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Page 11



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Opinion

A cautious approach is essential as global distress worsens

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE international community is dealing with a major crisis. It is reckless to leave outcomes to chance, as governments around the world struggle under the weight of escalating pressure—ranging from huge budget deficits and public spending constraints to widespread defaults.

These economic vulnerabilities have been intensified by the fallout from the war that broke out on Feb 28. Even if hostilities could be drawing to a close, their ramifications are expected to continue for a long period.

As emphasized on multiple occasions, the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exert heavy pressure on the global economy. This fragile situation has been exacerbated by the confrontation between the United States, Israel and Iran coming on the heels of conflicts in Israel, Gaza and Lebanon, as well as the Russia-Ukraine War.

Consequently, nations remain in a state of anxiety, heightened by the constant danger of a fresh military escalation in the region—a flashpoint that holds the potential to dramatically transform the global geopolitical landscape. The prevailing economic hardship throughout the world is directly tied to these compounding conflicts.

A thorough analysis of these developments is necessary to formulate strategic responses, starting with immediate efforts to ease pressure on commercial enterprises and individuals. Many countries already took measures to help their citizens by extending financial assistance or waiving fees to assist them through these challenging times. This must serve as a clear signal for governments to alleviate regulatory burdens and protect corporate rights to reinvigorate the economy. It is imperative to establish a foundational level of support, while stepping back from overly strict punitive approaches.

We have repeatedly stressed even during crises that minor legal breaches can be handled with composure and moderation, whereas severe infractions should be pinned on the liable party.

Continued on Page 6

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Ministry of Health photo

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah visits the Medical Emergency Operations Center and medical warehouses to review workflow, assess team coordination and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of health services.

Health chief checks pulse of vital medical facilities

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah visited the Medical Emergency Operations Center and medical warehouses recently, during which he looked into the workflow and coordination of teams on duty.

Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa met with the staff, commended their efforts, and emphasized the importance

Continued on Page 6

T2 gets Council nod for two-hotel set-up

Messilah Beach to host cinema, ice rink



Municipal Council photo

Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri presides over the 28th regular session of the council for the fourth legislative term.

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri on Monday presided over the 28th regular session of the council for the fourth legislative term, during which it approved the request of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to formalize the boundaries of its oil complex site in Shuwaikh measuring 64,591.94 square meters.

The council stipulated that coordination with the State Property Contracts Department at the Ministry of Finance must be maintained. It authorized the concerned departments to make necessary adjustments to the dimensions or total area (within the approved limit) in case any conflicts arise with infrastructure services or urban planning requirements.

Continued on Page 6

Project goes to tender

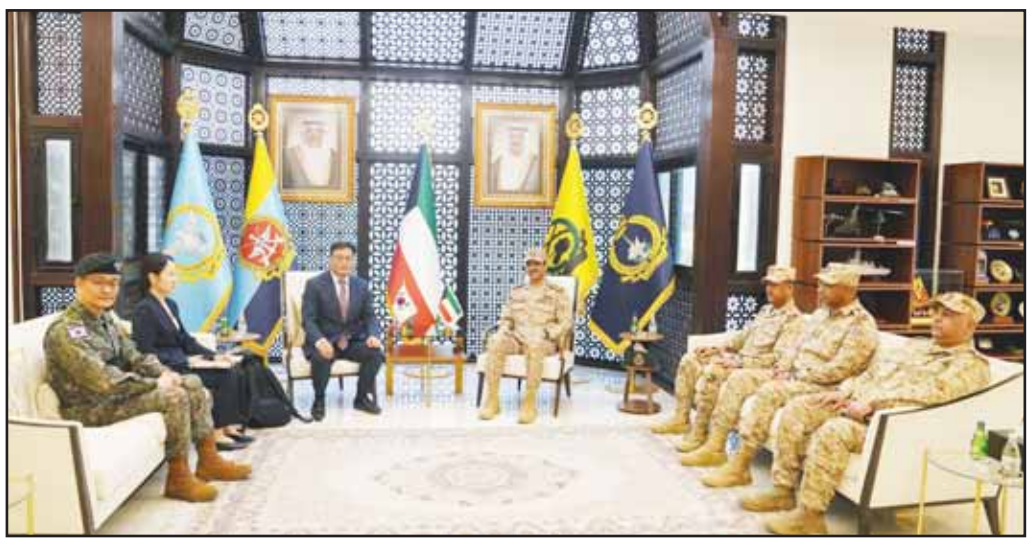
Rail link to Riyadh advances

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Director General of the Construction and Major Projects General Department at the Ministry of Public Works Eng. Dhuha Al-Dhahi confirmed that the Gulf railway project has reached the design phase and a big portion of this stage has been completed.

In a speech she delivered on behalf of Public Works Minister Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan at the opening of the Kuwait Project Management Conference 2026, which started Monday and will continue until Thursday, Al-Dhahi disclosed that the rail link project between Kuwait

Continued on Page 4



Kuwait Army photo

Kuwaiti Army Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shurai'an meets South Korean defense official Kim Ki-young and his accompanying delegation.

Kuwait Army chief discusses defense with South Korea official, delegation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shurai'an discussed on Monday military cooperation between Kuwait and South Korea and ways to strengthen and develop ties in a manner that serves their mutual interests.

The General Staff said in a statement that Al-Shurai'an received at his office Kim Ki-young, Director General of the Military Force Policy Bureau at South Korea's Ministry of National Defense, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting addressed key issues of mutual interest and was attended by a number of senior army commanders, the statement added.

Newswatch

RIYADH: GCC Secretary-General **Jassem Albudaiwi** discussed on Monday the latest developments in **Yemen** and efforts to promote security and stability in the country with UN Special Envoy for **Yemen Hans Grundberg**.

The GCC General Secretariat said in a statement that the meeting, held at its headquarters in Riyadh, saw both sides condemn continued Houthi attacks on **Saudi Arabia**.

Albudaiwi reaffirmed the GCC's firm stance in supporting Yemen and safeguarding its security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity. (KUNA)

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BEIJING: Chinese President **Xi Jinping** said on Monday that the Gulf and **Middle East** should not become an arena for geopolitical rivalry among major powers.

During talks with **Oman**'s **Sultan Haitham bin Tariq** in Beijing, Xi called for stronger coordination with Arab countries to restore regional peace and stability.

According to **China** Central Television (CCTV), Xi reaffirmed Beijing's support for political and diplomatic solutions to regional conflicts and efforts to end hostilities. Sultan Haitham praised China's role in safeguarding global stability and its position on Middle East issues, stressing the importance of international law and peaceful dispute settlement. (KUNA)

MoI warns on illegal guards

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Interior has warned owners of plots under construction, chalets, livestock pens, and farms against employing or accommodating individuals as guards without first verifying the legality of their residency and legal status.

The ministry emphasized that such individuals must be under the sponsorship of the property owner or the company responsible for the construction work, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Continued on Page 6

No cash, gifts or donations

Kuwait tightens reins on schools

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Education has announced regulations governing work and conduct within schools, emphasizing the prohibition of collecting money and donations, using school facilities for personal gain, and organizing activities and events without prior approval, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The regulations, which were published on Monday, highlight the need for compliance with school canteen health requirements, protection of students' privacy, and adherence to workplace discipline and professional conduct.

The ministry explained that collecting money or accepting cash or in-kind gifts and donations inside schools is prohibited. This applies to teachers, administrative staff, students, and parents, regardless of the purpose.

The sale or promotion of goods and services, as well as the misuse of official positions or school facilities for personal or financial gain are also prohibited.

All purchases, contracts, payments, and collections must be carried out in accordance with the established regulations and procedures.

The sale, distribution, or introduction of food and beverages from unapproved sources into schools for any reason are prohibited.

Regarding school canteens, the ministry prohibited operating canteens or offering products that do not comply with approved health requirements and regulations.

Continued on Page 6



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Algeria, Kuwait mark 64 years of diplomatic ties

Direct Algeria-Kuwait flights move to advanced stages







Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Algerian Ambassador Omar Belhaj and Kuwait's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal join members of the diplomatic corps and other guests at a reception marking the 72nd anniversary of Algeria's November 1 Revolution.

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to Kuwait Omar Belhaj confirmed the depth of the fraternal and historical relations between the two countries and their commitment to continue strengthening and developing cooperation in various fields in line with the aspirations of their leaders and citizens.

Belhaj made the statement at the reception he organized on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the glorious November One Revolution, with Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal in attendance.

He reiterated that Algerian-Kuwaiti relations are based on deep-rooted historical ties, dating back to the stage of the Algerian liberation revolution, which received official and popular support from Kuwait. He stressed that these relations are based on solid foundations of solidarity, mutual respect and understanding.

He added that Algeria expressed its support for and solidarity with Kuwait regarding the attacks against the latter, in light of the developments and challenges in the region.

He also pointed out that Algeria repeated on several occasions its categorical rejection of infringement on its national sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and safety of its citizens. He explained that the position of his country is in accordance with its principles, calling for respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and giving priority to the language of dialogue and peaceful solutions to crises.

He then indicated that the occasion coincides with the 64th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Kuwait, which reflects the distinguished level of fraternal relations between the two countries, owing to the strong political will and excellent directives of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He affirmed the commitment of the leaders of the two countries to advance bilateral relations to the highest level, pointing out that cooperation is characterized by continuous consultation and joint work to develop areas of partnership in a way that realizes the aspirations of the citizens of both nations.

He unveiled the plan to hold the meeting of the Algerian-Kuwaiti Committee as soon as possible, adding that arrangements for operating direct flights between the two countries have reached the advanced stages in a bid to enhance communication and expand the horizons of bilateral cooperation.

He highlighted the major economic and social accomplishments of Algeria, including infrastructure, road and water systems, growth of the industrial and pharmaceutical sectors, and promotion of diverse development projects.

He confirmed the commitment of Algeria to continue playing its role on the international stage by supporting the brotherly and friendly nations, advocating for just causes, promoting global peace and security, solidifying regional cooperation, and combating terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations.

Other Voices

The history of calendars

By Ahmad alsarraf

For at least fifty years, the late Saleh Al-Ojeiri's calendar played a significant role in the lives of most people of my generation. The paper calendar was the first thing one would see upon entering a shop or office, or even during morning meetings. We would remove the page displaying the date, weather, and prayer times for the previous day and read the proverb printed on the back.



Ahmad alsarraf

In most societies, particularly urban ones, the calendar is one of the oldest and most fundamental pillars of human civilization.

The earliest methods of measuring days and weeks date back more than 10,000 years.

The timekeeping techniques adopted by the ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, and Romans gradually evolved into the calendar we use today.

According to the "History" website, it is crucial to pay attention to the word "gradually," as it is key.

The transition from observing the phases of the moon to dividing the seasons and eventually determining fiscal years was a journey fraught with controversy and confusion over the centuries.

Nevertheless, people have always been interested in perfecting methods of measuring the passage of time.

The oldest known calendar dates back to prehistoric times in Scotland, around 8000 BC, and was discovered in 2013.

It consisted of 12 holes, believed to have contained wooden posts representing the months of the year, and was designed to track the phases of the moon. The famous Stonehenge is thousands of years older.

The Babylonians in Mesopotamia, 6,000 years ago, used the phases of the moon to determine the days of the year. Their year consisted of 354 days, slightly shorter than the solar year.

To reconcile the lunar and solar calendars, the Babylonians adopted a system called intercalation, which allowed them to add an extra month when necessary.

They divided each month into seven-day weeks, based on the seven celestial bodies they could observe - the Sun, the Moon, and the five nearest planets.

Like many ancient agricultural societies, the ancient Egyptians also had three seasons.

The ancient Egyptians measured time according to the planting and harvesting seasons. The Nile River used to flood every year between May and August, according to the modern calendar.

This annual flood was crucial to Egyptian society, as it determined the success of that year's crops.

The modern calendar was established, in part, by Julius Caesar in 46 BC. The Julian calendar was introduced to reform the Roman timekeeping system, which suffered from numerous flaws. The first day of each month was called a "kalends," the etymological origin of the word "calendar." The Julian calendar miscalculated the length of the solar year and was susceptible to political manipulation, leading to further errors.

To address this problem, Caesar established a new system based on the calculations of the Greek astronomer Sosigenes of Alexandria, who determined the length of the year to be 365.25 days.

To compensate for the additional quarter of a day (0.25), the Julian calendar added an extra day to February every four years, a system known as a "leap year." Although the calendar was not perfect, much of what Caesar established remains in use today.

The Gregorian calendar corrected Caesar's calculations by addressing the 11-minute discrepancy. By 1582, the calendar months had fallen out of sync with the seasons.

This worried Pope Gregory XIII, who noticed that Easter was drifting further and further away from the spring equinox, creating a problem for the Catholic Church.

On October 4, 1582, the Pope introduced the Gregorian calendar, setting October 15 as the immediate follow-up date. This advanced the calendar by ten days, resulting in considerable confusion.

Catholic countries adopted the reformed calendar, while many Protestant countries waited more than a century before following suit.

The British Empire and its American colonies did not switch to the Gregorian calendar until 1752. Russia adopted the new calendar much later, in 1918, following the Russian Revolution.

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Staff transfer applications open until Dec 17

Kuwait MEWRE opens internal transfer applications

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizim, issued a decision on Monday to start receiving applications for internal transfers between organizational units within the ministry.

The application period will run from November 15 to December 17.

The decision mandates the formation of a committee chaired by the ministry's Undersecretary, Dr. Adel Al-Zamil, with other qualified and experienced members appointed as deemed appropriate.

The committee will review submitted applications, verify compliance with the established terms and criteria, and make final decisions.

To be eligible for consideration, employees must submit an application form outlining the reasons and justifications for the requested transfer.

Furthermore, employees must obtain prior approval from both their current and prospective organizational units, in accordance with established procedures and subject to the receiving unit's staffing capacity.

Employees' academic qualifications must also be relevant to the work of the target unit, and the transfer must not disrupt operational requirements or create a staff shortage in the unit they are leaving.

When evaluating applications, the committee must take into consideration the distance between the employee's registered place of residence, as stated on their Civil ID, and both their current workplace and proposed new workplace.

In addition, the transfer must not result in the payment of any additional allowances, such as shift differentials, remote-area allowances, or similar benefits that are not included in the employee's basic salary.

In exceptional cases supported by documented evidence, the committee may recommend approving a transfer on specific humanitarian, social, or professional grounds, provided that the move does not compromise the ministry's interests or result in the payment of any of the aforementioned allowances.

Meeting the stipulated requirements and criteria does not automatically guarantee an employee's transfer.

Applications containing incomplete information or lacking the required documentation, as well as those submitted after the specified deadline, will not be considered.

Decisions on employee transfers will be issued in 2027, following the completion of the annual performance evaluation for the 2026 assessment year.

The decisions will take effect from their date of issuance, in accordance with the established timelines. The relevant authorities will be responsible for implementing the decisions and notifying the concerned parties.

PAAET extends social allowance registration

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Deanship of Student Affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) announced an extension of the application deadline for the student social allowance until Thursday, November 5, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Deanship stated that applications will remain open until that date.

It also cautioned that no retroactive payments will be made to students who submit applications or amend the required documentation after the specified deadline.

Kuwait's PAFN launches electronic export system

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced on Monday the launch of a new electronic export system as part of its digital transformation initiatives and efforts to improve service delivery, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a post on its X account, PAFN explained that the system aims to streamline export procedures, enabling businesses and entrepreneurs to submit applications, upload the required documents, and track their application status online. The new system is expected to save time and effort while improving service efficiency.

PADA targets greater inclusion by 2027

Kuwait disability policy project nears completion

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: In a major initiative aimed at reinforcing Kuwait's efforts to develop and empower human potential and advance the integration of persons with disabilities, the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) is finalizing its most significant strategic project - the "Development and Implementation of a National Policy for Persons with Disabilities."

As per documented data, the project is nearing its official launch, with an actual completion rate of approximately 94 percent and a total cost of KD 20,165,500. Full implementation is scheduled for 2027.

According to informed sources, the major initiative, led by PADA in collaboration with leading organizations and institutions, is fully aligned with the core principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The project focuses on promoting comprehensive inclusion in four key sectors:

- Inclusive and sustainable education
- The labor market and professional empowerment
- Leisure and community participation
- Integrated healthcare.

