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WANTED PERSONS DOMINATE TWO-PRONGED KUWAIT CRACKDOWN

Hawally, Kabd raids net hefty haul

Police dragnet snares illegal residents, booze and drug suspects

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Hawally Security Command, in coordination with several government agencies, conducted a three-day security campaign that resulted in a total of 928 enforcement actions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the Ministry of Interior explained the campaign was conducted under the supervision of the Head of the Security Directorates Affairs Sector Brigadier General Abdulaziz Bandar Al-Omar, the Director General of the Hawally Security Command Brigadier General Hussein Mohammed Dashti, and the Assistant Director General Brigadier General Mohammed Fares Al-Muassab.

The campaign involved the participation of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Hawally Security Command accounted for 758 of the actions, including the establishment of 66 security checkpoints and 20 inspection points, the provision of 84 humanitarian assistance services, and the issuance of various traffic citations.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

O Egyptian Mayar, you captured the world's attention, thanks to the UAE

THE nation branding philosophy has little to do with wealth or geographical location—factors that might otherwise distinguish one country from another. The branding process begins when senior state officials pave the way for individuals to seize opportunities, allowing them to promote the nation themselves.

This conclusion can be drawn by observing the initiatives of certain governments in the region that pursue branding strategies through 'out-of-the-box' thinking. Dubai has achieved this. For two decades, it has been the focal point of global attention and the most attractive destination for investment in the Gulf.

The credit belongs to those who plan for the future instead of clinging to the past and its glories. They rather take advantage of past glory to intensify branding efforts.

I say this in light of the results of the Arab Reading Challenge organized by Dubai as part of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum global initiatives. The competition has two dimensions. First is the Arab-focused effort aimed at expanding knowledge among students, and second is the proof that Dubai is not just a hub for real estate projects or oil-related services, but a launch pad for promoting and instilling knowledge among Arabs. The concept itself stems from the philosophy of looking for unseen opportunities and transforming them into the foundation for a future-oriented project.

Since 2015, this initiative has brought to the fore many brilliant young Arabs, proving that this generation is neither trivial nor unproductive. It is rather a generation deeply committed to self-development through the refinement of its own knowledge.

High-ranking officials in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt honored the winner of the Arab Reading Challenge -- 11-year-old Egyptian girl Mayar Mohamed Ragab Othman, along with other participants.

This is a major success for Dubai and a brilliant form of promotion. For the past decade, Dubai has established itself as an attractive destination for all Arabs.

It is commendable that Kuwait participated in this challenge. It will be even better to see an initiative launched by Kuwait's official institutions for the whole world, not only the Arab world.

Kuwait has a rich history of intellectual contributions, including book series, magazine publications and festivals it once pioneered in and brought together people from all over the world.

In the previous season, children from the Gulf and the Arab world took part in the Arab Reading Challenge. Throughout the months leading up to the competition—even amidst the regional security climate, Dubai continued to promote investment, tourism and knowledge-based initiatives, opting to invest in human minds.

Overcoming security and military challenges meant ensuring that everyone throughout the UAE—not just in Dubai—felt secure. The main challenge was to foil the agenda of the Tehran regime, which sought to impose upon the region the same dire conditions endured by the Iranian people.

On the contrary, Dubai has fully recovered, showing an extraordinary capacity to transform threats into opportunities, hence, achieving real victory.

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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 departs Türkiye on Friday after leading Kuwait's delegation to the COP31 Leaders' Summit in Antalya.

Amir Representative concludes COP31 visit

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 departed the Republic of Turkiye on Friday after heading the Kuwaiti delegation to the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) Leaders' Summit in Antalya.

His Highness was seen off by Antalya's Governor Hulusi Sahin, Ambassador in Ankara Mohammad Al-Shabu and Consul General in Istanbul Khaled Al-Khalifa. (KUNA)

CAIT confirms full Microsoft service recovery after outage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Microsoft services have fully returned to normal, including Teams, Outlook, Copilot, and other applications, following a global outage that lasted more than 24 hours, The Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) announced on Saturday.



Najat Ibrahim

Microsoft announced the full restoration of its services following the disruption that affected a number of companies and government entities around the world, the CAIT said in a press release.

The agency underlined its commitment to closely monitor the developments of the outage, in coordination with Microsoft officials until the services were restored and returned to normal.

On Friday, Najat Ibrahim, Acting Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), confirmed that there are currently no indications of "malicious" activity or a security breach linked to the outage affecting Microsoft 365 services, as reported by the company.

In a statement to KUNA, Ibrahim noted that services are beginning to recover gradually, with improved

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Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi speaks during the opening of the Fourth Conference of the Kuwaiti Association of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, in conjunction with the First Gulf Gathering for Gastroenterology.

Kuwait scores breakthrough in 'advanced' digestive care

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi expressed his happiness over attending the opening of the Fourth Conference of the Kuwaiti Association of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, in conjunction with the First Gulf Gathering for Gastroenterology, describing the event as a milestone in strengthening medical cooperation in the region.

The event brought together medical experts from nine countries, thereby, affirming the growing regional and international interest in the development of gastroenterology and hepatology services.

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Kuwait taps 5 global surgeons

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Ministry of Health announced that it will host five internationally renowned doctors in December 2026 as part of its "Visiting Doctors" program at several hospitals and specialized medical centers.

The Ministry explained the visiting doctors include Dr. David Nouka from France, a specialist in bariatric surgery, who will be hosted at Farwaniya Hospital from December 1 to 3, 2026.

Farwaniya Hospital will also host Dr. André Sánchez Bernat from Spain, another bariatric surgery specialist, during the same period, from December 1 to 3.

Meanwhile, Jaber Hospital will host Dr. Rafael Nuevalebus Mori from Spain, a specialist in complex robotic hernia surgery, from December 6 to 10.

Al-Razi Hospital will receive Dr. Joachim Volkmar Gölke from Germany, a specialist in hand surgery, from December 12 to 16.

Jaber Hospital will also host Dr. Basel Dheeban from the United Kingdom, a specialist in paediatric neurosurgery, from Dec 13 to 16.

The ministry encouraged those interested in consulting the visiting doctors to review the schedule and book appointments in advance through the Salem or Sahel applications.

Kuwait leads 18-nation rebuke of Israel strike on Gaza hospital

CAIRO, Nov 14, (KUNA): The foreign ministers of Kuwait, Jordan, the UAE, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkiye, Algeria, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt and Mauritania have condemned an Israeli occupation airstrike on a Palestinian medical center.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: On behalf of His Highness the Amir **Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** and the Al-Sabah Family, the Amiri Diwan thanked on Saturday all citizens and residents who offered condolences over the demise of **Sheikha Intisar Jassem Mohammad Al-Malek Al-Sabah**, spouse of **Sheikh Hamad Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah**.

The Amiri Diwan prayed to Almighty Allah to bestow mercy upon the deceased's soul and grant her highest place in heavens. (KUNA)

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KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Thursday voiced its solidarity with the **UAE** over a tragic traffic accident in the Emirate of **Al- Fujairah** that left multiple casualties.

In a press release, the ministry extended sincere condolences to the leadership, government and people of the UAE as well as the families of the victims, wishing a swift recovery for the injured. (KUNA)





7 National Investments Company leads successful capital increase for Al Masaken International Real Estate Development K.S.C.P. ("Al Masaken")



7 Kuwait Insurance reports KD 9.06 mln in gross profit for the period ended 30 September 2026

GFH reports 14.83 pct increase in net profit totaling $116.29 million



Abdulmohsen Rashed Al Rashed
Chairman, GFH



Hisham Alrayes
CEO and Board Member, GFH

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: GFH Bank reported a 17.81% year-on-year increase in Q3 2026 net profit attributable to shareholders, reaching US$40.09 million, driven by strong growth in Wealth and Investment Management and Credit and Financing income.

For the first nine months of 2026, net profit attributable to shareholders rose 14.83% to US$116.29 million, while total income increased 5.07% to US$440.44 million. Earnings per share reached US cents 3.36, up 18.73%.

As of 30 September, GFH's total assets stood at US$12.23 billion and shareholders' equity at US$1.05 billion. The Bank maintained a strong liquidity position, with US$5.11 billion in cash and treasury balances, a Net Stable Funding Ratio of 144.1%, and an average Q3 Liquidity Coverage Ratio of 127%.

GFH continues to expand as an integrated banking and investment institution, having activated 390 accounts during its transformation into GFH Bank. It currently manages US$24.11 billion in assets and funds across the GCC, United States, and Europe.

— See Also Page 8 —

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:50	Asr	14:32
Sunrise	06:12	Maghrib	16:54
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:15

Election of five judges to ICJ raises questions of judicial independence and future Kuwaiti and Gulf representation

Former Executive Council Observer at the Permanent Court of Arbitration Peace Palace – The Hague

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By Tareq Yousef Alshumaimry

Amid escalating international conflicts and a growing need to resort to international law, the United Nations elected five judges to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 3 November 2026. They will serve nine-year terms beginning on 6 February 2027.

The newly elected judges are Dapo Akande of the United Kingdom, François Alabrune of France, Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud of Jordan, Rena Lee of Singapore, and Phoebe Okowa of Kenya. The Jordanian and Kenyan judges were re-elected for new full terms.

Drawing on my legal and professional experience at the Peace Palace in The Hague between 2012 and 2020, where both the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration are based, and on my representation of Kuwait and the Asian continent within international justice institutions, the significance of these elections extends beyond the successful candidates. It also concerns judicial independence, the qualifications required for membership of the Court, and the prospects for future Kuwaiti and Gulf participation in international adjudication.



Alshumaimry

Elections Conducted Over Three Rounds Without the Right of Veto

Nine candidates competed for five seats in elections conducted independently by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. Four seats were filled in the first round, while the election of Kenyan judge Phoebe Okowa required three rounds of voting.

To be elected, each candidate needed 97 votes in the General Assembly and eight votes in the Security Council, without any special voting privilege or veto power for the five permanent members.

Article 10 of the ICJ Statute expressly provides that no distinction shall be made between permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council when electing judges. Consequently, no individual permanent member can veto a candidate who secures the required majority.

This differs from the appointment of the United Nations Secretary-General. Under Article 97 of the UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. Such a recommendation is a substantive decision governed by Article 27 and may therefore be blocked by a permanent member's veto.

This distinction reflects the different legal frameworks governing the two processes. Judicial elections are subject to a specific safeguard against privileged voting by major powers, whereas the Security Council retains a decisive role in recommending the appointment of the UN's chief administrative officer.

The veto does not automatically extend to other international appointments. For example, judges and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court are elected under the Rome Statute without a Security Council vote. By contrast, substantive Security Council decisions establishing international institutions or missions and determining their mandates may be subject to the veto, although this does not mean that every appointment within such institutions requires Security Council approval.

The International Court of Justice: Fifteen Judges Independent of Governments

Established in 1945 and operational since 1946, the International Court of Justice is headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague. It comprises fifteen judges elected for nine-year terms, with five seats renewed every three years.

The Court adjudicates legal disputes between states when a valid basis for jurisdiction exists. It also delivers advisory opinions at the request of duly authorized international bodies.

It is distinct from the International Criminal Court, which exercises criminal jurisdiction over individuals accused of crimes falling within its mandate.

The ICJ applies international treaties, customary international law, and general principles of law, while also drawing upon judicial decisions and legal scholarship in accordance with its Statute.

Judges do not represent their national governments, and no two judges may hold the nationality of the same state. The Court's composition must also reflect the principal legal systems and main forms of civilization worldwide.

Continued on Page 5



Ministry of Communications photo

Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Affairs, and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar receives Ambassador of the French Republic to the State of Kuwait, Olivier Gauvin.

Kuwait eyes French expertise in AI and data management

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Affairs, and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar met on Thursday with the Ambassador of the French Republic to the State of Kuwait, Olivier Gauvin.

The discussions focused on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in artificial intelligence, data management, and the development of digital solutions to support the State of Kuwait's digital transformation agenda.

In a press statement issued after the meeting, which was also attended by Charles-Henri, CEO of the French company Pertimm, and Najat Ibrahim, Acting Director-General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), the agency said the talks explored opportunities to exchange expertise in modern technical fields.

The goal is to leverage this knowledge to advance Kuwait's digital transformation journey and enhance institutions' capabilities in artificial intelligence and data management, according to the statement.

The French company showcased its technical capabilities and expertise in artificial intelligence, data governance, and data integration, while also highlighting key projects and experience it has delivered in the region and internationally, it noted.

The meeting is part of broader efforts to foster international cooperation, facilitate the exchange of expertise, and utilize global best practices and modern technologies, it said. These initiatives aim to support the State of Kuwait's ongoing efforts to develop its digital infrastructure and accelerate its digital transformation.

Employee transfers subject to new Electricity Ministry rules

Applicants face stricter requirements

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Adel Al-Zamil has issued a decision outlining the procedures for receiving employee transfer requests between the ministry's organizational units.

The decision, issued pursuant to Ministerial Resolution No. 288/2026, stipulates that transfer requests will be accepted starting Sunday.

According to the decision, employees wishing to transfer must complete the designated application form, provide all required information and clearly state the reasons and justifications for their requests. Applicants must also attach a recent copy of their civil ID.

The application must be approved by the employee's direct supervisor and department director.

Employees must submit their transfer requests to the department they wish to join, which will determine the appropriate organizational unit based on its operational needs.

If the request is approved, the department will forward it to the designated transfer request authority through the electronic correspondence system.

The decision also outlines four responsibilities for employees, including ensuring the accuracy of all information and justifications provided in their applications, reporting to their new workplace within two weeks of the issuance of the administrative transfer decision, and acknowledging that transfer decisions cannot be withdrawn once issued.

The decision further stipulates that all applications submitted by an employee will be excluded if more than one transfer request is filed. Transfers to organizational units not included in the approved schedules of eligible departments are also prohibited.



Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Yang Xin delivers a speech.



Sheikha Al-Anoud Al-Sabah with Ambassador Yang Xin.

Kuwait highlights importance of UN SPMs in peacebuilding

NEW YORK, Nov 14, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait reaffirmed its firm support for the pivotal role played by United Nations Special Political Missions (SPMs) as a means of preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

In a statement to the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) on Friday evening, the Diplomatic Attache of Kuwait Mission to the UN Mohammad Al-Mulla said the success of the SPMs should not be measured merely by the continuation of their presence, but rather by their ability to create conducive conditions for dialogue, address the root causes of conflicts and achieve peaceful and sustainable political solutions.

The committee was discussing the agenda item 52, entitled "Comprehensive Review of Special Political Missions."

Al-Mulla welcomed efforts to review the future of UN peace operations in implementation of the Pact for the Future, describing the Secretary-General's report issued in August 2026 in this regard as an "important opportunity" to develop the Organization's tools and enhance its capacity to respond to evolving challenges.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that mandates of special political missions are based on clear, realistic and achievable objectives and that they possess the flexibility required to adapt to developments on the ground.

Meanwhile, he underscored the importance of respect for states' sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity and promoting national ownership of political processes to ensure that UN efforts support national solutions rather than replace them.

Al-Mulla called for providing these missions with adequate political support and financial and human resources, enhancing coordination with regional and subregional organizations, developing performance evaluation mechanisms, benefiting from lessons learned and ensuring effective participation of women and youth in mediation and peacebuilding efforts.



KUNA photo
Mohammad Al-Mulla – Diplomatic Attache of Kuwait Mission to the UN

Regarding the Middle East, Al-Mulla stressed the importance of the role played by the United Nations through its envoys and political offices, particularly the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, in supporting diplomatic efforts aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.

He noted that the success of these efforts remains contingent upon a genuine political horizon that ends the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and enables the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate and inalienable rights, foremost among them the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent sovereign state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

Al-Mulla warned that the continued Israeli occupation and practices in violation of international law, including settlement activities and measures aimed at undermining prospects for achieving the two-state solution, constitute a major obstacle to the success of political efforts and require a serious international commitment to addressing the root causes of the conflict and implementing relevant UN resolutions.

Chinese Ambassador outlines Xi Jinping's governance vision, Kuwait-China partnership

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager
Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Yang Xin highlighted China's development achievements, governance policies and expanding strategic partnership with Kuwait during a reading and dialogue forum organized by Xinhua News Agency in Kuwait.

Addressing the session on the first volume of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, Ambassador Yang said the book, featuring 26 in-depth reports by Xinhua, offers insights into China's modernization journey, people-centered development and governance approach under President Xi Jinping.

He highlighted China's economic transformation, noting that the country had become the world's second-largest economy and lifted 800 million people out of poverty. He also referred to improvements in living standards and ongoing efforts to achieve common prosperity.

HE Yang Xin stressed that effective governance, accountability and strict Party discipline remain central to China's long-term development, highlighting the Communist Party of China's efforts to strengthen supervision and combat corruption.

Turning to bilateral relations, the ambassador described Kuwait as an important partner for China in the Gulf, saying cooperation under the strategic leadership of President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah continues to advance.

He highlighted efforts to align China's Belt and Road Initiative with Kuwait Vision 2035, expressing Beijing's readiness to strengthen exchanges in governance and expand mutually beneficial cooperation across various sectors.

The ambassador thanked Xinhua News Agency's Kuwait bureau, the China Cultural Center in Kuwait and China Intercontinental Press for organizing the event.

Meanwhile, Sheikha Al-Anoud Al-Sabah, founder of the Kuwaiti-Chinese Friendship Club, highlighted China's cultural vision under President Xi Jinping, its commitment to preserving global heritage and its growing role in artificial intelligence.



Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sabah addressees the audience.



Yin Ke, Chief Correspondent of Xinhua News Agency – Kuwait Bureau



Group photo with Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Yang Xin.

In her address, titled "Chinese Culture in a New Era – Xi Jinping's Vision and China's Global Contributions," she emphasized the importance of combining China's rich traditional civilization with modern development, describing cultural confidence, heritage preservation and innovation as key pillars of national rejuvenation.

She also outlined China's contributions to international heritage protection and UNESCO initiatives, including the development of AI ethics, digital preservation of archaeological sites and the use of advanced technologies to restore ancient texts.

Al-Sabah stressed the importance of cultural diversity, dialogue and mutual learning among civilizations, describing culture and technology as bridges for international cooperation.

She also called for stronger cultural cooperation between Kuwait and China, particularly in heritage preservation, digitization and cultural exchange, as the two countries mark the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

For his part, Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sabah, Founder and Chairman of the Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things in Kuwait, called for expanding Kuwait-China relations beyond traditional trade and economic cooperation into artificial intelligence, technology and innovation.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted opportunities for joint projects in smart cities, energy, healthcare, education and scientific research, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and China's technological advancement.

He praised China's development experience, particularly its strategic planning, investment in human capital and ability to transform knowledge and innovation into drivers of economic growth.

He also emphasized the growing importance of artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things in improving institutional efficiency, public services and quality of life, stressing that technology should ultimately serve humanity.

Describing culture, science and technology as important bridges between Chinese and Arab civilizations, he called for turning shared visions into practical partnerships that promote sustainable development, generate knowledge and create opportunities for future generations.

The forum brought together participants to discuss China's governance experience, cultural development and opportunities for stronger cooperation between Kuwait and China.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Canned statements!

"KUWAIT has not been spared the destruction of civilian infrastructure, widespread public anxiety, or the military, psychological, and economic repercussions of Iranian aggression against the Gulf states since February this year," columnist **Khaled Ahmed Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Yet an effective Kuwaiti media discourse, both locally and internationally, has been conspicuously absent in addressing these developments and their consequences.



Al-Tarrah

In truth, the Acting Minister of Information, Omar Al-Omar, cannot be blamed for his recent statement, issued on the sidelines of a meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) information ministers in Manama. The statement was clearly pre-packaged, following the conventional, formulaic language typically conveyed through the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

KUNA does not operate according to the professional journalistic standards upheld by established international news agencies. Instead, it functions largely as a conduit for government press releases, transmitting statements exactly as drafted by the relevant ministries, without further elaboration, critical scrutiny, or investigative reporting.

Its role is limited to broadcasting news, or, more accurately, pre-packaged statements, exactly as received, with little journalistic value added and none of the professional curiosity required to pursue exclusive stories, provide meaningful analysis, or scrutinize the shortcomings of an approach built around canned official statements.

An "earthquake" has shaken Kuwait during these months of Iranian aggression, compounded by a fresh political and diplomatic tremor triggered by the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait.

The embassy objected to judicial rulings in security-related cases that posed a threat to Kuwait's stability, including cases involving threats against the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

Throughout these developments, state media has remained a mere spectator. And when it has spoken, it has done so through the same tired, prepackaged formulas.

Omar Al-Omar currently holds the Information portfolio in an acting capacity. He is neither a media nor a political science specialist, nor does his professional background indicate any specialized experience in media leadership.

Consequently, it would be unreasonable to expect him to deliver beyond the scope of his expertise and professional qualifications.

But what about the ministry's executive leadership? Its ranks are filled with officials who have risen through the hierarchy, whether through seniority, the influence of powerful figures, or the acquisition of advanced academic degrees. Yet none of these factors appears to have translated into any tangible professional or academic contribution to improving the quality of media performance.

This raises a more fundamental question - where is the impact of this accumulated experience and academic expertise when it comes to enhancing media output, developing new initiatives, and responding to the political, security, and media challenges confronting Kuwait and the region? The main question remains - Does His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, have a clear vision, any reservations, or a defined position on the current state of Kuwait's Ministry of Information—and on the stagnation and decline that have come to characterize the state's official media discourse? Our official media lacks a distinct identity or character. It offers little compelling content capable of engaging audiences, providing meaningful information, satisfying public curiosity, or answering the questions on people's minds.

Its statements are formulaic and pre-packaged, to the extent that artificial intelligence might well outperform the human voices currently featured in an official media apparatus that appears either moribund or, for all practical purposes, clinically dead. What comes next? Did the meeting of GCC information ministers in Bahrain involve any substantive cultural, media, or political discussions? Did the participants hear a Kuwaiti media voice that offered anything beyond the conventional and predictable rhetoric? To reiterate, the acting Minister of Information, Omar Al-Omar, cannot be held solely responsible for this state of affairs.

However, we would advise him to reconsider his continued tenure in this portfolio and to discuss the scope of his role and responsibilities with His Highness the Prime Minister, perhaps even requesting to be relieved of the position.

We are currently navigating an exceptionally sensitive period, one that could expose the minister, whether appointed in a substantive or acting capacity, to intense criticism and mounting political and media scrutiny.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, are you satisfied with this ongoing trade in pre-packaged, formulaic statements?"

Also:

"We must acknowledge that elections in the United States or Israel hold little real significance for us in terms of their outcomes," columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Developments in either country are unlikely to alter their underlying objectives. Both share a similar vision of the Arab world and pursue strategic agendas that place maximum pressure on our region in pursuit of their own national interests.

While both the United States and Israel have democratic political systems, that democracy largely governs their internal affairs.

Their foreign policies, by contrast, are heavily shaped by influential economic interest groups, whether linked to the military sector, the oil sector, or, in more recent years, the technology sector.

Consequently, their political disagreements are largely limited to domestic issues. We must therefore assess developments affecting the Arab world and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states through the lens of our own national interests, while considering how to build and exercise our own influence, or lobbying power, within the United States.

Admittedly, we have fallen far behind in establishing an effective lobbying presence, comparable to the long-established pro-Israel lobby in the United States, to represent our interests. Yet there is no reason why an Arab or Gulf lobby cannot be established in the world's most powerful nation.

We should not remain mere importers of American weapons and other goods. Instead, we should leverage technology to build local industries or, at the very least, establish heavy industries capable of meeting our own needs.

Both the Republican and Democratic parties, or, more precisely, their respective leaderships, have often viewed the Arab world through a lens of backwardness.

One must ask - what have these forces actually achieved since the end of the Second World War, the Arab defeat in 1967, and the U.S. defeat in Vietnam? Their efforts began with the destabilization of Lebanon. After 15 years of turmoil, they extended their reach across the Arab world, contributing to the devastation of Libya, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and other countries.

As a result, the Arab world found itself caught in the grip of a monster - extremism and terrorist movements, which were fundamentally products of Western and Israeli policies.

Nevertheless, the American stance towards the Iranian regime could mark a turning point in our relations.

Since 1979, Tehran adopted a fundamentally different approach toward its neighbors, actively fomenting regional discord under the banner of the so-called "export of the revolution" while pursuing a nuclear program with military dimensions. These policies have contributed to regional instability, particularly for the Gulf states.



Al-Kharafi

On this basis, we share common ground with the United States, regardless of whether the administration in power is Republican or Democratic, as Washington's position on this issue has remained consistent.

We must build on this common ground, leverage it to advance our interests, and act pragmatically, much as Washington itself engages with capitals around the world.

Our guiding principle should be the famous maxim attributed to former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, "There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies, only permanent interests." This is the fundamental premise. And it brings me back to the title - "Don't Overthink It." Whether Netanyahu succeeds or falls, whether the Democratic or Republican Party wins, or whether the far right in Europe gains or loses ground, none of these developments will fundamentally alter the underlying equation of Western and European politics as it relates to us, nor will they change how we are perceived.

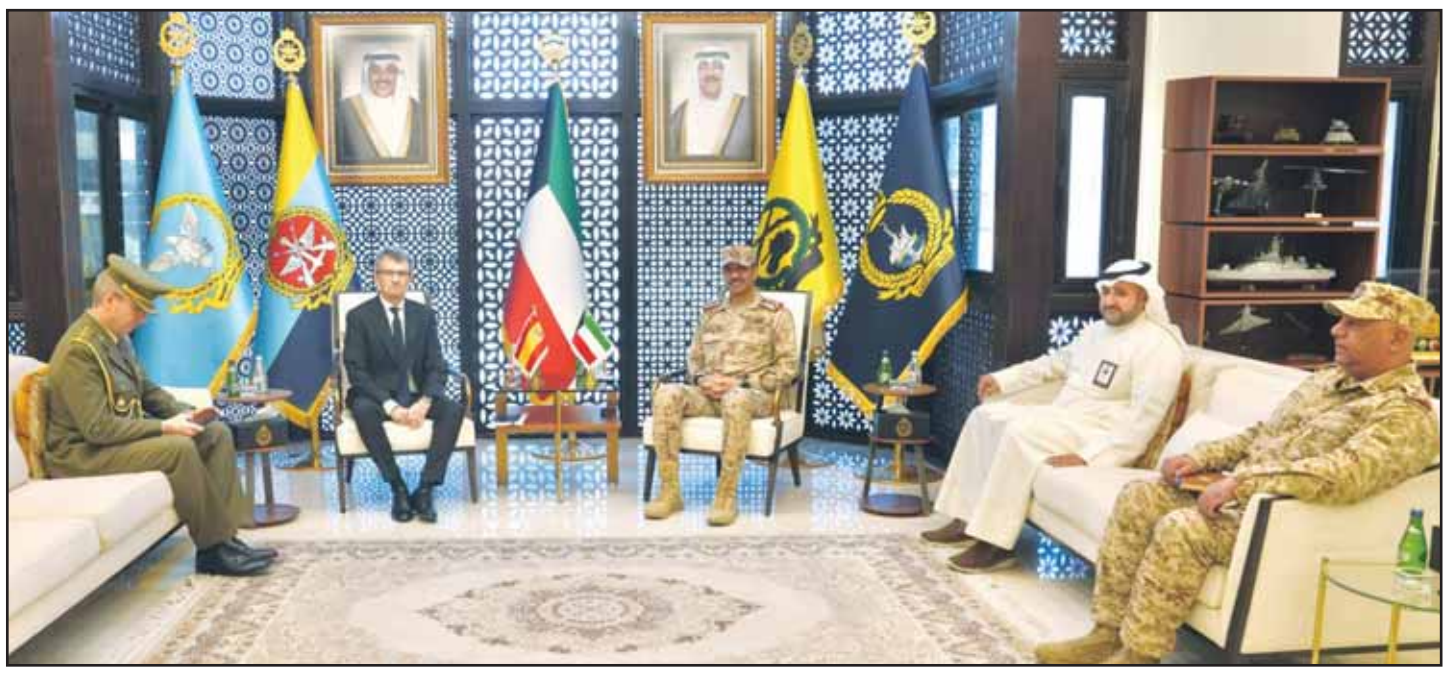
The external equation will remain unchanged unless the Arabs themselves change their understanding of it. In other words, unless they transform what is within themselves, they cannot expect the world to change its perception of them.

As Almighty Allah says: "Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves" (Quran 13:11).

Do the Arabs, and the people of the Gulf in particular, truly act in accordance with this verse?"

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Army Chief, Spanish envoy discuss bilateral ties



KUNA photo

Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraian meets Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Manuel Hernandez Gamallo.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraian discussed with Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Manuel Hernandez Gamallo several issues of mutual interest.

The two sides also tackled bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, the Army General Staff said in a press release.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Al-Sabah, Spanish Military Attaché Col. Alfonso Domínguez Barbero, and several other army commanders attended the meeting.

Drug busts lead to three arrests and major seizure

Fire Force closes 29 establishments over safety violations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Ministry of Interior has arrested three suspects in two separate cases involving the possession of narcotics for trafficking and personal use, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the first case resulted in the arrest of a Bangladeshi national in Al-Rehab, who was found in possession of A4 sheets soaked in a liquid containing the synthetic drug known as "Chemical."

In the second case, conducted in coordination with the General Administration of Customs (GAC), two Nepalese nationals were arrested in Al-Dajeej after receiving a shipment from a shipping company containing containers of the synthetic drug "Chemical."

A4 sheets soaked in the same substance were also found in the suspects' possession and inside their vehicle. The suspects confessed to smuggling the narcotics into Kuwait for trafficking and personal use.

The seizures in both cases amounted to 12 containers containing a total of 6.7 kilograms of the synthetic drug "Chemical," in addition to 92 A4 sheets soaked in the same substance.

The suspects, along with the seized items, were referred to the relevant authorities for further legal action.

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85 businesses cited: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Interior, conducted a joint inspection campaign in the Capital Governorate under the direct supervision of the Director of the Capital Fire Prevention Department, Brigadier General Mohammed Yousef Ahmed, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in the administrative closure of 29 establishments, while 85 others received notices and warnings for failing to meet the required safety standards.

Vehicles impounded

Reckless driving lands motorists in custody

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The General Traffic Department, represented by the Security Control Department, arrested two motorists and a motorcycle rider in three separate incidents involving reckless driving, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In the first case, a driver was arrested after a video circulated on social media showing him driving recklessly in Abdali area. During questioning, he admitted to the violations.

In the second case, another driver was apprehended after a video surfaced showing him engaging in reckless driving. His vehicle was subsequently located parked in the Jahra Industrial Area.

In a separate incident, a security patrol spotted an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) being driven illegally and recklessly in Jaber Al-Ahmad. When officers ordered the driver to stop, he attempted to flee and collided with the patrol vehicle. Traffic officers subsequently apprehended him and issued the necessary citations.

All three violators were referred to the Central Prison, while the two vehicles and the motorcycle involved in the incidents were impounded.

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MoI urges drivers to observe load limits: The Ministry of Interior urged truck drivers to comply with permitted load limits and ensure that cargo is properly covered and secured to prevent it from falling or causing accidents that could endanger other road users, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an awareness video posted on its official X account, the ministry warned that exceeding permitted load limits poses a serious risk to road safety.

It also stressed the importance of keeping trucks in their designated lanes, ensuring that tires are in good condition and brakes are functioning properly, and performing regular vehicle maintenance.

GTD warns against illegal parking at Al-Mubarakiya

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Traffic and Operations Sector at the Ministry of Interior has urged motorists visiting Al-Mubarakiya Market to use the available parking facilities and park only in designated areas to reduce congestion, regulate traffic flow, and facilitate access for shoppers and visitors, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement published on the General Traffic Department's Instagram account, the sector identified several available parking facilities, including those in the Al-Blukat area, the Gold Souk, the Wholesale Market, the White Building, Crystal Tower, Al-Ghalia Tower at the entrance to Amman Street, the Municipality Park, the Fahad Al-Salem Street parking building, the Ali Al-Salem Street parking building, the former Central Bank building, Boubyan Bank, the Al-Haka Street parking building, and the parking facility opposite the National Library.

The Traffic and Operations Sector warned that parking violations would result in penalties and traffic fines, stressing the importance of public cooperation in maintaining safety and ensuring smooth traffic movement around Al-Mubarakiya Market.

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Road 207 to close for 10 days: The Ministry of Public Works, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, announced the closure of Road 207, specifically the section connecting the intersection of Road 5 and Street 101 to Al-Ghawas Roundabout, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure will take effect at dawn on Sunday, November 15, and remain in place until November 25, when the road is scheduled to reopen.

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Al-Salmi Road closure prompts diversion: The Ministry of Public Works, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, has announced a road closure and traffic diversion on Al-Salmi Road (Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah Road), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure affects traffic from the Al-Salmi border crossing towards Kuwait, specifically between stations 60 and 55. Vehicles will be diverted onto the opposite carriageway towards Al-Salmi, where traffic will operate in both directions.

The traffic diversion will be implemented in two phases, initially directing vehicles to the left side of the road, followed by the right side, along the section between stations 65 and 72 in the direction of the Al-Salmi border crossing.



Kuwait Education Min extolls ALECSO posts as 'proof of trust'

Kuwaiti named ALECSO executive board chief, assistant director-general

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei congratulated the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Technical Affairs Mohammad Al-Khalidi and Dr. Tareq Al-Ghareeb on winning key posts at a leading Arab educational agency.

Al-Khalidi won the presidency of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Executive Board, while Al-Ghareeb was named Assistant Director-General.

The minister made the congratulations while receiving Al-Khalidi, Al-Ghareeb and their accompanying delegation at Kuwait International Airport upon their return from the ALECSO General Conference, which was held in Muscat.

In a press statement, Al-Tabtabaei underlined that this achievement marks a national milestone and a source of pride for the State of Kuwait and reflects Arab confidence in Kuwaiti cadres.

The minister added that this accomplishment is the fruit of the high-level support and patronage accorded to national talents by Kuwait's political leadership.

He pointed out that empowering Kuwaitis to assume leading positions and participate effectively in decision-making roles demonstrates trust in Kuwaitis and their ability to represent the country, fulfill its expectations and promote its Arab and international presence.

The State of Kuwait has been named both Chair of the Executive Board and Assistant Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) by acclamation.

The step was taken during the 28th ordinary session of the ALECSO's General Conference, held in the Omani capital, Muscat, on Thursday.

Speaking to KUNA Following the conclusion of the event, the head of the Kuwaiti delegation and Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial, and Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Mohammad Al-Khalidi, said that the agency's 22 Arab member states selected him as Chairman of the Executive Board and Dr. Tariq Al-Ghareeb, a supervisor at the Ministry of Education, as Assistant Director-General.

