

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, Prime Minister, ministers
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KUWAIT TRAFFIC SECTOR DRAWS LINE ON WRONG TURNS

No reels behind the wheels

Jahra and Capital sweeps nab 61 violators, record 187 legal actions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The General Traffic Department has warned motorists against using mobile phones to film videos, livestream or post content on social media while driving, saying such practices endanger road users and constitute clear traffic violations.

Assistant Director General for Violations and Licensing at the General Traffic Department, Brigadier Khaled Al-Adwani, said authorities had observed an increasing number of drivers using their phones behind the wheel, including livestreaming and recording videos for social media.

Al-Adwani stressed that filming and using mobile phones while driving are violations that threaten the safety of motorists and other road users, adding that the department would not tolerate such behavior.

He said the department was monitoring the roads, tracking drivers who film while driving and summoning those identified for the necessary legal procedures.

The General Traffic Department is also increasing the number of surveillance cameras to detect violations and identify those responsible.

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Opinion



Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Enduring Persian hostility, a legacy spanning two millennia

PERSIAN hostility towards the Gulf states is not a recent development. Tehran often cites the presence of foreign military bases in the region as justification for its aggression, yet this is just a convenient excuse to mask its long regional terror campaign.

The roots of this modern animosity date back to Khomeini's expulsion from Iraq and denial of his entry into Kuwait -- events that fueled deep-seated resentment toward the nations in the region. When he gained power after the overthrow of the Shah, his immediate priority was making the citizens of Gulf states turn against their own ruling governments.

Under slogans like "exporting the revolution" and "advocating for the oppressed," the underlying ambitions of the regime remained to be regional dominance, territorial expansion, and reviving the legacy of the ancient Persian Empire.

Based on such ideology, the 'Revolutionary Iran' launched a series of attacks on its neighbors, taking advantage of the Iran-Iraq War to execute major terrorist operations.

Early attempts to destabilize the region included the plot to overthrow the Bahraini government in 1981.

Kuwait soon became the main target of these attacks, such as the bombings of vital infrastructure in 1983, hijacking of the airliner 'Kazimah' that was diverted to Tehran, and the attempt to assassinate HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad.

This violence campaign continued throughout the decade, marked by bombings of public venues like coffee shops, the 1985 attacks on the American and French embassies, and the tragic hijacking of the airliner 'Al-Jabriyah'.

Ever since the establishment of the terrorist-aligned regime, its subversive cells have consistently directed their hostilities toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, making Makkah and the Holy Kaaba as their main targets.

The aggressive campaign usually escalated during the Hajj season. In 1986, Saudi customs officials foiled the attempt of Iranian pilgrims to smuggle 51 kilograms of explosives into the Kingdom. In 1987, the demonstrations linked to Hajj turned tragic, claiming the lives of about 400 individuals. In 1989, a bombing was carried out near the Grand Mosque in Makkah.

The ongoing pattern of relations between Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries does not stem from the deployment of American or other foreign military forces or the recent regional disputes. It rather reflects the foundational element of the regime's political ideology. It is a trajectory perpetuated by Khomeini's successors -- Khamenei (the elder) and his son.

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KUNA photo

British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed listens as exhibition organizer and researcher Essa Dashti explains historical photographs and memorabilia documenting King Charles III's visits to Kuwait. – See Page 2

119 candidates clear first hurdle for prosecutor posts

33 women advance in Kuwait judiciary intake

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Kuwaiti women continue to solidify their presence in the judiciary, as the latest batch of successful candidates for the entry-level legal researcher post, which is a prerequisite to qualify for the Public Prosecutor (Grade C) position, consists of 33 women out of 119 applicants.

This is a continuation of the journey that began in 2014, when women first entered the judiciary with the appointment of 22 female public prosecutors. In 2020, eight of them were promoted to the position of judge for the first time in the history of the country.

According to the previous statements of the Justice Ministry, 122 women are serving in the judiciary or eight percent of the total.

Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait issued a decree accepting 119 applicants, all of whom graduated in the 2024/2025 academic year, for the position of entry-level legal researcher. The decree was issued after the Supreme Judicial Council approved

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7 Zain Kuwait's focus on operational excellence & corporate governance increases its ISO certifications to seven



7 ALSAYER Platinum Sponsor of 7th Gulf Cybersecurity Conference



8 Fitch affirms NBK's Long-Term Rating at 'A+' with a Stable Outlook



9 ABK holds awareness workshop to mark World Diabetes Day

KFH-backed museum wins Municipal Council nod

Mubarakiya set for royal history landmark

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Municipal Council has approved the donation of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) for the establishment of the Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al Saud Museum and its premises in Mubarakiya.

During its 29th regular session for the fourth term of the 13th legislative cycle held Monday under the chairmanship of Abdullah Al-Muhri, the council approved an amendment to the first clause of the resolution. The amendment stipulates compliance with all relevant regulations and decisions, obtaining approval from regulatory authorities, and adherence to building codes, visual design standards, and certain elements approved for the implementation of the project.

The museum will be a historical and cultural landmark, embodying the depth of the historical ties and fraternal bond between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is located in Mubarakiya Market in Kuwait City, particularly Qibla Commercial Block Four, near the Central Gold Market, measuring 4,490 square meters.

It features a structure that replicates the original design of Imam Abdulrahman Al-Faisal's residence, auxiliary museum spaces, commercial buildings, basement for utility services, a café, aesthetic landscaping and pedestrian walkways.

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Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Dooms with Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Najeeb Al-Bader, Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Ahmed Behbehani.

Newswatch

RIYADH: **Saudi Arabia**'s Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in **Yemen** announced on Monday the interception and destruction of two drones launched by the Houthi militia over the **Makkah** and Riyadh regions.

Coalition Spokesman Brig. Gen. **Turki Al-Maliki** said in a brief statement posted on the coalition's official X account that the drones had been intercepted and destroyed, providing no further details. (KUNA)

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CAIRO: EgyptAir announced on Monday that it had diverted several incoming international flights to **Sharm El-Sheikh** International Airport instead of Cairo International Airport due to adverse weather conditions and reduced visibility.

The airline said in a statement that the weather had also delayed the departure of several flights from Cairo beyond their scheduled times.

It stressed that passenger and crew safety remained its top priority, adding that the measures were taken in line with the highest operational safety standards. (KUNA)

Kuwait, France plan joint military exercise for 2027

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait and France held on Monday the first planning meeting for the joint military exercise "Pearl of the West 2027," aimed at strengthening military cooperation and enhancing combat readiness.

The General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army said in a press statement that Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans Brigadier General Raed Al-Sakran co-chaired the meeting with Commander of French Forces in the Indian Ocean and forces stationed in the UAE, Rear Admiral Patrick Bousso.

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Kuwait Army photo

Brigadier General Raed Al-Sakran with Rear Admiral Patrick Bousso.

62 years on, Kuwait, Belgium eye new areas of partnership

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Najeeb Al-Bader said the relationship between Kuwait and Belgium is continuously evolving in multiple sectors like politics, security, defense, economics and investment.

Al-Bader made the statement at the event organized by the Embassy of Belgium in Kuwait on the occasion of King's Day. He conveyed his best wishes to King Philippe, the leaders and citizens of Belgium, hoping for continuous progress and prosperity for the friendly nation. He affirmed the long history of collaboration between the two nations, citing their shared positions on many important occasions.

He stated that this event coincides with the 62nd anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Belgium. He indicated that these relations achieved milestones over the years, such as a remarkable advancement in political dialogue and joint efforts—an evolution fueled by the dedication of both countries' leaders to strengthen their partnership.

He recalled Belgium's supportive role when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, stressing that this stance "is firmly ingrained in the collective memory of Kuwait, remembered with immense pride and gratitude."



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Najeeb Al-Bader with Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Dooms during the ceremonial cake-cutting.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:51	Asr	14:32
Sunrise	06:13	Maghrib	16:53
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:15



Amiri Diwan photo

HH the Amir receives HH the Crown Prince.



Amiri Diwan photo

HH the Amir receives HH the Prime Minister.

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, Prime Minister, ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Kuwait exhibition documents King Charles' visits to Kuwait

By Shahad Kamal

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): The Kuwait National Library hosted a historical exhibition on Monday titled "Visits of His Majesty King Charles III to the State of Kuwait," organized by the researcher in Kuwaiti-British history relations and holder of the British Empire Medal Essa Dashti, in celebration of King Charles III's birthday.

The exhibition included more than 30 historical photos displayed for the first time, alongside documents and items from Dashti's private collection, documenting the three visits the King had made to Kuwait in 2006, 2011, and 2015 while he was Prince of Wales and heir apparent.

It showcased moments from those visits and the events and meetings associated with them, reflecting the political, diplomatic, and cultural ties between both countries.

Attending the exhibition was Sheikha Hala Bader Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, along with the British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed, and several enthusiasts and researchers.



KUNA photo

Photo during the opening of the exhibition titled "Visits of His Majesty King Charles III to the State of Kuwait" hosted by Kuwait National Library.

Kuwait wins ITU Council re-election with 147 votes

Trust in global telecom arena renewed

DOHA, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait was re-elected to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council representing Region E on Monday, securing 147 votes out of 175 in elections held during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha.

Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Saud Al-Omar congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as well as the government and people of Kuwait on the election.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Saud Al-Omar in a group photo during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Omar expressed pride in the international confidence placed in Kuwait, saying the renewed membership for the 2027-2030 term was a national achievement adding to the country's record at regional and international forums.

He praised the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain, Kuwait's Ambassador to Qatar Ahmad Al-Shuraim, CITRA Chairman Dr. Khaled Al-Zamel, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Meshal Al-Zaid, and members of the Kuwaiti delegation.

The 2026 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference opened in Doha last Monday and runs until November 27, with Kuwait participating in a delegation headed by Al-Omar.

The conference is the ITU's highest policy-making body, responsible for setting the union's strategic direction, approving its plans and electing its leadership.

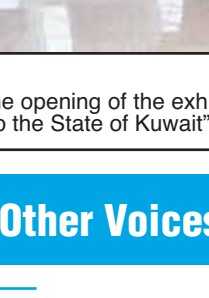
Other Voices

It is nothing more than a lust for power

By Ahmad alsarraf

IN a piece someone wrote, he referred to a group of Kuwaitis living abroad who identify themselves as the "political opposition" and claim to seek reform and correction. However, in his view, their actions reveal a lack of respect for dialogue and the basic principles of political action.

One would expect someone who writes such things to uphold the values of respectful dialogue and the principles of political engagement. Yet this person's actions, conduct, and writings appear to be far removed from those very values.



Ahmad alsarraf

Those he attacked and belittled were Kuwaiti citizens whose citizenship has been revoked through sovereign decisions. They are already enduring hardship, sorrow, and anguish, having been separated from their families and homeland and subjected to humiliation.

This pretender attacks them while feigning loyalty to the nation, despite lacking even the most basic standards of respectful dialogue. He has previously deliberately insulted many people, myself included, even though I have never harassed or attacked him or intentionally directed any insults at him. His article insulting me is available for anyone who wishes to read it.

What this individual has written is hypocritical and serves as a reminder to government institutions that he remains available and can still be put to use.

He knows fully well that the state authorities are aware of his true nature and that he is a liability to anyone who employs him.

In his first job, he received a severe reprimand and was dismissed. The same happened in an even more humiliating manner in his second job, where the scandal was covered up with a simple dismissal. He repeated the same foolish behavior in his third position. A prominent figure intervened on his behalf, showed him leniency, and settled for removing him from his prestigious post.

However, he repeated the same behavior for a fourth time, resulting in him being barred from holding any government position. Even some of the newspapers he had previously written for stopped publishing his articles. He found himself with no option but to sell his pen to whoever was willing to pay him, flatter those with the power to employ him, and find his way back onto the scene, even if through the back door.

He attacked the "opposition abroad," claiming they were driven by an overwhelming desire for revenge. He accused them of lacking convincing arguments and confusing opposition to government policies with hostility toward the nation.

He further claimed that their actions might succeed in creating a stir but would neither make political history nor present a national reform project.

Ironically, such statements are coming from someone who has never been known for making history or presenting a national reform project himself.

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Food, medicine and education top aid agenda

Kuwait charities deliver hope, help and healing

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwaiti charitable organizations continued their humanitarian initiatives across several countries this week, providing food aid, healthcare, education, clean water, orphan care and winter relief under the "Kuwait Stands by You" campaign.

Guided by the country's leadership, the initiatives extend beyond emergency assistance to support stability and self-reliance among vulnerable communities, reflecting Kuwait's long-standing values of solidarity and humanitarian giving.

In Egypt, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society conducted field visits to projects in Assiut, Beni Suef, Beheira, Cairo and Fayoum governorates to assess their implementation and impact.

The society's Resources and Media Sector Director Abdulatif Al-Dawas told KUNA that the visits aimed to ensure projects funded by donors were being implemented efficiently and delivering sustainable benefits.

The delegation inspected medical equipment provided to the intensive care unit at Assiut Trauma Hospital and took part in a kidney dialysis medical campaign in Beheira and an eye-care campaign in Beni Suef.

Al-Dawas said the visit also included discussions with Kuwait's Zakat House office in Egypt on cooperation and potential joint projects in education, healthcare, water and economic empowerment.

In Mauritania, Ataa Humanitarian Society is sponsoring around 450 students at Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Institute in the western Hodh El Gharbi region.

The society's Director General Dr. Omar Al-Shaqraa told KUNA that the initiative reflected its commitment to education as a key means of developing individuals and communities and easing the financial burden on students' families.

He said the institute had seven classrooms, four for boys and three for girls, with an average of around 30 students in each class.

Al-Shaqraa stressed that educational support went beyond meeting students' immediate needs to providing them with knowledge and skills to build their futures and contribute to their communities.

Meanwhile, Namaa Charity, affiliated with the Social Reform Society, continued implementing relief and development projects in Mauritania, India and the Gaza Strip.

Namaa's Programs and Initiatives Sector Head Khaled Mubarak Al-Shamri told KUNA that a field visit to Mauritania included monitoring projects and assessing beneficiaries' needs, as well as distributing meat, meals, food baskets, infant formula and essential supplies.

The initiatives included distributing 200 food baskets, supporting eye-care campaigns, opening a mosque, laying the foundation stone for another and following up on water projects.

Al-Shamri said Namaa was also developing five semi-artesian wells in several countries, each expected to serve around 500 people.









KUNA photos

Kuwaiti charities expand humanitarian aid abroad, delivering food, healthcare, education, clean water and winter relief to vulnerable communities across several countries.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Air, water ... and the internet

"WE once believed that the basic human requirements for survival were limited to air, water, and food," columnist **Dr. Khaled Makkawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"However, rapid scientific and technological advances have ushered us into a new realm - a parallel world encompassing the internet, social media, electronic games, and artificial intelligence.

In 1943, American psychologist Abraham Maslow introduced his famous hierarchy of human needs, organizing human motivations into an ascending order. It begins with physiological needs, such as air, water, food, and sleep, followed by safety and security, love and belonging, esteem and respect, and finally, at the highest level, self-actualization, which is the realization of one's full potential.



Dr. Makkawi

This raises an important question - Has the hierarchy of human needs evolved over time? People living centuries ago had no need for electricity, telephones, or the internet. Yet, for people today, these have become essential, increasingly relied upon for work, education, communication, and everyday life.

Today, the internet is far more than a source of entertainment; it has become an essential tool for work, education, commerce, accessing information, using government, banking, and healthcare services, and even maintaining social relationships.

