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THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025 / ZUL-QAADAH 24, 1446 AH

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Kuwait, US energize ties in high-level talks



Left: CEO and Deputy Chairman of KPC Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah. Right: Meeting in progress.



KUNA photos

WASHINGTON, May 21, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to the US Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah and CEO and Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah held a meeting with US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, said Kuwait's Embassy.

In a statement to KUNA, the embassy affirmed that the meeting discussed ways to strengthen strategic relations between the two countries, including in the energy sector, and the upcoming construction of the Desert Storm and Desert Shield memorial in Washington.

The Kuwaiti embassy also said it hosted a roundtable discussion with Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah later Wednesday in cooperation with the Washington-based Atlantic Council think-tank.

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HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Prime Minister to Finance Minister: Cut kindergarten budget, raise prison budget



The ruler said, "The land you can walk on with your own two feet shall be yours."



The man began walking faster, driven by his desire for more. But!



After several weeks of walking, the farmer thought about returning to the ruler, but his greed pushed him to continue, as he desired more land.



After covering a long distance, he collapsed from extreme exhaustion and died.



The husband cut down the tree opposite the window, only to discover his wife's betrayal.



She had deceived him by claiming she was shy of the birds seeing her without her hijab (veil).



He found his wife sleeping in the arms of her lover, and so he left the city.



He walked on tiptoes to avoid harming even an ant.



The stranger said to the king: "My lord, if I am proven a liar, then kill me."

3

249 deported in Jleeb raid

Environment, labor, residency violations trigger mass action

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The Ministry of Interior continued its security campaigns as per the instructions of Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

The Criminal Investigations General Department at the Criminal Security Sector in the ministry and the Farwaniya Investigations Department carried out an extensive se-

curity campaign in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

This campaign led to the arrest of 301 individuals wanted by law -- 249 of whom were deported immediately.

The ministry stated that this campaign was launched in cooperation with several concerned State agencies, with the aim of apprehending individuals wanted by law or anyone who committed violations.

The campaign resulted in 191 seizure reports and 78 citations issued by the Environment Public Authority (EPA), 495 citations issued by the Kuwait Municipality, 238 closure notices issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), 121 electricity

connections cut due to violations, and 152 residency investigations conducted by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

The ministry confirmed that such campaigns are conducted daily to combat all forms of violations, enhance security and maintain public order.

A security source revealed that those arrested in these campaigns who violated the Residency Law, engaged in illegal labor or worked for others (not their sponsors) are deported immediately; and strict legal measures are taken against their sponsors.

GDP growth signals start of economic shift

Kuwait pushes diversification, private sector growth

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel said the government is working hard to implement ambitious economic policies aimed at restructuring the national economy, achieving diversification, facilitate the business environment, expanding participation, and raising the efficiency of the State's financial management.

Al-Ajeel made the statement at the opening of the New Kuwait Economic Strategy 2025 Conference that Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) organized Wednesday in cooperation with The Business Year Group.

KDIPA Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attended the event, with the participation of a group of economic leaders in and outside Kuwait.

According to Al-Ajeel, the government recently implemented a set of laws in light of these economic policies, such as the Public Debt Law, which aims to rationalize financing tools and support the financial sustainability of the State; as well as the Real Estate Developer Law, which will propel the real estate, banking and investment sectors to new stages of growth and development.

He cited the initiatives and projects that were launched recently like the Smart License Project, Office Licenses Merger System, and amendment of the Companies



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel delivers his address at the opening of the New Kuwait Economic Strategy 2025 Conference, highlighting bold reforms to drive diversification and investment.

Law, which reflect policies to develop and improve the business environment in the country. He emphasized that these government reforms are manifested in the economic indicators of the country.

He explained that prior to the adoption of these reforms, the gross domestic product (GDP) witnessed a remarkable four percent growth in non-oil sectors;

indicating a real beginning in terms of diversifying sources of income and reducing dependence on traditional resources.

He stated that the government is looking forward to improving these rates in 2025 and the coming years. We have a historic opportunity to move Kuwait to a new phase of growth, productivity and partnership.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo

Students focus intently as they begin their final exams for the second semester, marking a crucial step in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Final exams in full swing

KUWAIT CITY, May 21, (KUNA): About 212,000 middle school and tenth and eleventh grade students began final exams for the second semester of the 2024-2025 academic year Wednesday

morning.

The Ministry of Education has set the end of middle school exams for May 29, while exams for grades 10 and 11 will extend until June 2.

Day by Day

THE French have a saying - "Laissez passer, laissez faire" which means "Let him pass, let him work."

The idea is that anyone visiting France should be allowed both entry and the opportunity to work. France has reaped great benefits from embracing this principle.

In the same spirit, our residency and visa laws should be simple, not burdensome. When people consider visiting Kuwait but hear stories of arrests and deportations of residents for minor violations, they change their mind and recall the well-known Arab proverb "Stay away from trouble and sing to it."

We should welcome visitors, as we need them more than they need us.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



8 Shaikha Al-Bahar named Kuwait's most influential businesswoman



8 NBK receives 4 Prestigious Awards from Euromoney Awards for Excellence in '25

9 Burgan Bank sponsors Bonds, Loans & Sukuk ME 2025 conference

Kuwait rolls out power cuts in 51 areas amid 50°C heat

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Scheduled power outages are expected to be frequent this summer due to soaring temperatures, which already reached nearly 50 degrees Celsius.

On Wednesday morning, the power consumption index entered the red zone

at 16,393 megawatts -- 363 megawatts higher than Tuesday's 16,030 megawatts.

In view of the rising electricity load; the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has announced planned power cuts affecting a total of 51 areas -- three agricultural, five industrial and 43 residential.

Continued on Page 5

9 stripped of Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum" published in a special supplement the decision of the Supreme Committee for Investigating Kuwaiti Nationality to revoke citizenship for nine individuals based

on Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amendments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

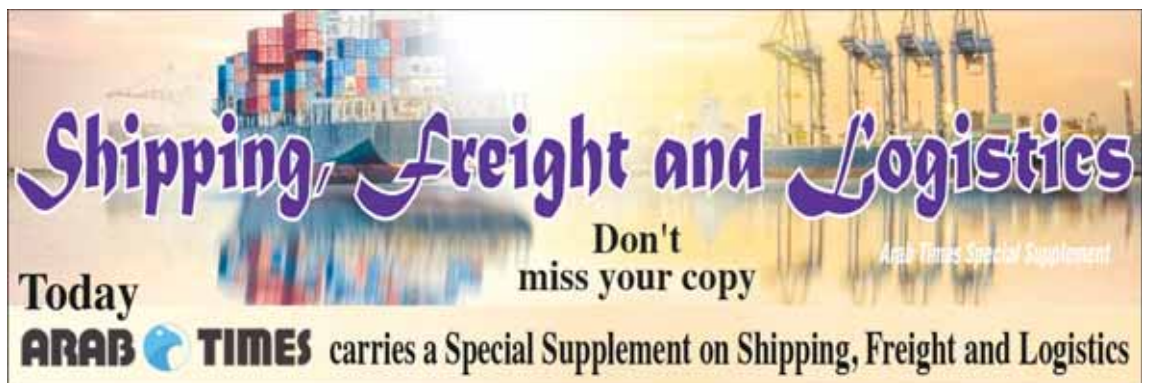
Continued on Page 5

NewsWatch

ALGIERS: Kuwaiti Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investments Eng. **Noura Sulaiman Al-Fassam** revealed at Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) meeting on Wednesday that **Kuwait** provided over USD 980 million in contributions to 63 project since joining the bank.

The Kuwaiti minister led her country's delegation to the 50th annual ministerial meeting of the Board of Governors of IsDB held in **Algeria**, told KUNA that "Kuwait's participation is very effective in the dialogue sessions on empowering youth and entrepreneurs and enhancing economic diversity."

Al-Fassam emphasized that this year's IsDB meetings highlighted the importance of building resilient and inclusive economies capable of adapting to global changes, by strengthening the role of multilateral institutions and expanding areas of cooperation between them. (KUNA)



Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:22	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:53	Maghrib ..	18:36
Zohr	11:44	Isha	20:05

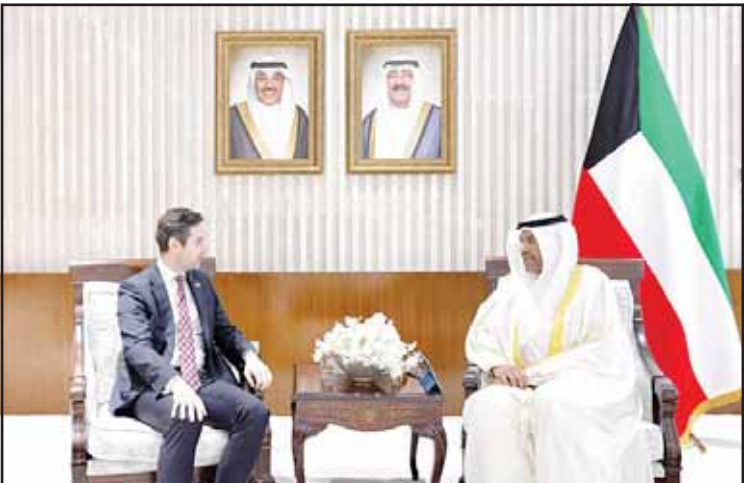
Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h causing rising dust.

Weather			
By Night: Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-32 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait Airport	48	35	
Abdaly	48	28	
Jahra	49	33	
Salmiyah	46	33	
Nuwaisib	47	30	



KUNA photo
Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya meets the new Benin envoy.



KUNA photo
Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya meets the new Polish envoy.

FM receives Polish, Benin envoys' credentials

KUWAIT CITY, May 21, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Wednesday the credentials of Michal Cholewa as Poland's Ambassador to Kuwait.

During a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters, Al-Yahya wished the new ambassador best of luck and more progress and development for the relations between both friendly countries.

Benin

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received a copy of the credentials of the Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to Kuwait Bader Aguemon. During a meeting held on Wednesday at the Ministry's headquarters, Al-Yahya wished the new ambassador success in his duties and expressed hopes for further progress and prosperity in the close relations between the two friendly countries.

Kuwait shares expertise to protect human rights

'We're firmly committed to justice, rule of law'

VIENNA, May 21, (KUNA): Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah affirmed that the State of Kuwait dedicates significant concern for broadening the cooperation with nations of the globe in the field of human rights.

The fact that the State of Kuwait is a member of the UN Human Rights Council affirms its commitment to these rights, she said in a statement to KUNA during her official visit to Austria where she met the director of human rights at the Austrian Foreign Ministry Ambassador at the department's headquarters during her participation in the meetings of the 34th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).



Sheikha Jawaher

Sheikha Jawaher said her talks with the Austrian official dealt with means of boosting bilateral relations, swapping expertise in the human rights sphere and coordination between the two sides at international quarters and organizations.

Kuwait pursues its efforts in support of international norms at this level through regional initiatives and continuous cooperation with international partners and relevant institutions, she added.

Kuwait has been firmly committed to the UN principles

regarding boosting justice and the rule of law, and it follows an inclusive approach linking security, justice and sustainable development, said a Kuwaiti official recently.

Attorney General Justice Bader Al-Mosad announced this during a speech delivered before the 34th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) kicked off earlier in the day in Vienna.

He extolled efforts of Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in backing member states.

He noted that Kuwait has modernized its legislations and judicial institutions to be compatible with its international commitments, referring to some prominent laws enacted on combating corruption, child rights and others, as part of Kuwait Vision 2035.

In the speech, Al-Mosad reviewed Kuwait's efforts in human trafficking, pointing to the establishment of the national committee on human trafficking and the launch of the national strategy for 2025-2028 as well as updating foreigners' residency laws.

Al-Mosad further highlighted the key role of Kuwait's Ministry of Interior in developing strategies of combating crime, mainly cybercrimes and illegal trafficking, through a method that respects human rights and enhances the rule of law.

He reiterated Kuwait's belief in the importance of international collaboration and sharing expertise to face criminal challenges.

Kuwait is committed to achieving sustainable development goals mainly the 16th one related to justice and peace, he said.

He officially emphasized that Kuwait would continue to positively and constructively cooperate with international partners to cement justice and security globally.



KFF photo

The blast caused by a gas leak led to severe damage to the shops.

Ten hurt in Fahaheel market gas blast

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Ten individuals were injured in an explosion due to a gas leak at a shopping mall in Fahaheel on Wednesday afternoon. In a press statement, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) con-

firmmed that firefighting teams from Fahaheel and Ahmadi Fire stations immediately dealt with the gas leak incident. It added all those injured were referred to the concerned entities.

Other Voices

Having your cake and eating it too

By Ahmad alsarraf

THE primary objective of the Muslim Brotherhood is to seize power. They consider this not only legitimate but essential. Their existence as a religious group without power is, in their view, a temporary phase and merely a stepping stone toward eventual dominance.

Despite being founded nearly a century ago, the Brotherhood's tangible achievements to date remain minimal. However, their one year in power in Egypt revealed the true nature of their ideology and the lack of a coherent strategy. This became clear when three million Egyptians took to the streets in a spontaneous uprising demanding their removal.

One of the Muslim Brotherhood's main strategies for gaining influence has been to change society's collective thinking and raise money. Like other extremist movements, whether religious, fascist, or communist, focused heavily on infiltrating and controlling main sectors of society. This included education, school curricula, student unions, teachers' associations, and various media platforms.

They placed their writers among newspaper columnists and established dozens of charitable organizations. However, what ultimately hindered their path to power was the widespread theft and financial misconduct committed by many of their members, especially among the leadership.

Some of these organizations had amassed vast sums of money, which they sought to grow and invest in order to provide thousands of jobs for their supporters, particularly expatriates. They established dozens of companies and commercial ventures, especially in the education sector, generating significant profits and raising enough funds to support any future attempt to seize power.

Therefore, they worked to establish dozens of private schools, using customized curricula and teaching



alsarraf

methods to influence young minds and instill their flawed political ideology.

Business and investment activities require proper licensing and adherence to specific legal conditions, requirements that religious parties typically do not meet. Moreover, the law prohibits such parties from engaging in commercial or investment ventures, and in some cases, their political entities are not even officially recognized by governments.

As a result, religious parties are often forced to bypass these legal restrictions by entrusting large portions of their financial assets to business associates to manage. However, some associates acted dishonestly and seized the funds or a portion of them. Others passed away, and the entrusted wealth was inherited by their heirs.

Some members and leaders of these religious parties exploited their political and financial influence to pursue personal agendas and engage in illegal activities.

Many were also known for using lies to conceal their disgraceful actions and betrayals of national interests, particularly in the aftermath of Kuwait's liberation. Their behavior came as a shock to many commentators and prominent figures, including Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Sheikh Saud Al-Nasser, and others.

Religious organizations use various methods to maintain their connections with young people, including through unions, Quran memorization courses, scouting activities, lectures, and nearly free educational programs, often offering valuable prizes to participants.

One such activity is the Strategic Leadership Development Program for Youth, which is conducted online via Zoom from Istanbul.

The group recently concluded its final course with a ceremony that included speeches from the program's supervisors, led by the general supervisor of the Muslim Brotherhood magazine in Kuwait. This is telling of the true intent behind these programs, which is to subtly gain followers while concealing the true face behind the program.

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Reinstate membership: court

MoSA decision to dissolve co-op board overturned

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The Administrative Court of Appeals has cancelled Decision No. 29/2024 issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs to dissolve the Board of Directors of Al-Salaam Cooperative Society. The court also ruled to reinstate the membership of board members Jazza Bouden and Abdullah Al-Barrak.

The court explained that the au-

thority granted to the Minister of Social Affairs to dissolve boards of directors at cooperative societies is limited and can only be used in urgent cases. This power should only be exercised in situations where major violations have been proven to be committed by the entire board, not just some members.

The court stated that the administrative body should identify the individuals involved in the violations, in accordance with Article 35 of Law

No. 18/2013, and appoint new board members without harming the rest of the board.

In this regard, Lawyer Nahes Al-Enezi, representing the board of directors, stated that the court concluded the appealed decision violated the relevant law.

He said the investigating committee's report confirmed that his clients, Jazza Bouden and Abdullah Al-Barrak, had committed no violations.



KFF photos
KFF Chair Major General Talal Mohammad Saleh Al-Roumi and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah signing the joint protocol (top) and discussing various issues after signing the protocol (above).

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: In a strategic move to strengthen cooperation and integration between Kuwait's military institutions, a joint cooperation protocol was signed on Tuesday morning at the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) headquarters. According to a press release issued by KFF, the signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both KFF and the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, particularly the KFF Chair Major General Talal Mohammad Saleh Al-Roumi, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with senior commanders and officers from both sides.

This protocol reflects a shared commitment to enhancing institutional work and operational integration between the two entities, aiming to serve the nation's best interests by streamlining procedures and facilitating the exchange of capabilities and expertise, in line with applicable laws and regulations.

The protocol covers several important areas of cooperation, including:

- Organizing joint exercises, workshops, and training
- Practical field cooperation between teams
- Mutual logistical support
- Collaboration in prevention, combat, search and rescue, shelter, and relief efforts

This agreement represents a new milestone in developing an integrated work system among Kuwait's military institutions, and reinforcing the concept of unified action in responding to crises and emergencies.

Plan underway to upgrade Kuwaiti ports

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: As part of the ongoing development efforts in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, a plan is being implemented to improve Kuwaiti ports, thereby, boosting the national economy, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a governmental source.

The source indicated that, according to the established plan, the development of the ports will contribute to increasing the volume of maritime trade, particularly in the lead-up to the completion of the Mubarak Port project.

The source said the projects aimed at boosting the economy and enhancing port infrastructure include a 20 percent increase in the capacity of Shuwaikh Port by next year, along with the expansion of storage areas at Shuaiba Port until the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port is completed.

The source pointed out that increasing capacity and advancing port infrastructure are fundamental, vital and strategic developmental objectives that will elevate Kuwait's economic position and regional stature.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Prime Minister to Finance Minister: Cut kindergarten budget, raise prison budget

Because a person’s soul constantly pushes them towards evil, corruption takes many forms. Corruption isn’t always direct and clear, like bribery or the systematic looting of public funds. Sometimes, it appears as an employee in an inappropriate position or other situations that lead to mismanagement. This is what experts call “masked” or “hidden” corruption.

There are many stories about corruption and the corrupt, all of which serve as valuable lessons. The following story illustrates the true perspective of a corrupt official on their future fate.

One story about corruption involves a visit by a prime minister to a kindergarten, where he asked the finance minister, who was part of the delegation: “How much is the monthly food budget for a child in this kindergarten?”

The minister replied, “\$400, sir.”

The prime minister responded, “That’s too much. Reduce it to \$150.”

The following week, the same prime minister visited a prison with the same delegation. He asked, “How much is the monthly food budget for a prisoner?”

The finance minister replied, “\$400.”

The prime minister responded, “That’s too little. Increase it to \$800.”

The finance minister then asked him, “Sir, why did you reduce the food budget for chil-

- Do you think we will be heading to kindergarten after leaving our ministerial office?
- “\$400 a month is too much to feed a child,” he said.
- The prime minister said, “Set the prisoner’s food budget at \$800 a month.”
- The foresight of a corrupt politician revealed his destiny after leaving office.
- There is no such thing as a perfect marriage or a perfect life.
- Everyone suffers but the difference lies in those who overcome and those who are stuck analyzing every detail.
- At 25, you will not care about the things that worried you when you were 17.
- The exam you failed will mean nothing once you graduate.
- Today’s problems will barely matter a year from now.
- If God revealed the unseen to us, we would thank Him for keeping it hidden.

dren in the kindergarten but increase the food budget for prisoners?”

The prime minister replied, “Do you think that after leaving the ministry, we will go to kindergarten?”

This wisdom comes from a corrupt but farsighted politician.

Free your mind from unrealistic expectations.

There is no perfect marriage, perfect friendship, perfect job, smooth business, or a lawless life.

Free your mind from unrealistic expectations. Everyone suffers, but the difference is in how we handle it; some overlook and overcome crises, while others scrutinize every detail.

Life is beautiful when you accept its imperfections. It is not paradise, so embrace it as it is, especially if you seek peace.

When you are 25, you won’t care about the person you were at 17.

The exam you failed in grade 1 won’t matter when you are about to graduate in your final year.

The problems you face today may feel like the end of the world, but rest assured, they won’t matter in a year. You will be free.

God may prevent you from experiencing bad fates in ways you don’t understand, through a car breakdown, a delayed awakening, illness, sudden psychological distress, a postponed marriage, job loss, delayed childbearing, etc.

Just remember, if God had revealed the unseen to us, we would bow in gratitude for all the things He kept hidden from us.

■ O God, grant us glad tidings, as You did for Jacob when You gave him the news of his son Joseph.

O God, bless us with good news of joy, as You did for Zachariah with the birth of his son John.

O God, grant us the good news we hope for from You, for You are the best giver of good news.

O God, You are the Mender of our brokenness, the Healer of our wounds.



■ Kuwait City at night is a lifeless ghost town. Many undeveloped lands are lying vacant within the city limits. People are leaving, so why not make use of these lands to build residential towers that could help solve the housing crisis?

The important thing is that these towers should be designed to meet the social needs and preferences of the citizens.



■ Dear Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Kuwait Municipality needs to amend and develop its laws. It is important to foster a sense of unity among employees so that none hinder one another, whether out of fear or misunderstanding.



■ I believe that most, if not all, of the funds collected by charitable organizations and zakat funds are spent on administrators and not on those in need.

Royal’s ‘secret expenses’ case adjourned to June 24

Bid to smuggle chewing tobacco foiled

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: In his second trial session before the Ministerial Court regarding the Ministry of Defense’s secret expenditures case, former Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad submitted a check to the court for the amount he is accused of embezzling, and requested

that it be handed over to the General Department for Sentences Enforcement.

His defense attorney requested the summoning of witnesses and the incident officer. He also requested a statement of the Ministry of Defense’s secret expenditures from 1962 until just before his client assumed the ministerial portfolio.

The court adjourned the case to June 24 to hear the testimony of witnesses, including the investigations officer and two Ministry of Defense employees, and to settle the value of the check in question.

The court also decided to adjourn to June 24 the ruling on the Financial Investigation Unit’s appeal regarding allegations of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad’s interference in the

previous National Assembly elections.



Tobacco seized: The General Administration of Customs has foiled an attempt to smuggle a quantity of banned chewing tobacco, which was tightly concealed in a specially prepared hidden compartment within a container arriving at Shuaiba Port, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



KUNA photo
Kuwait’s Deputy Minister of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah presents a memento to the visiting Spanish State Secretary for Trade Amparo Lopez Senovilla.

Kuwait and Spain to expand defense & security relations

KUWAIT CITY, May 21, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Deputy Minister of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah met on Tuesday with Spanish State Secretary for Trade Amparo Lopez Senovilla to discuss key issues of mutual interest, particularly in the defense and security sectors.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defense following the meeting, the discussions took place during Senovilla’s official visit to Kuwait.

The deputy defense minister emphasized Kuwait’s commitment to strengthening cooperation with Spain and praised the strong bilateral ties between the two countries.

He also stressed the importance of enhancing strategic partnerships, especially in defense and security, to support mutual interests and promote regional and international stability.

Kuwait reiterates pledge to solidify justice system

MOSCOW, May 21, (KUNA): Counsellor and First Attorney General of Kuwait, Tariq Khaled Al-Nisf, on Tuesday confirmed Kuwait’s commitment to enhancing its justice system at the 13th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum.

Speaking to KUNA, he highlighted the importance of innovation and modern technologies in the legal field, noting discussions on digital tools to improve justice.

Al-Nisf held bilateral meetings during the forum to strengthen legal cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The Acting Charge d’Affaires of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Moscow, Counselor Ahmad Al-Buaijan, emphasized that the forum’s ideas could lead to new legislative initiatives and improved global legal systems.

The forum focuses on Law: Lessons of the Past for the Future and will run until May 21. Kuwait’s participation underscores its dedication to international legal cooperation and advancing digital transformation in the judiciary.



KFF photo
Destruction caused by the fire.

House on fire

Fire broke out in a house in Sabahiya on Tuesday evening but no casualties were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from Mangaf and Ahmadi fire stations rushed to the location and extinguished the fire within a short time.

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‘Significant achievement for nursing jobs’

Kuwait's Dr Hasan honored by int'l committee

KUWAIT CITY, May 21 : The appointment of Dr. Abdullah Yacoub Hasan to the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Scientific Committee signifies a momentous achievement for the nursing profession in Kuwait, marking the first time a Kuwaiti nurse has been selected for this prestigious role. Dr. Hasan's selection underscores his significant contributions to the field of nursing and highlights the growing recognition of Kuwaiti nurses on the global stage.

Established in 1899, the ICN stands as a paramount global entity dedicated to advancing the nursing profession and influencing health policy on a global scale. The ICN unites over 130 national nursing associations, representing approximately 29 million nurses worldwide, thereby solidifying its position as the foremost international organization for nursing and healthcare professionals. The ICN's core functions include the development of international standards for nursing practice, and ethical



Dr. Abdullah Y. Hasan

guidelines, ensuring a consistent and high level of care worldwide. Furthermore, the organization actively advocates for the rights and well-being of nurses, striving to optimize their practice environments and enhance their professional standing within healthcare systems.

Dr. Hasan is a distinguished academic and researcher in the field of community and public health nursing. His research primarily focuses on non-communicable diseases among adolescents and young adults, with an emphasis on early detection strategies and methods to reduce their incidence. His work significantly contributes to enhancing healthcare outcomes for at-risk youth.

Beyond his research endeavors, Dr. Hasan plays an active role on the Scientific Committee of the ICN conferences. His responsibilities include reviewing and evaluating scientific posters, selecting and nominating speakers and experts, and serving as a moderator and facilitator for scientific sessions.

His joining the ICN Scientific Committee marks a golden opportunity for international collaboration and the exchange of expertise. This partnership is expected to foster the development of joint research initiatives, innovative strategies, and projects that enhance nursing management and patient care at both the local and international levels.

Eager to expand his research and stay aligned with the latest advances in evidence-based nursing practice, Dr. Hasan's efforts are poised to bring direct benefits to the College of Nursing and the Kuwait Nursing Association. His work not only represents a national achievement but also reinforces Kuwait's commitment to advancing nursing profession through scientific leadership and international collaboration.

‘Nonprofit sector key driver of sustainable development’

Kuwait takes part in Riyadh forum

RIYADH, May 21, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs announced Tuesday that the State of Kuwait participated in the Gulf Forum for the Nonprofit Sector, which commenced on Sunday at Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Nonprofit City in the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

The forum is held as part of the third edition of the International Exhibition for Nonprofit Sector (ENAA), one of the regions prominent platforms for enhancing cooperation across various sectors.

In a press statement, the ministry said that Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi headed Kuwait's delegation, which included Director of Charitable Associations Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi and Director of Civil Associations Affairs Iman Al-Enezi.

The statement added that Kuwait led the first panel discussion of the forum, which focused on the experiences of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in developing partnerships between nonprofit institutions and public and private sector entities. Dr. Al-Ajmi presented an overview of Kuwait's experience in empowering civil society and advancing its role in sustainable development.

Dr. Al-Ajmi affirmed during the session that the nonprofit sector has become one of the key

KUNA photo
Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi at the forum.

drivers of comprehensive development, citing its robust human and community potential. He noted that secure investment in this sector is a strategic choice adopted by advanced nations to achieve social balance, boost productivity, and promote civic engagement.

He emphasized that building strategic partnerships between the nonprofit sector on one hand and the public and private sectors on the other constitutes a pillar of an integrated development vision aimed at achieving sustainability and community empowerment.

He added that the GCC models presented at the forum offer a practical roadmap to enhance institutional performance and intersectoral integration.

Dr. Al-Ajmi further stated that Kuwait's participation in the forum reflects the country's

commitment to joint Gulf action and the exchange of expertise . He expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its distinguished hosting and organization, as well as to the GCC General Secretariat and the Executive Office of GCC Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs for their efforts in coordinating the discussion sessions.

Meanwhile, Director of Civil Associations Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Iman Al-Enezi presented Kuwait's experience in ensuring the financial sustainability of nonprofit organizations. She highlighted the country's institutional approach grounded in transparency, governance, and enabling civil and charitable associations to diversify their revenue streams through legislative, financial, and regulatory initiatives.

Al-Enezi noted that Kuwaiti nonprofit institutions now rely on a blend of government funding, private sector support, individual donations, and charitable endowments, granting them greater independence and flexibility in implementing community projects. She praised the forum as a vital Gulf platform for exchanging development perspectives and fostering regional collaboration.

The statement concluded by affirming that the forum was held in line with the recommendations of the 10th meeting of GCC Ministers of Social Affairs, and represents a significant step towards consolidating the concept of sustainable social partnership and reinforcing the role of the nonprofit sector in achieving the developmental goals of GCC states.

State of Kuwait Kuwait Investment Authority - Debts Purchased for the State's Account Settlement and Management Office Announces:



Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of / Ibrahim Abdul-Hafeez Ibrahim Al-Nasser Guarantor of / Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 210/2004/- General Debt Bankruptcy /1 dated 14/12/2004

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt owed to Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC, pursuant to Article 13, amounts to: K.D 82,219.034
2. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment: None.
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable**
Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to K.D 82,219.034, representing the bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed to Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC, pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary Report on Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional List of Debts For the Bankruptcy of / Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners General Trading and Contracting Company (Ahmad Fahad Al-Tukhaim & Partners LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 92/2007 - General Debt Bankruptcy dated 27/08/2008.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 25,070,698.815.
2. The debt pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 145,561,202.830
3. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment amount to: K.D 16,072,684.371
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable**
1. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 145,561,202.830 pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
2. Kuwait Real Estate Company — K.D 28,015.680 pursuant to the attorney's letter dated 12/12/2012 and based on Judgment No. (2218/2001) Commercial — First Instance/11 issued on 19/11/2001, excluding expenses and attorney fees.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Seven Seas Global Limited LLC Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 257/2003 - General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 08/06/2004

Pursuant to the Judgment issued in Case No. 257/2003 General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 08/06/2004, the bankruptcy of the bankrupt company, Seven Seas Global Limited LLC, was declared, and the Judgment became final and binding.

Since the managing bank, Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank), confirmed by its letter dated 02/04/2024 that the debt of the above-mentioned bankrupt company amounts to K.D 385,649,051 as at 01/08/1990, it was noted that the difference is due to the adjustment of the Commercial Bank's debt, which was added to the debt based on its letter dated 20/01/2021.