He expressed his pride in the Arab trust placed in the State of Kuwait by choosing him as Chairman of the organization's Executive Board, touting this achievement as a "national accomplishment" added to Kuwait's record of successes in Arab forums and as the member states' appreciation for the role Kuwait plays in supporting joint Arab action.

For his part, Dr. Al-Ghareeb expressed his happiness and pride at being named Assistant Director-General of the agency.

He noted that this victory demonstrates the great trust placed in Kuwaiti officials by Arab counterparts and the appreciation for the country's role in supporting Arab institutions and organizations.



Ministry of Education photo

Kuwait's Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei in a group photo with Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Technical Affairs Mohammad Al-Khalidi and Dr. Tareq Al-Ghareeb.



Minister Al-Tabtabaei receives a delegation of exhibition organizers.

Kuwait's 'Dirasati' sets Guinness World Record with 31,000 visitors

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The 'Dirasati' (My Studies) Exhibition set a Guinness World Record as the largest university fair in the world by attendance, drawing more than 31,000 students for three days, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event took place last Monday under the patronage and in the presence of Education Minister Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei.

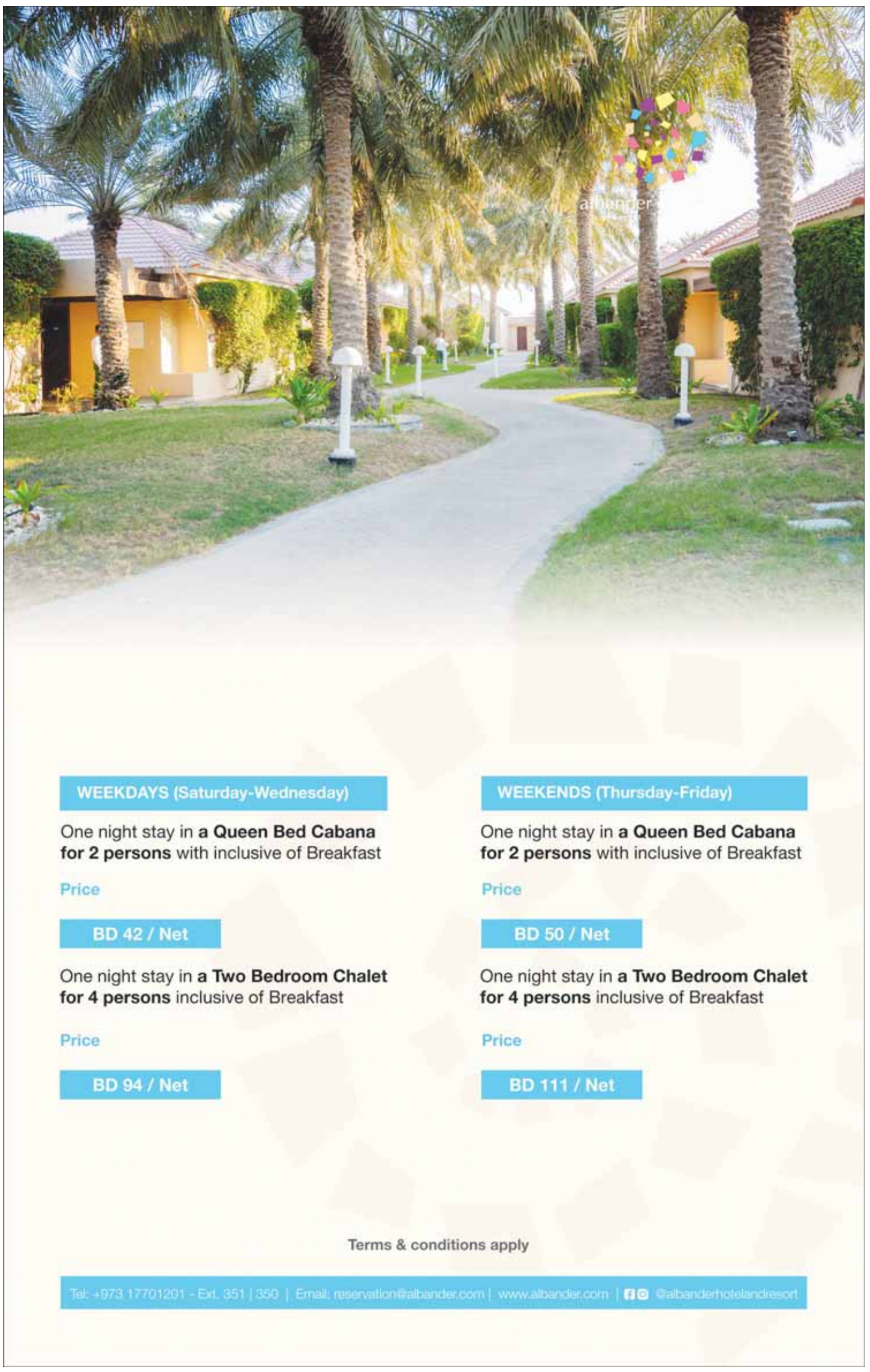
In a press statement after his meeting with the organizers of the exhibition, Al-Tabtabaei underscored the importance of such educational initiatives in strengthening partnerships between educational institutions and the private sector. He affirmed their role in guiding students toward academic specializations according to their personal interests, aspirations and demand of the labor market.

He expressed his pride in this global achievement, which confirms the capability of national talent to organize exceptional educational events that improve the standing of Kuwait on the international stage.

He praised the organizers for providing an educational platform that introduces students to available academic opportunities and university specializations, helping them make well-informed decisions regarding their educational and professional paths.

During the meeting, the Guinness World Record certificate was presented to Al-Tabtabaei in recognition of his support, attendance and contribution to the success of this educational event—a global milestone registered under the name of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Director of the Support Services General Department at the Education Ministry Maryam Al-Enezi stated in a previous announcement that the exhibition attracted a number of visitors from the very first hours of its opening -- around 4,210 visitors. She considers such a huge turnout a reflection of the importance of the exhibition and its role in providing an educational and advisory platform for students and parents to explore academic opportunities.





KUNA photos

Some photos from the event.

MoE Launches Eleventh Arab Reading Challenge in Kuwait

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Ministry of Education on Thursday announced the launching of the 11th Arab Reading Challenge in Kuwait for the 2026/2027 academic year.

This follows the Kuwaiti team's success in the 10th season in Dubai, where they secured top rankings.

In a press statement, General Coordinator of the challenge in Kuwait Abdullah Al-Barrak revealed that the theme for the 11th season is, "Reading is Life." He said the goal is to make reading an integral part of students' lives for them to realize their aspirations.

Meanwhile, Technical Supervisor for Philosophy in Ahmadi Educational District Bodour Al-Asqa, who won second place in the Outstanding Supervisor Category during the 10th season, shared her successful experience. She talked about the challenges she encountered, strategy that led to such an achievement, and the initiatives and activities she carried out in collaboration with the principals, supervisors and students.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait leads

Targeting the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, the strike resulted in casualties involving patients and medical staff, in violation of international humanitarian law, which ensures special protection for medical facilities and healthcare workers, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said in a press release.

The ministers condemned the continued Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians, including the targeting of tents and other sites sheltering displaced persons, as these attacks undermine the ceasefire agreement and efforts aimed at restoring security and stability in the Gaza Strip, and contradict U.S. President Donald Trump's comprehensive plan.

The ministers expressed deep concern over the continued Israeli occupation restrictions imposed on the entry of humanitarian aid and shelter materials, including tents, caravans, and mobile homes, along with medical supplies.

They called on the Israeli occupation to respond to the appeals of the international community and the Board of Peace aimed at increasing aid, and to immediately and fully fulfill its obligations under the Sharm El-Sheikh Agreement, President Trump's comprehensive plan, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 of 2025.

Meanwhile, Israeli occupation aircraft targeted a group of Palestinians near the American Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing two people and leaving several others with various injuries.

Health authorities reported in a statement that ambulance crews rushed to the site, recovering the bodies of the two deaths and transporting the injured to Al-Shifa Medical Complex, west of Gaza city, for treatment.

Earlier in the day, health authorities announced that ongoing airstrikes, artillery shelling, and gunfire across various areas of the Gaza Strip over the past 48 hours left 16 Palestinians dead and 68 injured, including several in critical condition.

Since the October 11, 2025 ceasefire, the death toll has risen to 1,643 deaths and 5,964 injuries, in addition to 850 bodies recovered from beneath the rubble.

Health authorities also confirmed that the cumulative toll since the start of the Israeli occupation aggression on the Gaza Strip has reached 74,695 deaths and 176,093 injuries.

In a related development, a nine-month-old infant died due to severe cold, bringing the total number of cold-related deaths in the Gaza Strip to 11.

Continued from Page 1

O Egyptian

Indeed, the joy surrounding the young Egyptian girl's achievement is a testament to how to triumph over obstacles, provided there is a strong will to succeed. The region continues to face numerous challenges. What matters is not surrendering to defeat, but transforming it into victory by using it as a springboard for a new beginning.

The difference between those who let setbacks stop them and those who overcome hardship lies in how they interpret events. This is precisely what the UAE, particularly Dubai, has done.

I would like to express my gratitude to the leaders of the UAE, foremost among them are the President and the Vice President.

May God bless those who turn hardships into opportunities. The Gulf states are not merely 'barrels of oil', as some doubters or malicious westerners might attempt to portray them. Rather, the Gulf states are vital to civilization and knowledge.

Yes, thanks to the UAE, Mayar captured the world's attention and gaze.

Hawally, Kabd

The campaign also resulted in the arrest of 16 individuals for violating residency and labor laws, nine undocumented workers, 10 absconding individuals, six individuals wanted in civil cases, four wanted in criminal cases, and three individuals subject to arrest warrants. Four others were arrested for failing to carry identification documents.

Also, seven individuals were arrested in possession of alcoholic beverages, while four others were apprehended for possessing narcotics.

The participating government agencies also reported their respective enforcement activities. KFF recorded 92 actions, PAFN carried out 37, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry conducted 33. Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality removed eight abandoned vehicles.

The total number of actions carried out by all participating authorities reached 928, with the necessary legal procedures taken against those involved.

Elsewhere, the Traffic and Operations Sector at the Ministry of Interior conducted a joint security and traffic campaign in Kabd, with the participation of patrols from the Farwaniya Governorate Traffic Department and the governorate's Emergency Police Department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the campaign was conducted under the supervision of the Head of the Traffic and Operations Sector, Brigadier General Ahmed Fahd Al-Azmi, with follow-up by the Director General of the Emergency Police Department, Brigadier General Hamlan Hadhiri Al-Hamlan, and the Assistant Director General, Colonel Sabah Ali Al-Sabah.

The campaign resulted in the arrest of 19 individuals wanted in connection with outstanding warrants, debt-related cases, and expired residency permits. They were referred to the relevant authorities. Seven additional individuals were apprehended for failing to carry identification documents.

Two individuals were referred to the relevant authorities, one to the Residency Affairs Department and the other to the Criminal Investigation Department. Security personnel also seized two vehicles wanted in connection with outstanding cases.

In addition, one individual was arrested for driving without a valid license, and another vehicle was impounded for traffic violations. Several other traffic citations were also issued.

CAIT confirms

access to email and the processing of delayed messages; however, she cautioned that some users may still experience intermittent disruptions in the coming period.

She clarified that no delayed messages will be lost, as a 48-hour email protection window remains in effect.

She added that CAIT is closely monitoring developments in coordination with Microsoft officials.

Ibrahim emphasized CAIT's commitment to tracking technical issues that may impact electronic services and ensuring that government entities are kept informed of any updates regarding the outage and the progress of its resolution.

Earlier, CAIT announced on X that some users might face difficulties accessing Microsoft 365 services. The affected services include Exchange Online, Microsoft Teams, SharePoint Online, Microsoft Copilot, and Microsoft Defender XDR.

Kuwait scores

In his opening remarks, Al-Awadhi underscored the importance of the conference as a step towards strengthening healthcare cooperation among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. He described the gathering as a vital platform for exchanging scientific knowledge, improving medical practices and building scientific and professional partnerships in order to enhance the quality of patient care throughout the region.

He indicated that gastroenterology and hepatology are among the medical specializations witnessing rapid advancements, particularly in diagnostic techniques, treatment methods and interventional endoscopy. He affirmed that these developments put a responsibility on healthcare institutions to keep pace with the latest medical innovations, invest in developing their human resources and fortify training, scientific research and innovation.

He reaffirmed the Ministry of Health's commitment to continuously upgrade gastroenterology and hepatology services, citing the ongoing efforts to expand interventional endoscopy capabilities in public hospitals. He explained that these advancements solidified the healthcare system's ability to diagnose and manage complex medical conditions, while offering patients advanced and minimally invasive treatment options.

He revealed that Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital performed the first procedure of its kind in Kuwait -- biliary drainage through the stomach using endoscopic ultrasound, eliminating the need for conventional surgical intervention.

He stated that the hospital consists of a comprehensive unit for inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), which operates through an integrated multidisciplinary approach that brings together medical, surgical and diagnostic expertise to provide comprehensive patient care.

On developments in liver transplantation, the minister said that the unit, in collaboration with international hospitals, carried out liver transplants for 132 Kuwaiti patients, while ensuring continuous care and monitoring through the follow up clinic.

He added that the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit at Al-Amiri Hospital follows up 120 liver transplant recipients and provides interventions for diseases affecting the gallbladder, bile ducts and pancreas.

He congratulated the Thunayan Al-Ghanim Gastroenterology Center on becoming the first training facility in the Middle East accredited by the International Bowel Ultrasound (IBUS) Group. The accreditation enables the center to train doctors in the use of bowel ultrasound to diagnose and monitor patients with inflammatory bowel disease.

He talked about the achievements of medical teams at Jahra Hospital, which made significant developments in the endoscopic removal of large polyps and early-stage tumors. He said the hospital's specialists used peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) to treat achalasia, providing patients with sophisticated and minimally invasive treatment alternatives.

On the achievements of the Haya Al-Habib Gastroenterology Center at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, he revealed that its medical teams completed more than 30 scientific research studies over the past five years. "These studies were either published in reputable medical journals or presented at prestigious scientific conferences, confirming the close relationship between clinical excellence and scientific research," he asserted.

Continued from Page 2

The Newly Elected Judges: Academic Qualifications and International Experience

Dapo Akande – United Kingdom

Akande holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Ife in Nigeria and a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is Professor of Public International Law at the University of Oxford and a member of the United Nations International Law Commission. His areas of expertise include armed conflict, international immunities, and the use of force.

François Alabrune – France

Alabrune studied law at the University of Limoges and graduated from Sciences Po Paris and France's École nationale d'administration. He served as Director of Legal Affairs at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and as France's Ambassador to the Netherlands. He also participated in negotiations leading to the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud – Jordan

Hmoud holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Jordan, a Master of Laws from George Washington University, a diploma in international human rights law from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at Lund University, and a further Master of Laws from Franklin Pierce Law Center. He served as Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and chaired the International Law Commission in 2021.

Rena Lee – Singapore

Lee holds both a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws from the National University of Singapore, as well as an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Aberdeen. She served as Singapore's Ambassador for International Law and chaired the negotiations that led to the adoption of the 2023 Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. Her expertise includes the law of the sea.

Phoebe Okowa – Kenya

Okowa holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nairobi, a professional legal qualification from the Kenya School of Law, and postgraduate legal qualifications, including a doctorate, from the University of Oxford. She is Professor of Public International Law at Queen Mary University of London and specializes in state responsibility and international environmental law.

These professional backgrounds reveal three principal pathways to international judicial office: academic research and scholarship; legal diplomacy and government advisory work; and legal practice, advocacy, and international arbitration.

These pathways frequently overlap. Neither prior service as a national judge nor possession of a doctoral degree is necessarily required, provided that candidates satisfy the standards of professional competence, integrity, and independence established by the Court's Statute.

Five Major Cases Highlighting the Court's Judicial Responsibilities

The elections coincide with significant cases before the International Court of Justice involving matters of global and regional concern, particularly for the Arab world.

South Africa v. Israel

The case concerns the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip. The Court issued provisional measures during 2024, which did not constitute a final determination that genocide had occurred.

Palestine v. United States of America

This case concerns the relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem and raises legal questions relating to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Court's jurisdiction.

Canada and the Netherlands v. Syria

The proceedings concern obligations under the Convention against Torture, including state responsibility for preventing alleged violations and investigating acts of torture.

Iran v. United States of America

The dispute concerns alleged violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights, highlighting the relevance of international adjudication to disputes affecting the Gulf region.

Ukraine v. Russia

This case concerns the interpretation and application of the Genocide Convention in the context of the Russia–Ukraine war and raises questions about the limits of the Court's jurisdiction.

Together, these cases illustrate the distinction between delivering a binding judicial decision and ensuring its implementation.

Article 94 of the United Nations Charter requires parties to comply with ICJ judgments in cases to which they are parties. Where a state fails to comply, the other party may bring the matter before the Security Council, where political considerations and the veto may again become relevant to substantive decisions.

Kuwait and the Gulf: When Will a Judge from the Region Reach the Peace Palace?

These elections raise a question deserving serious consideration by Kuwaiti and Gulf legal and diplomatic institutions: Why should Kuwait or another Gulf Cooperation Council state not begin preparing a qualified candidate for election to the International Court of Justice, following the examples of Jordan and Singapore, as well as earlier Arab representation from Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt?

