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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026 / JUMADA AL-AWWAL 22, 1448 AH | emergency number 112 | NO. 19349 | 12 PAGES | 150 FILS

JUSTICE MINISTRY EYES REFORMS, LIGHTER CASELOAD



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq
Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait speaks during a press conference announcing the conclusion of the 2026 Debtors' Relief Campaign, which raised KD16.54 million and benefited 3,807 debtors.

KD 16.5mn donations benefit 3,807 debtors

Court cases drop 20 percent

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait stated in an exclusive interview with the daily that the ministry remains open to proposals for amending laws, highlighting that specialized committees review such proposals to assess the feasibility for implementation.

During a press conference marking the conclusion of the 2026 "Debtors' Relief Campaign," which was launched last Ramadan, Al-Sumait explained that total donations amounted to KD 16,539,659, contributed by 138,328 individuals.

The donations benefited 3,807 debtors, covering either fully or partially the amounts they had been legally ordered to pay.

Some of those who benefited from the campaign were not the original debtors but rather guarantors of others but legal proceedings had been initiated against them in accordance with the law.

The minister indicated that the ministry is currently preparing to launch an even larger campaign during the upcoming month of Ramadan.

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Opinion



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

If America had not gone to war with Iran, Tehran would have ravaged the region

A DISTINCT clash is taking place today, marked by escalating rhetoric between Tehran, Washington and Tel Aviv that signals the possibility of a bigger war.

However, the initial results of the campaign launched by the United States and Israel point to a different direction. This stage commenced after Tehran attempted to broaden its intimidation campaign to include the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and other Arab nations, exposing the regime at its most vulnerable point. Tehran lost its regional advantage, unable to withstand an international alliance of more than 30 countries. It can no longer obtain the public support it once generated through indoctrination and sectarianism.

Historical context is the key to grasping this shift. Foundational ideological texts, including the writings of Khamenei (senior) and the doctrines of Khomeini, put the transformation of cultural and religious dogma at the heart of their revolutionary efforts against the so-called 'tyrants'. Thus, the current confrontation extends far beyond the global economic strains.

The ultimate goal has far greater weight -- eradicating a cancerous threat to global stability, echoing the historical imperative of confronting the Nazi regime.

Over the past years, Tehran's regional influence expanded by appealing to sectarian minorities and broadcasting slogans. The current clash strips away this facade, laying bare a system founded purely on propaganda—one that lost all meaningful support, even in the territories it previously claimed to dominate.

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Water heaters get hot new rule book

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Sabih Al-Mukhizaim said the decree on the technical code for water heaters in buildings was published in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm', on Sunday.

Article One of the decree states that the technical code stipulates the adoption of the requirements for designing and installing water heating systems in buildings throughout the country.

Article Two states that the technical code applies to all water heating systems in residential and non-residential buildings throughout the country.

Following are the major provisions of the code:

- Define the technical specifications for optimal usage, including hot water consumption rates. This applies to newly constructed buildings and expansion of existing structures that require additional electrical capacity.
- Non-residential buildings must comply with the minimum energy efficiency standards for designing and installing water heating systems. They must implement a system that achieves at least 60 percent reduction in total water heating demand.
- Residential buildings can select any water heating system. If they opt for high-efficiency systems like solar water heating or heat pump systems, they must adhere to the energy efficiency standards stipulated in the code.
- All systems and equipment covered by the code must comply with Kuwait Standard 1903/2025 issued by the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) or its most recent amendment.

Electricity ministry pulls switch on staff reshuffle

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizim issued decisions on Sunday approving a series of administrative rotations involving 16 employees holding supervisory positions across several ministry sectors.

The changes cover the Financial Affairs, Power Plants, Administrative Affairs, Technical Services, Electrical Transmission Networks, Water Operation and Maintenance, and Customer Services sectors.

The decisions include the following appointments and transfers:

Power Plants and Electrical Transmission Networks

- Engineer Ahmed Al-Sumairi, Director of the Planning and Follow-up Department in the Electrical Transmission Networks Sector, was transferred to head the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Department in the Power Plants Sector.
- Engineer Ahmed Al-Dousari, former Director of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Department, was transferred to head the Program Planning and Follow-up Department in the same sector.
- Engineer Khalaf Al-Mutairi, Director of the Program Planning and Follow-up Department, was transferred to head the Security and Safety Department in the Power Plants Sector.
- Abdullah Al-Tharwa, former Director of the Security and Safety Department, was transferred to head the Planning Department in the Financial Affairs Sector.

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7 MoneyTech summit kicks off in Kuwait



8 Al-Othman: NBK shapes and leads change rather than waiting for it

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait on Sunday strongly condemned an attack on the Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker Al-Maiedah, while sailing through the Arabian Gulf, stressing its outright rejection of acts that threaten maritime security and the safety of global energy supplies.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscored the need to respect international law, ensure freedom of maritime navigation and safeguard vessels and their crews. (KUNA)

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MANAMA: Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) **Jasem Al-Budaiwi** met Saturday in the Bahraini capital, Manama, with US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Near East and Central Asia **Michael P. DiMino** to discuss expanding defense cooperation.

The bilateral discussions were held on the sidelines of Al-Budaiwi's participation in the 22nd Regional Security Summit, known as the "IISS Manama Dialogue 2026". (KUNA)



The medical team at the New Jahra Hospital.

New Jahra Hospital earns robotic seal of excellence

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The New Jahra Hospital has been designated a "Center of Excellence in Robotic Surgery" by the American organization Surgical Review Corporation (SRC).

Also, the hospital's Head of the Surgery Department, Dr. Mohammed Al-Jasmi, has been accredited as a "Surgeon of Excellence in Robotic Surgery" for the period from October 2026 to 2029.

It is worth highlighting that the SRC is a US-based non-profit organization dedicated to patient safety and healthcare quality. It grants "Centers of Excellence" designations to hospitals and surgeons worldwide.

In a statement, the Ministry of Health affirmed that this accreditation reflects the ongoing development of the hospital's robotic surgery program.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Jasmi, Head of the Surgery Department at New Jahra Hospital, explained that the robotic surgery program began operations on April 27, 2025.

Since its launch, approximately 200 procedures have been performed in several specialties, including general surgery, urology, and other specialized surgical fields.

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Kuwait seeks to turn strategic location into industrial power

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: At a time when the national economy stands at a crossroads, shifting toward sustainable development and moving away from reliance on a single source of income, the industrial sector emerges as one of the key strategic pillars on which the state relies to restructure its productive base, address budget deficits, and create real employment opportunities for the national workforce.



Dr. Al-Bassam

Experts discussed ways to transform Kuwait into an advanced regional industrial hub. This vision builds on the country's exceptional geographical location, major logistical projects, and significant advances in artificial intelligence - a technology that makes it possible to localize such industries without requiring a large influx of foreign labor.

Dr. Sadiq Al-Bassam, an economic expert and head of the Accounting Department at Kuwait University, emphasized the importance of expanding into heavy-scale and medium-scale industries rather than relying solely on small-scale industries.



Al-Attar

He explained that Kuwait's strategic location facilitates the export of industrial products. Building a robust industrial base requires a comprehensive national strategy covering the next 10 to 15 years, with a focus on transforming Kuwait into a regional industrial hub by utilizing its ports and logistical infrastructure to access global markets.

Investing in heavy industries, such as petrochemicals, iron and steel, and automotive manufacturing, would be particularly beneficial, as these sectors

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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

Kuwait's leadership congratulates Algerian president on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent separate cables on Sunday to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating him on Algeria's National Day.

In his cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Tebboune good health and wished Algeria and its people continued progress and prosperity. The Crown Prince also wished the Algerian president good health, while the Prime Minister extended his congratulations on the national occasion.

Kuwait's leadership congratulates Antigua & Barbuda on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent separate cables on Sunday to Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In his cable, His Highness the Amir wished Sir Rodney a long, healthy life and expressed hopes for continued prosperity and development for Antigua and Barbuda and its people. The Crown Prince also wished the Governor-General good health, while the Prime Minister extended congratulations on the national occasion.

Other Voices

The illusion of the engine of civilization

By Ahmad alsarraf

Europe's choice of Palestine as a "national home for the Jewish people" was not a singular decision, but rather the culmination of a historical and political process that took shape in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, specifically at the First Zionist Congress in August 1897, led by journalist Theodor Herzl.



Ahmad alsarraf

The idea emerged as a political movement and was adopted by Britain at the time through the Balfour Declaration. It was subsequently given international legitimacy through conferences and the United Nations.

The idea was simple, despite its blatant colonial nature. It consisted of the Zionist movement carrying out the same actions previously perpetrated by European colonial powers such as Britain, France, Belgium, and others. The idea involved choosing a land and a people, striving to occupy it, killing as many of them as possible, and replacing them with large numbers of their own people, especially those with criminal records, prisoners, and the unemployed.

This occurred in Australia, South Africa, Namibia, the Congo, New Zealand, the United States, and elsewhere. Therefore, the Zionist movement ensured that European powers would not object to its actions, as they had already done the same.

Furthermore, the exodus of Jews from Europe was a demand made by many European politicians at the time, driven by antisemitism. These sentiments remain alive among them.

What strongly refutes the myth that Palestine was always the "Promised Land" is the intense and serious debate that took place at the First Zionist Congress regarding the selection of the "best homeland." Opinions ranged from Argentina to Uganda, but Palestine was ultimately chosen, seemingly by chance.

Later, the San Remo Conference was held, preceded by the Balfour Declaration, which called on Britain to facilitate the immigration of European Jews to Palestine. Subsequently, the United Nations issued a resolution in 1947 to partition Palestine, and the Jewish state was declared in 1948.

The book titled "The Illusion of Western Civilization" reveals the extent of the genocide perpetrated against the Palestinian people, most recently in Gaza.

The book's author, Hamid Dabashi, explains the details of the test in which Western civilization failed, as well as the unholy alliance between the two sides. He asserts that Western support for Israel is the result of years of immoral collusion between them.

What happened, and continues to happen, in Gaza today is not an exception, but rather a repetition of what has previously occurred in dozens of countries invaded and colonized by these powers, and a clear indication of their bankruptcy.

The outrage we have witnessed in some European capitals over the massacres in Gaza is nothing more than an attempt by some people with a conscience to restore the moral values that have been lost by the societies and intellectuals of those countries.

The genocides in Gaza are merely a repetition of previous colonial genocides.

Therefore, Israel's existence is as unnatural as France's presence in Algeria and Vietnam during the colonial era.

Israel exists in a hostile environment and can never become peaceful or tolerant of it.

It is therefore absurd to believe that Israeli Jews will ever feel safe, or that circumstances will compel them to become the driving force that pulls their enemies toward progress and civilization, as some suggest.

Israel is not that naive. After forty years of peace with Arab states, Israel has failed to create less hostile societies. Hatred of Arabs remains deeply entrenched, and hostility toward Israel remains palpable. This has reinforced Israel's reluctance to contribute to the advancement and progress of its enemies. Israel has never offered, and never will offer, its expertise or technology to the Arabs.

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Email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Kuwait's Amir & Crown Prince receive senior officials

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday, at Bayan Palace, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and several senior ministers.

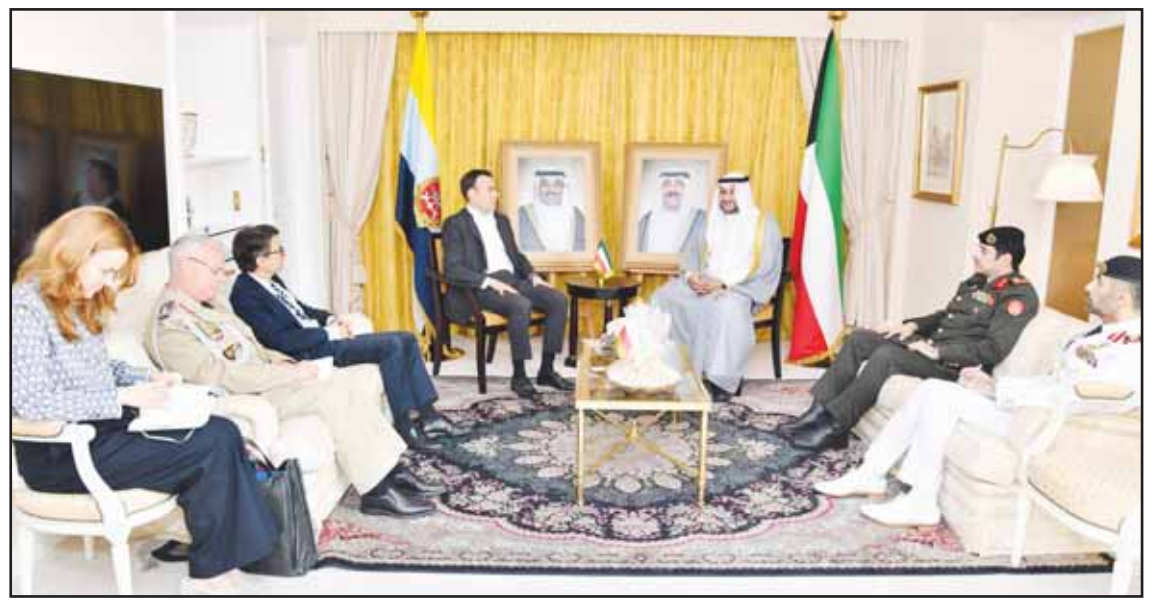
His Highness the Amir also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince received at Bayan Palace the Prime Minister, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, the Defense Minister, and the Foreign Minister.

Kuwait joins Manama Dialogue as GCC chief outlines regional security agenda

GCC calls for international law-based security framework

MANAMA, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Undersecretary of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, representing Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, participated in the 22nd Manama Dialogue on regional security, held in Bahrain from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, 2026.



Ministry of Defense photo

Kuwaiti Undersecretary of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah represented Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah at the forum.

The Defense Ministry said the forum brought together senior officials, military leaders and decision-makers from around the world to discuss regional security challenges and strengthen defense coordination.

On the sidelines, Sheikh Abdullah met German Deputy Defense Minister Nils Schmid to discuss military cooperation and exchanged views with several defense industry officials and company executives.

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jasem Al-Budaiwi affirmed Saturday that establishing a stable and sustainable regional security framework requires strict adherence to international law, respect for state sovereignty, and the strengthening of joint defense systems.

Addressing the third plenary session titled "Pillars of Regional Security" at the 22nd Regional Security Summit (IISS Manama Dialogue 2026), Al-Budaiwi stressed that GCC national security is indivisible, declaring Arabian Gulf stability a fundamental pillar for international peace.

The Secretary-General extended deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting the annual forum and recognized the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) for organizing the summit amid extraordinary regional challenges.

Al-Budaiwi stated that recent regional security foundations were put under critical test following Iranian attacks targeting GCC states and vital civilian infrastructure.

He emphasized that GCC nations exercised maximum diplomatic restraint despite not being party to the conflict, noting that transit disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz severely impacted global energy prices, shipping logistics, and international supply chains.

Al-Budaiwi strongly condemned repeated terrorist attacks launched by the Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia, highlighting strikes reaching Makkah and Medina as unacceptable violations of Islamic holy sites and dangerous escalations.

The GCC chief outlined five essential pillars required to construct a durable regional security architecture across the Middle East: First, absolute respect for international law, state sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, the renunciation of force, and the peaceful resolution of international disputes.

In this regard, he cited UN Security Council Resolution 2817, introduced by Bahrain on behalf of GCC states and Jordan and co-sponsored by 136 nations, urging international commitment toward its full enforcement.

Second, collective defense and military integration, commending GCC armed forces' readiness and citing directives from the 19th Consultative Summit in Jeddah to accelerate the joint ballistic missile early-warning system.

Third, active strategic diplomacy, leveraging GCC partnerships with the US, Europe, China, India, and regional neighbors to bridge differences and de-escalate tensions through mutual political will.

Fourth, safeguarding maritime navigation and energy flows as a shared global responsibility under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, emphasizing that closing the Strait of Hormuz or Bab el-Mandeb violates international law.

Fifth, fostering stability through economic development and international partnerships, noting the GCC's combined USD 4.2 trillion economic base enhances crisis resilience.

Al-Budaiwi concluded by reaffirming GCC support for the legitimate government of Yemen, regional stability in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, and a just two-state solution for the Palestinian cause.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said Sunday that member states had demonstrated their ability to handle crises effectively, maintain economic resilience and sustain development despite exceptional regional developments and mounting security and economic challenges.

Al-Budaiwi was speaking at a panel discussion "Redrawing Global Trade Routes and International Alliances," in Manama on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the fourth edition of the Gateway Gulf Forum 2026 held under the patronage and in the presence of Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

He explained that the Iranian attacks against GCC countries posed unprecedented challenges, affecting the energy, transport, logistics and supply chain sectors.