Based on the above and in respect of the finality of Judgments, the Kuwait Investment Authority, in its capacity as "Trustee," relies on the declaration of bankruptcy and has submitted a report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the provisional list of debts of the above-mentioned bankrupt company to the Bankruptcy Department by its letter dated 19/03/2025. The decision was issued approving the Generation of the provisional list of debts as detailed below:

- First: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 385,015,051 as at 01/08/1990, pursuant to the bankruptcy declaration and the financial position prepared by the General Debt Protection Authority, excluding legal interest, in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Sabwan General Trading and Contracting Company (Saeed Yacoub Shammass & Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 22/2011 - General Debt Bankruptcy dated 01/06/2011

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 688,814.862
2. The debt pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 4,872,414.037
3. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment: None
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
The Commercial Bank of Kuwait — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 4,872,414.037, pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
- Third: Debts the Authority Considers Excludable:**
Mas Equipment Company — K.D 7,424.925, pursuant to the judicial liquidator's report for Mas Company, which is a bankrupt company. The liquidator was contacted to provide documents verifying the validity of the debt, and in his letter dated 18/02/2018, he stated that he had no official documents to confirm the validity of this debt.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC (Abdulrahman Al-Sumait & Partners LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 210/2004 - General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 14/12/2004

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The debt pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 283,888.768
2. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment amount to: K.D 23,679.525
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
1. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 283,888.768 pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993
2. Deferred Shares Settlement Office — K.D 644.750 pursuant to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance in Case No. (2202/1993) dated 23/12/1993

Summary Report on Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Al-Bahar International Group Company (Adel Abdulrahman Al-Bahar and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 291/2003 - General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 15/06/2004.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 11,640,075.694
2. The debt pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 45,486,912.801
3. Amounts collected amount to: K.D 787,467.542
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
1. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 45,486,912.801 pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
2. Kuwait Rocks Company — K.D 16,145.136 pursuant to the company's

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Ghazi Al-Hasan Mustafa Al-Hasan Guarantor of: Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 210/2004 - General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 14/12/2004.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 82,219.034.
2. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment: None.
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 82,219.034, representing the bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993
4. Mr. Hassan Nadeem Fathallah Al-Tajer — K.D 933.000 pursuant to the letter submitted by the creditor's representative dated 20/06/2006, attached with the judgment issued in Case No. 1492/2004 - F/1 dated 25/03/2006 dismissing the case, with no supporting documents submitted to validate the debt.
2. Nawal Ahmad Al-Jassar Office — K.D 8,779.735 pursuant to the letter submitted by the creditor's representative dated 09/04/2008, attached with the judgment issued in Case No. 3300/2003 C-F/1 dated 10/12/2005, and the judgment issued in Appeal No. 3554/2005 Commercial/1 dated 30/04/2006. These judgments were issued after the bankruptcy declaration.
3. Mr. Mohammad Ghaleb Rabab — K.D 38,765.000 pursuant to the letter submitted by the creditor's representative, with no supporting documents submitted to validate the debt.
4. Mr. Hassan Hussein Al-Jabali — K.D 36,264.970 pursuant to the letter submitted by the creditor's representative, attached with the judgment issued in Appeals No. 1916-1970/2004 Commercial Appeal/4 dated 24/10/2004. These judgments were issued after the bankruptcy declaration.
5. Kuwait Portland Cement Company — K.D 91,841.031 pursuant to the company's letter dated 06/04/2008, with no supporting documents submitted to validate the debt.
6. Mohammad Meshal Mohammed Al-Ajmi — K.D 19,599.500 pursuant to the letter submitted by the creditor's representative, attached with the judgment in Appeal No. 2753/2009 Commercial/7 dated 31/12/2009, with no supporting documents submitted to validate the debt.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Ghazi Al-Hasan Mustafa Al-Hasan Guarantor of: Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 210/2004 - General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 14/12/2004.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 82,219.034.
2. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment: None.
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 82,219.034, representing the bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993

Summary Report on Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Fouad Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim Guarantor of: Al-Tukhaim Engineering Group (Tukhaim Fahad Al-Tukhaim and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Cases Nos. 96/2007, 92/2007, 91/2007, 24/2007 - General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 02/08/2008.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Al-Tukhaim Engineering Group Company as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 5,093.563.
2. The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Al-Tukhaim Engineering Group Company pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 30,198.291.
3. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment amount to: K.D 177.500.
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
1. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — personal debt amounting to: K.D 1,570,106.495 pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
2. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 16,173,466.981 representing the bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of / Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners General Trading and Contracting Company (Ahmad Fahad Al-Tukhaim & Partners LLC) pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
3. Pursuant to the Bankruptcy Declaration Judgment in Case No. (96/2007, 92/2007, 91/2007, 24/2007) — General Debt Bankruptcy/1 dated 02/08/2008, and based on the decision issued by the Bankruptcy Department authorizing the Generation of the provisional list of debts dated 10/04/2025.
3. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 1,876,576.326 representing the bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Al-Tukhaim International Company pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
- Third: Debts the Authority Considers Excludable:**
• Mrs. Majid Abdullah Al-Othman — K.D 75,731.539, pursuant to the Judgment issued by the Court of Appeal in Appeals Nos. (2015/1741) and (2016/192) Personal Status/L, dated 2016/07/11, and Execution File No. (16115271009) at the General Department of Execution — Family Court Judgments Execution, dated 2024/07/29. Since the Judgment was issued after the declaration of bankruptcy and the Authority was not litigated as a party to the lawsuit, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 71 of 2020.

Summary Report on Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Fatima Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim Guarantor of: Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners General Trading and Contracting Company (Ahmad Fahad Al-Tukhaim & Partners LLC.) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 92/2007 General Debt Bankruptcy/1, dated 27/08/2008.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures

1. The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed for the benefit of / Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners Company, as at 01/08/1990, amounts to K.D 2,279,127.165.
2. The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed for the benefit of / Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners Company, in accordance with Article 13, amounts to K.D 16,173,466.981.
3. The amounts recovered after the bankruptcy judgment amount to K.D 293.550.
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank): A debt purchased by the State, amounting to K.D 16,173,466.981, representing the bankrupt's share in guaranteeing the debt of / Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners General Trading and Contracting Company — Ahmad Fahad Al-Tukhaim & Partners, in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
- This is pursuant to Bankruptcy Declaration Judgment No. (92/2007) dated 27/08/2008 and based on the decision issued by the Bankruptcy Department authorizing the Generation of the provisional list of debts dated 10/04/2025.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Vapin Kumar Sabha Rawal Guarantor of: Seven Seas Global Limited LLC Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 257/2003 General Debt Bankruptcy/, dated 08/06/2004.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The Debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to K.D 385,015.51.

Summary Report on Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Lena Saeed Yacoub Shammass Guarantor of: Sabwan General Trading and Contracting Company (Saeed Yacoub Shammass and Partner LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 22/2011 General Debt Bankruptcy, dated 01/06/2011.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt's share of the debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 148,790.862
2. The amounts collected after the issuance of the bankruptcy declaration judgment amount to: K.D 49,674.746
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
The Commercial Bank of Kuwait — a debt purchased by the State amounting to K.D 148,790.862 as at 01/08/1990, in accordance with the Bankruptcy Declaration Judgment and the financial position prepared by the General Debt Protection Authority, excluding legal interest, in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993 and based on the decision issued by the Bankruptcy Department authorizing the Generation of the provisional list of debts dated 23/03/2025.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Mariam Saqr Abdul-Latif Hasan Guarantor of: Ain Jaloot Trading Company LLC Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 210/2004 General Debt Bankruptcy/1, dated 14/12/2004.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt party's share of the debt guaranteed for Ain Jaloot Trading Co. LLC, in accordance with Article 13 amounts to K.D 39,015.881.
2. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment: None.
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to K.D 39,015.881, representing the bankrupt party's share of the debt guaranteed for Ain Jaloot Trading Co. LLC, in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Wadha Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim Guarantor of: Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners General Trading and Contracting Company (Ahmad Fahad Al-Tukhaim & Partners LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 92/2007 — General Debt Bankruptcy/1, dated 27/08/2008

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt party's share of the debt guaranteed for Ain Jaloot Trading Co. LLC, in accordance with Article 13 amounts to K.D 43,203.153.
2. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment: None.
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank) — a debt purchased by the State amounting to K.D 43,203.153, representing the bankrupt party's share of the debt guaranteed for Ain Jaloot Trading Co. LLC, in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Summary Report on Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional List of Debts For the Bankruptcy of / Wadha Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim Guarantor of / Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners General Trading and Contracting Company (Ahmad Fahad Al-Tukhaim & Partners LLC) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 92/2007 — General Debt Bankruptcy/1, dated 27/08/2008

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed for the company of Awlad Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 2,279,127.165
2. The bankrupt's share of the debt guaranteed for the company of Awlad Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 16,173,466.981
3. The amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment amount to: K.D 344.016
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank): Debt purchased by the State amounts to: K.D 16,173,466.981, representing the bankrupt's share of the guaranteed debt of Debt of / Sons of Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim & Partners General Trading and Contracting Company — (Ahmad Fahad Al-Tukhaim & Partners LLC), pursuant to Article (13) of Law No. 41 of 1993. This is based on Bankruptcy Declaration Judgment No. (92/2007) dated 27/08/2008, and the decision issued by the Bankruptcy Department authorizing the Generation of the provisional list of debts dated 10/04/2025.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Yacoub Abdullah Aziz Al-Kandari Guarantor of: Seven Seas Global Limited LLC Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 257/2003 — General Debt Bankruptcy, dated 08/06/2004.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 1,494,137.545.
2. The debt in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: K.D 5,930,608.701.
3. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment amount to: K.D 285,475.130
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
1. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank): A debt purchased for the State amounting to K.D 5,930,608.701, being the personal debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
2. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank): A debt purchased

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional Debt List For the Bankruptcy of: Ghazi Fahad Suleiman Al-Tukhaim Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. (75/2003) General Debt Bankruptcy/1, dated 09/12/2003.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 1,494,137.545.
2. The debt in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: K.D 5,930,608.701.
3. Amounts collected after the bankruptcy judgment amount to: K.D 285,475.130
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
1. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank): A debt purchased for the State amounting to K.D 5,930,608.701, being the personal debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
2. Kuwait Finance House (formerly Ahli United Bank): A debt purchased

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional List of Debts Bankruptcy of / Khaled Hussein Al-Essa (Guarantor of Waleed Hussein Al-Essa & Brothers Lands, Stocks, and Contracting Company) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 152/2005 — General Debts Bankruptcy/1, dated 20/12/2005.

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. His share of the guaranteed debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 676,215.041
2. His share of the guaranteed debt pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 3,019,028.654
3. The amounts collected after the issuance of the bankruptcy declaration judgment amount to: K.D 397,696.366
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Burgan Bank — The debt purchased by the State amounts to: K.D 9,057,085.964, being the debt pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
- Third: Debts the Authority Considers Excludable:**
• Sons of / Fahad Al-Sulaim & Partners Company — K.D 392,299.950, based on the company's letter dated 06/05/2006, enclosing a statement of account and the settlement notice dated 30/11/1981. The company has not submitted any evidence of taking legal action from the date of settlement to the date of submission. Therefore, the company's right has lapsed due to the statute of limitations pursuant to Article 118 of the Commercial Law.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional List of Debts Bankruptcy of / Waleed Hussein Al-Essa & Brothers Lands, Stocks, and Contracting Company (Waleed Hussein Al-Essa - General Partnership Company) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 152/2005 — General Debt Bankruptcy/1, dated 20/12/2005

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. His share of the guaranteed debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 676,215.041
2. His share of the guaranteed debt pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 3,019,028.654
3. The amounts collected after the issuance of the bankruptcy declaration judgment amount to: K.D 397,696.366
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Burgan Bank — The debt purchased by the State amounts to: K.D 9,057,085.964, being the debt pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
- Third: Debts the Authority Considers Excludable:**
• Sons of / Fahad Al-Sulaim & Partners Company — K.D 392,299.950, based on the company's letter dated 06/05/2006, enclosing a statement of account and the settlement notice dated 30/11/1981. The company has not submitted any evidence of taking legal action from the date of settlement to the date of submission. Therefore, the company's right has lapsed due to the statute of limitations pursuant to Article 118 of the Commercial Law.

Summary Report on the Bankruptcy Proceedings and the Provisional List of Debts Bankruptcy of / Waleed Hussein Al-Essa & Brothers Lands, Stocks, and Contracting Company (Waleed Hussein Al-Essa - General Partnership Company) Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 152/2005 — General Debt Bankruptcy/1, dated 20/12/2005

First: Financial and Accounting Procedures:

1. The debt as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 2,028,645.124
2. The debt pursuant to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 9,057,085.964
3. The amounts collected amount to: K.D 343,228.100
- Second: Debts the Authority Considers Acceptable:**
• Burgan Bank — The debt purchased by the State amounts to: K.D 9,057,085.964, being the debt pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.
- Third: Debts the Authority Considers Excludable:**
• Sons of / Fahad Al-Sulaim & Partners Company — K.D 392,299.950, based on the company's letter dated 06/05/2006, enclosing a statement of account and the settlement notice dated 30/11/1981. The company has not

Kuwait leads talks on smarter housing future

GCC tackles urban resilience and real estate guidelines

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The 26th Meeting of Housing Officials in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states commenced Tuesday in Kuwait.

Acting Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Eng. Rashid Al-Enezi presided over the meeting. He expressed Kuwait's pride in hosting this important meeting; highlighting its importance in aligning the visions and strategic directions of GCC countries, as well as in exerting concerted efforts to address one of the most vital needs of the region -- housing for citizens.

Al-Enezi commended the State of Qatar for its exemplary leadership during its chairmanship of the



Some photos during the 26th Meeting of Housing Officials in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

previous session in 2024. He pointed out that the committee meeting last year resulted in the presentation of several vital recommendations, which were endorsed by the minis-

ters responsible for housing affairs; particularly the approval of the initial outcomes of the Gulf Housing Action Plan 2024-2030.

He disclosed the action plan has a



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Housing Week from May 19-22; in addition to the launching of the third round of the GCC Housing Action Award, with the theme, "Smart Digital Applications and Technologies in Housing Projects and Programs."

Moreover, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs at the GCC Secretariat General Khaled Al-Sunaïdi praised the efforts and achievements of the Housing Ministry. He stressed the need for GCC nations to keep pace with global advancements in the housing sector and learn from international best practices.

He revealed the meeting agenda consisted of a range of pressing issues directly affecting GCC citizens, adding that thorough discussions are essential in formulating recommendations for the upcoming ministerial meeting. He asserted that enhanced coordination and integration among member states is the key to the advancement of the housing sector in the region.

Saudi minister hails Kuwait's Al-Shaheed Park as sustainable urban vision symbol

RIYADH, May 21, (KUNA): Saudi Minister of Municipalities and Housing Majed Al-Hogail praised Al-Shaheed Park in Kuwait during the 28th meeting of the GCC Ministers of Municipal Affairs.



Al-Hogail

In remarks posted on LinkedIn platform, he described the Kuwaiti park as a significant urban environmental project integrating national memory, ecology and community function.

Notable features like the Martyr's Memorial Monument and the Peace Circle reflect a commitment to identity and sustain-



KUNA photo

One of the notable features inside the Al-Shaheed Park.

ability, said Al-Hogail who has recently visited Kuwait.

Al-Hogail, who had seen a number of pleasant and iconic projects during his visit to Kuwait, highlighted the importance

of well-designed public spaces for development and their alignment with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030, thanking those involved in enhancing the Gulf's urban landscape.

Energy, healthcare, logistics lead new trade agenda

Kuwait-Spain talks focus on economic growth

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Tuesday welcomed a high-level trade delegation from Spain, led by Spanish Secretary for Trade Amparo López Senovilla.

Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Manuel Hernández Gamayo, Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance Aseel Al-Muni and several business leaders in Kuwait and Spain also attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, KCCI expressed appreciation for the visiting delegation; stressing the importance of the visit as part of the Kuwaiti-Spanish Joint Economic Committee meetings. The event marks a continuation of the collaborative efforts to deepen economic ties and explore new avenues of partnership between the two friendly nations.

KCCI affirmed the strong and longstanding economic relationship between Kuwait and Spain, indicating that Spain is among Kuwait's major trading partners in the European Union (EU). It added that bilateral trade recently surpassed \$1 billion, a testament to the growing commercial exchange between the two countries.

Spanish exports to Kuwait include machinery, industrial equipment, ceramics, chemical products, and internationally renowned fashion brands.

Recently, the sports sector emerged as a new area of exchange, particularly with the expansion of the Rafael Nadal Tennis Academy to Kuwait -- its first branch outside of Spain.

On the investment front, Kuwait's ventures in Spain demonstrate high confidence in Spanish sectors; such as finance, tourism and energy. Spanish engineering firms have also played a critical role in major infrastructure projects in Kuwait, including the Gamal Abdel Nasser Highway and Kuwait International Airport expansion.

KCCI emphasized that these achievements reflect mutual trust and serve as a foundation for even greater cooperation. With Kuwait actively pursuing economic diversification and Spain expanding its global reach, the visit offers a strategic opportunity to enhance collaboration in sectors like energy transition, innovation, tourism and logistics.

It reiterated its readiness to serve as the main facilitator for these efforts by promoting dialogue, eliminating barriers, and supporting partnerships that

generate long-term economic value.

Meanwhile, Al-Muni urged investors from both countries to build joint ventures in a wide range of sectors; including transportation, construction, healthcare and technology. She pointed out the active presence of Spanish companies in Kuwait and confirmed the commitment of the Finance Ministry to support them and address any challenges they might face.

Senovilla commended the excellent bilateral relations, emphasizing Spain's strategic geographic position as a gateway to European markets. She called for further trade cooperation; particularly in the fields of healthcare, building materials, transportation and education.

Gamayo echoed these sentiments, praising the historical friendship between the two countries and reaffirming Spain's commitment to advancing bilateral relations.

Jaime Montalvo, Director of International Affairs at the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, affirmed the role of the Joint Economic Committee in fostering deeper collaboration. He said Spain is focusing on the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as a vital area for joint growth.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait, US

Sheikh Nawaf highlighted various topics in the discussions, including solar energy, artificial intelligence, carbon recycling, and Kuwait's growing role in the global energy sector, it added.

France issued

in this area; apart from coordination in many other fields, such as education, Science, law and culture.

On the defense and security cooperation with Kuwait, Gauvin affirmed we are fortunate to have a solid foundation which we could build on. Our countries stood side by side during the Liberation War, which created a very fertile ground for expanding cooperation in this area. Currently, we have a strong defense cooperation. For example, joint military exercises were conducted in Kuwait a few weeks ago, and there will be more. Kuwaiti forces are being sent for training in France, and some are learning French. There are also reciprocal visits.

Asked if there are deals in the military field, he said there are no new deals or contracts in this area at the moment. A few years ago, a contract was signed to purchase 30 French Caracal helicopters, which are now in Kuwait. This was an important milestone in our bilateral military relations.

Regarding his assessment of Kuwait's role in supporting regional stability, he stressed that Kuwait plays a very positive role, and continues to do so; because it has adopted a position similar to that of France -- based on respect for international law, stability and dialogue, in addition to rejecting the use of force or the violation of humanitarian law. France and Kuwait share common ground in the way we approach international relations, he asserted.

About the lifting of sanctions on Syria, he disclosed that since the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's regime, France has been focusing on the Syrian people; not the regime or the factions. Our concern has always been the people. From the beginning, the French President has been keen on supporting a peaceful and comprehensive political transition in Syria. He also expressed this when he invited the new Syrian leader to Paris two weeks ago. Our goal is to promote political dialogue and ensure that our priorities are taken into account by the Syrian leadership.

Regarding visas, he affirmed that the French consulate is currently operating at full capacity in terms of issuing visas -- processing about 250 visas per day. We have a small team, but everyone is working diligently to ease travel for Kuwaitis to France. The waiting time for an appointment is currently about a month. Despite our efforts, we cannot reduce the waiting period any further. However, the situation is better than it was in previous years, when the wait times were longer. Overall,

the situation has improved this year, because Kuwaitis are now aware of the importance of early planning for visa applications.

He urged those wishing to travel to his country to plan ahead, especially during this busy season. He stressed the need to book visa application appointments as soon as possible, as this will make the process easier for everyone.

On the number of visas, he clarified there are no daily figures, but annual figures indicate that in 2024, 36,000 visas were issued, while in 2023, the number was about 42,000.

On the trade and economic cooperation with Kuwait, Gauvin revealed we are working intensively with our Kuwaiti partners. He said he was in Toulouse, France last week with a Kuwaiti delegation to celebrate the delivery of the new Airbus A321 to Kuwait Airways, and that there will be more such cooperation in the future.

He confirmed France's commitment to promote comprehensive and ethical technological cooperation; citing the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit held in Paris earlier this year. He praised the active participation of the Kuwaiti Minister of Communications and his accompanying delegation. He stated this participation reflects Kuwait's commitment to strategic issues related to artificial intelligence and opens up prospects for strong cooperation between France and Kuwait in this field.

9 stripped

Article 11 states, "A Kuwaiti citizen will lose his nationality if he willingly acquires a foreign nationality. His Kuwaiti wife shall not lose her nationality unless she acquires her husband's new nationality. His minor children shall lose their Kuwaiti nationality if they acquire their father's new nationality, in accordance with the laws of the country granting the new nationality."

Kuwait pushes

Regarding foreign investment, he revealed that Kuwait has adopted measures to improve the investment environment, raise the level of transparency and strengthen legal frameworks, which contributed to a 20 percent increase in foreign direct investment in Q1 last year.

He pointed out that the country has witnessed a number of international investments in different sectors such as technology, renewable energy and infrastructure; reflecting the extent of foreign investor confidence in Kuwait as a stable and ambitious investment hub.

He added that mega strategic projects like Zour Refinery, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port and Kuwait National Railway, along with the development of smart cities and infrastructure, not only strengthen the economic structure of the country, but also establish a sus-

tainable economy based on innovation, diversity and partnerships between the private sector and the government.

He said the noble directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah are considered the compass that guides all of us in formulating the economic policies of the State. His Highness has repeatedly emphasized that Kuwait is now facing a historic responsibility that requires serious action to build a resilient and globally open economy based on knowledge and innovation, led by the private sector, supported by the State, and confidently keeping pace with rapid regional and global developments.

He believes that the challenge today does not lie in formulating visions; but in transforming them into reality through cooperation between the public and private sectors, developing national competencies, and strengthening Kuwait's position as an influential economic and investment hub in the region.

The government looks forward to the future with confidence and treats challenges as opportunities to move assertively toward building a new Kuwaiti economic model -- one that believes in partnership, embraces modernity, and invests in people above all else, he concluded.

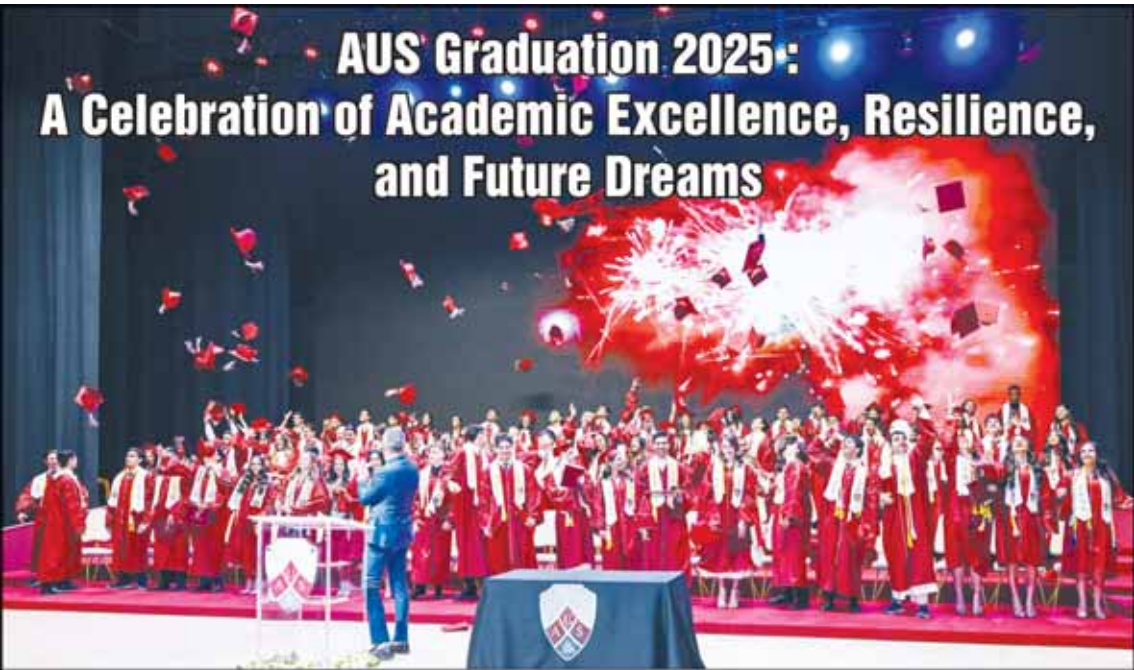
Kuwait rolls

The power outage will be scheduled with varying durations and the affected areas are listed on the ministry's website as follows:

- Agricultural areas: Wafra, Rawdatain and Abdally farms
- Industrial areas: Mina Abdullah, Subhan, Sulaibiya, Al-Rai and Shuwaikh
- Residential areas: Salam, Abu Futaira, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Rawda, Salmiya, Ras Al-Ardh, Al-Shaab Al-Bahri, Maidan Hawally, Jaber Al-Ali, Andalusia, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Sulaibiya Industrial Area, part of Sulaibiya Residential Area, Faihaa, Firdous, Al-Dhaheer, Al-Naseem, Al-Daiya, Al-Jazeera Al-Khadraa, Abdullah Al-Salem, Sabah Al-Nasser, Shuhada, Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Egaila, Fintas, the coastal strip from Abu Halifa Roundabout, Al-Masayel, Saad Al-Abdullah, Hittin, Ardiya, Funaitees, Al-Qasr, Hadiya, Shuwaikh, Shamiya, Jaber Al-Ali, Surra, Mahbouda, Farwaniya, Al-Raqqa, part of Al-Rai and Northwest Sulaibikhat.

The ministry explained that the scheduled power outage is due to remarkable increase in electrical load, in addition to the ongoing maintenance work on some power generation units in preparation for their full operation this summer. It added that this measure aims to maintain the stability of the electrical system of the country.

Meanwhile, sources from the ministry stated that the increased loads and the decision to resort to scheduled power outages are expected in light of the high temperatures and a number of production units undergoing maintenance.



AUS Graduation 2025: A Celebration of Academic Excellence, Resilience, and Future Dreams

The American United School in Kuwait (AUS) celebrated its seventh graduation ceremony for the academic year 2024/2025 on Sunday, May 18, 2025. The ceremony was held at the Fahaheel Al Watanieh Indian Private School (FAIPS), a fellow institute under the United Education Company. A total of 85 graduates were honored during the ceremony, each having earned admission to prestigious universities both locally and internationally underscoring AUS's commitment to academic excellence and college readiness.

The ceremony was attended by the Group CEO of the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – KIPCO, Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees at American United School Sheikha Futouh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Graduates Naaief Rakan AlSabah and Moudhi Abdulaziz AlSabah opened the ceremony by welcoming the attendees and congratulating their fellow graduates. The U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Her Excellency Karen Hideko Sasahara, delivered a warm welcome, commending the graduates and their families on reaching this important milestone.

Valedictorian Sarah AIBouss delivered an inspiring speech, reflecting on the challenges and tough times that she and her fellow graduates faced, which they overcame

with determination, patience, and perseverance. She commended the teachers' efforts and the support of the school administration in helping them overcome obstacles and nurture their talents and skills. "As we stand here today, it's hard not to think about the future, the countless milestones that are still ahead of us. The rest of our lives are waiting to be written. And though this chapter may be ending, it's only the beginning of everything that's still to come. We have so many dreams to chase, so many stories still unwritten, and so much growing up left to do."

The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Seham AlHusaini, General Manager of Deliveroo in Kuwait. She encouraged the graduates to be grateful for every step before rushing to the next. "I wish I hadn't been afraid of the possibility of failing. You are going to fail, but those moments will shape you. Surround yourself with people who inspire you and push you forward. And don't forget to appreciate the ones working quietly in the background, making your journey possible. Acknowledge them. Thank them. And carry that kindness with you wherever you go."

Founded in 2012, the American United School in Kuwait is accredited by both the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA-CES). AUS remains dedicated to fostering academic achievement, personal development, and global citizenship.



Musk’s pullback from politics comes after last big investment was a flop

MADISON, Wis., May 21, (AP): Wisconsin could go down as billionaire Elon Musk’s last big spend on a political campaign. And it was a flop. Musk, the richest person in the world, said Tuesday that he would be spending less on political campaigns. The announcement came as Musk is stepping back from his role in the Trump administration, saying he will spend more time focused on his businesses, and just seven weeks after the candidate he backed in Wisconsin’s Supreme Court race lost by 10 percentage points.

Democrats in the swing state said Musk’s comments show that a party-led effort in this spring’s election, dubbed “People vs. Musk,” succeeded in making Musk and his money toxic.

“The people have won,” said Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairman Ben Wikler. “The biggest funder in Republican politics is taking his toys and going home.”

Brandon Scholz, a retired long-time Republican strategist in the state, said that at least in Wisconsin, “after that court race he deserves to be labeled as toxic.”



Elon Musk presents a check for \$1 million dollars to a man during a town hall March 30, 2025, in Green Bay, Wis. (AP)

But that doesn’t mean Musk couldn’t spend money on races in the state and nationally again, especially if the stakes are high and his money could make a difference, Scholz said.

“Does he bring with him a lot of baggage? Possibly,” Scholz said. “But over time, maybe not as much.”

Musk’s spending in this year’s Wisconsin Supreme Court race helped make it the most expensive court race in U.S. history. And it came just five months after Musk spent at least \$250 million to help President Donald Trump win, reversing losses in Wisconsin and other battleground states four years earlier.

Trump selects concept for \$175 billion ‘Golden Dome’ missile defense system

WASHINGTON, May 21, (AP): US President Donald Trump has announced the concept he wants for his future Golden Dome missile defense program - a multilayered, \$175 billion system that for the first time will put US weapons in space.

Speaking Tuesday from the Oval Office, Trump said he expects the system will be fully operational before the end of my term, which ends in 2029, and have the capability of intercepting missiles even if they are launched from space.

It’s likelier that the complex system may have some initial capability by that point, a US official familiar with the program said.

Trump, seated next to a poster showing the continental U.S. painted gold and with artistic depictions of missile interceptions, also announced that Gen Michael Guelein, who currently serves as the vice chief of space operations, will be responsible for overseeing Golden Dome’s progress.

Golden Dome is envisioned to include ground- and space-based capabilities that are able to detect and stop missiles at all four major stages of a potential attack: detecting and destroying them before a launch, intercepting them in their earliest stage of flight, stopping them midcourse in the air, or halting them in the final minutes as they descend toward a target.

For the last several months, Pentagon planners have been developing options - which the US official described as medium, high and extra high choices, based on their cost - that include space-based interceptors. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to detail plans that have not been made public.

The difference in the three versions is largely based on how many satellites and sensors - and for the first time, space-based interceptors - would be purchased.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated this month that just the space-based components of the Golden Dome could cost as much as \$542 billion over the next 20 years. Trump has requested an initial \$25 billion for the program in his proposed tax break bill now moving through Congress.

The Pentagon has warned for years that the newest missiles developed by



US President Donald Trump speaks in the Oval Office of the White House on May 20, in Washington. (AP)

China and Russia are so advanced that updated countermeasures are necessary. Golden Dome’s added satellites and interceptors - where the bulk of the program’s cost is - would be focused on stopping those advanced missiles early on or in the middle of their flight.

The space-based weapons envisioned for Golden Dome represent new and emerging requirements for missions that have never before been accomplished by military space organizations. Gen. Chance Saltzman, head of the US Space Force, told lawmakers at a hearing Tuesday.

China and Russia have put offensive weapons in space, such as satellites with abilities to disable critical U.S. satellites, which can make the U.S. vulnerable to attack.

Last year, the US said Russia was developing a space-based nuclear weapon that could loiter in space for long durations, then release a burst that would take out satellites around it.

Trump said Tuesday that he had not yet spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin about the Golden Dome program, but at the right time, we will, he told reporters at the White House.

In a joint statement earlier this month, China and Russia called the Golden Dome idea “deeply destabilizing in nature,” warning it would turn outer space into an environment

for placing weapons and an arena for armed confrontation.

There is no money for the project yet, and Golden Dome overall is still in the conceptual stage, newly confirmed Air Force Secretary Troy Meink told senators during a hearing Tuesday.

While the president picked the concept he wanted, the Pentagon is still developing the requirements that Golden Dome will need to meet - which is not the way new systems are normally developed.

The Pentagon and US Northern Command are still drafting what is known as an initial capabilities document, the U.S. official said. That is how Northern Command, which is responsible for homeland defense, identifies what it will need the system to do.

The US already has many missile defense capabilities, such as the Patriot missile batteries that the U.S. has provided to Ukraine to defend against incoming missiles as well as an array of satellites in orbit to detect missile launches. Some of those existing systems will be incorporated into Golden Dome.

Trump directed the Pentagon to pursue the space-based interceptors in an executive order during the first week of his presidency.

‘Biden ‘last known’ prostate cancer screening in 2014’

WASHINGTON, May 21, (AP): Former US president Joe Biden’s last known prostate cancer screening was in 2014, and he had never been diagnosed with the disease before last week, his office said Tuesday.

Biden’s aides released the new details about his diagnosis amid intense scrutiny of Biden’s health during his presidency and skepticism that the disease could have progressed to an advanced stage without being detected.