Kuwait's modern history is closely linked to the principles of international legitimacy, particularly following the Iraqi invasion of 1990. The country has valuable experience in defending state sovereignty and supporting the peaceful settlement of international disputes through legal mechanisms.

Gulf Cooperation Council states also possess accumulated expertise in diplomacy, arbitration, maritime law, and international relations.

There are no seats specifically reserved for Kuwait or the Gulf. Nominations are submitted through national groups associated with the Permanent Court of Arbitration, or equivalent national groups established under the ICJ Statute, while election requires the necessary majorities in both the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The experiences of Jordan and Singapore demonstrate that access to the Court does not depend primarily on a state's size, but rather on developing internationally recognized legal expertise.

This calls for a long-term Gulf strategy combining advanced academic training, participation in the work of the International Law Commission, practical experience in international judicial and arbitral institutions, and diplomatic support for qualified candidates, while fully respecting their judicial independence.

The next regular elections are scheduled for 2029, for terms beginning in February 2030. Special elections may also take place if a seat becomes vacant before the expiry of its term.

From the Peace Palace to the Future of International Justice

The 2026 elections demonstrate that judicial independence depends not only on legal provisions, but also on the qualifications, integrity, and professional judgment of judges who must apply international law independently of governmental interests.

They also underline the importance of strengthening Arab and Gulf legal participation in international institutions as a means of promoting the rule of law.

Given The Hague's central position in international justice, preparing a qualified Kuwaiti or Gulf candidate for election to the International Court of Justice should be regarded as a serious institutional objective requiring early planning and sustained professional development.

A nation's international standing is measured not only by its political and economic presence, but also by the legal expertise it contributes independently to the advancement of international justice.



Effects could be felt for days

Thousands of US flights canceled as airlines work to dig out from nationwide ground stop

WASHINGTON, Nov 14, (AP): More than 2,000 flights were canceled Saturday as airlines across the US worked to dig out from the longest nationwide ground stop in 25 years, which stranded passengers and forced professional and college sports teams to scramble for alternate transportation.

Trump administration officials said new technology being added to the nation's air traffic control system overloaded antiquated equipment and caused "intermittent" communications and radar gaps, leading to the flight shutdown of more than four hours.

A limited number of domestic flights departed after the stop was lifted around 8:15 p.m. ET. But the effects could be felt for days, with officials saying the system is likely to be operating normally in time to handle the Thanksgiving travel rush.

The nationwide stop was the first since January 2023, when another key FAA computer system that sends notices to pilots malfunctioned, and the second since the Sept 11, 2001, attacks.

Emily Brown and her 14-year-old daughter waited more than four hours Friday at the Dallas airport for their flight to Columbus, Ohio, before giving up. They were traveling to surprise her daughter's best friend. Instead, she had to settle for phoning the friend through tears in the airport, Brown said.

"She saved up her money to buy her own ticket, and she's planned this whole weekend," Brown said. "Now we're not sure when we're gonna be able to go."

Ruth Coles was stuck on her plane for more than five hours after landing at Los Angeles International Airport from Newark, New Jersey. She said the passengers were told they were waiting for a gate to open.

"The pilot keeps saying they are telling him we are next in line," Coles said.

At airports across the US, passengers stared at screens showing delays or rushed to find buses or trains to their destinations. Some passed the time by breaking out in song.

Sports teams scheduled to play this weekend adjusted game start times, searched for hotel rooms, rescheduled flights and chartered buses.

Auburn University's football team opted to take a bus to Mississippi State and the Saturday start time was pushed from noon ET to 4:15 p.m. Other universities affected by the stoppage included Baylor, Washington, Kansas State, Minnesota and No. 19 Ole Miss, which did not plan to fly until Saturday morning for its game against Oklahoma.

Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy encouraged NCAA football teams to reach out to the FAA so the agency can prioritize flights for Saturday games.



United Airlines check-in kiosk are closed at Washington Dulles International Airport, in Chantilly, Va on Nov 13, after the Federal Aviation Administration grounded flights nationwide. (AP)

More than 2,500 flights were canceled in the US Saturday and hundreds more were delayed, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks flight disruptions.

Corbyn Wascher's flight was on the tarmac at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport for four hours Friday on his way home to Moline, Illinois, from a conference in Miami. Everyone was cordial on the American Airlines plane as they talked and stretched their legs and the flight attendants handed out water, pretzels and biscotti snacks, he said.

"The stewardesses were amazing. You could tell that they were pretty stressed out," said the 37-year-old high school teacher, who took a $100 uber to a hotel 25 minutes from the airport after he was unable to find new flights. He was scheduled for a Saturday afternoon flight to Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin told reporters at the White House that no one was in any danger as more than 3,000 flights were safely landed Friday.

Duffy blamed Congress for failing to approve more funding for new technology, while downplaying the fact that trying to implement new fixes overtaxed the system. He suggested more disruptions might occur.

"We didn't think we would have this kind of outage. We did," he said. "We were able to review what went wrong, and then reboot the system and go. But, you will have more of these."

Duffy said the problems were not linked to the FAA's new AI-powered system the agency is rolling out to help predict problems in the sky because that isn't connected to Friday's failure.

"This is all the old legacy equipment. All of the new equipment that's been deployed did not go down," Duffy said.

The FAA has already replaced thousands of old copper wires with fiber optic lines and upgraded hundreds of radio systems as part of the overhaul that began last year after Congress approved $12.5 billion of funding. Duffy and the White House are pushing for $30 billion more to complete the work.

The problem appeared similar to a regional air traffic control communication outage in September that snarled hundreds of flights across the Northeast, although that disruption was linked to a construction crew cutting a fiber optic line. Aging equipment was also blamed for the brief radar outages last year that disrupted Newark airport.

Aviation safety expert Steve Arroyo said the difference this time is it happened on a nationwide scale that left controllers unable to reliably talk to pilots.

"If you don't have that ability, whether it's because the old wires that they have are just run down or for whatever reason, you've got to stop airplanes on the ground and not put them in the air, where you're going to risk not being able to communicate with them," said Arroyo, a former United Airlines pilot.

Friday's ground stop also was different from the one after 9/11 because planes were not being told to land immediately and pilots likely were able to communicate with ground controllers at airports, Arroyo said.

US-led talks to consider wider European security

Ukraine launches nearly 1,200 drones at Russia

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 14, (AP): Ukraine fired almost 1,200 drones at Russian targets overnight in one of its biggest aerial attacks since Moscow's full-scale invasion nearly five years ago.

Meanwhile, US and Russian negotiators raised the stakes in talks to stop the fighting by including for discussion wider European security arrangements that have been in place since the end of the Cold War. That change, long sought by Moscow, has alarmed European leaders and placed a question mark on NATO's future role.

"Russia wants to talk about questions of European security architecture. We don't need to talk about that. There is one," German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said, referring to NATO.

After two days of talks with Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Abu Dhabi this week, US envoys briefed Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was in Dublin, Ireland, to meet European leaders.

More talks are planned as negotiators seek a breakthrough in peace efforts, according to US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

A team of diplomats from the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the European Union will be sent to the talks, said European Council President Antonio Costa after a meeting in Dublin. The session was dominated by European efforts to avoid being sidelined in the US-led negotiations.



A production hall destroyed in a Russian airstrike is seen at a DTEK power plant in Ukraine on Nov 11. (AP)

Kushner, who is also President Donald Trump's son-in-law, said Russia had agreed to include Europe in upcoming talks, after Moscow's long insistence that the continent's governments should be excluded because they supported Ukraine.

Europe's presence at the table will allow negotiators "to address the broader postwar European security arrangements alongside the territorial issues between Ukraine and Russia," Kushner said on X.

European leaders are wary of Russian maneuvering, as well as Trump's praise for Putin and his administration's sharp criticism of Europe.

The EU's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, said Europe must insist on a ceasefire before taking the negotiations further - the opposite of what Putin demands.

"If we start to talk about what Russia is asking regarding the security architecture, we actually walk into the traps that Russia is setting us," she said in Dublin.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Luc Frieden insisted that Europe must take its fate into its own hands. "We cannot let neither the Americans nor the Russians decide about our future," Frieden said.

Moscow is aiming "to dismantle NATO and the post-Cold War European security architecture," the Institute for the Study of War said in an assessment Thursday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reaffirmed that Russia is open for contacts with the Europeans.

"Once we understand (Europe's) true intentions and their readiness to facilitate the peace process, then it will be possible to make a decision on holding a dialogue regarding a settlement in Ukraine in an expanded format," he said.

Zelenskyy on Friday repeated his complaints about drone speed limits on the U.S. Starshield system - SpaceX's military-grade version of the Starlink satellite internet service - that Ukraine needs for its defense.

The speed restrictions are limiting Ukrainian drones to 161 kph (100 mph) on the entire front line and in Russian-occupied territory, he said, making it impossible for Kyiv to deploy its interceptors effectively against Moscow's fast-moving jet-powered drones.

"We still have no clear explanations," he said of the unannounced restrictions, after first raising the issue on Thursday.

Ukrainian officials are asking the US State Department, the Pentagon and SpaceX to clarify and resolve the situation, he said.

Last month, similar SpaceX limits on Ukrainian drone speeds severely disrupted operations, alarming officials in Kyiv who fear a drop in U.S. support.

S.Sudan postpones 1st nat'l elections again, to Feb 2027

JUBA, South Sudan, Nov 14, (AP): South Sudan has again postponed its first national elections since independence in 2011, moving polling from December to February amid concerns about insecurity, funding shortages and the country's readiness to vote.

A revised timetable published Saturday by the National Election Commission sets Feb. 11, 2027, as polling day, replacing Dec. 22. The document did not give a reason for the postponement.



Kiir

The polls have been repeatedly delayed, including in 2022 and 2024. The latest announcement follows warnings that elections could further unravel the country's fragile peace.

The commission published the timetable on social media on the day voter registration was scheduled to begin. It also sets dates for candidate nominations and campaigning.

A day earlier, commission chairperson Gabriel Bol Deng told journalists in Juba that registration would run from Nov. 14 to Nov. 28 at 3,161 registration centers across the country's 10 states and three administrative areas.

Deng urged eligible citizens to register and called on political parties, civil society groups, community leaders and the media to help raise public awareness.

South Sudan became independent from Sudan in 2011 after decades of civil war. A new conflict broke out in 2013 between forces loyal to President **Salva Kiir** and followers of his rival, Riek Machar. A peace deal was signed in 2018 and a transitional government of national unity was formed in 2020.

Fighting between government and opposition forces escalated in early 2025, and Machar was placed under house arrest in Juba that March. He and seven co-defendants are on trial on charges including treason, murder and crimes against humanity linked to an attack on an army garrison in Nasir, in the northeast. They deny the charges.

The transitional unity government was dissolved in September and replaced by a caretaker administration.

The South Sudan Civil Society Forum said in a statement issued in late October that conditions did not support fair, credible, peaceful and inclusive elections within the remaining time. It called for an inclusive dialogue on electoral preparations and the country's transition.

Kiir's ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement, or SPLM, has been holding primaries across the country. But there has been little electoral activity among other registered parties, Anita Kiki Gbeho, head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, told the U.N. Security Council on Nov. 10.

India vehicle crash kills 26

NEW DELHI, Nov 14, (Xinhua): At least 26 people were killed and many others injured Friday in a head-on collision between a minibus and a container truck in India's northeastern state of Assam, officials said.

The accident took place at Rongajan, near Kaziranga in Golaghat district, about 274 km northeast of Dispur, the capital city of Assam. The deceased included college students.

Police said the impact of the collision left the minibus severely damaged, trapping several passengers inside the mangled vehicle.

"The death toll is likely to increase given the critical condition of some of the injured," a police official said.

The ill-fated minibus was headed to Nagaon from Golaghat, while the container truck was travelling towards Upper Assam, when the collision took place.

The exact number of people travelling in the minibus was not immediately known. However, reports suggested that more than 35 passengers were inside it when it collided with the container truck coming from the opposite direction.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief over the deaths in the accident and extended condolences to the families of the victims.

Also:

NEW DELHI: At least four people were killed Friday after gunmen fired upon vehicles in **India**'s northeastern state of **Manipur**, police said.

The vehicles were ambushed on National Highway 202 near **New Haven** in **Ukhrul** district, about 82 km northeast of **Imphal**, the capital city of Manipur. The victims, who were identified as Naga civilians, were traveling towards Imphal in two vehicles, according to police.

Additional security forces comprising police, border security force, army and Assam Rifles have been rushed to the area to reinforce security and prevent any further untoward incidents.

SE Asian leaders to call for peaceful resolutions of conflicts, US President Trump to join final talks

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 14, (AP): Some of the world's most intractable conflicts will be high on the agenda when Southeast Asian leaders gather in the Philippine capital for annual summit meetings this weekend. US President Donald Trump is expected to join them for the final talks.

The three-day summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their Asian and Western counterparts starts Sunday in a heavily guarded convention center in Manila Bay.

According to drafts of prepared post-summit communiques seen by The Associated Press, no breakthroughs are expected in the discussions that will focus on calling for the peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes, the civil strife in Myanmar and the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine.

This year, the Philippines holds the rotating leadership of ASEAN, a conservative regional bloc of 11 democratic and authoritarian states, including police states. The bloc has managed to keep together such a diverse grouping since its founding in 1967 largely because of its bedrock policy of non-interference in the members' domestic affairs.

In Manila, key rivals will again be face-to-face but no shake-ups are anticipated. ASEAN is known more for its photo-ops that project unity, cultural pomp and pageantry than for effectively dealing with the region's conflicts, including the civil war in Myanmar.

Trump will land in Manila with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday afternoon, after the main ASEAN summit meetings have concluded and the Philippines has turned over the regional bloc's annual leadership to Singapore.

He will, however, be joining three key meetings on Tuesday night, including a special summit with ASEAN leaders over cocktails and a meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue consisting of the United States, Japan, Australia and India, according to Philippine officials.



From left to right: Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Johari Abdul Ghani, Myanmar's Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Aung Kyaw Hoe, Thailand's Vice Minister for Commerce Kirida Bhaopichitr, East Timor's Vice Prime Minister Kalbuadi Lay, Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Luong Hoang Thai, Philippines' Secretary of Trade and Industry Cristina Aldeguer-Roque, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, Brunei's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Abdul Manaf Metussin, Cambodia's Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce Pich Rithi, Indonesia's Co-ordinating c Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto, Laos' Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce Manothong Vongsay, and ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn pose for a group picture during the signing ceremony of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) in Manila Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026. (AP)

China will be represented by its premier, Li Qiang, who will meet ASEAN leaders on Monday, but will leave before Trump arrives, the officials said.

The prepared communiques say ASEAN leaders and their major Asian and Western counterparts will exchange "views on regional and international issues of concern," before listing the conflicts that will be discussed.

"We reaffirmed our shared commitment to upholding international law, including the United Nations Charter," the prepared statement says. It also underlines the "importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes, upholding freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, including the right of transit passage in straits used for international navigation."

On Saturday, ASEAN foreign ministers met for pre-summit talks, linking hands and posing for a joint photo on stage, their national flags lined up behind them.

The talks, hosted by Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro, will include her report on a recent trip to Myanmar, where she pressed longstanding calls for the civil strife-plagued country to do more to comply with a five-point peace plan crafted by ASEAN leaders five years ago.

The leader and foreign minister of Myanmar, an ASEAN member, have been banned from attending the bloc's annual meetings because of their government's failure to fully comply with the peace plan that calls for an immediate end to the deadly fighting that has gripped the country.

The prepared communiques also urged "all parties to commit to an immediate cessation of violence, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders and the unconditional release of all those unjustly detained" in Myanmar.

On the South China Sea disputes that involve China, Taiwan and four ASEAN members - Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam - substantial progress has been made in negotiations for a non-aggression pact called the " code of conduct " between Beijing and the regional bloc, according to three Southeast Asian diplomats who spoke to the AP earlier.

They said, however, that the pact - which has seen more than two decades of consultations and negotiations between China and ASEAN - will not be finalized this year. Negotiations about it will resume next year.

The pact aims to prevent on-and-off confrontation in the disputed waters from degenerating into a full-blown conflict that can endanger Asia's economies.

Business

Kuwait crude price gains $1.85 to reach $85.29

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwait oil barrel price went up by USD 1.85 to USD 85.29 on Friday from USD 83.44 pb the previous trading day, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) reported Saturday.

On a similar note, global futures saw noticeable gains, with Brent crude rising two cents to USD 95.84 pb, and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures by 18 cents to USD 88.56 pb.

Transaction led by National Investments Company as lead manager and subscription agent, with subscription coverage exceeding total offered shares

شركة الاستثمارات الوطنية
National Investments Company

National Investments Company leads successful capital increase for Al Masaken International Real Estate Development K.S.C.P. ("Al Masaken")

المساكن
AL-MASAKEN INTERNATIONAL FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY - K.S.C. (PUBLIC)



Fahad Abdulrahman AlMukhaizim:

- Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Mukhaizim: The successful completion of Al Masaken's capital increase, achieving subscription coverage of 148.07% of the total offered shares

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: National Investments Company (NIC), in its capacity as Lead Manager and Subscription Agent, announced the successful completion of the capital increase of Al Masaken International Real Estate Development K.S.C.P. ("Al Masaken") by 263.64%, amounting to KWD 2.9 million. The subscription achieved a coverage ratio of 148.07%, marking a significant milestone in Al Masaken's capital restructuring journey.

