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IRAN RENEWS ATTACKS ON KUWAIT

Déjà vu with drones

Latest assault draws regional rebuke

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): The Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that Kuwait condemned and denounced in the strongest terms the repeated Iranian attacks on its territory, the latest of which involved drones earlier in the day.

The ministry said in a statement that the attacks flagrantly violated Kuwait's sovereignty, directly threatened its security and stability, and constituted a grave breach of international law, the UN Charter and Security Council Resolution 2817.

It reiterated that the continued attacks constituted a serious escalation that threatened regional security and stability and undermined diplomatic efforts to ease tensions and de-escalate.

The ministry stressed that Kuwait reserved the full right to take all necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty, maintain its security and defend its territory and vital facilities against any aggression or threat.

It affirmed that Kuwait could take such measures under its inherent right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter and the rules of international law.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah conducted an inspection tour of several military sites on Wednesday.

During the tour, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah was briefed on the workflow across the sites, the nature of the tasks and duties of their personnel, and their

Continued on Page 5



Ministry of Defense photo

Kuwait's Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah during an inspection tour of several military sites.

Chem trail leads to suspects

Farwaniya checks turn up 86 wanted persons, drugs

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with several government agencies, conducted an extensive security campaign in Farwaniya Governorate, resulting in 974 enforcement actions aimed at strengthening security, apprehending violators, and addressing negative practices.

In a press statement issued on Tuesday, the ministry disclosed that the campaign was carried out by the Farwaniya Security Directorate under the supervision of its director -- Brigadier General Faisal Al-Rabah, Assistant Director Brigadier General Yousef Al-Sawla and acting Commander of governorate Colonel Hamad Farhan.

The Kuwait Fire Force, Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Manpower, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Environment Public Authority, and Public Authority for Food and Nutrition participated in the campaign.

The campaign resulted in the arrest of 86 individuals wanted under outstanding warrants, 15 individuals found in possession of narcotics, four individuals wanted in connection with criminal cases, and one individual found in possession of alcoholic substances.

Furthermore, the Farwaniya Security Directorate provided humanitarian assistance on 68 occasions and issued traffic citations, bringing its total number of enforcement and other actions to 281.

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Nov 24 marks Kuwait winter's first cold call

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Al-Ojeiri Scientific Center announced that Tuesday, November 24, 2026, will mark the beginning of the Al-Zubana star phase, bringing cooler weather conditions to the region, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The 13-day period, which ends on December 6, represents the final stage of the Al-Wasm season and autumn, while marking the beginning of winter.

According to the center, the phase signals the onset of winter-like weather, with temperatures dropping at night while remaining moderate during the day. Cold northerly winds are also expected to begin blowing as the effects of the approaching winter solstice become more noticeable.

The Al-Zubana phase will be followed by the Al-Iklil phase, which marks the beginning of Al-Murabba'aniyah, the 40-day peak winter period.

The center advised residents to wear warm clothing to protect themselves from the increasingly cold weather during this 40-day period.

It also noted that daylight at the beginning of Al-Zubana lasts just over 10 hours, while nighttime extends to more than 13 hours.

Referring to traditional Arab observations, the center indicated that Al-Zubana has historically been associated with the arrival of strong, cold northerly winds.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai, delivers a statement on Tuesday.

Wars … blockades put global food security at risk: Kuwait

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai, stressed the need for urgent action to address food insecurity caused by armed conflicts and ensure unimpeded humanitarian access to civilians.

Al-Bannai made the remarks in a joint statement delivered on behalf of the four countries that drafted UN Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018), Cote d'Ivoire, the Netherlands, Sweden and Kuwait.

The statement was delivered during a meeting held late Tuesday under the Arria-formul on food diplomacy and conflict-induced food insecurity.

Armed conflicts are among the main drivers of food insecurity and famine, he said, noting that it displaces farmers, disrupts their access to markets and obstructs humanitarian assistance to civilians.

He warned of the long-term consequences, particularly for women and girls.

Citing the 2026 Global Report on Food Crises, Al-Bannai said the proportion of assessed people facing crisis-level or worse acute food insecurity nearly doubled between 2016 and 2025.

Continued on Page 5

Appeals Court pulls plug on nurse's KD 3,000 fine

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Court of Appeals overturned a lower court ruling that fined a nurse KD 3,000 for practicing medicine without a license. The court instead ruled that no penalty should be imposed, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The case involved a nurse working at a private clinic who was accused of performing a medical procedure at her private residence without the required qualifications or authorization.

Defense Lawyer Masada Awadh said she presented several legal arguments on behalf of her client, most notably challenging the admissibility of the criminal case due to the failure to follow legally prescribed procedures for filing the charges.

She stated that the indictment was invalid because the Medical Liability Authority had not been consulted or notified, as required by law.

Newswatch

RIYADH: The Saudi-led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen intercepted and destroyed a cruise missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward the Riyadh region, coalition spokesman Major General **Turki Al-Malki** said Wednesday.

Al-Malki announced the interception in a brief statement posted on his official X account, without providing further details. (KUNA)

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KUWAIT CITY: 11 crew members were injured when an **Abu Dhabi** National Oil Company (ADNOC) vessel was attacked while transiting the Strait of Hormuz late Tuesday, Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported.

ADNOC said one crew member remained unaccounted for and that search and rescue operations were underway in coordination with the relevant authorities.

ADNOC confirmed the safe evacuation of all other crew members and medical care as needed, prioritizing support for search and rescue, crew and others affected, while reaffirming its commitment to seafarer safety, navigational freedom and maritime security. (KUNA)



8 NBK's Dr. El-Badri named among Kuwait's GC Elite Leaders for 2026

9 Jazeera Airways introduces new 24/7 WhatsApp self-service for travelers





11 Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait announces ABK Tour Kuwait



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

The Iranian regime has sown the wind and it shall reap the whirlwind

Its expansionist project is now like a slaughtered bull, thrashing about in its final throes.