This raises the possibility of a new category of needs, one absent from Maslow's original model, which could be called "digital needs." Are we witnessing the emergence of a new version of Maslow's hierarchy, one that incorporates digital connectivity and internet access as essential needs of modern life? To explore this question, I conducted a simple survey, although I may not be the first to do so. Over the past two years, I surveyed more than 220 students, both in Kuwait and abroad, along with several family members and friends from different age groups and backgrounds.

Although the question was simple, answering it often took some time and was accompanied by plenty of laughter and lighthearted discussion.

The hypothetical scenario was as follows - If you were taken to an uninhabited island where water, food, and safety were guaranteed, and you were allowed to bring only one physical object or one person, what would you choose? The answers varied considerably, often depending on the respondents' ages and generations.

■ Children opt to choose their mothers, seeking the sense of security and safety they provide, or, alternatively, their favorite toys.

■ Among adolescents and young adults up to the age of 29, the internet, electronic games, and mobile phones were among the most common choices, reflecting the importance they place on staying connected to the outside world.

■ Among those under the age of 45, the majority chose a mobile phone, provided that internet access was available.

■ Among those over 45, responses were more varied. Some chose a cherished companion, such as a spouse or friend, while others opted for the Quran or an item of spiritual or emotional significance. Only a small minority selected a mobile phone.

Although this simple survey cannot be considered a scientific study or a representative sample of the entire population, one significant observation stood out - for many people, the internet is no longer just a means of entertainment or communication; it has become an essential part of everyday life.

Indeed, a mobile phone without internet access loses much of its value. The evolution of human needs can be viewed as a symbolic progression - air, water, food, safety, belonging, esteem, self-actualization, and now, digital connectivity.

Naturally, the internet cannot be compared to air or water in biological terms, as humans can physically survive without it. Rather, the comparison reflects the extent to which people have come to rely on it in their modern lifestyles.

But what comes after the internet? The more important question is not simply whether internet access has become a necessity, but where this growing dependence will lead us.

The "internet generation" continues to advance, with new generations being born into an even deeper connection with the digital world.

With artificial intelligence, robotics, and smart devices becoming increasingly integrated into the details of our daily lives, the internet may evolve into an all-encompassing environment - a space in which we live, work, learn, and interact.

Our reliance on service robots, which assist people at home, in the workplace, in education, and in caregiving, may also continue to grow.

Just as it is difficult for us today to imagine life without the internet or smartphones, future generations raised with robots as part of their everyday lives may find it incredibly difficult, perhaps even unbearable, to imagine life without them.

This brings us to a broader question about the future - Will we continue to be the ones who use technology, or will we eventually reach a point where we can no longer function without it? We began with air, water, and food. Over time, we came to depend on electricity, telephones, and the internet.

Today, we are entering the age of artificial intelligence, and tomorrow, robots may become an integral part of every aspect of our lives.

Perhaps Maslow's hierarchy of needs will one day need to be revised, not because the original needs have disappeared, but because humanity has developed new requirements that were unimaginable when Maslow first formulated his theory."

Also:

"The Kuwait AI Hackathon represents a national opportunity to transform youth creativity into practical solutions that benefit the country, its citizens, and the economy. More than 500 young people took part in the event," columnist Sheikh Eng. **Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"This marks an important step toward building a generation capable of harnessing modern technology to address developmental and administrative challenges. However, its true value lies not only in the number of participants or projects presented, but also in the state's ability to turn these innovations into practical applications that improve government services and enhance the efficiency of public institutions.

This presents an important opportunity for the government to harness the talents and capabilities of young Kuwaitis to develop technological solutions that address the country's needs and challenges.

There are several benefits, including improving government efficiency. Many government agencies rely on administrative procedures that require extensive document reviews.

AI can help automate a significant portion of these processes, allowing employees to focus on tasks that require human expertise and decision-making.

The expected results include shorter transaction processing times, fewer administrative errors, and improved service quality for citizens and residents.

The second benefit is reducing costs and improving public financial management. By analyzing financial and operational data, AI-powered systems can identify unusual expenses, duplicate invoices, and waste while helping streamline procurement processes and improve financial planning.

The third benefit is improving government services for citizens. AI can transform the way citizens interact with government agencies in various sectors, including housing, healthcare, public works, municipalities, and others.



Sheikh Fahad

Another benefit is supporting government decision-making.

Government institutions possess vast amounts of data related to population, housing, healthcare, education, energy, and the economy. However, making effective use of this data requires advanced analytical tools capable of turning it into valuable insights that support decision-makers.

This would enable more proactive government planning, reducing reliance on reactive measures to address problems after they arise.

The fifth benefit is transforming youth innovation into a national industry. Projects developed by young people could serve as the foundation for national technology companies specializing in providing solutions to both the public and private sectors. Successful projects could then be expanded and implemented in accordance with established regulations and procedures.

The sixth benefit is building partnerships between the government and the private sector. The government does not necessarily need to develop all AI systems independently. Instead, it can leverage the capabilities of global companies in infrastructure and advanced technological models while empowering Kuwaiti companies to develop local applications and integrate them into government systems.

Another benefit is establishing a permanent government program under the theme "Government Challenges in AI." The program's success should not be measured by the number of applications developed, but rather by clear performance indicators, such as hours saved, reduced operating costs, improved service quality, faster transaction processing, and higher user satisfaction."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photos

Participants in the Maritime Counterterrorism course.



Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Can Oguz.



Participants take part in the specialized training course.

NATO Regional Center in Kuwait organizes counterterrorism course with Gulf participation

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): The NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative Regional Center in Kuwait organized a specialized training course on Monday called Maritime Counterterrorism, in collaboration with NATO's Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE), with participation from GCC states.

The center's director, Counselor Emad Al-Kandari, told KUNA that the program aims to boost the skills of specialists in maritime security to equip them with the knowledge and abilities needed to tackle terrorist threats at sea, helping support maritime security and stability to protect vital facilities.

The course, which is ongoing until November 19, includes training scenarios that simulate multiple maritime threats to develop decision-making skills, enhance coordination, and exchange expertise in the field of maritime counterterrorism.

For his part, the Turkish ambassador to Kuwait, Can Oguz, praised Kuwait's role in hosting the course and its cooperative role in brining perspectives closer and exchanging expertise in the field.

He added that the course can exchange experiences in combating terrorism on land, sea, and air, as well as cybersecurity, which helps systems in all GCC countries.

Four Asians arrested as police uncover illegal liquor factory

Authorities bust gambling operation in Hawally

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Security Departments Affairs Sector, represented by the Ahmadi Security Directorate, arrested four Asian nationals, including three Nepalese and one Indian, for being intoxicated in the Mina Abdullah Industrial Area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Investigations led to the discovery of a site used to manufacture and store homemade liquor. The facility was located inside a damaged electrical transformer in the industrial area. Authorities found 194 bottles, each with a capacity of 1.5 liters, containing alcoholic substances, along with five barrels of various sizes, one of which also contained an alcoholic substance.

Three syringes used to fill the bottles and 28 bags containing the seized bottles were also found.

The suspects and all seized items were taken into custody, and the necessary legal procedures are being taken against them.

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Asians arrested: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigation and the Department for Combating Human Trafficking and Negative Phenomena, arrested six Asian nationals in connection with a gambling case in Hawally, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrests were based on information indicating that a group of individuals was involved in gambling activities.

Investigations led to the identification of the location and the arrest of the suspects while they were engaged in the illegal activity.

Authorities found papers and cash used for gambling in the suspects' possession. The suspects confessed to gambling and were referred, along with the seized items, to the relevant authorities for further legal action.

Cop act backfires on Gulf national

Cassation upholds 10-year terms for two defendants

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Court of Cassation upheld the Court of Appeal's ruling sentencing two defendants to 10 years in prison for assaulting a man and repeatedly striking him on the head with a teapot during a fight, resulting in his death, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court rejected the defendants' appeal, leaving the 10-year prison sentences in place.

The Court of Appeal had previously overturned the death sentences, reclassifying the offense from premeditated murder to manslaughter due to the absence of intent to kill. The death sentences were subsequently replaced with 10-year prison terms, which now stand as the final verdict.

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The General Department of Criminal Investigation, represented by the Capital Investigation Department, arrested a Gulf national for impersonating a police officer and stealing money, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrest followed a report filed by an individual who said he had been robbed by an unidentified person. The relevant authorities launched an investigation and reviewed CCTV footage from the area. After obtaining information about the vehicle used in the crime, investigators identified the suspect and arrested him.

The suspect confessed to the crime and was referred to the relevant authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.

Jahra removes 134 vehicles & issues 100 citations in October

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality announced the results of the operations carried out by Jahra Municipality's Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Department in the month of October, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Department Director Nawaf Al-Mutairi stated that the intensive field inspections aim to identify violators and take the necessary legal action against them.

He emphasized that the inspection team is working to improve public cleanliness in the areas under its jurisdiction and maintain the governorate's civilized appearance.

Al-Mutairi noted that the team's inspections during October resulted in the removal of 134 abandoned vehicles and scrap containers, as well as the issuance of 100 citations for violations involving road occupancy and public cleanliness.

The team also issued 1,768 warnings, pledges, and stickers to owners of abandoned vehicles and commercial containers in preparation for their removal after the specified deadline.

The operations also included replacing 1,012 old waste containers with new ones and removing 8,636 loads of various types of waste.



KUNA launches training program on field reporting and crisis coverage

Media Development Center trains journalists in infographics and AI tools

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): KUNA Media Development Center launched Sunday a training program titled "Media Skills for Field Coverage, Crises and Breaking News," with the participation of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the National Guard and Kuwait Ports Authority personnel.

The program, running until November 19, is delivered by former KUNA Deputy Editor-in-Chief Oqab Al-Qobaa and covers the role of news agency correspondents and the differences between newsroom editors and field reporters.

It also addresses essential journalistic qualities, including news judgment, quick thinking, decision-making, broad knowledge and the ability to work under pressure.

Combining theoretical and practical approaches, the program examines field reporting techniques at various events and different types of correspondents.

It also covers effective reporting during disasters and crises, coordination with news agencies and diverse sources, standards for field news coverage, professional media ethics and press conference reporting skills.





A segment of the training program 'Media Skills for Field Coverage, Crises, and Breaking News'.





KUNA photos

A glimpse of the training program 'Infographic Journalism'.

Established in December 1995, KUNA Media Development Center is among the leading media training institutions. It has delivered hundreds of program across various media disciplines.

The center aims to develop media professionals' skills and capabilities and advance professional media practices.

KUNA Media Development Center launched Sunday a training program titled "Infographic Journalism," with the participation of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the State Audit Bureau and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development personnel.

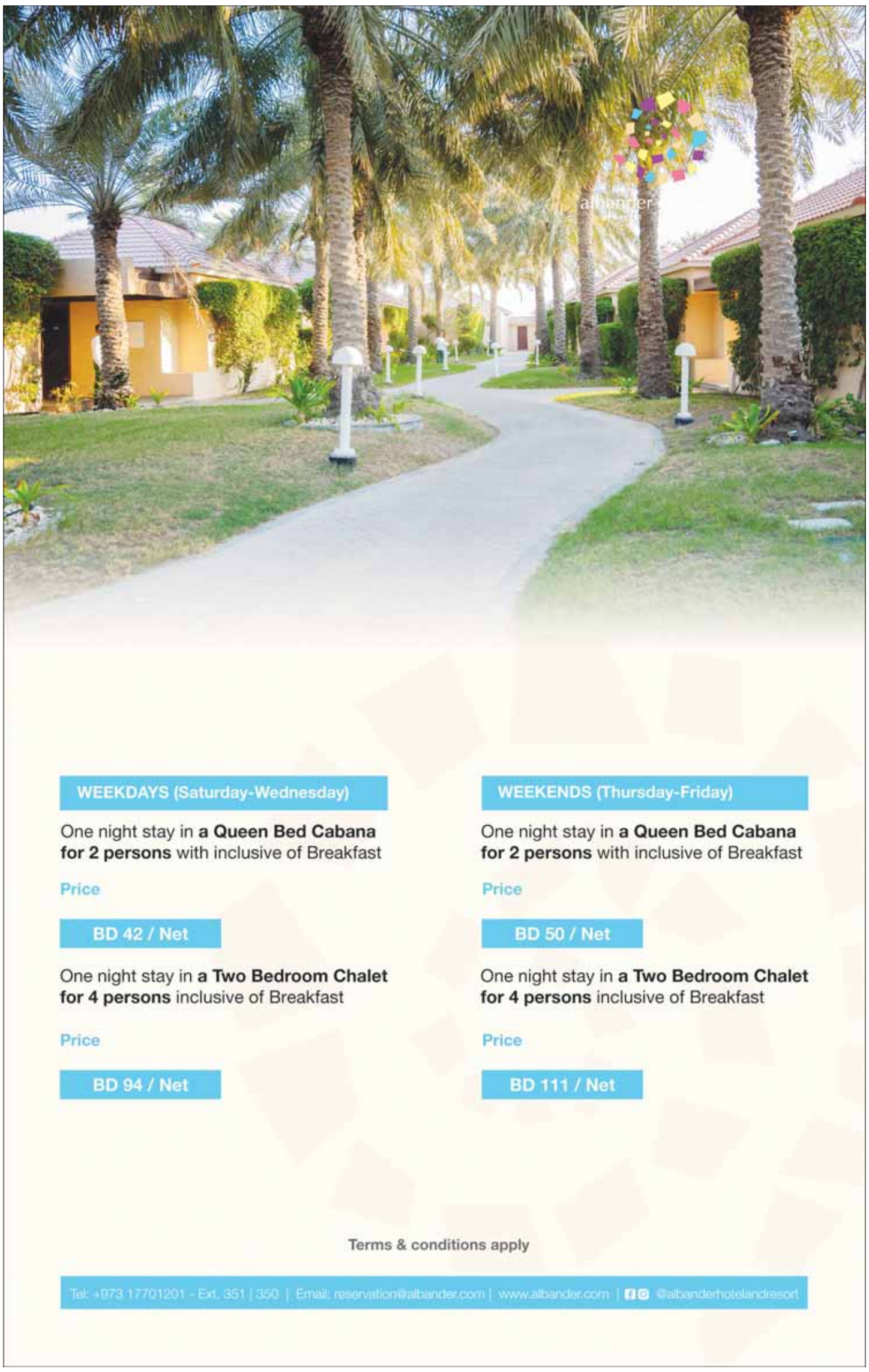
Running until November 19, the program introduces digital tools and infographics, highlighting their importance and applications in digital journalism.

Combining theoretical and practical approaches, the program examines how infographics transform tables and figures into simple, understandable visuals that convey messages quickly and accurately.

It also covers data preparation and visualization, selection of appropriate formats, design and production.

Participants will explore infographic tools, online content development, design websites and software, and infographic writing.

The program also addresses the use of artificial intelligence in infographic production.





A glimpse of the honoring ceremony.

MoE honors 5,600 teachers for Quran recitation, memorization

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Education Ministry honored 5,600 teachers who excelled in the recitation and memorization of the Holy Quran, as part of the Proficient Teacher (Al-Mu'allim Al-Mutqin) initiative for the 2025/2026 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Undersecretary Dr. Khaled Al-Rasheed, who was represented by Director General of the Educational Districts General Department Mohammad Al-Wazzan.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that the initiative aims to develop the skills of teachers in the recitation and memorization of the Holy Quran and raise their proficiency in order to contribute to improving the quality of Quranic education in the country.

