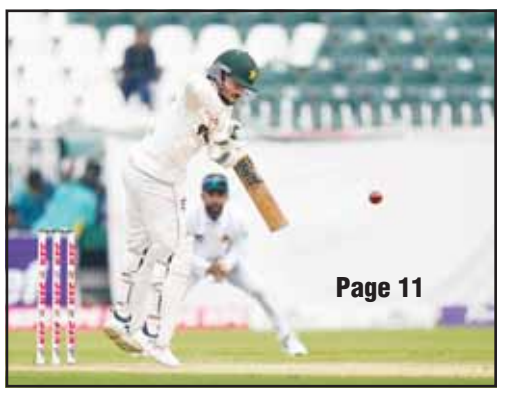


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Woman among three defendants handed death penalty over drugs

Snapchat messages expose drug trafficking network

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Criminal Court sentenced three defendants, including a woman, to death after finding them guilty of trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and laundering the proceeds of their criminal activities.

The court also ordered the release of a fourth defendant on KD 500 bail, subject to a two-year good-conduct pledge.

According to the charges brought by the Public Prosecution, the three defendants laundered KD 73,830 obtained from trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances through the possession, transfer and concealment of the funds' true nature and illegal source.

Investigations revealed that the defendants made repeated financial transfers to the second defendant through exchange companies, introducing the illicit proceeds into the financial system under descriptions that concealed their actual nature, despite knowing that the funds originated from criminal activity.

The defendants were also charged with possessing cocaine and the psychotropic substance "pregabalin" with the intent to traffic and use them.

The Public Prosecution also charged the fourth defendant with supplying pregabalin to the third defendant free of charge for her personal use.

In his testimony before the Public Prosecution, an officer from the General Department of Criminal Investigation said authorities had received information indicating that the first defendant possessed narcotics and psychotropic substances with the intent to traffic and use them.

The officer explained that he assigned a confidential informant to purchase three grams of cocaine from the first defendant for KD 360. The two parties subsequently agreed to complete the transaction in the parking lot of the Al-Zahraa Cooperative Society.

Detectives then proceeded to the designated location and monitored the transaction, subsequently arresting the first defendant and finding the agreed-upon amount of money in his possession.

The defendant admitted that the substance he had sold was cocaine and guided detectives to his residence. A search of the premises uncovered quantities of narcotics and psychotropic substances stored in various bags and containers, along with cash and equipment used for weighing and packaging the substances.

Continued on Page 5

Retirees loan leeway jumps to 40 percent

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Central Bank of Kuwait has increased the maximum monthly loan installment for retirees from 30 percent to 40 percent of their net pension, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision was announced in a circular sent to all local banks, investment companies and finance companies, following approval by the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Kuwait at its meeting on Nov 11, 2026.

The circular stated the following:

"Further to the instructions issued on Nov 11, 2018, and amended on May 28, 2023, and June 17, 2025, concerning the rules and regulations governing consumer and housing loans, personal financing and credit card issuance, the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Kuwait, at its meeting held on Nov 11, 2026, decided to amend these instructions by increasing the maximum

Continued on Page 5

Cooler days ahead as winds sweep Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department has forecast active winds and a gradual decline in temperatures in Kuwait this weekend, with conditions expected to range from moderate to warm during the day and turn relatively cool at night.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the acting Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali explained that weather maps and numerical models indicate that the country will be affected by an extension of a high-pressure system accompanied by a cold air mass. Northwesterly winds are expected to remain light to moderate, occasionally strengthening, particularly along coastal areas, causing higher sea waves.

Continued on Page 5



Clouds spread across the sky over Farwaniya Governorate, Kuwait, on Nov. 11, 2026. (Xinhua)

Kuwait top brass review joint readiness



Kuwait Army photo

Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan heads a supreme military committee meeting on Thursday.

Kuwait denounces missile, drone attacks on Saudi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan headed a supreme military committee meeting on Thursday to discuss coordination and cooperation between military and security agencies, and how to enhance readiness in carrying out joint tasks.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib, National Guard Undersecretary Lt. Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas, and Kuwait Fire Force Chief Maj. Gen. Talal Al-Roumi, said the General Staff of the Army in a statement.

It was also attended by a number of senior officers and leaders from the military and security sectors.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Air Force Commander Major General Pilot Fahad Al-Khurainej discussed aspects of joint military cooperation with Turkish Chief of General Staff General Selcuk Bayraktaroglu.

The General Staff of the Kuwait Army said in a press statement on Thursday that the discussions took place during an official visit by Al-Khurainej to Turkiye, accompanied by a military delegation, as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral military ties and develop defense cooperation.

The meeting addressed ways to enhance joint military cooperation, exchange expertise and strengthen bilateral military relations in a manner that serves the mutual interests of both friendly countries.

During the visit, Al-Khurainej also met with his Turkish counterpart, Air Force Commander General Rafet Dalkiran, and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two countries' air forces, exchange expertise and enhance capabilities, efficiency and operational readiness.

The statement added that the Kuwaiti delegation visited ASELSAN, a company specializing in defense industries and electronic systems, where they were briefed on the company's key defense technologies and systems.

In other news, Kuwait Ambassador to the Czech Republic Talal Al-Shatti met on Thursday with Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Jaromir Zuna to discuss bilateral relations and ways to expand cooperation, particularly in military and defense fields.

Continued on Page 5

Armistice ceremony highlights shared sacrifices

France reaffirms defense support for Kuwait

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin affirmed that Kuwait can rely on France as a trusted ally in critical moments, given the strong defense partnership between the two nations and the commitment of France to continue supporting Kuwait and strengthening their historic and exceptional ties.

In a speech at the celebration of the 108th anniversary of the Nov 11, 1918 Armistice that ended the First World War, Gauvin indicated that this year's commemoration coincided with the 35th anniversary of Operation 'Daguet'—the French military contribution to the liberation of Kuwait in 1991.

Gauvin presided over the ceremony, which was organized by the French Defense Mission under the supervision of French Defense Attaché and Head of the French Military Mission in Kuwait Colonel Jérôme Bugeaud, with the participation of the military delegation as part of the ongoing French-Kuwaiti cooperation.

Attendees included Brigadier General Dr. Tariq Abdullah Mohammad from Kuwait National Guard (KNG) who represented KNG Deputy Chief Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas, ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, representatives of Kuwaiti civil and military authorities, defense attachés, and members of the French expatriate community.







Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Some photos during the celebration of the 108th anniversary of the Nov 11, 1918 Armistice that ended the First World War.

Gauvin stated that the solidarity of his country with Kuwait is firm and long-standing. "Kuwait, like our other partners, knows that it can count on France—a balancing power and a trusted ally in critical moments. The reality in 1990 remains the same today," he asserted.

Continued on Page 4

Bogus MoI alerts target bank users

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Ministry of Interior has warned against forged documents circulating online that falsely carry the ministry's name and the title of the Minister of Interior, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that these documents contain claims about suspicious activity involving bank accounts and are intended to trick individuals into disclosing their banking details through WhatsApp.

Continued on Page 4

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir **Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** sent a cable of congratulations Thursday to Paraguayan President **Pedro Alliana** on taking the constitutional oath as president.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed sincere congratulations and best wishes to the President and for continued good health and happiness, and to the **Republic of Paraguay** and its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

Separately, His Highness the Deputy Amir and **Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah** sent a cable of congratulations Thursday to Paraguayan President **Pedro Alliana** on taking the constitutional oath as president. (KUNA)



Ministry of Health photo

Group photo during the 28th Annual Obstetrics and Gynecology Conference.

Health Ministry expands high-tech maternal care

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi recently announced the remarkable achievement of Farwaniya Hospital, where five robotic surgeries were performed to remove early-stage uterine tumors.

This accomplishment is a manifestation of the development of healthcare services and the expertise of medical personnel in utilizing advanced technology.

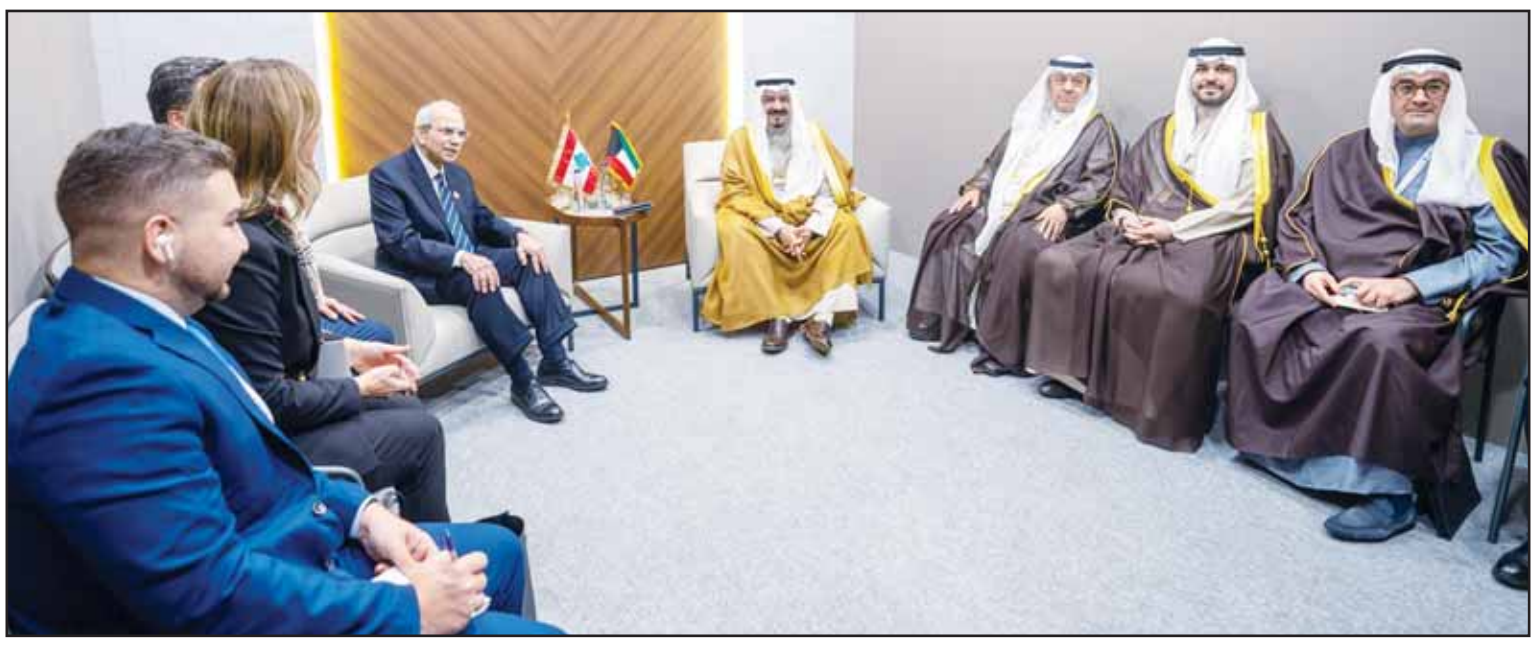
In his speech at the 28th Annual Obstetrics and Gynecology Conference, Al-Awadhi affirmed the partnership between the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital and the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Jahra Hospital, which conducted three remote robotic surgeries on patients diagnosed with uterine cancer. He said this exemplifies the integration of expertise in healthcare institutions and how modern technology is utilized to develop medical services.

He pointed out that adopting robotic systems and artificial intelligence applications is part of an ongoing effort to enhance healthcare, while ensuring that patient safety, medical expertise, and responsible clinical decision-making remain at the core of clinical practice.

Continued on Page 5

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:49	Asr	14:33
Sunrise	06:10	Maghrib	16:55
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:16





PM Diwan photos

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 meets with Lebanon's Prime Minister (left) and Pakistan's Prime Minister (right) on the sidelines of the COP31 summit in Antalya, Turkiye.

Amir Representative meets with Lebanon PM, Pakistan PM at COP31

ISTANBUL, Nov 12, (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 met Wednesday, Lebanon's Prime Minister Dr. Nawaf Salam on the sidelines of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) Leaders' Summit in Antalya, Turkiye.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations, ways to boost cooperation across various fields, and shared views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Tariq Al-Roumi, Acting Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, and Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafi.

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 also met with Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) Leaders' Summit in Antalya, Turkiye.

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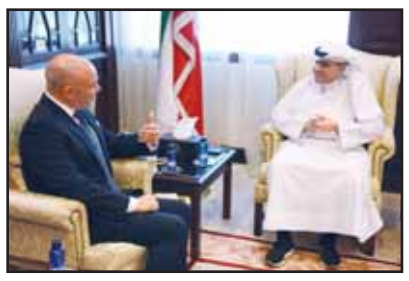
Kuwait and Malta eye deeper housing co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Meshari and visiting Maltese Minister for Housing and Lands Owen Bonnici discussed cooperation and exchange of expertise in the housing field.

The two sides held official talks on Wednesday, covering areas of cooperation in the housing field and the exchange of expertise and experiences in developing housing projects and their financing mechanisms, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) said in a press release.

The Maltese delegation toured the PAHW's sectors and departments, including the Citizen Service Department, where they were apprised of the services provided and its digital transformation, the authority explained.

They also visited the Design Department, which showcased the blueprints of the public and service buildings it has designed, in the presence of the PAHW's Acting Director-General Eng. Rashed Al-Enezi, and several of its officials, it added.



KUNA photo

Minister of State for Housing Affairs Eng. Abdullatif Al-Meshari with Malta's Minister for Housing and Lands, Dr. Owen Bonnici.

Ministry speeds up drive to put Kuwaitis in co-op posts

70 supervisory vacancies up for grabs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah has stressed the importance of empowering qualified Kuwaitis to take up leadership positions in cooperative societies, calling for an accelerated Kuwaitization process and greater opportunities for experienced and specialized national talent, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Huwailah said this while following up on the work of the committee tasked with nationalizing supervisory positions in cooperative societies.

The committee has begun conducting personal interviews with Kuwaiti candidates who successfully passed the qualifying tests and are competing for 70 vacant positions in 59 cooperative societies.



Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah

Dr. Al-Huwailah emphasized that the initiative reflects the directives of the political leadership and the state's commitment to strengthening the presence of national talent in various sectors.

She affirmed that the ministry is continuing to implement its Kuwaitization plan through well-defined phases and steady steps.

The minister stressed that the current phase requires intensified efforts and faster procedures to achieve the set targets and make the most of available employment opportunities for Kuwaiti youth.

She insisted that the Kuwaitization plan is not limited to supervisory positions but also includes support roles in technical, engineering and administrative fields.

Dr. Al-Huwailah noted that cooperative societies provide an important work environment for attracting Kuwaiti youth, highlighting the prominent place the cooperative sector holds in Kuwait's history and its role in serving the community and meeting citizens' needs under various circumstances, including times of crisis.

She noted the strong interest shown by young people and women in applying for positions in cooperative societies, stressing the importance of capitalizing on this interest to increase the participation of national talent and further develop the cooperative sector.

Dr. Al-Huwailah emphasized the need to adopt clear and unified criteria for selecting candidates for supervisory positions.

She indicated that recording personal interviews in audio and video formats is intended to strengthen integrity and transparency, ensure fair evaluation procedures and guarantee equal opportunities for all applicants.

Dr. Al-Huwailah praised the efforts of the working teams and participating entities in implementing the Kuwaitization plan, stressing the importance of continued coordination between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and other relevant authorities to expedite procedures and achieve the desired objectives.

It is worth highlighting that personal interviews for candidates seeking supervisory positions in cooperative societies are scheduled to continue until November 17.

Other Voices

Abu Zirafa's predictions and the Red Cross

By Ahmad alsarraf

WE may be on the verge of a global war following the latest threats issued by US President Donald Trump. Perhaps this is a good time to recall the warnings made by certain individuals, including our brother Abu Zirafa, who appears to have developed a taste for spreading panic through his absurd interviews. He predicted a world war in October 2024, then shifted his forecast to 2026, and eventually to 2027.



Ahmad alsarraf

I am neither naive nor convinced that war will never happen. However, I find it absurd that someone would repeatedly predict the outbreak of a Third World War without taking any meaningful precautions.

Abu Zirafa seems preoccupied with predicting the outbreak of a world war. Yet, after spreading fear and terror among his gullible listeners, he simply goes home and sleeps peacefully.

Logically, no one in their right mind would warn their neighbours that their house is about to explode and then calmly remain indoors without taking precautions. He is either lying or delusional.

If World War III were to break out, which I consider highly unlikely, one organization would assume extraordinary importance - the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), widely regarded as one of the most respected and discreet international organizations.

The ICRC is an independent and neutral humanitarian organization that operates in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. Its president has access to all conflict zones and can meet with parties involved.

Mirjana Spoljarić is the current president of the ICRC. Like her predecessors, she generally avoids interviews and public statements, reflecting the organization's commitment to neutrality and discretion. However, she recently spoke with a New York Times correspondent amid a surge in violations of the laws of war and growing concerns over the possibility of a global conflict.

The world has become increasingly dangerous and unstable. There are now 130 armed conflicts worldwide, twice as many as 15 years ago and the highest number recorded since World War II.