Although Biden’s cancer can possibly be controlled with treatment, it has spread to his bones and is no longer curable.

The brief statement from Biden’s office did not disclose the results of his 2014 PSA blood test. PSA stands for



Biden

prostate-specific antigen.

President Biden’s last known PSA was in 2014. Prior to Friday, President Biden had never been diagnosed with prostate cancer, the statement said in its entirety.

Biden’s cancer was announced on Sunday, prompting a wave of sympathy but also suggestions from some of his critics, including his successor Donald Trump, that the former president and his aides covered up the dis-

ease while he was in the White House given the severity of the cancer when it was announced. Tuesday’s statement appeared aimed at tamping down that speculation.

Asked about Biden during an appearance at the White House, Trump said, “It takes a long time to get to that situation and that he was surprised that the public wasn’t notified a long time ago.”

“It’s a very sad situation and I feel very badly about it,” Trump said.

A memo from the White House physician released following Trump’s annual physical exam in April listed a normal PSA. Biden’s White House doctor did not include PSA results in the health summaries he released.

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Pope Leo XIV waves as he arrives for his first weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at The Vatican on May 21. (AP)

Pope Leo XIV calls for aid to reach Gaza, end to hostilities

VATICAN CITY, May 21, (AP): Pope Leo XIV called Wednesday for humanitarian aid to reach the Gaza Strip and for an end to the heartbreaking toll on its people, as he presided over his first general audience in St Peter’s Square.

The Vatican said that around 40,000 people were on hand for the audience, which came just days after an estimated 200,000 people attended the inaugural Mass on Sunday for history’s first American pope.

Leo, the former Cardinal Robert Prevost of Chicago, began the audience with a tour through the piazza in the popemobile and stopped to bless several babies. In addressing specific greetings to different groups of pilgrims, Leo spoke in his native English,

his fluent Spanish as well as the traditional Italian of the papacy.

“I renew my heartfelt appeal to allow the entrance of dignified humanitarian aid to Gaza and to put an end to the hostilities whose heartbreaking price is being paid by children, the elderly and sick people,” he said.

The general audience on Wednesdays is a weekly appointment that popes have kept for decades to allow ordinary faithful to have a face-to-face encounter with the pontiff. It features the pope delivering a brief reflection on a theme or Scripture passage, with summaries provided by others in different languages and the pope directing specific messages to particular faith groups.

Putin visits Russia’s Kursk region

MOSCOW, May 21, (AP): President Vladimir Putin visited Russia’s Kursk region for the first time since Moscow claimed that it drove Ukrainian forces out of the area last month, the Kremlin said Wednesday.

Putin visited the region bordering Ukraine the previous day, according to the Kremlin.

Ukrainian forces made a surprise incursion into Kursk in August 2024 in one of their biggest battlefield successes in the more than three-year war. The incursion was the first time Russian territory was occupied by an invader since World War II and dealt a humiliating blow to the Kremlin.

Since the end of 2023, Russia has mostly had the advantage on the battlefield, with the exception of Kursk.

North Korea sent up to 12,000 troops to help the Russian army take back control of Kursk, according to Ukraine, the US and South Korea. Russia announced on April 26 that its forces had pushed out the Ukrainian army. Kyiv officials denied the claim.

The Ukrainian Army General Staff said Wednesday that its forces repelled 13 Russian assaults in Kursk. Its map of military activity showed Ukrainian troops holding a thin line of land hard against the border but still inside Russia.

Putin’s unannounced visit appeared to be an effort to show Russia is in control of the conflict - even though its full-scale invasion of its neighbor has been slow and costly in terms of casualties



In this photo released by the Russian Presidential Press Service on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, Russian President Vladimir Putin, (center), speaks with volunteers at Kursk region, Russia. (AP)

and equipment - amid recent US and European proposals for a ceasefire that Putin has effectively rejected.

Video broadcast by Russian state media showed that Putin visited Kursk Nuclear Power Plant-2, which is still under construction, and met with selected volunteers behind closed doors.

Many of the volunteers wore clothes emblazoned with the Russian flag and the Latin letters “Z” and “V” which are symbols of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Asia

Xi's special envoy to attend Noboa's inauguration: At the invitation of President of the Republic of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng, will attend President Noboa's inauguration in Quito, capital of Ecuador, on May 24, a foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

Chinese, Afghan, Pakistani FMs hold meet in Beijing: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi held an informal meeting in Beijing on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

Japan's agriculture minister resigns: Japan's agriculture minister was forced to resign Wednesday because of political fallout over recent comments that he never had to buy rice because he got it from supporters as gifts. The resignation comes as the public struggles with record high prices of the country's traditional staple food.

Taku Eto's comment, which many Japanese saw as out of touch with economic realities, came at a seminar Sunday for the Liberal Democratic Party, which leads an struggling minority government. The gaffe could be further trouble for the party before a national election in July. A major loss could mean a new government or could mean Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba would have to step down.

Eto made an extremely inappropriate remark at a time when consumers are struggling with soaring rice prices. Eto told reporters after submitting his resignation at the prime minister's office. Eto's resignation was the first under Ishiba's leadership that began October.

The government has released tons of rice from its emergency stockpile in recent months, but the latest agricultural ministry statistics show little impact from the move. Some supermarkets have started selling cheaper imported rice.

Eto also sought to clarify the comments that got him in trouble. He said he does actually buy white rice himself and was not living on rice given as gifts. He said the gift comment referred to brown rice, which he wants people to become interested in because it can reach market faster.



Japan's Agriculture Minister Taku Eto, (center), arrives at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on May 21. (AP)

Ishiba appointed popular former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of a former prime minister, to lead the ministry, noting his experience in agriculture and fisheries policies and enthusiasm for reforms. (AP)

'2023 copter crash caused by pilot disorientation': A 2023 Australian army helicopter crash that killed four soldiers was caused by the pilot becoming disoriented, an investigation has found. The Department of Defense on Wednesday

publicly released the aviation safety investigation report into the MRH-90 Taipan helicopter crash in July 2023. All four soldiers on board, including pilot Daniel Lyon and co-pilot Maxwell Nugent, were killed when the helicopter crashed into the ocean off Australia's east coast during a late-night defense training exercise in July 2023.

The 228-page report found that the primary cause of the accident was Lyon suffering from an unrecognized loss of spatial orientation. This refers to a situation where a pilot is unaware of their actual orientation in relation to the earth's surface and the surrounding environment. The Department of Defense said in a statement. The helicopter with the call sign Bushman 83 was third in a formation of four MRH-90s that were conducting various manoeuvres during the exercise.

The report found that, after making a turn, Bushman 83 climbed 100 feet before rapidly descending and crashing into the ocean in a 21-second span. It said that Lyon almost certainly lost sight of the aircraft ahead, Bushman 82, and tried to regain visual but likely did not know the helicopter was facing nose down and accelerated quickly, resulting in an unrecoverable rate of descent towards the water. During the descent, the investigation found that Lyon likely regained sight of Bushman 82 and took evasive action to avoid a mid-air collision, potentially saving lives. (Xinhua)

Transport helicopter crashed, says Myanmar army: A helicopter belonging to Myanmar's military crashed in a combat zone in the country's north while returning from a mission to deliver supplies to army outposts, a state-run newspaper reported Wednesday.

The report from Myanmar's Alinn said the transport helicopter crashed in Kachin state was due to a technical fault. However, one of the armed ethnic minority groups fighting against the army has reportedly claimed responsibility for shooting it down.

The report said search and recovery efforts were underway.

It said the crash took place shortly after some army transport helicopters delivered what was described as administrative supplies for soldiers at frontline posts in Kachin's Bhamo township, about 280 kilometers (175 miles) northeast of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city.

The military government's version of the events was first broadcast on state television Tuesday night, hours after independent online news outlets reported that a powerful ethnic Kachin armed group and allied pro-democracy fighters had shot down one of three army helicopters. (AP)

Some in S.Africa worry Ramaphosa might get 'Zelenskyy'd'

South Africa's leader aims to salvage relationship with Trump in WH visit

JOHANNESBURG, May 21, (AP): US President Donald Trump will host South Africa's leader at the White House on Wednesday for a meeting that might be tense after Trump accused the country's government of allowing a genocide to take place against minority white farmers.

South Africa has strongly rejected the allegation and President Cyril Ramaphosa pushed for the meeting with Trump in an attempt to salvage his country's relationship with the United States, which is at its lowest point since the end of the apartheid system of racial segregation in 1994.

Trump has launched a series of accusations at South Africa's Black-led government, including that it is seizing land from white farmers, enforcing anti-white policies and pursuing an anti-African foreign policy.

Ramaphosa said he hopes to correct what he calls damaging mischaracterizations during the meeting, which is Trump's first with an African leader at the White House since he returned to office.

Some in South Africa worry their leader might get 'Zelenskyy'd' - a reference to the public bashing Trump and Vice President JD Vance handed out to the Ukrainian president in their

infamous Oval Office meeting in February.

In advance of the meeting, a White House official said Trump's topics of discussion with Ramaphosa were likely to include the need to condemn politicians who promote genocidal rhetoric and to classify farm attacks as a priority crime. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning, said Trump also was likely to raise South African race-based barriers to trade and the need to stop scaring off investors.

Trump's criticism of South Africa began in early February in a post on Truth Social when he accused South Africa's government of seizing land from white Afrikaner farmers and a massive Human Rights VIOLATION against members of the white minority.

Trump's allegation that Afrikaners were being mistreated was at the center of an executive order he issued days later that cut all US assistance to South Africa. He went further this month, alleging there was a genocide against white farmers and the Trump administration has brought a small group of white South Africans to the US as refugees in what it says is the start of a larger relocation program.

The US has been asked if it will



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks to journalists during the eighth EU-South Africa summit in Cape Town, South Africa on March 13. (AP)

stand by the genocide allegation. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in an interview with CBS that it would and that the administration felt there was evidence, citing instances of white farmers being murdered and claiming some were being 'forcibly removed' from their properties.

Some white farmers have been killed in violent home invasions. But the South African government says the causes behind the relatively small number of homicides are misunderstood by the Trump administration; they are part of the country's severe problems with crime and not racially

motivated, it says. Black farmers have also been killed.

The South African government has said the allegations against it are misinformation.

South African Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen, who is white and a member of a different political party from Ramaphosa, said in an interview with The Associated Press that no land was being seized from farmers and claims of genocide were false.

When you mischaracterize things like that and this misinformation gets out, it does have real-world consequences, said Steenhuisen, who is part of the South African delegation in Washington.

The White House official said Trump would also likely impress on Ramaphosa the need for the South African government to publicly condemn politicians who repeat an apartheid-era chant that contains the lyrics 'kill the farmer' and 'shoot the farmer.' The chant is sometimes used at political rallies by a minority opposition party.

It has often been cited by critics of South Africa - including South African-born Trump ally Elon Musk - as evidence of the persecution of white farmers because it uses the word Boer, which specifically refers to Afrikaners.

While Ramaphosa's party does not use the chant, the government has not condemned it. An Afrikaner group says it should be labelled hate speech.

Musk has been at the forefront of the criticism of his homeland, casting its affirmative action business laws as racist. Musk said on social media that his Starlink satellite internet service wasn't able to get a license to operate in South Africa because he was white.

South African authorities say Starlink hasn't formally applied. If it did, it would be bound by laws that require foreign companies to allow 30% of their South African subsidiaries to be owned by shareholders who are Black or from other racial groups disadvantaged under apartheid.

The Trump administration considered those laws a trade barrier and US companies should be exempt from racial requirements, according to the White House official.

Bloomberg reported Tuesday, quoting unnamed sources, that South Africa was willing to negotiate on easing the laws for Musk's Starlink in an attempt to defuse tensions with the US. Ramaphosa didn't comment on any possible discussions with Musk or his representatives when asked by South African reporters in Washington.

Bolivia top electoral tribunal bans Morales, suspends key candidate

LA PAZ, Bolivia, May 21, (AP): Bolivia's top electoral tribunal on Tuesday disqualified former President Evo Morales from running in the August presidential vote and suspended the candidacy of the other main leftist contender, immediately vaulting President Luis Arce's governing socialist party into the ranks of front-runners despite its unpopularity.

The moves targeted the two strongest leftist challengers to Arce's nominee: Morales, Bolivia's first Indigenous president who governed the country from 2006 until his ouster in 2019, and Andronico Rodríguez, the young Senate president who hails from Morales' rural coca-growing bastion.

Both Morales and Rodríguez vowed to fight the decisions and condemned them as a blow to the Andean nation's fragile democracy.

The parties that want to support me have been persecuted, Morales, who still commands fervent support in his tropical highland stronghold, told a local radio show. The battle is not lost. We will wage a social and legal battle.

On social media, he voiced alarm over the grave threat facing democracy today.

Morales has repeatedly promised that Bolivia would convulse if the electoral tribunal bars him from the



Bolivian Senate President Andronico Rodríguez, (right), and running mate Mariana Prado raise their arms at a ceremony announcing their presidential candidacy for the Alianza Popular (Popular Alliance) party, in La Paz, Bolivia on May 19. (AP)

race, heightening a sense of crisis in the run-up to the deeply polarized vote scheduled for Aug. 17.

President Arce dismissed their criticism, asking only that the electoral dispute not generate political and economic instability.

Rodríguez - a fresh-faced 36-year-old candidate who generated excitement among voters disillusioned with

Morales' fifth presidential bid and outraged with Arce's handling of Bolivia's worst economic crisis in 40 years - also called for protests against what he called a political decision to suspend his candidacy.

No ruling or judicial decision driven by political interests can overrule the sovereign will of the people, he wrote on X.

Tigers, jaguars and elephants latest to flee cartel violence in Mexico

CULIACAN, Mexico, May 21, (AP): A pack of veterinarians clambered over hefty metal crates on Tuesday morning, loading them one by one onto a fleet of semi-trucks. Among the cargo: tigers, monkeys, jaguars, elephants and lions - all being the latest wave of cartel violence eclipsing the northern Mexican city of Culiacan.

For years, exotic pets of cartel members and circus animals have been living in a small refuge on the outskirts of Sinaloa's capital. However, a bloody power struggle erupted last year between rival Sinaloa cartel factions, plunging the region into crippling levels of violence and leaving the leaders of the Ostok Sanctuary reeling from armed attacks, constant death threats and a cutoff from essential supplies needed to keep their 700 animals alive. The aid organization left Culiacan Tuesday and transported the animals hours across the state in hopes that they'll escape the brunt of the violence. But fighting has grown so widespread in the region that many fear it will inevitably catch up.

Also:

MEXICO CITY: The personal secretary and an adviser to Mexico City's mayor were shot dead Tuesday, authorities said, in the worst attack against public officials in the capital in recent years.

Mayor Clara Brugada - who holds the second most powerful political post in the country to President Claudia Sheinbaum - said in a statement that her secretary Ximena Guzmán and adviser José Muñoz were killed in the Moderna neighborhood. The motive was under investigation. Later, in a brief statement to the press, a visibly upset Brugada said she had worked with both for years. She vowed that her administration will continue its relentless fight against insecurity.



A lion sits in a cage waiting to be transported to Mazatlan, Sinaloa state, at the Ostok Sanctuary, on the outskirts of Culiacan, Sinaloa state, Mexico on May 20. (AP)



An elephant arrives at its new home in Mazatlan, Sinaloa state, after being transported from Ostok Sanctuary on the outskirts of Culiacan, Mexico on May 20. (AP)

Sudan military takes full control of Greater Khartoum region that includes capital

CAIRO, May 21, (AP): Sudan's military on Tuesday said it took full control of the Greater Khartoum region after a long-running battle against remnants of a paramilitary group in the region's west and south.

The development was the latest victory for the military in its more than two years of fighting against the Rapid Support Forces, a civil war that has pushed parts of the country into famine.

Brig. Gen. Nabil Abdullah, a spokesman for the Sudanese military, said forces retook the Greater Khartoum region, which include the capital city of Khartoum and its sister cities of Omdurman and Khartoum North, or Bahri.

Khartoum state is completely free of rebels, he declared in a video statement.

Earlier, Abdullah said troops battled RSF fighters in the western and southern areas of Omdurman as part of a large-scale operation to kick the paramilitaries out of their pockets there.

There was no immediate comment from the RSF.

Sudan plunged into civil war on April 15, 2023, when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open warfare in Khartoum and other parts of the country.

The war has killed at least 24,000 people, though the number is likely



A Sudanese army officer inspects a recently discovered weapons storage site belonging to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Khartoum, Sudan on May 3. (AP)

far higher.

The war has driven about 13 million people from their homes, including 4 million who crossed into neighboring countries. Parts of Sudan have been pushed into famine.

Also:

WASHINGTON: A federal judge ruled late Tuesday that US officials must retain custody and control of migrants apparently removed to South Sudan in case he orders their removals were unlawful.

US District Judge Brian E. Murphy in Massachusetts issued the

ruling after an emergency hearing, after attorneys for immigrants said the Trump administration appears to have begun deporting people from Myanmar and Vietnam to South Sudan - despite a court order restricting removals to other countries.

Murphy said the government must maintain custody and control of class members currently being removed to South Sudan or to any other third country, to ensure the practical feasibility of return if the Court finds that such removals were unlawful.

Subcontinent

5 killed in Pakistan school bus attack: A suicide car bomber struck a school bus in southwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing five people - including at least three children - and wounding 38 others, officials said, the latest attack in tense Balochistan province.

The province has been the scene of a long-running insurgency, with an array of separatist groups staging attacks, including the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army, or BLA, designated a terror group by the United States in 2019.

A local deputy commissioner, Yasir Iqbal, said the attack took place on the outskirts of the city of Khuzdar as the bus was taking children to their military-run school there.

Troops quickly arrived at the scene and cordoned off the area while ambulances transported the victims to hospitals in the city. Local television stations aired footage of the badly damaged bus and scattered debris.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but suspicion is likely to fall on ethnic Baloch separatists, who frequently target security forces and civilians in the region.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi strongly condemned the attack and expressed deep sorrow over the chil-



Naqvi

dren's deaths. He called the perpetrators beasts who deserve no leniency, saying the enemy had committed an act of sheer barbarism by targeting innocent children. (AP)

Pakistan army chief promoted to field marshal: Pakistan's powerful army chief, Gen. Asim Munir, has been promoted to the rank of field marshal days after a U.S.-brokered ceasefire between nuclear-armed rivals Pakistan and India following one of their most serious military confrontations in decades.

In a statement, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also approved the extension of Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu's tenure in recognition of his service.

Sharif has praised Munir and other military leaders for what he described as a decisive response to an Indian airstrike on Pakistani air bases in the early hours of May 7.

Munir becomes only the second military officer in Pakistan's history to hold the title of field marshal. The first was Gen. Ayub Khan, who led the country during the 1965 war with India. (AP)

Over 30 armed rebels killed in India: Indian security personnel killed more than 30 armed Naxal rebels in the central state of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday, the state's Home Minister Vijay Sharma said. Among those killed was Naxal leader Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavraj, who carried a bounty of 10 million Indian rupees (around 116,877 U.S. dollars) on his head. One security personnel was killed and another was injured during the operation, added the official. (Xinhua)

Kuwait oil price up 70 cents to \$65.36 pb

KUWAIT CITY, May 21, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 70 cents to USD 65.36 per barrel on Tuesday as opposed to USD 64.66 per barrel the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on

Wednesday.

The price of Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate globally went down by 16 and 13 cents, reaching respectively USD 65.38 per barrel and USD 62.56 pb.

Business

NBK Deputy CEO featured in Fortune's 2025 100 Most Powerful Women in Business

Shaikha Al-Bahar named Kuwait's most influential businesswoman

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), has been recognized as Kuwait's most influential businesswoman and the sole Kuwaiti featured in Fortune Magazine's prestigious 2025 list of the 100 Most Powerful Women in Business.

Al-Bahar stands as the second-highest ranked executive from the Middle East region on this coveted list.

The list, compiled by Fortune editors, is based on company size and health of the business, as well as an executive's career trajectory, influence, innovation and efforts to make business better. More than 50 women currently lead Fortune 500 companies, yet only 20 made this year's

list a testament to how increasingly competitive the ranking has become.

Featured in the 2025 ranking are some of the most influential figures in global business, including Mary Barra, Chair and CEO of General Motors; Julie Sweet, Chair and CEO of Accenture; Jane Fraser, CEO of Citigroup; Lisa Su, Chair and CEO of AMD; and Ana Botín, Executive Chairman of Banco Santander.

In her role at NBK, Al-Bahar continues to play a pivotal part in driving the bank's sustained growth and transformation. Her leadership spans critical initiatives including digital innovation, sustainability strategies, and policy development to extend NBK's regional



Shaikha Al-Bahar



Fortune Logo

footprint. She has been instrumental in advancing sustainable change efforts aligned with the global transition towards a low-carbon economy and climate risk mitigation.

Driven by her strategic vision, NBK reinforced its position as Kuwait's largest bank and a regional powerhouse with top-tier credit ratings. Building on this momentum, she spearheaded the Group's digital transformation, notably launching Weyay, Kuwait's first fully digital bank tailored to redefine financial

engagement for younger generations. Al-Bahar was also a key architect behind NBK's Sustainable Financing Framework, embedding global ESG standards into the bank's operations.

Beyond business, Al-Bahar is a strong advocate for social impact. She launched NBK RISE, a transformative initiative aimed at empowering women in leadership roles and led the Bank's Financial Literacy Program in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Public Authority for Anti-Corruption (Nazaha). In the 2024-2025 academic year alone, the program reached more than 32,000 students and 7,200 teachers, marking a significant step forward in advancing financial literacy among Kuwait's youth.

Quarterly financing reaches KD 491 mln

Bank financing to financial institutions increases 145%

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The value of bank financing to financial institutions (both resident and non-resident) increased by KWD 152.5 million, or 145.3 percent, in March 2025 compared to the previous month, reaching KWD 257.4 million, up from KWD 104.9 million in February.

On an annual basis, financing increased by KWD 177.9 million, or 223.7 percent, compared to KWD 79.5 million in March 2024.

Total bank financing to financial institutions during the first quarter of 2025 amounted to approximately KWD 491 million.

The accumulated balance of financing to financial institutions provided by local banks rose by 0.8 percent (KWD 24 million) on a monthly basis, reaching KWD 2,759 billion in March 2025, up from KWD 2,735 billion in February.

Year-on-year, the accumulated balance increased by 19.7 percent, KWD 455 million, compared to KWD 2,304 billion in March 2024.

Monthly financing directed to financial institutions in 2024 was as follows:

- January: KWD 188.6 million
- February: KWD 165 million
- March: KWD 79.5 million
- April: KWD 59.2 million
- May: KWD 85.5 million
- June: KWD 113.1 million
- July: KWD 89.1 million
- August: KWD 113.1 million
- September: KWD 235.7 million

- October: KWD 309.2 million
- November: KWD 181.6 million
- December: KWD 159.8 million

On the other hand, local conventional bank assets in Kuwait rose by 6.71 percent year-on-year, KWD 5.88 billion, to reach KWD 93.51 billion by the end of March 2025, compared to KWD 87.63 billion in March 2024, according to monthly data from the Central Bank of Kuwait.

The annual growth was driven primarily by a 13.14 percent increase in foreign assets to KWD 28.56 billion and a 5.17 percent rise in claims on the private sector, which reached KWD 47.95 billion.

Other contributing factors included:

- A 26.87 percent increase in other assets (KWD 3.27 billion)
- A 68.02 percent surge in exchange deposits in the local inter-bank market (KWD 2.12 billion)
- An 11.12 percent decline in loans to banks (down KWD 871.6 million)
- A 3.53 percent decrease in claims on public institutions (KWD 3.55 billion)
- A 28.44 percent drop in government claims (KWD 311.3 million)

Total credit facilities to residents stood at approximately KWD 50.226 billion, accounting for 53.7 percent of total assets, reflecting a 4.4 percent increase (KWD 2.122 billion) compared to March 2024.

Personal facilities totaled KWD 19.405 billion, about 38.6 percent of total resident credit facilities, up 3.1 percent from KWD 18.812 billion a year earlier.

General index up 0.33%

Boursa Kuwait closes higher

KUWAIT CITY, May 21, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed higher on Wednesday, with the general index gaining 26.89 points (0.33%) to settle at 8,070.02. A total of 337.3 million shares were traded in 21,069 transactions worth KD 82 million (approx. \$251.7 million).

The Main Market Index edged up 3.33 points (0.05%) to 7,001.32, with 201.7 million shares changing hands across 10,908 trades worth KD 29.7

million (\$91.17 million).

The Premier Market Index climbed 34.08 points (0.39%) to 8,735.40, on a turnover of 135.5 million shares through 10,161 transactions worth KD 52.2 million (\$160.2 million).

Meanwhile, the Major 50 Index rose 5.73 points (0.08%) to 7,302.32, with 158.9 million shares traded in 8,541 deals worth KD 25.2 million (\$77.3 million).

Exports to Japan drop 21.7% YoY

Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan shrinks 34% in April

TOKYO, May 21, (KUNA): Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan narrowed 34.0 percent from a year earlier to JPY 49.7 billion (USD 324 million) in April, down for the third straight month due to slow exports, government data showed Wednesday.

However, Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 17 years and three months, as exports still outpaced imports in value, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

Overall exports from Kuwait to Japan shrank 21.7 percent year-on-year to JPY 74.0 billion (USD 493 million), down for the third month in a row. Imports from Japan grew 26.9 percent to JPY 24.3 billion (USD 157 million), expanding for the fifth consecutive month.

Middle East's trade surplus with Japan also fell 8.9 percent to JPY 771.4 billion (USD 5.3 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region declining 7.7 per-

cent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 94.8 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, slid 9.2 percent.

The region's overall imports from Japan shrank 4.7 percent on weak demand for manufactured goods.

Japan's global trade balance returned to deficit in April with JPY 115.9 billion (USD 783 million), the first red ink in three months. Exports gained 2.0 percent from the year before, thanks to robust shipments of semiconductor-making equipment chips, food and pharmaceutical products, but car sales to the US slid in value terms. Imports shed 2.2 percent on lower bills for coal, crude oil and aircraft. China remained Japan's biggest trade partner, followed by the US.

The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors.

NBK receives 4 Prestigious Awards from Euromoney Awards for Excellence in '25

Weyay launches Kuwait's first fully digital loan process

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: In a new accomplishment that affirms its leadership in the banking sector, National Bank of Kuwait received 4 prestigious awards from Euromoney Excellence Awards in 2025, the international magazine focused on finance and business.

During the annual ceremony held in Dubai, NBK was named:

- Kuwait's Best Bank for ESG
- Kuwait's Best Bank for Large Corporates
- Kuwait's Best Bank for Diversity and Inclusion
- Kuwait's Best Digital Bank - Weyay

These awards confirm the trust of international and prestigious institutions in NBK's successful strategy and its ability to adapt to fast-paced changes in the banking industry, while maintaining the highest standards of quality and excellence. Moreover, these awards celebrate NBK's exceptional commitment to providing the best and most innovative banking services, and its outstanding efforts in supporting ESG, corporates, diversity and inclusion, and digital transformation.

Best Bank for ESG

Receiving the award of best bank in implementing ESG echoes NBK's deep commitment to adhering to the highest standards of sustainability in its operations. This category measures the extent to which financial institutions incorporate ESG strategies in its services, products, training, professional development, sustainable project financing, carbon emission reduction, in addition to aligning with global sustainability standards.

It should be noted that NBK has excelled in the field of ESG by supporting strategic initiatives and aligning with Kuwait Vision 2035 objectives, and it has always been a key player in many global initiatives, such as being the first bank in Kuwait to join the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) global initiative, further reflecting its determination to measure and manage the emissions of its finance and investment portfolios.

More of NBK's ESG-related initiatives include being the first financial institution to issue green bonds at USD 500 million, which confirms its leadership in financing environmentally friendly projects, and adding solar panels in several branches. NBK also implements an ESG risk structure on Group level, and its commitment to adhering to the principles of the UN Global Compact (UNGC).

Best for Large Corporates

NBK's essential role in supporting big corporates is strongly reflected in winning the award of best corporate banking in Kuwait. This category seeks exceptional financial performance in corporate banking, corporate portfolio growth, innovative corporate banking products and services, digital transformation in corporate banking, as well as enhancing customer service and expanding service coverage.

NBK has proven its remarkable ability to meet the needs of big corporates by providing comprehensive and innovative financial and advisory services, as it plays a key role in financing grand strategic services that contribute to boosting economic development in Kuwait as well as businesses and entrepreneurs. In addition, NBK enjoys a wide network of relations and experiences that enable it to serve corporates exceptionally and enhance its position as a trusted partner for the private sector and big institutions.

Best Bank for Diversity and Inclusion

Euromoney also named NBK as best in diversity and inclusion in Kuwait's banking sector as per several standards, including achieving diversity and inclusion goals, launching relevant programs and initiatives, the number of people positively affected by diversity and inclusion efforts, employee diversity, and providing specialized training and development programs.

This award verifies that NBK has made remarkable efforts to establish a diverse and inclusive work environment that encompasses all competencies and provides equal opportunities where all can flourish professionally. Moreover, NBK has constantly worked towards empowering women and increasing their opportunities to obtain leading roles, as well as supporting national professionals, and building a motivational and diverse work environment as it firmly believes that diversity and inclusion are two pillars of institutional success.

Weyay Bank Recognized Kuwait's Best Digital Bank at Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2025

Weyay Bank has been awarded the Best Digital Bank in Kuwait at the Euromoney, leading global business magazine, Middle East Awards for Excellence 2025. This prestigious recognition was presented yesterday during a ceremony in Dubai. It solidifies Weyay Bank's pioneering status and its unwavering commitment to delivering an innovative digital banking experience that consistently meets the evolving needs of its customers.

Since its inception, Weyay Bank has left an undeniable mark on Kuwait's banking sector by introducing a comprehensive suite of integrated digital services and features, many of which are truly first-of-their-kind. Weyay Bank has empowered its customers to manage their finances with unparalleled efficiency and



Amal Al-Duwaisan, Najla Al-Sager, Sulaiman Al-Fulaij, and Ali Khalil receiving the awards.



Amal Al-Duwaisan receives the Bank of Weyay award.



Euromoney awards



Amal Al-Duwaisan and Ali Khalil

flexibility, enabling them to complete all their banking transactions seamlessly. From opening accounts and managing savings to making local and international transfers and applying for loans, every step is secure and swift, all within the Weyay app, eliminating the need for traditional branch visits.

Kuwait's First Fully Digital Loans

Weyay Bank simplifies and streamlines financial access in Kuwait with the introduction of its fully digital loan application process. Weyay customers can now apply for both personal and housing loans and complete every stage digitally from submitting documents and uploading them to receiving final approval and digitally signing contracts. This innovative digital process saves customers significant time and effort, making their borrowing experience remarkably smooth and convenient.

Jeel® The First Banking Card and App for Ages 8-14

Recognizing the vital importance of fostering a financially savvy generation, Weyay Bank has launched Jeel®, an unprecedented banking experience in Kuwait. This innovative initiative allows children aged 8 to 14 to use a personalized bank card and manage their finances through a specially designed interface within the Weyay app. The product aims to teach children essential financial management skills under parental guidance, empowering them to understand the value of money and make responsible financial decisions from an early age. The Weyay app also includes interactive features that enable parents to monitor and control their children's spending via real-time notifications and manage where the Jeel card can be used for payments.

Innovative Digital Tools for Simplified Banking and Financial Stability

Weyay Bank is committed to empowering the community, especially its youth, by equipping them with the necessary tools and knowledge for efficient financial management. The Weyay app offers advanced, user-friendly features for budgeting and tracking. This

provides users with clear insights into their spending habits, helps them identify unnecessary spending, and enables smarter financial decisions to achieve stability and reach future goals.

Digital Saving Pots to Cultivate a Culture of Saving

Weyay Bank actively encourages its customers to embrace saving as a fundamental habit for achieving their diverse financial aspirations. The Bank offers a savings pot feature within the Weyay app, allowing users to allocate specific amounts for various savings goals, such as purchasing a car, funding education, or planning a trip. The Bank also provides Saving Pot Pro, which enables customers to earn monthly interest, helping their savings grow over time.

