managing this project. She also requested the issuance of a circular to all sectors in the ministry to ease the implementation of the project. This initiative includes the supply, installation and operation of 400 fingerprint devices and accessories for the educational districts and external departments. It aims to re-fingerprint employees currently enrolled in the outdated system, as part of an effort to standardize the fingerprint system, phase out older system and adopt more modern solutions.

Following are the main points of the project:

1. The contractor is responsible for supplying, installing, operating and maintaining the fingerprint devices and accessories, in close coordination with the Information Systems Department.

2. Educational districts and external departments must ensure their full cooperation, facilitating the contractor's adherence to the terms of the contract, and to work alongside the Information Systems Department to ensure the smooth and timely completion of the project.

3. All employees are required to use the fingerprint devices properly, avoid damaging or disabling any project-related devices, and refrain from tampering with or making false statements regarding the devices or systems.

In conclusion, the Information Systems Department called for the full cooperation of all ministry sectors to guarantee the project's success and efficient implementation.

In another development, in response to the ministry's directive to school administrations not to schedule Science classes in the last period of the school day; the General Technical Guidance for Mathematics made a similar request, asking that Mathematics lessons not be held during the final period.

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Mousour Al-Dhafiri communicated this request to school administrations, referencing the focus and mental skills required for studying Mathematics. "It was noted that scheduling Mathematics lessons in the last period of the day was detrimental to student performance, which led to the directive for school administrations at all educational levels to avoid scheduling Mathematics in the final period. Previous directives on this matter should also be implemented," the request stated.

New acting PIFSS chief appointed

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noura Al-Fassam issued a decision appointing the acting director general of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), reports Al-Anba.

Article One of the decision states

that Khalid Jassim Ibrahim Al-Mudhaf is appointed as acting Director General of PIFSS until a new director general is appointed. Article Two mandates the concerned authorities to implement this decision, which takes effect from the date of its issuance and publication in the Official Gazette.

Report outlines key steps for unified design

Kuwait moves to standardize public carports

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah has submitted a report to the Cabinet on the progress of the work of the committee tasked to develop standardized specifications for the establishment of carports in public facilities, reports Al-Anba daily.

The report included recommendations and actions taken to initiate the project; while urging the dissemination of technical and engineering specifications, as well as a unified color scheme, to all ministries to ensure consistent implementation throughout the country in line with a unified vision.

In response to the directives and mandate of the Council of Ministers, the report affirmed that a specialized committee was formed to establish uniform foundations, standards and specifications for carports in public facilities.

This initiative is in line with Kuwait's broader vision to enhance its cultural identity and urban aesthetics, ensuring that public spaces harmonize with the visual character of the nation.

The committee, chaired by the undersecretary

of the Ministry of Social Affairs, consists of representatives from various organizations like the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Education, Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies, Kuwait Municipality, Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of State for Housing Affairs.

The committee's tasks, as outlined in the report, include conducting comprehensive field studies to assess the current designs in terms of aesthetic appeal, functionality, and compatibility with engineering and environmental standards. It also prioritized collaboration between relevant entities, holding numerous coordination meetings to exchange insights and technical proposals, ultimately developing a shared vision grounded in quality and sustainability.

The report revealed that the committee recommended the phased implementation of the unified specifications; starting with cooperative socie-

ties, followed by mosques and then the schools. The implementation priorities were set based on factors such as population density and the significance of the sites.

Furthermore, the committee emphasized that standardizing the color of carports will contribute to creating a cohesive urban landscape that reflects Kuwait's cultural identity and improves the visual appeal of public spaces. By choosing a carefully selected uniform color, the project aims to give public facilities a modern yet elegant appearance, further highlighting the country's uniqueness and urban aesthetics.

