

Crown Prince meets Shell CEO Wael Sawan Page 2

ARAB TIMES

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT

Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com

Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 / JUMADA AL-AWWAL 25, 1448 AH | emergency number 112 | NO. 19352 | 12 PAGES | 150 FILS

Kuwait reaffirms full solidarity with Saudi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Kuwait on Wednesday reaffirmed its full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability.

The position was expressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Maousherji in Kuwait's address to the 20th meeting of the Speakers of the Shura, Representatives, National and Ummah Councils of the GCC states, held via videoconference at the invitation of Saudi Shura Council Speaker Abdullah Al Al-Sheikh.

According to a statement by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Office, Al-Maousherji reiterated Kuwait's firm condemnation of attacks launched by the Houthi militias against Saudi Arabia, stressing that the Kingdom's security was an integral part of the security of Kuwait and other GCC states.

He called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in confronting these attacks and holding those responsible accountable.

Al-Maousherji stressed the importance of strengthening Gulf solidarity, intensifying coordination and consultation among GCC countries, and supporting diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions to preserve regional security and stability and prevent further escalation.

He also underlined the need to safeguard maritime security and freedom of navigation, as well as the safety of international waterways.

He rejected any attack or threat targeting commercial vessels or endangering maritime routes, given their strategic importance to international trade, energy supplies and global supply chains.

The minister reiterated Kuwait's firm support for the rights of the Palestinian people and condemnation of Israeli occupation authorities' attacks.

He called for an immediate halt to these attacks, the protection of civilians and efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace that guarantees the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Rai sweep flushes out 101 lawbreakers

981 actions logged

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Farwaniya Security Directorate carried out an extensive security and traffic campaign in the Al-Rai area, led by Director-General of Farwaniya Security Directorate Brigadier Faisal Musaed Al-Rabbah, and Assistant Director-General Brigadier Yousef Fahad Al-Sawla, in coordination with relevant field units and government agencies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign was aimed to apprehend wanted individuals and offenders, crack down on illegal activities, and strengthen security and traffic enforcement in the area.

Continued on Page 6

Flashing red means wait, not accelerate

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Ministry of Interior advised motorists to be fully aware of the advance signals from traffic lights, particularly the flashing indicators before and after a signal change, as these flashes alert motorists to prepare for either stopping or moving.

The ministry explained that the flashing phase, which lasts for five seconds before the yellow and red signals, is a cue for motorists to get ready to stop in order to avoid stopping suddenly.

It added that a flashing red light is a five-second alert to prepare for movement, not as a signal to begin driving soon.

It stressed the need to avoid abrupt stops and to not proceed until the traffic light turns green, wishing everyone a safe journey.



Kuwait Army photo

Chief of the General Staff of the Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian during a meeting with Commander of the GCC Unified Military Command Major General Abdulaziz Al-Balawi.

Gulf defense unity takes center stage

GCC military cohesion tops Kuwait talks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian discussed Wednesday with Commander of the GCC Unified Military Command Major General Abdulaziz Al-Balawi issues of mutual interest aimed at supporting joint Gulf military cooperation.

The General Staff said in a statement that Al-Shuraian received Al-Balawi at his office, where they exchanged cordial talks and discussed ways to strengthen joint military cooperation and enhance integration among the armed forces of GCC member states.

The meeting was attended by Commander of the Peninsula Shield Forces Major General Mohammad Al-Ruwais and senior officers from both sides.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Save Beirut before it is slaughtered like a Bali turtle

A quarter-century later, the Lebanese capital remains ensnared in the same plight

The 'presidential trinity' continues as the sole unchanging element despite the new faces

This city bears the scars of conflicts waged by its own youths, exacerbated by the influx of outsiders

While some embraced the fortunes they encountered, others rejected them, opting to cultivate corruption

In Beirut, not only do the inhabitants appear tense, even the stones seem to resonate with unease

"My husband left me, unable to cope with the overwhelming tension here."

On that island, a restaurant offers turtle meat as an extravagant delicacy

The Lebanese spirit longs for tranquility, it desperately seeks redemption

3



7 ABK Group holds nine-month 2026 analyst conference call



8 KFH wins MEED's 'MENA Islamic Bank of the Year' award for 2026



9 KIB Invest joins hands with Al-Irtiqaa to organize 'A Day That Makes a Difference' at BACCH

54 awards across 3 categories

KD 84,000 prize pool awaits Kuwait education achievers

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Ministry of Education has officially announced the launch of the Kuwait Educational Excellence Award, the first initiative of its kind in the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Tabtabaei

The award aims to recognize national talent and outstanding educational practices, promote creativity and innovation, enhance the quality of education, and support the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei has issued a ministerial decree setting out the award's eligibility criteria, regulations, categories, number of winners, and financial rewards, as well as the nomination, evaluation, and judging procedures, with the aim of ensuring transparency and equal opportunities in selecting deserving recipients.

The ministry explained that the award comprises three main categories - Outstanding Student, Outstanding Teacher, and Outstanding School Administration. A total of 54 winners will be selected from public, religious education, and special education schools in all six educational zones, with total prize money amounting to KD 84,000.

The Outstanding Student category covers the primary, intermediate, and secondary levels, with three winners selected from each educational zone, bringing the total to 18. Each winner will receive KD 1,000.

Continued on Page 6

Rain, dust put Kuwait on alert

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Kuwait is expected to experience scattered rainfall, occasionally accompanied by thunderstorms around midnight, along with dusty winds that could reduce horizontal visibility, Acting Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali said on Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Ali said a humid low-pressure system was bringing increased low and medium clouds, with scattered light to moderate rain expected. Winds will be southeasterly to variable, light to moderate and occasionally active, potentially reducing visibility to below 1,000 meters in some areas.

Sea waves are expected to exceed six feet, while weather conditions are forecast to gradually improve from Thursday afternoon.

Al-Ali advised asthma and allergy sufferers to wear masks when going outdoors, particularly amid thunderstorms and high humidity, and urged the public to follow the department's official bulletins and social media updates.

Day by Day

WITH the entire region teetering on the brink of crisis, safeguarding food security must be the foremost priority of any government.

One would hope that the government has taken this into account in its plans, as ensuring food security requires active support, encouragement, streamlined procedures, and a shift away from bureaucratic rigidity towards a more flexible and pragmatic approach.

The importance of food security cannot be overstated. During severe crises, some countries have gone as far as banning water exports and restricting the export of essential food supplies to foreign markets.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed speaks at an election night event, early Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, in Detroit. (AP)



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Group photo during the 48th Conference of the ENT Departments Council.

Hearing disorders set to affect 700 mln by 2050

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs at the Health Ministry Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi said the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that by 2050, about 700 million individuals throughout the world will experience ear conditions necessitating auditory treatment, hence, the need to establish early detection initiatives and improve specialized therapeutic services.

Continued on Page 6

US Senate gets first Muslim

Blue wave rocks Washington

WASHINGTON, Nov 4, (Agencies): Democrats are riding their sweep of Congress into a new era, eager to meet voter demands for change with plans to tackle high costs of living and confront President Donald Trump's final years in the White House.

In a nationwide romp, Democrats ousted Republicans from coast to coast, with many surprising places in between, as voters rejected the president's party for the promise of something different for the country. Their majorities will be padded by wide margins in both the House and the Senate.

The results set up a divided government, with Congress poised to reassert

Continued on Page 6

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:43	Asr	14:37
Sunrise	06:04	Maghrib	17:00
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:20



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



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

Kuwaiti leadership congratulate King of Tonga on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to King Tupou VI of Tonga on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In his message, His Highness the Amir wished the King continued good health and the people of Tonga further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to King Tupou VI, conveying his best wishes for the King's good health and continued prosperity and development for the people of Tonga.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable of congratulations to the Tongan monarch on the occasion.

Finance Min. discusses economic cooperation at COMCEC meeting

ISTANBUL, Nov 4, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai discussed on Tuesday ways to strengthen economic and developmental cooperation with a number of officials, on the sidelines of Kuwait's participation in the 42nd Ministerial Meeting of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), held in Istanbul, Türkiye.

Minister Al-Rifai discussed also with UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Dr. Thani Al-Zeyoudi the latest developments in the ongoing crisis in the Strait of Hormuz and its repercussions on energy supply chains, Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

Furthermore, he met with Executive Director of the Organization for Women's Development in the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Counselor Sarah Al-Shorouh, congratulating her on assuming the position and wishing her success in carrying out her duties, the statement added.

Al-Rifai affirmed Kuwait's keenness to continue supporting OIC institutions and strengthen the organization's role in empowering women and supporting their participation in achieving sustainable development in member states.

He also met with Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) Zahra Ziya Selcuk, where he affirmed Kuwait's keenness to continue supporting international and Islamic institutions and organizations to achieve tangible results and deliver projects with added value.

Both sides expressed their appreciation for the existing relations between Kuwait and the centre, and their aspiration to continue cooperation in keeping with global economic developments and current conditions in the international economy states.

Kuwait strengthens efforts to combat financial crimes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry stressed on Wednesday the need to strengthen cooperation among regulatory and financial authorities and improve information exchange to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

Acting Undersecretary Marwa Al-Juaidan told KUNA that accurate and updated beneficial ownership data was essential to transparency and identifying those who ultimately own or control companies, helping prevent the misuse of legal entities in illegal activities.

She said the ministry was enhancing coordination with the Capital Markets Authority, Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit and Central Bank of Kuwait through updated memoranda of understanding to improve information sharing, verification procedures and regulatory cooperation.

The updated agreement with the Capital Markets Authority covers the exchange of records on direct and indirect ownership, changes in ownership and disclosures related to beneficial ownership.

Other Voices

Great minds overcome narcissism

By Ahmad alsarraf

FOR centuries, humankind lived under the illusion that it was the master of the universe. However, this belief did not last forever. There is no single date or individual to whom we can attribute the end of this illusion. Rather, its gradual decline resulted from a series of scientific and philosophical shifts that challenged humanity's centrality in the universe.



alsarraf

This historical shift can be divided into several major milestones. The first was the shock of the Copernican Revolution in 1543, when Nicolaus Copernicus discovered that the Sun, not the Earth, was at the center of the universe. His discovery came as a profound shock to Christian religious thought.

Then, in 1609, the Italian scientist Galileo pointed his telescope toward the heavens and discovered numerous planets and stars. Philosophers and religious figures began to realize that the universe was far more expansive than suggested by exegetical texts.

Humankind managed to conquer space and build the most powerful telescopes. In the mid-20th century, Edwin Hubble proved that the Milky Way is just one galaxy among billions in the universe, and that the universe is constantly expanding.

Modern telescopes have revealed that there are trillions of galaxies, not just billions. Humanity has come to realize that planet Earth is merely a grain of sand lost in the vast ocean of deep space.

Isaac Newton, arguably the most important scientist in human history, proved that the universe operates according to mathematical laws and that there is no need to explain everything through religious texts.

Einstein proved that seemingly finite things, such as space, time, and reality, are relative, and that our intuition about the universe is flawed.

It's that simple. The mathematician Alan Turing also succeeded in redefining the meaning of thinking and questioning whether machines are capable of it.

The English scientist Charles Darwin played a crucial role in revealing the limitations of human capabilities and securing his place in human history. Without his discoveries, modern science would not have developed antibiotics and insulin. These are products of scientists' understanding of the theory of evolution, which has become a scientific fact, supported by evidence day after day. Without it, medicine and biology would not have advanced, nor would the branch of medicine known as evolutionary medicine, which is based primarily on Darwin's observations, have emerged.

Dr. Khaled Montasser, an Egyptian consultant and researcher, notes that Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species" was published on November 24, 1859. The book explained that life is shaped by natural selection, or the preservation of the most favored races, in the struggle for survival.

Every patient who has received a liver or heart transplant, or whose life has been saved by medication or surgery, owes a debt to the brilliant idea of evolution that Darwin gave to humanity. Despite this, many continue to resist new ideas and oppose evolution.

❑ ❑ ❑

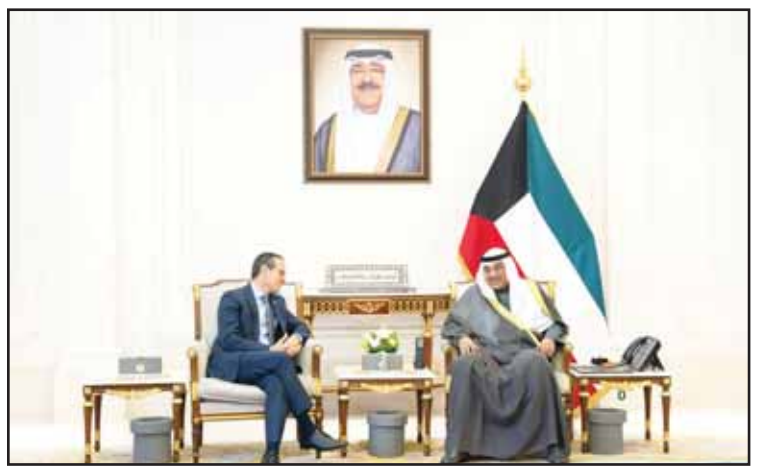
Email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Crown Prince receives Shell CEO Wael Sawan

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Shell Chief Executive Officer Wael Sawan at Bayan Palace Wednesday morning on his visit to Kuwait.

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince and Sawan discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the economic field, contributing to supporting Kuwait's economic development efforts, as part of discussions held during the visit.

The meeting was attended by Chief of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasser Al-Sabah.



Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Shell Chief Executive Officer Wael Sawan.

Pakistan approves defense cooperation agreement with Kuwait

ISLAMABAD, Nov 4, (KUNA): Pakistan's Federal Cabinet ratified the agreement on defense cooperation between Pakistan and the state of Kuwait on Wednesday, said PM Office.

According to a statement issued by the PM Office, a meeting of the Federal Cabinet was held in Islamabad on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The Federal Cabinet ratified the agreement on defense cooperation between Pakistan and Kuwait. The defense cooperation agreement between Pakistan and Kuwait was finalized on June 11, 2023, with the aim of promoting cooperation in defense sectors between the two brotherly countries, said the PM Office.

In his remarks while chairing the meeting, PM Sharif said that Pakistan is continuing its sincere diplomatic efforts for establishing peace and stability in the region and reducing tensions.

He said that at this time, oil prices in the world are touching the skies, and a major reason for this is the unrest in the region; Pakistan is playing its full role in establishing peace just as before.

He mentioned the visit of the Pakistani delegation to Tehran, including the Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir where discussions took place between high officials of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkiye.

"There, talks were held in a good atmosphere regarding the agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkiye on how mutual harmony can be promoted in the region," the Prime Minister added.

Spain, Turkiye and Britain dominate Kuwaitis' overseas property market

Kuwaitis expand overseas property portfolios

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Real estate ownership among Kuwaitis is no longer limited to the local market or traditional Gulf destinations. It has expanded to include European and Asian markets, each offering varied property prices, potential returns, and investment opportunities.

The reasons for purchasing property abroad vary, ranging from preserving capital and acquiring holiday homes to securing accommodation for children pursuing their education overseas.

As a result, overseas property ownership has evolved into a decision that combines investment objectives, lifestyle preferences, and family planning.

Data and estimates from real estate reports published by various industry organizations over the past five years indicate that Spain ranks as the most attractive destination for Kuwaiti property buyers. It is followed by Turkiye, the United Kingdom, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, particularly Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Spain ranks first among the destinations monitored, with estimates indicating that Kuwaitis own more than 7,000 properties there.

Interest is particularly strong in areas such as Marbella and the Costa del Sol.

The appeal goes beyond the Mediterranean climate and beaches, extending to a wide range of real estate options, well-developed infrastructure and transport networks, high-quality services, and the flexibility to use properties as seasonal residences or rental investments, depending on their location, tourism demand, and applicable regulatory permits.

These advantages allow buyers to combine personal use with investment opportunities.

However, calculating the actual return requires taking into account taxes, acquisition costs, maintenance and management fees, as well as periods when properties may remain vacant.

It is important to note that purchasing property in Spain no longer automatically grants eligibility for a Golden Visa, as the residency pathway linked to real estate investment was discontinued on April 3, 2025.

Bahrain, meanwhile, benefits from its geographical proximity to Kuwait, making it an attractive alternative for property buyers.

Ranked fourth, Bahrain offers several advantages, including its close geographical and social ties with Kuwait, easy access by road through the King Fahd Causeway, and similarities in customs and lifestyles.

These factors make it an appealing option for families seeking a second home for holidays or frequent visits.

The Bahraini market also offers a wide range of real estate options, with prices varying depending on the project and location.

According to 2025 market data from the GCC Statistical Center, Kuwaiti nationals own approximately 2,600 properties in Bahrain, accounting for 65 percent of all properties owned there by citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

This highlights the significant presence of Kuwaiti property owners in the neighboring Gulf market.

The UAE ranks fifth on the list, with interest concentrated mainly in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The market offers a wide range of opportunities, from investment apartments and luxury residential developments to properties intended for rental purposes.

The UAE combines modern infrastructure with thriving tourism and commercial sectors, offering diverse options for property ownership and asset management.

According to 2025 figures from the Gulf Statistical Center, Kuwaiti nationals own 3,545 properties in UAE, accounting for 42 percent of all properties owned by citizens of GCC member states.

In Dubai, the estimated price of a 100-square-meter residential unit ranges from KD 90,000 to KD 130,000.

So why are Kuwaitis investing in property abroad? Several factors help explain this growing trend.

First, buyers seek to diversify their investments geographically, reducing their dependence on a single market while potentially generating rental income or securing properties for personal and family use.

Second, differences in property acquisition costs play an important role. Available data indicates that the price per square meter in private residential areas of Kuwait City ranges from KD 1,400 to KD 1,600, compared with KD 900 to KD 1,300 in Dubai and KD 700 to KD 1,100 in certain areas of the United Kingdom.

While this comparison highlights the availability of lower-cost options in some markets, it does not mean that foreign real estate is always cheaper. Prices vary significantly depending on the location, property specifications, and applicable taxes.

Third, overseas property ownership can serve purposes that local investments may not fulfill. These include providing accommodation for students, securing a summer residence, offering access to tourist destinations, and diversifying assets across different currencies and economies.

Turkiye ranks second, with data from various real estate reports indicating that Kuwaiti nationals have purchased more than 8,000 property units there over the past seven years.

The appeal of the Turkish market lies in its diverse property options, ranging from apartments and villas to tourism-oriented developments. Prices also vary considerably across cities and regions, while properties offer flexibility for both personal and family use and rental purposes.

According to market data, property prices in certain Turkish regions, including Bursa and Trabzon, range from approximately KD 200 to KD 450 per square meter.

