

Kuwait Deputy Amir receives credentials of nine newly appointed ambassadors
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PM Diwan photos

Left: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Right: HH the PM attends the COP31 leaders' summit in Antalya.

## Kuwait joins global climate talks at COP31

ISTANBUL, Nov 11, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, attended Wednesday the COP31 leaders' summit, which opened in Antalya, Turkiye.

The summit is part of the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a new "climate justice pact" based on shared responsibility, urging faster transition away from fossil fuels and mobilization of funding to tackle climate change.

Addressing the leaders' summit at the UN Climate Change

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# Kuwait puts brakes on road-damaging trucks

### Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef weighs instant fines on offenders



Ministry of Interior photo

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chairs a meeting with government entities and transport companies to discuss measures to curb truck overloading, prevent road damage and protect state properties.

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chaired a meeting on Wednesday with relevant government entities and representatives of several transport companies to discuss measures to protect roads and state properties from damage caused by overloaded trucks.**

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior said that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef was briefed on a visual presentation outlining the causes of road damage and the impact of excessive truck loads on road infrastructure.

The presentation examined ways to reduce such damage, including establishing engineering standards for vehicle and truck lanes capable of accommodating heavy loads in accordance with legally permitted weight limits, as well as reviewing technical requirements and specifications for trucks and their cargo.

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## HORIZON TALK

### Ahmed Al-Jarallah

## The king dreamt that a large pig entered his palace and drank from his special cups

The dream recurred three times

The king summoned his ministers, princes, advisors, and dream interpreters

The teacher said, "I am not an expert, but I have a student who can interpret it for you"

Bozorgmehr told the king, "Go to the private quarters of your household; a man is hiding there"

Bozorgmehr had a significant influence on Persian literature

The King of India sent Khosrow a chessboard made of emeralds and rubies as a gift

If you discover the secrets of chess, I will send money and gifts annually

Was Abu Muslim al-Khurasani, leader of the Abbasid Revolution, one of Bozorgmehr's sons?

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## Newswatch

**RIYADH:** The Saudi-led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in **Yemen** announced on Wednesday that it had intercepted and destroyed three cruise missiles, launched by the Houthi militia towards Riyadh.

The announcement was made in a brief statement by the coalition's official spokesperson, Major General **Turki Al-Maliki**, through his official account on the social media platform X. (KUNA)




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ALSAYER Group advances sustainable architecture education



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KFH rings the bell for Boursa Kuwait's first sukuk listing, KD 200M issue with 5.5% annual profit rate



11

Minister AlJalahma commends Gulf Bank Marathon as a model for public and private sector partnership

## October port checks uncover nearly 2,000 violations, cases

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Ministry of Interior announced that security operations conducted by the Ports Security Sector uncovered 1,993 security, criminal, and financial cases in October, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The necessary legal measures were taken in each case as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen security monitoring of individuals entering and leaving the country.

According to the ministry, the cases included the return of 1,138 travelers due to visa or residency violations, the prevention of travel for 650 individuals wanted in connection with financial or judicial cases, and the detection of 76 cases linked to various security reports.

The operations also resulted in the arrest of 67 individuals wanted for security or criminal offenses, while 62 others were denied entry into the country due to outstanding warrants or deportation orders.

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## Kuwait's Education Ministry cuts 232 administrative posts

**By Inaas Awadh**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei issued a decree approving the amendment of the organizational structure of his ministry.

The decree introduces administrative changes aimed at curbing bureaucracy, redistributing competencies and responsibilities, and merging similar departments and units in a bid to optimize human resource utilization and raise operational efficiency.

Under the new structure, the number of general manager positions will be reduced from 14 to 10 -- around 28.6 percent decline. The number of department manager positions will drop from 72 to 63, administrative supervisor positions from 260 to 197 and section head positions from 482 to 331. The total number of positions will decrease from 845 to 613—a reduction of 232 or 27.5 percent.

The ministry stated that the objective is to build a stronger administrative structure that streamlines supervisory posts and distributes workload and responsibilities equally. It affirmed that the amendments were made after a thorough review of how the previous structure functioned, while the feedback and proposals of employees in various sectors were taken into consideration.



Al-Tabtabaei

Continued on Page 5




## Kuwait honors 13 nat'l figures

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The 26th edition of the "From Kuwait We Begin and to Kuwait We Return" conference honored 13 prominent national figures last Tuesday in recognition of their positive contributions to society and in tribute to their memory, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Head of the conference's Higher Supervisory Committee Lawyer Yousef Al-Yassin said the ceremony paid tribute to a distinguished group of fathers and grandfathers - Fawzi Al-Saleh, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Najib Al-Mulla, Saud Al-Rabea, Ahmed Al-Arbeed, Hamza Abbas, Zayed Al-Zaid, Abdulaziz Al-Kulaib, Ali Al-Momen, Imad Al-Ateeqi, Saree Al-Hajri, Yousef Al-Munaifi, and Abdulmohsen Al-Othman.

Lawyer Al-Yassin affirmed that the conference seeks to promote the values of patriotism, citizenship, moderation, and noble moral principles.

He stressed that previous editions have honored 283 national figures representing various segments of Kuwaiti society.

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Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Thirteen prominent national figures honored at 26th edition of the "From Kuwait We Begin and to Kuwait We Return" conference.

**Prayer Timings**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fajr | 04:48 | Asr | 14:34 |
| Sunrise | 06:09 | Maghrib | 16:55 |
| Zohr | 11:32 | Isha | 18:17 |



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince

## Kuwait leadership sends Nat'l Day greetings to Poland, Angola

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a congratulatory cable to the president of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, on his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president and the Polish people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a congratulatory cable to the president of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, on his country's national day.

He wished the President and the Polish people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a congratulatory cable to the president of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, on his country's national day.

**Angola**

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Angola, Joao Manuel Lourenco, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president and the people of Angola further progress and prosperity.

Separately, His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a congratulatory cable to the president of the Republic of Angola Joao Manuel Lourenco on his country's National Day, wishing the president and the people of Angola progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to the president of the Republic of Angola, Joao Manuel Lourenco, on his country's National Day.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan with Maltese Minister for Housing and Lands Dr. Owen Bonnici.

## Kuwait and Malta explore new areas of cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan met on Wednesday with visiting Maltese Minister for Housing and Lands Dr. Owen Bonnici.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press statement that the meeting touched on methods to enhance bilateral relations between the two friendly nations and develop joint cooperation, particularly in areas of mutual interest.

## Other Voices

## A brief analysis of elections

**By Ahmad alsarraf**

THE election of a US president with these particular characteristics came as a shock to many supporters of freedom and democracy.

When democracy allows individuals perceived as dangerous to come to power, it can cause some people to lose faith in the democratic system, despite recognizing its ability to correct its course.

Whatever the president's flaws, his time in office is limited. He can also be impeached, and no other system of governance is less flawed than democracy. The alternative is absolute monarchy, where there is no place for justice, the constitution, or a fair and independent judiciary.



alsarraf

The Democrats' victories in the US elections were expected, but not on such a scale. They succeeded in securing control of both houses of Congress, leaving the president in a weakened position as a lame duck facing a Congress that was no longer under his control.

Here are some of the most widely shared observations:

1. Voters made their position on the president clear, delivering an unprecedented public rebuke.

2. The Democrats achieved unexpected results in Texas, winning both a Senate seat and the governorship. They also won Kansas for the first time in nearly 100 years and secured a Senate seat in South Carolina, a traditionally Republican stronghold.

3. Economic conditions and the war with Iran were decisive factors in the Republicans' losses. The results also gave Democrats a clear popular mandate to hold accountable a president accused of abusing his power and enriching himself and his family. These issues are likely to become the subject of investigations that will occupy a significant part of the next congressional session.

4. Among the election's biggest surprises were the victories of a pediatrician in South Carolina, a clergyman in Kansas, a seminary student in Texas, a Paralympic champion, a logger in Maine, and an openly gay candidate.

5. Trump will be unable to secure confirmation for any of his nominees to the Supreme Court, administrative positions, or ambassadorships without the approval of the Democratic-controlled Congress.

6. Rural and conservative states have turned against Trump and now oppose his favoritism toward Israel.

7. Hakeem Jeffries of New York is likely to become Speaker of the House, making him the first African American to hold the position.

8. The president's overconfidence, or perhaps his belief in his overwhelming popularity, led him to declare, "Consider me a candidate in this election." Voters responded to his challenge by rejecting all of his top candidates.

9. Trump has failed to deliver on the promises that secured his victory in 2024.

10. Democrat Talarico has emerged as a rising star after defeating his opponent, despite Musk spending $200 million of his own money in an effort to keep the state in Republican hands.

11. Trump's efforts to redraw electoral districts in several key states have already succeeded. However, the massive turnout of Democratic voters swept away some of the seats Republicans had specifically designed to secure their victories.

12. Democrats regained a majority of governorships nationwide for the first time in two decades.

13. Voters elected four new governors of color. Lance Bottoms became the first Black Democrat elected governor of a state. Democrat Xavier Becerra became the first Latino elected governor of California, while Democrat Deb Haaland is set to become the first Native American woman to serve as a state governor.

14. Michigan elected the nation's first Muslim senator, Dr. Abdulrahman El-Sayed.

15. The recent midterm elections were the most expensive in American history. Republican supporters and the pro-Israel lobby spent $750 million, with Elon Musk contributing nearly $460 million. However, this massive spending produced no clear positive results. This proves that money does not always translate into leadership or electoral success.

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# Kuwait Deputy Amir receives credentials of nine newly appointed ambassadors



Ambassador of Oman



Ambassador of Nigeria



Ambassador of Australia



Ambassador of Iraq



Ambassador of Germany



Ambassador of Honduras



Ambassador of Ghana



Ambassador of Turkiye



Crown Prince Diwan photos

Ambassador of South Africa

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): A ceremony was held at Bayan Palace on Wednesday, during which His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the credentials of nine newly appointed ambassadors to Kuwait.

The ambassadors were Dr. Dirk Rotenberg of Germany, Abubakar Sanusi Aliyu of Nigeria, Amanda Jane Riethmuller of Australia, Raymond Michael Medhurst of South Africa, Can Oguz of Turkiye, Luis Alonso Velasquez Galeano of Honduras, Maxwell Nyarko Lartey of Ghana, Ali bin Ahmad bin Salem Al-Shanfari of Oman, and Osama Abdulsahib Mohsen Al-Nashi of Iraq.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Crown Prince Diwan Chief Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Also present were Head of Foreign Affairs at the Crown Prince Diwan Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi, Director of the Crown Prince's Office Major General Ahmad Abdulrahman Al-Duay, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Abdulmohsen Jaber Al-Zaid, and Amiri Guard Commander Brigadier Isa Abdullah Al-Qassab.

# 64 years on ... Constitution anchors Kuwait democracy

### 1962 charter stands test of time

**By Reem Al-Deraawy**

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): Kuwait on Wednesday marked the 64th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution, a landmark in the country's modern history that defines its system of government and regulates relations among the legislative, executive and judicial authorities.**

The promulgation of the Constitution on November 11, 1962, marked a milestone in Kuwait's democratic journey and crowned decades of efforts by Kuwaitis, beginning with the adoption of a constitutional document in 1938 that paved the way for the 1962 Constitution.

On this national occasion, Kuwaitis recall their country's history with pride and reaffirm their commitment to democracy and the principles of justice, freedom, equality and equal opportunity.

Kuwait commemorates the anniversary every November 11, the date on which the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah ratified the Constitution in 1962.

On August 26, 1961, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem issued an Amiri decree establishing the basic framework for the transitional period and providing for elections to a Constituent Assembly tasked with drafting a permanent constitution.

Opening the Constituent Assembly on January 20, 1962, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem said, "In the name of Allah, the Most High, the Almighty, we open the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, which is entrusted with laying the foundations of government for the future."

At that sitting, members elected Abdullatif Mohammad Thunayan Al-Ghanim as speaker and Dr. Ahmad Al-Khatib as deputy speaker.



KUNA archive photo

Promulgation of the Constitution on November 11, 1962.

At its sixth sitting, the Assembly formed a five-member constitutional committee chaired by then Minister of Interior Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who later became Amir.

The committee also included Al-Ghanim, Minister of Justice Humoud Al-Zaid Al-Khaled and Assembly members Yaqoub Al-Humaidhi and Saud Al-Abdulrazzaq.

The committee submitted the final draft to the Constituent Assembly, which approved it unanimously on November 3, 1962.

The Assembly then presented the text to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, who ratified and promulgated it on November 11 as adopted by the Assembly. It was published in the Official Gazette the following day.

Kuwait's Constitution comprises 183 articles divided into five parts. The first covers the State and the system of government, the second sets out the fundamental principles of Kuwaiti society and the third deals with public rights and duties.

The fourth part covers the powers of the State in five chapters dealing with general provisions, the head of state and the legislative, executive and judicial authorities. The fifth contains general and transitional provisions.

Throughout Kuwait's democratic history, the Constitution helped the country withstand internal and external challenges, particularly the Iraqi invasion in August 1990, when Kuwaitis at home and abroad rallied behind their legitimate leadership.

In an April 1991 address, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said consultation and public participation in national affairs were longstanding features of Kuwaiti life and could take several forms. He said the restoration of parliamentary life was what Kuwaitis had agreed upon at the Popular Conference in Jeddah.

Parliamentary life resumed in October 1992, with the National Assembly returning to its legislative and oversight duties.

In the years that followed, Kuwait's Amirs reaffirmed their commitment to the Constitution as the social contract between the ruler and the people and stressed the importance of upholding democratic principles and exercising them responsibly.

In an address to the National Assembly on October 26, 2010, the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said the Constitution safeguarded democracy by defining the remit, limits and powers of each authority. He added that breaches of those provisions violated the Constitution, harmed the public interest and undermined national objectives.

Speaking at the National Assembly on September 30, 2020, after taking the constitutional oath as Amir, the late Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed pride in Kuwait's Constitution, its democratic tradition and its standing as a state governed by law and institutions.