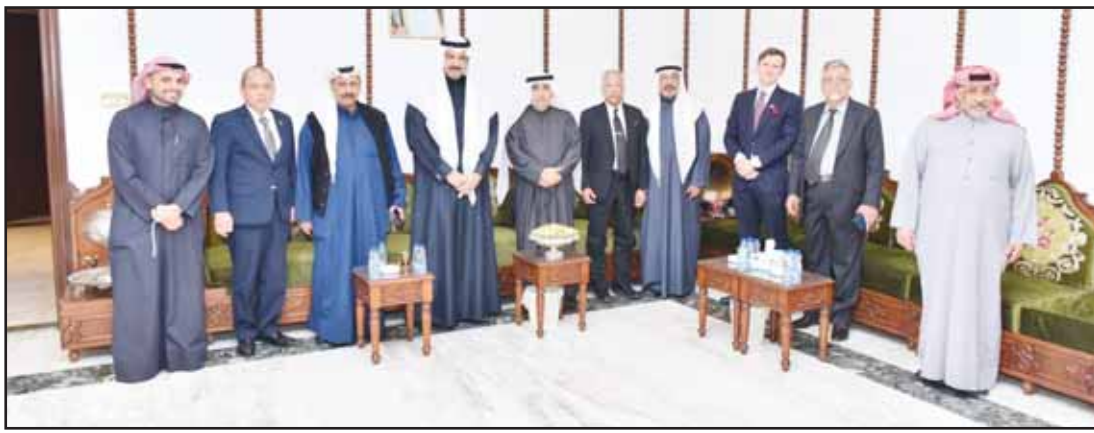
In conclusion, the report confirmed that the committee has started the project's implementation. The project is based on standardized technical and engineering specifications for carports in public facilities, with a uniform color scheme serving as a visual symbol of Kuwait's urban identity. The necessary budgets have been allocated for various phases of the project, and field monitoring teams have been established to ensure the quality and sustainability of the implementation.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Guest speakers at the symposium.



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah, Cambodian Ambassador Sman Manan, Nepalese Ambassador Ghana Shyam Lamsal, Dr. Walid Al-Basri, Dr. Mohammad Al-Awadhi, Faisal Al-Hassawi, and Stuart Summers



Sheikh Ahmed Jaber Al-Abdullah offering congratulations.

Ramadan greetings and prayers shared at Al-Qattan family Diwan

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: The sons of the late Abdul Hamid Al-Qattan received well-wishers for the holy month of Ramadan at their Diwan in Surra.

In a warm and welcoming atmosphere, attendees exchanged greetings and prayers for a blessed month for all.

They also expressed their hopes for continued prosperity and progress for Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Italian Ambassador Lorenzo Morini and North Korean Ambassador Zho Myong Chol extending their congratulations.

'Best account of its kind'

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's draw

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2025 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest expected annual return and winning chances. The third weekly draw in March, based on customers' February deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Hussain Mohammad Naser Bo Abbas, Said Loutfy Said Abdullah, Husin Ramadan Mohammed Qotb, Anfal Hameed Sayed Mostafawi, Hanan Abdulaziz Khaled Alghair, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Bader Haif Saad Alhajraf, Abdullah Ali Mohammad Alhaddad, Bjad Ahmad Bjad Alhajri, Eid Radaan Habeeb Mater, Ibrahim Ismael Hasan Alabdullah, Fahad Malehan Abdulmohsen Farhan, Rasha Mahmoud Sayed Ibrahim, Basher Mazayad Helal Alotaibi, Nama Abdulmohsen Fahad Altemeemi.

It is worth noting that the Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, which was launched by KIB as part of its suite of banking products intended for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first three months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

In addition to being a savings account, eligibility for the Al Dirwaza draws requires a minimum balance of KD 100, which must remain in the account for a full month before the weekly and monthly draws, with chances calculated based on the lowest balance of the previous month. As for the quarterly and annual draws, the amount must be maintained for two full months, with chances based on the lowest balance of the two preceding months. A key feature of the 2025 campaign is the doubling of winning chances to encourage customers to increase their deposits in the Al Dirwaza account. Customers will receive one chance per KD 1 if their lowest monthly balance is less than KD 2,000, two chances per KD 1 for balances between

KD 2,000 and less than KD 5,000, three chances per KD 1 for balances between KD 5,000 and less than KD 10,000, and four chances per KD 1 for balances of KD 10,000 or more. Terms and conditions apply.

The Al Dirwaza account is in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer. Customers can conveniently open the account remotely via KIB Online on the Bank's website, the KIB Mobile application, or through the KIB Digital Onboarding service, without having to visit a branch.

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

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.

Iftar event reinforces Lulu's commitment to workplace unity

Lulu Kuwait hosts special Ramadan iftar for staff



Photos during the iftar gathering.

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait organized a special iftar gathering for its staff on 16th March at Crowne Plaza Hotel, celebrating the spirit of togetherness and gratitude during the holy month of Ramadan.