On this occasion, Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman AlMukhaizim, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer of NIC, stated: "We are proud to have successfully led this important transaction and to have supported Al Masaken in completing its capital increase, with subscription coverage exceeding the total offered shares. This transaction further reinforces NIC's long-standing track record in delivering capital market transactions with the highest standards of professionalism, efficiency and execution quality. Throughout the subscription period, our team worked closely with existing and prospective investors, ensuring a seamless subscription process that ultimately resulted in the offering being oversubscribed."

Mr. AlMukhaizim added: "At NIC, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the development of Kuwait's capital markets by delivering integrated financial and investment solutions and executing strategic transactions that enhance market liquidity and create attractive investment opportunities. We will continue to leverage our expertise to introduce innovative products and services that support the growth and diversification of the Kuwaiti investment landscape, contribute to achieving economic development goals and enhance the competitiveness of the national economy."

For his part, Mr. Ahmed Ghassan Al-Khaled, Chairman of Al Masaken, said: "The successful completion of this increase in issued and paid-up capital marks a pivotal milestone in Al Masaken's journey, reflecting firm investor confidence in the Company's long-term growth strategy, management team and future prospects, despite prevailing global economic uncertainty. The process was executed smoothly in full compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements. We would like to thank our shareholders, regulatory authorities and all parties involved for their continued support throughout every stage of this process."

Mr. Al-Khaled added: "The proceeds from the capital increase will be used to support the Company's operations and to capture a number of investment opportunities in the real estate sector in Kuwait and the GCC."

NIC was appointed as Lead Manager and Subscription Agent based on its extensive experience and proven track record in managing capital market transactions, including capital increases, public offerings, listings and mergers and acquisitions. The subscription period ran for 15 days, from 4 to 18 October 2026.

The successful completion of the capital increase represents another important achievement for both Al Masaken and NIC, underscoring the strength of Kuwait's capital markets and reinforcing investor confidence in well-structured transactions that support corporate growth and long-term value creation.

As one of the leading investment institutions locally and regionally, NIC reaffirms its continued commitment to delivering integrated and innovative investment solutions based on a deep understanding of markets and client needs, while focusing on achieving sustainable growth and creating long-term value. The Company is committed to upholding the highest standards of governance and transparency, reinforcing its position as a trusted partner in developing the investment sector.



Ahmed Ghassan Al-Khaled

- Ahmed Ghassan Al-Khaled: The successful capital increase reflects shareholder confidence and positions Al Masaken for a new phase of growth.

Earnings highlight financial strength: Al-Nusf

Kuwait Insurance reports KD 9.06 mln in gross profit for the period ended 30 September 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait Insurance and Reinsurance Company announced its financial results for the period ending September 30, 2026. The company reported a gross profit of KD 9.06 million (USD 29.4 million) for the period. This includes KD 2.2 million (USD 7.1 million) in income from the sale of investments, which was recorded under retained earnings.

Net profit for the current period reached KD 6.3 million (USD 20.4 million), with earnings per share of 26.28 fils (8 US cents), compared to 34 fils before the capital increase. This figure is after deducting the financial contribution of KD 615,000 (USD 2 million) to the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund. Earnings per share for the current period and the comparable period in 2025 were adjusted following the company's capital increase to KD 25 million.

Total gross written premiums for the current period reached KD 59 million (USD 191 million), compared to KD 44.9 million (USD 145.8 million) for the same period last year.

Insurance revenue reached KD 54.4 million (USD 177 million), compared to KD 45.6 million (USD 148 million) for the same period last year.

Total investment income reached KD 8.6 million (USD 28 million) for the current period, compared to KD 7.7 million (USD 25 million) for the same period last year.

The company's CEO, Mr. Meshari Al-Nusf, stated that the company follows a conservative and balanced approach to managing its business. He highlighted the company's success in achieving accumulated retained earnings of KD 81 million (USD 264 million) reflecting the strength, stability, and solid financial position of the company.

Mr. Al-Nusf added that, alongside its growth in insurance premiums, the company continues to maintain its strong credit ratings from the two international rating agencies, AM Best and Moody's, at A- and A3, respectively, with a stable outlook.

He commended in the company's continued achievement of these high ratings, which reflect its leading position and strong reputation in the insurance services sector, both locally and regionally.

Mr. Al-Nusf also stated that the company is currently working to expand its reinsurance business, particularly after obtaining a license to add reinsurance to its business activities.



Meshari Al-Nusf, CEO of Kuwait Insurance and Reinsurance Company

The final license from the Insurance Regulatory Unit is currently being processed.

The company has completed the required procedures to change its name to "Kuwait Insurance and Reinsurance Company."

The company is also making progress with its digital transformation project, working to develop its operations into a fully integrated digital system that will cover all internal and external processes, in the near future.

Kuwait Insurance Company is keen in investing and developing the staff by providing training and enrolling them for educational programs, which will develop them in providing outstanding insurance services to corporates, individuals, and stakeholders. With this step, they not only serve the interests of the society but also of the State of Kuwait.

We continue to look forward to accomplishing a lot in the coming years and we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed in helping us achieve our goals, including the Board of Directors, the shareholders, and the company's employees.

In conclusion, Mr. Al-Nusf expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Insurance Regulatory Unit for its effective role in enhancing the insurance business environment and reinforcing the principles of transparency and market discipline. He commended its continuous efforts in supporting the insurance sector's stability and improving its efficiency, contributing to the sustainable growth of the insurance industry.

The Company also expressed its sincere appreciation to Mr. Ahmed Sami Sharif for his dedication and outstanding professional contributions throughout his time, with the company. It acknowledged his contributions and role in supporting the company's business and wished him continued success in his future endeavours.

Rating highlights resilience

CI Ratings affirms KIPCO's 'BB+' rating with Positive Outlook

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – announced that Capital Intelligence Ratings (CI Ratings) has affirmed the company's Long-Term Foreign Currency Rating at 'BB+' with a Positive Outlook.

The rating affirmation reflects KIPCO's resilience amid challenging regional geopolitical conditions, supported by the financial strength of its key portfolio companies, continued progress in reducing parent-level debt and a sound liquidity position.

In its assessment, CI Ratings highlighted the downward trend in KIPCO's gross and net debt at the parent company level, alongside the anticipated reduction in financing costs following the repayment of outstanding debt obligations. The agency also recognized the Group's diversified funding sources, improved debt maturity profile and sufficient liquidity to meet its financial commitments through 2027.

CI Ratings further acknowledged the strong market positions and financial performance of KIPCO's leading portfolio companies, as well as the capabilities of the Group's management team and its governance standards. The agency noted that KIPCO has demonstrated considerable resilience despite the impact of regional developments on certain businesses and dividend inflows.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Moustapha Chami, KIPCO's Group Chief Financial Officer, said:

"The affirmation of our ratings with a Positive Outlook reflects the progress we continue to make in strengthening KIPCO's financial position, despite a challenging operating environment. Our focus remains on reducing leverage, optimizing our portfolio and maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet our obligations. The steps we have taken to improve our debt maturity profile and lower financing costs are creating a stronger foundation for sustainable growth and long-term value creation."



Moustapha Chami, KIPCO's Group Chief Financial Officer

The announcement follows the recent affirmation by Fitch Ratings of KIPCO's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating at 'BB-' with a Stable Outlook, as well as the Group's full repayment of US$ 353.98 million in outstanding bonds issued under its Euro Medium Term Note (EMTN) program. These developments underscore KIPCO's continued progress in strengthening its financial position, reducing debt obligations and maintaining a disciplined approach to financial management.

Other Voices

Kuwait borrowed $25 billion in the last 5 years! Borrowing is back on the table

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

AS of last month, Kuwait had borrowed $25 billion from international banks to finance its budget deficits, equivalent to approximately KD 1.3 billion annually to cover its recurring expenditure.

The budget deficit is likely to grow year after year, driven by population growth, rising government expenditure, the need to create job opportunities for new graduates and other entrants into the labor market, and the increasing financial obligations associated with these responsibilities.

It appears increasingly difficult to contain the growth of budget deficits as the annual state budget expands to accommodate population growth and rising public expenditure. This includes providing job opportunities for fresh graduates and new entrants into the labor market, meeting their associated financial entitlements, and providing adequate housing allowances until the government fulfils its responsibility to provide proper housing, as stipulated in our Constitution.



Kamel Al-Harami

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the State of Kuwait to provide job opportunities for its young citizens, just as it has done throughout the country's history since its establishment.

Borrowing is likely to increase annually to meet the state's obligations toward its citizens and ensure the distribution of oil revenues, which belong to every Kuwaiti citizen. This is a state responsibility and constitutional obligation, clearly stipulated without ambiguity.

The question, however, is whether the state is borrowing annually to cover its budget deficits or adopting a five-year borrowing strategy, servicing the debt through periodic interest payments rather than repaying the entire principal at once. Such an approach could allow Kuwait to reduce its debt gradually, particularly in the absence of any decision to liquidate part of its international assets, while continuing to reinvest the returns generated by those assets to secure further income and profits. Perhaps this approach is considered more financially advantageous.

Kuwait should be well acquainted with such financial strategies, given its extensive experience in sovereign wealth management. After all, it was the first country to establish a fund for future generations, with the intention of preserving its assets for the benefit of generations to come and protecting them from being depleted.

This principle has been maintained even during periods of financial shortages, budget deficits, and mounting pressure to draw on these reserves. Liquidating or selling assets belonging to the Future Generations Fund should therefore not become an ordinary financing practice. It should only be considered if the available alternatives would prove even more costly.

We are concerned that the Future Generations Fund is gradually becoming the "Now Generations Fund."

The alternatives may be numerous, but the preferred option appears to be long-term borrowing rather than short-term borrowing, thereby avoiding the annual publicity.

It certainly seems that Kuwait is heading down a path of continued borrowing while seeking to preserve its core overseas investments.

Borrowing is definitely back on the table, while reducing annual public expenditure appears to be an option the state simply cannot pursue. Unfortunately, that is the reality!

❑ ❑ ❑

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

KPC raises Ethiopia petroleum supply to 1.2 million tons in '26

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) continued to strengthen its presence in global energy markets through its strategic vision and management.

According to a report, KPC's Global Marketing Sector has achieved a new milestone by expanding its market share of middle distillates in Ethiopia for 2026. This was achieved by increasing the maximum annual contracted supply to the Ethiopian Petroleum Supply Authority from 1 million metric tons to 1.2 million metric tons.

A reliable source explained that the growing presence of Kuwaiti petroleum distillates in the Ethiopian market reflects KPC's strategy of assessing regional and international market requirements with flexibility and precision.

KPC recognizes the importance of diversifying its customer base and expanding into rapidly growing new markets such as Ethiopia, which serves as a strategic gateway to the African continent.

Through this approach, KPC is leveraging its production and refining capabilities to meet growing international energy demand while maintaining the highest quality standards, further strengthening Kuwait's position as a reliable global energy supplier.

Establishing a strategic presence in Africa serves as a safety valve and provides a vital alternative for diversifying markets and securing revenues for Gulf oil-producing countries. This has become particularly important in light of the repercussions of the 2026 Strait of Hormuz closure crisis, which highlighted the risks of excessive reliance on a single shipping route or a limited number of traditional markets.

KPC is intensifying its efforts to market Kuwaiti oil and petroleum products, even under the most challenging geopolitical circumstances.

Accordingly, the corporation has strengthened its presence in African markets during the crisis to diversify its customer base, particularly amid growing supply chain complexities affecting major Asian markets, which have historically accounted for the largest share of Gulf oil exports.



Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) headquarters in Kuwait City.

Long-term contracts in African markets help ensure stable cash flows and provide an outlet for production once secure shipping routes become available, particularly given the strong demand for Kuwaiti petroleum products across the continent.

There are several advantages, as the East African ports, particularly those in Ethiopia and Djibouti, are relatively closer to Kuwait than distant East Asian markets. This geographical advantage helps reduce shipping times and marine insurance costs, especially during periods of crisis.

The limited refining capacity in many African countries, coupled with rapid economic and population growth, makes the continent an attractive market for high-value petroleum products such as diesel and jet fuel, which are produced by modern Kuwaiti refineries, including Al-Zour Refinery.

Maintaining an active and diversified network of sales outlets across Africa also helps reduce the risk of accumulating surplus inventories and provides alternative markets for surplus production whenever traditional exports through the Gulf are disrupted. This, in turn, helps ensure that refineries and oil wells continue operating at the highest possible efficiency without the need to curtail production.

Bank maintains sound liquidity position with cash & treasury portfolio balances of $5.11B

GFH reports 14.83% increase in net profit attributable to shareholders for first 9 months of '26, totaling $116.29M

MANAMA, Nov 14: GFH Bank B.S.C. ("GFH" or "the Bank") (Bahrain Bourse: GFH) has announced its financial results for the third quarter ("the quarter") and first nine months of the year ("the period") ended 30 September 2026.

Net profit attributable to shareholders was US$ 40.09 million for the third quarter of 2026, compared with US$ 34.03 million in the corresponding quarter of 2025, an increase of 17.81%. The increase was supported by strong growth in Wealth and Investment Management income and Credit and Financing income, which rose by 82.10% and 8.89%, respectively, reflecting the resilience of the Bank's diversified business model and continued focus on recurring income streams.

Earnings per share for the third quarter were US cents 1.16, compared with US cents 0.94 in the corresponding quarter of 2025, an increase of 23.40%. Total comprehensive income attributable to shareholders stood at US$ 34.05 million, compared with US$ 36.34 million in Q3 2025, a decrease of 6.30%. Total income for the quarter reached US$ 130.63 million, compared with US$ 137.47 million in the prior-year period, a decrease of 4.98%. Consolidated net profit increased 15.32% to US$ 40.63 million, compared with US$ 35.23 million in Q3 2025, while total expenses, including tax expenses, decreased 11.97% to US$ 90.00 million from US$ 102.24 million.

The Bank reported net profit attributable to shareholders of US$ 116.29 million for the first nine months of 2026, compared with US$ 101.27 million in the same period of 2025, an increase of 14.83%. Earnings per share for the nine-month period rose 18.73% to US cents 3.36, compared with US cents 2.83 in the corresponding period of 2025. Total comprehensive income attributable to shareholders stood at US$ 101.66 million, compared with US$ 115.25 million in the prior-year period, a decrease of 11.80%.

Total income increased 5.07% to US$ 440.44 million, compared with US$ 419.20 million in the first nine months of 2025. Consolidated net profit for the period reached US$ 117.20 million, compared with US$ 104.95 million in the corresponding period of 2025, an increase of 11.67%. Total expenses, including tax expenses, stood at US$ 323.24 million, compared with US$ 314.25 million in the prior-year period, an increase of 2.86%.

Total equity attributable to shareholders stood at US$ 1.05 billion as at 30 September 2026, compared with US$ 1.02 billion at 31 December 2025, an increase of 2.52%. Total assets reached US$ 12.23 billion, compared with US$ 12.20 billion at year-end 2025, representing an increase of 0.25%.

The Bank maintained a sound liquidity and funding position, with cash and treasury portfolio balances totalling US$ 5.11 billion as at 30 September 2026. Its Net Stable Funding Ratio stood at 144.1% as at 30 September 2026, while the average Liquidity Coverage Ratio for the third quarter reached 127%, reflecting continued focus on prudent liquidity and balance sheet management.

In parallel, GFH continued to advance its development as an integrated banking and investment institution following its transformation into GFH Bank. As part of this transition, 390 accounts have been activated, supporting the Bank's efforts to strengthen client relationships, expand access to banking and investment services and enhance its digital capabilities.

GFH currently manages assets and funds valued at US$24.11 billion, including a global investment portfolio spanning the GCC, the United States and Europe, across sectors including industrial and logistics, healthcare, education, technology, infrastructure and real estate.

The financial results in full can be found at www.bahrainbourse.com. Shares of GFH are traded under the ticker "GFH" on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, Bahrain Bourse, Boursa Kuwait and Dubai Financial Market.

Mr Abdulmohsen Rashed Al -Rashed Chairman, GFH

"The positive results achieved by GFH Bank during the first nine months of 2026 reflect the strength of the Bank's financial position and the soundness of its strategic direction. Despite the challenges and developments witnessed across regional and international markets, GFH has continued to demonstrate its ability to maintain solid performance, supported by its diversified business activities, prudent management and commitment to creating sustainable value for shareholders.

We are particularly pleased with the progress achieved following our transformation into GFH Bank, which represents an important step in strengthening our institutional capabilities and expanding our banking and investment activities, in line with our long-term vision to further consolidate our position as a leading financial institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the wider region.

We look to the coming period with confidence and optimism, supported by the achievements made and the opportunities available across our key markets. We will continue to build on this progress, strengthen our partnerships and pursue investments that contribute to the Bank's sustainable growth and the interests of our shareholders, while reinforcing our role in supporting the Kingdom of Bahrain's economic development."