This means that a 100-square-meter property could cost between KD 20,000 and KD 45,000, excluding additional fees and expenses.

However, a lower purchase price does not necessarily translate into higher profitability. Factors such as currency fluctuations, inflation, and property maintenance and management costs can significantly affect the actual return on investment when calculated in Kuwaiti dinars.

India House hosts vibrant celebration of culture & heritage

Indian Embassy marks 65 yrs of India–Kuwait friendship with 'Diwali Diwaniya' celebrations

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Embassy of India in Kuwait organised a unique two-day "Diwali Diwaniya" celebration at India House on November 2 and 3, bringing together the festive spirit of Diwali (India's Festival of Lights) and Kuwait's cherished tradition of the Diwaniya.

The celebrations also commemorated 65 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kuwait, highlighting the enduring friendship, strong cultural ties and shared values that continue to strengthen people-to-people relations between the two countries.

The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of India and Kuwait and celebrated the shared traditions of hospitality, togetherness and community bonding that form an important pillar of the long-standing and friendly India–Kuwait relationship.

The celebrations held special significance following the inscription of both Diwali and the Kuwaiti Diwaniya on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2025. The event brought together the two living traditions while highlighting their common values of cultural exchange, dialogue, hospitality and community participation.

The two-day programme featured separate events designed for a diverse audience.

The Diwali Diwaniya held on November 2 was hosted by the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Mrs. Paramita Tripathi, along with her spouse, Dr. Pradyumn Tripathi. The gathering brought together Kuwaiti dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Indian community, members of the media and business communities, as well as friends of India.



Photo during the event.

The evening featured live instrumental music, offering guests a glimpse into India's rich and diverse musical traditions.

A special Diwali Diwaniya for women was organised at India House on November 3 and hosted by Ambassador Mrs. Paramita Tripathi. The programme featured vibrant dance and Kathak fusion performances by local Indian artists.

A special fashion presentation showcased Indian textiles through contemporary designs inspired by Kuwaiti couture and presented by models. Guests also had the opportunity to experience traditional Indian mehndi (henna) art and saree draping, celebrating India's diverse textile traditions and cultural heritage.

The celebrations further provided guests with an opportunity to experience India's rich cultural diversity through traditional cuisine, arts, handicrafts and tourism. A selection of Indian delicacies and regional specialities highlighted the richness and variety of the country's culinary traditions.

Festive decorations, traditional lighting and a Diwaniya-inspired setting created a warm and welcoming atmosphere reflecting the cultural traditions of both India and Kuwait.

The event also featured a special display of Indian handicrafts under the Government of India's One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, which promotes distinctive products and traditional craftsmanship from districts across India.

The showcase included an array of crafts and art forms, including blue pottery, traditional lamps, intricate filigree work and paintings. The display offered guests a glimpse into India's rich artistic traditions while celebrating the creativity and skills of local artisans and highlighting the importance of preserving and promoting traditional crafts.

The Embassy of India expressed its sincere appreciation to Indian Heritage for its valuable support and cooperation in organising the two-day celebrations.

The Diwali Diwaniya served as a colourful celebration of India–Kuwait friendship, bringing together the traditions of two countries and reaffirming the importance of cultural exchange, dialogue and people-to-people connections as both nations mark 65 years of diplomatic relations.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



Save Beirut before it is slaughtered like a Bali turtle

- A quarter-century later, the Lebanese capital remains ensnared in the same plight
- The 'presidential trinity' continues as the sole unchanging element despite the new faces
- This city bears the scars of conflicts waged by its own youths, exacerbated by the influx of outsiders
- While some embraced the fortunes they encountered, others rejected them, opting to cultivate corruption
- In Beirut, not only do the inhabitants appear tense, even the stones seem to resonate with unease
- "My husband left me, unable to cope with the overwhelming tension here."
- On that island, a restaurant offers turtle meat as an extravagant delicacy
- The Lebanese spirit longs for tranquility, it desperately seeks redemption

THIS article first appeared in issue 1714 of Al-Hadaf magazine on Saturday, June 23, 2001—25 years ago.

A quarter of a century later, Beirut—the capital of Lebanon once celebrated as the 'Switzerland of the East'—remains largely the same.

Lebanon is still under the control of a 'presidential trinity'. Although the faces may change, one thing remains: Lebanon, specifically Beirut, continues to suffer, as if the nation is cursed.

The situation has not changed since then. The only notable change after 25 years is the emergence of a new president and a new prime minister, while Nabih Berri continues in his role.

Let us ponder on what I observed in Beirut 25 years ago.

Beirut is a city whose identity has been marred by the conflicts instigated by its own youths. People from distant lands arrived, and Beirut, true to its welcoming spirit, greeted them with open arms, saying, "Welcome... smile, you are in Lebanon." Thus, the newcomers smiled and established their lives in the city.

Some expressed gratitude for this opportunity and maintained their smiles, while others rejected it—choosing instead to spread corruption and disfigurement throughout this beautiful city, leading it into mazes it never intended to explore. Or perhaps, it willingly ventured into these traps, lured by a perilous game—a game it ultimately cherished only to pay a heavy price for such a forbidden desire.

Every stone in Beirut seems to exude a palpable tension. The city is enveloped in an all-consuming restlessness.

Its inhabitants are even more burdened than the city itself—each nurturing aspirations and dreams that remain unfulfilled.

In the quaint shops of Beirut, when locals perceive that you have some knowledge, they inquire about the economic climate, the future and what it may bring.

They console themselves by projecting confidence, insisting that the future will be bright, that Beirut will remain beautiful, and its people more beautiful still.

I am reminded of a lovely woman who once told me: "My husband divorced me because of the tension that hangs over this place. He left me—me, a beautiful woman, perhaps even the most beautiful of them all (if I may say so, without sounding vain).

"I found myself without a home, forced to sleep in my car for a week. I had no shelter, no money, and my pockets were almost empty. Unscrupulous men—'wolves'—attempted to lure me into selling my body to those who profess to adore Beirut, strolling its streets with smiles, while the city's own residents live in a perpetual state of grim tension.

"I turned down their propositions," she said, "but they persisted: 'Payment is upfront—in dollars. ' And honestly, who would not feel tempted by that? "I rejected their advances and opted to stay in my small car, spending my nights there and using it during the day with the few Lebanese pounds I had left—definitely not dollars.

"Some of my friends—those who were not among the 'wolves'—showed me compassion, having faced the same crisis themselves.

Among them were remarkable women who had gone through similar struggles, each finding her own way to cope. I do not judge what happened to them or the decisions they made in their lives.

"I clung to my dignity as I observed the turmoil in my country during these harsh times. Perhaps, it was the design of the Creator and Architect of this universe." Listening to this remarkable woman share her story, I was reminded of a documentary I once watched about the Indonesian island, Bali.

On that island, turtles are sometimes sacrificed in temples, yet paradoxically, there is a restaurant that serves turtle meat as a luxurious delicacy.

They take a turtle, turn it onto its back, and while it is still alive, cut open its belly with a knife. The creature endures immense suffering, its pain almost unbearable to witness.

The sharp blade continues to slice into the turtle's belly until its insides are extracted, prepared for cooking. It is even said that some consume the meat raw.

In a way, Beirut endured a fate similar to that turtle—slaughtered while still alive, yearning to act, but completely powerless.

And just before the turtle takes its final breath, a tear forms in its eye—for it is not a child of the sea and the sea is not salt.

The unfortunate 'girl' meets her end, and those who indulge in pleasure consume her remains—whether raw or cooked, based on their daring appetite.

As I immersed myself in the story of this innocent young woman—who spent countless nights in her car, evading those determined to take her life—I was reminded of the Balinese turtle.

A warm tear flowed from my eyes, as dark and rimmed with kohl as those of an Arabian oryx.

Beirut, as I noted, is fraught with tension. Its citizens look at President Lahoud, President Hariri and President Berri never fully certain who has the key to their deliverance, or if it might rest in the hands of all three leaders collectively.

Each leader presents a glimmer of hope, pledging 'manna and quails'. For President Lahoud, this promise is political—cloaked in humble rhetoric about the supposed desires of the Lebanese people.

President Berri contributes a little more than the formulation of laws, skillfully shifting the burden of complex issues onto others.

Caught amidst various factions and an external mediator, President Hariri bears a profound unexpressed sorrow—made even more poignant by the high expectations that Beirut has of him.

The city longs for an end to the slow agonizing dissection—reminiscent of the cruel slaughter of a living turtle. It is hoping he remembers that, historically, when conflicts in Lebanon intensified and spiraled out of control, they ignited a civil war that lasted more than 15 years.

I reiterate that Lebanon is fraught with tension, embedded in its very stones.

The nation's spirit craves tranquility and must cleanse itself of numerous impurities, yet amidst this turmoil, Lebanon possesses the beauty it knows how to reveal.

The Lebanese people have a knack for celebrating beauty. The nights in Lebanon are full of energy, and as the hours stretch on, individuals strive to set aside their anxieties.

They gather in the city's nightlife spots. We join them, seeking a brief escape and momentarily forgetting our burdens—only to awaken the next day to the harsh reality of the turtle being skinned alive and the haunting memory of its salty tears.

Each member of Lebanon's presidential trio has his own followers and supporters, yet they all converge on one pressing question: When will prosperity return to Lebanon? I arrived at Beirut Airport clad in traditional Arab garb, meticulously detailed.

After navigating the formalities—which were all quite simple, I went out to find dozens of people waiting at the exit, there to greet loved ones returning to Lebanon for the holidays.

They were gathered, exuding elegance. I could overhear their murmurs: "Here come the visitors from the Gulf... here come the Arabs." Their eyes were locked onto me, perhaps they confused me for a traveler.

Lebanon's Prime Minister, Rafic Hariri, is a figure marked by exhaustion yet fueled by a relentless ambition and a deep yearning for achievement. The question remains: Will fortune and timing favor him? It is heartbreaking to witness a young woman, full of potential, reduced to sleeping in her car for five nights due to the lack of shelter and financial means.

She stands firm in her self-respect, not every wealthy man—even if his image is that of Abraham Lincoln —meets her standards, either in character or in presence.

Lebanon's foremost need today is for its citizens to cultivate a genuine sense of belonging, as this is essential for gaining the trust of others.

To achieve real success, Prime Minister Hariri must first boost the confidence of the people in Lebanon before reaching out to anyone else.

Court confirms full retirement benefits for Kuwaiti caregiver

Employee convicted of embezzlement, money laundering and forgery

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of a lower court, which affirmed the right of a Kuwaiti female employee to retire and receive a pension equivalent to 100 percent of her salary, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Case files indicate that the defendant was legally appointed as the primary caregiver for her nephew who has permanent moderate intellectual disability as per Article 42 of Law No. 8/2010 on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Attorney Ali Al-Ali filed the case, demanding the cancellation of the decision of the administrative authority to reject the retirement of his client despite the submission of an official certificate issued by the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) designating her as the caregiver for her relative.

The higher court clarified that PADA has the sole authority to designate an individual as the legal caregiver for a person with a disability. It added that the role of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) is limited to verifying the pension eligibility requirements, such as length of service and social security contributions, not to review or challenge the caregiver designation certificate issued by PADA.

It asserted that the administrative authority's refusal to process the retirement even if the employee met all the legal requirements is an unlawful and negative decision.

Consequently, the higher court ordered suspension of the decision and its legal consequences, confirming the employee's entitlement to pension equal to 100 percent of her salary.

This ruling affirms the importance of adhering to the statutory mandates assigned to the relevant government bodies, ensuring that those caring for persons with disabilities can access the rights and benefits granted to them as per the law.

❑ ❑ ❑

Employee ordered to repay KD 550,000: The Third Circuit of the Criminal Court sentenced a bank employee to 10 years in prison, imposed a fine, and ordered him to repay KD 550,000 after finding him guilty of misappropriating KD 183,000 from customer accounts, money laundering, and forgery, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The case involved the defendant abusing his position at the bank to mislead several borrowers into believing they had outstanding fees. He then pocketed the payments made by these customers and transferred the money into accounts belonging to expatriates, using expired civil identification cards belonging to individuals who were sometimes no longer in the country.

The fraudulent scheme came to light following an investigation by the State Security agency and a review conducted by the bank's Legal Department. The review uncovered irregularities and suspicious financial transactions, prompting the case to be referred to the judiciary.

Vehicle docus go digital on Mobile ID

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The General Traffic Department (GTD) has confirmed that the vehicle registration document available through the "Kuwait Mobile ID" application is officially recognized, eliminating the need to carry a physical copy of the document inside the vehicle, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an awareness brochure published on its official X account, GTD outlined the steps required to renew vehicle registration electronically.

The process begins by visiting a third-party insurance website, selecting an insurance provider, completing the payment online, and printing the insurance policy.

Motorists must then visit a technical inspection center to complete the required vehicle inspection.

Once the inspection is completed, users should access the "Sahel" application, navigate to the Ministry of Interior's Traffic Services, select the vehicle for which registration renewal is required, and complete the process by paying the applicable renewal fees.

Mental health assessment alters verdict

Court jails citizen for three years in state security case

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 3: The State Security Circuit in the Court of Appeals, led by Justice Abdullah Al-Sanea with Justices Meshal Al-Mutawa and Saud Al-Mutairi as members, deliberated on several cases related to the rights of HH the Amir, money laundering and the defamation of state symbols.

A citizen was sentenced to three years in prison for publicly disputing the rights of HH the Amir, disrespecting the Emirate's authority, insulting the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations, and inciting sectarian discord by supporting Iranian attacks on the country.

Investigations conducted by the State Security agency uncovered posts on the Instagram account of the defendant. These posts featured images of Iranian attacks, particularly aimed at an oil facility in Kuwait, to incite public fear.

The account included content considered utterly offensive to the state's symbols and leaders, as well as the rulers and leaders of allied Gulf nations.

The posts also showcased the defendant's expressions of gratitude for and endorsement of the bombardment of American military bases in Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

As a result, the Public Prosecution filed the aforementioned charges against him.

In a different case, the circuit annulled the three-year prison sentence previously imposed on a citizen for offending the person of the Amir.

The court mandated that he must undergo psychiatric treatment as a thorough evaluation by qualified medical professionals confirmed that he suffers from mental health issues, rendering him incapable of being held accountable for his actions.

The circuit also issued a directive that another defendant must be assessed by specialists to evaluate his mental condition and determine the degree of his accountability for the attributed actions.

Moreover, the court postponed announcing its verdict on other cases, including those related to money laundering. It is expected to issue its decisions on these cases next month.

Drugs worth KD 9,520

Egyptian expat arrested for selling abortion pills

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Directorate General of Criminal Investigation, represented by the Department for Combating Human Trafficking and Negative Phenomena, has arrested an Egyptian resident for promoting and selling abortion pills, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, the arrest followed information received about the suspect's activities. After conducting the necessary investigations, authorities set a trap and apprehended him in Zahra, where seven pills were found in his possession.

A subsequent search of his residence in Khaitan uncovered an additional 385 pills, bringing the total number seized to 392, with an estimated market value of approximately KD 9,520.

Authorities also discovered a quantity of women's clothing intended for sale, which the suspect had been promoting through social media platforms.

Investigations indicated that the suspect had obtained the pills from another individual of the same nationality.

The suspect and the seized items have been referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.





Yousef Al-Yaseen, Chairman of the Supreme Supervisory Committee for the National Conference, addresses the audience during a press conference.

13 national figures to be honored

26th National Conference set to kick off on Nov 11

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The 26th National Conference with the theme, "From Kuwait We Begin and in Kuwait We End", will kick off on Nov 11, during which 13 national figures who made major sacrifices for the advancement and prosperity of the country will be honored, reports Al-Seyessah daily.

In a press conference held on Tuesday, Chairman of Supreme Supervisory Committee for the National Conference Yousef Al-Yaseen disclosed that its mission, objectives, goals and value are rooted in the customs and traditions of the fraternal and unified Kuwaiti society.

He indicated that since its inception, the conference consistently championed national, humanitarian and social values, specifically those strengthening the bond among the people of Kuwait and promoting unity.

He revealed that the theme this year is inspired by the statement of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, "O loyal people of Kuwait, no one else but you serve as the most powerful weapon for safeguarding our cherished homeland through your steadfast unity and high spirits. National unity acts as a protective barrier for Kuwait and its people and serves as a fortress for confronting hardships and overcoming challenges."

He underscored the importance of moderation and rejecting extremism in accordance with the teachings of the moderate Islamic faith and Kuwaiti traditions inherited from the forefathers.

He said this year's honorees include Fawzi Al-Saleh, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Najeeb Al-Mulla, Saud Al-Rabiah, Ahmed Al-Arbeed, Hamza Hussein, Zayed Al-Zaid, Abdulaziz Al-Kulaib, Ali Al-Mumin, Imad Al-Atiqi, Sari Al-Hajri, Yousef Al-Munifi and Abdulmohsen Al-Othman.

He also disclosed that the conference will feature a documentary film on the merits and achievements of the honorees, a patriotic musical operetta, keynote address by Attorney Kawthar Al-Jouan titled "Security: A Citizen's Responsibility," and the speech of Director of the Center for Promoting Moderation Dr. Abdullah Al-Shuraika.

He added that the Supreme Supervisory Committee previously organized 25 national conferences with the theme, "From Kuwait We Begin and in Kuwait We End," during which 283 Kuwaiti figures from various segments of society were honored.

Central Agency, State Audit Bureau seek greater institutional alignment

Both sides stress direct communication

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): The Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents' Status and the State Audit Bureau discussed Wednesday strengthening cooperation, coordinating work mechanisms and simplifying administrative procedures to improve efficiency and expedite transactions.

The agency said in a press statement that its Chairman Saleh Al-Fadhala received bureau officials at his office, followed by a coordination meeting chaired by the agency's Acting Secretary General Brigadier General Dr. Sharif Al-Kanderi.

The coordination meeting, attended by several agency officials and senior personnel alongside bureau representatives, addressed matters of mutual interest, ways to develop joint working mechanisms and measures to simplify administrative procedures in the public interest.

Both sides emphasized maintaining direct communication, ensuring complementary roles and overcoming procedural obstacles to guarantee smooth operations and develop joint workflows within approved frameworks and regulations, according to the statement issued by the agency Wednesday.



KUNA Photo

Saleh Al-Fadhalah, Head of the Central Agency for Illegal Residents, meets with State Audit Bureau officials.