First Banking App Featuring a Comprehensive Digital Store

Weyay Bank provides an all-encompassing digital experience that caters to all customer needs in one convenient place. The app features a diverse digital store where users can easily and securely purchase digital cards, in addition to the mobile bill payment service. Furthermore, it offers exclusive customer experience in collaboration with stc Telecom Company directly within the Weyay app, allowing users to manage their services, pay bills, and purchase packages at competitive rates without ever leaving the Weyay app.

Commitment to Standards of Excellence, Security, and Trust

This esteemed recognition from Euromoney adds to Weyay Bank's growing list of recent awards and achievements. It reflects the Bank's commitment to the highest standards of quality, innovation, and security, underscoring Weyay Bank's diligent efforts to protect customer data and funds, thereby providing a secure and reputable digital banking environment.

Weyay Bank continues its relentless pursuit of delivering more innovative digital services and features that enrich the banking experience for its customers in Kuwait, reinforcing its position at the forefront of digital transformation within the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Reinforcing the bank’s commitments to long-term sustainable investments strategies

Burgan Bank sponsors Bonds, Loans & Sukuk ME 2025 conference

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: In its latest effort to play a proactive role in advancing the retail, corporate and investment banking sector across the region, Burgan Bank sponsored the Bonds, Loans & Sukuk Middle East 2025 event alongside market leaders, including S&P Global, Fitch, J.P. Morgan, and numerous others. Considered the largest of its kind in the Middle East, the two-day conference attracted more than 75 expert speakers and over 1,800 senior capital market professionals, from government officials to corporate executives, investors, bankers, legal consultants, regulators, and service providers, including 80% of all regional issuers in 2024/2025. Burgan Bank’s renewed sponsorship of this event confirms its steadfast commitment to advancing as a trusted financial partner with a growing portfolio of investment banking services tailored to the market’s varying needs and aligned with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles.

In this regard, Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Mara’ab, General Manager of Treasury & Financial Institutions at Burgan Bank, underscored the importance of sponsoring events as vital as Bonds, Loans & Sukuk Middle East, which aligns with the Bank’s strategic pillars of strengthening Kuwait’s business and re-allocating assets through growing and diversifying Burgan Bank’s corporate portfolio, fortifying its liquidity and risk profiles, as well as reinvesting and seeking growth opportunities in new markets. In addition, Burgan Bank’s continued success at financing local and international government and government-related entities, as well as banks and financial institutions, echoes its funding strategy aimed at developing a diversified funding base to achieve sustainable growth and, in turn, contributing to the New Kuwait 2035 development plan with a core focus on sustainability and sustainable, ethical investment.

On his part, Mr. Mohamed Najeeb Al Zanki, General Manager of Corporate Banking at Burgan Bank, said: “Kuwait continues to grow as a destination for ambitious foreign investors seeking to expand their presence and be part of the momentous development that is reshaping the region. Thanks to Burgan Bank’s expanding suite of corporate banking services and products, we are able to facilitate large-scale foreign investments that continue to drive positive change to our local infrastructure and most vital sectors.”

At Burgan Bank, we recognize that success in corporate and investment banking is driven by strong connections across countries and markets. Events like Bonds, Loans & Sukuk Middle East play a pivotal role in fostering these connections, providing a platform to deepen relationships and stay at the forefront of industry evolution. Through our sponsorship of such events, we gain timely insights into global and regional financial landscapes, which are essential to shaping a competitive advantage and central to our continued growth as a trusted partner for foreign institutions and corporate clients,” he added.

This year, the conference addressed several pressing topics, beginning with



Mr. Abdullah Abdulmajeed Mara’ab, General Manager of Treasury & Financial Institutions at Burgan Bank



Mr. Mohamed Najeeb Al Zanki, General Manager of Corporate Banking at Burgan Bank



The Burgan Bank team at their booth during the event.

MENA in 2025/26: Navigating Global Economic Shifts and Regional Challenges and moving on to The Issuer Perspective: Financing Strategies from the Region’s Leading Corporates, Unlocking Growth and Global Potential in Islamic Finance, and The evolution of loan syndications in the Middle East: Balancing pricing, sustainability, and competition among other market-defining conversations.

It’s worth noting that Burgan Bank continues to focus on two key strategic goals within its overall business strategy: diversifying and growing its corporate portfolio whilst investing in expanding and leveraging its retail business. On the corporate front, the Bank has recently achieved several notable feats on the investment and financing fronts, including its acquisition of a 100% stake in United Gulf Bank B.S.C (UGB), a wholesale banking licensed in Bahrain with an Islamic window, in addition to signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Korea Finance for Construction (KFINCO), making Burgan Bank the sole representative bank in Kuwait for the South Korean co-op institution. Earlier successes also include the Bank’s issuance of KD 150 million Perpetual Additional Tier 1 Capital Bonds, which were met with higher-than-anticipated demand, leading to oversubscription and confirming strong investor interest in the Bank’s offerings.



A snapshot from one of the panel discussions.

Warba continues supporting environment and community through ‘Plant it for Free’ initiative

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: As part of its ongoing social and environmental responsibility strategy, Warba Bank has reaffirmed its partnership with the Plant it for Free initiative to distribute free moringa seedlings in several key locations in Kuwait throughout the month of May, reinforcing its commitment to promoting environmental awareness and encouraging a culture of greenery and sustainability in the Kuwaiti community.

The campaign, which received enthusiastic participation, involved distributing moringa seedlings to the first 200 customers at each of the bank’s branches in Shamiya, Egaila, Al-Shuhada, Jaber Al-Ali and Jahra. Additionally, seedlings were distributed at The Scientific Center of Kuwait during Earth Day and as part of an educational event open to the public.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, said: “We are proud to continue this impactful initiative, which reflects our vision of supporting environmental and community-driven programs. Distributing moringa seedlings is not just about planting; it’s a meaningful message through which we promote environmental values and inspire our customers to contribute to nature conservation and climate resilience.”

Al-Mutairi added that the continuation of the Plant it for Free initiative for a second year highlights its success since its launch last year. He emphasized Warba Bank’s ongoing efforts to expand the initiative across Kuwait to increase public awareness about the health and environmental benefits of the moringa tree, encouraging individuals to plant and utilize its many advantages.

He also underscored that Warba Bank’s strategic partnerships and agreements highlight its active role in



Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi



Fatima Al Ghaith

serving the community, particularly in addressing environmental issues. As a leading institution, Warba is recognized for championing impactful community and environmental programs that support sustainable development.

Al-Mutairi also highlighted Warba’s pioneering role in the realm of social and environmental responsibility, noting that the Bank’s remarkable development in recent years has earned it recognition across both public and private sectors.

From AlGhanem Moringa Farm, campaign representative Ms. Fatima Al Ghaith expressed her appreciation for Warba Bank’s continued partnership, stating: “We are proud to collaborate once again with Warba Bank on the Plant it for Free campaign, which reflects our shared commitment to raising environmental awareness and promoting sustainable agriculture in Kuwait. Moringa is a tree rich in health and ecological benefits and every seedling planted represents long-term positive environmental and health impact.”

She added: “Our collaboration with Warba Bank shows a genuine dedication to environmental causes. It aligns with the farm’s mission rooted in organic and sustainable farming. We

believe sustainability starts with small community actions that grow into a culture of collective awareness and well-being, honored to contribute to this positive movement alongside our partners.”

Warba Bank is committed to integrating environmental sustainability into its institutional strategy. It has launched several impactful initiatives including offsetting employee travel emissions by supporting renewable energy projects in Africa, sponsoring environmental awareness programs for youth and children, and partnering with local organizations to protect marine environments and wildlife. The Bank also continues to invest in digital transformation to reduce paper and energy consumption, in line with its long-term vision for a sustainable future.

Warba Bank has achieved remarkable growth in a short time, establishing itself as a leader in Islamic digital banking for individuals. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba maintains strong community ties and reinforces its role as a trusted, socially responsible financial institution.

Focusing on PPPs, Investment Funds, & Bank Financing

Markaz partakes in workshop on private sector role in real estate

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) recently participated in a specialized workshop entitled “Practical Methods and Applications of Private Sector Contribution to Real Estate Development in the State of Kuwait.” The workshop was held in collaboration with several institutions, including the Union of Investment Companies and hosted by Kuwait International Law School, as part of collective efforts to expand private sector engagement in real estate development.

Representing Markaz, Mr. Moath Tariq Al-Ateeqi, Vice President of Real Estate Investment, MENA, delivered a presentation that explored a range of actionable models for private sector participation in financing and developing real estate projects. These included direct investments, public-private partnerships (PPP), and real estate investment funds, in addition to highlighting the essential role of banks and financing companies in enabling sustainable sectoral growth.

The workshop reflects the longstanding institutional partnership between Markaz and the Union of Investment Companies, where Markaz is a key member, and underscores their shared mission to foster knowledge exchange and enhance synergies between the public and private sectors, particularly in investment and real estate development. Markaz’s participation focused on real estate financing as a fundamental enabler of sustainable development and a key response to the growing demand for housing solutions in Kuwait.

During the session, Mr. Al-Ateeqi also discussed the salient features of the proposed Real Estate Financing



Photo during the workshop.

Law, offering insights into its potential impact on investors, regulators, and end users. He emphasized the need for an enabling regulatory and legislative environment that facilitates effective private sector involvement in delivering innovative and sustainable housing solutions.

Commenting on the workshop, Al-Ateeqi stated: “At Markaz, we view the exchange of expertise and practical experiences as a cornerstone for building an effective and resilient real estate financing ecosystem. Through our collaboration with the Union of Investment Companies, we aim to demonstrate how professional know-how, when coupled with sound legislative frameworks, can accelerate sector-wide development.

This initiative forms part of a broader series of knowledge-driven activities undertaken by Markaz, which include the organization and participation in

numerous workshops and high-level forums over the years. These engagements, often held in partnership with prestigious academic and regulatory institutions, are designed to enrich financial literacy, institutionalize investment practices, and cultivate a research-based, strategically focused investment environment.

Markaz’s active role in advancing the real estate sector is backed by a proven track record in developing pioneering investment products, such as the Markaz Real Estate Fund (MREF), which delivered diverse investment opportunities within the local market.

Markaz continues to play a vital role in building national capacity in the real estate sector and remains steadfast in introducing tailored solutions that align with market dynamics and the State of Kuwait’s vision for inclusive and sustainable urban growth.

Focusing on safety and governance

stc earns ISO 45001:2018 & ISO 37301:2021 certification

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced that it has been awarded the ISO 45001:2018 certification for Occupational Health and Safety Management, and ISO 37301:2021 certification for Compliance Management Systems. These achievements align with stc’s strategic approach to implementing the highest international standards across its operations, further strengthening its position as a responsible and trusted telecom pioneer.

The newly awarded ISO 45001:2018 certification on 27th Feb 2025, recognizes stc’s commitment to fostering a safe and healthy working environment for its stakeholders. The certification provides an internationally recognized framework for identifying and managing occupational health and safety risks, strengthening stc’s efforts to minimize workplace hazards and enhance employee well-being. stc considers the welfare of its employees, partners, and stakeholders to be an essential component integrated into its safety standards and culture.

In parallel, stc awarded ISO 37301:2021 certification for Compliance Management Systems, which is earned as a first in Kuwait on 9 Jan 2025. Maintaining this certification demonstrates the Company’s commitment to strong governance, ethical conduct, and regulatory compliance.



stc ISO Certification.

Throughout its years of operating in the Kuwaiti market, stc maintained a high standard when it comes to complying with regulators and strictly adhering to all requirements set by governing and regulatory bodies, whether within the telecom or other sectors that are related to the Company’s activities. It also highlights the robust internal systems and policies stc has established to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with international best practices.

In a statement, stc indicated that earning these certifications comes as part of its reach strategy, strategic pillars that the Company has defined to grow and advance its operations and solutions, while providing customers with a unique experience built on business excellence. The Company has been strategically focusing on embedding world-class health, safety, and compliance practices into every level of the organization. This is why the ISO certifications are not viewed as standalone milestones, but integral elements of stc’s long-term commitment to operational efficiency and responsible corporate governance.

Central Bank of Kuwait develops an innovative technology for generating cryptographic keys

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: As part of the Central Bank of Kuwait’s commitment to fostering innovation, and in recognition of the vital role played by its Innovation Hub (Wolooj) in driving progress in artificial intelligence, digital transformation, cybersecurity, financial technology, and regulatory and supervisory technologies, by providing an interactive environment for the development and testing of innovative products and services.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Basel Ahmed Al-Haroon, announced that the Bank, through the Wolooj Innovation Hub, has developed an innovative technology for generating cryptographic keys, marking a major leap in data protection and information security.

The Central Bank explained that this technology reflects the Bank’s commitment to creating a secure digital environment that supports advanced technologies. It relies on generating randomness from unconventional data sources that are highly complex and difficult to predict. This data is then processed and transformed into digital streams used to extract randomness, which is subsequently combined with other secure randomness sources generated by the operating system. The result is the creation of strong, unpredictable encryption keys that balance traditional and non-traditional randomness, thereby enhancing the security of digital systems across various domains.

The Governor concluded his statement by noting that this achievement was made possible by the dedicated efforts of national talent from within the Central Bank of Kuwait staff, as part of the Bank’s institutional innovation framework. The system has been officially registered as intellectual property with the relevant authorities, reaffirming the Central Bank’s position as a leading institution in supporting digital transformation and fostering a secure and dynamic environment for development and innovation.

Central Bank of Kuwait Innovation Hub Develops an Innovative Technology for Generating Cryptographic Keys

Methodology

- Generating randomness from unconventional data sources that are highly complex and difficult to predict.
- Processed and transformed into digital streams used to extract randomness, which is subsequently combined with other secure randomness sources generated by the operating system.
- The result is the creation of strong, unpredictable encryption keys that balance traditional and non-traditional randomness.

Objective

- Data Protection and Information Security.
- Creating a secure digital environment that supports advanced technologies.

Developer

The “Wolooj” Innovation Hub: by the dedicated efforts of national talent from within the Central Bank of Kuwait staff.

Intellectual Property

- Officially registered as intellectual property with the relevant authorities.
- Reaffirming the Central Bank’s position as a leading institution in supporting digital transformation and fostering a secure and dynamic environment for development and innovation.

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البنك المركزي
CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

Company sponsors The Business Year’s annual launch event

Zain reaffirms commitment to contributing to Kuwait’s sustainable digital future



Waleed Al-Khashti delivers Zain’s keynote speech during the opening ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Zain announced its sponsorship of the annual launch event organized by global media group The Business Year, in collaboration with the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA). The event, titled Kuwait’s New Era, featured a series of insightful panel discussions on strategic investment efforts and the latest policies and regulations enhancing Kuwait’s appeal as a regional investment hub.

Zain took part in the opening ceremony, attended by H.E. Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel, KDIPA Director General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Chairman of the Kuwait Banking Association Hamad Al-Marzouq, and a prominent lineup of public and private sector leaders, experts, and entrepreneurs.

Zain’s support of the event reaffirmed its strategic partnership with The Business Year and ongoing collaboration with KDIPA, both aimed at empowering the local business environment and positioning Kuwait as a regional economic center driven by innovation and technology.

During the event, Zain emphasized that its support for this distinguished gathering is renewed annually as part of its contribution to shaping the future of Kuwait’s economy. Events like these bring together innovation and decision-making to transform ambition into action, aligning perfectly with Zain’s strategic vision for the digital future.

The company noted that Kuwait has taken bold steps in recent years to strengthen its digital economy, and Zain is proud to be a key partner in this journey. Looking ahead, the company believes that economic transformation is not solely based on infrastructure and investment, but on people, partnerships, and purposeful technology.

Zain explained that it has moved beyond the traditional role of a telecom opera-



Minister Khalifa Al-Ajeel, Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Al-Jaber, Nawaf Al-Gharabally, and Hamad Al-Marzouq pictured among guests.

tor to become a driver of innovation and digital transformation, serving as a strategic partner to the government, private sector, and startups. The company’s purpose is clear: to deliver technologies and innovations that enable Lasting Connections and Better Lives for the communities it serves.

Zain is also accelerating the adoption of artificial intelligence, not just as a trend but as a national imperative. Through smart platforms, data analytics, and advanced telecom solutions, the company is unlocking potential across vital sectors, from healthcare and education to finance and logistics.

The company is making major investments in nurturing national talent, grounded in its belief that Kuwait’s future will be built by its people. Whether in AI, cybersecurity, or cloud computing, Zain is preparing its workforce to lead tomorrow’s economy.

Recognizing that this new era requires collective effort, Zain believes true innovation lies not only in what is built, but in how it is built. Through strong partnerships with the public sector and global technology leaders, the company strives to shape a strong, inclusive, and sustainable digital future for Kuwait.

Zain also expressed its pleasure in continuing its long-standing partnership with The Business Year, based in London, to help host such impactful forums. The company values the critical role these platforms play in fostering dialogue, ex-

changing ideas, and enabling innovation across Kuwait’s market sectors.

The company praised the pivotal role and significant efforts of KDIPA in improving Kuwait’s business environment, diversifying the economy, boosting competitiveness, and positioning the country on the global investment map. Zain reaffirmed its commitment to supporting these national goals as a leading private sector organization.

The event featured two insightful panel discussions that highlighted Kuwait’s most strategic investment sectors. The first panel explored the importance of family business transitions to public listings and the evolving role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in driving economic growth in a stable political environment with a robust development agenda. It also examined the latest policies and legislation bolstering Kuwait’s regional investment appeal.

The second panel focused on Kuwait’s industrial evolution, the need to diversify income sources, and integrating sustainability into growth strategies. Panelists discussed mechanisms for reducing oil dependency, the role of public-private collaboration in expanding industrial sectors, and emerging opportunities in renewable energy and advanced technologies to build a competitive and sustainable economy.

Initiative focuses on sharing valuable educational content

Gulf Bank offers 14 valuable tips to customers before traveling in support of ‘Diraya’ campaign

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: As part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing financial literacy across various segments of society, Gulf Bank continues to support the ‘Diraya’ banking awareness campaign. This initiative focuses on sharing valuable educational content through the Bank’s social media platforms, website, and various other media channels.

As the summer season approaches and travel plans are underway, Gulf Bank has shared a set of practical tips for those preparing to travel abroad for their annual vacations. These tips are designed to ensure the safe and secure use of banking cards, while also helping travelers make the most of the Bank’s services. The tips include:

1. Ensure your card is valid for the entire duration of your trip.
2. Regularly update your personal information with the bank, such as your phone number and email address.

3. Make sure you have sufficient credit limits and review your account balance.

4. Never write down your PIN or any personal information. If your card is lost or stolen, contact the bank immediately to block it, or use the mobile app or online banking services to do so.

5. Download the Gulf Bank’s app to track card usage and expenses during your trip.

6. Ensure you have access to your online banking services.

7. Book your trips only through trusted and secure websites.

8. Be cautious of offers that seem too good to be true, to avoid falling victim to fraud.

9. Keep your antivirus software and operating systems up to date on the devices you use for bookings, to prevent card data leakage.

10. Never share your PIN or OTP (One-Time Password) with anyone.

11. Always read the content of your OTP message, including the merchant’s name and

- the amount, before using the code for payment.
12. Remember, the bank will never ask you to provide personal information via email, phone calls, or text messages.

13. Avoid clicking on any links from unknown or untrusted sources.

14. Some cards offer travel-related benefits. Check the offers available for your card on Gulf Bank’s website, as well as on Visa and Mastercard’s websites.

Additionally, Gulf Bank has announced that its branch at Kuwait International Airport Arrivals Hall (Terminal 1) operates daily from 8:30 AM to 11:30 PM. The branch offers a full range of banking services, including account openings, loan applications, credit card requests, deposits, withdrawals, and currency exchange.

The branch also provides instant ATM card issuance services. Moreover, Gulf Bank offers safe deposit box services, allowing travelers to securely store their valuable items while abroad.



Travel tickets Diraya - awareness flyer.

AlShamlan: KFH commits to contributing to Kuwait’s sustainable growth and prosperity

KFH participated in The Business Year’s Kuwait New Era event



Khaled AlShamlan

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: As part of its commitment to supporting economic development efforts in Kuwait, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the Kuwait’s New Era Conference, organized by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) in collaboration with The Business Year magazine. Held at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, the conference convened leaders, policymakers, and experts to strategize on achieving Kuwait’s ambitious development goals, focusing on fostering foreign direct investment, advancing economic diversification, and accelerating critical national projects.

Since KFH inception in 1977, Kuwait Finance House has been more than just a financial institution; it has been a pioneer in Islamic banking and a partner in Kuwait’s development. Our commitment to sharia-compliant banking has guided us in building trust and delivering value to our stakeholders. Stated Group Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Khaled Yousef AlShamlan at the event.

AlShamlan said that in 2024, KFH reported a historic net profit of around KD 602 million, marking a 3% increase from the previous year. Net Financing income for the year 2024 reached KD 1.14 billion; an increase of 18.7% compared to the previous year. Net operating income for the year 2024 reached around KD 1 billion, an increase of 9.0% compared to the previous year.

KFH continues to lead all banks and companies listed on Boursa Kuwait, with a current market capitalization exceeding KD 13 billion. These figures are not just numbers; they represent our resilience and our unwavering commitment to financial stability, he added.



Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel, Hamad Al-Marzouq and Khaled AlShamlan



From right: Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, Hamad Al-Marzouq, Minister Khalifa Al-Ajeel, Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

New Era

He further explained that KFH has a presence in 8 countries worldwide with a network of over 600 branches. This expansion enhances KFH’s ability to serve customers and to contribute to Kuwait’s vision of becoming a regional financial hub.

Meanwhile, he emphasized that KFH leadership in digital innovation and delivering state-of-the-art financial solutions has enhanced customer experience and advanced modern banking. KFH customers processed more than 400 million banking transactions through KFH online App in 2024, confirming the remarkable success of KFH digital platforms, AlShamlan added.

Sustainable efforts

AlShamlan said that sustainability is also a key subject of today’s event, and it is at the core of KFH operations. Our inclusion in the FTSE4Good Index, and our rating by MSCI ESG Index underscore our dedication to environmental, social, and governance principles. We are proud to have released Kuwait’s first carbon footprint report in the banking sector, establishing a benchmark for responsible banking.

He added that Kuwait’s new era is not just a phase of economic development; it is a testament to Kuwait’s resilience and ambition. At KFH, we are committed to playing a key role in this journey and leveraging our strengths to contribute to Kuwait’s sustainable growth and prosperity. It serves to note that the Kuwait’s New Era 2025 Conference serves as a vital platform for discussing the profound economic transformations and developments.



A group of leaders from the public and private sectors at the forefront of the attendees.



Diverse world of tea.

Lulu celebrates International Tea Day

Lulu Hypermarket is delighted to celebrate International Tea Day across all its outlets in Kuwait with a week-long promotion that invites customers to discover the rich and diverse world of tea. This exclusive event brings together over 150 plus premium tea varieties imported from some of the most renowned tea-producing countries, including India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, the USA, Canada, and more. The celebration reflects Lulu’s commitment to offering global tastes under one roof, making it a true paradise for tea lovers.

From the boldness of traditional black teas and the comforting spices of masala chai to soothing herbal infusions, fruity blends, and the ever-popular Karak, the range promises something to suit every palate. As a special highlight for the summer season, Lulu is also featuring a refreshing selection of iced teas to help customers beat the heat with cool, flavorful sips. Throughout the promotion, all tea ranges will be available at special discounted prices, making this the perfect time to explore new flavors or stock up on your favorites.

To enhance the experience, free tea sampling stations will be set up in-store, giving shoppers the chance to taste a variety of blends before making their selections. This immersive celebration not only showcases the global love for tea but also reinforces Lulu’s role as a destination for cultural and culinary experiences. Visit any Lulu Hypermarket in Kuwait during this exciting week and join us in raising a cup to the timeless tradition of tea.

PIA’s Raqami Digital Bank launches ops in Pakistan

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Raqami, a digital bank owned by the Public Investment Authority (PIA) began operations in Pakistan after receiving a license from the State Bank of Pakistan as a Sharia-compliant digital retail bank, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a report published on the Pakistani news website Dawn, the bank’s trial operations followed Pakistan’s introduction of a licensing and regulatory framework for establishing digital banks as an independent category in the banking sector. The goal is to encourage innovation, improve customer financial access, and promote secure and responsible digital banking practices through a phased licensing process. The report, quoting Abdullah Al-Mutairi, Chair of Raqami Bank and CEO of EnerTech Holdings, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC), which is in turn fully owned by PIA, explained that the trial phase will be followed by full commercial operations.

First female Iranian actor nominated for a Tony

Tony nominee Marjan Neshat makes history with 'English'

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): Marjan Neshat is a veteran of stage and screen who teaches budding actors. Like so many of us, she sometimes has bouts of self-doubt.

"I think on the first day of class, I still always have imposter syndrome, but I've grown to live with it," she says. "I never thought that I had the gravitas to be like, 'Oh, going to teach you acting.'"

This semester, her students at The New School got to witness self-doubt kicked to the curb when Neshat became a first-time Tony Award nominee. "Oh, sure they're all a bit more smitten with me now," she says, laughing.

Neshat earned the nod for her work - appropriately enough - playing a teacher in Sanaz Toossi's Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony Award-nominated play "English," which premiered on Broadway in the fall.

"There's something about this play that feels so bottomless," she adds. "I kind of felt like winning the lottery because it was, to me, everything as an actress that I care about - it was artistic, and it was subtle and it was nuanced."

"English" explores the ways in which language shapes identity, can help people feel understood or misunderstood and the push and pull of culture. It's set in a storefront school near Tehran, where four Iranian students are preparing over several weeks for an English language exam.

Neshat plays their teacher, a woman who loves rom-coms and English but who is unmoored, a foot in Iran and one in England, where she lived for many years but never completely felt at home.

"We don't always belong to what we're born to," says Neshat. "She understands the potential of language and the potential of reaching beyond yourself.

And yet she's at a point in her life where she's also losing a lot of that."

The play is packed with cultural references - like Christiane Amanpour, Hugh Grant and "Whenever, Wherever" by Shakira. One character admires Julia Roberts' teeth, saying "they could rip through wire. In a good way."

"I feel like so often, when you're telling stories about a different culture, especially in the Middle East, it's like, 'Well, we wanna see them behind the veil' and 'We want to see our idea of them.' And I feel like, especially with my character, I feel it defies all of that. I feel she is romantic and flawed and complicated."

Performance

The play has made history by making Neshat and co-star Tala Ashe the first female actors of Iranian descent to be Tony-nominated. (The first Iranian-born actor to receive a Tony acting nomination was Arian Moayed.)

The two face off at the Tonys on June 8 in the category of best performance by an actress in a featured role in a play alongside Jessica Hecht, Fina Strazza and Kara Young.

Neshat's family fled postrevolutionary Iran in 1984, when Neshat was 8, and she hasn't been back since. She decided early on she wanted to act, despite her mother's fear that her daughter might share the same fate as Marilyn Monroe.

She adores the plays of Anton Chekhov and watching movies on the Criterion Channel, and she's obsessed with the novel "Anne of Green Gables." "Oh, not like super-showy. It's interior and deep," she says. When "English" ended its run, she and the cast wept in



Marjan Neshat performs in a production of Sanaz Toossi's "English." (AP)

their dressing rooms.

"She (Neshat) thrives in mystery and yearning and I think I've always strived to capture a feeling that goes beyond language. She's after that, too," says Toossi. "I think she holds contradictions and leaves space for the audience. She operates in a register most of us can't quite reach."

Range

Neshat's credits range from the movies "Sex in the City 2" and "Rockaway" to an off-Broadway production of "The Seagull" with Dianne Wiest and Alan Cumming, and to roles on TV in "New Amsterdam," "Quantico," "Elementary" and "Blue Bloods."

"I've sort of been saved by art in so many ways," she says. "It's been sometimes like a really bad boyfriend,

and it's brought out all my middle school rejection and angst, but truly, in the best of ways, I have. I think, become more myself or understood who I am."

"English" - written in the wake of President Donald Trump's ban on travelers from several predominantly Muslim countries during his first term - premiered off-Broadway at Atlantic Theater Company in 2022 with Neshat in the teacher's role.

"There is something very emotional about the fact that she wrote this as like a cry into the void when the Muslim ban happened and the fact we were like opening shortly after Trump became president," says Neshat. "Just the culmination of all these things, it felt like an event."

She has a tight bond with Toossi, nurturing her "English" and also appearing in the playwright's "Wish You Were Here." The playwright once saw Neshat at a play reading before they ever met and soon gave the teacher in "English" the name Marjan. Neshat jokes that "he wrote me into being."

"Her writing has given me some of the richest roles of my life," says Neshat. For her part, Toossi says getting Neshat and Ashe to be Tony-nominated is her proudest achievement.

On the opening night for "English" on Broadway, Neshat was joined by her mother and her 12-year-old son, Wilder, and they marveled at the journey life takes you.

Neshat's grandmother was married at 13 in Iran and never learned to read or write, though she dictated poems and letters. Just two generations later, their family has star on Broadway.

"The little girl I was in Iran would never have imagined that I would be sitting with my mom and nominated for a Tony," she says. "It just truly is a ride."

Variety

NEW YORK: Rapper and actor Kid Cudi is expected to testify at the Sean "Diddy" Combs sex trafficking trial, taking the witness stand either Wednesday or Thursday to tell the jury about his brief relationship 14 years ago with Combs' ex-girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie.

Cassie testified last week that Combs was enraged when she left him for a period of time in 2011 and began dating Cudi, whose legal name is Scott Mescudi. She said Combs left a large bruise on her back where he kicked her as she left his Los Angeles home for the last time that year.

Prosecutors have contended in court filings that Combs was so upset that he arranged to have Cudi's convertible bombed.

A prosecutor said at the end of Tuesday's court session that Mescudi will be the third witness after a federal agent finishes testifying about what investigators found last year when they raided Combs' home in Florida.

Combs has pleaded not guilty to charges that he leveraged his fame and fortune to oversee a two-decade-long racketeering enterprise that controlled Cassie and others through threats and violence. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Erik and Lyle Menendez's hearing in front of the California state parole board has been pushed back to August, their attorneys said Tuesday.

The delay comes after Gov. Gavin Newsom withdrew his request for the parole board to evaluate the brothers for clemency as they seek their freedom after 35 years behind bars for killing their parents.

The brothers were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for fatally shooting their father, Jose Menendez, and mother, Kitty Menendez, in their Beverly Hills mansion in 1989. They were 18 and 21 at the time.

A Los Angeles judge opened the door to freedom last week by giving the brothers a new sentence of 50 years to life, making them immediately eligible for parole under California law because they were under the age of 26 when they committed their crimes.

They initially had a clemency hearing scheduled in June, but it has since been converted to a parole suitability hearing and pushed back to Aug. 21 and 22, their lawyers said. (AP)

MADRID: Vinicius Junior isn't expected to get involved as Valencia threatens legal action over what it described as "falsehoods" in a Netflix documentary about the player and the racist insults made against him at the Spanish club's stadium two years ago.

Valencia said a recently launched documentary mistakenly accuses a large group of Valencia fans of making racist chants against the Real Madrid forward in a league match in 2023. The club has demanded an immediate retraction by the documentary's production company.

Vinicius' representatives on Tuesday said the demand is against Netflix and the producers of the documentary, and that the player doesn't have anything to do with it. A request for comment sent to Netflix was not immediately answered.

The documentary includes a social media video showing what appeared to be a large crowd at Mestalla Stadium chanting at Vinicius. The video has the word "Nono," Spanish for monkey, in the subtitles. But Valencia claims the fans were actually chanting "Nonto," which is Spanish for silly. (AP)

Cannes



Scarlett Johansson poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film "A Private Life" at the 78th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Tuesday, May 20. (AP)

Actor finds his voice behind the camera in 'Urchin'

Dickinson juggles acting stardom, directing

CANNES, France, May 21, (AP): Harris Dickinson is sitting on a rooftop terrace in Cannes, trying to find all the movie tattoos on his body.