Kuwaiti Society for Humanitarian Endowments and Development organized the initiative, in collaboration with 'Sad' – the Quranic platform, as well as the coordination and follow up of the Technical Guidance Department for Islamic Education.

The ministry added that the initiative is a model of collaboration between government institutions and civil society organizations in supporting the educational process, as it links traditional Islamic values with modern technical methods, while using technology to ease the teaching of the Holy Quran and for the professional development of educators.

It explained that the recognition is not just to honor the efforts of the teachers in developing their Quranic and pedagogical skills, because it is also an incentive for them to continue striving for excellence and to pass the impact of this initiative to their students, thereby, improving the quality of education.

'Mafaz' Competition qualifies 12 schools for final stage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Secretariat General of Awqaf on Sunday announced the schools that qualified for the top positions in the Second 'Mafaz' Competition, which aims to raise awareness about 'awqaf' (endowment), 'zakat' (obligatory almsgiving) and charitable work, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The competition is under the patronage of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Zakat House.

In a press conference to honor the sponsors and participating entities, Director of the Studies, Information and Documentation Department at the ministry and Chairperson of the Supreme Committee for the competition Lina Al-Mutawa revealed that the competition has transcended local borders, gaining high-level recognition in the Gulf region.

She confirmed the success of efforts to secure the endorsement of the 12th meeting of officials responsible for Islamic Affairs and Awqaf in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states.

She added the initiative was named the 'GCC Awqaf Competition (Mafaz)', conveying Kuwait's humanitarian and cultural message to its sister nations in the GCC.

She indicated that the second season witnessed a significant qualitative leap due to the strategic partnership between the Secretariat General of Awqaf, Ministry of Education (specifically the Capital and Jahra educational districts), and Zakat House.

She said a total of 80 schools -- middle and high schools for boys and girls—participated in the competition, 44 schools from the Capital Educational District and 36 from Jahra Educational District.

She added that 12 schools qualified for the final stage—six schools for each educational level – as follows: Ubadah bin Al-Samit Middle School (boys), Yousef Al-Sayed Hashem Al-Rifai Middle School (boys), Al-Sulaibiya Middle School (boys), Al-Mutla'a Middle School (girls), Al-Samita Middle School (girls), Gharnata Middle School (girls), Bibi Al-Salem Al-Sabah High School (girls), Tayma High School (girls), Umm Habib bint Al-Aas Al-Qurashiyah High School (girls), Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah High School (boys), Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah High School (boys) and Yousef bin Eissa High School (boys).

Youth delegates to draft peace recommendations

Kuwait takes part in Doha's Arab Youth Forum 2026

DOHA, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait is taking part in the Arab Youth Forum for Peace and Security - Doha 2026, hosted by Qatar from November 15 to 17, with the participation of officials, experts, international organizations and youth representatives from various countries.

Representing the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, Jasim Al-Baghli told KUNA on Monday that participation in such forums helps strengthen cooperation, exchange expertise and review developments concerning youth affairs.

Al-Baghli said the forum addresses several youth-related issues, particularly strengthening youth participation in decision-making, their role in peace and security, governance, protection, confidence-building and the development of sustainable partnerships.

He added that the delegation is looking forward to benefit from the forum and contribute to exchanging expertise and experiences with participating countries.





KUNA photos

Photos of the delegation to the Arab Youth Forum for Peace and Security - Doha 2026.

The program includes panel discussions, specialized workshops and youth working groups, with the participation of the Arab League, United Nations agencies and regional and international organizations, aiming to form a unified declaration reflecting young people's visions and recommendations for the coming period, noted Al-Baghli.

Kuwait's participation reflects the country's commitment to strengthening its presence at Arab and international youth forums and supporting young people's involvement in developing initiatives and recommendations that promote peace, security and sustainable development.

The Kuwaiti delegation, with the support of Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, is headed by Al-Baghli and includes Abdulaziz Al-Randi, Nasser Al-Shammari, Amina Al-Shehab and Sarah Al-Tuwaijri.

The Arab Youth Forum for Peace and Security - Doha 2026 kicked off on Sunday. It is organized by Qatar's Ministry of Sports and Youth in cooperation with the League of Arab States, with the participation of several United Nations agencies, programs and funds.

The three-day forum brings together youth delegations from 17 Arab countries, ministers, senior officials, experts and representatives of regional and international organizations.



KRCS photos

Photo during the three-day workshop titled "Preparedness and Disaster Management for an Effective Response."

KRCS, ICRC join forces on disaster preparedness

Training sharpens response skills

By Salman Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) stressed on Monday that advance preparedness, effective planning and capacity-building are essential to reducing disaster risks and improving emergency response.

Speaking to KUNA during the opening of a three-day workshop titled "Preparedness and Disaster Management for an Effective Response," KRCS Board Member Yousef Al-Zabin said humanitarian response begins long before disasters strike through planning, training and readiness.

He highlighted the Society's humanitarian role in responding to crises inside and outside Kuwait, providing relief supplies, shelter and assistance to affected communities.



KRCS Board Member Yousef Al-Zabin



ICRC Cooperation Department Head Hassan Idris

Al-Zabin said the workshop, organized in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), covers disaster preparedness, safe access, staff and volunteer protection, international humanitarian law, extreme weather risks and shelter management.

He stressed that training and international expertise exchange strengthen coordination and enable humanitarian teams to respond effectively to emergencies.

Meanwhile, ICRC Cooperation Department Head Hassan Idris told KUNA that the organization's participation aims to enhance humanitarian personnel's readiness through technical training and knowledge exchange.

He said the sessions cover disaster management, initial emergency needs assessments and aid distribution, emphasizing the importance of identifying urgent needs and directing assistance to the most vulnerable.

Idris praised KRCS efforts in disaster response and its commitment to developing staff and volunteer capabilities, stressing the importance of continued cooperation among humanitarian organizations.

Continued from Page 1

Enduring Persian

The modern dynamics of relations between Iran and the GCC member states are neither the byproduct of recent regional turmoil nor the response to foreign military forces.

Instead, such a strategic posture is the core tenet of the political philosophy of the ruling entity. It is the long-standing course steadfastly pursued by Khomeini's successors -- Khamenei and his son.

As highlighted previously, historical precedent repeatedly reveals an enduring ambition to reshape the cultural and ideological identities of neighboring nations by force. The historical and contemporary records of the region show that Gulf relations have been unstable.

The ongoing friction is due to the desire for retribution deeply rooted in Persian political and cultural ideologies since their defeat at the Battle of Al-Qadisiyyah in 636 AD.

Today, such archaic methods are out of step in a changing global landscape. Even the Iranian public no longer finds sectarian conflict persuasive.

Anchored on a medieval worldview, the regime can neither change the convictions of neighboring nations nor comprehend modern international shifts. As a result, the continuous aggression against Gulf nations like the recent attacks on Bahrain aims to derail the progress, stability and economic growth achieved by GCC members.

The recent arguments of Iran's top political and cultural figures assert that strikes against neighboring Gulf states are due to their American military partnership and their hosting of US bases. However, such stance overlooks the historic and covert coordination between Washington and Tehran that originally secured Iranian dominance over Iraq.

Moreover, the 'Iran-Contra' agreement, in which America is involved and was endorsed by Khomeini, allowed the Armed Forces of Iran to once again take the pieces of land seized by Iraq during their conflict.

Modern communications ensure that historical facts are documented impartially. As a result, the aforementioned rhetoric deceives only the naive who supports a government whose vulnerability is indisputable. The regime is facing its final days. Indeed, tomorrow lies ahead.

No reels

Al-Adwani emphasized that legal action would be taken against violators without leniency, warning motorists to keep their phones away while driving and concentrate on the road.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Traffic and Operations Sector has urged motorists to follow designated turning lanes at intersections and traffic signals, warning that making turns from unauthorized lanes constitutes a traffic violation and poses a risk to road safety.

The sector stressed the importance of following road markings, directional lines and arrows indicating the correct lanes for vehicles, particularly when approaching intersections and traffic lights.

It warned that turning from lanes not designated for such maneuvers can disrupt traffic movement, cause confusion among motorists and endanger other road users.

The Traffic and Operations Sector called on drivers to comply with traffic regulations, remain within their designated lanes and follow directional markings to maintain smooth traffic flow and prevent accidents.

In other news, the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Committee for Negative Phenomena, conducted two security campaigns in Jahra and the Capital Governorates, targeting bachelor accommodations and unlicensed commercial activities in private residential areas.

The campaigns resulted in the arrest of 61 violators and wanted individuals, with a total of 187 legal actions taken.

In a press statement issued on Sunday, the Ministry of Interior explained that the campaigns were carried out in cooperation with the Committee for Negative Phenomena, which includes Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), and the General Department of Criminal Investigation.

The arrested individuals included 23 for violating residency and labor laws, 12 reported as absconding, 19 illegal workers, and four individuals who had overstayed their residency permits. Traffic violations were also recorded.

The General Department of Criminal Investigation arrested three individuals wanted in connection with criminal cases, outstanding arrest warrants, and absconding reports.

Kuwait Municipality issued nine citations and four warnings, while PAFN issued 38 citations for unlicensed activities and violations involving spoiled food.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy issued four citations and disconnected electricity to a residence found to be in violation of regulations.

Five houses were also found to be operating illegally as commercial establishments, including grocery stores and food service businesses.

Mubarakiya set

Its concept centers on narrating the story of the House of Saud and the shared history between the two peoples, commemorating the period when Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al Saud and his son, King Abdulaziz Al Saud, resided in Kuwait.

The project is funded through the donation of KFH and it is being executed under the supervision and management of Kuwait Municipality, in coordination with the concerned entities, including the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi stated that the museum will depict the period when Kuwait hosted the esteemed Al Saud family, while highlighting Kuwait's historical role in the region and the enduring ties between the two nations. She emphasized that urban planning and heritage preservation deserve significant attention, adding that the museum will present the shared historical narrative of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. She said the project will revitalize Mubarakiya Market – an initiative welcomed by both countries.

Al-Farsi commended the contribution of KFH, asserting such support is consistent with the track record of the bank. She said KFH previously launched an initiative to reconstruct the area damaged by the fire in Mubarakiya, while ensuring the preservation of its authentic Kuwaiti architectural identity.

She inquired about the potential overlap between the two initiatives and the extent of the Municipality's oversight regarding the project.

In another development, the council approved the request of the Ministry of Public Works to allocate a route for a treated-water pumping pipeline, extending from the DMC plant in South Amghara toward Mutlaa and Jal Al-Atraf.

It approved the request fof the Ministry of Health to expand the addiction rehabilitation center in Sulaibiya Agricultural Area (Block 10), which will now include the Nahar Al-Dhafiri Mosque as part of its facilities.

Council member Abdullah Al-Enezi stated that these approvals reflect the commitment to support development projects aimed at enhancing infrastructure, improving the quality of services in the interest of the public and achieving sustainable development within the country.

Moreover, the council referred a number of complaints reviewed by the Objections and Complaints Committee to the executive branch for further study.

62 years

He revealed that the cooperation at the time included military and logistic support, as Belgian naval forces played a vital role in the military and logistic operations.

On the decision Belgium to close its embassy in Kuwait, Al-Bader expressed optimism that the Belgian presence will be maintained, and that communication between the two countries continue, while affirming Kuwait's respect for decisions made by diplomatic missions.

On the visit of the Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister to Kuwait which was postponed, he disclosed that the Kuwaiti side was informed about the new date. He confirmed that the visit will push through, but he did not reveal the date.

On the other hand, Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Dooms affirmed the strength of ties between the two nations. He praised the level of cooperation in the political, economic, commercial and investment fields.

He said Belgium remains committed to continue developing this partnership and expanding areas of cooperation in the coming period, particularly in advanced technology, energy, infrastructure and innovation.

He indicated that the volume of trade between the two countries is estimated at one billion Euros, which he believes has yet to reach the full potential.

He hinted on valuable opportunities for growth, considering the advanced expertise of his country in technology, artificial intelligence, higher education, scientific research, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, renewable energy, hydrogen, and the creative industries like cinema and fashion.

He then cited the strong Kuwaiti investment presence in Belgium, such that Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) operates more than 500 service stations under the 'Q8' brand, in addition to extensive investments in the petrochemical sector within the port area of Antwerp.

Reflecting on the historical ties, he stated that Belgium and Kuwait have enjoyed excellent relations since Kuwait gained its independence. He mentioned the participation of his country in the international coalition to liberate Kuwait in 1991, expressing pride in the role that the Belgian Navy played in clearing naval mines. He said the last Belgian vessels departed the Gulf on July 14, 1991, after the Belgian mine-countermeasures fleet discovered and destroyed 280 naval mines. He described this as a significant achievement -- his country's contribution to the liberation of Kuwait and ensuring security and stability in the region.

He revealed that the absence of direct flights between Brussels and Kuwait is one of the hindrances to the promotion of tourism, trade and people-to-people ties. He affirmed that he continues to work hard in this area, hoping to make progress in the operation of direct flights between the two countries.

33 women

the selection results.

Al-Sumait expressed his gratitude to Supreme Judicial Council President Counselor Hani Al-Hamdan and its members, as well as Judicial Admissions Committee Chairman Counselor Bader Al-Musaad and committee members for their efforts in overseeing the examinations, conducting personal interviews and evaluating the applicants.

He stated that 855 Kuwaitis applied for the position and 632 of whom met the criteria to take the electronic written examination held at Kuwait University on Sept 12. He added that 424 applicants passed the exam and proceeded to the personal interview stage.

He said the successful candidates will undergo a six-month foundational course at the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies and those who pass the course will be appointed to as Public Prosecutor (Grade C).

He affirmed that this is part of the plan to fully Kuwaitize the judiciary by 2030 and to provide the Public Prosecution with qualified national talent.

He congratulated the successful candidates and wished them success in their careers.

Kuwait, France

Al-Sakran received Bousso and his accompanying delegation during their visit to Kuwait, with discussions focusing on the exercise's objectives, planned missions and coordination mechanisms among participating forces, the statement added.

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The front seatback may not adequately restrain the occupant in certain rear-impact collisions.

REMEDY
Please visit Kia Al Mutawa Main Service Center in Shuwaikh to do necessary repairs.

CONTACT
Please contact our CRM center at:1805008 to schedule an appointment.

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and48)of no.(27/2015) issuing the executive by laws no.(39/2014)on Consumer Protection

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China and Southeast Asia pledge to avoid disputes during talks

ASEAN warns of energy and food security risks from Hormuz closure

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16, (Agencies): Philippine Foreign Secretary Maria Theresa Lazaro warned on Monday that the Middle East crisis and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz continued to threaten energy and food security across ASEAN, affecting member states' economies and energy supplies.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 49th ASEAN Summit in Manila, Lazaro said regional leaders had discussed the crisis as part of the geopolitical challenges facing the region, noting that the Strait of Hormuz remained closed and further developments were possible.

She said the repercussions included higher oil prices, energy and food security concerns, and the protection of citizens. She noted that around 2.5 million Filipinos live in GCC countries alone, underscoring the significance of the crisis for the Philippines.

Lazaro said ASEAN leaders had called for accelerating regional energy connectivity through the ASEAN Power Grid project, which has been under discussion for years, with the current crisis adding urgency to its implementation and potential support from financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank.

They also encouraged the full implementation of the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement to strengthen cooperation among member states in addressing oil supply challenges.

Asked about the US-Iran conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war, Lazaro said leaders had discussed geopolitical issues but announced no new position or specific initiative to resolve either conflict. She also declined to comment on Iran's decision to close the Strait of Hormuz, while stressing its impact on ASEAN as a region and on individual member economies.