It also seeks to establish and ensure high standards of accessibility.

The sources explained that the state is currently advancing a new national policy concerning the country's infrastructure and legislative framework, with specific targets aimed at creating a fully accessible and disability-friendly environment. The project's scope extends far beyond just engineering and physical infrastructure.

It also aims to transform the quality of education by introducing an innovative, scalable model in public schools to deliver high-quality inclusive education.

In addition, it seeks to improve the quality of disability diagnosis and assessment in medical institutions and enhance professional skills and competencies.

‘Avoid waterlogged areas’

MoI calls for vigilance on roads during rainfall

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ministry of Interior has urged motorists to exercise caution during rainfall and follow traffic safety guidelines to reduce accidents and protect road users, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a recent awareness video, the ministry advised drivers to reduce their speed according to road and weather conditions, warning that wet roads reduce tire grip and make vehicles more difficult to control and stop in time.

The ministry also stressed the importance of maintaining a safe distance between vehicles to allow sufficient time and space to stop in the event of sudden hazards.

Drivers were urged to use their headlights and windscreen wipers to maintain clear visibility.

It also warned motorists against using hazard lights while driving in the rain, explaining that doing so can make turn signals difficult for other drivers to identify.

The ministry further advised motorists to check their tires and windscreen wipers before setting off in wet weather.

Drivers were also urged to avoid waterlogged areas and take alternative routes when water accumulates on roads.

The ministry emphasized the need to stay fully focused behind the wheel, refrain from using mobile phones while driving, and wear seat belts.

Three Bangladeshis arrested for running illegal slaughterhouses

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Jahra Criminal Investigation Department, recently apprehended three Bangladeshi nationals for operating two unlicensed slaughterhouses in the Bir Rahiyah area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrests are part of ongoing security efforts to combat illegal activities.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior said the operation followed reports that Asian workers were using livestock enclosures and campsites to operate unauthorized slaughterhouses.

The facilities slaughtered both healthy and sick livestock upon request without the necessary permits or any form of health oversight.

Following investigations and surveillance of one of the sites, detectives observed a vehicle arriving and unloading livestock for slaughter.

Officers subsequently raided the premises and apprehended two suspects inside a facility that lacked basic sanitary conditions and was infested with insects and rodents. Cash believed to have been generated from the slaughterhouse’s activities was also found.

Investigators later identified a second nearby slaughterhouse, where they apprehended a third suspect.

The ministry confirmed that it is coordinating with Jahra Municipality to dismantle the illegal structures and surrounding iron fencing. The suspects will face legal action and be referred to the relevant authorities.

Woman retains full rights

Farwaniya Court grants wife divorce on grounds of abuse

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Farwaniya Family Court granted a divorce on the grounds of harm, classifying it as an irrevocable separation between a husband and wife, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court ruled that the wife retains all her legal rights arising from the marriage and divorce, based on evidence that her husband had subjected her to abuse and physical assault.

Lawyer Mohammed Saffar, who represented the wife in the case, stated that the court based its ruling on the facts presented and the report submitted by two arbitrators appointed by the court from the Family Counseling Department.

The report concluded that the husband was responsible for the abuse and recommended that the couple be separated.

Lawyer Saffar explained that the court initially referred the case to arbitration in an attempt to reconcile the spouses. However, it ultimately adopted the arbitrators’ findings and ruled for an irrevocable separation on the grounds of harm, without requiring the wife to pay any financial compensation. The court also ordered the husband to cover the legal costs, including KD 10 in attorney fees.

He emphasized that the ruling reinforces the judicial principle that maintaining a marriage is not obligatory when a harmonious life between the spouses has become impossible.

Lawyer Saffar noted that, in line with established Court of Cassation precedents, deep-seated discord and aversion that make the continuation of married life unfeasible constitute grounds for separation.

Furthermore, the court affirmed that the wife retains all her rights arising from the marriage and divorce, with her ‘iddah (the prescribed waiting period under Islamic law) commencing from the date the judgment becomes final.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib addresses the cadets.



Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib and other senior officials attend officer cadet draw.

50 placed on the reserve list

MoI selects 200 officer cadets through public draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior held a public draw to select candidates for admission to the 50th batch of officer cadets, among high school graduates at the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences.

The draw resulted in the selection of 200 candidates, with another 50 placed on the reserve list.

This came during a ceremony held under the patronage of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, in the presence of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib, Assistant Undersecretary for Support Security Services Maj. Gen. Fawaz Al-Roumi, and several senior security officials.



Ministry of Interior photos

Public draw to select officer cadets in progress.

In a speech, Al-Wuhaib stressed that joining the security institution is an honor, a trust, and a national responsibility that requires commitment, discipline, and dedication in carrying out one’s duties.

He urged the cadets to work hard and remain committed to their academic studies and field training to live up to the trust and responsibility placed in them in serving Kuwait and protecting lives and property. He also wished them success in their future careers.

The draw came as part of the Ministry of Interior’s commitment to upholding the principles of fairness, transparency, and equal opportunities among applicants, while strengthening confidence in the selection and admission procedures.

Six arrested in four drug busts as MoI seizes narcotics & cash

Crackdown nets four suspects

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (Agencies): Kuwait Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Department for Drug Control, announced the arrest of six suspects in four separate cases, found in possession of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and consumption.

The arrest was part of the ongoing security efforts to combat the sources of drugs and apprehend those involved, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The ministry added the operations resulted in the seizure of 410 grams of methamphetamine (Shabu), 175 sheets of paper soaked in chemical liquid, 60 grams of hashish, cash proceeds from drug sales, and two precision scales

The suspects and seized items were referred to the competent authorities for necessary legal action, the statement added

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Raids uncover marijuana, Lyrica: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) arrested four suspects in three separate cases involving the trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, as part of ongoing efforts to combat drug-related crimes and bring those responsible to justice, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the operations resulted in the seizure of 200 capsules of the psychotropic substance Lyrica, 650 grams of marijuana and three precision scales.

Two of the suspects were already wanted under outstanding arrest warrants and had been reported as absconding.

The suspects, along with the seized items, have been referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.

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Police uncover liquor distribution: Hawally police patrol officers have referred a man suspected of distributing imported liquor to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) after arresting him at a security checkpoint and seizing eight bottles of liquor from his possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the suspect was stopped at a checkpoint in Hawally after officers noticed that he appeared nervous and suspicious. His identity was verified, and officers conducted a precautionary search of the man and his vehicle, uncovering eight bottles of imported liquor.

The suspect was arrested, and the seized bottles were confiscated. During initial questioning, he admitted to distributing imported liquor to customers.

He was subsequently referred to the relevant authorities, along with the seized items, for further investigation and legal action.

In a separate incident, Ahmadi Emergency Police patrol officers arrested a Kuwaiti man in his thirties in Mahboula for possessing narcotics and drug-use paraphernalia.

Security sources explained that officers were conducting routine patrols in the area recently when they became suspicious of a driver who attempted to make a U-turn and flee upon spotting their patrol vehicle.

The officers pursued the suspect, stopped his vehicle and arrested him. A search uncovered two bags containing shabu, also known as crystal methamphetamine, along with drug-use paraphernalia.

The suspect was referred to DCGD for further investigation and the necessary legal procedures.

Driver referred to Central Prison

Interior tracks down reckless driver after social media video circulates

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Ahmadi Security Directorate has apprehended a driver involved in reckless and dangerous driving in Ali Sabah Al-Salem, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The driver has been referred to the Central Prison, the vehicle has been impounded, and the necessary legal procedures have been taken.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the vehicle was identified through field monitoring and surveillance conducted by the Vehicle Movement Section of the Operations and Patrols Department, after a video showing the driver engaging in reckless behavior circulated on social media.

The vehicle was seized and taken to the Ali Sabah Al-Salem Police Station. A case was registered against its owner for endangering the lives of others, and the vehicle was placed in an impoundment facility.

The General Traffic Department, through its Security Oversight Department, tracked down the driver, took the necessary legal action, and referred him to the Central Prison. The vehicle was subsequently crushed.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to continued monitoring and enforcement against reckless driving, stressing that the law would be firmly applied to anyone who endangers the lives of others, in order to ensure the safety and security of all road users.

One dead in chalet fire

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: A team of firefighters from Al-Mutlaa Fire Station team responded early Saturday morning to a fire at a prefabricated chalet in the Al-Mutlaa area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Kuwait Fire Force reported that the fire was brought under control and extinguished, but the incident tragically claimed one life. The site was subsequently handed over to the relevant authorities.

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Egyptian expat dies after falling: An Egyptian expatriate, born in 1971, died after falling inside the basement of an apartment building, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Operations Room received a report of a person falling from a height and dispatched a patrol to the scene. Upon arrival, officers found the expatriate inside the building’s basement, where he had succumbed to his injuries.

A case was registered in connection with the incident. However, the report did not specify the height from which the man fell or the circumstances leading up to the incident.

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Indian expat detained: An Indian expatriate was recently detained for questioning after allegedly transporting his compatriot’s body and dumping it inside a garbage container, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the case came to light after the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room received a report about the discovery of an unidentified expatriate’s body inside a garbage container. As the deceased had no identification documents, the body was referred to Forensic Medicine to establish his identity and determine the cause of death.

Investigations later identified the deceased and revealed that he had been living in a room near the location where his body was found.

Syrian dentist held over alleged fraud in five patient cases

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The General Department of Criminal Investigation, represented by the Department for Combating Counterfeiting and Forgery, has apprehended a Syrian dentist working at the Jahra Specialized Dental Center on charges of fraud, swindling, and misappropriating patients’ funds, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the arrest followed reports that the suspect had ordered dental prosthetic supplies in quantities exceeding patients’ actual treatment requirements.

He compelled patients to purchase these supplies and provide the receipts. After completing their treatment, he would return the surplus items to pharmacies and pocket their cash value without the patients’ knowledge.

Following an investigation, the suspect was arrested at his workplace, where authorities found dental prosthetic supplies and the corresponding purchase receipts in his possession.

When questioned, the suspect confessed to the offenses, admitting that he had carried out the scheme in five separate cases, misappropriating amounts ranging from KD 120 to KD 150.

The ministry confirmed that the suspect has been referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.

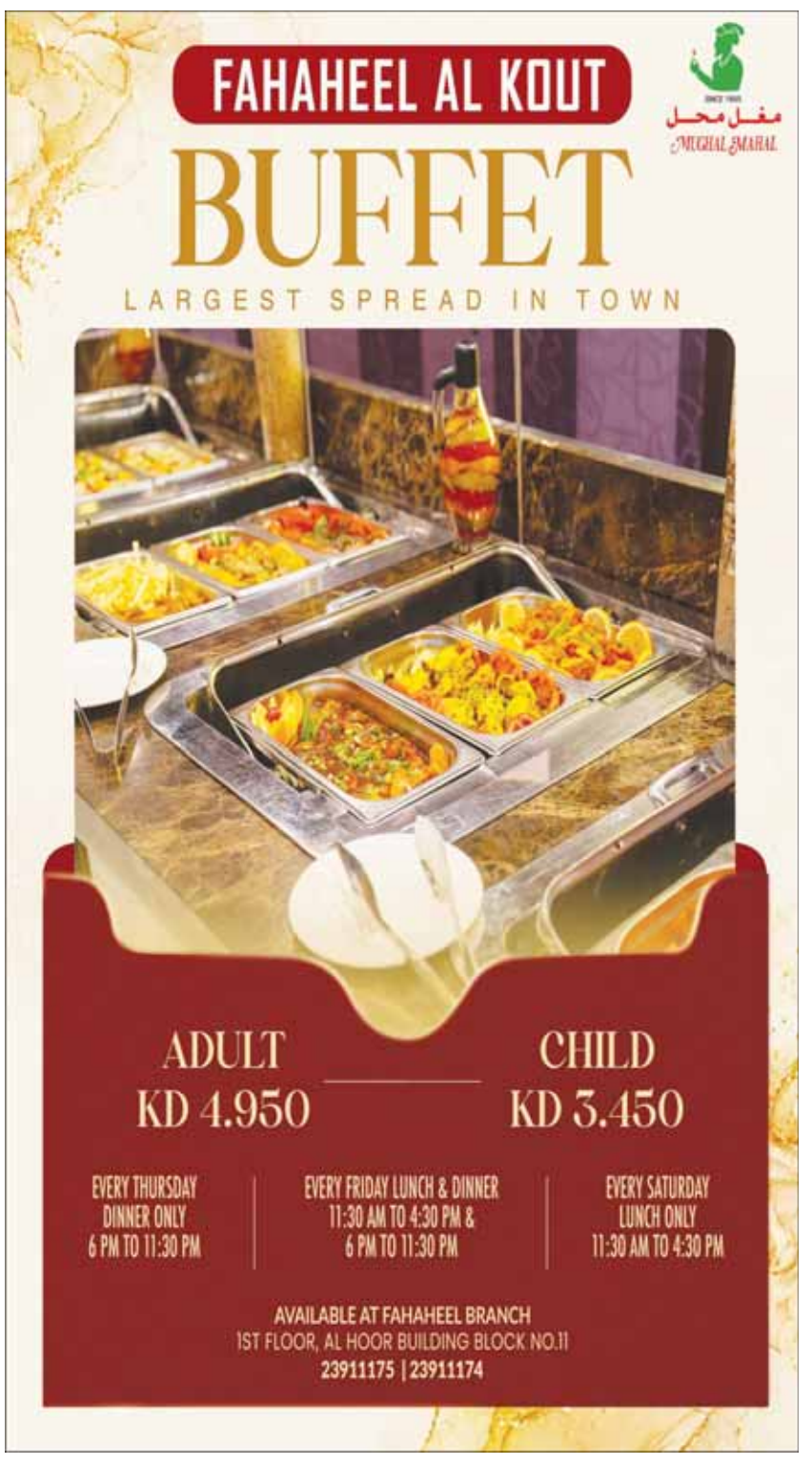
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Woman loses KD 25 in scam: A Kuwaiti woman recently reported a fraud case after transferring KD 25 for a coffee and dessert order through Instagram, only to discover that the account was fake, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the woman contacted an Instagram account to place an order for coffee and sweets. After agreeing on the order, she was provided with a phone number and transferred the payment via the WAMD service.

However, after the transfer was completed, she received a WhatsApp message from a number outside Kuwait. The sender apologized and informed her that the account she had ordered from was fake.

Realising she had been scammed, the woman filed a report at Fahaheel Police Station, providing the account details, the phone number used, the transfer information, and the exchanged messages.



Kuwait's top judge, watchdog discuss closer cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Supreme Judiciary Council and Court of Cassation chief Hani Al-Hamdan held talks on Sunday with the head of the Anti-Corruption Authority Dr. Rana Al-Fares over efforts to bolster cooperation between the state bodies.

The talks, which also involved Kuwaiti Fatwa and Legislation Department chief Saleh Al-Majed, aimed to beef up cooperation between judicial and state bodies as part of efforts to address matters of mutual concern, said a Supreme Judicial Council statement.

Such routine gatherings are an effort to "maintain contact" between state bodies in a bid to serve national interests and bolster Kuwait's justice system, added the statement.



Supreme Judiciary Council and Court of Cassation chief Hani Al-Hamdan meets with Anti-Corruption Authority head Dr. Rana Al-Fares.



KUNA photos

Supreme Judiciary Council and Court of Cassation chief Hani Al-Hamdan poses for a group photo with Anti-Corruption Authority head Dr. Rana Al-Fares and other officials.

Innovartism graduates first 'Hero's Journey' autism cohort

Works shared online & screened in cinemas

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Innovartism celebrated on Sunday the graduation of the first cohort of its "Hero's Journey" training program for people with autism spectrum disorder, aimed at developing their creative and professional skills.

Held under the patronage of Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, the week-long program trained 14 participants in story writing, character creation and illustration, culminating in a short film produced using artificial intelligence under the supervision of local and international experts. Their works will be shared on social media and screened in cinemas.

Launched in Kuwait on Oct 25, Innovartism is a national community initiative offering training programs, local and international conferences, creative spaces and awareness campaigns to empower neurodivergent people creatively, professionally and economically.

Speaking on behalf of the event's patron, Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) Deputy Director General Dr. Khalifa Al-Haila stressed the importance of identifying the talents of people with autism, developing their capabilities and creating opportunities for participation and productivity.