There's a little one for 2001's "Donnie Darko," but there's a much larger one on his arm for "Kes," Ken Loach's seminal British social realism drama from 1969.

"Oh, sure there's a few more on my legs," Dickinson says, smiling. "I can't remember."

But the spirit of Loach runs strong in Harris Dickinson is sitting on a rooftop terrace in Cannes, trying to find all the movie tattoos on his body.

There's a little one for 2001's "Donnie Darko," but there's a much larger one on his arm for "Kes," Ken Loach's seminal British social realism drama from 1969.

"Oh, sure there's a few more on my legs," Dickinson says, smiling. "I can't remember."

But the spirit of Loach runs strong in Dickinson's directorial debut, "Urchin." The film, which premiered in the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, stars Frank Dillane as a homeless London drug addict.

A sensitive and preceptive character study, "Urchin" has been widely hailed as a standout at Cannes. Just as the 28-year-old Dickinson, who starred in last year's "Babygirl," is emerging as a major movie star, he's revealed himself to be a filmmaker to watch, too.

"Before we screened, I was debilitated by nerves," Dickinson said the day after the premiere. "I felt so vulnerable - which I do normally with acting, but not as much. I suddenly realized what an exposing thing this is. Like you said, it's showing a different side of myself and putting that out there to be obliterated."

But Dickinson, who first emerged in Eliza Hittman's 2017 film "Beach Rats," only expanded audiences' notions of him with "Urchin." As he explained in an interview, making it was important enough to him, even if it meant sacrificing parts at the very moment Hollywood won't stop calling. Next, Dickinson will star as John Lennon in Sam Mendes' four-film Beatles project. The Associated Press' conversation with Dickinson has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How did your artistic journey start? Was acting or directing first?

Dickinson: I wanted to direct from a very young age. I wanted to make films. I was making these skateboard videos and I was doing a lot of short films on YouTube. I had a web series where I would release episodes weekly. It was like a sketch show. That was my first love, just making things.

Acting kind of kicked off a little bit once "Beach Rats" came out



Director Harris Dickinson poses for a portrait photograph for the film "Urchin" (AP)

at Sundance. It was weird. I had to earn my stripes, of course, as an actor. But I couldn't go to film school because I was acting. So I just carried on my own interest in it and thought: Hopefully someday I can do it. Then the short film happened and the BBC took a chance on me, commissioning "Urchin."

AP: Was it hard to juggle your priorities?

Dickinson: Hard to figure out, yeah. And particularly when we're in a world where people don't always love someone trying to do multiple things. And rightly so. There are times when you shouldn't be trying to be a basketball player, or whatever. A lot of people do go, "Oh, I fancy doing that now," particularly when they get to a more successful position. But this has always been a love of mine and I've just been waiting for the moment to do it. It's strange as well because I'm also at a point in my acting where I had to take a lot of time out to make this film. But I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

AP: That must have required a lot of effort, especially after all the attention of "Babygirl." Did it mean saying no a lot?

Dickinson: Yeah, for sure. But it's easy to say no to things. "Urchin" was all I could think about. It was pouring out of me. It was all that was on my mind. It's easy to say no when you've got something to take you away from that, you know? Nothing that came in would make me question my own film, which is a sign that I had to make it at this time. I don't know, maybe that sounds self-important.

AP: What was it about this character that compelled you?

Dickinson: The discovery of Mike happened over a long time. I really started with the intention to create a very focused character study of someone who was ultimately battling against themselves. I wanted to show a full person in all of their ugliness and all of their humanity and their charm. And that was a hard process to get right. It also happened with Frank, who came on and tapped into those things so beautifully. I kept coming back to the no judgment thing, not allowing us to feel sorry for him too much. Just observe him and go through situations and see how he acts.

AP: I admire that he's trying to get his life in order, but he's also sabotaging himself.

Dickinson: He can't transcend his own behavior, which is so common for a lot of people, especially when they've been through a certain degree of trauma. How do you get out of that? How do you change your behavior? When your support network's gone, even the institution is not enough to get someone out of these cycles. As people, what interests me is that we're an incredibly advanced civilization but, at the end of the day, we're quite rudimentary in our design. We're quite basic in the way we go back to things.

AP: Did the film proceed out of work you've done with a charity for homeless people or were you inspired mostly by social realists like Ken Loach?

Dickinson: I'm always a bit reluctant to talk about this because it's something I've been doing in private and not trying to be like a heroic thing of a cause. I'm just a minor, minor part of a much bigger cause that is ultimately made up of hundreds of thousands of individuals that are collectively working toward change. But it was always important to have the bones of this film lay in that space. It had to have the undercurrent to it. It had to have that factual reality to it.

And, yeah, Loach, (Shane) Meadows. Ken Loach, he's one of the greats, for good reason. He's made incredibly important films. And I don't know if this film has the throughline of a social realism drama or a social political film. I think it has the beginnings of it because we enter the world and then stay there very observationally. But then the language changes.

AP: Do you expect to keep making films interspersed between acting?

Dickinson: I hope so. I hope people let me do it again. That's the goal. But it takes a lot of you. I think my partner is probably happy for me to not be a neurotic person for a bit.

AP: Well, playing John Lennon is no piece of cake, either.

Dickinson: I'm probably be neurotic, as well. I'm probably be just as neurotic.



Banu Mushtaq, author of *Heart Lamp* (right), and Deepa Bhashti hold the trophies after winning the International Booker Prize, in London, Tuesday, May 20. (AP)

Bhashti becomes first Indian translator to win Booker Prize

Indian author Mushtaq wins International Booker Prize

LONDON, May 21, (AP): Indian author Banu Mushtaq and translator Deepa Bhashti won the International Booker Prize for fiction Tuesday for *Heart Lamp*, a collection of 12 short stories written over a period of more than 30 years and which chronicle the everyday lives and struggles of women in southern India.

The award was announced by bestselling Booker Prize-longlisted author Max Porter in his role as chair of the five-member voting panel, at a ceremony at London's Tate Modern.

It is the first time the award has been given to a collection of short stories. Bhashti is the first Indian translator - and ninth female translator - to win the prize since it took on its current form in 2016.

Mushtaq is the sixth female author to be awarded the prize since then.

Written in Kannada, which is spoken by around 65 million people, primarily in southern India, Porter praised the "radical" nature of the translation, adding that "it's been a joy to listen to the evolving appreciation of the stories by members of the jury."

"These beautiful, busy, life-affirming stories rise from Kannada, interspersed with the extraordinary socio-political richness of other languages and dialects," said Porter. "It speaks of women's lives, reproductive rights, faith, caste, power and oppression."

The book, which beat 16 other finalists, comprises stories written from 1990 to 2023. They were selected

and curated by Bhashti, who was keen to preserve the multilingual nature of southern India in her translation.

Mushtaq, who is a lawyer and activist as well as writer, told a short list reading event on Sunday that the stories "are about women - how religion, society and politics demand unquestioning obedience from them, and in doing so, inflict inhumane cruelty upon them, turning them into mere subordinates."

The 50,000-pound (\$66,000) prize money is to be divided equally between author and translator. Each is presented with a trophy too.

The International Booker Prize is awarded every year. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction, which will be handed out in the fall.

Film



This image shows Pablo Pauly, (left), and Camille Rutherford in a still from the film *Jane Austen Wrecked My Life*. (AP)

A rom-com about finding yourself

Literary charm meets love in ‘Jane Austen’

LOS ANGELES, May 21, (AP): Agathe is celibate by choice. The 30-something hero of filmmaker Laura Piani's feature debut *Jane Austen Wrecked My Life*, played by the luminous Camille Rutherford, hasn't so much been ruined by Austen as she has been made acutely aware of her own limitations in both romance and literature.

Neither she nor anyone else is good enough to make any big moves for. So, she sticks to the routine. She works at the legendary Parisian bookstore Shakespeare and Co., and bikes home, where she lives with her sister and young nephew. Sometimes she goes out to dinner. For what it's worth, Agathe also happens to epitomize French girl chic with her Breton stripes, red pout and effortlessly disheveled hair. There should be Instagram accounts devoted to her navy hooded parka.

Life isn't bad, it's just not moving forward. And whatever is going to get her out of this self-imposed rut is going to be something special - she's read too many great books to accept anything less.

Standards are great and all, but really, of course, it's Agathe who has to get out of her own way. And she does, one night, in a sake-induced daze in which she dreams up the first couple of chapters of a romance. Her best friend Félix (Pablo Pauly) gives her the push she needs and secretly

submits the pages to a Jane Austen writers residency, where she's accepted and invited to spend a few weeks.

Before she gets on the ferry (a hurdle in and of itself), Félix, a known serial dater and bread-crumber, gets close to her. It's the kind of development, a platonic friendship turned complicated, that's enough to properly distract an already reluctant writer with an impostor complex. When she arrives, there's another handsome distraction awaiting her: Oliver (Charlie Anson), a British literature professor and Austen's great great great nephew who thinks that the *Pride and Prejudice* author is overrated. Agathe doesn't know he also speaks French until after she's complained about his arrogance to her sister within his earshot.

It's a classic kind of setup, not exactly Mr. Darcy, but not that either. Shared lodgings, even at a rather large, idyllic English estate, only ratchet up the will-they-won't-they tension as they see each other everywhere: walks in the woods, breakfast, after-dinner readings. And it's not without its slightly more cliché hijinks, like Agathe stripping down to nothing and opening a door to what she believes is the bathroom. It's not.

Piani has constructed a rare gem in *Jane*

Austen Wrecked My Life, which manages to be literary without being pretentious. Its title is cheekily hyperbolic but has some truth to it as well. Modern romances for Austen disciples are bound to disappoint but, in this environment, they can justify having a costumed ball. The event is a swoony, romantic affair where we get to see the love triangle play out in all its glorious awkwardness.

But while *Jane Austen Wrecked My Life* certainly qualifies as a romantic comedy, the question of whom she ends up with is kind of beside the point. Don't worry, choices are made, but the way it plays out is both unexpected and gratifying - a clear-eyed portrait of why Agathe's singledom is not the problem. There's even a Frederick Wiseman cameo involved.

Ultimately, this is a movie about a woman taking a bet on herself for perhaps the first time ever. Her actualization is not going to come through a boyfriend, a job or a makeover, but by sitting down and finally putting pen to paper. It may not be a strict adaptation, but it has Jane Austen's soul.

Jane Austen Wrecked My Life, a Sony Pictures Classics release in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for some sexual content, nudity, language. Running time: 94 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Doors’ singer and poet
Jim Morrison bust stolen
in the 1980s recovered

PARIS, May 21, (AP): Police have found a bust of Jim Morrison that was stolen nearly four decades ago from the Paris grave that has long been a place of pilgrimage for fans of the legendary Doors singer and poet.

The bust taken in 1988 from Père-Lachaise cemetery was found during an unrelated investigation conducted by a financial anti-corruption unit, Paris police said in an Instagram post Monday.

There was no immediate word on whether the bust would be returned to the grave or what other investigation might take place.

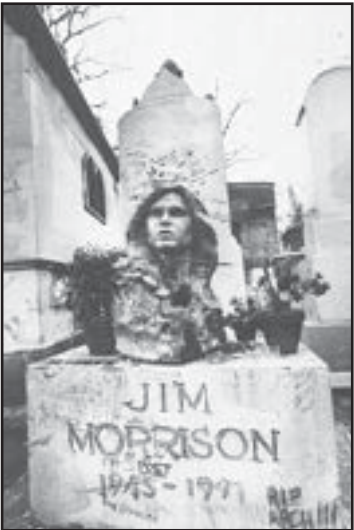
Morrison, the singer of Doors classics including *Light My Fire*, *Break on Through*, and *The End*, was found dead in a Paris bathtub at age 27 in 1971.

He was buried at Père-Lachaise, the city's cemetery that is the final resting place of scores of artists, writers and other cultural luminaries including Marcel Proust, Oscar Wilde, Gertrude Stein and Edith Piaf.

The 300-pound bust made by Croatian sculptor Mladen Mikulin was added to the grave in 1981 for the 10th anniversary of the singer's death.

"I think it would be incredible if they put the bust back onto where it was and it would attract so many more people, but the cemetery wouldn't even be able to hold that many people," Paris tour guide Jade Jezzini told The Associated Press. "The amount of people who would rush in here just to see the bust to take pictures of it, it would be incredible."

Known for his dark lyrics, wavy locks, leather pants, theatrical stage presence and mystical manner, Mor-



This Sept. 7, 1971 photo shows the grave of Jim Morrison, lead singer of the rock group The Doors, at the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris, France. (AP)

risson has inspired generations of acolytes who congregated at his grave to reflect and sometimes to party, including a major gathering for the 50th anniversary of his death. The site has often been covered with flowers, poetic graffiti and liquor bottles left in tribute.

He was undergoing a cultural renaissance when the bust was stolen in the late 1980s, which peaked with the 1991 Oliver Stone film *The Doors*, in which Val Kilmer, who died in April, played Morrison.

Variety

NEW YORK: A key witness stared down Harvey Weinstein and pointed sharply at him as she left court in sobs Tuesday, marking one of the most heated points of the former studio boss's assault crimes retrial.

And that was before noon. By the end of the day, prosecutors and defense lawyers were clashing over a question related to the 1989 movie *When Harry Met Sally ...*, an unexpected flashpoint about a film Weinstein didn't produce.

The finger-pointing confrontation came after **Jessica Mann** described Weinstein grabbing, dragging, forcefully sexually assaulting her in a Beverly Hills, California, hotel room around the beginning of 2014, after she told him she was dating someone else.

"You owe me one more time!" Weinstein bellowed, according to Mann, who wiped her eyes and took heaving breaths as she testified. Weinstein - who denies ever sexually assaulting anyone - briefly shook his head as he watched from the defense table.

After Mann finished her narrative, she continued crying and didn't answer when a prosecutor asked whether she needed a break. Judge Curtis Farber called for one.

When Mann passed the defense table on her way out, she turned to the seated Weinstein, aimed a finger at her eyes and then at him. It wasn't clear how many jurors



Mann

saw the gesture, and Mann didn't respond to a question outside court about what she meant to convey.

After they left, Weinstein lawyer Arthur Aidala requested a mistrial, as the defense has repeatedly done before. (AP)

BRUSSELS: The European Union agreed Tuesday to provide emergency funds to help keep Radio Free Europe afloat after the Trump administration stopped grants to the pro-democracy media outlet, accusing it of promoting a news agenda with a liberal bias.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty started broadcasting during the Cold War. Its programs are aired in 27 languages in 23 countries across Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. Its lawyers have been fighting the administration in court.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the bloc's foreign ministers had agreed to a 5.5-million-euro (\$6.2 million) contract to support the vital work of Radio Free Europe. The short-term emergency funding is a safety net for independent journalism, she said.

Kallas said the EU would not be able to fill the organization's funding gap around the world, but that it can help the broadcaster to work and function in those countries that are in our neighborhood and that are very much dependent on news coming from outside.

She said that she hoped the 27 EU member countries would also provide more funds to help Radio Free Europe longer term. Kallas said the bloc has been looking for strategic areas where it can help as the United States cuts foreign aid. (AP)

Obituary

‘An Everyman actor’

George Wendt, beloved ‘Cheers’ star, dies at 76

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): George Wendt, an actor with an Everyman charm who played the affable, loving barfly Norm on the hit 1980s TV comedy *Cheers* and later crafted a stage career that took him to Broadway in *Art*, *Hairspray* and *Elf*, has died. He was 76.

Wendt's family said he died early Tuesday morning, peacefully in his sleep while at home, according to the publicity firm The Agency Group.

George was a doting family man, a well-loved friend and confident to all of those lucky enough to have known him, the family said in a statement. He will be missed forever. The family has requested privacy during this time.

Career

Despite a long career of roles onstage and on TV, it was as gentle and henpecked Norm Peterson on *Cheers* that he was most associated, earning six straight Emmy Award nominations for best supporting actor in a comedy series from 1984-89.

The series was centered on lovable losers in a Boston bar and starred Ted Danson, Shelley Long, Rhea Perlman, Kelsey Grammer, John Ratzenberger, Kirstie Alley and Woody Harrelson. It would spin off another megahit in *Frasier* and was nominated for an astounding 117 Emmy Awards, winning 28 of them.

Wendt, who spent six years in Chicago's renowned Second City improv troupe before sitting on a barstool at the place where everybody knows your name, didn't have high hopes when he auditioned for *Cheers*.

My agent said, it's a small role, honey. It's one line. Actually, it's one word. The word was beer. I was having a hard time believing I was right for the role of the guy who looked like he wanted a beer. So I went in, and they said, it's too small a role. Why don't you read this other one? And it was a guy who never left the bar. Wendt told GQ in an oral history of *Cheers*.

Cheers premiered on Sept. 30, 1982, and spent the first season with low ratings. NBC president

Brandon Tartikoff championed the show, and it was nominated for an Emmy for best comedy series in its first season. Some 80 million people would tune in to watch its series finale 11 years later.

Favorite

Wendt became a fan favorite in and outside the bar - his entrances were cheered with a warm Norm! - and his wisecracks always landed. How's a beer sound, Norm? He would be asked by the bartender. Dunno. I usually wish them before they get a word in, he'd respond.

While the beer the cast drank on set was nonalcoholic, Wendt and other *Cheers* cast members have admitted they were tipsy on May 20, 1993, when they watched the show's final episode then appeared together on *The Tonight Show* in a live broadcast from the Bull and Finch Pub in Boston, the bar that inspired the series.

We had been drinking heavily for two hours but nobody thought to feed us, Wendt told the Beaver County Times of Pennsylvania in 2009. We were nowhere near as cute as we thought we were.

Perlman, who regularly served Wendt on *Cheers*, in a statement called him "the sweetest, kindest man I ever met. It was impossible not to like him."

As Carla, I was often standing next to him, as Norm always took the same seat at the end of the bar, which made it easy to grab him and beat the crap out of him at least once a week. I loved doing it and he loved pretending it didn't hurt. What a guy! I miss him more than words can say.

After *Cheers*, Wendt starred in his own short-lived sitcom *The George Wendt Show* - too bad he had to step out of Norm and down so far from that corner stool for his debut stanza, sniffed Variety - and had guest spots on TV shows like *The Ghost Whisperer*, *Harry's Law* and *Portlandia*. He was part of a brotherhood of Chicago Everymen who gathered over sausage and beers and adored *Da Bears* on *Saturday Night Live*. In 2023, he competed on *The Masked Singer*.



Actor George Wendt participates in the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Presents An Evening Honoring James Burrows panel, on Monday, October 7, 2013, at the Leonard H. Goldenson Theater, in North Hollywood, Calif. (AP)

Apple exile ends

Fornite video game returns to iPhone app store in US

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): The popular video game Fortnite has returned to the iPhone app store in the U.S., ending a prolonged exile that was triggered by a legal showdown over the lucrative fees that Apple had been collecting for years through a payment system that it has been forced to change.

Fortnite hailed its app's long-awaited restoration to the iPhone and iPad in a Tuesday post, marking the first time it will be available on those devices since it was ousted in 2020 for trying to avoid the 15% to 30% commissions that Apple collects on in-app transactions.

The video game featuring a virtual fight on a digital island is coming back to the iPhone just a few days after its parent company, Epic Games, filed a motion asking a federal judge to order its return as part of a civil contempt of court finding issued against Apple late last month.

In a brief statement filed in court late Tuesday, Apple said the dispute that had been keeping Fortnite off its iOS software for the iPhone had been resolved. The Cupertino, California, company didn't immediately respond

to a request for further comment.

The legal wrangling is all part of a bitter feud that is still boiling.

Epic filed a lawsuit alleging Apple had turned its app store into an illegal monopoly - a claim that it lost under a 2021 ruling made by a federal judge after a month-long trial.

Although she decided Apple wasn't breaking antitrust laws, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers ordered the company to loosen control over in-app payments and allow links to other options that might offer lower prices.

After exhausting an appeal that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Apple last year introduced a new system that opened the door for links to alternative payment options while still imposing a 27% commission on in-app transactions executed outside its own system.

Epic fled back by alleging Apple was thumbing its nose at the legal system, reviving another round of court hearings that lasted nearly a year before Gonzalez Rogers delivered her stinging rebuke that included a ban on collecting any kind of commission on alternative payment options.

Kuwait enhances pharma regulations

Kuwait joins ICH as observer member

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The Ministry of Health has announced Kuwait's accession to the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals (ICH) as an observer member.

The ministry affirmed that this marks a major step toward aligning Kuwait's pharmaceutical regulatory framework with international standards and enhancing the country's role in the global health system, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

The ministry explained that the ICH serves as the global reference for unifying technical and regulatory standards related to the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines. Its membership includes major bodies such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA).

Kuwait's observer status grants it direct access to international technical



KUNA photo
Head of the Drug Registration Department Dr. Donia Al-Bastaki.

cal guidelines, the opportunity to participate in specialized working groups, and the ability to develop its regulatory framework in line with globally recognized best practices. This membership also enables Kuwait to align national policies and procedures with international legislation, support the local

pharmaceutical industry in meeting global export standards, and accelerate access to safe and effective medicines through recognized scientific evaluation models. It also strengthens regulatory integration with international bodies and decision-makers in the pharmaceutical sector.

MoH enhances national care through innovation

Kuwait achieves medical milestone with first Medtronic aortic valve implants in patients

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Al-Dabous Center at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital and Sabah Al-Ahmad Cardiac Center at Amiri Hospital have achieved a milestone in terms of using of a new technology (Medtronic) to implant aortic valves in heart patients for the first time in the country.

This advancement exemplifies the commitment Health Ministry to integrate global medical innovation and elevate the standard of national health-care provision.

Head of the Cardiology Department at Al-Dabous Center Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti confirmed the successful execution of an aortic valve implantation procedure on

a 76-year-old patient with severe aortic valve stenosis.

He pointed out the procedural benefit of facilitating arterial access when necessary, indicating that aortic valve stenosis is a common cardiac pathology, particularly among the geriatric population with manifestations that include dyspnea, precordial pain and syncope.

Dr. Abdullah Ismail -- consultant cardiologist, catheterization specialist and Head of the Structural Heart Disease Program at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital -- asserted that the selection of Dabous Center for this advanced technology is indicative of the trust in the valve team's proficiency and excellence in the field.

Head of the Cardiac Catheterization Department at Sabah Al-Ahmad Center Dr. Nader Al-

Asousi announced the successful performance of a transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) without adverse effects in a 71-year-old patient with considerable comorbidities like morbid obesity, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, severe peripheral vascular disease and renal insufficiency.

Al-Asousi expressed satisfaction that Sabah Al-Ahmad Center is now among the medical facilities capable of conducting life-saving TAVR procedures for patients with aortic valve stenosis, as soon as these modern technologies become available in Kuwait.

He underscored the imperative of maintaining awareness of the latest medical breakthroughs and deploying state-of-the-art technologies and valve systems.

Expert-like conversations

Google launches 'AI mode,' takes search to next phase

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): Google on Tuesday unleashed another wave of artificial intelligence technology to accelerate a year-long makeover of its search engine that is changing the way people get information and curtailing the flow of internet traffic to websites.

The next phase outlined at Google's annual developers conference includes releasing a new AI mode option in the United States. The feature makes interacting with Google's search engine more like having a conversation with an expert capable of answering questions on just about any topic imaginable.

AI mode is being offered to all comers in the US just two-and-a-half-months after the company began testing with a limited Labs division audience.

Google is also feeding its latest AI model, Gemini 2.5, into its search algorithms and will soon begin testing other AI features, such as the ability to automatically buy concert tickets and conduct searches through live video feeds.

Device

In another example of Google's all-in approach to AI, the company revealed it is planning to leverage the technology to re-enter the smart glasses market with a new pair of Android XR-powered spectacles. The preview of the forthcoming device, which includes a hands-free camera and a voice-powered AI assistant, comes 13 years after the debut of Google Glass, a product that the company scrapped after a public backlash over privacy concerns.

Google didn't say when its Android XR glasses will be available or how much they will cost, but disclosed they will be designed in partnership with Gentle Monster and Warby Parker. The glasses will compete against a similar product already on the market from Facebook parent Meta Platforms and Ray-Ban.

The expansion builds upon a transformation that Google began a year ago with the introduction of conversational summaries called AI overviews that have been increasingly appearing at the top of its results page and eclipsing its traditional rankings of web links.

About 1.5 billion people now regularly engage with AI overviews, according to Google, and most users are now entering longer and more complex queries.

What all this progress means is that we are in a new phase of the AI platform shift, where decades of research are now becoming reality for people all over the world, Google CEO Sundar Pichai said before a packed crowd in an amphitheater near the company's Mountain View, California, headquarters.

Overviews

Although Pichai and other Google executives predicted AI overviews would trigger more searches and ultimately more clicks to other sites, it hasn't worked out that way so far, according to the findings of search optimization firm BrightEdge.

Clickthrough rates from Google's search results have declined by nearly 30% during the past year, according to BrightEdge's recently released study, which attributed the decrease to people becoming increasingly satisfied with AI overviews.

The decision to make AI mode broadly available after a relatively short test period reflects Google's confidence that the technology won't habitually spew misinformation that tarnishes its brand's reputation, and acknowledges the growing competition from other AI-powered search options from the likes of ChatGPT and Perplexity.

The rapid rise of AI alternatives emerged as a recurring theme in legal proceedings that could force Google to dismantle parts of its internet empire after a federal judge last year declared its search engine to be an illegal monopoly.

In testimony during a trial earlier this month, longtime Apple executive Eddy Cue said Google searches done through the iPhone maker's Safari browser have been declining because more people are leaning on AI-powered alternatives.

And Google has cited the upheaval being caused by AI's rise as one of the main reasons that it should only be required to make relatively minor changes to the way it operates its search engine because technology already is changing the competitive landscape.

'Finding, a major scientific advance'

Blood, urine markers reveal how much ultraprocessed food we eat

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): Molecules in blood and urine may reveal how much energy a person consumes from ultraprocessed foods, a key step to understanding the impact of the products that make up nearly 60% of the American diet, a new study finds.

It's the first time that scientists have identified biological markers that can indicate higher or lower intake of the foods, which are linked to a host of health problems, said Erika Loft, a National Cancer Institute researcher who led the study published Tuesday in the journal PLOS Medicine.

It can potentially give us some clues as to what the underlying biology might be between an ultraprocessed food association and a health outcome, Loft said.

Ultraprocessed foods - sugary cereals, sodas, chips, frozen pizzas and more - are products created through industrial processes with ingredients such as additives, colors and preservatives not found in home kitchens. They're ubiquitous in the US and elsewhere, but studying their health impacts is hard because it's difficult to accurately track what people eat.

Typical nutrition studies rely on recall: asking people what they ate during a certain period. But such reports are notoriously unreliable because people don't remember everything they ate, or they record it inaccurately.

There's a need for both a more objective measure and potentially also a more accurate measure, Loft said.



Potato chips are displayed in pharmacy Duane Reade by Walgreens, March 25, 2021, in New York. Walgreens reports earnings March 31, 2021. (AP)

plained.

To create the new scores, Loft and her colleagues examined data from an existing study of more than 1,000 older US adults who were AARP members. More than 700 of them had provided blood and urine samples, as well as detailed dietary recall reports, collected over a year.

The scientists found that hundreds of metabolites - products of digestion and other processes - corresponded to the percentage of energy a person consumes from ultraprocessed foods. From those, they devised a score of 28 blood markers and up to 33 urine

markers that reliably predicted ultraprocessed food intake in people consuming typical diets.

We found this signature that was sort of predictive of this dietary pattern that's high in ultraprocessed food and not just a specific food item here and there, she said.

A few of the markers, notably two amino acids and a carbohydrate, showed up at least 60 times out of 100 testing iterations. One marker showed a potential link between a diet high in ultraprocessed foods and type 2 diabetes, the study found.

High performance

RapidAI shows accuracy in detecting strokes

SAN MATEO, Calif., May 21, (AP): RapidAI, the gold standard and global leader in neurovascular AI-based clinical decision support and enterprise radiology solutions, has announced new study findings that underscore its continued leadership in stroke imaging. The findings emphasize that not all AI is created equal, with results showing that RapidAI clinically deep algorithms deliver superior accuracy in detecting medium vessel occlusions (MeVOs) compared to Viz.ai.

The data, presented as a late-break-

ing abstract at the European Stroke Organisation Conference (ESOC) 2025, analyzed 1,591 consecutive stroke cases at a comprehensive stroke center. Of the 1,122 eligible cases, RapidAI detected 93% (109) of MeVOs using CT Perfusion alone, compared to 70% (82) by Viz.ai.

CT Perfusion is a powerful tool, but its full value is only realized when paired with high-performing software, especially in complex cases with smaller occlusions like MeVOs, said Harmeet Sachdev, MD, lead investiga-

tor and neurologist. RapidAI consistently identified more occlusions than Viz in this study, echoing what we saw in the Duel study with large vessel occlusions. The story the data tells is clear: not all imaging tools are equally equipped to interpret complex stroke cases.

MeVOs refer to occlusions in smaller, yet still crucial, arteries in the brain, such as the M2/M3 segments of the middle cerebral artery or the A1/A2 and P1/P2 segments of the anterior and posterior cerebral arteries.

Probe launched

New salmonella outbreak in US

NEW YORK, May 21, (Agencies): US health officials are investigating a new outbreak of salmonella illnesses tied to a Florida grower whose tainted cucumbers were linked to more than 550 illnesses last year.

Cucumbers grown by Florida-based Bedner Growers and distributed by Fresh Start Produce Sales have been linked to illnesses in at least 26 people in 15 states, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported late Monday. At least nine people have been hospitalized; no deaths have been reported.

The cucumbers were sold to restaurants, stores and food service distributors between April 29 and May 19 and may still be within their shelf life this week. Illnesses were reported between April 2 and April 28, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The outbreak was detected as part of a follow-up inspection in April to a 2024 outbreak that sickened 551 people and led to 155 hospitalizations in 34 states and Washington, D.C. In that outbreak, investigators found salmonella bacteria linked to many of the illnesses in untreated canal water used at farms operated by Bedner Growers and Thomas Produce Company.

Food safety: Officials from the Lao government and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are convening here for a high-level advocacy meeting and a technical workshop focused on enhancing food safety in Laos.

The event, held from Tuesday to Thursday, brought together policymakers, technical experts, and representatives from various sectors, including agriculture, health, trade, and industry.

According to a report from the Center of Information and Education for Health under the Lao Ministry of Health on Wednesday, the event aims to build national capacity, raise awareness among key decision-makers, and align Laos' food safety standards with internationally recognized Codex guidelines.

Codex standards are internationally recognized benchmarks for food safety and quality. These standards serve as reference points in trade agreements and dispute resolution under the World Trade Organization (WTO), making them essential for countries looking to expand global market access while protecting consumer health.

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Trent Bridge in Nottingham will host a four-day test match

England prepares for India with its first test against Zimbabwe in 22 years

LONDON, May 21, (AP): For England, it's little more than a warm-up match ahead of much sterner examinations to come.

For Zimbabwe, it means everything.

Trent Bridge in Nottingham will host a four-day test match - something of a rarity for the usual five-day format but perhaps a sign of the future - from Thursday when England and Zimbabwe meet for the first time at international level in 18 years since a Twenty20 World Cup match in Cape Town.

You need to go back four more years - to Chester-le-Street in 2003 when Jimmy Anderson, a 20-year-old with highlights in his hair, was playing in his first series - for the last test match between the teams.

Zimbabwe's return to English soil continues the African nation's gradual reintegration to test cricket after two decades of political interference, poor governance and sanctions that resulted in the team being exiled from test cricket for around six years.

The Zimbabweans didn't play a test from 2005-11. From 2022-24, they played just four tests. But between December last year and August this year, they have played in 10 tests, with two-match series against South Africa and New Zealand to come this summer.

Zimbabwe still isn't part of the World Test Championship but, in the bigger picture, progress is being made. Zimbabwe Cricket will receive a touring fee from the England and Wales Cricket Board for being the first test opponent of the summer, ECB chief executive Richard Gould confirmed last year while speaking about the huge responsibility to maintain the strength of bilateral cricket.

