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KUWAIT OUTLINES RULES GOVERNING SALARY DEDUCTIONS



Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

More compassion needed in government procedures

THE region is currently facing a critical turning point, which is opening the door to various potential risks, with regional food security among the most urgent concerns.

Addressing this challenge must be a top priority for government leadership.

Safeguarding food supplies requires practical policies that allow agricultural landowners to cultivate their fields with confidence, without being burdened by overly restrictive regulations.

For years, citizens have urged officials to strengthen national food security strategies, but these warnings have repeatedly gone unheeded.

Today's renewed calls stem from lessons learned from past experiences. Historically, farmers cultivated their land with a long-term commitment to securing the future of generations to come.

However, that sense of security has faded as land leases now face revocation or bureaucratic obstacles whenever ownership is transferred through inheritance or sale.

This regulatory burden extends to the industrial and commercial sectors, where businesses struggle under policies that lack strategic foresight.

Too often, authorities impose sweeping restrictions in response to individual viola-

tions, unfairly penalizing compliant business owners across the board.

Justice and accountability require that legal action and court proceedings be directed strictly at those responsible for the violations.

Instead of encouraging progress, cumbersome administrative procedures continue to stifle economic activity and burden project developers with unnecessary delays.

This situation is further aggravated by the widespread practice of appointing acting officials to key executive positions across various ministries. Concerned about potential personal liability, these interim managers often hesitate to make critical decisions.

This reluctance leads to significant delays in the release of corporate payments, severely restricting contractors' ability to meet their financial obligations, including employee salaries, supplier payments, and bank credit commitments.

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Employers cannot cut agreed worker wages

Salary claims subject to 25% ceiling

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has affirmed that the wage agreed upon in an employment contract must remain fixed throughout the contract period and cannot be reduced while the contract is in effect, in accordance with Article 28 of the Labor

Law, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an awareness publication titled "Clarity of Rights Ensures a Stable Employment Relationship," PAM explained that an employer may not deduct more than ten percent of a worker's wage to recover debts or loans owed to the employer. Also, charging interest on such amounts is prohibited under Article 59(a) of the Labor Law.

Any attachment, assignment, or deduction from a worker's wage to settle other debts, regardless of their number, may not exceed 25 percent of the total wage.

This limit applies in addition to the aforementioned restriction on deductions for amounts owed to the employer.

In cases involving multiple debts, priority is given to alimony payments (spousal or child support), as stipulated in Article 59(b) of the Law.

Borders are sacred: First Deputy PM

— Details Page 3 —



Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah inspects security readiness and ongoing development projects during a tour of the Salmi and Abdali border crossings and northern border security centers.

Ministry of Interior photos

Hotline 150 revived

Road 50 closes 2 lanes for 15 days

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Ministry of Public Works has issued a decision appointing Faisal Khalifa Al-Sawagh as its official spokesperson.

The appointment aims to enhance transparency, improve communication with the public and the media, and ensure the accuracy of information regarding the ministry's projects and services.

Meanwhile, the ministry's Maintenance Engineering Affairs Sector announced the reactivation of its hotline No. 150 to receive reports and inquiries from citizens and residents.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a phone call from Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman on Saturday.

During the phone conversation, the two sides discussed the latest regional developments and underlined the significance of continuing coordination and consultation between both countries to help promote joint efforts to ensure regional security and stability, the Foreign Ministry said in a press release. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti Army announced on Saturday that some of its units will conduct live-fire exercises in southern Kuwait.

The Army's Moral Guidance and Public Relations Directorate said in a press statement that the exercises will begin on Sunday and continue until November 5, 2026. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday expressed Kuwait's sympathy with the Republic of Italy for the victims of the military helicopter which crashed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The ministry offered the sincere condolences of the State of Kuwait to the government and people of Italy as well as the families of victims, wishing the injured a quick recovery. (KUNA)

Gateway opens to prosecution careers

Kuwait seeks junior legal researchers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Ministry of Justice has announced the opening of applications for the position of "Junior Legal Researcher," available to both male and female Kuwaiti nationals. This position serves as a qualifying role for appointment as an Assistant Public Prosecutor (Grade C), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Applicants must meet the specified eligibility criteria and submit the required documents outlined in the announcement.

In a statement published on its X account, the ministry outlined the following requirements for appointment:

■ The applicant must be a Kuwaiti national by origin.

■ The applicant must hold a law degree from Kuwait University or an equivalent degree recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education. This requirement applies specifically to graduates of the 2025/2026 academic year.

■ The applicant must have a university GPA of at least 2.67 on a 4.0 scale, 80 percent under a percentage-based grading system, or an equivalent grade under other grading systems.

■ The applicant must not have previously applied for this position.

■ The applicant must not have been older than 26 years at the time of obtaining their university degree.

■ The applicant must not have previously held a position requiring a university degree, whether in the public or private sector, or been registered

with the Public Institution for Social Security.

■ The applicant must be of good conduct and reputation.

■ The applicant must not have been subject to any disciplinary action or convicted of a crime or misdemeanor involving a breach of honor or integrity or any act that compromises good conduct, even if subsequently legally rehabilitated.

■ The applicant must be medically fit for the position.

■ The applicant must successfully pass both a written examination and a personal interview conducted by the selection committee.

Passing the written examination is a mandatory prerequisite for proceeding to the personal interview, in accordance with the established procedures.

Required Documents:

■ A personal photograph.

■ A copy of the Civil ID.

■ A copy of the birth certificate.

■ A copy of the nationality certificate.

■ A recent certificate from the Public Institution for Social Security.

■ A certificate of good conduct confirming the absence of prior criminal convictions.

■ A university degree certificate indicating the overall grade or cumulative GPA, accompanied by an academic transcript.

If the academic qualification was obtained outside the State of Kuwait,

an equivalency certificate attested by the Ministry of Higher Education must be provided.

Application Process:

Applicants must visit the Ministry of Justice website (www.moj.gov.kw), select "Employment Services" to review the requirements, complete the job application form, and upload all required documents in PDF format.

The ministry stated that the application portal will open on Sunday, November 1 at 12:00 midnight and close on Monday, November 30, at 12:00 midnight.

Inquiries: For inquiries, applicants may email "apply@moj.gov.kw" or call one of the following numbers: 22486739, 22486717, or 22486741.

Terms of Appointment:

By submitting an application, candidates affirm that all the information and documents provided are accurate.

Please note that applications missing any of the required documents will be disqualified.

Successful applicants will be appointed to the civil service cadre as "Junior Legal Researchers" and will be entitled to the financial benefits and allowances designated for this position.

They will also undergo a training course at the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, in accordance with the relevant regulations and decisions and based on the nature and requirements of the position.

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Alia Al-Khaled, Vice Chairperson of Kuwait's Human Capacity Building Society for Social Development, participates in a panel titled "Nothing About Us Without Us" during the fifth UNESCO Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination in The Hague.

KUNA photo

Kuwait highlights workplace inclusion at UNESCO forum

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Vice Chairperson of Kuwait's Human Capacity Building Society for Social Development (HCBSSD) Alia Al-Khaled stressed the importance of translating international disability rights conventions and legislation into practical measures that promote social inclusion, employment and equal participation.

Speaking to KUNA on Saturday

on the sidelines of the fifth UNESCO Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination, held in The Hague on Oct 29-30, Al-Khaled highlighted Kuwait's progress in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities through Law No. 8 of 2010 and its accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013.

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Kuwait calls for safeguards against maritime threats

Region scrambles to avert another war

NEW YORK, Oct 31, (Agencies): Regional leaders called for calm Saturday as fears of a new escalation between the U.S., Israel and Iran grow.

Speaking at a security forum in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs said the message from the region is that it wants a return to peace. Also at the forum, Syria's foreign minister said his country and Jordan would discuss ways to strengthen their shared border.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Saturday.

On Saturday, Saudi Arabia's vice minister of foreign affairs said the message from the region is that it wants a return to peace. Speaking at a security forum in Bahrain, Waleed ElKhereiji told the audience that efforts were being made to prevent a military escalation and reach an agreement that ends the crisis with Iran.

"If you look at ... the efforts that everybody is

trying to do, the message is very clear. People in this part of the world want to bring peace back to the region," he said. But he said no one can predict the outcome of the efforts.

Concerns are rising about a return to an all-out Iran war.

Speaking at the same event, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said an escalation in the region would be extremely destructive.

"We are very confident that ... the second round will be more dangerous, more destructive, and it will lead to nowhere," he said.

Syria's Foreign Minister said Saturday that border security is a shared responsibility between his country and Jordan and that a high-level meeting is expected next month to discuss arrangements.

Speaking Saturday at the security forum in Bahrain, Assad al-Shibani said there are no "skirmishes" between the countries.

The announcement came after Jordanian strikes in Syria raised tensions between the neighbors.

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Gulf Bank records KD 41.9 million in net profit for the first nine months of 2026



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Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:23

Progress in research showcased at UN

Kuwait calls for peaceful, sustainable use of space

NEW YORK, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Diplomatic Attache of Kuwait Permanent Mission to the United Nation stressed the need to maintain the outer space as a domain of peace, scientific progress and international cooperation, accessible to all countries without discrimination.

In a speech to a UN General Assembly discussion on “International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space” on Friday, Mohammad Al-Mulla called for ensuring the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space in a manner that serves the common interests of all humanity.

He reaffirmed Kuwait’s commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, particularly the principle stipulating that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries.

Al-Mulla expressed Kuwait’s pride in its membership of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) since 2021, stressing its keenness to support the committee’s efforts to promote international cooperation and the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space.

He reviewed Kuwait’s progress in space activities, highlighting the successful launch of the country’s first satellite, KuwaitSat-1, in January 2023, as part of a national capacity-building project led by Kuwait University with support from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

He added that the announcement in

September 2024 of the establishment of the National Space Research Center, at the initiative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, represented a significant step towards strengthening national capabilities in space research, education and technological innovation.

He also pointed to Kuwait’s accession in March 2026 to the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), represented by the National Space Research Center, reflecting the country’s growing participation in international scientific cooperation.

Regarding space applications, Al-Mulla explained that the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) employs remote-sensing technologies and satellite-derived data in environmental studies, including monitoring climate change and sandstorms, as well as studying the marine and terrestrial environments.

He underlined the importance of ensuring the sustainability of outer space activities amid challenges posed by space debris and orbital congestion, affirming Kuwait’s support for strengthening international coordination and implementing the UN guidelines aimed at preserving a safe and sustainable space environment.

Al-Mulla called for intensified international efforts to support developing countries through capacity-building programs, technical assistance, stronger scientific partnerships, and the exchange of knowledge and expertise in education and modern space technologies.

Kuwait trains 300 youths in modern technical fields

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Child Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah said Saturday 300 Kuwaiti youths advanced in three modern technical specialties, 100 students per specialty, to cement the cooperative sector.

Speaking to KUNA, the minister said that joint cooperation with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) led to the enrollment of this fresh group in order to fill

labor market needs.

She elaborated that the specialties are a technical diploma in “Smart Building Systems”, a technical diploma in “Mechatronics” and a technical diploma in “Sustainability”.

The step is part of the ministry’s strategy to bolster the “Kuwaitization” policy and link educational outcomes with labor market needs, and to create new career horizons for Kuwaiti youth to work in cooperative societies and technical fields, the minister added.

Other Voices

The idea of deep sleep

By Ahmad alsarraf

SLEEP is the cornerstone of our health and well-being, no less important than food and water. The brain performs a range of vital functions during sleep.

These functions include cellular regeneration and physical repair. During deep sleep, the body releases growth hormone, which helps repair tissues, build muscle, and strengthen the immune system to fight diseases and infections.

During sleep, memory is enhanced, information is processed and consolidated, and accumulated toxins are eliminated. These processes positively affect attention, learning ability, and decision-making.

Sleep also helps regulate mood and psychological state.

Lack of sleep causes stress, anxiety, and irritability. Good sleep reduces the risk of developing psychological disorders and depression.

Sleep is essential for cardiovascular health, as it helps regulate blood pressure and provides the heart muscle and blood vessels with a crucial period of rest, thus helping prevent chronic diseases.

Sleep also helps control weight and metabolism. Lack of sleep often increases appetite and raises the risk of obesity and diabetes.

It was once believed that going to bed at the same time every night helped people fall asleep easily and quickly. However, recent research has shown that this is not entirely accurate, especially if it is not accompanied by waking up at the same time every morning.

Science has shown that the time you wake up, rather than the time you go to bed, is more important in determining the quality of your sleep that night.

Going to bed at a specific time each night is a good habit, but it is

not enough on its own, even when combined with an ideal sleeping environment - dark, cool, and quiet - and avoiding screens such as television.

Despite this, some people continue to experience insomnia and sleep disturbances due to inconsistent wake-up times.

The mechanism behind waking up at a specific time begins the moment you get out of bed, as the body starts building up “sleep pressure,” which reflects the body’s biological need for sleep. This results from the accumulation of a chemical called adenosine, which the brain eliminates during sleep. If you wake up late because of a flexible morning schedule, you will have less sleep pressure by bedtime, making you feel less sleepy.

Therefore, it is important to get out of bed at the same time every morning, even after a noisy, bad, or late night, or when you have had poor sleep.

Some may find this rule illogical, but it is actually the most important rule and is worth trying for those suffering from insomnia. It is crucial not to go to bed unless you are genuinely sleepy. Sleep is about health, not just rest.

The above is based on a 2024 study involving more than 72,000 middle-aged and older adults. The study showed that people with the most irregular sleep schedules were more likely to suffer heart attacks, strokes, and other heart problems, even if they slept for more than seven hours a night.

In another similar study, researchers found that people whose sleep and wake times fell within a one-hour window were less likely to die during the study period than those whose sleep and wake times varied within a three-hour window or more.

Set a consistent sleep schedule starting today, and you will soon see the results. The mistake you make in the morning can ruin your sleep at night.



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Kuwait ministry targets expanded power, water production capacity

MEW urges employees to join ‘Aadaa’ campaign

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is coordinating with the concerned entities to increase its electricity and water production capacity.

The ministry will achieve this through the implementation of projects included in its plan like the tenders floated through Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) and others that it intends to execute directly.

It is currently exploring ways to overcome challenges in decommissioning the aging South Shuaiba and East Doha power generation and water desalination plants in order to replace these facilities with new infrastructure aimed to increase production.

Moreover, the State Audit Bureau (SAB) approved the extension of a security contract for the main electrical substations and overhead transmission lines managed by the Electrical Transmission Networks Sector at a cost of KD228,100.

Also, the ministry will launch its ‘Aadaa’ (Performance) campaign on Sunday, in collaboration with Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha).

The campaign aims to implement the Code of Conduct for government employees and promote integrity and transparency in the workplace. It will continue until the end March 2027. It is in line with the commitment of the ministry to promote professional values and workplace behavior standards. It aims to improve institutional performance, enhance the work environment, and elevate the quality of services.

The ministry urged its employees to participate in the campaign by following the Instagram account for them -- @MEWSTAFF.

Kuwait highlights governance, sustainability

Al-Busais to lead Kuwait delegation at Baghdad forum

By Bassam Al-Qassab
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The International Federation for Social Responsibility announced that its Board of Directors has approved participation as an organizational partner in the First Iraqi Forum for Social Responsibility, scheduled to be held in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, on November 1, 2026, with a delegation headed by Counselor Hamad Zaid Saud Al-Busais, from the State of Kuwait, member of the Board of Directors of the International Federation for Social Responsibility, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation.