Al-Haila said the initiative reflects a shift from care to empowerment through art, technology and innovation, stressing the importance of public-private partnerships in turning training into productive employment.



Innovartism's first "Hero's Journey" graduates celebrate completing the autism-focused training programme.



KUNA photos

Officials pose for a group photo following the completion of Innovartism's first "Hero's Journey" training programme for people with autism.

He affirmed that PADA would continue supporting people with disabilities, promoting equal opportunities and strengthening their participation in various fields.

Innovartism founder Manal Al-Gharabally said the program was the result of more than two years of work, trials and development focused on building the creative and professional capabilities of neurodivergent people.

She said participants' works would form part of an awareness campaign to communicate their ideas and messages to society, adding that the initiative is working with private-sector partners to provide employment opportunities for several graduates.

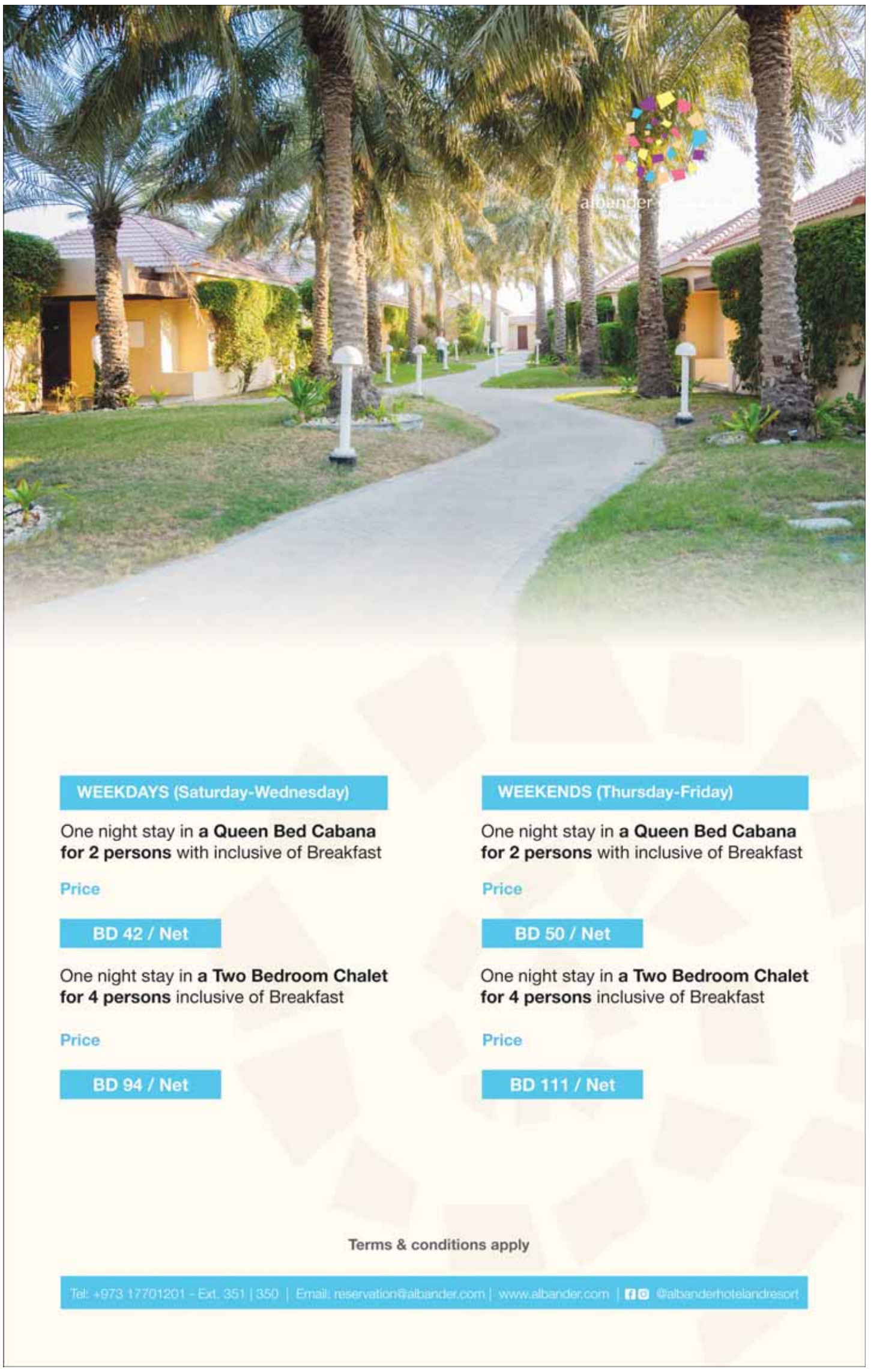
National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar said culture and the arts provide people with autism opportunities for expression and participation, adding that NCCAL supports initiatives and partnerships that develop and showcase diverse talents.

Acting Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of Awqaf Eng. Jenan Al-Zamel said the program combines training, empowerment and creative production through a partnership between the General Secretariat of Awqaf and MBVISION Studios, in cooperation with Kuwait Autism Center.

Al-Zamel said support for neurodivergent people should extend beyond awareness and training to sustainable professional opportunities and participation in the labor market, stressing the role of waqf in investing in people and developing their capabilities.

Innovartism production partner Fouz Fahad Al-Sabah praised the progress made by participants and cooperation among government entities, the private sector, families, experts and trainers in supporting the program.

The ceremony featured creative works by participants and honored graduates of the first "Hero's Journey" cohort in the presence of government and private-sector representatives, partners, supporters and graduates' families.





Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi Al-Sabah poses with Civil Defense Brigadier General Mansour Abdullah Al-Hashash and accompanying officials at the governorate's office.

Gov lauds Civil Defense role

Farwaniya Governor discusses safety with Civil Defense officials

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received on Sunday morning, at the governorate's general office, Director General of the General Department of Civil Defense Brigadier General Mansour Abdullah Al-Hashash, accompanied by Planning Department Director Brigadier General Mishal Al-Hasawi and Prevention Department Director Brigadier General Muhammad Al-Sawagh.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the two sides discussed during the meeting several issues related to the responsibilities of the General Department of Civil Defense and ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination in support of the security, safety, and prevention systems. They also discussed measures to enhance preparedness and readiness to respond to various emergency situations.

The governor stressed the importance of integrating efforts and maintaining continuous coordination among the relevant authorities. He also praised the vital role played by the General Department of Civil Defense in protecting lives and property and promoting public safety.

At the end of the meeting, Brigadier General Al-Hashash and his accompanying delegation expressed their appreciation to the governor for his warm reception, his commitment to strengthening cooperation and coordination, and his support for efforts to reinforce the security, safety, and prevention systems throughout the governorate.

Continued from Page 1

Rail link

and Riyadh is currently at the stage of tendering the project agreement in full coordination among Gulf states.

She added that the airport project is progressing well, affirming that the ministry is closely monitoring all ongoing operations daily to ensure its successful completion.

On Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, she affirmed it one of the major development projects being executed by the ministry. She pointed out that it is a vital outcome of the agreement between the State of Kuwait and the People's Republic of China, indicating the agreement was signed in August and the project is proceeding as per the timetable.

She went on to say that the country is at an important point of its development history, as efforts are being expedited and unified to achieve the goals of Kuwait 2035 vision. She indicated that the project management and infrastructure sector serves as the main driver for transformation and progress in the development and investment fields.

She asserted that the success of mega-projects and major national initiatives is no longer measured by completing work as scheduled or within the allocated budget, as it is now linked to the ability to integrate innovative practices and comprehensive digital transformation, while utilizing the latest artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and data management systems throughout the planning, execution and monitoring phases.

She stressed that the ministry puts utmost importance on adopting the highest global standards for governance, risk management and environmental sustainability in vital projects.

She stated that the conference is crucial as it brings together visionary leadership, practical expertise and modern technology, while serving as a platform for exchanging experiences. She disclosed that the goal is to accelerate project delivery, utilize AI applications, data analytics and digital twins to develop infrastructure and smart cities, invest in human capital, train young national talent, and prepare the leaders of the future.

She pointed out that regional and international challenges, along with rapid global changes, necessitate a unified approach and the strengthening of partnerships between the public sector, private sector and academic and professional institutions.

She emphasized that the high-level attendance of national and international organizations affirms shared commitment to build a brighter and more advanced future for Kuwait.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Iranian regime currently breathing its last... Do not come to its rescue

"THE Saudi Crown Prince His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman once questioned how he can reach an understanding with a regime that firmly believes in an extremist ideology, enshrined in its constitution and in Khomeini's testament, which dictates that it must exert control over Muslims throughout the Islamic world," Kuwaiti writer **Mohammed Yousef Al-Mulaifi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Yousef Al-Mulaifi

"He then said, "We know that the primary objective of the Iranian regime is to reach the Qibla of the Muslims [Makkah]."

This raises the following important questions:

What has changed since this serious statement was made by the Crown Prince in 2017 to justify Saudi Arabia coming to Iran's rescue as it faces its impending fate?

Has Iran retreated even an inch from the plans it has pursued for years against Saudi Arabia and, indeed, the entire Gulf region?

Has Iran abandoned the ideology that gave rise to groups such as Hezbollah (derisively referred to as "Hizb al-Lat"), the Popular Mobilization Forces, and the Houthis - groups accused of carrying out horrific acts of slaughter, destruction, devastation, and criminality across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen?

What, then, has changed within Iran to justify Saudi Arabia stepping in to rescue it from its impending demise?

Would Saudi Arabia's airports, cities, and oil fields have been subjected to such an extensive barrage of ballistic missiles and hostile drones had it not been for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' support for its proxies in Yemen?

Indeed, is there a single missile, or even a single bullet, in the Houthis' possession that did not originate in Iran?

Who bears primary responsibility, or who is ultimately responsible, for the enormous depletion of Saudi Arabia's resources in its efforts to defeat the Houthis, a group that continues to threaten its borders to this day?

Who bears responsibility for the failure of the extensive financial and military support that Saudi Arabia provided to Yemen's legitimate government?

Who is directing the Houthi militias in Yemen today - the very forces that have overrun its cities and seized its capital? Is it not Iran, through its Revolutionary Guard Corps?

It has become increasingly clear that the Iranian regime is now in its death throes, awaiting the final blow that will bring its malign existence to an end.

A cancerous tumour can only be treated through complete removal. Therefore, do not attempt to save it."

Also:

"Sustainable well-being is fundamentally a lifestyle choice that begins with our eating habits and sleep patterns," columnist **Sheikh Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"An ancient saying attributed to Al-Harith ibn Kalada, often referred to as the "physician of the Arabs," reminds us that - "The stomach is the home of disease, and dietary restraint is the head of all medicine."

We truly are what we eat. While some people live to eat, a healthier approach is to eat to live.



Sheikh Dawood

This means we cannot give in to every craving, as doing so can be harmful, particularly in today's world, which increasingly encourages laziness, limited physical activity, and a sedentary lifestyle.

As a result, obesity has become one of the major health concerns of our time, with many people showing signs of premature aging, even at a young age.

When an individual eats several meals a day, becomes addicted to sugar and similar substances, and remains physically inactive, they inevitably become sluggish and less productive.

In the past, people were much more physically active and walked long distances. This contributed to healthier lives and made them less susceptible to illness.

Today, however, people work less and accomplish even less, often under the mistaken impression that their lives have improved. In reality, they may simply be exposing themselves to greater health risks.

If you take a closer look at your daily activities, you will likely find that your level of productivity has declined compared to the past.

Over time, this can lead to conditions such as heart disease and arterial blockages, which can reduce oxygen levels in the blood and increase the risk of strokes.

We are not opposed to modern medicine; rather, we believe that modern medicine and healthy nutrition should work hand in hand to promote better health.

For this reason, health institutions have incorporated sound nutritional programs alongside medical awareness initiatives.

The fundamental principle is that pharmaceutical drugs alone are not enough to support recovery. They should be complemented by an appropriate dietary regimen and a nutritional approach that contributes to the healing process.

In the past, before the advent of chemical pharmaceuticals, medicine relied primarily on herbal remedies.

Treatments were tailored to each individual patient, unlike the current practice of prescribing the same medication to everyone - a trend largely driven by pharmaceutical companies' marketing and promotional campaigns, whose primary objectives are increasing sales and profits.

In reality, the path to good health begins with abandoning harmful habits. This is the first step towards recovery and well-being.

In the West, for example, many retirees engage in regular exercise, walking, and other physical activities, guided by the belief that life should be lived free from pain.

In our own society, however, the term "retiree" (mutaqa'id) is often interpreted - as Talal Abu-Ghazaleh once remarked - as "one who has sat down" (mata qa'id), implying someone who has ceased to be active.

Yet, in truth, retirement should mark the beginning of a meaningful new chapter in life, a phase defined by movement, activity, and productivity."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Kuwait, India bonds flourish

Ties yield nearly 40 agreements

NEW DELHI, Nov 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to India Meshal Al-Shamali said the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, established in 1961, reflects a long-standing partnership rooted in history.



Kuwait's Ambassador to India Meshal Al-Shamali

Speaking to KUNA on Monday, Al-Shamali said the 65-year diplomatic journey had produced nearly 40 agreements and memoranda of understanding covering politics, defense, economy, trade, investment, education, culture, health, sports, labor, civil aviation and energy.

Several other agreements and memoranda remain under consideration and negotiation, he said, expressing hope they would be finalized soon and further strengthen the strategic partnership, particularly in economic and trade fields.

He noted that historical ties between the two countries developed through centuries of maritime trade and social exchanges before taking formal shape with the establishment of diplomatic relations. They were subsequently strengthened through high-level reciprocal visits.

Such visits at various levels have contributed to the steady growth of bilateral relations and their advancement to a strategic partnership during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Kuwait in December 2024.

Al-Shamali said the partnership reflected both countries' commitment to meeting the aspirations of their peoples under Kuwait Vision 2035 and India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

He added that bilateral relations were witnessing significant momentum, supported by continued coordination between political and economic leaders, particularly amid current geopolitical tensions.

This cooperation is also reflected in ongoing political consultations between the two foreign ministries and meetings of joint committees and specialized working groups, he said.

These mechanisms help maximize mutual benefits and expand longstanding ties through continued high-level exchanges, broader cooperation, the sharing of expertise and perspectives, and stronger people-to-people relations.

Al-Shamali described India as one of Kuwait's key trading partners, noting that Kuwaiti investments in vital Indian sectors contribute to India's economic development while supporting Kuwait's efforts to diversify its income sources.

He expressed hope for increased Kuwaiti investment in India and greater Indian investment in Kuwait in sectors that would advance the national economy.

Kuwait is also among India's major oil and gas suppliers, meeting around five percent of its energy needs through exports, he added.

The ambassador said Kuwait Vision 2035 and India's Viksit Bharat 2047 offer significant opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation across various sectors and achieve mutual benefits.

He expressed confidence that the coming years would bring further progress, growth and prosperity to the strategic partnership between the two friendly countries.

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KUNA photos

Kuwaiti visual artist Thuraya Al-Baqsami showcases a collection of around 120 artworks at an exhibition organized by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities at the Bahrain Arts Centre on Sunday. The event marks her 65th exhibition and second in Bahrain.

Kuwait visual artist Al-Baqsami celebrates 65th exhibition in Bahrain

MANAMA, Nov 2, (KUNA): The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities organized an art exhibition on Sunday featuring Kuwaiti visual artist Thuraya Al-Baqsami at the Bahrain Arts Centre.

The exhibition displays about 120 artworks showcasing a variety of artistic techniques and styles, specially selected for the occasion.

The opening ceremony was attended by head of the Bahrain Authority Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmad, Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Jassem Al-Najem, Qatar's Ambassador to Bahrain Naser Al-Nasr, as well as several Bahraini visual artists.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Baqsami expressed her delight at being given the opportunity to showcase her artworks at this cultural event in Bahrain.

She said it was a wonderful opportunity to meet Bahraini visual artists and learn about their experiences.

It is the 65th exhibition in her artistic career and her second in Bahrain, she added, noting that the exhibition includes a selection of her artworks.

Continued from Page 1

A cautious

Despite decades of reliable performance, several companies in Kuwait encountered difficulties due to the current challenges and the aftermath of the pandemic.