Zimbabwe isn't expected to offer much resistance to England, having slumped to a 138-run defeat to a Professional County Club Select XI in Leicester last week. Before that, however, it did earn a first test victory since 2021 - beating in Bangladesh on the way to sharing the series 1-1.

While Zimbabwe's view is very much about the present, England's sights will be on the future.

Ahead this summer is a five-test series against India and then an Ashes tour Down Under. For England, it doesn't get much bigger than that, so the match against Zimbabwe will be important preparation, especially for a bowling department at the start of a new era following the test retirements of Stuart Broad (in 2023) and Anderson (last year).

For the Zimbabwe test, England will give a debut to Sam Cook, fellow pacer Josh Tongue is returning to the team after a two-year absence, and Gus Atkinson is about to start his second summer of test cricket. There are as many question marks about the only specialist spinner in the team, Shoaib Bashir, and the fitness of allrounder Ben Stokes, returning after a hamstring tear to regain the captaincy.

Then there's the batting lineup where opener Zak Crawley and No. 3 Ollie Pope have been retained despite continued speculation about their worthiness in the team. There's the welcome sight of a return for wicketkeeper Jamie Smith after missing the tour of New Zealand in November and December while on paternity leave.

England is No. 2 in the test rankings but coach Brendon McCullum said there's a lot of meat on the bone for us in the next stage of the so-called Bazball era.



England's Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Joe Root and Ben Stokes sit, during a nets session at Trent Bridge, in Nottingham, England. (AP)

Royals finish IPL season with 6-wicket win against Chennai



Rajasthan Royals's Aishwarya Suryavanshi plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, India. (AP)

Win lifts Rajasthan from bottom of the table

NEW DELHI, India, May 21, (AP): Rajasthan Royals finished its Indian Premier League season with a six-wicket victory against Chennai Super Kings after finally chasing down the target in its last league game.

Rajasthan, which failed to complete the chase in eight of its nine games this season, relied on Aishwarya Suryavanshi's half century to reach 188-4 with 17 balls to spare.

Fast bowler Akash Madhwal (3-29) was effective with his reverse swing in the final overs to restrict Chennai to 187-8 and allow Mahendra Singh Dhoni's team to add only 17 runs in the last three overs.

The win lifted Rajasthan from the bottom of the table with eight points and Chennai now needs a huge win against table-topper Gujarat Titans in its final league match to avoid finishing last for the first time in its IPL history.

Yashasvi Jaiswal smacked five boundaries and two sixes in his brisk 36 off 19 balls as Suryavanshi was ini-



Rajasthan Royals's Kwen Maphaka bowls a delivery during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, India. (AP)

tially a mere spectator at the other end in the run-chase.

But Suryavanshi took the charge once Jaiswal was bowled by Anshul Kamboj in the fourth over as he smashed Noor Ahmad for 6-4-4 in

his first over and also hit sixes against Ravindra Jadeja's left-arm spin.

Together with captain Sanju Samson, Suryavanshi added a match-winning 98-run stand before Ashwin struck twice in the 14th over and dismissed both batters.

Ahmad clean bowled Riyan Parag for three, but Dhruv Jurel hit an unbeaten 31 off 12 balls, including three sixes and two fours, and Shimron Hetmyer made 12 not out to ensure Rajasthan reached the target with nearly three overs to spare.

Yudhvir Singh picked up three early wickets, including the key wicket of Devon Conway off his fourth ball when the left-handed New Zealander was caught at mid-off as Chennai slipped to 78-5 in the eighth over.

Ayush Mhatre (43) played risk-free shots and hit eight boundaries as he combined in a 56-run run stand with Ravichandran Ashwin (13). Dewald Brevis smashed three sixes and two fours in his quickfire 42 off 25 balls and together with Shivam Dube added a further 59 runs for the sixth wicket. But Madhwal clean bowled Brevis with a delivery that tailed back into the batter and knocked back the stumps in the 14th over.

Dube dominated the spinners and

kept Chennai in the hunt for a 200-run total up until the 17th over. But Madhwal and Tushar Deshpande hit the right lengths in the last three overs as Madhwal claimed the wickets of Dube and Dhoni in the last over.

The adverse weather in South India forced IPL organizers to shift Royal Challengers Bengaluru's final home game against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday to Lucknow.

It meant Bengaluru, which has already qualified for the playoffs, will also be playing its final league game against Lucknow Super Giants on May 27 at Ekna Stadium.

Last Saturday, Bengaluru's previous home game against Kolkata Knight Riders was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

New Chandigarh and Ahmedabad will host the playoffs instead of Hyderabad and Kolkata. New Chandigarh will host the first qualifier on May 29 and the eliminator on May 30. Ahmedabad will stage the second qualifier on June 1 and the final on June 3.

Bengaluru, Gujarat Titans and Punjab Kings have already qualified for the playoffs with Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals fighting for the fourth spot.

Judge accused of impartiality

Trial of Maradona's docs suspended for weeks

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 21, (AP): The trial of seven health professionals accused of negligence in the death of Diego Maradona was suspended for a week on Tuesday after one of the judges was accused of being impartial and authorizing a documentary about the hearings.

Prosecutor Patricio Ferrari made the request for a suspension and the trial will be halted until May 27 while the court reviews judge Julieta Makintach's role in allegedly allowing a documentary to be filmed during the trial. Makintach is one of three judges hearing the case and has denied any wrongdoing, but Ferrari argued that the situation compromises the prestige of the judiciary.

The attorneys representing Maradona's family had joined the prosecutor's request for a suspension. The lawyer for two of the former soccer player's daughters, Fernando Burlando, said the temporary halt would bring about serenity, thoroughness, and the continuation of the process.

Last week, the lawyer representing Leopoldo Luque, Maradona's primary physician at the time of his death and one of the main defendants, had requested Makintach's removal from the trial, arguing that the judge had demonstrated a lack of impartiality in the proceedings.

Luque's lawyer, Julio Rivas, said he had been contacted by British broadcaster BBC requesting an interview because they were making a documentary about the trial. He added that he had received information that the production company involved in the documentary was associated with Juan Makintach, the judge's brother. Police said Friday they saw a camera in the courtroom, and a courtroom official said its presence was approved by Makintach.

Maradona, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 1986, died on Nov. 25, 2020 while undergoing home hospitalization on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, days after undergoing surgery for a hematoma that formed between his skull and brain. He was 60.

Seven healthcare professionals are on trial for failing to provide adequate care and could face a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison.

Kuwait Club and Burgan in two-horse race for Premier Handball League title

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: With just seven matches remaining in the 2024-2025 Premier Handball League season, two rounds in the second division and five in the third, the battle for the title has officially come down to Kuwait Club and Burgan.

The third round of second-division fixtures concluded at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Kuwait Club dominated Al-Arabi with a commanding 36-22 victory, while Burgan edged past Kazma 33-28. In a tightly contested matchup, Sulaibikhat secured its second league win by narrowly defeating Salmiya 31-30.

Kuwait Club continues to top the standings with 42 points, followed by Burgan in second with 35 points. Kazma sits in third place with 28 points, trailed by Salmiya (21), Sulaibikhat (20), and Al-Arabi (18).

With Kazma mathematically eliminated from title contention, even if they win all remaining games and match Kuwait's point total, goal difference gives a massive advantage to the Kaifan-based leaders, who boast a +277 goal difference compared to Kazma's +72.

Kuwait Club needs just three wins



Players battling for the ball.

from its remaining seven fixtures to officially clinch its 15th league title and 13th consecutive crown. For Burgan to pull off an upset and capture its first-ever league title, it must defeat Kuwait Club in their direct encounter next Sunday and hope Kuwait Club loses at least two additional matches.

Today's Fixtures | Second Division, Round 4 (Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex):
4:30 pm: Al-Arabi vs. Salmiya
6:00 pm: Kuwait vs. Kazma
7:30 pm: Burgan vs. Sulaibikhat

'Power leagues look to bind schools to rules of \$2.8 billion NCAA settlement'

WASHINGTON, May 21, (AP): The four biggest conferences in college sports are working to tie their schools to the pending \$2.8 billion NCAA antitrust settlement and could have drastic penalties for anyone refusing to comply.

Officials from the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big Ten, the Big 12 and the Southeastern Conference have drafted a document intended to prevent their members from using state laws to breach or subvert enforcement that would come with the settlement, according to a person familiar with the pending contract. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of ongoing negotiations.

Yahoo Sports first reported details of the document, which is viewed as a way of providing stability around the enforcement of new rules.

The settlement itself is before U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken, who has given preliminary approval but asked both sides to come up with a way to address details around roster limits that many schools are already putting in motion. Her final decision could come at any time.

The document would bind institutions to enforcement policies even if their state laws are contradictory, the person said. It would require schools to waive their right to pursue

legal challenges against the new enforcement entity, the College Sports Commission.

The document would exempt the commission from lawsuits from member schools over enforcement decisions, instead offering arbitration as the main settlement option.

The document is still being revised, but a working copy has been distributed to school presidents, general counsels and athletic directors, the person said. Legal concerns remain, though, especially for public institutions that would essentially be agreeing not to follow state laws.

Consequences for not signing the agreement would include risking the loss of league membership and participation against other teams from the Power Four conferences.

A finalized version of the document could be signed once the House settlement is granted approval by a federal judge.

The settlement - a \$2.8 billion agreement by the NCAA and power conferences to settle antitrust lawsuits over athlete compensation - would rewrite the college sports rulebook and usher in a professionalized model that allows schools to share millions in revenue with athletes in a capped system that features a new enforcement arm to police booster deals.

The settlement's revenue-sharing concept could begin as early as July 1.

Bouresli: educational institutions are key partners in advancing inclusion through Special Olympics Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Rehab Bouresli, National Director of Special Olympics Kuwait, underscored the pivotal role of educational institutions in supporting the organization's mission, particularly through active participation in the Unified Champion Schools program. She emphasized that such collaboration is essential for transforming the program into a tangible model of educational integration through sports, laying the foundation for inclusive school communities that promote acceptance, understanding, and the celebration of differences.

Bouresli made these remarks during an awareness lecture on the Special Olympics and its programs, hosted by the College of Life Sciences at Kuwait University.

Expressing her appreciation for the strong turnout and active engagement during the event, Bouresli extended her gratitude to the college's staff and organizers, especially faculty member Dr. Ghanima Al-Faleh, for the excellent preparation and execution of the event.

She opened the lecture by tracing the origins of the global Special Olympics

movement, highlighting its evolution from a personal initiative launched in 1986 by Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy, into the world's largest humanitarian sports organization. The movement has since grown into a global force for the empowerment of individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports, education, and health programs.

Bouresli also reviewed the significant expansion of Special Olympics Kuwait since the resumption of its activities in 2018, noting the growth in its programs, number of participating athletes, and its achievements on regional and international stages.

Following her presentation, Captain Bilal Al-Hamami, Program Officer at Special Olympics Kuwait, provided an overview of the sports programs, the various games available, and the athlete classification system designed to give every individual regardless of disability level a fair chance to compete.

Captain Linda Jaber, the Initiatives Officer, elaborated on the organization's wide-ranging initiatives aimed at developing athletes' skills through sports,



Rehab Bouresli delivers the lecture.

education, and community involvement. She also highlighted efforts to involve the broader community and athletes' families in activities and events, reinforcing the importance of psychological and social support for families.

In closing, Health Program Specialist

Dalal Bou Hamad discussed the Special Olympics Health Program, emphasizing its mission to promote the overall well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities through accessible and inclusive health care initiatives.

Season witnessed remarkable participation of thousands of fans and dedication of drivers, engineers, and support staff

ALSAYER celebrates successful conclusion of the GR Yaris Cup Kuwait Season 2



GR Yaris Regional Cup team.



Ofcials exchange commemorative plaques in appreciation.



His Excellency Ambassador of Japan.



GR Yaris Regional Cup team.

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L proudly announces the successful conclusion of the second season of the GR Yaris Cup Kuwait, a groundbreaking sporting event that has significantly advanced motorsport in the region. Launched in 2023 as the Middle East's first FIA-certified racing series dedicated to the iconic Toyota GR Yaris.

This season marked a notable milestone featuring the first-ever GR Yaris Regional Cup between Kuwait and Qatar, in cooperation with Al Abdulghani Motors. The Kuwaiti team clinched the inaugural Gulf Championship title amidst fierce competition, highlighting Kuwait's rising prominence in regional motorsports.

GR Yaris Cup Kuwait organized by ALSAYER, reaffirmed Toyota's dedication to inspiring motorsport

excellence in the region, strengthening regional relationships, and engaging local youth through exciting and safe racing initiatives. The passion and enthusiasm continue to drive the growth of motorsport in Kuwait and beyond.

Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer Board Member AL-SAYER Group, expressed gratitude for the tremendous support from FIA, Kuwait Motor Town, Suffix Event Management Company, sponsors as well as the dedicated team members. He highlighted the event's role in engaging local automotive fans, promoting motor sports, and strengthening regional and international partnerships.

Mr. Mohamed Al-Sayer also extended thanks to the sponsors, organizers, and media for their pivotal roles in

ensuring the event's success, emphasizing the importance of community and youth engagement in shaping the future of motorsport.

Mr. Martin Aherne, Senior Business Director emphasized the teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship demonstrated by all involved drivers, sponsors, organizers, and fans alike. He praised the exceptional performances of Kuwaiti racers the reigning GCC champions, highlighting how the championship has not only been a test of speed but also a showcase of talent and perseverance.

With future seasons on the horizon, the team expressed their commitment to pushing the boundaries of performance and excitement, solidifying Kuwait's position as a leading hub for motorsports in the Middle East.

commented Mr. Martin Aherne.

A special Open Day was held for ALSAYER Group during the final round of the season in association with the Group Corporate Excellence Department as a special family day at Kuwait Motor Town, where employees and their families enjoyed a weekend filled with exhilarating activities.

Highlighting the season's success Mr. Bader Faisal Al Sayer, Senior Manager of Toyota Marketing mentioned that attendance and enthusiasm have reached new heights. We are excited to note that over half a million fans interacted with the event via social media during this season. We look forward to upcoming seasons, promising more exciting races, continuous community engagement, and regional sporting development.

Emotional sendoff for De Bruyne, City edges toward Champs League

Marmoush scores stunning goal

MANCHESTER, England, May 21, (AP): Omar Marmoush's stunning long-range strike upstaged Kevin De Bruyne on the Manchester City great's Etihad farewell.

Marmoush let fly from around 30 yards (meters) to put City ahead in its 3-1 win against Bournemouth in the Premier League.

The victory moved Pep Guardiola's team up to third in the standings and left Champions League qualification in its own hands heading into the last round of the season.

It's really important. To be in the Champions League after what happened (this season) will be really nice, the City manager said.

De Bruyne was making his final home appearance for City before leaving the club as a free agent at the end of the season.

After a trophy-laden 10 years, the Belgium international was greeted with a huge banner declaring him 'King Kevin' and given a standing ovation when he was substituted off in the second half.

But it was Marmoush's goal after 14 minutes that lit up the match as his dipping shot clipped the post before crashing into the top corner.

It was the type of goal that De Bruyne would have been proud of in a career that has seen him score numerous spectacular strikes of his own.

De Bruyne missed a glorious chance to cap his farewell with a goal when he missed an open net from close range, shooting against the bar.

Terrible, terrible, De Bruyne said of his miss. There's no excuse. My son is going to be very tough on me today.

Bernardo Silva doubled City's lead in the 38th, and substitute Nico Gonzalez added a third in the 89th. Deniel Jebbison pulled one back for Bournemouth in added time in a game that saw both teams reduced to 10 men.

The win saw City return from its FA Cup final loss to Crystal Palace on Saturday. It also means City needs a point in its final game



Bournemouth's goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga kicks the ball ahead of Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Bournemouth at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

against Fulham on Sunday to guarantee Champions League soccer next season, given its superior goal difference to top-five rivals Chelsea and Aston Villa.

After ending the season trophyless for the first time in eight years, City can at least secure the consolation of a place in European club soccer's top competition.

The loss, however, ended Bournemouth's slim hopes of qualifying for Europe.

De Bruyne was fighting back tears as he addressed the crowd after the match and watched a video montage of tributes from club greats on the stadium's big screen.

He was given a guard of honor by his teammates as he walked to the middle of the field with his wife and three children.

City said it would erect a statue in his honor outside the stadium.

It means I will always be part of this club, De Bruyne said. Whenever I come back with family and friends, I will be able to see myself,

so I will always be here.

City also unveiled a mosaic of De Bruyne at the club's academy and named a road on its campus after him.

The 33-year-old De Bruyne was part of a period of unprecedented success for City, which saw it win 16 major trophies including six Premier League titles and the Champions League.

He waved to the crowd and City fans serenaded him as he left the field in the second half before embracing Guardiola on the touchline.

There are players that are unique, Guardiola said. In 10 years there are a lot of games, a lot of titles, a lot of moments. Today summarized how much love was there (for him).

He is the latest City great to have a mural made in his honor, joining Yaya Toure, Joe Hart, David Silva, Vincent Kompany, Sergio Aguero, Ferdinandinho, and Ilkay Gundogan.

Rodri returned to action eight months after having surgery on an

Sulaibikhat advances to Cup semifinals

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Sulaibikhat basketball team booked their place in the semi-finals of the 2024-2025 Federation Cup after defeating Al-Nasr 121-101 in a high-scoring preliminary round match held at the Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex in Sabah Al-Salem.

Sulaibikhat will now await the winner of the upcoming quarter-final clash between Al-Arabi and Al-Qadisiya, scheduled for tomorrow (Friday).

In another preliminary round matchup, Al-Arabi cruised past Al-Tadamon with a 107-89 victory. The standout performer of the game was Ibrahim Al-Shammari, who delivered a stellar performance with 45 points and 11 rebounds.

Back to the Sulaibikhat vs. Al-Nasr showdown featuring the league's fifth- and sixth-placed teams, the Reds (Sulaibikhat) dominated throughout, capitalizing on the absence of Al-Nasr's Macedonian head coach Jordanko David-



Players fighting for the ball.

bakov, who was replaced by local coach Salem Al-Daoud.

Sulaibikhat set the tone early, jumping to a 32-19 lead in the first quarter and maintaining a 58-48 advantage by halftime.

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NEWS



Bournemouth's Illya Zabarnyi, left, challenges for the ball with Manchester City's Erling Haaland during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Bournemouth at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, England. Man City won 3-1. (AP)
— See Page 15

Sports

Kuwait Club outclasses Qadsia to seal treble

Kuwait Volleyball Association president celebrates successful conclusion of season

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The Kuwait Club volleyball team capped off a dominant 2024-2025 season by securing a remarkable triple crown, winning the Federation Cup for the 19th time in its history at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall, Kuwait Club defeated Al-Qadsia 3-1, while Kazma secured third place after overcoming Al-Shabab by the same score line.

The Dean had already claimed the Super Cup and the Premier League title earlier in the season, confirming their superiority and consistency throughout the year. With three major titles under their belt, the Whites proved to be the undisputed champions of the season.

Meanwhile, Kazma opened the season by winning the Federation Championship, and Sulaibikhat took top honors in the First Division Championship.

Kuwait Club further extended its record as the most decorated team in domestic volleyball with 19 Federation Cup titles, followed by Qadsia (18), Kazma (14), Al-Arabi (7), and Al-Jahra (1).

Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanim expressed his pride in the team's accomplishments, praising the players, coaching staff, and administrative team for their dedication.

This third title is a reward for the great efforts put in throughout the season, he said.

He also extended my appreciation to the Volleyball Federation for its excellent organization and support that helped elevate the competition.

Al-Ghanim also commended the Volleyball Federation Board, led by Dr. Jaber Al-Marri, for its pivotal role



Kuwait Club players celebrate after winning the Federation Cup to seal treble

in the season's success.

Team captain Abdullah Jassim echoed the sentiments, expressing joy at clinching the Federation Cup:

This third title reflects the spirit of

unity within our club's management, staff, and players all worked together to achieve our goals.

Kuwait Volleyball Association President Dr. Jaber Al-Marri celebrat-

ed the successful conclusion of the season, emphasizing the high level of technical and organizational standards seen throughout.

This was a truly successful season

in every sense from the quality of play in all three major championships to the smooth organization by our committees.

He extended congratulations to

Kuwait Club for winning the General League and Federation Cup, to Kazma for the Federation Championship, and to Sulaibikhat for their First Division title.

Team wins Federation Cup

Al-Qurain secures historic squash double



Al-Qurain, Federation Cup champion.

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: Al-Qurain Club continued its dominance in squash by claiming the Men's Federation Cup title after defeating Yarmouk 2-1 in the final, marking a historic achievement as the club secured both the league and cup titles for the first time in its history.

In the opening match, Al-Qurain's Khaled Al-Fawzan overcame Yarmouk's Jassim Al-Gharib with a 3-1 victory. This was followed by a strong performance from Saif Heikal, who defeated international player Ammar Al-Tamimi, also by a 3-1 margin, to seal the win for Al-Qurain.

Yarmouk settled for second place, while Al-Nasr finished third.

The trophy and medals were presented by Squash Federation President Walid Al-Sumaie and Al-Qurain Club

President Abdulkarim Al-Shahoumi, alongside Federation Vice President Khaled Al-Habib, Secretary General Hamed Al-Omran, and Board Member Adel Al-Gharib.

During the ceremony, Al-Shahoumi also awarded the General Excellence Cup to Al-Qurain's Director of Squash, Mohammed Al-Jamal. Al-Qurain topped the General Excellence standings with 44 points, followed by Khaiteen with 30 points and Al-Arabi with 24 points. Other rankings included Yarmouk (9 points), Kuwait Club (8), and Al-Nasr (2).

Under-19: Al-Qurain, Khaiteen, Yarmouk
Under-17: Khaiteen, Al-Qurain, Al-Arabi
Under-15: Al-Arabi, Al-Qurain, Khaiteen
Under-13: Al-Qurain, Al-Arabi, Kuwait Club
Under-11: Khaiteen, Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi

Kuwait Tennis Federation honours team for strong showing at Gulf Championship



The honoured players pose with officials.

KUWAIT CITY, May 21: The Kuwait Tennis Federation held a ceremony to honor the national tennis team players who excelled in the recent Gulf Tennis Championship for the Under-12, Under-16, and General Categories. The tournament, hosted by Kuwait last month, featured participation from all GCC countries.

The ceremony was attended by Federation Chairman Abdulredha Al-Gharib, Vice Chairman Ali Masoud Hayat, and Secretary General Faleh Al-Otaibi.

In his address, Al-Gharib expressed gratitude to Kuwait's sports clubs, the Public Authority for Sports, and the Kuwait Olympic Committee for their

vital support during the 2024-2025 sports season. He emphasized that their backing was instrumental in achieving success, culminating in Kuwait's first-place finish in the General category and second-place results in both the Under-12 and Under-16 categories at the Gulf Championship.

Al-Gharib praised the players for their dedication and consistent training efforts, applauding their impressive performances throughout the season. He also acknowledged the crucial role played by the players' parents, thanking them for their support and encouragement.

He affirmed the Federation's commitment to transparency and engage-

ment, stating: "Our door is always open for feedback and suggestions. We believe in listening and exchanging views with everyone to continue developing the sport."

Under-12 Category:
Faisal Ali Al-Mutawa
Mohammed Youssef Mohammed Aziz Salem Al-Ali
Salem Abdullah Al-Haddad
Under-16 Category:
Mohammed Ali Qali
Mohammed Firas Al-Turkait
Ahmed Hussein Al-Ashok
Saud Dhari Al-Sabah
General Category:
Issa Salman Qabazard
Bader Al-Abdullah Al-Qahtani

SGA and Thunder routed Timberwolves in Game 1 of West finals

OKLAHOMA CITY, May 21, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 20 of his 31 points in the second half, and the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 114-88 in Game 1 of the Western Conference Finals.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 8 of 14 field goals in the second half after a rough start.

"I didn't particularly change my mindset, honestly," he said, "I just tried to continue to be aggressive, trust my work."

Julius Randle scored 28 points for sixth-seeded Minnesota, but just eight in the second half.

Anthony Edwards, who had been averaging 26.5 points per game in the playoffs, was held to 18 points on 5-of-13 shooting.

"I definitely got to shoot more. I took 13 (expletive) shots, but I say probably just got off the ball a little more," Edwards said. "Play without the ball. I think that would be the

answer, because playing on the ball, they're just going to double and sit in the gaps all day. So I've got to go watch some film and take it apart and figure it out."

Edwards said the Thunder packed the paint, and he expects the Timberwolves to take advantage of that tactic going forward. Game 2 is Thursday in Oklahoma City.

"They bank on us not making shots, I guess, because every time I go to the rim it's like four people," he said. "So yeah, I guess they just be clogging the paint. They put like five, four bodies in the paint, make you kick it out. So keep making the right play."

Oklahoma City was just two days removed from eliminating Denver in Game 7 of the conference semifinals. Minnesota hadn't played in a week.

Minnesota led 48-44 at halftime as Randle scored 20 points and made 5 of 6 3-pointers. Gilgeous-Alexander was held to 11 points on 2-of-13 shooting before the break.

"For us to play as poorly as we did offensively in the first half and be down four was a major victory for us at halftime," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said.

The Thunder went on a 10-0 run in the third quarter to take a 66-60 lead. A short time later, Kenrich Williams, a rarely-used sub this postseason, hit a midrange jumper and a 3-pointer on consecutive possessions to put the Thunder up 71-62. Oklahoma City outscored Minnesota 32-18 in the third quarter to take a 76-66 advantage into the fourth.

A spinning dunk by Holmgren in transition put Oklahoma City ahead 86-75 and drew a roar from the crowd. Gilgeous-Alexander threw up a prayer as he was being fouled while falling to the floor. The ball rolled in, and he made the free throw to make it 91-77 with seven minutes remaining.

"It's Game 1," Minnesota coach Chris Finch said. "They won at home. Congrats to them. They played really well. There's another game in two days."



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Isaiah Joe (11) drives against Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) during the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball Western Conference Finals playoff series in Oklahoma City. (AP)

Shipping, Freight and Logistics

Arab Times Special Supplement

The Shipping Industry in Kuwait: A Strategic Maritime Hub in the Gulf

Kuwait, a small yet economically significant country in the Arabian Gulf, holds a strategic position in the global maritime landscape. Though its coastline stretches only about 500 kilometers along the northwestern shore of the Arabian Gulf, Kuwait has cultivated a robust shipping industry that plays a vital role in its trade, oil exports, and economic diversification efforts.

Strategic Location and Historical Context

Historically, Kuwait has leveraged its location at the crossroads of trade routes between India, East Africa, and the Levant. Before the discovery of oil, Kuwaiti dhows carried goods and pearls across the Gulf. With the advent of oil in the 20th century, the country transitioned from a traditional maritime trading hub to an oil-exporting powerhouse. Today, the shipping industry in Kuwait remains a critical component of the national economy, heavily tied to the export of petroleum and import of consumer goods.

Major Ports and Infrastructure

Kuwait's shipping operations are primarily supported by three major commercial ports:

Shuwaikh Port: Located near Kuwait City, this is the most significant commercial port in the country. It handles a large share of Kuwait's imports and is equipped to accommodate container ships, bulk carriers, and general cargo vessels.

Shuaiba Port: Situated in the south, Shuaiba is both an industrial and commercial port. It primarily handles oil exports and petrochemicals, serving the adjacent industrial zone.

Doha Port: Once the primary port before the development of Shuwaikh, Doha Port now primarily supports smaller cargo vessels, local trade, and maritime services.

In addition to these, Mina Al-Ahmadi is a specialized oil port operated by Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), crucial for exporting crude oil and petroleum products.

Role in Oil Exports

Kuwait's shipping industry is dominated by oil logistics. The country is one of the world's leading crude oil exporters, and much of this oil is transported via tankers operated by the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). KOTC plays a central role in ensuring the efficient and secure delivery of crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and petroleum products to markets worldwide.

With around 90% of Kuwait's export revenue coming from hydrocarbons, maritime shipping remains vital to the country's economic stability and its link to global markets.

Efforts Toward Diversification and Modernization

In recent years, Kuwait has initiated plans to modernize and expand its maritime infrastructure as part of its "Vision 2035" development strategy. A cornerstone of this initiative is the Mubarak Al Kabeer Port, currently under construction on Boubyan Island. Once completed, it will be one of the largest ports in the



Gulf region, with ambitions to turn Kuwait into a key regional transshipment hub.

This mega-project is expected to enhance Kuwait's position in global supply chains, attract foreign investment, and support broader economic diversification beyond oil. The port will be integrated with rail and road networks, facilitating seamless movement of goods across the Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Iraq.

Despite its strengths, Kuwait's shipping sector faces several challenges. Regional geopolitical tensions, such as those in the Strait of Hormuz, pose risks to maritime security. Additionally, competition from neighboring ports in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar makes it imperative for Kuwait to continuously

invest in infrastructure, technology, and logistics services to maintain competitiveness.

Future Outlook

The outlook for Kuwait's shipping industry is optimistic. As global trade continues to evolve and shift toward Asia, Kuwait's location and investment in port infrastructure position it well to benefit from increased maritime activity.

Continued expansion of logistics services, digitalization of port operations, and a focus on sustainability will be key to maintaining long-term growth.

Moreover, Kuwait's strategic efforts to become a logistics hub for northern Gulf states, including Iraq and Iran, could significantly elevate its regional importance in the coming decades.

Strategies for Efficient Shipping, Freight and Logistics Operations



In an increasingly interconnected world, the efficiency of shipping, freight, and logistics is vital to business success and economic growth. The ability to move goods swiftly, safely, and cost-effectively not only meets consumer expectations but also boosts profitability and sustainability. With rising fuel costs, global competition, and environmental concerns, companies must continually innovate and refine their logistics operations. Here are key strategies to improve efficiency in this critical sector.

Embrace Technology and Automation

Digital transformation is the cornerstone of modern logistics. Implementing technologies like Transportation Management Systems (TMS), Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) helps businesses track inventory, optimize routes, and manage orders more effectively. Real-time tracking and predictive analytics provide greater visibility and decision-making power.

Automation also plays a crucial role. Automated sorting systems, robotic pickers, and self-driving forklifts reduce human error and speed up warehouse operations. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning can forecast demand, detect inefficiencies, and suggest process improvements.

Optimize Supply Chain Networks

Efficient logistics start with a well-designed supply chain network. Businesses should regularly analyze their supplier locations, distribution centers, and customer bases to ensure the most strategic placement. Tools like network modeling and simulation software can help identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies in current setups.

Additionally, consolidating shipments, minimizing empty truckloads, and choosing the right mode of transportation—be it road, rail, air, or sea—are key to reducing transit time and cost.

Improve Inventory Management

Poor inventory management leads to stockouts, overstocking, and increased holding costs. Adopting just-in-time (JIT) inventory systems, where goods arrive exactly when needed, reduces waste and frees up storage space. Businesses can also leverage demand forecasting tools to ensure optimal stock levels at all times.

Barcoding and RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) systems improve accuracy in tracking inventory movements, which enhances warehouse efficiency and reduces errors during picking and packing.

Focus on Sustainability

Efficiency and sustainability go hand-in-hand. Green logistics not only reduce environmental impact but can also result in long-term cost savings. Companies are increasingly using electric or hybrid delivery vehicles, optimizing packaging to reduce waste, and utilizing eco-friendly materials.

Consolidating shipments and improving route planning can also cut fuel consumption and lower carbon emissions. Moreover, some governments offer tax incentives or grants for companies investing in sustainable logistics solutions.

Train and Empower Staff

Even with the best technology, human capital remains essential. Providing regular training for logistics and warehouse staff ensures they are up-to-date with the latest systems and safety protocols. Cross-training employees to perform multiple roles also adds flexibility and resilience to operations.

Empowering staff to identify inefficiencies and suggest improvements can lead to valuable insights from those on the front lines of logistics operations.

Strengthen Collaboration Across the Supply Chain

Efficient logistics require strong communication and coordination between suppliers, carriers, and customers. Shared platforms and integrated systems foster collaboration and transparency. When all parties have access to the same real-time data, they can make informed decisions quickly, especially during disruptions.

Building strong relationships with reliable carriers and third-party logistics providers (3PLs) also ensures consistency and reliability in transportation services.