He reaffirmed his commitment to the spirit of unity that characterizes Kuwaiti society and to the country's enduring principles.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reaffirmed those principles on several occasions, including in his address to the National Assembly on October 8, 2020, when it endorsed his nomination as Crown Prince.

His Highness pledged to promote public participation and work toward a future for Kuwait in which democracy fosters stability and the national interest takes precedence within the framework of the Constitution, guided by justice and the aim of ensuring a dignified life.

Kuwait's Constitution remains the cornerstone of the State's legal and political system and the principal reference governing relations among its three branches. It balances tradition with modernity and the powers of government with the requirements of public participation.

## Kuwait arrivals, departures go digital on Sahel

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Ministry of Interior has introduced new electronic notifications through the Sahel app, enabling users to view details of their entry into and departure from Kuwait and access various government services related to travel, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that services available upon departure include obtaining an emergency travel document and contacting the Consular Call Center. Services available upon arrival in Kuwait include submitting customs declarations and reporting lost luggage. The notifications also allow users to report any errors in their travel information.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



# The king dreamt that a large pig entered his palace and drank from his special cups

ONE day, the Persian emperor Anushirvan dreamt that a large pig had entered his palace and drunk from his special cups.

He awoke and pondered the meaning of the dream. The following night, he had the same dream again. On the third night, the pig appeared once more, drank from the cups, and then lay down beside them.

Concerned by the recurring dream, Anushirvan summoned his ministers, princes, advisors, and dream interpreters, asking them to explain its meaning. However, none could offer an interpretation.

He then dispatched messengers to various cities and regions in search of someone capable of interpreting the vision. Eventually, in a remote area, they came across a school where they found a teacher.

They presented the dream to the teacher and asked him to interpret it. The teacher admitted that he had no knowledge of dream interpretation but revealed that he had a 15-year-old student who might be able to explain its meaning.

The King's messenger spoke to the young man, and he replied, "I know the interpretation of the dream, but I will not reveal it to you. I will explain it only to Khosrow himself."

Upon arriving at the palace, the young man was brought before the King, who recounted his dream.

The youth, Bozorgmehr, first asked the King to guarantee his safety before revealing the interpretation. Anushirvan assured him that no harm would come to him.

Bozorgmehr then told the King, "Go to the private quarters of your household, where your wife, daughters, and handmaidens reside. You will find a man hiding among them."

Anushirvan immediately summoned his guards and ordered them to search the women's quarters. During the inspection, they discovered that a man was indeed hiding among the women. The King ordered that he be executed.

Impressed by the young man's wisdom and insight, Anushirvan commanded him to remain at the palace and prepare for royal service. Bozorgmehr eventually rose to become one of the King's most prominent and renowned ministers.

- **The dream recurred three times**
- **The king summoned his ministers, princes, advisors, and dream interpreters**
- **The teacher said, "I am not an expert, but I have a student who can interpret it for you"**
- **Bozorgmehr told the king, "Go to the private quarters of your household; a man is hiding there"**
- **Bozorgmehr had a significant influence on Persian literature**
- **The King of India sent Khosrow a chessboard made of emeralds and rubies as a gift**
- **If you discover the secrets of chess, I will send money and gifts annually**
- **Was Abu Muslim al-Khurasani, leader of the Abbasid Revolution, one of Bozorgmehr's sons?**

Bozorgmehr-e Bokhtagan is regarded as one of the most celebrated political thinkers in Persian history. Much of the glory associated with the final pre-Islamic Persian Empire is attributed to this distinguished minister and his political wisdom. He was born in Khorasan, northeastern Iran, in 531 AD.

Throughout his life, Bozorgmehr witnessed several political upheavals. Nevertheless, he emerged as the mastermind behind the Persian state, leaving a lasting legacy and exerting considerable influence on its history.

He also left a profound mark on Persian literature. Many moral teachings and wisdom traditions reflected in the works of ancient Persian writers, including Marzban ibn Rustam and Khwaja Nizam al-Mulk, are attributed to him.

From that time onward, Bozorgmehr occupied a distinguished position at the Sassanid court.

Anushirvan assigned Bozorgmehr to teach at scholarly gatherings, where he quickly gained a distinguished reputation and earned the emperor's favor. Due to his exceptional talent in various sciences, the king appointed him as his vizier.

The sixth-century AH historian Ibn al-Balkhi, in his book "Fars-nama" (the Knight of Nama), describes the high status Bozorgmehr enjoyed at the court of Khosrow. He writes, "The king placed a golden chair for his wise vizier before his throne. Bozorgmehr's position was higher than that of the advisors and all other government officials."

Some Arabic sources claim that Abu Muslim al-Khurasani, the leader of the Abbasid Revolution, was one of Bozorgmehr's descendants, who was distinguished in prophecy and knowledge of hidden secrets, or what is called foresight.

Ibn Khaldun mentions Bozorgmehr in his Muqaddimah, attributing to him a prophecy concerning the eventual fall of the Sasanian Empire.

Over time, Bozorgmehr became a literary model of the wise, astute, and strategic vizier in Persian literature.

Perhaps the most significant work attributed to Bozorgmehr is "The Advice of Bozorgmehr Bokhtagan." Written in Pahlavi and comprising 1,425 words, the book offers guidance on principles of conduct and personal development, including good manners in speech and perseverance in the pursuit of excellence.

**The Story of Bozorgmehr and the Game of Chess**

The King of India sent Khosrow a chessboard crafted from emeralds and rubies as a royal gift.

In an accompanying letter, he wrote, "Since you are our emperor, your wise men should be superior to ours. I have sent you a game called chess and I challenge you to discover its secrets. If you succeed, I will send you money and gifts every year. Otherwise, the obligation will be yours."

Khosrow summoned his ministers and advisors, informed them of the challenge, and asked them to find a solution.

After some time, Bozorgmehr came forward and told Khosrow, "I have understood the game of chess and discovered its secrets."

He explained that chess represented a battlefield in which two opposing sides engaged in a struggle using small pieces, and that victory belonged to whoever possessed greater wisdom, intelligence, and strategic insight.

Bozorgmehr revealed all the secrets of chess and demonstrated how the pieces should be arranged. Delighted by his achievement, the emperor praised him and rewarded him with 10,000 gold coins. He then sent the explanation of the game, along with a detailed report, to the King of India.

The King of India acknowledged his defeat but decided to issue another challenge by sending the finest chess player in India to challenge them. Under the terms of the challenge, the losing side would be required to send money and gifts to the victorious king every year. The Indian king hoped to avenge his earlier defeat and restore his pride.

However, he had not anticipated that his representative would face Bozorgmehr, one of the most astute players of his time.

The first match lasted a long time before ending in victory for the Persian minister. They then played a second game, which Bozorgmehr also won.

At Bozorgmehr's request, they proceeded to a third match. Following the contest, he instructed the Indian player to return to his people and report that he had lost all three games.

Furthermore, the emperor presented a new game and asked the Indian chess player to take it back to India, present it to the king, and explain its rules to him if possible. The emperor instructed the Indian player to inform the king that Persia would send money and gifts to India annually if they could decipher the game's secrets and win the match, and vice versa.

The messenger carried the game to the King of India, and they both tried to understand and solve it, but they were unable to do so.

The game was called "Win Ardashir," known today as "backgammon."

The King of India eventually conceded defeat and became obligated to pay the agreed tribute three times a year.

# Farwaniya Gov attends exhibition in Umm Amer Al-Ansariya Secondary School for Girls

MANAMA, Nov 11, (KUNA): Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah headed Kuwait's delegation to the 43rd meeting of GCC interior ministers in Bahrain on Wednesday, representing First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.

The Ministry of Interior said, in a statement received by KUNA, that Sheikh Abdullah expressed Kuwait's appreciation to Bahrain for its warm reception and hospitality, as well as its efforts to ensure the meeting's success.

He also praised the GCC General Secretariat for following up on the implementation of joint security decisions and projects, reaffirming Kuwait's commitment to supporting Gulf security cooperation in line with the aspirations of GCC leaders and peoples.



KUNA photo

The Minister of Defense heads Kuwait's delegation to the 34th meeting of GCC Interior Ministers in Manama.

The ministers reviewed recommendations submitted to the meeting and approved them, in a move aimed at strengthening security cooperation and coordination among member states and advancing joint Gulf security integration.

The meeting brought together interior ministers from GCC member states and GCC Secretary-General Jasem A-Budaiwi.

The Kuwaiti delegation also included Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib and several senior security officials.

# Ahmadi Family Court grants mother custody of 2 children

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Ahmadi Family Court ruled in favor of granting a mother custody of her two children, while ordering the father to pay monthly maintenance and other expenses, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Under the ruling, the father must pay KD 200 in monthly child support, at KD 100 per child, in addition to KD 100 per month for transportation and KD 120 per month to cover the domestic worker's salary. The court also ordered a one-time payment of KD 1,000 to cover the costs of bringing the domestic worker to Kuwait.

# Major narcotics haul uncovered

## Three suspects arrested in 3 drug raids

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD), affiliated with the Criminal Security Sector, arrested three suspects in three separate cases involving the possession of narcotics and psychotropic substances with the intent to traffic them, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

The arrests are part of the Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to combat drug-related crimes.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that the operations resulted in the seizure of 3,001 grams of shabu (methamphetamine), 30 vials containing cannabis oil, 24 sheets infused with synthetic drugs (chemical substances), four precision scales, three electronic cigarettes containing synthetic drugs, and one piece of hashish.

In one of the cases, the General Administration of Emergency Police referred a suspect to DCGD, and further investigations led to the discovery of additional narcotics and a precision scale at the suspect's residence.

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

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**2 held for unauthorized racing:** The General Traffic Department, represented by the Security Oversight Department, arrested two motorists involved in an unauthorized race on Arabian Gulf Street, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrests are part of the Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to monitor serious traffic violations and curb dangerous driving behavior on the roads.

In a statement, the ministry explained that the relevant authorities launched an intensive investigation following the incident, which led to the identification and arrest of the two drivers. When confronted with the evidence, both motorists confessed to committing the violation.

The necessary legal measures had been taken against the drivers, who were referred to the Central Prison.

Their vehicles were also confiscated and subsequently crushed in accordance with Article 33-bis of the Traffic Law.



MoI photo

The three suspects.

The ministry warned against committing serious traffic violations that endanger the lives of road users, stressing that it will take firm action to apprehend offenders and enforce the law to protect lives and property.

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**33 arrests in drug cases since Oct:** The latest arrests announced by the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) have brought the total number of people apprehended in drug-related cases involving narcotics and psychotropic substances since the beginning of October to 33, reports Al-Anba daily.

The suspects face charges related to drug trafficking, consumption, and distribution.

A few days ago, the Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of six expatriates in four separate cases. The suspects were found in possession of narcotics and intoxicating substances intended for trafficking and personal use. Authorities seized 410 grams of methamphetamine, 175 sheets of A4 paper soaked in a chemical liquid, and 60 grams of hashish. Two digital scales and KD 540, believed to be proceeds from drug sales, were also confiscated.





Ministry of Education photo

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Dr. Khaled Al-Rasheed, discusses with Chinese officials the enhancement of educational cooperation and the inclusion of the Chinese language within the secondary school tracks system.

# Kuwait and China explore student exchange, educational cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr. Khaled Al-Rasheed met with a delegation from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait on Tuesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The delegation included First Secretary Liang Yanling and Director of the Political Section Zhu Chuhan.

They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and partnerships in educational fields of mutual interest.

Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad and Director-General of the Guidance, Research and Curricula General Department Mohammad Al-Otaibi represented the ministry at the meeting.

They talked about several issues concerning the advancement of the educational system, particularly the possibility of introducing the Chinese language into the secondary school tracks system. The proposed initiative aims to broaden students' educational choices by enabling them to acquire additional knowledge and skills to keep pace with international developments and the demands of contemporary education.

They looked into prospects for recruiting qualified Chinese language teachers and designing and implementing training programs to prepare educational personnel and strengthen their capabilities in teaching the language. They explored ways to benefit from Chinese expertise in language instruction techniques and the preparation of educational and training curricula.

They also considered the possibility of establishing student exchange programs with specialized educational institutions in China.

The proposed programs will cater to students enrolled in the secondary school tracks system, allowing them to familiarize themselves with educational practices, practical applications, and advanced industrial technologies.

These initiatives are intended to develop students' technical and vocational competencies, while connecting classroom learning with practical experience in the industrial and technological fields.

# Kuwait's MoE completes review of 2025/2026 performance bonus lists

## E-grievance service to be added on website

**By Inaas Awadh**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Ministry of Education announced that it has completed the review and verification of the lists of teaching and administrative personnel eligible for the outstanding performance bonus for the 2025/2026 academic year.**

The lists were referred to the Financial Affairs General Department to begin the procedures for disbursing the bonus in line with the commitment of the ministry to acknowledge the contributions of employees in the educational and administrative sectors, protect their financial rights, and reward their dedication.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that the lists included 99,754 employees in schools, kindergartens and institutes in various educational districts, in addition to those employed at the Religious and Special Education General Department.

According to the ministry, the Human Resources and Personnel Affairs General Department prepared the lists.

The Ahmadi Educational District recorded the highest number of eligible employees with 24,457, followed by Farwaniya with 19,912, Jahra with 16,108, the Capital with 14,242, Mubarak Al-Kabeer with 11,417 and Hawally with 10,280, in addition to 3,338 employees in the Religious and Special Education General Department.

Eligibility was determined in accordance with Ministerial Decree No. 146, issued on Aug 3, 2026, which stipulates the requirements for granting outstanding performance bonus to employees of institutes, schools and kindergartens for the 2025/2026 academic year.

All the stipulated conditions and standards were used in the assessment, particularly performance appraisals, years of service, actual attendance days and other requirements.

The lists were forwarded to the Financial Affairs Department -- an administrative measure under the approved regulatory framework for completing the bonus disbursement process and initiating the necessary financial procedures in line with the applicable rules and regulations.