The presidency of Al-Busais for the Federation’s delegation highlights the presence of Kuwaiti competencies in Arab cooperation platforms, and their contribution to exchanging experiences and developing partnerships in the fields of social responsibility, governance, and sustainable development, as an extension of what the State of Kuwait is distinguished by in terms of its legacy in charitable and humanitarian work.

The forum is being held at the invitation of the Union of Arab Chambers, with the participation of the Iraqi Ministry of Trade, the International Chamber of Commerce, and the Union of Arab Chambers, and in partnership with the Investment and Technology Promotion Office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to enhance dialogue on social responsibility and business sustainability in the sisterly Republic of Iraq.

Al-Busais will head the Federation’s delegation and represent it in the forum’s activities in his capacity as a member of its Board of Directors, within the framework of the Federation’s keenness to enhance Arab partnerships and exchange institutional experiences.

Counselor Al-Busais said in a press statement: “We are proud of what the State of Kuwait carries of a deep-rooted legacy in humanitarian giving and community solidarity, and we



Hamad Zaid Al-Busais

■ **Al-Busais: We are proud of the State of Kuwait’s legacy in giving and development partnerships... and we participate with institutional expertise to enhance social responsibility**

are keen, through our participation within the Federation’s delegation, to contribute with the expertise of Kuwaiti institutional work, introduce its experiences, and benefit from Arab and international experiences in a way that enhances the joint development impact.”

He added that participation also stems from pride in the depth of the brotherly ties between the State of Kuwait and the sisterly Republic of Iraq, and the aspiration to expand opportunities for cooperation and knowledge exchange between the participating institutions, in a way that serves humanity and supports sustainable development.

He stressed that social responsibility has become an institutional approach linked to governance and sustainability, and a strategic investment in people, society, and the economy, pointing to the importance of building effective partnerships between government agencies, the

private sector, and civil society institutions, according to the competencies of each party and the frameworks regulating its work.

Al-Busais explained that he will present during the forum a working paper entitled “From Enabling Environment to Impact: Enhancing Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Justice,” which addresses five main axes, including the shift from traditional responsibility to institutional responsibility with impact, the role of the legislative and economic enabling environment, environmental justice as one of the pillars of social responsibility, the methodology of transitioning from initiatives to measurable impact, leading to proposing an Arab model for partnership.

He indicated that the paper includes proposals for discussion regarding developing a national indicative framework for social responsibility and establishing a platform for development partnerships, in line with national priorities and the legislative and institutional frameworks in force, and in coordination with the competent authorities.

He pointed out that exchanging experiences between Kuwaiti institutions and their Iraqi and Arab counterparts provides opportunities to develop community initiatives and build partnerships based on clarity of roles, measurement of results, and sustainability of impact.

The Board of Directors of the International Federation for Social Responsibility called on its members and experts from various Arab countries to participate in the forum, affirming its pride in cooperation with the Iraqi, Arab, and international institutions participating in its organization.

The forum aims to provide a national platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences between government agencies, the private sector, and Arab and international organizations, enhancing the contribution of companies to achieving sustainable development, supporting community initiatives, and developing governance, sustainability, and environmental and social responsibility practices.

Kuwait, Czech Republic aim to deepen cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): President of the Czech Republic Petr Pavel affirmed his pursuit to strengthen bilateral relations with the State of Kuwait across all sectors, expressing his aspiration to elevate the distinguished friendly ties to even greater heights.

The Embassy of the State of Ku-

wait in the Czech Republic said in a press release, received by KUNA on Friday, that these remarks were made during an official reception hosted by President Pavel for heads of diplomatic missions, held to mark the Czech Republic’s National Day.

The Czech President asked the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Czech

Republic, Talal Al-Shatti, to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

For his part, Ambassador Al-Shatti conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Me-

shal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as their wishes for the Czech Republic and its friendly people to enjoy continued progress and prosperity, and for the bilateral relations to see further development and growth.

Book collection opens cultural window in Kuwait

Thailand donates 100 books to Kuwait National Library

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand in Kuwait Oraiwan Korto underscored the importance of cultural exchange in strengthening relations between Kuwait and Thailand, as well as establishing communication and mutual understanding between the citizens of both countries.

Speaking at a recent event, during which the Thai Embassy donated 100 books to Kuwait National Library, Korto disclosed that the project introduces readers in Kuwait to the heritage, culture and people of Thailand. She said

books provide an opportunity to learn about the culture, history, traditions and lifestyle of others. She expressed hope that these books will serve as a bridge between the two nations and further strengthen their ties.

She stated that the collection covers a diverse range of topics like Thai culture, arts, literature and history, offering readers a glimpse of the heritage, society and narratives that shaped the cultural identity of Thailand.

She revealed that the books were provided with the support of Thailand Foundation, a non-profit organization promoting friendship and engagement between Thailand and other nations.

She added that the collection will be housed in the Diplomacy Hall, which is currently being developed by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) within the Kuwait National Library.

She indicated that friendship between nations is not built solely on intergovernmental relations, as it is also reinforced by the understanding between peoples—an understanding that begins with learning about the history, culture, traditions and way of life of others.

She pointed out that the project being implemented this year is meaningful, because it coincides with the 63rd anniversary of the

establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Thailand in 1963. She added that in the last six decades, the two nations have built a solid friendship rooted in trust, respect and mutual understanding.

On the other hand, acting Assistant Secretary General for the Antiquities and Museums Sector at NCCAL Mohammad bin Redha said the initiative of the Kingdom of Thailand to donate a collection of books to Kuwait National Library is a valuable intellectual and cultural contribution, as it offers library patrons the opportunity to learn about Thailand’s history, literature, arts and rich cultural heritage.



Kuwait National Library receives Thai cultural collection.

Exhibitions key to driving sustainable development

“INTERNATIONAL and local exhibitions and conferences play a pivotal role in driving comprehensive development,” columnist **Mohammed Nasser Al-Alim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“They serve as strategic tools that go beyond the basic dynamics of supply and demand, functioning as integrated platforms for generating ideas, attracting investment, and forging economic and cultural partnerships.

In the State of Kuwait, this industry holds particular importance, especially given the country’s ongoing efforts to diversify its sources of income and transform itself into a leading regional financial, commercial, and cultural hub.

Exhibitions act as a vital gateway, connecting the economy with contemporary global trends while stimulating the services, hospitality, and organised tourism sectors.

Furthermore, these events promote competitiveness among local companies, encouraging them to improve the quality of their products and services.

The value of such events extends beyond material and financial returns. They are closely linked to human and intellectual development, which forms a fundamental pillar of Kuwait’s development vision.

In this regard, the Kuwait International Book Fair stands out as one of the Arab world’s most established cultural landmarks, serving as a prominent example of how exhibitions can contribute to raising developmental awareness.

The fair is far more than a marketplace for books. It is a major intellectual gathering that brings together thinkers, writers, and creative minds.

It contributes significantly to developing an informed and innovative human capital, nurturing a generation capable of shaping and leading the nation’s future.

It also plays an important role in supporting the local publishing and printing industries, while promoting the exchange of ideas and cultural experiences.

Beyond its cultural dimension, Kuwait’s development ecosystem is further enriched by a diverse range of specialized exhibitions organized at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref, as well as by various public and private sector entities. These include exhibitions dedicated to the oil, gas, and technology sectors, which support the transfer and localization of advanced global technologies and contribute to modernizing industrial infrastructure, alongside trade and real estate exhibitions.

Such events provide the private sector with a genuine opportunity to serve as the primary engine of the economy, rather than remaining largely dependent on the public sector.

Furthermore, exhibitions dedicated to innovation and youth-led startups create promising employment opportunities for national talent, helping transform creative ideas into practical, real-world projects.

Continued investment in developing Kuwait’s exhibition infrastructure and strengthening its regional presence is essential to supporting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and building a strong international reputation that contributes to long-term national prosperity.

I therefore call upon all government entities and private sector companies to organize specialized exhibitions that bring together innovators, experts, and visionaries.

By bringing these stakeholders together under one roof, such events create opportunities for partnerships and agreements, accelerating development and business growth while generating positive outcomes across all state institutions.”

Also:

“The teaching profession is a noble mission that extends far beyond what can be conveyed through books or academic studies. It is the foundation upon which everything else is built, making the responsibility it carries both profound and immense,” Kuwaiti writer **Talal Yousef** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Today, I address my fellow educators, both men and women, on the importance of how they interact with their students, particularly in the age of artificial intelligence, when many believe that easy access to information has made the teacher unnecessary.

Amid the abundance of ideas and the countless challenges facing education, the true foundation of this mission remains rooted in principles and values, particularly those drawn from Islamic teachings.

Foremost among these is the importance of being a good role model. When teachers lead by example through both their words and actions, they lay a lasting foundation in the hearts and minds of their students, guiding an entire generation towards the right path.

Beyond academic achievement, this approach contributes to students’ moral, psychological, and behavioral development while strengthening their self-confidence.

It encourages the development of

compassion and gentleness - qualities that students should be encouraged to practice in their daily lives, alongside justice and kindness, ensuring that no student ever feels unfairly treated, overlooked, or belittled.

Furthermore, maintaining regular communication with parents is essential to monitoring each student’s progress, even when they are already excelling academically.

As an educator entrusted with a noble and meaningful mission, you are called upon to embody these values through a cheerful demeanor, greeting others with peace, and addressing students by the names they know and cherish.

Avoid disparaging remarks, instead, offer words of encouragement, and never belittle or undermine anyone.

Be mindful of individual differences, as students vary in their ability to absorb, understand, and process information.

Take into consideration their diverse social and psychological circumstances. Some may be orphans, while others may come from families facing financial hardship.

Give extra attention, support, and encouragement to students who are struggling. Offer constructive guidance and remember them in your private prayers.

Every positive seed you plant in their hearts and minds will become a source of reward for you in the Hereafter before the Lord of the Worlds.

They will remember you throughout their lives, as they raise their own children, pursue their careers, and interact with others in their daily lives.

They will remember you with kind words and fond memories.

Just as we remember our own teachers with gratitude and pray for them, we must also keep in mind the words of the Prophet (PBUH) - “Each of you is a guardian, and each of you is responsible for those under your care.” He also said - “There is no servant whom Allah entrusts with those under his care who dies while acting deceitfully toward them, but that Allah forbids him from entering Paradise.” Indeed, the teacher is a cornerstone of society.”



“In times of crisis and rapid regional change, people in the Arab world turn to satellite television channels in search of clear answers and informed perspectives that help them understand unfolding events,” columnist Major General (Rtd.) **Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“However, today’s television landscape is no longer confined to the professional presentation and analysis of news. Instead, it has increasingly become an arena of fierce competition and emotional provocation, fueled by a phenomenon that is as concerning as the crises themselves - the growing tendency to host political commentators who lack even the most basic standards of credibility and analytical rigor.

As regional developments continue to unfold, some television studios now produce dozens of hours of analysis every day.

To fill this airtime, certain channels rely on a long list of individuals introduced as “strategic experts” or “political analysts.” Unfortunately, many of these figures base their arguments not



Yousef

on a sound understanding of political science or the realities on the ground, but rather on personal impressions and speculative scenarios that do little more than fuel sensationalism.

At its core, political analysis involves a logical deconstruction of events, based on historical context, interwoven interests, and an understanding of the capabilities of regional and international actors.

What we are witnessing today is closer to “political astrology,” characterized by categorical assertions and sensationalist rhetoric, such as claims that “the region is on the brink of an all-out war within hours” or that “the decision has already been made, and a response is inevitable.” The factors driving this phenomenon are multifaceted and extend far beyond a superficial understanding of media dynamics.

There is a relentless pursuit of higher viewership, often fueled by manufactured excitement. Some media outlets favor guests who make provocative and shocking statements because such remarks attract large audiences and spread rapidly across social media, regardless of their accuracy.

Furthermore, the lack of fact-checking and accountability is a growing concern. It is rare to see a presenter challenge an analyst over previous predictions that proved incorrect.

As a result, these guests are repeatedly given a platform to make further claims without facing any meaningful consequences or risking their perceived credibility or professional standing.

Media framing and manipulation also play a role, as some of these figures are used as tools of psychological warfare or deliberate media influence.

Their “analyses” are often used to convey specific, calculated messages, either exaggerating or downplaying certain events to serve the media outlet’s own agenda.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

First Deputy PM checks border readiness ahead of Super Cup



Kuwait’s First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah inspects security readiness and ongoing development projects during a tour of the Salmi and Abdali border crossings and northern border security centers.

19 border centers inspected in security sweep

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah stressed that protecting the borders of the country is a sacred national duty, which entails continuous vigilance and the highest level of operational readiness, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Speaking to the press when he visited the Salmi and Abdaly border crossings and 19 northern border outposts, accompanied by senior officials from the ministries of Interior and Defense, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef reaffirmed his confidence in the security personnel. He commended their ability to fulfill their responsibilities and remain steadfast in carrying out their duties.

He also emphasized the need to strengthen co-

ordination and integration among the military and security sectors to maintain national security and stability.

Addressing the personnel stationed at the sites he visited, he conveyed the greetings of the supreme political leader. He said the leader appreciates their dedication, selfless service, unwavering commitment, and tremendous efforts to protect the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait.

He also inspected the operations center to evaluate the level of tactical preparedness. He lauded the staff for their exemplary discipline, vigilance and strong sense of responsibility. He stated that their continuous efforts embody patriotism and dedication to carry out their duties.

When he visited the Salmi border crossing, he assessed the ongoing construction, development and preparatory works aimed to accommodate the expected influx of visitors attending the Saudi Super Cup matches that will be hosted by Kuwait.

He issued directives to ensure the timely completion of projects and strengthen coordination among the relevant authorities to finalize all the

necessary arrangements.

During his visit to Abdaly border crossing, he reviewed the construction and development projects there and the level of security preparedness.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that development works are aligned with the security requirements of the country, while enhancing operational efficiency, ascertaining the smooth movement of arriving and departing passengers, and strictly abiding by the security procedures.

He indicated that the land borders are the main gateways of the country, and that welcoming visitors is a collective responsibility.

He underscored the need to ensure that all facilities are fully operational, procedures are carried out efficiently, and services and amenities are developed to cover the needs of travelers and ensure their comfort.

He also affirmed the importance of providing all the necessary facilities for fans attending the Saudi Super Cup matches, in a manner that reflects Kuwait’s traditions of generosity and hospitality.

Security sweep across three areas nets six

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The Jahra Security Directorate conducted a field security operation in the Naseem, Qasr, and Waha areas in collaboration with the Committee on Negative Phenomena, which includes the Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The operation aimed to identify violations, apprehend offenders, and take the necessary legal action against them.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the campaign resulted in the arrest of five individuals for violating residency laws by conducting commercial activities inside private residential properties.

Also, one individual wanted in connection with an absconding case was taken into custody.

The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition issued three citations for food safety violations, while the Kuwait Municipality issued four citations for municipal code violations. The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy also issued two citations concerning matters under its jurisdiction.

Furthermore, authorities identified three grocery stores and two bachelor residences, with appropriate action to be taken in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The ministry emphasized that the operation forms part of the ongoing security and field efforts by the Jahra Security Directorate, in coordination with relevant authorities, to curb negative phenomena, detect violations, and ensure compliance with laws and regulatory requirements, thereby maintaining security and public safety.