Spoljarić says, "The main cause of wars is the desire of some people to remain in power, making violence the only means of removing them from office."

As for the possibility of a Third World War, I honestly don't know. Even the International Committee of the Red Cross did not realize it was in the midst of World War II while the conflict was unfolding.

I have visited Gaza several times during military operations. My organization helped facilitate the release of hostages and the return of Palestinian detainees. I have also visited Ukraine and Myanmar, and most recently, Iran and Iraq.

I have never travelled to a conflict zone without hearing people say that they want the fighting to stop. I see children who have lost their mothers and fathers, children with amputated limbs. When you witness such suffering, the world seems to lose all meaning.

Yet, when we approach those in positions of power, they tell us there is nothing they can do.

At this point, I am at a loss for words. I simply cannot connect what I see with what I hear.

Millions of Palestinians in Gaza are now forced to live in an area covering no more than 30 percent of the Strip's total land area, while more than 80 percent of its buildings have been destroyed or damaged. The situation in Gaza is hell. I have spoken to people who have been stripped of their basic human dignity.

Were the rules of war respected in Gaza?

What I said about Gaza remains true and relevant today. What has happened to Palestinians and Israelis alike goes beyond every legal, moral and humanitarian standard. Many parties bear responsibility for what happened and what continues to happen.

Even more alarming is the extent to which people's dignity has been stripped away. A perception has taken hold that providing people with enough food is sufficient, as though mere survival among the rubble should be considered acceptable. Others, however, see the situation differently.

This is a double standard, and it will eventually backfire. We cannot assume that certain conditions are acceptable for one group of people but not for another.

This is evident in the way humanitarian needs are assessed in Europe compared with those in South Sudan and Somalia. Time and again, we instinctively apply double standards.

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Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Affairs and acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, and Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari during the meeting.

Iconic Kuwait Towers eye UNESCO heritage status

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Affairs and acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, and Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari met on Thursday to finalize the nomination dossier for the Kuwait Towers, aiming for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Education revealed that this meeting coincided with the visit of an international advisory mission to Kuwait on Nov 9-12. This visit is part of national initiatives to reinforce the nomination process and maintain the historical and cultural importance of Kuwait Towers, which are recognized as one of the most significant landmarks representing the urban development and cultural heritage of the country.

During the meeting, the abovementioned ministers deliberated on the essential technical and procedural elements of the nomination dossier, international standards and requirements, and strategies to solidify collaboration between national authorities and the international advisory mission.

These initiatives focused on completing the nomination dossier and emphasizing the historical, architectural and civilizational significance of the towers.



KUNA photos

Part of the meeting.

The ministers stressed the need to align perspectives and guarantee integration among the relevant government bodies to ensure that the nomination meets the international criteria, maintains the outstanding universal value of the towers, and balances the need to protect national heritage with urban development and progress.

They also called for continuous coordination among the concerned authorities, as well as the completion of studies and technical documentation.

These collective efforts support the nomination dossier and prove the dedication of Kuwait to preserve its historical and architectural landmarks, as well as its cultural heritage, for future generations.

Al-Hadid praises Kuwait's leading role

Kuwait, Jordan Red Crescent chiefs coordinate Gaza aid

AMMAN, Nov 12, (KUNA): Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Khaled Al-Maqamis, stressed on Thursday the Society's keenness to strengthen humanitarian and relief cooperation and coordination with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society to support Palestinians in Gaza and facilitate the delivery of aid to those in need.

Speaking to KUNA during a visit by a KRCS delegation to the Jordanian society's headquarters, Al- Maqamis said Kuwait's support for the Palestinian people stem from its humanitarian principles and longstanding position on the Palestinian cause, under the guidance of the country's political leadership.

He said KRCS continued its relief efforts in cooperation with humanitarian partners to ensure aid reached beneficiaries through approved mechanisms, helping alleviate the suffering of Palestinians amid the difficult humanitarian conditions in Gaza.

Al-Maqamis praised Jordan's important role and its National Red Crescent Society in supporting humanitarian efforts for Gaza, stressing the need to strengthen coordination and integration between the two organizations, as it would facilitate the transportation and distribution of aid and help develop joint humanitarian programs.

He added that the Faza'a for Gaza campaign reflected Kuwait's official and national solidarity with the Palestinian people, highlighting the deeply rooted humanitarian values of Kuwaiti society and its commitment to supporting communities affected by crises and disasters.

For his part, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society Dr. Mohammad Al-Hadid expressed his deep appreciation to Kuwait, its government and people, for their noble humanitarian positions and continued support for the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Red Crescent Society Chairman Khaled Al- Maqamis and his Jordanian counterpart, Dr. Mohammad Al-Hadid, during the meeting.

Al-Hadid praised Kuwait's leading role in humanitarian and relief work and its support for people affected by crises and disasters, emphasizing the importance of the partnership between the two societies in addressing urgent humanitarian needs.

The two sides discussed ways to develop joint cooperation and exchange expertise in relief, medical services and emergency response, as well as strengthen coordination mechanisms for delivering humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

The Kuwaiti delegation included Advisor to the KRCS Chairman Dr. Mohammad Al-Mutairi and Financial Affairs Director Abdulrahman Al-Saleh.

Farwaniya Gov backs initiative to green key road intersection

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah had a meeting with Deputy Executive Vice President of Combined Group Contracting Company (CGC) Eng. Bassam Dahbar, Public Relations Manager Dawood Faisal Al-Busairi and Project Manager Eng. Mahmoud Hajjaj at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

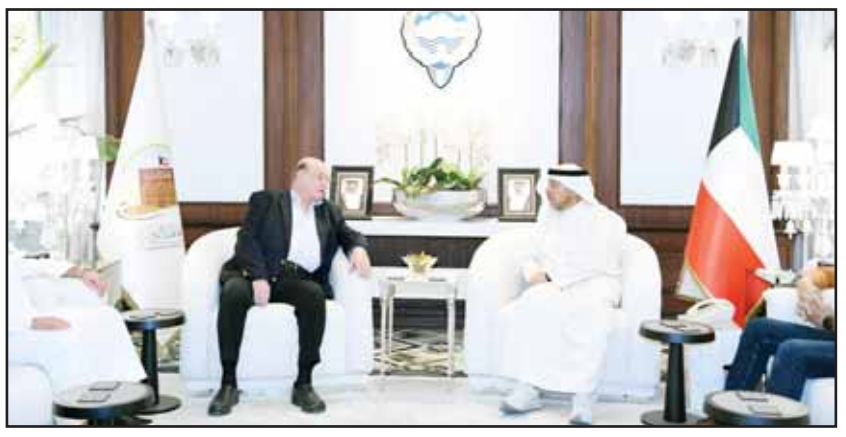
During the meeting, the governor was briefed on the initiative of the company to develop the intersection between the Fifth Ring Road and Airport Road (55) through landscaping, planting and beautification efforts, in collaboration with the Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee.

The representatives of the company confirmed that they obtained all the necessary approvals and will start implementing the project soon.

The governor praised the initiative and expressed gratitude to the company for its contribution.

He confirmed the commitment of the governorate to support and oversee environmental projects, in partnership with the relevant authorities, in order to expand green spaces and improve the urban environment. He also acknowledged the role of the committee in this project.

In response, the company representatives expressed their appreciation for the support and interest of the governor, while reaffirming their commitment to guarantee the success of the project as part of the corporate social responsibility of the company.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets officials.

KFF issues warnings to 151 establishments in Jahra





KUNA photos

Left: Fire Force official issues warnings to non-compliant buildings. Right: Kuwait Fire Force launches inspection campaign in Al-Jahra to detect safety violations.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign in Al-Jahra Governorate to identify buildings and establishments violating fire safety and prevention requirements.

In a press statement on Thursday, the KFF said the campaign resulted in the issuance of notices and warnings to 151 establishments for failing to meet its safety requirements.

No decision yet on camping season: Kuwait Municipality

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Kuwait Municipality has yet to decide whether to cancel or push through with the camping season this year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the Municipality confirmed that it continues to monitor and assess the situation, in collaboration with other concerned authorities, to ensure that the safety and security measures are prioritized.

It clarified that there has been no official communication regarding the commencement of the camping season or the permit application process. It warned that setting up camps or preparing camping areas now is against the regulations and bylaws.

Spoiled baby formula & expired chocolate seized at horse stable

PAFN issues 29 citations and destroys 46.46 kg of unsafe food

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, raided a horse stable in Farwaniya that was being used to store and handle food products without a health licence, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The inspection campaign, carried out by PAFN's Farwaniya Inspection Department, resulted in the seizure and destruction of 2,940 cans of spoiled infant formula and 3,842 kilograms of expired chocolate.

The team issued violation reports against those responsible and are completing the necessary legal procedures ahead of referring the case to the Public Prosecution.

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Hawally campaign uncovers hygiene breaches: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, has issued 29 violation reports and destroyed 46.46 kilograms of food unfit for human consumption during an inspection campaign in Hawally, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen food safety monitoring and ensure that food establishments comply with health and hygiene regulations.

According to PAFN, the violations included employing workers without valid health certificates, operating food establishments without health licences, failing to meet general hygiene and health requirements, and handling expired food products.

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Citizen jailed for year over threats: The Misdemeanor Court imposed a one-year prison sentence with hard labor on a citizen, effective immediately, as he was found guilty of assaulting a young woman, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Case files indicate that the accused recorded the victim without her consent, as he planned to harass, threaten and disturb her. He pressured her into engaging in immoral activities and an illicit relationship, even threatening to throw acid on her face to force her to maintain their relationship.

Delivery worker dies in hit-and-run

Kuwaiti detained after fatal pedestrian accident

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: An unidentified pedestrian was killed after being struck by a vehicle on the Fahaheel Expressway near Mangaf Bridge, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the authorities have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances of the incident and establish the victim's identity.

The Ministry of Interior's Operations Room had received a report through its hotline No. 112 regarding a pedestrian being hit on Mangaf Bridge. A security patrol was immediately dispatched to the scene, where officers found the individual dead.

The vehicle was driven by a Kuwaiti citizen born in 1997, who struck the pedestrian while they were crossing the road, resulting in their death at the scene.

The driver told authorities that the pedestrian suddenly appeared in front of his vehicle. He said he attempted to stop and avoid the collision but was unable to do so. The driver was taken into custody as authorities continue the necessary legal procedures and investigate the circumstances surrounding the fatal accident.

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Wall collapse claims worker's life: An Egyptian worker born in 1979 died after a wall collapsed on him while he was carrying out renovation work inside a house in Salwa, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the worker was using a demolition hammer (Hilti) to remove an interior wall when it suddenly collapsed on him.

He received First Aid at the scene before being rushed to Mubarak Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

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Police hunt driver: Criminal investigators are searching for an unidentified driver accused of running over a delivery worker and fleeing the scene near the Military Hospital roundabout without stopping to provide assistance or reporting the incident, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received a report about a person lying near the roundabout. Security personnel dispatched to the scene found the victim, born in 1992, who worked as a motorcycle delivery driver for a consumer goods delivery company.

The victim was found lying in the middle of the roundabout, while his motorcycle was found some distance away.

A case was registered as "death resulting from a hit-and-run accident," and criminal investigators were assigned to identify and apprehend the driver responsible.

The victim's personal belongings were also taken into police custody. They included two mobile phones, a wallet containing KD 214, his original Civil ID and an earpiece.

Customs spoils 'sweet' deal for drug smugglers

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: The Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) continued its efforts to thwart attempts to smuggle narcotics into the country.

Inspectors from the Air Cargo Customs Department intercepted a shipment from the Netherlands at Kuwait International Airport, which was declared as containing sweets and chocolates.

Upon searching the shipment, the inspectors found four pieces of a substance suspected to be hashish weighing about 126 grams and 11 grams of white powder suspected to be cocaine. These substances were hidden inside chocolate and biscuit containers.



MoI photo

The seized narcotics.

The suspect was apprehended through the concerted efforts of the Customs Investigation and Research Office and the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

To HH the PM ... our children's future cannot wait

"I ADDRESS this article to His Highness the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Higher Education, and all those entrusted with education, upbringing and human development, including university presidents, heads of educational institutions and every parent concerned about their children's future," columnist **Bassam Fahad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Al-Ghanim

"I write today with a sincere message and an invitation to reconsider the greatest responsibility we bear towards future generations in shaping the individuals who will, in turn, build Kuwait's future.

I have spent years studying educational systems and their various models, analyzing the reasons behind their successes and failures.

Throughout this journey, one fundamental question has consistently occupied my mind - Why do our children spend nearly a quarter of their lives in classrooms, only for us to discover that many graduate without acquiring the essential skills they need for life, work and creative achievement? Does the problem lie with our children, or with the very system we have designed to shape their future? These questions gave rise to a comprehensive intellectual and educational project presented in three interconnected books.

Together, these works examine the current state of education and the challenges it faces, while introducing new tools for measuring educational outcomes.

The first book "Education: Shaping the Future" explores the realities and crises of our education system, tracing their historical and intellectual roots. It examines curricula, examinations, the duration of schooling and teacher training, while drawing on international experiences, particularly that of Finland.

Ultimately, the book presents a vision for restructuring the educational system by shifting its primary objective away from simply passing examinations and obtaining academic qualifications toward the holistic development of the mind, character and individual potential.

The second book "Al-Ghanim's Model for Flexible Education and the Redesign of the Educational System," moves beyond diagnosing existing problems to presenting a practical alternative framework.

It reconsiders the duration and structure of schooling, proposing a flexible foundational education period lasting between eight and ten years, depending on how long each student needs to achieve mastery. It is followed by a range of academic, technical and vocational pathways.

This approach gives students the opportunity to discover their abilities, progress according to their individual aptitudes, move between different educational tracks, and pursue lifelong learning, rather than forcing all children into a single rigid system, regardless of their individual talents, capabilities and needs.

The third component, "Al-Ghanim's Balanced Education Index," addresses a fundamental question - How can we determine whether our children are truly learning? Recognizing that examination grades alone are insufficient to measure educational quality, the index proposes evaluating five equally important dimensions - deep understanding, critical thinking and problem-solving, practical application, personal and social skills, and motivation, including a genuine love of learning.

Under this framework, the success of an educational system is measured by what students understand and can apply in their daily lives, rather than simply what they can memorize and reproduce in examinations.

Together, these three books form an integrated educational project that moves from diagnosing the challenges facing education to redesigning the system and establishing a framework for measuring its outcomes. Ultimately, the project aims to lay the foundations for a practical, scalable national educational model.

To those responsible for education, I would like to say that we do not need to introduce a new subject every time a problem arises, extend the school day, or increase the volume of homework and examinations. Instead, we must ask a more fundamental and challenging question - Is the educational system we have inherited still suited to the world we live in today, let alone the world our children will inhabit tomorrow? Artificial intelligence has transformed fields ranging from knowledge and management to medicine, engineering and industry. It can now perform in moments cognitive tasks that once required hours, days or, in some cases, months of human effort.

How, then, can we continue building schools and universities around rote memorization and passive instruction when understanding, analysis, creativity, practical application and the ability to learn continuously are becoming increasingly essential? I also address parents by stressing that the real issue is not how many years your children spend in school or how many diplomas they hang on their walls.

Rather, the real question is what kind of individuals emerge from these institutions. Can they think independently, make informed decisions, solve problems, work collaboratively with others, and face life's challenges with confidence and competence? Reducing wasted time does not mean compromising the substance of education. Flexibility does not mean a lack of discipline, and providing diverse educational pathways does not mean discriminating among students.

On the contrary, it means respecting differences in individual abilities, providing every student with an educational path that matches their potential and aspirations, and ensuring that the formative years of their lives are invested in ways that benefit both them and their nation.

Your Highness, Honorable Ministers, and leaders in education, the greatest risk we can take with our children's future is to continue educating them in the same traditional way while expecting different results.

Nations do not advance simply by building more schools and universities, but by developing the quality of the minds they nurture and their ability to transform knowledge into progress, productivity and innovation."

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



US Embassy highlights space innovation, commercial industry in Kuwait

Event explores future of space exploration, technology

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The US Embassy in Kuwait organized Wednesday an event highlighting American innovation, space exploration and the development of the commercial space industry, in cooperation with the American Business Council Kuwait (ABCK) and the Advance Space Civilization Initiative (ASCI).



Arezoo Harraf, President of the American Business Council in Kuwait



ASCI Co-founder Ghanim Al-Otaibi



US Embassy Cultural Attaché Inga Litvinsky



A view of the event attendees.



KUNA photos

A glimpse of the attendees at the US Embassy event on innovation and space exploration.

The embassy said in a press statement that the event aimed to showcase US expertise and innovation, connect specialists, students, entrepreneurs and space enthusiasts in both countries and encourage cooperation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and the commercial space sector.

US Embassy Cultural Attaché Inga Litvinsky opened the event, which featured presentations on developments in the space industry, commercial partnerships, the role of art and innovation in advancing space technologies and Kuwaiti contributions to the sector.

ORBITBeyond President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Kimberly Robinson said in a virtual presentation that NASA is undergoing a shift in the way it conducts missions, moving from owning and operating space systems toward purchasing services from private companies and supporting growth of the commercial space economy.