The Philippines, which holds ASEAN's rotating chairmanship, is hosting the 49th summit and related meetings from November 15 to 17, with the participation of leaders from member states and dialogue partners.

Founded in 1967, ASEAN comprises 11 members: the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Timor-Leste, which joined in October 2025.

China and Southeast Asian leaders will commit to avoid actions that can escalate disputes in the South China Sea in annual talks in the Philippine capital on Monday, aiming to foster a conducive atmosphere for negotiations on a non-aggression pact in the contested waters.



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., center, along with leaders, senior officials and their spouses pose for a group photo before a gala dinner during the 49th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines, Monday, Nov. 16, 2026. (AP)

The territorial conflicts are high on the agenda in the summit meeting between leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China's premier, Li Qiang.

China, Taiwan and four ASEAN states - Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam - have been involved in the decades-long territorial standoffs in the busy waterway, a key global trade route. Confrontations have particularly escalated in recent years between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval forces in disputed shoals.

Li expressed hope for the early conclusion of a "code of conduct," which can help foster peace and stability in the South China Sea, according to China's Xinhua news agency.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who holds ASEAN's rotational chairmanship, praised the progress made so far in the negotiations this year for the regional agreement.

The sides did not immediately issue a joint statement with more details of the talks. But a draft of the statement seen by The Associated Press has the Chinese and ASEAN leaders pledging "to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability" in the disputed waters.

They will welcome the "positive momentum and significant progress" which have been achieved so far in the negotiations and "emphasize the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the negotiations," according to the statement.

There had been an agreement to conclude the negotiations this year after more than 21 years of talks and consultations. Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro said on Sunday that both sides have agreed on about 80% of the total number of paragraphs, but three contentious issues remain unresolved and negotiations will continue next year when Singapore takes over ASEAN's leadership.

The last major sticking points are the geographic scope to be covered by the agreement, the definition of sensitive terms and whether the accord should be legally binding or not, according to Southeast Asian diplomats.

The South China Sea conflicts are a flashpoint in Asia which many fear could draw in the United States if a major conflict erupts. The US lays no claims in the waters but has warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, a longtime treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces come under an armed attack.

Southeast Asian leaders said Sunday that Myanmar has failed to comply with a 2021 peace plan and that its military and other armed groups continue to attack civilians, prompting them to extend a ban on Myanmar's leader attending the bloc's annual summits.

The stern rebuke by leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, who opened their annual summit meetings in the Philippine capital on Sunday, came after a review of the progress on the five-point peace plan by the country's military-backed government. Myanmar is a member of the 11-nation regional bloc.

Pakistan vows US-Iran diplomacy, urges Afghan action on terrorism at economic bloc meeting

ISLAMABAD, Nov 16, (AP): Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country would proceed with diplomatic efforts to ease tensions between the United States and Iran with the support of other regional countries gathered Monday at a meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

The meeting of the 10-member ECO in Pakistan's capital Islamabad was attended by foreign ministers and senior diplomats from several Asian countries, including Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The meeting is expected to focus on expanding regional cooperation, particularly in trade and commerce, through stronger transportation and trade links between members including Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and several former Soviet republics.

Dar also said improved ties with neighboring Afghanistan depended on the Afghan Taliban government's actions to stop terrorism. There was no diplomat from Afghanistan at the meeting on Monday.

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have escalated this year during repeated border clashes and Pakistani airstrikes, deepening a longstanding dispute over militant activity.



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, (fifth from left), Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, (fifth from right), and other top delegates pose for group photo at the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers meeting, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Nov 16. (AP)

Pakistan hosted the first round of direct talks in April between the U.S. and Iran. The two sides signed an interim deal in June to end the conflict while accusing each other of prolonging the standoff over the Strait of Hormuz.

At the ECO meeting Monday, Dar said peace and stability were essential for economic development and that Pakistan remained "deeply concerned about conflict and instability" in the region.

"Their consequences extend beyond national boundaries, disrupting trade routes, energy supplies, investment, and the economic projects of our peoples," he said. "Peace and development reinforce each other."

Araghchi urged ECO members to strengthen cooperation and turn shared commitments into concrete action, adding that Iran had consistently upheld international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported.

"Over the past two years, Iran has remained committed to diplomatic engagement and peaceful solutions," he said.

Araghchi accused the US of pursuing "aggression, threats, targeted assassinations, economic coercion, and blockades," which he described as violations of international law and the UN Charter. He blamed the US and Israel for insecurity in the Persian Gulf and developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz.

"This reality cannot be misrepresented," Araghchi said.

Pakistan has consistently advocated for "the peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter," Dar said, adding that Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir remained closely engaged with regional countries and international partners to facilitate peaceful outcomes.

Fewer students traveling from abroad to study at US varsities

WASHINGTON, Nov 16, (AP): Fewer international students are studying at U.S. universities as the Trump administration cracks down on immigration and reshapes higher education, data released Monday shows.



Mullin

Overall, US campuses saw a 9% decrease in international enrollment this fall compared with last year, according to a survey from the Institute of International Education. And the number of new students entering the United States for the first time fell by 15%.

"No one aspires to send their kids to get educated in the US," said Veena Dubal, general counsel for the American Association of University Professors, whose father traveled from India to attend Tuskegee University, then the Tuskegee Institute, in the late 1960s on a student visa.

"It feels like an unsafe place. That's the message that the Trump administration has been sending to families all over the world and they're listening."

Last year, the enrollment decreases were partially offset by large numbers of students who stayed in the US for temporary work after graduating. But after months of speculation, the Department of Homeland Security proposed requiring schools to pay a $70,000 fee for every student who participates in the optional practice training program.

Although the rule hasn't been finalized, participation in the program, known as OPT for short, dropped 6% this fall, according to the survey.

The proposed rule, which is expected to face legal challenges, is part of wider DHS efforts that include terminating the legal status of thousands of international students, along with detaining and deporting many of them.

And this summer, the administration finalized a rule that will prevent international students from staying in the US for more than four years without approval from the federal government, although a judge has temporarily blocked it.

DHS Secretary **Markwayne Mullin** has said the changes were intended to crack down on loopholes that international students were exploiting by extending their studies.

Although the US remains the top destination for international students globally, the changes are having an effect, college leaders told the IIE.

Ethiopia and Sudan accuse each other of supporting armed groups

CAIRO, Nov 16, (AP): Tensions between Sudan and Ethiopia have escalated, with each accusing the other of supporting armed groups that wage war within its borders, undermining efforts to resolve the conflicts that have gripped the two neighboring African countries.

Sudan's military says Ethiopia has allowed Sudanese paramilitary forces battling the army to use its territory to set up camps, launch drones and stage cross-border attacks.

In early November, the Sudanese military filed complaints against Ethiopia with the U.N. Security Council and the African Union's Peace and Security Council, saying it submitted evidence to back up its case. Within days, Ethiopia expelled six staff members of a Sudanese Consulate and ordered the mission closed.

Ethiopia says the Sudanese military supports rebels fighting Ethiopian federal forces in its Tigray border region, where fighting returned in September, shattering a 2022 peace agreement.

Each country denies the other's accusations, and The Associated Press could not independently verify their claims. But the tensions - compounded by competing regional alliances and contentious issues over resources and disputed territory - risk a wider regional conflict.



A Sudanese soldier from the Rapid Support Forces or RSF stands on his vehicle in the East Nile province, Sudan, on June 22, 2019. (AP)

Jervin Naidoo, a senior political economist at Oxford Economics Africa, told the AP that the situation "raises the risk that instability inside Ethiopia becomes another front in Sudan's war - and vice versa."

Here's a closer look at what's behind the escalation and how it could impact the wider region:

Sudan was plunged into war in April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, turned into all-out fighting.

So far, at least 59,000 people have been killed, according to Armed Conflict Location & Event Data, or ACLED, a conflict monitor, though aid groups warn that the real number is likely much higher. Some 13 million people have been displaced.

The war, now in its fourth year, has left the Sudanese military in control of the north, east and central regions, including Sudan's Red Sea ports and its oil refineries and pipelines. The RSF and its allies control western Darfur and parts of Kordofan along the border with South Sudan - both regions rich in oil fields and gold mines.

The latest flashpoint in the war is in Sudan's Blue Nile province, which borders Ethiopia.

In late August, the Humanitarian Research Lab, a Yale University research group that uses satellite imagery to monitor conflicts, found an increase in military vehicles and equipment at an Ethiopian military base in Asosa, a city near the Sudanese border.

Based on satellite imagery, the Yale group confirmed the buildup was linked to the RSF.

"The RSF is engaged out of Ethiopia ... to try to open a second front," said Nathaniel Raymond, head of the research group.



People gather during a demonstration in support of public media and to protest the government's handling of legislation in parliament in Prague, Czech Republic on Nov 15. (AP)

Czechs rally in Prague

PRAGUE, Nov 16, (AP): Hundreds of thousands of people rallied in Prague on Sunday against a plan by the government of Czech billionaire Andrej Babiš to overhaul funding for public broadcasters that many say will erode media independence and democracy.

The massive protest took place at the capital's Letná Park, where huge crowds gathered during the 1989 Velvet Revolution, which ended more than 40 years of communist rule in the country.

The rally, just two days before the anniversary of the 1989 protests, drew an estimated 350,000 people, said Mikuláš Minář, the lead organizer from the Million Moments for Democracy group. They demanded that the government withdraw its plan and expressed concern that Babiš and his coalition partners pose a threat to democracy.

"We do witness here something extraordinary today," Minář said. "It's just a beginning."

Russia air defenses intercept over 1,300 Ukrainian drones

MOSCOW, Nov 16, (AP): Russian air defenses intercepted 1,336 drones launched by Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry said Monday, in what appeared to be Kyiv's biggest aerial attack since Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbor nearly five years ago.

Ukraine has scaled up its long-range aerial assaults on Russia, as well as illegally annexed Crimea and the Black and the Azov seas, with more than 1,000 drones used in some attacks in recent months.

Russia, meanwhile, has battered Ukrainian civilian areas with relentless strikes that seek to make normal daily life impossible and break public morale, especially through strikes on the power grid, as well as choking the economy.

The war has killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers and thousands of Ukrainian civilians, Western analysts and officials say.

Six people were wounded in an attack on Russia's southern Krasnodar region, according to local authorities. The town is home to the Ilsky oil refinery, a frequent target of Ukrainian drone attacks.

In the Rostov region near the border with Ukraine, three people in the city of Azov, where two oil depots are located, were wounded by drones, Gov. Yuri Slyusar said.

Around 600 drones flew toward the Moscow region overnight, Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said. Most were downed far away, while 191 were shot down as they approached the Russian capital, he said.

The strikes on Russia serve multiple purposes for Ukraine.

They have repeatedly targeted Russian oil refineries, which are an economic mainstay for Moscow. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed late Sunday that Ukrainian attacks have disabled more than 55% of Russia's oil refining capacity.

Haiti revs up for elections

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Nov 16, (AP): For the first time in Haiti's history, three women have registered as presidential candidates, joining 30 men vying to become the next leader of the troubled Caribbean country.

Next year's general election is the first in more than a decade. The candidates include the widow of slain former President Jovenel Moïse, a respected economist, a well-known prosecutor accused of multiple summary executions and a former president accused of drug trafficking and sponsoring gangs. Haiti hasn't had a president since Moïse was gunned down at his private residence in July 2021 as part of a failed coup. Since then, Haiti has been led by various appointed prime ministers and a transitional presidential council that was dissolved in February.

Presidential and parliamentary candidates had until Sunday to register online.



Haitians register to vote in the upcoming general election in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on July 31. (AP)

Business

Saudi oasis eyes investment boom

RIYADH, Nov 16, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia's northwestern oasis city of Al-Ula is offering investors opportunities to pursue a plethora of development projects, adding to state investments there worth 10 million Saudi riyals (USD 2.7 bln) in line with the Gulf Arab kingdom's 2030 vision.

The opportunities on the table for would-be investors run the gamut from development and operation of a strategic water storage system to the rehabilitation and expansion of wastewater treatment plants, in addition to the expansion of main and secondary roads and renovation work across Al-Ula International Airport.

Achievement reflects the strength of Zain's management systems

Zain Kuwait's focus on operational excellence & corporate governance increases its ISO certifications to seven

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Zain Kuwait, the country's leading TechCo, has enhanced its international ISO certifications from six to seven, reflecting its continued progress in operational excellence, quality, governance, and compliance. This underscores the strength of Zain's management systems and its ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency, uphold international standards, and deliver exceptional customer experiences.

Following the successful completion of comprehensive recertification audits conducted by an accredited, independent external body, which verified the conformity of its management systems with international standards, Zain renewed four key certifications: ISO 9001:2015 for Quality Management, ISO 14001:2015 for Environmental Management, ISO/IEC 27001:2022 for Information Security Management, and ISO 45001:2018 for Occupational Health and Safety Management.

Zain also maintained two international certifications: ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 for IT Service Management and ISO 22301:2019 for Business Continuity Management. Most recently, the company added ISO 37301:2021 for Compliance Management. Together, these seven



Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally



Zain Kuwait ISO 2026

certifications cover essential areas of the company's operational and management framework.

Nawaf Al-Gharabally, Zain Kuwait CEO said, "Our evolution into a TechCo providing a multitude of innovative ICT and digital lifestyle solutions requires a future-ready approach built on international best practices, continuous improvement, and customer-centricity."

He added, "This achievement reflects the strength of Zain's management systems, the efficiency of its operations, and its firmly rooted culture of continuous improvement. It also demonstrates the company's commitment to maintaining a safe working environment, protecting information and data, minimizing its environmental impact, ensuring business continuity, and delivering reliable, high-quality services that meet customers' evolving expectations."

Building on three decades of excellence

Beyond meeting international standards, these certifications provide Zain with a structured approach to managing risks, strengthening accountability, and adapting to evolving business and regulatory requirements. They also support the company's ability to navigate emerging challenges, embrace new opportunities, and sustain its digital transformation journey.

As one of Kuwait's early private-sector organizations to prioritize quality management and operational excellence, Zain has been at the forefront of adopting international quality and management standards. Beginning with its first ISO certification in Quality Management Systems over three decades ago, Zain has steadily expanded its portfolio of international certifications to cover critical areas such as information security, environmental management, business continuity, and compliance. This longstanding journey reflects the company's continuous evolution and its dedication to maintaining the highest standards.

As the Group's flagship operation, Zain Kuwait's continued adherence to international standards complements Zain's broader efforts to strengthen corporate governance, transparency, and responsible business practices, in line with its '4WARD–Progress with Purpose' strategy.

These efforts have also been recognized through the Group's recent upgrade to an "AA" MSCI ESG rating, making it Kuwait's highest-rated company across all industries within MSCI's assessment universe. Additionally, the Group was upgraded to top 'A' score in CDP Climate Change 2025, as the region's only telecom operator at this leadership level. Together, these milestones reflect Zain's commitment to embedding international best practices across its operations and driving sustainable, long-term value.

Zain remains committed to continuously developing its systems and processes, driven by an ambition to make excellence an integral part of its culture and everyday operations. This approach fosters innovation, drives performance, and places customers at the heart of everything the company does.

Al-Khatib orders reshuffle

KNPC announces four key transfers & appointments

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: In confirmation of a report published recently by the daily regarding expected promotions and transfers at both Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), KNPC CEO Wadha Ahmed Al-Khatib launched a series of promotions and appointments.

Al-Khatib issued a new administrative circular outlining several important leadership transfers and appointments at Al-Zour Refinery.