27 individuals arrested for tampering with expiry dates

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The General Department of Criminal Investigation at the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Department for Combating Counterfeiting and Forgery Crimes, has arrested 27 individuals involved in tampering with the expiration dates of imported fish, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrests are part of ongoing security efforts to combat commercial fraud and protect consumers.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the arrests followed the receipt of information and subsequent investigations, which revealed that the suspects had altered the production and expiration dates on crates of imported fish.

They did so by printing labels bearing false dates to extend the products’ shelf life before selling them to restaurants, companies, and retail outlets.

Following authorization from the Public Prosecution, specialized teams raided the Central Fish Market, where they apprehended the suspects and seized 16 refrigerated transport vehicles containing 894 crates of imported fish bearing tampered expiration dates.

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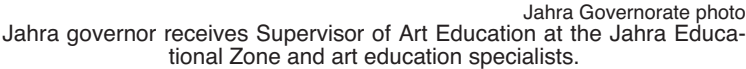
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A presentation outlined the exhibi-

At the end of the meeting, the delegation expressed their gratitude to the governor for his warm welcome and continued support for artistic and educational activities, praising the ongoing partnership between the Jahra Governorate and the Jahra Educational Zone.

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

On this occasion, Minister of Education Eng.

He congratulated Bodour Al-Asqa for winning second place in the Outstanding Supervisor Category, the administration of Yarmouk High School for taking the third place in the Outstanding School Category, and students Abdullah Al-Mutairi and Noor Al-Kandari on their high-ranking results, wishing them continuous success as they go forward their journey of ex-

cellence and achievement.

This achievement is the result of the Ministry of Education's tremendous efforts to support cultural and educational initiatives, consistently strengthen Kuwait's presence in regional and international forums, promote reading and hone the research skills of students, and encourage

creativity and healthy competition in the educational field.

The accomplishment also reflects the collaborative efforts of supervisors, school administrations, teaching staff and parents in supporting students, motivating them to excel, and embedding a culture of reading and knowledge acquisition—the foundation for developing intellectual and creative capacities and learning outputs.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting cultural and educational programs to discover talent, nurture high achievers, and expand opportunities for partici-

pation in Arab and international competitions.

These efforts contribute to the development of the abilities of students and bolster Kuwait's standing and presence in educational and cultural arenas.

Badour A-Asqa got second place in the Outstanding Supervisor Category, out of more than 162,000 candidates. Al-Yarmouk High School for Girls earned third place in the Outstanding School Category, student Abdullah Al-Mutairi took fourth place in the People of Determination Category, and student Noor Al-Kandari ranked among the Top 10 Outstanding Students in the Arab world.

Part of 'Kuwait is by Your Side' campaign.

Charities bring hope to needyR

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait continued its altruistic activities within its campaign "Kuwait is by Your Side" through humanitarian and developmental initiatives that cross geographical borders and render solidarity into projects that answer human needs and maintain human dignity.

This mission was exemplified during this week through the efforts of several Kuwaiti charities and institutions, with projects aimed at offering medical care, providing water and food, backing education, and economically empowering families across several Asian and African countries.

In Uzbekistan, the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society implemented a humanitarian mission titled "Relieving Pain and Reviving Hope" through the "Medical Hope" campaign, in collaboration with the Kuwaiti Medical Hope Team. The medical campaign aimed to perform 350 surgeries from October 23 to 29, with the participation of several Kuwaiti doctors.

Speaking to KUNA, Director of the Charity's Resources and Media Sector Abdullatif Al-Dawas said that the campaign is an extension of the Charity's mission to support the health sector and facilitate patients' access to specialized therapeutic services.

He boasted that Kuwaiti humanitarian work goes beyond providing traditional aid, extending to harnessing national medical expertise to serve patients and alleviate their anguish.

Al-Dawas explained that the campaign aims to perform surgeries in plastic surgery, congenital deformities, burns, general surgery, cardiology, orthopedics, gynecology, oncology, and ophthalmology.

Meanwhile, Al-Najat Charity continued its efforts in addressing water scarcity through a water supply project that resulted in drilling more than 850 wells across 10 countries, benefiting around 2.5 million people, helping remote villages and areas that can hardly find clean water.

Speaking to KUNA, the Charity's Director General Dr. Jaber Al-Wanda said that the water relief projects target the poor, the needy, displaced people, refugees, and residents of remote villages, especially in Somalia, Chad, Yemen, and other countries facing water scarcity-related challenges.

He noted that these projects are carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Kuwaiti embassies.

Providing clean water is one of the most critical humanitarian interventions due to its direct impact on protecting public health, curbing waterborne diseases, and easing relevant daily burdens, Al-Wanda added.

In the context of Kuwait's cross-border humanitarian mission, the Social Reform Society's Namaa Charity continued its humanitarian action in five countries: Tanzania, Niger, Chad, Benin, and India.

These activities were meant to feed the hungry, provide water, back education, and establish community facilities, granting needy families a sense of reassurance and opening windows of hope and stability for poor communities.

Director of the Programs and Initiatives Department at Namaa Charity Khaled Al-Shamari told KUNA that the charity distributed 50 food baskets in Tanzania and implemented a meat distribution project in Tanzania and Niger benefiting around 1,500 people.

Al-Shamari elaborated that the water projects included opening wells in Chad and Benin benefiting approximately 12,000 people, contributing to improving access to clean water and supporting public health and livelihood stability.

He underlined that securing water sources represents one of the most vital components of development in deprived areas, adding that the charity opened a mosque in Benin and distributed copies of the Holy Quran to 260 students in India, as part of fulfilling religious and educational needs, strengthening community bonds, and providing a suitable environment for learning and practicing religious rituals.

In Chad, the Khairat Association for Relief and Development implemented nine humanitarian and developmental projects benefiting 29,723 people, providing food, conducting medical surgeries, drilling wells, supporting education, and economically empowering families to open new paths for beneficiaries toward a more stable and self-reliant life.

The Kuwaiti charity's Director General Mohammad Al-Kharraz told KUNA that these projects reflect keenness to transform the donations of benevolent people into initiatives that respond to basic needs, combining relief, empowerment, and sustainability.

The efforts included distributing 1,090 food baskets, benefiting 1,090 families comprising 7,630 individuals and providing food to 5,000 people, and performing 100 eye surgeries, he said.

Other Voices

A farewell to a true friend of Kuwait

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

As His Excellency Major General Syed Tareq Hussain concludes his mission as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait, it is fitting to recognise a man who has served his country with dedication and earned the friendship and respect of many in Kuwait.

Since his arrival in July 2024, Ambassador Hussain has worked to strengthen the longstanding relations between Kuwait and Bangladesh. His time here has been filled with meetings, visits and efforts to bring both countries closer, but he has also made time to build friendships with people from all walks of life.

His career speaks for itself. Having joined the Bangladesh Army in 1989, he went on to hold several senior military positions, including commanding an infantry division. He also served on United Nations missions in Angola and Ivory Coast. His years of military service have given him considerable experience, which he has carried into his diplomatic work.

During his mission, he encouraged greater cooperation in trade, investment and other fields. One important achievement was the first Foreign Office Consultations between Bangladesh and Kuwait, held in Dhaka in October 2025.



Syed Tareq

His affection for Kuwait was especially clear during the difficult events of June 2026. Following the attack on Kuwait International Airport, Ambassador Hussain personally visited the Central Blood Bank to donate blood. His embassy also encouraged the Bangladeshi community to come forward, resulting in around 175 people donating blood. It was a gesture that deserves recognition and appreciation.

Bangladesh's decision to provide Kuwait with 240 tonnes of essential food supplies during the regional tensions was another welcome expression of the strong friendship between the two nations.

Beyond his official responsibilities, Ambassador Hussain has been a familiar and welcome presence at Kuwaiti diwanis, community gatherings and diplomatic occasions. His friendly nature, good humour and respect for others have made him a much loved figure among his friends and colleagues.

Diplomatic assignments have a beginning and an end, but the friendships formed during those years often remain for a lifetime. Ambassador Hussain leaves Kuwait with many friends who will remember him with great affection.

As he begins a new chapter, heartfelt wishes go to him, his wife Bilkis Begum Simi and their two daughters.

Kuwait will always welcome him as a friend, and his presence will certainly be missed. May the friendship between Kuwait and Bangladesh continue to grow, and may the years ahead bring him happiness, good health and success.

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to human rights & international law

Al-Mulla condemns attacks on civilians



Wafiqah Al-Mulla, Third Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations.

NEW YORK, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Third Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Wafiqah K. Al-Mulla said protection of human rights and preserving human dignity were a shared international responsibility that requires respect for state sovereignty and international law, and accountability for those responsible for abuses.

Addressing a UN General Assembly debate on the report of the UN Human Rights Council on Friday, she said that promoting and protecting human rights were not merely principles enshrined in international charters and conventions, but obligations incumbent upon all states without exception, forming the foundation for achieving security, stability and peace.

She commended as "pivotal" the UNHRC role, stressing the importance of preserving the credibility of the Council while fulfilling its mandate away from selectivity, politicization and double standards.

She appreciated UN member states for the confidence they had placed in Kuwait by electing it to the Council for the 2027-2029 term.

"This confidence represents an international responsibility to continue working towards promoting and protecting human rights in cooperation with Council members and all UN

member states," Al-Mulla pointed out.

She reaffirmed Kuwait's firm belief in international multilateralism and that the UN Charter must remain the fundamental reference governing all states without exception, stressing that the strength of the international system rests on commitment to international law, respect for state sovereignty and the rights of peoples.

"The UN was not established to merely witness violations, but rather to provide a collective framework for preventing and addressing them.

Diplomacy, dialogue and peaceful means of settling disputes remain a steadfast approach in Kuwait's foreign policy," she stressed.

Al-Mulla noted that discussions on human rights lost their credibility when innocent civilians were subjected to attacks, civilian facilities were targeted, and claims of self-defense were used as a pretext to violate state sovereignty and threaten the security

of their peoples.

She reiterated Kuwait's strongest condemnation of the Iranian attacks targeting its territory since February 28, 2026, describing them as a flagrant violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and a grave breach of the principles of the UN Charter and the rules of international law.

The attacks on residential areas, civilian facilities and vital infrastructure, including hospitals, energy facilities, ports, airport, oil installations and water facilities in Kuwait endangered the lives and safety of civilians and threatening their fundamental rights, foremost among them the right to life, security and safety.

"What made these attacks even more grave was that they took place during the holy month of Ramadan, at a time when citizens and residents were going about their daily lives and performing their religious rites in security and peace," she explained.

Stressing Kuwait's outright rejection of Iran's attempts to justify these attacks by invoking Article 51 of the UN Charter, Al-Mulla said that "the right to self-defense can by no means warrant violating the sovereignty of other states or targeting civilians and civilian facilities."

She underscored the importance of full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), which condemned the Iranian attacks against Kuwait and countries in the region and called for respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity and compliance with the provisions of the UN Charter.

Referring to the UNHRC Resolution

61/1, adopted by consensus in Geneva on March 25, 2026, she said the resolution called on Iran to immediately and unconditionally cease the attacks on GCC states and Jordan.

"The resolution warns against any threats or provocations and provide for full, effective and prompt reparation for the damage and losses resulting from wrongful acts," Al-Mulla went on.

She affirmed that both resolutions reflected a clear international position on the gravity of these attacks, noting that preserving the credibility of international institutions required more than merely adopting resolutions; it also required their implementation, ensuring accountability for violations and preventing impunity.

On the Houthi attacks on sisterly Saudi Arabia, Al-Mulla expressed Kuwait's strong denunciation of those attacks which targeted vital civilian facilities, including airports, and resulted in civilian casualties.

She expressed Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to safeguard its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, stressing that the security of Saudi Arabia was an integral part of Kuwait's security and the broader Gulf and Arab security system.

She urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities by condemning and confronting these attacks, ensuring the protection of civilians and holding those responsible accountable, while stressing the need to halt escalation and prioritize political and diplomatic solutions in a manner that preserves regional security and stability.

KD 3.9 million allocated to widows, divorcees

Kuwait's women's assistance bill tops KD 11.5 mln

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: The latest official statistics revealed that the Family Welfare Department in the Social Development General Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs allocated KD11,506,779.36 aid for divorced women, widows and housewives, in line with the commitment of the government to improve the living conditions of citizens and maintain social stability.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the statistics,

indicating that the financial support for housewives is the highest at a total of KD7,625,021.04, followed by divorced women with KD3,093,501.59 and widows with KD788,256.73.

Separately, Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah said the recent appointment of members to the boards of some cooperative societies was carried out under Article 35 of the applicable law, with the aim of correcting conditions, addressing violations, and strengthening oversight and governance to safeguard shareholders' assets and consumers' rights.

Speaking during a meeting with newly appointed board members on Wednesday, Al-Huwailah said appointed members enjoy no advantage over elected members. On the contrary, she said, they bear a greater responsibility because of the trust placed in them by the state.

She explained that the appointments are intended to support reform, follow up on violations, and advance investigations—not to replace elected boards or diminish their role. She stressed that compliance with directives, decisions, and regulations governing cooperative work is mandatory.

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Photos taken during the 19th Annual Conference of the Kuwaiti Urological Association.

Kuwait Health Minister urges concerted response to urological diseases

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said on Friday that combating urological diseases involves the integrated roles of health facilities and civil society institutions, chiefly the Kuwaiti Urological Association.

The minister made the statement while addressing the 19th Annual Conference of the Kuwaiti Urological Association, attracting a group of doctors,

experts, and researchers from inside and outside Kuwait.

During the two-day event, he underlined the significance of promoting health awareness, prevention, and encouraging regular screenings, while combating urological diseases.

The minister called for sharing knowledge and expertise as a fundamental pillar for developing medical practice and exploring the latest develop-

ments in diagnosing and treating diseases of the urinary and reproductive systems.

For his part, President of the Kuwaiti Urological Association and the conference chairman Dr. Faisal Al-Hajri said that this year's event focuses on male infertility and advanced and high-tech treatments for prostate enlargement.

Continued from Page 1

More compassion

These persistent administrative bottlenecks stand in clear contrast to the state's official directives, which repeatedly call for the quick implementation of national development projects.

A well-known Egyptian proverb states, "Water the crop, and it will flourish," highlighting the need for upfront investment to achieve results.

This principle underscores the importance of settling corporate dues without delay, enabling businesses to complete their assigned work.

In practice, however, a gap remains between expectations and reality... How can projects be implemented when the necessary funding is unavailable?

The country undoubtedly needs a wide range of development projects, including railway and metro networks, border-free zones, manufacturing hubs, and recreational facilities.

Developing such infrastructure would stimulate local economic activity and provide an attractive alternative for citizens and residents who otherwise travel abroad during every holiday.

We previously proposed the concept of "agritourism" to a Minister of Information, highlighting its success in Abu Dhabi, neighboring countries, and around the world.

However, official restrictions prevented the initiative from moving forward by prohibiting tourism activities on agricultural land.

As a result, investors who had already established leisure facilities incurred substantial financial losses when a subsequent directive banned their operations.

Our call for a more flexible regulatory environment stems from the understanding that the surrounding region is constantly evolving.

Disruptions or conflicts could quickly compromise critical supply networks.