It has turned the once-vibrant Arab capitals into open graveyards.

A tale of devastation: Gaza, left alone amidst the flames.

Lebanon, its situation and economy have collapsed under the weight of the weaponry of terror.

Syria has been torn apart and the blood of the innocent has been shed to safeguard Tehran's influence.

Yemen—once "happy"—has been destroyed and transformed into a launch pad for death.

Iraq, its sovereignty violated, its wealth drained to fund futile wars.

People pay the price for the reckless adventures of a regime that opted to export its crises.

If one perceives a flaw—no matter how minor, one should mark it with a red sign.

He decided to abandon painting, believing the canvas had become too wretched to continue.

Many see the flaws clearly, yet true reformers are rare.

Within our souls lie superfluous spaces that have no meaning.

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Kuwait gets 4.1 pre-dawn shake

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): The Kuwait National Seismic Network recorded an earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale on Wednesday in the Al-Managish area, southwest of the country, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research KISR said on Wednesday.

In a press statement, the institute added that the earthquake occurred at 3:53 a.m. local time, at a depth of 11 kilometers below the Earth's surface.

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:53	Asr	14:31
Sunrise	06:15	Maghrib	16:52
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:14



His Highness the Amir



King of Morocco Mohammad VI

HH Amir congratulates King of Morocco on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable of congratulations to the King of Morocco Mohammad VI, on his country's 71sth Independence Day anniversary.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir underlined the deep-rooted bilateral relations between Kuwait and Morocco and their people and commended the remarkable achievements accomplished by Morocco.

His Highness the Amir wished King Mohammad good health and well-being and wished Morocco and its people more progress and prosperity.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable of congratulations to the King of Morocco Mohammad VI, on his country's 71st Independence Day anniversary.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished King Mohammad good health and well-being and wished Morocco and its people more progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent Wednesday a cable of congratulations to the King of Morocco Mohammad VI, on his country's 71st Independence Day anniversary.

397 chase 70 co-op jobs in Kuwaitization drive

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The committee overseeing the Kuwaitization of supervisory positions in cooperative societies on Tuesday concluded the personal interviews for Kuwaitis seeking employment under the third phase of the initiative, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Huwailah

The interviews were conducted on Nov 11-17. A total of 397 citizens qualified for the interviews after passing a written examination conducted at a private university. They competed for 70 vacant posts in 59 cooperative societies, including general manager, deputy general managers responsible for financial, administrative and commercial affairs, and department heads.

Vice Chairman of the committee Dr. Sayed Issa said the applicants who achieved the highest combined scores in the written examination and personal interview, without being tied with other candidates, will be appointed to their respective positions in accordance with the final results.

He added that a public lottery will be conducted on Thursday, among applicants who obtained the same overall scores. He disclosed that the draw will determine the final appointments, as well as the order of candidates on the reserve list.

He affirmed that the entire process will be documented through audio and video recordings to guarantee transparency, fairness and equal opportunities for all applicants.

He also pointed out that the initiative to nationalize supervisory positions in cooperative societies is being supervised by Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. **Amthal Al-Huwailah** who is keen to empower national talent and enable Kuwaiti citizens to occupy suitable vacancies in cooperatives.

He then announced that registration for the fourth phase, targeting Kuwaitis interested in joining the cooperative sector, will commence in early December. He stated that applications will be received through the 'Fakhruna' (Our Pride) platform for national manpower, administered by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM). He said this phase includes 30 vacancies for Kuwaiti citizens holding university degrees and with the relevant professional experience. He added that the available positions include general managers, deputy general managers overseeing financial, administrative, commercial and marketing affairs, and department heads.

Other Voices

Colleges of self-assessment

By Ahmad alsarraf

Approximately 7,000 students graduate from Kuwait University every year, with a similar number graduating from private universities, in addition to graduates from local and international colleges.

The total number of graduates far exceeds the needs of the job market, particularly as many hold degrees in fields with limited job opportunities, where the market is already saturated.



Ahmad alsarraf

Among these graduates are nearly 2,000 students annually earning bachelor's degrees in Law and Sharia from universities, institutes, and colleges both inside and outside Kuwait.

This number has also exceeded market demand. As a result, some law graduates have been forced to work in professions unrelated to their fields of study to make a living, while others have closed their private law offices and are searching for jobs that offer a stable monthly income.

We have witnessed the consequences of this oversupply in the form of numerous violations by some law firms seeking to attract clients, undermining the legal profession and harming lawyers who uphold professional standards.

One law firm, for example, published an advertisement claiming it had been selected as the best law firm in the Middle East, without identifying the organization responsible for granting the recognition.

Given that the Middle East encompasses approximately 18 countries and territories, it is worth asking how such a distinction was determined.

Consider Iran, which has been engaged in a war with the United States for eight months and has continued its aggression against Kuwait and other Gulf states while facing a land, sea, and air blockade.

Who were the members of the committee that traveled to Iran to evaluate its hundreds of thousands of law firms? And what about law firms in Turkiye, Cyprus, and Egypt? Were they also included in the assessment?

A previous decision prohibited graduates of Sharia colleges from working in the judiciary and Public Prosecution, while allowing those already employed in these fields to continue serving until the end of their service.

A new law regulating the legal profession is expected to be issued soon. The proposed legislation is expected to include a provision prohibiting graduates of Sharia colleges from practicing law.

This would address the legislative error caused by a previous parliament under pressure from its members. The distinction between the two academic specializations is clear, with only limited areas of overlap.

Allowing graduates of Sharia colleges to practice law has contributed to an oversupply of lawyers in the market for more than 30 years. Kuwait has become one of the countries with the highest number of lawyers per capita. This situation has forced some established lawyers to close their offices due to unfair competition and serious professional violations, prompting the Kuwait Bar Association to intervene and enforce its disciplinary regulations.