As part of its efforts to simplify procedures and promote transparency, the Information Systems Department at the ministry introduced an electronic service through its official website to enable the teaching and administrative staff in public education, religious education and special education institutions to verify whether they qualify for the bonus.

Employees will be able to access the service for two weeks to check their eligibility status. For those who do not qualify, the system will provide the reasons for their ineligibility based on the approved records and assessment criteria, offering greater clarity and making the inquiry process easier.

The ministry also announced that an electronic grievance service will be added on its official website following the disbursement of the bonus. Through this platform, employees will be able to file grievances online, which will be evaluated by the competent authorities in accordance with the conditions, standards and procedures.

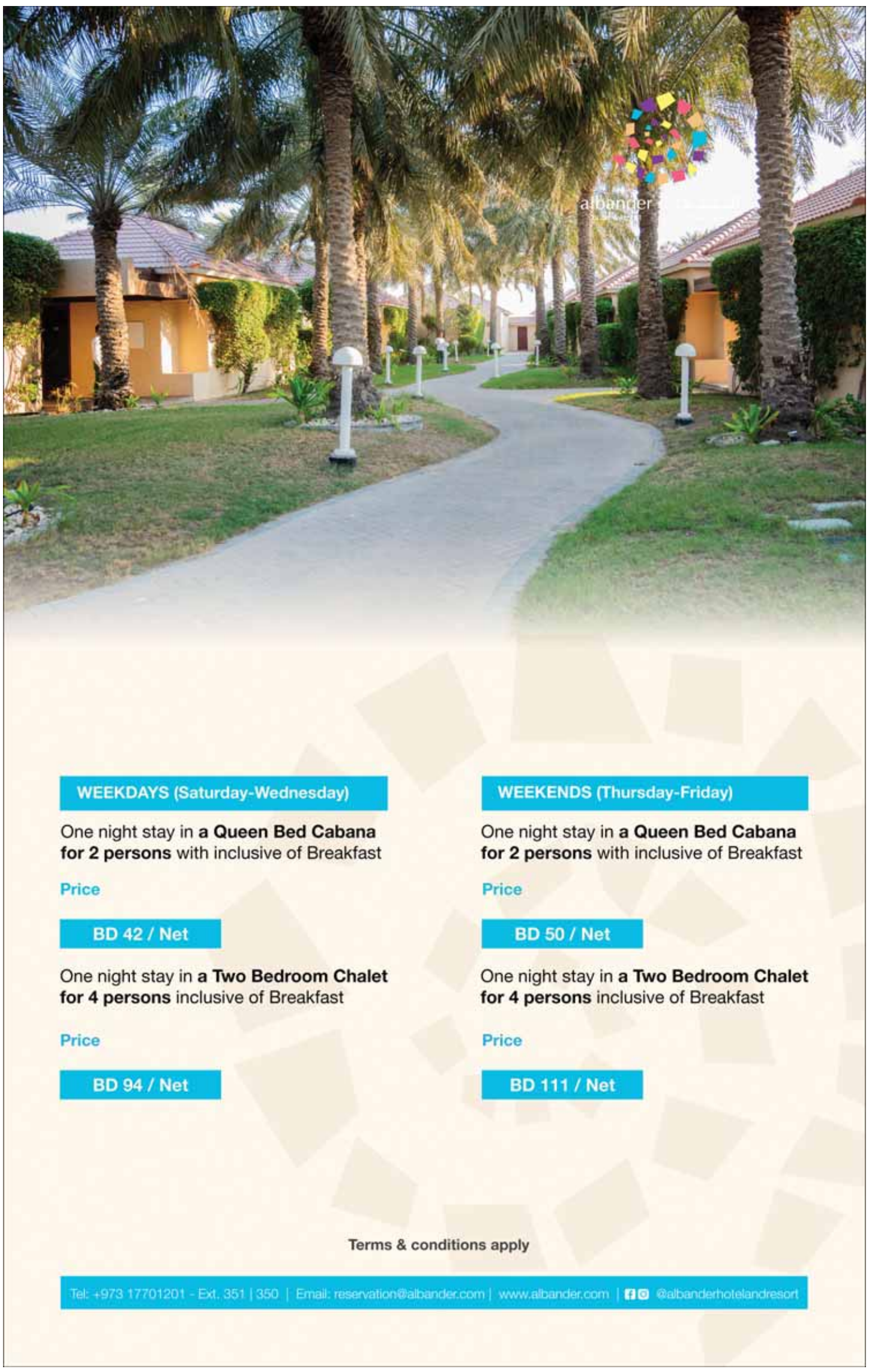
It reaffirmed its commitment to complete all procedures related to employees' financial entitlements, in appreciation of their efforts in advancing the educational process and improving its outcomes, in addition to finalizing the disbursement arrangements, transferring the bonus to the bank accounts of beneficiaries, and expanding electronic services to facilitate employees' access to information about their financial entitlements.

# Kuwait Int'l Book Fair to open Nov 18 with 592 participants

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) announced on Monday that the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair will be held from November 18 to 28, 2026, at the Mishref International Fairground, under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Held under the slogan "We Read... We Rise," the fair will bring together 592 participating entities from 34 Arab and foreign countries, with the opening ceremony scheduled for 10:00 am on November 18, the council said in a statement.

Qatar will be the guest of honor, showcasing its literary and intellectual works through a dedicated pavilion and a series of cultural activities highlighting its diverse cultural scene.




# Swiss envoy calls for preserving cultural and linguistic diversity

**By Fares Ghaleb**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Ambassador of Switzerland to Kuwait Tiziano Balmelli stressed the need to promote cultural and linguistic diversity.

Balmelli made the statement during the screening of the Swiss film, "Tambour Battant", held at his residence recently as part of the Francophonie Month celebration in Kuwait.

Present at the event were the ambassadors of Canada and Belgium, representatives of the French Embassy and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and several citizens.

Balmelli called for a sense of pride in local languages and cultures, particularly the Arabic language and Kuwaiti culture. He warned that the global trend towards adopting one language could threaten diversity, which is a vital source of richness for human societies.

He expressed pride in Switzerland's connection to the Francophone community, reaffirming the dedication of the embassy in working with member states of the International Organization of La Francophonie to promote the French language in Kuwait and to expand opportunities for cultural exchange and interaction.

He praised the strong presence of the French language in Kuwait, affirming that hundreds of qualified teachers and thousands of citizens and residents speak the language. He considers this a positive and unique phenomenon that reflects genuine interest in the French language and culture.

He said these shared traits prove that differences in language and culture do not diminish the human experiences connecting people, as they rather generate more opportunities for mutual understanding and acquaintance.

On the role of embassies in promoting intercultural dialogue, he pointed out that the efforts of diplomatic missions and official institutions complement the work of individuals, civil society organizations and the private sector, which are the main drivers of social and cultural life.

He disclosed that the important message he hopes the film imparts to the audience is the significance of protecting cultural and linguistic diversity, wishing that it will inspire the public in Kuwait to take pride in the Arabic language and their own culture.

He added that the preservation of languages and cultures is a collective responsibility, which necessitates maintaining the cultural identity and passing it on to future generations.

He explained that while all humans belong to a single family, they communicate in different languages and have diverse cultures—a reality that enriches and beautifies human societies.



Ambassadors of Switzerland, Canada, and Belgium

### Kuwait seeks to turn parental disputes into peaceful settlements

# Child's welfare at heart of new Family Court reform

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Council of Ministers has approved the draft law on the establishment of a new Family Court.

In a press statement, Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait pointed out that children bear the heaviest burden when disputes between parents intensify, as they could be deprived of visits with their fathers or face delays in school enrollment. "It is our responsibility to address injustice affecting both parents, safeguard their rights, and make the best interest of the child the guiding principle behind every decision regarding his life," he asserted.

Al-Sumait explained that the proposed legislation empowers the custodial parent -- usually the mother -- to obtain and renew the child's official identification documents, including the civil identification card and passport. He said it streamlines procedures for enrolling children in schools or transferring them from one school to another, without the need for a separate court order for each transaction. He indicated that it is unreasonable to require the custodial mother to initiate court proceedings just to obtain or renew her child's official documents.

He disclosed that the draft law introduces 'coercive fines' as a means of ensuring strict compliance with court-mandated visitation arrangements. He stated that the party seeking enforcement may apply to the enforcement judge for the imposition of such fines in the event of a violation, particularly in case of repeated and unjustified non-compliance with the ruling.

He confirmed that fathers have an established right to visit their children in accordance with court judgments, while both parents are duty-bound to ensure that such rulings are implemented. He clarified that this provision applies, for example, when a custodial mother deliberately fails to bring the child for a scheduled visit, or when a father intentionally refuses to return the child after taking him for visitation.

He added that the proposed legislation gives settlement agreements the force of legal instruments once they are endorsed with an 'enforcement clause' by the head of the Family Dispute Resolution Center. "This will enable both parties to carry out the terms they have agreed upon, without the need to initiate new legal proceedings," he elaborated.

He affirmed that the draft law addresses difficulties encountered by families in implementing visitation judgments through the establishment of specialized visitation centers manned by family and child welfare professionals. He indicated that if a child repeatedly refuses to attend visitation, the legislation stipulates referral to psychologists or social workers to determine the underlying causes of the refusal and recommend appropriate solutions that prioritize the welfare of the child.

He urged parents, whose disagreements have escalated, to recall the words of Almighty God: "And do not forget graciousness between yourselves." He underscored the need for each parent to respect and support the other's role in their child's life, while avoiding hostility and resentment when disputes arise. He said a child should be happy when spending time with his father and feel safe upon returning to his mother, allowing him to love both parents without being placed in a position where he feels obliged to choose between them.

Continued from Page 1

## Kuwait puts

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef discussed with cargo transport companies and firms contracted by the government to transport equipment the causes of overloading and ways to address the problem, stressing the importance of cooperation between relevant authorities and transport companies in protecting the roads.

Proposed measures included organizing weighbridge locations and regulating truck movements through them, monitoring vehicle weights when tractor units are changed, and identifying suitable truck routes while drawing on the experiences of other Gulf countries.

According to the statement, participants also discussed mechanisms to impose immediate fines on companies or truck owners once their vehicles are proven to have damaged roads through excessive loads, allowing repairs to proceed without waiting for judicial procedures to be completed.

The meeting considered tougher penalties for exceeding permitted weight limits, failing to use designated truck lanes, and neglecting brake and tire maintenance, as well as examine the deportation of drivers committing serious violations, in accordance with applicable regulations, in addition to tightening controls on buses used to transport passengers in violation of their licensed activities.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef also reviewed a Public Works Ministry study on establishing truck parking facilities outside the city, equipped with accommodation and essential amenities, to reduce truck congestion in residential areas. He raised the possibility of offering state-owned plots in strategic locations to the private sector for the development of multi-storey truck parking facilities.

Participating authorities presented their respective action plans, to begin implementing their assigned measures as soon as possible.

Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan attended the meeting.

## Kuwait's Education

It disclosed that the changes aim to simplify procedures, reduce administrative layers, accelerate decision-making, solidify lines of supervision and reporting, eliminate task duplication, minimize overlapping between departments, and improve educational and administrative services.

Moreover, the number of general departments in the public education sector was reduced to five.

Religious education and special education were integrated under the Public Education General Department to unify oversight and strengthen coordination among educational streams.

The supervision of examinations and student affairs, including their respective departments, were returned to the educational districts. This move aims to bring functions closer to the field, ease the monitoring of student affairs and examinations, and standardize operational procedures in the districts.

The oversight of activities, libraries and educational technologies was transferred to the Educational Support Services General Department, hence, ensuring unified supervision of services provided to schools.

The Administrative, Financial and Technical Affairs Sector was streamlined into five general departments.

Financial affairs, procurement and warehousing are now under one department, human resources and general services were combined, and development, planning and quality were merged.

The Facilities and Projects Department and the Technology and Information Systems Department were retained, reflecting the continuous focus on the development of educational infrastructure and push for digital transformation.

The ministry explained that this move is not just about rearranging titles or reducing supervisory roles, as the main objective is to establish a more efficient and flexible administrative model in line with the educational development requirements to boost productivity and put qualified personnel in positions that best meet operational needs.

The decision mandates all the concerned entities to implement the amendment, which shall take effect upon approval of the revised specialization profiles and completion of the placement of personnel within the integrated civil service systems. Any prior decision that conflicts with this directive shall be repealed, making the revised structure the unified reference for organizing work in the ministry.

The ministry affirmed that it will continue to review organizational structures and evaluate the efficiency of their implementation in line with the operational requirements and performance indicators.

## Kuwait honors

Lawyer Al-Yassin concluded by praying for God Almighty to protect Kuwait, its wise leadership, and its loyal people.

Meanwhile, Lawyer Kawthar Al-Jouaan, a member of the conference's Supreme Advisory Committee, said national responsibility requires reflection and the preservation of trust.

She stressed that Kuwait provides its citizens with a comprehensive system of care, services, and benefits.

Lawyer Al-Jouaan affirmed that Kuwait is a trust inherited from previous generations, and that the responsibility of the present generation is to pass it on to future generations in a stronger and more prosperous condition.

In addition, Dr. Abdullah Al-Shuraika, Director of the Center for Promoting Moderation, said that one of God's greatest blessings upon societies is the unity of their voices, the cohesion of their ranks, and the harmony among their citizens.

He stressed that these values help build a cohesive society founded on cooperation, compassion, mutual advice, and unity around the country's political leadership to safeguard national security and stability.

Dr. Al-Shuraika also underscored the importance of safeguarding Kuwait's security and stability, emphasizing the need to strengthen national unity and avoid anything that could provoke chaos or undermine social cohesion.

He concluded by praying for the success and guidance of the country's political leadership.

The conference also featured a documentary highlighting the lives and contributions of the honorees, followed by a tribute to their families. Sponsors, supporters, and members of the conference's organizing committees were also honored during the conference.

## Kuwait joins

Conference (COP31) in Antalya, southern Turkiye, Guterres said the proposed pact should rest on shared responsibility, shared security and shared benefits.

He stressed that all countries must meet their commitments under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which takes into account their varying capacities and contributions to climate change.

