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Amir, Crown Prince, PM receive KDIPA annual report

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director-General Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace Tuesday morning, who presented KDIPA's 11th annual report for 2025-2026.

His Highness commended the diligent efforts of the authority's officials and their achievements and cooperation in investment, which contributed to advancing Kuwait's economic development, wishing them continued success in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

Continued on Page 6


Amiri Diwan photo
HH the Amir receives KDIPA Director-General.


Crown Prince Diwan photo
HH the Crown Prince receives KDIPA Director-General.


PM Diwan photo
HH the PM receives KDIPA Director-General.

Opinion



Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Empower cooperative societies to drive growth

REPORTS are published weekly detailing how the board members and administrators of various cooperative societies are investigated by Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) or referred to the Public Prosecution on allegations of financial manipulation and embezzlement.

It is essential to recognize that these organizations were never meant to operate solely for retail sales and commercial gain, as their foundation is deeply rooted in social service. This guiding philosophy dates back to the mid-1960s, when HH the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad observed China's modern cooperative model. Impressed by the core concept that "the consumer is the owner," he was keen to transform and modernize the cooperative sector in Kuwait to reflect such vision. Based on this principle, he led efforts to update the cooperative system of Kuwait to ensure it fulfills its broader civic mission.

Over the years, successive governments have allotted land for cooperatives to promote investment and development.

Under the law, the civic and social responsibilities of cooperatives in local communities are formally acknowledged, involved in certain tasks like street beautification, neighborhood sanitation, organizing social events, developing education through public libraries and offering academic guidance to students.

Supported by state resources, cooperatives evolved into the main economic pillar of the nation. Regrettably, self-serving individuals began to exploit cooperatives for personal enrichment, which became a trend after the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion.

Deviating from their main purpose, the cooperatives were increasingly used as avenues for accumulating private fortunes or securing parliamentary seats and influential posts. This deterioration worsened when 'wasta' (nepotism and cronyism) infiltrated public institutions, including the cooperative sector.

Lately, instances of misconduct surged, up to the point that legal referrals turned

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Drug trade, revenge send 3 to death row

Facebook feud turns into fatal vendetta

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Salem Al-Asousi, with Judges Hussein Al-Durei and Talal Al-Rashidi as panel members, sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen and an Arab expatriate, who remains at large, to death for smuggling narcotics into the country with the intent to traffic them.

The verdict followed an investigation by the Drug Control General Department, which led to the arrest of the first defendant in a carefully planned security operation.

The second defendant was sentenced in absentia, as he remains a fugitive. Both were found guilty of importing narcotics for distribution and trafficking.

In addition, the Criminal Court -- presided over by Judge

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Cabinet clears path for private developers


PM Diwan photo
HH the PM chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet approved on Tuesday a draft decree-law amending certain provisions of Law No. 27 of 1995 on private sector participation in developing state-owned vacant land for housing purposes.

The proposed amendments aim to allow the transfer of part of the land allocated by the State to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to certain state entities, in line with the public interest, while enabling private sector participation in developing state-owned vacant land.

During its weekly meeting, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet referred the draft decree-law to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for approval.

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Training, career boost eyed

MoH bolsters nursing ranks

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah, emphasized the importance of supporting nursing staff and promoting their professional development through training programs, continuing education, and workshops.

He stressed that nursing is a vital component of the ministry's workforce, and any challenges facing nursing personnel directly affect the performance of the healthcare system and the quality of services provided to patients.

Speaking during a workshop titled "Innovative Strategies for a Sustainable Workforce," organized by the Nursing Services Department, Sheikh Salman reaffirmed the ministry's support for the efforts of nursing professionals.

He affirmed the ministry's readiness to work with nursing staff to address challenges and explore ways to advance the profession.

Sheikh Salman also highlighted the importance of training and education, particularly given the diverse nationalities of medical and nursing personnel, each bringing different backgrounds, cultures, and professional practices.

He stressed that continuous training is essential to strengthen communication skills and improve patient interaction within the Kuwaiti context, while helping newly recruited staff better understand local society and its specific needs.


MoH photo
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah, speaks during a workshop titled "Innovative Strategies for a Sustainable Workforce."

Furthermore, Sheikh Salman honored the three winning projects in a competition for innovative nursing initiatives, which featured 14 entries.

He stressed that the creativity and talent demonstrated by nursing staff during the workshop deserve recognition, support, and encouragement.

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Day by Day

HOW about organizing a monthly meeting between government officials, particularly select ministers, and media leaders?

Also, why not make the offices of ministers and officials accessible to members of the public, allowing them to voice their concerns directly? This practice is followed in many countries worldwide.

Citizens from all walks of life, including ordinary individuals, business executives, and representatives of sectors such as industry, agriculture, and journalism, could present the pressing issues affecting them directly to the relevant ministers. After all, media professionals are often well-informed about the challenges and difficulties facing the public.

We sincerely hope that HH the Prime Minister, or his Deputy, will give this proposal serious consideration.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait social aid reaches 31,883 families

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The latest official statistics revealed that the number of families receiving support from the Social and Family Welfare General Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs reached 31,883 in 2025 and the amount of aid given to these families totaled KD15,920,396.92.

According to the official data obtained by the newspaper, 880 beneficiaries were reinstated after the thorough technical review and re-assessment of case files, confirming that they fulfilled all the criteria. The amount allocated for these beneficiaries totaled KD11,905,004.70.

Updates included adjustment of the amount of aid based on changes in the living conditions of the concerned beneficiaries. A total of KD552,527.987 was allocated to those whose support payments increased and KD1,616,161.179 for those whose support payments decreased.

A reliable source told the newspaper that the statistics proves the commitment of the general department to maintain accurate budget allocation in strict compliance with the regulations.

The source added that such organizational efforts are being exerted under the direct supervision and oversight of Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.


Philippine Embassy photo
Ambassador Jose A. Cabrera III (center, in white), and Second Secretary and Consul Aaron Erick A. Lozada (fifth from left), stand with PANIK members at the event.

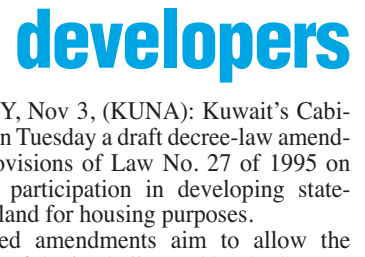
Filipinos answer Kuwait's call

Philippine Embassy, PANIK lead life-saving blood drive

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait and the Pinoy Ambulance Nurses in Kuwait (PANIK) held a Blood Donation Drive on Friday, 30 October 2026, from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Cooperative Blood Transfusion Center at Al-Adan Hospital.

The activity was conducted in support of the blood donation program of the Ministry of Health of the State of Kuwait and in coordination with the Blood Transfusion Center's management. A total of 50 donors from the Filipino community took part, resulting in the collection of 41 units of blood.

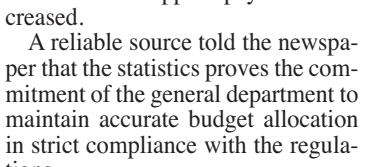
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2 Ahmadi Governor, Al-Jarallah exchange views on media role and City's heritage



7 talabat marks the conclusion of Academy X's third edition



8 National Bank of Kuwait sponsors 'Off the Grid' initiative to foster deeper connection between youth, nature, & heritage

Hormuz heats up as US strikes Iran

RIYADH, Nov 3, (Agencies): The United States has conducted defensive strikes on some Iranian targets in the Strait of Hormuz, a U.S. official said Monday, on the eve of crucial midterm elections.

Iranian state television reported that explosions were heard on Qeshm Island. The official, who wasn't authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said that "Iranians using surface to air missiles against U.S. assets" had been targeted.

The strikes appeared to be limited as opposed to a return to full hostilities but followed President Donald Trump previously saying the U.S. would not launch new strikes on Iran before Tuesday's midterms. The unpopular war and the resulting impact on U.S. gasoline prices and other parts of the economy have been a vulnerability for Republicans as they try to keep control of Congress.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:43	Asr	14:37
Sunrise	06:03	Maghrib	17:00
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:21



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



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

Kuwait leadership congratulates Panama on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

In his message, His Highness the Amir wished President Mulino good health and the people of Panama continued progress, prosperity and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to the Panamanian president, conveying his best wishes for his good health and further progress and prosperity for the people of Panama.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable to President Mulino, extending his congratulations on the occasion of Panama's Independence Day.

Kuwait leadership congratulates Dominica on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Tuesday to President of the Commonwealth of Dominica Sylvanie Burton on the occasion of her country's Independence Day.

In his message, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere congratulations to the president and the people of Dominica, wishing them continued progress, prosperity and development.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Burton, extending his best wishes to her and the Dominican people for further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to the Dominican president, marking the country's Independence Day.

Kuwait expresses solidarity with Syria over deadly eastern floods

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwait expressed solidarity and sympathy with Syria following floods caused by heavy rainfall in the country's eastern regions, leaving people dead, injured and missing.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended sincere condolences to the Syrian government, people and victims' families, wishing those injured a speedy recovery and expressing hope that ongoing search and rescue efforts would succeed in locating all missing people.

MEW promotes 2,830 employees

CAPT opens bids for 3 electricity grid tenders

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Adel Al-Zamil issued Administrative Decision No. 1832/2026 authorizing the professional grade advancement of 2,830 employees in various departments.

Article One of the decision, which was issued on Oct 26, stipulates the advancement of the employees listed in the attached schedule. Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs Ahmed Al-Nama had earlier approved this advancement.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) recently opened bids for three ministry tenders for the supply, installation and maintenance of 11 kV medium-voltage and low-voltage overhead lines, along with the related works – one tender each for the northern, southern and central areas.

A total of 18 companies were qualified during the bidding process -- seven companies for the southern area, five for the northern area and six for the central area.

The CAPT Board of Directors referred the tender documents to the ministry for review and presentation of technical recommendations within 30 days from the date of issuing the decision.

These three tenders are in line with the ongoing efforts of the ministry to improve the performance of the electricity grid, maintain its stability, ensure power supply round the clock and provide electricity for new consumers.

PAHW introduces e-service to halt rent allowance deductions

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has introduced an electronic service on the unified government e-services application, 'Sahel.'

This service enables citizens to submit a request to stop the collection of rent allowance debt—deductions made through their employers.

The initiative is part of the ongoing efforts of PAHW to develop its digital services, streamline procedures for citizens, and ease the completion transactions without in-person visits.

On its official Instagram account, PAHW explained that citizens can request stopping rent allowance debt deductions by accessing the 'Sahel' app, selecting the 'Services' icon, then choosing 'Public Authority for Housing Welfare', navigating to 'Rent Allowance Services', and selecting the option 'Request to stop the collection of rent allowance debt through the employer.

The application process includes entering the required information, specifying the entity responsible for the deduction, adding any relevant remarks and submitting the request electronically. A confirmation message will then appear, indicating the transaction was received and forwarded to the concerned department for processing. Applicants can track the status of their request through the app until final approval is obtained, then they will be notified through the 'Notifications' icon.

Jahra co-op branch employees convicted of siphoning supplies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Nasser Al-Bader, with Judges Abdulaziz Al-Mu'adhadi and Abdulhadi Al-Hajri as members and Yaqoub Al-Ballam as court clerk, imposed KD3,000 on the manager of the branch of a cooperative society for misappropriating food supplies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Four other defendants—an Egyptian and others of Bangladeshi and Indian nationalities—were sentenced to three years in prison, followed by deportation after serving their prison term.

The ruling was issued after the defendants were convicted of misappropriating food supplies from a cooperative branch Jahra Governorate, without the knowledge of the shareholders.

Case files indicate that the defendants siphoned off quantities of various food items—ranging from a quarter to half a kilogram per transaction—and then misappropriated these items.

Ahmadi Governor, Al-Jarallah exchange views on media role and City's heritage

Governor seeks UNESCO heritage status for historic Ahmadi City

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad met with Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah at his office in the headquarters of Ahmadi Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, they talked about the vital role that media institutions play in tackling societal issues and public services, effectively communicating the citizens' aspirations and needs to officials, and establishing connections among community segments.

They also touched on the contributions of the media in showcasing development and service projects in the governorate, along with initiatives to improve the services offered to residents.

The governor underscored the important function of the media as a reliable source for accurate reporting of information, news and events, as well as for addressing community concerns responsibly.

He expressed his gratitude for the collaborative efforts between the newspapers and the governorate, while stressing the need for continuous cooperation in the interest of the public.

On the other hand, Al-Jarallah listened to the detailed account of Sheikh Humoud Jaber regarding the history of Ahmadi City, which was completed as a fully integrated city in 1949 and the oil wealth on its land that has been a source of prosperity for Kuwait.

They also discussed various figures who served as governors of Ahmadi over the past years.

The governor revealed that upon assuming his duties, he researched the city's history and concluded that it deserves recognition by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), considering its unique architectural character, urban layout and environment. He said he is currently contacting the organization to include Ahmadi City under its umbrella, indicating that in the 1940s and 1950s, it was a destination for visitors from all over the world—a legacy shown on its walls, architecture and streets till date.

He pointed out that the governorate is now home to more than a million individuals, the majority of whom are Kuwaitis.

He added that the governorate has a lot of gardens, parks, and traditional markets, as well as the Ahmadi Cinema—one of the oldest movie theaters in the country—which once served as a popular weekend destination for families. He mentioned that the governorate is currently working on its renovation to ensure that the new generation can enjoy it just as their parents and grandparents did.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the governor gave Al-Jarallah a tour of the governorate's headquarters, where he showed a collection of historical photographs featuring monarchs and heads of states who visited Ahmadi in the past.

The governor reiterated his hope to have Ahmadi City registered as a heritage site with UNESCO, affirming that efforts toward this goal are ongoing, even if the initial registration covers only a portion of the city.

It is worth noting that on Jan 21, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) added Ahmadi City to UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites.









Photos by Rezk Tawfiq
Ahmadi Governor discusses UNESCO bid and City's historic legacy with Ahmed Al-Jarallah.

Gathering highlights Saudi-Kuwaiti fraternal relations

Saudi embassy hosts monthly diplomatic diwaniya

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Kuwait organized the monthly diplomatic diwaniya, with diplomats and representatives of international organizations in attendance.

Deputy Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmed Al-Shehri and several embassy staff warmly welcomed the guests and appreciated their participation in the meeting, which is a manifestation of the depth of fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and an affirmation of the vital role that the embassy plays in strengthening cooperation and communication between the Kingdom and the diplomatic community in Kuwait.

A friendly atmosphere and respectful conversations dominated the meeting, confirming the commitment of Saudi Arabia to intensify its diplomatic and regional presence by organizing such events, which translate its approach based on openness and rapprochement.

Meanwhile, the diplomats and other guests praised the level of organization and the warm reception, stressing that this meeting reflects the generosity and hospitality of the Kingdom, as well as the civilized image of Saudi diplomacy.







Photos by Rezk Tawfiq
Deputy Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmed Al-Shehri with members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations during the monthly diplomatic diwaniya hosted by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Kuwait.

Kuwait records 206 juvenile complaints, 101 criminal cases

Cyber-extortion, bullying pose growing threats to Kuwaiti youth

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Colonel Khalid Al-Hashash, Assistant Director of the Juvenile Protection Department, stated that protecting juveniles from various risks and behavioral problems is a top priority for the department, particularly in light of the increasing challenges they encounter such as cyber-extortion, cyberbullying, school violence, traffic offenses, and the use of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

Colonel Al-Hashash stressed the need for a coordinated approach involving security agencies, families, and state institutions to reduce these risks and handle their underlying causes.

In a recent interview with the daily, he revealed that the Child Protection Section had handled 206 complaints this year, in addition to recording 76 misdemeanors and 25 felonies.

Colonel Al-Hashash also highlighted the ongoing security efforts and awareness campaigns aimed at responding to reports and cases involving juveniles while strengthening measures to protect and support them.

He explained that the responsibilities of the Juvenile Investigation Division extend beyond taking legal action against juveniles accused of offenses. They also include examining individual cases, assessing their social circumstances, and working with families and relevant authorities to help rehabilitate their behavior.

Colonel Al-Hashash emphasized the importance of early intervention in preventing juveniles from engaging in delinquent behavior.

The following is the full interview:



Colonel Khalid Al-Hashash, Assistant Director of the Juvenile Protection Department

Question: What distinguishes the role of the Juvenile Investigation Division from that of other security agencies in handling cases involving juveniles?