The event brought together employees from various departments, reinforcing Lulu's commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive workplace culture. The

evening featured a delightful spread of traditional Ramadan delicacies, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait continues to prioritize employee well-being and engagement, recognizing the hard work and dedication of its team members. Such gatherings serve as a token of appreciation and a platform to strengthen camaraderie among staff.

Draws offer KD 1000 weekly for 10 winners

KFH announces Al-Hassad winner of KD 100,000

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced Mozah Al-Maayef as the Monthly winner of Al-Hassad draw, winning KD 100,000 for the month of February 2025.

Al-Hassad account is based on the Wakala investment principle. The Bank invests the entire account balance at an expected profit rate agreed upon in advance with the customer.

Al-Hassad offers weekly, monthly, and quarterly draws, a total of more than 400 prizes. The draws offer KD 1000 weekly, for 10 winners, KD



Al-Hassad banner

100,000 monthly and KD 250,000 quarterly in addition to prizes between 100 to 250 thousand Kuwaiti Dinars worth of value, as well as the year-end profits distribution. The account meets the aspirations of a wide segment of

customers who wish to invest their funds through a multi-featured banking account.

To facilitate customer access and provide opportunities to a wider segment of clientele, Al-Hassad account can be opened in KFH branches, KFHonline, and ATMs.

Customers must hold the balance for a period of 15 days for an opportunity to enter the draws. The customer will have one chance for every KD 50. If the balance is held for 90 days before the draw date, the customer will get two chances for every

KD 50, and three chances for every KD 50 if the balance is held for a period of 180 days prior to the draw date. The customer will have a maximum of 30 thousand chances in one draw. Accordingly, KFH will deposit the value of prizes in the winning customers' accounts.

Al-Hassad represents an excellent addition to KFH's comprehensive suite of financial products, offering a unique opportunity for customers in which the deposited amounts are invested in Al-Hassad based on the Wakala principle.

Dr. Samer Al-Rais extends Ramadan greetings at Alumni event

American University Alumni Committee holds Ramadan Ghabga

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: The American University Alumni Committee - Kuwait branch held a Ramadan Ghabga at the Arjan Hotel, attended by diplomats, alumni, their families, and friends in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Dr. Samer Al-Rais, the committee's president, began his speech by extending heartfelt congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid, the Kuwaiti people, and the Islamic world on the occasion of Ramadan, wishing for blessings and prosperity.

Al-Rais emphasized that the event aimed to strengthen ties among alumni in Kuwait and foster communication in a family-friendly environment. He expressed his happiness with the turnout and appreciated their engagement. He also affirmed the committee's commitment to organizing more social activities for alumni.

The evening included a raffle for entry tickets, with prizes distributed to winners. Participants left with fond memories after an evening filled with warmth and connection.



Photos during the iftar gathering.

Obituary

Iconic 'Rosetta' star and Cannes winner

Belgian actor Émilie Dequenue dies at 43 of rare cancer

BRUSSELS, March 18, (AP): Émilie Dequenue, the Belgian actor who won a top Cannes Film Festival prize for her breakout role in "Rosetta," has died, a news report says. She was 43.

Her family and agent told the news agency Agence France-Presse that Dequenue died Sunday of a rare cancer in a hospital outside of Paris. In 2023, Dequenue revealed she had been diagnosed with adrenocortical carcinoma. Representatives for Dequenue did not immediately respond to inquires from The Associated Press on Monday.

Dequenue was only 18 when she was selected as best actress at Cannes in 1999. In "Rosetta," from Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, she portrayed a teenager trying to escape her difficult life in a caravan park with an alcoholic mother. The film also won the Palme d'Or that year.

Born in Belœil, Belgium, in 1981, Dequenue had a performance streak from a young age. She studied drama at the Académie de Musique de Baudour.

She became well-known in France after starring

alongside Catherine Deneuve in "The Girl on the Train," in 2009, based on the true story of a woman who falsely claimed she was the victim of an antisemitic attack. Dequenue also portrayed police officer Laurence Renault on the French series "The Missing."

In 2012, she won the Un Certain Regard actress prize from Cannes for "Our Children," a dark psychological drama inspired by the real story of a Belgian woman who killed her five children. She was also nominated for several César Awards throughout her career, finally winning best supporting actress in 2021 for the romantic comedy "Love Affair(s)."