The pact would be built on four pillars: accelerating a just transition away from fossil fuels, protecting the most vulnerable, ensuring adequate climate finance and prioritizing cooperation over geopolitical divisions.

Guterres said limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius required tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2035 compared with 2025 levels, as well as cutting unabated coal-fired power generation by at least 75 percent.

He urged developed countries to provide at least USD 300 billion annually in climate finance by 2035 and proposed taxing windfall profits of major oil companies to support countries most vulnerable to climate impacts.

He noted that nine oil companies were expected to earn more than USD 95 billion in just three months, or over USD one billion a day.

Warning that climate disasters were devastating lives, livelihoods and economies worldwide, Guterres described the current climate trajectory as a path toward "mutually assured destruction."

"We either plan this just transition or pay for it through chaos and lost livelihoods," he said.

COP31 opened on Monday in Turkiye for the first time and runs until November 20, with Australia presiding over the negotiations. Climate finance, adaptation and the transition to clean energy are among the key issues on the agenda.

## October port

The ministry confirmed that all arrested individuals had been referred to the relevant authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.



International photography pioneers receive special honour

# Kuwaiti photographer wins silver at Dubai's HIPA awards

**By Mohammed Al-Farhan**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwaiti photographer Faisal Hamada has brought international recognition to Kuwait after securing second place in the Sports Photography category of the 15th Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award (HIPA), one of the world's leading photography competitions.

Hamada was among the international photographers honoured during the annual awards ceremony held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai.

His achievement placed Kuwait among the countries represented on the winners' list of the prestigious competition, which attracted photographic talent from across the globe. Chinese photographer Hongbin Wu won first place in the Sports Photography category, while Russian photographer Kirill Kudryavtsev secured third.

Themed 'Family', the 15th edition celebrated the ability of photography to document human connections, preserve cultural narratives and bring communities closer together across geographical and cultural boundaries.

The ceremony brought together dignitaries, government officials and prominent figures from the international photography community. A total of US$1 million in prize money was distributed among winners across the competition categories and Special Awards, recognising outstanding photographic talent and visual storytelling.

**Powerful image captures resilience amid destruction**

The competition's US$200,000 Grand Prize was awarded to Bangladeshi photographer Pinu Rahman by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Rahman's winning photograph captured a family sleeping within the concrete walls that remained standing after a devastating fire destroyed more than 1,500 houses in Korail, one of Dhaka's most densely populated informal settlements.

Against a backdrop of widespread destruction, the photograph presented an intimate and moving portrayal of family, resilience and the human capacity to endure hardship. The image demonstrated how a single photographic moment can convey powerful stories of survival and hope without relying on words.

The photograph's emotional impact reflected the central theme of this year's competition, highlighting the family as a source of strength and solidarity even under the most difficult circumstances.

**International photography pioneers receive special honours**

During the ceremony, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum also honoured the recipients of HIPA's Special Awards, recognising individuals whose contributions have helped advance photography, visual storytelling and the wider creative community.

Japanese photographer Kazuyoshi Nomachi received the Appreciation Award in recognition of a distinguished career spanning more than half a century.

His extensive photographic work documents the lives of communities in remote regions and challenging environments, exploring their relationship with the land, deeply rooted beliefs, spiritual practices and everyday experiences.

His photographs and publications have earned international recognition for their artistic, cultural and humanitarian significance. International media have described his work as a valuable record of humanity and its relationship with the natural environment.

The Content Creator Award went to Syrian photographer Dr. Ali Mohamad, recognising his influential role in reshaping the relationship between advanced technology and visual arts across the Arabic-speaking world.

Through his work, Mohamad has helped make complex technological concepts more accessible to photographers and content creators, opening new possibilities for creative expression and encouraging the wider adoption of emerging technologies in visual storytelling.

French photojournalist Véronique de Viguerie received the HIPA Photographer of the Year Award for her distinguished career and impactful photographic projects documenting people affected by oppression, war and conflict.

Her work has brought the experiences and voices of people living through some of the world's most challenging circumstances to international attention, highlighting photography's importance as a tool for documenting human suffering and raising awareness of issues that might otherwise remain unseen.

**Family theme celebrates bonds across generations**

The 'Family' category, which formed the central theme of the 15th edition, explored the relationships, bonds and shared experiences that shape family life.

Emirati photographer Hamid Obaid Al Ali secured first place, followed by Saudi photographer Nawaf Alosaimi in second place and Indian photographer Subhajit Datta in third.

The category highlighted the diversity of family experiences and the universal emotions that connect people regardless of nationality, culture or background.

**General category showcases diverse photographic perspectives**

The 'General' category recognised distinctive approaches to photography through both colour and monochromatic images.

In the 'General – Colour' category, Slovak photographer Filip Hrebenda won first place. Franco Banfi of Switzerland secured second place, while Italy's Ramiro Torrents finished third.

In 'General – Black and White', Australian photographer Jono Allen took the top award, followed by South Indian photographer Barun Sarkar in second place and Canadian photographer Thomas Vijayan in third.

The two categories showcased the ability of photographers to interpret the world through different visual approaches, demonstrating how colour, contrast, composition and light can influence the way a story is experienced by viewers.

**Palestinian photographer tops Portfolio category**

The 'Portfolio' category recognised photographers for the strength, consistency and depth of their visual storytelling across a collection of images.

Palestinian photographer Yousef Alzanoon secured first place, earning recognition for his photographic portfolio. American photographer Brent Stirton finished second, followed by American astronaut and photographer Don Pettit in third.

The category placed particular emphasis on the ability to develop a coherent visual narrative through multiple photographs, allowing photographers to communicate broader stories and perspectives through a carefully assembled body of work.

**Sports photography captures defining moments**

In addition to Kuwaiti photographer Faisal Hamada's second-place finish, the Sports Photography category recognised images capturing the intensity, emotion and defining moments of sporting competition.

Chinese photographer Hongbin Wu won first place, while Russia's Kirill Kudryavtsev took third.

The category celebrated photography's ability to freeze fleeting moments of competition, revealing the determination, physical demands and emotional intensity that define sporting events.

**Artificial intelligence opens new creative possibilities**

The 'Dreams Through AI' category explored emerging creative possibilities at the intersection of photography and artificial intelligence, recognising photographers using technology to expand the boundaries of visual expression.

New Zealand-based photographer Chi Hui Tang secured first place, followed by Chinese photographer Fan Ho Tsang in second place and Colombian photographer Bernardo Hernandez in third.

The category reflected the growing influence of artificial intelligence on contemporary visual arts and the expanding range of tools available to photographers and digital creators.

**HIPA strengthens its global photography platform**

HIPA Secretary General Ali Bin Thalith expressed gratitude to Sheikh Hamdan for his continued patronage and support of the award and the art of photography.

He said the 15th edition's 'Family' theme was selected in line with the directives of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to designate 2026 as the 'Year of the Family'.

The initiative aims to strengthen family relationships, support social stability and instil authentic Emirati values in future generations.

Bin Thalith also announced a significant milestone in HIPA's development, revealing that its photographic archive now contains more than one million photographs contributed by an active community of over half a million photographers from 209 countries.

He said HIPA had helped reshape the global photography landscape from its home in Dubai, establishing itself as a leading international platform beyond the traditional centres of the photography world.

He attributed the award's international standing to its cultural and intellectual influence, its ability to engage audiences across continents and its sustainable model of supporting photographic projects and creative talent worldwide.

The 15th edition reinforced HIPA's position as an international platform for recognising photographic excellence while highlighting the power of images to document history, preserve cultural identity and tell stories that transcend borders.

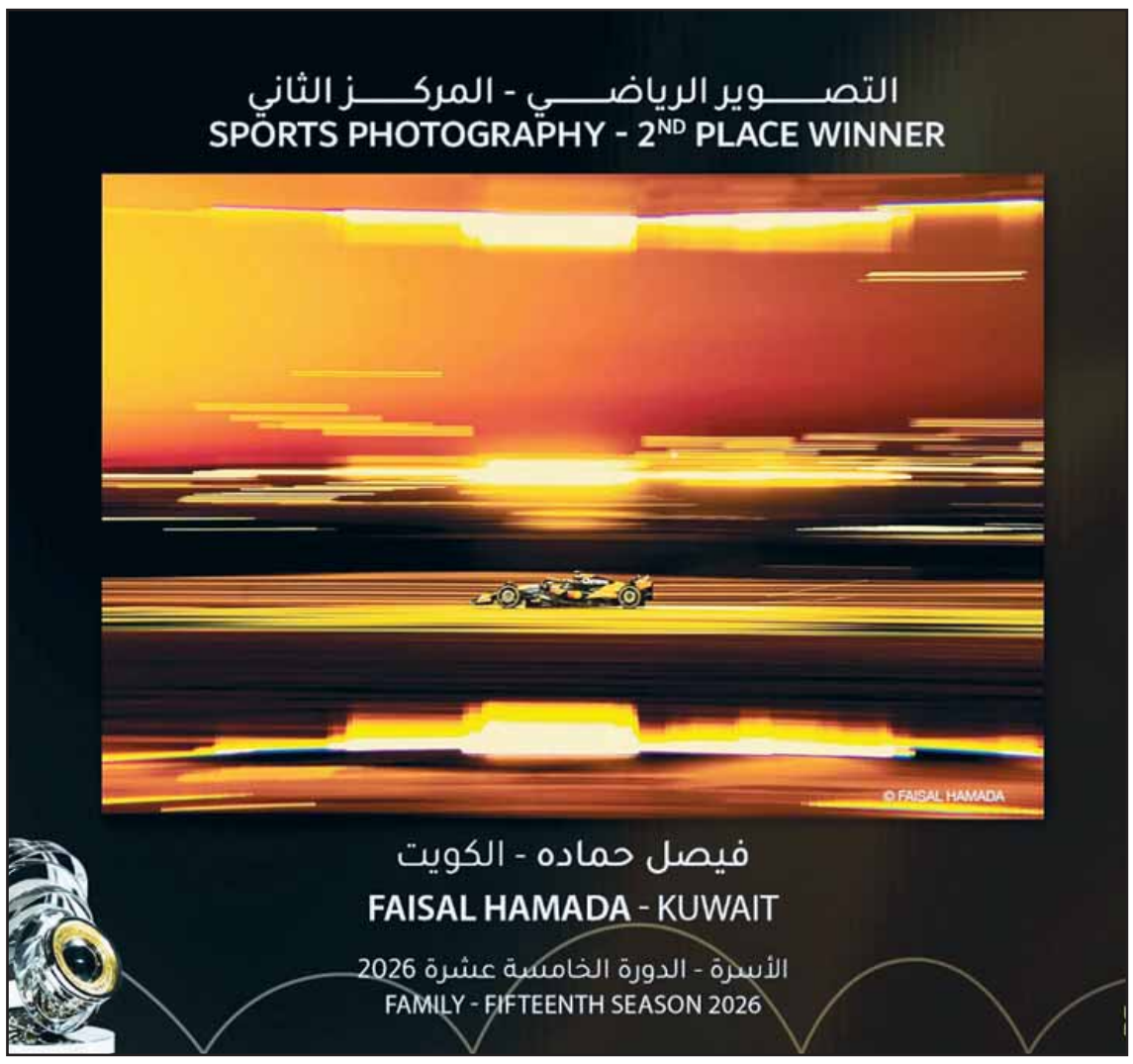
For Kuwait, Hamada's achievement added a notable national presence to this year's international honours, underscoring the contribution of Kuwaiti photographers to the global visual arts community.



H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Kuwaiti photographer Faisal Hamada receiving the award.




Kuwaiti photographer Faisal Hamada's Sports Photography award.




Kuwaiti photographer Faisal Hamada

# Business

## Kuwait oil price falls $7.38 to $ 81.31 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil fell by USD 7.38 to USD 81.31 per barrel (pb) in Tuesday's trading from USD 88.69 pb in last Friday's trading, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

In global markets, Brent crude fell by USD 1.08 to USD 91.49 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate declined by 81 cents to USD 86.04 pb.

Tour aimed at bridging academic knowledge with practical application

# ALSAYER Group advances sustainable architecture education










Photos from the event

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: ALSAYER Group organized a specialized educational study tour to Doha, Qatar, for a group of students and faculty members from the College of Architecture at Kuwait University, in collaboration with the Gulf Organization for Research and Development (GORD).

Held over four days, the study tour reflected the shared commitment of the three organizations to advancing sustainability education, encouraging innovative architectural practices, and providing students with practical exposure to internationally recognized green building standards.

The tour aimed to strengthen the connection between academic knowledge and practical application by introducing participants to some of Qatar's most prominent architectural achievements and sustainable development projects. It also enabled them to gain firsthand experience in sustainable design, energy efficiency, and environmentally responsible urban development.

As part of the program, participants visited GORD's headquarters and specialized research institute, where they were introduced to the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) and its role in improving the environmental performance of buildings and infrastructure while promoting greater resource efficiency.

The itinerary also included field visits to several of Qatar's leading architectural and sustainable development projects, including Qatar Foundation Headquarters, Education City Stadium, Qatar National Library, and the Education City Mosque, also known as the Minaretein Mosque.

The program further featured visits to Gewan Island, Katara Towers, Lusail Boulevard, Lusail Stadium, and Place Vendôme. These visits gave students the opportunity to explore innovative architectural concepts, advanced infrastructure, and the latest practices in modern urban planning.

To further enrich the educational experience, the program included visits to several prominent cultural and heritage landmarks, including the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif, and Doha Old Port. These visits highlighted the careful balance between preserving architectural identity and cultural heritage, while meeting the requirements of modern urban development.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member and Chairman of the ALSAYER Sustainability Committee, said:

"Sustainability is not limited to adopting environmentally responsible practices within our operations. It also extends to sharing knowledge and inspiring future generations. Through our continued partnership with Kuwait University and GORD, we are committed to providing young architects with valuable opportunities to experience sustainable development firsthand, explore innovative solutions, and gain new perspectives that can contribute to the development of future projects in Kuwait. We believe that investing in education today is an essential step towards building more sustainable and resilient communities that are better equipped to meet the challenges of the future."