For about four to five decades, these companies consistently maintained an impeccable record of honoring their commitments, such as disbursing salaries and settling state dues on time. Their recent inability to meet certain obligations on time is not due to negligence, but the high-pressure external factors forcing them to function at their operational thresholds.

The burdensome red tape and lengthy administrative delays worsened the problem, thereby, preventing many businesses from collecting the funds owed to them.

At the same time, the temporary status of numerous supervisory officials impedes their ability to issue authoritative decisions. This systemic bottleneck extends beyond the corporate sector, harming employees, local entrepreneurs and society as a whole.

In order to address these issues, the regulations—especially those governing credit access and administrative fees—must be re-evaluated and simplified to streamline operations and enable businesses to fulfill their financial obligations.

Furthermore, the provision of support is crucial for reinvigorating the economy and restoring its previous momentum.

Dear government, as we have stressed in the past, adopting a more balanced, lenient and measured stance remains the most effective course of action.

MoI warns

It further stressed the importance of ensuring that no absconding reports, judicial rulings, or security restrictions have been issued against individuals before employing them.

The ministry warned that violations of these laws and regulations would expose offenders to legal action.

It underscored the need to strictly comply with residency and labor laws and cautioned against employing or accommodating anyone in violation of the law, both to avoid legal consequences and to safeguard public security and safety.

Health chief

of continuous coordination among the teams and relevant sectors to ensure smooth operations and uninterrupted health service delivery.

This visit is part of the field oversight of ministry officials to monitor operations in vital facilities in order to guarantee the continuity and consistency of health services.

T2 gets

It also approved an amendment to its previous resolution regarding the Messilah Beach (Beach 2) development project, which states the organization of construction, commercial, recreational, sports and cultural uses. It endorsed the technical recommendations for the project, such as excluding service areas from the calculated built-up area, requiring the submission and approval of detailed plans by the competent authorities prior to the issuance of permits, coordinating with the Ministry of Finance regarding the existing contract, and obtaining approval from the General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry.

The total size of the Beach 2 project is about 70,334.5 square meters. The amendment allocates five percent of the site—equivalent to about 3,516.7 square meters—for commercial use, and 15 percent—around 10,550.1 square meters—for recreational, training, educational and indoor sports facilities, as well as support uses.

The proposed activities include a recreational, training and educational center, indoor and outdoor play areas for children, exhibitions, museums and indoor sports courts, water activities, ice skating rinks, theaters, a cinema, a health club, spaces for festivals and events, and multi-purpose recreational facilities.

It approved the request of the Ministry of Public Works to amend the first clause of its previous resolution on commercial spaces in the new Terminal Two (T2) at Kuwait International Airport, allowing the division of the space designated for a transit passenger hotel into two separate hotels.

The area designated for a transit passenger hotel measures 7,500 square meters. The council agreed on dividing this space into two hotels — one in the eastern wing and one in the western wing — without adding any new built-up or commercial areas. All other spatial allocations and requirements stipulated in the previous resolution remain in effect.

It approved the reorganization of 23 residential plots in Siddiq, Block One into one plot with a total area of 10,067 square meters. This follows the completion of legal procedures — including public notification and providing an opportunity for concerned parties to submit comments or objections — in accordance with the regulatory requirements and guidelines.

It approved the request to construct a diwaniya on a plot measuring 1,000 square meters in Faiha, Block Nine.

It approved the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate the route for a fresh-water pipeline — around 480 meters long and five meters wide — in Rahiya and Umm Tuwaing. The route will extend from the intersection of the Sixth Ring Road, near the Ammunition Camp, to supply a camp that is currently being designated for use.

It approved the request of the Ministry of Justice to change the designated use of a plot originally intended for a multi-storey parking facility to serve the Public Prosecution building and adjacent structures in Shuwaikh Administrative Area to accommodate an administrative building combined with a multi-storey parking facility.

According to the survey plans, the size of the site is about 6,625.37 square meters. This request is in line with Cabinet Decision No. 224 issued on Feb 24, 2026, which mandates the necessary measures to enable the Public Prosecution to construct the administrative building and parking facility on the site.

The council also approved two requests from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to allocate sites for two supply centers in Riqqa and Jaber Al-Ali. These centers will serve as sites for the sale and distribution of subsidized goods, as well as for short-term storage. Each site measures 1,000 square meters, with an additional 189 square meters for the parking area.

Moreover, it referred the letter of the Jahra Governor regarding the proposed temporary use of the land surrounding the area behind the Jahra telephone exchange to the executive body of Kuwait Municipality for review and study.

On the other hand, council member Fahad Al-Abdaljader and several other members submitted a request to open a discussion on the removal of shades (awnings) adjacent to secondary electrical transformers and distribution boards (DBs).

Speaking on behalf of the proposers, Al-Abdaljader explained that the Municipality based its spatial and distance requirements on the regulations governing the landscaping of open spaces. However, consultations with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed that the required distances and standards do not align with the procedures currently being enforced by the Municipality.

He asserted that such shades serve a practical need for citizens in private residential areas, necessitating an approach that ensures public safety, while considering the interests of the residents.

The proponents of the proposal requested that the matter be referred to the Legal and Financial Committee for further study, in coordination with the ministry, with the goal of establishing clear and unified regulations.

Kuwait tightens

It stressed that food distributions at school events would only be permitted in accordance with Ministry of Health's Decision No. 15/2025 concerning the School Canteen Regulations, and after verifying the source, safety, storage conditions, and compliance with health requirements.

School administrations were instructed to monitor canteen operations daily and document any violations in official reports. They must also designate a member of the team responsible for the school canteen to notify the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) inspector of any violations identified during inspections.

The ministry also stressed the need to enforce school canteen contract terms, requiring contractors to be formally notified to rectify any violations within no less than three working days from the date of the warning. Failure to comply will result in contract termination.

Activities and events

The ministry prohibited organizing any event or celebratory activity involving individuals or entities from outside the ministry or school premises without obtaining explicit written approval from the relevant authority.

It also prohibited coordinating with, contracting, or hosting any external entity, institution, or individuals to organize activities without prior approval from the competent authorities.

The ministry insisted that all activities and events must serve clear educational and pedagogical objectives and be included in the approved school plan.

It further prohibited using the school's name or the Ministry of Education's logo in any printed materials, advertisements, or commercial promotions without prior official and administrative approval.

Photography and publication

The ministry prohibited using one's official position on social media to discuss its affairs for any reason, particularly by photographing the workplace or employees and publishing such images.

It also prohibited photographing or recording students, or publishing their images or personal information, without prior written consent in accordance with the approved regulations. Sharing such images through personal accounts or private messaging groups is also prohibited.

The ministry emphasized that students' photographs must not be linked to their personal information or used for purposes unrelated to education. It also prohibited disclosing or leaking school secrets, data, documents, or information concerning students, parents, and employees, as well as requesting information unrelated to work or misusing such information.

It affirmed that no statements may be made, news or content published in the name of the ministry or a school, or their logos used in advertisements or personal pages without official authorization from the competent authority.

It also prohibited publishing rumors, false information, or content offensive to the ministry, schools, students, or employees through social media or any other means.

Conduct and discipline

The ministry emphasized the importance of upholding tolerance, avoiding racism, and maintaining high standards of conduct in all actions, in keeping with the educational role of teachers and administrative staff as role models for students.

It stressed the need to perform professional duties with honesty and dedication, strive to improve performance, and demonstrate proper conduct that reflects ethical and educational values, while avoiding anything that undermines the honor or dignity of the profession.

The ministry also highlighted the importance of treating students with mutual respect, safeguarding their psychological and physical well-being, and avoiding any behavior that falls outside the approved educational framework.

It called for promoting respect and cooperation among teaching and administrative staff and resolving disputes through established official and administrative channels.

The ministry affirmed the importance of adhering to official working hours and applicable regulations, as well as preserving the property and assets of educational institutions.

It also prohibited using mobile phones or smart devices during lessons for purposes unrelated to education, provided that their use does not interfere with professional duties or the conduct of the class.

Legal and disciplinary measures

The ministry confirmed that organizing any event without approval from the competent authorities constitutes an administrative violation and warrants immediate referral to the Legal Affairs Department for investigation and the application of the prescribed disciplinary penalties.

It stressed that no leniency would be shown toward any actions or conduct that violate applicable rules and regulations or fall outside the standards of proper professional conduct within schools.

The ministry also affirmed that the necessary legal and administrative measures would be taken against all violations.



Regional workshop on the Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) in session.

Kuwait joins Arab talks on dangerous goods transport

Cargo safety drives new regional push

ALEXANDRIA, Nov 2, (KUNA): A regional workshop on the Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) commenced Monday at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in Alexandria, featuring participation from Arab member states, including Kuwait.

Speaking at the opening session, Director of Transport and Tourism at the Arab League Dr. Bahgat Abul Nasr underlined the growing strategic importance of transporting hazardous cargo.

The matter extends beyond routine transport to directly impact public safety and national security, demanding serious regional attention, he noted.

The workshop provides member states a platform to closely examine the ADR framework and explore collective accession, particularly after Saudi Arabia submitted an official memorandum requesting unified regional joining, he explained.

Meanwhile, Senior Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the International Road Transport Union (IRU) Rami Karout affirmed the union's readiness to assist Arab nations with accession procedures, practical implementation, and capacity building for both public and private sector transport managers and drivers.

He highlighted a proposed certified protocol under the Arab League framework designed to help states implement minimum ADR standards prior to full membership.

Held as part of the 39th session of the Arab Transport Ministers Council, the workshop examines key technical tracks.

The workshop, attended by AASTMT President Dr. Ismail Abdel Ghafar, also examines cargo classification, vehicle specifications, general safety provisions, legislative alignment, training programs, and the roadmap for ADR integration, alongside a detailed overview of the agreement's structure, benefits, and official Arabic text.



Director General of the General Department of Road Engineering Affairs at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) Eng. Khaled Al-Osaimi heads Kuwait's delegation to the workshop.



KUNA photos

Group photo of participants.

Kuwait's delegation to the workshop is headed by Director General of the General Department of Road Engineering Affairs at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) Eng. Khaled Al-Osaimi.

Elderly, special needs get residence drive-thru convenience in Ahmadi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Directorate General of Residency Affairs, represented by the Ahmadi Residency Affairs Department, has launched a drive-thru service that allows elderly citizens and residents, as well as individuals with special needs, to complete administrative procedures without leaving their vehicles, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative is part of the Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to improve services and streamline procedures for those requiring assistance.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that the service enables beneficiaries to complete their transactions while remaining in their vehicles, saving time and effort while accommodating their specific needs.

The service also helps regulate vehicle entry and exit around the department's premises, ensures smoother traffic flow, and provides a more organized environment for visitors.

The launch was attended by the Director of the Ahmadi Residency Affairs Department, Colonel Mohammed Saleh Al-Namash, and the Assistant Director, Colonel Mohammed Sabah Al-Mukaimi.

Supporting informed investment decisions and strengthening regional capital markets

Markaz participates as Strategic Partner in MoneyTech 2026 for the fifth consecutive year





Markaz highlights regional investment opportunities.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" participated as a Strategic Partner in Aljarida MoneyTech Summit 2026, held on November 1 at the St. Regis Hotel, for the fifth consecutive year.The annual flagship event has become one of Kuwait's leading platforms for dialogue and innovation in the financial technology and investment sectors, bringing together thought leaders, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, and investors to discuss the evolution of financial services in the digital age.

Markaz's continued participation in MoneyTech underscores its commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration in the financial sector. It also aligns with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, which focuses on building human capacity, aligning business environment with the principles of sustainable development, and promoting good governance in the business environment.

Ms. Rahaf Al Rashed, Vice President of Wealth Management and Business Development atMarkaz,participated in a panel discussion titled "Time to Repatriate Wealth?".which considered whether Gulf investors should redirect overseas capital toward domestic and regional opportunities. The discussion addressed market readiness, investment diversification, geopolitical uncertainty and the conditions necessary to attract sustainable capital flows.

Commenting on the discussion, Ms. Al Rashedsaid:"Repatriating wealth should not be treated as an end in itself. Investors need confidence in the regulatory environment, transparent markets and access to a sufficiently broad range of investment opportunities. Regional markets have developed considerably, including thorough stronger oversight and products such as exchange-traded funds, but every allocation must remain consistent with an investor's objectives and risk appetite."

She emphasized that geographic diversification remains fundamental to prudent portfolio construction. "Capital can be invested closer to home while maintaining exposure to international markets. The question is not whether one location should replace another, but how to build resilient portfolios that balance opportunity, liquidity and risk," she noted.

Addressing changing investor behavior, Al Rashed highlighted the influence of geopolitical developments, technological innovation and shifting global economic conditions on capital flows. She also observed that younger wealth holders increasingly seek accessible investment solutions and may be comfortable with greater risk, making informed advice and appropriate safeguards especially important."Periods of uncertainty call for discipline rather than reactive decisions," she added. "Investors should evaluate fundamentals, avoid allowing short-term headlines to dictate strategy and reassess their portfolios against long-term goals."

The event also featured keynote sessions, interactive workshops, and expert panels examining the intersection of technology, finance, and entrepreneurship, reinforcing Kuwait's growing role as a regional fintech hub.

By supporting initiatives such as theMoneyTech Summit, Markaz continues to drive economic growth, knowledge enrichment, and innovation within the financial sector, while engaging in key discussions that shape the industry's future.



Enabling scalable, secure storage

ZainTECH & Dell partner to modernize regional storage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: ZainTECH, the integrated digital solutions arm of Zain Group, enabling organizations to become Digital, Intelligent, and Resilient, is advancing its promise: "What's next is now" through a strategic collaboration with Dell Technologies. The alliance brings Dell Power Protect Data Domain and Dell Power Scale solutions to organizations across the region, enabling them to modernize storage environments, enhance cyber resilience, and address accelerating data growth requirements.

As organizations accelerate cloud adoption, AI initiatives, and data modernization programs, the need for resilient, scalable, and simplified storage architectures continues to grow.This milestone cooperation further strengthens ZainTECH's role in delivering enterprise-grade storage, backup, and data protection capabilities through flexible consumption models, reflecting its promise that "What's next is now" by enabling organizations to strengthen business continuity, protect critical data assets, and adapt more effectively to evolving hybrid IT environments.

These dynamic solutions are available through the Microsoft Azure Marketplace, providing organizations with a flexible cloud-based model for accessing Dell's advanced data protection and storage capabilities.Through this collaboration, organizations can leverage Dell PowerScale to address rapidly expanding unstructured data requirements and support high-performance workloads, while Dell Data Domain enhances backup efficiency and strengthens cyber recovery capabilities through advanced data protection technologies.

- Dynamic solutions available through Microsoft Azure Marketplace, providing organizations with a flexible cloud-based model for accessing Dell's advanced data protection and storage capabilities.

"Organizations today are navigating unprecedented growth in data volumes while facing increasing expectations around resilience, security, and operational efficiency," said Andrew Hanna, CEO of ZainTECH. "By making Dell's advanced storage and data protection technologies available through ZainTECH, we are helping enterprises modernize their infrastructure strategies, strengthen cyber resilience, and build the foundation required to support future innovation, including AI-driven workloads."

The availability of these solutions helps reduce operational complexity while supporting stronger governance and more effective management of rapidly expanding data environments.

This collaboration with Dellreinforces ZainTECH's commitment to strengthening its resilient infrastructure ecosystem to help organizations modernize technology environments, enhance cyber preparedness, and accelerate their digital transformation ambitions across the region.

Kuwait's target set at 2.676 mln bpd

OPEC+ countries maintain Dec oil production targets

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2, (KUNA): Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi announced on Sunday that the seven countries participating in the agreement to unwind voluntary production cuts within the OPEC+ alliance had decided to maintain their December 2026 production targets at September 2026 levels.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Oil, Al-Roumi said the decision means Kuwait's targeted production for December will remain at 2.676 million barrels per day.

He said the meeting was part of regular consultations on developments in the global oil market, assessing supply and demand trends and related economic indicators to anticipate market conditions and needs in the coming period.

Al-Roumi stressed the importance of maintaining energy supply security and sustainability, as well as ensuring the safe and uninterrupted movement of tankers through strategic waterways to support global market stability.