Ironically, some of these same lawyers criticize the widespread corruption of previous eras, despite having benefited from the disorder of those years and securing licenses for their own institutions.

The country has witnessed a troubling decline in educational standards and widespread nepotism in employment. Those who benefited from these practices should refrain from speaking about corruption without acknowledging their own involvement and that of their religious political party.

Some even secured licenses to establish colleges and universities of their own, adding to the growing number of graduates in fields where the job market has no need for additional applicants.

When speaking about corruption, they should first be willing to apply the same standards of accountability to themselves.

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1st Deputy PM hails private sector's role in development

JW Marriot returns with renewed luxury and heritage

By Bassam Al-Qassas
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In a celebration reflecting the development of the hospitality and tourism investment sector in Kuwait, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, opened the JW Marriott Kuwait Hotel in its new look, in the presence of the Chairman of Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company, Ghazi Fahad Al-Nafisi, and a number of ministers, ambassadors, senior figures, and representatives of economic and investment circles.

The opening of the hotel represents an important milestone in the journey of Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company, which represented one of the most prominent hotel landmarks in Kuwait with a renewed architectural and service vision, combining the authenticity of the place with international hospitality standards, to provide a qualitative addition to the tourism and hotel sector in the country.

Upon his arrival, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef was received by Ghazi Al-Nafisi, who accompanied him on a tour during which he reviewed, through a group of historical photos displayed at the entrance of the celebration hall, the different stages the hotel went through since its first launch, up to the damage it suffered during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, then the stages of rebuilding, rehabilitation and development that ended with its appearance in its new form, which took five years of comprehensive development and renovation works.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef expressed his admiration for the new design of the hotel and the level of equipment and services, congratulating the Al-Nafisi family and Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company on this achievement, and praising what the edifice represents as an addition to the hospitality sector in Kuwait.

After the tour, the attendees watched a documentary film that reviewed the history of the hotel and its main stations, since its establishment, through the stage of the Iraqi invasion and the severe damage it left behind, then its reopening after liberation, up to the comprehensive development project that gave it its new identity under the JW Marriott brand.

The hotel in its new look includes 188 rooms and suites, designed to combine elegance and comfort, in addition to the "JW Spa" and integrated health and fitness facilities. The "Al-Thuraya" hall also returns with a renewed design and advanced equipment, to provide a distinguished space for hosting events, celebrations and conferences.

On the restaurants and hospitality front, the hotel witnesses the return of the "Nibras Grill" restaurant, one of the well-known names in the fine dining scene in Kuwait, offering a distinguished cooking experience based on the famous "Josper" grill, in addition to "Griffin Lounge" and "JW Market", providing diverse options of food and hospitality experiences.

The hotel is distinguished by its vital location in the heart of the capital, and its direct connection to Al-Salhiya Complex, to combine luxurious accommodation, business and shopping, within an integrated destination in Kuwait City.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah with journalist Bassam Al-Qassas.

'Don't sign on blank'... A funny moment brings Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef together with the press

In a spontaneous gesture that reflected a spirit of humor and humility, I was keen, after the end of the opening ceremony, to request a word from Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef in the honors book, but I was surprised that its pages were still blank, so I jokingly said: "Your Excellency the Minister... Don't sign on blank!"

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef responded with a smile, and replied in a cheerful spirit: "You are a journalist... Write me a word of praise." So it was a distinctive friendly moment, during which I wrote a word of appreciation and praise, and he signed it, before taking commemorative photos.

And perhaps the most beautiful thing about it is that it revealed a human side in the personality of the Minister, who combined firmness in responsibility and simplicity in dealing, and left a good impression on the attendees.

Ghazi Al-Nafisi: A new station in the journey of Al-Salhiya Real Estate

In his speech during the ceremony, the Chairman of Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company, Ghazi Fahad Al-Nafisi, expressed his pride in the patronage and presence of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, stressing that the opening of the hotel represents a new station in the company's journey, and reflects its continuous vision towards excellence and advancing the concept of luxury hospitality in the State of Kuwait.

Al-Nafisi said that the opening of this edifice does not represent merely an addition to the hospitality sector, but embodies a firm investment vision and a belief in the importance of continuous development and creating exceptional destinations that keep pace with future aspirations.

He added that the hotel's journey, which the documentary film reviewed, reflects a long story of ambition, work and the ability to overcome challenges, reaching this new stage that combines the heritage of the place and the global expertise offered by the JW Marriott brand.

Al-Nafisi revealed the company's orientation to implement a number of development projects during the next stage, which will contribute to revitalizing the Kuwaiti market and enhancing investment attractiveness, pointing out that the development of the hotel represents a step within a broader vision to modernize the company's assets and add new value to the urban and commercial scene in Kuwait City.

Andreas Wisdorf, General Manager of Marriott Hotel in Kuwait, also stated: "JW Marriott Kuwait City Hotel has always held a special place in the memory of the people of Kuwait and its guests. Today, we are not just celebrating the reopening of a hotel, but the return of an ancient edifice carrying an exceptional heritage, with a new vision that keeps pace with the aspirations of future generations. We are proud to offer an experience that reflects the essence of fine hospitality that distinguishes the JW Marriott brand."

From Meridien to JW Marriott.. Four decades of development

The hotel carries a history extending for more than four decades, its features began in 1978 with the launch of construction works with the ambition of Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company, before it opened its doors in 1981 under the name Meridien Kuwait, to become one of the most prominent hospitality and business addresses in the capital.

In 1990, the hotel suffered severe damage during the brutal Iraqi invasion, like many Kuwaiti facilities, however the post-liberation stage witnessed the return of life to it in 1991, in a scene that reflected the will to build and rebuild that Kuwait witnessed.

In 2002, the company signed an agreement with Marriott International Group to manage the hotel under the JW Marriott brand, to begin since 2003 a new stage of fine hospitality, based on the group's global expertise and the standing the hotel had gained in the heart of Kuwait City.