Dr. Yousef Alhorr, Chairman of the Board of GORD, added:

"This initiative demonstrates the importance of collaboration between academic institutions, the private sector, and leading sustainability organizations in preparing the next generation of professionals."

Eng. Nehad AlHaj Ali, Group Manager of Corporate Excellence at ALSAYER Group, said:

"Educational study tours such as this provide an integrated learning platform that enables students to explore global best practices in sustainability, architecture, and urban planning. We believe that providing practical learning opportunities and direct engagement with leading projects contributes to preparing a generation of highly qualified national talent capable of leading the future of sustainable development and transforming academic knowledge into innovative solutions that serve society and the environment."

Dr. Omar Khattab, Acting Vice Dean for Student Affairs at the College of Architecture, Kuwait University, said:

"Investing in education is one of the most effective ways to advance sustainability and create a lasting positive impact. Through this educational study tour, students were given the opportunity to gain direct exposure to international best practices in architecture and sustainability, helping them connect academic knowledge with practical applications. We believe that providing young architects with access to such experiences fosters a culture of innovation and supports the development of more sustainable and resilient communities in the future."

Through its longstanding partnership with Kuwait University and GORD, ALSAYER Group continues to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to education, innovation, environmental responsibility, and youth empowerment. These efforts contribute to Kuwait's sustainable development aspirations and support the creation of a more sustainable future for generations to come.

**Framework ensures robust sustainability reporting**

# ABK establishes its first ESG Policy Framework

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has established its first Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy Framework, reaffirming its commitment to integrating sustainability across the Bank's strategy, governance and operations.

Aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035 and informed by international sustainability standards and frameworks, including IFRS S1 and S2, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), the ESG Policy Framework provides a foundation for ABK's continued ESG progress and its ambition to advance sustainable practices.

Commenting on the announcement, Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer at ABK, said, "Our first ESG Policy Framework is a significant step in translating our sustainability commitments into accountable action. By establishing clear responsibilities and strengthening how we manage ESG priorities, we can make sustainability a more consistent part of decision-making across the Bank and deliver impactful and long-term value for our stakeholders."



Mr. Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer

Albenali continued, "This framework enforces robust and well-governed sustainability reporting practices that provides stakeholders with clear and reliable information on ABK's ESG performance and progress."

The Policy Framework defines ESG roles, responsibilities and accountability across relevant divisions and the Bank as a whole. It sets out the governance frameworks, policies, processes and required approvals to implement, monitor and measure ESG initiatives and performance. It also supports ABK in identifying, assessing and mitigating climate-related and other ESG risks, while recognising opportunities that can strengthen organisational resilience.

Albenali added, "This framework gives us a clearer way to track our progress and be accountable for the commitments we make. As we deliver our ESG Strategy, we will continue working to earn stakeholder trust, strengthen the Bank's resilience and contribute to sustainable economic development in the communities and markets we serve."

**Rigorous Standards**

The framework upholds the principles of transparency, accountability, governance and performance monitoring. It further places the Bank at the forefront of institutions keeping pace with global trends and sustainable development objectives. It transforms the commitment to sustainability into a key driver of long-term growth and financial innovation, while creating new opportunities to develop advanced banking solutions that meet the expectations of a new generation of customers and businesses.

**A Pivotal Step**

Albenali concluded, "The launch of our first ESG Policy Framework represents a pivotal step towards modernising our operating model. It will contribute to potentially improving the Bank's credit rating and directing its long-term commitments."

Revenue grows despite challenges

# KIPCO reports net profit of KD 8.3 million for 9M 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – announced total revenue from operations of KD 1.2 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2026. This represents a 2% increase compared to the corresponding period of 2025.

The Group's financial position also expanded over the period, with total assets reaching KD 14.3 billion, compared to KD 13.8 billion at year-end 2025, and shareholders' equity rising to KD 652 million, from KD 645 million at year-end 2025.

Net profit for the nine-month period stood at KD 8.3 million, compared to KD 13.4 million reported for the corresponding period of 2025. Earnings per share for the period stood at 0.5 fils. Profitability continued to reflect the impact of challenging macroeconomic and geopolitical conditions across the region, which placed pressure on the performance of key sectors, particularly banking, energy, industrial, logistics and real estate, while contributions from other portfolio companies helped mitigate the impact.

For the third quarter of 2026 (the three months ended September 30, 2026), KIPCO recorded a net profit of KD 3.0 million, compared to KD 3.3 million in the same period last year. Operating profit for the quarter stood at KD 26.9 million, compared to KD 34.5 million reported for the corresponding period of 2025.

Commenting on the results, Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer, said:



Sheikha Dana Naser Al Sabah – KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer

"Despite a challenging environment, we grew revenue from operations and expanded our total assets over the first nine months of the year. This growth reflects the steps we have has taken over the past few years to strengthen our financial position, streamline our portfolio and sharpen operational efficiency."

She added:

"Regional conditions weighed on earnings at some of our businesses this year. The value of a diversified portfolio is well reflected, as stable earnings from some of our businesses mitigated the decline in earnings from others. Our focus now is on converting this revenue momentum into stronger profitability in the coming periods, while maintaining the financial discipline that underpins long-term value for our shareholders."

# KFH donates KD 3 mln to establish Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Saud Museum

**By Inaas Awadh**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Municipal Council's Legal and Financial Committee, during its latest session, approved a KD 3 million donation from Kuwait Finance House (KFH) to establish the Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Saud Museum and develop its surrounding area.

The initiative highlights the private sector's vital role in supporting heritage and cultural projects and strengthening Kuwait's historical identity.

Committee Chairman Fahad Al-Abdaljader said the project represents a significant addition to Kuwait's heritage and tourism sectors.

He described it as a commendable example of how private sector institutions can contribute to high-quality projects that extend beyond construction to encompass cultural, historical, and civilizational dimensions.

The initiative also underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in supporting efforts to preserve historical heritage and safeguard the memory for future generations.

Al-Abdaljader explained that KFH's contribution reflects a progressive approach to corporate social responsibility, directing the resources of national institutions towards projects that deliver lasting benefits. Promoting such initiatives helps preserve historical landmarks and develop cultural and tourism facilities, balancing the protection of national heritage with the demands of urban development.

The project is located in Al-Qibla, Block 4, opposite the meat and vegetable market within the Al-Mubarakiya markets complex and the central fish market. It is part of the Al-Mubarakiya markets development project.

Following the expansion, the site will cover a total area of 4,490 square meters, including 406 square meters of state-owned land, with a building coverage ratio of 60 percent.

The project includes the museum building, aesthetic improvements, misting systems along pedestrian walkways, and a basement level dedicated to utility services.

On February 24, 2026, the Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. 225, approving the acceptance of the donation and assigning Kuwait Municipality, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, and other relevant authorities, to complete the necessary implementation procedures.

Kuwait Municipality has granted technical approval for the donation, confirming that the proposal complies with all applicable laws and regulations.

The approval is subject to compliance with previous Municipal Council resolutions concerning the site, coordination with the relevant authorities, and implementation of the project by the donor under the Municipality's supervision.

The stipulated conditions include handing over the project to Kuwait Municipality upon completion, conducting the necessary technical inspections, and facilitating the connection of electrical power.

The Legal Department confirmed that there are no legal objections to the donation, adding that the contract may be signed following approval by the Municipal Council.

The project is expected to enhance the Al-Mubarakiya market area by integrating cultural and heritage value into urban development.

This will further strengthen the area's status as one of Kuwait's leading historical, commercial, and tourist destinations.

# Egypt remittances hit $13B in Q1, record $38.2B in '26

CAIRO, Nov. 11, (Xinhua): Remittances from Egyptians working abroad rose to about 13 billion U.S. dollars in the first quarter of fiscal year 20262027, an increase of 20.4 percent year on year, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) said Tuesday.

Remittance inflows also reached a record 38.2 billion dollars in the first nine months of 2026, up from around 30.2 billion dollars in the same period of 2025, the CBE said in a statement.

The first-quarter figure covers July-September 2026, the opening three months of Egypt's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Remittances, one of Egypt's main sources of foreign currency, have risen steadily since March 2024, when the CBE allowed the exchange rate to be determined by market forces, helping eliminate the gap with the parallel foreign exchange market.

Egypt has no official statistics on the number of its citizens working abroad, but estimates put the figure at more than 10 million.

KD 1,000 trading units and profit distributions every six months

# KFH rings the bell for Boursa Kuwait's first sukuk listing, KD 200M issue with 5.5% annual profit rate



Khaled Al-Shamlan, Bader Al-Kharafi, and Abdullah Al-Haddad ringing the bell.



Khaled Al-Shamlan, Bader Al-Kharafi, and Abdullah Al-Haddad


A commemorative gift presented by Boursa Kuwait to Kuwait Finance House.

- **Al-Shamlan:** A milestone that advances Kuwait's financial market and diversifies investment and financing instruments
- Sukuk deepen the market and create new opportunities for individuals and companies seeking Sharia-compliant fixed-income investments


Khaled Al-Shamlan, Mohammed Al-Osaimi, Nasser Al-Sanousi, and Abdullah Al-Haddad


Khaled Al-Shamlan and Mohammed Al-Osaimi with officials from Kuwait Finance House and Boursa Kuwait.


Yousef Al-Ruwaieh standing alongside the Public Relations and Media team participating in the listing ceremony of Kuwait Finance House's sukuk on Boursa Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) rang the bell to mark the listing and commencement of trading of the first Sukuk on Boursa Kuwait. The KD 200 million Additional Tier 1 (AT1) issuance carries an annual profit rate of 5.5%. The landmark listing broadens investors' options and deepens the local capital market by establishing a market for trading Sukuk, a key Sharia-compliant fixed-income instrument.

The listing follows approval from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and marks a pivotal step in the development of Kuwait's financial market. It also strengthens Kuwait's position as a regional financial hub, helping attract further investment and offering individual and institutional investors a wider choice of investment opportunities.

The step takes on added significance against the backdrop of recent legislative developments in Kuwait, including the enactment of Decree-Law No. 90 of 2026 on Government Sukuk. The legislation aims to regulate the issuance of Sharia-compliant financing instruments, diversify funding sources, broaden the investor base, and strengthen public debt and liquidity management.

The announcement was made at the bell-ringing ceremony marking the Sukuk listing and trading debut at Boursa Kuwait. The ceremony was attended by Boursa Kuwait Chairman, Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, Boursa Kuwait CEO Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi, KFH Capital CEO Abdullah Sulaiman Al-Haddad, and other officials.

KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan said: "The listing and trading of Sukuk on Boursa Kuwait represents a historic achievement and an unprecedented development for Kuwait's capital market. It is a strategic step towards establishing a regulated Sukuk trading market, giving investors an efficient way to buy and sell these instruments while enhancing liquidity, stimulating trading activity, and attracting greater investment flows into the market."

He explained that the issue consists of Additional Tier 1 Mudaraba Sukuk and represents the first listing on Boursa Kuwait's debt instruments market, with an annual profit rate of 5.5%, distributed semi-annually. He noted that the milestone rounds out Boursa Kuwait's investment offering by providing three main asset classes: equities, fixed-income instruments, and real estate investment trusts (REITs). This supports the growth of Kuwait's capital market and strengthens the country's position as a regional financial hub.


Khaled Al-Shamlan during press interviews at KFH Sukuk listing event.

AlShamlan emphasized KFH's continued leadership in developing the Islamic finance industry and creating innovative investment products that meet the needs of different investor segments. He expressed his appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, the CMA, Boursa Kuwait, and Kuwait Central Securities Depository for their support and cooperation in bringing this landmark initiative to fruition.

"Just as KFH has pioneered numerous innovative financial initiatives and products, we continue to lead this transformation today by listing the first Sukuk on Boursa Kuwait," he said. "This strengthens the private sector's contribution to economic development and the advancement of the local capital market. We hope this step will encourage other institutions and banks to make use of this important financing and investment instrument."

AlShamlan added that the listing enables investors to add a new asset class to their portfolios, enhancing diversification, supporting liquidity, and providing more effective tools for managing risk.

He said the achievement reaffirms KFH's leadership in developing innovative Islamic investment products. Having been the first to list REITs on the exchange, KFH has now become the first to list Sukuk in the local market. He added that this step broadens the range of Islamic investment products available to investors and strengthens KFH's position as one of the region's leading Sukuk issuers and arrangers. By enabling local trading in Sukuk, which had previously been concentrated in international markets, the listing allows a wider investor base to benefit from this investment instrument.

AlShamlan explained that each Sukuk certificate has a nominal value of KD 1,000, while trading is in units of KD 1,000 and multiples thereof. Early redemption is possible in accordance with the terms of the issue. He added that profits will be distributed semi-annually from the official listing and trading commencement date.

He said the Sukuk offer investors several benefits, notably regular periodic returns and lower volatility than equities, making them a suitable option for investors seeking Sharia-compliant fixed-income instruments.

AlShamlan pointed out that KFH's strong creditworthiness enhances the appeal of the issue. The Bank is rated A2 by Moody's and A by Fitch, both with a stable outlook. These ratings reflect its financial strength and ability to meet its obligations, bolstering investor confidence in the new investment instrument.


Khaled Al-Shamlan standing alongside the Bank's executive management.



Kuwait Finance House Sukuk listing featured on the big screen at Boursa Kuwait.

Al-Fahad: Award reflects our commitment to excellence

# Warba Bank wins 'Best for Trade Finance' at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Warba Bank has received the "Best for Trade Finance" award at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2026, recognizing its performance in trade finance, specialized banking solutions, and continued efforts to enhance service quality and meet clients' evolving needs.

The recognition marks another milestone in Warba Bank's journey, underscoring its success in developing its banking services, strengthening its operational capabilities, and delivering advanced financial solutions that enable businesses and institutions to manage trade operations with efficiency and flexibility.

**International Recognition of Banking Excellence**

Winning "Best for Trade Finance" reinforces Warba Bank's growing standing in the banking sector, particularly in delivering specialized solutions that support commercial activities and address the needs of corporate clients.