Answer: Other security agencies focus primarily on law enforcement duties, such as handling traffic violations and carrying out responsibilities within their respective jurisdictions. These include general security, patrol units, and other entities tasked with making arrests, detaining individuals, and receiving reports.

In contrast, the Juvenile Investigation Department is specifically mandated by law to conduct inquiries and preliminary investigations into cases involving juveniles and refer juvenile offenders to the Juvenile Prosecution.

Q. What are the most prominent risks currently facing juveniles in Kuwaiti society? How does the department address them?

A. Traffic violations, violence, bullying, cyber-extortion, and the sale of tobacco products to minors are among the most significant risks facing juveniles today.

We work to address these challenges through continuous monitoring, receiving complaints and reports, and conducting ongoing awareness campaigns.

We also maintain a field presence, particularly to combat the sale of tobacco and e-cigarette products to minors.

Q. How do you handle cases in which a juvenile is exploited by older individuals?

A. In all cases of exploitation, the juvenile is treated as a victim. The perpetrator is dealt with according to the Juvenile Law if the offender is also a juvenile, or the Child Rights Law if the offender is an adult, such as a close relative or primary caregiver.

The law provides for harsher penalties against adults who exploit minors.

Q. What are the most notable cases you have observed recently that require intensified efforts to protect juveniles?

A. Extortion, cyberbullying, school violence, loss of life and property resulting from minors driving vehicles, and emerging cases involving the use of electronic hookahs (vapes) mixed with narcotics or psychotropic substances.

Q. How do you handle altercations and physical assaults involving minors, whether inside or outside schools?

A. Legal procedures are initiated by apprehending those involved in the altercation and conducting the necessary investigations. If the incident occurs on school premises, coordination is established with the Ministry of Education to obtain the relevant information and evidence before referring the case file to the Juvenile Prosecution.

- Traffic offences top cases involving juveniles in Kuwait
- Al-Hashash calls for joint efforts to protect juveniles
- Kuwait intensifies campaign against juvenile delinquency
- New traffic law helps curb underage driving

Q. What is the role of the Juvenile Protection Department in handling cases involving the use or distribution of narcotics when a minor is involved?

A. In addition to the legal procedures carried out by the relevant authorities, such as apprehending suspects and referring them for investigation, the specialized unit within the Juvenile Protection Department conducts a case study and opens a file for the minor, classifying them as being "at risk of delinquency."

Q. What procedures are followed when minors are suspected of involvement in theft, assault, or other criminal offenses?

A. The legal procedures stipulated under the Juvenile Law are applied. Minors are either summoned or apprehended in accordance with the applicable legal provisions, questioned, and subjected to the necessary investigations. Their cases are then referred to the Juvenile Prosecution.

Q. What role does the family play in the procedures followed when a minor is apprehended or summoned in connection with a particular case?

A. The family is an essential partner in this process, and its cooperation is vital. The presence of a parent or legal guardian is mandatory so that we can explain the nature of the case and the extent of the problem.

This helps facilitate efforts to correct the juvenile's behavior, obtain a formal undertaking to ensure proper care and supervision, and conduct a case study to assess the juvenile's social circumstances.

Q. What message would you give parents who notice sudden changes in their children's behavior or find that they have started associating with friends who may expose them to legal or social risks?

A. Parents should not ignore such changes or resort to physical punishment. Instead, they should make an effort to understand their children's problems and build closer relationships with them.

We also strongly encourage parents to seek assistance from specialized advisory bodies, including those concerned with child and family welfare at the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Health. Any concerns should be reported promptly to ensure they are addressed before they escalate.

Q. What are the key statistics recorded by the Child Protection Section of the Juvenile Protection Department this year?

A. The Child Protection Section of the Juvenile Protection Department handled 206 complaints this year, in addition to recording 76 misdemeanors and 25 felonies.

Furthermore, Colonel Al-Hashash explained that an abused juvenile is placed under the care of a trusted family member, following a specific order of priority that begins with the parents, followed by grandparents, and then aunts or uncles, to ensure a safe family environment.

If no suitable family guardian is available, the juvenile is provided with protection and placed in a care facility in coordination with the relevant authorities at the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Colonel Al-Hashash stressed that addressing a problem at an early stage is very different from dealing with it after it has progressed.

He explained that, upon receiving a report, the juvenile's case is carefully studied to identify the underlying causes of their behavioral problems and determine the most appropriate methods of rehabilitation. The necessary measures are then implemented based on the individual circumstances of each case.

Colonel Al-Hashash stated that the new traffic law has contributed significantly to reducing cases of juveniles driving without a license, thanks to stricter penalties and vehicle impoundment.

He revealed that traffic-related offenses are the most common cases handled by the Juvenile Protection Department.



Colonel Al-Hashash speaks to Al-Seyassah/Arab Times reporter Munif Naif.

Officer warns of digital threats

'Juvenile cases are handled with strict confidentiality'



First Lieutenant Aisha Nasser Bin Obaid

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: First Lieutenant Aisha Nasser Bin Obaid, an officer at the Juvenile Protection Department under the General Department of Criminal Investigation, affirmed that cases involving online extortion, bullying, and threats against juveniles are handled with complete confidentiality.

She emphasized that the department prioritizes the psychological well-being of juveniles and takes every measure to protect their privacy and reputation.

Speaking to the daily, First Lieutenant Bin Obaid explained that the department coordinates with the Cybercrime Department to identify and apprehend perpetrators before referring them to the competent authorities.

The department monitors incoming reports, participates in awareness campaigns and events targeting juveniles and their guardians, and receives complaints, all of which are handled with the utmost confidentiality.

She revealed that early detection plays an important role in protecting juveniles, and urged parents to pay attention to sudden changes in their children's behavior, such as declining academic performance, possessing money or items from unknown sources, or displaying unusual patterns of absence or leaving home.

First Lieutenant Bin Obaid explained that if neglect or violence against a minor is established, legal action will be taken in accordance with the law. The law also allows for the juvenile to be moved to a safe environment when necessary.

She said, "One of the main challenges facing the department is the ease with which children can access inappropriate online content or form relationships with strangers. Such situations can expose them to crimes involving individuals who may be located abroad or whose identities are unknown".

Regarding social media monitoring, First Lieutenant Bin Obaid urged parents to closely supervise their children's online activities, monitor their social media use, and be aware of the content they consume to protect them from digital risks and behaviors that could lead to delinquency.

Regarding how to contact the Juvenile Protection Department, First Lieutenant Bin Obaid explained that the Child Protection Section can be reached by calling the hotline No. 147 or the No. 25589535. Both channels are available 24/7 to receive complaints and reports concerning juveniles of all nationalities. All cases are handled with the utmost care, accuracy, and confidentiality.

Ministry outlines priorities for 2030 strategic plan

MoI stresses need for providing services and developing institutional performance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Maj. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib has stressed the importance of adopting a proactive approach to providing services to citizens and residents, enhancing institutional performance and improving the efficiency of the security apparatus, describing these as among the Ministry's top priorities.

This came in a press statement issued on Monday during Al-Wuhaib's participation, in his capacity as head of the committee tasked with preparing and formulating the Ministry's strategic plan, in a strategic meeting to draw up the 2030 plan.

He stressed the need for concerted efforts and a team-oriented approach to develop a realistic and ambitious plan that addresses security needs and keeps pace with future challenges and developments, the statement said.

He also underscored the importance of adopting forward-looking development approaches to enhance the Ministry's readiness, strengthen its ability to achieve its objectives efficiently and effectively, and improve the quality of services provided.

Al-Wuhaib commended the efforts and dedication of the directors general in carrying out their responsibilities, highlighting their pivotal role as key partners in formulating the strategy, given their practical experience and direct understanding of working conditions across the Ministry's various sectors.

The statement noted that the meeting came to fulfill the data-collection and situational assessment phase aiming to assess the current state of security and administrative operations, identify the key challenges, needs and development opportunities, benefit from the expertise of senior leaders in shaping strategic directions and objectives.

Citizen fined KD 1.115 million

Fake property deals land Kuwaiti six years in prison

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The First Chamber of the Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Abdulrahman Al-Darmi, sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to six years in prison and fined him KD 1.115 million, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The defendant was convicted of defrauding fellow citizens and misappropriating their funds by luring them into investing in overseas real estate projects and investment portfolios.

The case stemmed from the defendant's claims that he owned several companies, projects, and plots of land in Kuwait, including land in Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City (Khairan) designated for seaside chalets, as well as real estate portfolios in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Switzerland. He falsely assured investors that these investments would generate substantial returns.

Investigations revealed that the defendant used these claims to lure victims into handing over their money under the pretext of investing it as capital in real estate companies or developing commercial projects. He employed elaborate schemes, contracts, and meetings to create an illusion of legitimacy and lend credibility to his fraudulent activities.

One victim, a restaurant owner, testified that the defendant had invited him to participate in real estate and commercial ventures, claiming to own a real estate portfolio outside Kuwait.

As a result, the victim paid a total of KD 1 million in installments, in addition to KD 1.150 million as a contribution to a real estate company that the defendant claimed had a capital of KD 100 million, in exchange for a 1 percent ownership stake.

Another victim testified that the defendant had misled him by claiming to own land in Khairan and presenting plans to develop chalets.

The victim paid KD 150,000 toward the purchase of a plot of land, only to later discover that the defendant did not actually own it.

This amount was included in the total sum involved in the case.

An officer from the State Security Department confirmed that confidential investigations revealed the defendant had used fictitious real estate projects and non-existent investment portfolios to misappropriate victims' funds while concealing and disguising their illegal origins.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with laundering money obtained through fraud and swindling, as well as misappropriating victims' funds through deceptive methods and false promises of investment returns.

Ultimately, the Court of Cassation sentenced him to six years in prison and imposed a fine of KD 1.115 million.

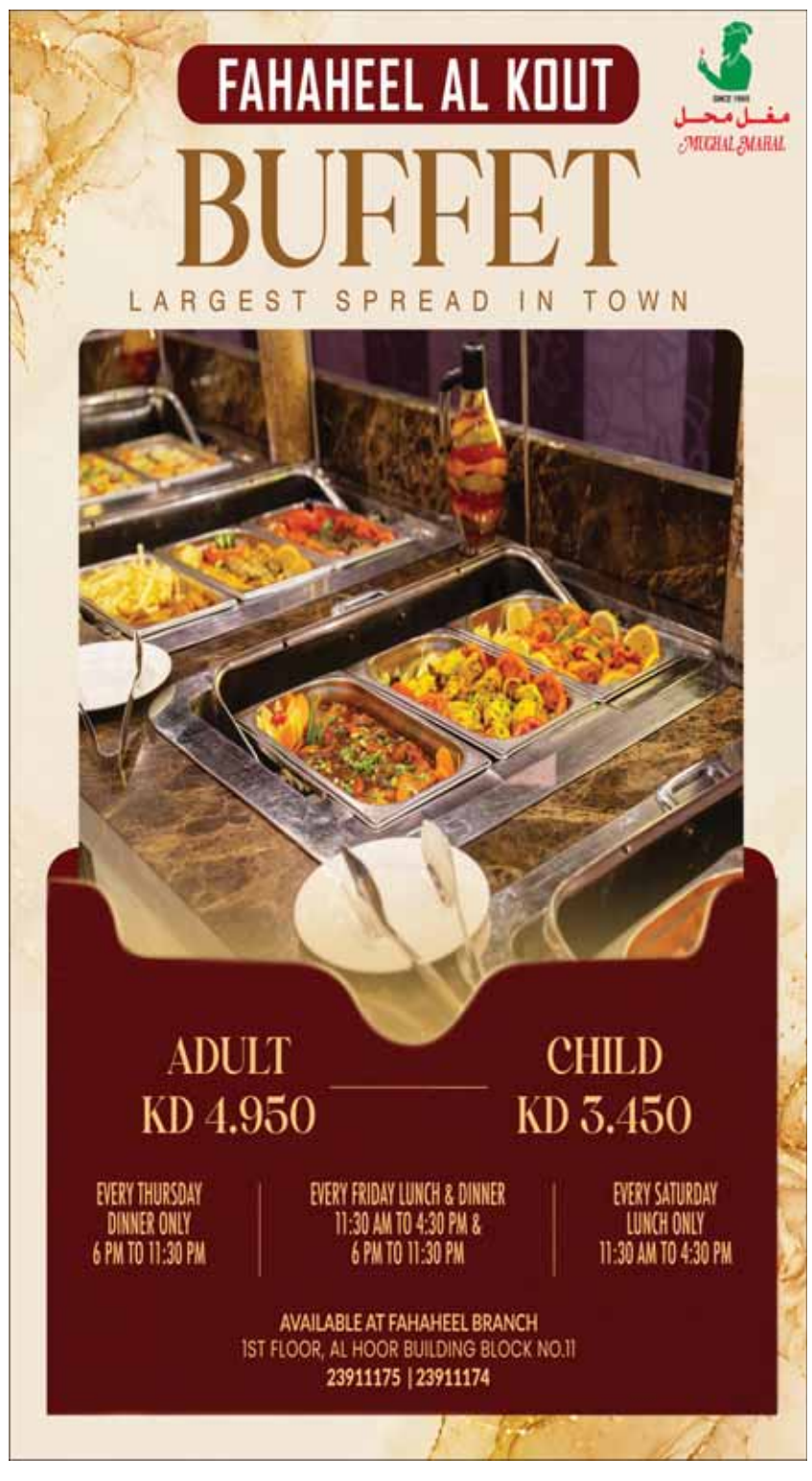
Life behind bars for Kuwaiti in drug case

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti woman to life imprisonment and fined her KD 50,000 after convicting her of trafficking in and consuming psychotropic substances, as well as driving under their influence, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court also ordered the suspension of her driver's license for one year.

The verdict followed an investigation by the Drug Control General Department, which uncovered the defendant's activities and raised suspicions of her involvement in psychotropic substance trafficking.

A sting operation was subsequently organized to apprehend her. Following her arrest, investigations and legal procedures confirmed that she possessed and had consumed the substances.



Two sides praise historic ties

Algeria, Kuwait explore prospects for judicial and legal cooperation

ALGIERS, Nov 3, (KUNA): Algerian Justice Minister Lotfi Boudjemaa and Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria Nawaf Boushaiba discussed on Monday ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in judicial and legal fields, as well as preparations for the upcoming meeting of Arab justice ministers in Algiers.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in Algeria said in a statement that Boudjemaa received Ambassador Boushaiba, who also congratulated the minister on the anniversary of Algeria's Liberation Revolution.

The two sides praised the historic ties between the two countries and their judicial and legal cooperation through agreements and memoranda of understanding.

They stressed the need to enhance coordination, exchange visits, expand training programs and advance plans to modernize the justice sector, particularly through sharing expertise in digital transformation.

Both sides also agreed to establish communication channels between the relevant authorities in Algeria and Kuwait to follow up on the implementation of these programs, exchange expertise and serve the interests of the two countries and their peoples.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria, Nawaf Boushaiba, poses with Algerian Justice Minister Lotfi Boujemaa.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria, Nawaf Boushaiba, receives Algerian Justice Minister Lotfi Boujemaa.

Kuwait calls for integrated Arab transport and logistics network

Al-Mashaan calls for stronger coordination

ALEXANDRIA, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan on Tuesday called for establishing an integrated Arab transport and logistics network based on strengthening connectivity, exchanging information and expertise, improving coordination, and enhancing emergency preparedness to ensure supply chain continuity and boost Arab economic security.

Al-Mashaan made the remarks in a speech at the opening of the 39th session of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers, hosted by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in Alexandria.

She said the gathering reflected the strong fraternal ties among Arab countries and their shared commitment to advancing the transport sector as a key driver of economic development and regional integration.

The minister expressed her appreciation to AASTMT for hosting the meeting and commended its President, Dr Ismail Abdel Ghaffar, for his efforts to support joint Arab action and develop transport and logistics systems.

She also thanked the General Secretariat of the Arab League for its continued efforts in preparing and organizing the Council's meetings and following up on the implementation of its decisions and recommendations.

Al-Mashaan stressed the importance of the meeting amid rapidly unfolding regional developments and growing challenges, including Iranian attacks targeting Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Jordan, constituting clear violations of national sovereignty and international law.



KUNA photo
Public Works Minister Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan attends the 75th session of the Executive Committee of the Arab Transport Ministers Council.