With the challenges imposed by the Corona pandemic, Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company chose to turn the challenge into an opportunity, launching a comprehensive development project that was not limited to traditional renovation, but reimagined spaces, designs and services, in line with the requirements of modern hospitality and guests' aspirations, while at the same time preserving the hotel's heritage and historical standing.

Al-Salhiya Complex Expansion.. A vision beyond the hotel's borders

The development of JW Marriott Kuwait City was not the end of the road in Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company's strategy, but represents the beginning of a broader stage of development and investment, topped by the expansion of Al-Salhiya Complex, through which the company aims to present an integrated project combining business, shopping, hospitality and modern life sectors.

This step reflects the company's orientation towards developing integrated urban destinations that add economic and urban value to Kuwait City, and keep pace with market needs and the aspirations of investors and visitors, enhancing the capital's position as a center for business, trade and hospitality.

The opening of the hotel confirms that investing in historical assets does not mean preserving their past only, but re-employing and developing them to be part of the future of cities. From a building that witnessed stages of prosperity, the ordeal of invasion and reconstruction, to a global hotel destination in a new look, Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company continues its journey with a vision combining the experience of the past and the ambition of the future.

Appreciation and praise

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef expressed his appreciation for this achievement, saying that the opening of JW Marriott Kuwait City Hotel in its new look represents a distinguished addition to the hospitality and tourism sector in the State of Kuwait, and reflects what national companies possess in terms of ability to invest, develop and provide projects with international standards.

He valued the efforts of Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company, headed by Ghazi Fahad Al-Nafisi, in preserving this historical edifice and redeveloping it in a manner that keeps pace with Kuwait's future aspirations, and he also praised the role of the private sector in supporting the national economy and enhancing Kuwait's position as a destination for business, tourism and investment, stressing that such projects reflect the spirit of initiative and ambition, and confirm that Kuwait possesses the national capabilities and expertise that qualify it to continue the development journey and advance various projects.

MPW minister checks Road 50 upgrade works

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inspected the maintenance project on King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Road (Road 50) on Wednesday, accompanied by Director General of the Road Engineering Department Engineer Khaled Al-Osaimi.

During the visit, the minister reviewed the progress of ongoing works, including road base preparation, asphalt laying, and the installation of rainwater drainage inlets. The project aims to improve road efficiency and enhance traffic flow.

In a press statement issued following the inspection, Dr. Al-Mashaan emphasized that the ministry prioritizes the maintenance of major roads, highlighting their importance in upgrading the road network and improving traffic safety.



Ministry of Public Works photo

Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inspects the maintenance project on King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Road (Road 50) on Wednesday.

She stressed the importance of strictly adhering to approved technical specifications at every stage of construction, from preparing the foundation layers and laying asphalt to installing rainwater drainage systems.

The minister affirmed that field inspections are being conducted regularly to ensure work meets the required quality standards and is completed in accordance with approved plans.

The minister also urged motorists to follow traffic instructions near construction sites to ensure their safety and protect the workers.

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



The Iranian regime has sown the wind and it shall reap the whirlwind

THE Iranian expansionist vision now resembles a dying bull in its final throes before total collapse.

In the region, the once-vibrant Arab capitals have been turned into desolate graveyards and mounds of rubble, testifying to a legacy of utter devastation.

The cost is visible everywhere: Yemen, once known as "happy Yemen," has been reduced to ruins and used as a staging ground for violence, Iraq sees its sovereignty compromised, while its national wealth funds the conflicts of Wali Al-Faqih, Lebanon suffers in a collapsed situation, hijacked national sovereignty, and an economy crushed by militant terror, Syria lies fractured, its people's blood spilled just to protect the influence of Tehran, and Iran does not offer a sanctuary.

The Iranian populace, enduring hardship and repression, bears the burden of the regime's reckless pursuits, a regime that opted to spread turmoil, instead of pushing towards national development. As its initiative disintegrates and its affiliates fall one after another, the regime is plunged into chaos. It strikes the Gulf states, fueled by an unreasonable thirst for revenge—a primitive and outdated mindset clashing with growth and knowledge initiatives. These states are targeted, because they embody a successful contrast. They are characterized by economic success, political order and a promising future.

- **Its expansionist project is now like a slaughtered bull, thrashing about in its final throes.**
- **It has turned the once-vibrant Arab capitals into open graveyards.**
- **A tale of devastation: Gaza, left alone amidst the flames.**
- **Lebanon, its situation and economy have collapsed under the weight of the weaponry of terror.**
- **Syria has been torn apart and the blood of the innocent has been shed to safeguard Tehran's influence.**
- **Yemen—once "happy"—has been destroyed and transformed into a launch pad for death.**
- **Iraq, its sovereignty violated, its wealth drained to fund futile wars.**
- **People pay the price for the reckless adventures of a regime that opted to export its crises.**
- **If one perceives a flaw—no matter how minor, one should mark it with a red sign.**
- **He decided to abandon painting, believing the canvas had become too wretched to continue.**
- **Many see the flaws clearly, yet true reformers are rare.**
- **Within our souls lie superfluous spaces that have no meaning.**

It is akin to the final struggles of a venture birthed from turmoil—a venture that thrives on chaos. Nevertheless, history delivers its own judgment, such that, those who sow the wind will harvest the storm.

Recognizing the flaw, lacking the solution

An artist once created a painting, believing it is the most exquisite piece ever made. Eager to provoke thought, he displayed it in a public area with a sign above it: "If you notice any flaw, no matter how minor, please point it out with a red mark."

Upon returning in the evening, he was dismayed to see the painting marred by numerous red marks, showing various imperfections, up to the point that the original artwork was entirely hidden.

Feeling devastated by the perceived failure of his painting, he sought advice from his mentor and contemplated abandoning art altogether. However, the mentor suggested that he change the message.