Therefore, developing a strategic, long-term vision that encompasses service industries, as well as the agricultural and recreational sectors, is essential. Kuwait should follow the proactive examples set by neighboring states.

We have consistently reaffirmed our belief that Kuwait is home to exceptional national talent capable of excelling even under the most challenging circumstances.

Rather than relying on external intermediaries or simply voicing grievances, we must actively empower this skilled workforce to lead the country's development toward a more effective and progressive future.

Road 50

The General Traffic Department (GTD) announced the closure of the slow and middle lanes on King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Road (Road 50), in the direction of Kuwait International Airport, near the Khaldiya and Yarmouk areas, for 15 days due to roadworks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

GTD stated that the closure began on Friday, October 30, and will remain in effect until Friday, November 13.

Kuwait highlights

Al-Khaled participated in a panel titled "Nothing About Us Without Us," where the association presented its "Partners in Employment" initiative, launched in 2018 to train and integrate persons with intellectual disabilities into the workforce. Of the 481 participants, 231 secured jobs, with a job retention rate of 97.8 percent.

She also highlighted a framework, developed by engineer Awatif Al-Salman, which emphasizes institutional responsibility in removing barriers and creating supportive workplaces for persons with disabilities.

Al-Khaled called for introducing an internationally recognized indicator to measure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and strengthen accountability for implementing international commitments.

On the sidelines of the forum, she held meetings with UNESCO and UN disability rights officials to discuss cooperation, exchange expertise and promote Kuwait's successful vocational rehabilitation and employment initiatives internationally.

The forum's fifth edition was held under the theme "From Commitment to Accountability: Change the System, Change the Future," with the participation of government officials, international organizations and civil society representatives.

Kuwait seeks

Upon successfully completing the training course, candidates will be transferred from the position of "Junior Legal Researcher" to that of "Prosecutor (Grade C)."

The ministry emphasized that applications must be submitted between Sunday, November 1 and Monday, November 30. Any applications received after the deadline will be disqualified.

Region scrambles

Jordan said the strikes over Syria last week killed 20 militants from the extremist Islamic State group, but acknowledged that civilians had also been killed in the attacks. Syrian authorities reported seven people killed in the strikes, most of them women and children.

Separately, al-Shibani said Syria is in discussions to evaluate joining the Mecca Pact, the Saudi-led defense alliance that includes Turkey and Pakistan.

"Whether Syria joins or not, Syria thinks the region is in dire need of a structure that protects its security," he said.

Elsewhere, the State of Kuwait has emphasized the imperative necessity for the full and unreserved implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), which condemns the illicit Iranian attacks launched against member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Kuwait underscored the immediate urgency of terminating all aggressive actions and hostile threats that impede lawful transit and freedom of navigation through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, or that endanger maritime security within the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

This official position was delivered by the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai, during a high-level open debate convened by the UN Security Council on Thursday evening.

The Security Council session was held under the theme: "Emerging Technologies and Maritime Security: Implications for International Peace and Security."

Ambassador Al-Bannai affirmed that safeguarding international maritime corridors constitutes a collective global responsibility that permits no room for political selectivity or double standards.

He stressed the fundamental obligation of all nations to strictly adhere to international law and guarantee unimpeded freedom of navigation across strategic maritime choke points.

In this context, the Kuwaiti envoy called for intensifying international counter-proliferation cooperation and establishing binding, responsible guidelines governing the deployment of emerging technologies.

He emphasized that such regulatory frameworks are essential to defend maritime navigation and preserve international peace and security.

Ambassador Al-Bannai noted that throughout the current year, the Arabian Gulf region has suffered from unlawful Iranian attacks targeting sovereign territories and critical national infrastructure across GCC member states and Jordan.

Furthermore, he highlighted hostile strikes directed against commercial oil tankers and merchant vessels, including ships raising the flag of Kuwait, which directly threatened navigational safety across vital maritime channels.

He explained that the integration of modern technologies, most notably uncrewed aerial vehicles (drones) and precision ballistic missiles, in military aggression has elevated maritime threats into direct hazards endangering national security and global economic stability.

The Kuwaiti diplomat pointed out that the strategic repercussions of targeting commercial shipping or disrupting maritime sea lines of communication extend far beyond localized vessel damage or route closures.

Instead, he cautioned that these disruptions severely destabilize global supply chains, inflate energy and commodity prices, and undermine international economic stability, disproportionately impacting developing nations heavily reliant on maritime commerce.

Addressing the evolving nature of maritime threats, Ambassador Al-Bannai noted that security challenges, once restricted to traditional piracy and direct naval interception, have expanded into complex domains encompassing autonomous systems and cyberattacks directed at ships, port facilities, and navigational networks.

Turkiye celebrates 103 years, looks to stronger Kuwait ties

Relations enter broader cooperation phase

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah said the Kuwaiti-Turkish relations remain strong, while both nations are keen on solidifying cooperation and expanding their partnership in various sectors to serve their interests and realize the aspirations of their citizens.

Al-Huwailah made the statement when she attended an event that the Turkish Embassy organized recently to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye, with many officials and heads of diplomatic missions in attendance. She conveyed the greetings of Kuwait, its leaders, government and people to Türkiye on this occasion. She confirmed the deep historical ties between the two nations, their continuous development and close coordination in diverse fields.

Meanwhile, Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Can Oğuz affirmed the depth of Kuwaiti-Turkish relations, indicating that both countries offer opportunities to expand cooperation in defense, healthcare, tourism, agriculture and trade, especially since their ties have evolved into a strategic partnership. He described the relationship between the two countries with three words -- "potential, promise and partnership." He expects the continuation of joint efforts toward a more prosperous future for both nations.

He added Türkiye is in solidarity with Kuwait, recalling his country's condemnation of past attacks that threatened the security of Kuwait and reiterated the ongoing support of his country for Kuwait's security and safety.

He said Kuwait's acquisition of Turkish 'Bayraktar TB2' drones opened a new chapter in defense cooperation between the two nations, stressing that such relations reached a milestone by advancing to the level of a strategic partnership.

He then called to mind the historic visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Türkiye in May 2024 and the visit of Turkish President



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Kuwait's Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah joins Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Can Oğuz, members of the diplomatic corps and guests at a reception marking the 103rd anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Türkiye.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Kuwait in October 2025, affirming the commitment of both leaders to strengthen relations and fortify cooperation.

He disclosed that the strategic partnership are based on friendship and mutual trust between the leaders of the two countries, institu-

tional cooperation that is expected to continue evolving through dialogue, and friendship and solidarity between the Kuwaiti and Turkish.

He also praised the contributions of Turkish companies to the development of Kuwait and the growing interest among Kuwaiti investors in

pursuing opportunities in Türkiye. He added that the Turkish firm, 'Limak', is currently executing the Terminal Two (T2) project at Kuwait International Airport, which will solidify air connectivity and the position of Kuwait as a regional and international aviation hub.

Kuwait calls for unhindered aid access to Palestine

ICJ rulings must not remain on paper: Kuwait

NEW YORK, Oct 31, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait underscored Friday evening the critical imperative of respecting the decisions and advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and strictly fulfilling international legal obligations.

Kuwait called for the objective, universal application of international law without selectivity or double standards, emphasizing that consistent adherence reinforces the credibility of the international multilateral framework and upholds global justice.

The official position was delivered by Diplomatic Attaché Elaf Al-Sabr on behalf of Kuwait before the United Nations General Assembly during the formal debate on agenda item 72 concerning the annual report of the International Court of Justice.

Al-Sabr stated that the ICJ, serving as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, occupies a central role in resolving legal disputes between sovereign states and issuing



KUNA photo

Diplomatic Attaché Elaf Al-Sabr delivers a speech on behalf of Kuwait before the United Nations General Assembly.

authoritative legal opinions.

She noted that the Court's judicial mandate remains vital for consolidating the international rule of law and fostering the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

The Kuwaiti diplomat emphasized that the true measure of international justice extends beyond delivering judicial rulings and advisory findings to encompass full compliance with the legal consequences arising from them.

Addressing the Palestinian cause, Al-Sabr highlighted the significance of the Court's legal determinations regarding the illegal practices of the Israeli occupation entity across the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

She specifically referenced the landmark advisory opinion rendered in July 2024, which declared the illegal status of the ongoing Israeli presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Furthermore, Al-Sabr welcomed the advisory opinion issued in October 2025 detailing the legal obligations of the occupying entity toward the United Nations and international bodies operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

She stressed that these obligations require facilitating unhindered humanitarian aid delivery and maintaining full cooperation with UN specialized agencies, primarily the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

An increase of 9.1% compared to 2025

Gulf Bank records KD 41.9 million in net profit for the first nine months of 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Gulf Bank K.S.C.P. announced its financial results for the first nine months ending 30 September 2026. The Bank reported a net profit of KD 41.9 million, an increase of KD 3.5 million or 9.1% compared to 2025 first nine months net profit of KD 38.4 million.

In addition, Gulf Bank recorded an operating income of KD 143.1million for the first nine months of 2026, representing an increase of1.8% compared to the same period of last year.

For the third quarter ended 30 September 2026, Gulf Bank reported a net profit of KD 14.4 million and operating income of KD 48.8 million, broadly in line with the levels achieved at the same period of the prior year.

The improvement in net profit for the first nine months of 2026 is attributed to the increasein net interest income of KD 3.0 million or 2.7% coupled with an improvement in total provisions and impairment losses, which declined by KD 6.9 million or 24% year-on-yearwhen compared to the same period of 2025. This improvement was partly offset by a KD 5.7 million increase in operating expenses and a modest reduction in non-interest income.

As for asset quality, the non-performing loans (NPL) ratio was 1.2% as of 30 September 2026, compared to the prior year level of 1.4%. Additionally, the Bank continues to have significant non-performing loans coverage ratio of 334% including total provisions and collaterals.

Total credit provisions as of 30 September 2026 reached KD 252 million whereas IFRS 9 accounting requirements (i.e., ECL or expected credit losses) were KD 163 million. As a result, the Bank has a healthy excess provision level of KD 89 million, above and beyond what is required by the IFRS9 accounting requirements.

Compared to 31 December 2025, total assets increased by 2.4% to KD 7.9 billion, whereas net loans and advances increased by 7.0% to KD 6.3 billion.On the other hand, total deposits stood at KD 5.8billion and total Shareholders' equity reached KD 860 million.

The Bank's regulatory Tier 1 ratio of 13.7% was270 basis points above the regulatory minimum of 11% and the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 15.7% was 269 basis points above the regulatory minimum of 13%.

Economic Resilience

Commenting on the financial results for the first nine months of 2026, Gulf Bank Chairman Mr. Ahmad Mohammad Al-Bahar stated: "Gulf Bank delivered a positive performance during the first nine months of 2026, with net profit reaching KD 41.9 million,representing an increase of 9.1% compared to the corresponding period of 2025. The results highlight the resilience of our business in an evolving operating environment and our commitment to executing the Bank's strategic direction".

He added: "During the third quarter, Kuwait remained



Ahmad Al-Bahar

■ Ahmad Mohammad Al-Bahar:

- Gulf Bank delivered a positive performance, demonstrating resilience and commitment to advancing the Bank's strategic direction.
- Kuwait'sfocus on advancing economic reforms and national prioritiesreinforced our view of the country's prospects.
- Progress in the real estate financing framework is expected to create new opportunities for the banking sector.
- The strength of our balance sheet, together with the significant milestones achieved, provides a solid foundation for Gulf Bank's growth journey

■ Sami Mahfouz:

- Our performance reflects the strength of Gulf Bank's core franchise in driving tangible and sustainable growth.
- We maintained business momentum through strong corporate lending while further enhanced customer experience and digital capabilities.
- Net loans and advances grew by 7% while preserving asset quality and credit discipline.
- The completion of the required regulatory preparations for the Islamic conversion marked an important milestone in our transformation journey.



Sami Mahfouz

firmly focused on advancing its economic reform agenda and long-term national priorities despite uncertainty across regional conflicts. We are encouraged by the momentum achieved duringthe period, most notably the progress of the Real EstateFinancing framework and the qualification of 22 consortiums under the Real Estate Developer Program. These initiatives mark an important step toward addressing Kuwait's housing needs, stimulating market activity, and creating new opportunities for the banking sector in the years ahead."

Business Momentum

Commenting on Gulf Bank's operational performance, Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sami Mahfouz said: "Our performance reflects the successful execution of our strategy and the strength of Gulf Bank's core franchise in

driving tangible and sustainable growth. We maintained business momentum through strong corporate lending while further enhanced customer experience and digital capabilities. These efforts supported the continued expansion of our balance sheet during the first nine months of 2026, with net loans and advances increasing by 7.0% to KD 6.3 billion and total assets growing by 2.4% to KD 7.9 billion. This expansion was achieved while preserving strong asset quality and credit discipline."

He added: "The third quarter marked an important milestone in Gulf Bank's strategic transformation journey. Following the completion of the required regulatory and operational preparations, the Bank announced the submission of its request to the Central Bank of Kuwait

Total operating revenue reached KD 35.90 million, while operating profit stood at KD 25.76 million, with EPS of 103.76 fils

Boursa Kuwait records net profit of KD 20.83 million in the first nine months of 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Boursa Kuwait Securities Company announced its financial results for the nine months ended 30 September 2026, following a meeting of its Board of Directors held on Thursday, 29 October 2026. The company recorded a net profit of KD 20.83 million, while total operating revenue reached KD 35.90 million and operating profit stood at KD 25.76 million, with earnings per share of 103.76 fils.

Net profit attributable to shareholders of the parent company declined by 9.63%, while operating revenue decreased by 3.12% and operating profit fell by 9.17%. Additionally, the Group's total assets increased by 1.48% to approximately KD 134.94 million, while equity attributable to shareholders of the parent company grew by 0.62% to reach KD 74.60 million at the end of the reporting period.

Boursa Kuwait continued to advance its strategic priorities for capital market development and maintain operational efficiency, working closely with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) and other stakeholders across the capital market apparatus.

These efforts took place against a challenging regional backdrop marked by persistent geopolitical tensions, which intensified during the third quarter of 2026, influencing the broader economic and investment landscape as well as investor sentiment.

These circumstances underscored the importance of institutional readiness and operational resilience in maintaining trading continuity, particularly during periods of market volatility and heightened uncertainty.

Boursa Kuwait's response was supported by the strength of its business model, diversified revenue streams and prudent risk management practices, enabling the company to adapt to changing conditions while maintaining progress on its market development initiatives.

This approach reflects Boursa Kuwait's commitment to balancing operational stability with its long-term strategic objectives. It also builds on the reforms and investments undertaken in recent years to strengthen the market's capabilities and competitiveness, while encouraging broader utilization of the infrastructure and investment products introduced through earlier phases of the Market Development Program.

Al-Kharafi: Market resilience and investor confidence support our long-term vision

Commenting on the company's financial results and strategic direction, Boursa Kuwait Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi said:

"The region faced persistent geopolitical challenges during the first nine months of the year, with their impact extending to the broader economic and investment landscape and influencing investor decisions. Against this backdrop, Boursa Kuwait demonstrated its resilience and ability to adapt, supported by a robust regulatory framework and institutional and operational capabilities strengthened through years of reform."

"This experience underscores the importance of sustained investment in building a resilient capital market capable of navigating changing conditions while continuing to serve the national economy," he added.