Robinson, who spent more than 30 years at NASA and previously served as Artemis I Payload Mission Manager, said the shift helped develop commercial cargo and crew transportation services to the International Space Station and encouraged competition and private investment.

She said the Artemis campaign aims to develop capabilities for a sustainable human presence on the Moon in preparation for future missions to Mars.

NASA is working with SpaceX and Blue Origin on lunar landing systems and drawing on private-sector capabilities to transport payloads and scientific equipment, she added.

Robinson said commercial partnerships also include development of space stations in low Earth orbit for medical and scientific research, as well as lunar transportation services.

She noted that the global space economy reached around USD 613 billion in 2024, with commercial activities accounting for 78 percent, creating opportunities in artificial intelligence, materials science, biotechnology and other fields.

Robinson stressed that the expanding role of private companies must be accompanied by strong safety standards and competition, while NASA continues to focus on fundamental research, advanced technology development and international cooperation.

For his part, ASCI Cofounder Ghanim Al-Otaibi stressed the importance of integrating art, science, engineering and entrepreneurship in developing the space industry and transforming ideas and future concepts into practical innovations and projects.

Al-Otaibi said the history of scientific development demonstrates the link between creative imagination and scientific discovery, citing contributions by Nicolaus Copernicus, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton to understanding planetary motion and the transition from geocentric to heliocentric models.

He said an integrated innovation ecosystem begins with scientific research to understand natural phenomena and art to envision future concepts, followed by engineering to develop practical applications and entrepreneurship to turn them into commercial products and services.

Al-Otaibi highlighted space-based solar power projects as an example of how artistic concepts can help envision future technologies and inspire engineering research toward practical solutions.

Meanwhile, Human Space Program Co-founder and President Prof. Frank White stressed in a recorded presentation the importance of applying the "Overview Effect" concept to strengthen international cooperation and help build a sustainable space economy based on an understanding of humanity's interconnectedness and shared responsibility toward Earth.

White, who is also Professor and Dean of the Department of Human Space Factors at Kepler Space University, said the Overview Effect describes the shift in astronauts' perception when viewing Earth from space, revealing the fragility of the natural environment, the interconnectedness of humanity and the absence of visible political borders.

He said views of Earth during Apollo 8 in 1968 and Artemis II reinforce the importance of moving beyond thinking centered on differences and conflicts toward a broader perspective based on cooperation, environmental protection and shared responsibility.

White added that the space industry can provide a model for cooperation among scientific institutions, companies and communities, stressing the need to balance commercial competition with human and environmental interests to build a sustainable economic ecosystem.

He also revealed plans with Al-Otaibi to translate his book "The Overview Effect" into Arabic to make its ideas accessible to Arabic-speaking readers and those interested in space exploration.

The event also featured presentations on analog space missions, lunar habitat design, Kuwait's Analog Missions and Arts Initiative and other Kuwaiti contributions, highlighting opportunities for scientific and technological cooperation in space exploration.



PUC approves KU and AASU draft budgets for 2027/2028

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Public Universities Council (PUC) approved the draft budgets for Kuwait University (KU) and Abdullah Al-Salem University (AASU) for the 2027/2028 fiscal year in its third meeting of 2026, chaired by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, and attended by its members.

In a statement to KUNA on Wednesday, Acting Secretary-General of the Council Dr. Jassim Al-Ali, stated that the Council approved the establishment of safety and security regulations for KU.

The Council also reviewed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between AASU and the Environment Public Authority, focusing on cooperation in the fields of environment, sustainability, scientific research, and institutional development.

He noted that the Council reaffirmed its role in defining the general direction for public university education and overseeing its academic and organizational affairs, highlighting the Council's commitment to fostering coordination and integration among public university institutions, aiming to enhance their performance, the quality of their educational outcomes, and the achievement of their institutional goals.

KFAS reaffirms scientific cooperation with Oman

MUSCAT, Nov 12, (KUNA): The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) reaffirmed late Wednesday its commitment to working with Omani scientific and educational institutions, highlighting its participation in the recently concluded Oman Science Festival 2026 in Muscat.

In a statement to KUNA, KFAS stated that its participation, alongside affiliated centres, aimed to showcase its support for science, technology, and youth innovation.

This reflects close ties between Kuwait and Oman, as well as KFAS's mission to make science accessible and nurture talent, it added.

KFAS noted that its participation in the festival coincides with the celebration of its 50th anniversary, highlighting its status as one of the leading institutions supporting science, technology and innovation in the Arab world.

The KFAS pavilion included Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness, sections from its key centres, offering interactive workshops, lectures, and science activities for all ages.

The festival introduced 'citizen science' and Creativity and and highlighted community involvement in research.

Continued from Page 1

Bogus Mol

It confirmed that the Cybercrime General Department is investigating the incident and will take the necessary legal action.

The ministry urged the public not to respond to such messages or share any banking information or verification codes.

France reaffirms

He pointed out that since the early days of the regional conflict which started on Feb 28, 2026, France has been providing military support to Kuwait.

He considers this a testament to the strength of the defense partnership, which is anchored on the defense agreement signed in 1992.

He added that such a French political and military support was reaffirmed by the visit of President Emmanuel Macron to Kuwait on Oct 19 at the invitation of HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He recalled the participation of more than 18,000 French troops in Operation 'Daguet', along with the Kuwaiti and international coalition forces, to liberate Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion. He paid tribute to the sacrifices made by French service members during the liberation, honoring the 16 soldiers who lost their lives in the operation in 1990 and 1991.

He also reflected on the immense sacrifices made during the First World War and the significance of the 'unknown soldier' in the French national consciousness, emphasizing that this commemoration has a universal dimension, as it honors all service members who perished for the sake of France, including those who fell while serving the cause of peace in overseas operations.

He honored the French service members who lost their lives in 2026 -- Major Arnaud Frion, Warrant Officer Florian Montorio, Sergeant Anicet Girardin, Chief Warrant Officer Thibaud Breteau and Corporal First Class Florian Gillet. He asserted that their names now join those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and values of France. He emphasized that the nation honors their memory and bows in respect, underscoring the importance of passing this legacy to younger generations.

The ceremony included the presentation of official decorations to civilian and military personnel.

Gauvin awarded the rank of Knight of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur) to French liaison officer and bilateral relations coordinator for KNG Gendarmerie Lieutenant Colonel Alexandre Pascal in recognition of his professional career and military commitment.

In his concluding remarks, he stressed that peace is never a final guaranteed achievement, as maintaining it requires continuous preservation of national and international memory, as well as solidarity with the families of the fallen service member and the military veterans.

He highlighted the symbolism of the 'French Cornflower' (Le Bleuet de France) as an expression of solidarity with the veterans, victims of war, widows and orphans, reaffirming the significance of such commemorative gestures.

Deeper Arab cooperation on justice sought

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to judicial independence

ALGIERS, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait reaffirmed on Wednesday, its continued commitment to strengthening the independence of the judiciary, upholding the rule of law and promoting the principles of justice.

This was stated in a speech delivered by Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria, Nawaf Boushaiba, who headed the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the 42nd session of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers, hosted by the Algerian capital.

Ambassador Boushaiba said that Kuwait attaches great importance to developing national human resources and competencies, modernizing its legislative framework, and strengthening the system of rights and freedoms, in a manner that contributes to improving the performance of judicial institutions and enhancing the efficiency of the judicial system.

He added that Kuwait continues its efforts to accelerate the pace of digital transformation in the judicial sector through the adoption of modern technologies and the development of electronic services, thereby enhancing judicial efficiency, facilitating litigation procedures and improving the quality of services provided to litigants.

He also reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to continuing its support for joint Arab action in the legal and judicial fields and strengthening cooperation and integration among Arab countries.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria, Nawaf Boushaiba, who headed the Kuwaiti delegation participates in the 42nd session of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers in Algiers.

These efforts aim to promote the implementation of relevant Arab agreements and unify efforts to develop legal and judicial systems while consolidating the foundations of justice and the rule of law, he noted.

Earlier, the Council of Arab Justice Ministers condemned all forms of aggression, regardless of their type or source, against any Arab country, or any infringement upon its security.

This came during the conclusion of the council's 42nd session, hosted by the Algerian capital, Algiers.

The ministers also expressed their sympathy and solidarity with all Arab countries that came under these criminal attacks.

The participants commended "the positive outcomes resulting from the Algiers session", affirming that they "constitute a qualitative addition to the path of joint Arab action in the legal and judicial fields.

They also praised the positive and fruitful results and the constructive decisions that emerged from this session", regarding them as "a qualitative addition and a push for the path of joint Arab action in the legal and judicial fields toward broader horizons.

Continued from Page 1

Woman among

The seized items included KD 575 and KD 1,365, 110 white capsules, three white-and-red capsules, numerous sachets containing a white substance suspected to be narcotics, four precision scales, empty packaging bags and two strips of pills.

The first defendant told investigators that he received the narcotics from the second defendant, who was outside Kuwait and sent him sales instructions through Snapchat. He added that the third defendant was responsible for receiving the drugs and delivering them to him near an electrical transformer in front of her residence.

The first defendant was responsible for distributing the narcotics to buyers before handing over the proceeds to the third defendant after deducting his share. The third defendant would then transfer the remaining funds to the second defendant through a money exchange company.

Investigations revealed that all three defendants were involved in possessing narcotics for trafficking and personal use. A search of the third defendant's residence uncovered strips and containers containing various capsules suspected to be psychotropic substances.

The third defendant was subsequently arrested at the fourth defendant's residence after investigations indicated her presence there.

Retirees loan

monthly installment-to-net-salary ratio for retirees from 30 percent to 40 percent."

Accordingly, all provisions relating to the maximum monthly installment ratio in the following sections, chapters and clauses have been amended to apply to all clients, whether employees or retirees:

■ Part One, Chapter One, Section Two, Clause 3, concerning the monthly installment-to-net-salary ratio.

■ Part One, Chapter Two, Section One, Paragraph Two of Clause 13(b), concerning the collection of insurance fees.

■ Part One, Section Two, Chapter Two, Item (a), concerning amendments to loan or financing periods and monthly installment amounts.

Part One, Section Two, Chapter Two, Item (c), concerning the restructuring of contractual terms for retired clients.

Part Two, Section Two, concerning the maximum credit limits issued by local banks.

The circular stressed that banks, investment companies and finance companies must conduct a comprehensive credit assessment of retired clients when granting loans or financing facilities.

The assessment must include details of the financial impact of the loan or financing facility, as well as the remaining net pension available to the client throughout the repayment period.

Financial institutions must also fully inform clients of the assessment results and its financial implications.

Health Ministry

He also confirmed the advancement of fertility services, reproductive medicine, infertility treatment and in vitro fertilization (IVF) at local hospitals in accordance with the scientific and ethical standards.

He underscored the importance of training programs in obstetrics and gynecology, overseen by Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS), describing them as a vital investment on preparing the future generation of highly qualified doctors.

He clarified that the achievement does not diminish the scale of the responsibility, indicating that the World Health Organization (WHO) estimate of more than 700 maternal deaths daily in 2023 due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth could have been prevented. He added that one in six people will experience infertility at some point in their lives.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of the conference and Obstetrics and Gynecology Department Director Dr. Amal Khader considers the first delicate and minimally invasive fetal surgery—laparoscopic procedure—to treat spina bifida (myelomeningocele) in utero a historic achievement.

This was carried out at the New Maternity Hospital, in collaboration with King's College Hospital in the United Kingdom.

Al-Khader revealed that the surgery was performed by a multidisciplinary team during the 24th week of pregnancy. She said the team consisted of experts in maternal-fetal medicine, neurosurgery, anesthesiology and nursing.

She stated that the objective was to treat the congenital defect and reduce complications for the newborn. She revealed that the mother delivered at 34 weeks and the baby is doing well, receiving appropriate medical attention and follow up care.

She added that the conference featured 51 speakers -- local and international specialists, and 66 scientific presentations.

Kuwait top

The meeting reviewed ways to build on the longstanding ties between the two countries and develop cooperation across various sectors.

Both sides discussed issues of mutual interest and the latest regional and international developments.

Separately, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry on Thursday strongly condemned the Houthi militia's continued terrorist attacks on several areas in Saudi Arabia using ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

The ministry said in a statement that the attacks flagrantly violated Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, international law and international humanitarian law.

It reiterated Kuwait's categorical rejection of the repeated attacks, saying they threatened the Kingdom's security and the safety of civilians and undermined regional security and stability.

The ministry reaffirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and its support for all measures the Kingdom takes to safeguard its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

It stressed that Saudi Arabia's security was an integral part of the security of Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

The Saudi led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen affirmed on Thursday it had intercepted and destroyed a drone that targeted Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

This came in a brief statement by the coalition's Spokesperson Major General Turki Al-Maliki on platform X.

The Saudi Civil Defense announced early Thursday that it had responded to the fall of shrapnel from two ballistic missiles, including debris that landed in Sabuhah village.

The missiles had been launched by the Houthi terrorist militia toward the Makkah region before being intercepted and destroyed, Civil Defense spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson added that targeting civilian objects in this manner constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and highlights the danger posed by the hostile approach adopted by the terrorist group.

The relevant authorities responded immediately following the incident, implementing all approved procedures and measures to deal with such cases and taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety of lives and property, the statement noted.

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah called his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud on Wednesday.

During the phone conversation, they discussed the latest regional developments and underlined the significance of continuing bilateral coordination and consultation and backing shared diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions and bolstering regional security and stability, the Foreign Ministry said in a press release.

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a phone call on Wednesday from Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman.

During the phone conversation, the two ministers tackled the latest regional developments and underlined the significance of continuing bilateral coordination and consultation and backing shared diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions and bolstering regional security and stability, the Foreign Ministry said in a press release.

Cooler days

Friday's weather will be warm during the day, with northwesterly winds ranging from 12 to 40 kilometers per hour and occasionally becoming active along coastal areas. Some scattered clouds are also expected, while maximum temperatures will range between 22 and 24 degrees Celsius.

Sea conditions are expected to be slight to moderate, with wave heights ranging from two to five feet.

Friday night is expected to be relatively cool and partly cloudy, with light to moderate northwesterly winds ranging from 12 to 40 kilometers per hour and occasionally strengthening along coastal areas. Minimum temperatures are forecast to range between 12 and 14 degrees Celsius, while sea waves may occasionally reach two to six feet.

On Saturday, conditions would be warm during the day, with northwesterly winds ranging from 12 to 40 kilometers per hour and occasionally becoming active along coastal areas. Some high clouds are expected, while maximum temperatures will range between 24 and 26 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will be slight to moderate, with waves occasionally reaching two to five feet.

Saturday night will be relatively cool, with light to moderate northwesterly winds ranging from 10 to 38 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures are expected to range between 13 and 15 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions will remain slight to moderate, with waves reaching two to five feet.



Donald Trump is clearly hiding something: Rep Garcia

WH confronts Dems over planned probes, claiming possible 'criminality'

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): The White House has issued a warning to Democrats over their planned probes into the Trump administration, going as far as claiming that such investigations - a standard oversight function of Congress - may amount to "blatant criminality."

White House counsel Will Scharf issued the warning in a letter dated Monday to Rep. Robert Garcia, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee.

Garcia most likely would chair the powerful panel in the new Democratic-controlled Congress that is seated in January. Garcia warned Trump officials to "lawyer up" as his party was on the way to stunning victories in last week's midterm election.

In response, Scharf wrote that "threats to executive branch officials designed to deter them from public service, or process designed merely to abuse or instill fear in the recipient may cross the line into blatant criminality." The letter's existence was first reported by Punchbowl News.

It's just the latest shot across the bow as the White House prepares to square off against newly empowered Democrats in the House and Senate next year, a showdown with major implications for congressional authority and the balance of power between the branches of government.

Outside the Capitol on Wednesday, Garcia told reporters that "Donald Trump is clearly hiding something" and that Democrats "are not going to be threatened or intimidated."

"The truth is that he needs to understand that Congress is a coequal branch of government," Garcia said.

He doubled down on his "lawyer up" post after the election, saying the White House was "thin-skinned" and couldn't "take any sort of heat."

"If you have abused the American public, you should lawyer up," Garcia said. "If you're a corporate CEO and you're ripping off the American people, you should lawyer up."

Democrats are preparing a vast oversight agenda to look at how Trump and his family have become wealthier since he returned to office. The Republican president and his White House have long denied any wrongdoing.



US Rep Robert Garcia, the ranking member of the House Oversight Committee, speaks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington on Sept 16. (AP)

Garcia also wants to look at the administration's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein investigation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations. Other targets include Trump's White House ballroom and other construction projects, as well as the Trump family's role in mineral deals and Trump's crypto dealings with special envoy Steve Witkoff.

Kentucky Republican James Comer, the current chair of the Oversight Committee who conducted a wide-ranging investigation of former President Joe Biden and his family, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he had not yet read the letter from the White House, but stressed that the panel is "very independent."

"Regardless of who is in the White House, there's always going to be a strong desire for the Oversight Committee to be a check and balance on the executive branch, regardless of the political scenario," Comer said.