He recreated the painting and put it in the same location, but this time, he included some paint and a brush, along with the new message: "If you see a flaw, please take the brush and fix it." For days, no one approached the painting, leaving it untouched.

When he returned to his mentor to inquire about this, the mentor explained, "Many people can identify flaws in everything, but those who take action to correct them are few."

This is human nature. We readily point out mistakes and enjoy criticizing, yet solutions are seldom offered.

Get rid of what troubles you

A message popped up on my phone: "You need to clear some space, your memory is full, which could lead to malfunctioning of applications."

This made me reflect and ask, "What if we took the time to eliminate the unnecessary burdens in our souls—painful memories, harmful emotions, bad habits, envy, grudges and resentment that drain our energy, or even toxic friends and discouraging colleagues who just move around without adding value?"

If we could remove everything that weighs us down, would it not be far more crucial to nurture our inner selves and cleanse them of impurities than to focus on our phones?

Wearing your favorite clothes multiple times is completely acceptable, having an older phone than your friends is not a defect, and returning home as an adult is nothing to be embarrassed about, as your family genuinely cares for your well-being. There is no disgrace in doing any job to support yourself and your loved ones, the real disgrace comes from being overly concerned with satisfying others.

Customs intercepts 12.2 kg of suspected synthetic drugs

PAFN seizes, destroys 107 kg of adulterated food

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Customs inspectors from the Air Cargo Customs Department of the General Administration of Customs (GAC) seized 22 containers of a liquid suspected to be the synthetic drug known as "Chemical" in two separate incidents, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The total weight of the seized substances was approximately 12.255 kilograms.

In a press release, GAC explained that the seizures took place during routine inspections of incoming mail, when inspectors raised suspicions about two postal shipments.

An inspection of the first shipment, labeled as containing "plant extracts," led to the seizure of 12 containers weighing approximately 6.700 kilograms.

The second shipment contained 10 containers labeled as shampoo, with a total weight of approximately 5.555 kilograms.

GAC stated that, in coordination with the Customs Investigation and Research Office and the Drug Control General Department at the Ministry of Interior, the two individuals involved in the shipments were apprehended. Separate reports were filed for each incident, and the seized items will be referred to the relevant authorities for further legal action.

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PAFN issues 19 violations: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has issued 19 violation reports and seized and destroyed 107 kilograms of adulterated food products of unknown origin during a joint inspection campaign in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign was carried out by PAFN's Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Inspection Department in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The inspection drive is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen oversight of food establishments, ensure compliance with regulations, and protect consumer health.

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KFF issues kitchen safety warning: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) recently published an awareness video on its official X account highlighting essential kitchen safety and preventive measures, along with proper procedures for handling household fires and gas leaks, reports Al-Anba daily

It affirmed that the initiative aims to raise safety awareness and reduce household accidents.

KFF warned that improper handling of cooking oil fires can cause flames to intensify and spread, stressing that water must never be used to extinguish such fires. Instead, it recommended using a fire blanket or covering the source of the flames with a wet blanket to cut off the oxygen supply.

If a fire becomes uncontrollable, residents must evacuate the area immediately and call the emergency hotline at 112.

Regarding gas leaks, KFF stressed the importance of shutting off the gas supply and disconnecting it from the cooking appliance or stove. It also emphasized the need to ventilate the area by opening windows and doors to allow the gas to disperse.

KFF urged residents to evacuate buildings when necessary and stay away from potential sources of ignition.

It reiterated that if the situation cannot be brought under control or the gas leak continues, the emergency hotline at 112 must be contacted immediately.

KFF highlighted that following preventive safety guidelines and responding appropriately during the first few minutes of a household emergency can help protect lives and property and minimize losses caused by fires and gas leaks.

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PAFN flags imported fish for violations: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), represented by the Capital Inspection Department, seized 940 kilograms of fish deemed unfit for human consumption after detecting changes in their natural properties, including color, appearance, and odor, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAFN stated that a violation report was issued against the importing company and that the entire seized quantity was documented for destruction.

Jleeb clearance gains momentum as Governor inspects progress

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser Al-Sabah conducted a field inspection in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on Wednesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Director of the Kuwait Municipality branch in Farwaniya Governorate Eng. Nawaf Abdulaziz Al-Kandari, member of the Central Operations Team at the Office of the Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Mohammad Al-Jalawi, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Commander Colonel Mohammad Saleh Al-Enezi, and officials from the ministries of Interior and Municipality Affairs warmly welcomed the governor.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the progress of removal operations in the area.

The governor praised the efforts of the relevant authorities to clear the area, which is one of the leading sustainable development projects in the country. He said the removal operations are considered a crucial and historic step towards improving the condition of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

He lauded the government's initiatives, spearheaded by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, and stressed the necessity of continuing the work in accordance with the directives of the political leadership.

He added this is in line with the vision to transform the area into a sustainable and modern site in the interest of the public, reflecting the esteemed reputation and image of the State of Kuwait.

National Carabinieri Association meets Kuwait Retired Officers Association





Top and above: Photos from the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: A fruitful meeting between the National Carabinieri Association and the Retired Officers Association of Kuwait was held on the morning of Nov 17, 2026, at the Citizen Service Center in Al-Siddiq.

Hosted at the Diwaniya of the Retired Officers Association, the gathering provided an opportunity for representatives of both organizations to exchange views, share professional experiences and discuss their respective roles and responsibilities.

The meeting highlighted the value of exchanging knowledge and expertise, particularly in areas related to their core duties and professional fields.

The event concluded with an exchange of gifts between representatives of the two associations, symbolizing their mutual respect and goodwill.





A photo from the event.

Farwaniya Governor and Education officials discuss school maintenance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with Eng. Jamal Al-Aiban Al-Mutairi, Maintenance Supervisor for Engineering Affairs at the Farwaniya Educational District and a member of the Farwaniya Governorate Council representing the Ministry of Education, at his office in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Eng. Nawaf Al-Barrak of the Engineering Affairs Department at Farwaniya Educational District accompanied Al-Mutairi in the meeting.