Efficiency in shipping, freight, and logistics is no longer optional—it's a competitive necessity. By embracing technology, optimizing supply chains, managing inventory smartly, and fostering collaboration, businesses can reduce costs, improve service levels, and adapt more quickly to market changes. Ultimately, a streamlined logistics operation is key to delivering the right product, at the right time, to the right place—every time.

Why Today's Container Ships Are Bigger Than Ever – and Still Growing

Modern container ships are the giants of the seas—floating mega-structures that can carry tens of thousands of containers across oceans in a single voyage. These vessels, often longer than four football fields and taller than many buildings, are central to global trade, transporting over 80% of all goods shipped internationally. But how is it possible for these ships to be so massive? The answer lies in a combination of engineering innovation, economic demand, and evolving port infrastructure.

Economies of Scale Drive Size

One of the main reasons for the increasing size of container ships is economic efficiency. Larger ships can carry more containers with relatively lower fuel and operating costs per unit of cargo. This concept, known as economies of scale, means that shipping companies can reduce costs and emissions per container by using larger vessels.

For example, a vessel that can carry 24,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) costs only slightly more to operate than one with a capacity of 14,000 TEUs, yet it delivers a significantly greater volume of goods. As global trade volumes have grown—particularly between Asia and Europe—shipping companies have responded by commissioning ever-larger vessels to stay competitive.

Advanced Hull Design and Materials

A key factor in building such enormous ships is the design of the hull, the body of the ship. Modern container ships have wide, flat-bottomed hulls designed for maximum stability and buoyancy. These hulls are made from high-tensile steel that is both strong and relatively lightweight, allowing the structure to support massive cargo loads without compromising safety.

Engineers also use finite element analysis and advanced simulation tools to test designs under various stress conditions, ensuring the vessel can withstand waves, wind, and cargo weight. Bulbous bows and hydrodynamic hull shapes reduce drag, improving fuel efficiency and stability.

Powerful and Efficient Engines

Despite their massive size, modern container ships are surprisingly fuel-efficient. They are powered by low-speed two-stroke diesel engines designed to operate at optimum efficiency over long distances. Some of the largest engines in the world are found on container ships, capable of generating more than 80,000 kilowatts of power.

These engines are paired with slow cruising speeds—usually around 18 to 22 knots—which reduce fuel consumption and emissions. Innovations such as air lubrication systems, waste heat recovery, and alternative fuels (like LNG or methanol) are becoming more common to meet stricter environmental regulations.

Modular Container Stacking

The design of modern container ships also makes them efficient at carrying cargo. Containers are stacked in modular rows both above and below deck. The decks are reinforced and structured to allow precise, vertical stacking of containers, sometimes up to 10 tiers high.

Computer systems and onboard software assist in determining the optimal loading pattern for weight distribution, access, and balance. Specialized lashing systems secure containers against shifting during rough seas.

Port Infrastructure and Global Support Systems

Large container ships wouldn't be viable without the global infrastructure to support them. In recent decades, major ports like Rotterdam, Singapore, Shanghai, and Los Angeles have expanded and modernized their facilities to handle ultra-large vessels. These upgrades include deeper harbors, larger cranes, and automated cargo handling systems.

Additionally, nautical charts, tug services, and pilotage operations have been adapted to accommodate larger ships, allowing them to safely navigate through tight channels and busy shipping lanes.

Limitations and the Future

There are, however, limits to how big container ships can get. Physical constraints like the depth of harbors, canal dimensions (e.g., Suez or Panama), and the risk of port congestion place practical boundaries on vessel size. Furthermore, disruptions like the 2021 Suez Canal blockage have highlighted the logistical and economic risks associated with ultra-large vessels.

As the shipping industry seeks to balance size with flexibility and sustainability, future innovations may focus less on sheer scale and more on smart shipping technologies, greener propulsion, and fleet diversification.

Conclusion

The enormous size of today's container ships is a product of advanced engineering, global trade demands, and a complex web of supporting infrastructure. These vessels represent the peak of maritime logistics—carefully designed to move the modern world's goods with maximum efficiency across vast oceans.



IT gives me great pleasure to present to our esteemed readers this special supplement on Shipping, Freight and Logistics highlighting Kuwait's strategic position as a vital hub for imports and exports. This growing role necessitates efficient and reliable shipping, freight and logistics services to support the country's expanding economic and trade activities.

The supplement features a spotlight on the wide range of services offered by leading shipping companies in Kuwait. It also provides comprehensive insights into various aspects of the shipping and logistics industry, underscoring its critical importance to the national economy.

There is a common misconception in today's media landscape regarding the relevance of print media. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize why print media continues to play a vital role.

Print offers a tangible, focused reading experience that digital platforms cannot replicate. Newspapers and magazines are often perceived as more credible and trustworthy sources of information. Moreover, print content enjoys a longer shelf life and is easily accessible to a wide audience, making it a valuable medium in today's fast-paced world.

We hope you enjoy this special supplement and invite you to share your thoughts and feedback with us.

Happy reading!

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Shipping, Freight and Logistics

Arab Times Special Supplement

The Future of Shipping, Logistics and the Freight Industry in Gulf Countries



THE shipping logistics and freight industry in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is undergoing a significant transformation. Driven by economic diversification, digitalization, infrastructure investments, and shifting trade routes, the region is rapidly evolving into a global logistics hub. As Gulf nations seek to reduce reliance on oil exports and strengthen non-oil sectors, logistics is emerging as a strategic pillar of long-term growth.

One of the most significant drivers of change is the massive investment in infrastructure by Gulf nations. The UAE's Jebel Ali Port, one of the world's largest and most advanced, exemplifies this trend. Similarly, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 aims to transform the country into a global logistics hub, with ports like King Abdullah Port and the expansion of Dammam and Jeddah Islamic Ports gaining prominence. These efforts are designed to increase the region's share of global maritime trade and reduce reliance on oil revenues. The development of multimodal logistics zones integrating ports, airports, and rail will further enhance freight movement efficiency.

Digitalization is another cornerstone of the industry's future. Ports and shipping companies across the Gulf are increasingly adopting technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and digital twin modeling. These tools improve cargo tracking, automate customs procedures, and optimize supply chain management. For instance, Dubai's DP World has launched digital platforms like CARGOES to streamline trade logistics and port operations. As these technologies mature, real-time decision-making, predictive maintenance, and reduced operational costs will become standard across Gulf shipping networks.

Sustainability is also gaining ground as an essential part of the logistics strategy. With the International Maritime Organization (IMO) pushing for lower carbon emissions,

Gulf countries are investing in green port infrastructure and cleaner maritime fuels. The UAE has committed to net-zero emissions by 2050 and is encouraging ports and logistics firms to follow suit. This includes deploying electrified cargo handling equipment, using alternative fuels like LNG, and integrating renewable energy sources into port operations. These efforts not only align with global environmental standards but also appeal to international trade partners prioritizing eco-friendly supply chains.

Geopolitics and regional cooperation will continue to shape the industry's future. The strategic location of Gulf countries at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa makes them natural gateways for East-West trade. The normalization of relations between Gulf states and Israel, ongoing collaborations with China under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and partnerships with Western countries enhance their trade corridors and logistics connectivity. Regional projects such as the GCC railway network will further link Gulf states internally and externally, reducing road congestion and increasing freight capacity.

However, challenges remain. The industry must grapple with fluctuating oil prices, geopolitical tensions, and the risk of overcapacity due to rapid infrastructure expansion. Moreover, cybersecurity threats, climate-related disruptions, and the need to upskill the logistics workforce are pressing concerns. Addressing these will require coordinated policy-making, public-private partnerships, and resilience planning.

In conclusion, the future of shipping logistics and freight in Gulf countries is promising and dynamic. With strategic investment, digital innovation, and a growing commitment to sustainability, the Gulf is positioning itself as a global maritime leader. If managed effectively, the region's shipping sector can become not only a cornerstone of economic diversification but also a model for smart and sustainable logistics in the 21st century.

Key Trends in the Shipping and Logistics Sector in Gulf Countries:

Focus on Kuwait and the Wider Region

The shipping and logistics sector in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, including Kuwait, is undergoing a significant transformation. Driven by economic diversification, digitalization, infrastructure investments, and shifting trade routes, the region is rapidly evolving into a global logistics hub. As Gulf nations seek to reduce reliance on oil exports and strengthen non-oil sectors, logistics is emerging as a strategic pillar of long-term growth.

Massive Infrastructure Development

One of the most visible trends in the Gulf shipping sector is large-scale investment in port and logistics infrastructure. Countries like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait are expanding existing ports and constructing new ones to increase capacity and efficiency.

In Kuwait, the flagship Mubarak Al Kabeer Port project on Boubyan Island exemplifies this trend. Designed to become a key transshipment hub for northern Gulf countries, the port will integrate with regional rail and road networks. Similarly, the UAE's Jebel Ali Port and Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Port are expanding to accommodate larger vessels and increased container traffic.

These developments aim to position Gulf ports as essential links in global trade routes connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa.

Digitalization and Smart Logistics

Digital transformation is playing a crucial role in modernizing logistics operations across the Gulf. Technologies such as blockchain, AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud computing are being implemented to enhance supply chain visibility, reduce costs, and improve customer service.

Ports in the region are adopting Port Community Systems (PCS) and Terminal Operating Systems (TOS) that streamline port operations, reduce paperwork, and allow real-time tracking of shipments. In Kuwait, logistics companies are investing in digital platforms to automate freight forwarding, customs clearance, and inventory management.

The pandemic accelerated this trend, pushing companies to adopt contactless and remote solutions to maintain supply chain continuity.

Focus on Economic Diversification

With a collective goal of reducing dependency on oil, Gulf countries are investing heavily in trade, manufacturing, and logistics as part of their economic visions. Kuwait's Vision 2035, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, and the UAE's Economic Diversification Strategy all prioritize logistics as a key sector for non-oil growth.

These initiatives encourage private sector participation, foreign investment, and public-private partnerships in the development of logistics parks, free trade zones, and multimodal transport systems.

As part of this strategy, Kuwait is seeking to become a regional logistics gateway for Iraq and Central Asia,

enhancing its relevance beyond energy exports.

Regional Integration and Cross-Border Connectivity

Gulf countries are increasingly investing in cross-border infrastructure to enhance regional trade. Projects like the GCC Railway, once completed, will connect six countries via a 2,117 km rail network, significantly improving overland cargo movement.

For Kuwait, which shares borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia, improving cross-border connectivity is crucial. Investments in customs modernization, joint border posts, and harmonized regulations are gradually easing the flow of goods across the region.

Increased regional integration is expected to reduce logistics costs and increase the competitiveness of Gulf ports and transport corridors.

Green and Sustainable Logistics

Environmental concerns are beginning to shape logistics policies across the Gulf. Compliance with IMO 2020 sulfur emission regulations, efforts to reduce carbon footprints, and the adoption of cleaner fuels are gaining momentum.

Several ports in the region are introducing shore power, electrified equipment, and waste management systems to enhance sustainability. Kuwait, for instance, is exploring solar-powered facilities and eco-friendly logistics hubs as part of its environmental commitments.

Logistics providers are also looking to optimize transportation networks to reduce empty runs and increase fuel efficiency.

Growing Role of E-commerce

The rapid rise of e-commerce in the Gulf is creating new demands on logistics infrastructure. Consumers expect faster delivery, real-time tracking, and seamless returns, prompting logistics firms to invest in last-mile delivery, fulfillment centers, and automated warehouses.

In Kuwait, the growing number of online shoppers has pushed both global and local logistics companies to expand their services. Companies are leveraging technology and local partnerships to meet rising consumer expectations.

E-commerce logistics is expected to be one of the fastest-growing segments in the region, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated digital shopping habits.

The shipping and logistics sector in Gulf countries, including Kuwait, is on the cusp of a new era. As governments invest in infrastructure, digital transformation, and regional cooperation, the region is positioning itself as a key player in global logistics. While challenges remain such as geopolitical risks and the need for regulatory alignment, the overall trajectory points toward growth, innovation, and increased global integration.

By embracing these trends, Kuwait and its neighbors are not only enhancing their maritime and logistics capabilities but also laying the foundation for a diversified, knowledge-based economy in the years to come.

AL-BAHAR SHIPPING

A pioneering name in shipping industry in Kuwait



Service Offerings

Our shipping business was established in the 1950s, it now serves as the exclusive Kuwait agent for two major shipping lines: Cosco (China) and PIL (Singapore). We specialize in container cargo, general & break bulk cargo, RORO, heavy-lift project cargo, sea & air freight forwarding, customs clearance, and door delivery services.

Global Reach

We represent two global shipping lines:

- **Cosco:** One of the world's largest shipping companies serving 145+ countries and approximately 650 ports globally



Nishad Victor
General Manager

■ **PIL:** Singapore-based carrier serving nearly 500 locations worldwide

Competitive Position

Operating since the 1960s as agents for leading shipping lines demonstrates our strong market presence. The decades-long trust from our shipping partners validates our ability to meet their objectives. Our experienced local

teams, customer service focus, and market adaptability have established us as valued industry partners.

Market Environment

Our industry now navigates complex dynamics including Kuwait's consumption-driven market, Red Sea route disruptions, geopolitical uncertainties, regional competition and evolving tariff structures.

Strategic Outlook

Kuwait's economic diversification initiatives present significant opportunities, with the Mubarak Al Kabeer port development serving as a cornerstone project. This emerging logistics hub is positioned to attract major global shipping and logistics corporations, creating a foundation for industry expansion and regional influence.

Al Bahar Shipping will soon be celebrating a major milestone, 75 years of superior customer service, reliability, and trusted partnerships



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Shipping, Freight and Logistics

Arab Times Special Supplement

AL-RASHED INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CO.

Regional Experience with Global Vision

The most trusted shipping company in Kuwait over the decades



Ravi Varrier
CEO

It was in 1911 that the founder of the Al-Rashed Group, the late Abdulaziz Abdulmohsen Al-Rashed had laid down the foundation of a trading company with a commitment to advance and diversify the business. His vision was focused on the future infrastructure development and industrial rise of Kuwait from a fishing and pearl diving village to a major oil producing metropolitan state.

Since the discovery of oil in Kuwait, Al-Rashed Group has been participating in major infrastructure and industrial government projects. The foundations of the business continue to be based on quality, reputation, customer service and performance. The highest emphasis is placed on human resources and the deployment of the latest in information technology within the Group's business operations.

Leveraging more than five decades of experience in the shipping and logistics industry, Al-Rashed International Shipping Co. offers unique solutions that cater to specific customer requirements. Blending regional experience with global vision and extensive capacity, the company has spread its wings over all aspects of vessel

handling at Kuwait and Iraq ports. Along with air and ocean freight, the company handles inland transportation, project logistics, and integrated supply chain solutions that allow them to offer integrated services to customers.

Al-Rashed International Shipping Co. in association with proactive, reliable global partners, and equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and after-sales machinery is positioned to lead the way in offering shipping and logistics solutions across the world. Treating each challenge as an opportunity that can be turned to better service to their customers, the company leads the way in providing services that are unique to the industry, leaving competition far behind in its wake.

Elaborating on the company's strategies, **Ravi Varrier, CEO of Al Rashed International Shipping Co.**, said, "To meet the challenges in a highly competitive business environment, we constantly assess our objectives and business activities to consistently provide innovative solutions and services to our customers. In association with proactive, reliable, professional global partners and equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and after-sales machinery, we are positioned to lead the way in offering shipping and logistics solutions across the world."

Distinguished by a character that is humble and passionate, with a far-sighted mind and a crystal-clear vision for the future of the company, Mr. Varrier through his sincere leadership infuses his employees with dedication and loyalty. With a positive attitude and commitment to perseverance, the staff of Al Rashed International Shipping work cohesively towards one goal of providing the best products and services in the shipping and logistics industry.

The company's



Bassim Saud A. Al-Rashed
Chairman

vision is to be the undisputed regional leader providing uncompromising 360 logistics solutions through commitment to customer service, excellence in financial performance and foster the spirit of teamwork and mutual growth among our people with a desire to excel.

To achieve this vision, the company is committed to consistently deliver ex-

traordinary value to our customers and stakeholders through the building of passionate, empowered and high performance teams.

Dynamic solutions are vital for the energy business. Oil and gas logistics have traditionally been facing business challenges of maintaining quality performance, timely deliveries, and protecting the environment. Logistics to balance specialized services and safe transportation requirement, in an environment of ever-increasing client demands simultaneously, while complying with all necessary local regulations within time-limits in a meticulous manner.

Freight forwarding and contract logistics continue to be a growth industry and Al-Rashed has already established a strong presence in the GCC, and many multi-national companies are using their services. The strategy is to focus their market with a more flexible business model, increased expertise and better IT tools with the trend.

To bring out the best in people, it is important to put sincere efforts in everything we do. After all, small things make a big difference," says **Pradeep Menon, CFO of Al Rashed International Shipping Co.**

He adds, "Today, we are an established player in our own space and have created a strong foundation for future growth. Our continued initiatives towards cost rationalization and effective improvement will take us to the next level. I am confident that by focusing on delivering better services and value to our clients, we will maintain a strong and sustainable business."

We continue to strengthen our core operations while exploring diversified activities connected to the shipping industry. As a



Pradeep Menon
CFO

reliable logistics service provider, we are committed to offering expert solutions tailored to the needs of our clients.

Al-Rashed International Shipping Co. has been awarded the quality management system certification with UKAS accreditation as per the ISO 9001, 18001 and 14001. This certification acknowledges the Quality system maintenance in the company's activities of shipping, vessel handling, air and ocean freight, inland transportation, project logistics, warehousing and integrated supply chain solutions.

Today Al-Rashed International Shipping Co is an established player in their own space and has created a strong foundation for future growth. Their continued initiative towards cost rationalization and effective improvement will take them to the next level of growth. Based on their continued delivery of premium services and value to their customers, they will have a strong and sustainable business over the long term. They continue to focus on and strengthen their core business, and look for every opportunity for diversified activities connected with the shipping industry.



We make reliable logistics, timely delivery, and unwavering commitment to your satisfaction our priority.

WHO WE ARE

One of the leaders of the Kuwait Marine Industry, Al Rashed International Shipping Co a division of The Al Rashed Group a long established trading company founded in 1911 by Late Mr Abdul Aziz Abdul Mohsin Al Rashed, from the highly respected Al Rashed family

WHY CHOOSE US?

We deliver exceptional logistics services with a focus on efficiency, reliability, and customer satisfaction. Our team combines expertise and experience to handle shipments of any scale, from planning to delivery. Trust us to exceed your expectations and manage your logistics with precision and care.



SHIPPING

- | Port Agency
- | Liner Agency
- | NVOCC
- | Cruise Vessel Agents
- | Oil Tankers



LOGISTICS

- | Sea Freight
- | Air Freight
- | Project Logistics
- | Overland Trucking
- | De-Consolidation
- | Customs Brokerage



MARINE

- | Offshore Agency
- | Crew Change
- | Survey
- | Shiphandling Services



WAREHOUSING

- | Warehousing
- | Distribution Services

Shipping, Freight and Logistics

Arab Times Special Supplement

Kuwait's Path to Logistics Leadership:

Building a Regional Shipping Powerhouse by 2035

Kuwait is strategically positioning itself to become a leading logistics and shipping hub over the next decade, leveraging its geographic location, infrastructure investments, and technological advancements.

Strategic Location and Infrastructure Development

Situated at the northern tip of the Arabian Gulf, Kuwait offers direct access to major shipping routes connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa. This prime location is being enhanced through significant infrastructure projects. The Mubarak Al Kabeer Port on Bubiyan Island, part of the Silk City initiative and China's Belt and Road Initiative, is a key development. The port aims to serve as a vital link for trade between Central Asia and the Middle East.

Complementing this is the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Causeway, a 36-kilometer bridge completed in 2019. This causeway significantly reduces travel time between Kuwait City and the northern economic zones, facilitating smoother transportation of goods and integration of logistics operations.

Modernizing Ports and Logistics Infrastructure

Kuwait is investing in upgrading its existing ports to handle increased cargo volumes efficiently. The Shuwaikh Port is undergoing a redevelopment project valued at KD48.8 million, aiming to extend dock lengths and enhance machinery and storage facilities. Similarly,

Shuaiba Port is being upgraded to support offshore drilling and exploration activities, reflecting its role as the country's primary industrial port.

The Kuwait Ports Authority is also embracing the concept of smart ports. Initiatives include implementing a maritime single window system to link multiple ports, establishing a smart port to automate operations, and creating the country's first dry port to streamline the flow of goods and reduce border congestion.

Development of Logistics Cities

To further bolster its logistics capabilities, Kuwait plans to develop four logistics cities, covering 1.9 million square meters. These cities are designed to specialize in areas such as e-commerce, re-export activities, and warehousing, aiming to attract foreign investment and support small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Expansion of Air Transport Facilities

Kuwait International Airport is undergoing significant expansion with the construction of Terminal 2, designed to increase the airport's capacity by 25-50 million passengers annually. Scheduled for completion by the last quarter of 2026, the terminal aims to be one of the world's largest environmentally friendly airport projects and is a crucial component of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Through strategic infrastructure projects, modernization of



ports, development of logistics cities, technological integration, and expansion of air transport

facilities, Kuwait is laying the groundwork to become a central logistics and shipping hub in the

region. These initiatives not only aim to diversify the economy beyond oil but also position Kuwait

as a competitive player in global trade and logistics over the next decade.

Kuwait: A Strategic Trade Hub in the Gulf

KUWAIT, a small yet influential country located at the northern edge of the Arabian Gulf, holds a strategic position in the global trade landscape. Despite its modest geographic size and population, Kuwait's location, wealth in natural resources, and developed infrastructure make it a vital player in regional and international commerce. Understanding what makes Kuwait strategically important for trade—as well as its key imports and exports—sheds light on its role in the global economy.

Strategic Geographic Location

Kuwait is situated between major Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and directly across the Gulf from Iran. This placement makes it a gateway to the Middle East and a natural bridge between Asia and Europe. The Port of Shuwaikh and Port of Shuaiba serve as major entry and exit points for goods, connecting international shipping routes with the broader Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

Furthermore, Kuwait is part of the Northern Arabian Gulf's strategic maritime corridor, allowing easy access for cargo vessels. Its proximity to key energy markets and shipping lanes like the Strait of Hormuz enhances its logistical significance. This strategic location has encouraged the development of free zones and trade partnerships that further bolster its attractiveness as a trading hub.

Rich Natural Resources and Export Capabilities

With one of the world's largest proven oil reserves—estimated at over 100 billion barrels—Kuwait is a major oil exporter. The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) oversees petroleum production and export, making Kuwait one of the top oil suppliers to countries such as India, China, Japan, and South Korea.

Apart from crude oil, refined petroleum products like diesel, fuel oil, and lubricants also form a significant portion of its exports. Petrochemicals and fertilizers are other important exports, stemming from the country's integrated oil-based industrial sector.

The revenue generated from these exports funds infrastructure, healthcare, education, and diversification efforts, giving Kuwait economic leverage and influence in regional trade affairs.

While Kuwait is a major exporter of oil, it relies heavily on imports for consumer goods, food, industrial machinery, and technology. Due to limited arable land and fresh water, Kuwait imports most of its foodstuffs, including grains, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and meat products. Countries like India, the United States, China, and the UAE are major trade partners supplying these essentials.

Key Imports: Diversifying to Meet Demand

Kuwait also imports vehicles, electrical machinery, electronics, construction materials, and pharmaceuticals to support its growing infrastructure and population needs. The high standard of living and consumer demand among Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates further increase the diversity and volume of imports.

Trade Agreements and Economic Initiatives

Kuwait is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which promotes economic and trade integration among Gulf countries. The GCC Customs Union and common market help facilitate the free flow of goods, services, and capital across member states, enhancing Kuwait's role as a trade corridor. Additionally, the government is pushing forward with its "New Kuwait 2035" vision—a long-term development plan aimed at reducing oil dependency and transforming Kuwait into a regional financial and commercial hub. Major investments in logistics infrastructure, such as the Mubarak Al Kabeer Port, aim to position Kuwait as a critical node in the Belt and Road Initiative, enhancing its global trade connectivity.

Kuwait's strategic geographic location, vast oil reserves, and trade-friendly policies make it a key player in global commerce. Its significance lies not only in what it exports—mainly oil and petroleum products—but also in its growing import market for consumer and industrial goods. As the country continues to invest in diversification and infrastructure, its role in regional and international trade is poised to grow even further, reinforcing its position as a vital link in global supply chains.

Streamlining the Future:

Strategies for Efficient Freight, Shipping, and Logistics Operations



In an increasingly interconnected world, the efficiency of shipping, freight, and logistics is vital to business success and economic growth. The ability to move goods swiftly, safely, and cost-effectively not only meets consumer expectations but also boosts profitability and sustainability. With rising fuel costs, global competition, and environmental concerns, companies must continually innovate and refine their logistics operations. Here are key strategies to improve efficiency in this critical sector.

Embrace Technology and Automation

Digital transformation is the cornerstone of modern logistics. Implementing technologies like Transportation Management Systems (TMS), Warehouse Management Systems (WMS), and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) helps businesses track inventory, optimize routes, and manage orders more effectively. Real-time tracking and predictive analytics provide greater visibility and decision-making power.

Automation also plays a crucial role. Automated sorting systems, robotic pickers, and self-driving forklifts reduce human error and speed up warehouse operations. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning can forecast demand, detect inefficiencies, and suggest process improvements.

Optimize Supply Chain Networks

Efficient logistics start with a well-designed supply chain network. Businesses should regularly analyze their supplier locations, distribution centers, and customer bases to ensure the most strategic placement. Tools like network modeling and simulation software can help identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies in current setups.

Additionally, consolidating shipments, minimizing empty truckloads, and choosing the right mode of transportation—be it road, rail, air, or sea—are key to reducing transit time and cost.

Improve Inventory Management

Poor inventory management leads to stockouts, overstocking, and increased holding costs. Adopting just-in-time (JIT) inventory systems, where goods arrive exactly when needed, reduces waste and frees up storage space. Businesses can also leverage demand forecasting tools to ensure optimal stock levels at all times. Barcoding and RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)

systems improve accuracy in tracking inventory movements, which enhances warehouse efficiency and reduces errors during picking and packing.

Focus on Sustainability

Efficiency and sustainability go hand-in-hand. Green logistics not only reduce environmental impact but can also result in long-term cost savings. Companies are increasingly using electric or hybrid delivery vehicles, optimizing packaging to reduce waste, and utilizing eco-friendly materials.

Consolidating shipments and improving route planning can also cut fuel consumption and lower carbon emissions. Moreover, some governments offer tax incentives or grants for companies investing in sustainable logistics solutions.

Train and Empower Staff

Even with the best technology, human capital remains essential. Providing regular training for logistics and warehouse staff ensures they are up-to-date with the latest systems and safety protocols. Cross-training employees to perform multiple roles also adds flexibility and resilience to operations.

Empowering staff to identify inefficiencies and suggest improvements can lead to valuable insights from those on the front lines of logistics operations.

Strengthen Collaboration Across the Supply Chain

Efficient logistics require strong communication and coordination between suppliers, carriers, and customers. Shared platforms and integrated systems foster collaboration and transparency. When all parties have access to the same real-time data, they can make informed decisions quickly, especially during disruptions.

Building strong relationships with reliable carriers and third-party logistics providers (3PLs) also ensures consistency and reliability in transportation services.

Efficiency in shipping, freight, and logistics is no longer optional—it's a competitive necessity. By embracing technology, optimizing supply chains, managing inventory smartly, and fostering collaboration, businesses can reduce costs, improve service levels, and adapt more quickly to market changes. Ultimately, a streamlined logistics operation is key to delivering the right product, at the right time, to the right place—every time.



Shipping, Freight and Logistics

Arab Times Special Supplement

Seguro Shipping

A prominent name in the shipping business in Kuwait

What are the main challenges your company faces in running the shipping business smoothly?

Costing: We must determine the appropriate price. If it's excessively high, we lose clients. If it's excessively low, we don't earn sufficient income. Customer and product analysis will be conducted prior to providing a quote.

Competition: The market has numerous freight forwarders, so we must build a bigger database of clients and secure additional business.

Technology: Staying updated with innovative business concepts and marketing tactics is essential for maintaining our competitive edge.

Profit: We must make sure that we generate enough revenue after accounting for all expenses.

Connections: it is essential to nurture positive connections with liners to secure more favorable rates.

Guidelines: It is essential to adhere to all the rules and regulations within their sector.

How would you rate your company's success in today's highly competitive market?

We are concentrating on our current clients and their requirements.

We are aware of our market competitors and their products.

We consistently focus on our marketing efforts.

We are seeking the top talent in the field.

Reducing expenses whenever needed.

We are attempting to test various products and services.

What difficulties do you encounter from time to time in managing the business?

When employees lack specific targets and objectives, it can be simple to underachieve what's anticipated. Effectively convey objectives and specify anticipated outcomes to every member of your team. In this manner, if any outcomes are lacking, you can confront the issue directly by evaluating expectations against actual results. Ensure that you're consistently tracking real performance against these established goals. This allows you to identify any issues early and give helpful feedback, which aids in preventing bigger problems later. If performance fails to improve, now is the moment to pursue a transparent and just disciplinary procedure.

What is your role in the current shipping business?

Create and execute business development plans to accomplish the organization's sales targets and aims. Discover and chase new business possibilities by prospecting, evaluating, and finalizing agreements. Establish and nurture robust connections with current clients.



Mohammed Fanas
General Manager

What type of services does your company offer to its clients?

Land freight

Seguro offers unmatched road transport services in Kuwait and the GCC region, possessing extensive expertise in land freight, we are dedicated to ensuring complete client satisfaction. From complete trailer loads to specialized logistics, we provide the most adaptable and reliable services with economical delivery of individually packaged packages. We collaborate with industry leaders and our carriers to ensure that your products reach their destination on time. Tracking services will consistently inform you about the location of your item. No matter your sector, our experts will guarantee that land freight reaches its destination safely and punctually. To deliver tailored road services that align with our customers' needs, we fully grasp the importance of safe cargo management and prompt delivery, along with optimized speed and routes. We provide complete openness and adaptability in every facet of land freight, encompassing information sharing, management, and operations. We function in Kuwait and GCC nations with an impressive fleet of car carriers, refrigerated trucks, side loaders, low bed trailers, and curtain-sided trailers. We have garnered praise for our tailored, affordable, reliable, and prompt delivery services.



Sea freight

We provide ocean freight services of various dimensions, volumes, and sizes for time-sensitive, door-to-door ocean transport to and from all major ports. We have the ability to establish long-term contracts with ocean carriers that offer advantages in competitive pricing and scheduling flexibility. We can fulfill customer needs, which encompass consolidated shipments, full and partial charters, roll-on/roll-off freight transport, project cargo, and refrigerated containers. We are currently enhancing our system capabilities to offer improved sailing schedules, online shipment tracking, and comprehensive supply chain visibility. Our tailored freight forwarding services guarantee that shipments arrive at their destinations promptly and safely.

Specialized Services

Delivery from door to door, DDU and DDP shipments, Full Container Load (FCL), Less than Container Load (LCL), Breakbulk services, Personal and household items, Factory packing, Project cargo, Heavy lifts, Motor vehicles, Managing documentation.

Air freight

We provide a diverse array of air freight services characterized by the secure, dependable, and economical transportation of shipments. Our skilled and committed teams can manage the necessary documentation and ensure prompt customs clearance. Our reliable and established partnerships with various service providers in leading airlines, freight carriers, and charter services

allow us to acquire goods and services with meticulous care at each phase of the shipment.

How long does it typically take to clear shipments with local authorities, and how smooth is the process?

Customs clearance typically requires one to two days, provided the goods are sent in accordance with all customs regulations, which includes the precise submission of all essential documents and information for clearance. If something is not functioning properly, there will be hold-ups.

Which are the main countries you import from and export to?

We mainly source imports from various parts of the world, such as China, USA, UK, Germany, India, and eastern nations.

Our main export markets are Indian sectors, the GCC, and countries in the far east.

Are there any plans for business expansion in the near future?