He said he thought Garcia's "lawyer up" comments were in "bad taste" but Democrats "won the election and it's going to be his committee. So if he gets out of line, I would assume that his members will try to rein him in."

Attorney General Todd Blanche said in a CNN interview that aired Sunday that "there could be" a crime to investigate if rhetoric from Democrats turned threatening. He appeared to strike a more conciliatory tone during an appearance in Missouri this week, saying "Congress has oversight authority. It always has, it always will. The Department of Justice, the federal government, works with Congress to address questions they have - whether it's through subpoenas or letters - so we're not going to stop working with Congress."

"Nothing I've said this weekend, or in the past, should suggest otherwise," he added.

Still, Justice Department officials elsewhere were pushing back. Aaron Reitz, the US attorney in the Southern District of Texas, wrote to Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal on Wednesday, telling him to preserve all records relevant to his investigations.

Blumenthal is poised to chair a powerful Senate investigative committee in January. Reitz called Blumenthal's efforts an "intent to deprive citizens of their core constitutional rights," pointing to his October letter to people who donated to the new White House ballroom.

In response, Blumenthal said he "will not be intimidated."

"The Trump administration is so afraid of transparency and oversight that they are weaponizing the Department of Justice to baselessly target Congress in direct violation of the Constitution," he said in a statement.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters extinguish a fire in car garages following a Russian air attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine on Nov 11. (AP)

US envoys to meet Putin following talks in Abu Dhabi

Russia, Ukraine agree to large prisoner exchange

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Nov 12, (AP): US President Donald Trump's envoys arrived at the Kremlin on Thursday for talks with President Vladimir Putin, as Washington sought to generate new momentum in peace efforts after two days of US-mediated negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, who is also Trump's son-in-law, brokered the talks in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, which were the first direct discussions between Russian and Ukrainian officials in nine months as the push for peace stalled this year.

The talks wrapped up Wednesday with an agreement on a large exchange of prisoners, with the exact number still to be agreed.

The talks produced no visible breakthrough on ending the nearly five years of large-scale hostilities, which began on Feb. 24, 2022, after the fighting initially started in 2014 in eastern Ukraine.

But Kushner and Witkoff appeared keen to seize the moment and went straight to the Kremlin.

Kushner said that one of the goals of the meeting with Putin is to get the Russian leader's blessing for European representatives to be part of the talks, which are looking at the continent's broader security arrangements.

The US and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are looking for Europe to appoint a single person to negotiate with Moscow.

At the moment, Moscow doesn't want European countries, which are concerned about Russia's conduct and broader intentions on the continent, involved in the direct negotiations. Moscow complains that Europe is financing and supplying weaponry to Ukraine and is part of the problem holding up a deal.

Many in Europe see the inclusion of Russia in discussions about European security as an unwelcome concession to Putin, who has described NATO's eastward expansion as a top security threat to his country. Moscow has demanded that the trans-Atlantic alliance's troops be pulled back from Russia's borders.

Some analysts say negotiators may be looking to grant Russia concessions on NATO's strategy in return for peace in Ukraine - a possibility that has alarmed European governments.

After meeting with Putin, Kushner said that he and Witkoff will fly to Dublin, Ireland, to meet later Thursday with Zelenskyy, who is attending a meeting of more than 40 European countries that also includes NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

Zelenskyy said that political changes, including Democrats taking over the US Congress in January following the U.S. midterm elections and votes in France next year, could bring "a window of opportunity" for a peace deal.

"The political landscape in Europe could change in 2027 … we also see changes already taking place in the United States," Zelenskyy said in Dublin late Wednesday. "So today there really is this opportunity, this window of opportunity, when all those involved in the negotiating process genuinely want to achieve a result before 2027."

He said that the proposed prisoner exchange was a positive step, but at the same time he insisted that Ukraine won't give in to demands that it surrender its territory that has been occupied by Russia in return for peace.

Hopes were low for any significant breakthrough in Abu Dhabi. Russia and Ukraine have occasionally swapped prisoners, but both sides remain far apart in their terms for accepting a settlement.

Along with post-conflict security guarantees for both countries, another key obstacle to an agreement is the fate of Russia-occupied Ukrainian territory.

Fighting continues along the 1,200-kilometer (about 750-mile) front line, and negotiators warn that the path to peace will be long.

Russia's bigger army is stuck on the battlefield by dogged Ukrainian resistance while its strategic bombing of Ukraine aims to deny civilians heat, light and running water, sapping public morale in what Kyiv calls a "weaponization of winter."

Russia and Ukraine are battering each other with long-range missiles and drones.

Russia's Defense Ministry said that air defenses downed 71 Ukrainian drones overnight.

The ministry said that Russian forces struck a drone-making plant in Kyiv and three other facilities producing missile fuel and drone components in the area around the Ukrainian capital. It said that other strikes hit power substations in Zhytomyr and a bulk carrier heading to the Black Sea port of Odesa with cargo for the Ukrainian armed forces.

Russia launched missiles and 123 drones, 73 of them fast-moving jet-powered drones, at Ukraine overnight, the Ukrainian air force said. Hits were recorded at 17 locations, it said.

'UN peacekeepers failed to protect civilians before S.Sudan massacre'

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 12, (AP): United Nations peacekeepers and South Sudanese authorities failed to take adequate action despite warnings weeks before insurgents raided a village and killed more than 200 people earlier this year, Amnesty International said in a report released Thursday.

The rights group said that the peacekeeping mission, known by the acronym UNMISS, knew that an attack on Abiemnom, a remote area near the border with Sudan, was likely but failed to reinforce the roughly three dozen peacekeepers based there until after it occurred.

Between 1,000 and 1,500 armed men from neighboring Mayom County carried out the March 1 attack, shooting residents, burning homes and looting part of the hospital, Amnesty said.

The death toll was at least 213, according to authorities, including 130 town residents, 76 security personnel and seven foreign nationals.

"Both the government and UNMISS had sufficient information and time to take more effective preventive action. Their failure to take stronger action cost lives," said Tigere Chagutah, an Amnesty regional director.



In this photo, taken Nov 15, 2016, students line up outside a classroom with a map of Africa on its wall, in Yei, in southern South Sudan. (AP)

UNMISS spokesperson Priyanka Chowdhury said in a statement that the mission did its best with limited resources to provide protection and medical care to the roughly 2,500 people who sheltered at a protected area established in anticipation of the attack.

Facing budget cuts and reduced personnel, she said that the mission "concentrated its available capacity on immediate protection of civilians seeking refuge within our base rather than dispersing limited forces across tasks they could not safely sustain simultaneously."

The March assault came amid renewed fighting between government forces and an array of opposition groups, undermining a 2018 agreement that ended five years of civil war. The area has experienced cycles of retaliatory violence linked to land access and cattle raiding.

Subcontinent

Nepal van crash kills 10: A passenger van veered off a mountain road in Nepal on Thursday, killing at least 10 people and injuring five, police said.

The van rolled about 700 meters (2,300 feet) off the road before stopping on a slope near the village of Bhimphedi, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) southwest of the capital, Kathmandu.

Police from a nearby station took survivors to hospitals for treatment.

The cause of the wreck was not clear, but police were investigating.

Nepal is celebrating the Tihar festival this week and people are traveling to their homes to celebrate with families.

Bus crashes in Nepal are mostly due to poorly maintained roads and vehicles, and much of the Himalayan country is covered by mountains with narrow roads. (AP)

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10 cops, 18 militants dead in Pakistan: At least 10 police personnel and 18 militants were killed in an attack on a police party in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday, police said.

The attack took place in Darabo Kach, a locality in Kohat district near the Indus River, after police and local civil administration completed an operation against illegal gold mining activities, according to a statement issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police.

The police party came under attack while returning from the operation. Police personnel returned fire, killing 18 attackers, while 10 policemen lost their lives in the exchange of fire, the statement said.

The police said action would be taken against the attackers and their facilitators.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. (Xinhua)

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Train derails in India, several hurt: Several people were reportedly injured when a few coaches of the train they were traveling in derailed in India's northeastern state of Assam on Wednesday, confirmed an official of the Northeast Frontier Railways.

The train was moving from West Bengal's capital city Kolkata to Sairang town in Mizoram when it met with the mishap.

According to the official, no deaths were reported yet, and an assessment of the damage was conducted. (Xinhua)

Raka's eligibility questioned

Indonesia's vice president resigns

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Nov 12, (AP): Indonesia's vice president resigned on Thursday as questions grew over his eligibility for the office after recent court rulings disputed his educational credentials.

Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the 39-year-old son of former President Joko Widodo, submitted his resignation to the leadership of the People's Consultative Assembly, the country's highest legislative body, at the parliament building in the capital, Jakarta.

Raka didn't comment as he left the meeting.

"There will always be political dynamics in public office, that's normal," his father, Widodo, told reporters from his hometown in Solo, adding that he had reminded his son that political positions are temporary.

"We will continue to support President Prabowo's government, especially programs that serve the interests of the broader public," he said, referring to Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.

The academic credentials investigation was apparently not related to investigations into allegations that top police officials had been involved in wiretapping targeting the president.

Raka had offered to resign Tuesday during a meeting with Prabowo, saying he wanted to avoid a prolonged political controversy. He personally delivered his resignation letter to the president on Wednesday.

Prabowo addressed the nation Thursday afternoon after holding a meeting with Raka and the parliamentary leadership at the presidential palace.

Flanked by Raka and top leaders of parliament, a grim-looking Prabowo said that he accepted Raka's resignation "with a heavy heart" and praised the vice president for showing "courage, responsibility and statesmanship" by stepping down.

"He chose to resign for the greater interest of the nation, the state and the Indonesian people," Prabowo said in a televised statement. "He has been a great help to me, from our election campaign through the past two years of government. Many of our achievements would not have been possible without his contribution."



Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, (second left), speaks as, (from left), People's Consultative Assembly Chairman Ahmad Muzani, Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka, and Deputy House Speaker Sufmi Dasco Ahmad listen during a press conference following Raka's resignation at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia on Nov 12. (AP)

Prabowo praised Raka's dedication and hard work, highlighting Raka's visits to 35 provinces and 149 regencies and cities to inspect 303 government projects during the past two years as examples of his commitment to public service.

"I will continue to support him, and I pray that he and his family are given strength during what is undoubtedly a difficult time," Prabowo said.

Under the Indonesian Constitution, a vice presidential vacancy doesn't trigger a new election. The office remains vacant until the People's Consultative Assembly elects a replacement from two candidates nominated by the president within 60 days.

The Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court ruled last month that the documents that Raka submitted regarding his overseas education didn't meet election requirements.

A subsequent petition, submitted Wednesday to the House leadership by 120 lawmakers from eight political parties, began a parliamentary process that could have led to his impeachment.

The push for his impeachment was driven largely by long-running allegations that Raka's candidacy was enabled by a Constitutional Court ruling that critics see as a conflict of interest and evidence of weak political accountability and dynastic privilege.

Before Prabowo chose him as his running mate for the 2024 election, Raka didn't meet the age requirement of 40 for vice presidential candidates. But the court's contentious ruling in October 2023 carved an exception allowing those who served or had been elected as regional leaders to run at a younger age.

Under Indonesian election law, a presidential or vice-presidential candidate must have completed senior high school or an equivalent level of education. Because Raka completed his secondary education overseas, he was required to provide documents showing that his qualifications were equivalent to an Indonesian high school diploma.

Raka was the first vice president of the country to resign before the end of a term since the fall of dictator Suharto and the start of Indonesia's democratic reforms in 1998.

Parliamentary leaders were due to convene immediately to begin the process of selecting a replacement, Speaker Ahmad Muzani said.

"We ask for the prayers and support of all Indonesians so that this democratic process can proceed smoothly and serve as a constructive new precedent in our constitutional system," Muzani told reporters.

Business

Kuwait oil price goes up $1.06 to $82.37 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by USD 1.06 to USD 82.37 per barrel (pb) in Wednesday's trading, compared to USD 81.31 pb the previous day, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude went up by USD 1.27 to USD 92.76 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate rose by 49 cents to USD 86.53 pb.

Company delivers strong growth in fee income amid uncertainty

Kamco Invest reports KWD1.5mn net profit in 9M 2026 and 19.3% growth in fee income



Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Chairman of Kamco Invest



Faisal Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kamco Invest, a regional non-banking financial powerhouse with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced its financial results for the period ended 30 September 2026. The Company reported a net profit of KWD1.5mn (EPS: 4.43 fils) for the nine-month period, compared to a net profit of KWD7.9mn (EPS: 23.07 fils) for the same period last year. The positive performance in the second and third quarters helped offset the losses incurred during the first quarter following the sharp decline in financial markets.

Despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, subdued market sentiment, and a slowdown in business activity, the Company delivered strong growth in its fee and commission income, increasing by 19.3% to KWD13.7mn, compared to KWD11.5mn during the first nine months of 2025. Fee and commission income accounted for 81.4% of total income of KWD16.9mn.

The Company continued to enhance operational efficiency, reducing its general and administrative expenses by 12.9% to KWD13.6mn compared to the same period last year.

The nine months period was marked by a sharp deterioration in the macro environment, as escalating regional tensions disrupted global trade flows and investor sentiment. The temporary closure of the Strait of Hormuz, alongside broader supply chain and logistics constraints, created significant uncertainty around energy exports and economic growth in the region. A sharp increase in crude oil prices also led to higher inflation that caused global central banks to consider rate hikes as against expectations of rate cuts.

Across the GCC, markets were directly impacted given the region's central role in global energy and petrochemicals supply. Disruptions to oil exports, rising input costs, and limited visibility on economic activity weighed on investor confidence and liquidity.

- **Talal Al-Ali:** The Company continued to generate profits in the third quarter, demonstrating the resilience of our business model and its ability to navigate challenges
- **Sarkhou:** We continue to record growth in fee and commission income, reflecting the strength of our core businesses and the quality of our revenue streams

Kamco Invest continued to strengthen its strategic relationship with Burgan Bank, enhancing client access to a broader and more integrated suite of financial services. In September, the Company's Board of Directors proposed changing its name from Kamco Investment Company to Burgan Capital Investment Company. At the General Assembly held on Sunday, 8 November 2026, shareholders approved the proposal.

Assets under management stood at USD17.3bn as of 30 September 2026, representing growth of 4.6% since the beginning of the year. Kamco Invest maintained its ranking amongst the largest ten asset managers in the MENA region. Furthermore, the Company was recognized by Forbes Middle East among top asset managers in the Middle East for 2026, thanks to its strong track record and deep expertise in delivering diverse investment solutions to its clients.

Managed equity and fixed income portfolios continued to outperform their respective benchmarks. The Company's equity funds maintained their competitive positions with the Kamco Investment Fund receiving the 2026 LSEG (London Stock Exchange Group) Lipper Fund Awards in six categories, in recognition of its performance over 3, 5 and 10-year periods.

As for Alternative Investments, which covers real estate, private equity and structured products, the team continued to expand and diversify its range of offerings to provide clients with added value. Kamco Invest signed a EUR300mn partnership agreement with Santander Alternative Investments to offer sharia compliant, income generating investment opportunities in the European real estate private credit space to the investment community in the Arabian Gulf region. The team also initiated capital call activity for the leasing strategy co-managed by Flexam Invest, a New York Life Investment Management company.

The Investment Banking team continued to advise clients on several transactions across equity capital markets, debt capital markets, and M&A, with more deals expected to close during the remaining period of the year. The team successfully managed five debt capital market issuances amounting to over USD1.5bn and played a prominent role in the financial restructuring of Digitus Group and acted as Issuance Manager and Subscription Agent for its capital increase, which was successfully completed with demand exceeding 21 times the shares offered, with an aggregate value exceeding KWD127mn.

First Securities Brokerage Company, Kamco Invest's brokerage arm, continued to strengthen its competitive position and attracted new institutional and individual clients through its online trading platforms.

The Company enjoys a strong financial position, with shareholders' equity attributable to the parent Company of KWD67.5mn as of 30 September 2026. Furthermore, Capital Intelligence Ratings maintained its Long- and Short-Term Corporate Ratings of Kamco Invest at 'BBB' and 'A3', respectively, with stable outlook.

Commenting on the results, Sheikh Talal Ali Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah, Chairman, said, "The Company continued to generate profits in the third quarter, demonstrating the resilience of our business model and its ability to adapt to challenges in a difficult operating environment. The continued growth in our recurring fee and commission income also underscores the quality and sustainability of our revenue streams, reflecting the strength of our core businesses and our clients' continued confidence in our expertise and investment capabilities."

Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer, said, "We continue to record growth in our fee and commission income, reflecting the strength of our core businesses and the quality of our revenue streams despite the challenges posed by the operating environment and slower economic activity. We also continued to implement our cost optimization initiatives efficiently, achieving a double-digit reduction in operating expenses, enhancing efficiency and supporting sustainable profitability."

Sarkhou added, "Looking ahead, we remain focused on further strengthening our strategic relationship with Burgan Bank and leveraging the complementary capabilities of both institutions to expand our client base and provide broader access to financial and investment products and services. We will also continue to grow our partnerships with leading global investment managers to enhance our investment platform, expand access to diverse and differentiated investment opportunities, and deliver solutions that meet our clients' needs and create sustainable value for them."