New and rejected applicants included

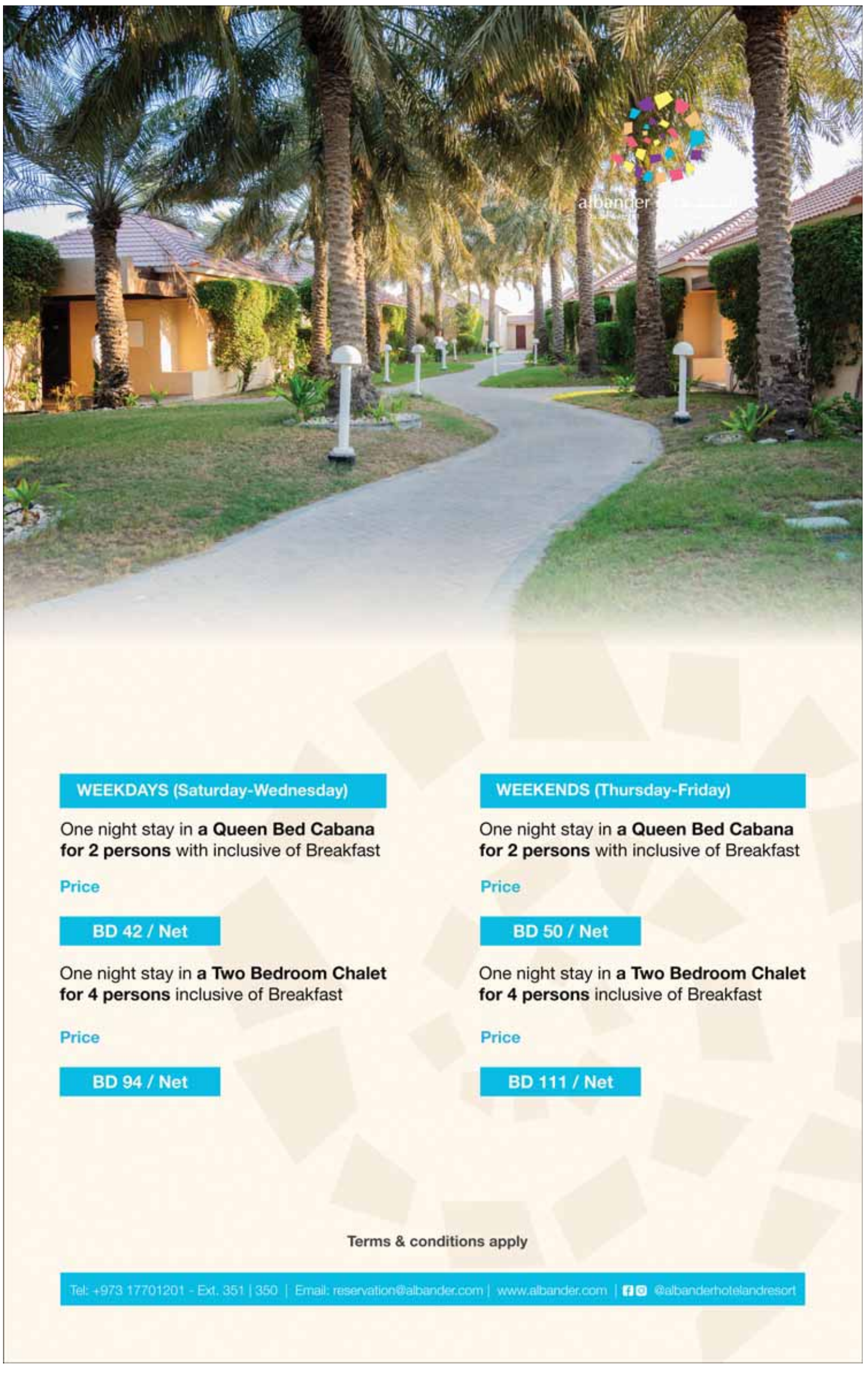
CSC nominates 882 citizens for government jobs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced the nomination of 882 Kuwaiti men and women registered in the central employment system, in accordance with a Civil Service Council decision and as part of its comprehensive employment plan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

CSC explained that the group includes citizens being nominated for the first time, as well as those who were previously rejected by their assigned government entities or had declined job offers from government agencies.

The nominations were made according to established priority criteria and covered various job categories based on the specializations and qualifications required by government entities.

CSC urged all nominees to contact their assigned government agencies starting Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to complete the necessary procedures within the specified deadlines.





An instructor guides a participant during the introductory sessions on PIRLS 2026, organized by the Ministry of Education's Student Assessment and Evaluation General Department.

MoE gears up for PIRLS '26

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Ministry of Education is continuing its preparations for the implementation of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2026.

These efforts include introductory meetings and a training program for participating schools to prepare the school staff and ensure that the assessment is conducted in accordance with international standards.

International Studies Supervisor Hawraa Al-Qattan disclosed that the Student Assessment and Evaluation General Department at the ministry organized introductory sessions on the study, its objectives and implementation phases.

According to Al-Qattan, these sessions outlined the roles of school administrations, coordinators and test administrators, as well as the technical and administrative requirements, indicating that the training program started on Monday at the Development and Training Department and it will continue until Nov 12.

The first day was for theoretical training, divided into two sessions -- one for Arabic language schools in public and private education sectors and the other for participating foreign-curriculum schools.

The training covers the implementation mechanism for the electronic test, including organizational and technical procedures, responsibilities of test coordinators and administrators, how to handle situations that may arise during the testing process, and use of specific forms and tools for monitoring the test and documenting student data.

From Nov 3 to 12, the program will shift to practical training in computer labs, where participants will practice using the testing platform, managing student access, executing procedures, addressing technical issues or exceptional cases, and completing the required official forms.

The practical training is organized into small groups—conducted in two daily sessions, each consisting of 20 to 24 trainees—to facilitate hands-on application, allow the discussion of questions, and ensure that participants are familiar with the procedures.

Preparations include monitoring the readiness of computer labs, hardware and internet networks in schools, and ascertaining that all technical requirements are met. This is done in coordination with school administrations to overcome challenges that might affect the conduct of the test.

Al-Qattan affirmed the ministry's commitment to prepare qualified personnel to administer the test efficiently and accurately as per the international standards, thereby, ensuring high-quality data and reliable results.

PIRLS is an international assessment of students' reading comprehension skills, overseen by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). It aims to evaluate reading comprehension levels and provide educational indicators that contribute to the development of educational policies and practices to improve educational outcomes.

No office visits required

Sahel app adds Building Unit Statement Certificate service

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced the launch of a new service allowing users to obtain a "Building Unit Statement Certificate" through the Sahel application, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement published on Tuesday on its official X account, PACI explained that the service is part of its ongoing efforts to expand digital services, simplify procedures, and eliminate the need for users to visit its offices in person.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Rental Law: Lease expiry does not necessarily mean eviction

"SOME may assume that the expiration of the term specified in a lease agreement automatically ends the landlord-tenant relationship and requires the tenant to vacate the property," Kuwaiti Lawyer **Awatif Al-Dousari** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"However, Kuwaiti tenancy law provides a clear legal framework for such situations, recognizing an important legal consequence when a tenant continues to occupy the property after the lease expires, provided the landlord is aware of the continued occupancy and does not object.



Awatif Al-Dousari

Article 19 stipulates that a lease agreement terminates upon the expiration of the period specified in the contract.

However, the article also addresses cases in which the tenant continues to occupy and use the leased property after the contract expires. If the tenant remains in possession with the landlord's knowledge and without objection, the lease is considered renewed under its original terms.

Such renewal takes effect for a period, or successive periods, equivalent to the intervals established for rent payments.

Consequently, the expiration of the original lease term does not, by itself, bring the landlord-tenant relationship to an end, provided the tenant continues to occupy and use the property with the landlord's knowledge and without any objection or clear action indicating the landlord's intention to terminate the relationship.

This highlights the legal significance of the concept of "implied lease renewal."

The law attaches a specific legal consequence to the landlord's silence when the tenant continues to use the property with the landlord's knowledge and without objection. In such cases, the lease is deemed renewed under its original terms, although its duration is adjusted according to the agreed rent payment schedule.

Therefore, if rent is paid monthly, the lease is renewed for successive one-month periods. If rent is paid quarterly, the renewal applies for successive three-month periods, and so on.

This applies unless the parties have agreed otherwise or either party takes the necessary legal steps to terminate the relationship.

The legislator has not left the termination of this renewed lease to the unrestricted discretion of either party. Instead, the law requires a formal notice to vacate to be issued within the legally prescribed timeframes, unless the parties have agreed on a specific notice period, in which case the agreed timeframe must be respected.

Consequently, the claim that a lease automatically terminates upon the expiration of its original term is not universally applicable. An exception arises when the tenant remains in possession of and continues to use the property with the landlord's knowledge and without objection. In such cases, the landlord's silence may carry a legal consequence, resulting in the renewal of the lease agreement.

The purpose of this legal framework is to ensure stability in rental transactions and protect tenants from uncertainty regarding their legal status. It also places a clear obligation on the landlord - if they wish to terminate the lease, they must clearly express their intention within the timeframe and in the manner prescribed by law.

Therefore, the expiration of a lease term does not always mean the end of the rental relationship.

A fixed-term lease may, by operation of law, be renewed if the tenant continues to occupy and use the property with the landlord's knowledge and without objection. In such cases, the landlord-tenant relationship continues under the original terms for the renewal period established by law."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Kuwait attends Arab ministers' talks on media modernization

Al-Omar urges unity amid challenges

CAIRO, Nov 4, (KUNA): It is imperative to ratchet up cooperation among media bodies across the wider Arab region to stave off "rampant challenges," Kuwait's Acting Information Minister Omar Al-Omar said, citing such unrest as detrimental to the region's security and stability.

At a time where the wider Arab region is in the throes of "mounting unrest," in the form of attacks on a number of Arab countries, Gulf Cooperation Council member states in particular, the Kuwaiti minister told Arab Information Ministers' Council' executive committee talks in the Egyptian capital that these attacks throw into peril the region's security and stability.

He went on to say that pushing forward "joint Arab media work" was necessary to bolster cooperation among media institutions, which in turn would strengthen the reliability and accuracy of information produced by these bodies, citing such efforts as instrumental in "serving joint interests."

On the use of cutting-edge technologies in the media industry, chief among them Artificial Intelligence tools, he said that such methods have revolutionized media content creation in a manner that has created a watershed in the industry, urging that these technologies should supplement adequate staff training.

Discussing the core objectives of the Arab Information Ministers' council, he said that the body should serve as a platform that supports the development of novel ideas and initiatives, in addition to promoting the exchange of knowhow and progress of regional media institutions.

The Kuwaiti minister spoke of the responsibilities incumbent upon Arab media bodies to prioritize issues concerning the region, emphasizing the need to "strike a balance" between the promptness and accuracy of information, all the while adhering to professional conduct and ethical standards, he added.

The acting Kuwaiti information minister went on to reiterate his country's commitment to strengthening Arab media cooperation in a bid to "keep pace" with changes and meet the aspirations of its people, calling for the need to put in place a lucid vision that would bring tangible results on the ground.



Kuwait participates in the 56th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council in Cairo.



KUNA photos

Kuwait's Minister of Information addresses the audience in Cairo, calling for unified Arab efforts to tackle challenges and strengthen joint media action.

The 56th session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers opened Wednesday with Kuwait participating, discussing media development, stronger coordination against challenges and regional and international visibility for Arab issues.

Somali Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Abdifatah Mahmoud chaired the session, attended by Arab League Secretary General Nabil Fahmy and Assistant Secretary General for Media and Communication Ambassador Ahmad Khattabi, alongside participating Arab delegations.

The agenda includes strengthening media support for the Palestinian cause, reviewing implementation of the Arab media action plan abroad, examining the Arab Committee for Electronic Media's work and discussing Arab media's role in combating terrorism.

Ministers will also discuss the Arab media roadmap for sustainable development 2030, a unified strategy for engaging international media companies, professional excellence, capacity building and implementation of the Arab strategy for media and information literacy.

Discussions cover the unified Arab plan for media coverage of environmental issues, artificial intelligence applications in media and their implications for personnel, alongside the Arab Media Capital initiative and cooperation between Arab and Chinese media.

The agenda also includes rules for the ministerial council and executive bureau, Lebanon's request for member states' support, and activities of media organizations, unions, Media and Communication Sector and Arab League offices and missions abroad.

Kuwait's delegation is headed by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, who chaired Tuesday's executive bureau meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

The bureau's 23rd regular session, chaired by Kuwait, approved draft resolutions and recommendations to develop Arab media work and strengthen coordination and integration among Arab media institutions, for submission to ministers for consideration and adoption.

Hala Industrial Co. شركة هلا الصناعية



Decoration works, wood products and cupboards are available

You can get all what you need at Hala Industrial

Contact us now

Subhan Industrial - Block 10 - Street 5 - Plot 151 - Tel: 60660817 - 66448545 - 50446599

Hala_Industrial

hala@halakw.com



Sheikha Al-Anoud Al-Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, founder and honorary president of the Kuwait-China Friendship Club, delivers a speech at an event in Farwaniya Governorate on Nov. 3, 2026. (Xinhua)

Kuwait explores broader Chinese language curriculum

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei received Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin and his accompanying delegation on Wednesday to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation in education.

The Ministry of Education said in a press statement that the meeting addressed prospects for enhancing coordination in educational and academic fields in a manner that supports the distinguished ties between Kuwait and China and serves their mutual interests.



Ministry of Education photo

Kuwait's Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei receives Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin.

The talks also covered mechanisms to expand Chinese language teaching in educational institutions and improve the skills of specialized teachers through training and qualification programs, as well as the exchange of educational expertise.

Both sides stressed the importance of maintaining communication and coordination to further strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Kuwait seeks bigger role in China's development vision

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (Xinhua): Sheikha Al-Anoud Al-Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, founder and honorary president of the Kuwait-China Friendship Club, said Tuesday that China's commitment to long-term development planning, technological innovation, sustainable development and institutional development aligns with Kuwait's goals of economic diversification and modernization, creating broad opportunities for deeper practical cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking at the Kuwait edition of the Global Dialogue, themed "Stability and Prosperity: China's Long-Term Governance and Global Development," Al-Anoud said China's long-term development planning focuses on promoting high-quality development, with innovation and technological progress serving as key drivers, and emphasizes smart infrastructure development and deeper international cooperation based on mutual benefit and respect for sovereignty.

Referring to the recently concluded fifth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, she said China attaches importance to strengthening Party governance, combating corruption, improving institutional development and enhancing governance capacity, which she described as essential foundations for ensuring the effective implementation of long-term development plans.

Al-Anoud said China's 15th Five-Year Plan and Kuwait Vision 2035 share priorities in multiple areas. As the two countries mark the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, the alignment of their development strategies offers broad prospects for deepening cooperation.

She identified four priority areas for future cooperation: smart cities and infrastructure, including Kuwait's Silk City and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port projects; renewable energy and sustainable development, particularly solar and wind power; digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G and cloud computing; and trade, investment and logistics infrastructure, leveraging Kuwait's position connecting Asia and the Middle East.

Al-Anoud also highlighted potential cooperation in cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection and early-warning systems, saying China's expertise could help Kuwait strengthen its digital security capabilities and enhance the protection of ports and oil facilities.

She said people-to-people exchanges remain an important foundation for the long-term development of bilateral relations.

Al-Anoud called for stronger cultural exchanges and closer ties between the two peoples alongside expanding economic and technological cooperation, to deepen mutual understanding and inject fresh momentum into bilateral relations.

The event was jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait, China Media Group and the Kuwait-China Friendship Club.

China-Kuwait projects press on amid regional uncertainty

Ties expand across strategic sectors

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Yang Xin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the State of Kuwait, affirmed that all strategic cooperation projects between Kuwait and China are progressing well.

He noted that the projects are being implemented in accordance with strategic decisions made by the leadership of both countries, with both governments, relevant authorities, and companies working to ensure their successful completion.

Speaking at a global dialogue event held Tuesday morning under the title "China's Governance and Global Development," Ambassador Yang Xin said the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project has entered the construction phase, while an official inauguration ceremony was recently held for a wastewater treatment project.

He revealed that both sides are working to launch a third and fourth project in the near future.

Regarding the project completion timeline, Ambassador Yang Xin explained that both sides are committed to completing the work as quickly as possible. However, construction activities have been affected by regional circumstances and developments.

The Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project has encountered challenges, particularly delays in the arrival of construction materials and vessels currently held up outside the Strait of Hormuz. These delays have required adjustments to the construction plans.



Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin delivers a speech during the "Chinese Cultural Night · Hebei, Once Again" event in Hawalli Governorate, Kuwait, Nov. 2, 2026. (Xinhua)

Nevertheless, both sides are committed to completing the project in line with the established objectives.

He also confirmed that meetings and communication between the Kuwaiti side and the Chinese teams involved in the projects are ongoing, with regular coordination to monitor progress. Commenting on regional developments, Ambassador Xin stated that the current situation in the region is a matter of concern for the entire international community.

He emphasized that since tensions escalated on February 28, China has been making every effort to de-escalate the situation and bring the conflict to an end as quickly as possible.

Ambassador Xin explained that China continues to use diplomatic channels to address the developments. The Chinese President Xi Jinping held bilateral talks with the Sultan of Oman. The discussions focused on relations between the two countries and the regional situation, during which President Xi Jinping reiterated China's position and proposals for promoting security and stability in the region.

He also noted that China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had announced the deployment of three special envoys representing the Chinese government to the Middle East and North Africa. The initiative aims to support de-escalation efforts and address developments related to the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

Regarding security and military cooperation with Kuwait, Ambassador Yang Xin affirmed that collaboration between the two countries is ongoing in various sectors, particularly in the political and diplomatic fields, which he described as essential to strengthening bilateral relations.

He highlighted that military ties between Kuwait and China are strong, with continued cooperation and regular exchanges of visits between the two countries' armed forces. Ambassador Yang Xin emphasized both sides' commitment to further developing their cooperation and strengthening their partnership across a wide range of fields.

He also highlighted the importance of expanding cooperation in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power, as well as artificial intelligence, 5G networks, cloud computing, and cybersecurity.

Social Affairs steps up co-op sector inspections

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs, inspected the Oversight and Inspection Department of the Cooperative Sector following the relocation of cooperative inspectors from their former premises in Sulaibikhat to the ministry's headquarters, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The relocation is part of efforts to strengthen coordination between departments, unify efforts, and expedite the processing of transactions.

During her visit, Dr. Al-Huwailah reviewed the department's workflow and the inspectors' needs, while listening to their observations and suggestions.

She reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to providing a suitable working environment and addressing any obstacles that may hinder employees in carrying out their duties.