The accolade highlights the bank's ongoing efforts to develop trade finance services, enhance transaction quality, and provide integrated solutions that facilitate commercial transactions, helping corporate clients improve operational efficiency, achieve their business objectives, and expand their activities.

**Al-Fahad: Operational Efficiency as the Foundation of Banking Excellence**

Commenting on the achievement, Layali Mustafa Al-Fahad, Chief Operations Officer at Warba Bank, stated:

"We are proud that Warba Bank has received the 'Best for Trade Finance' award at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2026. This recognition reflects the bank's continued efforts to develop its banking services and enhance operational efficiency, enabling us to deliver a distinguished banking experience that meets our clients' expectations."

Al-Fahad added: "Excellence in trade finance requires close coordination across the bank's departments, efficient execution, continuous process improvement, and the delivery of fast, flexible, and reliable banking solutions. Guided by this approach, we remain committed to strengthening our operating model and scaling our capabilities to align with client expectations and broader market developments."

Al-Fahad affirmed that this milestone is the result of teamwork and collaboration across different departments, acknowledging the trust and loyalty of Warba Bank's clients and the dedication of its employees to delivering banking services that meet high standards of quality, efficiency, and professionalism.




Warba Bank receives the 'Best for Trade Finance' award at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2026.

■ **Al-Fahad:** Excellence in trade finance requires close coordination across the bank's departments, efficient execution, and the delivery of fast, flexible, and reliable banking solutions.

■ **Al-Fahad:** We continue to strengthen our operational capabilities to meet the evolving requirements of corporate clients and market dynamics.



Layali Mustafa Al-Fahad, Chief Operations Officer at Warba Bank.

**Operational Capabilities Powering Trade Finance**

Warba Bank places high importance on developing its operational framework as a fundamental pillar for delivering integrated, high-quality banking services. The bank continues to improve procedures and service delivery mechanisms to enhance operational efficiency, accelerate transaction processing, and provide a smoother banking experience for corporate clients.

In trade finance, the integration of banking expertise and operational capabilities is vital to providing effective solutions that meet the requirements of corporations and support all phases of commercial transactions—an approach the bank actively reinforces through continuous development and service enhancement.

**Another Milestone in Warba Bank's Journey**

Warba Bank continues to build on its achievements and strengthen its position in the banking sector through a strategy focused on innovation, continuous development, and enhancing customer experience, alongside investment in human capital and the modernization of its operational and technological infrastructure.

The award reinforces the bank's commitment to delivering high-quality banking solutions and services, strengthening relationships with clients and partners, and pursuing a forward-looking strategy that places customer needs and expectations at the center of its priorities.

Al-Fahad concluded by emphasizing that client trust and employee dedication remain fundamental to the bank's achievements, adding that the award provides further motivation to pursue excellence and achieve new milestones in line with Warba Bank's brand promise, "Own the Future."

**About the Awards Organizers**

Established in 1957, MEED is a premier global publication specializing in business and economic analysis across the Middle East.

In partnership with Retail Banker International and Private Banker International, published by GlobalData Financial Services, the MENA Banking Excellence Awards celebrate institutions that deliver innovative financial services and outstanding customer experiences across the region.

**Evaluation Criteria: Performance and Innovation in Trade Finance**

Warba Bank's award recognizes its success in developing an integrated trade finance framework combining digital solutions with specialized financing services. The evaluation was based on a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators:

■ Expanding Digital Services for Corporate Clients: Enabling the issuance, tracking, and management of Letters of Credit (LCs) and Letters of Guarantee (LGs) through the corporate banking portal.

■ Specialized Financing Solutions: Offering tailored solutions, including post-import financing, deferred payment options, and discounting arrangements.

■ Complex Transaction Structuring: Structuring and executing complex trade finance deals—particularly across commodities, energy, and contracting sectors—in full compliance with Islamic Sharia principles and cross-border commercial requirements.

■ Market Position and Growth: Achieving a 9.4% market share in Kuwait's corporate financing sector as of June 2026, with corporate financing accounting for 82% of the bank's total financing portfolio of KD 4.3 billion, alongside a 29% increase in fees and commission income during the first half of 2026.

The judging panel commended Warba Bank's development of digital trade finance channels and its execution of specialized, Sharia-compliant financing transactions, as well as its solutions that alleviate working capital pressures and help corporate clients manage business activities effectively.

# Ministry of Oil & KGOC sign digital cooperation protocol

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The Ministry of Oil signed a joint cooperation protocol with Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) on Tuesday to establish electronic connectivity and facilitate the exchange of data and information between the two entities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The agreement aims to strengthen institutional operations, enhance digital integration, and improve the efficiency of financial and administrative procedures.

The protocol was signed by the Undersecretary of Ministry of Oil Sheikh Dr. Nimer Fahad Al-Malik Al-Sabah and the CEO of KGOC Bader Al-Munaifi.

Sheikh Dr. Nimer Al-Sabah explained that the agreement reflects the ministry's commitment to accelerating digital transformation and expanding technical cooperation with oil companies. It will also facilitate the electronic exchange of data and information through approved and secure channels.

The protocol will help reduce paper-based transactions, simplify procedures, speed up the processing of requests, and improve the accuracy of exchanged information.

The agreement also marks an important step towards developing the government work system and strengthening integration between the Ministry of Oil and oil companies through the adoption of digital solutions.

The ministry places great importance on developing its financial and administrative systems and modernizing information-sharing mechanisms with relevant entities. These efforts aim to accelerate and improve the accuracy of transactions while supporting decision-making based on reliable and up-to-date data.

He said cooperation with KGOC reflects a commitment to establishing a more integrated and efficient working system and expanding the use of modern technologies in managing joint operations.

Sheikh Dr. Nimer stressed the importance of continued coordination between the specialized teams to ensure the effective implementation of the protocol and achieve its objectives.

He affirmed that developing electronic connectivity between government entities and oil companies supports governance principles and helps establish a more efficient and flexible institutional work environment.

Sheikh Dr. Nimer explained that the areas of electronic connectivity between the two parties include the exchange of basic data concerning KGOC employees and related entities, as well as financial information related to disbursements, settlements, entitlements, and allowances. The exchange will also cover periodic reports and data required to complete financial transactions, along with any additional information agreed upon in accordance with approved regulations and delegated authorities.

'Results align with expectations'

# UPAC delivers stronger Q3 results as strategic investments progress

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a commercial real estate and facilities management company, today announced its financial results for the nine months ended 30 September 2026.

The Group recorded revenue of KD 1.57 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2026, representing a 55% decrease compared with KD 3.52 million during the corresponding period in 2025.

For the third-quarter 2026 results, the financial indicators showed improvement compared with the same period of the previous year. The Group's revenue increased by 160% to KD 587,000, compared with KWD 226,000 in the third quarter of 2025.



Eng. Hamad Malallah, Chief Executive Officer of UPAC

Commenting on these results, Eng. Hamad Malallah, Chief Executive Officer of UPAC, said:

"The results for the nine months ended September 30, 2026, were largely in line with our expectations, reflecting the completion of operating activities related to previous projects, while the Messilan Beach project progressed through its initial operational stages. We look forward with confidence to maintaining stable performance and continuing to achieve gradual and sustainable improvement throughout the remainder of the year and in the years ahead.

"Our operating assets and investments continue to perform in line with the established strategic plans, supported by progress across our key projects and continued improvement in their operating indicators. The Group also remains focused on managing its financial resources efficiently, supporting its ability to continue implementing its existing projects and evaluate promising investment opportunities, while always seeking to create added and sustainable value for our shareholders."

**Messilah Beach**

Malallah added: "We're pleased with the momentum at Messilah Beach. The summer season opened at our pool-side area in the third quarter, and since the start of the year we have hosted several high-impact events featuring a curated mix of dining and leading entertainment partners. Our teams continue to work closely with our confirmed operators to support on-ground operations and speed up upcoming tenant openings. We remain focused on delivering an exceptional, family-friendly beachfront destination and establishing Messilah Beach as a vibrant, year-round landmark in Kuwait."

With the winter season approaching, Messilah Beach will welcome Aloha, a seasonal, Hawaiian-inspired beachfront experience organized by Elevated Entertainment Company. Aloha will offer attractions for all ages, including family rides, thrill experiences, interactive activities and a dedicated children's area. Daily live performances on the main stage, roaming entertainers, shoreline cabanas, relaxation areas and around 20 food, beverage and retail outlets will complete the experience.

**Reem Mall, Abu Dhabi**

UPAC is a co-investor in Reem Mall, Abu Dhabi's $1.3 billion shopping, dining and entertainment destination on Reem Island. Reem Mall delivered strong Q3 performance, with occupancy reaching around 90% across trading and fit-out space, representing 167 thousand sqm of leased GLA and 301 leased units. with footfall and tenant sales both recording double-digit year-on-year growth. August was the mall's strongest month on record for both footfall and sales. Q3 also saw the opening of 11 new operators, with momentum expected to continue into Q4 2026 and Q1 2027, supported by upcoming openings and leasing activity.

The mall is one of the region's first fully integrated omnichannel retail ecosystems with digital, e-commerce, and logistics capabilities. It brings together all consumer and retail services to ensure a seamless customer experience.

Event honors Kuwaiti & US government institutions

# AmCham Kuwait celebrates 41 years of US-Kuwait business partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The American Business Council – AmCham Kuwait marked its 41st anniversary with a gala celebration at Waldorf Astoria Kuwait, bringing together senior government officials, diplomatic representatives, business leaders, and longstanding partners to recognize the organizations and individuals who have contributed to more than four decades of U.S.–Kuwait commercial engagement.

Held under the theme American Garden of Excellence, the event celebrated the partnerships that have supported the Chamber's growth since its establishment in 1985 and its continued role in connecting American and Kuwaiti businesses.

The evening featured remarks by Dr. Arezou Harraf, Chair of the AmCham Kuwait Board of Directors, and Mr. Steven R. Butler, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, followed by a series of recognitions honoring government institutions, corporate members, and partners whose contributions have supported the Chamber's work.

In her remarks, Dr. Harraf underscored the importance of sustained engagement between the private sector and government institutions, particularly as businesses navigate an evolving regulatory and investment environment. She highlighted AmCham Kuwait's work in translating member concerns into practical recommendations and facilitating dialogue with relevant decision-makers.

The Chamber's advocacy and member engagement efforts cover sectors central to U.S.–Kuwait commercial relations, including energy, healthcare, defense and security, technology, cybersecurity, and financial services. Through its Focus Groups and institutional partnerships, AmCham Kuwait provides a platform for companies to exchange industry perspectives, address shared concerns, and identify opportunities for investment and collaboration.




Award recipients gather on stage during AmCham Kuwait's 41st anniversary gala ceremony at Waldorf Astoria Kuwait.

The celebration also recognized the contributions of U.S. and Kuwaiti government institutions, including the U.S. Embassy of Kuwait, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), for their engagement in advancing bilateral economic dialogue and investment opportunities.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of Citi, EY, and EQUATE Petrochemical Company, each marking more than 20 years of corporate membership. Their longstanding participation reflects the continued importance of private-sector engagement in strengthening the U.S.–Kuwait business relationship.

AmCham Kuwait also recognized Kuwait Resources House (KRH), Kuwait & Gulf Link (KGL), Lockheed Martin, Saudi Arabian Chevron, and the American University of Kuwait as Chamber Champions for their contributions to its initiatives, advocacy, and member engagement activities.

For their support of professional development and capacity-building initiatives, the Chamber acknowledged the National Fund for SMEs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and DHL Express.

The evening also provided an opportunity to recognize regional cooperation, with AmCham Kuwait congratulating AmCham Qatar on assuming the chairmanship of AmCham MENA, the regional network of American Chambers of Commerce.

AmCham Kuwait extended its appreciation to the organizations whose support made the anniversary celebration possible: Diamond Sponsor and Co-host Kuwait & Gulf Link (KGL); Silver Sponsors Al Tamimi & Company and Toronto Trading Company; Event Sponsors Al Ansari Exchange and UTC; Travel and Tourism Partner IFA International Travel & Tourism; and Hotel Partner Waldorf Astoria Kuwait.

As it enters its 42nd year, AmCham Kuwait will continue working with its members and institutional partners to support U.S.–Kuwait commercial relations, facilitate private-sector engagement, and advance practical initiatives that contribute to a more competitive business environment.

The anniversary marked not only the Chamber's history, but also the relationships and shared efforts that will shape its work in the years ahead.

# Oman vision 2040 Q1 report highlights growth & economic reforms

MUSCAT, Nov 11, (KUNA): The Omani government issued late Tuesday the first-quarter report of its vision 2040 that reviewed the outcome of the first five years (2021-2025) of the Vision's implementation.

The report followed up on the outcome of the indicators and foresaw the opportunities and challenges that shape the features of the next phase.

On the economic side, the performance of real GDP shifted from a contraction of 3.4 per cent in 2020 to growth of 2.4 per cent in 2025, with an average annual growth of about 3.2 per cent during the period from 2021 to 2025, the report said.

It noted that economic activity has regained its growth path after the repercussions that accompanied the Covid-19 pandemic.

On economy, GDP at constant prices rose from RO 34.48 billion (USD 90 billion) in 2021 to RO 39.29 billion (USD 102 billion) in 2025, an increase of about 13.9 per cent, it stated.

Within the framework of enhancing the role of the private sector in economy, the report pointed out that the ratio of private investment to GDP rose from 15.7 per cent in 2020 to 16.8 per cent in 2025, with a total investments worth RO 7,073.4 billion (USD 20 billion) in 2025.

Illicit flows drain resources

# Libya's economic stability under threat, UN warns

TRIPOLI, Nov. 11, (Xinhua): The United Nations (UN) on Tuesday warned that weak economic governance, political interference, and illicit activities, including fuel smuggling and money laundering, continue to divert billions of U.S. dollars away from the interests of the Libyan people and undermine the country's economic and financial stability.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) held an expanded meeting of the Berlin Process Economic Working Group in Tripoli to discuss the country's pressing economic and financial challenges and ways to coordinate support for institution-led reforms.