Mr Abdulmohsen Rashed Al Rashed
Chairman, GFH



Mr Hisham Alrayes
CEO and Board Member, GFH

The Bank's Highlights for the First Nine Months of 2026:

- Net profit attributable to shareholders increased 14.83% to US$ 116.29 million in 9M 2026, supported by growth in Wealth and Investment Management and Credit and Financing income.
- Net profit attributable to shareholders increased 17.81% to US$ 40.09 million in Q3 2026, while total income for the first nine months increased 5.07% to US$ 440.44 million.
- Wealth and Investment Management income increased 47.54% year-on-year to US$ 176.07 million in 9M 2026, including US$ 54.29 million in Q3.
- Maintained a sound liquidity position, with cash and treasury portfolio balances totalling US$ 5.11 billion and a Net Stable Funding Ratio of 144.1% as at 30 September 2026, and an average Liquidity Coverage Ratio of 127% for the third quarter.
- Continued to advance its transformation into an integrated banking and investment institution, with 390 accounts activated since transitioning to GFH Bank.
- Total assets reached US$ 12.23 billion as at 30 September 2026, compared with US$ 12.20 billion at 31 December 2025.
- GFH's US$ 400 million acquisition of a 60% stake in Byrne Equipment Rental was recognised by PwC among the region's five largest transactions.
- Strengthened its strategic positioning across global investment markets, while expanding client access to investment opportunities through its digital banking and investment platform.
- Following the reporting period, GFH completed the successful exit of Saber Power Investments, delivering cumulative net cash distributions of approximately US$173.5 million to investors, alongside further milestones in power infrastructure, logistics and aviation investments.

	Total Income	Shareholders Profit	EPS
9M 2026	US$ 440.44 million	US$ 116.29 million	US cents 3.36
% Change	+5.07% YoY	+14.83% YoY	+18.73% YoY
Q3 2026	US$ 130.63 million	US$40.09 million	US cents 1.16
% Change	-4.98% YoY	+17.81% YoY	+23.40% YoY

Mr Hisham Alrayes
CEO and Board Member, GFH

"We are pleased with the financial results achieved during the first nine months of 2026, with net profit attributable to shareholders increasing by 14.83% to US$ 116.29 million. This performance reflects the strength of our diversified business model and the continued efforts of our teams in delivering positive results despite the challenges facing regional and global markets.

Our core business lines continued to deliver solid contributions, with Wealth and Investment Management generating US$ 54.29 million during the third quarter, Credit and Financing contributing US$ 43.54 million, and Treasury and Proprietary activities delivering US$ 32.79 million. We also made further progress in strengthening our investment portfolio and expanding our banking capabilities following our transformation.

Looking ahead, we remain optimistic about the opportunities available across our key markets and will continue to build on these achievements, strengthen our relationships with clients and partners, and pursue quality investments that support sustainable growth and long-term value for our shareholders."

Business Unit Highlights

GFH continued to generate positive contributions across its core business lines during the third quarter and first nine months of 2026, supported by growth in Wealth and Investment Management and Credit and Financing activities, alongside disciplined management of Treasury and Proprietary investments.

Wealth & Investment Management:

- Generated income of US$ 54.29 million in Q3 2026, compared with US$ 29.81 million in Q3 2025, representing an increase of 82.10%.
- Income for the first nine months increased 47.54% to US$ 176.07 million, compared with US$ 119.34 million in the corresponding period of 2025.
- GFH's US$ 400 million acquisition of a 60% stake in Byrne Equipment Rental was recognised by PwC among the region's five largest transactions, reflecting the Bank's focus on identifying strategic investment opportunities across the GCC.
- GFH Partners agreed terms for the sale of a US-based logistics and industrial asset portfolio valued at approximately US$ 130 million, held through its seventh and eighth industrial and logistics fund series.
- Continued to pursue investment opportunities across sectors supported by long-term structural demand, including industrial and logistics assets, infrastructure, energy, technology and real estate

Credit & Financing Income:

- Generated income of US$ 43.54 million in Q3 2026, compared with US$ 39.99 million in Q3 2025, representing an increase of 8.89%.
- Income for the first nine months increased 16.77% to US$ 113.45 million, compared with US$ 97.16 million in the corresponding period of 2025.
- Net financing contracts reached US$ 2.75 billion as at 30 September 2026, compared with US$ 2.53 billion at 31 December 2025, an increase of 8.65%.
- Maintained disciplined underwriting and prudent risk management while selectively pursuing financing opportunities aligned with the Bank's risk and return objectives.

Treasury & Proprietary Income:

- Generated income of US$ 32.79 million in Q3 2026 and US$ 150.92 million during the first nine months of the year.
- Maintained a prudent approach to portfolio positioning, liquidity management and capital preservation, while navigating changing regional and international market conditions.
- Cash and treasury portfolio balances stood at US$ 5.11 billion as at 30 September 2026, supporting the Bank's overall balance sheet and liquidity management strategy.
- Continued to optimise its Treasury and Proprietary activities, with a focus on managing risk, improving capital efficiency and identifying investment opportunities across its diversified portfolio

ESG Highlights

During the period, GFH continued to advance its ESG strategy through initiatives focused on youth empowerment, education, community welfare, sports, employee development and digital innovation. The Bank also extended its sustainability efforts through initiatives announced following the end of the quarter.

- Environmental Sustainability: Supported Bahrain's national afforestation and sustainability objectives through participation in National Tree Week in October 2026, contributing to efforts to expand green spaces and promote environmental responsibility.
- Youth Development: Continued its engagement with Youth City 2030, providing opportunities for young Bahrainis to gain practical exposure and develop professional skills. GFH's interns also participated in activities highlighting the role of youth in driving innovation and future economic development.
- Education and Community Welfare: Collaborated with Kaaf Humanitarian to provide educational grants and monthly family sponsorships, supporting deserving Bahraini families and helping create long-term educational and social opportunities.
- Sports and Community Engagement: Signed an official partnership agreement with Al Nassr Saudi Club for the 2026–2027 sports season. GFH also supported the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Japan, reaffirming its commitment to promoting sporting excellence and international engagement.

Forum discusses heritage valuation and reuse

Kuwait moves to boost investment in historic and cultural properties

By Inaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Real Estate Appraisal Forum for Historic Buildings, titled "The Value of Memory" and organized by Kuwait Real Estate Bank, discussed the future of valuing and repurposing heritage buildings.

The forum brought together the Executive Director of the Real Estate Consulting and Digital Solutions Department at the bank Fahad Al-Saleh, a representative of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Virti Ramsden, and Director of the Creative Economy Program at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Jaber Al-Qallaf.

Discussions focused on developing professional practices in real estate appraisal, unlocking the economic potential of heritage properties, and developing sustainable models for managing historic assets.

Fahad Al-Saleh stressed that appraising historic buildings requires a specialized approach that goes beyond conventional real estate valuation methods, taking into account their historical, cultural, architectural and social significance.

He noted that real estate appraisal is both an art and a science, relying on established principles and professional expertise to determine fair market value.

Al-Saleh indicated that traditional valuation methods, including market comparison, cost and income approaches, may not be sufficient on their own to establish the value of unique historical landmarks.

He cited the Kuwait Towers and Beit Al-Qurain as examples, noting that their value cannot be measured solely by their size or location. Rather, their significance is rooted in their place in the country's national memory, particularly Beit Al-Qurain's association with the Kuwaiti resistance during the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

Al-Saleh revealed that the bank has developed a digital platform known as the "Real Estate Memory Database," which contains more than 75,000 documented property inspection records covering the period from 1983 to 2026. The database includes information on building age, construction costs, air-conditioning specifications, land values and depreciation.

He noted that the bank's real estate department has assessed projects with a combined market value of approximately KD 2.6 billion and conducts nearly 21,000 real estate appraisals annually.

Al-Saleh expressed his aspiration to expand the bank's expertise to include the valuation of heritage buildings and sites in cooperation with specialized organizations.

As part of its professional development efforts, Al-Saleh announced a strategic partnership with RICS to train and qualify national talent in accordance with leading international professional standards.

The partnership includes specialized training programs covering the valuation of historic and heritage buildings, public-private partnership projects, and hotel and hospitality developments. These also include heritage properties repurposed as boutique hotels and tourist facilities.

He explained that the bank continues to invest in developing national talent through its partnership with Kuwait University. Specialized workshops conducted under the partnership have trained more than 300 students, while approximately 50 students have benefited from field training opportunities in cooperation with the College of Administrative Sciences.

The bank has launched the "KIB Real Estate" application, which enables the entire real estate valuation process to be completed electronically, from submitting an application to receiving the final report.

The bank is preparing to launch another application, "Value Now," in early 2027. Designed specifically for real estate valuation offices, the platform will provide technological solutions to help them expand their operations and keep pace with digital transformation.

Meanwhile, Virti Ramsden stressed the importance of complying with international professional standards, particularly the RICS Red Book, while selecting an appropriate valuation methodology based on the property's nature and purpose. These methods include market comparison, residual valuation, discounted cash flow and depreciated replacement cost.

She revealed that several factors influence the final valuation of heritage properties, including their historical and architectural significance, association with prominent figures and events, legislative restrictions, and restoration and maintenance costs.

Ramsden cited a British study showing that properties located within designated heritage conservation areas sold for up to 23 percent more than comparable properties outside those areas. This, she noted, demonstrates that heritage protection can enhance property values rather than necessarily diminish them.

She stressed the importance of consulting construction engineers, surveyors, legal specialists and urban planning experts, as well as preparing accurate technical and financial reports before conducting property valuations.

Ramsden explained that heritage properties are assets subject to market forces. Determining their fair value requires a combination of reliable evidence, specialized knowledge and objective professional assessment. This approach is essential to preserving historical treasures while transforming them into sustainable economic opportunities.

In addition, Engineer Jaber Al-Qallaf said the main challenge lies in changing the traditional perception of historic buildings from assets that require spending and maintenance into productive assets capable of generating sustainable economic and social returns.

He explained that NCCAL is working to position the creative economy as a bridge between the public and private sectors by transforming cultural assets into projects involving tourism, arts, design, architecture and creative industries.

Al-Qallaf noted that such initiatives generate value beyond direct commercial returns, contributing to improvements in the urban environment, strengthening national identity and enhancing Kuwait's image.

He explained that NCCAL is collaborating with the Ministry of Finance, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Fatwa and Legislation Department to prepare a draft decree-law dedicated to creative industries. The proposed legislation aims to provide the necessary regulatory flexibility to establish partnerships with the private sector, attract creative talent and support the development of their potential.

There are several projects currently being developed by NCCAL, most notably the redevelopment of Al-Mubarakiya School as a productive asset focused on design, alongside studies into investment opportunities for Fahad Al-Salem Palace, located opposite Al-Amiri Hospital.

Other initiatives include transforming the area between Al-Qibliya School, the National Museum and the Kuwait National Library into an integrated cultural and architectural destination.

Al-Qallaf also pointed to plans to reprogram the Sabah Al-Ahmad Cultural Center in Sabah Al-Ahmad City and develop a new business model for Beit Al-Othman, transforming it from a traditional museum into a hub for cultural and creative industries.

He also highlighted plans to revitalize Souq Al-Safafeer and transform it into a hub for traditional crafts and creative manufacturing.

Al-Qallaf noted that the strategy also involves reassessing the role of approximately 56 public libraries and transforming them into cultural and social centres integrated with schools, youth centres, parks and other elements of the local community.

The speakers agreed that successfully repurposing historic buildings requires addressing several challenges, including funding constraints, limited public awareness and a shortage of specialized expertise.

They also stressed the importance of developing clear operational models and effective management strategies to address risks, restoration expenses and ongoing maintenance costs.

Makhazen reports Q3 '26 results

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Makhazen, the new brand of Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP, today announced its financial results for the third quarter and nine-month period ended 30 September 2026.

For the third quarter of 2026, Makhazen reported revenues of KD 35.8 million, down 8% from KD 38.7 million in Q3 2025, mainly due to the handover of several sites to the Public Authority for Industry. EBITDA was KD 16.7 million, and profit attributable to shareholders from continuing operations was KD 7.9 million. Year-on-year comparisons reflect a non-cash fair value gain of KD 134.1 million on an investment in an associate, Agility Global recognized during 2025.

For the nine months ended 30 September 2026, Makhazen reported revenues of KD 107.3 million, compared with KD 112.6 million in the same period of 2025. EBITDA was negative KD 172.6 million, and the loss attributable to shareholders from continuing operations was KD 198.9 million. In the first quarter of 2026, following recent developments relating to certain leasehold land matters in Kuwait, the Board resolved to take a full provision against the associated investment property assets and related balances. This resulted in a one-off non-cash charge of KD 233 million, reflected in the nine-month results.



Faisal Jamil Sultan, Chairman of Makhazen

"Our core businesses generated revenue of KD 35.8 million and EBITDA of KD 16.7 million in the third quarter, reflecting the resilience of our operating platform and the continued contribution of our businesses. The nine-month result reflects non-cash charges recorded in the first half of the year.

Our priorities remain clear: strengthening our operating platform, managing our asset base with discipline and supporting Kuwait's economic objectives. We remain focused on building recurring earnings, enhancing cash generation and positioning our businesses for sustainable growth."

Q3 2025 and 9M 2025 EBITDA and profit attributable to shareholders include a non-cash fair value gain of KD 134.1 million on an investment in an associate. 9M 2026 includes non-cash fair value loss of KD 192.6 million on certain investment properties and expected credit losses of KD 43.8 million on related trade receivables, recognized in the first half of 2026
n/m: not meaningful, as the change is between profit and loss or the comparative base is negative.

Q3 2026 Performance

Makhazen was profitable in the third quarter, and its operating entities continue to pursue their own growth plans, including projects that support Kuwait's long-term economic and development priorities. Makhazen's investment portfolio is anchored by its 25% ownership in Agility Global, which reported third-quarter revenue growth of 22% year-on-year.

Chairman's Statement

Faisal Jamil Sultan, Chairman of Makhazen:

Financial Summary (Continuing Operations)

Million Kuwaiti Dinar (continuing operations)	Q3 2026	Q3 2025	Variance (%)	9M 2026	9M 2025	Variance (%)
Revenue	35.8	38.7	-8%	107.3	112.6	-5%
EBITDA	16.7	146.7	-89%	-172.6	178.9	n/m
Profit attributable to shareholders	7.9	137.7	-94%	-198.9	155.7	n/m

First secretary Muaz Yusuf honours Ambassador Torrington's legacy of leadership & service

Kuwait was the crowning chapter of my 30-year diplomatic career, says Guyana Ambassador in his farewell address









Photos by Rezk Tawfik

Top and above: Photos from the event

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager - Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The farewell reception in honour of Guyana's Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Troy Torrington was held at the Arabella Hotel on November 12, bringing together ambassadors and representatives of various embassies, business associates and distinguished dignitaries. The gathering provided an opportunity to pay tribute to Ambassador Torrington and acknowledge his distinguished diplomatic service in Kuwait.

His Excellency Troy Torrington has bid farewell to the diplomatic community and friends in Kuwait as he prepares to conclude a distinguished career spanning 30 years in public service and diplomacy. Widely respected for his dedication, wisdom and commitment to representing Guyana, Ambassador Torrington described his assignment in Kuwait as the crowning chapter of his foreign service journey, reflecting the deep professional and personal significance of his time in the country.

At the farewell gathering, First Secretary Muaz Yusuf paid a heartfelt tribute to Ambassador Torrington, praising his leadership, professional guidance and mentorship throughout their time working together. He described the occasion as the conclusion of a distinguished diplomatic assignment and the farewell of a respected colleague and mentor. Yusuf highlighted the qualities that define effective diplomacy, including patience, sound judgment, discretion and resilience, noting that the Ambassador's advice and experience had provided valuable lessons for his own career. He also acknowledged the personal sacrifices that come with diplomatic service and expressed gratitude for the Ambassador's guidance and support. He wished Torrington good health, happiness and fulfilment as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

Ambassador's Farewell Address

In his farewell address, Ambassador Torrington reflected on his three decades in diplomacy, identifying service and gratitude as the two words that best defined his career. He said his greatest satisfaction came from representing his country and helping others make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Drawing inspiration from Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If', the Ambassador spoke about the challenges and delicate balance involved in diplomacy, particularly the importance of maintaining professional judgment, integrity and independence while providing advice to national leadership.

Reflecting on his assignment in Kuwait, he described working with a dedicated embassy team as one of his greatest sources of satisfaction. He praised the development and professional growth of the embassy staff, expressing confidence that the mission was in a strong position to achieve significant accomplishments in the future.

He also thanked his wife, Dr. Ruth, his late mother, colleagues, mentors and friends, as well as members of the diplomatic community and local community who supported him during his stay in Kuwait.

A New Chapter for Guyana

He explained that diplomacy had initially been an unexpected career choice. Having studied English and law with plans to pursue a legal career, he entered the foreign service, where what he described as an interim career ultimately developed into a 30-year professional journey.

Looking ahead, Torrington said he was excited about a new chapter while remaining committed to serving Guyana from a different perspective. He highlighted the country's remarkable economic transformation, noting that its GDP had quadrupled over the past five years and that Guyana had maintained its position as the world's fastest-growing economy for more than five years.

He invited his friends and colleagues in Kuwait to visit Guyana and continue the relationships developed during his diplomatic assignment.

Concluding his farewell remarks with words from the hymn All the Way My Savior Leads Me, he reflected on faith, gratitude and the guidance that had sustained him throughout his career.

He said that whatever impact he might have made on those he encountered during his journey, his ultimate gratitude and glory belonged to God.

The farewell gathering celebrated not only the conclusion of Ambassador Torrington's diplomatic career but also the professional relationships, friendships and lasting contributions he leaves behind in Kuwait.



Award winners of the 4th Edition of InnoEx 2026 Science Exhibition and Inter-School Science Expo pose for a group photo with the Tamilnadu Engineers Forum (TEF) – Kuwait organizers and guests.

TEF Kuwait's 4th Science Expo unites 600 students

Young innovators take centre stage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Tamilnadu Engineers Forum (TEF), Kuwait, in partnership with IndiansInKuwait.com (IIK), successfully organised the 4th Edition of Science Exhibition and Inter-School Science Expo – InnoEx-2026 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Salwa, on Friday, November 6, 2026.