She also referred to the continued attacks by the Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia, warning of the threats they pose to the Kingdom's security and territorial integrity. She called for a unified and responsible Arab position to confront any threats to the security of Arab countries and regional stability.

The minister said these challenges had directly affected the transport sector and supply chains regionally and internationally, placing greater responsibility on Arab countries to strengthen transport systems' resilience and ensure uninterrupted services and trade under all circumstances.

She noted that transport was no longer merely a means of moving people and goods, but had become a key component of economic security, national competitiveness and ensuring communities' access to essential commodities and supplies.

Al-Mashaan said the agenda covered important issues including the development of land, maritime and multimodal transport, stronger connectivity among Arab transport networks, updated regulatory and legislative frameworks, and improved safety and efficiency. It also addressed digital transformation and sustainability in the vital sector.

She expressed hope that the discussions would produce practical decisions and recommendations to enhance integration among Arab transport systems, facilitate cross-border trade and transport, and strengthen joint coordination in addressing future challenges.

The minister said recent regional developments and exceptional circumstances had demonstrated that supply chain resilience was no longer an option, but a strategic necessity requiring advance preparedness, effective coordination and rapid response.

She affirmed that Kuwait, in cooperation with GCC countries and relevant national authorities, had taken a series of exceptional measures to maintain transport operations and strengthen supply chain resilience.

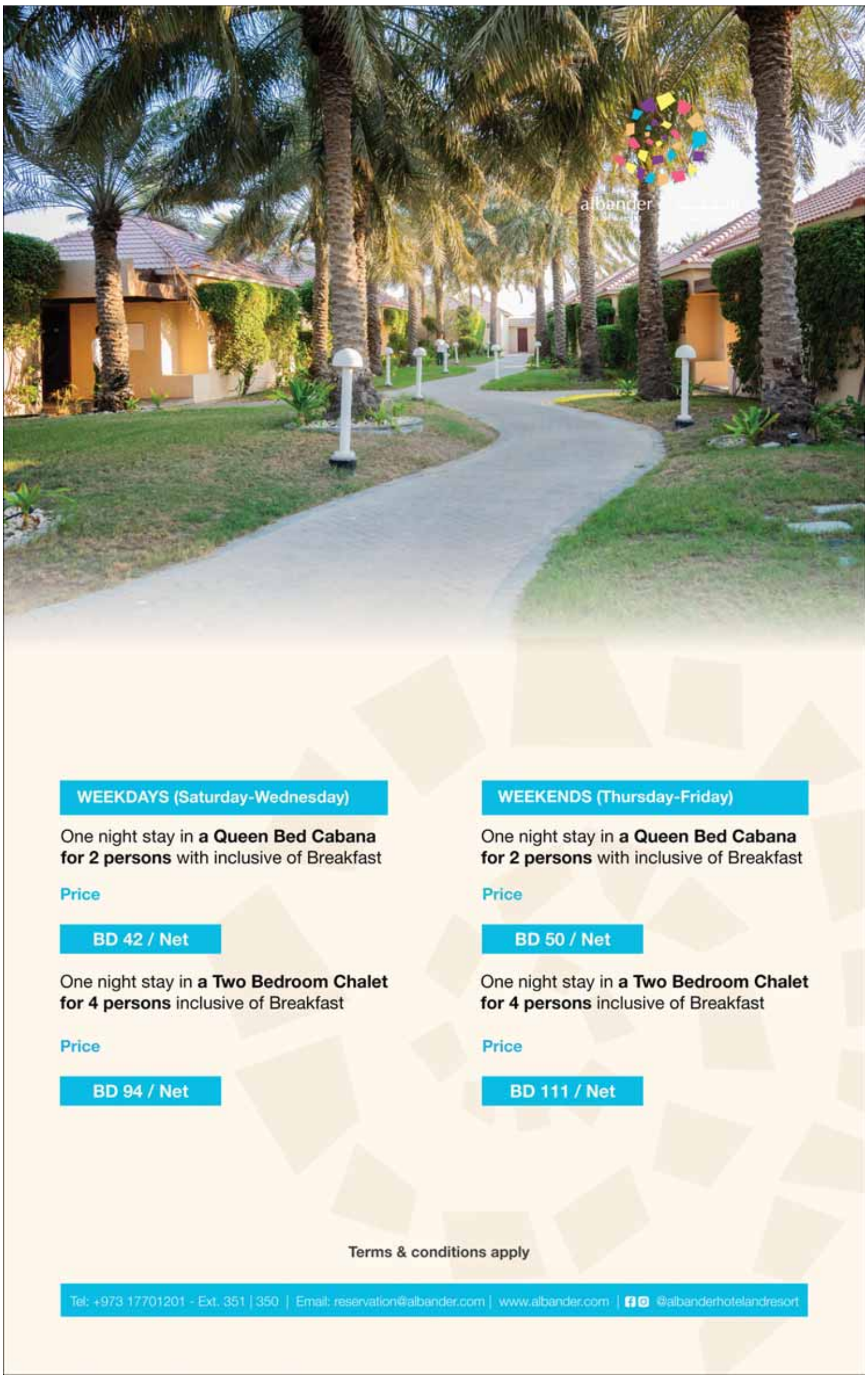
These measures highlighted the importance of coordination among national authorities and Arab countries, she said, stressing the need to enhance preparedness and transport system resilience to ensure supply chain continuity during exceptional circumstances.

As Kuwait's presidency of the ministerial Council concluded, Al-Mashaan expressed gratitude to Arab ministers, the Arab League's General Secretariat, AASTMT and all relevant parties for their cooperation and efforts in supporting the Council's 38th session and strengthening joint Arab action.

She announced the handover of the presidency of the Council's 39th session to Egyptian Transport Minister Lieutenant General Engineer Kamel Al-Wazir, wishing him success in leading its work.

Al-Mashaan also expressed hope that the session would produce constructive decisions contributing to the development, integration and sustainability of Arab transport systems.

The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Al-Mashaan and includes Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi.



Kuwait renews support for UN anti-corruption efforts



KUNA photo
Dhari Buyabes, Kuwait's representative and Observer for International Organizations and Conferences at the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), delivers his remarks during the 17th session.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwait, represented by the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), reaffirmed its commitment to developing the mechanism for implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and making greater use of its findings to support national and international efforts to promote integrity and combat corruption.

In a statement on Monday, Nazaha said the position was presented by its representative and International Organizations and Conferences Observer, Dhari Buyabes, during the second resumed session of the 17th session of the Implementation Review Group of the UN Convention against Corruption, held in Vienna over five days.

Buyabes highlighted the importance of improving the review mechanism and benefiting from its findings to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

He noted that Kuwait had completed implementation of its first National Strategy for Promoting Integrity and Combating Corruption and was preparing its second phase in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and the Sustainable Development Goals. He also stressed the importance of exchanging best practices, building capacities and using review findings to improve national policies.

He outlined key legislative and institutional developments, including Decree-Law No. 78 of 2026 on combating commercial concealment, Decree-Law No. 79 of 2025 on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and Decree-Law No. 69 of 2025 amending certain provisions of Law No. 2 of 2016 establishing Nazaha and provisions concerning the disclosure of financial assets.

These measures, he said, would strengthen the effectiveness of Kuwait's national framework, enhance international cooperation in combating transnational crimes and support asset recovery.

Buyabes concluded by reaffirming Kuwait's commitment to the UN Convention against Corruption and its continued active participation in the implementation review mechanism and international efforts to develop it and enhance its impact.

Talks focus on export financing

Kuwait joins COMCEC meeting to boost economic cooperation

ISTANBUL, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwait is participating in the 42nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), hosted by Istanbul, Turkiye, with the participation of representatives from member states and OIC institutions.

Kuwait's delegation is headed by Minister of Finance and Representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Dr. Yaqoub Al-Sayed Yousef Al-Refaei, who delivered a speech and held bilateral meetings with participating ministers and officials to explore opportunities for strengthening economic and trade relations.

In his speech, Al-Refaei, who also chairs the Arab Group at COMCEC, said repeated attacks targeting Saudi Arabia and several GCC, Arab and Islamic countries pose a threat to regional security and stability, while affecting the global economy and supply chains amid the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with the affected member states, stressing the need for urgent measures and policies to address the resulting economic and trade repercussions.

Al-Refaei also highlighted challenges facing intra-OIC trade, particularly limited trade financing for small and medium-sized enterprises, despite the considerable resources and market potential among member states.

The meeting discussed developing effective trade-financing tools to boost exports, facilitate the movement of goods and services, and strengthen private-sector participation. Participants also reviewed reports, recommendations and action plans covering trade, transport, agriculture, tourism, financial cooperation, poverty alleviation and digital transformation.

Kuwait's participation reflects its commitment to strengthening economic partnerships among Islamic countries, expanding trade cooperation and supporting sustainable development.

Established in 1981 following a resolution by the Third Islamic Summit, COMCEC brings together the finance and economy ministers of OIC member states and is chaired by the President of Turkiye.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Lead your life and be proactive

"IN our ongoing exploration of celebrated literary works, we turn our attention to "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen R. Covey," columnist **Bassam Fahad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Published in 1989, this influential book has become a cornerstone of self-improvement, leadership, and personal effectiveness. It presents a practical approach that connects character development with effective self-management and the building of meaningful relationships.



Bassam Fahad

Stephen R. Covey (1932–2012) was a prominent American educator and author. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah, an MBA from Harvard University, and a doctorate from Brigham Young University, where he also taught management and organizational behavior.

His professional career spanned education, writing, and consulting, with a central focus on empowering individuals to lead themselves and collaborate successfully with others.

Among his other notable publications are "The 8th Habit" and "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families".

The book is based on the belief that meaningful change begins from within, shaped by our core values, self-perception, and the habits that guide our everyday decisions.

It takes readers on a journey that begins with personal accountability, clear goal-setting, and effective prioritization of tasks, then progresses towards building trust, deepening understanding, and fostering teamwork. Ultimately, it emphasizes the importance of continuous renewal as an essential foundation for sustained growth and progress.

Inspired by these principles, we have titled our summary and analysis of the book as "Lead Your Life and Be Proactive."

This summary is part of a series dedicated to motivation, personal development, and leadership. It aims to nurture self-aware, proactive individuals who possess the skills to improve themselves and the ability to create positive change in their surroundings.

This work is also presented as a "Summary and Study of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and forms part of our "Global Book Summaries" series. The series aims to make impactful literature accessible to readers through clear, straightforward language while preserving the essential ideas and principles of the original works.

How often have you reached the end of a day feeling exhausted, with little or no time left for yourself or the people you love? How many dreams have you postponed, waiting for "better circumstances," only to find that waiting has become a permanent part of your life?

This book invites you to take an honest look at yourself, recognize what truly deserves your time and effort, and discover what you can change, starting today, even if only with one small step.

These pages take you on a journey towards taking responsibility for your choices, defining your direction, setting clear priorities, listening to others, and building meaningful relationships based on shared success.

It also encourages you to nurture your spirit, mind, and health, ensuring you have the stamina to keep moving forward.

Through accessible language, relatable examples drawn from family, work, and academic life, and practical exercises, our summary brings the book's concepts into your daily routine, whether through a conversation with your child, a professional decision, or a promise you made to yourself but have yet to keep.

You may find a question that awakens a long-forgotten dream, an idea that helps you mend a relationship, or the motivation to reclaim your time - time you have spent on everything else except what you truly love.

Give yourself the chance to make a fresh start. Your life deserves your presence, and your dreams deserve your commitment to pursuing them.

Perhaps the best way to begin this journey is to ask yourself - "What is one thing I would regret putting off for another year?"

It might be spending time with your children, pursuing a subject you have long been curious about, or working on a project you truly believe in.

Set aside a little time for it in your schedule today, and return to it tomorrow. Some of our aspirations simply require us to set a date and commit to it.

When you stumble, renew your resolve. Remember the hardships you have already overcome, the lessons you have learned from your mistakes, and the times you managed to start anew. Regain your strength, then continue with a step that matches your current capacity. Your progress today may be quiet and unseen by others, but it holds great meaning for you.

There is still room in your life to give a dream a chance, rekindle a relationship, and nurture a talent that has long awaited your attention.

You can still create a beautiful moment, whether for yourself or for those you love.

So, begin with what you can, and let time bring you the joy of looking back one day and saying, "Thank God I tried; I never gave up on my dream."

Every meaningful journey begins with a single step, and every dream deserves the courage to begin."

❑ ❑ ❑

"When reflecting on the trajectory of development in a rapidly changing world, it becomes clear that building bridges toward a sustainable future requires more than sound economic strategies or ambitious engineering projects," Kuwaiti writer Dr. **Nasser Hussein Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Above all, it requires informed discourse - a voice capable of bringing perspectives together, and inspiring collective action.

This highlights the profound significance of World Development Information Day, observed annually on October 24. The occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on and evaluate the media messages we communicate to present and future generations.

Today, the media is no longer simply a mirror reflecting events or a traditional channel for delivering news. It has evolved into an integral partner in development and a key force in shaping societal awareness.

Within the Gulf region, and particularly in Kuwait, where economic diversification and the transition toward sustainable development are gaining momentum, informed media plays an increasingly vital role in highlighting the importance of modern communication tools and platforms.

The environmental and societal challenges we face today, from water security and the energy transition to the efficient management of resources, require a media discourse that can simplify complex concepts and translate them into clear, accessible language that resonates with the public.

This is essential to transforming sustainability from an abstract concept or an elite-level aspiration into a shared commitment reflected in everyday practices.

Guiding public opinion towards sustainability goals and fostering a culture of environmental and social awareness are not merely supporting activities; they represent a long-term investment in human capital.



Dr. Abbas

Examining the efforts underway in various sectors, it becomes clear that one of the greatest challenges lies in mobilizing collective action and strengthening both local and international partnerships.

Social responsibility is not the sole responsibility of large institutions; it extends across the private sector, civil society, and individuals alike.

This is where responsible development-oriented media plays a crucial role, acting as a bridge that connects these stakeholders.

It does so by showcasing inspiring success stories and highlighting substantive initiatives led by organizations such as the "Sustainability Association for Social Responsibility," which strives to embed a culture of shared responsibility inside and outside Kuwait.

Furthermore, effectively engaging institutions and individuals in supporting sustainable development projects requires moving beyond seasonal awareness campaigns toward "knowledge-based empowerment."

Individuals need to feel that their contributions, no matter how small, whether through conserving resources, volunteering, or adopting innovative environmental practices, are an essential part of the broader national development process.

Effective development-oriented media instills in readers a genuine sense of ownership of their nation and environment, encouraging them to move from the role of passive observers to active and influential participants.

In the State of Kuwait, we have a rich legacy of social awareness and legislation supporting humanitarian and developmental work.

The institutional and individual momentum we see today points to a promising future, provided that we continue to refine and advance our media and communication tools.

Let the observance of this day be a renewed starting point for shaping a collective consciousness that protects our resources and safeguards the heritage of future generations, reaffirming that development-oriented media serves as the living conscience that illuminates the path toward progress and sustainability."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Kuwait Scientific Center showcases rare collections at Muscat Festival

Exhibits attract Oman Science Festival visitors





KUNA photos

Left: Kuwait Scientific Center stand at the Oman Science Festival, featuring selected exhibits and a collection of taxidermy specimens. Right: Kuwait's Scientific Center showcases its unique collections and wildlife exhibits at the Oman Science Festival.

Photo Feature by Mahmoud Bushehri

MUSCAT, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Scientific Center, in cooperation with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), is showcasing part of its rare collections and a range of taxidermy specimens through an interactive workshop at the Oman Science Festival 2026, attracting large numbers of students, researchers and science enthusiasts of different ages.

Visitors to the center's pavilion can explore biodiversity in the Arab region and learn how living organisms are classified through an engaging experience combining science and entertainment.

The pavilion also features a section dedicated to the world of sharks, introducing visitors to their senses, different species and role in the marine ecosystem through an educational and interactive experience.

The fifth edition of the Oman Science Festival opened on Monday in Muscat, organized by Oman's Ministry of Education over 10 days.

It is considered the Sultanate's leading scientific event, aimed at promoting scientific culture and raising awareness of science, technology and innovation while providing an interactive environment that encourages exploration and experimentation.