Hanna Tetteh, the UN secretary-general's special representative for Libya and head of UNSMIL, said in her opening remarks that despite favorable energy prices in 2026, Libya continues to face mounting economic pressures, including rising public spending, depreciation of the Libyan dinar, and declining purchasing power, with ordinary citizens bearing the heaviest burden.

She stressed the close link between economic governance and Libya's broader political process, calling for concrete and coordinated measures to strengthen institutional accountability, safeguard public resources, and ensure that the country's national wealth benefits all Libyans.

The meeting was co-chaired by Egypt, the United States, the European Union and UNSMIL. It was also attended by representatives from Algeria, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Türkiye, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Britain, as well as representatives of the Arab League and the African Union.

# Kuwait joins Arab conference on mobilizing medical expertise abroad

CAIRO, Nov 11, (KUNA): The second Arab conference on the role of Arab health professionals working abroad in strengthening regional health systems opened Wednesday at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, with Kuwait taking part.

The two-day conference, held under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdelfattah Al-Sisi, explores ways to draw on the expertise of Arab health professionals abroad to improve services and strengthen medical institutions across the region.

Egyptian Minister of Health and Population Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, who chairs the 65th session of the Arab Health Ministers Council, took part in the opening session alongside Tunisian Health Minister Dr. Mustapha Ferjani, who chairs the General Assembly of the Arab Board of Health Specializations, and Dr. Adel Adawy, chair of the conference's higher committee.

Kuwait is represented by Assistant Undersecretary for Overseas Health Services at the Ministry of Health Dr. Hisham Kalender.

Sessions will examine how to put the Arab strategy for engaging health professionals abroad into practice and address workforce challenges, including planning, training and recruiting qualified staff.



KUNA photo

Launch of the second Arab conference on the role of migrant health professionals in supporting health systems.

Participants will also discuss aligning health education with labor market needs, improving governance and regional coordination, and strengthening international cooperation. They will examine how professionals abroad can support medical institutions, scientific research and workforce development.

Other sessions will cover competency-based postgraduate training for health professionals and the responsible use of artificial intelligence and digital platforms in medical education, training and patient care.

The conference will also examine how to align medical education standards with the needs of Arab countries and how health ministries, educational institutions and professional bodies can implement them.

# KRCS seeks to expand medical cooperation with Jordan's King Hussein Cancer Center

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Chairman Khaled Al-Mughamis affirmed on Tuesday the society's commitment to strengthening medical and humanitarian cooperation with Jordan's King Hussein Cancer Center and expanding support for patients unable to afford treatment.

Speaking to KUNA during a visit by a KRCS delegation to the center, attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Sami Al-Zamanan, Al-Mughamis said the visit aimed to review ongoing cooperation, learn about specialized medical services and explore ways to develop the humanitarian partnership.

He said the strategic partnership, established in 2016, had helped cover treatment costs for more than 106 Syrian refugees and 69 patients from the Gaza Strip, reflecting the direct humanitarian impact of Kuwaiti aid in saving lives and easing the financial and medical burdens on patients and their families.

Al-Mughamis stressed the society's commitment to supporting medical institutions serving vulnerable groups, particularly Palestinian and Syrian refugees with cancer, and ensuring that assistance reaches those most in need.



KUNA photo

Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Khaled Al-Maghamis, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center, Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal.

The delegation reviewed the center's treatment programs and services, the use of Kuwaiti donations allocated to cancer care, and opportunities to develop joint initiatives and ensure sustainable cooperation.

In turn, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center Princess Ghida Talal expressed appreciation for the partnership, praising the KRCS's humanitarian support and its contribution to saving the lives of cancer patients over the years.

She said the Kuwaiti assistance had helped provide treatment opportunities for Syrian and Palestinian refugees, ease the financial and medical burdens on patients and their families, and give them hope to continue their treatment journey.

# Kuwait to host 28th Women's Healthcare confab on Nov 12-14

**By Mohammad Ghanem**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Chairperson of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments Council and Head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Amal Khader disclosed that the 28th Annual Conference titled, "Shaping the Future of Women's Healthcare," will be held on Nov 12-14.

According to Dr. Khader, the medical conference is considered a scientific platform for showcasing advancements and therapeutic innovations in obstetrics, gynecology and their subspecialties.

The main goal of the conference is to guarantee the highest standard of healthcare for female patients. It includes 66 scientific lectures that will be conducted by a distinguished panel of 50 local and international experts, and five advanced medical and surgical workshops offering high-level practical and scientific training.



Dr. Amal Khader

The conference will focus on the latest surgical and therapeutic techniques in obstetrics and gynecology, honing the skills of medical professionals, and promoting collaboration and integrated medical practice.

# 30% rise in early detection could save 120 women annually, says CAN

**By Mohammad Ghanem**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign Dr. Khalid Al-Saleh affirmed that a 30 percent increase in early detection rate could save 120 women in Kuwait from breast cancer annually.

Speaking at the conclusion of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month under the theme, "Your Awareness is Your Pink Seatbelt," Al-Saleh announced that 31 events were held within 31 days, targeting different segments of society. He said this year's campaign covered a wide variety of activities like lectures, seminars, workshops, health exhibitions and sporting events.

He indicated that the activities included the 'Your Day is Pink' event at Youm Al-Bahhar Heritage Village, an exhibition organized by Kuwait Medical Association, and lectures at the Awqaf Secretariat General. He revealed these activities were carried out in cooperation with government agencies, civil society organizations and corporate partners supporting the campaign.




Dr. Hessa Majid Al-Shaheen

Meanwhile, Dr. Hessa Majid Al-Shaheen, head of the breast cancer awareness campaign and a board member at CAN, reaffirmed the commitment to continue raising awareness on the disease. "We will keep on spreading a message of hope and optimism," she added.

She pointed out that early detection can increase the recovery rate to more than 90 percent, eliminating the need for chemotherapy or radiation therapy. She stated that advances in modern treatment changed the outlook for patients, considering the disease and its treatment no longer carry the same intimidating implications as in the past.

She explained that awareness should go beyond disseminating information, as it must be reflected in actual practices and individual decisions. She asserted that taking care of one's health is an inherent right and a personal responsibility toward oneself and one's family.

She underscored the importance of family support and psychological well-being in speeding up recovery, adding that women who have successfully battled the disease have since become ambassadors for the campaign, recounting their personal experiences to inspire and encourage others.

## Chinese medical team conducts health outreach in Sierra Leone

# Congo's Ebola outbreak tops 11,000 cases as disease keeps spreading

BUNIA, Congo, Nov 11, (Agencies): Congo's Ebola outbreak has topped 11,000 cases, the government said Wednesday, a stark figure that underscores the severity of the situation as the country grapples with the relentless spread of the disease.

According to the latest health ministry data, 11,042 people have been infected with the deadly virus that has now killed 5,387 - nearly half of those infected in what has been Congo's deadliest outbreak.

The outbreak was declared in mid-May, and since then, Congolese authorities have struggled to contain it due to several factors, including armed conflicts, a health system crisis, poor roads and violence from residents fueled by mistrust and misinformation.

The Bundibugyo virus responsible for this outbreak has no known vaccine or treatment and has spread to eight of the country's 26 provinces.

The resurgence of violence in the two major hotspots in Ituri and North Kivu provinces has sparked worry among health authorities who are calling for a halt to the fighting to allow health workers unhindered access to the sick.

Health facilities and medical professionals have also been targeted by many in communities skeptical of the virus, and there have been several attacks on health workers.

Experts have called for more efforts to slow and contain the disease in Congo, while it has spread to multiple African countries including Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria.

Dozens of Ebola outbreaks have been reported since the disease was first discovered in 1976. The largest and deadliest occurred in West Africa in 2014 to 2016, with 28,000 infections and more than 11,000 deaths.

The current outbreak already ranks second and has had at least three times the number of cases and deaths in the time since it was declared, compared with the West Africa outbreak.



A healthcare worker walks by a young patient inside an Ebola treatment center in Beni, North Kivu Province, Congo on Nov 2. (AP)

Kenya on Wednesday discharged its last Ebola patient, officially beginning the 42-day countdown toward being declared Ebola-free, even as the number of cases recorded in the wider region topped 11,000 since the outbreak began in May.

The country recorded nine Ebola cases in October after the first patient traveled from Congo through Uganda, transmitting the virus to four family members and four healthcare workers.

The first patient and his mother died of Ebola, while the other seven patients have fully recovered. The government had identified 135 contacts who had interacted with the first patient.

Kenya now begins the 42-day countdown to being declared Ebola-free, provided no new infections are recorded during that period.

But while Kenya's cases have now been discharged, elsewhere in the region the number of infections continues to climb. In Congo, the epicenter of the outbreak, 11,042 people have been infected and 5,387 have died, the government said Wednesday.

The outbreak also spread to Uganda and Nigeria through individuals who traveled from Congo.

Kenya's Health Minister Aden Duale on Wednesday said the 42-day waiting period is twice the longest Ebola incubation period and would end on Dec. 23, but insisted that the country would continue with its prevention measures.

**Also:**

**FREETOWN:** An 11-member joint delegation of the 27th Chinese medical team to **Sierra Leone** and an expert team from the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided medical consultations and health screenings to about 250 residents of Sangbaia Community, northern Sierra Leone.

The three-day mission that ended over the weekend included infectious disease prevention lectures, first-responder emergency training and free medical outreach for Chinese and Sierra Leonean employees at Leone Rock Metal Group and residents of the surrounding communities.

On Friday, the Chinese medical team held sessions on ebola prevention and malaria control at Leone Rock, alongside practical first-aid training that included demonstrations of cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques for responding to cardiac emergencies.

# US FDA authorizes ZYN nicotine pouches to be marketed as modified risk tobacco products

DUBAI, Nov 11: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized 20 variants of ZYN nicotine pouch products to be marketed as Modified Risk Tobacco Products (MRTPs), allowing specific claims that their use instead of cigarettes is associated with a lower risk of certain smoking-related diseases.

Philip Morris International (PMI), which owns the ZYN brand, announced that the FDA had issued the modified-risk orders covering the 20 product variants.

According to the authorization, the company can communicate the following claim in the United States for the approved products: "Using ZYN instead of cigarettes puts you at a lower risk of mouth cancer, heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis."

The FDA's decision follows a review of applications and scientific evidence submitted by the company. The agency determined that the products met the requirements under Section 911 of the US Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for modified-risk tobacco products.

The authorization applies specifically to the approved products and the permitted modified-risk claim. It does not mean that nicotine pouches are risk-free or that the FDA has approved them as safe.




**Findings on cigarette consumption**

Data reviewed by the FDA included information on adults who smoke cigarettes and subsequently began using ZYN nicotine pouches.

According to the findings cited in the company's announcement, more than half of the surveyed users reported that they had not smoked cigarettes during the previous 30 days.

Among those who continued smoking after starting to use ZYN, 80.7% reported reducing their cigarette consumption, while 57.2% said they had cut their daily cigarette use by more than half. These findings formed part of the evidence considered in the FDA's assessment of the products' potential to reduce exposure to harmful substances associated with cigarette smoking.

**How nicotine pouches differ from cigarettes**

Unlike conventional cigarettes, which burn tobacco and produce smoke that users inhale, ZYN nicotine pouches deliver nicotine through absorption in the lining of the mouth.

The absence of tobacco combustion reduces exposure to many harmful and potentially harmful chemicals associated with cigarette smoke.

However, nicotine remains an addictive substance, and the FDA's modified-risk authorization should not be interpreted as an endorsement of nicotine use by non-smokers or as a declaration that the products are harmless.

The FDA's authorization permits the specified modified-risk claims for the 20 approved ZYN variants in the United States.

# Kuwait to host Dyslexia confab

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei met with a delegation from the Kuwait Dyslexia Association to discuss the preparations for the Second Dyslexia Conference, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This meeting is in line with the commitment of the Education Ministry to fully benefit from the latest scientific and technological developments to improve the educational sector and create an inclusive learning environment.

The delegation included Chairman of the association Dr. Ahmed Al-Shiha Director General Salem Al-Sharhan.

They talked about the preparations for the upcoming conference, which will be held under the patronage of the minister and in collaboration with the ministry, under the title, "Dyslexia and Artificial Intelligence: From Early Diagnosis to Self-Directed Learning — Challenges and Opportunities."

The main themes and objectives of the conference were presented at the meeting, focusing on the latest scientific and educational developments regarding dyslexia, role of modern technologies and artificial intelligence applications in improving early diagnostic methods, and providing innovative educational tools to support students with dyslexia and enhance their capacity for self-directed learning.

Kuwait's largest and only internationally accredited marathon returns on Nov 28

# Minister AlJalahma commends Gulf Bank Marathon as a model for public and private sector partnership

■ Faisal AlAdsani: The marathon advances our commitment to community sustainability while supporting sports and tourism in Kuwait

■ Ahmed AlHazami: The event attracts international runners and enables Kuwaiti athletes to qualify for major global marathons

■ Walid AlSaqabi: Its inclusion in the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season reflects its standing in Kuwait and beyond




A group photo of Dr. Tareq AlJalahma, representatives of Gulf Bank, Suffix, sponsors, and several participating entities.



The minister delivers his speech.



AlJalahma receives a commemorative shield from Faisal AlAdsani and Ahmed AlHazami.



The minister with Faisal Al-Gharabally, Faisal AlAdsani and Najla Al-Essa.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait's Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, Dr. Tareq AlJalahma, praised the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon as a successful model of sustained partnership between the public and private sectors, describing it as a leading community initiative that reaches people across society and promotes sport as a way of life.

The Minister was speaking at the press conference for the 12th edition of the marathon, scheduled for November 28, 2026. The conference brought together representatives of Gulf Bank, event organizer Suffix, and the marathon's sponsors, including Al Rawdatain, Intersport, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co., Snoonu, Al Mulla Exchange, and Jazeera Airways, the marathon's official airline partner. Gulf Bank and Suffix recognized the sponsors for their support.