Speaking to The Guardian in 2013 about the difficult role in "Our Children," she said, "For my part I went home every weekend, and stayed with my family, which is a very safe place. Making a film like that is something that you have to survive."

More recently, she co-starred in "Close," Lukas Dhont's tender boyhood drama, which brought her back to Cannes again in 2022. She saw similarities between her young co-star and her own breakout role with "Ro-

setta."

"For me to be here and to come back here after 23 years, it's very emotional and there is like a reflection between Eden (Dambrine) and myself because I remember when I was here the first time with 'Rosetta,'" she told The Associated Press. "It was like a very powerful movie with this main character, which is in every scene, every, every shot. And that's the same for him."

Dequenue returned to the festival again in 2024 for the 25th anniversary of "Rosetta." Her last film was Frédéric Jardin's post-apocalyptic thriller "Survive," which came out earlier this year.

While she loved taking on work in England, France and Belgium, she had little interest in Hollywood.

"I have been to Hollywood and had meetings, but really they don't do the kind of films I like to make. And everything is kind of boring, no?" she said in the interview with The Guardian. "Honestly, it's not a fun place, or at least not my kind of fun."

She is survived by her husband, director and producer Michel Ferracci, and daughter, Milla Savarese.



Émilie Dequenue appears at the awards ceremony during the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France on May 27, 2023. (AP)

Protect family privacy

Court halts release of records in Hackman, wife deaths case

SANTA FE, N.M., March 18, (AP): A New Mexico court granted a temporary restraining order Monday against the release of certain records related to the investigation into the recent deaths of actor Gene Hackman and his wife, Betsy Arakawa.

The order is in response to a request by Julia Peters, a representative for the couple's estate. She urged in a motion filed last week that the court seal records in the case to protect the family's right to privacy in grief under the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution.



Hackman

Peters emphasized the possibly shocking nature of photographs and video in the investigation and potential for their dissemination by media.

A hearing has been scheduled for later this month to argue the merits of the request. For now, the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office and the state Office of the Medical Investigator cannot release photographs and videos showing the couple's bodies or the interior of their home, autopsy reports or death investigation reports.

Hackman and Arakawa were found dead in their Santa Fe home in late February. Authorities have confirmed that Hackman died of heart disease with complications from Alzheimer's disease about a week after hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - a rare, rodent-borne disease - took the life of his wife.

The request to seal the records notes that the couple placed "a significant value on their privacy and took affirmative vigilant steps" to safeguard their privacy over their lifetime, including after they moved

to Santa Fe and Hackman retired. The state capital is known as a refuge for celebrities, artists and authors.

"The personal representative seeks to continue to preserve the privacy of the Hackmans following their tragic death and support the family's constitutional right to remembrance and desire to grieve in peace," the document states.

New Mexico's open records law blocks public access to sensitive images, including depictions of people who are deceased. Experts also say that some medical information is not considered public record under the state Inspection of Public Records Act.

Still, the bulk of death investigations by law enforcement and autopsy reports by medical investigators are typically considered public records under state law in the spirit of ensuring government transparency and accountability.

Privacy likely will play a role as well as the couple's estate gets settled. According to probate court documents filed earlier this month, Hackman signed an updated will in 2005 leaving his estate to his wife while the will she signed that same year directed her estate to him in the event of her death. With both of them dying, management of the estate is in the hands of Peters, a Santa Fe-based attorney and trust manager.

A request is pending to appoint a trustee who can administer assets in two trusts associated with the estate. Without trust documents being made public, it's unclear who the beneficiaries are and how the assets will be divided.

Attorneys who specialize in estate planning in New Mexico say it's possible more details could come out if there were any legal disputes over the assets. Even then, they said, the parties likely would ask the court to seal the documents to maintain privacy.

'Wizard of Oz' mystery

Court dismisses ruby slippers theft case after accused dies

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 18, (AP): A federal judge dismissed the charges Monday against a Minnesota man accused of hiding a stolen pair of ruby slippers that Judy Garland wore in the 1939 musical "The Wizard of Oz" after prosecutors informed the court that he died on Sunday.

Jerry Hal Saliterman, 77, of Crystal, who had been in poor health with lung disease and other ailments, had been scheduled to change his plea to guilty in January but that hearing was postponed indefinitely after he was hospitalized.

Federal prosecutor Matthew Greenley notified the court in a one-page motion Monday that Saliterman died Sunday but did not say how or where US District Judge Patrick Schiltz granted the request and dropped the charges.