He noted that the current phase requires a high degree of flexibility in responding to market changes, adding that producing countries are capable of adjusting output levels in line with market developments and the need to balance supply and demand.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to the Declaration of Cooperation and collective action within OPEC+, saying continued coordination among participating countries strengthens joint decisions and supports long-term stability in the global oil market.

The Kuwaiti delegation included Kuwait's Governor to OPEC Mohammad Al-Shatti and Kuwait's National Representative to OPEC Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Reaffirming sustainability as a key pillar of its corporate strategy

KIB releases its fifth annual Sustainability Report

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the release of its fifth annual Sustainability Report for 2025, highlighting the Bank's key achievements in integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles across its operations and corporate strategy. The report reflects KIB's ongoing commitment to creating sustainable value for shareholders and the wider community, while further strengthening its position as a financial institution that supports the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The report highlights the Bank's efforts throughout the year to advance sustainable finance, strengthen governance frameworks, expand access to banking services, enhance its digital offerings, develop national talent, support community initiatives, and monitor and assess its environmental impact. The Sustainability Report was prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards, reinforcing transparency and disclosure while aligning with international best practices in sustainability.

Commenting on the report's release, Raed Jawad Bukhamseen, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KIB, said: "Sustainability has become an integral part of the Bank's operating approach. Our fifth report reflects this direction by embedding sustainability principles across our operations, financing decisions, and governance practices, thereby strengthening our ability to achieve sustainable and balanced growth."

Bukhamseen added: "Over the past year, the Bank implemented several high-impact initiatives, most notably the launch of its Sustainable Finance Framework and the issuance of USD 300 million in sustainable Sukuk. We also continued to invest in digital transformation, develop national talent, and enhance our environmental and social performance. These steps reaffirm the Bank's commitment to creating sustainable, long-term value for all stakeholders."

Bukhamseen emphasized that the Bank views sustainability as a key driver of institutional resilience and innovation, noting that KIB will continue to advance its operations under a clear strategy that supports the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035 and responds to the future requirements of the banking sector.

For his part, Nawaf Najia, Executive Manager of ESG and Sustainability – Strategy Department at KIB, said: "The 2025 Sustainability Report reflects the Bank's steady progress in incorporating sustainability principles across its various business activities. It also highlights the shift from implementing standalone initiatives to adopting an integrated, measurable institutional approach that enhances transparency and improves the quality of environmental, social, and governance performance disclosures."

Najia explained that the report highlights the Bank's journey across sustainable finance, financial inclusion, workforce development, community impact, and environmental monitoring. He emphasized that these efforts reinforce KIB's position as a financial institution focused on creating sustainable economic, social, and environmental value.

Sustainable Finance

The development of KIB's Sustainable Finance Framework, alongside the issuance of USD 300 million in sustainable Sukuk, marked a significant milestone in the Bank's sustainability journey during 2025. The Sukuk issuance supports the allocation of proceeds to eligible projects and activities across green and social categories, strengthening the Bank's ability to direct capital toward initiatives that deliver added environmental and social value.

KIB's total investments in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) initiatives reached KD 56 million, equivalent to approximately USD 184 million, while its total financing portfolio grew by 17% during the year. Meanwhile, sustainable ESG financing extended across several sectors, reflecting the Bank's commitment to directing financing toward sustainable activities.



Raed Bukhamseen



Nawaf Najia



Raed Bukhamseen

Governance and Risk Management

Throughout 2025, KIB continued to strengthen its governance and compliance framework under the direct oversight of the Board of Directors. These efforts included enhancing its internal control and risk management systems, as well as adopting comprehensive policies covering key aspects of sustainability, including sustainable finance, anti-corruption, whistleblowing, operational risk, and professional conduct.

On the technological front, the Bank continued to enhance its cybersecurity capabilities by adhering to international standards. In recognition of these efforts, KIB maintained leading international certifications and accreditations, including ISO 27001, ISO 22301, the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), and the SWIFT Customer Security Program (CSP).

The Bank also recorded zero substantiated complaints relating to customer privacy, with no reported incidents involving the leakage, theft, or loss of customer data during 2025.

Integrated Digital Ecosystem

KIB made significant progress in advancing its digital ecosystem, helping expand its customer base and broaden access to banking services across different segments of society. The Bank's continued investment in digitizing its operations delivered a marked transformation in its products and services, including streamlining transactions, automating documentation and transfer procedures, and enhancing interactive communication channels and financing solutions. Together, these developments provided customers with a smoother and more secure banking experience.

This strategic direction had a direct positive impact on customer satisfaction, with complaints declining by a record 52% during the year. It also coincided with a significant improvement in operational reliability, supported by the implementation of the First Time Right (FTR) principle, which achieved a 98% success rate. The Trade Finance division recorded a similarly strong FTRrate of 98%, driven by the digitization ofselectedtrade finance forms, as well as the reductionof manual data entry. This resulted in faster turnaround times and greater accuracy across operations.

Continued Investment in National Talent and Workplace Development

Reaffirming its commitment to human capital development and sustainable social impact, KIB made significant progress in attracting and developing national talent during 2025. The Bank's total workforce increased by 12% to 833 employees, while its nationalization rate reached 73.22%. Local talent accounted for more than 75% of middle management and 77% of senior management and above.

KIB's efforts extended beyond recruitment to include professional development, with each employee receiving an average of 18.8 training hours across innovation, leadership, and technology. Key initiatives included the launch of the "WAED" leadership development program, AIHackathon, and support for postgraduate education through MBA scholarships offered in coordination with prominent banking and academic institutions, including the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

These initiatives contributed to an increase in the Bank's Organizational Health Index, which rose to 77% from 67% in the previous year.

Impactful Sustainability and Empowerment Initiatives

In addition to its continued investment in human capital development, community development remained a key pillar of KIB's strategic contributions. During the year, the Bank allocated KD 237,000 to projects designed to deliver sustainable social impact. Its support covered a wide range of areas, including youth empowerment, education, entrepreneurship, the inclusion of people with disabilities and various segments of society, as well as health and wellness, sustainability awareness, and charitable and humanitarian initiatives.

These efforts were reflected in a series of impactful initiatives, most notably the "KIB | The Stadium" tournament, the Holy Month of Ramadan campaign, academic partnerships, the "H.I. Innovation Program," and events aimed at supporting innovators through the "KIB Mubader" incubator, alongside several other purpose-driven programs.

Environmental Stewardship

KIB advanced its environmental efforts in 2025 by improving energy efficiency, emissions tracking, water conservation, paper reduction, recycling, and supplier screening. The Bank reported a 24% reduction in reported purchased electricity consumption and a 45% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions, with emissions intensity reaching 7.62 tCO2e per employee.

The Bank also installed solar systems in four new branches, continued the use of LED lighting and efficiency measures, saved more than 80,000 sheets of paper through process improvements, and began paper recycling at its head office.

Looking Ahead

KIB affirms that sustainability will remain a central pillar of its corporate strategy. In the next phase, the Bank will continue to develop its sustainability data governance framework, advance sustainable finance, integrate environmental and social considerations into risk management, and enhance the quality of its disclosures. These efforts will strengthen KIB's ability to create sustainable value for shareholders, customers, and the wider community, while reinforcing its position as a leading financial institution in sustainability.

Awards and Recognition

KIB's efforts in 2025 were recognized with several prestigious regional awards, most notably the following three accolades from Capital Finance International magazine:

- "Best Bank in Financial Literacy Program – MENA 2025"
- "Excellence in Branch Design and Customer Journey – MENA 2025"
- "Excellence in Innovative Corporate Banking Service – MENA 2025"

These awards reflect KIB's ongoing progress in financial awareness, customer experience, digital service development, and responsible banking.

Key 2025 Highlights

- Issued a USD 300 million Sustainable Sukuk.
- Recorded KD 56 million in total ESG investments.
- Increased the total financing portfolio by 17%.
- Reduced total greenhouse gas emissions by 45%.
- Reduced electricity consumption by 24%.
- Reported emissions intensity of 7.62 tCO_2e per employee.
- Increased workforce size by 12% to 833 employees.
- Achieved 73.22% Kuwaiti workforce representation.
- Improved the Organizational Health Index to 77%.
- Reduced customer complaints by 52%.
- Invested KD 237,000 in community development initiatives.
- Advanced digital banking services, including VISA Direct, instant card issuance, digital KYC updates, Western Union remittances, and enhanced ITM services.

Following an intensive training journey, 30 Kuwaiti talents in media & content creation have graduated

NBK and Ooredoo conclude the first cohort of 'ON Academy'



Ooredoo officials with the participants.



NBK officials on the sidelines of the Ooredoo program.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), in partnership with Ooredoo Kuwait, concluded the first cohort of the ON Academy program by graduating 30 young national talents in the fields of media, content creation, and creative production. This milestone followed an intensive training journey that combined theoretical learning with practical application, all under the guidance of leading industry specialists and experts.

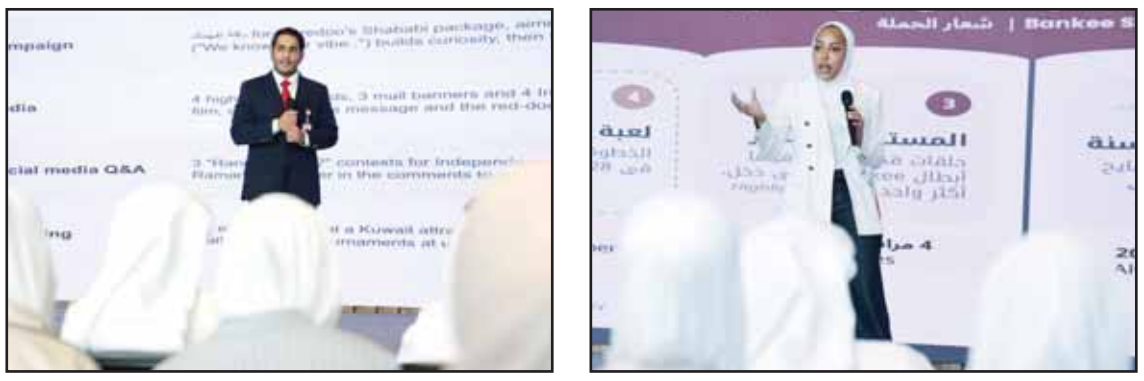
The closing ceremony featured a showcase of projects and work completed by the participants during the program. These projects demonstrated the skills and practical experience they had gained across various disciplines, including digital content creation, television presenting, directing, and social media influencing, as well as other specializations relevant to the modern media landscape.

Throughout the program, participants benefited from a comprehensive training curriculum that combined academic and practical elements under the guidance of leading industry specialists and experts, which provided them with opportunities for direct learning and hands-on experience, further enhancing their professional readiness and enabling them to explore promising prospects in the media and entertainment sectors.

The program culminated in an enriching training journey that allowed participants to develop their creative capabilities and enhance their professional skills. Through an interactive learning environment focused on practical application and real-world experience, they were better equipped to meet labor market demands and capitalize on the abundant opportunities within the media and content creation industries.

On this occasion, Yaqoub Al-Baqer, Assistant Vice President - Public Relations and Event Management at the National Bank of Kuwait stated: "Today, we take pride in the achievements of the first cohort of ON Academy. We have witnessed the passion, commitment, and genuine desire among national youth to develop their capabilities and explore new experiences in the media and creative sectors. The projects and work showcased during the closing ceremony confirm that they possess promising potential deserving of support, nurturing, and further opportunities for development".

Al-Baqer added: "The program's goal was not merely to provide technical training, but to offer a comprehensive experience that allows participants to engage in a professional training environment, learn directly from specialized experts, and gain firsthand insight into the modern media industry. We believe that empowering young people begins with providing them with the right opportunities to discover their potential, develop their skills, and transform their creative ideas into future projects and career paths".



Kuwaiti youth trained in media and content creation.

Additionally, Al-Baqer said: "The media and content creation sectors are witnessing rapid growth and continuous evolution, creating new opportunities for creative young people, which is why we were keen to equip participants with the practical skills and tools needed to keep pace with these changes and enhance their ability to compete and succeed in a work environment increasingly driven by innovation, creativity, and the effective use of digital technologies".

Al-Baqer also emphasized that the success of the academy's first cohort reflects the importance of supporting and empowering young national talent, noting that capacity building and skill development are fundamental pillars for fostering sustainable development and enhancing youth participation across various vital sectors.

For his part, Nasser Hamad Al-Arafaj, Director of Strategic Relations and Public Relations at Ooredoo Kuwait, said: "We are proud of our strategic partnership with a prestigious financial institution like NBK, which embodies the commitment of both parties to providing exceptional opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, encouraging them to explore their creative potential and develop their career paths within the media and content creation sectors".

Al-Arfaj added: "The participants' achievements in this cohort underscores the importance of providing high-quality initiatives that combine practical training with professional guidance, and that contribute to preparing young talent equipped with the skills and confidence needed to keep pace with the rapid transformations in the digital economy and creative industries".

Al-Arfaj also emphasized that digital media has become a sector that offers promising opportunities where the youth can showcase their talents and establish new career paths, further highlighting the importance of providing initiatives that help them discover these opportunities as well as develop and utilize their skills.He added that the support received from media institutions and their encouragement of the talented professionals trained by the Academy underscore the significant demand for new talent in the media industry. He also noted that several Academy graduates have already been recruited by media organizations, demonstrating the Academy's success in achieving its objectives of creating employment opportunities for graduates and developing a new generation of media professionals and content creators in Kuwait who uphold the highest standards of journalistic integrity and media ethics.

"On Academy" represents the shared vision between NBK and Ooredoo Kuwait that supports initiatives aimed at developing national talent and providing them with new horizons. In this light, this collaboration has provided a unique experience that integrates the diverse expertise of both parties, further enhancing the program's value and its impact on developing participants' capabilities and preparing them to capitalize on the opportunities available within the media and content creation sectors.



Taiba Al-Najjar

Several graduates from the first cohort of "ON Academy" expressed their appreciation for the experience provided by the program, noting that it helped develop their professional skills and broaden their horizons within the fields of media and content creation.

Taiba Al-Najjar remarked: "The academy gave me a unique opportunity to learn from a group of elite experts and specialists and helped me acquire practical skills that boosted my confidence in my own abilities and allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the requirements of working in the media industry".

Meanwhile, **Othman Al-Ahmed** stated: "What sets "ON Academy" apart is its focus on the practical side; we were given the opportunity to work on real-world projects and benefit from diverse professional expertise, which helped hone our skills and develop our creative capabilities".



Othman Al-Ahmed

Moreover, **Dana Bin Salamah** emphasized that the program served as a significant launchpad for his professional career, adding: "The academy equipped us with modern tools and knowledge in the fields of content creation and digital media, and broadened our understanding of promising opportunities that we can build upon in the future to achieve our professional ambitions".



Dana Bin Salamah

Finally, **Ali Al-Dawoud** added: "Not only did we acquire professional skills and knowledge in the academy, but we also had the opportunity to build a network of connections and engage with experts and specialists in the sector. I would like to thank NBK and Ooredoo Kuwait for this initiative, which reflects a genuine commitment to empowering Kuwaiti youth and opening doors for them to explore new opportunities in the fields of media and content creation".



Ali Al-Dawoud

It is worth noting that NBK continues to play a key pioneering role in social responsibility by launching and sponsoring impactful initiatives aimed at empowering Kuwaiti youth and developing their skills across various educational and professional fields. ON Academy is one of many other efforts aimed at supporting young national talent by providing opportunities that help them discover their potential, enhance their capabilities, and prepare for future demands, which reflects the Bank's belief that youth are the fundamental pillar of development and the key to building a more prosperous future for Kuwait.



Abdullah Al-Saif with the winners.

As part of its commitment to youth

KFH recognizes winners of the Quran recitation competition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has honored the winners of the 14th edition of the Quran Memorization and Recitation Competition, the largest of its kind in Kuwait in terms of prizes and number of participants.

The initiative reflects KFH's pioneering social role and its continuous commitment to developing the capabilities of children and young people as well as encouraging the recitation and memorization of the Holy Quran.

The KFH Quran Memorization and Recitation Competition for children and youth attracted broad participation across various age groups, with winners being selected by a specialized judging panel.

During his speech at the ceremony, KFH Executive Manager Social Media and PR Service Center, Abdullah Al-Saif, highlighted that the competition helps identify and nurture those with a talent for memorization and recitation while inspiring the younger generation to read the Holy Quran.