"We remain confident in the fundamentals of Kuwait's capital market and its capacity for continued development, with investor confidence, both domestic and international, remaining central to our strategic priorities."

"This confidence is reinforced by the coordinated efforts of the capital market apparatus under the leadership of the Capital Markets Authority, alongside strong governance, transparent disclosure and high-quality services. Our responsibility is to build on these foundations and maintain a transparent and fair investment environment that enables market participants to assess opportunities and risks and make informed decisions based on reliable information," he said.

The Chairman emphasized that navigating changing market conditions requires maintaining a long-term perspective, closely monitoring performance and risks and carefully prioritizing investments.

He noted that Boursa Kuwait continues to strengthen the sustainability of its business model and diversify its activities, supporting its ability to create shareholder value and capitalize on growth opportunities arising from the market's continued development.

"We are committed to combining financial discipline with prudent investment in market development, directing the company's resources toward priorities that strengthen its competitiveness and long-term growth potential."

"The transition toward a multi-asset market represents an important step in broadening investment choices and addressing the financing needs of businesses. This will further strengthen the capital market's role in connecting capital with productive opportunities, supporting private sector growth and contributing to economic diversification in line with the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035," he stated.

Al-Kharafi stressed that the Board of Directors places particular importance on assessing the economic impact of market development initiatives and supporting executive management in translating approved strategic priorities into services that address the evolving needs of market participants.

This approach is grounded in balancing shareholder interests with the broader requirements of capital market development, while maintaining adherence to the regulatory and institutional frameworks governing the company's operations.

It also reflects Boursa Kuwait's commitment to its complementary roles in operating the market, developing its infrastructure and enhancing its attractiveness to investors, alongside its continued focus on advancing transparency, disclosure and sustainability practices.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my appreciation to our shareholders for their continued confidence and to the executive management and employees for their dedication and commitment," said the Chairman.

"I also express my appreciation to the Capital Markets Authority for its leadership, Kuwait Clearing Company and all our partners across the capital market apparatus for their cooperation, as well as investors, issuers and brokers for their contributions to the continued development of the Kuwaiti capital market."

Trading activity and market performance

The total value of shares traded during the first nine months of 2026 reached



Bader Al-Kharafi

■ Al-Kharafi: The Kuwaiti capital market has demonstrated resilience despite geopolitical challenges, while strengthening investor confidence remains a strategic priority.

■ Al-Osaimi: Our focus is on driving adoption of new investment products, enhancing investor experience and broadening participation among domestic and international institutional investors.



Mohammad Al-Osaimi

KD 15.64 billion, compared with approximately KD 19.35 billion during the corresponding period of 2025, representing a decline of 19.17%. Trading volume stood at 59.86 billion shares, down 28.93% year-on-year.

Average Daily Traded Value (ADTV) reached KD 86.42 million, down from KD 106.91 million in the same period of 2025. Total market capitalization stood at approximately KD 52.58 billion at the end of September, down 0.05% and broadly in line with its level at the end of the corresponding period in 2025.

The "Premier" Market recorded a 3.25% increase in the number of trades to 1.85 million, while its market capitalization rose by 0.60% to KD 43.42 billion. Meanwhile, traded value reached KD 9.91 billion, representing a decline of 9.58%. These indicators highlight the varying trends in transaction volumes, trading values and share price movements, underscoring the importance of assessing them collectively to gain a comprehensive understanding of market activity.

In the "Main" Market, traded value reached KD 5.73 billion, with investors trading 34.26 billion shares across 2.12 million transactions, while market capitalization stood at KD 9.17 billion. The "Main" Market continues to provide investors with access to companies of varying sizes and across different sectors, supported by a listing and trading framework that accommodates the diverse needs of market participants.

Market maker data also showed a 32.17% increase in the value of incentive-eligible market maker trades to KD 4.80 billion, playing an important role in facilitating trade execution through the provision of buy and sell quotations. However, the quality of market liquidity remains dependent on factors including order book depth, bid-ask spreads and the consistency of available quotations.

Growing share of institutional and international investors in trading activity

Institutional investors accounted for 70.08% of trading activity during the first nine months of 2026, compared with 63.94% during the corresponding period of the previous year, representing an increase of 6.14 percentage points. Individual investors accounted for the remaining 29.92%.

In terms of geographic distribution, international investors, including those from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, accounted for 17.28% of total traded value, compared with 13.97% during the corresponding period of 2025, an increase of 3.31 percentage points. Domestic investors accounted for 82.72% of trading activity.

These figures indicate a growing relative share of institutional and international investors in market trading activity, while domestic participation continues to represent most of the trading.

This investor composition underscores the importance of addressing the needs of market participants with differing investment strategies and transaction sizes. Institutional investors require comprehensive, reliable and readily analyzable information, alongside services aligned with their operational requirements.

Retail investors, meanwhile, benefit from accessible information, a clearer understanding of investment instruments and greater awareness of their rights and obligations. Advancing these areas represents a shared priority in improving the overall investor experience.

Continued engagement with the investment community also enables listed companies to gain a clearer understanding of the priorities of asset managers and financial institutions, while providing opportunities to communicate their business models and strategic objectives.

Such engagement facilitates constructive dialogue on disclosure quality and investor relations practices, enabling investors to assess opportunities based on more comprehensive information and strengthening the visibility of the Kuwaiti capital market among domestic and international institutions.

Al-Osaimi: Growing share of institutional and international investors in trading activity

"Boursa Kuwait's operational priorities center on meeting the needs of different market participants by maintaining efficient services, clear procedures and reliable systems. We continue to coordinate with our partners to address operational requirements, facilitate investor access to the market and ensure that issuers and brokers can effectively utilize the services available to them," said Boursa Kuwait Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi.

to proceed with the next phase of its planned conversion to an Islamic bank. This achievement reflects the significant progress made across multiple workstreams and represents a key step toward broadening our product range and delivering greater value to all stakeholders.Looking ahead, our focus remains on executing the next phase of the conversion process while continuing to support business growth across the Bank's key segments."

Credit Ratings

Gulf Bank's financial strength and operational resilience were affirmed by leading credit rating agencies. Fitch Ratings affirmedthe Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) of 'A' with a Stable Outlook, while Moody's affirmed the Bank's long-term deposits at 'A3' with a Stable Outlook. Capital Intelligence has also affirmed the Long-Term Foreign Currency rating of 'A+' with a Stable Outlook, further highlighting the Bank's stability and sound risk management practices.

Awards

During the third quarter of 2026, Gulf Bank continued to receive recognition for its commitment to innovation and customer excellence. The Bank received a number of regional awards, including "Best Loyalty & Rewards Program", "Branch Innovation", and "Gen Z Product", awards from Asian Banking & Finance, reflecting its continued focus on enhancing customer experience and delivering innovative banking solutions.

Appreciation

Mr. Al-Bahar concluded: "As we approach the end of 2026, we will build on the progress achieved during the year and advance the Bank's key strategic initiatives. The strength of our balance sheet, together with the significant milestones achieved across a number of priorities, provides a solid foundation for the next phase of Gulf Bank's growth journey. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank our shareholders and clients for their continued confidence, our employees for their dedication, and the regulatory authorities for their continued guidance and support".

Key Financial indicators for the first Nine months 2026:

1. First Nine months 2026 net profit of KD 41.9 million, an increase of 9.1% compared to last year.
2. First Nine months 2026 operating income of KD 143.1 million, up 1.8% year on year.
3. Net loans and advances grew by 7.0% year-to-date to reach KD 6.3 billion.
4. Non-performing loan ratio as of 30September 2026 was 1.2%, with a non-performance loan coverage ratio of 334% including total provisions and collaterals.
5. Capital ratios as of 30September 2026, Tier 1 ratio was 13.7% and Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) was 15.7%.

"Engagement with institutional investors and asset managers is central to our efforts to broaden market participation. We place particular importance on understanding their requirements regarding services, information and market access procedures, while raising awareness of the investment opportunities available in Kuwait's capital market," he added.

"These discussions help us identify areas for improvement and coordinate the necessary actions with relevant stakeholders. They also provide listed companies with opportunities to engage directly with investors and communicate their business models and strategies."

As part of these efforts, Boursa Kuwait continued to bring together domestic and international institutional investors and industry professionals through a series of specialized events during the third quarter. These included hosting the MSCI Institutional Investor Forum and organizing a dedicated seminar on exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in collaboration with CFA Institute. The events addressed developments and practical considerations relating to investment, asset management and the utilization of capital market products.

Product development and expanding market adoption

Boursa Kuwait continues to build on the reforms introduced through the second part of the third phase of the Market Development Program in July 2025. These reforms included the implementation of the Central Counterparty (CCP) framework, enhancements to cash settlement mechanisms and the introduction of the Qualified Broker model, strengthening the integration of trading, clearing and settlement processes across the relevant market institutions.

Building on this progress, 2026 saw the development of the bonds and sukuk trading platform, alongside the regulatory and operational framework for ETFs, developments that broadened the range of financing and investment options available in the Kuwaiti capital market.

Fixed-income instruments provide additional financing and investment channels for issuers and investors, while ETFs enable investors to gain exposure to a basket of assets through a single listed product. Clear understanding of each instrument's characteristics, associated risks and trading mechanisms remains essential to enabling market participants to utilize these products according to their specific needs.

To support this transition, Boursa Kuwait organized workshops and held direct meetings with prospective issuers and relevant stakeholders across the capital market apparatus. These engagements focused on explaining product features, issuance and listing requirements, trading mechanisms and associated obligations. They also helped participants assess how the available instruments could support their financing and investment strategies and identify the requirements for their effective utilization.

"Boursa Kuwait's priorities at this stage are focused on increasing the adoption and utilization of existing investment products and enabling issuers and financial institutions to deploy them in ways that address the needs of investors and businesses," said Al-Osaimi.

"Achieving this requires coordinated participation from asset managers, brokers and market makers, alongside the availability of the services needed to support issuance, listing and trading. Working closely with our partners, we continue to address the practical requirements of each product and enhance the services that support efficient price discovery and liquidity provision," he added.

Boursa Kuwait also places considerable emphasis on gathering feedback from market participants regarding the practical implementation of new products and services, helping identify areas for improvement and prioritize further enhancements.

The exchange also continues to upgrade its trading systems and technological capabilities, preparing the infrastructure to accommodate additional services and investment products in subsequent phases, subject to operational readiness and the necessary regulatory approvals.

Regional recognition for the Kuwaiti capital market

In late September 2026, Boursa Kuwait received the Arab Exchange with the Highest Turnover Ratio Award for 2025 from the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM).The recognition reflects Boursa Kuwait's leading position among the Arab exchanges covered by the award in terms of turnover ratio, an indicator that measures trading value relative to market capitalization.

The award highlights the level of market activity recorded during the year under review and recognizes the collective contributions of stakeholders across Kuwait's capital market apparatus toward its continued development and operational efficiency.

Corporate commitment

Boursa Kuwait remains committed to advancing its strategy for the development of Kuwait's capital market in collaboration with the CMA, KCC and other stakeholders across the capital market apparatus. Its focus remains on translating structural reforms and investments in market infrastructure into tangible outcomes that improve market efficiency and broaden the utilization of available products and services.

The practical significance of these efforts lies in expanding the range of investment instruments, providing businesses with additional financing channels and facilitating access to investment opportunities for domestic and international investors. Together, these developments aim to deepen market liquidity and broaden participation across the capital market.

As implementation of the Market Development Program progresses, priorities are increasingly focused on strengthening the readiness of financial institutions and issuers to utilize new products and services, improving disclosure quality and enhancing operational efficiency. These efforts are intended to establish the conditions for more sustainable growth in investment activity.

Through this approach, Boursa Kuwait seeks to strengthen the economic role of Kuwait's capital market, not only as a platform for securities trading but also as an effective channel for mobilizing capital and directing it toward productive economic activities.

By expanding financing opportunities and enabling businesses to fund their growth and expansion, the exchange aims to enhance private sector competitiveness and contribute to the economic diversification objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Kaifan and Shaab branches achieve EDGE Advanced certification with over 40% energy savings

KFH the first bank in Kuwait to achieve EDGE Advanced certification

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has become the first bank in Kuwait to achieve the prestigious EDGE Advanced green building certification for operating branches, marking a significant milestone in its sustainability journey and reinforcing its commitment to integrating measurable environmental performance across its operations.

Executive Manager Governance and Sustainability at KFH, Mohammad Alarbeed, and Senior Manager Project at KFH, Yousef Alroumi received the certificate in a ceremony held at KFH Auto.

The certification was awarded to KFH's Kaifan and Shaab branches under EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies), the internationally recognized green building standard developed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group.

The achievement underscores KFH's ongoing efforts to improve the environmental performance of its facilities through independently verified, data-driven solutions that enhance resource efficiency and support the Bank's broader sustainability strategy. By applying internationally recognized green building standards to existing and fully operational branches, KFH demonstrates how sustainability can be successfully embedded into day-to-day banking operations.

Commenting on the achieve-



Meshal Alshayee
Alshayee:
■ The certification reflects KFH's commitment to enhancing environmental performance through internationally recognized sustainability standards

ment, Head of Group Compliance and Governance at KFH, Meshal Alshayee, said: "Achieving EDGE Advanced certification for our Kaifan and Shaab branches marks an important step in translating KFH's sustainability commitments into tangible and measurable outcomes. It reflects our dedication to strengthening environmental performance through globally recognized standards, independent assessment, and a structured approach to continuous improvement."

Alshayee added: "At KFH, sustainability is closely linked to opera-



Mohammad Alarbeed and Yousef Alroumi receiving the certificate.

tional excellence, effective governance, and a strong culture of compliance and quality. This achievement demonstrates how these principles can be applied across existing facilities to enhance resource efficiency while maintaining the high standards of service our customers expect. This milestone reflects our ongoing efforts to enhance sustainable practices throughout our branch network."

He noted that the certification provides KFH with a practical framework for advancing sustainability performance across its branches and

facilities in Kuwait, supporting a broader portfolio-wide approach to environmental efficiency rather than isolated sustainability initiatives.

Alshayee further emphasized that this milestone reinforces KFH's position as a leader in responsible banking and sustainable business practices, while contributing to the development of a more resource-efficient built environment in Kuwait.

Concluding his remarks, Alshayee said: "At KFH, we believe sustainability is fundamental to responsible and inclusive economic growth. We are proud to set new benchmarks

for sustainability within the banking sector and contribute to building a greener and more sustainable future for Kuwait."

About the Certification Process

The certification process involved a comprehensive assessment conducted by an accredited EDGE Expert, followed by independent verification and auditing. The evaluation covered building specifications, mechanical and electrical systems, renovation and upgrade works, as well as operational practices to measure and validate the branches' environmental performance.

The results were independently reviewed and verified before the certification was formally issued by Bureau Veritas, the global certification body appointed by IFC for EDGE certifications.

The adoption of the EDGE framework supports KFH's long-term objective of expanding measurable sustainability standards across its property portfolio. Designed to accommodate buildings of different ages, sizes, functions, and operational conditions, the framework provides a consistent methodology for assessing and benchmarking environmental performance across a diverse network of facilities.