The minister explained that relocating the inspectors to the ministry's headquarters is intended to promote direct communication between the relevant departments, streamline procedures, and expedite task completion. These measures are expected to improve the efficiency of oversight and inspection within cooperative societies and strengthen regulatory effectiveness.

Dr. Al-Huwailah praised the staff for their efforts and urged them to continue working with a unified team spirit.

She emphasized the importance of seamless integration and continuous coordination between departments, alongside intensifying regulatory and field inspection efforts to ensure compliance with the laws, regulations, and decisions governing cooperative work.

Dr. Al-Huwailah also noted that the coming period will require greater discipline, rigorous field monitoring, and a prompt response to any observations or violations.

She stressed that effective oversight, timely action, and a strong sense of responsibility are essential pillars for developing the cooperative sector, protecting the rights of shareholders and consumers, and safeguarding the public interest.



Social Affairs photo

Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah visits the Oversight and Inspection Department of the Cooperative Sector following the relocation of cooperative inspectors to the ministry's headquarters.

Continued from Page 1

Al-Rai sweep

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, the campaign resulted in 101 arrests related to various security violations.

Among those arrested were 78 wanted individuals and persons reported as absconding, nine labor law violators, seven individuals with expired residency permits, six people found in possession of narcotics, and one individual subject to an entry ban.

On the traffic enforcement front, the campaign resulted in 128 actions, including 122 traffic violations, the impoundment of four abandoned vehicles and one motorcycle for traffic violations, and the seizure of a vehicle wanted by the judiciary.

The Public Authority for Manpower recorded nine labor law violations, while the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition issued 45 citations for failing to obtain health cards and 12 for improper food storage.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Fire Force issued 37 violation notices, ordered the administrative closure of 23 facilities, and issued formal warnings regarding potential closures.

Regarding the Kuwait Municipality's efforts, the ministry reported that 517 warning stickers were placed on abandoned vehicles, 13 written pledges were obtained from individuals promising not to repeat violations, and 10 citations were issued for public cleanliness violations and road obstructions. In addition, four abandoned vehicles were removed and five locations were cleaned.

The ministry stated that the total number of actions taken by all participating entities reached 676, alongside 76 cases of humanitarian assistance, bringing the overall number of actions and citations to 981.

It also confirmed that legal procedures have been initiated against those arrested or found in violation, with the individuals referred to the relevant authorities for further action.

KD 84,000 prize

The Outstanding Teacher category will have 12 winners, with two selected from each educational zone. Each winner will receive KD 3,000.

The Outstanding School Administration category will cover six school administrations, with one selected from each educational zone. The principal and three assistant principals of each winning school will be honored, bringing the total number of recipients in this category to 24. Each principal will receive KD 2,000, while each assistant principal will receive KD 1,000.

Regarding eligibility, the ministry explained that candidates for the Outstanding Student category must be Kuwaiti nationals and have maintained an academic average of at least 95 percent throughout the three academic years preceding their nomination. They must also have no record of school disciplinary penalties and provide documented evidence of their academic and practical achievements, as well as their participation in community activities.

For the Outstanding Teacher category, applicants must be Kuwaiti nationals currently serving in their positions and must have received an actual job performance rating of Excellent. They must not have previously participated in the Outstanding Teacher Award or won the new award in the same category during the specified period. Applicants must also meet the requirements relating to length of service, employment and criminal records, and submit a professional portfolio demonstrating the impact of their teaching practices on student learning.

As for the Outstanding School Administration category, the ministry explained that participation is limited to public schools under its supervision. Eligible schools must have documented performance records, must not have previously participated in or won the Outstanding Schools Competition, and must demonstrate excellence in educational quality, school leadership, and the learning environment. They must also have no record of final disciplinary penalties during the specified period.

The ministry went on to explain that nominations will be submitted electronically through a dedicated platform, which will retrieve candidates' official data and allow them to upload the required documents. Applications will then undergo a documentary review by three independent judges, with the top ten candidates in each category advancing to the next stage.

The final assessment will be based equally on documentary reviews and field visits, each accounting for 50 percent of the overall score. Each candidate will be subject to at least four field visits. No points will be awarded for any criterion without verifiable supporting evidence or documented field observations.

The ministry confirmed that the award's assessment criteria are based on internationally recognized professional and institutional excellence frameworks, including the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), Cognia, and the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM), while taking into account the specific characteristics of Kuwait's educational environment.

It stated that the award's general framework, evaluation criteria, and application platform procedures will be published on its official website. An annual circular issued by the Ministry Undersecretary or the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs will announce the electronic application period. The award may be withheld if the participation requirements are not met.

The ministry stressed that the decree will come into effect on the date of its issuance, superseding any previous ministerial decisions that conflict with its provisions, adding that the award seeks to establish a culture of quality and innovation, strengthen institutional performance, and enhance the overall quality and efficiency of educational outcomes.

Hearing disorders

In a speech on behalf of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi at the opening of the 48th Conference of the ENT Departments Council on Wednesday, Al-Hasawi pointed out that global demographic changes, including increased life expectancy, an aging population and heightened exposure to noise, affirm the importance of bolstering prevention and early intervention strategies, in addition to expanding advanced diagnostic and treatment options for ear, nose and throat (ENT) disorders.

He revealed that the health sector recently achieved milestones in this field, such as the growth of robotic surgery for head and neck tumors, cochlear implant services, and hypoglossal nerve stimulation for sleep apnea treatment.

He stated that Kuwait performed a middle-ear hearing implant for the first time, offering another treatment alternative for patients who cannot utilize traditional external hearing aids.

Moreover, Conference Chairman Dr. Mutlaq Al-Saihan confirmed that the event showcases the latest scientific developments and surgical techniques in the ENT field, thereby, contributing to healthcare improvement and progress.

He stated that the first day of the conference is for the newest surgical and robotic methods in head and neck surgery, while the second day is for the latest innovations in nasal and sinus surgery, as well as skull base procedures.

He said the conference includes workshops on otolaryngology (ENT) and skull base surgery, as well as scientific presentations. He disclosed that the workshops are on practical training in executing complex surgical procedures in various subspecialties, empowering doctors and honing their surgical expertise.

Vice Chairman of the conference Dr. Hussain Al-Shammari underscored the importance of collaboration between medical and academic institutions. He also praised the efforts of the organizers of the event.

Blue wave

itself as a coequal branch ready to challenge Trump and reverse course after two years of unified GOP control.

"We hear you," said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, who would make history as the first Black speaker of the House if his colleagues elect him to the job when the new Congress begins on Jan. 3, 2027.

"We're going to work hard to deliver on the dramatic change that you deserve," he said.

The tally was decisive, at times bewildering, for the staggering scope of Democratic gains and the depth of Republican losses. The swelling margins underlined a deep sense of voter anger and concern over the economy and the state of democracy.

All told, the results present a fundamental reshaping of power in Washington, with new opportunities and challenges for governing.

Democrat Abdul El-Sayed won Michigan's US Senate race against Republican Mike Rogers, becoming the first Muslim elected to the chamber in American history, local media outlets reported on Wednesday.

Fox News said on its official account on the X platform that projections by its election decision desk showed El-Sayed winning the Senate race held Tuesday as part of the midterm elections across the country.

El-Sayed thanked voters for their support and trust, pledging leadership worthy of their confidence, as he won the seat currently held by Democratic Senator Gary Peters, who decided against seeking another term in the Senate.

Trump struck a conciliatory tone, suggesting he could work with the Democrats, but he also warned of gridlock ahead as he threatened to use the power of the presidential veto to strike down their agenda.

"I don't want to be just sitting there for two years vetoing everything," he told Politico.

House Democrats are promising a 100-day agenda starting with efforts to lower the costs of gas, groceries and other goods, as well as bills to reverse cuts to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid healthcare programs. They're also ready to launch a robust oversight agenda to, as Jeffries says, "hold the crooks accountable."

Impeachment - of the president or his Cabinet members - is an option.

The top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, Rep. Robert Garcia of California, issued a one-sentence warning: "Lawyer up."

Sen. Ron Wyden, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, issued his own one-word missive: "Subpoenas."

Democrats will be under pressure to quickly show that they have solutions for the high gas and grocery prices, the war in Iran and concerns about the direction of the country.

For Jeffries and his leadership team, it will be their first time in the majority, managing a class of newcomers including a handful of far-left democratic socialists.

With the majority in the 435-member House well past the 218 needed and the Senate Democrats holding at least 54 of 100 seats in that chamber, Jeffries and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer will have room to maneuver.

"Five words for the American people: Relief is on the way," the New York senator said.

For Republicans, their shriveled numbers will create a reckoning of their own, as they try to figure out what went so uniformly wrong.

House Speaker Mike Johnson had quipped he may return to his Louisiana hometown of Shreveport to start a lawn care company if the Republicans lost power. His future plans will be closely watched, as rivals seek to replace him.

Republicans may be anxious during the post-election lame-duck sprint to accomplish as much as possible in their remaining weeks in power. But hopes for another GOP-only priority package like their big tax breaks and spending cuts bill seem dim as defeated lawmakers prepare to go home at the end of the year.

Conservatives have also eyed the opportunity for Trump to nominate another justice to the Supreme Court while Senate Republicans still hold a majority. However, no current justice has announced any intent to step aside.

And the government could be headed toward a federal shutdown next month if Congress fails to pass a funding bill to keep operations running.

In the weeks ahead, the parties will hold internal leadership elections as members-elect arrive for freshmen orientation at the Capitol.

The House will choose its speaker as one of the first votes when the new Congress convenes.

Rarely has the president's party held on to power during midterm elections, but the Democratic sweep carried echoes of Trump's first term, when Republicans faced a voter revolt that sent Democrats to the House majority, and the Barack Obama era, when the Republican tea party swept to power.

This new Congress will also mark firsts and welcome trailblazers.

With the election of Democrat Julia Stratton of Illinois, the Senate will for the first time have three Black women in office.

Business

Oil price falls $3.27 to $95.45 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Kuwaiti oil fell USD 3.27 to USD 95.45 per barrel (pb) in Tuesday's trading compared with USD 98.72 on Monday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

In global markets, Brent crude dropped USD 1.17 to USD 103.60 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate fell by 37 cents to settle at USD 96.09 pb.

Advancing digital & AI investments amid strong growth

ABK Group holds nine-month 2026 analyst conference call

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) hosted its analyst conference call to discuss the Group's performance for the first nine months of 2026. Participants included Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group CEO; Shiamak Soonawalla, Group CFO; Dr. Abdulaziz Jawad, Chief Strategy Officer; and Osama Ezzeldin, Assistant General Manager of Strategy and Follow Up.

Van Der Tol said, "ABK maintained positive momentum during the nine months of 2026. We continued to expand lending, grow earnings and improve asset quality, supported by a disciplined approach to risk and balance-sheet management."

He continued, "As we enter the final quarter of 2026, our priorities remain clear: selective franchise growth, preserving asset quality, disciplined capital allocation and delivery against the Group's strategic priorities."

Van Der Tol highlighted that ABK's focus remained on meeting customers' financing needs, deepening client relationships and growing the franchise selectively across its markets. This performance is reflected in ABK's financial results. Net profit attributable to shareholders reached KD 54.2 million, an increase of approximately 16.2% year on year, while earnings per share increased to 17.6 fils.

Credit quality indicators remained sound. The non-performing loan ratio improved to 1.19%, from 1.29% in September 2025, while the provision coverage ratio stood at 355%. The cost of risk improved to 0.82%, compared with 1.06% a year earlier. Meanwhile, capital and liquidity remained solid. At 30 September 2026, the Group's total capital adequacy ratio stood at 17.25%, Tier 1 capital at 13.65%, and CET1 at 11.94%. The liquidity coverage ratio was 184%.

Van Der Tol added, "Building on this performance, we are expanding our capital base to support future growth and the execution of our five-year strategy. In September, shareholders approved an increase in ABK's authorized capital from KD 274.9 million to KD 600 million, giving the Bank greater flexibility to meet future capital requirements and business opportunities."

"We also received the required Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Capital Markets Authority (CMA) approvals to increase our issued and paid-up capital by KD75 million, or 27.29%, to KD349.9 million through a rights issue of 750 million shares at an issue price of 200 fils each, including a 100 fils share premium. Upon successful completion, the issue is expected to increase total equity by KD 150 million, comprising KD 75 million in nominal value and KD 75 million in share premium. This should improve our CET1 and capital adequacy ratios by approximately 280 basis points (bps)," Van Der Tol said.

Alongside the capital program, ABK will continue to invest in digital infrastructure and AI-enabled capabilitiesto improve customer experience, operational efficiency and risk management. These investments will also support the development of products that meet customers' changing needs across the Bank's markets.

ABK's external credit ratings remain unchanged. Moody's reaffirmed ABK's A2 rating with a stable outlook, and Fitch reaffirmed its A rating with a stable outlook. These ratings continue to provide independent validation of the Bank's credit profile.

On people and organizational development, Van Der Tol said, "Our people remain central to ABK's performance and the delivery of our strategy. We continue to develop leadership capabilities and reinforce a culture of accountability and high standards across the Group. Kuwaiti nationals hold approximately 67% of leadership positions, and women represent 41% of the workforce. Developing local talent and maintaining an inclusive workplace remain priorities as we build the capabilities needed to support the Group's growth plans."


Giel-Jan Van M. Der Tol, Group CEO


Shiamak Soonawalla, Group CFO


Dr. Abdulaziz Jawad, Chief Strategy Officer

"Looking ahead to 2027, we will build on the progress achieved this year, further strengthen the franchise and continue to deliver sustainable returns for shareholders," he concluded.

Financial Performance

Discussing the Group's financial performance, Soonawalla stated, "Our results for the nine months demonstrate sustained progress across our business lines. Earnings have increased, the balance sheet has expanded, asset quality has improved, while capital and liquidity remain at comfortable levels. We remain focused on maintaining this momentum and delivering consistent returns to our shareholders."

He added that net profit attributable to shareholders grew by 16.2% year-on-year to KD 54.2 million, while earnings per share rose by 18.1% to 17.6 fils. Return on average equity improved by 87 basis points to 9.33%, supported by higher earnings from the Bank's core franchise.

Commenting on operating performance, Soonawalla noted that operating income grew by 7.5% year-on-year to KD 177.5 million, primarily driven by 11.3% growth in net interest income. Lower funding costs contributed to a 24-basis-point expansion in net interest margin to 2.50%. Operating profit increased by 5.5% to KD 100.3 million, while the cost-to-income ratio improved by 30 basis points to 43.5%from 43.8% at year-end 2025.

He added, "Our diversified business model provides a balanced contribution to earnings across the Group. Commercial Banking remained the largest contributor to operating income, accounting for 44%, followed by Retail Banking at 34% and Treasury and Investments at 22%. This provides a well-diversified earnings base across our core businesses."

Soonawalla continued, "On capital, we maintained a strong position, with the total capital adequacy ratio at 17.25% and CET1 at 11.94%, both ratios remaining comfortably above the regulatory minima, providing adequate headroom to support our business and strategic priorities."

Asset Quality, Capital and Liquidity

With regard to asset quality, Soonawalla highlighted that credit metrics improved further during the quarter whereby the non-performing loan ratio improved to 1.19%, reflecting disciplined underwriting and active portfolio management. Furthermore, provision coverage strengthened to 355% from 340% in the previous quarter. Moreover, ABK maintained loan loss provisions in accordance with CBK guidelines, exceeding IFRS 9 requirements by KD 200 million and providing a robust buffer against potential credit pressures.

ABK's balance sheet maintained a healthy pace of growth. Since December 2025, total assets increased by 8.6% to KD 7.5 billion, with net loans and advances growing by 10.2% to KD 5.0 billion and customer deposits increasing by 5.5% to KD 4.3 billion.

Soonawalla concluded, "Liquidity metrics remained robust, with the liquidity coverage ratio at 184% and the net stable funding ratio at 118%, both comfortably above regulatory thresholds."

Business and Strategic Progress

From a strategic perspective, Jawad said, "Our core businesses delivered a resilient performance despite the challenging operating environment. In Corporate Banking, we grew our Low-Cost Deposit (LCD) book. Although regional disruptions weighed on business activity, we remained focused on asset quality, sustainable returns, pricing and capital efficiency."

He continued, "In Retail Banking, we expanded our core salaried base and continued to grow the affluent segment, while maintaining prudent lending standards. Separately, we launched three new cards for corporates and SMEs, offering cashback, Visa Spend Clarity and customizable virtual cards, complementing our Al Tajer and Al Tajer Plus propositions and strengthening our offering to business clients."

Addressing developments in the housing sector, Jawad highlighted the new mortgage financing law, which establishes two forms of financing for eligible housing welfare beneficiaries: supported and non-supported financing, which may be combined subject to CBK regulations.

The Executive Regulations, required within six months of the law's publication, will set out the detailed implementation framework, including the maximum amount of supported financing and related procedures. The law will become applicable to beneficiaries once these regulations are published.

Against this backdrop, ABK continues to upgrade its 'ABK Build' mortgage proposition, which aims to go beyond customers' financing needs and complement the end-to-end experience by offering all ancillary services for customers.

Jawad also highlighted developments at the Group's investment arm, Jawad continued, "ABK Wealth Management further strengthened its client proposition with the launch of a new digital application, offering end-to-end digital onboarding, investment dashboards and insights, and access to a broad range of investment solutions. In parallel, it continued to expand its investment banking pipeline through active engagement across regional capital markets."

10 Awards

He added, "This progress has been recognized through 10 awards this year, reflecting our continued advances across digital banking, customer experience, governance and wealth management. These included four digital banking awards from Global Finance, recognition from Global Brands Magazine for Excellence in Corporate Governance and Best Call Center in Kuwait, and four awards from International Finance, including Best Investor Relationship Bank and two awards for ABK Wealth Management."

Sustainability and Community

On the sustainability front, ABK continued to advance its ESG agenda through two key strategic developments. The first is the rollout of ABK's ESG Policy Framework, which establishes a formal governance structure to guide the implementation of ABK's ESG Strategy, strengthen accountability and embed sustainability considerations across business operations.

In parallel, ABK advanced the integration of climate-related risks into the Bank's risk management frameworks, reinforcing its commitment to identifying, assessing and managing emerging risks while supporting the Bank's long-term resilience and sustainable growth. Together, these initiatives strengthen ABK's governance and support the creation of sustainable long-term value for stakeholders.

ABK also demonstrated its commitment to Kuwait and the wider community by contributing USD 3 million to the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund to support national efforts during exceptional circumstances.