Indeed, we currently operate branches in Dubai, Iraq, and India, and we are looking to expand into additional GCC nations too.

How does your company ensure compliance with international shipping regulations and standards?

Adequate documentation is the cornerstone of global shipping and customs adherence. Businesses should guarantee that all shipping documentation, such as commercial invoices, packing lists, and bills of lading is precise, thorough, and adheres to regulations.

Inside the Engine of Global Commerce: Understanding Freight Shipping



The shipping freight industry is the backbone of global trade, responsible for transporting goods across continents efficiently and cost-effectively. It encompasses a complex network of shipping companies, freight forwarders, ports, customs agents, and logistics providers that work together to ensure products move smoothly from one location to another.

At its core, freight shipping refers to the process of transporting commodities, merchandise, and cargo by land, sea, or air. The most prominent mode is ocean freight, which accounts for about 90% of international trade. Massive cargo ships transport everything from electronics and automobiles to food and raw materials across vast oceans.

The process begins when a shipper (usually a manufacturer or seller) needs to move goods from one place to another, often internationally. They may work directly with a carrier, which owns the ships, trucks, or planes, or more commonly with a freight forwarder. A freight forwarder acts as a logistics expert who coordinates the entire shipping process, handling documentation, booking cargo space, arranging pickup and delivery, and navigating customs regulations.

There are two primary types of ocean freight: Full Container Load (FCL) and Less than Container Load (LCL). In FCL, a single shipper uses an entire container for their goods, offering better control and often lower costs per unit. LCL involves combining shipments from multiple customers in one container, suitable for smaller loads but generally more expensive per unit.

After goods are packed and prepared for shipment, they are transported to a port where they're loaded onto a cargo vessel. These ports are equipped with advanced infrastructure, including cranes and warehouses, to manage the high volume of containers. Major ports like Shanghai, Singapore, and Rotterdam serve as critical hubs for global shipping routes.

Once the ship departs, it follows established sea routes to its destination, often passing through key chokepoints like the Suez Canal or the Panama Canal. During transit, shipping companies use tracking systems and logistics software to monitor cargo and ensure timely delivery.

When the ship arrives at its destination port, the containers are offloaded and pass through customs. This is a critical phase where proper documentation such as bills of lading, commercial invoices, and packing lists must be submitted for clearance. Customs agents verify that the cargo meets all regulatory requirements and that duties and taxes are paid.

After clearance, goods are transferred to inland transport such as usually trucks or trains for final delivery to their destination. This stage is known as last-mile delivery and can significantly impact overall shipping time and cost.

In addition to physical movement, digitalization is reshaping the freight industry. Technologies like blockchain, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things (IoT) are improving transparency, reducing delays, and streamlining communication between stakeholders. For example, real-time tracking allows customers to monitor their shipments, while AI can optimize routes and predict disruptions.

The shipping freight industry also faces challenges, including port congestion, fluctuating fuel prices, labor shortages, and environmental concerns. In recent years, there's been a growing push for greener practices, such as adopting low-emission fuels and more efficient vessels to reduce the industry's carbon footprint.

In summary, the shipping freight industry is a vital, intricate system that keeps global commerce moving. It relies on coordination between many players and increasingly on technology to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world. Whether delivering consumer goods or industrial equipment, the industry's role in connecting markets and enabling trade is indispensable.



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Untangling the Web: Understanding the Complexities of Shipping Logistics



Shipping logistics is one of the most intricate and vital components of the global supply chain. It involves the planning, coordination, and execution of transporting goods from one location to another — often across international borders. While the idea of moving products from point A to point B may sound straightforward, the reality is far more complex. From coordinating multiple modes of transport to navigating regulatory requirements and overcoming unpredictable challenges, shipping logistics demands precision, flexibility, and expertise.

One major complexity in shipping logistics is the multimodal nature of transport. Goods rarely move via a single method; instead, shipments often involve a combination of ocean freight, air freight, rail, and trucking. Each mode has its own advantages and constraints. Ocean freight is cost-effective for large, non-urgent shipments, but it's slower. Air freight is fast but expensive. Rail and road transport fill the gap, especially for inland distribution. Coordinating these different modes to ensure a smooth and timely transition at each stage is a logistical feat that requires detailed planning and strong partnerships.

Timing is another critical factor. Delays in one part of the chain can cascade through the entire system. For example, a delay at a port due to congestion, weather, or labor strikes can cause missed connections with trucks or trains, ultimately affecting delivery deadlines. Logistics managers must account for these risks and often build in contingencies to maintain service levels.

Customs and regulatory compliance add another layer of complexity. Every country has its own rules for importing and exporting goods, including documentation requirements, tariffs, inspections, and security protocols. A small error in paperwork — such as an incorrect tariff code or missing invoice — can cause significant delays or financial penalties. Shipping logistics professionals must stay up-to-date on international trade laws and ensure all documentation is accurate and compliant.

Inventory management is closely tied to shipping logistics. Companies must strike a balance between holding enough stock to meet customer demand and

avoiding excess inventory that ties up capital. This becomes especially challenging when lead times are long or unpredictable. Efficient logistics enable just-in-time (JIT) inventory strategies, which reduce storage costs but require flawless coordination and real-time visibility into shipment status.

Technology plays a central role in managing these complexities. Logistics software helps automate scheduling, track shipments, manage inventory, and optimize routes. Advanced analytics and artificial intelligence are being used to forecast demand, predict disruptions, and recommend contingency plans. The Internet of Things (IoT) enables real-time tracking of cargo conditions, such as temperature or humidity, which is critical for perishable goods.

Despite technological advancements, human expertise remains essential. Logistics professionals must constantly make decisions under pressure, resolve issues as they arise, and maintain communication with stakeholders across different time zones and languages. Building strong relationships with carriers, customs brokers, and warehouse operators is key to keeping the supply chain running smoothly.

Environmental concerns are also influencing shipping logistics. There is growing pressure to reduce carbon emissions, which has led to changes in routing, fuel choices, and packaging strategies. Companies are increasingly looking at how to make their logistics operations more sustainable while still meeting delivery expectations and cost targets.

In conclusion, shipping logistics is a highly complex and dynamic field that plays a critical role in global commerce. It requires the seamless integration of multiple transportation modes, strict adherence to international regulations, and the ability to adapt quickly to unforeseen challenges. As global trade continues to expand and evolve, the importance of efficient and resilient logistics systems will only grow. Understanding and managing these complexities is essential for businesses seeking to compete in the modern marketplace.

Charting the Future: Where Global Shipping Trade Is Heading in the Next Decade



As we move deeper into the 2020s, global shipping is entering a transformative period shaped by technology, environmental regulation, geopolitical shifts, and evolving trade dynamics. The next decade promises not only increased demand for maritime transport but also significant changes in how goods are shipped across the world's oceans. Here's a look at the key trends that will define the future of global shipping trade through 2035.

Green Shipping and Decarbonization

One of the most pressing challenges facing the maritime industry is the need to drastically reduce carbon emissions. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has set ambitious targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions from ships by at least 50% by 2050, compared to 2008 levels. Over the next decade, this will push the industry toward cleaner fuels such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), methanol, ammonia, and even hydrogen. Investment in electric and hybrid propulsion for short-sea shipping is also expected to grow.

Major shipping companies are already experimenting with alternative fuel vessels and carbon-neutral technologies. Ports will need to adapt too, providing infrastructure to support cleaner fuels and green logistics. The race to decarbonize could reshape ship design, routing decisions, and port operations globally.

Automation and Smart Shipping

The rise of automation will redefine shipping logistics. Smart ships — equipped with advanced sensors, AI-based navigation, and automated systems — are expected to become more prevalent. While fully autonomous ocean-going vessels may still be a decade away, semi-autonomous operations and AI-driven decision-making will enhance safety, efficiency, and reduce crew requirements.

Digitization of shipping documentation, blockchain-based supply chains, and real-time cargo tracking will streamline global trade, minimize delays, and reduce fraud. Smart ports, utilizing AI and robotics for cargo handling and traffic management, will be central to this evolution.

Shifting Trade Routes and Geopolitical Tensions

Geopolitical factors will continue to influence shipping lanes and trade flows. Rising tensions in the South China Sea, the Red Sea, and around the Taiwan Strait could affect key routes and insurance costs. Addition-

ally, new strategic corridors may emerge.

One example is the Northern Sea Route, which, due to melting Arctic ice, could become a viable seasonal shortcut between Europe and Asia. Though environmental concerns and operational risks remain, Russia and other Arctic nations are investing in infrastructure to support this potential corridor.

Elsewhere, China's Belt and Road Initiative continues to develop alternative land-sea trade links, and India is increasingly looking to expand its maritime presence to counterbalance China in the Indo-Pacific.

Port Infrastructure and Global Hubs

As trade volumes grow and vessel sizes increase, major ports around the world will undergo modernization. Automation, digital integration, and expanded capacity will be key priorities for global hubs like Shanghai, Singapore, Rotterdam, and Los Angeles.

There will also be a trend toward building more regional transshipment hubs to decongest mega-ports and improve resilience in global supply chains. Smaller ports may benefit from investments aimed at diversifying logistics networks, especially as companies seek to avoid future supply chain shocks like those seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changing Trade Patterns and Regionalization

While globalization remains strong, there's a noticeable shift toward regionalized supply chains. The rise of nearshoring and reshoring — especially in North America and parts of Europe — is reducing reliance on long-haul routes in some sectors. However, this doesn't mean the end of global shipping. Instead, it suggests a more balanced trade environment where regional and global trade coexist, with new shipping patterns emerging.

Asia will continue to dominate maritime trade, especially as Southeast Asian economies grow and manufacturing continues to expand in countries like Vietnam, Indonesia, and India.

The global shipping trade in the next decade will be shaped by a blend of environmental responsibility, technological innovation, and shifting economic priorities. While the seas will still carry the bulk of global trade, how, where, and why goods move across them will evolve dramatically. Stakeholders — from shipbuilders and carriers to port authorities and regulators — must adapt swiftly to remain competitive and sustainable in this changing maritime landscape.

Inside the Suez Canal: How One Waterway Moves Global Trade

THE Suez Canal is one of the most vital maritime passages in the world, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea and allowing ships to travel between Europe and Asia without circling Africa. Stretching 193 kilometers (120 miles) across Egypt, the canal is a crucial link in the global supply chain, handling over 10% of international trade by volume. But how exactly does this engineering marvel function?

A Sea-Level Canal

Unlike some other canals, such as the Panama Canal which uses locks to lift ships between different water levels, the Suez Canal is a sea-level canal. This means ships can travel through it without being raised or lowered by locks. This design simplifies transit and allows for a steady, uninterrupted flow of ships — albeit one that is tightly controlled and highly organized.

The canal runs from Port Said on the Mediterranean coast to Suez on the Red Sea. It passes through various terrain including lakes (like Lake Timsah and the Great Bitter Lake), desert landscapes, and engineered channels.

Northbound and Southbound Traffic

The Suez Canal is designed to accommodate two-way traffic, thanks to expansions and bypasses added over time — most notably the New Suez Canal, a parallel waterway opened in 2015 to allow simultaneous passage of ships in both directions along part of the canal. However, not the entire length allows two-way traffic, so vessels must follow a convoy system.

Typically, ships travel in convoys, with northbound and southbound groups scheduled at specific times. These convoys are carefully managed to avoid collisions and ensure smooth transit. Ships that need to wait often anchor in the Great Bitter Lake or other designated zones until it's their turn.

Pilotage and Navigation

Every ship passing through the Suez Canal must take on Egyptian pilots, experienced navigators who board vessels to guide them through the canal's narrow stretches. While the ships' captains retain command, the pilots provide essential local expertise to

prevent accidents.

Navigation is aided by buoys, markers, radar systems, and a centralized traffic control center. The canal's straight, narrow sections require precision, especially for large container ships that may have just a few meters of clearance on either side.

Depth and Size Restrictions

The canal's depth is currently around 24 meters (79 feet), allowing large vessels — including some of the biggest container ships and oil tankers — to pass. However, there are still limits on the size of ships, referred to as Suezmax. Ships exceeding these dimensions may not be able to transit, though expansion projects have increased the maximum permissible size over time.

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) continues to invest in dredging and widening projects to keep up with the growing size of modern ships, ensuring it remains competitive with alternative routes.

Economic and Strategic Significance

The Suez Canal is a major source of revenue for Egypt, generating billions of dollars annually from tolls. Fees are determined based on ship size, cargo type, and route. For shipping companies, the canal saves thousands of kilometers and several days of travel compared to sailing around the Cape of Good Hope.

Its strategic location also makes it geopolitically sensitive. Any disruption — like the infamous 2021 blockage by the Ever Given — can have massive ripple effects on global trade, delaying goods and raising shipping costs worldwide.

Ongoing Improvements

The Suez Canal continues to evolve. Projects are underway to widen and deepen more sections, improve traffic flow, and reduce waiting times. The Egyptian government is also working to develop the Suez Canal Economic Zone, aimed at turning the area into a global logistics and industrial hub.

Highways of the Sea: The Busiest Shipping Lanes in 2025

Shipping lanes are the lifelines of global trade, facilitating the movement of goods across continents. In 2025, more than 90% of global trade by volume continues to be transported by sea, making shipping lanes vital to economic stability and global supply chains. The busiest shipping lanes today are not only defined by traffic volume but also by their strategic importance, geopolitical relevance, and the sheer value of cargo they carry.

The Strait of Malacca

One of the most critical maritime chokepoints in the world, the Strait of Malacca links the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through the South China Sea. Stretching between Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, this narrow passage is the shortest route between the Middle East and East Asia. It is estimated that over 100,000 ships pass through the strait each year, carrying goods such as oil, liquefied natural gas, and consumer electronics. As China's economy remains a global powerhouse, and Southeast Asian trade grows, the Malacca Strait continues to be one of the most trafficked sea routes globally.

The Suez Canal

Connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, the Suez Canal is a crucial route for shipping between Europe and Asia. Operated by Egypt, this 193-kilometer canal sees over 50 ships a day and handles more than 10% of global trade. The 2021 blockage of the canal by the Ever Given demonstrated its global economic significance, causing billions in trade losses and weeks of supply chain disruptions. Since then, improvements have been made, and traffic remains consistently high, especially for container ships and oil tankers.

The Panama Canal

Linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Panama Canal is vital for maritime traffic between the Americas, as well as between Asia and Europe via the western hemisphere. Expanded in 2016 to accommodate larger vessels (New Panamax ships), the canal sees thousands of transits annually. It remains especially important for U.S. East Coast ports and is a key alternative to the Suez Canal for certain routes.

The English Channel

The English Channel, particularly the Strait of Dover, is the busiest shipping lane in the world by ship numbers. Located between southern England and northern France, it is a key route for vessels moving between the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Around 500,000 ships pass through this lane daily. It serves not only commercial container ships but also ferries and fishing boats, creating a high-density traffic zone that requires sophisticated vessel traffic systems.

The South China Sea Routes

Encompassing trade routes from the Strait of Malacca through to China, Japan, and South Korea, the South China Sea is among the most commercially significant and politically sensitive maritime areas in the world. These routes support trillions of dollars in annual trade. Territorial disputes in the region add a layer of strategic complexity, but the lanes themselves remain highly trafficked, especially for bulk carriers and container ships supplying East Asian manufacturing hubs.

Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic Routes

These ocean-spanning routes don't pass through narrow chokepoints but are essential for high-volume trade between continents. The Trans-Pacific route, for instance, connects Asia (especially China, Japan, and South Korea) to the United States and Canada. Major ports like Shanghai, Los Angeles, and Vancouver are linked through these lanes. Similarly, Trans-Atlantic routes between Europe and North America — connecting major ports like Rotterdam, Hamburg, and New York — are critical for containerized goods and energy exports.

Conclusion

Today's major shipping lanes reflect global economic patterns and geopolitical realities. As trade volumes increase and environmental and security challenges grow, these arteries of commerce will continue to evolve. Future developments such as the Northern Sea Route in the Arctic, and increased automation in shipping, could reshape global trade — but the strategic shipping lanes of today remain the backbone of international commerce.

Shipping, Freight and Logistics

Arab Times Special Supplement



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Navigating Success

What are the main challenges your company faces in running the shipping business smoothly?

In the world of logistics every wave of change be it geopolitical tensions or the recent economic tariff war affects routing and even acceptance of cargos which leads to disruption in the supply chain network and ultimately the availability of goods. Educating our clients of the unprecedented challenges we as a community face has been of prime importance in the recent past. Having said that we are very much optimistic of what the future beholds. Given the recent development plans laid down by the Kuwait Administration including but not limited to logistical hub and the new airport, we feel there is lot of opportunities that will present itself that can be tapped into. We are firm believers of the quote "No Pressure No Diamonds". Our undying attitude of excelling in whatever the condition might be is the reason we have excelled over the last 22 years.

How would you rate your company's success in today's highly competitive market?

In this modern shipping, we would rate our company's success as Rank 1, for the reason that we have adopted a strategy and polished principles, without spoiling the standards. Good Customer service and nurturing a group of solid, committed employees adds value every day. A strategy of always watching for opportunities.

What difficulties do you encounter from time to time in managing the business?

Competition. Fundamentally an unhealthy competition between the offices with the same business in terms of cutting up the basic elements. Discounting the delivery order Fee and the BL fee which are considered to be the overhead costs, by old standards. This is not only a challenge, in practical terms a threat to the industry itself.

One another major difficulty is the space constraints from different sectors by different modes due to



Sivi Paul
Founder and Managing Director

the dynamic geopolitical scenarios. The quoted rates are not honored by the carriers/ airlines due to the space constraints but we honor the commitments made to our clients and take the hit in our stride.

What is your role in the current shipping business?

Our main or current role in the shipping business is on multiple Freight segments. In terms of broader applications.

Airfreight Both Import and export. Focusing on urgent cargoes to meet the customer needs. Time bounded commodities, or sensitive

and perishable items.

Sea Freight FCL / LCL, Break Bulk cargoes / OD cargoes

FCL (Full container load) Customers with huge quantity requirements. Helping them to take care of their goods and reaching it within the time.

LCL (less container load) This business is very much sensitive comparatively, because it's all sharing spaces in one container and it's being handled by multiple known/ unknown people, right from the Shipper's premises till the buyer / consignee's stores. More alert and responsible movement, with profes-



sional monitoring.

We rank 1 in this business in Kuwait Market, since we have built and maintained a regularized Groupage services, basis setting up suitable networking with all sea ports in the world. Direct regularized groupage is our own exclusives, which helped our valuable customers to reach their shipments early on time.

Break Bulk cargoes / OD sized project cargoes This is a kind of transport used for oversized, heavy or irregular shaped goods. Since the traditional intermodal containers have size and limitation, we provide suggestions to customers or project contractors to use this service. Oil field pipes, and highly sensible machines are the most commodities moved and we are masters on this so said project logistics.

Customs clearance & Delivery Customs clearance is a compulsory process which goods must pass every time they enter or leave a country. Kuwait being a import dominated country, we mostly focus on importers. High priority taskers, and we have it all to meet each of our customer requirements. Received excellence awards from various project contractors and high brands importers multiple times.

Offshore handling- We are among the very few forwarders in the industry to have handled offshore projects. These project movement are in a league of their own

and their successful completion give us much pride and satisfaction. Kuwait Customs and all related agencies extend their utmost support in the successful completion of these challenging projects which lay the foundation of the road to excellence of the State of Kuwait.

How long does it typically take to clear shipments with local authorities, and how smooth is the process?

With the onset of digitalization post COVID, customs clearance has become much more efficient, transparent and easy to transact with. It is interesting to note that the transformation from physical to digital platform was done by the State of Kuwait in a matter of few days post COVID which in itself is a very remarkable feat. There after every update has helped transform the system to the holistic system it is today. It typically takes 2-3 days to clear a shipment depending on the mode of the shipment. We have been blessed with a team of versatile and dedicated staff who can also bring the turnaround time to 1 day if our client demands for the same. The fact that Kuwait Customs and associated departments work round the clock; even during holidays helps us in delivering this service to our clients.

Which are the main countries you import from and export to?

As per our recent studies, we

have found out that 50% of the imports happen from Europe /US and UK, and the rest half are from the Chinese ports and other Far East ports. Exports are dominated by petroleum byproducts, exhibition cargos and return project cargo to name a few sectors.

Are there any plans of business expansion in the near future?

Well, we had been expanding our business from the start of this organization, and still continued expanding in 2016 again with adding The Groupage segment (LCL). A further expansion will depend on the progress and development of upcoming new projects in Kuwait as envisioned by the Kuwait Administrations which we are eagerly waiting for.

How does your company ensure compliance with international shipping regulations and standards?

We maintain the standards, by following the ISO 9001:2015, ISO 140001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 certified approved process. We also do have an internal quality assurance standard that we adhere to which is monitored by our QHSE to ensure all the balances are checks are in place to ensure the best services are rendered to our clients with maximum efficiency. We also have a feedback requisition from our clients which forms our database to strive to excel every passing day.

Key Players in the Shipping Industry in Kuwait: Driving Maritime Trade and Logistics



Kuwait's shipping industry plays a critical role in supporting the country's economy, especially as it remains primarily reliant on imports and oil exports. As Kuwait moves toward economic diversification under its Vision 2035 strategy, its maritime infrastructure and logistics ecosystem are becoming increasingly vital. Several key players, including government entities, port operators, shipping companies, and logistics providers, contribute to the functioning and growth of Kuwait's shipping sector.

Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA)

At the core of the country's maritime administration is the Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA), the government agency responsible for managing and operating the country's three commercial ports Shuwaikh, Shuaiba, and Doha. KPA oversees port development, safety, regulation, and coordination with international shipping standards.

KPA is also involved in major infrastructure projects, including the upcoming Mubarak Al Kaber Port on Boubyan Island, which aims to position Kuwait as a major regional transshipment hub. The Authority is critical in setting policies to enhance operational efficiency and attract investment into port and shipping services.

Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC)

A subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) is the primary operator of the country's oil and gas shipping fleet. Established in 1957, KOTC owns and operates a fleet of modern tankers that transport crude oil, refined petroleum products, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to international markets.

KOTC's role is crucial for maintaining the country's oil export capabilities, which account for around 90% of Kuwait's export revenues. The company is also responsible

for marine agency services, ship repair, and marine gas oil bunkering operations within Kuwaiti waters.

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC)

While primarily focused on refining and petrochemical production, KNPC is a key stakeholder in shipping logistics, especially through its export terminals at Mina Al-Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah.

Agility Logistics

A global logistics powerhouse with Kuwait roots, Agility is one of the most prominent private sector players in the country's shipping and freight forwarding scene. Though Agility operates in over 100 countries, its influence in Kuwait remains significant through customs clearance, freight forwarding, warehousing, and supply chain management services.

United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) – Legacy and Merger with Hapag-Lloyd

Until its merger with Hapag-Lloyd in 2017, UASC was a major player in the Gulf region, including Kuwait. Though now part of a global shipping giant, the legacy of UASC's operations continues through Hapag-Lloyd's regional presence. This merger enhanced Kuwait's connectivity with European and Asian markets via an expanded fleet and service routes.

Mubarak Al Kaber Port Development Stakeholders

Although still under construction, the Mubarak Al Kaber Port is bringing new players into the Kuwaiti shipping scene. International contractors, consultants, and potential operators are already involved in the planning and infrastructure development phases. Once operational, this port is expected to attract new shipping lines, logistics companies, and regional trade partners, significantly increasing competition and capacity.

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Al-Kazemi International Shipping Logistics Leader in Kuwait

Kuwait's Strategic Location

KUWAIT'S geographic position offers distinct advantages as a regional logistics gateway. Historically, before developing ports in Dammam and Um Qasr, Shuwaikh Port served as a vital hub for cargo transiting to Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Today, Kuwait maintains efficient road links to KSA, Iraq, the broader GCC, and beyond. Through multimodal operations via Iran, it can also serve the CIS markets.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, the country is investing heavily in logistics infrastructure, aiming to transform into a regional logistics and financial hub. Projects such as Mubarak Al Kabeer Port with its associated free zone and the Gulf Railway are set to redefine the regional trade and connectivity.

How would you rate Al Kazemi's success in today's competitive shipping and logistics market?

Al Kazemi Group has established and sustained a strong presence in Kuwait's dynamic market since 1953, earning a solid reputation for reliability, integrity, and consistent performance. Originally founded as a shipping agency, the Group has since diversified into multiple sectors, including General Trading, Contracting, Engineering, Travel & Tourism, FMCG, Real Estate, and Investments. The Key Success Factors of Shipping & Logistics:

- We offer end-to-end comprehensive portfolio of logistics solutions, including shipping agency, freight forwarding, project logistics, express services, airline GSA representation, customs brokerage, warehousing, distribution, local & GCC transportation.
- Long-term agency representation of leading global carriers such as K-Line Ro-Ro, Wan Hai Lines, RCL, UPS, Vanguard, and PSA BDP. Additionally, through a joint venture with Sharaf Shipping, the Group represents major lines in Kuwait, including MSC, YML, ESL, etc.

- A dedicated team with deep knowledge of Kuwait's regulatory framework and specialized expertise in customs clearance, chemical logistics, defence logistics, heavy-lift transport, and over-dimensional cargo handling.

- GMTC, a key subsidiary of Al Kazemi Group, is an approved logistics vendor for Kuwait's major oil and infrastructure companies (K-Companies). It has successfully executed over 20 project logistics assignments ranging from small-scale operations to large and mega



Shajy George,
General Manager

projects.

- Having a well-established global network of seasoned, reliable, and highly professional logistics partners, trusted for their proven expertise, operational excellence, and commitment to delivering dependable, end-to-end logistics solutions across markets.

What difficulties do you encounter in managing business operations in Kuwait?

Kuwait's economy is primarily driven by oil exports, which contribute nearly 90% to its GDP. While government spending drives economic growth, several challenges persist:

- Rigid regulatory frameworks relating to company registration, work permits, land acquisition, and government approvals slow down new investments and business expansion.
- Economic dependency on oil makes the country vulnerable to global price volatility and delays in credit recovery.
- The industrial and value-added manufacturing base outside oil remains limited, hindering business diversification.
- Delays in awarding and executing development projects create business uncertainty, particularly in the contracting and infrastructure sectors.



The longest unit ever transported in Kuwait

cutting development projects create business uncertainty, particularly in the contracting and infrastructure sectors.

- High operational costs restrict the feasibility of re-export and transshipment opportunities.
- Kuwait's relatively small market size and modest growth rate contribute to the intense competition in established sectors.

With over 70 years of market presence, Al Kazemi has developed deep institutional knowledge, enabling smoother navigation of regulatory frameworks and government processes. We mitigate economic volatility with a diversified business portfolio and competitive partnerships.

What services does Al Kazemi Shipping offer to customers in Kuwait?

Al Kazemi Shipping delivers end-to-end logistics solutions tailored to the needs of both local and international customers. Our offerings include:

- Shipping Agency & Liner Representation (Ro-Ro, BB, Container bulk)
- Global Freight Forwarding (air, sea, land - cross-trade, D2D)
- Project Logistics (ODC & heavy-lift, cable drums, transformers, oil rigs, etc.)
- Express Courier Services (UPS)
- Airline GSA Services (Akasa Air, Azerbaijan Airlines, PIA etc.)
- Customs Clearance & Brokerage (Inclg. DG and Defence Cargo)
- Local & Cross-Border Transportation
- Warehousing & Distribution
- Chemical Logistics
- Defence Logistics

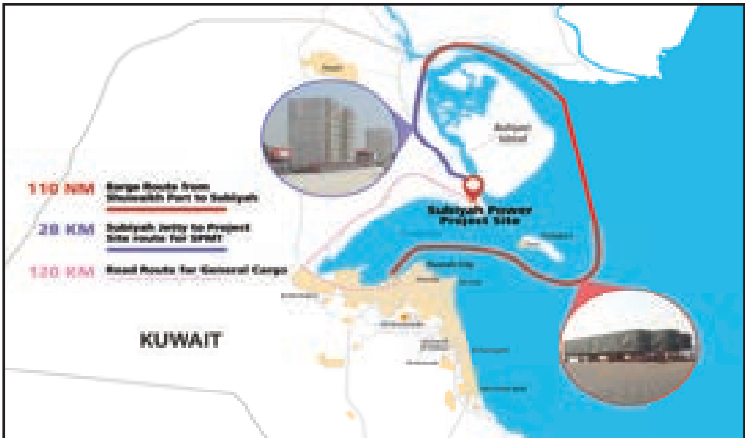
Our integrated solutions are backed by decades of experience, industry compliance, and a strong

global partner network.

Strength of Al Kazemi Shipping in Project Logistics

With over seven decades of legacy in shipping and logistics, Al Kazemi shipping stands as a proven and trusted partner for Project Logistics in Kuwait. The Group's strength lies in its ability to manage complex, large-scale logistics operations, particularly in sectors such as oil & gas, power generation, infrastructure, and EPC contracting.

Having successfully executed logistics for over twenty major projects, Al Kazemi has earned its position as an approved logistics



Route map of Subiyah CCGT Power Station Project

tics service provider for Kuwait's leading oil, energy, and public infrastructure authorities including KOC, KNPC, KIPIC, PIC, MEW, and MPW reflecting its deep familiarity with regulatory frameworks, project protocols, and compliance standards essential for mega-project execution.

The Group specializes in handling Over-Dimensional Cargo (ODC) and heavy-lift equipment, including turbines, transformers, generators, cable drums, refinery modules, and oil rig components, through strategic partnerships with certified heavy haulers and barge operators across Kuwait and the GCC.

It offers both local and cross-border bonded trucking, along with specialized transport solutions such as SPMTs, lowbeds, and barges, while an experienced in-house team manages customs clearance, duty exemptions, and temporary import/export permits, etc.

This holistic approach ensures projects are delivered safely, compliantly, and on schedule.

Which are the major logistics projects Handled by the Group?

A. Subiya Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Project

- * Project Owner: MEW

- * EPC: HHI, Korea
- * Project Value: USD 1.3 billion
- * Duration: 3 years

Scope: Transportation of 425,000 ft of BB & Containerized Cargo from Shuwaikh Port to project site using low beds, SPMT and Barge

B. Clean Fuels Project - Mina Al Ahmadi

- * Project Owner: KNPC
- * EPC: JGSK (JGC, GS & SK)
- * Project Value: USD 4.9 billion
- * Duration: 3 years
- Scope: Transportation of 750,000

due to aging berth infrastructure.

- The container terminals at Shuwaikh Port experience space limitations and periodic congestion, particularly during peak seasons.

- The limited number of inspection facilities available at the port leads to delays in container clearance and long queues.

Are there any plans for business expansion in the near future?

Yes, we are actively planning growth in line with national development goals:

- Leveraging future logistics zones at Shuwaikh, Doha, and Mina Abdullah
- Establishing a presence at Mubarak Al Kabeer Port as it becomes operational
- Continuing our digital transformation to enhance global service delivery

How does Al Kazemi ensure compliance with international shipping regulations?

Compliance is embedded in our operational philosophy:

- ISO certifications for Quality (9001), Health & Safety (45001), and Environment (14001)
- Adherence to IMO, IATA/IMDG, and GCC Unified Customs Laws
- A skilled internal clearance team aligned with updated trade laws and HS code regulations
- Regular audits, compliance training, vendor evaluations, and strict data security protocols
- Active membership in global forwarding networks ensures we meet international ethics, data protection, and service standards

What technologies or innovations has Al Kazemi adopted to improve efficiency?

We are committed to leveraging technology to enhance operational efficiency:

- A centralized logistics management system for bookings, tracking, warehousing, and billing
- Digital documentation workflows for faster processing
- GPS-enabled fleet tracking and route optimization
- International IT security protocols to protect customer and partner data

These innovations allow us to deliver reliable, transparent, and timely service to our clients and partners worldwide.

Your Shipping & Logistics Partner

- Shipping Agency
- Liner Representation
- Global Freight Forwarding
- Project Logistics
- Express Courier
- Local & Cross-Border Transportation
- Customs Clearance & Brokerage
- Warehousing & Distribution
- International Relocation
- Chemical Logistics
- Defence Logistics
- Airline GSA

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