EDGE Advanced certification is awarded to buildings that achieve a minimum of 40% energy savings compared with the applicable baseline under the EDGE methodology. The standard evaluates environmental performance across three key areas:

- Energy consumption
- Water efficiency
- Embodied energy in building materials

The certification framework also assesses a building's readiness to support the transition toward carbon neutrality, further strengthening KFH's commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Oil price surges to \$114.76 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil edged up by USD 3.99 to USD 114.76 per barrel (pb) in Friday's trading, compared to USD 110.77 pb in Thursday's trading, the Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC) said on Saturday.

In global markets, Brent crude surged by USD 2.30 to USD 113.10 pb, and US West Texas Intermediate went up by 95 cents to USD 102.95 pb.

Advanced 3D data to improve drilling

Kuwait, Saudi enhance joint energy operations

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC), in partnership with Saudi Arabian Chevron, is implementing a 3D geophysical data processing project in the Wafra Joint Operations area.

According to informed sources, the project is supported by advanced technical capabilities and specialized expertise from Viridian, a global company specializing in geophysical technologies and data.

The project is expected to play a key role in increasing oil production in the Wafra Joint Operations area. It aims to raise crude oil output to more than 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) within the next two years, up from the current level of approximately 178,000 bpd.

Advanced geophysical data processing enables the precise identification of promising oil reservoirs, helping reduce operational risks and improve well efficiency. These capabilities are expected to support sustainable production, align with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's ambitions to maximize economic returns and strengthen energy security, and ensure compliance with the highest international quality standards across the two countries' joint oil and gas operations.

The project represents a significant step forward for the joint energy sector, reinforcing its position and paving the way for the development of oil fields with greater operational and economic efficiency.

By using the latest global geophysical exploration technologies, particularly 3D processing techniques, the project will help interpret complex geological structures and filter out distortions and noise in legacy data.

It is expected to produce high-resolution geophysical maps that enable engineers to identify oil reservoir locations with exceptional precision, thereby improving the success rate of exploratory and development drilling.

This enhanced accuracy could also generate savings of hundreds of millions of dollars by reducing the risks and costs associated with conventional drilling methods and reliance on outdated data.

Meanwhile, a report issued by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) revealed significant progress in operations across the Wafra Joint Operations area in 2025.

The report highlighted seismic data analysis and studies of the physical properties of geological formations, which contributed to an increase in production of 2,700 bpd from six wells in the Arq field's Burgan reservoir, along with an additional 2,400 bpd from six wells in the Wafra field's Hartha reservoir through the revitalization of depleted wells.

Furthermore, a water-flooding phase was launched in the Eocene II reservoir as part of an enhanced oil recovery (EOR) project involving polymer injection. This was accompanied by the commissioning of a project to replace the associated water disposal network.

The report also highlighted KGOC's environmental achievements in the Wafra Joint Operations area in 2025, following the effective implementation of a memorandum of understanding with its partner, Saudi Arabian Chevron.

Under the partnership, surplus gas generated by joint operations was exported to Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) to ensure its optimal utilization. The initiative contributed to reducing gas flaring rates from 61 percent in 2022 to 46 percent in 2025.

Website to accept award applications

Ministry of Oil launches the 5th edition of 'Oil Innovates' Award

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil announced on Saturday the launch of the fifth edition of the "Oil Innovates" Award, in cooperation with Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), to attract national innovations and develop practical solutions to challenges facing the oil and gas sector.

The ministry's Public Relations and Petroleum Media Director, Sheikha Tamadher Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, said the fifth edition will focus on two main categories: energy and artificial intelligence, aiming to enhance operational efficiency, advance technology and promote sustainability.

She explained that the energy category will cover energy efficiency,

renewable energy, emissions reduction, gas flaring, carbon capture and storage, and improved water and energy management. The artificial intelligence category will focus on applications such as predictive maintenance, production optimization, reservoir performance, pipeline leak detection, digital twins and supply chain management.

Sheikha Tamadher announced that the award's dedicated website will begin accepting applications on Nov 1, 2026, providing information on competition categories, eligibility, participation requirements and evaluation criteria.

The three best ideas will be honored at the award's closing ceremony in January 2027, under the patronage of Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi, she added.

Group showcases its digital journey as Platinum Sponsor

ALSAYER Group sponsors regional AI & digital transformation forums

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: ALSAYER Group participated as Platinum Sponsor of the International Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Digitization and the Gulf Conference and Exhibition for Modern Archiving and Document & Records Management, held recently at the Radisson Blu Hotel Kuwait under the patronage of H.E. Omar Saud Alomar, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture.

The events brought together government officials, industry leaders and technology experts from across the region, including Dr. Khaled Mohammed Al-Zamel, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA); H.E. Najat Husain Ebrahim Hamad, Acting General Manager of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT); H.E. Kenichiro Mukai, Ambassador of Japan to the State of Kuwait; and H.E. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Kuwait.

The Group was represented by a senior delegation including Mr. Ivan Tkachenko; Eng. Ibrahim Al Fouzan, Senior Business Director, Toyota Service Division; Mr. Jassem Al Maraghi Senior Group Manager of Administration Department, Mr. Scott McNicol General Manager Car Rental and Leasing; Mr. Salah Mohammad General Manager, and Mr. Yousef Al Haddad, Deputy General Manager of Lexus Marketing; Mr. Agostinho Barretto Group Manager of IT Department and Eng. Nehad AlHaj Ali, Group Manager, Corporate Excellence.

Held under the theme "Crisis Management, Innovation and the Future of Institutions," the AI forum examined how artificial intelligence strengthens organizational resilience, data-driven decision-making and digital transformation across the public and private sectors, with sessions spanning healthcare, education, cybersecurity, cloud computing, big data and the Internet of Things. The archiving conference, themed "Smart Sustainable Environment," addressed electronic archiving, knowledge management, content governance and international records-management standards.

At its dedicated booth, ALSAYER Group presented the digital transforma-



ALSAYER Group platinum sponsors AI and Digital Archiving Forums in Kuwait.



tion and innovation initiatives of the Group, Toyota and Lexus, alongside a display of Toyota Land Cruiser models and the latest Lexus electric vehicles, reflecting its commitment to a sustainable future. Representatives of the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Federation, a strategic partner of the Group, hosted interactive, technology-driven activities for visitors, and commemorative gifts were distributed throughout the event.

Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member and Chairman of the ALSAYER Sustainability Committee, said: "Artificial intelligence is transforming the way organizations manage knowledge and information as-

sets. By leveraging AI-powered solutions for digital content management and knowledge preservation, institutions can enhance compliance, safeguard critical information, and build stronger foundations for innovation and long-term success."

Mr. Ivan Anatoliy Tkachenko, Chief Information Officer, ALSAYER Group, added: "At ALSAYER Group, we believe artificial intelligence and digital transformation are no longer optional, but essential drivers of innovation, operational excellence and sustainable growth. We remain committed to leveraging emerging technologies, investing in our people and fostering a culture of continuous learning to create

lasting value for our customers."

Speaking on a panel discussion on AI and technology, Mr. Agostinho Cajetan Barretto, Group Manager, PMO and Service Delivery, said: "ALSAYER Group is proud to lead the way in innovation and digital transformation. We remain dedicated to exploring new technologies and strengthening our capabilities to drive efficiency and sustainable growth across the communities and industries we serve."

ALSAYER Group's participation underscores its commitment to embracing innovation, accelerating digital transformation and contributing to Kuwait's knowledge-driven economy.

What to know about the \$6.3 billion hack on Binance, likely the biggest-ever crypto theft

Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, said Friday that hackers stole more than \$6 billion in what appears to be the largest cryptocurrency heist on record. Blockchain firms have pointed to the attack coming from a North Korean hacking unit.

The company said it has reserved more than \$6.34 billion of company funds to cover the stolen assets and was beginning to recover assets for users. Binance worked with blockchain partners to freeze roughly \$3 billion in affected assets.

The cryptocurrency exchange has promised to cover all losses, and it has been sharing regular updates on its social media channels as it uncovers more information about the hack.

"We are working nonstop to resolve this," Binance's co-CEO Richard Teng said Friday in a video posted to X.

In an exchange Friday with reporters at the White House, President Donald Trump said U.S. officials were investigating the Binance hack. Asked whether North Korea was involved, Trump said: "We're looking at that."

Here's what we know about the hack, possible North Korean involvement and Binance's investigation.

Binance said on X that an initial investigation suggested the incident may have involved a compromised laptop, but that a subsequent investigation uncovered additional "points of breach."

U.S.-based blockchain intelligence firm TRM, in a post on its website late Thursday, attributed the attack to TraderTraitor, which it described as North Korea's elite hacking unit. "We make this judgment with high confidence," the firm said.

"An attacker moved approximately USD 6.36 billion out of Binance wallets on ten blockchains, most of it in about 20 minutes," TRM said. "Several

features of this attack match earlier North Korea-linked heists."

Blockchain analysis company Chainalysis also believed the Binance hack was likely carried out by TraderTraitor, its co-founder and CEO Jonathan Levin wrote on X.

Asked about the potential ties to North Korea, a Binance spokesperson said only that the company is "working closely with our law enforcement partners to confirm the identity of the criminals and bring them to justice."

Experts have said that North Korea turned to crypto hacking and other illicit cyber activities in recent years as a source of badly needed foreign currency to support its troubled economy and fund its nuclear program in the wake of tough U.N. sanctions and other difficulties.

In December 2022, South Korea's spy agency said North Korean hackers had stolen an estimated 1.5 trillion won (\$1.1 billion) in cryptocurrency and other virtual assets over the past five years, more than half of it in 2022 alone. It said North Korea's capacity to steal digital assets was considered among the world's best.

While about half of the stolen assets were frozen, there is evidence that the hackers already are transferring and converting some of what wasn't recovered, said Garrick Hileman, an independent cryptocurrency analyst.

"Like in money laundering, you bring in the stolen goods and launder those through a mixer or tumbler," he said. "You mix it in with other cryptos, and it's harder to track."

How long it will take the hackers to turn that into something usable isn't clear, he said. "The bottom line is there are places in the world where you can take your bitcoin and get that converted," Hileman said. (AP)

H.E. Paramita Tripathi says investment discussions are progressing

'India, Kuwait explore investment opportunities in infrastructure, logistics & food processing'

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: India and Kuwait are exploring investment opportunities in infrastructure, logistics and food processing, with discussions between the two countries making good progress, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Paramita Tripathi said during the first press conference under the India-Kuwait Media Connect (IKMC) initiative.

Addressing members of the Kuwaiti media, Ambassador Tripathi said investment cooperation was an ongoing process, highlighting the growing interest on both sides following recent discussions, including a meeting with Kuwait's Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Sayed Yusef Al-Rifai and the India-Kuwait Joint Working Group on Investment Cooperation held in New Delhi earlier this month.

Describing her meeting with the Finance Minister as very productive, the Ambassador said discussions covered investment opportunities as well as the economic challenges facing countries amid the prevailing regional situation.

She noted that Kuwait's Finance Minister showed considerable interest in understanding how India was responding to global and regional challenges, with an extensive exchange of views taking place involving his team.

The Ambassador pointed out that investments were already taking place through both the private sector and Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund, expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved so far.

She identified India's infrastructure and logistics sectors as promising areas for investment, while noting particularly strong interest in food processing. Both sides are continuing to exchange information and explore opportunities across these sectors.

65 years of India-Kuwait diplomatic relations

On celebrations marking 65 years of diplomatic relations between India and Kuwait, Ambassador Tripathi said both countries were organising events under the anniversary banner.

She cited the recent tree-plantation initiative and said further programmes were planned for January and February 2027.

The Ambassador also revealed that the Embassy of Kuwait in New Delhi was planning a reception and textile exhibition in November, with Kuwait's Al Sadu



Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Paramita Tripathi



Press conference gets underway.



Indian Ambassador to Kuwait poses for a group photo with members of the press following a media briefing.

House participating in the exhibition to showcase the country's traditional textile heritage.

Asked about the possibility of high-level visits to mark the anniversary, she clarified that no visits had been specifically scheduled under the 65-year celebrations, although discussions on exchanges of visits were ongoing.

She confirmed that an invitation for a visit had been accepted, but the date had yet to be finalised.

"Let us hope that visits can happen in the near future," she said.

India showcases economic, scientific and techno-

logical progress

In her opening remarks at the press conference, the Ambassador highlighted India's achievements during October across economic development, diplomacy, science and technology, space exploration and sports.

She said India's GDP grew by 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year, while sustained export growth reflected the country's expanding global engagement and trade opportunities.

She also highlighted advances in quantum communication, indigenous artificial intelligence chip development, the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and next-generation launch vehicle technologies.

India's achievements at the Asian Games and Asian Para Games, along with the performance of young Indian participants at WorldSkills Shanghai, demonstrated the country's growing talent, innovation and capabilities, she said.

Major international events on India's calendar

The Ambassador outlined several upcoming international events in India that will offer opportunities for business, investment, technology and cultural exchange.

The Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo will take place in New Delhi from November 2 to 5, followed by the 31st CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13.

The 57th International Film Festival of India will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28. She also announced that the media registration deadline had been extended, inviting Kuwaiti journalists to travel to India and cover the festival.

Looking ahead to 2027, she highlighted Aero India, scheduled for February 8-12 in Bengaluru, the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit from January 10-12, and World Food India from September 27-30 in New Delhi.

Cultural and community programmes in Kuwait

The Ambassador also outlined the Embassy's upcoming cultural and community activities in Kuwait.

Diwali Diwaniya, scheduled for November 2 and 3, will celebrate India's Festival of Lights and showcase its cultural heritage. The Embassy is also organising the IIT-IIM Alumni Inter-School Quiz on November 6 to encourage intellectual engagement among students.

Bharat Mela, planned for January 2027, will showcase India's traditional arts, crafts, cuisine and heritage while promoting cultural exchange between the two countries.

Emphasising the role of the media in strengthening bilateral relations, Ambassador Tripathi said journalists played an important role in highlighting developments, sharing reliable information and bringing the people of India and Kuwait closer together.

She invited Kuwaiti media representatives to engage with the India-Kuwait Media Connect newsletter and expressed hope that the initiative would develop into a regular platform for dialogue and cooperation.

The Ambassador also looked forward to welcoming members of the Kuwaiti media for the second IKMC press conference in November

Other Voices

Kuwait's oil industry is in love with refining

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

Kuwait's oil industry owns more than six refineries globally, three of which are in Kuwait. The remaining three are located in Oman, Vietnam, and Italy, in partnership with local oil companies.

The latest of the three refineries, Al-Zour Refinery, features the latest technology and has a capacity of 650,000 barrels per day. It is directed towards exporting refined products to both Asia and Europe. Almost all its products are committed to end consumers, reflecting the nature of Kuwait's oil industry, which focuses on long-term commitments without intermediaries.

This is why Kuwait invested in developing its refining industry ahead of all OPEC countries and other nations. Back in October 1960, the private sector invested 40 percent, while the remaining 60 percent was owned by the Kuwaiti government.

The overall aim is to maintain direct contact with end consumers, whether of motor gasoline or heating oil, as demonstrated by its overseas Q8 stations in Europe and Thailand, provided their operations are profitable and generate added value for their ultimate shareholder, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

It is not hesitant to withdraw from any unprofitable business. Its performance is monitored by the State Audit Bureau and, sooner or later, by Parliament, with no escape from auditing at any time.

It is surprising to learn that Kuwaiti private businessmen agreed to participate in building a refinery despite having limited knowledge of major projects and their technology. At the time, we in Kuwait were unfamiliar with the complexity of refining operations and the detailed technology involved. Shareholders placed their trust in bringing in the best global expertise in oil refining.