Capital Increase and Strategic Outlook

Providing an update on the capital increase, Jawad noted that the CMA had approved the prospectus on 21 October, following the required regulatory approvals. The subscription period will run from 8 to 22 November. The full timetable, including eligibility and rights trading dates, is available on the websites of Boursa Kuwait, ABK and ABK Wealth Management. He said, "We look forward to our shareholders' continued support, as this additional capital will underpin the next phase of our growth."

Linking the capital increase to the Group's strategic priorities, Jawad elaborated, "This phase is set out in our strategy refresh. We are now approaching completion of the Group's updated five-year plan. The strategy has been refined across our core markets and businesses, with a continued focus on sustainable growth, disciplined capital allocation and improving returns."

Jawad concluded, "Our focus remains on disciplined execution across our markets, deepening client relationships, improving operating efficiency and building the capabilities needed to support growth. As operating conditions vary across our key markets, we will remain selective in how we deploy resources and manage market-specific risks. We will build on theprogress made to date through the remainder of 2026 and into 2027."

Oil Min. praises employees' role in institutional growth

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi said on Wednesday that investing in human capital was essential to institutional development, stressing that qualified employees were key to turning ambitions into tangible achievements.

Speaking at a ceremony titled "We Are Proud of You" to honor outstanding ministry employees, Al-Roumi praised their contributions to improving institutional performance and advancing the ministry's work.

He said the ministry was committed to developing its national workforce through training, digital transformation and updated systems, noting that technology alone could not achieve progress without skilled personnel.

Al-Roumi also congratulated ministry employee Sarah Al-Zayed on obtaining the internationally recognized Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) qualification, describing her achievement as an example for colleagues to follow.

The ceremony featured a presentation on the ministry's achievements by virtual presenter "Nouf," while Al-Zayed shared her experience in earning the professional certification.

GCC's AI future depends on talent and data quality

DUBAI, Nov 4, (KUNA): Founder and Chairman of the Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIOT) Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed on Tuesday that GCC states possess strategic, economic and technological capabilities to become a leading global hub for artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies.

This came during Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah's participation in a panel discussion at the Capital Exchange 2026 conference, held in Dubai as part of the events held on the sidelines of the Dubai Financial Future Week, organized by the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) from November 2 to 6.

The conference included participation of prominent government and economic leaders, investors and international experts in technology, finance and innovation.

Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah took part in a panel discussion entitled "The AI Ecosystem: From Infrastructure to Applications," which addressed the future of the AI ecosystem, digital sovereignty, and the role of governments, the private sector and investors in building an economy based on advanced technologies.

He pointed out that the substantial investments made by regional countries in technological infrastructure reflect their leaders' vision of building sustainable, knowledge-based economies.

The next phase requires moving beyond investment in infrastructure towards developing practical AI solutions and applications that generate tangible economic and developmental value, he said.

Furthermore, he stressed that building an integrated and sustainable AI ecosystem does not depend solely on attracting international companies and advanced technologies but also requires investment in human capital and the qualification of national personnel capable of developing, managing and efficiently utilizing these technologies.

Concluding his remarks during the session, he affirmed that the future of AI depends not only on the volume of available data or ownership of the latest technologies, but primarily on the quality of data and the extent to which it is organized, accurate and reliable.

Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah noted that investing in data quality, organization and efficient management should be a strategic priority for government and private institutions

S&P GCC Composite Index decreased by 4.8% in October 2026

Markaz: Kuwait's consumer staples sector sole gainer in October, up 1.8%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Kuwait Financial Center "Markaz" noted in its Monthly Market Review for the month of October that Kuwait's equity market declined, in line with other regional markets. Investor sentiment was weighed down by intensifying regional security risks, record disruption to shipping around the Strait of Hormuz, and a sharp downgrade to the IMF's growth outlook for the GCC. Kuwait's All-Share Price Index declined 3.7% in October, with the Main Market Index falling 7.0% and the Premier Market Index declining 3.0%. From a sectoral perspective, Consumer Staples was the only sector to post a positive return, gaining 1.8%. Banking stocks declined 2.6% in October, with NBK and KFH shares declining by0.9% and 3.1%, respectively. Agility Public Warehousing Company was the top-performing Premier Market stock in October, rising 8.6%, supported by a significant asset monetization transaction (Agility subsidiary entered a definitive agreement to sell 100% of its stake in Tristar) during the month.

Kuwait's non-oil private sector expanded for a third consecutive month in September, with the S&P Global Kuwait PMI at 52.4, easing from August's six-month high of 53.6. Domestic credit grew 6.3% y/y in September, driven by broad-based lending to households (+5.1% y/y), and businesses (+6.7% y/y), while resident deposits rose 10.8% y/y. Inflation remained contained at 2.2% y/y in July. In international debt markets, Kuwait raised USD 3.25 billion through a Eurobond issuance that attracted USD 9.1 billion in orders, underscoring strong investor confidence. However, the IMF's October Regional Economic Outlook projects Kuwait's real GDP to contract 16.7% in 2026 (April forecast: -0.6%), one of the sharpest downgrades in the region, reflecting constraints on oilexports through the Strait of Hormuz.

GCC equity markets declined in October, with the S&P GCC Composite Index down 4.8%. Investor sentiment was weighed down by the worst month for attacks on commercial shipping around the Strait of Hormuz since tracking began in 2017, and by a wave of missile and drone strikes on Saudi Arabia's energy and airport infrastructure that raised fears of a wider regional escalation. Saudi Arabia's Tadawul Index fell 5.0%, led lower by financials and materials. SNB and Alinma declined 9.8% and 10.8%, respectively, Al Rajhi Bank fell 5.6%, and Ma'aden fell 7.1%. In the UAE, Dubai's index fell 3.2%, while Abu Dhabi's index declined 6.0%, with banks under pressure. FAB declined 6.5%,Emirates NBD 6.4% and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank 15.0%. Qatar's benchmark index touched its lowest level in more than six years during the month, though performance was mixed at the stock level.

Across the GCC, non-oil activity continued to improve in September, though data still reflected the conflict's toll. Saudi Arabia's non-oil PMI rose to 55.3 from 53.8, its strongest reading since February, on a sharp increase in new orders, although foreign orders declined for a seventh month. The UAE PMI held at a 20-month high of 55.3, with Dubai rising to 54.5, while Qatar's PMI fell to 47.3, its eighth consecutive month in contraction. In the UAE, real GDP contracted 2.1% y/y in Q2 2026, its first decline in over five years, as non-oil GDP fell 1.1% y/y. Saudi Arabia unveiled an expansionary 2027 budget with spending of around SAR 1.4 trillion and a narrower deficit of 3.6% of GDP (4.9% in 2026), projecting a 12.8% growth rebound in 2027 following an estimated 3.6% contraction in 2026.The IMF's latest outlooks underscored both the depth of the current shock and the strength of the expected recovery. The sharpest downgrades were for Kuwait (-16.7%), Qatar (-15.6%) and Bahrain (-11.3%), followed by the UAE (-3.9%) and Saudi Arabia (-3.3%), while Oman was revised up to 4.1%. Non-oil growth is projected at -0.8% in 2026 before recovering to 4.5% in 2027. The GCC current account surplus is expected to narrow to 1.3% of GDP from 5.0%, with the fiscal balance moving to a deficit of 2.3% of GDP.

Global and U.S. equity markets declined in October, with the S&P 500 falling0.9% and the MSCI World Index declining 0.8%. Sentiment weakened after September inflation came in above expectations at 3.7% y/y, triggering a 1.1% single-day decline in the S&P 500. However, robust corporate earnings, with most companies surpassing earnings forecasts, helped moderate the decline.On 28 October, the Fed left rates unchanged at 3.75%-4.00%. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh said inflation remains too high but stopped short of signaling a December increase. Emerging market equities came under pressure in October, with the MSCI Emerging Markets Index declining 8.1%. Losses were led by South Korea, where the KOSPI fell 16.2%, and China, where the MSCI China Index declined 7.2%, amid concerns over AI profitability, subdued consumer demand and tighter technology export restrictions.The IMF's October World Economic Outlook raised 2026 global growth to 3.1% (from 3.0% in July), with 2027 unchanged at 3.4%.

U.S. Treasury yields declined in October, retreating from multi-decade highs reached at the start of the month. The 10-year yield fell 35 bps to 4.94%, while the 30-year yield declined 33 bps to 5.31% and the 2-year yield fell 32 bps to 4.56%.The curve steepened after the Fed meeting as longer-dated yields edged higher, reflecting persistent supply concerns, with the FY2025-26 fiscal deficit widening to around 6% of GDP.

Brent crude oil prices rose 13.6% in October to USD 117.64/bbl., trading above USD 110/bbl. in the second half of the month, near six-month highs. October recorded the highest number of attacks on commercial shipping around the Strait of Hormuz since tracking began in 2017, with at least 28 vessels targeted, including 11 supertankers. Meanwhile, gold prices fell 6.8% during the month to USD 3,875.02/oz, their lowest level in a year, as surging Treasury yields increased the opportunity cost of holding the non-yielding asset.

Global investors will focus on the U.S. midterm elections on 3 November, the December FOMC meeting and incoming inflation and labour data for signals on the Fed's tightening path. Q3 earnings from mega-cap technology companies will continue to test whether AI-driven demand can justify elevated valuations. In the GCC, markets will be shaped by the developments in the U.S.-Iran negotiations, and prospects for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, which the IMF assumes by March 2027. Q3 2026 corporate earnings, particularly from banks, will also provide a read on how resilient earnings have been.

New recognition of its regional and global leadership & excellence in Islamic banking

KFH wins MEED's 'MENA Islamic Bank of the Year' award for 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won the "MENA Islamic Bank of the Year" award for 2026 at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards - Corporate & Investment, organized by MEED.

The new achievement underscores the Bank's leading position regionally and globally across various banking sectors, its pioneering role in the Islamic finance industry, and its success in delivering innovative banking solutions as well as a comprehensive customer experience.

This award highlights KFH's success in blending banking expertise with innovation in products, services, and financial solutions. It enables the bank to meet diverse customer needs while helping companies execute financing and investment plans efficiently.

KFH was honored at a ceremony held during Dubai Future Finance Week, an event gathering elite financial and banking leaders, decision-makers, and experts from across the region. KFH Executive Manager Social Media and PR Service Center, Abdullah Al-Saif received the award on behalf of the Bank.

This recognition reflects KFH's leading track record in consolidating Islamic banking and strengthening its contribution to financing economic and investment activities. This has been achieved by delivering tailored banking and financing solutions that adapt to market developments, meet corporate and institutional needs, and fulfill customer aspirations.

KFH's selection as MENA Islamic Bank of the Year reinforces its position as one of the world's largest Islamic financial institutions, supported by strong financial solvency and outstanding operational performance. This is reflected in recording the highest profitability among banks in Kuwait, with net profit attributable to shareholders reaching KD 523.4 million by the end of the third quarter of 2026, a 6.2% increase compared with the same period last year. Net



Abdullah Al-Saif receiving the award.

operating income also rose 11.7% to KD 1,004.7 million. Furthermore, the bank is successfully implementing its strategy to accelerate digital transformation, develop innovative banking products and services, enhance customer experience, strengthen competitiveness, and achieve sustainable growth.

KFH continues to reinforce its local, regional, and international presence through its extensive expertise and broad geographic footprint through a network of more than 600 branches across 10 countries. The Bank also enjoys advanced capabilities in structuring financing solutions, building partnerships, managing customer relations, and delivering banking and investment services tailored to customers' business requirements and expansion plans.

The award highlights KFH's pivotal role as a strategic partner in advancing Kuwait Vision 2035 through innovative financing solutions for major development projects, driving sustainable economic growth and underscoring its commitment to fostering investment and corporate banking excellence.

Methodology

An independent committee of leading bankers and experts evaluates 2026 MENA Banking Excellence Awards candidates against rigorous, transparent criteria. The panel reviews all submissions before approving final results and selecting winners.

Criteria include measurable financial performance, financial strength, innovation, Sharia compliance, leadership in Islamic finance and Sukuk issuance, investment product development, and the delivery of high-quality advisory and financing solutions for corporate and institutional customers.

MEED

Established in 1957, MEED is a leading regional media platform specializing in economic analysis and business intelligence across the Middle East. In collaboration with GlobalData Financial Services, MEED presents the MENA Banking Excellence Awards - Corporate &Investment to institutions which demonstrate outstanding achievements in banking and financial services, with particular focus on innovation, service quality, and customer experience excellence.

Meshari AlNusf appointed to lead Kuwait Insurance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Board of Directors of Kuwait Insurance and Reinsurance Company has announced the appointment of Mr. Meshari Abdulrazaq AlNusf as the Company's new Chief Executive Officer, marking a step toward continuing the Company's journey and strengthening its strategy to achieve sustainable growth and further develop its operations in the insurance sector.

Mr. AlNusf brings extensive professional experience in the insurance and investment sectors. He joined Kuwait Insurance Company in 2009 and has held several managerial and leadership positions, most notably as Investment Manager and Secretary to the Board of Directors. Throughout his tenure, he has gained substantial expertise in investment management, corporate governance, and the Company's strategic affairs.

Mr. AlNusf currently serves as Vice Chairman of Kuwait Islamic Takaful Insurance Company. He is also a member of the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee of Kuwait Reinsurance Company, reflecting his extensive experience in insurance, reinsurance, corporate governance, and institutional oversight.

In terms of his academic qualifications, Mr. AlNusf holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration (MBA), specializing in Finance, from the University of Denver in the United States. He has further enhanced his academic and professional qualifications by obtaining two certificates from Harvard University in Leadership and Management, and Mergers and Acquisitions Strategies. In addition, he holds recognized professional certifications in the insurance sector, along with specialized certifications in Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF).


Meshari AlNusf

Kuwait Insurance and Reinsurance Company affirmed that this appointment reflects its commitment to ensuring leadership continuity and leveraging qualified national talent and expertise. This approach supports the Company's strategic objectives, strengthens its ability to pursue continuous development and innovation, and reinforces its commitment to delivering high-quality insurance services and solutions to its customers, while further consolidating its position as a leading company in the Kuwaiti insurance market.

On this occasion, Kuwait Insurance and Reinsurance Company expressed its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Sami Sharif for his dedicated efforts and valuable contributions during his tenure as Chief Executive Officer. The Company acknowledged his role in supporting its development and strengthening its position in the Kuwaiti insurance market, and extended its best wishes for his continued success in his future endeavors.

Five new labs to empower future-ready students at PAAET

Zain labs unveiled at Kuwait's PAAET to unlock new opportunities for learning and innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Zain Kuwait has inaugurated five advanced educational labs within the College of Basic Education at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), following a complete renovation and upgrade of the facilities.

The project was carried out in collaboration with ZainTECH, the integrated digital solutions arm of Zain Group,where the labs were equipped with the latest technology and connectivity solutions, reflecting Zain's continued commitment to supporting education in Kuwait and leveraging its technological capabilities to enhance the learning experience and prepare students for the demands of the future.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the College of Basic Education and attended by Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, Director General of PAAET; Nawaf Al-Gharabally, CEO of Zain Kuwait; and Prof. Mubarak Al-Dharwa, Dean of the College of Basic Education, alongside several assistant deans and members of Zain's executive management. The ceremony included a tour of the newly upgraded labs, offering attendees a closer look at their advanced facilities and technological capabilities.

The project builds on Zain's longstanding partnership with PAAET and reflects its commitment to advancing Kuwait's educational infrastructure by bringing modern technology into learning environments. By enhancing opportunities for practical, hands-on learning, the initiative aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate an increasingly digital world and contribute to Kuwait's evolving digital economy.

Commenting on the occasion, Nawaf Al-Gharabally, CEO of Zain Kuwait, said: "For us, investing in education means investing in Kuwait's future. We do more than build networks that connect people. We invest in minds that shape the digital future. Our role goes beyond providing connectivity and technology services to leveraging our expertise and capabilities to empower the next generation, giving them greater opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in tomorrow's world."

Al-Gharabally added: "By inaugurating these newly upgraded labs, we take another step in our commitment to supporting education. By bringing advanced technology into the classroom, we aim to create a more engaging learning environment that strengthens students' skills, encourages creativity and innovation, and helps develop the national talent needed to drive Kuwait's digital economy forward. We value our partnership with PAAET, which demonstrates the importance of public-private collaboration in advancing education and turning shared ambitions into tangible initiatives that support Kuwait's national development priorities."

Prof. Mubarak Al-Dharwa, Dean of the College of Basic Education, said: "At PAAET, we take great pride in this initiative, which contributes to advancing the learning environment and developing national talent. The project includes five fully upgraded labs, equipped with advanced computers, dedicated workstations, and interactive smart screens to meet the needs of students and educators. Together, the labs can accommodate 150 students at a time, providing an engaging environment that encourages hands-on learning and practical experience."


Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, and Dr. Mubarak Al-Dharwa with officials from Zain and PAAET.

Al-Gharabally, Al-Fajjam, and Al-Dharwa during the inauguration of the labs.

The five labs enhance the learning experience through technology.


Nawaf Al-Gharabally addressing attendees during the ceremony.

- 5 labs at the College of Basic Education fully renovated and equipped with the latest technology and connectivity solutions
- Nawaf Al-Gharabally: "We do more than build networks that connect people. We invest in minds that shape the digital future"

He added: "The true value of these labs lies in bringing modern technology into teaching, expanding opportunities for interactive learning, and allowing students to put their theoretical knowledge into practice. This will help them develop the skills needed to keep pace with digital transformation and the evolving demands of the job market. The project also aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035 by contributing to the development of educational infrastructure, strengthening human capital, and supporting digital transformation, ultimately enhancing the quality of education and preparing graduates for the demands of the future."

Al-Dharwa continued: "We sincerely appreciate Zain's initiative and its continued support for the education and training sector. We hope this project will serve as a model for sustainable community partnerships that contribute to the development of our educational institutions and help them achieve their goals. We also extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to bringing this project to life, particularly the teams at PAAET, the College of Basic Education, and Zain."

The project involved the complete renovation and modernization of five labs located in Building 29 at the College of Basic Education, including the installation of advanced equipment, technological solutions, and connectivity infrastructure. Designed to support both academic and practical learning, the upgraded facilities provide students with a modern environment that keeps pace with technological advancements. The collaboration between Zain and ZainTECH brought together their technical expertise and resources to deliver educational facilities that meet the evolving needs of students and educators.

The initiative reflects Zain's vision of technology as a key driver of development and highlights the importance of stronger collaboration between the private sector and academic institutions. Such partnerships play an essential role in bridging the gap between education and the evolving needs of the job market, particularly as digital transformation continues to reshape industries and create new opportunities.