**Promoting sport as a way of life**

Dr. AlJalahma said the marathon had been considered for inclusion in the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season from the initiative's earliest planning meetings, reflecting its sporting and social significance and its broad participation, which brings together world champions and people from across the community.

He emphasized that the marathon's value extends beyond competition and race distances. Its organizers have developed it into a comprehensive family event that encourages participation and strengthens the culture of sport and physical activity in Kuwait.

Expressing pride in the marathon's achievements over 12 years, the Minister said its continuity and development demonstrate the quality of its organization and the services offered to participants, helping establish it as one of Kuwait's leading sporting and community events.

He commended Gulf Bank and Suffix for their sustained efforts and commitment to improving the event each year, adding that initiatives of this kind demonstrate how cooperation across sectors can deliver lasting sporting and community programs that advance the objectives of the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season.

**Investing in community well being**

Faisal AlAdsani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, said the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon has become a landmark in Kuwait's sporting and community calendar and an annual occasion that embodies partnership and social responsibility.

"Our continued support for this event reflects our conviction that the role of national institutions extends beyond delivering products and services. It includes contributing to community development, supporting national priorities, and advancing community sustainability," he said.

"The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon puts this commitment into practice. It is a community platform that brings people together, encourages healthier lifestyles, and reinforces the importance of sport in everyday life."

AlAdsani noted that participation has grown from approximately 400 runners in the inaugural edition to more than 10,000 in the most recent event. Today, the marathon brings together athletes from Kuwait and abroad, alongside citizens and residents from all segments of society.

He added that its impact extends beyond health and sport to support the national economy and stimulate sectors associated with major sporting events, while strengthening Kuwait's presence on the regional and international sporting calendar.

"We are proud that the marathon demonstrates what effective partnership between the public and private sectors can achieve. Advancing national development is a shared responsibility. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of State for Youth and Sports Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, whose support has been instrumental to the event's continued success. We also recognize the valuable contributions of the Ministry of Health, Kuwait Municipality, and the other authorities and organizations that support the marathon each year."

AlAdsani concluded by thanking Dr. AlJalahma for his attendance and support, as well as Suffix, the sponsors, volunteers, media, and participants, whose contributions have helped establish the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon as Kuwait's largest and only internationally accredited marathon.

**International participation and environmental sustainability**

Ahmed AlHazami, Chief Executive Officer of Suffix, said the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is accredited by three international organizations, enabling runners from Kuwait and abroad to use their recorded times to qualify for major international marathons.

He noted that previous editions have attracted more than 12,000 participants from outside Kuwait, with cumulative participation exceeding 75,000 runners from approximately 80 countries. Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is the largest local sporting event held in the heart of Kuwait City, passing by several iconic landmarks. It is the only marathon in Kuwait to be recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) with a Road Race Label and is listed among the international races in the Association of International Marathons (AIMS). Additionally, participants in the Gulf Bank Marathon can earn points toward qualifying for the World Championship for age groups over 40 (AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Rankings).

AlHazami also highlighted the commitment of Suffix and Gulf Bank to environmental sustainability. More than 80% of the materials used at the event are reusable, all marathon t-shirts are made from recycled materials, and surplus medals are melted down for reuse.

**Strengthening Kuwait's sports tourism offering**

Walid AlSaqabi, Project Director of the Kuwait Youth and Sports Season, expressed pride in including the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon in the season's calendar, citing its achievements and strong standing within Kuwait and internationally.

He said the marathon attracts a growing number of athletes and visitors each year, extending its contribution beyond sport to help position Kuwait as a distinctive tourism destination in the Gulf.



Minister signs official marathon jersey.



AlJalahma welcomed ahead of press conference.



A section of officials and attendees at the event.

## Kazma, Burgan set up Handball Cup semifinal showdown



Kazma player is held back by an opponent.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kazma and Burgan secured their places in the semifinals of the 2025-2026 Kuwait Handball Federation Cup after recording victories over Yarmouk and Khaitan in the quarterfinals.

Kazma defeated Yarmouk 36-28, while Burgan overcame Khaitan 28-25 to arrange a semifinal meeting on Friday. The defeats ended Yarmouk's and Khaitan's campaigns.

The second semifinal will pit the winners of the Fahaheel-Sulaibikhat and Kuwait Club-Al-Arabi quarterfinals.

The championship final is scheduled for next Monday, with the two semifinal winners competing for the cup and gold medals. The losing sides will contest third place, with silver and bronze medals also up for grabs.

# Centurions De Silva, Mendis flay inexperienced Pakistan attack to boost Sri Lanka in first test

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Nov 11, (AP): Dhananjaya de Silva and Kusal Mendis smashed centuries against Pakistan's inexperienced bowling attack to take Sri Lanka to a formidable 404-4 at stumps on Day 3 of the first cricket test on Wednesday.

De Silva struck an unbeaten 167 with 20 fours to raise his 14th test hundred, while Mendis celebrated his elevation to the test captaincy with 117 not out, featuring 10 fours and four sixes.

The aggressive double-century stand between the former and current test captains pushed Sri Lanka within 30 runs of Pakistan's first-innings 434-9 declared.

"We need to get a good first-innings lead," No. 4 batter Kamindu Mendis said after his knock of 58. "Two set batsmen are at the crease and hopefully they'll play well tomorrow as well.

"We haven't yet decided when we will declare, but we have to score more runs in the first session tomorrow. I feel maybe tomorrow evening or on the last day it (the wicket) might get good for spinners and there's something in it for the fast bowlers too."

De Silva and Kusal Mendis toyed with Pakistan's bowlers, except for the accurate Mohammad Abbas (2-64), to combine in an unbroken stand of 249, Sri Lanka's highest for the fifth wicket against Pakistan.

Thilan Samaraweera and Tillakaratne Dilshan held the previous record of 207, which arrived in Lahore during the 2009 tour when the tourists came under a terrorist attack.

Pakistan's solitary success on another curtailed day caused by fading light came in the first session when Abbas found the edge of the bat of Kamindu Mendis.

Going into the test with two debutant bowlers, Arafat Minhas (0-92) and Saqib Khan (2-105), along with Razaullah (0-127), who has played in only one test, may have backfired for Pakistan.





Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis follows the ball after playing a shot during the third day of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.(AP) – See Page 11

# Sports

## Sheikh Al-Badr hails Sheikha Hind's election as Qatar Olympic Committee Vice-President

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait and Asian Aquatics Federation President Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah has congratulated Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al-Thani on her election as Vice-President of the Qatar Olympic Committee at its 2026 extraordinary general assembly.

Sheikh Al-Badr also congratulated committee President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani on the selection, describing it as recognition of Sheikha Hind's distinguished record of service, leadership and contributions across various fields.

He expressed confidence that Sheikha Hind would contribute significantly to Qatar's ongoing efforts to develop its sporting sector and enhance its regional and international standing.

Sheikh Al-Badr said her appointment would strengthen Qatar's presence in the Olympic movement and reinforce its position among leading sporting nations, both through athletic achievements and its successful hosting and organization of international, Asian and Arab sporting events.



Kuwait and Asian Aquatics Federation President Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah

## Yasmin strikes gold for Kuwait at Youth Olympics

### Al-Jalahma, Sheikh Al-Nasser hail feat

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11, (KUNA) : Minister of State for Youth and Sports Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma and Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser have congratulated Kuwaiti athlete Yasmin Waleed on winning the high jump gold medal at the 2026 Dakar Summer Youth Olympic Games.**

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Jalahma described the triumph as a source of pride for Kuwait, saying it reflected the ambition and determination of the country's athletes to raise the national flag at major international sporting events.

He praised Yasmin's impressive performance and fighting spirit, which earned her a place at the top of the podium.

The minister said the achievement highlighted the importance of investing in young sporting talents and providing them with the necessary environment to develop their abilities and reach their potential, paving the way for a new generation of champions capable of representing Kuwait with distinction.




Yasmin proudly displays her high jump gold medal.

He also praised the Kuwait Olympic Committee, sports federations and technical and administrative teams for their efforts in supporting athletes and preparing them for international competitions. He stressed that the state would continue backing national talents and helping them pursue their sporting ambitions.

Al-Jalahma extended his congratulations to Yasmin, her family and everyone involved in the achievement, wishing her further success and more medals for Kuwaiti sports.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Al-Nasser described Yasmin's triumph as a historic achievement and a source of immense pride, saying it demonstrated the potential of Kuwait's promising sporting talents to excel on the international stage.

He attributed the success to the Olympic Champion Programme, which aims to prepare and develop Kuwaiti athletes for major international competitions.

Sheikh Al-Nasser also commended Yasmin and her technical and administrative teams, as well as the Women's Sports Committee, for their efforts in supporting and developing female athletes.

He particularly acknowledged the role of Yasmin's family, saying their encouragement, confidence and belief in her abilities had played a significant part in her sporting journey and success.

He reaffirmed the Kuwait Olympic Committee's commitment to supporting Kuwaiti athletes and providing the necessary conditions for them to achieve further accomplishments.

## Fatat crowned women's volleyball champion

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: The 2025-2026 Premier Volleyball League reaches its climax today, with Kuwait Club and Qadsia meeting in the final at 7:00 pm at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Kazma and Sulaibikhat will first battle for third place at 4:30 pm.

Kuwait Club advanced to the final after overcoming Sulaibikhat in the semifinals, while Qadsia booked their place by defeating Kazma.

Meanwhile, Fatat Club claimed the 2025-2026 Women's Volleyball League title after sweeping Salwa Al-Sabah 3-0 in the final at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Fatat dominated the closely fought encounter, winning the sets 25-23, 25-22 and 25-23 to secure the championship without dropping a set.

Salwa Al-Sabah settled for second place and the silver medal, while Oyoun Girls finished third after defeating Police Club 3-0.



Fatat Club celebrates with the championship trophy.

### Men's final looms

## Sheikh Al-Yousef lends support to Kuwait ahead of Syria clash

**By Hassan Mosa**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait will wrap up its preparations on Thursday for Friday's international friendly against Syria at Al-Sadaqa and Al-Salam Stadium.

Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef attended a training session on Monday to follow the team's preparations and reaffirm the association's commitment to providing all necessary support and facilities for the current training program.

All 27 players selected by Portuguese coach Hélio Sousa took part in the session, with today's final workout expected to offer a clearer indication of the lineup for the Syria encounter after the technical staff assess the players' fitness and readiness.

Meanwhile, Fahad Al-Hajeri has apologized for his absence from the current national team camp due to personal circumstances.

Medical tests have confirmed that Mohammed Al-Huwaidi will miss tomorrow's match. Efforts will instead focus on preparing him for the



Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef attends Kuwait's training session.

### Al-Huwaidi out

friendly against Honduras on November 17.

Al-Huwaidi is suffering from an adductor muscle tear and requires treatment with a platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection, according to Kuwait FA Medical Committee Chairman Dr Abdulmajeed Al-Bannai.

Elsewhere, Kuwait's Olympic team (U-23) continues its training camp in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, where it is scheduled to face the Saudi Olympic team in two friendlies on November 13 and 17 as part of its preparations for upcoming commitments.

## Kuwait Club takes the inaugural Senior Boxing Championship title

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait Club emerged champion of the inaugural Senior Boxing Championship after topping the overall standings at the conclusion of the competition held at the Kuwait Boxing Federation Hall in Sabah Al-Salem.

Qurain finished second, while Sulaibikhat secured third place in the tournament.

Kuwait Boxing Federation Chairman Abdullah Al-Otaibi presented the awards to the winning teams in the presence of Kuwait Club board member Balsam Al-Ayoub.

Gold medals in the various weight categories were claimed by Badi Abdulmohsen, Adnan Mohammed, Rakan Khaled and Abdulaziz Abdullah of Kuwait Club; Jaber Mohammed, Hussein Arkan and Salem Ali of Qurain; and Youssef Jassem of Sulaibikhat.

Al-Otaibi said the federation was keen to organize domestic competitions in line with the highest technical and organizational standards, reflecting the sport's status and rich history.

He pointed to ongoing efforts to prepare boxing rings, strengthen the work of the federation's committees, particularly those overseeing competitions and refereeing, and provide all necessary facilities to ensure successful tournaments.



Al-Otaibi and Al-Ayoub crown the champions.

Congratulating the three podium finishers, Al-Otaibi praised the high level of competition, attributing it to the clubs' strong preparations and determination to contend for medals.

He reaffirmed the federation's commitment to staging more competitive local tournaments to raise standards, identify and develop emerging talent, and prepare boxers to represent Kuwait with distinction in future international competitions.

## Kuwait steps up World Handball Champ'ship preparations in Doha

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 11: Kuwait's senior national handball team will travel to Doha for a training camp from December 6 to 19 as part of its preparations for the 2027 World Handball Championship in Germany, which begins on January 13.

The 24-player squad will play two friendly matches against Qatar on December 17 and 19, providing an important test ahead of the global competition.

The camp is part of the Kuwait Handball Association's preparations, overseen by its training and national teams committee in coordination with the technical staff led by Icelandic coach Aron Kristjansson and his assistant, national coach Ali Murad. The program aims to improve the players' physical and technical



A file photo of players in action.

readiness before the tournament.

Kuwait launched its preparations on November 2 with daily training sessions before releasing the players to their clubs to take part in the remaining matches of the 2025-2026 league season and the ongoing Federation Cup.

The Blues are scheduled to resume domestic training after the Federation Cup ends on November 18, beginning the second phase of their preparations ahead of the Doha camp. Players from Kuwait Club and Burgan, however, will be absent due to their participation in the Gulf Handball Clubs Champions Cup in Bahrain.

After completing the Doha camp, the team will return to Kuwait for further local training before heading to Iceland for a second overseas camp around 12 days before the World Championship. The Iceland camp will be the final stage of preparations for the tournament.

Kuwait will make its 10th appearance at the World Championship after being drawn in Group D alongside France, Argentina and Brazil. The Blue Wave will begin their campaign against France on January 14 in a challenging opening encounter against one of the tournament's leading title contenders.

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