Bringing together nearly 600 participants, representing 18 schools across Kuwait and members of the TEF community, the expo provided a vibrant platform to inspire innovation, scientific curiosity and collaboration among the next generation of thinkers, innovators and creators. Centred on the theme "Digital Next & AI", the event celebrated the spirit of scientific exploration, creativity and technological advancement.

The event, anchored by Mr. Suresh Anand, commenced with the inaugural ceremony at 7:30 AM, attended by distinguished guests, school principals, teachers, coordinators, students, parents and members of the TEF community. The ceremony opened with the national anthems of Kuwait and India, followed by a safety moment and a presentation of Thirukkural, reflecting TEF's commitment to promoting safety, cultural values and knowledge sharing.

The occasion was graced by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Muluka, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Kuwait, who visited the exhibition stalls along with other distinguished guests and professionals. The Chief Guest, Dr. Sudhakar Sivasubramaniyan of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, delivered an insightful session, sharing valuable perspectives and inspiring the young participants.

Representing the event's media partner, IndiansInKuwait.com (IIK), the event was also attended by Mr. Sunoj Nambiar, Director; Mr. Wilson, Director – Marketing; and Mr. George Mathew, Director – Finance. Their presence reaffirmed IIK's continued support and partnership in providing a platform for young talent and educational initiatives in Kuwait.

One of the highlights of the inauguration was the welcome address delivered by T.A.R.A. – TEF's Advanced Robotics Assistant, the forum's very own Robo-Speaker. Bringing technology onto the inauguration stage, TARA added a unique and engaging dimension to the proceedings. This was followed by a special address by Mrs. Mythili Rajamannar, InnoEx-2026 Chair, who highlighted the importance of curiosity, creative thinking and the courage to turn ideas into meaningful innovations.

InnoEx-2026 featured a diverse range of competitions designed to encourage students across different age groups to explore their interests and demonstrate their abilities. The events included Science Working Models, Poster Making, Science Quiz, Science Short Film, Rubik's Cube, Sudoku and Robotic Football. The exhibition showcased innovative student projects, with participants getting opportunities to explain their concepts, demonstrate practical applications and interact with visiting professionals and judges.

The Science Quiz was conducted by Mr. Surya Narayanan of Quiz Catalyst, who travelled from India to lead the competition. The Rubik's Cube event was supported by Q8Speedcubing, led by its Founder and President, Mr. Mohammed Almoumen. An electrical engineer by profession and an accomplished speedcuber by passion, Mohammed has achieved international podium finishes in the 3×3×3 Blindfolded category and organised several speedcubing competitions in Kuwait.

AMUOBA Kuwait celebrates Sir Syed Day 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Sir Syed Day is celebrated every year by Aligarh alumni across the globe to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817–1898), the visionary educationist and social reformer who founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College in Aligarh in 1875. In 1920, the college evolved into Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), one of India's premier institutions of higher learning. His enduring belief that modern education can transform communities continues to inspire AMU alumni worldwide.

Continuing this proud tradition, the Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys' Association, Kuwait (AMUOBA-Kuwait), celebrated Sir Syed Day 2026 with a glittering gala evening at the Crowne Plaza Kuwait on 06 November 2026. The event was graced by Her Excellency Mrs. Paramita Tripathi, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, as the Chief Guest.

More than 350 members, along with their families and distinguished guests from Kuwait's professional, educational, and business communities, attended the celebration.

The vibrant evening commenced with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, followed by the National Anthem of Kuwait. One of the highlights of the program was the presentation of Academic Excellence Awards to the children of AMUOBA members who had achieved outstanding academic results during the past year.

AMUOBA-Kuwait's President Mr. Asim Kidwai addressed the gathering with a brief yet inspiring speech. Reflecting on the legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, he remarked:

"Sir Syed taught us that education is the surest path to dignity and progress. Seeing so many Aligs come together tonight, representing every profession and generation, shows that his vision is alive and thriving in Kuwait. We are grateful to Kuwait for being home to our community and to everyone who contributed to making this evening a success."

In her keynote address, Her Excellency Mrs. Paramita Tripathi emphasized the transformative power of education and highlighted the vital role of the Indian diaspora as a bridge connecting India with the world. She also officially launched the association's annual souvenir, Samar-e-Syed, alongside members of the Executive Committee.

A historic moment during the evening was the presentation of the inaugural Founder's Award. For the first time in the history of AMUOBA-Kuwait, the association honoured one of its founding members, Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khan, in recognition of his invaluable contributions. He became the first recipient of this prestigious award.



Dignitaries and Aligarh alumni pose with awards at the Sir Syed Day celebration.



Indian Ambassador presents an award to a participant at the Sir Syed Day celebration.

The program also featured a comprehensive review of the association's activities during 2026. Among the notable achievements highlighted was the registration of 206 members, the highest annual membership figure recorded by the association in the past decade.

Adding excitement and audience engagement to the evening was an entertaining quiz competition whose interactive style kept participants thoroughly engaged throughout the program.

The association also expressed its sincere gratitude to its sponsors, whose generous support and commitment played an important role in the success of the event. In recognition of their contributions, mementos were presented to the representatives of the sponsoring organizations.

One of the most memorable segments of the evening was the rendition of the AMU Tarana. A dedicated team of members delivered a flawless and captivating performance that left the audience mesmerized. The presentation evoked a deep sense of pride, nostalgia, and emotional connection among all present.

The celebrations concluded with dinner, providing members and guests an opportunity to interact and enjoy the warm camaraderie that has always been the hallmark of the AMU fraternity.

Sir Syed Day 2026 once again reaffirmed the enduring legacy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and showcased the strong bonds that unite the AMU community in Kuwait.

Kuwait hosts 2026 World Summit on Emergency and Wilderness Medicine

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The 2026 World Summit on Emergency and Wilderness Medicine was held in Kuwait on November 11 and 12, bringing together leading physicians, experts and specialists from around the world.

Organized by the Council of Emergency Medicine Departments, the summit was held under the patronage of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi.

During the opening session on Wednesday, Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi stressed the importance of developing emergency medical services in land, marine and remote environments.

He noted that saving lives in such challenging conditions requires rapid response, accurate decision-making and effective coordination among the relevant authorities.

Dr. Al-Hasawi explained that Kuwait's emergency medical system has undergone significant development, including the introduction of air ambulance services, the expansion of ambulance stations in border and remote areas, and the establishment of integrated emergency centres in Sabah Al-Ahmad and Al-Mutlaa, in addition to health centres at border crossings.



Part of the tour in the exhibition.

The summit provides an important platform for exchanging expertise and advancing training and scientific research in field medical response, search and rescue operations, and medical evacuation.

He reaffirmed the Ministry of Health's commitment to strengthening the capabilities of medical personnel and improving their readiness to respond to various emergency situations.

Dr. Al-Hasawi concluded by expressing his gratitude to the summit chairman, organizing committee, speakers and participants.

He expressed hope that the event's outcomes would contribute to advancing emergency medical services and strengthening efforts to save lives.

Ministry of Health promotes healthy lifestyles to prevent chronic diseases

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health held recently the Open Day with the theme, "Promoting healthy lifestyle."

The event aimed to raise public awareness about adopting healthy behaviors that reduce risk factors for chronic diseases and mitigate complications.

Director of the department Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa stated that "the event featured different stations, each of which focused on a certain risk factor for chronic diseases like cardiovascular problems, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory conditions. The primary risk factors include smoking, unhealthy diet and inactivity."

She added that the event also tackled the dangers of smoking, specifically warning about the recent surge in advertisements promoting electronic cigarettes (vape) with various flavors. She stressed the need to refute the claim that e-cigarettes are less harmful.



Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa with the event participants.

She recommended walking 30 minutes for five days a week—totaling 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity. "For more vigorous activities, such as boxing or weightlifting, the required weekly duration can be shorter," she explained.

The event underscored the importance of combating obesity and reducing weight

Al-Bahwa pointed out that since being healthy is the ultimate goal, the integration of physical, psychological, social and mental well-being is the main objective of awareness and educational efforts.

She added that the event highlighted the effective health education methods to persuade the public to adopt healthy behaviors based on scientific evidence and research.

Staying mentally active, leading healthy lifestyle may reduce risk of memory problems: Al-Ozairi

Kuwait's Health Minister launches Alzheimer's awareness event at The Avenues

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait's Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, launched an Alzheimer's disease awareness event on Friday at The Avenues mall. Ibn Sina Hospital organized the event in cooperation with several societies affiliated with the Kuwait Medical Association, with sponsorship from Eli Lilly.

Dr. Lamia Al-Sarraf, a consultant neuroradiologist at Ibn Sina Hospital, said the one-day event aimed to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease and highlight the importance of early detection. She said it featured simple tests and interactive games designed to give visitors an initial indication of their brain and memory health.

Al-Sarraf highlighted the role of Ibn Sina Hospital's Memory Clinic in detecting Alzheimer's early and improving patient care. She said the clinic brings together consultants in neurology, geriatric medicine and psychiatry, and that magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and artificial intelligence tools can help improve diagnostic accuracy.



Some photos from the event.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Ozairi, head of the Department of Psychiatry at Kuwait University and a representative of the Psychiatry Association, cited a study suggesting that staying mentally active and leading a healthy lifestyle could reduce the risk of memory problems by up to 45 percent.

He said that getting enough sleep, exercising regularly, monitoring blood pressure and blood sugar, treating mental health conditions and managing stress can help maintain memory health.

Al-Ozairi added that Kuwait's healthcare system offers medications and specialized cognitive training. He said that, with early diagnosis and intervention, these measures could help slow disease progression and delay the onset of symptoms, citing an estimated effect of around 40 percent.

US and Mexico on verge of forfeiting major health victory. Here's what to know

NEW YORK, Nov 14, (AP): International health experts are meeting this week to determine if the United States and Mexico have forfeited one of their greatest public health victories - the elimination of measles.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known to medicine, but vaccines had safely stopped the virus' spread in the U.S. for 30 years. Over those decades, measles had become a medical rarity in the US, with deaths from the disease virtually unheard of. But in the past two years, large outbreaks have hit multiple states, spawning thousands of illnesses, including about a dozen deaths.



People line up at the Olympic Stadium to get vaccinated for free during a mass vaccination campaign against COVID-19, the influenza and measles in Mexico City, on Nov 9. (AP)

Experts expect that the meeting, convened by the Pan American Health Organization, or PAHO, will show that measles has officially returned to the U.S. and Mexico - that the virus is now continually spreading within the nations' borders.

"It's a big deal. The decision represents us moving backward," said Dr. David Margolius, director of Cleveland's health department and a leader in a coalition of big U.S. city health departments.

Here's a look at the meeting's deliberations and why they are important.

In a closed-door meeting this week, a PAHO advisory commission is looking at genetic evidence to determine if the same measles virus has been spreading for one year or more in the outbreaks that have torn through North America starting in 2024.

"It's solely based on genetics," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease doctor in the Pittsburgh area and a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

If so, the commission will say the country can no longer be considered to have eliminated measles, meaning a return to sustained circulation of the virus. Last year, PAHO stripped Canada of the measles-free designation it had had since 1998.

The commission will present its determination to PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, a former Brazilian health official, who makes the final determination. An announcement of the findings is being scheduled for next week, PAHO officials said.

A PAHO decision to strip the US of its measles elimination status will not change how federal health officials are addressing outbreaks, CDC Director Erica Schwartz said this week.

"The measles elimination designation is not what protects Americans. Vaccination does. We know where transmission is occurring and we're working with state and local health departments to reach those communities. Losing a designation doesn't mean we abandon an evidence-based approach. It means we remain focused on stopping outbreaks," she said in the statement.

But many public health experts say such an occasion demands a stepped-up, full-throated campaign to promote vaccinations and provide more advice to doctors. They fault what they say is a politically fraught, muted federal response, and blame US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who was a leading voice in the anti-vaccine movement before President Donald Trump put him in charge of the nation's health agencies.

Kennedy has moved to downsize the childhood vaccination schedule, reshape a key vaccine advisory board, and laud Trump's executive order calling for spacing out the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. Such a move runs counter to medical groups' recommendations, and likely would result in fewer children getting fully vaccinated, experts say.

Measles typically begins with a high fever followed by a telltale rash that starts on the face and neck. Most people recover, but it's one of the leading causes of death among young children, according to the World Health Organization. Serious complications, including blindness and swelling of the brain, are more common in young children and adults older than 30.

The U.S. achieved measles elimination status in 2000, after decades of vaccination campaigns brought the childhood measles vaccination rate to above 97%. Health experts say a 95% vaccination rate is needed so that when an infected traveler enters a community, so many people are vaccinated that it will not spark an outbreak.

But U.S. vaccination rates have been slipping for years, in part because of disproven claims that the vaccine can cause autism. Trump claimed earlier this year, without evidence, that the MMR vaccine - which is credited with saving millions of lives globally - is possibly "quite lethal." Last year, the childhood vaccination rate fell to about 92% nationally, and was much lower in certain states and certain communities.

Measles exploded last year in large outbreaks in Texas, Arizona, Utah and South Carolina. And the more than 5,400 confirmed cases so far this year are already double the 2025 tally, driven largely by an outbreak in Pennsylvania that has dwarfed the earlier ones. It is the worst year for measles illnesses since 1991.

The U.S. has now seen 10 measles-associated deaths this year, counting two deaths reported Friday - one in Pennsylvania and the other in Wisconsin. The national measles death count is higher than what has been seen in any previous year in more than three decades.

A measles vaccine did not become available in Mexico until years after a measles vaccine was first licensed - in 1963, in the U.S. - and the U.S. started giving shots. Mexico did not achieve measles elimination status until 2016.

Cases began surging in Mexico early last year. Researchers think an outbreak in the northern border state of Chihuahua stemmed from an unvaccinated Mennonite child from that Mexican state who traveled to Gaines County, Texas, where an outbreak was occurring, and came back infected.

As of this week, more than 20,500 confirmed cases have been reported across the nation. Fifty measles-related deaths have been reported, most of them children younger than 5 years old.

The issue has not been confined to North America. Early this year, the World Health Organization confirmed that Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Spain, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan lost their status.

Ebola outbreak continues in DR Congo, says WHO

GENEVA, Nov 14, (Agencies): The World Health Organization (WHO) warned Friday that the Ebola outbreak continues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) despite progress in bringing several of the early epicentres under control, noting that up to 500 cases are still being reported every week.

Speaking during a press briefing in Geneva, the executive Director of the WHO Health emergencies Programme **Chikwe Ihekweazu** said that more than 11,000 people had fallen ill and over 5,400 had died during the past six months with children accounting for more than one-third of these deaths.



Ihekweazu

He stressed that the progress achieved remains fragile and insufficient and explained that significant efforts had been made over the past six months to contain the Ebola outbreak and scale up the response but rising insecurity and resource shortages in some critical areas remain major challenges to containing the crisis.

He confirmed that WHO had verified more than 80 attacks on healthcare facilities and health workers over the past six months restricting access to people in need and disrupting surveillance treatment and contact tracing activities.

In a joint statement also issued on Friday, the United Nations World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNICEF) and WHO warned of a worsening acute hunger crisis in the DRC.

According to the statement, 30.3 million people are projected to face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity or worse IPC Phase 3 or above according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.

The UN agencies projected that the number of people facing Emergency levels of hunger (IPC Phase 4) would increase by nearly 600,000 reaching 4.2 million by early 2027. (end)

Persistent armed attacks and assaults on healthcare workers and medical facilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are severely undermining ebola containment efforts, leaving response teams lagging behind a rapidly spreading outbreak, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned.

Since the DRC declared the outbreak on May 15, the African Union's specialized public health agency has recorded 31 security incidents targeting healthcare workers and facilities over the past six months, including four armed attacks, 16 assaults on ebola responders, and 11 facilities burned or targeted, Africa CDC said in an online media briefing Thursday evening.

"Unfortunately, during the last six months, several attacks have been recorded," said Wessam Mankoula, an Africa CDC official. "Attacks on healthcare workers, attacks on frontline responders, and attacks on healthcare facilities: this is what makes the virus stay ahead of us and makes our response lag behind."

The agency noted that during a recent attack in Cantine-Aloya, a locality in the Beni territory of North Kivu Province, three health facilities were looted and burned, while three health workers were among the 66 civilians killed.

"When this attack happened last week, more than 1,000 contacts lost in follow-up, and our surveillance teams in those affected areas are not able to conduct follow-up for those contacts," Mankoula said.

"Unfortunately, three confirmed cases remain unaccounted for until now, as they have already run away from those burned ebola treatment centers and health facilities," he added.

Africa CDC warned that armed attacks and assaults targeting healthcare workers and facilities, as well as burial teams and other critical personnel, are further compounding already severe contact-listing and follow-up gaps.

Landry Dongmo Tsague, director of Africa CDC's Center for Primary Health Care, warned that security incidents are undermining recent progress in expanding community participation to identify and trace possible contacts under the village-centered response approach.

Emphasizing the urgent need for armed groups operating in the eastern part of the DRC to respect the protection of vital healthcare facilities and outbreak responders, Mankoula stressed that "these security incidents need to stop. Peace and security corridors need to be available for our responders in the field."

Africa CDC also highlighted ongoing efforts between the agency and the African Union to bolster the protection of frontline responders in the field and reach areas facing severe security challenges.