According to the circular, Jalal Khalaf Al-Tarqi was transferred to the position of Head of the Operations Support Team at Al-Zour Refinery, reporting directly to the Refinery Operations Manager.

Othman Mohammed Othman has been appointed as Head of the Operations Team for Area 1 at Al-Zour Refinery, reporting directly to the Refinery Operations Manager.

Adel Mohammed Al-Husseini was transferred to the position of Operations Coordinator, reporting directly to the Gas Operations Manager at the refinery.

Abdullah Fahd Al-Ajmi has been transferred to the position of Head of the Operations Team for the Fifth Region at Al-Zour Refinery, reporting directly to the refinery's Gas Operations Manager.

As part of its support for Diraya campaign

KFH highlights role of banks and licensed institutions in safeguarding investments

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: In support of Diraya campaign, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) emphasizes the role of Kuwaiti banks in offering a diversified array of investment opportunities for customers wishing to grow their savings in a secure manner and under a regulated and clear framework.

In a press release, KFH added that the investment options offered by local banks, under the regulations of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), are a safe haven and a stable source for financial investments, along with other companies and official institutions licensed and subject to the regulatory authorities responsible for protecting the national economy and the investment sector.

KFH pointed out that the secure investment services and products obviate the need for involvement in investment activities with unfamiliar entities that promise financial returns from fraudulent or high-risk projects. KFH also stated that banks are assisting individuals seeking to invest in their funds through a variety of investment tools and experienced employees subject to the regulations and guidelines of regulators.

KFH explained that among these safe investment services the banks offer are investment deposits, investment funds, investment savings in addition to the long and short-term investment plans.

Meanwhile, KFH warns customers against engaging in high-risk investments that are promoted by unregulated entities and are not subject to oversight by any supervisory authority fueled by the growing presence of shell companies and other online scammers that promote quick profits. KFH advises customers and investors to refrain from responding to advertisements, text messages and emails received from unknown sources. Additionally, the Bank also urges investors to seek advice from qualified experts before making any investment decisions.

Group showcases digital transformation across its leading brand

ALSAYER Platinum Sponsor of 7th Gulf Cybersecurity Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, ALSAYER Group reinforced its commitment to digital resilience, cybersecurity awareness, and technological innovation through its Platinum Sponsorship of the 7th Gulf Cyber Security Challenges Conference & Exhibition, one of the region's leading platforms addressing emerging cyber threats and advancing secure digital ecosystems.

Held at the Regency Hotel in Kuwait from 4 to 5 November 2026, following pre-conference workshops on 2 and 3 November, the event brought together government officials, cybersecurity specialists, industry leaders, technology providers, researchers, and decision-makers from across the Gulf region and beyond.

Representing ALSAYER Group were Mr. Ivan Anatoliy Tkachenko, Chief Information Officer; Eng. Ibrahim Al Fouzan, Senior Business Director of Toyota Service Management; Mr. Salah Abdullah, General Manager of Marketing at Lexus; Eng. Nehad AlHaj Ali, Group Manager of the Corporate Excellence Department; Mr. Basem Waleed Hathat, Senior Manager of Commercial and Business Development; Mr. Shehabeldin Eltohamy, Senior Manager, Technical Support IT; and Mr. Ibrahim Musa, Senior Manager, Hosting and Data Security.

Centered on building a resilient and trusted cybersecurity ecosystem while empowering innovation, the conference addressed key topics including cybersecurity governance and crisis management, cybercrime protection, data privacy, cybersecurity infrastructure, AI-powered early warning systems, cyber fraud in banking and financial services, international cybersecurity regulations, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

Particular attention was given to the growing role of artificial intelligence in strengthening cyber defense, enabling organizations to identify emerging threats earlier and respond to them more effectively.





The conference provided a comprehensive platform for collaboration through keynote presentations, specialist workshops, panel discussions, VIP sessions, high-level government meetings, media engagements, networking opportunities, and a dedicated cybersecurity exhibition, encouraging greater dialogue and knowledge exchange between public and private sector organizations.

Showcasing Innovation and Digital Transformation

As a Platinum Sponsor, ALSAYER Group maintained a prominent exhibition presence throughout the conference, providing visitors with an immersive look at the Group's evolving digital transformation strategy and innovation initiatives across ALSAYER, Lexus, Toyota, and Rent A Car (RAC).

The exhibition space created an interactive environment where attendees could engage directly with representatives, exchange ideas, and learn more about the Group's technology-driven advancements, while commemorative giveaways further enhanced the visitor experience.

A highlight of the exhibition was the display of the latest Lexus electric vehicles, reflecting ALSAYER Group's continued commitment to sustainable mobility and future-focused innovation.



Top and Above: Photos during the event.

The booth also showcased participants from the Kuwait National Robotics Competition, who demonstrated innovative robotics solutions and interactive technologies developed by Kuwait's emerging generation of innovators. Representatives from the Kuwait Modern Pentathlon Federation, one of ALSAYER Group's strategic partners, also hosted engaging activities designed to encourage participation, collaboration, and hands-on interaction with technology.

Cybersecurity as a Pillar of Business Resilience

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

"Cybersecurity has evolved far beyond a technical function to become a fundamental pillar of business resilience, economic stability, and stakeholder trust. As organizations accelerate their adoption of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, cloud platforms, and connected systems, the need for robust cybersecurity frameworks has never been greater."

He added:

"Protecting information assets today requires more than advanced technologies; it demands strong governance, continuous vigilance, and a culture of awareness across the entire organization. Through our participation in this conference, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen cyber resilience and contribute to a safer and more sustainable digital future for our region."

Highlighting ALSAYER Group's approach to responsible digital transformation, Mr. Ivan Anatoliy Tkachenko, Chief Information Officer at ALSAYER Group, said:

"At ALSAYER Group, we believe that responsible businesses have a critical role to play in advancing technological progress while ensuring that innovation is supported by effective risk management and sound governance."

He added:

"Our digital transformation journey is built on a strong foundation of information security, reflected in our achievement of the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification and our ongoing investments in cybersecurity capabilities. We recognize that sustainable growth in the digital era depends on our ability to protect data, safeguard operations, and maintain the confidence of customers, partners, and stakeholders through internationally recognized best practices."

Building Cyber Resilience Through Collaboration

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and knowledge development, Eng. Nehad AlHaj Ali, Group Manager of the Corporate Excellence Department, said:

"The future of cybersecurity will be shaped not only by technology, but by people, partnerships, and knowledge sharing. Strengthening cyber resilience across the Gulf region requires close collaboration between government institutions, the private sector, and academic communities to develop local expertise and prepare the next generation of cybersecurity professionals."

He added:

"By creating opportunities for dialogue, exchanging best practices, and fostering regional cooperation, we can collectively address emerging threats, protect critical digital infrastructure, and ensure that our increasingly connected societies continue to thrive with confidence, security, and resilience."

The 7th Gulf Cyber Security Challenges Conference & Exhibition further demonstrated ALSAYER Group's commitment to supporting initiatives that advance cybersecurity awareness, encourage knowledge exchange, and promote technological innovation across the region.

By bringing together government entities, industry experts, academic institutions, and technology leaders, the conference highlighted the shared responsibility of strengthening cybersecurity capabilities and building a secure, resilient, and future-ready digital ecosystem for the Gulf region.

NBK leads Kuwait's banking sector in standalone creditworthiness with an 'a-' Viability Rating

Fitch affirms NBK's Long-Term Rating at 'A+' with a Stable Outlook

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Further reaffirming its strong financial position, resilient business model, and leading position in Kuwait's banking sector, Fitch Ratings has affirmed National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at "A+" with a Stable Outlook. The global credit rating agency also affirmed the Bank's Viability Rating (VR) at "a", reflecting the strength of NBK's standalone financial position, independent of any external support.

The Viability Rating is particularly significant as it reflects Fitch's assessment of the Bank's intrinsic creditworthiness, based on its financial and operational fundamentals without factoring in potential government support. The agency's assessment was underpinned by several key factors, including NBK's strong banking franchise, diversified business model, sound asset quality, diversified earnings streams, adequate capitalization, and robust funding and liquidity profile.

NBK's "a-" Viability Rating places it ahead of Kuwait's domestic banking sector and represents the highest rating among financial institutions in the GCC.

Fitch noted that the rating also takes into account NBK's relatively lower loan concentrations compared with its peers, alongside its limited exposure to higher-risk markets, underscoring the competitive strengths of the Bank's business model and market position in supporting its credit profile.

Domestic Leadership and Regional and International Presence

Reaffirming NBK's market leadership, Fitch highlighted the Bank's significant market share, accounting for 36% of the Kuwaiti banking sector's consolidated assets at the end of the first half of 2026. This position is supported by NBK's strong relationships with the government, established brand, longstanding customer relationships, and specialized expertise, which provide a distinct competitive advantage in the market.

Fitch also noted that NBK's business model is more diversified than those of other domestic banks, as it is the only bank in Kuwait offering both conventional and Islamic banking services. This is complemented by an extensive international network, which contributed approximately 23% of the Bank's net profit in the third quarter of 2026, further diversifying its income sources and reducing reliance on a single market.

Diversified Earnings and Strong Asset Quality

Regarding operating performance, Fitch reported that NBK's operating profit increased to an annualized 2.6% of risk-weighted assets during the first nine months of 2026, compared with approximately 2.4% in 2025. This improvement was supported by lower impairment charges, moderate growth, and stronger fee and commission income, despite a decline in the net interest margin.

The agency expects NBK's operating profitability to remain resilient throughout 2026 and 2027, notwithstanding the geopolitical challenges associated with the conflict involving Iran. Fitch also emphasized that the Bank's sound loan quality represents a key strength of its credit profile.

Adequate Capitalization and Strong Liquidity

On the capital adequacy front, Fitch noted that NBK's Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio stood at 12.8% at the end of the third quarter of 2026, increasing to 13.6% when including 50% of interim profits, while the tangible leverage ratio reached 10.2%.

The agency considered these capital levels adequate in light of the Bank's risk profile, taking into account its strong access to capital markets. Fitch also expects NBK's core capital ratios to remain stable at year-end 2026 and 2027.

Regarding funding and liquidity, Fitch highlighted that customer deposits remain NBK's primary funding source, accounting for 81% of total non-equity funding at the end of the third quarter of 2026.

The Bank's strong liquidity position is further supported by a large and stable retail deposit base and solid access to wholesale funding markets, alongside a liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) of 164% at the end of the same period.

Government Support Rating Reflects NBK's Systemic Importance

Regarding the Long-Term Issuer Default Rating, Fitch explained that its affirmation at "A+" reflects the potential for extraordinary support from the Kuwaiti authorities, as demonstrated by the Bank's Government Support Rating (GSR) of "a+". The Stable Outlook is aligned with that of Kuwait's sovereign credit rating.

The agency noted that NBK's Government Support Rating is one notch above the "a" rating assigned to other domestic systemically important banks. This reflects NBK's exceptionally high systemic importance, its position as Kuwait's leading bank, its pivotal role in the banking sector, and its close business and strategic ties with the government.

Fitch also reaffirmed its assessment of the Kuwaiti authorities' strong ability and willingness to support domestic banks, supported by their established track record of assistance to the banking sector and commitment to maintaining market confidence and financial stability.

Stable Outlook

Fitch maintained a Stable Outlook on NBK's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating, in line with the Stable Outlook on Kuwait's sovereign rating.

The agency explained that downward pressure on the Bank's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating could arise from a downgrade of its Government Support Rating, whether due to a weakening in the government's ability to provide support or a reduction in its willingness to do so. However, Fitch considers this scenario unlikely, given Kuwait's Stable Outlook and the authorities' strong track record of supporting domestic banks.



NBK HQ



Fitch Ratings

- NBK's "a-" Viability Rating is the highest among financial institutions in the GCC
- Fitch highlights the strength of the Bank's business model, market leadership, and significant market share
- NBK maintains its strong financial position despite regional challenges
- The agency underscores NBK's financial strength, domestic leadership, and diversified business operations and earnings streams

Award underscores excellence in wealth management

NBK Wealth named 'Outstanding Private Bank – Middle East' at the Private Banker International Global Wealth Awards 2026



NBK Wealth Group team poses with the Outstanding Private Bank – Middle East award at the Private Banker International Global Wealth Awards 2026, held in Singapore.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: NBK Wealth Group was named Outstanding Private Bank – Middle East at the Private Banker International Global Wealth Awards 2026, by MEED held in Singapore. The awards recognize leading institutions in private banking and wealth management worldwide whose distinguished services and innovations are helping shape the future of the industry and advance its standards.

The prestigious award was presented to NBK Wealth in the presence of senior executives and decision-makers from the global private banking and wealth management industry. The recognition marks another milestone for the Group, reaffirming its position among the region's leading wealth management and private banking institutions and highlighting its success in delivering comprehensive financial and investment solutions tailored to the diverse needs of high-net-worth clients, in line with the highest international standards.

The Private Banker International Global Wealth Awards are among the world's leading accolades dedicated to private banking and wealth management. Now in their 36th year, the awards are subject to a rigorous and independent assessment conducted by a judging panel comprising distinguished experts and specialists from across the global financial industry.

For 2026, the assessment was based on a range of criteria focused on the tangible and measurable outcomes institutions deliver for their clients, commercial and financial performance, clarity of strategic vision, execution capabilities, innovation, service quality, and their ability to create sustainable value for clients while enhancing the private banking experience.

- An integrated global wealth management platform combining specialized investment expertise, private banking services and advanced financial advisory
- A client-centric business model offering tailored solutions designed to seek to meet clients' long-term financial needs and objectives
- NBK Wealth's strong international presence provides clients with access to diverse investment opportunities and specialized global expertise

This international recognition reflects NBK Wealth's success in building an integrated global wealth management platform that combines specialized investment expertise, private banking services and advanced financial advisory, enabling it to deliver tailored solutions designed around clients' needs and long-term financial objectives.

NBK Wealth's distinction is underpinned by an integrated, client-centric business model that offers a comprehensive suite of wealth management, asset management, financial planning, private banking and investment advisory services through a global network spanning key markets and financial centers across the region and internationally.

The achievement also reflects the strength of the Group's international presence. As one of the region's largest wealth management groups, NBK Wealth manages clients' assets through 22 offices across nine cities in five countries, supported by more than 440 employees, including experienced relationship managers, investment professionals and specialists. This extensive network provides clients with access to diverse investment opportunities and specialized global expertise.

The award further underscores NBK Wealth's success in advancing its vision to be the preferred wealth management partner for its clients by seeking to deliver comprehensive wealth growth solutions and distinguished private banking services, supported by the longstanding heritage, financial strength and international reach of NBK Group.

This achievement adds to NBK Wealth's strong track record of international awards and recognitions across wealth management and investment services, further reinforcing its position as one of the Middle East's leading providers of wealth management and private banking services.

It is worth noting that NBK Wealth is a brand registered under the name of National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.P ("NBK"), for use by the Asset Management business of, among other NBK group entities, Watani Investment Company K.S.C.C. , a leading investment firm and its affiliates worldwide, combined with the Private Banking services of NBK worldwide, which is one of the largest and oldest financial institutions in the region.

Qatar: Major LNG disruption leads to broader economic fallout, though long-term gas expansion plans proceed

By National Bank of Kuwait

LNG output disruption leads to severe downturn: The economy has been severely impacted by the fallout from the US-Iran war, emerging as one of the worst-hit countries in the region. GDP is on track to contract by around a fifth this year as hydrocarbon output declines by 55%, driven by a 75% drop in LNG exports since January reflecting the attacks on gas infrastructure and shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. While the non-hydrocarbon economy has so far avoided recession (+3.1% y/y in H1 2026), effects of the conflict remain evident across several sectors.