Zain remains committed to supporting education in Kuwait through a wide range of partnerships and initiatives focused on empowering students and young people, strengthening digital literacy, developing technical skills, and fostering creativity and innovation. These efforts reflect Zain's belief that building a sustainable digital economy begins with investing in people and giving them the tools and opportunities to actively shape the future, in line with its purpose of 'Better Lives. Lasting Connections.'

Kuwait's FDI inflows reach KD 948 million in 2025/26

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4, (KUNA): Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) in its 11th Annual Report, titled "Driving Growth," affirmed on Wednesday that direct investment inflows into the State of Kuwait rose to KD 948 million during the fiscal year 2025/2026.

During the fiscal year, KDIPA approved 17 new investment entities, bringing the total cumulative approved investments since 2015 to approximately KD 2.92 billion, reflecting Kuwait's growing attractiveness to international capital.

The report assesses the economic impact of licensed investments in terms of human capital development, technology transfer and localization, and increased private sector participation, in support of Kuwait Vision 2035.

The report also highlights progress in implementing KDIPA's Medium-Term Strategy (2025-2030), aimed at positioning Kuwait as a future-ready economy driven by investment and innovation. This includes attracting high-impact investments, enhancing investor experience, and further developing digital and investment services.

The report is available on KDIPA's official website and digital platforms.

Accelerates pilot development to support fleet & network expansion

Jazeera Airways boosts investment in Kuwaiti aviation talent with new cohort of trainee pilots

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Jazeera Airways continues to invest in developing the next generation of aviation professionals as its second cohort of 11 cadet pilots prepares to commence training at BAA Training's facilities in Lleida-Alguaire, Spain. The new cohort marks another milestone in the airline's commitment to building a sustainable pipeline of skilled pilots, including its first Kuwaiti female cadet pilot, reflecting its focus on creating greater opportunities for national talent in aviation.

Capt. Ayman Al Shammari, Chief Operating Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: "As Jazeera Airways accelerates its fleet and network expansion, developing a strong pipeline of skilled pilots is essential to our growth, safety and operational excellence. Through our partnership with BAA Training, we are equipping aspiring pilots with internationally recognized training and the capabilities needed for successful careers in aviation. We are particularly proud to welcome our first Kuwaiti female cadet pilot, marking an important milestone in creating greater opportunities for national talent. Alongside this, our investment in local training infrastructure, including our new ATO facility, will strengthen our in-house capabilities and support the development of homegrown aviation talent, contributing to Kuwait's ambitions as a regional aviation hub."


J9 Pilot Cadets

The new trainees follow the successful commencement of training of the airline's first group of cadets in August 2026. Currently undergoing an intensive 18-month Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) Integrated training program, including Multi-Crew Cooperation (MCC), the first cohort is expected to complete its training in April 2028, paving the way for the next stage of their journey towards becoming qualified airline pilots.

Alongside its international training partnerships, Jazeera Airways is strengthening its in-house training capabilities through the development of a new Approved Training Organization (ATO) facility in Kuwait. The purpose-built facility will house a state-of-the-art full-flight simulator and advanced training infrastructure, enabling the airline to progressively conduct more pilot training locally, enhance operational readiness and reduce reliance on overseas training facilities.

These initiatives come as Jazeera Airways prepares for its next phase of growth, supported by an expanding fleet and destination network. With the airline recently welcoming the first of 26 new Airbus aircraft, with more joining the fleet soon, the demand for highly skilled and qualified pilots is expected to increase significantly in the coming years. Developing a strong pipeline of aviation talent is therefore central to supporting the airline's long-term growth ambitions and operational excellence.

Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said: "Jazeera Airways is all about Kuwait and driving growth, building capacity and onboarding talent in Kuwait. As we grow, we look forward to many more career opportunities in flying, engineering and corporate roles for the talented and hardworking youth of Kuwait.'

Jazeera Airways remains committed to supporting Kuwait Vision 2035 by investing in national talent, developing specialized aviation capabilities and creating long-term career opportunities for young Kuwaitis. Through its cadet pilot program, international partnerships and investment in training infrastructure, the airline is helping shape the future of Kuwait's aviation sector while building the talent needed to power its continued growth.

Reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility & community well-being through initiative

KIB Invest joins hands with Al-Irtiqaa to organize 'A Day That Makes a Difference' at BACCH

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: KIB Invest, the investment arm of Kuwait International Bank (KIB), organized an initiative under the slogan "A Day That Makes a Difference," in collaboration with Al-Irtiqaa Intellectual & Cultural Company at Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH). The initiative featured a range of recreational workshops, interactive activities, and gifts, providing children receiving care at the hospice with an enjoyable experience filled with fun and entertainment. The event comes in line with KIB Invest's ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility, particularly initiatives that support children and their families, while promoting the values of giving and compassion across the community.

Commenting on the initiative, KIB Invest CEO Jamal Hamad Al Barrak, stated: "We believe that even the smallest gestures of kindness can make a meaningful difference, especially in the lives of children facing health challenges. Every child deserves moments of joy, laughter, and the simple pleasures of childhood, regardless of the circumstances they are going through. Through 'A Day That Makes a Difference,' we wanted to bring smiles to the faces of the children at Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice, create happy memories, and share special moments with them and their families. We are pleased to join forces with Al-Irtiqaa on this initiative and remain dedicated to playing an active role in supporting our community through partnerships that make a difference."

As part of the initiative, KIB Invest and Al-Irtiqaa developed a dedicated program of workshops, games, and interactive activities tailored to the needs of the young patients, in close coordination with BACCH management. The program brought together recreational and engaging experiences, alongside the distribution of gifts, with the aim of creating a welcoming atmosphere for the children.



Jamal Al Barrak, KIB Invest CEO



KIB Invest x Al-Irtiqaa PRL

From her side, Roqayah Ibrahim Alshaikh, Founder & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Al-Irtiqaa Intellectual & Cultural Company said: "We wanted to create an experience where the children could simply have fun, explore their creativity, and feel surrounded by care and kindness. Seeing them engage in the activities and share these joyful moments made the initiative especially meaningful for everyone involved.We appreciate KIB Invest's support and the cooperation of Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice in bringing this initiative together. We hope this partnership will encourage further collaboration between private sector institutions and community organizations in support of humanitarian causes."

The initiative provided an opportunity for the KIB Invest team to interact directly with the children, taking part in activities designed to lift their spirits and offer a welcome break from their daily medical routines. The event created a warm and engaging atmosphere, bringing together KIB Invest employees, Al-Irtiqaa representatives, BACCH hospice staff and the children for an enjoyable experience filled with shared moments of happiness.

KIB Invest remains committed to making a meaningful difference in society through initiatives that promote kindness, inclusion, and support. By prioritizing the well-being of children in hospitals, KIB Invest continues to strengthen its role as a socially responsible corporate entity dedicated to giving back to the community.

About KIB Invest

Al Dawli Invest Investment Company (KIB Invest) is a Shariah compliant investment company that delivers a broad range of investment products and services with a specialization in Asset Management, Fund and Portfolio Management, Wealth Management, Custody Services and Investment Advisory Services.

Established in 2023 and headquartered in Kuwait, KIB Invest is a Kuwaiti Shareholding Closed Company (K.S.C.C) with a paid-up capital of KD 45,000,000. It is a subsidiary of Kuwait International Bank [KIB].

About KIB

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

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

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

Egypt: Economy shows resilience amid ongoing conflict-related pressures

By National Bank of Kuwait

Egypt's economic resilience continues to be tested by regional conflict pressures that have raised energy and shipping costs, disrupted trade, and weakened tourism and Suez Canal receipts. The pound has seen renewed pressures, dropping to a record low in late October as investors reassessed regional risks. Meanwhile, the central bank delivered its first interest rate hike since March 2024 to contain inflationary risks, anchor expectations, and support currency stability. Still, while these developments add to the headwinds, we continue to expect economic growth – which slowed slightly to 4.7% y/y in Q2 2026 – to hold up relatively well over the coming year at 4.8% in FY26/27 given pre-conflict momentum and assuming that external pressures do not significantly intensify. We also see exchange rate flexibility – together with record foreign reserves and positive bank net foreign assets – as helping to absorb external shocks and limit the risk of renewed foreign currency shortages. Moody's in October upgraded Egypt's sovereign credit rating one notch while maintaining a positive outlook, expecting fiscal discipline to continue after the IMF program ends in December and signaling further gains in policy credibility.

Latest developments

• Growth proves resilient amid geopolitical headwinds. According to the Ministry of Planning, GDP growth slowed to 4.7% y/y in Q2 2026 (April-June), down from 5% in the previous quarter and the corresponding quarter of last year. The slowdown was primarily driven by a sharp deceleration in household consumption growth to 1.5% y/y from 18.5% a year earlier, potentially reflecting more cautious spending amid regional uncertainty. The prolonged US-Iran conflict and renewed Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia have heightened concerns about further regional escalation, supply-chain disruptions, and higher global oil prices. Private investment was the largest contributor to growth, followed by household consumption and government spending, while net exports continued to weigh on activity amid higher import costs. Sectoral performance was positive across the non-oil economy with the exception of tourism, which contracted by 4.2% y/y. Activity in the Suez Canal sector rebounded strongly (+33.8% y/y), followed by communications (+24.3%), manufacturing (+8%) and construction (+5.6%). (Chart 1.) The refining sector also posted strong growth for the third consecutive quarter (+22.4%) as international energy companies increased operations following the government's settlement of outstanding arrears.

• PMI falls as demand weakens. Egypt's non-oil Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 47.2 in September and was unchanged in October, down from 49.6 in August, signaling a sharper deterioration in business conditions. (Chart 2.) The decline reflected faster contractions in output and new orders as firms faced weaker customer demand, geopolitical disruptions, and persistent inflationary pressures. The average PMI reading in Q3 2026 (July – September) was consistent with a slowdown in annual GDP growth to around 4.3%. Meanwhile, supply-side pressures intensified. Firms reported longer delivery times, the sharpest deterioration since June, due to maritime disruptions, material shortages and slower customs procedures. Input cost inflation also accelerated to its highest level since May, driven by higher import, energy and shipping costs, as well as the weaker Egyptian pound. Companies responded by raising selling prices at the fastest pace since June, hence, higher costs are gradually passed on to consumers. Firms expressed concerns that regional conflicts, persistent inflation and supply-chain disruptions would weigh on activity over the coming year.

• Inflation eases in September, but CBE surprises markets with 100 bps rate hike, reversing the easing cycle. The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) raised its key policy rates by 100 basis points (bps) on October's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, surprising markets that had largely expected another hold. This marks the first rate increase since March 2024 and reverses the easing cycle that began in April 2025, during which the CBE cut rates by a cumulative 825 bps across six moves. The overnight deposit rate was raised to 20.0% from 19.0%, the overnight lending rate to 21.0% from 20.0%, and the main operation and discount rates to 20.5% from 19.5%. The decision came despite a further slowdown in annual inflation, with headline inflation easing to 13.9% in September and core inflation to 14.1%. However, the CBE highlighted a renewed acceleration in monthly price increases.

The MPC described the hike as a pre-emptive measure to contain imported inflationary pressures and prevent them from feeding into domestic prices. The real interest rate has increased to around 6% from 5% before the decision, further tightening financial conditions. (Chart 3.)

• Capital flow volatility continues to drive sharp FX swings. Heightened regional tensions have weighed on foreign investor sentiment and increased volatility in portfolio flows into Egypt's domestic debt market. Carry-trade inflows, which averaged $2.1 billion per month before the conflict, turned negative in July before recovering to net inflows of around $100 million in August and $730 million in September. This improvement continued into the first two weeks of October, when net inflows reached $1.6 billion, before reversing to a net outflow of $3.2 billion in the last two weeks, highlighting the market's continued sensitivity to geopolitical developments. A sustained improvement in regional risk sentiment, alongside further progress in Egypt's external financing position and disinflation, would support a more durable recovery in portfolio inflows. Meanwhile, monthly exchange rate volatility has reached around 10.5%, compared with an emerging market average of approximately 8% and the pound's historical average of around 4%. The increase in volatility, alongside US dollar strength, contributed to a 10% depreciation of the Egyptian pound against the dollar in the last couple of months driving the pound to an all-time high. (Chart 4.)

• Current account deficit widens, but overall balance of payments returns to surplus. The current account deficit widened significantly to $22.5 billion in FY25/26, from $15.4 billion a year earlier, reflecting a larger trade deficit and higher investment income outflows. The trade deficit increased by more than a quarter to $64.8 billion, as the oil trade deficit widened by almost a third to $18.3 billion amid higher oil imports. The non-oil trade deficit also increased by a quarter to $46.6 billion, partly driven by a 16.9% rise in non-oil imports to $83.9 billion. Meanwhile, the investment income deficit widened by a third to $21.2 billion. Stronger remittances and services receipts partly offset these pressures. Remittances from Egyptians working abroad rose to a record $47.3 billion (+29.6%), while the services surplus increased to $16.7 billion (+10.5%), supported by tourism revenues of $18.4 billion and Suez Canal receipts of $4.4 billion. (Chart 5.) Despite the wider current account deficit, the overall balance of payments recorded a surplus of $2.8 billion in FY25/26, compared with a deficit of $2.1 billion a year earlier. This improvement reflected net capital and financial account inflows of $23.2 billion, more than double the $10.2 billion recorded in FY24/25. Foreign direct investment (FDI) generated net inflows of $17.8 billion, while portfolio investments recorded net inflows of $4.1 billion. Nevertheless, the widening current account deficit underscores Egypt's continued reliance on remittances, tourism, and capital inflows to meet its external financing needs.

• Moody's upgrades credit rating to B3 with a positive outlook. Moody's upgraded Egypt's local and foreign currency ratings to B3 from Caa1 maintaining a positive outlook. The agency attributed the upgrade to several years of fiscal consolidation and structural reforms, noting that the shift to a flexible exchange rate and tighter monetary policy has helped the economy withstand higher oil prices and regional uncertainty. Moody's expects fiscal discipline to continue after the IMF program ends in December. The upgrade brings Moody's rating closer to those of S&P and Fitch, which affirmed Egypt's B rating in October, both with stable outlooks.

Forecast

Growth firm despite conflict pressures

Based upon performance so far, we expect the growth climate to remain reasonably positive over the coming quarters even in the event that the regional conflict does not fade quickly. GDP growth is forecast to slightly drop to 4.8% in FY26/27 (July 2026 to June 2027), before accelerating to 5.5% in FY27/28. (Chart 6.) Growth is expected to take a hit in the short run from the tightening measures adopted by the CBE, with higher borrowing costs weighing on private-sector investment, raising financing costs for businesses and passed on to consumers. But we expect the hiking cycle to be short lived and from H1 2027, an easing in US-Iran tensions (as per our baseline assumption), lower oil prices, a more competitive pound, improved tourism and Suez Canal activity, the start of interest rate cuts and a recovery in global growth will breathe new life into the domestic economic cycle.

Policy rates and EGP subject to regional pressures

The Egyptian pound is expected to remain volatile through the remainder of 2026, reflecting elevated geopolitical risks and fluctuations in foreign portfolio flows. We expect the currency to trade within a range of EGP 52-58 per US dollar, with prolonged regional conflict potentially pushing it towards the weaker end of this range. However, high T-bill yields, record foreign reserves, positive net foreign assets at banks, and exchange rate flexibility help limit the risk of a disorderly adjustment. While interest rate differentials with the US could narrow in 2027, potentially working against the pound, the currency has so far shown sensitivity to US-Iran war developments and a resolution to the conflict if one materialized could also see the currency recover ground.

Despite recent currency pressures and a possible Fed December rate hike, we expect the CBE to keep its overnight lending and deposit rates unchanged at 21% and 20%, respectively, in December's MPC meeting, before starting the monetary easing in 2027 with cumulative cuts of 400 bps. The latest 100 bps hike in October is expected to raise T-bill yields even more, therefore, keeping borrowing costs elevated. Interest payments already absorb a substantial share of government revenue and the hike will have negative implications on debt servicing costs, investment, and economic activity.

Inflation expectations remain broadly anchored, supported by the CBE's tightening and the Fuel Automated Pricing Committee's decision to keep retail fuel prices unchanged through end-2026. We expect inflation to ease gradually from Q2 2027, although a prolonged regional conflict could prompt a fuel price increase of at least 10% by Q1 2027 and the recent EGP depreciation if sustained could trigger renewed upward pressures. Average inflation for now is forecast to slightly decline to 13% in FY26/27, from 13.2% in FY25/26, creating room for 100 bps of rate cuts during H1 2027 to reverse the hike made in October 2026. Inflation is expected to fall to an average of 9% in FY27/28, bringing it to the edge of the CBE's target range (7% ±2 percentage points) and providing space for a further 300 bps of easing in H2 2027 followed by another 200 bps in H1 2028.

High interest costs keep the deficit elevated

The fiscal deficit is expected to remain close to 6.6% of GDP in both FY26/27 and FY27/28, as high borrowing costs, elevated oil prices and pound weakness offset the expected improvement in regional conditions later in the fiscal year. (Chart 7.) Interest payments account for around half of government expenditure and absorb roughly 80% of tax revenue, leaving public finances highly vulnerable to elevated domestic yields. Borrowing costs remain well above the budget assumption of 18% for FY26/27 and are expected to average around 24% by June 2027.

Meanwhile, Brent crude prices averaging above $95 per barrel in H2 2026 will increase subsidy costs, while pound depreciation will raise the cost of foreign-currency-denominated spending. These pressures are assumed to ease later in FY26/27 as shipping through the Strait of Hormuz gradually normalizes and regional risk sentiment improves. Nevertheless, the deficit is expected to remain broadly stable as a share of GDP over the coming years. Public debt, however, is forecast to edge down from an estimated 90% of GDP at end FY25/26 to 88% by end-FY26/27, as strong nominal GDP growth outpaces the accumulation of additional debt.

External balances to weaken but manageable

Currency flexibility and more robust reserve levels have reduced exposure to severe external imbalances since 2024, though fallout from the regional conflict has led to some near-term weakening. The current account deficit is forecast to slightly widen from 5.1% of GDP in FY25/26 to 5.3% in FY26/27. Higher energy prices and transportation costs on top of the weaker Egyptian pound are pushing up import costs, while travel receipts were down in Q2 and Suez Canal revenues are still less than half of peak 2023 levels. An eventual easing of some of these pressures in 2027 plus the boost to competitiveness from a weaker EGP will help narrow the deficit to 3.9% of GDP in FY27/28. Despite substantial external financing needs of $30 billion in FY26/27, Egypt's financing position is expected to remain manageable, supported by foreign reserves, positive net foreign assets at banks, planned international debt issuance, IMF and EU financing, foreign portfolio inflows, FDI, and potential asset divestments.