They discussed issues related to maintenance operations and engineering affairs in the educational district and ways to strengthen cooperation in improving the quality of educational services.

The governor stressed the importance of cooperation between the governorate and other government agencies. He commended the ministry, along with its engineering and technical teams, for their tremendous efforts in supervising maintenance works and upgrading educational facilities. He said these efforts greatly contribute to the development of the learning environment and in better serving the students, as well as the teaching and administrative personnel.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Al-Mutairi and Al-Barrak presented a commemorative plaque to the governor in recognition of his contributions, cooperation and unwavering support.

SAB grants conditional approval for Umm Al-Hayman consultancy contract

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has granted conditional approval for the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects' (KAPP) contract to conduct consultancy studies related to the subscription and transfer of shares allocated to citizens in the Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Company.

KAPP had previously obtained approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award the contract to a bidder that met the required specifications and conditions, at a total cost of KD 295,000.

The plant project, implemented by the Ministry of Public Works in cooperation with KAPP, is considered the second major experience in promoting public-private partnerships, following the first phase of the Al-Zour North Power Plant project.

The plant is the largest of its kind in the southern region and the first in Kuwait to operate using an integrated renewable energy system.

Biogas produced by the plant is used to generate 50 percent of the electricity required for its operations. The facility treats 500,000 cubic meters of wastewater daily, with the capacity to expand to 700,000 cubic meters per day.

Kuwait, Finland explore cooperation on AI, teacher training and curricula

Minister of Education visits Helsinki



KUNA photo

A photo from the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): Minister of Education Sayyid Jalal Al-Tabtabaei stressed the importance of benefiting from international expertise and establishing high-quality educational partnerships.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Tabtabaei explained that these efforts are aimed at supporting the ongoing reform and advancement of the education sector, helping build a more effective educational system capable of adapting to future developments, and safeguarding the national identity and educational principles of the Kuwaiti society. He revealed that his official visit to Helsinki, Finland on Nov 16-19 at the invitation of the Finnish Ministry of Education falls within this framework. He said the visit seeks to examine leading Finnish educational experiences and practices, in addition to exploring prospects for cooperation and exchanging expertise in areas of mutual interest in the education sector.

At the beginning of his visit, accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Hamad Al-Hamad, Al-Tabtabaei met with Director General of the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) Olli-Pekka Heinonen (referred to in the text as Kurt Torsell).

The meeting, attended by a number of agency officials and specialists, included a presentation on the Finnish education system and the approaches adopted in developing national curricula. Participants also discussed incorporating digital tools and artificial intelligence technologies into the educational process.

During the meeting, Al-Tabtabaei reaffirmed the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education's keenness to benefit from successful international educational models and broaden partnerships with specialized educational institutions, with a view to advancing educational development initiatives in Kuwait.

He highlighted the importance of examining international practices, evaluating their relevance to national requirements and adapting suitable approaches to the particular characteristics of Kuwait's educational environment and its teaching objectives. He also stressed the need to keep pace with rapid technological developments and provide students with the knowledge and competencies necessary to meet future demands.

He talked about the main initiatives of his ministry to modernize curricula from kindergarten through Grade Nine, putting emphasis on developing digital capabilities and incorporating artificial intelligence and cybersecurity concepts into the learning process.

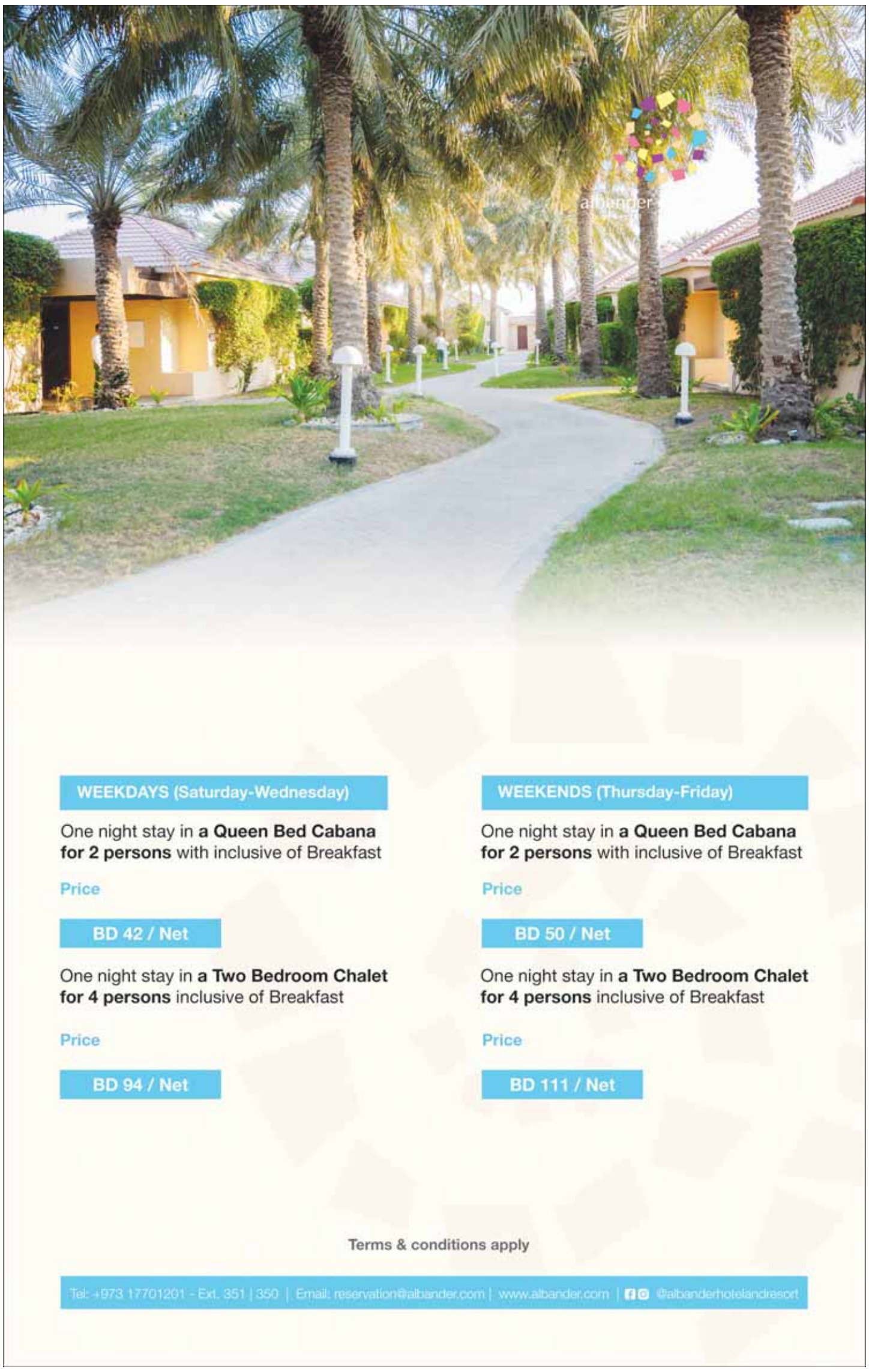
The meeting also touched on Finland's methodology for designing and implementing national curricula, along with the contribution of educational institutions to improving the overall quality of education.