Manufacturing output contracted by 8% y/y in H1 2026, while tourism, a key pillar of the government's diversification strategy, has been weighed down by heightened security concerns and weaker visitor inflows. PMI readings and credit growth have also moved into contraction territory, pointing to softer business activity, while lower revenues have prompted cuts to government expenditure – particularly capital spending – removing an important source of economic support. Nevertheless, substantial fiscal buffers continue to underpin economic resilience (see below), with wages & salaries outlays still up y/y in H1 and helping to sustain household spending. Key service sectors of the non-oil economy (including finance, real estate and public administration) have been less affected by trade and supply chain pressures, business confidence is well off its lows and CPI inflation, although elevated at 4.1% y/y in August, has been contained by energy price controls.

Growth to rebound next year, boosted by recovery in LNG production: The economic outlook is closely linked to conflict developments, but in our baseline LNG exports return to 80% of pre-conflict levels in H1 2027, with reconstruction work on damaged trains pushing a full recovery to later on in line with official statements.

Overlaying this, the massive North Field East expansion is assumed to start coming online after mid-2027, eventually taking LNG capacity from 77 mtpa to 110 mtpa (incorporating the currently damaged trains).

These two concurrent developments could see hydrocarbon GDP almost double in 2027, percolating out to the non-hydrocarbon sector and delivering the government a fresh revenue windfall. An unwinding of conflict pressures on sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and trade will be the driving force behind the 4% rebound in non-hydrocarbon GDP forecast for 2027.

The government also remains committed to rollout of the 2024-2030 National Development Strategy, which focuses more on targeted diversification (in sectors such as manufacturing, logistics and tourism) and productivity gains than the huge infrastructure rollout delivered in the years running up to the World Cup.

Return to broad fiscal balance expected in 2027: The fiscal position is set to record a large deficit in 2026 and then rebound close to balance in 2027 as hydrocarbon exports normalize. Oil & gas revenues slumped 97% y/y in Q2 26 but sizeable non-hydrocarbon receipts are a stabilizing factor.

Spending was cut 23% y/y in Q2 26 with large capex outlays (about 30% of all spending in recent years) offering flexibility. Even in the event of further deficits we see considerable fiscal headroom going forward. Public debt has been cut to a moderate 43% of GDP in 2025 from 58% in 2021, while the QIA has an estimated $500-600bn (>260% of GDP) in SWF assets. The 2027-28 LNG expansion could also plausibly add revenues of 5% of GDP/yr.

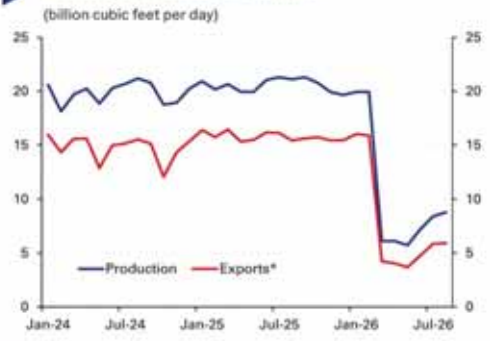
Key economic indicators

		2024	2025	2026e	2027f
Nominal GDP	$bn	216	216	190	226
Real GDP	% y/y	2.4	3.3	-18.5	21.3
- Oil sector	% y/y	0.4	-0.5	-55.3	94.9
- Non-oil sector	% y/y	4.1	4.8	1.0	4.0
Inflation (avg.)	% y/y	1.1	0.4	3.0	2.0
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	0.7	-1.0	-15.3	-0.6
Current account bal.	% of GDP	17.5	14.8	-6.6	11.0

Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts, *end of period, others are averages.

Natural gas production and exports

(billion cubic feet per day)



Source: JODI. *Includes LNG exports.

Kuwait, Egypt seek to expand strategic, economic and investment partnerships

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Minister of Finance Yacoub Al-Sayed Yousef Al-Refaei on Sunday met with Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates Dr. Bader Abdelatty who is currently on official visit to Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Also present at the meeting were Ambassador of Kuwait to Egypt Ghanem Saqer Al-Ghanem, Ambassador of Egypt to Kuwait Mohamed Gaber Abul-Wafa, Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs and acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Saad Al-Alati, and officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

They talked about the strategic and historical ties between the two nations, development plans, perspectives on multiple areas of collaboration like economic and investment sectors, the need to eliminate barriers or challenges that may impede such partnerships, joint ventures in high value industries for the benefit of both nations, recent regional developments and their economic consequences, safety and freedom of maritime routes and navigation, and strategies for economic adaptation and diversification.



Yacoub Al-Sayed Yousef Al-Refaei, Kuwait's Minister of Finance, meets with Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates, Dr. Bader Abdelatty.

Our people are the driving force behind bank's success: Alarbash

ABK holds awareness workshop to mark World Diabetes Day



ABK officials join doctors and specialists from International Hospital for a group photo during an employee awareness seminar held at the bank's head office in observance of World Diabetes Day.



Al-Arbash alongside members of ABK's executive management team and other officials during the bank's World Diabetes Day awareness seminar.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) organised an awareness seminar for its employees to mark World Diabetes Day. Doctors and specialists from International Hospital took part in the seminar, which reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to raising health awareness and promoting preventive care in the workplace.

Held at ABK's head office, the seminar was attended by Afrah Alarbash, General Manager of Human Resources, along with members of the executive management team and employees from across the Bank. The session covered the types of diabetes, associated risk factors and the importance of regular screening for early detection. It also highlighted the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and diet. Attendees received practical health guidance and free screenings.

Alarbash said, "Our people are at the heart of our success and the long-term sustainability of our business. That is why their health and safety are a top priority. Through this World Diabetes Day initiative, we aim to give employees the knowledge and tools they need to build healthy, balanced habits that improve their quality of life both at home and at work."



Nurses demonstrate health screening procedures during ABK's World Diabetes Day awareness seminar.



ABK employees benefit from complimentary health screenings during the bank's World Diabetes Day awareness seminar.



Ms. Afrah Al Arbash, GM of Human Resources at ABK

She added that ABK regularly launches programmes and initiatives and provides direct support to employees as part of its commitment to fostering a healthy, safe and motivating work environment across all divisions.

Alarbash noted that the seminar was designed to help employees balance the demands of work and personal life in a healthy way. It encouraged them to adopt simple daily habits that reduce the risks of sitting for long periods, addressed common misconceptions about diabetes and highlighted proactive steps employees and their families can take to reduce their risk.

She added that ABK's ongoing initiatives address the everyday challenges employees face so that each employee can benefit. She described healthy habits as a first line of defence against diabetes and its complications and as a way to stay active and feel well. She also reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to raising health awareness, noting that employees' quality of life directly affects their productivity and contributes to the Bank's overall success.

Alarbash concluded by reaffirming ABK's commitment to developing a comprehensive annual programme of seminars and workshops covering a range of health and prevention topics. The programme aims to keep employees informed throughout the year and make health awareness an integral part of the Bank's workplace culture.

The seminar concluded with an open discussion during which doctors answered employees' questions. Attendees took an active part in the discussion and highlighted the value of such events in encouraging healthy habits and supporting employee health.

Safety at the core of the bank's framework: Al-Rasheed

Warba Bank organizes specialized training course in cooperation with civil defense to enhance evacuation and safety readiness

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Warba Bank organized a specialized training course in cooperation with the General Directorate of Civil Defense at the Ministry of Interior, covering evacuation plans, safety protocols, and emergency response procedures. Held at Arraya Tower, the session brought together a number of bank employees alongside designated evacuation officers and Civil Defense representatives, as part of Warba Bank's ongoing efforts to strengthen workplace security and safety measures and enhance preparedness for emergency situations.

The initiative forms part of Warba Bank's commitment to advancing institutional safety procedures, increasing employees' practical awareness of proper evacuation protocols, and familiarizing staff with the necessary steps to take during emergencies. These efforts contribute to maintaining a secure work environment that safeguards employees and visitors while supporting business continuity in accordance with the highest safety and prevention standards.

Enhancing Emergency Preparedness and Readiness

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

"The safety of our employees and customers represents a fundamental priority within Warba Bank's institutional framework. We continuously work to develop our security and safety procedures and promote a culture of prevention and readiness, guided by our responsibility to provide a safe and stable working environment."

Al-Rasheed added that organizing the training course in cooperation with the General Directorate of Civil Defense underscores the importance of collaboration with specialized government authorities, drawing on their expertise and technical guidance to raise safety awareness and train employees on proper emergency response, particularly regarding the efficient and disciplined execution of evacuation plans.

Al-Rasheed noted that proactive preparedness and continuous training are vital to reducing risks, emphasizing that an effective safety framework extends beyond having equipment and facilities in place to ensuring individuals understand their responsibilities and follow proper procedures to ensure a prompt and appropriate response when needed.



Warba Bank and Civil Defense representatives pose for a group photo following the successful completion of the specialized safety and evacuation training course.



Civil Defense honored after completing Warba Bank's safety course.

Collaboration with Civil Defense and Evacuation Procedures

The training course reviewed approved evacuation procedures and emergency response mechanisms, while clarifying the roles and responsibilities associated with the evacuation process. It also highlighted the importance of adhering to instructions issued by relevant authorities and familiarized participants with exit routes, assembly points, and related organizational measures.

Furthermore, the session provided participants with the opportunity to benefit from the expertise and guidance of Civil Defense specialists, learning proper practices that improve response speed, prevent confusion, and ensure an organized approach to various potential emergency scenarios.

This collaboration reflects Warba Bank's commitment to strengthening partnerships with public safety authorities and leveraging their specialized expertise to improve the working environment and strengthen preventive and precautionary measures.



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

Institutional Safety as a Core Priority

Al-Rasheed affirmed that Warba Bank continues to embed a culture of safety and shared responsibility across all divisions through training initiatives aimed at enhancing employee readiness and awareness of preventive requirements, stressing that adherence to safety standards is a collective responsibility requiring cooperation, awareness, and continuous preparedness.

She concluded by expressing Warba Bank's appreciation to the Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Directorate of Civil Defense, for its efforts and cooperation in conducting the course, noting that the bank will continue to advance initiatives aimed at improving the workplace environment and elevating security and safety protocols in line with its vision of adopting institutional best practices and ensuring a safe, sustainable environment for its employees, customers, and visitors.

About Warba Bank:

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

AAA forecasts slight travel dip

Thanksgiving travel costs climb

FORT COLLINS, Colo., Nov 16, (AP): Pricey plane tickets and expensive gasoline are expected to keep some Americans from traveling this Thanksgiving, but not enough to make much difference in airport security lines and highway traffic, AAA said Monday.

The auto club federation predicted that 81.5 million people would travel at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) from home between the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and the Monday after the holiday.

That's about 121,000 fewer than traveled domestically over Thanksgiving last year, or a one-tenth of a percent decline, AAA said in its annual forecast. If proven accurate, the small drop would end three years of record-setting Thanksgiving travel that followed the COVID-19 pandemic, according to AAA's calculations.

"After three years of record highs, the number of travelers is slightly lower partly because of higher travel costs this year. But travelers won't notice much of a difference," AAA Travel Vice President Stacey Barber said in a statement.

AAA prepared its forecast weeks before problems with U.S. air traffic control communications and radar feeds on Friday prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to impose a nationwide ground stop that lasted more than four hours and disrupted weekend flights.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and Federal Aviation Administrator Bryan Bedford said they expected air traffic to normalize well before the start of the Thanksgiving travel rush.

AAA doesn't think Friday's unusually long ground stop will have a major impact on Thanksgiving travel unless it happens again, spokesperson Aixa Diaz said.

"Travelers are resilient, and from what AAA has seen in the past, it takes a lot to keep holiday travelers home," Diaz wrote in an email Sunday.

As in past years, AAA expects the vast majority of holiday travelers to opt for car trips over flights. Meanwhile, it expects buses, trains and cruise ships will serve 4% more passengers than last year combined.

Last November, a government shutdown that led the FAA to order flight cuts at 40 of the busiest U.S. airports created extra stress for airline passengers with Thanksgiving week tickets.

Air travelers who didn't cancel their plans were rewarded; Congress ended the longest shutdown in history, and the FAA lifted its order 10 days before Thanksgiving.

This year, fuel prices that surged during the U.S. war with Iran are a concern. The overall inflation that influenced this month's midterm elections may also have made some Americans more cautious about venturing far afield for their Thanksgiving meals.

With U.S. airlines spending more on jet fuel, airfares were more than 22% higher in September than the same month a year earlier, according to the most recent government data. Carriers also raised fees for checked bags.

Visa's economic research group said an analysis of September credit card transactions revealed that spending on plane tickets and related travel for trips starting between Nov. 1 and Jan. 15 were down from a year earlier for households of every income level except those earning more than $200,000.

Aviation analytics firm Cirium said Thanksgiving flight bookings were running 1.6% behind last year as of late October.

Gasoline could set a Thanksgiving Day price record

Compared to last year, round-trip domestic flights booked through AAA for the Thanksgiving period were 17% more expensive, averaging $800 per ticket.



Passengers check in at George Bush International Airport on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, in Houston, after the Federal Aviation Administration lifted nationwide ground stops. (AP)

Kuwait operates seven virology labs conducting 944,000 tests annually

Medical laboratories play vital role in accurate diagnosis, treatment decisions: Dr. Al-Awadhi

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed that medical laboratories are essential partners in the healthcare system, playing a pivotal role in supporting medical decision-making, ensuring accurate diagnoses, and determining appropriate treatment plans.

In his speech at the opening of the 8th Conference on Medical Laboratory Science, Dr. Al-Awadhi explained that rapid advances in molecular diagnostic technologies, genomic surveillance, and data analysis are creating vast new opportunities for laboratory work.

These developments enhance the ability to detect diseases and their causes at an early stage, monitor patterns of disease spread, and prepare for epidemiological challenges and public health emergencies. This underscores the importance of strengthening laboratory infrastructure, upgrading technologies, and establishing standards for quality, accreditation, and professional practice.

The Ministry of Health has been committed to developing the clinical virology laboratory system, expanding its services, strengthening its technical capabilities, and making them available in various governorates to serve citizens and residents. This enables medical teams to rely on accurate test results in a timely manner.

The national system currently comprises seven clinical virology laboratories staffed by specialized physicians and qualified technical and administrative teams. These laboratories conduct more than 944,000 tests annually using approximately 235,000 samples.

Dr. Al-Awadhi highlighted the modernization of the Kuwait Polio Reference Laboratory, which achieved a 100 percent score in the World Health Organization's proficiency testing program.

He affirmed that this achievement reflects the competence of national personnel and their commitment to international quality standards.

The minister stressed that investing in, training, and empowering healthcare professionals both scientifically and professionally is essential to sustainable development. This includes supporting specialized training, promoting continuous learning, and fostering an environment that encourages scientific research and innovation.

He noted that the Ministry of Health continues to strengthen quality systems in laboratories, improve their management systems, and promote a culture of continuous improvement by adopting modern technologies in accordance with clear standards and rigorous practices.

He indicated that technology delivers meaningful results only when combined with qualified personnel, sound procedures, and continuous performance evaluation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ibtisam Al-Jumah, Chair of the conference, highlighted the importance of the event in bringing together experts and sharing experiences, as well as reviewing the latest developments in a vital medical specialty directly linked to individual and community health.