Achievement strengthens Kuwait's heart transplant program

MoH performs 18th heart transplant on 18-year-old

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Ministry of Health announced the successful completion of Kuwait's 18th heart transplant, performed on an 18-year-old patient at the Salman Al-Dabbous Heart Center, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The achievement highlights the continued advancement of the country's medical services and the ability of specialized medical teams to perform complex surgical procedures.

The ministry explained that the patient had suffered from a congenital heart defect that progressed to advanced heart failure, causing severe symptoms that significantly affected his daily life. A heart transplant became necessary after a suitable donor organ was secured and all required medical evaluations confirmed its compatibility with the recipient.



KUNA photo

The medical team at the Salman Al-Dabbous Heart Center.

Dr. Bader Al-Ayyad, Head of the Cardiology Department and the Heart Failure and Transplant Unit at the Salman Al-Dabbous Heart Center, stated that the successful operation was the result of coordinated efforts by medical and specialized teams.

He emphasized that this achievement represents an important step in strengthening Kuwait's national heart transplant program and expanding advanced treatment options for patients suffering from advanced heart failure.

Kuwait to host lab conference

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Head of the Medical Laboratories Departments Council at the Ministry of Health Dr. Ibtisam Al-Jumaa announced that the Eighth Medical Laboratories Conference will be held on Nov 16-17, under the patronage of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi and with the theme, "Advances in Clinical Virology: Innovations in Diagnostics, Quality and Laboratory Practices."

In a press statement, Al-Jumaa revealed that experts, specialists, doctors and researchers in the field of medical laboratories will attend the conference, which aims to keep pace with rapid developments in clinical virology, particularly the emergence of new viral pathogens and the resurgence of others, as well as advancements in molecular diagnostic techniques and genetic sequencing. She said these developments contribute to enhancing the accuracy of laboratory tests and the early detection of diseases.

She indicated that the objectives of the conference are to transfer global expertise to the staff assigned in medical laboratories throughout the country, improve their technical and professional capabilities, and translate scientific breakthroughs and international standards into practical applications that improve the quality of diagnostic services and patient safety.

She stated that the conference will highlight the importance of developing quality systems in medical laboratories. She clarified that this is relevant due to the increasing requirements for accreditation and international standards, as well as the need to guarantee the reliability and accuracy of diagnostic results, which support clinical decision-making and patient safety.

She added that the conference consists of lectures, scientific sessions and specialized workshops on the latest innovations in laboratory diagnostics, molecular and genomic technologies, viral surveillance, international quality and accreditation standards, biosafety and best laboratory practices.



Continued from Page 1

Empower cooperative

into regular occurrence. This widespread malpractice underscores the urgent need for a sweeping overhaul to rid the 73 cooperative societies of embezzlement, fraud and systemic corruption.

Unconventional thinking is necessary to overcome these challenges. Throughout the world, similar entities directly manage agricultural estates and food production facilities, maintain international operations, and actively invest in local and foreign financial markets.

Local economic data revealed that Kuwait's cooperative societies generate about KD1.3 billion in annual sales, yielding strong profit margins of 15 to 25 percent. These cooperatives have the potential to become a major economic powerhouse through strategic leadership and genuine commitment to implement reforms.

On the other hand, allowing financial mismanagement and fraud to continue will trigger financial ruin and bankruptcy—an outcome already visible in the local cooperative sector.

When the Ministry of Social Affairs uncovered a deficit of around KD9 million in a troubled cooperative, it transferred the operational control to a private firm in 2017. Under private stewardship, the cooperative was turned around, restoring operational viability and profitability.

Kuwait should adopt proven international strategies by converting cooperative societies into major corporations or using public-private management models to permanently eliminate recurring administrative anomalies.

In order to address issues stemming from malpractice in cooperative societies, converting them into major corporate entities or partnering with the private sector should be explored, following international best practices. This transition will also ease the burdens of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which seems consumed by monitoring cooperatives despite its other major responsibilities.

When the community-based cooperative in Kuwait was founded in 1962, it earned full support due to its mission to serve the public. We reiterate that cooperative societies played a pioneering role when the owners were also the consumers, along with genuine intention and a clear vision to help citizens.

However, the focus appears to have been redirected completely, hence, the need for a paradigm shift.

Drug trade,

Nasser Al-Bader, with Judges Abdulaziz Al-Mu'dhadi and Abdulhadi Al-Hajri as members, and Yaqoub Al-Ballam as court clerk -- sentenced a stateless individual to life imprisonment for trafficking and consuming hashish and psychotropic substances, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Case files indicate that officers from the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry apprehended the defendant in a planned sting operation.

The officers found an undisclosed quantity of hashish and psychotropic substances in the possession of the defendant, with the intention to sell and consume these substances.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with the possession of hashish, amphetamine and pregabalin for trafficking and personal consumption, as well as illegally consuming narcotic and psychotropic substances.

In another case, the same court sentenced a Bangladeshi to death for the premeditated murder of his friend.

The defendant committed the act in retaliation for the victim's refusal to delete the private photographs of his wife that were posted on the social media platform, Facebook.

Case documents revealed that the defendant resolved to kill the victim, arming himself with a knife and lying in wait for him outside his workplace. He then stabbed the victim several times, causing head and body injuries, with the intention to kill him. The forensic medical report confirmed that these injuries were fatal.

Amir, Crown Prince,

Later the same day, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Sheikh Dr. Meshaal at Bayan Palace and was also presented with KDIPA's annual report for fiscal year 2025/2026. His Highness the Crown Prince praised the authority's efforts and accomplishments in attracting investment, which support Kuwait's economic development, and wished Sheikh Dr. Meshaal and KDIPA staff continued success.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received the KDIPA director-general at Bayan Palace and received the annual report. His Highness the Prime Minister highlighted KDIPA's important role in supporting national economic development through its ongoing efforts to attract foreign direct investment.

Philippine Embassy,

Ambassador Jose A. Cabrera III led the Embassy team, joined by First Secretary and Consul Alex O. Vallespin, Second Secretary and Consul Aaron Erick A. Lozada, Labor Attache Sofia E. Matote, and other personnel.

The Embassy extends its sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Health, the Cooperative Blood Transfusion Center at Al-Adan Hospital, PANIK, Filipino community members and organizations, and all those who gave their time and blood to the drive.

The Embassy reaffirms its commitment to community initiatives that strengthen the ties between the Filipino community and the people of Kuwait.

Cabinet clears

In a statement following the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Maousherji said the Cabinet strongly condemned the attack on the liquefied natural gas tanker Al-Mayeda, belonging to Qatar Gas Transport Company (Nakilat), while sailing through the Arabian Gulf.

The Cabinet denounced the attack, stressing its categorical rejection of acts that pose a serious threat to maritime security and the safety of global energy supplies.

It called for the circumstances of the incident to be fully investigated and those responsible held accountable, while reaffirming Kuwait's full solidarity with Qatar and support for all measures taken to protect its security, interests, facilities and property.

The Cabinet was also briefed by Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on a phone call he received last Thursday from Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

The two ministers reviewed defense ties and the latest regional developments, affirming their countries' solidarity in addressing challenges and threats to their security and stability.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet on the political and diplomatic efforts undertaken by the Foreign Ministry and Kuwait's diplomatic missions abroad to follow regional and international developments.

In this context, he said the Foreign Ministry, represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Suleiman Al-Mashaan, had summoned Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Toutounji last Wednesday and handed him a protest note over a statement issued by the Iranian Embassy on October 28.

The statement constituted blatant interference in Kuwait's internal affairs and an infringement on its sovereignty and the independence of its judicial authority, in clear violation of international laws and norms, the Cabinet was told.

Kuwait reiterated its rejection and strong condemnation of any interference in rulings issued by its national courts, stressing the need for Iran to abide by international law, the UN Charter, the principles of good-neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of states, as well as the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The Cabinet also heard a briefing on the Foreign Minister's official visit to Riyadh last Wednesday and his meetings with Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, Minister of State and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad Al-Saud, and Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud.

During the meetings, Sheikh Jarrah reiterated Kuwait's condemnation of Houthi attacks against several areas in Saudi Arabia and attempts to target Makkah and Madinah.

He described the attacks as a flagrant violation of Saudi sovereignty and international and humanitarian law, as well as an assault on the sanctity of Islamic holy sites and an affront to Muslims worldwide.

He warned that the continued and repeated attacks, including those targeting civilian objects and vital facilities, constituted a dangerous escalation and a direct threat to Saudi security and regional stability, in addition to posing serious risks to civilians and air navigation.

He called for a firm international stance to ensure those responsible were held accountable, reaffirming Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for measures to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability.

The minister stressed that Saudi Arabia's security was an integral part of Kuwait's and the GCC states' security.

The meetings also reviewed the deep-rooted historical and fraternal ties between the two countries and peoples, and ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation and coordination across various fields.

The sides exchanged views on regional developments and their implications for security and stability, emphasizing the importance of continued consultation and joint efforts to address current challenges.

The cabinet was further briefed on two phone calls received by the Foreign Minister in recent days from Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and Egyptian Foreign Minister, Minister of International Cooperation and Egyptians Abroad Badr Abdelatty.

The calls addressed the latest regional developments and underscored the importance of continued coordination and consultation between Kuwait and the two brotherly countries to support joint efforts toward regional security and stability.

The cabinet reviewed a number of other agenda items, reports and ministerial committee minutes, approving several and referring others to the relevant ministerial committees for further study and recommendations.

MoH bolsters

Sheikh Salman affirmed the need for greater integration between nursing and other healthcare disciplines, stressing that nursing should not be viewed as a profession separate from the wider healthcare system.

He noted that the Law on the Practice of Healthcare Professions (Law No. 70/2020) provides incentives for healthcare professionals to pursue medical specialties.

Sheikh Salman emphasized the vital role of nursing staff, whether in operating rooms or hospital wards, and their direct contribution to achieving the desired clinical outcomes.

He stressed that advancing the healthcare system requires a unified, team-based approach, supported by workshops and various forms of collaboration.

Sheikh Salman underscored the importance of continued support for nursing-led initiatives and innovations, which play a role in developing the profession and improving the quality of healthcare services.

Meanwhile, Dr. Eman Al-Awadhi, Director of the Nursing Services Department, stated that nursing staff account for approximately 32 percent of the Ministry of Health's total workforce and play a fundamental role in ensuring the continuous delivery of comprehensive healthcare services.

She affirmed that the workshop aims to identify the needs of the nursing workforce, address existing challenges, and adopt innovative, internationally recognized practices in workforce planning and talent acquisition.

Dr. Al-Awadhi noted that the workshop also seeks to empower nursing leaders, strengthen succession planning, and leverage digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and evidence-based practices to improve performance and support decision-making, ultimately fostering a sustainable nursing workforce.

She explained that the Nursing Services Department is committed to the continuous development and professional qualification of nursing staff. These efforts are carried out through specialized training courses in various fields, in collaboration with international universities and educational institutions, to ensure that nursing practices remain aligned with the latest global standards.

Efforts to advance the nursing profession have resulted in several achievements, most notably the amendment of Civil Service Council Resolution No. 5/2009, concerning allowances and bonuses for nursing staff, through Ministerial Resolution No. 206/2026.

This update included the formal recognition and introduction of the midwifery profession within the Ministry of Health, along with the establishment of a structured hierarchy of professional job titles for midwives.

Furthermore, the Nursing Services Department issued the first edition of a professional practice manual for midwifery.

The 225-page manual, published in two volumes, has been distributed across the country's health sectors to serve as a unified professional reference. It aims to enhance midwives' professional competence and establish clear foundations for providing safe care to mothers and newborns.

Hormuz heats

The region is on edge about the prospects of the U.S. resuming full-scale operations against Iran, and the new strikes, which were reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal, are certain to raise fresh concerns. Backchannel negotiations also are playing out as Israel and some Middle East allies lobby Trump on the way ahead in the more than 8-month-old war that's rattled global markets and wreaked havoc on Iran.

The Trump administration was last known to have carried out attacks in early September, but thousands of U.S. troops remain in the waters off Iran to maintain a naval blockade aimed at preventing tankers hauling Iranian oil from getting to the global market. Plus, a third aircraft carrier and thousands of additional troops are on their way to the Middle East.

Before the strikes were confirmed, U.S. Vice President JD Vance offered measured optimism that a deal could still be struck. Vance sent a letter to Iran's security chief, Mohsen Rezaei, last week, but the White House has offered scant details. Trump told reporters that letter was focused on assisting Iran with "medical supplies and various things."

"We've had a number of good conversations with the Iranians," Vance told reporters Monday when asked about the letter. "I actually just spoke with the president of the United States about an hour ago about this. Look, the president and I both feel pretty good about the prospects for potentially coming to a negotiated settlement. We're going to keep on working at it."

Other U.S. allies in the Middle East are warning against more strikes, saying that would destabilize the region and could lead Iran-allied Houthi rebels in Yemen to step up their attacks on Saudi Arabia and Red Sea shipping, a third regional official said. Iran-backed militias in Iraq could also get involved.

The Israeli government did not immediately comment. The White House did not directly respond to questions about Netanyahu and Trump's discussion of potential new strikes during the weekend call.

Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman said he spoke by phone Monday with U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth about "the latest regional and international developments" and the Houthis' continued attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Oil prices dropped sharply Monday as renewed diplomatic efforts in the Iran war appeared to show signs of headway.

Trump noted the drop in a speech in Washington on Monday, which was billed as his closing argument to Americans, and sought to minimize the scale of the conflict, which has cost U.S. taxpayers at least $47 billion.

"I don't know if you even call it a war, because we haven't been doing any fighting for months," Trump said.

Iran wants guarantees that the U.S. will implement its side of any agreement. The U.S. and Israel have twice attacked Iran while it was engaged in negotiations over its disputed nuclear program.





Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah during the inauguration of the 4th Kuwait Obesity Conference.



KUNA photos

Group photo of attendees.

Obesity affects 75 pct of Kuwait population

New drugs reshape treatment

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah stressed the importance of harnessing the latest medical technologies and modern pharmaceutical treatments to ensure the highest standards of safety in obesity management.

He made the remarks in a speech delivered during the inauguration of the 4th Kuwait Obesity Conference, which brought together surgeons, physicians, nutritionists and other specialists from Kuwait and abroad.

Treating obesity does not begin in the operating room, but rather with an accurate and comprehensive assessment of patients' conditions, the selection of appropriate treatment options and long-term follow-up, he noted.

Bariatric surgery remains a vital and appropriate option for patients whose conditions warrant it, he said, adding that modern medical treatments, particularly those based on GLP-1, have expanded treatment options as part of an integrated approach combining medical follow-up, proper nutrition and physical activity.

According to World Health Organization estimates, one in seven people worldwide suffers from obesity, with the total number of people living with the condition reaching 940 million, accounting for 16 percent of the adult population, he stated.

Meanwhile, Conference president Dr. Shehab Ekrouf said in a similar address that obesity treatment is a shared responsibility requiring coordinated efforts across various medical specialties, including nutrition, internal medicine, family medicine, mental health and surgery.

He explained that the Nutrition and Catering Department operates a monitoring program that produces an annual report indicating that approximately 75 percent of Kuwait's population is affected by overweight and obesity, with the figures standing at 30 percent among men and 35 percent among women.

Ekrouf proposed launching a nationwide campaign through, Sahel, Kuwait's unified government e-services application.



Conference president Dr. Shehab Ekrouf addresses the audience.



KUNA photos

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah briefed during an exhibition held on the sidelines of the 4th Kuwait Obesity Conference.

CARIRS, Lineage Committee work to simplify administrative procedures



CARIRS photo

Head of CARIRS Saleh Al-Fadhalah with Lineage Committee Head Ahmad Al-Omar.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): The Central System for the Remedy of Situation of Illegal Residents (CARIRS) and the Lineage Claims Committee and Name Correction Services Department discussed on Tuesday ways to strengthen cooperation and methods to streamline procedures and help improve efficiency with processing transactions.

Head of the Central System Saleh Al-Fadhalah met with Lineage Committee Head Ahmad Al-Omar, followed by a coordination meeting chaired by the Secretary-General of CARIRS Brigadier General Dr. Sharif Al-Kandari with the presence of several officials, said CARIRS in a statement.

The meeting covered topics of mutual interests, with both sides emphasizing the importance of continuing direct communication, integrating roles, and overcoming procedural obstacles to ensure smooth workflow.