Regional tensions and capital flows pose risks

The economic outlook remains broadly positive, though longer-term growth prospects are still constrained by the large fiscal deficit, high interest rates, inflation and debt-servicing costs as well as other structural challenges such as the state's large economic footprint, competition and regulatory issues and low investment rates. Regional escalation poses the main downside risk in the near term with a renewed US-Iran escalation or intensified Red Sea attacks potentially raising energy and shipping costs, weakening tourism and Suez Canal revenues, and pressuring the pound and the fiscal balance due to higher subsidies. Rising foreign investment in T-bills also creates potential for outflows if sentiment comes under pressure. As we go on, limited progress on privatization and continued reliance on state-linked entities could further discourage private investment and undermine policy credibility after the IMF program ends in December 2026.

On the upside, a resolution to regional tensions could lower energy costs and boost tourism and Suez Canal activity. Faster reforms and a quicker deceleration in inflation could also allow the CBE to accelerate monetary easing, lowering borrowing costs, and potentially kick-starting a new private sector investment cycle.

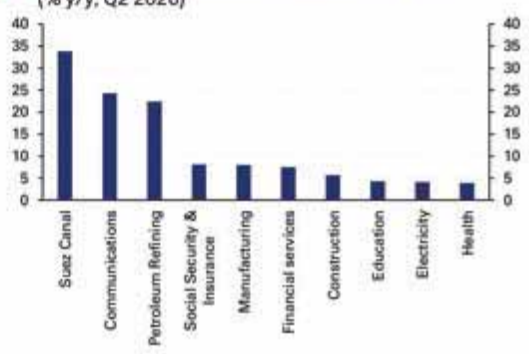
Table 1: Key macroeconomic indicators

		24/25	25/26	26/27f	27/28f
Nominal GDP	$ billion	359.9	436.5	455.8	506.4
Real GDP	% y/y	4.4	5.1	4.8	5.5
Private Consumption	% y/y	6.2	6.3	5.3	7.8
Private Investment	% y/y	12.7	11.6	7.5	15.5
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	-7.1	-6.6	-6.7	-6.6
Primary fiscal bal.	% of GDP	3.6	3.9	5.1	6.1
Public debt	% of GDP	85.6	90.0	88.0	82.0
Current acc. balance	% of GDP	-4.2	-5.1	-5.3	-3.9
Inflation (avg.)	% y/y	20.9	13.2	13	9.0
FX rate (eop)	EGP/$1	49.6	49.2	-	-

Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts

Chart 1: GDP growth by sector (top 10)

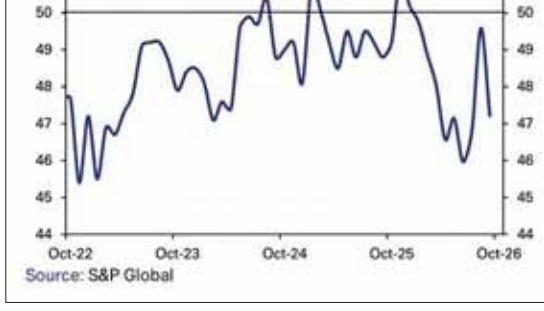
(% y/y, Q2 2026)



Source: Ministry of Planning

Chart 2: Non-oil business activity

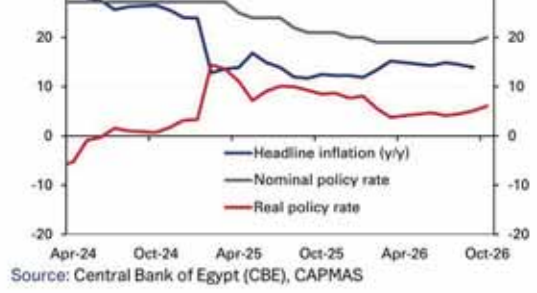
(index)



Source: S&P Global

Chart 3: CPI inflation

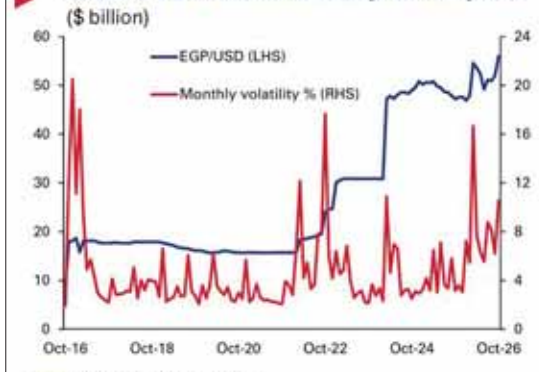
(% y/y)



Source: Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), CAPMAS

Chart 4: EGP and its volatility last 10 years

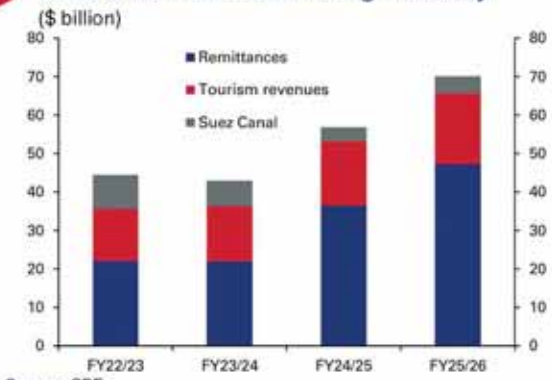
($ billion)



Source: CBE, NBK calculations

Chart 5: Main sources of foreign currency

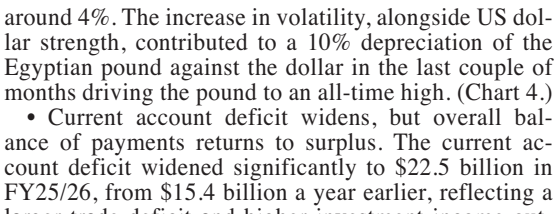
($ billion)



Source: CBE

Chart 6: Real GDP growth

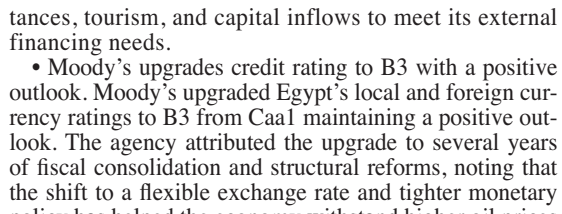
(% y/y)



Source: CBE, NBK forecasts

Chart 7: Fiscal balance

(EGP billion, fiscal year basis)



Source: Ministry of Finance, NBK forecasts

True friends stand by each other in times of need: Ambassador Morini

Italy celebrates National Day in Kuwait; ambassador highlights strong bilateral ties

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times









Photos by Rezk Tawfik

Photos from the event

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Italian Embassy in Kuwait hosted a reception at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel on November 3 to celebrate Italy's National Day, Italian Unity and Armed Forces Day, bringing together senior Kuwaiti officials, diplomats, military representatives and members of the diplomatic and business communities.

The reception was hosted by Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Kuwait H.E. Lorenzo Morini and Italian Defense Attaché Col. Michele Rega, who welcomed the chief guest, H.E. Hamad Suleiman Mashaan Al-Mashaan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, along with other distinguished guests.

In his address, Ambassador Morini described the Kuwaiti-Italian relationship as a strategic partnership founded on mutual trust, shared values and principles, emphasizing the longstanding friendship between the two countries and their peoples.

He said the strong bilateral relationship had been reaffirmed during the recent visit of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to Kuwait, where she was received at Bayan Palace by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Morini, who attended the high-level meeting, described the visit as a historic moment in bilateral relations that paved the way for a significant strengthening of cooperation between the two governments and peoples.

He highlighted the signing of several important agreements and the adoption of the Italy-Kuwait Action Plan 2027-2030, describing it as a roadmap for expanding cooperation over the next four years.

The action plan covers a broad range of areas, including political dialogue, defense and security, economic cooperation, judicial collaboration, creative industries, cultural heritage, social policies and environmental issues.

The ambassador said implementing the action plan would be one of his main priorities in the coming months, adding that he looked forward to working closely with Kuwaiti authorities, educational institutions, public and private sector representatives and civil society to achieve the objectives agreed upon by the two countries' leaders.

Italian Armed Forces' historic role in Kuwait

A significant part of Ambassador Morini's speech focused on the contribution of the Italian Armed Forces to Kuwait and regional stability, particularly during periods of conflict and uncertainty.

He said the presence of Italian military personnel in Kuwait represented tangible evidence of the friendship and close ties between the two countries.

Recalling Italy's role in Kuwait's liberation in 1991, Morini said Italian forces had stood alongside Kuwait during difficult times and had subsequently supported the modernization of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

He also highlighted the contribution of Italian military personnel to regional stabilization following the Second Gulf War and their longstanding participation in Kuwait as members of the international coalition against Daesh.

Italian troops remained in Kuwait during regional crisis

Morini particularly emphasized the decision of Italian military personnel and Embassy staff to remain in Kuwait during the recent regional crisis, despite the security threats and attacks.

He revealed that approximately 400 Italian soldiers were stationed in Kuwait last February, most of them at Ali Al Salem Air Base.

When the conflict erupted, the Italian troops remained in the country despite coming under heavy attack and spending several weeks in shelters under extremely difficult conditions.

The ambassador said their decision reflected Italy's commitment to standing alongside Kuwait, recognizing that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces might need the support of international partners during the crisis.

He stressed that the Italian military personnel and Embassy staff remained in Kuwait even during the most intense phase of the conflict because, as he put it, true friends stand by one another in times of need.

"We have been at your side and we will always be," Morini declared, reaffirming Italy's commitment to its friendship with Kuwait.

He described Italians and Kuwaitis as people of honor who keep their word, saying this mutual commitment formed the fundamental pillar of relations between the two countries.

Tribute to fallen Italian service members

The ambassador also paid tribute to Italian military personnel who lost their lives or were injured while serving in international peacekeeping missions.

He specifically recalled the victims of the Nassiriya attack in Iraq, Italian soldiers killed in Lebanon and those who lost their lives in the recent tragic accident in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Concluding his address, Morini thanked the sponsors and partners who supported the organization of the reception and praised the Italian Embassy team for its efforts in arranging the celebration.

He ended his speech with a message celebrating the friendship between the two nations: "Viva l'Italia! Viva il Kuwait!"

Renowned songwriter Kiko Salazar joins judging panel

16 OFW songs vie for Himig ng Bayani crown

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Sixteen original compositions have been selected as finalists in Himig ng Bayani – The OFW Songwriting Competition, an initiative by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) that celebrates the sacrifices, courage and inspiring stories of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The competition provides a platform for Filipino songwriters to express, through original music, the experiences, struggles, aspirations and enduring hopes of millions of Filipinos working far from home.

In ensuring fairness and equal opportunity for all participants, organizers implemented a strict blind selection process from submission to evaluation. The identities of the songwriters were withheld, with entries identified only through assigned numbers.

Judges evaluated each composition solely on its originality, creativity, musicality and message, without knowing the names or identities of the people behind the songs.

The process underscored the competition's commitment to recognizing genuine artistry and ensuring that every entry received an equal opportunity to qualify on its own merits.

Following the selection process, 16 compositions emerged as finalists. They are:

1. **Ako'y Nagtagumpay** – Marla Batolina Berioso



Kiko "Kikx" Salazar



Himig ng Bayani - The OFW Songwriting Competition finalists

2. **Babangon Ako** – Sandralyn Lagas
3. **Bayani Noon** – Francisco Jubilo Jaranilla
4. **Buhay Mo, Buhay OFW** – Charisse Bautista
5. **Hindi Ako Susuko** – Liezel Zamudio Peralta
6. **Inang Kadama** – Rondi Nelli Quito Cabiton
7. **Kumusta Na Kabayan** – Cristina J. Andes
8. **Luha Ng Pag-asa** – Joshua Rei Morante
9. **Magiting Na OFW** – Jimyna Duatin Mondala
10. **Malayo Na, Malayo Pa** – Arthur Macabenta Lelix Jr.
11. **Padayon Lang Bai** – Jadewyn M. dela Rosa
12. **Pangako sa Disyerto** – Henry K. Tacaisan
13. **Sa Gitnang Silangan** – Ronald Martinez Bustria
14. **Sa Isang Bahagi Ng Mundo** – Roberto Martinez Garcia
15. **Sa Likod Ng Ngiti** – Vincent Ortega
16. **Uwi Rin Ako** – Gil Guevarra

The titles reflect different dimensions of the OFW experience, including perseverance, homesickness, sacrifice, family ties, resilience and the dream of returning to the Philippines. Each composition carries a personal narrative that seeks to give voice to the millions of Filipinos who have left their families behind in pursuit of better opportunities.

Adding star power to the much-anticipated grand finale is renowned Filipino music producer and songwriter Kiko "Kikx" Salazar, who will serve as one of the judges.

Salazar is the creative force behind several popular Filipino songs, most notably Morissette's hit ballad "Akin Ka Na Lang." His songwriting and production credits also include "Magandang Dilag" by JM Bales, "Diwata" by Sam Concepcion, "Power" by Morissette, and "Dalangin" by Tim Pavino, among other collaborations with prominent OPM artists.

A multi-awarded music producer, Salazar brings considerable experience in songwriting, music production and the Philippine music industry to the judging panel.

The competition will reach its climax at The Grand Finals on Nov 20 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kuwait, where the 16 finalists will showcase their original compositions before the audience and judges.

With the blind selection process ensuring that talent and artistry take center stage, the grand finale promises to bring the stories behind the songs to life.

More than a songwriting competition, Himig ng Bayani is a tribute to the modern-day Filipino heroes whose sacrifices, determination and contributions continue to inspire their families and communities back home.

As its message emphasizes, every song has a story and every melody has a voice. At the grand finale, the music will speak, the stories will come alive, and the best will rise.

Palestinian Embassy and CAP highlight women's role in preserving Palestinian identity

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff





Photos from the event

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: The Embassy of the State of Palestine, in collaboration with the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP), hosted a panel discussion on Monday evening as part of celebrations marking the National Day of Palestinian Women and honouring renowned Palestinian artist Suleiman Mansour.

The event brought together distinguished Palestinian women and a Kuwaiti participant residing in Kuwait, highlighting the role of women in preserving Palestinian identity and the Palestinian narrative through culture, education, heritage and cuisine.

The panel featured Hooda Shawa, Lamies Al-Shakhsheer, Faten Abu Ghazaleh and Sawsan Daana, and was moderated by Reem Shurrab, Media and Communications Officer at the Embassy of the State of Palestine.

The evening opened with a piano performance by young Taya Muath Al-Shanaq, who performed "Zahrat Al-Mada'en" (Flower of the Cities), the famous song performed by legendary Lebanese singer Fairuz. Her performance captivated the audience and received an enthusiastic response.

The programme also included the screening of a documentary featuring inspiring Palestinian women from within Palestine, highlighting their experiences and remarkable success stories.

Preserving Palestinian identity through literature

During the panel discussion, writer Hooda Shawa, an author of children's and young adults' literature and founder of TAQA Productions, a theatre production company in Kuwait, spoke about her journey as a writer.

Shawa said she began her writing career around two decades ago after noticing that the books and school reading materials used by her two daughters were predominantly in English. This inspired her to begin writing stories in Arabic for children and young adults.

During the event, she read from her new book, "My Grandmother's Key," which highlights the role of grandmothers as guardians of Palestinian memory. The presentation was accompanied by a musical performance featuring puppets.

Shawa has received several awards in recognition of her contributions to children's literature.

Palestinian embroidery and cultural heritage

Faten Abu Ghazaleh, representing the Palestinian Heritage Centre and daughter of the late Siham Abu Ghazaleh, spoke about efforts by Palestinian women to preserve and promote Palestinian heritage, particularly traditional embroidery.

She highlighted the role played by her late mother and other Palestinian women in establishing initiatives to protect and showcase Palestinian cultural heritage, including traditional embroidery, which remains an important symbol of Palestinian identity.

Palestinian embroidery has been featured in more than 60 exhibitions over the years, she said.

In 2021, UNESCO inscribed the art of Palestinian embroidery on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, recognising the cultural significance of the tradition and contributing to international efforts to safeguard it.

Cuisine as part of Palestinian identity

The discussion also focused on Palestinian cuisine and its role in preserving cultural identity.

Chef Sawsan Daana, founder of "Matbakhi," which specialises in traditional Palestinian cuisine, spoke about the deep historical roots of Palestinian food traditions.

She stressed the importance of documenting and sharing Palestinian culinary heritage online to introduce audiences around the world to traditional Palestinian cuisine and ensure that these traditions continue to be passed on to future generations.

Education and music

Veteran educator and music teacher Lamies Shakhsheer emphasised the importance of education in Palestinian society, describing knowledge and academic achievement as powerful tools for preserving and strengthening the community.

She highlighted the achievements of Palestinians in education and their contributions to educational institutions in different societies.

Shakhsheer also stressed that music remains an essential component of education and culture and plays an important role in preserving the identity of any people.

Ambassador Tahboub thanks participants and Kuwait

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait, Rami Tahboub, thanked the young pianist and the participating women for their contributions and the valuable insights they shared with the audience.

The Ambassador presented bouquets of flowers to the participants as a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for their efforts in promoting Palestinian culture and identity.

Ambassador Tahboub also expressed his appreciation to the State of Kuwait, HH the Amir, the Kuwaiti government and the Kuwaiti people for their continued support for the Palestinian people and their national cause.

He further thanked the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP), represented by Amer Al-Hunaidi and Ofelia Vardanyan, for their collaboration in organising the event.

The panel was attended by several Arab and foreign ambassadors and diplomats accredited to Kuwait, along with members of the Palestinian, Arab and international communities and Kuwaiti guests.

The event highlighted the continuing role of Palestinian women in preserving and passing on Palestinian identity through literature, education, music, traditional heritage and cuisine.

Ducati's global winning tradition reaches Kuwait

From Borgo Panigale to Kuwait Motor Town: Behbehani crowned Super Stock Pro champ

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Ducati's remarkable season of international racing success has gained another chapter, this time in Kuwait, where Masoud Behbehani has been crowned the 2026 Kuwait Motor Town (KMTC) SBK Super Stock Pro 1100cc champion.

Competing aboard his Ducati Panigale V4 S under race number 67, Behbehani secured the overall title following a determined and consistent championship campaign. A second-place finish in the fourth and final round on Friday, October 30, brought his season total to 85 points, securing the championship by a 10-point margin.

The achievement comes during a landmark season for Ducati, whose Panigale machines have continued to dominate racing categories around the world. From Ryo Mizuno's JSB1000 success in Japan and Kyle Ryde's British Superbike Championship to international victories in Euro Moto, Australian Superbike and the ARRC, Ducati has enjoyed an exceptional run of championship results.