She stated that the conference, held under the theme "Recent Advances in Clinical Virology and Innovations in Diagnostics, Quality, and Laboratory Practices," features 20 speakers from seven countries, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and Italy, along with other friendly and partner countries.

Dr. Al-Jumah revealed that the scientific program includes eight main themes and three training workshops covering a wide range of topics and the latest scientific developments.

She stressed that the conference provides an opportunity for researchers and specialists to present research abstracts in several fields, including virology, laboratory quality, and laboratory safety.

Dr. Al-Jumah explained that Kuwait's clinical virology system has undergone gradual development, beginning with the establishment and expansion of specialized laboratories. As healthcare services continued to grow and the number of samples and tests increased, the system evolved into a comprehensive national network comprising seven laboratories distributed across various health zones.

These laboratories provide advanced molecular and biochemical testing services for diagnosing and monitoring a wide range of viral diseases. These include tests based on genetic sequencing techniques to identify viral variants and assess their response to treatment, helping physicians select the most effective treatment options.

Developing the laboratory system depends not only on modern equipment and technologies but also on specialized personnel, who are essential to ensuring accurate results and safe procedures.

Clinical virologists serve as a vital link between patients, laboratories, and treating medical teams. Their role extends beyond interpreting laboratory results to selecting the most appropriate tests for each case, ensuring sample quality, and interpreting findings in the context of the patient's clinical condition while distinguishing between active, past, and latent infections.

She affirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic marked a pivotal turning point in the history of healthcare systems worldwide, demonstrating that having laboratories, equipment, and advanced technologies alone is not enough to effectively respond to health crises.

Dr. Al-Jumah said equally essential is having physicians and specialists capable of interpreting laboratory results and correlating them with clinical data.

She noted that this experience reinforced the importance of clinical virology and the need to invest in developing national expertise, indicating that despite the growing significance of this specialty, there remains a global shortage of qualified professionals.

In addition, Dr. Al-Jumah announced that Kuwait has relaunched the Kuwaiti Board Program in Clinical Virology under the umbrella of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations based on its commitment to building national capacity and developing specialized expertise.







Photos by Rezk Tawfiq

Photos from the event.

MoH raises awareness of pressure ulcer prevention

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Director of the Health Promotion Department at the Health Ministry Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa revealed that the department organized the Awareness Day and health exhibition titled, "Awareness and Education for the Prevention of Pressure Ulcer," at The Promenade on Sunday.

In a press statement, Al-Bahwa affirmed that the event is in line with the commitment of the department to raise health awareness among all segments of society, asserting that this is an urgent necessity.

She said the exhibition shed light on the risks of pressure ulcer, stages of development and prevention methods. She added that the event included the distribution of educational brochures and scientific materials, and the presentation of informative videos.

She disclosed that the exhibition featured several health stations covering various topics, such as physical activity, chronic diseases, tobacco and smoking control, and proper nutrition, highlighting the role of nutrition in preventing pressure ulcer.



Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa during the exhibition.

She also confirmed that the Nursing Division in the Quality and Accreditation Department participated in the event, underscoring the importance of integrated efforts to promote health literacy and disease prevention.

Nasser Al-Saeed Center highlights oral health risks for children with diabetes

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Nasser Al-Saeed Center for Pediatric Dentistry organized a comprehensive awareness event on Sunday, focusing on the link between oral health and diabetes in children on the occasion of World Diabetes Day, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

A total of 18 organizations participated in the event, during which they showcased a variety of alternative products like snacks, sweets and juices for individuals with diabetes, thereby, allowing the children to enjoy safe dietary options.

The center also inaugurated the sensory disorders clinic on the sidelines of the event.

Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs at the Ministry of Health Dr. Ahmed Asad indicated that the World Diabetes Day activities focus on raising awareness among schoolchildren and their parents regarding the strong connection between dental health and diabetes, as well as the importance of prevention and safeguarding the well-being of children.

He also clarified that the treatment of children with autism in dental clinics follows a gradual process, beginning with treatment in a standard dental chair, then moving to the sensory disorders clinic, which provides a sensory-friendly environment, and finally, using general anesthesia, if necessary.



Assistant Undersecretary for Dental Affairs at the Ministry of Health Dr. Ahmed Asad and several participants of the event.

He underscored the importance of integrated treatment and awareness programs for children with diabetes to protect their teeth, gums and jawbone until they reach the age when they can fully understand the risks and implications of the disease.

On the expansion of services, he revealed that the ministry currently operates two clinics specialized in this field—one at the Farwaniya Dental Center and the other at the Nasser Al-Saeed Center. He then unveiled the plan to open a new clinic at the Jahra Specialized Pediatric Dentistry Center within one month.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mohammad Al-Hassan, acting Director of Nasser Al-Saeed Center, explained that the event aimed to raise public awareness on the importance of dental care as an integral component of a child's overall health.

He said uncontrolled diabetes affects oral health, leading to dry mouth, an increased risk of tooth decay, gum inflammation and bacterial or fungal infections. He pointed out that poor oral hygiene and the presence of cavities can hinder a child or his parents from managing blood sugar levels.

He urged parents to disclose their children's medical history and inform dentists if they have diabetes, as children with diabetes require specialized treatment and schedule, particularly the timing of appointments and insulin administration that differ from standard procedures.

CAN campaign encourages men to seek early advice on prostate cancer

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: The Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) launched its prostate cancer awareness campaign on Sunday, with the theme, "Know and Find Peace of Mind."

This is in line with the mission of CAN to raise public awareness about prostate cancer and its risk factors, as well as the significance of identifying symptoms and consulting healthcare professionals about early detection options.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of CAN Dr. Khalid Al-Saleh indicated that this campaign is in accordance with the commitment of CAN to raise awareness on the disease and the importance of prevention and early detection.

He explained that prostate cancer incidence increases with age, hence, the need to raise awareness among men, especially those in older age groups. He pointed out that the theme of the campaign this year affirms the role of knowledge as the first step toward ensuring good health. He said this can be done by fully understanding the disease, its risk factors and symptoms, indicating that individuals must take the necessary measures and should not hesitate to seek advice from a specialist.



A photo from the event.

He added that prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer among men in Kuwait.

According to the 2022 data from the Epidemiology and Cancer Registry Department at Kuwait Cancer Control Center, 77 new cases of prostate cancer were reported among Kuwaiti males -- out of the 478 cancer cases or 10.9 percent of the total. For non-Kuwaiti males, 73 new cases were documented out of the total of 475 cancer cases or 10.4 percent.

Health

Sri Lanka warns of leptospirosis risk: Sri Lankan health authorities have warned of an increased risk of leptospirosis in five districts amid prevailing wet weather and agricultural activities, local outlet Newswire reported Monday.

According to the latest report issued by the Epidemiology Unit under the country's Ministry of Health, the disease was identified as a growing concern in Ratnapura, Galle, Kegalle, Kurunegala and Matara districts.

Health authorities said the risk of infection was particularly high during the current weather conditions and as more people engage in agricultural work.

People working in paddy fields, muddy areas or locations affected by prolonged flooding have been advised to wear appropriate footwear and take other protective measures.

Leptospirosis, or Weil's Disease, is a bacterial infection caused by spiral-shaped Leptospira bacteria. Nearly 7,000 leptospirosis cases have been reported in Sri Lanka so far in 2026, while around 300 people die from the disease annually, health officials said earlier this month. (Xinhua)

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Japan confirms 2nd bird flu outbreak: Japan's agriculture ministry said Friday that a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak had been confirmed in Chiba Prefecture, near Tokyo, marking the country's second bird flu outbreak this season.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, genetic testing confirmed the outbreak at a poultry farm in Asahi, Chiba Prefecture, which raises approximately 40,000 egg-laying hens.

Local agricultural authorities announced the same day that they would cull the poultry at the farm as part of measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

Japan's avian influenza season typically runs from autumn through the following spring. On Thursday, the country's first bird flu outbreak of the season was confirmed in Kameoka, Kyoto Prefecture. (Xinhua)

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'All forms of surrogacy banned': China prohibits all forms of surrogacy, a spokesperson for the National Health Commission (NHC) said on Friday, stressing that surrogacy is illegal and punishable by law.

Yang Jinrui, the NHC spokesperson, said at a press conference that so-called surrogacy agreements are not protected by law, and those who enter into such agreements may also face legal consequences.

Recent media reports have exposed illegal intermediaries operating underground surrogacy businesses in venues without proper medical facilities, where unqualified personnel carry out highly irregular procedures that pose serious risks, Yang said.

Such illegal operators often abuse ovulation-inducing drugs, which can easily cause ovarian damage in women and even pose life-threatening risks. Meanwhile, poor conditions for embryo cultivation and transfer can put newborns at risk of death and serious birth defects, Yang noted.

A report issued by the United Nations Human Rights Council found that surrogacy seriously undermines women's rights and harms children, and recommended the gradual prohibition of all forms of surrogacy, according to the NHC.

The NHC advised people experiencing difficulties conceiving to seek proper diagnosis and treatment at medical institutions licensed for assisted reproductive technology, while information on qualified institutions is available on the websites of local health authorities.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report suspected illegal surrogacy activities to local public security or health authorities. (Xinhua)

Landmark anniversary edition will host final round of FIA World Rally-Raid

FIA President looks forward with pride to 35th Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge

DUBAI, Nov 16: FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem says he looks forward with pride to the 35th edition of the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, which reaches another significant milestone in its history later this month.

Founded by FIA President Ben Sulayem in 1991, the event will host the final round of the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship for the first time when it takes place from November 22–27, with several major world titles to be decided in the UAE.

Following a fiercely contested season which began with the Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia in January and continued through rounds in Portugal, Argentina and Morocco, the 2026 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge will determine this year's FIA World Rally-Raid drivers, manufacturers and co-drivers' champions.

Organised by the Emirates Motorsports Organization, the FIA member club in the UAE, the event starts and finishes in Al Ain, and once more presents a formidable test for competitors and rally machinery across some of the world's most dramatic desert terrain.

The Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge also underlines how the Middle East remains safe and ready to host Formula One and other world-class motorsport events. The Dubai International Baja, which concluded on November 8, delivered a thrilling climax to the FIA World Baja Cup and FIA Middle East Baja Cup, ahead of the Formula One races to follow in Qatar from November 27–29 and Abu Dhabi from December 4–6.

"There have been many landmark moments in the history of the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, and it has now established itself as one of the world's most enduring and technically demanding rally-raid events, and one which continues to grow." said FIA President Ben Sulayem, who will be in attendance at the event.

"When I launched the event in 1991, my plan was to take it into the FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies, something we achieved just two years later. I am proud of this event, showcasing the very best of the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship while promoting the UAE's outstanding natural beauty and global motorsport standing. That's what keeps competitors and visitors returning year after year."



FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem

The launch of the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship in 2022 opened an exciting new era for the rally-raid community, providing a dedicated international championship for the sport.

The Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge has continued to match the ambition to take the sport toa new level, and has also played an important part in strengthening the UAE's position as a global motorsport destination.

FIA President Ben Sulayem said: "Motorsport in the UAE has grown through long-term investment by the country's leadership and a clear understanding of what major sporting events bring to the nation.

"The EMSO, our Member Club, works hand in hand with government partners, promoters, organisers, officials and volunteers, and the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge is a product of that strong collaboration.

"Our task at the FIA is to build on that foundation by growing the sport and opening doors for the next generation of Emirati drivers, officials, and fans. The UAE has an important role to play in the future of our sport and I look forward to attending this landmark race once again."

The FIA World Rally-Raid Championship finale promises a compelling climax. Toyota Gazoo Racing's Seth Quintero leads the Drivers' Championship as the American pursues a maiden title against two of the sport's most famous names.

Following his victory in Morocco, Quintero sits on 135 points, 14 ahead of nine-time World Rally Champion Sébastien Loeb on 121, with six-time Dakar Rally winner Nasser Al-Attiyah third on 115. With 30 points available for the overall win in Abu Dhabi, all three remain firmly in contention.

The Navigators' Championship mirrors the drivers' contest, with Toyota's Andrew Short leading on 135 points from Dacia's Édouard Boulanger on 121 and Fabian Lurquin on 115.

In the manufacturers' contest, Dacia Sandriders hold a 47-point lead on 372 over Toyota Gazoo Racing who closed the gap with successive victories, whileFord Racing are third on 232.

Mirra crowns 'breakthrough' year with WTA Finals triumph


Mirra Andreeva, of Russia, poses with the trophy after winning against Elina Svitolina, of Ukraine, in the WTA Finals title match in Indian Wells, Calif. (AP)

Zverev opens ATP Finals with convincing win over Jodar

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., Nov 16, (AP): Mirra Andreeva won the WTA Finals without dropping a set to end a year in which she won her first major and ascended to No. 2 in the world. Now, all tennis' latest teen queen needs is a driver's license.

The 19-year-old Russian defeated Elina Svitolina of Ukraine 7-5, 6-3 on Sunday, going 5-0 at the season-ending championships. Her results helped clinch her career-high ranking, just behind Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan.

Andreeva won $3.37 million and a one-of-a-kind ultraviolet purple Mercedes-Benz convertible. She happily got behind the wheel after the car was driven onto the court at Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

Andreeva became the 11th player to win the Finals without losing a set, joining among others Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova and Serena Williams, all of whom did it multiple times.

Andreeva won five of the last six games to close out the nearly two-hour match that featured nine breaks of serve across 21 games. Both players worked the angles in battling from the baseline in a mix of sun and shadows on the smaller Stadium 2 court.

Svitolina won both of the match's longest games of six deuces each in the second set. She needed seven break points before Andreeva's forehand sailed long to tie it 1-1. Then Svitolina survived four break points to hold trailing 4-3 on another forehand error by her opponent.

Svitolina won just two points over the final two games. Her forehand hit the net cord and dropped on her side to set up triple match point for Andreeva. One point later, Svitolina blew an easy smash playing on the sunny side of the court to end it.

Svitolina earned $1.5 million after going 2-1 in the round-robin portion of the eight-day event.

After match point, Andreeva ran to hug coach Conchita Martinez in the stands. Svitolina, a 32-year-old mother, sat down in her chair.

The players did not take part in the traditional post-match handshake or pose for photos together before the match. Svitolina and others from her country have refused to shake hands with players from Russia and Belarus since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 in line with policy set by the Ukrainian Tennis Federation.

Svitolina was back in the Final for the first time since 2019, when she lost to Ash Barty after winning it all in 2018. She gave birth to her daughter four years ago and last month she separated from husband and retired Top 10 player Gaël Monfils.

Svitolina didn't mention Andreeva in her post-match comments to the crowd, which included several fans waving Ukrainian flags.

Aiming to punctuate the best year of his career with another big title, top-ranked Alexander Zverev got his ATP Finals campaign off to a strong start with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over debutant Rafael Jodar.

Zverev claimed his first two Grand Slam titles this year and ascended to the No. 1 ranking for the first time. He's aiming for his third trophy at Finals after winning the season-ending event in 2018 and 2021.

The 20-year-old Jodar is the first man to qualify for the Finals in the same season that he made his tour-level debut in.

The 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) Zverev dominated with his serve, cranking out 10 aces on the fast indoor surface, and consistently applied pressure on Jodar's serve.

It was a convincing performance for Zverev after entering on a two-match losing streak that included a straight-set loss to Lorenzo Musetti in his first match as No. 1.

The only time Zverev got in trouble was when he faced two break points while attempting to serve out the first set. He hit an ace on the first break point and a service winner on the second and then another ace before closing the set out.