Discussions covered the areas of potential cooperation, including the exchange of teaching expertise, the introduction of professional development and capacity-building programs, and the enhancement of educational competencies.

Al-Tabtabaei underscored the importance of benefiting from Finland's experience in teacher preparation, particularly its emphasis on practical field training and combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on application. He said this approach is consistent with the strategic plans of his ministry to improve teacher preparation and qualification systems, while raising professional competency standards and enhancing the quality of educational performance.

The minister and his accompanying delegation also visited Viikki Teacher Training School, which is affiliated with the University of Helsinki.

During the visit, they looked into the approach of the school regarding teacher preparation and practical qualification, as well as the procedures for integrating academic studies with hands-on training in a school setting.





Department Director Eng Abdullah Al-Duaijani during the session.

MoE trains staff to improve certificate equivalency services

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Foreign Certificate Equivalency Department in the Private Education General Department at the Ministry of Education on Tuesday organized a refresher course for its staff under the supervision of Department Director Eng. Abdullah Al-Duaijani, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The course aimed to develop the professional competencies of the employees, standardize work procedures and improve the accuracy of certificate equivalency assessments. It is part of the strategy of the ministry to enhance institutional performance and raise the standard of services.

During the session, Al-Duaijani stressed the importance of strictly complying with the requirements and regulations on certificate equivalency and ensuring that applicants submit complete documentation with their applications.

He also underscored the need for precision in calculating percentage grades and verifying information, emphasizing that all procedures must be thorough and fully consistent with the applicable rules and regulations.

He explained that service quality should not be measured by speed alone, but also by compliance with professional standards and the careful implementation of established procedures.

He urged the employees to maintain professionalism, flexibility and composure when dealing with applicants, welcoming them courteously and responding constructively to their inquiries. He said such conduct projects a positive image of the ministry and boosts public confidence in its services. He added that clear and standardized procedures are fundamental to ensuring fairness and transparency. "Applying these measures limits dependence on individual discretion and prevents inconsistencies in how regulations are interpreted or implemented, thereby, guaranteeing equal treatment and opportunities for all applicants," he explained.

He added that such practices also ensure faster transaction processing and reduce errors, hence, improving institutional efficiency while providing employees with a clear and unified reference to guide their work and decision-making.

The training course is part of a series of initiatives undertaken by the Private Education General Department to develop staff capabilities, instill professional discipline and modernize workplace procedures. These efforts are in line with the objectives of the ministry to improve administrative performance, simplify procedures and upgrade public services.

PAAET tender raises concerns over financial reform, spending control

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The government continues to reinforce safeguards for public funds and eliminate waste in state institutions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal is pushing for such efforts to rationalize expenditures and strengthen transparency and governance in the educational sector under his supervision.

However, certain developments surrounding the awarding of a major project have raised serious questions about the extent to which some executive officials are complying with directives aimed at financial and administrative reform.

Reliable sources disclosed to the newspaper the details regarding Tender No. HE/SHAM/2019/2020/43 on the construction, completion, operation and maintenance of a branch of the College of Technological and Commercial Studies in Sabah Al-Ahmad, under the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

Sources said the deadline for submitting bids for the tender was set for Nov 5, 2025, but the awarding process took an unexpected turn when one company submitted the lowest bid of KD83,888,000.

They indicated that although the company appeared to be the leading contender as per public tender regulations, it was taken by surprise when the contract was awarded to another firm that ranked third in terms of price despite the huge difference between its offer and the lowest bid.

They revealed that the company with the lowest offer lodged a formal objection to the decision to withdraw the contract award, arguing that no clear grounds were provided for the move.

"Despite asserting its legal right to challenge the decision, the company saw the project owner proceed with cancelling the tender and announcing a new one," sources added.

Sources went on to say that the most striking development came during the second tendering process, when the contract was awarded to a company that ranked fifth, submitting a bid of KD104,800,000 — KD20,912,000 higher than the original lowest offer. "Such a substantial price difference translates into an additional financial burden of more than KD20,912,000 for a single project.


Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Saud Al-Farhan, Sheikh Khalifa, and Sheikh Ahmed Salah Al-Nasser


Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali, Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, Sheikh Ahmed Salah Al-Nasser, former ambassadors Sulaiman Al-Murjan and Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, and Anwar Al-Yaseen

Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled hosts diwaniya pioneers


Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah with Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, his son Sheikh Khalifa, and Sheikh Ahmed Salah Al-Nasser

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled hosted a gathering for the pioneers of his diwaniya in Shamiya with prominent figures, community members and friends in attendance, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, where guests engaged in cordial discussions regarding general matters and topics of local interest.