As a result, Kuwait today owns and operates six refineries inside and outside the country, with other shareholders trusting KPC's global experience in oil refining. This has resulted in benefits, profits, and

valuable long-term international experience.

Producing and selling crude oil should always be the first step towards entering the oil industry, followed by building a refinery of any type to meet local demand for finished petroleum products. Although this may initially be expensive, an assessment of its long-term benefits shows that they far exceed the initial costs. It also provides an opportunity to train nationals and develop new business knowledge and experience.

This is what Kuwait did, and what BP and Gulf Oil did after obtaining their concessions - they pursued opportunities to generate added value while meeting all local requirements for finished petroleum products.

This was where the private sector began to recognize the benefits and seek a share of this new added value from the government. This was later reflected in the construction of the Shuaiba Refinery, in which the private sector invested 40 percent of its own money and wealth.

The private sector did not stop at Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC). It went on to invest in oil tankers and later established a petrochemical company. Eventually, the entire oil industry in Kuwait was taken over by the Kuwaiti government.

This does not mean that the private sector is no longer interested or eager to re-enter the oil sector in full.

It is an opportunity for the government to consider privatizing part of the oil industry, as it did in the past. Rather than borrowing from external financial institutions, the government could take advantage of strong oil prices and benefit from this current golden opportunity.

Global oil prices are ranging between \$104 and \$129 per barrel, while Kuwait crude oil is priced at \$114 per barrel, exceeding the budget estimate by \$19.

It is time to consider selling a small stake of less than 50 percent in the oil industry, while ensuring that the government retains control, as it did in the past with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), and Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC). This would eliminate the need for borrowing.



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KIB employees complete MBA program at AUM.

Reflecting its commitment to investing in human capital, developing national talent

KIB celebrates the graduation of four employees who completed their MBA degree with the bank's support

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) celebrated the graduation of four employees who successfully completed the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Dual Degree program at the American University of the Middle East (AUM) in collaboration with HEC Montreal. The Bank covered the full cost of their studies through KIB Life Academy, reflecting its continued commitment to investing in its employees and supporting their academic and professional development.

The employees' graduation marks the culmination of an initiative launched by KIB in 2024 as part of its strategy to develop its human capital and provide employees with meaningful opportunities to continue their education and strengthen their capabilities. The initiative aims to enhance their readiness to keep pace with developments in the banking sector and contribute to the Bank's future growth, while also aligning with KIB's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) approach.

Commenting on the occasion, Hadi Ibrahim Hadi, Acting General Manager of Human Resources at KIB, said: "We are proud of our colleagues and of what they have achieved after a journey that required considerable commitment and perseverance, particularly as they pursued their studies alongside their professional responsibilities. At KIB, this achievement reinforces the importance of investing in our employees and providing them with opportunities to expand their knowledge, strengthen their capabilities, and pursue their ambitions."

Hadi added: "We believe that investing in human capital is a direct investment in the Bank's future. Every new area of knowledge our employees gain and every skill they develop strengthens our ability as an institution to evolve and keep pace with change. This is why we remain committed to fostering a culture of continuous learning and creating broader pathways for national talent to grow, advance, and take on greater responsibilities in the future."

He noted that KIB Life Academy plays a central role in translating this approach into practice through a range of programs and initiatives designed to

support employees' professional and academic development. He added: "We want our employees to see KIB as a partner in their growth and development, not simply a place to work. This reflects one of the core meanings of our slogan, 'Bank for Life'. As we celebrate our colleagues' graduation today, we look forward to seeing how the knowledge and experience they have gained will be reflected in their roles and contributions across the Bank."

It is worth noting that KIB Life Academy serves as the Bank's main platform for learning and development initiatives, offering a range of programs and development pathways designed to address employees' professional needs at different stages of their careers and foster a culture of continuous learning across KIB.

About KIB

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

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

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

Committed to operational safety & reliable connectivity

Jazeera Airways resumes daily flights to Riyadh

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, has announced the resumption of daily flights between Kuwait and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, following the recent disruptions to operations at King Khalid International Airport.

The restoration of services follows close coordination with the relevant aviation authorities and a careful assessment of operational conditions, with the safety of passengers and crew remaining the airline's highest priority.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: "The resumption of our daily flights to Riyadh highlights our continued focus on restoring vital connectivity with Saudi Arabia, while maintaining the highest standards of operational safety. We have worked closely with the relevant aviation authorities to ensure a safe and carefully coordinated return to operations and remain committed to providing our passengers with reliable and convenient travel."

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an important market for Jazeera Airways, with strong business, family and tourism ties connecting the two countries. The resumption of daily services to Riyadh marks an important step in restoring essential connectivity between Kuwait and the Kingdom. Passengers can book flights through the Jazeera Airways website: www.jazeeraairways.com or Jazeera Airways mobile app.



Jazeera Airways resuming daily flights to Riyadh.

What's On SPOTLIGHT



Left: Ms Afrah Al Arbash, GM of Human Resources at ABK. Right: A large turnout of female bank employees, with the participation of members of the executive management.



A glimpse of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month lecture.



Screenings on the sidelines of the event.

ABK organizes breast cancer awareness event

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) organised a comprehensive breast cancer awareness session for its female employees to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, reflecting its commitment to promoting the health and wellbeing of its workforce.

The session, led by a breast cancer survivor and attended by employees from across the Bank's divisions, aimed to raise awareness of the importance of early detection, address fears surrounding the disease, and encourage preventive care and healthy lifestyles.

During the event, Consultant Diagnostic Radiologist Dr. Shatha Al-Najdey provided a science-based overview of breast cancer, its main risk factors, and early warning signs requiring immediate medical attention. The session also covered breast self-examination techniques and regular screening, with attendees given the opportunity to ask questions. The event additionally offered vital signs and body mass index checks, alongside individual nutritional consultations.

ABK also announced three female winners of its 'Walk for a Purpose' challenge, which encouraged physical activity and raised awareness of ways to combat breast cancer.

Commenting on the initiative, Afrah Alarbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, said, "We believe our people are our greatest asset. With this in mind, we spare no effort in creating a supportive work environment that promotes health and wellbeing. This session reflects our commitment to our responsibilities and to raising health awareness across the Bank."

She highlighted that the initiative reflects the Bank's focus on employee wellbeing as a top priority. She added that investing in health and awareness directly enhances employees' professional and personal quality of life, reaffirming ABK's ongoing commitment to caring for its people as the foundation of its success and business sustainability.

Alarbash encouraged female employees to make regular screening a lasting preventive habit, helping to safeguard their wellbeing and positively influence their families and colleagues.

She continued, "Raising breast cancer awareness during October is more than an annual activity. It carries an important health and humanitarian message. Through this initiative, we aim to equip participants with accurate medical information and guidance that strengthen health awareness, help reduce risks, and support early treatment and better recovery outcomes."

Alarbash concluded, "We believe that quality of life in the workplace is an integral part of the Bank's broader plans. We therefore designed this initiative as a practical step within a series of awareness programmes aimed at enhancing comprehensive healthcare. We look forward to continuing to introduce meaningful initiatives for all our employees in the coming period."

The event complemented ABK's social media awareness campaign, which featured a series of videos produced in collaboration with the 'KouniQawiya' breast cancer survivors' team. The videos offered advice on coping with and confronting the disease, while highlighting the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle to help reduce breast cancer incidence within the community.

Actress Nikhila Vimal inaugurates LuLu World Food Festival

The LuLu Hypermarket launches World Food Festival with global flavours & exciting offers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: LuLu Hypermarket, one of the region's leading retail chains, is set to delight food lovers across Kuwait with the much-anticipated LuLu World Food Festival, a vibrant celebration of international cuisines, attractive shopping offers, exciting culinary competitions and fabulous prizes. Running from 28 October for seven days across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Kuwait, the festival promises a memorable experience for food enthusiasts and families alike.

The official inauguration of the festival was held on 29 October at LuLu Hypermarket's Al Rai outlet. Adding glamour to the occasion, renowned South Indian film actress Nikhila Vimal inaugurated the festival in the presence of LuLu Kuwait's senior management and representatives of the festival's sponsoring brands.

Throughout the festival, shoppers can enjoy attractive offers and discounts across a wide range of categories, including groceries, fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and frozen meat and seafood, chilled and dairy products, home appliances and kitchen essentials. Beyond food, the festival also features exciting technology deals, a Buy KD 10, Get KD 10 offer on garments, special footwear brand sales, a dedicated Toy Fest and much more, making it a rewarding shopping experience for the entire family.

A major highlight of the festival is its exciting lineup of culinary competitions, celebrating creativity, passion and talent in the kitchen. The Taste & Win Competition invites participants to prepare dishes at home and present them for evaluation by a panel of judges. Young cooking enthusiasts can showcase their skills in the Master Junior Chef Contest, while the Pizza Decoration Contest gives participants an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity through imaginative pizza designs. Winners of all competitions will receive valuable prizes, while all kids' participants will be awarded consolation prizes in recognition of their enthusiasm and participation.

Adding to the festival's appeal is a diverse range of themed promotions catering to different tastes and culinary preferences. Global Foodie celebrates international cuisines, including Arabic, Indian, Continental, Filipino, Thai and more. Healthy Eats focuses on wholesome choices such as salads, cheeses and olives, while Meet a Meat presents a wide selection of meat products and Go Fish showcases fresh and frozen seafood. The Best Bake caters to bakery enthusiasts, while Snack Time brings together a variety of quick bites. Biryani lovers can explore Biryani World, while Desi Dhaba celebrates the vibrant flavours of Indian street food. Dessert enthusiasts can indulge in Cake So Cookies, and NaadanThattukada highlights traditional South Indian Street snacks. Completing the experience, Kitchen Must Have features essential kitchen tools, gadgets and accessories for everyday cooking.

Further enhancing the festival atmosphere, special global cuisine street food counters will be introduced across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets, offering an exciting selection of international favourites. Featuring flavours from South Indian, North Indian, Mexican, Korean, Italian, Spanish, Continental and other cuisines, these counters will



Photos during the event.

bring the spirit of international street food to shoppers, creating an engaging culinary experience beyond the aisles.

The LuLu World Food Festival is supported by an extensive network of leading brands and sponsors, including Al Wazzan, Bayara, Country XL, Al Kaber, Kitco, IFFCO, Noor, Tiffany Biscuits, Americana, Seara, Sadia, Kellogg's, Pringles, Nestlé,

Mottamad, Mars, Ritz, Bahlsen, Lay's, Snips, Buldak, Panzani, Al Hajery, Indomie, Nada, Tanniah, Aromia Café, Arla, Oceans Pride, Majdi, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa, Altayeb, Alyoum, Khazan, London Dairy, Prestige, Vileda, Honor, Philips, Nutricook, Black+Decker, Timehouse and Malabar Gold.

With its impressive combination of

global flavours, exceptional shopping offers, culinary competitions, live food experiences and valuable prizes, the LuLu World Food Festival promises an exciting celebration for shoppers across Kuwait. The festival invites families, food lovers and shoppers to discover new tastes, enjoy exclusive offers and celebrate the joy of food at all LuLu Hypermarket outlets nationwide.

Achieving your goals can leave you feeling empty?

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

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By Stacy Keltner

Kennesaw State University

When Anne Carson learned she had won the Nobel Prize in literature, she was in Iceland, where, according to the Swedish Academy, she was "listening to the wind."

Carson didn't answer her phone right away, silencing it until her husband persuaded her to call back. Her verdict on the academy's choice: "I think you're all insane."

Whatever she felt in the moment, there is an irony in Carson's Nobel win. The highest award in literature has gone to a writer who has spent her career exploring the emptiness of a desire fulfilled.

The honor coincides with the 40th anniversary of the publication of her first book, "Eros the Bittersweet," a meditation on desire.

In it, Carson argues that desire begins with a void - with wanting what we don't have. She traces how this feeling of absence shapes love, reading, writing and thinking, activities that renew themselves precisely because they are never complete.

"Eros" begins with a brief preface on Franz Kafka's "The Top," a story about a philosopher who spends his time around children so he can chase their spinning tops. When a child sets a top in motion, the philosopher snatches it, believing that understanding any small thing, even a spinning top, would be enough to understand everything.

While the top spins, the philosopher is filled with hope, but as soon as he grasps it, he is repelled by the dumb piece of wood. He throws it down and waits for the next child to spin a top.

For Carson, the story is about why people love to fall in love. The philosopher is after what Carson calls an "impertinent stability in vertigo," a state that is "itself delightful, a suspended moment of living hope." The philosopher's quest for knowledge, Carson cheekily concludes, is simply his pretext for chasing spinning tops. He is enchanted by the spinning itself, and even by his own enchantment - a spell that breaks the instant the top stops in his hand.

Most people know a version of this: There is something animating about chasing a goal. But once attained, the framed degree fades into the wall, the promotion quickly loses its luster, and the plaque becomes another dumb piece of wood.

The delight of wanting disappears in the having.

Why does fulfillment so often feel like loss?

Carson's answer begins with the Greek word for erotic love,

"eros," which she explains denotes want or lack. Plato's Socrates makes the same point in the "Symposium." For the Greeks, no one desires what they already have.

Desire also opens up an absence. To long for someone or something is to discover our own edges, the chasm where the self ends and what is wanted begins. Eros reveals that we are incomplete - an awareness that causes the self to become undone, loosening at the joints.

In one of her poems, the Greek poet Sappho called this experience "glukupikron," or "sweet-bitter."

Carson's translation of the passage reads: "Eros once again limb-loosener whirls me / sweet-bitter, impossible to fight off, creature stealing up."

Sappho puts sweet first, Carson notes in "Eros," but desire is not initially sweet and then bitter. Pleasure and pain arrive together, in the same body and at the same time, before the lover is even able to distinguish them.

Carson extends this pattern to reading, writing and thinking. A reader approaches a text's meaning but never masters it; every rereading turns up new meanings. The pleasure of understanding and the ache of incompleteness arrive together.

Writing works the same way. A good sentence both captures and conceals what the writer means. Thinking also runs on that doubled feeling, which is how the story of a philosopher chasing tops ended up in a book about love.

The same bittersweet pattern also shows up somewhere far less romantic: at work. Meeting a deadline brings relief that is already hollow because the next one is waiting.

I discovered "Eros the Bittersweet" as a philosophy graduate student, when my goals were to read, write and think my way into questions I loved. Now I spend much of my day as a university administrator, where the quality of my work is measured in metrics and met deadlines. Somewhere along the way, my goals stopped being things I wanted and became things to check off.

Today's productivity culture chases tops of its own, but it looks less like Kafka's philosopher than like Lucy and Ethel working at the chocolate factory in the 1952 "I Love Lucy" episode "Job Switching." As the conveyor belt speeds up, the only way they can look like they're keeping up is to stuff what they've missed into their mouths.

Few things capture this pressure more than the SMART goal. In 1981, management consultant George Doran proposed that goals be SMART: specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and time-related. The acronym spread through industries and disciplines as a model for strategic planning, project management, performance evaluations and personal goal-setting. (AP)

FIP chief hails Kuwait as world padel capital

Kuwait stages two major international padel events simultaneously

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31, (KUNA): President of the International Padel Federation (FIP) Luigi Carraro on Saturday praised Kuwait's growing international standing in padel, describing the country as the world's padel capital this week for simultaneously hosting two major international tournaments.