Achievement reflects bank's records management ability

NBK receives international ISO certification for records management systems from GCS

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: In a new achievement reflecting its commitment to adopting international best practices in governance and information management, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has obtained ISO 30301:2019 certification for Management Systems for Records, the international standard for managing corporate records and documentation.

Group Administrative Services successfully obtained the certification after meeting the assessment and audit requirements conducted by Global Certification Services (GCS), an international organization specializing in ISO certification. The certification was issued under the accreditation of the United Accreditation Board (UAB), confirming the Bank's compliance with the applicable international standard for records management.

This achievement reflects NBK's success in establishing an integrated records management framework that ensures effective governance of corporate information and documentation while enhancing their reliability, accessibility, and protection throughout their lifecycle. This supports operational efficiency, risk management, and compliance with the increasingly stringent regulatory requirements of the banking sector.

ISO 30301 is among the key international standards dedicated to records management. It focuses on establishing and developing an integrated management system that aligns records management with an organization's strategic objectives, while promoting transparency, institutional accountability, and informed decision-making based on reliable and accurate information.

Achieving this international certification demonstrates the Bank's ability to manage its corporate documents and records in accordance with internationally recognized practices that ensure information integrity and accessibility when needed. It also strengthens the Bank's readiness to meet regulatory and compliance requirements while keeping pace with rapid developments in the business and banking environment.


Group Head of Administrative Services Fahad Al-Thuwayni and Head of Support Administrative Services Abdullah Al-Mudairis during the official certificate presentation ceremony.

- The achievement underscores the pivotal role of Group Administrative Services in advancing the Bank's institutional framework and operational practices
- The certification recognizes NBK's ongoing efforts to enhance its administrative infrastructure and foster a culture of institutional excellence

The achievement further underscores the pivotal role of Group Administrative Services in strengthening the Bank's institutional framework through the adoption of international best practices and standards that enhance operational efficiency, reinforce business sustainability, and safeguard institutional knowledge.

Implementing this standard enables organizations to maintain their critical records systematically and securely, ensuring that information can be readily retrieved when required. It also supports business continuity, safeguards institutional knowledge, and enhances operational efficiency.

This certification marks the culmination of NBK's ongoing efforts to enhance its operational and administrative infrastructure and foster a culture of institutional excellence, in line with its digital transformation strategy and commitment to strengthening governance and compliance in accordance with the highest international standards.

The latest milestone builds on NBK's longstanding record of international certifications and accreditations, reflecting its continued efforts to strengthen its institutional capabilities and consolidate its leadership in Kuwait and the region through adherence to the highest standards of quality, excellence, and reliability.

Draw set for February 4

Nov 30 deadline for Gulf Bank's KD 1.5 million AlDanah draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Gulf Bank is encouraging customers to make the most of their opportunity to win KD1,500,000 in the AlDanah Millionaire grand prize draw on February 4, 2027. Customers have until November 30, 2026, to deposit and enter the draw, with higher savings balances maintained for longer offering more chances to win.

The upcoming grand prize draw follows Gulf Bank's announcement of its latest KD 200,000 winner. The draw took place yesterday under the supervision of leading international audit firms RSM and Grant Thornton and was broadcast live on Gulf Bank's social media channels, reflecting the Bank's commitment to transparency and integrity.

Customers can also look forward to a KD 200,000 draw on January 13, 2027, offering another opportunity to win ahead of the KD 1.5 million grand prize draw in February.

More savings, more winning opportunities

As one of Gulf Bank's flagship savings products, the AlDanah Millionaire Account helps customers build their savings while offering opportunities to win substantial cash prizes. Whether customers are planning for their families, pursuing personal ambitions, or strengthening their financial future, the account encourages a consistent savings habit with the added prospect of a significant win.

Customers can enter AlDanah draws with a minimum balance of just KD 200. Their chances of winning increase as they grow their savings and maintain their balances for longer. The account also offers the flexibility to deposit and withdraw funds.

AlDanah Millionaire is the only account in Kuwait that allows unused draw chances to be carried forward from one year to the next, rewarding customers for their continued loyalty and giving their savings further opportunities to win.

Support beyond the win

For AlDanah Millionaire winners, Gulf Bank's support extends beyond the prize. Its Private Banking services provides specialized financial and investment advice to help winners manage their wealth effectively and plan for their long-term financial future.

Through AlDanah, Gulf Bank continues to support customers' aspirations and promote a culture of saving, reinforcing its role as a trusted financial partner across the community.

Promoting financial awareness

During the draw, Gulf Bank also highlighted key messages from the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) banking awareness campaign, overseen by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association. This forms part of the Bank's ongoing efforts to strengthen financial literacy and help customers recognize and protect themselves against online fraud.

For the full list of AlDanah winners, please visit e-gulfbank.com/AlDanah.


Representatives of the audit firms overseeing the draw.

Kuwait joins regional push for renewable energy cooperation under BRI

BEIJING, Nov. 12, (Xinhua): Digitalization and the green transition are serving as twin drivers of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation, according to a think tank report.

Titled "Building an Open World Economy Through Belt and Road Cooperation," the report was issued by the Xinhua Institute, a think tank affiliated with Xinhua News Agency.

Digitalization and the green transition together improve the operating efficiency of traditional infrastructure, cultivate new sources of economic growth, create additional opportunities for partner countries, support regional economic integration, and promote sustainable development worldwide, the report said.

In recent years, China and its partners have invested heavily in digital infrastructure, including 5G base stations, data centers, and cross-border fiber-optic cables, continually improving digital connectivity within regions and among partner countries.

Digital economy cooperation under the BRI has become a central driver of regional digital transformation and is reshaping international economic cooperation, according to the report.

The report also highlights energy as a key area of BRI cooperation. China has signed renewable energy cooperation agreements with more than 10 countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Denmark, Finland, and Singapore, supporting practical green energy cooperation.

Data released in May 2026 by the International Institute of Green Finance at China's Central University of Finance and Economics show that the number of China's overseas renewable energy projects rose 39 percent year over year in the first quarter of 2026, while total installed capacity increased 32 percent.

GCC inflation rises slower than broader MENA

By KAMCO Invest

Inflation across the GCC continued to rise in recent months, driven mainly by higher food and transport costs linked to the war in the region and the disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. UAE recorded the highest inflation rate in the region at 5% y-o-y in September-2026, mainly driven by a 14.7% uptick in transport costs. Oman and Bahrain followed with y-o-y inflation growth of 3.2% each in September-2026. Food prices increased 8.0% y-o-y in both countries, while transport costs climbed 11.6% in Bahrain and 4.7% in Oman during the month. Kuwait's inflation rate stood at 2.2% y-o-y in July-2026, supported by food and beverage prices increased of 6.1%.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia recorded the lowest inflation rate in the region at 1.9% in September-2026, mainly driven by 3.6% increase the prices of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels division coupled with 3.5% uptick in housing rents. Despite the upward trend, inflation across the GCC remains largely contained compared to the wider region, thanks to energy subsidies, administered prices and currency pegs. The IMF expects average GCC inflation to reach 2.7% in 2026 before easing to 2.4% in 2027. Moreover, the IMF also projects GCC inflation to return to 2% from 2028, underpinned by lower commodity prices, exchange rate pegs, and maintained fiscal discipline in the region. In contrast, according to the World Bank, headline inflation in the GCC increased from 1.5% in early 2026 to approximately 2.5% in July-2026 mainly driven by the impact of the war in the region. The World Bank underlined that the GCC countries are witnessing unusually large gaps between food and headline inflation reflecting disruptions to food supply chains and trade routes due to the conflict in the region.

Across the MENA, average inflation is projected to increase from 12.8% in 2025 to 14.9% in 2026. It is then expected to fall to 11.0% in 2027 and 6.2% by 2031. Moreover, among oil exporters outside the GCC, the IMF expects inflation to increase from 24.3% to 38.3% in 2026, with sharp increases in Algeria, Iraq and especially Iran. The oil importers of the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAP) follow a different path: inflation falls to 9.9% in 2026, then increased back to 11.9% in 2027. Egypt (14.5%) and Pakistan (11.1%) faced the strongest pressures as of August-2026.

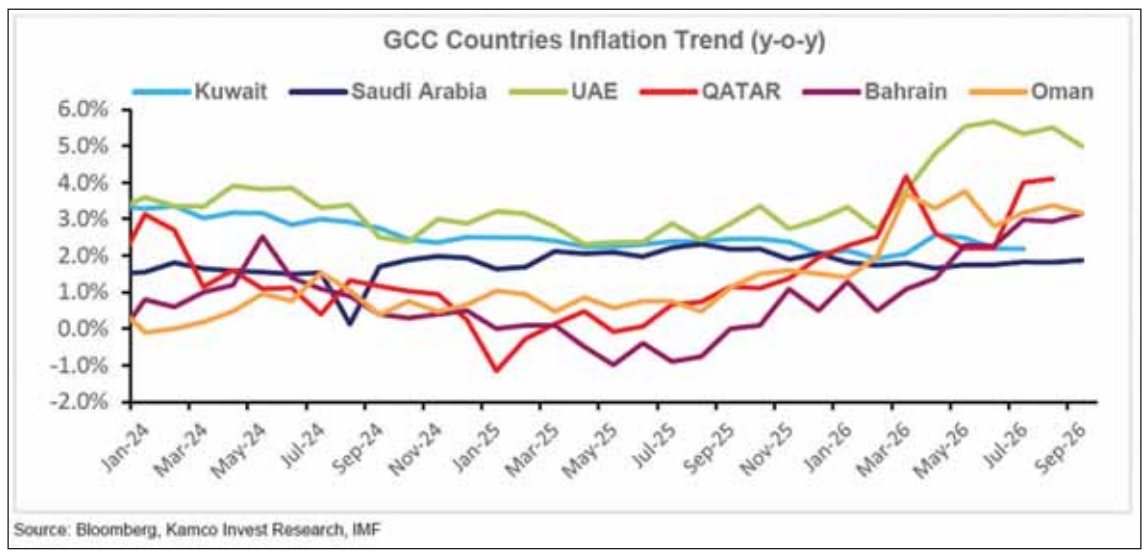
In its latest Regional Economic Update Report, the IMF expects global headline inflation to rise temporarily to 4.7% in 2026, supported mainly by energy and food, and then ease to 4.1% in 2027. Meanwhile, food prices are forecast to rise 5% in 2026 but expected to fall back to 2.4% in 2027.

In the US, the annual inflation rate reached 3.7% y-o-y for Septemeber-2026 up from 3.4% in August-2026, according to US Bureau of Labor Statistics. The uptick of US inflation rate was mainly attributed to the US-Iran war which pushed up energy prices including crude oil, gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. Furthermore, US inflation uptick during the month was reinforced by tariffs, the construction of AI data centers coupled with strong consumer demand in sectors like travel. In comparison, annual inflation in the eurozone increased by 3.8% y-o-y in September-2026 as compared to 3.2% in August-2026. The growth was mainly driven by 18.8% jump in energy prices during the month up from 14.3% increase in August-2026. Meanwhile, non-energy and industrial goods increased by 1.1% during September-2026.

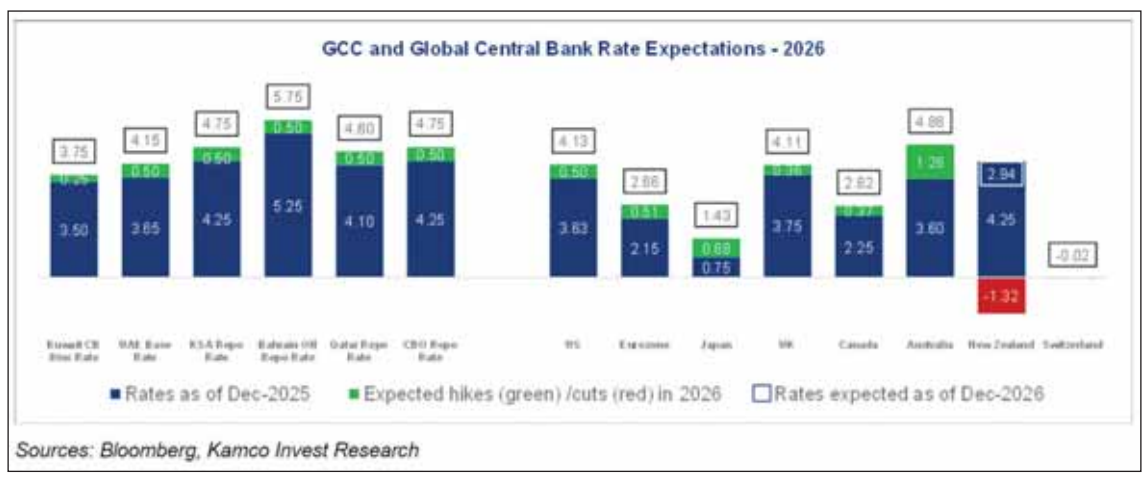
Global Food Prices

Global food prices witnessed a sharp y-o-y growth during September-2026 and also as compared to the previous month. The FAO Food Price Index increased by 5.8% y-o-y in September-2026 but stood 15.1% lower than its March-2022 peak, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Overall, the FAO Index averaged 136.0 points during September-2026, which was 1.5% higher than the revised August-2026 average. The m-o-m growth of the FAO Index was attributed to stronger crop prices, with gains in cereals, vegetable oils and sugar outweighing a drop in meat prices and broadly unchanged dairy prices.

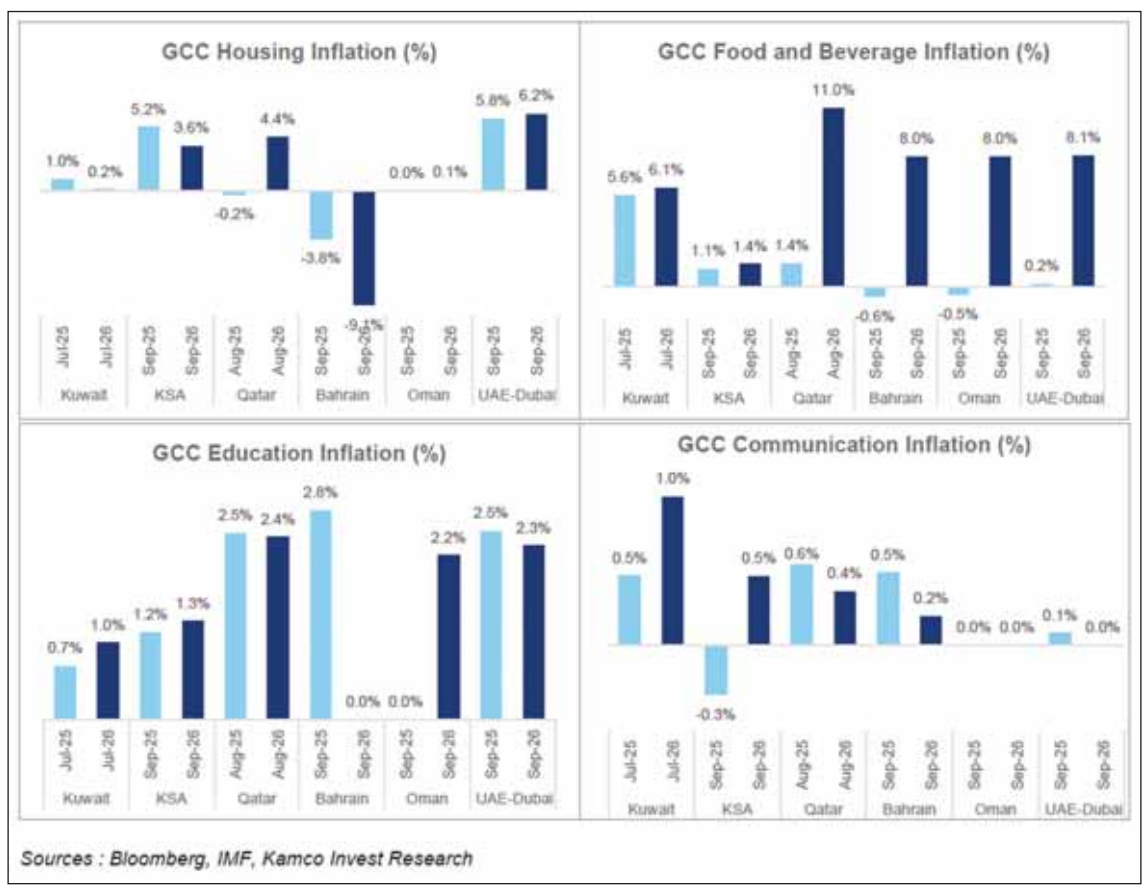
The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 122.8 points during September-2026, recording 17.2% y-o-y growth. Moreover, the index increased by 5.1% m-o-m due to the growth of global wheat prices, which increased by 6.3% to a peak not seen since August-2023, as shipping bottlenecks in the Black Sea region pushed buyers to source wheat from other suppliers. This was further intensified by a lack of rainfall in parts of North America before the sowing of winter wheat. Moreover, world maize prices also increased by 5.6% from August-2026, reaching their highest point in over three years, as weaker-than-expected harvests in the US, reduced exportable supplies in Brazil and Black Sea trade disruptions tightened the market, while uncertainty over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz sustained worries about fuel, fertilizer and transport costs.