Defense attorney John Brink confirmed Monday that his client had died but declined to give details. A spokesman for the US Attorney's Office in Fargo, North Dakota, which is handling the case, did not immediately return a phone call seeking further information.

According to court filings, Saliterman was hospitalized in early January "for inability to walk and sepsis," an infection that can be life-threatening. He attended his arraignment three days later via video from what looked like a hospital room. In an update to the court late last month, Brink told the court that his client had been discharged to a hospice facility and that his prognosis was poor. An accompanying letter from his doctor listed severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease requiring supplemental oxygen and Parkinson's disease.



The original ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in the classic 1939 film The Wizard of Oz are displayed in London ahead of being offered for auction on Dec. 7, at Heritage Auctions in the US, Nov. 27, 2024. (AP)

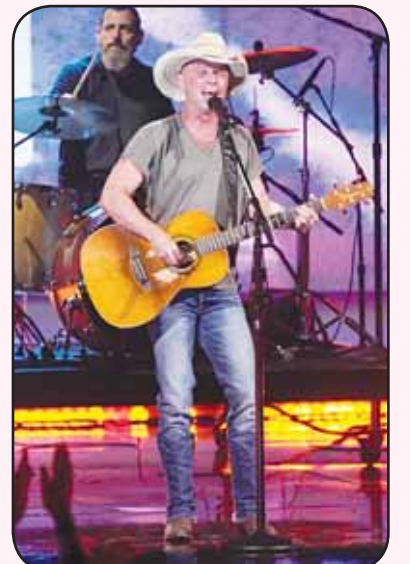
Awards



Benson Boone, winner of the award for song of the year for "Beautiful Things," poses in the press room during the iHeartRadio Music Awards. (AP)



FINNEAS, (left), and Billie Eilish perform during the iHeartRadio Music Awards, on Monday, March 17, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)



Kenny Chesney performs during the iHeartRadio Music Awards. (AP)



Mariah Carey accepts the icon award during the iHeartRadio Music Awards. (AP)



Lady Gaga accepts the innovator award during the iHeartRadio Music Awards, March 17, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)



Tori Kelly performs during the iHeartRadio Music Awards, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)



Gracie Abrams, winner of the award for breakthrough artist of the year, poses in the press room. (AP)



Bad Bunny performs during the iHeartRadio Music Awards, on March 17, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)



Ariana Madix arrives at the iHeartRadio Music Awards, March 17. (AP)

'is' shines with catchy, psychedelic rock

My Morning Jacket's 10th album delights fans, newbies

LOS ANGELES, March 18, (AP): My Morning Jacket likes to hide some of its best music behind unassuming titles.

Twenty years ago, the Louisville-based jam-infused rock band led by Jim James released "Z," one of its most heralded records. And now comes "is," their 10th full-length record.

So, is "is" any good? Yes, "is" is.

Nearing their third decade as a band, My Morning Jacket's veterancy shines on "is." They continue to improve on their ability to write melodic and focused psychedelic rock songs.

And for that reason, seemingly every track on "is" could be a single for the band, a highlight of their live set or a launching pad for improvisation on stage.

For "is," My Morning Jacket handed the producer duties over to Brendan O'Brien, who has worked with Phish, Bruce Springsteen and Pearl Jam - a rarity for a band that prefers to self-produce and has for nearly a decade.



This album cover image released by ATO Records shows 'is' by My Morning Jacket. (AP)

It's paid off. O'Brien doesn't mess with the sound that My Morning Jacket fans love and expect. Instead, he

seems to have focused the band in a way that allows them to deliver a unified, 10-song collection. The songs are meant to communicate "a sense of presence in the now," as James described the album titled in a press release.

"Hopefully those songs will be helpful to people and give them some kind of peace as they try to deal with the insanity of the world," James said. "Because that's what music does for me."

That happens at the jump. Opener "Out in the Open" leads with a catchy guitar riff.

"I'm realizing what's at stake now," James sings. "I can't pretend that I'm not scared/But I'll live while I'm still free."

On the love song "Everyday Magic," James finds transcendence in the mundane. "Everyday magic/A ripple in the fabric," he sings. "Of all space time/Oh you have it/In your heart."

"Time Waited," another love song, seems destined to become a standard for the band, with its easy-going melody and inventive sample of pedal steel giant Buddy Emmons' "Blue Jade."