The DRC remains the epicenter of the ongoing multi-country Bundibugyo ebola outbreak. Since the country declared the outbreak on May 15, the virus has spread from just three health zones to 67 health zones across eight provinces.

Ugandan nationals can enter the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after spending at least 21 days outside their country, following a partial easing of ebola-related travel restrictions, Uganda's foreign minister said Wednesday.

Drivers and sponsors honored at a grand finale

Unstoppable spirit: ALSAYER concludes Toyota GR Yaris Cup Season 3



KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: The roar of engines gave way to applause as ALSAYER brought Season 3 of the Toyota GR Yaris Cup Kuwait to a memorable close with a grand finale on 8 November 2026. Hosted by Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L and Toyota Group Sales Marketing at ALSAYER Multipurpose Hall in Ardiya, the evening honored every driver who lined up on the grid across five rounds and ten races of close, hard-fought competition, together with the sponsors and partners who made the championship possible.

More than a celebration, the evening marked a season defined by determination. Midway through the calendar, racing was paused temporarily due to the regional situation. When the lights went green again, organizers, partners, sponsors and drivers returned with the same spirit they had started with, completing the full season and showing that Kuwait's passion for motorsport never slowed down.

The ceremony was attended by [Chairman Faisal Bader Al-Sayer]; Bengt Schultz, COO; Martin Aherne, Senior Business Director for Toyota Group Sales and Marketing; Ebraheem Al Fouzan, Head of Toyota Group Service Division;Desmond Lew,Senior Business Director, Parts and Group Logistics; Bader Faisal Al Sayer, Senior Manager of Toyota Marketing; and Senior Management team from ALSAYER. They were joined by representatives of the FIA in Kuwait, the management of Kuwait Motor Town, representatives of the season's 12 sponsors, the Ahmadi Performance team, Season 3 drivers and their families, event partners, and members of the press and media.

In recognition of their contribution to the success of the championship, all Season 3 drivers and sponsors were honored on stage. The drivers were celebrated for the close racing and sportsmanship they brought to every round, and the sponsors for standing behind the championship through an uncertain year.

According to Martin Aherne, Senior Business Director, Toyota Group Sales and Marketing,

"When an event pauses like that, there is always a real question of whether it will come back. Ours did. Not because of one decision, but because every partner chose to return with the same commitment they started with. The interest in motorsport never faded, and we closed the season in full."

Martin Aherne also thanked Toyota Motor Corporation for its continued support, and the 12 sponsors for staying with the championship at the very moment it would have been easiest to step back. He also outlined the next step for the series. Having hosted the GR Yaris Regional Cup last season, Kuwait will now take the Regional Cup to Lusail International Circuit, together with partners in Qatar, moving the championship "from a national series to a regional platform."

Ahmadi Performance team from Toyota Group Service Division received a special recognition, which prepares the GR Yaris race cars. Ebraheem Al Fouzan, who leads the Service team, took guests behind the scenes into the pit garage, explaining that when racing paused, every car had to be checked again, from brakes and fluids to suspension and safety equipment, before it could return to the track.

Ebraheem Al Fouzan, Head of Toyota Group Service Division, ALSAYER said

"In a one-make championship, every driver races the same car. The result is decided by skill, not by budget. But that only works if every car is prepared to exactly the same standard, every single time. Racing has become a school for our people, and those skills do not stay at the circuit. They come back with us to our service centers, and into the cars our customers drive every day. That is how motorsport makes better service."

Ebraheem Al Fouzan noted that around 50 team members were involved in race operations this season, building skills in race preparation, diagnostics and trackside work. He highlighted three lessons the team has taken from racing: precision under pressure, the value of data and records, and teamwork.

The evening also recognized the all-round coordination behind the championship: Suffix Sports, which has run the GR Yaris Cup for three seasons; FIA Kuwait; the management of Kuwait Motor Town; Media Market, the creative and media agency; Gemini Productions, the event partner; and the influencers and press who covered every round.

Closing the speeches, Bader Faisal Al Sayer spoke about the championship's growing audience. Its largest digital and social media campaign yet reached almost half a million people.

Bader Faisal Al Sayer, Senior Manager of Toyota Marketing, ALSAYER

"A race is only as big as the number of people who feel part of it. What I value most about this championship is who it brings together: young Kuwaitis taking their first steps in racing, experienced drivers, and fans of every age. That is the GR family, and it is what makes the GR brand so strong in Kuwait. The GR Yaris Cup will be back next season, stronger, in new colours, and with a new level of excitement."

With the Regional Cup at Lusail International Circuit Qatar ahead and a new season on the horizon, ALSAYER remains committed to growing Toyota racing in Kuwait and bringing Kuwaitis of every generation into the GR family.









Top and above: Photos from the event.

Kuwait claims silver at Asian Junior Padel Championship



KUNA photo

Players and officials celebrate with the Kuwaiti flag after finishing second.

JAKARTA, Nov 14, (KUNA): Kuwait's junior padel team finished runners-up at the Asian Junior Padel Championship, which concluded in Jakarta, Indonesia, after losing 2-1 to Iran in the final.

The Kuwaiti team delivered an impressive performance throughout the continental competition, reaching the final after defeating Kazakhstan 2-1 in the semifinals. Kuwait won both the under-14 and under-18 matches 2-0, but lost the under-16 encounter by the same score.

Speaking to KUNA, Kuwait Padel Club Chairman Wael Al-Qatami said the second edition of the championship featured 17 Asian national teams and 458 male and female players competing in the under-14, under-16 and under-18 categories.

He said Kuwait's run to the final and strong showing in the later stages reflected the country's continued progress in developing padel, particularly at the youth level, as well as efforts to prepare and develop players for regional and continental competitions.

Al-Qatami stressed that international participation provides young players with valuable experience, helps nurture promising talents and strengthens Kuwait's presence on the international sporting stage.

Clippers overcome 40 points from SGA and use late run to slip past Thunder

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Nov 14, (AP): Brook Lopez scored 26 points and Darius Garland added 24 as the Los Angeles Clippers finished off a 113-112 victory in an NBA Cup game, sending the shorthanded Oklahoma City Thunder to a season-high third straight loss.

Derrick Jones Jr. and rookie Keaton Wagler had 14 points apiece, and Gradey Dick added 13 as the Clippers scored the final seven points to win for the second time in three games after opening the season with a 1-7 record.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 40 for the Thunder but missed a 21-foot jumper at the buzzer that would have won it.

Jared McCain had 23 points and Isaiah Hartenstein added 21 points with 16 rebounds as Oklahoma City fell to 0-3 on a four-game West Coast trip. McCain finished 7 of 11 from 3-point range.

The Clippers led 57-44 at halftime behind 12 points from Lopez, while the Thunder were just 2 of 17 on 3s over the first two quarters.

Oklahoma City recovered to outscore Los Angeles 40-25 in the third by going 5 of 11 from long distance.

Gilgeous-Alexander hit a leaning 3-pointer with 3:01 remaining for a 110-106 lead.

Xavi's Netherlands routs Greece 7-0 in Nations League

AMSTERDAM, Nov 14, (AP): The Netherlands routed Greece 7-0 in a statement Nations League victory to stay unbeaten under new coach Xavi, while Jürgen Klopp's Germany cruised to a 3-1 win over Serbia.

That now sets up a decider between the two big-name coaches for first place in their group.

Tijjani Reijnders scored a hat trick and Jurrien Timber had two goals in a rampant win for the Netherlands.

Beaming and holding up three fingers, Reijnders celebrated a hat trick which came off a series of slick team moves to tear apart the Greek defense in Amsterdam.

Crysencio Summerville got the Netherlands started with a sixth-minute opener before Reijnders scored three in the space of 21 minutes, Timber added two more and Donyell Malen a seventh.

Germany is three points behind Group A2 leader the Netherlands before they play on Monday in Berlin.

The top two in the group advance to the quarterfinals, with head-to-head record as the tiebreaker. The Netherlands, Germany and Greece are all able to qualify. Serbia is last after losing all of its five games.

Goals from Florian Wirtz and debutant Brajan Gruda lifted Germany to its second win in five games with Klopp as coach after a slow start to his tenure.

In driving rain, Germany was ahead after just three minutes when Serbia defender Srdjan Babic turned Germany forward Kai Havertz's header into his own goal.

It was 2-0 soon after when Wirtz flicked a rebound over goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic, who had parried a shot from Havertz.

Klopp's experimental squad, with Freiburg winger Derry Scherhant but no place for Barcelona's Karim Adeyemi, added a third when Leipzig's Gruda dribbled through the center of the Serbian defense to score Germany's third.

Babic canceled out his earlier own goal by scoring for Serbia on a rebound, but chances of a comeback were ended when Vanja Dragojevic was sent off for a reckless tackle on Joshua Kimmich's ankle.





Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland lines up a putt on the 18th green during the third round of the World Tour Golf Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait regains confidence with Syria rout

Blues turn focus to Honduras

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait resumes training as it prepares for Tuesday's international friendly against Honduras, following an impressive 3-0 victory over Syria.

The Blues secured the win in Saturday's encounter at Al-Sadaqa Wal-Salam Stadium, with Shabib Al-Khaldi, Eid Al-Rashidi and Abdulaziz Naji finding the net.

Kuwait head coach Helio Sousa welcomed the result, praising his players for their fighting spirit and tactical discipline throughout the match.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Sousa said he was particularly pleased with the victory following Kuwait's exit from the Gulf Cup, where the team had produced a strong and convincing performance but failed to get the results it deserved.

He said the win over Syria was a reflection of the collective work done in training and would provide the players with a valuable confidence boost. Sousa added that the team had already shifted its attention to Honduras as it looks to maintain its progress and build on the foundations laid in recent months.

Commenting on Mohammed Daham's absence through injury, Sousa described him as a good player but stressed that the coaching staff must remain positive and adapt to injuries and other absences. He pointed out that the squad has 28 players available and expressed confidence in their ability to step in whenever needed.

Sousa also singled out Waleed Saad for praise, saying the player delivered a convincing performance and showed a strong desire to prove himself. He added that Saad fulfilled his technical and tactical duties and followed the instructions given to him on the pitch. The coach expressed confidence that the player would continue to develop alongside the current squad.

On the new players called up, Sousa said several had completed only three training sessions with him but had already demonstrated the ambition and determination to establish themselves. He said they were eager either to challenge for starting positions or secure their places in the national team for the coming period.

The coach emphasized the need for every player to give his best and execute the team's playing style and tactical plans effectively. He also reaffirmed his commitment to giving everyone a fair opportunity to prove their abilities during the two friendlies.

Sousa concluded by revealing that the coaching staff closely follows all domestic competitions, including the First Division League. He stressed that the national team remains open to any player who demonstrates the required ability and commitment.

Wearing Kuwait jersey, he added, demands fighting spirit, discipline and outstanding performances, describing the current period as an important opportunity for players to prove themselves and earn places in the squad for upcoming competitions.



Kuwaiti players celebrate after beating Syria.

Al-Shabab looks to exploit Whites shaken confidence

Kuwait Club eyes Cup redemption as Qadsia savours league triumph



Qadsia captain hoists the championship trophy during the awarding cermony.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Kuwait Club launches its bid to salvage the season when it takes on Al-Shabab on Sunday in the quarterfinals of the 2025-2026 Federation Cup volleyball competition, which resumes from last season.

The match is scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Kuwait Volleyball Association Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier, Al-Nasr faces Sulaibikhat at 5:00 pm in the other quarterfinal fixture.

The Whites will be eager to bounce back from their painful defeat in the Premier League final last Thursday, when they lost 3-1 to Qadsia, and turn their attention to the Federation Cup in pursuit of a consolation trophy.

Al-Arabi was the last side to reach the quarterfinals after overcoming Al-Sahel 3-2 in Saturday's preliminary-round encounter. Sulaibikhat, Al-Nasr, Kuwait Club, Al-Shabab, Qadsia, Kazma and Yarmouk had already secured their places in the last eight. Al-Arabi had also beaten Al-Sahel 3-2 in their opening cup fixture.

Kuwait Club is determined to put their league disappointment behind it, restore its confidence and overcome Al-Shabab to reach the semifinals. With the Federation Cup representing its final chance to lift silverware this season, the Whites will be under pressure to deliver a strong response.

Al-Shabab, meanwhile, will look to exploit its opponent's shaken confidence and inconsistent form to secure a place in the last four. It is also keen to make up for missing out on the First Division League title, having finished runners-up to champion Yarmouk.

Meanwhile, Qadsia celebrated its 24th Premier Volleyball League title after defeating Kuwait Club 3-1 in final of the competition carried over from the 2025-2026 season.

Kazma claimed third place with a 3-1 victory over Sulaibikhat in the playoff for third and fourth positions.

Under Argentine coach Humberto Alejandro, Qadsia underlined its credentials by overcoming Kuwait Club, coached by his compatriot Ruben Adrian, to secure a record 24th league crown.

The Whites, in contrast, struggled to reproduce their usual form and committed several costly errors that ultimately contributed to their defeat.

Qadsia's Beninese professional Daoud Yakubu expressed his delight at winning his first title with the club, dedicating the triumph to the team's supporters for their outstanding backing during the final. He also pledged that the players would work to maintain their strong performances in upcoming competitions.

Qadsia players also swept several individual honours. Rashid Anbar was named Best All-Round Player, Abdulnasser Al-Enezi claimed Best Setter, American professional Cole won Best Outside Hitter (Position 4), while Yakubu received the Best Player of the Final award.

Burgan overcomes Kazma

Sulaibikhat ends 18-year wait to reach Federation Cup final

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 14: Sulaibikhat has booked its place in the Handball Federation Cup final for the first time in 18 years, reviving memories of its last appearance in the title decider in 2008, when it lost to Qadsia.

The Northern Reds secured their return to the final by edging Al-Arabi 19-18 in the semifinal of the competition carried over from the 2025-2026 season.

In the other semifinal, Burgan overcame Kazma 31-29 to set up a showdown with Sulaibikhat for the trophy.

Sulaibikhat, who was crowned Asian champion in 2009, has lifted the Federation Cup twice, in 2002 and 2005, and will now target a third title. Burgan, the 2026 Asian champion, is seeking its first domestic trophy. Meanwhile, Kazma and Al-Arabi will contest the third-place playoff.

Al-Arabi had made headlines last week by eliminating defending champion Kuwait Club in one of the tournament's biggest upsets. That victory provided the Green Castle with a major confidence boost and raised expectations of another strong run towards the final, especially given Kuwait Club's dominance of domestic competitions in recent years.

However, Al-Arabi could not maintain that momentum against an ambitious Sulaibikhat side, which delivered a strong display to claim a deserved 19-18 victory and a place in the final.



Players vie for the ball during Sulaibikhat-Al-Arabi match.

The Green Castle appeared below the level they had shown against Kuwait Club, with fatigue seemingly affecting their players after an exhausting previous encounter that required two extra periods.

Sulaibikhat took full advantage, imposed its game plan and held on to their narrow lead to seal qualification.

The other semifinal between Burgan and Kazma was equally competitive, with neither side able to establish a comfortable advantage. Burgan, however, showed greater composure and experience in the decisive stages, preserving its lead until the final whistle to secure a deserved 31-29 win and a place in the title match.

Sulaibikhat dominates West Asian Judo Championship

AMMAN, Nov 14: Sulaibikhat Club was crowned West Asian Judo champion after finishing top of the overall standings at the competition, which recently concluded in Amman, Jordan.

The club secured first place in the Cubs individual and team competitions, as well as the younger age categories, underlining its dominance across the tournament.

Sulaibikhat athletes amassed an impressive 44 medals, comprising 29 gold, six silver and nine bronze, in recognition of their outstanding performances and the efforts of the club's technical and administrative teams in preparing them for the event.

Sulaibikhat Club Secretary-General Nasser Mansi Al-Enezi congratulated the athletes, coaching and administrative staff, board members and supporters on the title, saying the achievement further underlined the club's standing in judo at both local and international levels.

Al-Enezi said the success was the outcome of sustained hard work by the athletes and technical and administrative staff, coupled with the considerable support provided by the club's board for the judo section.



Sulaibikhat Club Secretary-General Nasser Mansi Al-Enezi

He noted that these combined efforts helped Sulaibikhat secure the top spot and further enhance its presence in regional competitions.

He added that the club's management and judo section remain committed to improving the players' technical and physical abilities, attracting leading coaching personnel and addressing any challenges facing the teams and athletes.

McIlroy and Chacarra set for showdown in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Nov 14, (AP): Rory McIlroy had a day to forget at the season-ending World Tour Championship on Saturday, ending four shots off the lead and seeing Race to Dubai rival Eugenio Chacarra haul himself back into contention.

Tyrrell Hatton held the lead at the end of the third round after shooting 4-under 68 to move to 9 under overall, one stroke ahead of Victor Perez (67).

As well as attempting to win the World Tour Championship for a fourth time (after 2012, '15 and '24), McIlroy is seeking to move past Chacarra in the points list to secure the year-long Race to Dubai title, which crowns the No. 1 player on the European tour.

World No. 2 McIlroy started the day with a share of the 36-hole lead with Hatton. The Northern Irishman had an eagle on the par-5 No. 7 before four bogeys in an even par 72, dropping to 5 under overall and a four-way tie for fourth place, including current Race to Dubai leader Chacarra (68).

Chacarra - a 26-year-old Spaniard in his first full season on the tour - leads McIlroy in the Race to Dubai standings by nearly 534 points. On offer this week is 2,000 points for the winner, 1,335 for second place, 752 for third place, then fewer and fewer for the minor places.

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