In the same group, U.S. Open finalist Ben Shelton beat Arthur Fils 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 for his first win at the Finals after going 0-3 during his debut last year.

Juan Carlos Ferrero was in Shelton's box for the first time.

The American recently added Ferrero to his coaching staff, following on from Alcaraz's split with his long-time coach last year. Ferrero sat alongside Bryan Shelton, the player's father and now co-coach.

Fils is the first Frenchman to compete at the Finals since Gael Monfils a decade ago. The 22-year-old Fils didn't start his season until February after an eight-month layoff due to a back injury and he then also missed the French Open.



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Spain's Rafael Jodar during their tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

Rockets blow out Wizards

OKC snaps three-game losing streak with victory over Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Nov 16, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 37 points in three quarters to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Sacramento Kings 125-103 on Sunday night and end a three-game losing streak.

Gilgeous-Alexander shot 13 for 20 from the field, 4 for 5 from 3-point range and made all seven free throws. He played only 29 minutes, perhaps the only thing keeping him from a second consecutive game with 40 or more points.

He has scored 31 or more in his last three games.

Rookie Aday Mara had 16 points and 13 rebounds off the bench for the Thunder, who led by 27 points. Ajay Mitchell had 14 points, and Isaiah Hartenstein pulled down 11 rebounds.

Rookie Darius Acuff Jr. had 26 points and six rebounds for the Kings, who fell to 1-12 and are 0-8 at home. They fell to 0-6 on a seven-game homestand. Zach LaVine did not suit up for the Kings due to an illness.

Amen Thompson scored 26 points and Kevin Durant added 25 to help the Houston Rockets rout the Washington Wizards 147-119 for their fourth straight win.

The Rockets also held Trae Young scoreless for the first time in his NBA career. He missed all five of his shots and had previous scored in all 511 of his prior career games with the Hawks and Wizards.

Alperen Sengun added 19 points and eight assists and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who had a season-high for points.

Alex Sarr had 24 points and AJ Dybantsa added 16 for the Wizards. Dybantsa was 6-for-18 from the field. The Wizards have now lost seven games in a row after a 4-3 start to the season. Their last win came on Nov. 2 against the Magic.

Washington went back-and-forth with Houston for the first quarter, but dominant second and third quarters by the Rockets paved the way for the blowout win. They outscored the Wizards 37-23 in the second and 46-34 in the third to pull away. Houston also outrebounded Washington 55-36.

The Rockets used an 18-8 run to open the second half and put some distance between themselves and the Wizards.


Sacramento Kings forward Keegan Murray (13) defends against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)

The lead eventually ballooned to as large as 31 points during that stretch. The Wizards were never able to keep pace with a Rockets offense that was efficient from the field and steadily grew their lead as the game wore on.

Jayson Tatum scored 32 points in 30 minutes on a night the Boston Celtics set a franchise record for its lead at the end of the opening period on the way to a 131-94 win over the Dallas Mavericks.

Derrick White added 16 points and Jordan Walsh 11 to help Boston win its sixth straight and for the 11th time in 12 games.

Tatum had 21 of his points in the third quarter, connecting on 6 of 9 shots and knocking down four 3s. He scored 13 straight points to end the period.

Boston pulled its starters after that but still pulled ahead by 41 in the final quarter.

Playing on four days' rest, the Celtics sprinted to a 24-4 lead with White and Walsh responsible for 19 of those points. The lead ballooned to 42-9 by the end of the first quarter, the 33 points the largest first-quarter lead in franchise history.

Zaccharie Risacher scored 18 points for Dallas, which lost its third straight and for the fifth time in eight games. Cooper Flagg added 17 points and had four assists but was just 5 of 15 from the field with three turnovers.



'Infantino is a worse president than Blatter'

BERLIN, Nov 16, (AP): Germany coach Jürgen Klopp says he'd welcome a new FIFA president and that incumbent Gianni Infantino has turned out worse than his predecessor Sepp Blatter.

In an unusually forthright intervention on soccer politics by a star coach, Klopp argued against another term to extend Infantino's 11 years at the top of world soccer, as he faces a challenger from Japan ahead of elections in March.

Klopp compared Infantino unfavorably with Blatter, who resigned in 2015 amid corruption scandals at FIFA and remains banned from the sport by FIFA's ethics committee.

"The general consensus is that a change might make sense. But what would interest me even more in this context, from a football perspective, is that we never thought things could get any worse after Sepp Blatter, and yet someone actually managed to make it worse," Klopp said Sunday as his Germany team prepares to play the Netherlands in the Nations League on Monday.

"Right now, we're thinking that if Mr. Infantino were to leave, it would be kind of cool if the next person could just do a better job. Because I believe it should be possible to do better."

He added that "there are certainly people who care deeply about the future of football and who don't have any financial interests at stake. And if they were to come together, then I think that if one of them became president, it would, I believe, be absolutely helpful."

Klopp didn't mention confirmed challenger Kohzo Tashima and said he'd wait and see about former Arsenal coach Arsène Wenger, who has been reported to be considering a bid but hasn't commented publicly.



Lindy Duncan, left, holds her trophy with Annika Sorenstam, after Duncan won The Annika LPGA golf tournament in Belleair, Fla. (AP)

Sports

Sousa eyes 4th win since taking charge

Kuwait, Honduras set for historic international clash

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Kuwait brings its current training camp to a close Tuesday with a historic encounter against Honduras, as the two national teams meet for the first time in an international friendly at 7:30 pm at Al-Sadaqa Wal-Salam Stadium. The match comes as part of the FIFA international break.

The Blues head into the match on the back of an emphatic 3-0 victory over Syria last Friday, courtesy of goals from Shabib Al-Khaldi, Eid Al-Rashidi and Abdulaziz Naji.

Portuguese coach Hélio Sousa will be looking to guide Kuwait to another victory, which would be his fourth since taking charge of the national team in August 2025.

A positive result would also boost Kuwait's position in the FIFA world rankings, especially after the win over Syria earned the team valuable ranking points.

Sousa called up 28 players for the current camp, including Khaled Al-Rashidi, Dhari Al-Otaibi, Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, Khaled Sabah, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Rashid Al-Dosari, Abdulaziz Naji, Waleed Saad, Muath Al-Dhafiri, Saleh Al-Muhtab, Hamoud Al-Sanousi, Abdullah Al-Saeedi, Abdullah Al-Qarzaei, Nasser Faleh, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Mohammed Al-Huwaidi, Jassem Al-Matar, Mahdi Dashti, Muath Al-Asmaei, Bandar Al-Salama, Mubarak Al-Faneeni, Eid Al-Rashidi, Shabib Al-Khaldi, Yousef Nasser, Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi and Yousef Majed.

The Portuguese coach is expected to rotate his lineup from the Syria match, particularly with several players nursing minor muscle injuries and bruises. Nevertheless, he knows his side faces a challenging test against Honduras, despite the Central American team suffering a 3-1 defeat to the UAE in a friendly last Friday.



Sousa gives instructions to Kuwait players during their final training session.

On the other side, Honduras coach Jose Francisco Molina has named a 26-player squad for the encounter. The list includes Alex Güity, Edrick Menjívar, Enrique Facussé, Clinton Bennett, Giancarlo Sacaza, Nathaniel Martinez, Kevin Perez, Joseph Rosales, Julian Martinez, Darlin Mencia, Denil Maldonado, Kevin Guimfy, Alejandro Reyes, Deybi Flores, Jonathan Rubio, Edwin Rodriguez, Luis Palma, David Ruiz, Diego Matute, Roberto Osorto, Alenis Vargas, Derek Moncada, Mike Arana, Kerol Figueroa, Erick Puerto and Rigoberto Rivas.

Falah Al-Ajmi heads delegation

Kuwait women head to Cairo for Gulf basketball preparations

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 16: Kuwait's women's national basketball team heads to Cairo on Tuesday for a training camp running until early December as it steps up preparations for the Gulf Women's Basketball Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the FIBA Women's Asia Cup. Kuwait will host the regional tournament from Dec 3 to 5.

The delegation is led by Kuwait Basketball Association Board Member Falah Al-Ajmi and includes team administrator Fahad Al-Bous, Serbian head coach Marko, assistant coach Hussein Hajieh and team supervisor Rawan Al-Mousawi.

The 16-player squad comprises Mastoura Al-Rashidi, Salwa Hubail, Fatima Al-Husseini, Ritaj Malallah, Mashael Al-Marzouq, Fajr Ibrahim, Lulwa Al-Askar, Munira Al-Rababa, Makkiya Al-Tawajer, Munayer Al-Sanousi, Fajr Mazen, Shaikha Ibrahim, Laila Behbahani, Khadija Khalaf, Rayan Al-Husseini and Fatima Maarefi.



Falah Al-Ajmi

During their stay in Cairo, the players will play five friendly matches as the coaching staff seeks to improve their technical and physical fitness, build team cohesion and assess their readiness for the Gulf competition.

Al-Ajmi expressed confidence in the players' determination and ambition to secure a place in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup finals.

He said the Kuwait Basketball Association's Women's Committee has prioritized developing women's competitions and preparing national teams for upcoming tournaments, particularly the Gulf championship.

Al-Ajmi added that the five friendlies would provide an opportunity to enhance the players' fitness, improve coordination and evaluate their individual and collective performances ahead of the tournament.

He stressed that hosting the championship in Kuwait gives the national team an important opportunity to showcase its progress, compete for the title and secure the Asian qualification spot.

He also voiced confidence that the players would deliver strong performances and represent Kuwaiti women's basketball with distinction.

England ends Spain's 43-game unbeaten streak

France qualifies for NL quarterfinals

MADRID, Nov 16, (AP): England outplayed world champion Spain in a 3-2 win in the Nations League, holding on with 10 men to end Spain's 43-game unbeaten streak as Harry Kane scored again.

The Ballon d'Or winner struck with a penalty on the stroke of halftime in Madrid for a national record-extending 93rd goal after being fouled by Pau Cubarsí, with the decision upheld following a video review.

"We knew we were going to beat them tonight," England midfielder Declan Rice told British broadcaster ITV. "The messaging from the manager after the Croatia game was so positive, the message from the boys, everyone pushing together, knowing that we're going to come here and not just sit back and try and hit them on the counter. Our first 10 minutes are probably the best we've played in a 10-minute spell - pressure, pressure, pressure."

Thomas Tuchel's England took top spot in Group A3, with both sides having already qualified for the quarterfinals before the game.



Italy's Michael Kayode, left, and Belgium's Maxim De Cuyper fight for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Belgium and Italy in Brussels, Belgium. (AP)

Defender Ezri Konsa's header from Rice's corner made it 2-0 in the 53rd minute against Spain. Jude Bellingham then set up defender Ben White shortly after.

But after midfielder Elliot Anderson was sent off for fouling Lamine Yamal, Mikel Oyarzabal slotted in the resulting penalty. Forward Nico Williams pulled another goal back from Yamal's pass to ensure a tense finish with 15 minutes left.

Spain goalkeeper Unai Simón gave England credit.

"Tonight, they were superior to us, they employed a very aggressive one-on-one approach," he said. "Since these are not knockout stages yet, we can learn from this and aim to perform better in March."

England was indebted to goalkeeper James Trafford, who is not a regular but showed his shot-stopping ability when his side was under heavy pressure in stoppage time.

After parrying Fermín López's low strike, he responded quickly to turn Aymeric Laporte's follow-up around the post, and then kept out standout midfielder Pedri's powerful low strike with moments left in the game.

Trafford had made another fine double save with 10 minutes left in regulation time, blocking efforts from Yamal and defender Marc Cucurella.

Tuchel was asked if it was the best performance by England since he permanently succeeded Gareth Southgate.

"Yeah, given the circumstances, the pressure, the quality and where we played - against the reigning world champions and they are unbeaten in 43 matches," the England manager said.

"Putting a performance out there in Madrid in this environment, that was a very complete performance and the best there is so far."

France qualified for the quarterfinals with a 2-1 home win over Turkey in Group A1, and Belgium also advanced after routing Italy 4-1

After losing 3-1 away to Italy on Thursday, France labored to a gritty victory.



Spain's Nico Williams, right, and England's Ben White challenge for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Spain and England in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

France took the lead through Emirhan Topçu's own-goal early in the second half after Adrien Rabiot had headed on a corner. Substitute Eli Junior Kroupi grabbed a debut goal with a low shot under the goalkeeper after being played in by Rayan Cherki before Abdülkerim Bardakci replied in the 90th.

The match was held in Bordeaux, the club France coach Zinedine Zidane played for when he made his France debut in 1994, albeit in a different stadium. The midfield great scored two brilliant goals against the Czech Republic after coming on as a substitute.

Zidane was not entirely satisfied with the performance on Sunday.

"We gave too many chances away and we did not close down well enough," he said. "We have some things to improve."

Right back Saël Kumbedi made his international debut.

France goalkeeper Mike Maignan came off with a right thigh injury at halftime and was replaced by Guillaume Restes.

Maignan will have tests to assess his injury at his club, AC Milan, on Monday, the France team said.

Pio Esposito gave Italy an 11th-minute lead in Brussels, but the home side soon equalized through Brighton player Maxim De Cuyper and led 3-1 within 26 minutes after goals from defender Nathan Ngoy and Manchester City winger Jeremy Doku.

Midfielder Diego Moreira completed the scoring with a late goal.

Albania won 2-0 at rival Belarus to finish top of their group in League C and earn promotion.

Atalanta striker Nikola Krstović grabbed two goals in already-promoted Montenegro's 4-1 victory over Cyprus, which enters the playoffs.

Finland routed San Marino 7-2 with Adrian Svanbäck netting a hat trick.

Bangladesh strikes after putting up 400 on day 2

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Nov 16, (AP): Litton Das scored 120 off 179 balls as Bangladesh posted 400 runs in its first innings in the first cricket test against South Africa.

The visitors were 327-6 at stumps on day one, with Das unbeaten on 92.

He carried on to score his eighth test century while also helping his side post a significant total on the board, batting out 101.2 overs after recovering from a precarious 22-3.

Hasan Mahmud then struck for Bangladesh before lunch, as Aiden Markram was caught behind for four, leaving South Africa 18-1 (5 overs) at the break.

Marques Ackerman (7 not out) and Zubayr Hamza (4 not out) were unbeaten at lunch, with Bangladesh leading by 382 runs.

On day one, Kagiso Rabada picked five wickets but Towhid Hridoy scored 137 off 227 balls to propel Bangladesh after it had won the toss and opted to bat. Hridoy was out lbw in the last over of the day.

Das then completed his hundred first thing on day two morning, reaching the milestone off 154 balls.

He put up 32 off 43 balls with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (10), before Dane Paterson ran through the lower order.

Miraz was the first to go - Paterson struck with his first delivery with the batter caught at slip. Four overs later, he got the big wicket as Das was caught at mid-wicket. He hit 14 fours and a six, overall.

Taskin Ahmed (17) and Hasan Mahmud (16) added 21 for the ninth wicket, before Paterson wrapped up the innings in the leadup to lunch. Rabada didn't find any success on day two, finishing with 5-70 in 22 overs, while Marco Jansen took 1-83.

It left the Proteas five overs to bat out before lunch, but they lost Markram in the interim.South Africa took the No. 1 ranking after its recent series win at home against Australia but sits second in the World Test Championship table, with New Zealand first. The top two sides will contest the final in June 2027.



Bangladesh's Taskin Ahmed takes a catch to dismiss South Africa's Marques Ackerman for 157 runs on day two of the first cricket test match between South Africa and Bangladesh, in Johannesburg, South Africa. (AP)

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