He emphasized that the competition which KFH has organized for the 14th consecutive year, had drawn a large number of participants.

"Several factors contributed to showcasing the participants' abilities across various categories and levels, including a judging panel, seamless organization, and well-thought-out arrangements, all within an encouraging atmosphere of healthy competition aimed at achieving top results," he added.

The winners expressed their delight at winning the competition, as it focuses on memorizing the Holy Quran and provides a valuable opportunity to inspire them and others to master its memorization and recitation. They described the contest as a commendable initiative by KFH, highlighting how it allowed them to showcase their talents while earning spiritual rewards.

The competition is one of the main annual activities organized by KFH and is part of the Bank's ongoing efforts to host events across various fields that align with the diverse interests of young people, match their capabilities, and nurture their talent.

Weyay Bank partners with Best Al-Yousifi to offer 20% discount for 'SELECT' cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Weyay Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Best Al-Yousifi, Kuwait's leading destination for electronics and home appliances, offering an exclusive 20% discount to SELECT cardholders who transfer their student allowance to Weyay Bank. The offer is valid on all purchases made using the SELECT card, with a minimum spend of 50 KD.

This partnership forms part of Weyay's ongoing strategy to deliver greater value to young customers and university students by building a comprehensive ecosystem of benefits and rewards tailored to their evolving lifestyles and everyday needs. From technology and education to entertainment and lifestyle, Weyay continues to introduce meaningful partnerships that resonate with the interests of the next generation.

The SELECT Card embodies this vision by serving as more than just a banking product. Designed specifically for young adults and students, it provides access to a wide range of exclusive offers, rewards, and experiences that help cardholders maximize the value of their everyday spending while enjoying benefits that go beyond traditional banking services.

Through this collaboration, Weyay customers will gain access to the latest technology, electronics, and everyday essentials available at Best Al-Yousifi at highly competitive prices. The partnership further reinforces Weyay's commitment to offering practical and relevant benefits that reflect the real spending habits and priorities of young customers.

Alya Al Sane, Vice President, Marketing Department at Weyay Bank, said: "We believe banking should complement the lifestyle of young people and bring tangible value to their everyday experiences. Our partnership with Best Al-Yousifi is another addition to the growing portfolio of benefits available to SELECT cardholders. The SELECT Card was designed to give young customers access to rewards and offers that genuinely align with their interests and help them get more from their spending. We remain committed to expanding our network of partners to create a banking experience that is closely connected to the needs and aspirations of the next generation."



Group photo of the strategic partnership agreement.



Aref Al-Yousifi, CEO of Best Al-Yousifi, and Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank



Fawaz Al-Nakib, Loyalty and Partnership Manager at Weyay Bank, with Aref Al-Yousifi.

Wael Deeb, General Manager of the Electronics Group at Best Al-Yousifi, said: "We are proud to partner with Weyay Bank on an initiative that reflects our shared commitment to delivering meaningful value to young people in Kuwait. This offer enables SELECT cardholders to enjoy exceptional savings across a broad range of technology and electronic products that play an essential role in their daily lives, whether for studying, working, or entertainment. We look forward to enhancing the shopping experience for our mutual customers through this collaboration."

This partnership reflects Weyay's continued efforts to position SELECT as a comprehensive benefits platform for young people and university students in Kuwait. By partnering with brands that matter most to its customers, Weyay is transforming banking into an integral part of their lifestyle rather than simply a tool for managing finances.

Jazeera Airways welcomes first cohort of Ertiqaa Management Trainees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Jazeera Airways officially welcomed the first cohort of participants to Ertiqaa, its Management Training Program, marking an important milestone in the airline's commitment to developing national talent and nurturing the next generation of aviation leaders.

The inaugural cohort began their journey with a comprehensive orientation program, including a session to connect with Jazeera Airways' leadership team. The interactive session provided participants with an opportunity to engage directly with the airline's leadership, gain insights into its vision, values, strategic priorities, and understand the important role they will play in shaping Jazeera's future.

Launched in August 2026, Ertiqaa', meaning elevation or advancement in Arabic, is a structured management development initiative designed to identify, nurture, and accelerate the careers of high-potential young Kuwaiti graduates. The program supports Jazeera Airways' long-term growth ambitions while contributing to Kuwait Vision 2035 through investment in national human capital.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: "We are proud to welcome our first cohort of Ertiqaa' management trainees to the Jazeera family. These young graduates represent the ambition, energy and potential of Kuwait's next generation, and we are excited to be part of their professional journey. As Jazeera Airways enters an exciting new phase of growth, investing in our people is just as important as investing in new aircraft, destinations, and infrastructure. Ertiqaa' is about creating opportunities for young Kuwaitis to learn, contribute and develop into future leaders who will help shape the aviation industry. I look forward to seeing this first cohort grow with us and make their mark on Jazeera's future."



Ertiqaa Onboarding Group Photo

The Ertiqaa' program spans 18 months, offering participants a comprehensive cross-functional learning experience, hands-on assignments, mentorship from experienced leaders, structured learning modules, and exposure to strategic business projects. Trainees will gain practical insights into different aspects of airline operations and management, building the technical knowledge, commercial understanding and leadership capabilities needed to succeed in a dynamic aviation environment.

Ginny Sethi, Chief People Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: "At Jazeera Airways, we believe that investing in people today is key to building a stronger future. The launch of our first Ertiqaa cohort marks an important step in our commitment to nurturing Kuwaiti talent and developing the next generation of aviation leaders. As our airline continues to grow, building a strong pipeline of homegrown talent will be essential to our long-term success. Through Ertiqaa, we aim to inspire young Kuwaitis to realize their potential, develop the confidence and capabilities to take on leadership roles, and grow alongside Jazeera Airways. This is not just an investment in individual careers, but in the future of our airline and Kuwait's aviation sector."

The program also reinforces Jazeera Airways' focus on fostering a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and internal career development. By providing young professionals with early exposure to different functions and direct engagement with leadership, Ertiqaa' aims to develop well-rounded future leaders who can contribute to the airline's evolving business needs.

Issuer
Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P.
Commercial Registration No: 3705

Lead Manager and Subscription Agent
Ahli Capital Investment Company K.S.C. (Closed) ("ABK Wealth Management")

This announcement is prepared for promotional purposes and does not omit any essential information related to the investment in the financial security subject of this announcement.

INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE IN THE INCREASE OF THE SHARE CAPITAL OF AL AHLI BANK OF KUWAIT K.S.C.P.

The Board of Directors of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P. (the "Issuer" or the "Bank") would like to invite the shareholders who are registered on the share register of the Issuer at the end of trading on 4 November 2026 (the "Record Date") and the holders of the pre-emption rights who received the pre-emption rights (the "Pre-emption Rights") during the Pre-emption Rights Trading Period, to subscribe in the increase of the Issuer's share capital by 750,000,000 new ordinary shares (the "Issue Shares"), representing 27.29% of the Issuer's current issued and paid-up capital, with a nominal value of KWD 75,000,000, at an Offer Price of 200 Kuwaiti fils per Issue Share (including the nominal value of 100 Kuwaiti fils and the issuance premium of 100 Kuwaiti fils), during the Subscription Period commencing on 8 November 2026 (inclusive) and closing on 22 November 2026 (inclusive) at 1:00 pm.

Note: Please refer to the Prospectus for the definition of all capitalized terms.

Overview of the Offering

Issuer	:	Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P.
Commercial Registration No.	:	3705
Issue Shares	:	750,000,000 new ordinary shares, representing 27.29% of the Issuer's current issued and paid-up capital.
Total Value of the Offering	:	KWD 150,000,000 (including the nominal value of KWD 75,000,000 and the issuance premium of KWD 75,000,000).
Offering Price	:	200 Kuwaiti fils per share (including the nominal value of 100 Kuwaiti fils and the issuance premium of 100 Kuwaiti fils).
Eligible Subscribers (or "Subscribers")	:	Holders of the Existing Shares registered at the end of the Record Date before the Subscription Period, i.e., the shareholders whose names are registered in the Bank's shareholders register with the Clearing and Depositary Agent ("Kuwait Clearing Company") at the close of trading on Boursa Kuwait on the Record Date. For clarity, any trades made on the Bank's shares prior to the Record Date that have not completed the trade settlement process of Boursa Kuwait as of the Record Date (Ex-Rights Date), and as a result have not yet been registered on the Bank's shareholder register, will not be considered in determining the Eligible Shareholders of record as of the Record Date. Owners of Pre-emption Rights include persons that acquired, by assignment or purchase, the Pre-emption Rights during the trading period of such rights. In the event that the Issue Shares are not fully subscribed for by the Eligible Shareholders and Owners of Pre-emption Rights during the Subscription Period or any extension thereof, the Board of Directors may open a Public Offering for the subscription by the public in the unsubscribed Issue Shares.
Issue Shares Entitlement	:	27,464 Issue Shares for every 100,000 Existing Shares (approximately 27.46%) registered in the name of the Eligible Shareholder as of the Record Date. This is calculated after taking into consideration the Issuer's Treasury Shares, the rights arising from which have been allocated to Eligible Shareholders as of the Record Date.
Minimum Subscription	:	One (1) Issue Share.
Maximum Subscription	:	There is no maximum subscription. Subscribers may subscribe for any number of shares, which may exceed the total number of Issue Shares.
Rights Issue Offering Period	:	The Subscription Period will commence on 8 November 2026 and will remain open for a period of fifteen (15) calendar days up to and including 22 November 2026. The Board of Directors of the Issuer may extend the Subscription Period at its absolute discretion, in the event subscription has not been fully covered, for similar or lesser periods so that the original Subscription Period and its extension in total do not exceed three (3) months, provided that the approval of the CMA is obtained. The Board of Directors may also, after expiry of the original or extended Subscription Period, offer the remaining unsubscribed Issue Shares to the public (the "Public Offering"), including new shareholders and third parties (the "Eligible Investors").
Consequences of non-Subscription of Eligible Shareholders	:	Eligible Shareholders who choose not to subscribe to the Issue Shares will be subject to a reduction in their percentage of ownership in the Issuer's capital in addition to what they may face from a change in the value of their Existing Shares.
Means of Disposal of Pre-emption Rights	:	Pre-emption Rights may be disposed of, traded or assigned without consideration, without any restrictions and in accordance with the applicable rules of Boursa Kuwait and the Clearing and Depositary Agent. Approval of the Prospectus constitutes approval of the listing and trading of Pre-emption Rights during the Subscription Period, and the listing shall be cancelled when the Bank discloses the results of the subscription in the capital increase. Subscribers shall have the following options in respect of the Issue Shares: • Exercising their Pre-emption Right in the Issue Shares; • Exercising their Pre-emption Right in the Issue Shares as well as subscribing for additional Issue Shares; • Assigning their Pre-emption Right for subscription in the Issue Shares as per the approved mechanism at least five (5) business days before the Offering is closed in accordance with the relevant rules applied by Boursa Kuwait; • Waiving, free of charge, their Pre-emption Right to subscribe to the Issue Shares (and to subscribe to additional Issue Shares, as the case may be, or part thereof) according to the approved mechanism for this during the Subscription Period, at least five (5) business days before close of subscription, in accordance with the relevant rules applied by Boursa Kuwait and the Clearing and Depository Agent; or, • Refraining from resorting to any of the above options, whether by trading, waiving, or exercising the Pre-emption Right to subscribe to the Issue Shares and leaving the right to subscribe to the unsubscribed shares to the rest of the Subscribers.
Pre-emption Rights Trading Period	:	The period for disposal of Pre-emption Rights starts from the date of opening of the Subscription Period until at least five (5) business days prior to the end of the Subscription Period. 8 November 2026 has been set as the date for the start of trading in Pre-emption Rights and 15 November 2026 as the last day of trading in Pre-emption Rights.
Subscription for Additional Issue Shares	:	Subscribers have the right to subscribe for additional Issue Shares ("Additional Issue Shares") in addition to their entitlement to Issue Shares. Such subscription shall be made at the Offer Price of 200 fils per Additional Issue Share. Subscriber's failure to subscribe, sell or assign the Pre-emption Right is considered a waiver of such right to subscribe to the share capital increase shares in favour of other Subscribers who wish to subscribe to a number of shares exceeding their entitlement. The unsubscribed Issue Shares will be allocated to the Subscribers applying for Additional Issue Shares pro rata to the number of Additional Issue Shares applied for.
Pre-emption Rights ISIN Code	:	KW0002460317
Lead Manager and Subscription Agent	:	Ahli Capital Investment Company K.S.C. (Closed) ("ABK Wealth Management")
Clearing and Depositary Agent	:	Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C. and its subsidiaries

Subscription Instructions

Subscription Procedures

Subscriptions and all required documents must be submitted through the Subscription Website or the IPO Kuwait mobile application of the Clearing and Depositary Agent.

The Subscriber shall:

1. Login to the Subscription Website via the link: https://www.ipo.com.kw or download the IPO Kuwait application;
2. In the event the Subscriber is an individual, he/she shall enter the civil identification number. The system shall then verify whether the Subscriber is eligible for Subscription or not;
3. In the event the Subscriber is a legal entity or a company, the Subscriber shall enter the commercial registration number. The system shall then verify whether the Subscriber is eligible for Subscription or not;
4. Record the number of shares to be subscribed for; and
5. The Subscriber must make the payment through either K-NET service or Bank wire transfer as follows:

For Subscribers paying through K-NET service, the Subscriber shall:

Pay from the Subscriber's own account (no other person may pay on behalf of the Subscriber except in the cases provided for under the law). The Subscriber shall bear all legal consequences arising from any violation of this requirement. Upon successful completion of the payment transaction, the system will display confirmation containing the subscription payment details. The system will also automatically send an email to the Subscriber's registered email address attaching a PDF receipt, as well as an SMS to the subscriber's mobile phone, confirming the successful completion of the subscription process.

Subscribers are advised to confirm with their bank that the payment limit on their K-NET card will enable them to pay for their subscription.

Or,

For Subscribers paying through bank wire transfer, the Subscriber shall:

Print the Subscription Application Form and visit their own bank and submit a copy of the Subscription Application Form printed from the above link and transfer the amount required to the Subscription Bank Account (net amount without any charges by the transferring bank and the receiving Bank) stated below:

Name of Bank	AL AHLI BANK OF KUWAIT
Account number	6030148800001
IBAN	KW27 ABKK 0000 0000 0603 0148 8000 01
SWIFT	ABKKKWKW
Beneficiary	ABK RIGHTS-ISSE-SUBSCRIPTION
Reference/Description	Ahli Bank of Kuwait capital increase + shareholder civil identification (for residents and citizens)/ passport (for non-residents and non-citizens)/ commercial registration number (for corporates) + subscriber contact number

The Subscriber shall upload the copy of the original deposit voucher of the amount transferred from his/her/its own bank, in addition to the documents listed n item "Documents required to be submitted with applications to subscribe", through the electronic link that will be sent from the Subscription Website to the Subscriber by e-mail and by text message to the registered phone.

The Clearing and Depositary Agent shall send an e-mail confirmation to the Subscriber in case of a successful Subscription.

Failure of any Subscriber to submit a duly completed Subscription Application Form (together with all applicable supporting documents) to the Subscription Website, after the transfer or deposit of the Subscription Monies as required in the Prospectus, shall render the Subscription Application Form of that Subscriber null and void. Subscription Monies shall not be accepted in cash.

Subscription through the Portfolio Manager where the Shares are held with a company that manages portfolios for third parties:

- The Subscriber shall contact the portfolio manager to enquire about the subscription procedures.
- The portfolio manager shall follow the subscription procedures set out above to complete the subscription and shall provide the subscription details.

Documents required to be submitted with applications to subscribe

The Subscription Application Form must be submitted through the Subscription Website along with the following documents, through the link sent by the electronic system.

Individual Subscribers

- Signed Subscription Application Form duly signed by the Subscriber;
- Copy of personal civil identification card;
- Copy of passport to verify the signature;
- Copy of the bank transfer receipt;
- Copy of the IBAN number;
- Copy of special legal proxy for subscribing in shares (for proxy subscriber);
- Copy of Certificate of Guardianship for orphans;
- Copy of Certificate of Guardianship for minors; or
- Copy of a Limitation of Succession Deed for beneficiaries.
- Copy of Guardianship rule

Corporate Subscribers

- Signed Subscription Application Form duly signed by the Subscriber;
- Copy of the bank transfer receipt;
- Copy of the IBAN number;
- Copy of the Commercial Registry Certificate;
- Copy of the Authorized Signatories Certificate or the Extract of the Commercial Register; as the case requires; and
- Copy of the personal identification card of the authorized signatory;
- Copy of the signatory's specimen signature authorization issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour or certified by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Letter issued by the authorized signatory of the legal entity confirming its approval of the subscription.