Business

Boursa ends session in green

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Tuesday's session broadly higher, with its general index gaining 83.37 points, or 1.00%, to close at 8,430.34. Trading activity totaled 278.4 million shares across 16,154 transactions, valued at 66.4 million Kuwaiti dinars—about 215.9 million US dollars.

The Main Market index advanced 111.73 points, or 1.35%, to 8,412.35. Investors traded 123.1 million shares through 8,175 transactions, with a cash value of 20.3 million dinars, equivalent to roughly 66 million dollars.

Reaffirming its commitment to empowering young Kuwaiti women in technology and entrepreneurship

talabat marks the conclusion of Academy X's third edition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: talabat, the leading everyday app in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA), joined CODED Academy in celebrating more than 500 graduates at the closing ceremony marking the conclusion of the 2026 edition of Academy X, Kuwait's largest women's empowerment initiative in technology and entrepreneurship. The ceremony brought together Academy X graduates and their families, alongside the program's sponsors.

Held recently at Al Shaheed Park – Phase 2, the ceremony featured a speech from the Academy X team highlighting the program's achievements, as well as remarks from all program sponsors. The ceremony also recognized the winning teams across each category following a voting process, with talabat presenting the "talabat Award for Best Tech Innovation in Food" to the Sorati project, developed by team members Fajer Maitham Kamal, Aryam Reyadh Alshammari, Fajer Alsayed Mahdi Ameen, Hawraa Alenzi, and Khadija Ali Almohammed. Sorati is an innovative AI-powered app that helps users track the calories and macronutrients of Kuwaiti dishes and food products simply by uploading a photo or recording a voice note. The app also connects users with local nutritionists, making personalized nutritional guidance more accessible and convenient.

The conclusion of the 2026 edition marks talabat's third consecutive year as a strategic sponsor of Academy X. Led by CODED Academy, the program provides young Kuwaiti women aged 14-25 with hands-on learning and practical experience across areas including app and web development, user interface and user experience (UI/UX) design, leadership, soft skills and entrepreneurial fundamentals. The partnership forms part of talabat's wider efforts to support youth and STEM education in Kuwait.

Amal Bukhamseen, Manager of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait, said: "We are proud to celebrate the successful conclusion of another edition of Academy X alongside CODED Academy. Over the past three years, our partnership has enabled us to support a program that gives young women practical exposure to technology and entrepreneurship while helping them build valuable skills and confidence. We are proud of what participants have achieved across this year's three cohorts and look forward to continuing to strengthen the program's impact and building on its achievements."

For his part, Hashim Behbehani, Co-founder and Chief Operations Officer of CODED, said: "Academy X continues to provide young Kuwaiti women with opportunities to build practical digital skills, explore innovation and gain real-world experience. Our continued partnership with talabat has helped us bring participants closer to the industry and give them greater insight into how the skills they develop can be applied beyond the classroom."





Amal Bukhamseen, Manager of Corporate Affairs at talabat Kuwait



talabat presenting the "talabat Award for Best Tech Innovation in Food" to the team behind the Sorati project.

■ Over three years of talabat's sponsorship, Academy X has engaged more than 1,600 participants, with over 600 projects developed

Throughout its three years of sponsorship, talabat has supported Academy X through direct engagement with participants. Over this period, more than 1,600 participants have taken part in the program, developing more than 600 projects and gaining practical exposure to areas including health, beauty, food, art, education and more. talabat's involvement has included special workshops, expert-led sessions, mentorship and a dedicated talabat competition, providing participants with opportunities to further develop their skills and gain practical experience.

Among the projects developed by participating teams were an AI-Powered Digital Marketing Campaign for local businesses, which included AI-generated social media content, automated content calendars, promotional visuals and target audience performance analytics; a Tech Venture Startup Pitch addressing everyday consumer challenges through technology-driven solutions, complete with a business model and product prototype; a UI/UX E-Commerce App Prototype designed to improve the online food and retail ordering experience; and a Digital Financial Literacy Tool, developed in collaboration with banking partners, featuring budgeting tools, savings trackers and educational resources on cybersecurity and fraud prevention.

The 2026 curriculum introduced a dedicated training session on Claude (AI), where participants learned how to write effective prompts for building functional applications and explored how AI can support areas such as marketing, business development and digital innovation.

During the program, talabat also organized an Academy X session featuring Inas Abdul Aziz, CEO & Co-founder of Dotspace, who shared her industry experience with participants. The session gave participants the opportunity to gain practical insights into using AI tools to develop creative marketing campaigns, craft effective prompts and turn ideas into impactful marketing strategies.

Reflecting on her experience, one of the Academy X participants said: "Participating in Academy X gave me the opportunity to explore technology and entrepreneurship while developing skills that I can continue to strengthen. Throughout the program, I learned how to use AI to develop an app and create impactful marketing campaigns, while putting my knowledge into practice by creating an app that uses AI to calculate the micronutrient content of food. Beyond the technical skills I gained, the experience also helped me discover my interests, explore my future aspirations and gain a clearer sense of the career path that I want to pursue."

talabat's sponsorship of Academy X forms part of its wider corporate social responsibility efforts to support youth development and expand opportunities for young people to gain practical, future-focused skills. Through initiatives that connect education with real-world industry experience, talabat continues to empower young Kuwaiti talent as they explore technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

About talabat:

talabat is the leading everyday app in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, offering customers a convenient and personalized way to order food, groceries, and other everyday essentials from a wide selection of restaurants and retailers. Founded in Kuwait in 2004, talabat has expanded its operations to the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, serving over seven million monthly active customers as of December 2025. talabatis headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and in December 2024 successfully completed its initial public offering on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM). As a subsidiary of Delivery Hero SE, talabat leverages global expertise to continuously enhance its platform, expand its ecosystem, and drive innovation. With a strong network of partners and riders, talabat connects customers to what they need, when they need it-powering everyday convenience across the region.

Oil falls $16.04 to $98.72 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Kuwaiti oil fell USD 16.04 to USD 98.72 per barrel (pb) on Monday compared with USD 114.76 last Friday, according to the price announced by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Tuesday.

In global markets, Brent crude fell USD 8.66 to USD 104.77 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate dropped USD 7.66 to USD 96.46 pb.

Cost control drives KPC's stronger financial results

KPC profit jumps 57% despite lower oil revenue

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is pursuing a balanced financial approach that combines prudent management of operational expenditures with a continued commitment to developing and maintaining the quality of oil production.

According to informed sources, KPC's financial indicators over the past two years reflect tangible progress in improving operational spending efficiency while increasing investment in future assets.

KPC's current policy focuses primarily on eliminating waste in all its forms and addressing its underlying causes, with the aim of increasing the state's oil revenues and ensuring the optimal utilization of national wealth.

According to an official KPC report, the corporation has undergone a significant strategic shift in cash flow management. Total expenditures fell from KD 34.7 billion in the 2024/2025 fiscal year to KD 30.5 billion in 2025/2026, representing a reduction of KD 4.2 billion, or 12.1 percent.

On the other hand, total capital expenditure allocated to major development and construction projects increased from KD 1.9 billion to KD 2.3 billion, representing a rise of KD 400 million, or 21 percent. This reflects KPC's commitment to developing sustainable assets for the future.

Regarding sales performance and external factors, the same report confirms that KPC's total revenue declined to KD 32.7 billion in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, compared with approximately KD 36.1 billion in the preceding fiscal year.

The sources attributed the revenue decline to sharp fluctuations in global oil markets during the second, third, and fourth quarters of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

Furthermore, the decline reflects Kuwait's full compliance with its OPEC+ production quotas, as well as its voluntary production cuts aimed at maintaining stability and balance in the global oil market.

The sources explained that the reduction in expenditures, which exceeded the decline in revenue, was the main factor behind a significant increase in net profits. KPC's net profits rose by 57 percent to approximately KD 2.2 billion.

This figure, recorded for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, compared with the previous year, reflects effective financial management and considerable flexibility in addressing ongoing challenges, market volatility, and fluctuations in sales.

KPC has adopted a prudent approach to rationalizing expenditure and controlling operational costs through the implementation of a rigorous oversight system.

The initiative aims to improve spending efficiency across KPC and its subsidiaries, including the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC). This includes enhancing the operational efficiency of refineries and production facilities, reducing financial waste in non-essential consultancy and service contracts, and cutting administrative expenses that do not affect intensive daily production operations in the oil fields.

Regarding the increase in capital expenditure, the sources noted that this growth represents a positive shift, reflecting KPC's greater focus on major development projects aimed at ensuring production sustainability and advancing the oil sector.

The additional investment has been directed toward supporting the strategy to increase crude oil and free gas production capacity, including offshore drilling projects and the development of the northern oil fields.

It also covers the expansion of refining capacity and infrastructure development, including the operation and enhancement of major refining facilities such as the Al-Zour Refinery and the Clean Fuels Project.

These efforts aim to increase the value added to each barrel of Kuwaiti oil by transforming it into high-quality products that meet international environmental standards, satisfy global market demand, and strengthen the competitiveness of Kuwaiti petroleum products worldwide.

Recognized for supply chain resilience

Kuwait's PIC wins 2026 BCI Middle East Award

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (KUNA): Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) announced on Tuesday that it had won the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) Middle East Award 2026 in the category of Most Effective Strategy for Enhancing Supply Chain Resilience.

In a statement to KUNA, the company said the award marked another milestone in its distinguished track record and provided professional recognition from one of the world's leading organizations specializing in business continuity and resilience.

The achievement further strengthens PIC's standing among leading global institutions in the field, while qualifying it to compete for the institute's global award.

PIC recalled that it had won the regional award in the same category in 2025 before going on to receive the BCI Global Award for 2025. The two accolades reflected the maturity of its institutional approach to business continuity as a lasting strategic priority, it said.

The company said the previous regional and global recognition gave its 2026 regional award added significance, underscoring its continued efforts to develop resilient supply chains and integrate business continuity with governance, sustainability and long-term preparedness.

It added that the latest award, following the global recognition in 2025, demonstrated how PIC had turned resilience from a precautionary measure into a permanent governance component within its business sustainability framework.

Among the measures adopted by the company are strengthening stocks of critical materials and long-lead-time spare parts, reducing reliance on single suppliers, developing the skills of business continuity personnel, conducting detailed business impact analyses and aligning different departments with resilience requirements.

These requirements have also been incorporated into contractual frameworks, while alternative suppliers have been approved and regular supplier assessment and audit mechanisms introduced, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of supply chains, the statement said.

PIC noted that these efforts had produced tangible operational results, including improved availability of critical materials, higher inventory levels and greater contractual flexibility, supporting uninterrupted production and the company's commitments to customers and partners.

Expanding into AI and mining ventures

Aramco Q3 adjusted profit rises 9% to $31.2 billion

RIYADH, Nov 3, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia's Aramco announced on Tuesday a 9 percent year-on-year increase in adjusted net income for the third quarter of 2026, reaching SAR 117 billion (USD 31.2 billion), compared to SAR 107.2 billion (USD 28.6 billion) in the same period last year.

In a statement, the company said operating cash flow rose to SAR 145.2 billion (USD 38.7 billion), compared to SAR 135.4 billion (USD 36.1 billion) in Q3 2025, while free cash flow increased to SAR 105.8 billion (USD 28.2 billion), from SAR 88.4 billion (USD 23.6 billion).

Gearing stood at 5.5 percent as of September 30, down from 6.2 percent at the end of June. The board also approved a base dividend of SAR 82.1 billion (USD 21.9 billion) for the third quarter, up 3.5 percent year-on-year, to be paid in Q4.

Aramco reported a 234 percent annual increase in adjusted earnings before interest, taxes and zakat in its refining, chemicals and marketing segment, driven by improved refining margins. It also announced the start of production from the Zuluf crude oil increment project, confirming that major upstream projects, including the second phase of Jafurah, the Fadhili Gas Plant expansion and the Dammam field development, remain on schedule.

The company added that its East-West Pipeline continued to provide export flexibility, while it explored additional overseas storage capacity and alternative export routes to strengthen its global supply network.

Aramco also acquired a 49 percent stake in HUMAIN through asset transfers and cash contributions worth approximately SAR 9.9 billion (USD 2.6 billion), strengthening its presence in the rapidly growing artificial intelligence sector. It further signed a shareholders' agreement to establish a joint venture focused on mineral exploration and hard-rock mining.

Aramco President and CEO Amin Nasser said geopolitical uncertainty and attacks on key energy facilities intensified the global energy supply crisis during the third quarter, with serious implications for global energy security.

Tripoli SEZ chief visits KCCI to boost partnerships

KCCI eyes Kuwaiti role in Tripoli economic zone

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) received Dr. Eng. Hassan Khaled Al-Danawi, Chairman of the Board and Director General of the Tripoli Special Economic Zone Authority.

According to a press release, the visit aimed to strengthen economic and investment cooperation, explore opportunities for the Kuwaiti private sector to participate in developing the economic zone, and benefit from its promising potential.

In its welcoming remarks, KCCI expressed its pleasure at hosting Dr. Al-Danawi, highlighting the importance of deepening cooperation and partnership between the business communities of the two sisterly countries.

It also emphasized the need to expand opportunities for engagement among investors and business owners to serve mutual interests, establish sustainable investment partnerships, and capitalize on the economic and investment potential offered by Tripoli.

KCCI explained that the significance of the Tripoli Special Economic Zone lies in its anticipated role in establishing an integrated production and logistics hub that connects port, industrial, and commercial activities. This would improve operational efficiency, reduce business costs, enhance product competitiveness, and facilitate access to markets.

KCCI is closely monitoring progress in developing the industrial and logistics hub, along with preparations for selecting a developer and operator.

It described this as a critical stage for identifying investment opportunities and determining the specific expertise and operational capabilities required for the project.

Several promising areas could provide opportunities for cooperation with the Kuwaiti business sector, particularly in developing and managing industrial and logistics facilities, as well as providing warehousing and distribution services.

Furthermore, opportunities exist to establish partnerships across various industrial sectors, combining Kuwaiti investment and commercial expertise with Lebanese production capabilities and know-how to serve the mutual interests of both sides.

KCCI concluded the meeting by reaffirming its commitment to facilitating communication between the Authority and Kuwaiti companies interested in investment.



KCCI hosts Tripoli Special Economic Zone chief.

As part of its strategic partnership with LOYAC

National Bank of Kuwait sponsors 'Off the Grid' initiative to foster deeper connection between youth, nature, & heritage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: As part of its unwavering commitment to supporting national youth and empowering them to obtain experiences and skills that help shape their character and refine their abilities, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is sponsoring the "Off the Grid" initiative, conducted through a strategic partnership with LOYAC to offers participants unique field exploration experiences to learn about Kuwait's natural and cultural history.

The initiative is part of a series of programs designed to encourage young people to explore and learn through direct, hands-on experience. It consists of three exploratory trips taking place in October, November, and December, targeting individuals aged 14 to 18. The program seeks to raise awareness of Kuwait's history and natural heritage, while fostering essential skills such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability in the face of challenges.

These excursions begin in the "Red Ubaid Land" area in Al-Subiya, pass by the Kazemah escarpment in Al-Mutla'a, and extend to the sites of ancient river channels in Kuwait. Throughout these journeys, participants will embark on exploratory tours to examine the unique geological formations found at these locations and discover the Ubaid culture, which is one of the oldest civilizations linked to the region's history, further helping them gain a deeper understanding of the Kuwaiti environment and its natural history.

Participants will also explore the remnants of ancient watercourses, which reflect the geological transformations the region has undergone over thousands of years.



The National Bank of Kuwait and LOYAC teams with participants of the 'Off the Grid' initiative.

Additionally, they will engage in hands-on, interactive activities that foster exploration, learning, and teamwork, while being encouraged to adopt responsible exploration practices and environmental stewardship in line with "Leave No Trace" principles.

On this occasion, Mohammad Al-Hebeshi, Senior Officer - Public Relations and Event Management at NBK, commented: "We take pride in continuing our strategic partnership with LOYAC, which, over the years, has yielded numerous impactful initiatives aimed at empowering youth and broadening their horizons. The 'Off the Grid' initiative serves as an excellent model for learning beyond traditional frameworks, as it offers participants a unique opportunity to explore natural and historical sites across Kuwait, while discovering the nation's cultural and environmental heritage through enriching field experiences that enhance their knowledge and foster the development of both practical and personal skills".