In an exclusive interview to KUNA, Carraro said Kuwait's hosting of the Premier Padel Major, alongside the Asia-Africa qualifiers for the FIP World Cup, represents an unprecedented achievement in the sport's history.

"This week, Kuwait is the absolute capital of the world of padel," he said, noting that no other country had ever organized two events of such magnitude simultaneously.

Carraro congratulated Kuwait, tournament organizer BNK Group and all those involved in organizing the competitions, praising the exceptional organizational standards and the country's commitment to developing the sport.

He said the federation was visiting Kuwait for the third consecutive year, adding that each visit further strengthened its appreciation for the country, particularly the hospitality of its people, professionalism of the organizing teams, quality of venues and accommodation facilities.

He described the Kuwait Premier Padel Major as the world's best tournament from the players' perspective, highlighting its popularity among spectators and television audiences, where it ranks among the most-watched competitions of the year.

Carraro expressed his appreciation to the organizing committee and its team for their outstanding efforts in delivering two major international competitions simultaneously.

Regarding Kuwait's ability to host future international tournaments, Carraro affirmed that the country had already demonstrated its capacity to meet the highest international organizational requirements.

He explained that hosting a Premier Padel Major alone requires considerable organizational capabilities, while simultaneously staging the Asia-Africa qualifiers for the FIP World Cup further demonstrates Kuwait's exceptional infrastructure and expertise.

"Believe me, it's unique," he said, stressing that Kuwait possesses the organizational capabilities necessary to deliver such major events successfully.

On the development of Kuwaiti padel players, Carraro said he had



President of the International Padel Federation Luigi Carraro grants exclusive interview to KUNA. (KUNA)

watched matches involving Kuwaiti male players and observed significant improvements in their performances.

He emphasized that hosting international tournaments such as the Premier Padel Major would contribute substantially to raising the technical standards of local players by providing greater exposure to elite international competition.

However, he stressed the importance of organizing more tournaments under the CUPRA FIP Tour

and FIP Promises circuits to ensure sustainable development of the sport in Kuwait.

He explained that FIP Promises competitions focus on developing young players and discovering future talents who could emerge as international stars over the next three, five or ten years.

Meanwhile, the CUPRA FIP Tour provides players from around the world with opportunities to earn international ranking points and qualify for the main draws of Premier Padel tournaments.

Carraro expressed confidence that Kuwait possesses both the organizational expertise and the quality of players required to host additional competitions under these circuits.

Discussing Kuwait's regional influence, Carraro described Kuwait and Qatar as the leading countries in developing padel across the region, particularly through their organization of major international competitions.

He acknowledged the growing contributions of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, while emphasizing Kuwait's remarkable progress in attracting prestigious international tournaments.

Carraro highlighted Kuwait's achievements over the past three years, beginning with its hosting of a P1 tournament two years ago, followed by the inaugural FIP World Cup Pairs last year.

This year, he added, Kuwait has advanced to hosting a Premier Padel Major alongside the FIP World Cup Asia-Africa qualifiers, demonstrating the country's continued rise in the international padel landscape.

"There is no limit for Kuwait," Carraro said, encouraging the country to maintain its momentum and continue developing its position as a leading international destination for the sport.

Looking ahead, he expressed confidence that Kuwait would remain among the world's leading hosts of major padel tournaments,

citing its exceptional organizational standards and advanced sporting infrastructure.

On padel's ambitions to join the Olympic Games, Carraro highlighted the significant progress achieved in expanding the sport's presence within major international multisport competitions.

He recalled that an agreement reached in Kuwait a year earlier had paved the way for padel's inclusion in the Asian Games program, describing the development as an important milestone toward the sport's Olympic ambitions.

Carraro said the agreement was reached in cooperation with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), which is headquartered in Kuwait, and its leadership.

He added that padel had successfully completed its first edition in Japan this year, describing the event as a major success and another important step in strengthening the sport's international recognition.

Carraro expressed optimism that continued support from countries such as Kuwait and Qatar would further accelerate padel's development and help advance its ambition of becoming an Olympic sport.

He reiterated his appreciation for Kuwait's efforts, stressing that the country's achievements in hosting major international competitions reflect its growing influence in shaping the future of padel worldwide.

Riders deliver impressive performances

Al-Anazi, Al-Baloul and Al-Jalahma shine at Messilah Equestrian Club Championship



Riders celebrate on the podium as officials look on after the awarding ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Riders delivered impressive performances at the Messilah Equestrian Club Championship, with Abdulrahman Al-Anazi claiming the main third-round title in the 120cm category.

Al-Anazi took first place with a time of 21.90 seconds in the second round. Sogo Babi finished second, followed by Fawaz Al-Subaie, Abdullah Al-Aibani, Nasser Ali and Pavel Voronko. International judge Dr

Yahya Al-Hadban presented the awards to the winners.

In the 110cm category, Abdulwahab Al-Baloul topped the standings, ahead of Ali Ahmed Al-Kharafi, Ghassan Al-Husseini, Ali Al-Ajmi, Ammar Askar and Ahmed Al-Hasawi.

Jassim Al-Jalahma won the opening 100cm category, with Meshaal Al-Anazi finishing second. Khaled Al-Hajraf, Ghassan Al-Husseini, Sami Al-Muzaini and Abdulrahman Al-Baloul followed.

lowed.

The championship also featured beginner competitions over 60cm and 80cm, attracting a large number of promising young riders.

Most competitors completed their rounds without faults, reflecting their progress and the club's efforts to develop emerging talent.

Messilah Equestrian Club Chairman Bader Tareq Al-Melhem praised the high level of

competition and strong turnout, particularly in the beginner and intermediate categories.

He said the club was committed to providing riders with an environment conducive to improving their skills, attracting new talent and nurturing a generation passionate about equestrian sports.

Al-Melhem added that these efforts would help promote the sport and broaden its participation base across Kuwait.

Kuwaiti coach Al-Saeedi named tech adviser at Jordan's Al-Karmel

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Oct 31: Jordanian club Al-Karmel has appointed Kuwaiti coach Salem Al-Saeedi as technical adviser to its volleyball team as part of a broader plan to develop the sport and raise the team's competitive standards.

The club said the appointment was based on Al-Saeedi's distinguished coaching record and extensive experience in building volleyball teams, improving players' abilities and developing young talent. It also cited his comprehensive vision and technical programme, which aims to establish a strong foundation for the future of volleyball at the club.

Al-Karmel's board expressed confidence that Al-Saeedi would bring valuable expertise to the team and help advance the club's ambitions.

For his part, Al-Saeedi thanked the board for its confidence, expressing his eagerness to contribute to the development of the club's volleyball programme and achieve its objectives.

Al-Karmel's under-16 team finished



Salem Al-Saeedi

third in the league last season, while the senior side is scheduled to open its Cup campaign next Thursday against Al-Mahatta.

Best of the Rest

Harmer shines as South Africa wins 3rd test: Simon Harmer picked a career-best 6-16 as South Africa bowled out Australia for 111 to win the third test by 176 runs and clinch the three-match series 2-1 on Saturday. Australia crumbled in Cape Town after being set 288 to win on Day 5 of the deciding match of the series.

The Proteas rallied from 1-0 down in the first test series between the teams in South Africa since the "Sandpapergate" scandal in 2018.

Harmer, a 37-year-old offspinner, finished with match figures of 10-120 - his first 10-wicket haul in tests - after South Africa made 329 and 387 in its two innings, while Australia scored 429 in its first to take a 100-run lead at Newlands. Kagiso Rabada took 3-39 on Saturday to reach 350 career test wickets. (AP)

Sulaibikhat bolsters squad with Omani international Al-Koubi

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Omani volleyball player Falah Salim, widely known as "Al-Koubi," arrived in Kuwait to complete his move to Sulaibikhat, where he will make his first professional appearance abroad during the current season.

The player was received at the airport by team manager Ahmed Refaat and captain Nawaf Al-Enezi. He is expected to join the team's training sessions ahead of its upcoming commitments.

Salim's arrival is expected to strengthen Sulaibikhat's squad with the Omani international



Omani player Falah Salim received at the airport by team manager Ahmed Refaat and captain Nawaf Al-Enezi.

bringing valuable experience and an impressive record at Arab and continental levels.

He previously won the Best All-Round Player award at the West Asian Championship with Oman's national team and was named Best Outside Hitter (Position 4) at the Arab Championship.

His last club was Oman's Al-Bashayer, before making the move to Sulaibikhat for his first overseas professional experience.

The club's coaching staff is hoping his arrival will provide the team with a significant boost as they seek to compete for honours and achieve their ambitions this season.

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NEWS



Indiana Pacers forward Jarace Walker (5) and Miami Heat guard/forward Klay Thompson (11) drive for the ball during the second half of an NBA Cup basketball game in Miami. Heat won 145-125. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Club aims for more titles after historic win

Al-Ghanim describes 14th successive league triumph as unprecedented milestone

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Kuwait Club secured its 16th Premier League title and a record-extending 14th consecutive crown after wrapping up the 2025-2026 handball season with a commanding 36-21 victory over Burgan in the final round at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex last Thursday.

In the other match, Kazma defeated Nasr 38-28.

Kuwait Club finished top of the standings with 27 points, comfortably ahead of runner-up Burgan on 19 points. Kazma took third place with 18 points, followed by Al-Arabi on 16, Sulaibikhat on eight and Nasr on two. Qadsia and Salmiya withdrew from the competition.

Kuwait Club Chairman Khaled Al-Ghanim described the 14th successive league triumph as an unprecedented milestone in Kuwaiti handball, praising the contributions of the club's current and former administrations and everyone involved in the achievement.

He highlighted the team's domestic and continental successes, stressing that the club was determined to maintain its winning tradition and add more trophies to its collection.

"Our plans for next season are focused on winning championships, finishing first and representing Kuwait in the best possible way in international competitions," Al-Ghanim said.

He also thanked the club's supporters for their unwavering back-



Al-Shuraie, Al-Ghanim, Al-Adwani and Al-Khamis present the Handball League Shield to Kuwait Club.

ing, while praising the board, players and technical and administrative staff for their roles in securing the historic title.

Burgan Chairman Anwar Al-Ota-

bi, meanwhile, described his team's campaign as positive, pointing out that their second-place finish secured qualification for the upcoming Asian Club Championship.

Al-Otaibi said Burgan would seek to challenge for both the league and cup titles next season through further squad development and new signings. He also stressed the club's

ambition to defend its continental crown.

He praised the Kuwait Handball Association for its efforts to build a competitive domestic league, saying this



Kuwait Club concludes the league with a win over Burgan.



Kuwait Club Chairman Khaled Al-Ghanim

would help raise players' standards and strengthen the national team ahead of the World Handball Championship in Germany early next year.

Jahra plays Fahaheel

Qadsia, Al-Arabi renew rivalry in crucial seventh-round derby

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Qadsia welcome arch-rival Al-Arabi at 8:00 pm Sunday at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in the standout fixture of the seventh round of the Zain Premier League.

The round also features an earlier clash between Jahra (4 points) and Fahaheel (9 points), scheduled for 5:30 pm at Mubarak Al-Ayar Stadium.

The two traditional rivals enter the derby on different trajectories, with Qadsia enjoying a stronger run of form. The Yellow Castle sits third with 12 points, four behind leader Kuwait Club and two adrift of second-placed Kazma. However, Qadsia has a game in hand, with its postponed fifth-round meeting against Sahel set for December 17.

Qadsia has also impressed in the AFC Challenge League, winning all its group matches to finish top and book a place in the quarterfinals.

Al-Arabi, on the other hand, finally got its campaign back on track last round with a victory over Fahaheel,



Dharibidsfarewell to football Sunday in the Qadsia-Al-Arabi clash.

itsr first league win after three draws and a defeat. The result lifted its tally to six points and eased its position near the bottom of the table. The Green Castle also has a postponed fixture against Salmiya from the fifth round, scheduled for December 17.

Its continental campaign, however, proved disappointing, as Al-Arabi finished bottom of its AFC Challenge League group without a point after losing all three matches.

The poor results prompted the dismissal of Croatian coach Goran Sablic. National coach Mohamed Abdelnabi subsequently took charge on an interim basis, before Bosnian coach Darko Nestorovic was appointed and led the team to victory over Fahaheel.

Nevertheless, the derby is a different proposition, with previous form and league positions often counting for little in such encounters. Both sides will need to be mentally sharp and physically prepared to secure a valuable victory.

The derby will also provide the setting for the retirement of former Qadsia and Kuwait international Dhari Saeed.

Born in 1987, Saeed began his career with Qadsia in 2007, winning more than 30 titles with the club. He represented Kuwait's national team from 2012 to 2019, making 18 international appearances.

Qurain reaches basketball final for the first time in club history

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 31: Qurain Club has made history by reaching the Kuwait Basketball League final for the first time since the club's establishment in 2011, securing an 85-80 victory over Qadsia in the second game of their playoff semifinal series.

The five-point win sealed Qurain's place in the final after a closely fought contest, marking a major achievement for the club and underlining the team's progress and growing competitiveness.

Kuwait Club also booked itsplace in the final after overcoming Kazma 100-91.

The best-of-three final series is scheduled to start on Tuesday, November 3, with the second game set for Thursday. If either side wins the first two games, it will claim the title. If the teams split the opening games, a third and decisive match will be played to determine the champion.



Qurain forward shoots over Qadsia defenders.

Man United loses at Chelsea to leave Carrick's job in further jeopardy

LONDON, Oct 31, (AP): Michael Carrick's position as Manchester United manager was jeopardized further Saturday with a 2-0 loss at Chelsea in the Premier League, with a red card to Lisandro Martinez adding to the woes of the beleaguered English giant.

Carrick was already under huge pressure - and seemingly operating on a match-by-match basis - heading into the game at Stamford Bridge, for which he restored Bruno Fernandes to the starting lineup after dropping his captain last week.

It has gotten worse for Carrick, with United now on a nine-match winless run in all competitions - its longest streak without a victory since 1988, according to the BBC - after second-half goals by Morgan Rogers and Cole Palmer.

"Things have gone against us, and gone against us in a big



Manchester United's Andrey Santos, left, challenges for the ball with Chelsea's Estevao during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Manchester United in London. (AP)

way," Carrick said. "It unraveled quickly."

Palmer converted a 64th-minute penalty awarded after Martinez jumped with a raised elbow toward Wesley Fofana at a corner and struck the Chelsea defender in the face. A video review confirmed the offense and the Argentina defender, already in the spotlight for criticizing United's hierarchy in a recent post-match interview, was given a second yellow card in a four-minute span.

As Martinez walked off the field and down the tunnel, Carrick didn't even acknowledge the player.

"It has a major importance on the game," Carrick said of the sending-off. "A huge moment."

United stayed on just one win in the league after nine games and is one point above the relegation zone. There's a chance the 20-

time English champions could be in the bottom three by the end of the round, a desperate situation for a club widely regarded as the biggest in the country.

United's only two victories from 13 matches in all competitions this season were against promoted Ipswich in the Premier League and tournament newcomer Sabah in the Champions League.

United's next match is at home to Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday and there has to be some doubt whether Carrick will still be in charge.

"I think the mentality was there right from the first minute," United forward Bryan Mbeumo said. "We still trust everyone."

"Maybe today we just missed some chances. We could have been up early in the game, but that's a positive to take out of this game."