However, he noted that member states had demonstrated exceptional solidarity and a strong ability to contain their repercussions through joint coordination, enhanced institutional preparedness and measures to ensure the continuity of economic activities and vital services.

He pointed out that GCC leaders had outlined a clear path to bolster joint action during their 19th Consultative Meeting in Jeddah last April.

Ministry seeks teachers for sports, robotics & debate clubs

Kuwait evening school clubs to resume Nov. 8

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Ministry of Education announced that the evening school clubs for the 2026/2027 academic year will resume on Nov 8.

As per the directive of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, this initiative aims to develop the skills of students, refine their talents, and tap their creative, practical and athletic capabilities.

The Academic Support Services General Department at the ministry disclosed that the online registration for the educational staff wishing to work in these clubs will remain open until Nov 5 through the designated platform. Registration covers various clubs -- sports clubs (football, handball, basketball and bowling) for physical education teachers, robotics clubs for computer science teachers, practical studies and industrial applications clubs for practical studies teachers, debate clubs for Arabic language teachers, and scout clubs (boys and girls) for scout supervisors and leaders.

The requirements are as follows: currently employed, with at least two years of experience since the most recent appointment, with excellent performance rating over the past two years, no record of disciplinary action within the same period (unless the record was legally deleted), specialization must align with the nature of the club, and passing the personal interview.

The ministry underscored the importance of completing all personal and professional information on the registration platform, indicating that online registration does not entail final acceptance, because admission depends on the submission of all requirements and passing the personal interview conducted by the concerned technical supervision department.

Minister hails excellence of Kuwait's educational sector

Kuwait honors Arab Reading Challenge winners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei on Sunday met with a delegation from the Arab Reading Challenge team that participated in the 10th edition of the competition held in Dubai, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Al-Tabtabaei honored the students, supervisors and schools that achieved top rankings in the Arab world, acknowledging their accomplishments that proved the excellence of the educational sector in Kuwait. He congratulated the winners on their achievements, and commended their passion for reading and their dedication to acquiring knowledge.

Present at the meeting were Undersecretary Dr. Khaled Al-Rasheed, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad, Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative and Technical Affairs Eng. Mohammad Al-Khalidi, and Director of the Public Relations and Educational Media Department Arwa Al-Ayyar.

Al-Tabtabaei pointed out that such results are a source of pride for the educational sector, reflecting the efforts invested in developing the skills of students and refining their academic and cultural capabilities.

He affirmed that the ministry focuses on cultural and educational initiatives, foremost of which is the Arab Reading Challenge due to its role in promoting love for reading among the youths, broadening their horizons, and developing their skills in critical thinking, analysis and expression. He added that cultivating an aware and educated individual is the pillar for the advancement of education.

He stated that the high rankings achieved by the Kuwaiti participants are manifestations of their exceptional abilities and potentials, as well as the efforts exerted by the teachers, supervisors and school administrations to nurture talent and encourage competitive participation.

He confirmed the unwavering support of the ministry for outstanding students and its commitment to provide an educational environment that promotes creativity and innovation.

He highlighted the achievements of students with disabilities, which proved their capacity for excellence and competitiveness. He also underscored the importance of ensuring equal opportunities for all students to realize their ambitions.

The honorees included students Abdullah Al-Mutairi who ranked fourth in the Arab world in the students with disabilities category and Noor Osama Al-Kandari – one of Top 10 in the outstanding students category, Yarmouk High School for Girls that took the third place in the Arab world for the Outstanding School Award, which was accepted by Principal Noha Bin Salama, and Bodour Al-Asqa who won second place for the Outstanding Supervisor Award.

Al-Tabtabaei commended the efforts of the Arab Reading Challenge team in the preparation, follow up, coordination and support for Kuwaiti participants. The team consisted of Dalal Abbas Ramadan, Warda Al-Asousi, Yousef Yousef and Abdullah Al-Barrak -- General Coordinator of the Arab Reading Challenge initiative.





Ministry of Education photos

Al-Tabtabaei honors top readers, schools and supervisors.

Child's chair becomes unlikely drug hideout

Suspect held after drug parcel arrives from Canada



Drug-laced sheets from Canada seized at Kuwait airport

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The General Administration of Customs (GAC), represented by the Air Cargo Customs Department, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior's Drug Control General Department (DCGD), successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle 50 sheets of paper infused with a synthetic narcotic substance known as "Chemical".

The seized material weighed approximately 323 grams.

The substance had been professionally concealed inside a child's chair in a postal parcel arriving from Canada.

The individual involved in the incident has been apprehended. In a statement issued on Sunday, GAC explained that inspectors became suspicious of a shipment during routine screening of incoming mail, leading to the seizure.

A thorough inspection revealed a bag concealed inside a compartment of the chair, containing A4-sized sheets infused with the narcotic substance in an attempt to evade customs controls.

Following the discovery, the Customs Investigation and Research Office coordinated with DCGD. The joint efforts resulted in the suspect's arrest and the formal documentation of the incident, paving the way for the necessary legal proceedings. GAC reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to combating attempts to smuggle narcotics through all ports of entry, stressing its continued cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Interior and other relevant authorities to safeguard national security and protect society.

Court orders Municipality to issue property certificates

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Court of First Instance ordered the Director General of Kuwait Municipality, in his official capacity, to issue property description certificates for several real estate assets, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Municipality had previously refused to issue the documents without legal justification, preventing the owners from partitioning their properties and separating their respective shares.

Abdullah Mansour Al-Furaih, the attorney representing the plaintiffs, said he proved during the court proceedings that the Municipality's refusal was unjustified and asked the court to compel it to issue the required certificates.

He revealed that the court granted the request, ordering the Municipality to issue the necessary documents to enable the plaintiffs to partition their properties and separate their shares in preparation for a public auction.



KNG photo

Lt. Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas, Undersecretary of the National Guard, stressed the importance of digital transformation and modern technologies during an inspection tour of the Supply Command, Project Management, and Directorate of Information Systems.

National Guard Undersecretary highlights digital transformation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Undersecretary of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas, on Sunday stressed the importance of continuing digital transformation and adopting modern technologies to support the military and security system, reports Al-Seyassah daily

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas made the remarks during an inspection tour of the Supply Command, Project Management, and the Directorate of Information Systems. He was accompanied by the Assistant for Financial Affairs and Resource Management, Major General Riad Tawari.

According to a statement by the National Guard, Lieutenant General Al-Barjas conveyed the greetings of the National Guard Command to personnel and expressed its appreciation for their efforts.

He also received a briefing on the leadership's level of readiness and its preparations for the upcoming training season.

The visit reflects the National Guard's continued focus on enhancing operational readiness through technology, efficient resource management, and institutional development.

Turk arrested

Customs seize 192 illicit pills

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Customs inspectors at Terminal 5 (T5) of Kuwait International Airport recently apprehended an individual attempting to smuggle controlled psychotropic substances concealed inside nutritional supplement containers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The inspection uncovered 93 Lyrica pills and 99 Tramadol pills, both classified as controlled substances.

The seizure highlights the vigilance of customs inspectors in detecting attempts to conceal prohibited items and circumvent customs control procedures.

A seizure report was filed, and the individual, along with the confiscated pills, was referred to the Drug Control General Department for the necessary legal action.

The General Administration of Customs reaffirmed its continued commitment to maintaining strict oversight at all ports of entry and preventing attempts to smuggle narcotics and psychotropic substances to protect national security and public well-being.

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The General Department of Criminal Investigation recently apprehended a Turkish national in possession of 105 abortion pills allegedly intended for distribution and sale, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrest is part of ongoing security efforts to combat crime and apprehend offenders.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the arrest followed information indicating the suspect's involvement in selling and distributing abortion pills.

The suspect was apprehended in Abu Fatira with seven pills in his possession. A subsequent search of his residence in Fintas led to the discovery of an additional 98 pills.

Work on several major routes ongoing

Traffic snarls roads leading to Kuwait City

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Bouhasan, Assistant Director of the Traffic Awareness Department at the Operations and Traffic Sector says roads leading to Kuwait City are experiencing heavy traffic during the morning rush hour due to ongoing maintenance work on several major routes, reports Al-Anba daily.

Speaking during the traffic segment of Kuwait Television's "Good Morning, Kuwait" programme, Lieutenant Colonel Bouhasan said maintenance work on the Fourth Ring Road has directly contributed to congestion on the Fifth Ring Road, which has become an alternative route for motorists.

He urged drivers to follow traffic updates and information on alternative routes through the Ministry of Interior's official platforms to plan their journeys and avoid congestion as much as possible, particularly during peak morning hours when traffic heading towards the capital is especially heavy.

With the onset of winter and the arrival of rainfall, Lieutenant Colonel Bouhasan called on motorists to check their tyres and ensure that their front and rear windscreen wipers are functioning properly.

He stressed the importance of using the defogging system to maintain clear visibility while driving.

Lieutenant Colonel Bouhasan further urged drivers to exercise caution and maintain a safe distance between vehicles on wet roads.

He advised drivers to observe speed limits and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles, particularly during rainfall, when wet roads can reduce tyre grip and increase the risk of accidents He also warned motorists against using hazard warning lights while driving, stressing that doing so could make it difficult for other drivers to identify a vehicle's intended direction or turning manoeuvre.

Furthermore, Lieutenant Colonel Bouhasan urged motorists in Kuwait to take precautionary measures as winter approaches, stressing the importance of vehicle safety, responsible driving and compliance with traffic regulations amid changing weather conditions.

He highlighted the importance of ensuring vehicles are roadworthy by checking essential components, including tyres, brakes, windscreen wipers and lights, especially as reduced visibility can make driving more hazardous.

He called on pedestrians to use designated crossing points and urged motorists to remain vigilant for pedestrians, particularly in busy areas.

Addressing outdoor excursions and desert camping, commonly known as "kashtat" in Kuwait, Lieutenant Colonel Bouhasan advised campers to select sites away from main roads and highways and avoid parking along roadways.

He also urged off-road motorcyclists to refrain from using main roads and instead practise their activities in designated safe areas.

Lieutenant Colonel Bouhasan encouraged road users to follow the Ministry of Interior's official social media accounts for updates on road closures and traffic diversions.

No room for discretion: Al-Huwaila

Minister vows strict oversight of co-op boards

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Dr. Amthal Hadi Al-Huwaila, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, affirmed that compliance with the ministry's decisions and circulars is mandatory for the boards of directors of all cooperative societies, leaving no room for discretion, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She stressed that violations would not be tolerated, emphasizing the need to adhere to Kuwaitization policies that prioritize the employment of national talent, as well as the regulations and operational guidelines established by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

Dr. Al-Huwaila also highlighted the importance of maintaining high cleanliness standards in cooperative societies and central markets and ensuring the quality and safety of goods to protect consumer rights.



Dr. Amthal Hadi Al-Huwaila – Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs

She warned that boards of directors found in violation of ministerial circulars, decisions, or established requirements would face firm action, which could include dissolution in accordance with the law.

Dr. Al-Huwaila affirmed that the ministry would continue its oversight and field inspections to ensure compliance, stressing that the era of issuing warnings without enforcement had ended, and that accountability would henceforth be applied strictly, without exception or leniency.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Oh, beautiful past... where are you?

"In Kuwait's past, we used to listen to folk songs performed in Modern Standard Arabic for many years," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Everything about that era was beautiful. Even the old American cars were remarkable - sturdy and robust, with solid steel front and rear bumpers, unlike today's vehicles, which are often flimsy and laden with plastic.



Al-Dawas

Kuwait's natural environment was equally beautiful. As a child, I remember seeing rabbits in Al-Mutlaa in 1959. Gazelles could also be found west of Jahra, an observation even documented by an Austrian visitor.

As the number of cars increased, the gazelles gradually fled Kuwait and crossed into Saudi Arabia, where they eventually disappeared due to relentless hunting and pursuit.

In Kuwait during the 1960s and 1970s, life was simple, and smiles rarely left the faces of the Kuwaiti people. Kuwait held a leading position in many fields, particularly sports, theater, and culture.

Peace and security prevailed throughout the country, so much so that the doors of Kuwaiti homes were often left open.

We were not accustomed to witnessing arguments or physical altercations among fellow citizens. Instead, our society was defined by strong bonds of friendship and affection.

A beautiful example of this was a familiar sight on our streets - when one citizen's car collided with another's, both drivers would step out smiling, approach each other with warm greetings, and even exchange kisses, just as we traditionally greet one another during holidays.

Some of us may remember that, in the early years of Kuwait's independence, telephone booths stood along Fahad Al-Salem Street, much like the ones we used to see in American films.

You could step inside, close the glass door, and make a telephone call free of charge. The booths were designed for one person at a time, and not a single fils was required.

The booths were elegant and sophisticated. However, some certain uncivilized and malicious individuals shattered the glass, broke the doors, and stole the telephones.

We used to ride public transport buses - German-made Mercedes vehicles with comfortable leather seats - covering a distance of 15 kilometers for a fare of just 100 fils.

Over time, however, some people began tearing the seats, exposing the yellow foam padding underneath.

These fine seats were eventually ruined, forcing the company to replace them with uncomfortable and unpleasant plastic ones. The same fate befell the seating at Kuwait Airport.

That beautiful era has faded away. People's characters have changed, and swindlers have emerged.

While digital advancements, the internet, and mobile phones offer significant benefits, they also carry serious risks. Fraudsters have been calling individuals, posing as representatives of the Ministry of Health and requesting personal information under the pretext of issuing COVID-19 vaccination certificates.

Once they obtain this information, they hack into and take control of the victims' WhatsApp accounts. Hundreds of people have fallen victim to these online scams, and in most cases, the stolen money is never recovered. One victim lost KD 5,000, while another woman lost KD 85,000.

These sums are taken by organized criminal gangs operating from abroad. Their members are skilled at persuading victims to invest in supposedly profitable ventures, encouraging them to transfer money electronically.

In other cases, a fraudster might call and say, "I'm sorry, I sent you some money by mistake. Could you please return it?" By complying with this request, the victim inadvertently reveals their account details, allowing the fraudster to steal their money.

The Central Bank of Kuwait has issued warnings about fraudulent tactics involving artificial intelligence, which can mimic the voices of real people with remarkable accuracy and ultimately be used to steal their money.

Such technology could even be used to fabricate threats from one head of state to another, potentially triggering a devastating war.

Enough... just enough! I have always preferred, and still prefer, the old-fashioned way of handling paperwork - visiting government ministries in person, with my documents in hand.

After all, who knows? A single click on a computer could wipe out all your records and official government transactions. Didn't I tell you that the past was beautiful?"

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty









Photos from the event.

Farwaniya Governorate photos

Farwaniya Governor backs psoriasis awareness campaign at The Avenues

An awareness event for psoriasis patients was held at The Avenues Mall on Saturday under the patronage and in the presence of Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Kuwait Dermatological Society organized the event to raise public awareness on psoriasis, explain its causes and management methods, and emphasize the importance of early diagnosis and continuous medical follow up.

President of the society Dr. Abeer Abdullah Al-Bathali, Head of the Dermatology Department at Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Atlal Khalid Al-Lafi, the treasurer of the society and several other medical professionals warmly welcomed the governor.

During the event, the governor looked into the awareness and educational activities focusing on psoriasis. These activities aim to correct common misconceptions about the disease and affirm the importance of supporting patients and improving the quality of their life.

The governor pointed out that his participation in the event is a manifestation of his commitment to support health and community initiatives, strengthen partnerships with medical institutions to promote health literacy, and better serve the community in Farwaniya Governorate.

215 kindergartens in various educational districts participate

Kuwait's 'A Child Reads' initiative draws praise, interest throughout Arab world

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): The Ministry of Education presented its "A Child Reads" ('Tifl Yaqra'a') initiative to the representatives of Arab nations participating in the Arab Reading Challenge in Dubai.

The presentation was conducted in the presence of Chairman of the UAE Government Media Office and Executive Director of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) Saeed Al Eter, drawing praise and interest throughout the Arab world.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the ministry disclosed that the initiative was launched as per the directive of Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei and it was well-received by the coordinators of the Arab Reading Challenge and the representatives of the participating countries.

Several nations expressed interest in adopting the Kuwaiti model and implementing its operational mechanisms.

The ministry indicated that MBRGI Secretary General Mohammad Al Gergawi requested the presentation after the Arab Reading Challenge management reviewed the Kuwaiti initiative and its educational goals. They sought to provide other Arab nations with the opportunity to learn about its methodology and explore its application in their own educational sectors.





Photos from the event.

The ministry added that Abdullah Al-Barrak, General Coordinator for the Arab Reading Challenge in Kuwait, delivered an introductory presentation outlining the vision of the initiative, which aims to instill love for reading in children from an early age by using stories as an educational tool to develop pre-reading skills, expand vocabulary, enhance expressive abilities, and hone listening, comprehension and imaginative skills. The presentation highlighted its experience in implementing the initiative and stories developed to achieve its educational objectives.