Al-Hebeshi added: "The initiative offers young people a unique opportunity to learn through direct exploration and interaction with their surrounding environment, which helps them acquire skills in leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving within real-life situations. Furthermore, these experiences foster a deeper connection to Kuwait's history and natural heritage, while encouraging the adoption of values such as responsibility and environmental stewardship, all of which positively influence their personal development and future".

Al-Hebeshi also emphasized: "Commitment to social responsibility is a deeply ingrained corporate culture at NBK, which is why we will continue to support initiatives aimed at creating a positive and sustainable impact on society, and we look forward to further collaborations with the strategic partners across various sectors to launch additional programs that help prepare a generation capable of shaping a brighter future for Kuwait".

NBK is committed to adopting a diverse range of community programs and initiatives that focus on youth, education, and sustainable development. As the leading financial institution in Kuwait and one of the key supporters of corporate social responsibility, NBK continues to collaborate with various civil society organizations to launch impactful initiatives that deliver a tangible, positive, and lasting contribution to society.

- Deposit rating upgraded from Baa2 to Baa1
- Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) upgraded from ba3 to ba2
- Local and Foreign Currency Counterparty Risk Rating upgraded from Baa1 to A3

In collaboration with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank

KIPCO, Kamco, URC & UFM unite for blood donation



'One Donation. Countless Lives Possible' campaign returns.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: For the third consecutive year, Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - KIPCO, Kamco Invest, United Real Estate Company (URC), and United Facilities Management (UFM) came together to organize a blood donation drive in collaboration with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank, under the theme "One Donation. Countless Lives Possible". The campaign highlights how a single act of generosity can make a meaningful difference. One donation can save a life, with its positive impact extending across families and communities.

Building on the success of last year's campaign, this initiative reflects the group's continued dedication to corporate social responsibility and collective action that delivers sustainable community impact.

Held at the Chairman's Club on the 54th floor of KIPCO Tower the initiative brought together employees from all the participating and neighboring companies, encouraging them to take part in a collective effort to support the community and contribute to a vital healthcare need.

The initiative reflects the group companies continued commitment to corporate social responsibility and community engagement with the strategic direction of KIPCO Group companies in integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into their operations. Through collective action, the participating companies continue to support meaningful initiatives that promote public health and community well-being, creating a positive and lasting impact.

PMI expands smoke-free portfolio in Kuwait

IQOS introduces BONDS heated-tobacco device to Kuwait



IQOS launches new heated-tobacco option for adult smokers.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Philip Morris International (PMI) has announced the introduction of BONDS by IQOS, a heated-tobacco device, in Kuwait.

The device uses ROUNDHEAT Technology, which heats specially designed tobacco sticks known as BLENDS through an external heating system rather than burning them. The process produces an aerosol containing nicotine.

According to the company, BONDS by IQOS is designed exclusively for use with ROUNDHEAT STICKS, marketed under the name BLENDS.

PMI General Manager for Kuwait Steven Steven said the introduction adds another product to the company's existing range of heated-tobacco and other smoke-free products.

The company said it has invested more than $16 billion since 2008 in the development and commercialization of products intended for adults who would otherwise continue smoking. PMI also reported that, as of Dec 31, 2025, more than 43 million adults worldwide used its smoke-free products, including more than 35 million IQOS users.

PMI stated that BONDS by IQOS is not risk-free and contains nicotine, an addictive substance. The company said the best option for smokers is to quit tobacco and nicotine altogether.

The product is intended for adults who would otherwise continue smoking or using other nicotine-containing products.

Trump to cut South Africa, Rwanda from AGOA

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 3, (AP): U.S. President Donald Trump will cut South Africa and Rwanda from a quarter-century-old Africa trade agreement at the end of the year as punishment for not meeting certain criteria, including policies on trade barriers and alignment with U.S. foreign policy, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said Monday.

In South Africa's case, it's another sanction against Africa's biggest economy by the Trump administration. Last week, the U.S. excluded South Africa from a meeting of foreign ministers from the Group of 20 countries in Atlanta.

The trade deal under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, was introduced by former U.S. President Bill Clinton in 2000 to give some African nations duty-free access to the American market for some of their goods.

Countries have to meet requirements to be members, like establishing a market-based economy, the rule of law, political pluralism and the right to due process while also eliminating barriers to U.S. trade and investment. Countries' memberships are reviewed each year. More than 30 African nations are currently members of AGOA and view duty-free access to the U.S. market for some of their exports as a crucial economic boost.

Russian air strikes cripple Ukraine's industry, exports

KAMIANSKE, Nov 3, (AP): The furnaces are cold, the factory floor deserted, and twisted metal litters the grounds of Kamet Steel, a vast industrial complex that once helped power Ukraine's economy but closed after a Russian attack.

Across the country, grain - a key export - piles up in fields and silos as farmers struggle to find routes safe from airstrikes and wait for prices to rise.

Russia's intensified air campaign is slowly strangling Ukraine's economy, targeting industrial and energy plants and the logistics networks, railways and export routes that keep it afloat. The near-daily strikes with ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones disrupt production and drive up transport costs.

As a result, Ukraine's government faces a deepening cash crunch as the air war chokes its revenue from steel, agriculture and other key sources. The damage ripples across interconnected sectors just as Kyiv faces uncertainty over future U.S. support.

Ukraine's central bank last week forecast a 0.4% economic contraction in 2026, reversing its previous projection of 1.8% growth, due to the attacks and a surge in global energy prices. Gov. Andriy Pyshnyy said the bank had also raised its inflation forecast to 12.5%, from 10% in July.

Ukraine spends some 40% of its gross domestic product on defense - far beyond what it can cover alone, notes Torbjörn Becker, director of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics. Raising taxes only would bring in a fraction of what is needed.

Missile strikes have halted steel production across Metinvest Group, the country's mining and metals giant.

Kamet Steel, in the industrial city of Kamianske, accounted for more than a quarter of Ukraine's steel output in 2025. The complex employed thousands producing steel and pig iron for domestic construction. It also supplied semi-finished steel to Metinvest's facility in Bulgaria for the market there and elsewhere in Europe.

But five ballistic missiles struck the site on Sept. 5. Its closure has hurt Ukraine's industrial economy, affecting construction, mining, engineering, energy and logistics.

Ukrzaliznytsia, the national railway operator, relies heavily on steel transport and other freight revenue. Businesses that rely on the plant could lose jobs and face bankruptcy, said Oleksandr Tretyakov, Kamet Steel's CEO. European Union trade restrictions could hinder recovery by narrowing the market for Ukrainian steel exports, he said.

"This is the worst situation since the Second World War," Tretyakov said, noting that steel once accounted for about 6% of Ukraine's GDP.

"It did," he said. "Right now, it's zero."

Agriculture accounts for up to 60% of Ukraine's foreign currency earnings, making it critical to the wartime economy.

But Russian attacks on Black Sea shipping have sharply reduced traffic through Ukraine's deep-water ports just as farmers need cash to prepare for the next planting season.

Ukraine's Black Sea trade has collapsed with attacks on ports, vessels and logistics infrastructure, according to maritime data and analytics company Lloyd's List Intelligence. There were only 21 ship arrivals at Black Sea ports in August, down about 90% from a year earlier.

Soaring insurance premiums and the constant threat of Russian strikes deter shipowners. Dozens of sailors have been killed in attacks this year.

"All our developments and all the innovations we achieved will be crossed out by this situation and we will need to start from zero later," said Volodymyr Scavinskyi, trade director at Nibulon, one of Ukraine's leading agricultural exporters.

Ship traffic from Ukraine's lower-capacity ports on the Danube River to the Black Sea has surged, even under the threat of Russian bombardment. But it is costly. The Danube delta's Sulina Channel is too shallow for the largest vessels, and dozens of ships often wait days to enter or leave the river.

Record low Danube water levels due to drought also constrain the route. Barges that once carried 1,500 tons are loading only 800 to 900 tons, Scavinskyi said. Nearly twice as many barges are needed to move the same volume, raising costs. Transporting each ton of corn from central Ukraine to Spain cost up to $50 earlier this year. Now, it can reach $150, he said.

"It's still risky and you don't have any guarantees that your voyage will be successful," Scavinskyi said.

For Olena Shelest, commercial director at HarvEast, a major agricultural holding, the immediate challenge is finding buyers.

HarvEast is holding wheat in enormous silo bags, waiting for market prices to stabilize. But the grain must be sold by year's end to free up cash for next year's planting. The company risks running out of money to sow the next crop, turning today's export bottleneck into next year's production crisis.

Corn prices have fallen sharply, from an average of $210 to $230 per ton last year to around $130, further squeezing farmers, Shelest said.

About 60% of HarvEast's sales used to go through Black Sea ports. The Danube ports of Reni and Izmail can handle only about 15% to 20% of overall national export volumes, Shelest said. Land routes through Poland and elsewhere in Europe offer alternatives but have higher transport costs.

The pressure is forcing farmers to cut spending on seeds and fertilizer, risking future yields.

Binance heist sparks US-North Korea tensions

North Korea denies involvement in Binance hack & criticizes FBI probe as 'a trite provocation'

SEOUL, Nov 3, (AP): North Korea on Tuesday denied its involvement in the recent cryptocurrency heist at Binance, dismissing as "a trite provocation" a U.S. announcement that North Korean hackers were behind the incident.

Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, said Friday that hackers stole more than $6 billion in what appears to be the largest cryptocurrency heist on record. The FBI later said the theft was orchestrated by North Korean hackers, attributing the attack to a hacking group known as Trader-Traitor, which was also behind a $1.5 billion hack of the Bybit exchange last year.

On Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, called the FBI announcement "a trite provocation" and "an absurd rhetoric."

"This is not the first time that the U.S. has attempted to spread misunderstanding of the DPRK in the international community, blindly linking the DPRK with the 'cyber crime' incidents whenever they occur on an international scale," she said in a statement, using the abbreviation of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"On this occasion, we confirmed Washington's hostile attitude toward the DPRK once again and are closely monitoring a variety of persistent provocations of the U.S. against our state," Kim Yo Jong said.

Outside experts say North Korea has increasingly turned to cryptocurrency theft and other illicit cyber activities as a source of badly needed foreign currency, helping sustain its struggling economy and fund its nuclear program in the face of stringent U.S.-led international sanctions and other challenges. In December 2022, South Korea's spy agency estimated that North Korean hackers had stolen 1.5 trillion won ($1.1 billion) in cryptocurrency and other virtual assets over the previous five years.



Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, attends a wreath-laying ceremony at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2, 2019. (Jorge Silva/Pool Photo via AP, File)

Although the country has mostly denied involvement, North Korea has been linked to numerous major cyberattacks in past years, including a 2013 campaign that paralyzed the servers of South Korean financial institutions, the 2014 hacking of Sony Pictures, and the WannaCry malware attack of 2017.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Monday that North Korea's illicit cyber activities pose an increasing threat to the global digital economy and that Seoul was closely cooperating with the United States and the broader international community to address the threat.

The Binance heist came as North Korea has ramped up its weapons tests in a likely bid to increase its leverage in potential diplomacy with the U.S. after U.S. President Donald Trump expressed his desire to restore diplomacy with Kim Jong Un. On Tuesday, North Korea said it tested a new cluster warhead for strategic cruise missiles.

Asked by reporters later during a Halloween party at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, Trump suggested investigators weren't yet certain that North Korea was involved.

"I'm not concerned. We're learning about it," Trump said of the case. "We don't know if it's North Korea," he added, though saying investigators could still determine that it was.

In her Tuesday statement, Kim Yo Jong said: "We have issues to reconsider in diverse aspects as regards the very unpleasant U.S. hostile attitude."

Outdated technology leaves UK infrastructure vulnerable

Britain faces growing AI-powered cyber threats

LONDON, Nov 3, (AP): The United Kingdom will likely face artificial intelligence cyberattacks on its critical infrastructure by 2028 as criminals and states, including China and Russia, increasingly use AI in their cyberactivity, Britain's cyber-chief said Tuesday.

That could include AI-powered malware for ransomware attacks as the technology will allow "vulnerabilities that have been tolerated for far too long" to be discovered and exploited "at a scale that was once unimaginable," said Richard Horne, the head of the National Cyber Security Center.

One such vulnerability was discovered in refrigeration units that were targeted by hackers who turned up the temperature, causing food to thaw. The U.K. has also been affected, Horne said.

In a speech marking the publication of the annual cyber report by the National Cyber Security Center, or NCSC, Horne said that the leaders of businesses and organizations of all sizes who have "got away with tech on the cheap" will have to explain why "food isn't on the shelves, lights aren't on, businesses have gone under," if they fail to invest in cybersecurity or update out-of-date technology.

Chinese cyberactivity is the "most sophisticated and sustained cyber challenge facing the U.K." while both Russia and China will routinely use AI to achieve their geopolitical goals, the report said. Russia is intentionally conducting cybercampaigns which fall below the threshold of armed conflict, while Iran is carrying out attacks against the U.K. and targeting individuals who are a threat to the Iranian government, Horne said.

The use of AI by states and criminals is highly likely to increase the scale and efficiency of hostile operations, but AI is more likely to be used to enhance and scale existing tactics and techniques rather than find brand new vulnerabilities, the report said.

Technology "underpins the automation of physical processes that are vital to modern life," Horne said. That includes, he said, electricity switching, sluice gates in water facilities, dam operations, manufacturing lines, heating and refrigeration controls. The recent cyberattacks on refrigeration systems in French supermarkets showed how easily hostile actors could exploit civilian infrastructure, Horne said.

Fridges across Europe have been affected, including in the U.K., where security experts from the NCSC worked "through the night" to contact organizations with the vulnerable technology, Horne told The Associated Press.

Refrigeration systems in France were attacked because they were using old technology which was no longer being updated and that was connected directly to the internet with default passwords, Horne said. It was, he said, not an AI attack but one where bad actors exploited vulnerabilities that have existed for a long time and showed the need for businesses to address the security of operational technology.

Last week, governments and corporations worked on urgent security updates after the AI-assisted discovery of vulnerabilities in a programming language vital to 70% of websites globally. The two critical flaws identified by AI could allow bad actors to get unauthenticated access to sites which, in theory, could allow them to control a web server remotely without needing a password.

Russia has already attacked critical infrastructure in Europe, according to the U.K. and European Union member states that said Russia's FSB security service was behind an attack on Poland's energy grid in December 2025. If the attack had been successful, 500,000 people could have lost electricity during winter.

In the U.K., malicious cyberactivity is costing organizations almost $20 billion every year, the NCSC said. In 2025, the carmaker Jaguar Land Rover suffered more than $260 million in direct losses following a cyberattack which also hit suppliers and dented the U.K. economy.

"We need every organization in the U.K. to take action now. Not only to protect their customers, services and livelihoods, but because cybersecurity is now part of the front-line defense of our nation," said Anne Keast-Butler, director of GCHQ, Britain's signals intelligence agency, which the NCSC is part of.

That includes implementing basic but effective cybersecurity measures such as making sure devices are up to date, limiting administrator access to systems and backing up important files and data, the NCSC said.

Five European nations report supermarket cyberattacks

European supermarkets hit by freezer cyberattacks

STOCKHOLM, Nov 3, (AP): Supermarkets in Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland and Estonia were hit Monday by problems with freezers and fridges that apparently were caused by cyberattacks, forcing some to dispose of ruined food.

The problems follow a case last month in which attackers remotely took control of refrigeration systems in hundreds of supermarkets and independent stores across France, sending temperatures soaring.

Gustaf Nilsson, a spokesperson for Sweden's ICA Group supermarket chain, told the TT news agency that "a limited number" of stores were affected overnight by an incident that affected refrigeration and freezing systems. He declined to give a specific number.

An ICA Kvantum store in Sjöbo, southern Sweden, said its fridges and freezers had been hacked and set to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). In a Facebook post, it said staff were discarding affected products.

The Coop chain said that six of its stores in central Sweden had problems with their fridges and freezers, TT reported, though it didn't immediately have details.



Freezers are emptied and frozen goods are loaded into shopping carts to be thrown away at ICA Kvantum in Sjöbo, Sweden, Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, as some stores have suffered problems with their refrigerators and freezers overnight. (Johan Nilsson /TT News Agency via AP)

The Delhaize chain said that an "IT incident" had affected refrigeration systems in several dozen of its stores, mostly in Belgium but also a few in neighboring Luxembourg.

"In the affected stores, the range of fresh and frozen products is temporarily somewhat limited. Our distribution centers are operating normally, and there has been no disruption to deliveries to our stores," spokesperson Sarah De Meester said.