Source: Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research, IMF



Sources: Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research



Sources : Bloomberg, IMF, Kamco Invest Research

Consumer Price Index	Actual			Projections	
Y-o-y percent change	2023	2024	2025	2026e	2027e
Bahrain	0.1%	0.9%	-0.1%	2.2%	1.5%
Kuwait	3.6%	2.9%	2.4%	2.2%	2.4%
Oman	1.0%	0.6%	1.0%	3.2%	2.7%
Qatar	3.1%	1.2%	0.6%	3.6%	3.1%
Saudi Arabia	2.5%	1.5%	2.0%	1.9%	2.2%
United Arab Emirates	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%	4.5%	2.5%
GCC Countries	**3.3%**	**2.2%**	**1.7%**	**2.7%**	**2.4%**
Middle East and North Africa	**13.5%**	**14.7%**	**12.8%**	**14.9%**	**11.0%**

Sources : Bloomberg, IMF, Kamco Invest Research

GCC Rates and Inflation

The US Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 25 bps at its September-2026 policy meeting, its first increase in three years, which lifted the federal funds target range to 3.75%–4.0% from the 3.5%–3.75% range. The move had been widely expected, given persistently high inflation fueled by energy prices, a US economy and labor market that remain resilient, and a sell-off in government bonds that pushed 10-year and 30-year Treasury yields to their highest levels in roughly two decades. The Fed attributed the rise in yields to a strengthening economy, the heavy funding needs of artificial intelligence build-out, and geopolitical hotspots, while heavy federal spending and mounting US debt are also widely seen as contributing factors.

GCC central banks continued to follow the Federal Reserve's policy direction throughout 2026, keeping their rates unchanged during the first eight months of the year before matching the September-2026 increase. Saudi Arabia and Oman raised their repo rates to 4.5%, Qatar raised its repo rate to 4.35%, Bahrain lifted its overnight deposit rate to 4.5%, and the UAE raised the base rate on its overnight deposit facility to 3.9%. Kuwait was the only exception and held rates steady.

Saudi Arabia

The CPI recorded a 1.9% increase in September-2026 compared to September-2025, while on a monthly basis the index remained flat m-o-m. The moderate y-o-y growth was mainly supported by a 3.6% y-o-y increase in the prices of the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels division, driven by a 3.5% rise in the prices of actual rentals for housing. The Food and Beverages division and the Transportation divisions, which contributed 0.3% points each after their prices rose by 1.4% and 2.3%, respectively. This was followed by 3.3% growth in the Personal Care, Social Protection, and Other Goods and Services Division, driven by an increase in the prices of other personal effects by 11.9%, which was supported by a surge in the prices of jewelry and watches by 12.9%. This was followed by robust growth in the Entertainment, Sports, and Culture group, which registered a 2.5% y-o-y uptick supported by growth in the prices of the holiday package subgroup by 4.5% during the same period.

On the other hand, the prices of the Furniture, Home Appliances, and Periodic Home Maintenance division declined by 0.5% y-o-y, while the Clothing and Footwear division fell by 0.4%.

In terms of m-o-m performance, increases in the Education Services division (1.2%), as well as the Housing, Food and Beverages, and Personal Care divisions (0.1% each), were offset by declines in the Entertainment, Sports, and Culture division (0.6%), the Restaurants and Accommodation Services division (0.5%), the Furniture division (0.2%), and the Transportation division (0.1%).

Kuwait

The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) reading for Kuwait for July-2026 showed a y-o-y increase of 2.2%, while in terms of m-o-m of performance the index rose by 0.2% during the same period to reach 140.2 points. This increase was primarily led by a 6.1% growth in the Food and Beverages index, the second-largest weighted index, which also witnessed the highest y-o-y growth during July-2026. The Services and Miscellaneous index recorded a 4.2% y-o-y increase, while the Housing Services Index, the largest weighted index, reported a 0.2% y-o-y growth during the month. Thirteen out of the fourteen sectoral indices witnessed growth during the month, with the Cigarettes and Tobacco group being the only index that remained unchanged. The Transportation group's prices increased by 5.5% in July-2026, while the prices of the Clothing and Footwear group improved by 0.6%. In terms of m-o-m inflation performance, the prices of the Food and Beverages group increased by 1.1% compared to the previous month, mainly due to increases in the prices of the fish and seafood group, which jumped by 8.6%, as well as the cereals and bread, the milk, cheese and eggs, the oils and fats, the fruits, and the sugar and sugar products groups, which more than offset lower prices of the meat and poultry and the vegetables groups. On the other hand, prices of the Cigarettes and Tobacco group and the Housing Services group remained stable during the month. Meanwhile, the prices of the Transportation group increased by 0.6% because of a rise in the costs of operating personal transport equipment, while the prices of the Services and Miscellaneous Goods group declined by 1.1% due to lower prices of personal effects.

Qatar

Qatar's inflation rate increased by 4.1% y-o-y during August-2026, its highest level since March-2026, up from 4.0% in July-2026 and 2.2% in June-2026. On a monthly basis, Qatar's Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a 0.5% m-o-m increase compared to July-2026, as the general index closed the month at 103.3 points. In terms of yearly performance, the Food and Beverage group remained the main driver of inflation, recording an 11.0% y-o-y increase during August-2026, although this marked a slowdown from the 13.2% growth recorded in July-2026. In terms of m-o-m performance, the Housing, Water, Electricity and Gas index edged up by 0.2% during August-2026, while the Transport index declined by 0.5% during the same period, partly offsetting the upward pressure from other groups. The acceleration in Qatar's inflation came as the country's economy was among the hardest hit by the war in the region, with liquefied natural gas exports almost halted and supply routes through the Strait of Hormuz disrupted.

United Arab Emirates

Inflation in the UAE remained elevated during September-2026, as reflected in Dubai's Consumer Price Index (CPI), which increased by 5.0% y-o-y. This was down from 5.5% in August-2026 and below the 2026 peak of 5.7% recorded in June-2026. On a monthly basis, Dubai's CPI recorded a marginal 0.05% m-o-m decline compared to August-2026. The y-o-y growth was mainly driven by the Transport group, which increased by 14.7% and was the largest contributor to annual inflation, supported by a 37.5% jump in the prices of fuels and lubricants for personal transport and a 13.5% rise in passenger air transport prices. Higher fuel prices reflected elevated global oil prices, which feed directly into UAE retail fuel prices because they are set monthly in line with international markets. Moreover, the Food and Drinks group recorded an 8.1% y-o-y increase, while the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Domestic Fuel group rose by 6.2%, driven by higher average residential rents across most areas of the emirate. On the other hand, the slight m-o-m decline was mainly due to a 23.4% drop in airfares and a 12.5% decline in the prices of holiday packages during the month. For the full year, the Central Bank of the UAE expects national inflation to average 2.4% in 2026.

Bahrain

Bahrain's inflation rate increased 3.2% in September-2026, as the general CPI closed the month at 104.9 points. In terms of m-o-m change, Bahrain's CPI improved marginally by 0.7% during the month. Inflation in Bahrain remained moderate during the month despite the Kingdom's economy being one of the countries severely impacted by the significant instability caused by the war in the region. The y-o-y uptick of Bahrain's inflation rate was mainly due to increases in eight out of the twelve sub-indices within the general CPI. The Transport group witnessed the largest expansion, increasing by 11.6% y-o-y during September-2026, followed by the Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages group, which saw a y-o-y increase of 8.0% during the same period. Moreover, the Tobacco group and the Recreation and Culture group recorded y-o-y increases of 3.4% and 2.9%, respectively, while the Miscellaneous Goods and Services group rose by 2.5%. On the other hand, the Clothing and Footwear group recorded the steepest y-o-y decline at 9.1%, followed by the Housing, Water and Electricity group, which fell by 1.3%. Meanwhile, Bahrain's CPI improved 0.7% m-o-m during September-2026 compared to August-2026. The Tobacco group recorded a 3.4% m-o-m increase, followed by the Transport group, which rose by 2.8%, and the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group, which improved by 1.4% m-o-m during the same period. However, the Recreation and Culture group recorded a sharp 6.8% m-o-m drop during September-2026, while the Housing, Water and Electricity group declined by 0.2%, partly reflecting the various disruptions caused by the war in the region.

Al-Rasheed: Program reflects bank's vision to shape future leaders

Warba Bank concludes 3rd & final cohort of 'Ignite Leadership' program

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Warba Bank announced the conclusion of the third and final cohort for 2026 of its "Ignite Leadership" program. The initiative is designed to strengthen employees' leadership capabilities and elevate their managerial and professional competencies, supporting the development of qualified future leaders capable of adapting to changes in the banking sector and contributing to the bank's long-term objectives.

The completion of this cohort forms part of Warba Bank's strategy to invest in its human resources as a cornerstone of institutional growth and sustainability. Through specialized training programs that blend theoretical knowledge, practical application, and direct interaction, the bank continues to develop leadership skills and prepare professionals to take on greater responsibilities across various departments.

A Comprehensive Framework for Leadership Development

The month-long program featured a series of developmental activities and interactive sessions focused on advancing participants' leadership skills and managerial capabilities, concluding with two intensive training days that provided an integrated learning, application, and knowledge-sharing experience.

The cohort included 20 employees representing various departments across the bank. The program was tailored to meet institutional leadership development needs, enhancing participants' ability to address workplace challenges, make effective decisions, and strengthen communication, teamwork, and accountability.

At the conclusion of the program, certificates of completion were presented to all participants in recognition of fulfilling the training requirements.

Investing in Human Capital as a Strategic Priority

Commenting on the program's conclusion, Maali Abdullah Al-Rasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer at Warba Bank, stated:

"The conclusion of the third and final cohort of the 'Ignite Leadership' program for 2026 reflects Warba Bank's ongoing commitment to investing in its workforce. Developing leadership is essential to enhancing institutional performance and achieving our strategic objectives. We believe that building a future-ready banking institution begins with empowering employees and equipping them with the skills and experience needed to grow and assume advanced leadership responsibilities."



Warba Bank employees from various departments pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the 'Ignite Leadership' program.



Maali Abdullah Al-Rasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer at Warba Bank.

- Al-Rasheed: Developing leadership capabilities is essential to driving institutional performance and achieving strategic objectives.
- Al-Rasheed: Building a future-ready bank begins with empowering employees and equipping them with the expertise to assume advanced leadership responsibilities.

Al-Rasheed added: "Through this program, we sought to provide a comprehensive development experience that enables participants to strengthen their leadership capabilities, exchange expertise, and apply their knowledge effectively in the workplace. We are proud of the 20 employees who participated in this cohort, and we look forward to the positive impact of this training on their professional performance and their contributions toward the bank's goals."

A Workplace Culture That Fosters Professional Growth

Al-Rasheed noted that the bank's training and development initiatives are part of an institutional approach aimed at instilling a culture of continuous learning and providing a motivating environment where employees can expand their capabilities and explore their professional potential, contributing to improved performance, higher productivity, and greater efficiency across departments.

Warba Bank also aligns its human resources development initiatives with its operational and strategic priorities, ensuring its teams possess the competencies necessary to navigate rapid transitions in the banking industry with efficiency and flexibility.

Developing Future Leaders

The completion of the third cohort underscores Warba Bank's dedication to advancing its internal learning programs and strengthening investment in human capital, rooted in the conviction that qualified talent forms the foundation of institutional excellence.

Through these programs, the bank continues to prepare a generation of leaders capable of guiding teams, achieving strategic goals, and driving development and growth, reinforcing its standing as a banking institution committed to fostering a culture of innovation, excellence, and sustainability.

About Warba Bank:

Warba Bank has achieved significant milestones over a relatively short period, establishing a leading position in Islamic digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank maintains close ties with different segments of Kuwaiti society. The bank continues to strengthen its position as a trusted banking partner, combining innovation and social responsibility in the delivery of financial products and services.

Kuwait Economy Min. restates commitment to building diversified, competitive economy

GENEVA, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait is moving forward with its efforts to build a more diversified and competitive economy, boost he role of foreign investment and create an attractive investment environment for long-term investments, said the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment on Tuesday.

Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, who doubles as Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry, made the remarks while addressing the opening session of the 30th World Investment Conference, organized by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) in Geneva.

The conference attracted several ministers, senior officials, and representatives of international organizations and investment institutions.

The Kuwaiti minister underlined the significance of linking foreign investments with national talents and local suppliers, as well as transferring knowledge and technology, thus contributing to maximizing the value added to the national economy.

He also stressed the importance of shifting from merely attracting investments to directing them toward achieving sustainable economic value.

He emphasized that the success of investment policies is gauged by foreign direct investment flows and their contribution to bolstering productivity, transferring technology, creating jobs, and fostering innovation and sustainable growth.

Award reflects staff efforts

KOTC wins int'l award for maritime security, safety

DUBAI, Nov 12, (KUNA): Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) said it has won the regional and international Maritime Security and Safety Award, presented by the Maritime Standard (TMS), during its annual ceremony held in the Emirate of Dubai.

Speaking to KUNA following the receipt of the award, the KOTC's Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Fleet Operations Yousuf Al-Sager said that this win "is the fruit of the efforts of all the company's employees and serves as a culmination of its continuous efforts in the field of security and safety."

He added that this honor reflects the company's commitment to the highest professional and environmental standards in the maritime transport sector.

Al-Sager that it serves as recognition of its ongoing efforts to develop its fleet's performance in accordance with the latest global practices, as well as its outstanding achievements in the maritime industry.

He boasted that the prizes won by the company year after year confirm its continuous success in managing and operating its maritime fleet with high efficiency.

Headquartered in Dubai, the Maritime Standard (TMS) is one of the most prominent global entities influencing the evaluation of company and individual performance in the maritime transport and tanker operation industry.

Its awards are based on precise international standards assessed by a judging panel comprising an elite group of experts and specialists.

Layoffs remain rare

US jobless claims reach 200,000, still historically low

WASHINGTON, Nov 12, (AP): More Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, but jobless claims remain at historically low levels, layoffs are rare and most workers enjoy unusual job security.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that jobless claims ticked up to 200,000 last week from a revised 191,000 the week before, coming in higher than the 195,000 economists had forecast. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week volatility, was unchanged at 195,250.

Applications for jobless benefits are a proxy for layoffs, and economists watch them closely because they can provide signs of where the job market is headed.

Claims have remained at historically low levels in the year to date, never topping 230,000 in a single week. They've come in at or below 200,000 for nine straight weeks.

So far this year, employers - companies, government agencies and nonprofits - have been adding an average of 86,000 jobs a month, including a surprisingly strong 165,000 last month. That is modest by historic standards but an improvement on a lackluster 2025 when monthly job creation averaged 9,700 as high interest rates and President Donald Trump's unpredictable trade policies discouraged hiring.

Consumer spending has remained resilient and a surge in investment in artificial intelligence has lifted economic growth.



A now hiring sign is displayed at a business in the Dallas suburb of Richardson, Texas, Friday, Oct. 23, 2026. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

Geopolitical tensions fuel risks

Türkiye raises inflation outlook

ISTANBUL, Nov. 12, (Xinhua): The Turkish Central Bank has raised its year-end inflation forecast for 2026 to 29.5 percent, up from 28 percent.

The year-end inflation forecast for 2027 had also been revised upward, to 21 percent from 15 percent, while the projection for 2028 had been raised to 13.5 percent from 9 percent, Governor Fatih Karahan told a press conference in Istanbul on Thursday.

"Recent data show that the underlying inflation trend is improving clearly. We attach importance to the slowdown in services inflation, particularly in items that previously showed high rigidity," Karahan said when presenting the bank's fourth Inflation Report of the year.

On energy markets, he said crude oil and natural gas prices had risen significantly in September and October, remaining above the levels recorded during the previous report period and before the Iran conflict.

He added that developments around the Strait of Hormuz had affected alternative trade routes, pushing up freight costs through longer transit times and higher insurance premiums.

Karahan warned that geopolitical developments generating supply-side shocks were slowing the decline in headline inflation, keeping upside risks to the inflation outlook elevated and requiring a cautious policy stance.

Turning to economic activity, he said growth had lost momentum in the second quarter, mainly due to a slowdown in domestic demand. Indicators for the third quarter pointed to divergent trends across sectors, with services output rising while industrial production declined.

Separately, Türkiye's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.58 percent month on month in October, bringing annual inflation to 29.77 percent, according to official data.

Nvidia CEO Huang resigns amid China spy scandal

HONG KONG, Nov 12, (AP): Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang resigned Thursday after his extramarital affair raised national security concerns, in a spectacular downfall for the longtime head of the chipmaker, a vital player in the artificial intelligence boom.

Huang faced growing calls to resign after his affair with a Chinese businesswoman who reportedly was also acting as a spy for Beijing. His troubles compounded late Wednesday after media reports said Huang had another extramarital affair with an Nvidia employee who reported to him.