Non-Kuwaiti Subscribers

Non-Kuwaiti Subscribers (whether corporates or individuals, as the case may be) are required to provide the equivalent of the aforementioned documentation as issued by their jurisdictional authorities if they do not have Kuwaiti issued documentation as highlighted further above.

Cash will not be accepted. The Subscription Monies must be paid in full upon submitting the Subscription Application Form on the Subscription Website, by authorizing a debit of the appropriate amount from the Subscriber's account or by bank transfer. Subscription Monies will be deposited in full in the Issuer's non-interest-bearing bank account designated for this purpose (the "Subscription Bank Account"). The Subscriber must ensure that the bank transfer or debit has actually been processed and credited to the Subscription Bank Account at the time of submission of the Subscription Application Form.

Without prejudice to the other grounds of rejection, the Clearing and Depositary Agent, the Issuer and the Subscription Agent shall have the right to reject the Subscription Application Form in the event the Subscription Monies are not received in the Subscription Bank Account at the time of submission of the Subscription Application Form to Subscription Agents and the Clearing and Depositary Agent.

Pledged shares: Subscribers whose shares are pledged must submit to the Clearing and Depositary Agent, at its premises in Ahmed Tower – Fifth Floor, an approval letter from the pledgee creditor stating that the Subscriber may subscribe in the Issuer's capital increase.

Risk Factors

There are some risks related to investing in the Issue Shares, including commercial and legal risk factors such as:

Risks Related to the Bank: Credit Risk Management - Credit Risk Governance - Credit Risk Monitoring and Concentration Risk - Past Due Credit Exposures and Provisions - Credit Risk Mitigation - Market Risk - Foreign Exchange Risk - Liquidity Risk - Operational Risk - Interest Rate Risk - Capital Adequacy - Credit Ratings - Related Party Exposures - Competitive Banking Industry in Kuwait - Loss of Key Personnel - Impact of Regulatory Changes - Risks Associated with Pre-emption Rights ("Rights Issue").

Legal Risks: Risks relating to Kuwait and the Middle East and North Africa region - Kuwait and other GCC legal systems continue to evolve, and this may create an uncertain environment for investment and business activity - Risks related to changes in significant accounting standards and new standards - Regulatory risks related to the Bank - Bankruptcy under Kuwaiti law - Force Majeure Events.

Risks Related to the Issue Shares: Investing in securities in developing and emerging markets generally involves a high level of risk - Decrease in the current ownership percentage - Risks associated with non-profitability or sale of Pre-emption Rights - Risks of lack of demand for Pre-emption Rights and shares of the Bank, or withdrawal of the Offering - Speculation risks associated with Pre-emption Rights - Taxes on payments for Issue Shares - Income tax may be applied to companies and other entities in Kuwait and Value Added Tax may be applied - Change in law - Risks of taxation of dividends - The GCC countries may enter into a monetary union.

For further details on any such risk factors, please refer to the downloadable/printable version of the Prospectus relating to the Offering on the Issuer's website (www.eahli.com), the Lead Manager and Subscription Agent's website (abkwealth.com) or Boursa Kuwait's website (www.boursakuwait.com.kw), or obtain a physical copy from the offices of the Issuer, the Lead Manager and Subscription Agent or Boursa Kuwait.

Prior to investing in any Issue Shares, prospective investors should carefully consider, together with all other information contained in the Prospectus relating to the Offering, the risk factors highlighted above and seek professional advice before investing (for further details on any information related to the Offering, please refer to the downloadable/printable version of the Prospectus relating to the Offering found on the above websites). This announcement does not contain all the information that prospective investors should consider before deciding to invest in the Issue Shares and does not purport to be complete.

Subscription Information

The necessary information regarding the investment in the Issue Shares is included in the Prospectus.

The terms and conditions in the Prospectus and the Subscription Application Form shall apply. You are hereby advised to seek the advice of an advisor licensed by law and which specializes in advising on the subscription prior to making a decision to subscribe.

The Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any regulatory organization in the State of Kuwait shall not bear any liability for the contents of this announcement or its accuracy, and not for any loss arising from reliance on any part of this announcement.

For any technical support related to the Subscription Website, please email: support@ipo.com.kw

For inquiries, please contact:

ABK Wealth Management

Email: ProjectAspire_ABKWM@abkwealth.com

Tel: 1832832

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Mezzotono brings magic of Italian a cappella music to Kuwait

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times



Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Lorenzo Morini adresses the audience.



The internationally acclaimed Italian vocal ensemble Mezzotono performs at the Yarmouk Cultural Center.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The Italian Embassy in Kuwait officially launched its cultural programme and celebrations marking the Italian National Day and Italian Unity and Armed Forces Day with a spectacular musical performance by the internationally acclaimed Italian vocal ensemble Mezzotono at the Yarmouk Cultural Center on Sunday, Nov 1.

The performance marked the official reopening of the Embassy's cultural activities following an extended interruption caused by recent developments in the region. It also brought a unique Italian musical experience to Kuwait, with Mezzotono performing in the country for the first time.

Often described as "Ambassadors of Italian Music Around the World," Mezzotono is among Italy's most internationally acclaimed a cappella ensembles. Having performed at prestigious festivals and theatres in more than 70 countries across five continents, the group has earned international recognition for its remarkable ability to recreate the sound of an entire orchestra using only five human voices.

Welcoming guests, the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE. Lorenzo Morini, expressed his pleasure at the large turnout and described the occasion as an important milestone in the resumption of the Embassy's cultural programme.

He thanked Dar Al Athar al Islamiyyah and the Yarmouk Cultural Center team for their hospitality and valuable support in organizing the event, while also acknowledging the dedication and professionalism of the Italian Embassy team.

Introducing the ensemble, the Ambassador explained that a cappella music, derived from the Italian expression meaning "in the chapel" or "in the style of the chapel," originally referred to sacred choral music performed without instrumental accompaniment. Over the years, however, the musical form evolved beyond its religious origins to embrace a wide range of styles, including classical madrigals, barbershop quartets, contemporary pop, rap and beatboxing.



Mezzotono delivering a unique Italian musical experience to Kuwait.



Section of the audience.

Unlike conventional choir performances, modern a cappella allows singers to recreate the sounds of multiple instruments through their voices, combining harmony, bass, percussion and solo vocals without instrumental backing.

The Ambassador encouraged the audience to close their eyes during the opening song and experience the different layers of sound, challenging them to identify the drums, basslines and harmonies despite the absence of musical instruments, recorded tracks or electronic accompaniment.

He also highlighted the interactive nature of Mezzotono's performances, inviting the audience to participate and become part of the musical experience.

The ensemble lived up to its international reputation with an entertaining and varied programme that brought together Italian musical heritage, international classics, Latin rhythms, jazz and popular music, combining vocal virtuosity with humour, theatrical expression and audience interaction.

Throughout the performance, the five singers demonstrated exceptional vocal coordination, transforming their voices into an orchestra of melodies, rhythms and harmonies without relying on traditional musical instruments.

The combination of Italian classics, international hits, comedy and audience engagement made the evening an engaging celebration of music and cultural exchange.

The event underscored the Italian Embassy's commitment to strengthening cultural relations between Italy and Kuwait through music and the performing arts, while providing the Kuwaiti audience and international community with an opportunity to experience the creativity and richness of Italian musical tradition.





Photos from the event

ITEF Kuwait to host int'l conference on innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: ITEF (International Tamil Engineers Forum) is a not-for-profit organization, registered with Government of India as Section-VIII Company with Er. Krishna Jegan as the Chairman, Er. Selvam as the Managing Director, started with a commitment to advancing professional development, enabling structured networking platforms, and supporting skill development.

ITEF Kuwait Chapter, the one & only ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 certified Not-for-profit Engineering organization conducted a technical seminar on 27th October 2026 in Al-Hashemi Ballroom, Radisson Blu, Salwa, Kuwait. The seminar was designed with the presentation of two innovative technologies: a) Failsafe Electrical Actuators by Ms SHIEBEL, Austria and b) Rotating Equipment Expertise by Ms Hydro Inc. USA.

Event Started with National Anthems followed with Safety Moment by Er. Vasudevan (Safety Engineer KNPC) on SAFETY in DESIGN and the Startup Thought for the Day was shared by Er. Rajkumar (Jt. Sec – Startup-ITEF). Welcome address was shared by Er. Karthik Ramdoss, VP ITEF Kuwait Chapter. ITEF Kuwait chapter leaders displayed the ISO certificates to the audience and congratulated the team led by Er. Mohan Raj, who was pivotal behind the ISO certification process.

1st session on Failsafe Electrical Actuators was conducted by Mr. Felix Schiebel, General Manager,Schiebel Actuators, Austria and Er. Sathish Kumar, MD, Schiebel Middle East. The 2nd session on Rotating Equipment Expertise was handled by Er. Thomas Arakal, MD, Ms HYDRO, MENA Region. Both sessions were very interesting with highly interactive Q&A sessions.

The event was well attended by industry leaders from both Oil & Gas and MEW, which made it look like a mini-conference. Sabiya power-plant Director Er. Rashidi, Er. Ali Kankouni Team Leader Fire (Support Services) – KOC, Er. Faud Dhasthi – Superintendent Electrical Section Sabiya power-plant, Mohammed Dubairy Sr. Engr. Mech-N&WK-KOC, Er. Sulaiman Ashkanani Project Manager Al Mulla Group, Er. Atallah AL Mutairi, Chairman -Ms Rank, Er. Ali Al Mutairi CEO-Ms RANK and Er. Senthilnathan, Senior Operations Manager – HEISCO attended the event in which the innovative technological ideas were shared & discussed.

ITEF has scheduled to conduct the annual International Conference on 29th& 30th November 2026 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, Kuwait with the theme: "Connecting the 3i's: Innovation; Investment & Impact". Conference director Dr. Makenthiran highlighted the details of the conference and invited all the participants to the conference. In this regard, under the guidance of Global Chairman Er. Krishna Jegan, ITEF Kuwait Chapter President Er. Suresh and Executive members have put forward their efforts to organize the upcoming International Conference in a grand manner.

The event came to an end with the felicitation of Presenters, ITEF annual sponsors Ms. KMMC, Ms.SATCO Energy and the event sponsors Ms RANK Kuwait &Ms TEXEL Engineering Kuwait and vote of thanks was shared by Er. Ananthakumar, Jt. Sec. - ITEF Kuwait Chapter.

Kuwait Eco Warriors complete 300th beach clean-up and remove 45 tons of waste

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: A volunteer group called the Kuwait Eco Warriors hit a huge milestone on October 30, 2026, by finishing their 300th beach clean-up. The group started in October 2020 and brings together members from many different countries to help protect the environment in Kuwait.

Over the last six years, the group has organized 314 clean-up events in total and collected about 45 tons of trash from local beaches. They also set an all-time record in Kuwait by running 245 Weeks clean-up campaigns in a row without stopping.

Because of their hard work, the Ahmadi Governorate honored the group with the official Ahmadiya Medal. They are also official partners with the global World Clean Up team in Kuwait and have been recognized by the American Society of Safety Professionals.

Powerful Partnerships

The group works closely with embassies, schools, and major businesses to keep their campaigns running. Their main partners include:

■ International Groups: The UK Embassy in Kuwait and the YuvaShakthi Group from Nepal.

■ Schools: The American School of Kuwait.

■ Businesses & Community Groups: Starbucks, Emerson, LuLu Exchange, Kuwait Helping Hands, and the Dive Earth Kuwait Team.

Local community groups have also given great support, including the Kuwait Malayali Association, the Telugu Kala Samithi Association, and the Maurya Kala Parisar Group.







xxx Photos from the event

Dedicated Leaders and Families

The group's weekly clean-ups are organized by a core team of dedicated members, including Priyadarshan Reddy G, BasantaSahu, Jeffery Wright, Arun P, Gangadhar, Shabbir, Sudhir P, Kumar, Dr. Sumant Mishra, Anudeep, Mandi, Sathyaprakash, Phani, Anandha, and Anish.

Family teamwork is a huge part of their success, with strong support from the ladies —Mounica, Shailaja, Mimi, Joy, and Anusha and young children like Nyna, Daksha, Aadhya, and Jasvitha, who are learning how to protect nature for the future.

After 300 successful beach clean-ups, the Kuwait Eco Warriors plan to keep going to protect Kuwait's coastlines and teach the public how to care for the earth.



Photo from the event

PWF attends inauguration of Rumaithiya Oasis

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The President of Pakistan Women's Forum (PWF), Kuwait, Fareeha Mazhar, accompanied by Executive Team members Mrs. Shazia Arshad (General Secretary) and Mrs. Hina Perwez (Treasurer), attended the inauguration of Rumaithiya Oasis upon the invitation of Ms. Sara Al-Kharji, District Governor of Rumaithiya.

On the occasion, a Shield of Appreciation was presented to PWF President Fareeha Mazhar in recognition of the Forum's valuable contributions to the Pakistani community.

PWF appreciates the vision and efforts behind this wonderful community initiative and wishes Rumaithiya Oasis continued success.

Kazma and Qadsia battle for bronze

Qurain chases historic basketball league title

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: The 2025-2026 Basketball League playoffs begin on Tuesday, with Kuwait Club facing Qurain at 7 pm at the Basketball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier, Kazma and Qadsia will meet at 5 pm in the opening game of the third-place playoff.

Both the championship and third-place series will be decided over a best-of-three format, with the first team to win two games claiming the respective position.

The spotlight will be on the Kuwait Club-Qurain final, which brings together the ambitions of an emerging contender and the experience of the defending champion, who is seeking to extend its recent dominance of the competition.



Qurain shoots over Qadsia defender during the semifinal clash.

Qurain will contest the first league final in the club's history since its establishment in 2011. Under national coach Yahya Kulaib, and with American professional Robinson Love, the team has enjoyed an impressive campaign, highlighted by eliminating Qadsia in the semifinals with back-to-back victories.

Its historic progress to the final reflects the club's focus on youth development, which has produced a promising group of young players who have combined effectively with the professional imports. The improvement has enabled Qurain to compete with the league's established teams.

Kuwait Club, meanwhile, will be looking to defend its crown. The defending champion will draw on its players' experience and technical quality, as well as the momentum gained from its recent West Asia Super League campaign, where it reached the semifinals before losing to Lebanon's Sagesse.

Al-Arabi, Khaitan & Yarmouk book Cup quarterfinal spots



Al Arabi player shoots the ball as teammate and rivals look on.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Al-Arabi, Khaitan and Yarmouk advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2025-2026 Kuwait Handball Federation Cup after securing victories in their preliminary-round matches at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Al-Arabi edged Qurain 38-35, Khaitan defeated Nasr 31-27, while Yarmouk cruised to a 43-32 win over Sahel to seal their places in the last eight.

The quarterfinals will be played on Nov 10 and 11 at the same venue. Khaitan will take on Burgan, Yarmouk will face Kazma, and Fahaheel will meet Sulaibikhat. The standout fixture will see Al-Arabi go head-to-head with Kuwait Club.

The semifinals are set for Nov 13, with the final scheduled for Nov 16. The remaining teams will be aiming to maintain their momentum and move closer to lifting the cup.

Antonelli becomes youngest champ in F1 history at age 20

'We did it, we did it'

MEXICO CITY, Nov 2, (AP): After crossing the finish line of the Mexico City Grand Prix behind race winner Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, F1 history-maker Kimi Antonelli placed his hands on the steering wheel and his voice cracked as he said, "We did it, we did it."

Although the 20-year-old Mercedes driver finished third in the Mexican capital on Sunday, he became the youngest champion in the history of Formula 1.

"I'm still trying to realize and understand what just happened, when you work so hard and then you finally achieve it is truly special," said Antonelli, who was joined by his parents and younger sister. "All the emotions come, to be able to witness this moment with my family is a moment I will always remember."