Carrefour said a cyberattack targeting refrigeration systems had affected 15 of its more than 700 stores in Belgium, describing the impact as "extremely limited."

In Estonia, a refrigeration technology company said attackers had accessed a computer controlling a client's refrigeration system and raised the temperature to 50 degrees Celsius, public broadcaster ERR reported.

Jann Mutso, chief executive of Kitman Coldtech, declined to identify the store but said the attack was addressed within minutes and caused no significant damage. The Selver supermarket chain said one of its outlets was affected.

In Ireland, refrigeration systems in 13 SuperValu stores were affected by the "cyber incident," parent company Musgrave Group said. A spokesperson said chilled and frozen products were removed from sale as a precaution.

On Monday afternoon, the company said the incident had been "fully resolved" and "replenishment of chilled and frozen ranges in the affected stores is well under way."

The cyberattacks in France appeared to target old systems.

Japanese tech firm offers $1 mln bounty for hackers

GMO promises payouts after 26,000 security breaches

TOKYO, Nov 3, (AP): Japanese online service company GMO Internet Group apologized Monday for recent security breaches from cyberattacks, while promising to prevent a recurrence and compensate victims.

Chief Executive Masatoshi Kumagai and other GMO executives bowed deeply repeatedly, as is the custom here, at a news conference in Tokyo.

GMO confirmed that unauthorized access to its cloud service called Onamae.com Desktop Cloud resulted in leaked information and transactions customers didn't recall making, affecting dozens of securities firms and other businesses. It said there were more than 26,000 cases.

"I offer my deepest felt apologies," Kumagai said, stressing the company took the problem seriously.

Tokyo-based GMO offers various internet services related to cybersecurity, online marketing and infrastructure systems, and support for robotics and artificial intelligence.

Kumagai, who founded the company in 1991, acknowledged GMO had been warned internally about a systemic weakness to such attacks, but failed to take proper action.

He apologized for recent social media posts, including a photo of him smiling, that he said may have hurt victims' feelings. Kumagai is taking a 30% pay cut for three months, while other top executives are taking smaller pay cuts.

GMO promised to compensate for the losses and to pay 5,000 yen ($30) to all its customers to express "goodwill." It will also switch to a new security system.

Recent Japanese media reports carried interviews with several people who said huge amounts of money went missing from a GMO service, although they had not initiated the transactions.

The problems at GMO have brought to light Japan's cybersecurity vulnerabilities, which some experts warn have been brushed off for years and lack a sense of crisis.

The troubles at GMO come at a time of growing concern over cybersecurity.

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

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has promised to beef up Japan's cybersecurity measures. The government has declined to comment on the GMO case, including possible suspects.

GMO acknowledged the attackers had deployed ransomware and said it refused to pay.

The company is offering $1 million for information that leads to identifying and arresting the attackers. It has set up a "GMO Cybercrime Bounty" site, where people can submit information in English, Japanese or Chinese. It said that as of last week, it had received more than 400 submissions.

At the news conference, the company's first since the security problems surfaced, Kumagai spoke passionately and tearfully about how he and his employees were working hard to deliver the joys of the internet and other technology to customers.

The impact of the cyberattacks on GMO's financial results is still unclear. GMO stocks, which have fluctuated over the past year, declined after news of the cyberattacks surfaced. The news conference started after trading closed in Tokyo. Its shares have fallen 17.5% so far this year.



Meta data centers operate Sept. 5, 2026, near Social Circle, Ga. (AP Photo/Mike Stewart, File)

Norway court blocks new terms

Meta postpones rules amid AI data-scraping concerns

WASHINGTON, Nov 3, (AP): Meta said it was postponing the rollout of new terms for its business accounts after an outcry from media companies and open-web advocates who said the updated rules would allow the tech giant to scrape vast amounts of data and potentially build competing services.

The new rules, originally scheduled to go into effect Oct. 30, authorize Meta to use automated software such as web scrapers and bots to "index, cache, analyze, collect, retrieve, or crawl the domains, web pages, or URLs" associated with a business account.

The terms would have applied to all business clients, regardless of opposition, and without payment for the extracted content. Critics say Meta would have been able to use the content to potentially build products such as AI services that could compete with news publishers.

The new terms only apply to business accounts. Regular users of Meta's platforms, including Instagram and Facebook, can already have their posts scraped to train AI models as long as they are public.

On Oct. 28, a court in Norway granted a temporary injunction suspending Meta's new terms at the request of 180 Norwegian media companies, pending a full assessment of their legality.

Their case was supported by the Norwegian Media Businesses' Association (MBL), whose member newspapers account for approximately 97% of Norwegian newspaper circulation.

"We are satisfied that the court has agreed with us that Meta holds a dominant position in the relevant market and that the new terms are unreasonable," said Lene Eltvik Vindfeld, MBL chair of the board.

The U.K. Competition and Markets Authority said Oct. 30 it was starting its own investigation into the conditions.

"The CMA is concerned that Meta requiring news publishers and other content businesses to accept these terms could amount to an unlawful imposition of unfair trading conditions," it said Friday.

Meta, however, says the terms don't change how the company uses web crawlers.

"This update is designed to make sure we're able to pull accurate information about products for sale on third-party websites when making on-platform ad and content recommendations, not about scraping news sites," wrote Meta spokesman Andy Stone on X on Oct. 16.

His comments came after a report by the Nieman Journalism Lab at Harvard University, which said that as written, "the new terms could be used to argue that Meta can scrape content from news sites and use that content to train the company's AI products." Nieman Lab said it consulted three legal experts who reviewed the terms at its request.

While there do not appear to have been any lawsuits filed in the U.S., the Association of American Publishers called on Meta to drop the new terms.

"In putting forth these onerous terms of service, Meta is implicitly acknowledging that permission is required for them to use creative works to develop and improve their products," said Maria A. Pallante, AAP president and CEO, in a statement. "But at the same time this mega-corporation is abusing its dominant market power by compelling such consent from any commercial user who connects to any of their platforms."

At some point after Nieman Lab's report, Meta removed the word "train" from the updated terms. The company says the update is not about scraping news sites.

Meta on Oct. 29 said it was listening to feedback and said for now its existing terms remain in place.

"We care deeply about our partners and do not plan to make policy changes without a full consultation with industry groups and leaders," Stone posted on X.

The Norwegian MBL said it wasn't satisfied with the postponement and Meta's assurances were insufficient.

"This is about people's access to trustworthy and critical journalism," Randi S. Øgrey, CEO of the Norwegian MBL, said in a statement. "When the financial foundations of independent news media are weakened, media diversity and the democratic public sphere are at stake."

She said Norwegian media had three demands: Meta should commit in its new terms to respecting publishers' reservations against scraping; using journalism in AI products should happen only after a separate, voluntary agreement and with payment; and publishers who do not sign the new terms should not be marginalized on Meta's social platforms.

The Movement for an Open Web, the group which originally complained to the CMA, called Meta's move and the regulator's investigation a "significant win," but warned it was only the start.

"Unless the CMA and other regulators make it abundantly and quickly clear that this sort of anti-competitive landgrab is not acceptable, then we will continue to see the tech giants throwing their weight around in this way," said Tim Cowen from MOW.

The European Union executive body, the European Commission, confirmed it had discussed the proposed new terms with Meta and welcomed the postponement of their entry into force.

Spokesperson Sara Simonini said the commission was committed to ensuring that Meta's practices comply with EU law, which prohibits a company from abusing its dominant market position and requires "gatekeeper" companies such as Meta to offer fair terms of use to businesses using their social platforms.

Simonini also said the EU executive had asked unspecified providers of AI models to give details about what training material they use, in line with the EU's new AI Act adopted in 2024 and currently being implemented.

US commits up to $450 million loan to drone maker Neros

WASHINGTON, Nov 3, (KUNA): The US Department of War's Office of Strategic Capital (OSC) announced on Monday a conditional loan commitment of up to USD 450 million to Neros, Inc., a U.S.-based developer and manufacturer of dual-use small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS).

This investment is intended to support Neros' domestic manufacturing expansion and reduce reliance on foreign-made components.

OSC's conditional loan commitment to Neros directly advances President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order 14307, Unleashing American Drone Dominance. OSC financing alongside additional private capital will support Neros' planned expansion of vertically integrated domestic manufacturing capacity to produce dual-use sUAS platforms, ground control systems, and critical components like motors, radios, flight electronics, sensors, and batteries.

"Neros has already demonstrated an ability to design, manufacture, and deliver exceptional small unmanned aircraft systems," said David A. Lorch, Director of the Office of Strategic Capital and Senior Advisor to Deputy Secretary of War Steve Feinberg. "OSC's investment will turbocharge Neros' ability to manufacture drones and components critical for the production of drone systems."

Neros designs and produces low-cost, high-performance drones. The company's manufacturing facility in Torrance, California will help onshore the production of complete drone systems as well as critical subcomponents including propulsion motors, flight stacks, radios, and thermal sensors. This vertically integrated capacity will support both Neros' internal production and the supply of critical, NDAA-compliant components to other U.S. and allied drone manufacturers.

"Winning the drone industrial-base competition requires the United States to be able to manufacture complete systems at scale and at competitive prices for both military and non-military applications. This starts with bolstering the domestic supply of critical components inside all drone systems," said James R. Shanahan, Senior Managing Director (Investments) at OSC. "Neros' vertically integrated approach would support the creation of significant incremental domestic component capacity for Neros and the broader unmanned-systems ecosystem."

'Chinese Culture Night – Hebei, Once Again' lights up Kuwait with over 500 attendees

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: On a night that blended the magic of the East with the essence of heritage, the Crowne Plaza Hotel hosted the event "Chinese Culture Night - Hebei, Once Again" on the evening of November 2, attended by more than 500 people including representatives of the cultural, artistic and media sectors and enthusiasts of Chinese culture.

The event was jointly organized by the Chinese Cultural Center in Kuwait and the Department of Culture and Tourism of Hebei Province, China, under the guidance of the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait.

The ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Yang Xin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kuwait, Mrs. Aisha Al-Mahmoud, Assistant Secretary-General for the Culture Sector at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), Sheikha Dr. Anooud Ibrahim Al-Sabah, founder of the Kuwaiti-Chinese Friendship Club and researcher in Chinese affairs, and Mr. Liu Jin Hong, Director of the Chinese Cultural Center in Kuwait, who delivered speeches affirming the depth of cultural relations between the two countries.

Acrobatic and Heritage Tableaux from Hebei

The Hebei delegation presented a rich program combining acrobatics, martial arts and paper-cutting. In the "Dragon Dance on Chairs," more than 20 wooden chairs were stacked and balanced on a single performer's head, while the "Ballet on the Blade" amazed the audience with its extraordinary precision in balancing props on the tip of a sharp blade.

Wuqiao acrobatics shone in the "Plate Spinning and Diabolo" and "Parasol Balancing" shows, while Cangzhou martial arts presented powerful displays, and Yuxian paper-cutting showcased bright colors and patterns symbolizing luck and happiness.

Joint Kuwaiti-Chinese Participation

The celebration was not limited to Chinese artists; local talents had a remarkable presence. The Dance Studio Kuwait presented the children's ballet "Arabian Nights," children from the Kuwait Qinghe Chinese Institute performed the song "Honey Baby" in costumes representing Chinese ethnic groups, and the Al-Tamimi Tai Chi team gave martial arts performances.

Singer Catherine Kartanyan, who surprised the audience with her strong and melodious voice, excelled with her rendition of "Reflection" from the movie Mulan in both Chinese and English. Wang Yaoyao from China and Mariam from Kuwait recited the poem "One Moon, One Friendship" as an expression of the solid friendship between the two peoples.

Students of the Chinese Cultural Center presented the song "Xiao Mei Man" and the traditional sports display "Ba Duan Jin," embodying the event's motto that they are not only learning culture, but also sharing it.























Photos from the event

Honoring and Live Experience

The evening witnessed the honoring of 9 students who passed the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK), winners of the 2026 Global Chinese Recitation Competition, and student Salman, who won the title of "Little Cultural Ambassador" from the Soong Ching Ling Foundation.

Away from the stage, visitors lived the experience themselves by trying paper-cutting, basic martial arts movements and diabolo, in addition to exhibitions of Chinese painting and calligraphy, tasting sweets and participating in traditional games.

Ongoing Workshops

The program continues today, November 3, with two intangible heritage workshops titled "Gifts of Hebei" at the Chinese Cultural Center, including paper-cutting, martial arts and diabolo with hands-on activities. Tomorrow, November 4, the workshops will move to the American University of Kuwait (AUK) to enhance exchange between students and Hebei artists.

This program confirms that culture is a bridge linking China and Kuwait, and that continuous exchange contributes to deepening mutual understanding and strengthening friendship between the two peoples.

Young minds bring 2,500 ideas to life as ICSK marks Gyanotsav

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3, (AP): The Indian Community School, Senior, turned into a spectacular celebration of ideas, imagination and discovery on Thursday, 29th October 2026, as it hosted Gyanotsav 2026 under the inspiring theme 'Sustainable Spectrum'. The campus wore a festive look, with its entrance, classrooms and auditorium transformed into colourful spaces reflecting the spirit of sustainability and innovation. The imposing Kuwait Towers, creatively incorporated into the campus decor, added a distinctive regional touch to the celebrations.

More than an exhibition, Gyanotsav was a wonderful reflection of how learning extends beyond textbooks. It brought together young thinkers, budding innovators and creative minds, offering them a platform to explore, experiment and share their understanding of the world around them.

The occasion was graced by the esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. Ram Veer, Regional Officer and Deputy Secretary, CBSE. The distinguished gathering also included Mr. Shaikh Abdul Rahiman, Hon. Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mr. Jaffeer, Special Invitee; Father James Tuscano, Principal of The Indian English Academy School; Dr. V. Binumon, Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK; Mr. Gangadhar Shirshat, Principal of ICSK Khaitan; Mr. Rajesh Nair, Principal of ICSK Amman; Mrs. Shirley Dennis, Director of ISEK; Mrs. C. Sheeja, Principal of ICSK Junior; and the Vice Principals of ICSK.

An initiative close to the heart of the school community added special significance to the day. Embracing the belief that education must also nurture care and responsibility towards nature, the school introduced its House Garden Initiative, envisioned by the Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK, Dr. V. Binumon. The initiative encourages every house to develop and care for its own collection of potted plants, with house captains and mentors guiding students in their efforts. The House Garden was formally inaugurated by the Hon. Chairman to the Board of Trustees, Mr. Shaikh Abdul Rahiman, marking the beginning of this green endeavour.

The inaugural ceremony opened on a reverent note with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by a prayer song. The gathering then stood in respect for the National Anthem of Kuwait. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, accompanied by the Principal, was followed by a unique and captivating inauguration. With the press of a button by the Chief Guest, a creatively designed model of a man spinning a wheel sprang into motion, symbolically unveiling Gyanotsav 2026 and setting the celebrations in motion. The imaginative presentation beautifully echoed the spirit of the occasion, where knowledge, creativity and innovation came together.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Dr. V. Binumon spoke about the vision behind Gyanotsav and its role in nurturing scientific curiosity, independent thinking and innovation among students. He encouraged the young participants to approach learning with an inquisitive mind and the confidence to explore new possibilities. He also announced the introduction of 'Gyanotsav Vidya Vibhushan', a special recognition for the participant securing the highest marks in each category, celebrating academic excellence and outstanding effort.

The cultural segment added colour and artistic charm to the proceedings. A mesmerizing classical dance performance by the talented dancers of ICSK celebrated the richness and grace of India's cultural heritage. The atmosphere was further enriched by the soulful voices of Swaranjali, the school choir, whose inspirational song touched the hearts of the audience. Adding a refreshing burst of energy, Rhythm of Earth unfolded through a spirited dance performance that beautifully captured the harmony and vitality of nature, leaving the audience enthralled.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Mr. Ram Veer congratulated the school and its students for their commendable efforts. He highlighted the importance of exhibitions in making learning meaningful and experiential, while emphasizing the role of the National Education Policy in promoting holistic development. He encouraged students to cultivate curiosity, develop a scientific temper and use knowledge as a foundation for innovation.

An important part of the programme was the recognition of students who had participated in the National Energy Saving Campaign – Waffer, an initiative launched by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (MEWRE), Kuwait. Demonstrating their commitment to energy conservation and environmental awareness, ICSK students took part in three competitions: Comic Strip Making, Poster and Policy Making, and Ad Film Making.The winners were honoured with medals and certificates by the Chief Guest, Mr. Ram Veer.