Yousef Hussein, the monitoring officer for the storytelling team of the initiative, discussed the methodology used to create, write and develop the narrative content.

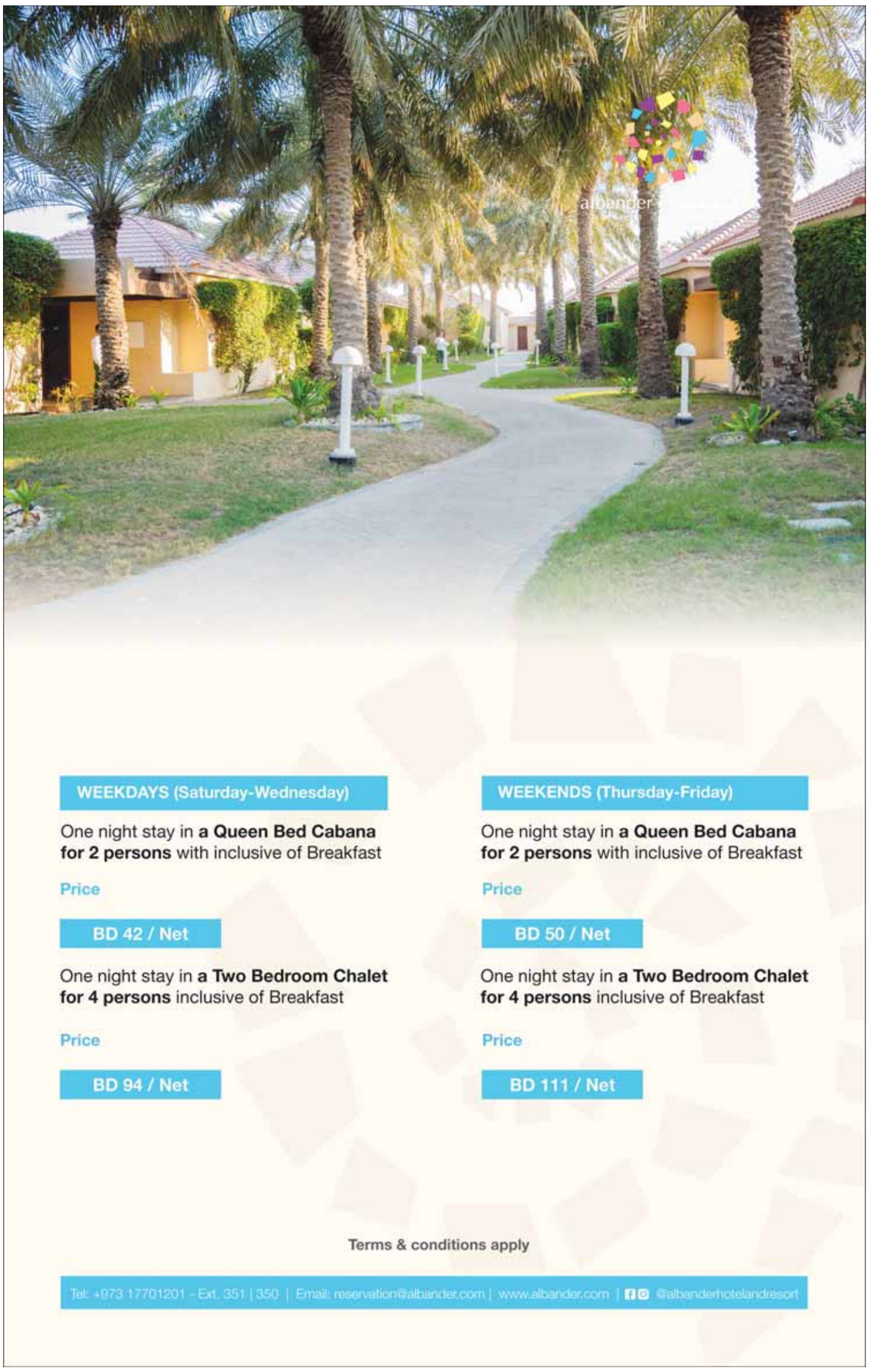
He indicated that the storytelling content of the initiative is highly adaptable, such that it could be tailored to the cultural and educational contexts of each country, while ensuring that the educational goals and core skills remain intact.

The Kuwaiti experience drew praise and interest from representatives of various Arab nations who commended the content, educational objectives and implementation mechanisms of the initiative.

Several countries expressed their desire to adopt the initiative, in coordination with the ministry, and to benefit from Kuwait's expertise in this field.

The ministry reported that 215 kindergartens in various educational districts participated in the initiative.

After a series of qualifying rounds and educational evaluations, 26 outstanding participants were selected under three categories -- 10 students, 10 teachers and six coordinators of the initiative.The stories within the initiative are available on the Arab Reading Challenge website to reach a larger audience and strengthen educational coordination in the Arab world.



Smoking causes 80% of lung cancer cases: CAN Chairman

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Chairman of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign Dr. Khalid Al-Saleh said a recent study confirmed that smoking caused 80 percent of lung cancer cases.

Al-Saleh made the announcement in a workshop held through Zoom title, "The Impact of Awareness on Reducing the Suffering of Breast Cancer Patients, Promoting Early Detection and Improving Quality of Life."

He disclosed that one-third of cancer cases could be prevented if people avoided the risk factors, adding that human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine led to 90 percent reduction of cervical cancer rates as per the results of studies conducted in several Asian countries and Sweden. He stated that in some instances, awareness has been scientifically proven to result in outcomes that medical treatment alone cannot achieve.

He said the risk factors fall into two categories -- those that cannot be avoided like age and genetics, and those that can be avoided like lifestyle, habits, diet and viral infections. He pointed out that avoiding four key risk factors could reduce cancer incidence by 37 percent.

Meanwhile, Dr. Maha Al-Sendi, an oncology consultant at the Bahrain Oncology Center, stated that almost half of female patients in the Gulf region are diagnosed at an advanced stage even if the recovery rate for cases detected early exceeds 95 percent. She added that in the Gulf, cancer tends to appear at least a decade earlier than in western countries, with 45 as the average age at diagnosis.



Participants at the workshop via Zoom.

She indicated that in 2024, Kuwait has the highest rate of all types of cancer diagnoses in the Gulf region and ranked second—after the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—in terms of breast cancer.

Dr. Latifa Al-Kandari, Head of the Diagnostic Radiology Department at Adan Hospital, revealed that the national breast cancer early detection program identified 418 cases of cancer—all asymptomatic—out of 46,225 screenings conducted to date.

She said the number of screenings increased from 2,952 in 2014/2015 to 3,945 the following year and then to 6,091 last year, while number of cases detected in these respective periods was 26, 57 and 39.

Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen, Director of the workshop, pointed out that cancer has become just like any other chronic disease. She emphasized that comprehensive annual screenings are recommended for those above 40 years old, while self-examinations are advised for those who are younger.

Mobile care service supports elderly in Kuwait

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: An official statistics on mobile care service for the elderly, issued by the Elderly Care Department at the Social Care General Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs, showed variations in the number of registered cases in the governorates.

This affirms the importance of service planning and the allocation of human and medical resources in accordance with the needs of beneficiaries.

A source informed the newspaper that these indicators signify the huge responsibility of the personnel involved in elderly care, and importance of continuous provision of health, psychological and social services to the homes of the elderly to ensure family stability and minimize the necessity for residential care placements.

The source explained that the mobile care service is a modern system adopted by the ministry to cover the needs of the elderly.

He said the concerned teams conduct home visits to monitor the health, social and psychological well-being of the elderly, while providing physical therapy and offering guidance to families on how to best support their elderly relatives.

He pointed out that utilizing statistical indicators makes it possible to set operational priorities and assess the actual needs of the elderly, such that human and medical resources and logistical support are allocated properly, while raising the efficiency and sustainability of services.

The source confirmed the commitment of the ministry to develop the home-care system, as it is the pillar for supporting the elderly and enabling them to remain within their family environment to preserve their psychological and social stability and improve their quality of life.

He pointed out that this approach aligns with national initiatives aimed at protecting the rights and status of the elderly in society, including the Charter of Loyalty to the Elderly, which reflects the commitment of various entities and individuals to provide the necessary care and attention to the elderly.

He added that incorporating statistical data into future planning contributes to the development of services and the allocation of resources based on the needs of the beneficiaries, hence, guaranteeing the continuous provision of appropriate care for the elderly throughout the country.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan meets with Pekka Haavisto, the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Sudan, on the sidelines of the 22nd Manama Dialogue summit held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Deputy FM meets UN Sudan envoy

Hamad Al-Mashaan represents Kuwait at Manama Dialogue '26

MANAMA, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan participated in a reception hosted by Bahraini Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for the heads of Arab delegations attending the 22nd edition of the Manama Dialogue 2026.

Ambassador Al-Mashaan attended in his capacity as the head of the State of Kuwait's delegation to the event.

In a statement on Saturday, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that the meeting included a review of deep-rooted, fraternal relations among Arab nations. Discussions also emphasized the importance of further strengthening joint Arab coordination and cooperation, alongside an exchange of views on key regional and international developments and efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability in the region.

Al-Mashaan also met with Pekka Haavisto, the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Sudan, on the sidelines of the 22nd Manama Dialogue summit held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In a statement on Saturday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that the meeting addressed the latest developments in the Republic of Sudan, as well as regional and international efforts aimed at resolving the Sudanese crisis. The discussion also underscored the importance of supporting initiatives directed toward achieving a peaceful solution that fosters security and stability, while preserving Sudan's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Kuwait opens applications for 30 diplomatic & consular jobs

Eligible Kuwaitis may apply from November 15

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the opening of applications for 30 diplomatic and consular attaché positions for both men and women holding bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative is being implemented in accordance with Article 18 of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps Law and is subject to a set of general and specific eligibility requirements. The eligible fields of study include political science, international relations, economics, law, media, and related disciplines. Applications are open to Kuwaiti nationals who meet the prescribed criteria.

General Requirements

Applicants must be Kuwaiti nationals, possess full civil capacity, and have a good conduct and reputation record.

They must not have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or breach of trust, unless legally rehabilitated. Applicants must also not have been dismissed from public service by a judicial ruling or a disciplinary board decision.

Also, applicants must not be married to a non-Arab national, defined as someone who does not hold the nationality of an Arab country, and must meet the health requirements necessary for diplomatic and consular service.

Specific Academic and Age Requirements

The ministry has established the following maximum age limits at the time of application:

- Bachelor's degree holders: 24 years.
- Master's degree holders: 26 years.
- Doctoral degree holders: 28 years.

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from Kuwait University or another recognized university accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education, in one of the specified fields of study.

The degree must carry a minimum grade of "Very Good," equivalent to 80 percent or 2.67 on a 4.0-point grading scale, or the corresponding grade under the verbal grading system or the unified academic grading scale for European qualifications, as recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Applicants holding master's or doctoral degrees must meet the same minimum academic grade requirement of "Very Good" (80 percent or 2.67 on a 4.0-point scale, or its equivalent).

These postgraduate qualifications must be in the same field as the applicant's bachelor's degree or in one of the fields specified in the announcement. They must also be obtained from Kuwait University or another recognized university accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education.

English Language Requirements

Applicants must achieve a minimum score of 6.0 on the IELTS (Academic or General Training) test, 67 on the TOEFL iBT, or 543 on the local TOEFL ITP.

All English-language test results must be no more than two years old at the time of application.

Selection Process and Training Program

The ministry announced that candidates will undergo both written and oral assessments.

Applicants must achieve a minimum score of 75 percent in the written examination to qualify for the oral assessments and personal interviews.

Successful candidates will be ranked according to their combined scores in both assessments. In the event of a tie, preference will first be given to the candidate who graduated earlier, followed by the older candidate.

Those selected will be enrolled in a 12-month training program at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute.

Participants must achieve a minimum passing score of 70 percent to successfully complete the program. During the training period, they will not be considered employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but will receive a monthly stipend of KD 900.

Upon successful completion of the program and approval by the Diplomatic and Consular Corps Council, a ministerial decree will be issued appointing the successful candidates.

Their appointments as Diplomatic Attachés or Consular Attachés will take effect from the date of issuance of the decree.

Application Procedures and Required Documents

The ministry invited interested candidates to submit their applications exclusively through the designated online platform on its official website - https://jobs.mofa.gov.kw

Applications will be accepted from Sunday, November 15, 2026, through Tuesday, December 15, 2026.

Applicants must upload all required documents in PDF format, including:

- A current nationality certificate obtained through the Sahel app.
- A civil ID obtained through the 'Kuwait Mobile ID' app.
- A copy of the birth certificate.
- A current official marital status certificate (single or married) obtained through the Sahel app.
- A current certificate from the Public Institution for Social Security, obtained through the Sahel app.
- A university degree indicating the graduation GPA, along with an academic transcript.
- For graduates of foreign universities, an accredited degree officially recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education, with the required equivalency.
- Any master's or doctoral degrees, which must also be accredited and recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education.
- A recent personal photograph measuring 4 × 6 cm.

Written Examination Details

The ministry has scheduled the written examination for all eligible applicants for Saturday, January 16, 2027.

The examination will be held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Sharq on Arabian Gulf Street, at 10:00 am.

Applicants must arrive by 9:00 am, present their civil identification cards, and comply with the official dress code applicable to both men and women.

The schedule for the oral examination and personal interviews will be announced at a later date for candidates who successfully pass the written examination.

Visual impairment officially recognized

Court overturns disability classification decision

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Administrative Circuit of the Court of First Instance overturned a decision issued by the Technical Committee of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs concerning a Kuwaiti woman's disability classification, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court ruled that she falls under the provisions of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ordering the issuance of a certificate confirming permanent, moderate visual impairment and affirming her entitlement to all benefits prescribed by law.

The ruling followed a dispute over the classification of the citizen's visual condition and her eligibility for the benefits stipulated by law.

The court annulled the Technical Committee's decision, upholding her right to obtain a disability certificate and access the associated benefits.

Lawyer Mohammed Sati Al-Otaibi stated that the Technical Committee's decision contradicted medical reports confirming his client's visual impairment.

He emphasized that the court's ruling had granted his client justice by recognizing her right to a certificate confirming permanent, moderate visual impairment and ensuring her access to all benefits guaranteed by law.

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Kuwait Fatwa official scores top honor at GCC legislative awards

MANAMA, Nov 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's Fatwa and Legislation Department Deputy Head Counselor Hanan Al-Eidan received on Saturday the 2026 Excellence Award for Technical Members of GCC Legislation Departments, representing Kuwait.

The award was presented on the sidelines of the 31st meeting of the Standing Committee of Officials of Legislation Departments in the GCC countries, hosted by Bahrain.

Speaking to KUNA, lawyer Qutaiba Al-Dabbous, a member of the country's delegation, said this was the first award granted by the GCC General Secretariat to technical members of legislation departments across member states, in recognition of their efforts and contributions to legislative work.

He added that the award recognizes GCC legislative expertise, highlights professional contributions, and encourages excellence to improve legislative work while promoting regional experience sharing.

Kuwait's Fatwa and Legislation Department delegation was led by Counselor Jawhar Al-Maqroun, Deputy Head and Head of the Legislation Sector, alongside several members of the sector.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Fatwa and Legislation Department Deputy Head Counselor Hanan Al-Eidan receives the 2026 GCC Excellence Award for Technical Members of Legislation Departments, representing Kuwait, during a ceremony in Bahrain on Saturday.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation, exchanging expertise, and developing the region's legislative framework.

Justice Ministry advances supervisory appointments

CAPT Board gets new chairman

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Ministry of Justice announced that 253 applicants, out of the 259 who sat for the electronic written examination at Kuwait University, had successfully passed the test for supervisory positions. A total of 271 individuals had originally applied, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Awatef Abdullatif Al-Sanad, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Chairperson of the Supervisory Positions Committee, affirmed that the examinations were conducted in accordance with the highest standards of transparency and integrity, ensuring equal opportunities for all applicants.

She noted that competence, experience, and merit are the primary criteria for selecting candidates for these supervisory positions.

Al-Sanad explained that the ministry would proceed with the nomination and selection process in accordance with established regulations, bylaws, and resolutions, ensuring that the most qualified candidates capable of assuming supervisory responsibilities are selected.

This initiative reflects the ministry's commitment to developing national talent and leadership while providing qualified personnel with opportunities to assume supervisory positions, thereby enhancing institutional performance and improving the services provided to the public.

In other news, the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm" published Decree No. 172/2026 on the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), chaired by Issam Dawood Ahmed Al-Marzouq, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Article One of the decree stipulates that the Board shall be reconstituted for the remainder of the term of the Board previously established under Decree No. 81/2024, as follows:

■ Issam Dawood Ahmed Al-Marzouq as Chairman

■ Haifa Fahad Hamoud Al-Jarallah as Vice-Chairperson

■ Abdullah Mohammed Abdullah Thiab, Musaed Mahous Suleiman Al-Saeed, Mishari Jassim Mubarak Al-Mubaraki, Ahmed Ali Ahmed Qasim, and Taiba Yousef Mubarak Al-Qabandi as members.