At the highest level, Nicolò Bulega secured the World SBK Riders' Championship, alongside Ducati's Manufacturers' and Teams' titles, while Darryn Binder claimed the MotoAmerica-Supersport championship aboard the Panigale V2.

Now, Behbehani's victory in Kuwait adds another achievement to the Panigale's growing international racing legacy.

More than a motorcycle, the Panigale represents Ducati's racing DNA, combining formidable V4 performance, advanced electronics and race-derived engineering. In Behbehani's hands, it proved the platform for a championship-winning season built on commitment, consistency and competitive determination.

For Behbehani, the title is a significant personal milestone and a proud achievement for Kuwait's motorsport community.

These victories begin in Borgo Panigale, but they are made possible by the riders who bring Ducati's racing spirit to life on circuits around the world.

And now, Masoud Behbehani has added his name to that story.



Masoud Behbehani aboard his Ducati Panigale V4 S (#67), finishing the season with 85 points and securing the title following a second-place finish in the final round of the KMTC Superstock Pro Championship.

Sulaibikhat chases historic spot in Premier Volleyball League semifinal

Kuwait Club battles Qadsia

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Sulaibikhat stands on the brink of a historic achievement as it takes on Al-Arabi at 5:00 pm Thursday in the final round of the resumed 2025-2026 Premier Volleyball League.

The match will be held at the Kuwait Volleyball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex, with the winner claiming the fourth and final semifinal spot alongside Kuwait Club, Qadsia and Kazma.

Sulaibikhat, who has one point, need a victory to reach the league's final four for the first time in the club's history. Al-Arabi, who is yet to collect a point, is equally determined to win and secure qualification.

Thursday's program also features a clash between Kuwait Club and Qadsia at 7:00 pm.

The race for the semifinals remains wide open, with both sides knowing that victory is essential. While Al-Arabi aims to avoid an early exit, Sulaibikhat is eager to seize a rare opportunity to write a new chapter in the club's history.

Kuwait Club tops the standings with seven points, in addition to the bonus point earned for finishing first in the preliminary round. Kazma occupies second place, followed by Qadsia, Sulaibikhat and Al-Arabi.



A file photo of players in action.

The semifinals will be played next Monday, with the competition concluding next Thursday with the final to determine the Premier League champions.

Meanwhile, Sulaibikhat head coach Ahmed Refaat expressed confidence in his team's physical and mental readiness, citing the encouraging performances delivered in recent weeks.

"With the backing of the club's management, a training camp in Egypt and the addition of quality foreign professionals and local players, we are determined to claim the last semifinal spot and make history," Refaat said.

He added that Saad Al-Enezi would miss Thursday's match through injury, while Mohammed Dashti would be unavailable due to work commitments. The rest of the squad, including the foreign professionals, is ready.

Refaat said he had full confidence in his players' ability to secure victory and achieve the historic qualification.

'Football protocol that will be followed'

Extra attention on India-Pakistan Cup opener as handshake looms

NEW DELHI, Nov 4, (AP): There'll be extra attention on the pre- and post-game moments when archrivals India and Pakistan meet in the opening game of the South Asian Football Federation Cup.

Many tuning in Thursday will be wondering if the players will shake hands at the outset of the six-nation tournament being hosted in Bangladesh.

Soccer takes a backseat to cricket in this part of the world. And unlike cricket, the national football teams of India and Pakistan aren't superpowers in the global game.

Tension has been higher than usual in recent cricket encounters between the countries, with players not exchanging customary handshakes before or after international games. The soccer contest could be different.

"I think they will shake hands. This is football protocol that will be followed irrespective of the country," Shaji Prabhakaran, former general secretary of the All India Football Federation, told The Associated Press. "That rivalry has not yet come into football."

One reason is the lopsided nature of the soccer relationship, with India ranked No. 138 by FIFA and Pakistan at 197th.

"India has dominated but there is potential if Pakistan improves," Prabhakaran said. "The local rivalry can come, it would be good and exciting."

Pakistan has been calling up overseas-born talent such as Danish-born captain Abdullah Iqbal, who plays for Mjällby AIF in Sweden, and is aiming to reach the final of the regional tournament for the first time.

Pakistan coach Nolberto Solano is drawing on his experience of intense rivalries from his time as a Peru international and a decade in the Premier League.

"The rivalry between Peru and Chile is similar to that between Pakistan and India," the former Newcastle United and Aston Villa winger said ahead of the game in Dhaka. "It carries the same intensity. I understand very well how important these matches are for the fans. We want to make people happy because we know what these games mean to them."

The tournament is split into two groups of three, and the top two from each advance to the semifinals.

India and Pakistan are grouped with Maldives. Bangladesh, coached by ex-U. S. international Thomas Dooley, is hoping to win a second title, especially as it has home advantage and has been grouped with Bhutan and Sri Lanka.



Abdullah Iqbal

India, with three of the last four regional titles, would welcome more regional competition.

"There are some sentiments from fans that India should play at a higher level but showing your domination sends a message," Prabhakaran said. "Other (SAFF) nations all fancy beating India and they all want India to be more active in the region."

None of the South Asian teams qualified for the 24-team Asian Cup, which was this week pushed back from January to December next year because of the conflict in the Middle East.

Prabhakaran believes there is potential for soccer in South Asia to improve enough to match cricket for its following and passion among fans.

"Cricket shows the sporting passion in the region but football is the No. 1 sport in Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan," he said. "Local football has to grow and India will benefit and can attract players from the region and send its players to other leagues if those leagues improve. It is in the interests of everyone and India has to take the lead." The coming weeks are a chance for India to show its strength.

"The South Asian Championship is like the Asian Cup for South Asian countries," Prabhakaran said, "this is the one competition that they are able to engage to the maximum."

Egypt's Sonbol wins women's Changquan combined

Lin wins first wushu gold in Olympic event at YOG

DAKAR, Nov 4, (Xinhua): China's Lin Yilei claimed the first wushu gold medal in Olympic history with victory in the men's Changquan combined event at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

Four gold medals were awarded in wushu taolu at the Dakar Exhibition Center, marking the sport's debut at an Olympic event.

After the competition, Lin's coach Zheng Jutian said the team's participation carried significance beyond the result.

"We are standing on the Youth Olympic stage for the first time, representing all wushu practitioners in China. Wushu's entry into the Olympic events has fulfilled a dream of ours, made possible by the efforts of generations of people who have worked to promote the sport," Zheng said.

Egypt's Sondos Sonbol won the women's Changquan combined, Poon Hao Ran of Hong Kong, China triumphed in the men's Taijiquan combined, and Singapore's Ng Zhe Nin took the women's Taijiquan combined title.

In Saly, China's Liu Lili won the women's solo title in coastal rowing beach sprints. It was her second gold medal of the Games, following her victory alongside Su Juntao in the mixed double sculls on Monday.



Lin Yilei of China in action during the gunshu preliminary round of the men's changquan combined event in wushu taolu at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Diamniadio, Senegal. (Xinhua)

Liu said after the race that she had not expected to win the individual title, as her preparations had focused primarily on the mixed event. "I came into the individual competition thinking I'd just see how far I could go," she said.

Su, meanwhile, narrowly missed out on a place in the men's solo semifinals, losing to Egypt's Yossuf Moursi by 3.43 seconds. South Africa's Callum Dreyer went on to win the title.

Five more gold medals were decided in swimming, with China's Xie Yichen winning the men's 100m breaststroke in 1:01.03.

"It felt as if I was the only one in the pool. I just focused on pushing forward," Xie said. "When the national anthem played and the national flag was raised, I felt I had made a contribution to my country. I am very proud." In other events, Rami Bilal Al-Rahmouni won the men's 400m freestyle, securing Saudi Arabia's first Youth Olympic swimming gold. Romania's Daria-Mariuca Silisteanu claimed the women's 100m backstroke title, while New Zealand's Ariel Muchirahondo and Japan's Mana Ishikawa won the men's 100m backstroke and women's 100m breaststroke, respectively, each earning a second gold medal at the Games.

The badminton group stage concluded, with China's Zhang Yixin defeating Denmark's Sophia Loudrup to finish top of her group and advance to the women's singles quarterfinals. Compatriot Hong Tianyue also advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals as group winner after his final group-stage opponent withdrew.

Nasar smashes three world records at weightlifting worlds

NINGBO, Nov. 4, (Xinhua): Bulgaria's Karlos Nasar broke all three world records in the men's 95kg category to claim his fourth world title at the World Weightlifting Championships on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old 2024 Olympic champion, who has moved up from the 89kg division, lifted 185kg in the snatch and 230kg in the clean and jerk for a combined total of 415kg, finishing 16kg ahead of Kazakhstan's Nurgissa Adiletuly.

Adiletuly took silver with 399kg, while Iran's Ali Alipour, the 2024 Asian Games champion, claimed bronze with 396kg. China's Qian Feixiang finished fourth with 385kg.

Nasar completed all six of his attempts, lifting 175kg, 180kg and 185kg in the snatch before clearing 213kg, 220kg and 230kg in the clean and jerk.

His final clean and jerk surpassed the previous world standard of 220kg, while his combined total eclipsed the previous world record of 398kg set by Alipour in September.

"This is normal for me," Nasar told Xinhua. "I feel good. I'm here only for the gold medal." The victory gave Nasar his fourth world title and further cemented his status as one of weightlifting's leading athletes.

After the medal ceremony, the Bulgarian was surrounded by fans seeking photographs at the Ningbo venue.

"This is love. I like this. This is my motivation," he said.





New Zealand's batsman Glenn Phillips dives to make his ground during the one day cricket international against India in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Club to host Asian Club League for three straight years

Al-Dhayab: Decision will help advance the competition

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Kuwait Club has been awarded the hosting rights for the Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship for three successive editions in 2027, 2028 and 2029, following the successful organization of the 28th edition last June.

The tournament, organized under the Asian Handball Federation (AHF), serves as a qualifying competition for the IHF Men's Club World Championship (Super Globe).

The decision was made at the AHF Executive Committee meeting held in Kuwait, under the chairmanship of federation president Bader Al-Dhayab. Kuwait Club's organizational record earned the confidence of committee members, particularly following the outstanding success of the previous edition at both the technical and organizational levels.

Al-Dhayab said the club's successful hosting of the 28th edition played a major role in securing the rights to stage the next three tournaments. He praised the club's efforts and organizational standards, describing the decision as recognition of its achievements and commitment to maintaining high standards.



Bader Al-Dhayab, President of the Asian Handball Federation

He added that granting Kuwait Club hosting rights for three consecutive years was an important step towards developing the competition further and enhancing its status as one of Asia's premier club tournaments.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club handball director Sami Al-Hajri congratulated the club's board, headed by Khaled Al-Ghanem, its members and supporters, as well as the Kuwaiti handball community, on securing the hosting rights for the next three editions.

Al-Hajri said the decision reflected the success of the club's organization of last June's championship, particularly the facilities provided and the considerable efforts made by the various organizing committees, which ensured the tournament was delivered to a high standard.

He noted that the successful event had reinforced the AHF's confidence in the club's management and its ability to host the competition over the coming three seasons.

The achievement, he stressed, was not limited to Kuwait Club but represented an important milestone for Kuwaiti handball as a whole, underlining the sport's growing standing and reputation across Asia.

Turning to the team's preparations, Al-Hajri said Kuwait Club's first-team training camp in Cairo was progressing smoothly, with players benefiting from a comprehensive programme in a positive atmosphere.

The camp includes joint training sessions with the Brazilian national team, which is also based in the Egyptian capital. The two sides are scheduled to meet in a friendly match today, Thursday, as part of their preparations to improve their technical and physical readiness ahead of the new competitions.

Al-Hajri added that the team would return to Kuwait next Sunday to continue preparations for the 2025-2026 Kuwait Federation Cup before travelling to Bahrain for the Gulf Club Championship.



Kuwait Club forward challenged by Qurain defender.

Qurain faces must-win Game 2

Kuwait Club closes in on 8th straight league crown

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 4: Kuwait Club is just one win away from securing last season's General Basketball League title for the eighth consecutive year and the 16th time in its history when it faces Qurain at 7:30 pm today in the second game of the best-of-three final series.

The match will take place at the Kuwait Basketball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier, Kazma meets Qadsia at 5:15 pm in the second game of their series to determine third and fourth place.

The Whites strengthened its grip on the title with a dominant 110-83 victory over Qurain in the opening game .. Kazma also made a strong start in the third-place playoff, thrashing Qadsia 118-69.

Kuwait Club will be eager to repeat that performance, seal the series in straight games and extend its remarkable run to eight successive league titles.

Qurain, however, will be determined to bounce back, address the shortcomings exposed in the opening encounter and force a decisive third game to keep their championship hopes alive.

PSG sets Champions League record in Villarreal rout

Man United mounts stunning second-half comeback

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 4, (AP): Manchester United staged a stunning comeback to recover from its worst start to a European home game by beating Roma 3-2 in the Champions League.

Paris Saint-Germain, meanwhile, set a record as the quickest team to score four goals in the history of the competition by powering into a 4-0 lead after 17 minutes against Villarreal on its way to a 6-0 win.

Elsewhere, Barcelona beat Aston Villa 3-0 and Bayern Munich won 2-0 at Atletico Madrid.

But the biggest drama of the night came at Old Trafford, where United's troubled season looked set to plunge deeper into crisis after going 2-0 down after 17 minutes against Roma.



Roma's Wesley, left, and Manchester United's Amad Diallo fight for the ball during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Manchester United and AS Roma in Manchester, England. (AP)

It was the quickest United had conceded twice in any European game at its iconic stadium. But a rousing second-half performance saw Bruno Fernandes convert a retaken penalty and Matheus Cunha score twice before being sent off to seal a much-needed win for under fire coach Michael Carrick.

"I'm not getting too carried away with things," Carrick said. "I think it's an important night. I think it's important for some of the players to have the feeling that they maybe haven't had here before."

The joyous scenes at the end were in stark contrast to earlier, when furious United fans attempted to disrupt the match by hurling tennis balls on the field.

The pre-planned protest was the latest show of dissent from supporters who have long-called for the club's American owners, the Glazer family, to sell their controlling stake.

A small number of balls were thrown in the 21st minute to mark 21 years since the Glazers staged a leveraged buyout of the storied club.

By then Roma had raced to a 2-0 lead through Matias Soule's 11th-minute strike and Donyell Malen's penalty.

It could have been worse by the break, with Roma having more chances to extend the lead. But the game was turned on its head after halftime, with Fernandes' twice-taken penalty giving the home fans hope and then Cunha sealing the comeback with goals in the 83rd and 86th.

"We knew after halftime that we still had the fans with us and we felt that at any moment we could change that with a goal, with something. Fortunately for us, we did it today," Fernandes told Amazon Prime. "Hopefully this win today gives the start of something good for us."

It was a case of history repeating for Roma, which conceded three goals in the last 10 minutes in a 4-3 loss to Real Madrid last month.



PSG's Mika Godts, right, challenges for the ball with Villarreal's Logan Costa during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Villarreal and Paris Saint-Germain in Villarreal, Spain. (AP)

PSG looks like the team to beat again as it chases down a hat trick of Champions League titles, which would see Luis Enrique's team match the feat of Real Madrid from 2016-18.

Even without the injured Ousmane Dembélé and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, the French giant had too much firepower for Villarreal, with an early goal blitz effectively putting the game to bed long before halftime at El Madrigal.

Joao Neves, Desire Doue, Senny Mayulu and Fabian Ruiz scored inside the first 17 minutes. UEFA said it was the fastest any team had netted four goals in a Champions League game.

Ruiz and 17-year-old David Boly, four minutes after coming on as a substitute for his competition debut, added goals in the second half for PSG, which is the only team on 12 points.

Evergreen Kohli steers India to 5-wicket win over New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Nov 4, (AP): Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill navigated repeated rain showers in a 113-run stand Wednesday that led India to a five-wicket win over New Zealand under the Duckworth Lewis System in the first of five one-day cricket internationals.

Chasing New Zealand's inadequate total of 185, Kohli made 74 and Gill 37 as India reached a revised winning target of 143 in just 22.4 overs.

Kohli hit 13 fours and a six. His half century was the 80th of his career and his sixth innings of 50 or more in 10 matches this year. His talent shows no sign of diminishing as he prepares to celebrate his 38th birthday on Thursday.

He was out when India's total was 124, leaving K.L. Rahul and Naman Dhir to complete the chase with 56 balls remaining.

The first shower of the day delayed the toss by 20 minutes and more intense rain returned when India was 56-1 in the 11th over. Rohit Sharma had fallen for a duck in the first over.

When play resumed, India's target was recalculated at 167 from 40 overs. The tourists moved on to 64-1 before a further 30-minute rain delay, after which the target became 143 from 32 overs.

Kohli immediately went on the offensive, completing a century partnership with Gill from 90 deliveries.



India's Virat Kohli celebrates after scoring 50 runs during the one day cricket international between New Zealand and India in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

"It's never easy when you are set and then it rains," Gill said. "The wicket got a little bit more nippy after the rain but the target reduced and we were just trying to play normal cricket.

"I think the way Virat batted made things a lot more easy for us.

Gill elected to bowl on winning the toss and India produced a complete bowling performance to restrict New Zealand to 185. While there was the odd blemish in the field, the five bowlers all contributed as the home team was bowled out in 40.2 overs.

The New Zealand batters were unable to establish regular and substantial partnerships despite the short straight boundaries and fast outfield.

Arshdeep Patel took 4-70, his figures damaged by the forceful batting of tailender Blair Tickner. Gurnoor Brar claimed 3-44 and Anshul Kamboj returned 2-22.

Opener Will Young (9) survived an early chance before mistiming a pull shot and top-edging a catch to Shreyas Iyer off Arshdeep.

Henry Nicholls (9) also succumbed to the lure of the pull, hitting a ball from Arshdeep to Dhir at mid-wicket.

Tim Seifert made 38, then found the pull shot irresistible, mistiming his attempt to mid-off in the 15th over. Tom Latham scored 3 before falling to a sharp reflex catch by Brar off his own bowling.

ARAB TIMES
THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT
Published by: Arab Times Publishing House
Editor-in-Chief
AHMED AL JARALLAH
Editorial Office:
Tel: 24826912 - Airport Road, Shuwaikh
P.O. Box: 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait
E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com
Advertising:
Tel: 99659717 - 50232062
E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com
Annual Subscriptions:
Individuals KD 30, Companies & Official Departments KD 45
Airmail charges extra for overseas
Tel: 51526559 - 51508991