As a gesture of appreciation and gratitude, Mr. Shaikh Abdul Rahiman, Hon. Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented a memento to the Chief Guest, Mr. Ram Veer.

A soulful song by Ms. Esther Dinjen brought a gentle change of mood to the programme. Her soothing voice filled the auditorium with a sense of calm, giving the audience a delightful musical moment amid the day's excitement. The celebrations soon gathered fresh momentum with a lively Punjabi Bhangra performance.

The exhibition showcased nearly 2,500 exhibits, offering visitors an engaging journey across a wide range of disciplines. Science and Technology, Mathematics and Logical Thinking, Fashion, Health, Arts and Culture, Humanities and Languages, Life Skills and Global Perspectives were among the areas brought to life through innovative models, creative displays, interactive presentations and live demonstrations. Every exhibit offered a glimpse into the students' thought processes, research and ability to turn classroom concepts into practical experiences.









Photos from the event

'We are honored to support this tournament'

ALSAYER Group supports community football tournament



The winning team celebrates with officials.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: As part of its ongoing commitment to community engagement and social responsibility, ALSAYER Group sponsored a football tournament organized in memory of the late Thamer Najy Al-Osaimi, bringing together community members, athletes, families, and supporters in a celebration of sportsmanship, unity, and remembrance.

Held at Al-Nassr Sports Club on October 25, 2026, the tournament served as a meaningful tribute to Thamer Najy Al-Osaimi's legacy, reflecting the positive impact he left on those around him and the values he represented. The event welcomed teams and participants from across the community, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie, healthy competition, and mutual respect.

The tournament featured a series of competitive matches, community activities, and opportunities for attendees to honor and remember Thamer Najy Al-Osaimi's lasting legacy. The event highlighted how sport can unite people around a shared purpose, creating lasting memories while celebrating the lives and contributions of loved ones.

Mr. Abdullah Saleh Al-Shuwai', Advisor to the Automobile Dealers Union, General Manager of Government Relations and Customer Affairs, and Legal Representative of ALSAYER Group commented, "We are honored to support this tournament and to stand alongside the organizers, participants, and community members in commemorating the life and legacy of Thamer Najy Al-Osaimi. Events such as these demonstrate the unique ability of sport to bring people together, strengthen community ties, and inspire positive connections. At ALSAYER Group, we remain committed to supporting initiatives that promote community engagement, well-being, and meaningful social impact."



ALSAYER Group receives a plaque of appreciation.

ALSAYER Group extends its appreciation to the organizers, participants, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to the success of the tournament. The Group remains dedicated to supporting community-driven initiatives that create lasting value, celebrate meaningful causes, and encourage a healthier and more connected society.

Al-Sahel appoints Dumaid to lead team for rest of season

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Al-Sahel has named national coach Saud Dumaid as head coach of its first football team for the remainder of the season.

Dumaid takes over after former coach Ali Abdulredha stepped down, following the team's 3-2 defeat to Tadamon last Friday in the seventh round of the Zain Premier League.

The loss was Al-Sahel's fourth in the competition, leaving it on four points in 10th place in the standings.

Dumaid previously worked with Al-Sahel's youth teams and brings considerable coaching experience to the position.

He has already begun his duties and will make his official debut against league leaders Kuwait Club next Sunday in the eighth round of the competition.



Saud Dumaid

Kuwait Club prevails over Kazma in five-set thriller

Qadsia sweeps aside Sulaibikhat

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Club secured a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Kazma in the highlight fixture of the fourth round of the 2025-2026 Premier Volleyball League, following an exciting five-set battle at the Volleyball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

In the other match of the round, Qadsia swept aside Sulaibikhat 3-0 to maintain its pursuit of the leading teams.

Kazma remained at the top of the standings with nine points, while Kuwait Club climbed to second place with seven points despite having played fewer matches. Qadsia also have seven points but occupy third place on set difference.

Sulaibikhat is fourth with one point, while Al-Arabi remains at the bottom without a point.

The Kuwait Club-Kazma encounter produced an evenly balanced contest, with both teams trading sets in a fiercely fought battle. Neither side managed to establish a clear advantage through the first four sets, forcing the match into a deciding fifth set.

The Whites proved stronger when it mattered most, raising their performance in the final set to clinch an impressive 3-2 victory.



Kuwait Club players combine to block a Kazma spike during crucial clash.

Goalkeeper Al-Fadhli unlikely hero

Kuwait veterans end campaign on winning note



Players battling for the ball during Kuwait match against Oman.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait's veterans ended its campaign in the second Gulf Veterans Football Cup with a 1-0 victory over Oman in the final round of Group A, but the win was not enough to secure a place in the next stage.

Goalkeeper Khaled Al-Fadhli proved to be the unlikely hero, scoring the decisive goal in stoppage time after coming on as a second-half substitute and playing as a striker.

Kuwait finished third in the group with four points, behind Saudi Arabia, who topped the standings with seven points, and Iraq, who secured second place with six.

The Blues began their campaign with a 1-1 draw against Saudi Arabia before suffering a 1-0 defeat to Iraq in the second round.

British-bred Point of Law wins 166th Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE, Nov. 3, (Xinhua): British-bred Point of Law won the 166th running of the Melbourne Cup, Australia's most prestigious horse race, over 3,200 meters on Tuesday.

The three-year-old colt, which was bred and owned by King Charles III and Queen Camilla before being sold to an Australian group in August, took the lead in the final 200 meters to claim victory ahead of stablemates Zahrann and Juja Kibo.

Speaking after the race, winning jockey Ethan Brown said his strategy was to remain patient in the 23-horse field.

Change Name

I, Mustafa Asgar Ali patwari Holder of Indian Passport No. P6325305 Having Permanent Address Saifee Mohalla Thandla Jhabua 457777 Madhya Pradesh India Residing in Kuwait at Present. Hereby declare that hence forth my name will be read as (given Name) Mustafa and (Surname) Patwari

Doha welcomes world's top shooters for 2028 Olympic qualifiers

World Shooting Championship opens in a spectacular fashion

DOHA, Nov 3: The World Shooting Championship, a qualifying event for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games, opened in Doha, bringing together around 1,100 male and female shooters from 91 countries, including some of the world's leading champions and Olympic medalists.

President of the Qatar Shooting and Archery Association and Vice-President of the Asian Shooting Confederation Dr Mishal Al-Nasr welcomed the participants at the opening ceremony, saying: "You are the heart of this event and the creators of its memorable moments. You have come to Doha to write a new chapter in your sporting careers. We welcome you to the Lusail Shooting Complex."

International Shooting Sport Federation President Luciano Rossi expressed his delight at Qatar hosting the championship, commending the country's sports leadership and organizing committees for their considerable efforts in preparing for the global event.

The opening ceremony was attended by President of the Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Duaij Al-Otaibi and featured several performances, including a parade of participating nations and a cultural show highlighting Qatari heritage. A promotional video showcasing the championship and its competitors was also screened, before the ceremony concluded with a traditional Qatari Ardah performance.



A scene from the opening ceremony.

The competition is being held at the Lusail Shooting Complex, with approximately 1,100 shooters from 92 countries vying for 36 quota places at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The qualification spots are distributed across 12 individual Olympic events, with three places available in each, making the championship one of the major opportunities for shooters to secure their Olympic berths.

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Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives to the basket against Phoenix Suns forward Dillon Brooks (3) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco. Warriors won 116-113. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Club one win away from last-16 berth

UAE'S Al-Wahda takes on Bahrain's Khalidiya

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait Club will be aiming to secure its place in the AFC Champions League Two Round of 16 when it hosts Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi at 7:00 pm today at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium in the fourth round of Group A. In the other group fixture, UAE's Al-Wahda takes on Bahrain's Khalidiya at Al-Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi at 8:00 pm.

The Whites occupy second place with six points, three behind leader Al-Wahda, who has won all three matches. Khalidiya and Nasaf Qarshi have one point apiece.

Victory on Wednesday would guarantee qualification for both Kuwait Club and Al-Wahda.

Kuwait Club is determined to build on its strong group campaign, claim a third consecutive victory and strengthen its bid for the title. The team earned its place in the competition after winning last season's AFC Challenge League.



Kuwait Club players intensify training for the showdown.

The Whites began with a 3-2 away defeat against Al-Wahda but quickly recovered, beating Khalidiya 3-1 at home before recording a valuable 1-0 victory over Nasaf Qarshi in Tashkent.

Coach Firas Al-Khatib and his players know that anything less than three points would postpone their qualification bid until the next round and increase the pressure ahead of their remaining fixtures. Kuwait Club will host Al-Wahda in the fifth round before travelling to face Khalidiya in the final group match.

Al-Khatib will be counting on his players' growing confidence, particularly after their impressive domestic form. Kuwait Club currently leads the Zain Premier League with 16 points, two clear of its nearest challengers.

The Syrian coach has several quality options across the pitch, including Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, Yousef Nasser, Redha Hani, Mohammed Daham, Ali Hussein, Saud Al-Houshan, Abdullah Al-Qurazi, Sami Al-Sanea, Faisal Zayed and Amr Abdel Fattah.

The squad also features foreign professionals Yassine Khenissi of Tunisia, Bahrain's Mohammed Marhoon, Congolese Arsene "Malik" Zola and Cameroonian Omar Gonzalez. However, Moroccan midfielder Mehdi Berrahma will miss the encounter through suspension after accumulating yellow cards.

Nasaf Qarshi, meanwhile, has little room for error. With only one point from its first three matches, the Uzbek side must win to keep its hopes of reaching the knockout stage alive.

Kristjansson supervises opening session

Kuwait launches preparations for Handball World Champ'ship



Kuwait launches preparations for the 2027 World Championship in Germany.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: Kuwait's senior national handball team has begun its preparations for the 2027 World Championship in Germany, which gets underway on January 13, with its first training session held the day before yesterday at the Handball Association Hall at the Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad Center in Daiya.

The opening session was conducted under the supervision of Icelandic head coach Aron Kristjansson and his assistant, national coach Ali Murad.

Most of the squad attended the gathering, with some players absent due to overseas training camps with their respective clubs. The coaching staff has also added eight new faces to the squad to evaluate their technical abilities and potential.

The Blues will make their 10th appearance at the World Handball Championship after being drawn in Group D alongside France, Argentina and Brazil.

Kuwait will begin its group campaign against France on January 14 in what promises to be a tough opening test against one of the tournament favourites. Argentina and Brazil have also made significant strides in their performances in recent years.

Assistant coach Ali Murad said the technical staff are focused on improving the team's overall performance and ensuring the players reach the highest possible level of readiness.

He explained that the preparation programme was drawn up by the administrative and technical staff in coordination with the Handball Association's board.

Murad also praised the players for their attendance and commitment, expressing confidence in the squad's ability to shoulder the responsibility and deliver strong performances in the upcoming championship.

Al-Ettifaq plays Ajman

No margin for error as Kazma locks horns with Erbil

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

BAGHDAD, Nov 3: Kazma faces a crucial test when it visits Iraq's Erbil at 8:00 pm on Wednesday at Franso Hariri Stadium in the third round of Group C in the Gulf Club Champions League, as the Orange seeks its first points of the campaign. The other group match pits Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq against UAE side Ajman.

Ajman tops the standings with six points, followed by Erbil and Al-Ettifaq, who have three points each. Kazma is bottom of the group without a point.

The Orange is desperate for victory to revive its hopes of reaching the quarterfinals and get its campaign back on track.

According to the tournament format, the top two teams from each of the three groups, along with the two best third-placed sides, will advance to the quarterfinals.

Coach Dragan Tadic is aware that his team must respond after a disappointing start, having suffered consecutive defeats in its opening two matches. Kazma lost 2-0 to Al-Ettifaq before falling 2-1 to Ajman.

Kazma will be without Algerian defender Idris Al-Shaibi, who is suspended and Brazilian striker Patrick Robson, who is recovering from a broken hand. However, Tadic still has several experienced options capable of helping the team turn things around.

Bader Tareq, Khaled Shaman, Shabib Al-Khaldi, Sultan Al-Enezi, Meshaal Al-Shammari, Nasser Faleh and Abdullah Ghanem are among the players expected to shoulder responsibility, alongside foreign professionals Torles Knoll of Germany, Yemen's Nasser Mohammedou and Senegal's Amath Ndao.

An Omani refereeing team will oversee the match, with Saeed Al-Muzaini as the main referee and Hamad Al-Ghafri and Hamoud Al-Shaibi as assistants. Bahrain's Mohammed Mik Juma will serve as fourth official, while compatriot Ahmed Khalil will be in charge of VAR.



Kazma holds its final training session.

Tenerife striker de Miguel dies after collision with goalkeeper

MADRID, Nov. 3, (Xinhua): Tenerife striker Jesus de Miguel has died at the age of 30 after suffering a serious injury in a collision with a goalkeeper during a Spanish second-division match, his club announced Tuesday.

De Miguel collided with Andorra goalkeeper Jesus Owono in the sixth minute of stoppage time during Monday's match as the two players chased a loose ball outside the penalty area.

The striker was knocked unconscious, prompting players from both teams to urgently call for medical assistance. After receiving treatment on the pitch, he was taken by ambulance to a hospital, and the match was abandoned.

"We are broken with pain, with a knot in our throats, and unable to believe that it is true," Tenerife said in a statement announcing De Miguel's death at 8 a.m. Tuesday. "There are no words of consolation; there is nothing that can mitigate this total feeling of sadness. Our thoughts are with his family, his loved ones, and everyone in Tenerife who today is crying for this cruel end," the club added.

Best of the Rest

Shanghai Port beats Newcastle Jets: Prince Ampem scored once and played a key role in two other goals as reigning Chinese Super League champion Shanghai Port beat Australia's Newcastle Jets 4-2 away in the 2026-27 AFC Champions League Elite league stage on Tuesday.

Shanghai Port raced into a 3-0 lead before surviving a second-half fightback from the hosts, with substitute Li Xinxiang sealing victory in the closing stages.

Leonardo opened the scoring in the 23rd minute, heading home from close range after Ampem delivered a cross from the wing.

Tournament kickoff moved forward to Dec 23

AFC postpones 2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Nov 3, (AP): The Asian Football Confederation has postponed the 2027 Asian Cup by almost a year because of the conflict in the Middle East and recent deadly attacks on Saudi Arabia by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The AFC issued a statement Tuesday saying after extensive consultations with Saudi organizers it had decided to push the tournament kickoff back from Jan. 7 to Dec. 23.

The organizing committee "approved to reschedule the flagship national team tournament in light of the current exceptional circumstances arising from developments in the region, including substantial logistical complexities and travel disruptions," the AFC said in a statement.

"Exceptional circumstances have been created for the organization and delivery of the competition as originally scheduled, making the postponement necessary in the interest of all participating teams, officials, spectators and other stakeholders."

The new dates - Dec. 23, 2027 to Jan. 21, 2028 - will be submitted to FIFA for approval.

The AFC Asian Cup.

The decision to delay the tournament ends months of speculation about a postponement which, until recently, had been rejected by local organizers.

As recently as last week, Saudi officials released the kickoff times and finalized schedule for the 2027 tournament in a move aimed at assuring continental soccer federations that planning was on track.

Muhammed Q. Alghamdi, a spokesman for the organizing committee, last month told members at an Asian Football Confederation meeting in Tokyo that "daily life is ongoing in Saudi Arabia," despite the regional hostilities.

Before that meeting, AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa had indicated that the Asian Cup could be postponed by a year if necessary, saying "we can wait until the end of November" to make a decision."

The monthlong tournament was scheduled to feature 24 teams playing matches in eight venues across three cites - Riyadh, Jeddah, and Khobar. Iran qualified and has been grouped with Syria, China and Kyrgyzstan for the league stage.

Asia's marquee continental club tournament - the AFC Champions League Elite - has been disrupted by the conflict.

A game between Cristiano Ronaldo 's Al-Nassr and Uzbekistan's Neftchi Fergana was delayed on Oct. 12 after Saudi Arabia's Civil Defense issued a security alert.

An Al-Nassr's home game in Riyadh last week against Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates was postponed because the visiting team didn't travel.

Among other major sports events that have been moved or canceled in Saudi is the WTA Finals, the season-ending event in women's tennis, which moved from Riyadh to Indian Wells, California.

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