Article Two assigns the Minister of Finance responsibility for implementing the decree, which takes effect from the date of its issuance and publication in the official gazette.

Patient care improvements bring recognition

2 Kuwaitis stand out in Arab healthcare

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The Arab Hospitals Federation (AHF) revealed that Ministry of Health Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah and CEO of Al-Salam Hospitals Dr. Ayman Salem Al-Mutawa are included in the 2026 AHF Select Leaders List.

This prestigious list consists of 35 prominent leaders in the healthcare sector in nine Arab nations.

The recognition of the abovementioned Kuwaiti leaders is a celebration of their significant contributions and efforts in developing the healthcare sector.

AHF launched the list to honor leaders who had an impact on the healthcare ecosystem, improved healthcare institution performance, raised quality standards, and supported their professional teams.

According to the official channels of AHF, the selection process includes an independent review by a specialized jury, while the selection criteria are documented achievements, institutional impact, sustainability of results, and contributions to improving healthcare service quality and safety.

AHF clarified that the selection process does not rely on applications or public nominations and there are no fees or financial contributions, hence, ensuring a fully independent evaluation.

The awardees will be honored at the opening of the 2026 MedHealth Doha Forum on Nov 22.

Other Voices

There are no exceptions in history

By Suad Almojil

Although humans possess a historical memory that distinguishes them from all other creatures, they often fail to make the most of this memory. This happens to all of us, every day, and on a personal level, as we repeat the mistakes of others as if our circumstances would be different, until history has become almost a repetition of nations that fell, empires that collapsed, states that disintegrated, and senseless wars that broke out.



Suad Almojil

The collapse of the Roman Empire may not have been identical in its details to the collapse of Andalusia, but there were points of similarity that could be used as a benchmark. Political disintegration, internal conflicts, reliance on foreign powers, and imbalances of power all contributed to the collapse of the Roman Empire. The scenes and circumstances were repeated with the Arabs of Andalusia, but the lessons were not learned to avoid them.

The world believed that World War I (1914-1918) would be short, but the arms race at the time, the colonial rivalry, and the entanglement of military and political interests led to the continuation of the war for four years with enormous human losses. Yet the world did not learn a lesson from history, but rather repeated it in all its details. Although the rise of Hitler, the rearmament of Germany, and the Nazi expansion that preceded World War II were not hidden secrets, World War II (1939) quickly ignited, causing losses in lives, money, and the future that were much greater than what the first war caused.

History, as we say, repeats itself, but the problem is not in such a repetition, but rather in man's certainty that the lessons of history are lessons for others, and not for him, and thus he falls here into the illusion of exception. Otherwise, why did Hitler, for example, not learn from Mussolini's mistakes, and why did Gaddafi not see in Saddam Hussein's fate a warning message? Rather, why do we all repeat the mistakes of others daily and consider that we will be the exception to the consequences of those mistakes?

The war that began in Gaza and southern Lebanon, and then spread to all the countries of the Middle East, including the Gulf states, is very similar, especially in the details of what preceded and followed it, to that which occurred during the Second World War. There is a similarity in the accumulations that led to both wars. In the second war, the wars began locally, before expanding internationally, and then the dangers continued when diplomatic settlements began to fail, and with them blocs were formed in preparation for the war, which later turned, with its escalation, into an economic war in which the whole world experienced recession, which destabilized political and financial stability. This happened in an atmosphere in which the arms race was at its peak, with the international system's effectiveness in curbing collapse and destruction declining.

Despite all those risks, the same accumulations are returning today, whether in the war in Ukraine or in the war in the Middle East, with increasing international repercussions as a result of the accumulation of regional crises that have become a threat to the whole world.

The tragedy of the world with wars does not lie in their unpredictability, as we all expect a war to break out somewhere. Rather, the tragedy lies in the world's belief that today's wars, unlike yesterday's, are containable, and that the ability to control their repercussions and risks is greater today than during World War II. All parties today imagine that they are capable of escalating and containing at the same time, in a paradox that history has proven to be illogical.

Times may be different today, and that is somewhat true, but the danger is compounded when the difference in circumstances is confused with the absence of risks, or when history is assumed to be repeating itself, but the world is too smart to repeat the mistakes of history.

The precursors to wars and disasters are more important than their consequences. The precursors do not appear as catastrophic as the wars themselves, but they are much more important in that they are what ignited them. The great problem of man here is when he realizes the precursors to the disaster, but refuses to change his course, because he sees in this course an exception. We see this every day and in all the details of the war currently raging in our region.

Continued from Page 1

If America

This reality is further underscored by the recent provocative statements of Khamenei's son, who is openly broadening the reach of terrorism by asserting that "the response to any new threat or attack on Iran by the United States or Israel has neither geographical restrictions nor boundaries." This escalating rhetoric poses grave danger to neighboring nations that are earnestly pursuing diplomatic mediation to ease tension or broker a ceasefire.

Iran's regional influence is rapidly crumbling on multiple fronts. Syria has slipped from its grasp, Hezbollah is on the verge of collapse, its Iraqi proxies have been exposed as mere propagandistic posturing, and the Houthis face a campaign aimed to curb their power. In plain language, the military campaign launched by the United States and Israel shielded the region from a disastrous and terror-driven threat.

This conflict heralds a new era, offering our nations and the Arab world the prospect of liberation from a regime that would have otherwise subjected the globe to constant threat of nuclear menace. Tehran's nuclear ambitions have never been peaceful despite assurances by its leaders, whose religious decrees adapt to political expediency.

The American campaign launched in February, which President Donald Trump vowed to end, goes far beyond posturing, as increasing force deployments and diplomatic warnings signal an imminent resolution.

The Iranian regime must accept the demands of the United States and the GCC countries to prevent total devastation. These nations will no longer tolerate the persistent threat of Iranian-backed terror, as they are keen on maintaining regional security.

New Jahra

The program enables robotic-assisted surgeries in multiple specialties by integrating medical teams, advanced equipment, and the clinical pathways essential for patient care.

Dr. Al-Jasmi noted that the SRC's accreditation criteria for Centers of Excellence cover surgical expertise, the proficiency of medical teams, equipment standards, and patient safety, in addition to monitoring outcomes and maintaining a commitment to continuous improvement.

Furthermore, as part of an inter-hospital collaboration within the Ministry of Health, three robotic-assisted surgeries were performed in October 2025 on patients with uterine cancer.

The initiative was carried out through a partnership between the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New Jahra Hospital.

This collaboration has helped bring together specialized expertise from both hospitals and make use of the capabilities of remote robotic surgery.

The accreditation awarded to New Jahra Hospital represents a significant advancement in its robotic surgery program. Collaboration among Ministry of Health hospitals creates opportunities to exchange specialized expertise and expand the use of advanced surgical technologies.

KD 16.5mn

Al-Sumait emphasized that the campaign's results reflect the high level of community engagement and the spirit of solidarity and compassion that characterize the people of Kuwait.

He stressed that the campaign was more than just an initiative for settling debts, as it was a humanitarian initiative aimed at easing the burdens on debtors and their families and giving them a fresh opportunity to rebuild their lives and regain stability.

The minister explained that the number of court judgments issued against beneficiaries reached 5,645, while a total of 14,928 enforcement measures were lifted following the settlement of their debts. These measures included lifting seizures on vehicles and bank accounts, removing travel bans and arrest warrants, and releasing individuals detained over civil, non-criminal debts.

Personal debts and claims accounted for the largest share of these judgments, at 45 percent, followed by rental disputes at 35 percent, personal status-related maintenance and alimony payments at 16 percent, and other categories at 4 percent.

Men accounted for 81 percent of the total beneficiaries, while women represented the remaining 19 percent.

Addressing the legislative framework, Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait noted that courts handle approximately one million cases annually.

He stated that, in accordance with the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to review all existing legislation, the ministry has now reached the third phase of its legislative review plan.

The minister emphasized that the third phase is the most significant, as it involves discussions on several key, high-priority laws, foremost among them the Family Law, the Personal Status Law, and the Penal Code, in addition to various economic laws scheduled for review and development.

He pointed out that the new Penal Code is expected to result in an unprecedented reduction in the number of cases brought before the courts.

In a related context, Al-Sumait revealed a notable decline in the number of court cases between January 1 and September 30, 2026, compared to the same period in 2024.

He explained that the total number of cases dropped from 834,965 in 2024 to 664,732 in 2026, a decrease of 170,233 cases, representing a 20 percent reduction.

Criminal cases across various courts declined from 566,474 to 449,083, representing a decrease of 117,391 cases, or 21 percent.

There has also been a decline in partial appeal orders, which fell from 5,676 in 2024 to 3,359 in 2026. Meanwhile, cases before the Court of Cassation dropped by 39 percent, from 15,906 to 9,681.

Payment order cases recorded the largest percentage decline, falling from 67,506 in 2024 to 27,326 in 2026. This represents a reduction of 40,180 cases, or 60 percent.

The minister emphasized that the Ministry of Justice continuously monitors these indicators and statistics because of their importance in tracking litigation trends, assessing judicial workloads, supporting efforts to develop the justice system, and improving the efficiency of procedures and services provided to litigants.

Concluding his statement, Al-Sumait reaffirmed the ministry's continued commitment to fulfilling its humanitarian and social responsibilities, alongside its ongoing efforts to advance the judicial process and improve service efficiency.

He also expressed his appreciation to all donors, contributors, and participating entities whose efforts helped ensure the success of the 2026 Debtors' Relief Campaign (Al-Gharimin).

Electricity ministry

■ Engineer Falah Al-Subaie, Director of the Design and Supervision Department in the Technical Services Sector, was appointed Director of the Planning and Follow-up Department in the Electrical Transmission Networks Sector.

Administrative and Customer Services

■ Saita Al-Shammari, Director of the Follow-up and Development Department, was transferred to head the Warehouses Department in the Financial Affairs Sector.

■ Saud Al-Ajmi, Director of the Automated Center Department in the Customer Services Sector, was transferred to head the Follow-up and Development Department in the Administrative Affairs Sector.

■ Mohammed Al-Uthaina, Director of the Personnel Affairs Department, was transferred to the Administrative Services Department.

Financial Affairs

■ Ahmed Al-Enezi, Controller of Maintenance and Services Budgeting in the Contracts and Tenders Department, was transferred to the position of Controller of Investment Budget Obligations within the same department.

■ Abdulaziz Al-Enezi, Controller of Asset Accounting in the Accounts Department, was transferred to the position of Controller of Inventory Accounts in the Warehouses Department.

■ Saif Al-Mutairi, Controller of Price Quotations in the Purchasing Department, was transferred to the position of Controller of the Investment Budget in the Budgeting Department.

■ Faisal Al-Mutairi, Controller of Service Costs in the Accounts Department, was transferred to the position of Controller of Auditing for Warehousing, Purchasing, and Cost Operations in the Financial Control Department.

Technical Services and Water Operation and Maintenance

■ Ahmed Al-Sahhaf, Controller of Conservation in the Public Relations and Citizen Services Department under the Undersecretary's Sector, was transferred to the position of Controller of Design and Supervision in the Engineering Drawing Department.

■ Maryam Al-Azmi, Controller of Design and Supervision in the Engineering Drawing Department, was transferred to the position of Controller of Conservation in the Public Relations Department under the Undersecretary's Sector.

■ Engineer Essam Al-Zaid, Controller of Mechanical Maintenance at the Doha East Station, was transferred to the position of Controller of Maintenance in the Auxiliary Water Desalination Department within the Water Operation and Maintenance Sector.

Power Plants

Engineer Ahmed Ashkanani, Controller of Precision Instruments at the Shuaiba Station, was transferred to the position of Controller of Precision Instruments at the Doha West Station.

Additional Assignment

In a separate decision, Al-Mukhaizim assigned Engineer Falah Al-Subaie, Director of the Planning and Follow-up Department in the Electrical Transmission Networks Sector, to perform the duties of Assistant Undersecretary for the Technical Services and Main Workshops Sector, in addition to his existing responsibilities.

Kuwait seeks

offer high added value and could generate more than 20,000 genuine and sustainable job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth within a few years.

Transitioning from light manufacturing to heavy industrial production requires offering attractive incentives to both local and foreign investors.

Dr. Al-Bassam pointed out that the state's current move towards establishing integrated industrial cities equipped with the latest technologies represents a positive step forward.

Meanwhile, economic analyst and capital markets observer Nasser Al-Attar offered his perspective on the importance of Kuwait making a strong entry into the industrial sector.

He insisted that this has become essential to diversifying the country's sources of income and ensuring that oil does not remain its primary source of revenue indefinitely.

Al-Attar also expressed support for Kuwait's pursuit of heavy industrial projects, alongside expanding small-sized and medium-sized industrial ventures.

Kuwait, he noted, is currently at a crossroads, witnessing an influx of industrial and technological ideas driven by an ambitious generation of young Kuwaitis capable of innovation and making significant contributions.

Al-Attar explained that activating Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port would represent a major strategic leap forward in expanding Kuwait's industrial sector in the northern region.

As a logistical gateway located close to major regional markets in Asia and the Middle East, the port would give Kuwaiti factories, including those specializing in recycling, an exceptional competitive advantage in shipping and rapid export operations.

Al-Attar went on to explain that establishing new, fully serviced industrial cities in the north of the country would facilitate the creation of large-scale industrial complexes powered by artificial intelligence and clean energy, capable of attracting substantial investments. This would transform Kuwait from a consumer-driven nation into a leading export hub, thereby increasing the non-oil sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In this context, activating Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port is not merely an addition to the transport infrastructure; it represents a strategic repositioning of Kuwait's geographical location, transforming it into an international corridor linking global trade routes.

Furthermore, economic advisor Nawaf Al-Mutairi emphasized that the industrial sector has the potential to generate sustainable, non-oil revenues for the state treasury through exports and direct fees, while stimulating the local economy and attracting greater foreign capital inflows.

He revealed that the targeted annual growth rate for these inflows is 15 percent, which would help reduce the problematic reliance on continuous withdrawals from sovereign reserves.

Al-Mutairi explained that every Kuwaiti dinar invested in local manufacturing generates a multiplier effect, producing approximately KD 2.5 in economic activity across supporting service, logistics, and trade sectors.

This, in turn, strengthens social and economic stability for future generations and helps realize the state's comprehensive development vision, particularly by increasing the industrial sector's currently modest contribution to GDP.

Al-Mutairi noted that industrial production activities are currently distributed across approximately 12 industrial and craft zones, which have been designated according to geographical and environmental criteria to accommodate various sectors.

The Shuaiba Industrial Area stands out as the primary hub for heavy and strategic industries, such as petrochemicals, while the Shuwaikh, Al-Rai, Subhan, and Ahmadi industrial zones accommodate light industries, workshops, food-related facilities, and logistics operations. Together, these areas form the backbone of the country's existing production base, comprising nearly 1,418 active establishments.

Al-Mutairi further explained that a significant turning point is emerging as the state transitions toward an era of smart, integrated cities.

Strategic plans to develop five major industrial cities by 2030, including Al-Na'eem and the northern cities adjacent to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, aim to increase the share of national products in the local market to more than 30 percent.

These developments are expected to transform Kuwait into a competitive regional production hub, capable of diversifying the nation's sources of income.

Oilfield engineering breakthrough

KOC lowers groundwater to enhance oil production

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) confirmed that Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) completed an engineering project to reduce the groundwater table in 'sabkha' (salt flat) areas, where the groundwater level is usually very near the surface.

This project is considered a long-term solution to one of the most complicated geological and historical issues that have been obstructing exploration and development efforts since the discovery of the Burgan field in the 1930s.

The technical teams at KOC lowered the groundwater level from about half a meter to around three meters at a strategic location in Magwa oil field.

For the first time in history, this enabled the execution of complex drilling operations and intensive production with maximum efficiency, total environmental and operational safety, and removal of the logistic obstacles that previously disrupted project timelines.

Reliable sources stated that this unprecedented technical and environmental achievement was realized through the implementation of an integrated suite of advanced technological solutions and innovative engineering systems, including redesigning directional wells for the extraction and injection of groundwater with high dynamic efficiency, and developing comprehensive digital operational software and intelligent control systems for modern electric submersible pumps.

Sources said these measures led to substantial savings – more than 90 percent of the funds required to prepare and rehabilitate these sites, which are characterized by high level of geographical and structural complexity.

Sources affirmed that the initiative improved overall operational efficiency metrics for drilling rigs and led to the highly successful launch of actual production from the first two oil wells drilled and developed in the reclaimed area.

Sources added this successful engineering and technical approach will be expanded to other operational zones, with the goal of securing additional oil production from the Burgan and Wara reservoirs—the foundations of oil production in the southern and eastern parts of the country.