The ouster sets off a scramble to find a permanent replacement to lead Nvidia, which did not have a succession plan. The board will consider candidates from both inside and outside the company, the company said in a statement

The company named Colette Kress, the executive vice president and chief financial officer, as interim chief executive. She became CFO in 2013, overseeing the company's global finance operations. Before that, she worked for three years at Cisco and spent 13 years at Microsoft.

In a statement Thursday, Kress said that Nvidia's "strength has always come from its people" and that she was "committed to building on the extraordinary foundation Jensen created over the last 33 years."

The board of directors said Thursday it had also named its first-ever chairman, Harvey C. Jones, an entrepreneur and venture investor.

Shares of Nvidia tumbled 14% at the opening bell Thursday, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq slid 1.5%. The company is due to report earnings on Tuesday.

Nvidia's board had gathered to discuss Huang's future after revelations about his affair with Alice Huang, a former executive at Singapore-based Megaspeed International suspected of being a Chinese government agent. The two are not related.



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang listens as President Donald Trump speaks during an event at the U.S. Institute of Peace, Oct. 8, 2026, in Washington. (AP)

In its first statement since the scandal broke, Megaspeed said Thursday that it takes its obligation to comply with U.S. export control laws "extremely seriously." The company prominently touts a partnership with Nvidia on its website.

"Megaspeed is committed to working constructively and transparently with the U.S. government," said the statement signed by its chairman and CEO, Tan Yong Pong, who also goes by James Tan.

Nvidia has said it had "no reason to believe" that either national security or its secrets were compromised, but that its inquiry would examine all available information.

Last month, The New York Times reported that U.S. intelligence agencies discovered that Huang had developed a close relationship with Alice Huang — and determined that she was feeding information directly to Beijing. On Sunday, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the FBI was investigating.

Megaspeed faced allegations last year that it was illicitly shipping advanced Nvidia computer chips into China, but in December said there was "no evidence" of such exports.

Singaporean authorities said Thursday that they questioned Alice Huang and confiscated her passport last year as part of an investigation into Megaspeed. They concluded that there wasn't enough evidence that she had committed a crime but barred her from returning to the country.

China has denied that it engaged in an attempt to ensnare Jensen Huang, who heads one of the world's most valuable companies. Nvidia has become a leader in making chips that power AI, and Huang has lobbied Washington to loosen limits on sales of Nvidia chips to China. In January, he won Trump's approval to sell Nvidia's H200 chips to China.

Megaspeed said Thursday that it has cooperated with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), which handles enforcement of national security restrictions on technology exports, and was ready to "cooperate fully with any other relevant U.S. government authority."

It said it has hired a U.S. law firm to conduct a "comprehensive census" of its computer chips and to verify its export controls.

"Megaspeed welcomes appropriate government scrutiny and is committed to demonstrating through concrete actions that it operates responsibly, transparently, and in accordance with applicable U.S. laws," it said.

Apart from questions over national security, Megaspeed's finances also have drawn attention. Its total assets soared roughly 90-fold from late 2023 to 2024, to almost $3 billion, according to Singapore corporate records.

Revenue surged to over $294 million in 2024 from none in 2023.

Terminal 4 takes shape

Egypt's civil aviation revenue reaches $4.8bn in FY2025-26

CAIRO, Nov. 12, (Xinhua): Egypt's civil aviation sector generated 4.8 billion U.S. dollars in revenue in fiscal year 2025-2026 that ended in June, the Egyptian presidency said on Thursday.

The figure was announced during a meeting between President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, Minister of Civil Aviation Sameh El-Hefny and other senior officials to review plans for expanding airport infrastructure and modernizing air transport, the presidency said in a statement.

The meeting reviewed progress on Terminal 4 at Cairo International Airport, expected to raise the airport's annual passenger capacity to 70 million in its first phase and 110 million after 2041.

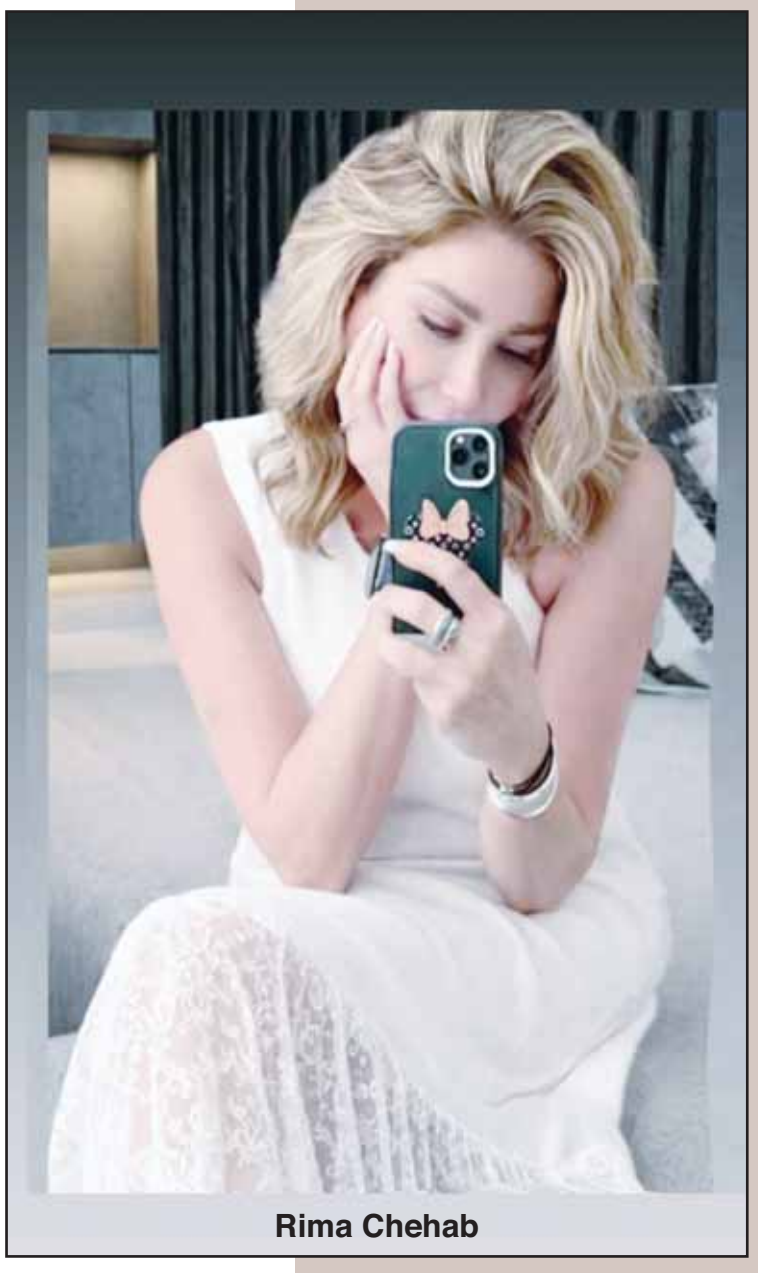
The Egyptian president called for accelerating the modernization of airport digital infrastructure and adopting artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies to streamline travel procedures, improve passenger services and enhance operational efficiency.

Sisi also urged the development of policies, legislation and incentives to boost inbound tourism, expand international air connectivity and increase private aviation's share of tourist transportation to 30 percent.

ARAB TIMES
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13-14, 2026

Lebanese interior designer Rima Chehab sketches future in the region

Bespoke design for Gulf's grandeur



Rima Chehab





By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor, Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: A beautiful room may catch the eye, but a true home is defined by warmth, light, comfort, and personal details.

For Lebanese interior designer and property consultant Rima Chehab, design is not about following trends or decorating rooms. It is about understanding the people who will live in a space and turning their ideas into a lived reality. This philosophy underpins Elite Decor by R.C., the interior design studio she founded after building experience in design, architecture, and real estate.

Chehab is now looking beyond Lebanon toward Kuwait and the wider GCC, where she sees opportunities among clients who value elegant interiors, quality craftsmanship, and personalized design. In an interview with the Arab Times, she discussed her entrepreneurial journey, her studio's approach, the challenges of working in Lebanon, and her plans to expand into the Gulf.

More than decoration

Chehab's interest in design grew from her love of architecture, beautiful spaces, and the potential to transform ordinary properties into something special. Her work in property consultancy and interior design gave her both creative and practical industry experience.

She founded Elite Decor by R.C. to offer more than concepts and furniture selection. The studio manages projects from the first consultation and design proposal through material selection, renovation, execution, and final delivery. This allows Chehab to remain personally involved at every stage.

For her, a design on paper is only the beginning. What matters is ensuring the finished space fulfils the original vision, which she sees as a key difference between her studio and others.

Understated luxury

Chehab's preferred style combines modern luxury with timeless elegance. She favors natural materials, marble, warm walnut wood, neutral and greige tones, carefully planned lighting, and clean architectural lines.

Rather than filling rooms with decoration, she lets materials, proportions, and details create the atmosphere. She believes luxury should feel refined rather than excessive, and that elegance should never compromise comfort.

She does not impose a signature style on clients. Instead, she listens to how they live, what they need, and how they want their home to feel. "My role is to translate their vision into an environment that is both beautiful and functional," she said.

> **At Elite Decor by R.C., we believe every space has a story, and our mission is to bring that story to life**

Chehab also values lasting design. Trends may change, but quality materials, thoughtful planning, and well considered spaces retain their appeal.

Adapting without compromise

Running a business in Lebanon has taught Chehab patience, resourcefulness, and determination. Economic pressures and changing market conditions have affected project costs, material availability, and the way projects are planned.

Rather than accepting lower standards, she responds through careful planning, smart material choices, and knowing where to invest for the greatest impact. Close collaboration with suppliers and execution teams helps her preserve the design vision while working within clients' budgets.

Her experience has reinforced a central lesson. Creativity is not only about generating beautiful ideas, but also about making them work in real conditions.

Design and real estate

Chehab's property consultancy background shapes her approach to interior design. She sees a property not merely as rooms to decorate, but as an asset with purpose, market potential, and a specific audience.

She considers how a space will be used, how it will appeal to buyers or tenants, and whether thoughtful design can improve its market value. Good layouts, quality finishes, and functional interiors can strengthen a property's appeal, rental prospects, and resale value.

For Chehab, professional interior design is therefore a long term investment, not simply an aesthetic expense.

Why Kuwait matters

Chehab sees Kuwait as a promising market for Elite Decor by R.C., particularly for private residences, luxury villas, high end apartments, hospitality projects, and commercial spaces. She believes the GCC's appreciation for generous spaces, refined finishes, and sophisticated architecture aligns with her studio's direction.

Her interest goes beyond securing projects. She wants to build relationships with architects, developers, property consultants, businesses, homeowners, and investors who share her standards for design and professionalism. She is also open to project based collaborations as a first step toward a stronger regional presence.

While Lebanon and the GCC both value quality and individuality, Chehab recognizes differences in budgets, expectations, project scale, and execution standards. The GCC offers opportunities for larger luxury developments, while Lebanon has taught her to be adaptable and resourceful. She aims to bring the strengths of both markets into her work.

One partner throughout

Elite Decor by R.C. offers a comprehensive service that includes interior design, concept development, architectural and space planning, 3D visualizations, material selection, lighting design, customized details, renovation, fit out, bespoke furniture, and project supervision.

The goal is to give clients one point of contact from initial concept to final handover. For anyone undertaking a major renovation or building a home, this coordination can make the process far easier.

Chehab believes communication and execution are as important as the initial design. "We do not simply present a beautiful concept; we focus on bringing it to life," she said.

She is also following industry developments such as sustainable materials, smart home technology, and increasingly personalized living spaces. Lighting, in particular, has become central to contemporary interiors because it can transform a room's atmosphere. For Chehab, however, innovation must ultimately make spaces more comfortable, functional, and beautiful.

Looking ahead

Over the next three to five years, Chehab hopes to grow Elite Decor by R.C. into an internationally recognized brand with a stronger presence in Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Her goal is to build a portfolio of distinguished residential and commercial projects, lasting professional relationships, and regional partnerships.

Her expansion is not only geographic. She wants every project to reflect the same creativity, quality, and personal commitment that inspired her to establish the studio.

Her message to clients and partners in Kuwait and the GCC is simple. She welcomes opportunities to work with homeowners, investors, developers, and professionals who value distinctive spaces.

"At Elite Decor by R.C., we believe every space has a story, and our mission is to bring that story to life," she said.

Beyond marble, furniture, and finishes, Chehab's aim is to create places that mean something to the people who use them. As she looks toward Kuwait and the wider Gulf, her guiding belief remains unchanged. Good design is not only about how a space looks, but how it makes someone feel.







Arabi brings Kuwait Club's 12-year reign to end

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Al-Arabi has achieved a breakthrough that had eluded other clubs for 12 years, knocking Kuwait Club out of the quarterfinals of the 2025–2026 Handball Federation Cup with a 37–33 victory and ending the Whites' unprecedented run of 12 successive titles.

Kuwait Club had held an iron grip on the trophy since the 2013–2014 season, winning every edition through 2024–2025. However, Al-Arabi finally brought that remarkable winning streak to an end, producing a strong performance to eliminate the defending champion.

Elsewhere in the quarterfinals, Sulaibikhat booked its semifinal berth with a commanding 31–19 victory over Al-Fahaheel. It will now face Al-Arabi in Friday's semifinal, while Kazma meets Burgan in the other last-four encounter.

With Kuwait Club out of the competition, the tournament is guaranteed to have a new champion for the first time in 12 years. The four remaining teams will now battle for the opportunity to lift the trophy.

Al-Arabi coach Hussein Habib described the victory over Kuwait Club as a historic achievement, expressing his satisfaction at ending the Whites' more than 12-year dominance of the Federation Cup.

He stressed that the result was no coincidence, but rather the product of detailed technical work and thorough preparation.

Habib also extended his appreciation to Al-Arabi's supporters for their strong backing from the stands, saying their presence and encouragement helped inspire the players. He praised the club's board and administrative staff for their continued support and for creating an environment conducive to success.

He noted that defeating a side of Kuwait Club's calibre, which had dominated domestic handball for more than 12 years, required careful analysis of the opposition, a clear understanding of its strengths and weaknesses, and comprehensive physical, mental and tactical preparation.

The coach praised his players for their fighting spirit and commitment throughout the encounter, pointing out that their performance reflected the hard work they had put in since the start of the season.

Habib, however, cautioned against dwelling on the quarterfinal triumph, urging his players to turn their attention immediately to the next challenge.

He described the semifinal against Sulaibikhat as a major test, requiring high levels of concentration and proper preparation if Al-Arabi are to maintain their momentum, reach the final and continue their pursuit of the title.



Hussein Habib becomes the first coach to eliminate Kuwait Club from the Handball Cup in 12 years.

Kuwait juniors storm into Asian Padel Cup semifinals



Kuwait padel team poses for a group photo.

JAKARTA, Nov 12: Kuwait's junior padel team booked its place in the semifinals of the 2026 Asian Junior Padel Championships in Jakarta, Indonesia, after completing a clean sweep of its group-stage matches with three successive victories.

The young Kuwaiti players began their campaign with a 2–1 win over Saudi Arabia, followed by an emphatic 3–0 victory against Japan.

They maintained their impressive form in their final group match, sweeping aside Australia 3–0 to secure qualification for the last four.

The achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of the players and the technical and administrative staff, who are now looking to build on this momentum and achieve further success while flying Kuwait's flag high at the continental competition.

Harden ends his slow start to the season

Rockets end Warriors winning streak

HOUSTON, Nov 12, (AP): Kevin Durant scored 20 points, Alperen Sengun and Amen Thompson added 19 and the Houston Rockets snapped Golden State's eight-game winning streak with a 115-108 victory .

The Warriors played most of the game without Stephen Curry after the superstar left in the first quarter with right abdominal soreness and didn't return.

Golden State's longest winning streak since 2022 ended on a night they were held well below their season average of 120.4 points a game. Curry, who entered Wednesday ranked second in the NBA by averaging 30.6 points a game, had just three points before exiting.

With Curry out, the Warriors were led by rookie Yaxel Lendeborg, who had 25 points and 10 rebounds. Brandin Podziemski added 22 points.

The Rockets led by nine points early in the fourth quarter before the Warriors got 3-pointers from Georges Niang and De'Anthony Melton to cut the lead to 88-85 with about 10 minutes remaining.

But Houston scored the next eight points, with an alley-oop dunk by Thompson before consecutive 3-pointers from Reed Sheppard to make it 96-85 with under nine minutes to go.

James Harden is a three-time NBA scoring champion who averaged more than 30 points in each of those seasons.

So when he was managing half that through 11 games this season, there were questions whether he still had it at 37 years old. Harden may have provided his own answer Wednesday with a throwback performance, scoring a season-high 32 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 115-107 victory over the New York Knicks.

"It's my 18th year, so my name is James Harden, and I used to score a lot of points. Now it's like, all right, cool," Harden said. "Still score points, but try to find out other ways to impact the game as well. And I think that's what people probably don't understand."

Harden came into the night averaging just 15.3 points. He was shooting only 34.6% from the field, which would easily be the worst of his career, and the Cavaliers were off to a 5-6 start in their first full season since acquiring him from the Clippers.