Antonelli, who secured the title with four races remaining, said the final lap was complicated by the excitement of what he had achieved - he began to savor it even before crossing the finish line.

"I think I lost two seconds because I could not see ahead, I think I saw two Ferraris," he said with a smile. "It was very special, a lot of memories went through my mind at that moment, and I let it all out after achieving one of my biggest dreams.

Antonelli, the first Italian to win the title since Alberto Ascari in 1953, took an unassailable lead in the standings over teammate George Russell and Ferrari's Hamilton.

Sebastian Vettel was the previous youngest champion at age 23 in 2010.



Mercedes driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli of Italy celebrates his world champion title after the Mexico Grand Prix Formula One race in Mexico City. (AP)

Although the Italian driver knew, after winning the United States Grand Prix, that the title was firmly within his grasp, his first few days in Mexico were not easy; he fell ill, even though he claimed on Sunday to be in his best physical shape.

But the greatest challenge was the mental battle that came with having the achievement so close within reach.

"The weekend has not been easy; I kept hearing the same thing over and over again. It is not easy to hear congratulations on a win when the job is not yet done. But hearing it repeatedly made me realize that I could actually achieve it."

Verstappen, meanwhile, claimed his sixth victory at the Mexico City Grand Prix, further cementing his affinity with the circuit.

"The 'Max-ico' Grand Prix will be a great name to call it," Verstappen said with a laugh. "To be honest I love the city and the fans, but I have no idea why I have won it six years, it just happened. It always comes together for me here."

"For 73 years, our country has waited for this moment, and today an entire nation will celebrate one of its own reaching the very pinnacle of our sport," said Formula 1 CEO Stefano Domenicali.

"Today, his name joins the legends of our sport. A new chapter in Formula 1 history has been written, and I firmly believe this is only the beginning of an extraordinary legacy."

The race was stopped on lap 46 with a red flag after Valtteri Bottas crashed into the wall at the first corner, following issues with his right-side suspension.

Cadillac reported that the driver was given "further medical assessments as a precaution." Bottas had got out of the car unaided and waved to the fans before leaving the track.

At the restart, Verstappen was first - followed by Charles Leclerc, Hamilton, Antonelli, Lando Norris and Russell - and the Red Bull driver did not let the win slip away.

After Mexico, F1 will head to Brazil and then to Las Vegas. It remains uncertain whether the final two scheduled Grands Prix - in Qatar and Abu Dhabi - will take place, given instability in the region.

Warriors top Clippers

Lendeborg scores career-high 37

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 2, (AP): Rookie Yaxel Lendeborg scored a career-high 37 points and dished out six assists in a game Golden State rested stars Stephen Curry and Draymond Green, and the Warriors beat the Los Angeles Clippers 124-112 for their fourth straight win.

Lendeborg notched his fourth game with 20 or more points, scoring five straight midway through the third quarter that gave the Warriors their biggest lead to that point at 83-68. He shot 13 for 19 - 6 of 11 from 3-point range - and his points were the most by a Warriors rookie since Curry went off for 42 on April 14, 2010, at Portland.

With two 30-point performances among his initial seven games, Lendeborg joined Hall of Famers Wilt Chamberlain and Rick Barry as the only other Warriors to do so. Lendeborg bounced back from a tough outing in a win against the Lakers on Friday in which he fouled out.

Brandon Williams scored 17 points off the bench as the Golden State reserves contributed 40 points in all. Rui Hachimura had 24 points and Kobe Sanders came off the bench to score 16 for the Clippers, who lost their fifth game in a row.

Lakers 131, Raptors 125

In Los Angeles, Luka Doncic had 45 points, a season-high 15 rebounds, six assists and five steals in another prolific performance while leading the Los Angeles Lakers to victory over the Toronto Raptors .

Doncic hit eight 3-pointers and increased his early lead in the NBA scoring race by dropping at least 37 points in his fourth consecutive game. The Slovenian superstar hit that mark in the first three quarters against Toronto, and he preserved the win late while scoring 40 or more points for the 20th time in his 98 regular-season games with the Lakers.



Golden State Warriors forward Yaxel Lendeborg (1) reacts after a three-point basket for a career-high 37 points against the Los Angeles Clippers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Lisbon parts way with Borges: Sporting Lisbon is parting ways with coach Rui Borges after the club's slow start to the season, with reserve-team coach Tiago Fernandes taking temporary control ahead of the Champions League match against Shakhtar Donetsk in London on Tuesday.

Sporting is third in the Portuguese league, already nine points behind leader Porto.

The club said in a statement Monday that it has begun discussions with Rui Borges "with a view to terminating his employment contract." (AP)

Change Name

I, Ali Asger holder of Indian Passport No. Z6150725 issued at India on 05/11/2020 permanent resident of 162 Modi Street, 4th Floor, Flat No. 15, Fort, Mumbai – 400001, Maharashtra, India, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from " ALI ASGER SHAIKH ISMAIL SHAJAPURWALA" to " ALI ASGER ISMAIL SHAJAPURWALA" with immediate effect.

Wushu makes Olympic debut at Dakar YOG

Ecuadorian swimmer claims opening gold

DAKAR, Nov 2, (Xinhua): Ecuador's Elvira Espinosa won the first gold medal of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games in swimming on Sunday, as wushu made its Youth Olympic debut. Espinosa won the women's 400m freestyle in a personal-best time of 4:22.87.

"I feel so happy to win the first gold medal here at this Youth Olympic Games. I'm so grateful to all the people who support me," Espinosa told Xinhua, adding, "That's my best result in all the competitions I had, and this gold medal is the best of the best." South Africa's Leah Markgraaff took silver in 4:26.13, while Belgium's Celya Paques claimed bronze in 4:28.37.

Argentina's Cecilia Dieleke won the women's 200m backstroke in 2:10.05, while New Zealand's Ariel Muchirahondo claimed the men's 200m backstroke title in 1:59.15. Russia's Serafima Fokina won the women's 100m butterfly in 59.81 seconds, while Egypt's Zain Ali clocked 52.16 to take gold in the men's 100m butterfly.

In judo, Azerbaijan's Ibrahim Talibov won the men's 55kg title, Ukraine's Khazar Heydarov triumphed in the men's 66kg category, and Sema Yuksel of Türkiye claimed the women's 44kg crown.

At the Dakar Exhibition Center, wushu made its Youth Olympic debut, with athletes from 47 delegations competing across four combined events: men's and women's Changquan combined, and men's and women's Taijiquan combined.

China's Lin Yilei topped the men's Changquan combined preliminary round to advance to the knockout stage.

U.S. athlete Marshall Brayton, who finished third in the men's Taijiquan combined preliminary round, said: "It's a really big moment in Wushu. I hope we can continue on this upward trend and become more globalized." The wushu competition will continue through November 3, when all four gold medals will be decided. Its inclusion in the Dakar YOG marks a significant step in the sport's Olympic development while bringing an element of traditional Chinese sports culture to Africa.

Chinese athletes also made strong starts in several other events.

In badminton, Zhang Yixin defeated Finland's Ananya Kandala 2-0 in the women's singles group stage, while Hong Tianyue beat Indonesia's Rayhan Pandu Aksara 2-1 in the men's singles.

In women's beach volleyball, China's Zhuang Ming and Qi Siyu defeated Paraguay's Sofia Martinez and Maria Estefania Gomez Martinez 2-0 in their final pool match. The Chinese pair finished the preliminary stage with a 2-1 win-loss record to advance to the knockout stage.



Gold medalists Su Juntao/Liu Lili (right) of China react during the awarding ceremony after the mixed double sculls gold medal race of the rowing coastal beach sprints between Su Juntao/Liu Lili of China and Lukas Schoenhuber/Alena Lux of Austria at the Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Saly, south of Dakar, Senegal. (Xinhua)



Elvira Espinosa of Ecuador competes during the fastest heat of the women's 400m freestyle event at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal. (Xinhua)





Al Arabi fans came out in their numbers to support the team.

Sports

Al-Arabi thrashes Qadsia to revive title hopes

Jahra stuns Fahaheel with emphatic three-goal win

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Al-Arabi delivered a commanding performance to claim a 3-0 derby victory over arch-rivals Qadsia in the seventh round of the Zain Premier League at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium, breathing new life into their title campaign.

Bosnian coach Darko Nestorovic, overseeing his second game in charge this season, got his tactics spot on as the Green secured all three points with an impressive display.

Nestorovic has now guided Al-Arabi to both of its victories this season, following their 2-0 success over Fahaheel in the previous round. His side remained compact and disciplined in the first half before stepping up the pressure after the break and scoring three unanswered goals.

The convincing result delighted Al-Arabi's supporters, who saw their team rediscover its confidence and strengthen its hopes of competing for the league title.

Qadsia, meanwhile, struggled to find a way past Al-Arabi's organized defence and goalkeeper Ahmed Adi, despite enjoying considerable possession and controlling much of the first-half action.

The Yellow also lacked attacking sharpness after the interval, with foreign players Hamza Khabba, Ayoub Lakhdar and Nasser Al-Rawahi failing to make the expected impact. Qadsia coach Mohammed Ibrahim was also unable to make the necessary tactical adjustments as his side struggled to cope with Al-Arabi's defensive organization.



KUNA photos

Al Arabi and Al Qadsia players pose for a group photo before proceedings.

Following a tightly contested first half, Al-Arabi broke the deadlock immediately after the restart, with Ali Khalaf scoring in the 46th minute. Anabo Ewoala extended the lead in the 65th minute before substitute Bandar Al-Salama completed the scoring five minutes later.

The victory took Al-Arabi to nine points in sixth place, while Qadsia remained third with 12 points.

In another seventh-round match, Jahra pulled off a surprise 3-0 victory over Fahaheel at Mubarak Al-Ayar Stadium.

The result lifted Jahra to seven points, while Fahaheel stayed on nine.

Al-Arabi team manager Abdullah Al-Hayeri said derby encounters between Al-Arabi and Qadsia are difficult to predict, stressing that the players' high level of concentration was a major factor behind the victory.



Al Arabi player wins a tackle against an opponent.

He praised Nestorovic's coaching abilities and his effective handling of the players, adding that the squad had been determined to put its disappointing start to the season behind it.

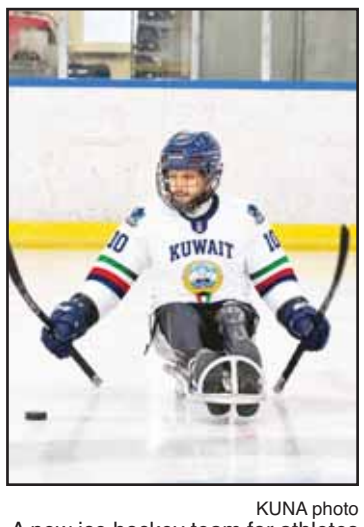
Al-Hayeri said the players were eager to produce performances worthy of the club's history and supporters.

He also thanked the fans for their continued backing, apologized for the team's earlier setbacks and pledged that everyone would work hard to restore the winning momentum and make the supporters happy.

Al-Ajmi announces plan to form ice hockey team for disabled athletes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2: Kuwait Winter Sports Club President Fahid Al-Ajmi said the club is taking steps to introduce athletes with disabilities to winter sports and enable them to represent Kuwait in international competitions for athletes with disabilities.

Al-Ajmi said the initiative will start with the formation of a Kuwaiti ice hockey team, providing young people from this group with an opportunity to participate. The club also plans to extend their involvement to other winter disciplines under its supervision, including figure skating, curling and speed skating.



KUNA photo
A new ice hockey team for athletes with disabilities.

He said the club has begun intensive consultations with several schools that have students with disabilities to identify those interested in the sport and train them in its basic skills and techniques. He called on interested individuals to contact the club's administration to join the initiative.

The club aims initially to prepare 20 ice hockey players for the ninth Asian Winter Games, which will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in the winter of 2029. The players are also expected to take part in subsequent international competitions.

Kazma without Shaabi & Robson for Erbil clash in Gulf Champions League

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

BAGHDAD, Nov 2: Kazma will wrap up its preparations on Tuesday in the Iraqi city of Erbil ahead of Wednesday's meeting with Erbil in the third round of Group C in the Gulf Club Champions League. The team will train at Hindreen Stadium for its final session before the match.

The Orange is looking to get their campaign back on track and secure its first points after losing its opening two games, 2-0 to Saudi Arabia's Ettifaq and 2-1 to the UAE's Ajman. The results have left Kazma at the bottom of the group without a point.

Its hopes of reaching the next round remain alive, as the competition sends the top two teams from each of the three groups, along with the two best third-placed sides, into the next stage.



Brazilian Patrick Robson among Kazma's key absentees.

Nevertheless, Kazma needs a positive result against Erbil, leaving Croatian coach Dragan Tadić with the task of finding the right combination to deliver the desired outcome.

Kazma will be without two foreign players for the encounter. Algerian defender Idris Shaabi is suspended after his dismissal in the opening-round match against Ettifaq, while Brazilian forward Patrick Robson is sidelined with a fractured hand. Robson has had his hand placed in a cast and is expected to be out of training for two weeks.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club will also complete its preparations for Wednesday's AFC Champions League Two Group A fixture against Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium.

Start diving, Iraola tells Isak after Liverpool denied penalty against Arsenal

LIVERPOOL, England, Nov 2, (AP): Liverpool manager Andoni Iraola says he will tell Alexander Isak to start diving to the ground in an effort to earn penalties after the Sweden striker failed to go down when clearly having his jersey pulled in the 1-0 loss to Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday.

Isak was prevented from reaching a cross into the penalty area in the 21st minute of the match at Anfield because Arsenal defender Jurrien Timber had a hold of the Liverpool player's shirt.

Instead of falling to the ground, Isak simply laughed toward Timber and didn't even bother appealing for a penalty.

"That's the problem we have with the game - because he doesn't dive and go to the floor," Iraola said in a post-match interview on Sky Sports. "If he goes to the floor, they call the penalty, 100%. Should it be like this? No. But it is what it is.

"Now the manager should tell Alex, 'Next time you have to go to the floor, otherwise they won't call it.'"

Asked if he will tell Isak to do that, Iraola said: "Yes, definitely."

Arsenal eked out its first win at Anfield in 14 years by beating Liverpool 1-0 through Kai Havertz's first-half goal to climb to first place in the Premier League on Sunday.

Not since 2012 - when current manager Mikel Arteta was commanding the team's midfield - had Arsenal won at Liverpool's intimidating home ground.

The curse was broken by Havertz, who slotted home a close-range finish at the back post after a low center across the face of goal by all-action midfielder Declan Rice in the 16th minute.

Arsenal then defended doggedly, especially in the first half when the visitors were pinned back by Liverpool, to keep its sixth clean sheet in nine games of a title defense that is going according to plan.



Liverpool's Ronald Araujo, left, challenges for the ball with Arsenal's Gabriel during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Arsenal in Liverpool, England. (AP)

"In the end, that defensive line, the way we stick together, that togetherness we have, is undefeated," Rice said. "It's nothing I've ever seen before."

With this eighth victory of the campaign, the Gunners leapfrogged Manchester City into top spot and holds a three-point lead.

Perhaps more presciently, given the uncertainty surrounding City's future following its guilty verdict for large-scale financial rule-breaking, Arsenal is now five points ahead of third-place Brighton - the only team to defeat the defending champions so far.

The loss breaks a run of five straight wins by Liverpool since its only previous defeat this season - by Man City, also at Anfield on Oct. 11.

During the furious onslaught in the final 25 minutes of the first half, Florian Wirtz struck the crossbar with a free kick, Alexis Mac Allister headed over the bar when unmarked and Liverpool had a number of penalty appeals waved away.

Ultimately, though, the hosts didn't have a shot on target all match and stayed in fifth place, already nine points behind Arsenal.

"Some days it feels like we are at the top," said Liverpool midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai, "and some days it feels like we are not even close. It takes time to get to the top."

The only goal was avoidable on Liverpool's part.

Goalkeeper Alisson Becker attempted a short pass out from the back at a goal kick but it got intercepted by Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard, setting up a counterattack.

The ball was fed to the right, where Rice - on the overlap - threaded a cross between Alisson and Liverpool's defenders, teeing up Havertz for an easy finish to become the all-time leading German scorer in the Premier League. He has 46 goals, one more than former Man City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan.

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