MEGlobal wins first-of-its-kind US certification

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): EQUATE Group said its subsidiary MEGlobal became the US ethylene glycol producer to earn ISCC Carbon Footprint Certification (CFC) for monoethylene glycol (MEG) and diethylene glycol (DEG) produced at its Oyster Creek, Texas, manufacturing site.

The certification marks an important step in advancing EQUATE Group's ESG objectives, translating its sustainability priorities into action while supporting customers with credible product-level carbon footprint (PCF) data, according to a statement received by KUNA on Sunday.

MEGlobal Americas Inc.'s certification provides its customers with independently audited, product-specific carbon footprint data.

"Our ESG strategy is focused on translating our sustainability priorities into meaningful actions across our business and for our customers," said Naser Al-Dousari, President and CEO of EQUATE Group.

"Achieving ISCC Carbon Footprint Certification reflects that direction, providing independently verified carbon footprint data that our customers can use with confidence in their own reporting and decisions.

"Becoming the first ethylene glycol producer in the United States to hold this certification is an important milestone in that journey," he added.

As carbon reporting requirements continue to evolve in key global markets, access to reliable carbon footprint data is becoming an increasingly important consideration in procurement and supply-chain decisions.

"Third-party certification provides an added level of assurance that environmental claims are backed by a rigorous and transparent review process," said Julia Cockerham, Program Manager of Carbon Assurance at SCS Global Services.

"MEGlobal and EQUATE have demonstrated leadership by investing in independently verified carbon footprint data that supports informed decision-making throughout the value chain," Cockerham noted.

MEGlobal operates one of the world's most geographically diverse ethylene glycol businesses, supplying customers around the globe.

The Oyster Creek manufacturing site began operations in 2019 and produces ethylene glycol for customers in a wide range of industries and applications.

MEGlobal Americas Inc. is a part of the MEGlobal group of companies that takes pride in responsibly leading the world in the manufacture, supply and marketing of ethylene glycol (EG), a cornerstone product that helps improve lives globally.

The MEGlobal group of companies began in 2004 and has locations in Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, Mexico, Brazil, China and Singapore.

EQUATE Group, established in 1995, is Kuwait's first international joint venture in this industry, that became a global producer of petrochemicals and the second largest producer of Ethylene Glycol in the world, providing reliable products and solutions that serve as the basis to everyday consumable products and participate in sustaining a better world.

The Group owns and operates industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and Europe that annually produce over six million tons of ethylene glycol (EG), polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), styrene monomer (SM), paraxylene (PX), heavy aromatics (HA) and benzene (BZ).

Focusing on Gulf capital & technology

MoneyTech summit kicks off in Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The fifth edition of the "MoneyTech" summit, Kuwait's leading summit at the intersection of investment, business and technology, organized by Al-Jarida newspaper in strategic partnership with Ooredoo Kuwait, kicked off yesterday Sunday morning at the St. Regis Kuwait hotel.

This year's summit is being held under the slogan "moneytechme.com In partnership with Ooredoo," with the attendance of more than 17 wealth managers, tech CEOs, investors and business leaders from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, alongside leaders from global investment companies including "BlackRock" and "The Carlyle Group" and "ADNOC Drilling" and "NBK" and "KFH" and "Talabat" and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Opening led by Ooredoo and KFH

The summit was opened with a keynote speech by the CEO of Ooredoo Kuwait, AbdulazizYaqoub Al-Babtain, followed by a speech by the Deputy Group CEO for Technology and Operations at Kuwait Finance House, Haitham Al-Terkait.

The choice of "Ooredoo" as a strategic partner for this year's summit reflects the company's transformation from a telecom operator to a key partner in digital infrastructure and technology investment in the country, where the summit is also supported by major financial institutions including Kuwait Finance House and the National Bank of Kuwait and ABK Wealth.

8 Sessions on the Future of Gulf Capital

The summit's program includes eight keynote speeches, panel discussions and open dialogues that examine the most pressing questions on decision-makers' agendas this year, and whether mergers and acquisitions represent a survival move or a buyer's opportunity, and how investors are adapting to what may be a lasting new regime of uncertainty, and whether the time has come for Gulf investors, who have long held a large share of their assets abroad, to bring more of that wealth home.

From a Dialogue Platform to a Decision Platform

Observers said that the importance of this year's edition lies in its transformation from a platform for discussion about the digital transformation of banks, to a platform for making strategic investment decisions, at a time when Kuwait seeks to consolidate its position as a gateway for the region's investments, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

The participation of 22 Austrian and global major companies in previous editions, and the presence of names like BlackRock and Carlyle in today's edition, indicates that the global private sector has begun to look at Kuwait not as a transient market, but as a center for investment decision-making and redirecting Gulf capital inward.

The summit concluded yesterday evening with a closing session that examined the role of financial technology and artificial intelligence in shaping the features of the new Gulf economy.















Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Global investors gather at Kuwait MoneyTech summit.

During participation at the MoneyTech 2026 summit

Alterkait: Digital transformation & AI are key pillars of economic growth



Haytham Alterkait



Haytham Alterkait and Waleed AlNusif



Some of the attendees at the 'MoneyTech' summit.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Deputy Group CEO Technology and Operations, Haytham Alterkait, said digital transformation has evolved beyond delivering services through applications and digital platforms to become a core pillar of modern institutions. He noted that it accelerates transactions, boosts productivity, and improves business efficiency, adding that the future of investment and economic growth is closely linked to technological advancements and investment in innovation.

Speaking at the 5th edition of the MoneyTech 2026 summit organized by Al-Jarida, Alterkait stated that the agenda addresses key issues, particularly "Investing in Times of Uncertainty", a topic that is currently relevant to economies and financial markets. He noted that the challenge extends beyond navigating market volatility to sustaining investment flows, supporting productive sectors, and balancing opportunity with risk management.

Artificial Intelligence

Alterkait explained that artificial intelligence marks a new stage in the financial sector's evolution, offering powerful tools to analyze data, improve customer experiences, automation, strengthen risk management and early detection of fraud.

He added that KFH views AI as a major driver of innovation and productivity, provided there is responsible adoption of new technology, strict adherence to data governance, and full transparency, aiming to achieve tangible improvements in business development and customer experience.

Cybersecurity

Alterkait highlighted the crucial role of cybersecurity in a rapidly expanding digital economy, noting that cybersecurity and operational resilience become even more critical as reliance on digital services grows. He added that confidence of customer and investor depends on an organization's ability to safeguard funds and data, secure transactions, and maintain uninterrupted services.

He emphasized that investing in security and operational readiness is critical to strengthening financial sector stability and navigating challenges. He noted that an institution's ability to maintain uninterrupted services reinforces market confidence, adding that true operational resilience is built long before crises hit, through reliable infrastructure and effective response and recovery capabilities.

Wealth Management and FinTech

Alterkait noted that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups are vital for economic diversification and job creation. He emphasized that these businesses thrive on partnerships combining the expertise of financial institutions with the innovation of entrepreneurs.

He added that the summit's coverage of wealth management, FinTech, venture capital and entrepreneurship reflects the changing banking and economic landscape locally, regionally and globally.

Connecting Investment Opportunities with Financing

Alterkait said economic responsibility is central to KFH's role in serving customers, the national economy and its markets. The Bank is committed to using its financial, operational and technological capabilities, as well as its regional and international network, to support customers, finance the real economy, and develop solutions that combine innovation, reliability and good governance.

He added that Kuwaiti financial institutions' expansion into regional and global markets opens more opportunities to share expertise, build partnerships and match investment opportunities with suitable financing. This strengthens Kuwait's economic presence and supports sustainable development.

Alterkait also explained the important role of Sharia-compliant financing and investment instruments, particularly sukuk, in diversifying funding sources and expanding investment options. He stressed that financial institutions' success depends not only on financial performance, but also on the value they bring to the economy and society.

700 million e-banking transactions

Alterkait said that KFH continues to develop its digital services, upgrade its infrastructure, and streamline procedures to meet customers' evolving expectations and banking preferences. "Customers completed more than 700 million e-banking transactions by the end of the third quarter of 2026," he noted. "This reflects shifting customer behavior and a greater reliance on digital services, highlighting how technology supports economic activity, saves time and effort, and drives efficiency in service delivery."

Human Capital

Alterkait added: "Building the future we envision requires investing not only in technology and capital, but also in people. Developing national talent and strengthening financial and technological skills underpin innovation, enabling us to harness advanced technologies and translate their benefits into enduring value."

He stressed KFH's commitment to nurturing national talent, enhancing professional and technical skills, and fostering a workplace that drives innovation and continuous learning.

Supporting Business Continuity

Alterkait said financial institutions do more than provide financing, they help investors and businesses make informed decisions and offer solutions that keep businesses operating and support sustainable economic growth.

He emphasized the importance of attracting regional wealth and investment, channeling it toward promising opportunities in Kuwait and the wider region. He also praised the summit's role in convening leaders from the financial, investment, and technology sectors to explore key opportunities and challenges while shaping a shared vision for the future of the national economy.

Kuwait Vision 2035

Alterkait said the summit's national and economic significance aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to reinforce Kuwait's position as a financial and commercial hub while expanding the private sector's role in development.

He noted that this vision elevates the role of financial institutions beyond traditional banking by actively mobilizing savings, financing productive ventures, supporting businesses, and bridging investors with viable economic opportunities.

Alterkait added that enhancing Kuwait's financial standing requires an appealing business environment, clear regulations, advanced services and lasting trust in institutions and markets. He stressed that capital should flow into productive projects and activities that diversify income sources and drive economic growth, benefiting investors, society and the national economy.

Importance of the Summit

Alterkait expressed hope that the summit's discussions would enrich dialogue, foster the exchange of expertise, and yield practical visions to support the future of the financial sector and the Kuwaiti economy, particularly amid rapid economic and geopolitical shifts and the challenges they pose to markets, financing, and operating costs.

He added that these changes highlight the need for a diversified economy, more resilient financial institutions and an investment environment that attracts capital and turns challenges into opportunities for growth.

Concluding his remarks, Alterkait called for converting the summit's recommendations into active partnerships and initiatives that bring together financial institutions, investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to strengthen Kuwait's competitiveness and economic standing. Furthermore, he expressed KFH's pride in sustaining its strategic partnership with the event.

Speaking at panel discussion during MoneyTech Summit 2026, NBK's CEO – Consumer and Digital Banking

Al-Othman: NBK shapes and leads change rather than waiting for it

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Mohammed Al-Othman, CEO – Consumer and Digital Banking at National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Group, emphasized that the banking sector is undergoing a fundamental transformation driven by evolving customer expectations and rapid technological advancements. He noted that competition is no longer limited to offering traditional banking products and services but increasingly centers on the quality of the banking experience, ease of access, and banks' ability to meet each customer's needs in a personalized and effective manner.

The remarks were made during a panel discussion at MoneyTech Summit 2026, where he highlighted the key transformations shaping banking services and the role of technology and artificial intelligence in defining the future of the financial sector.

Fundamental Changes

Al-Othman explained that the most significant change over the past five years has been the unprecedented rise in customer expectations, noting that customers today compare their banking experience with the best digital experiences they encounter in their daily lives, particularly those offered by leading global platforms and applications.

He stated that customers are no longer simply seeking traditional banking services but expect instant, seamless and personalized solutions tailored to their needs, anytime and anywhere. He added that speed, ease of use and the ability to complete transactions digitally have become essential factors in how customers evaluate their banking experience.

He pointed out that this shift has prompted banks to redesign their business models and services to meet these evolving demands, with a greater focus on delivering banking experiences that are more flexible, seamless and closely aligned with customers' actual needs.

Al-Othman explained that NBK embarked on its digital transformation journey early, placing technology and innovation at the heart of its long-term strategy. This proactive approach enabled the Bank to establish an advanced digital infrastructure and continuously enhance its technological capabilities, giving it a clear competitive advantage and allowing it to respond more swiftly than many other institutions to the rapid changes reshaping the banking sector.

"Today, NBK continues to build on this leadership by delivering advanced digital solutions and services that enhance the customer experience and reinforce its position at the forefront of the region's most innovative banking institutions," Al-Othman said.

Digitalization as a key pillar

Regarding the future of digital banking services, Al-Othman emphasized that the banking sector has made significant progress in its digital transformation journey, with most, if not all, everyday banking transactions now available through digital channels.

The focus today, he explained, is no longer solely on digitizing services, but on enhancing the digital experience to make it smarter, simpler and more capable of anticipating customer needs.

Significant opportunities remain for further development, particularly through leveraging data, advanced analytics and artificial intelligence to enhance customer engagement and deliver more personalized solutions tailored to individual needs.

In this context, Al-Othman highlighted NBK's continued leadership in digital transformation through the development of innovative banking services and solutions that meet customers' growing expectations for speed, convenience and flexibility. He pointed to the Bank's recent introduction of an end-to-end digital loan journey through the NBK Mobile Banking App, alongside digital credit card issuance and management capabilities. These services enable customers to meet their banking needs conveniently, securely and around the clock, reflecting NBK's vision of delivering an advanced banking experience that places customers at the heart of every innovation.

He emphasized that the success of digital transformation is no longer measured solely by the number of services available through digital channels, but by a bank's ability to deliver a seamless, end-to-end experience that enables customers to complete their transactions without visiting a branch, while maintaining the highest standards of security and reliability.

"Digitalization is no longer an end in itself, but a means of delivering a smarter and more seamless banking experience," Al-Othman said.

He stressed that leading banking institutions are those that successfully leverage technology to improve customers' lives and simplify their financial transactions, rather than merely introducing new technological tools.

"We had a forward-looking vision of the transformation technology would bring, particularly for younger generations. This led us to launch Weyay Bank five years ago, which has achieved remarkable success by attracting four times the targeted number of customers from this important segment of society," he added.

Strategic Partnerships Driving Innovation

Al-Othman addressed the growing relationship between banks and emerging fintech companies, explaining that perceptions of these companies have changed significantly in recent years.

He stated that banks no longer view fintech companies as direct competitors, but rather as important partners in accelerating innovation and developing digital solutions. He noted that collaboration between the two has become a key factor in shaping the future of financial services.

He added that strategic partnerships between banking institutions and fintech companies provide customers with more advanced and faster solutions, while enabling banks to benefit from the innovative ideas and operating models introduced by startups.

Al-Othman highlighted NBK's belief in the importance of this collaboration, as reflected in several initiatives undertaken by the Bank in recent years. Most notably, NBK acquired a majority stake in UPayments, a leading provider of digital payment solutions. This strategic move reflects the Bank's recognition of the growing role of fintech companies and the importance of leveraging innovation to develop the digital payments ecosystem and enhance the customer experience.

Customer Experience

Al-Othman emphasized that artificial intelligence represents one of the most important strategic priorities for the global banking sector, noting that its role will extend beyond improving operational efficiency to fundamentally transforming the customer experience.

He explained that mobile banking has effectively become the primary banking channel for many customers, requiring financial institutions to develop digital experiences capable of understanding individual needs and delivering services tailored to each customer's financial circumstances and personal goals.

Al-Othman emphasized that the future of banking lies in personalization rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach.

He added that artificial intelligence will enable banks to provide more accurate recommendations and develop solutions tailored to different age groups and financial needs, strengthening their ability to build closer and more effective customer relationships, even as customers become less reliant on visiting traditional branches.

Striking the Right Balance Between Innovation and Security

Addressing the challenge of balancing ease of use with cybersecurity, Al-Othman stressed that trust remains the foundation of every banking relationship.

He explained that the success of the digital banking experience is measured not only by the speed and accessibility of services, but also by a bank's ability to safeguard customers' data and funds while maintaining the highest levels of security.

He noted that technological advancements and the growing reliance on digital solutions require continuous investment in protection systems and cybersecurity, alongside efforts to raise customer awareness and promote the safe use of digital banking services. He emphasized that trust remains the most valuable currency in digital banking.

Al-Othman stressed that banks must continue investing in both technology and security to deliver advanced banking experiences without compromising the protection and reliability customers expect.

Looking Ahead

Discussing the future of consumer banking over the next five years, Al-Othman anticipated that banking services would become increasingly integrated into customers' daily lives, with greater reliance on intelligent technologies and advanced analytics.

He noted that the future will be characterized by more personalized and proactive services, enabling banks to anticipate and meet customer needs before customers request them, alongside the continued evolution of digital channels and the expanding role of artificial intelligence across banking operations.

Al-Othman concluded by emphasizing that the future of banking will not be determined by technology alone, but by financial institutions' ability to leverage it to deliver simpler, more flexible and secure banking experiences, placing customers at the heart of every stage of development and innovation.



Mohammed Al-Othman


Mohammed Al-Othman speaking.



Speakers at the panel discussion.



Speakers at the panel discussion.