Harden acknowledges that he's still trying to find the right way to play alongside fellow superstar Donovan Mitchell. Coach Kenny Atkinson insists the Cavaliers don't need the Harden from his Houston days, when he averaged 30.4, 36.1 and 34.3 points across three straight seasons, and said the guard is fine with that.

And when he wasn't even close to start this season, Harden said the criticism didn't bother him, because he was criticized back then for being a scorer but not a winner.

Egor Demin returned from a six-game injury absence to score 22 points, Michael Porter Jr. also scored 22, and the Brooklyn Nets beat New Orleans 145-111, handing the Pelicans their fourth consecutive loss.



Houston Rockets forward Jabari Smith Jr. dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in Houston. (AP)

Julius Randle had 17 while Noah Clowney and Moritz Wagner added 16 each for the Nets, who had eight players score in double-digits.

Zion Williamson had 29 for the Pelicans, who have given up 138 points or more in three straight games, and have lost their last two by more than 30. The Pelicans lost by a franchise-record 51 points, 138-87, to Golden State on Sunday night.

Saddiq Bey had 15 for New Orleans.

The Nets shot 57% from the field in the game and finished 20 for 41 from 3-point range with nine different players hitting at least one, led by Porter and Demin with four each.

Victor Wembanyama scored 32 points, Dylan Harper had 18 points, 10 assists and four steals and the San Antonio Spurs won their 10th straight game, overcoming a 22-point deficit to beat the Chicago Bulls 124-119.

The Bulls have lost eight in a row to fall to 1-9. They are 0-4 at home.

Wembanyana also had nine rebounds and five blocks two days after his 40-point outburst in a win over the Phoenix Suns as the Spurs closed out a 4-0 trip. DeAaron Fox added 17 points and nine assists.

Jalen Smith tied his career high with 23 points for the Bulls, and Nic Claxton had 17 off the bench.

Bulls first-round pick Caleb Wilson scored 15 points in 15 minutes before leaving with a right hand injury in the third quarter.

Tourists eke out first-innings lead of 12 runs

Saqib takes 7 wickets on debut before rain disrupts Pakistan-Sri Lanka 1st cricket test

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Nov 12, (AP): New fast bowler Saqib Khan's seven-wicket haul led Pakistan's comeback against Sri Lanka on a rain-affected day four of the first cricket test on Thursday.

Saqib's dream figures of 7-130 on debut helped Sri Lanka collapse to 446 all out after resuming on a formidable 404-4. Sri Lanka eked out a first-innings lead of 12 runs.

Pakistan reached 57-1 in 21.2 overs of its second innings midway into the second session when stumps was called at 3:05 p.m. for bad light followed by rain. Pakistan leads by 45 runs at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

At the crease were Azan Awais, on 22 after he was dropped on 17 by captain Kusal Mendis behind the wickets, and Mohammad Taha, one of Pakistan's four debutants who has followed his first innings half-century with 24 not out off 55 balls.

The 31-year-old Saqib made full use of perfect bowling conditions on the fourth morning with incisive swing to rattle Sri Lanka. The visitor lost its last six wickets for 42 runs in a seven-wicket first session after only one wicket fell on day two.

Saqib became only the fourth man after Mohammad Nazir, Mohammad Zahid and Abrar Ahmed to grab seven wickets in an innings on test debut for Pakistan.



Pakistan's Saqib Khan bowls during the fourth day of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

"My strength is to bowl outswingers and I did exactly that today under favorable overcast conditions," Saqib said.

"Yesterday was a bad day for us because we couldn't bowl the way we would have liked to, but coach Mike Hesson told us in the dressing room that if we hit the off stump line and bowl out-swingers we will get wickets."

The greenish pitch on which Sri Lanka lost only Kamindu Mendis on Wednesday sprung to life in on Thursday in overcast conditions.

In a relentless eight-over spell, Saqib grabbed 5-25 as centurions Dhananjaya de Silva and captain Kusal Mendis were dismissed inside the first 15 minutes.

Their 249-run stand was broken by Saqib off the fifth ball of the morning when he found the outside edge of de Silva, who couldn't add to his overnight 167.

Saud Shakeel, who dropped de Silva on 38 on day three, once again spilled a low catch off Mendis. But two balls later wicket-keeper Ghazi Ghori brought up another spectacular diving catch off Saqib's probing delivery outside the off stump to end the Sri Lanka skipper's knock on 119.

Sri Lanka rising star Sonal Dinusha, who has three centuries and two half-centuries in his previous five test matches, made 20 before he went for an expansive drive against Saqib and edged to the slips cordon. With his fifth wicket, the pacer kissed the turf.

Milan Rathnayake overtook Pakistan's first-innings score of 434-9 declared with a pulled boundary off Razaullah before Saqib grabbed two more wickets, including Asitha Fernando for Ghori's sixth catch behind the wickets.

Razaullah wrapped up a great morning for Pakistan by having Rathnayake top-edging a pull to deep fine leg.

Pakistan's only wicket to fall was debutant Tayyab Arif, trapped in front by Fernando on 11 in the third over. Arif wasted one of Pakistan's three reviews but Awais and Taha dug in in testing batting conditions to deny Sri Lanka further success.

China wins inaugural gymnastics mixed team gold at Youth Olympics

DAKAR, Nov. 12 (Xinhua): China won the first gymnastics mixed team title at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, with Yang Lanbin and Chen Ziyan combining for a steady performance across three rounds.

Yang scored 13.966 points on the floor exercise and Chen earned 13.866 on the balance beam. Japan took silver, while Israel claimed bronze.

"It was an event that really put the team's tactics to the test. I just had to believe in myself. I knew I could do it. Having practiced so much, you're bound to succeed. I just knew I could make it," Chen said.

The gymnastics mixed team event, making its debut at the Youth Olympics, featured 12 teams, each comprising one man and one woman.

The competition consisted of three rounds, with the bottom four teams eliminated after each of the first two rounds. In each round, the male gymnast selected one event from floor exercise, parallel bars and horizontal bar, while the female gymnast chose from uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. The two scores were added together to determine the team's result for that round.

The gymnasts could not both choose floor exercise in the same round, and neither athlete could repeat an event in subsequent rounds.

Yang and Chen opened with solid routines on the parallel bars and floor exercise, respectively, to finish second in the first round and advance. Daniil Smirnov, who had won the men's individual all-around title on Tuesday, fell off the horizontal bar, resulting in Russia's elimination.

China topped the second round after Yang and Chen delivered steady performances on the horizontal bar and uneven bars, respectively.

"We focused on consistency today and arranged for both gymnasts to perform their strongest events in the final round as they competed with their last opponents for the gold," China coach Zhang Xia said.

In boxing, China's Zhang Zhengkun lost to Puerto Rico's Jesfred Joel Torres Santiago in the men's 60kg semifinals, and shared the bronze medal with Türkiye's Muhammet Ali Arli.

Zhang said, "I am very proud to have represented my country, and I hope to compete for my country in the future. My only regret is that I couldn't reach the top of the podium this time." The boxing competition will conclude on Thursday, with 10 gold medals to be decided.





Boston Celtics' Payton Pritchard (11) drives past Toronto Raptors' Jamison Battle (77) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto. (AP) — See Page 11

Sports

Golden triumph sends Al-Feihaan to 2028 Olympics

Double gold for Kuwait at World Shooting Championships

DOHA, Nov 12: Kuwaiti shooter Abdulrahman Al-Feihaan clinched a gold medal in the men's individual trap event at the World Shooting Championships in Qatar yesterday, earning qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Duaij Al-Otaibi, chairman of the Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, hailed Al-Feihaan's achievement, saying the victory underlined the quality of Kuwaiti shooting and the ability of its athletes to compete with the world's leading shooters.

Al-Otaibi congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and the Kuwaiti government and people on Al-Feihaan's Olympic qualification.

Kuwait also claimed gold in the team trap event, with Al-Feihaan joining teammates Talal Al-Turki and Khaled Al-Mudhaf on the winning team.

The success adds to Kuwait's medal haul at the championships, following Abdulaziz Al-Saad's bronze in the men's individual skeet event on November 6. Al-Saad also secured a place at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics with that result.



Al-Feihaan celebrates qualifying for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Kuwait sends 15 athletes to Asian, West Asian Modern Pentathlon Championships



Kuwaiti delegation for the Asian, West Asian Modern Pentathlon Championships.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait will be represented by 15 male and female athletes at the Asian and West Asian Modern Pentathlon Championships, scheduled to take place in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, from November 11 to 16.

The championships will bring together 610 athletes from 11 countries, highlighting the growing regional interest in the sport.

Nasser Al-Waleed, chairman of the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Club and Federation, said the delegation represents Kuwait's largest participation in international modern pentathlon competitions, reflecting the sport's increasing popularity and the growing number of athletes taking part.

He expressed confidence in the team's ability to compete for top honours and secure commendable results that would strengthen Kuwait's presence on the continental and international stages.

The participating countries are Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, China, Nepal, the Philippines, India and Bangladesh.

The competition programme features three disciplines: Laser Run, combining running and laser shooting; Biathle, which involves running and swimming; and Triathle, bringing together swimming, running and laser shooting. Each event will be held on a separate day.

Al-Waleed will lead the , which includes Dr Ahmad Al-Faqi as technical director, coaches Ahmad Al-Ameer, Arafat Al-Warrad, Mubarak Al-Waleed, Mohammed Al-Shammari and Dr Mishaal Al-Suhaibi, as well as administrators Hamed Ghuloom and Othman Al-Kandari.

Sousa builds for future as Kuwait hosts Syria

Extensive plans drawn up for team

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait faces Syria at 7:30 pm on Friday at Al-Sadaqa Wal-Salam Stadium in an international friendly as both sides make use of the current FIFA international break.

The Blues launched their preparations last Monday under Portuguese coach Hélio Sousa, who called up 30 players for the training camp as part of his efforts to assess a wider pool of talent.

The squad includes Khaled Al-Rashidi, Dhari Al-Otaibi, Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, Fahad Al-Hajri, Khaled Sabah, Abdulwahab Al-Awadi, Rashid Al-Dosari, Abdulaziz Naji, Waleed Saad, Muath Al-Dhafiri, Saleh Al-Mutahab, Hamoud Al-Sanousi, Abdullah Al-Saeedi, Abdullah Al-Qurazai, Nasser Faleh, Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, Mohammed Al-Huwaidi, Jassim Al-Matar, Mahdi Dashti, Muath Al-Asayma, Bandar Al-Salama, Mubarak Al-Fanini, Eid Al-Rashidi, Shabeeb Al-Khaldi, Yousef Nasser, Abdullah Al-Awadi, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Mohammed Daham and Yousef Majed.

Mohammed Daham has left the camp due to injury, while Fahad Al-Hajri withdrew for personal reasons. Mohammed Al-Huwaidi will also be unavailable for tonight encounter because of injury.



Kuwait finalizes training session for the friendly.

Despite the postponement of the Asian Cup from its original January schedule to December 2027, Sousa and his technical staff have drawn up an extensive preparation plan for the coming period. It includes local and overseas training camps and friendly matches during the next international windows in March and June 2027, leading up to the 2030 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, which are scheduled to begin in August.

The expanded squad reflects Sousa's intention to assess as many players as possible and provide opportunities for emerging talents. Among the younger players called up are Ali Hassan, Waleed Saad, Abdullah Al-Qurazai, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi, Saleh Al-Mutahab, Abdullah Al-Saeedi and Hamoud Al-Sanousi. Saad, Al-Saeedi and Al-Mutahab are receiving their first call-ups to the senior national team.

The camp has also seen the return of several players who were absent from previous selections, including Al-Huwaidi, Al-Salama, Al-Fanini, Al-Otaibi and Dashti.

Sousa is keen to give the younger players valuable exposure and help them establish themselves by working alongside experienced internationals such as Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Yousef Nasser, Eid Al-Rashidi, Rashid Al-Dosari and Nasser Faleh.

Meanwhile, Syria's Spanish coach José Lana has named a 23-man squad for the friendly. The selection features Elias Hadaya, Khaled Ibrahim, Shaher Al-Shaker, Aiham Ousou, Abdullah Al-Shami, Abdulrazzaq Mohammed, Ahmad Faqa, Khaled Kurdghli, Wissam Dakhan, Zakaria Hanan, Mohammed Othman, Elmar Abraham, Mohammed Al-Hallaq, Noah Shamoun, Mahmoud Al-Aswad, Ahmad Al-Dali, Jan Mustafa, Omar Al-Somah, Omar Khribin, Mahmoud Daoud, Ziad Ghanoum, Mohammed Mustafa and George Younan.

Sheikh Nasser seeks wider sports partnerships to support athletes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has stressed the importance of strengthening ties with national Olympic committees in brotherly and friendly countries and expanding partnerships to support athletes and promote the exchange of expertise and successful sporting experiences.

The remarks came during separate meetings with Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Karim Boudali and Uzbekistan's Ambassador Abubakr Yunusov, the KOC said in a statement.

The discussions focused on ways to broaden sports and Olympic cooperation, exchange knowledge and expertise, and explore opportunities for joint initiatives between the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee and its counterparts in Tunisia and Uzbekistan.



Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

The proposed cooperation aims to contribute to the development of sports and help raise the performance and standards of athletes.

Kuwait to hold Qatar, Iceland camps ahead of World Handball Championship

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 12: Kuwait will step up its preparations for the 2027 World Handball Championship with two overseas training camps in Qatar and Iceland, national teams director Faisal Siwan has announced.

Siwan said the first camp will take place in Doha from December 6 to 19, with 24 players expected to join the delegation. The programme includes two international friendlies against Qatar on December 17 and 19.

The camp forms part of the Blues' preparations for the Championship, which will be held in Germany starting January 13, 2027.

Siwan explained that the training programme has been drawn up by the federation's training and national teams committee in coordination with the technical staff, headed by Icelandic coach Aron Kristjansson and his assistant, national coach Ali Murad. The aim is to raise the players' physical and technical levels and ensure they are fully prepared for the global tournament.

Kuwait launched its preparations on November 2 with daily training sessions before the players returned to their clubs to participate in the remaining fixtures of the 2025–2026 league season and the ongoing Federation Cup.

The national team is scheduled to resume domestic training after the Federation Cup concludes on November 18, beginning the second phase of its preparation programme ahead of the Doha camp.



The national teams director Faisal Siwan.

However, players from Kuwait Club and Burgan will be unavailable for the Qatar camp because of their clubs' commitments in the Gulf Clubs Handball Cup Winners' Championship in Bahrain this month.

Upon returning from Doha, the players will continue their preparations in Kuwait before travelling to Iceland for the second overseas camp. Scheduled to begin around 12 days before the World Championship, the Iceland camp will represent the final stage of the team's build-up to 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 team will begin its campaign against France on January 14.

Kuwait U-17 takes on Lebanon in crucial Asian qualifier

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

OMAN, Nov 12: Kuwait's Under-17 national team faces a crucial test in its bid to reach the Asian Cup finals when it meets Lebanon at 7:00 pm on Saturday at the Saada Sports Complex Stadium in Salalah, Oman, in the third round of Group Seven qualifiers.

The match will be preceded by the group's other fixture between Oman and Brunei, scheduled for 4:00 pm at the same venue. The Blues are still searching for their first victory after opening their campaign with a 1–1 draw against Bahrain.

Kuwait task will not be easy against group leader Lebanon, who have collected six points from two matches. The Lebanese side began with a resounding 7–0 win over Brunei before edging Oman 2–1 in the second round on Wednesday.

Kuwait will be looking to revive its qualification hopes, with the players needing to raise their performance and deliver a strong display to remain in contention for a place in the finals.

The seven group winners will advance to the finals, joining the nine teams that have already qualified to represent Asia at the 2026 FIFA U-17 World Cup in Qatar.

Bahrain, who sits on four points, has a rest day in this round after beating Brunei 6–1 on Wednesday. Oman and Brunei remain winless.



A file photo of players celebrating.

Manchester United nearing a deal to hire coach Mauricio Pochettino

MANCHESTER, Englan, Nov 12, (AP): Michael Carrick was fired by Manchester United on Thursday after overseeing the 20-time English champion's worst start to a Premier League season, with U.S. men's coach Mauricio Pochettino a potential candidate to succeed him.

Carrick's departure comes less than six months after he was given a two-year contract and the responsibility of reviving the fortunes of the once-dominant force of English soccer. United hasn't won the league since managerial great Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

A 4-4 draw with Aston Villa on Sunday left United 18th in the 20-team standings and in the relegation zone after just one league win all season. With eight points from 10 games, it is United's worst start for 40 years - predating the Premier League era.

"After a disappointing start to the season, the club has come to the extremely difficult conclusion that a change is necessary in order to achieve our ambitions," United said.

United added the "club intends to appoint a permanent successor as quickly as possible."

United has been working on a potential deal to have Pochettino replace Carrick, a source with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The 54-year-old Argentine is under contract with the U.S. team through the 2030 World Cup.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because no final decision had been made on Carrick's future.

Pochettino, who has previously coached Southampton, Tottenham and Chelsea in the Premier League, took over the U.S. in October 2024 and led it to the round of 16 at this year's World Cup.

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