Mohammed Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Waleed Al-Nusif, and Ahmed Al-Jarallah


Mohammed Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Adel Al-Majed, Waleed Al-Nisf, and Ahmed Al-Jarallah


Mohammed Al-Sager, Shaikha Al-Bahar, Salah Al-Fulaij, Adel Al-Majed, Waleed Al-Nusif, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Nassar Al-Otaibi, and Khaled Hilal

- Mobile banking has become customers' primary banking channel, while AI will play a greater role in personalizing the banking experience
- Customers today compare their banking experience with the best digital experiences they encounter in their daily lives
- Trust is the most valuable currency in digital banking
- Fintech companies are partners in shaping the future rather than competitors
- Banking services will become more integrated into everyday life and increasingly driven by intelligent technologies
- Competition is no longer limited to traditional banking products and services but centers on the quality of the customer experience
- NBK's early lead in digital transformation has enabled it to respond more quickly to market changes and evolving customer expectations
- Get ready for an era where the boundaries between technology and banking disappear

Global central banks turn more hawkish as inflation pressures and energy risks persist

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global markets were driven this week by the combination of resilient economic growth, persistent inflation pressures, and rising geopolitical tensions. In the United States, the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged at 3.75%-4.00%, although a divided vote and stronger-than-expected economic data reinforced expectations of a possible rate hike in December. The US economy expanded by 3.4% in the third quarter, supported by solid consumer spending and strong artificial intelligence-related investment, while inflation accelerated, with the PCE price index rising to 3.6% annually. At the same time, labour market conditions remained strong, with jobless claims near their lowest levels in more than five decades, highlighting continued economic resilience. These developments helped sustain expectations that US interest rates could remain higher for longer, providing underlying support for the US dollar despite some recent weakness in the Dollar Index. In Europe, attention centred on the resignation announcement of ECB President Christine Lagarde and the European Central Bank's increasingly hawkish stance. While the ECB left interest rates unchanged, policymakers strongly signalled that another rate hike is likely in December as rising energy prices continue to pose inflation risks. Markets remained relatively calm following Lagarde's decision to step down, reflecting confidence in the ECB's institutional framework and policy continuity. The euro recovered against the dollar after Lagarde indicated that policymakers had discussed raising rates and emphasized the ECB's readiness to act if inflation pressures persist. Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, the British pound remained supported above $1.33 after the government presented a cautious budget focused on supporting households while maintaining fiscal discipline. Market expectations for further Bank of England tightening remained largely unchanged, with investors continuing to anticipate additional rate increases in the coming months. Across the Asia-Pacific region, central banks also maintained a focus on inflation. The Bank of Japan kept its policy rate unchanged at 1.25% but signalled that inflation has reached its 2% target, paving the way for a potential rate hike in December and marking a major shift away from years of ultra-loose monetary policy. The Japanese yen strengthened as investors increased expectations for policy normalization and sought safe-haven assets amid global uncertainty. Meanwhile, Australia's inflation rate accelerated to 4.3%, reinforcing expectations that the Reserve Bank of Australia may need to maintain a restrictive policy stance, while the Reserve Bank of New Zealand surprised markets by keeping rates unchanged but continued to signal further tightening ahead.Commodity markets reflected the impact of both monetary policy expectations and geopolitical developments. Gold prices fell below $4,000 per ounce as stronger US growth and inflation data reinforced expectations for higher US interest rates, reducing the appeal of non-yielding assets. In contrast, Brent crude oil climbed above $112 per barrel, approaching four-year highs as tensions involving Iran and continued security risks in the Strait of Hormuz raised concerns about global energy supply disruptions. Overall, markets remain focused on the outlook for inflation, central bank policy decisions, and geopolitical developments, with elevated energy prices continuing to pose a significant risk to both inflation and global economic growth.

United States

Fed Holds Rates Steady as Split Decision Keeps December Hike Expectations Alive

The Federal Reserve held interest rates at 3.75%–4.00% on Wednesday, 28 October, but thedecision was not a unanimous one. Lisa Cook and Beth Hammack voted for a quarter-point increase,highlighting continued concern over inflation. The Fed described economic growth as strong,supported by resilient spending and robust investment, while stressing that inflation remainselevated. Policymakers want more evidence before deciding their next move. Markets continued toprice roughly an 80% chance of a December increase on Thursday morning.

US Economy Beats Expectations as Consumer Spending and AI Investment Drive Growth

The US economy grew stronger than expected in the third quarter, expanding at an annual rate of 3.4%, supported by solid consumer spending and continued business investment in artificial intelligence (AI). This growth outweighed the negative effects of higher oil prices caused by tensions in the Middle East. Consumer spending, which makes up more than two-thirds of the economy, remained strong as low layoffs and steady hiring helped support household spending. However, many consumers continue to feel pessimistic about the economy due to high living costs and concerns about inflation. The Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged but acknowledged that inflation remains elevated, and markets expect another rate increase later this year. While AI-related investment has been a major driver of growth, some economists caution that heavy spending on long-term AI projects may not be sustainable and could slow in the future. Additionally, with fuel prices remaining high and many households saving less and relying more on their savings, economists expect consumer spending to moderate in the coming months.

US Inflation Picks Up in September, Strengthening Case for December Fed Rate Hike

US inflation accelerated in September, reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve could raise interest rates again in December. The Fed's preferred inflation measure, the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index, increased 0.5% during the month, up from 0.3% in August, while annual inflation rose to 3.6% from 3.4% previously. Higher gasoline prices and rising costs for other goods were key drivers of the increase. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices and is closely monitored by policymakers, rose 0.3% in September and 3.1% from a year earlier, indicating that underlying price pressures remain persistent and well above the Fed's 2% target. Despite keeping interest rates unchanged at 3.75%-4.00%, Federal Reserve officials acknowledged that inflation remains elevated, and financial markets increasingly expect another rate hike before year-end. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, rose 0.5% in September, but much of the increase reflected higher prices rather than stronger demand. After adjusting for inflation, spending was essentially flat, suggesting households are becoming more cautious as living costs remain high.

US Jobless Claims Stay Near 57-Year Lows as Labor Market Remains Resilient

US unemployment claims remained near their lowest levels in more than five decades, highlighting the continued strength of the labor market. Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 1,000 to 194,000 in the week ended October 24, below economists' expectations and close to the 57-year low reached in July. The data suggests the labor market remains in a "low-hire, low-fire" environment, with companies reluctant to lay off workers due to strong profits and resilient consumer demand. However, geopolitical uncertainty linked to the conflict in the Middle East has made many employers cautious about expanding their workforce. Continuing claims, which reflect the number of people receiving ongoing unemployment benefits and serve as a measure of hiring conditions, declined by 21,000 to 1.701 million, indicating that unemployed workers are still finding jobs relatively quickly. The unemployment rate, which stood at 4.2% in September, is expected to remain stable or potentially decline, supported by improving consumer confidence in the labor market and a shrinking labor force. The Federal Reserve, which recently left interest rates unchanged, cited the labor market's resilience as a positive sign, though markets continue to expect a rate hike in December as policymakers remain focused on controlling inflation.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 101.879.

Bank of Canada Raises Rates and Signals More Tightening as Inflation Risks Persist

The Bank of Canada raised its key interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.5%, marking its first rate increase in more than three years, and signaled that additional hikes may be needed if higher energy prices continue to fuel inflation. Governor Tiff Macklem said the Canadian economy has remained resilient despite global uncertainties, prompting policymakers to act to prevent rising energy costs from spreading into broader inflation across the economy. The central bank also raised its inflation forecast, expecting inflation to reach 3.5% by the end of the year and remain around 3% through much of next year before gradually returning to its 2% target by mid-2028. While higher interest rates are expected to increase borrowing and mortgage costs, the Bank of Canada believes tighter policy is necessary to keep inflation under control. At the same time, officials acknowledged significant economic risks and stressed that future decisions will remain data-dependent rather than follow a predetermined path. The bank expects economic growth to slow in the coming quarters due to higher borrowing costs and external challenges, including US trade tensions, but forecasts a gradual recovery supported by consumer spending, stronger exports, and increased business investment. Financial markets currently anticipate additional rate increases over the next year, although some economists argue that underlying inflation remains relatively contained and may not require rates to rise much beyond neutral levels.

The USD/CAD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3973.

Europe

Lagarde Resigns as ECB Chief Amid Rising Economic and Political Uncertainty

Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), announced her resignation, ending months of speculation about her future at a time of growing economic and political uncertainty in Europe. She will step down on February 7, allowing EU leaders to appoint a successor before France's presidential election. Lagarde said she leaves the ECB proud of its achievements and confident in its future. Her departure comes as the ECB faces rising inflation driven by higher energy prices linked to the Iran conflict, as well as increasing government bond yields that could slow economic growth. While some politicians criticized her decision as poorly timed during a period of economic challenges and upcoming elections, others praised it as a responsible move that gives Europe time to choose a strong successor. Former central bank governors Klaas Knot of the Netherlands and Pablo Hernández de Cos of Spain are considered leading candidates to replace her. Financial markets reacted calmly, as investors believe the ECB's policies and institutional strength will remain largely unchanged regardless of who takes over. Meanwhile, the ECB continues to balance the fight against inflation with concerns over slowing growth, and markets expect further interest rate increases over the coming year.

ECB Signals December Rate Hike as Energy-Driven Inflation Risks Persist

The European Central Bank (ECB) kept interest rates unchanged at its latest meeting but strongly signaled that another rate increase is likely in December as rising oil and gas prices continue to fuel inflation risks. The ECB has already raised rates twice this year to prevent higher energy costs, driven by the conflict involving Iran, from spreading into broader price increases across the economy. Speaking after the meeting, ECB President Christine Lagarde, who recently announced her early resignation, indicated that policymakers had considered raising rates immediately but decided to wait for more economic data before acting. With energy prices continuing to climb, ECB officials now view a December rate hike as highly likely. At the same time, the central bank faces the challenge of slowing economic growth and rising borrowing costs across the euro area, particularly in France, where government bond yields have increased sharply. Higher borrowing costs are expected to weigh on credit growth, investment, and economic activity, leading many economists to believe that even if the ECB raises rates again, the current tightening cycle may be nearing its end. The ECB also reiterated that it has tools available to support financial markets if borrowing costs rise in a disorderly manner, although it stressed that governments must adhere to EU fiscal rules to qualify for such assistance. Overall, the ECB remains focused on controlling inflation while carefully balancing the risks to economic growth and financial stability.

The EUR/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.1158

Aisa Pacific

RBNZ Holds Rates at 2.75%, Signals Further Tightening

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand kept its official cash rate unchanged at 2.75% in October 2026, defying expectations for a 25-basis-point hike. The decision was narrowly approved by a 4-3 vote, as policymakers sought to bring inflation back to the 2% target midpoint while limiting economic volatility. The bank signaled that further rate hikes would likely be necessary, depending on incoming economic data. Wage growth remained subdued and inflation expectations stable, although volatile energy prices continued to pose inflation risks. Policymakers also highlighted uncertainty surrounding rising global bond yields, driven by inflation concerns, geopolitical tensions and AI-related investment, warning that these pressures could contribute to a global economic slowdown.

Continued on Page 9

Retains Best Network title with 14 awards, leading across speed, coverage, consistency and more

Zain sweeps all Opensignal Mobile Network Experience awards in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Zain has retained its Best Network in Kuwait title in Opensignal's latest Q2 2026 Mobile Network Experience report, securing more awards than any other operator in the market. The company attained 14 titles in total, including nine outright wins and five shared ones, placing it as the leader across every metric measured in the report.

Opensignal is a leading global provider of independent insights into network experience and market performance across converged, wireless, and broadband operators.

In the report, Zain delivers Kuwait's most consistent network experience and leads outright across the applications users notice and rely on most.

The recognition reflects the company's continued commitment to delivering on its network promise, with a focus on continuously maintaining and enhancing the speed, coverage, consistency, and overall quality customers experience every day.

The latest results also build on Zain's earlier Opensignal recognition in February 2026, with the company retaining leadership across all nine previously awarded metrics while now expanding its winning portfolio to 14 awards.

Opensignal's analysis,based on real-world experience of consumers,ranked Zain first across all Speed and Coverage Awards. Zain users recorded an Overall Download speed of 130.9 Mbps, 10% ahead of the nearest competitor, while its 5G Download speed reached 319.2 Mbps, giving Zain a 29% lead over the next-ranked operator. The results also demonstrate the pace of Zain's continuous network enhancement, with overall download speeds increasing 53% over five quarters, from 85.9 Mbps in Q2 2025 to 130.9 Mbps in Q2 2026.

This leadership extends to network reach. Zain secured the Coverage Award with a score of 8.10 out of 10, 19% ahead of the nearest competitor, while its 5G Coverage score reached 4.91, representing an 8% lead. Together, the results underline Zain's focus on delivering both faster connectivity and a broader network experience wherever customers expect to stay connected.



Zain Opensignal Award

Consistency represented another standout area for Zain. The company was the sole winner of both Consistent Quality and 5G Consistent Quality, leading the nearest competitor by 29% and 26% respectively.

These metrics reflect how consistently a network supports demanding everyday experiences such as high-quality video, group calls and responsive browsing, reinforcing Zain's focus on the quality customers actually experience when using the network.

Zain also secured outright wins in Games, 5G Games and 5G Video, reflecting strong performance across latency-sensitive gaming and video streaming experiences. In categories where Opensignal found the competition statistically too close to separate, Zain remained within the winning group across Reliability, Upload Speed, 5G Upload Speed, Time on Network and Video Experience, further demonstrating the breadth of its performance across the complete mobile experience.

The results come as Zain continues to accelerate the evolution of its network. The company is one of the first operators globally to commercially launch 5G-Advanced with nationwide coverage across Kuwait, reflecting its continued investment in next-generation connectivity and network performance.

Separately, Opensignal's Global Network Excellence Index ranked the State of Kuwait sixth globally for Download Speed in Q2 2026, up five places from the previous quarter, further underscoring the strength of a market in which Zain continues to lead and set the pace across key network experience metrics.

Zain continues to invest in the capacity, technologies and network intelligence required to keep pace with growing customer expectations and data demand, with a clear priority: ensuring that every step forward in network technology translates into a faster, more reliable and consistently high-quality experience for customers across Kuwait.

Funded from internal resources

KIPCO clears remaining $500 million EMTN bond

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – announced the full repayment of the outstanding US$353.98 million of its US$500 million bonds issued under the company's Euro Medium Term Note (EMTN) program, ahead of its scheduled maturity date.

The repayment was funded entirely from the Group's existing resources, reflecting KIPCO's strong liquidity position and disciplined approach to managing its financial obligations. The settlement, without the need for refinancing, comes amid continued uncertainty in global financial markets and elevated borrowing costs.

Commenting on the repayment, Mr Moustapha Chami, KIPCO's Group Chief Financial Officer, said:

"The repayment of this bond reflects the strength of our liquidity position and our disciplined approach to liability management. Our ability to meet this obligation in full, without resorting to refinancing, is particularly significant in the current market environment. This repayment further reduces our overall debt and associated financing costs, while preserving the financial flexibility needed to support the Group's strategic priorities."

The repayment marks another milestone in KIPCO's ongoing efforts to optimize its capital structure and reinforces its long-standing track record of meeting its financial commitments to investors.



Moustapha Chami

'This repayment reflects the strength of our liquidity position and our disciplined approach to liability management' says Group CFO

Launched in 2006 with an initial size of US$2 billion and subsequently increased to US$3 billion, KIPCO's EMTN program has served as an important platform for accessing international debt markets and diversifying the Group's sources of funding. The program remains in place, providing KIPCO with the flexibility to access international debt markets as and when appropriate, in line with its financing strategy.

Warba prices KD 80 million sukuk at 5.5%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Warba Bank has successfully priced its KD 80 million Additional Tier 1 (AT1) Sukuk at a profit rate of 5.50%. The placement of the Sukuk with domestic investors underscores the continued development and depth of Kuwait's Islamic capital markets, with participation from a broad range of financial institutions, private banking clients, and wealth management investors. The issuance forms part of the Bank's ongoing capital and liability management strategy.

Strong Investor Demand Drives Increase in Issuance Size

Warba Bank initially marketed the transaction at KD 75 million. Strong investor demand led to a rapid build-up of the order book during the first week of marketing, prompting the Bank to increase the issuance size by KD 5 million to KD 80 million.

Chorghay: Investor Confidence Reflects the Bank's Financial Strength

Yusuf Chorghay, Acting Chief of Investment Banking Group at Warba Bank, stated:

"The successful pricing of this issuance at a margin of 200 basis points over the Central Bank of Kuwait's discount rate demonstrates investors' confidence in the Bank's strong financial position and long-term strategic direction. We are pleased with the strong demand from local investors, which enabled us to complete the transaction on attractive terms."

Mr. Chorghay added:

"The level of demand achieved is particularly noteworthy given ongoing geopolitical developments and periods of uncertainty affecting regional and global markets. Strong participation from a diverse local investor base underscore the confidence investors place in the Bank's credit profile and financial performance. It also demonstrates the resilience and growing sophistication of Kuwait's capital markets, which continue to provide issuers with efficient access to regulatory capital."

Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners Support Successful Issuance

KFH Capital, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz", and Warba Bank acted as Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners for the issuance, contributing their expertise and execution capabilities to the successful completion of the transaction.



Yusuf Chorghay, Acting Chief of Investment Banking Group at Warba Bank



Mohammad H. AlHajeri, Chief Investment Banking Officer at KFH Capital



Ali Khalil, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz"

■ **Chorghay:**
- Strong investor demand reflects continued confidence in the Bank's credit profile, financial performance, and long-term growth strategy.
- The successful issuance underscores the depth of liquidity in the Kuwaiti market and reaffirms the strength of the Islamic capital markets sector.
- The transaction supports the Bank's ongoing capital and liability management strategy.

KFH Capital: Strong Demand Highlights Kuwait's Islamic Capital Markets

Mr. Mohammad H. AlHajeri, Chief Investment Banking Officer at KFH Capital, stated:

"We are pleased to have played a key role in the successful execution of Warba Bank's landmark KD 80 million Additional Tier 1 (AT1) Sukuk issuance. In addition to our role as Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner, KFH Capital played a central role in coordinating the overall transaction and acted as both Subscription Agent and Settlement Agent, supporting the issuance seamlessly from launch through to final settlement.

The strong investor demand and the successful increase in the issuance size to KD 80 million highlight the depth of liquidity within Kuwait's Islamic capital markets and reflect investors' confidence in Warba Bank's strong credit fundamentals and growth prospects.

This transaction further reinforces KFH Capital's position as a trusted partner for Sharia-compliant capital market solutions and demonstrates our ability to deliver comprehensive execution capabilities across the full transaction lifecycle. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Warba Bank and supporting the achievement of its long-term strategic objectives."

Markaz: Issuance Reflects Confidence in Kuwait's Debt Capital Markets

Commenting on the transaction, Mr. Ali Khalil, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz", stated:

"The success of Warba Bank's Sukuk issuance, reflected in the strength of its placement, the diversity of participating investors, and the attractive profit rate achieved, is a strong testament to investor confidence in Warba Bank and the growing depth and sophistication of Kuwait's debt capital markets.

This confidence also reflects Kuwait's broader economic and financial strength, supported by substantial sovereign financial reserves, as well as the stability of the Kuwaiti dinar, underpinned by the prudent monetary policies and effective supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait. These factors have contributed to a resilient banking system and helped maintain favorable dinar financing conditions relative to US dollar markets.

Markaz is proud to have acted as Joint Lead Manager on this successful issuance, building on our longstanding relationship with Warba Bank, and views this transaction as another important step toward developing deeper, more diversified, and more liquid debt capital markets in Kuwait."

Supporting Capital Management and Sustainable Growth

The issuance, which is callable after five years, strengthens the Bank's capital position and financial resilience, supporting its sustainable growth ambitions.

Global central

Continued from Page 8

The NZD/USD currency pair last seen trading at 0.5628.

Australia's Inflation Accelerates to 4.3% in September

Australia's annual inflation rate rose to 4.3% in September 2026 from 4.0% in August, exceeding market expectations of 4.2% and reaching its highest level since March.

The reading moved further above the Reserve Bank of Australia's 2–3% target range, driven largely by rising fuel prices amid elevated global oil costs.

Transport inflation accelerated to 8.7%, with automotive fuel prices surging 23.6%, while food and recreation costs also increased.

Meanwhile, housing inflation eased to 5.2% but remained the largest contributor to overall inflation. The trimmed mean CPI, a key measure of underlying inflation, edged up to 3.6% from 3.5%.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose 0.8%, above expectations of 0.7% and marking the strongest increase in six months.

The AUD/USD currency pair last seen trading at 0.7030.

BOJ Signals December Rate Hike After Declaring Inflation Target Achieved

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) kept its policy interest rate unchanged at 1.25%, but signaled that another rate increase could come as early as December as inflation continues to move sustainably around its 2% target. In a significant shift, the BOJ declared that it has largely achieved its long-standing inflation objective after nearly 14 years of efforts to overcome deflation and weak price growth.

Policymakers emphasized that their focus has now turned to preventing inflation from rising too far above target, reflecting a more hawkish stance and a willingness to raise rates periodically if needed.

The central bank also surprised markets by announcing a faster pace of exchange-traded fund (ETF) sales beginning next year, further reducing the extraordinary stimulus measures that have characterized Japanese monetary policy for years. BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda warned that higher energy prices, a weaker yen, and broader inflation pressures present upside risks to prices, requiring close monitoring.

The bank also raised its inflation forecasts and noted that long-term inflation expectations are now stabilizingaround 2%, suggesting that price and wage growth are becoming more deeply embedded in the economy. While officials remain cautious about the impact of higher rates on economic activity and consumer spending, most analysts expect the BOJ to increase rates to 1.5% in December, with further gradual tightening likely in 2027 as Japan transitions away from its ultra-loose monetary policy era.

The USD/JPY currency pair last seen trading at157.53.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30825.

Over 800 delegates and 45 industry leaders to convene to explore AI, cybersecurity

The 5th Digital Transformation Kuwait Conference 2026 to accelerate Kuwait's journey towards an AI-powered future

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: As Kuwait accelerates its transition towards a knowledge-driven digital economy, the 5th Digital Transformation Kuwait Conference 2026 will bring together government leaders, policymakers, technology innovators and industry experts to explore how artificial intelligence, intelligent infrastructure and emerging technologies can shape the nation's digital future.

Scheduled for 9–10 November 2026 at Crowne Plaza Kuwait, the conference will be held under the theme "Beyond Transformation: Designing Kuwait's Intelligent Future," reflecting the country's growing emphasis on moving beyond digital adoption towards intelligent, integrated and citizen-centric solutions.

In collaboration with Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), and in partnership with the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), the two-day gathering will provide a strategic platform for advancing Kuwait's digital ambitions in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 (New Kuwait).

The conference will welcome H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Al Sabah, Honorary President of the conference and Founder and Chairman of the Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIoT), who will deliver the Opening Keynote, setting the strategic direction for discussions on Kuwait's next phase of technology-led development.

With more than 800 delegates representing over 500 organisations, the event will feature 45+ distinguished speakers, multiple solution showcases and more than 10 keynotes, panel discussions and presentations, bringing together decision-makers responsible for shaping digital transformation across government and key economic sectors.

Among the prominent speakers are Ms. Najat Hussain, Acting Director General, Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT); Eng. Manal Al-Mazyad, Vice Chairman of the Board, Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA); Dr. Ammar Alhusaini, Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships, IMPULSE; and Prof. Khalid Al-Begain, Founding President, Kuwait College of Science and Technology.

As artificial intelligence increasingly reshapes economies, industries and public services, the conference will examine how Kuwait can strengthen its digital capabilities through strategic investments in AI infrastructure, cloud computing, advanced data centres and secure connectivity.Cybersecurity, digital identity and digital trust will also feature prominently, reflecting the importance of protecting critical infrastructure, strengthening data governance and building confidence in an increasingly interconnected digital ecosystem.





5th Digital Transformation Kuwait Conference 2026

The programme will explore the evolution of intelligent government services, highlighting opportunities to improve operational efficiency, enhance public service delivery and create more seamless experiences for citizens and businesses.Smart cities and intelligent infrastructure will form another major area of discussion, with industry leaders examining how connected technologies, data-driven planning and digital innovation can support more sustainable and resilient urban development.

Beyond government transformation, the conference will address the growing application of emerging technologies across healthcare, education, banking and financial services, energy and utilities, aviation, telecommunications, logistics and transportation.Discussions will also focus on connected mobility, intelligent transportation networks and utilities digitalisation, exploring how integrated digital systems can strengthen infrastructure performance and support Kuwait's long-term economic diversification objectives.

The conference is supported by a broad network of government entities, industry organisations and academic institutions, including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Works, Artificial Intelligence of Things Association (AAIoT), International Air Transport Association (IATA), National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Information Technology Society, Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Kuwait Technical College, Medical Liability Authority, Al Mowasat Hospital and Dar Al Shifa Hospital.

ARAB TIMES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

‘General Hospital’ earns 19th outstanding drama series honor

Clifton & Tamara Tunie win lead acting Daytime Emmys



The team from “General Hospital” accept the award for outstanding daytime drama series during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Byron Allen, center, and the team from “Justice For The People with Judge Milian” accept the award for outstanding legal/courtroom series during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Alex Duda accepts the award for outstanding directing for a daytime studio non-fiction series for “The Kelly Clarkson Show: Episode 5033” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Megan Mucci accepts the award for outstanding main title and graphic design for a daytime program for “The Drew Barrymore Show” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Star Jones accepts the award for outstanding daytime personality (daily) for “Divorce Court” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Danielle Chang accepts the award for outstanding culinary cultural series for “Lucky Chow” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Roger Howarth accepts the award for outstanding supporting actor in a daytime drama series for “The Young and the Restless” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Mandi Line, center, and her team accept the award for outstanding costume design / styling for a daytime program for “The Young and the Restless: Episode 13273” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Alex Duda, center, and the team from “The Kelly Clarkson Show” accept the award for outstanding daytime talk series during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Tamara Tunie accepts the award for outstanding lead performer in a daytime drama series: actress for “Beyond the Gates” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Elizabeth Korte, center, and the team of “General Hospital” accept the award for outstanding writing team for a daytime drama series during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



The team from “Home Town Takeover” accept the award for outstanding instructional / how-to program during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Scott Clifton accepts the award for outstanding lead actor in a daytime drama series for “The Bold and the Beautiful” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Kerry Joly, center, and Corey Morris accept the award for outstanding hairstyling and makeup for a daytime program for “The Kelly Clarkson Show: Episode 5033” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Beth Maitland accepts the award for outstanding supporting actress in a daytime drama series for “The Young and the Restless” during the 53rd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

LOS ANGELES, Nov 1, (AP): Scott Clifton of “The Bold and the Beautiful” and Tamara Tunie of “Beyond the Gates” won lead acting honors at the 53rd annual Daytime Emmys, with “General Hospital” honored as outstanding drama series for a record 19th time overall and sixth in a row.

Clifton plays Liam Spencer on the CBS show. It’s his second lead actor trophy, having won in 2017, to go with previous wins as younger actor and supporting actor that made him the first male actor to sweep all three categories.

He beat out a heavyweight field of veterans Eric Braeden, Steve Burton, Thorsten Kaye and Christian Jules LeBlanc.

“I’m speechless,” Clifton said. “This means so much to me, not the thing, the atta boy from my peers. I think of few things that bring me more joy than that.”

Tunie plays strong-willed matriarch Anita Dupree on “Beyond the Gates,” which debuted on CBS last year featuring the first primarily Black cast since “Generations” in the 1990s and the first new network soap since 1999.

Tunie made her daytime debut in 1987 on “As the World Turns,” leaving in 2009, a year before the CBS show ended.

“My heart is so full right now,” Tunie said. “This is the best welcome back to daytime ever. There is a host of Black actresses who paved the way for me, and I feel them as I stand here.”

Along with its outstanding drama series award, ABC’s “General Hospital” also earned trophies for writing and guest performance in a daytime drama for Jeff Kober.

Roger Howarth and Beth Maitland of “The Young and the Restless” swept the supporting acting categories, with both winning decades after their first triumphs.

Howarth currently plays Matt Clark on the CBS soap. He first won in 1994 in the younger actor category for his breakout role as Todd Manning on “One Life to Live.”

Maitland was honored for playing Traci Abbott, a role she originated in 1982 - the year of her first supporting actress win - and has played off and on ever since.

“Every one of you a winner, every one of you a part of the contribution daytime makes in a world gone mad, offering just a few minutes of relief - to laugh, to cry and to celebrate,” she said in tribute to her peers.

Genie Francis, who began her role on “General Hospital” at age 14 in 1977, received the Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by her actor-director husband, Jonathan Frakes. She was teary-eyed watching a video of career highlights before taking the stage, supported by her two children because she’s recovering from a broken right ankle.

“I know 50 years sounds like an awfully long time, but it doesn’t feel like it to me,” Francis said. “As they say, if you love what you do you don’t work a day in your life. I wouldn’t go that far because doing a party scene in high heels is hard work.”

Francis said she’s worked with “all the greats,” ticking off such names as Anthony Geary, Erika Slezak, David Canary, Maurice Bernard, Michael Knight and Eric Braeden.

“I have had the most amazing ride and I am so grateful,” she said. “I would do it all over again if I could.”

Tracee Ellis Ross won in the travel and adventure category for her Roku show “Solo Traveling with Tracee Ellis Ross.”

“Wow, how fun is this?” Ross said, while thanking the countries of Morocco, Mexico and Spain.

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, lost in the lifestyle program category. She was nominated for her Netflix show “With Love, Meghan” that ran for two seasons, but the Prime Video documentary series “A Different Breed” about competitive canine sports prevailed in that category.

Ambyr Michelle of CBS’ “Beyond the Gates” won for emerging talent in a daytime drama, the second year the award was handed out.

Directing honors went to Peacock’s “Days of Our Lives.”

Two talk shows no longer in production scored victories. Sherri Shepherd won as daytime talk series host for “Sherri,” which ended its four-season run on Fox in May. Kelly Clarkson won for daytime talk series, having wrapped her eponymous NBC show in August after seven seasons. Neither was on hand to accept.

Giada De Laurentiis won as non-daily daytime personality for “Giada in the Kitchen.” The trophy for daytime personality daily went to Star Jones and Corey Jovan for Fox’s “Divorce Court.”

Ina Garten was a two-time winner for culinary host and culinary instructional series for “Be My Guest” on Food Network.

The ceremony held at the Hollywood Palladium was streamed live for the second straight year after airing on CBS for five consecutive years.

Behbehani Tire Center-Pirelli organizes 'Open Track Day' event in Kuwait Motor Town







Left to right: Photos from the 'Open Track Day' event in Kuwait Motor Town.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Behbehani Tire Center Co., the authorized dealer for Pirelli tires in Kuwait, hosted a special event at Kuwait Motor Town. Special invitations were extended to many its customers, owners of sports cars in Kuwait, to attend and test their cars' capabilities on the main track of KMT.

This comes as part of Behbehani Tire Center's policy of supporting several sports cars events and activities in Kuwait, and its encouragement for safe local motorsports, demonstrated by its sponsorship of Kuwait Motor Town and its high-level international track since its opening in 2019. The KMT hosts various outdoor car races, featuring multiple tracks for different car sports categories, all while ensuring all safety measures are in place for participants and attendees, catering to enthusiasts and fans of this sport in Kuwait

Managers from Pirelli Middle East, headed by Mr. Raad Haddad who came from Dubai, were especially present for this event, alongside the entire team and management of Behbehani Tire Center Co.

The attendance was remarkable with owners of high-performance sports cars, who thoroughly enjoyed this event and their personal driving experience on the main racing track, especially using Pirelli tires that provide driving confidence by granting drivers complete control and unparalleled stability.

All attendees commended the outstanding organization of the event, eagerly anticipated in Kuwait, and expressed appreciation for the gracious invitation and the chance to participate

Behbehani Tire Center offers Pirelli tires with specifications and measurements that cater to various American, Japanese, European, Korean, sports, and luxury cars, including those requiring tires with special specifications approved by renowned global car manufacturers such as Mercedes, Porsche, Jaguar, Audi, and Land Rover.

Additionally, the center provides the largest selection of motorcycle tires in Kuwait. Pirelli tires are distinguished by their superior performance, strength, stability, and ability to withstand tough weather conditions, high temperatures, and high speeds. Therefore, they are ideal for operating in Gulf and Kuwaiti environments in particular. Pirelli tires are available at reasonable prices, suiting various budgets, and they offer longer lifespan and resistance to damage and wear, providing customers with long-term benefits.

Kazma faces stern Kuwait Club test



Kuwait Club players simultaneously go for the ball during a league game.

Sulaibikhat plays Qadsia in Premier Volleyball League

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: The 2025-2026 Premier Volleyball League resumes today with two fourth-round matches at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex.

The action gets underway at 5:00 pm with Sulaibikhat facing Qadsia, while the highlight of the round comes at 7:00 pm when defending champion Kuwait Club meets league leader Kazma.

The clash between the two title contenders is expected to attract particular attention, with both teams eager to collect three points and strengthen their positions in the race for the championship.

Kazma leads the standings with eight points and will be looking to maintain its momentum and consolidates its position at the top. Kuwait Club, meanwhile, is second with five points and will be targeting victory to close the gap and draw level with the Orange ahead of the final round of the preliminary stage.

In the other fixture, third-placed Qadsia, on four points, will be favorite against Sulaibikhat, who has one point, given the difference in experience and resources between the teams.

However, Sulaibikhat hopes to benefit from the arrival of Omani professional Falah Salim, nicknamed "The Cuban", who joined the squad two days ago to bolster the team's strength. His possible appearance in today's match will be closely watched.

Al-Arabi occupies the bottom position with one point.

The preliminary stage is scheduled to conclude on November 5, followed by the semifinals on November 9. The top-ranked team will face the fourth-placed side, while second place will meet third. The two winners will advance to the final on November 12 to compete for the title.

Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr returns to Uzbekistan with memories of 2016

TASHKENT, Nov 1: Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia faces Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor away on Monday in the third round of the AFC Champions League Elite, marking its first trip to Uzbekistan since 2016, when it last won in the country.The Saudi side lost its opening match before winning its second, while its third fixture was postponed. Pakhtakor drew its first two matches before losing its third.The match will be held at Pakhtakor Central Stadium in Tashkent, marking Al-Nassr's first appearance in Uzbekistan in nearly a decade.

Al-Nassr has played three matches in Uzbekistan. Its first came against Pakhtakor in 2011, when the sides drew 2-2 in the group stage. Kuwaiti star Bader Al-Mutawa and Serbian Bojan Miladinovic scored for the Saudi team.In 2015, Al-Nassr edged Bunyodkor 1-0 with a goal from Polish midfielder Adrian Mierzejewski. The same scoreline was repeated against the same opponent in 2016, with Malian striker Modibo Maiga scoring the winner.Elsewhere today, Qatar's Al-Sadd hosts Saudi Arabia's Al-Ahli, UAE's Al-Wasl meets Iraq's Al-Quwa Al-Jawiya, while Saudi giant Al-Ittihad takes on UAE's Al-Ain.

Best of the Rest

Zaman ton propels Pakistan to 3-wicket win: Opener Fakhar Zaman overcame a bruised knee and a lean run to score 127 and lead Pakistan past Sri Lanka by three wickets in the final of the one-day international cricket tri-series.

Zaman's entertaining 12th ODI hundred and man-of-the-series Arafat Minhas' robust 61 off 31 balls took Pakistan to a winning 331-7 in 48.3 overs. The Sri Lanka bowlers found it hard to control the wet ball because of dew.

Kamindu Mendis' 131, his maiden ODI century, earlier propelled Sri Lanka to 325-8 while batting first for the first time in the tournament.

England was knocked out after losing three of its four games that included Sri Lanka's second highest ever chase of 430 at Rawalpindi and Pakistan's scintillating one-wicket win at Lahore.

Zaman came into the final with only 31 runs in his last four innings and spent most of the time in the dressing room after he injured his right knee while fielding. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

India wins series 3-2: Tim Seifert made 93 from 50 balls and Glenn Phillips passed 50 for the fourth time in the series Sunday as New Zealand beat India by seven wickets in the fifth and final T20 international.

India won the series 3-2.

Seifert and Phillips put on 86 for the third wicket as New Zealand ran down India's total of 191-8 with two overs in hand.

Ishan Kishan made 61 from 32 balls and captain Shreyas Iyer 50 from 23 to put India in a strong position at the midpoint of its innings, but later batters added only 80 runs in the last 10 overs.

Seifert seemed bound for his maiden T20 international century when he chopped a ball from Nitish Kumar Reddy onto his stumps with 24 runs needed for victory. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Grizzlies remain unbeaten: Rookie Cameron Boozer had 27 points and nine rebounds, Isaiah Stewart added 24 points as the Memphis Grizzlies remained the only unbeaten team in the NBA with a 136-105 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

The Grizzlies' 6-0 record matches the 2014-15 season for the best start in franchise history. After the Houston Rockets' 116-111 loss at Dallas on Friday night, Memphis was the last unbeaten team in the league. The Grizzlies dominated the Kings in the second half to coast home, with the lead reaching 34 in the second half.

GG Jackson finished with 21 points, connecting on all five of his 3-pointers as Memphis built its lead in the first half. Cam Spencer, starting at point guard as Ty Jerome and Scotty Pippen Jr. sat out with back issues, had 10 points and 13 assists. (AP)

Gabby Williams named MVP

Valkyries win WNBA championship in second season

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 1, (AP): A fresh WNBA CHAMPIONS T-shirt over her uniform, Gabby Williams cradled the shiny MVP trophy in one arm and gave it a kiss. She held up a No. 1 with her left hand, then hugged and high-fived her supporters all the way to Golden State's locker room where she pulled on some goggles for the celebration.

Williams made her way back to the Bay Area where she cherishes so many youth basketball memories exactly for a chance to do something like this - to win it all and be part of building something special.

And she has done that all right.

"I just walked into a group full of love," Williams said. "And that just changed the entire trajectory of my career."

Williams scored her team's final 11 points of the third quarter and dazzled through the fourth on the way to 30 points, and the Valkyries captured a championship in just their second season by beating the Atlanta Dream 68-63 in a sensational first WNBA Finals Game 7 on Saturday night.

"Gabby is our closer she stayed patient, she stayed with it," coach Natalie Nakase said. "Closing with 30, that is incredible!"

Williams joined Penny Taylor in 2007 for Phoenix as the only players in WNBA history to score 30 or more points in a winner-take-all Finals game.

Jordin Canada scored 18 points,



The Golden State Valkyries hold the WNBA Championship Trophy after defeating the Atlanta Dream in Game 7 of the WNBA Finals in San Francisco, Calif. (AP)

Allisha Gray 16 and Angel Reese had eight points and 12 rebounds for the Dream, denied another championship in the franchise's fourth try.

Gray made two free throws with 11 seconds left then Atlanta forced a jump ball - Gray against Williams - and Veronica Burton corralled it and converted two free throws with 5.1 seconds to go.

"I'm just so blessed, this is insane!" said Burton, cut by Dallas two years ago.

Rhyne Howard's layup tied it at 57 with 2:41 left only for Williams to answer once more with a clutch 3-pointer. She converted two free throws with 1:40 remaining, then Kiah Stokes scored a late basket. Stokes - now a four-time WNBA champion - pulled down 13 rebounds and blocked two more shots to cap her spectacular postseason.

Williams left Seattle with a great feeling about joining Golden State and its close-knit culture, returning to the Bay Area determined to prove herself as a WNBA star after all her international success - and now she's a postseason icon. Fans chanted "Gabby! Gabby!" throughout the fourth quarter.

"All it took was good people," she said. "All we heard last year was we don't have no stars. We don't have no talent. Yeah right! We got good people. We got good people. We got winners. We got people who are ready to put their bodies on the floor to win a game."

When the final buzzer sounded, the violet-clad sellout crowd at Chase Center went into a frenzy as players sprinted to the middle of the floor to hug and celebrate as confetti fell from the rafters.

"Ballhalla" had become "Boohalla" for this far-but-haunted Halloween night in the raucous arena. Now, with a women's championship to its name right alongside the one earned by the Golden State Warriors in 2022.

"We gotta build a bigger trophy case," co-owner Peter Guber said.

The team that led at halftime in the first six matchups had won every game so far, and the Dream were ahead 30-24 at the break. Atlanta also had been 16-0 this season when Reese made at least one 3. The Dream's DeWanna Bonner became the first player in WNBA history to reach 600 career postseason defensive rebounds.

Nakase insisted to Williams at halftime the game would open up for her.

"Nat told me to stay patient, I trust her with my life," Williams said. "I stayed patient."





Racing's Iker Luque Sierra, left, and Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe vie for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Racing de Santander and Real Madrid in Santander, Spain. Madrid won 3-0. (AP)

Sports

Players in high spirits

Kuwait Club eyes a step towards knockout stage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Kuwait Club has stepped up preparations for Wednesday's home clash against Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi in the fourth round of Group A in the AFC Champions League Two.

Coach Firas Al-Khatib has raised the intensity of training as the Whites seek another victory to strengthen their bid for a place in the knockout stage.

Kuwait Club is second in the standings with six points, three behind leader Al-Wahda of the UAE. Bahrain's Khalidiya and Nasaf share third place with one point each.

The Whites need to win their remaining two fixtures, while also hoping Al-Wahda beat or drawwith Khalidiya, to guarantee qualification for the next round.

All players have attended the latest training sessions, with the squad displaying high morale and confidence following two successive victories.

Kuwait Club opened its campaign with a 3-2 defeat to Al-Wahda but recovered with a 3-1 win over Khalidiya before recording a valuable 1-0 away victory against Nasaf in Uzbekistan last Wednesday.

Meanwhile, their seventh-round Zain Premier League match against Kazma, originally scheduled for Tuesday, has been postponed until mid-December.



High spirits at Kuwait Club training session.

Abdulredha becomes 3rd coaching casualty

Tadamon breaks losing run as Sulaibikhat snatches late draw

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1: Al-Sahel coach Ali Abdulredha has stepped down after his team's 3-2 defeat to Tadamon in the seventh round of the Zain Premier League.

Abdulredha is the third coach to leave his post this season, following Al-Arabi's dismissal of Croatian coach Goran Sablic and Tadamon's parting of ways with Bosnian coach Igor Remetic.

The defeat was Al-Sahel's fourth of the campaign, leaving it 10th in the standings with four points.

Tadamon, meanwhile, finally opened its winning account after six successive defeats, staging an impressive comeback to claim all three points.

Fadel Al-Sarraf gave Al-Sahel the lead in the 11th minute, but Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi restored parity for Tadamon in the 40th minute.

Al-Rashidi struck again in the 72nd minute to put Tadamon ahead, before Saud Qasim added a third just three minutes later. Alain de Souza pulled one back for Al-Sahel in the 87th minute, but Tadamon held on for their first victory of the season.

In the other match, Sulaibikhat produced a dramatic late equalizer to earn a 2-2 draw against Salmiya at Al-Sadaqa wa Al-Salam Stadium.

Lucas Souza put Sulaibikhat ahead in the 20th minute, but Mubarak Al-Fanini equalized for Salmiya deep into first-half stoppage time (45+6).

Salmiya then regained the lead through Tresor in the fifth minute of added time, only for Abdullah Al-Awadhi to rescue a point for Sulaibikhat with an equalizer in the 11th minute of stoppage time (90+11).

The draw lifted Salmiya to 10 points in fifth place, while Sulaibikhat moved to four points in 11th.

The seventh round concludes on Tuesday with one fixture as Al-Nasr takes on Al-Shabab at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 6:45 pm.

Al-Nasr, on 12 points, will seek a third consecutive victory to maintain their pursuit of the league leaders.

Al-Shabab, who has seven points, will be eager to bounce back after losing 2-0 to Fahaheel in the previous round.



Ali Abdulredha

Almgren wins NY Marathon on debut

NEW YORK, Nov 1, (AP): Andreas Almgren of Sweden won the men's race of the New York City Marathon in his debut in the event while Sheila Chepkirui of Kenya won the women's race on Sunday for the second time.

Almgren was making his debut at 26.2 miles after a successful career running half-marathons. He pulled away from Yemaneberhan Crippa of Italy in the final mile to take the victory in 2 hours, 6 minutes and 1 second. Crippa finished 13 seconds behind. Kamohelo Mofolo of Lesotho was third, edging out defending champion Benson Kipruto.

Almgren's time was the third fastest in the course's 50-year history, and the top seven finishers all were among the top 10 all-time times. He became the first marathoner to win his debut in the event since Gebre Gebremariam of Ethiopia won the 2010 race.

American Zouhair Talbi finished sixth and ran the fastest time ever by a U.S. runner in the event.

Chepkirui, who also won the race in 2024, pulled away from countrymate Hellen Obiri in the final 150 meters to seal the victory in 2:24:36. American Jessica McClain finished second, passing Obiri - a two-time winner - in the final few strides. It was the first time a U.S. woman finished in the top three since 2018. McClain was 6 seconds behind Chepkirui.

It was the 50th time that the race has run through all five boroughs of the city. There were just over 2,000 competitors in 1976, the seventh running of the race, including only 88 women. About 60,000 runners stepped up to the starting line Sunday, with nearly half of them women.

Al-Jalahma hails success of Premier Padel Kuwait Major



Arturo Coello and Agustin Tapia crowned men's champions.



Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Tareq Al-Jalahma with an official.

Coello, Tapia, Triay and Brea crowned champions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 1, (KUNA): Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Tareq Al-Jalahma said that the successful hosting of the Premier Padel Kuwait Major 2026 reflected Kuwait's strong organizational capabilities and reinforced its position as a destination for major international sporting events.

Speaking to KUNA at the conclusion of the tournament, Al-Jalahma attributed the success to the political leadership's support for the sports sector and its commitment to developing sports infrastructure and providing an environment conducive to hosting major international championships.

He said the achievement also highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in organizing international sporting events, promoting sports tourism, supporting the national economy and strengthening Kuwait's presence on the global sporting stage.

Al-Jalahma praised the efforts of the organizing committee, headed by Bader Al-Kharafi, as well as the government agencies involved in staging the event.

He reaffirmed continued support for sports initiatives and events that promote sporting culture, encourage Kuwaiti youth to take up different disciplines and enable local athletes to benefit from the experience of international stars, contributing to the development of sports in Kuwait.

The Premier Padel Kuwait Major 2026 wrapped up with Arturo Coello and Agustin Tapia crowned men's champions and Gemma Triay and Delfi Brea claiming the women's title.

Top seeds Coello and Tapia dominated the men's final, defeating Juan Tello and Maximiliano Arce 2-0 in a commanding performance. They took the opening set 6-1 and maintained their momentum to seal the second by the same scoreline, securing the championship in convincing fashion.

In the women's final, Triay and Brea overcame Ari Sanchez and Andrea Ustero 2-1. After losing the first set 3-6, they fought back strongly to win the next two sets 6-1, 6-1 and take the title.

The tournament, one of the leading events on the international padel calendar, began on October 26 and featured 240 male and female players.

Kazma looks to revive Champs League hopes against Erbil



Kazma delegation heads to Iraq.

BAGHDAD, Nov 1: Kazma began training in Iraq as it prepares to face Erbil on Wednesday in the third round of Group C in the Gulf Champions League.

The Orange sits bottom of the group without a point, while UAE side Ajman leads with six points. Erbil and Saudi Arabia's Ettifaq are joint second on three points each.

Kazma is targeting its first win of the campaign and keep its quarterfinal hopes alive ahead of the return-leg matches.

Its chances of progressing remain intact, with the competition format allowing the top two teams from each of the three groups, along with the two best third-placed sides, to reach the quarterfinals.

Milan beats rival Inter

Kane scoreless as Bayern draws in Klassiker

MUNICH, Nov 1, (AP): Harry Kane failed to score in his first game since winning the Ballon d'Or as Bayern Munich gave up a late goal to draw with Borussia Dortmund 2-2 in the German Klassiker.

After scoring 73 times for club and country in the 2025-26 season and his "magical" award win, Kane switched focus back to soccer but had a rare off-day which left Bayern and Dortmund level on points at the top of the Bundesliga.

"It's something you have to deal with when you're at the top, deal with the emotions, deal with everything that comes with it," Kane said. "I felt like I handled it well. Of course not the best day today, but that's life, you move on."

Elsewhere in Europe, Christian Pulisic's goal set AC Milan on course for a 3-1 win against Inter Milan in the latest edition of their city rivalry and there were losses for both Manchester teams.

Bayern honored Kane ahead of kickoff as he showed off the trophy with his family on the field to cheers from the crowd. "The support you've shown me since I arrived has been incredible," he told the fans.

Kane hit a penalty against the crossbar and hit the post on another chance, but did set up Bayern's second goal with a smart header that left Dayot Upamecano an easy finish. Fabio Silva canceled that out with an 89th-minute leveler for Dortmund.



Munich's Serge Gnabry, right, and Dortmund's Joane Gadou, left, challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund in Munich, Germany. (AP)

There were injury concerns, too, for Bayern as Michael Olise, Ismael Saibari and Serge Gnabry all went off hurt.

Bayern was without coach Vincent Kompany, who was resting after he was released from hospital following a sudden collapse last week.

Diego Moreira weighed in with two assists and a goal in an impressive first half for the Belgium international as Milan inflicted the first defeat of the season on Inter.

Moreira whipped in a cross for Pulisic to head Milan into the lead in the fourth minute and delivered the corner from which Adrien Rabiot doubled the Rossoneri's advantage just six minutes later.

Bastoni pulled one back for Inter but Moreira got on the scoresheet himself with a free kick shortly before halftime.

Milan moved up to fourth.

Pulisic penned a five-year contract extension with the club on Friday through 2031. Third-placed Roma beat struggling Udinese 5-2. Bologna beat Monza 2-1.

ARAB TIMES
THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT
Published by: Arab Times Publishing House
Editor-in-Chief
AHMED AL JARALLAH
Editorial Office:
Tel: 24826912 - Airport Road, Shuwaikh
P.O. Box: 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait
E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com
Advertising:
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