In his welcoming address, Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled affirmed that the Kuwaiti diwaniya remains essential to the Kuwaiti society. It is a vital platform for dialogue, social connection, and the exchange of ideas that reinforces unity and affection among its people.


Sheikh Mishal Abdullah Al-Jaber, Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, the Italian Ambassador, and Ahmed Al-Oqab


Brigadier General (Ret.) Yousef Al-Majed, Major General (Ret.) Ibrahim Al-Jalal, and Faisal Al-Shaalan


Sheikh Ahmad Salah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Satam Al-Jalal


Drar Al-Ghanim, Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, and Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed Abu El-Wafa

Continued from Page 1

Déjà vu

level of readiness, the Ministry of Defense said in a press release.

The minister commended the efforts exerted by army personnel, lauding their dedication, sincerity, and devotion in doing their military duties, according to the release.

Elsewhere, the Bahraini Foreign Ministry expressed Wednesday its emphatic condemnation of the renewed Iranian attacks on the Kingdom and Kuwait as a flagrant violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity and a direct threat to the lives of civilians.

In a press release, the ministry said that the renewed Iranian attacks on both countries represent a serious escalation that undermines de-escalation efforts and violates the United Nations Charter, international law, and the principles of good neighborliness.

The ministry lauded the efficiency of the Bahrain Defense Force and the Kuwaiti Armed Forces in confronting and thwarting these attacks.

It underlined the Kingdom's full solidarity with the State of Kuwait and its support for all measures it may take to safeguard its sovereignty and security, reaffirming the inherent right of both countries to self-defense, independently and collectively, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and the Joint Defense Agreement of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The ministry called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to take on its due responsibilities and decide resolute measures to compel Iran to immediately cease its aggression, interferences and threats to navigation and its support for its proxy groups.

It also called on the UNSC to bring Tehran to accountability and force it to provide reparations as per international law, Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), and Human Rights Council Resolution (61/1), in order to maintain regional and international peace and security.

The United Arab Emirates on Wednesday condemned in the strongest terms the Iranian drone attack that targeted Kuwait.

In a statement, the UAE Foreign Ministry said the attack constituted a flagrant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and posed a threat to its security and stability.

The ministry reaffirmed the UAE's full solidarity with Kuwait and its support for all measures to safeguard the country's security and stability.

Qatar on Wednesday condemned in the strongest terms the renewed Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, calling them a flagrant violation of both countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a statement, Qatar's Foreign Ministry said the attacks also violated international law, the United Nations Charter and the principles of good neighborliness.

The ministry said the continued attacks marked a dangerous escalation that could complicate efforts to contain tensions and undermine political and diplomatic efforts to achieve regional security and stability.

The ministry reaffirmed Qatar's full solidarity with Kuwait and Bahrain and its support for all measures the two countries take to safeguard their sovereignty and security.

Arab League Secretary General Nabil Fahmy on Wednesday condemned the Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, calling the repeated attacks a flagrant violation of both countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Fahmy said in an Arab League statement that the attacks threatened both countries' security and stability and violated the principles of good neighborliness and respect for state sovereignty.

He also condemned the attack on a vessel belonging to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) as it transited the Strait of Hormuz, expressing concern over continued threats to freedom of navigation in regional waterways.

Fahmy said the increasing frequency and widening scope of Iranian attacks on Arab countries reflected a pattern of escalation that risked broadening the confrontation, with serious security and political consequences at the regional and international levels.

He warned that continued attacks could undermine security and stability, stressing that the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait and Bahrain were integral to Arab national security.

Fahmy reaffirmed his full solidarity with Kuwait and Bahrain and said any infringement on their sovereignty or territorial integrity posed a direct threat to regional security and stability.

He stressed the need to protect maritime security and safeguard regional and international interests, including those of the United Arab Emirates.

Fahmy urged the UN Security Council to fulfill its responsibilities and act urgently to ensure full implementation of its resolutions, particularly Resolution 2817 (2026).

The Arab Parliament on Wednesday vehemently condemned the heinous Iranian aggressions targeting Kuwait with drones, which were efficiently intercepted by the country's air defense system.

In a press release, the Cairo-based parliament decried that these aggressions constitute a serious violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and blatant defiance of international law and the United Nations (UN) Charter.

It underlined that it fully stands by the State of Kuwait, its leadership, government and people, and it absolutely backs all measures it may take to safeguard its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity, based on its legitimate right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The Arab Parliament warned that any infringement on the State of Kuwait's security is considered an infringement on the entire Arab national security.

Wars ... blockades

The number facing catastrophic hunger increased more than ninefold over the same period.

He recalled that the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2417 in 2018, recognizing the link between armed conflict and food insecurity and famine.

The resolution strongly condemned the use of civilian starvation as a method of warfare and the unlawful denial of humanitarian access.

Al-Bannai called on parties to comply with international humanitarian law, facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access, and refrain from targeting civilians and facilities essential to food production and distribution.

He noted that Resolution 2417 requests the UN Secretary-General to promptly inform the Security Council of any risk of conflict-induced famine or widespread food insecurity.

In a separate statement delivered in his national capacity, Al-Bannai said using food diplomacy to prevent conflicts requires safeguarding supply chains and maritime routes.

He pointed out that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz demonstrated how disruptions to navigation can threaten food security across the Arab region and beyond.

Disruptions to urea and other fertilizer shipments, higher shipping costs and interruptions to natural gas supplies used in fertilizer production have increased agricultural costs, he said.

These developments adversely affect crop yields and food prices, particularly in import-dependent countries.

Al-Bannai reiterated Kuwaits condemnation of Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, obstruction of international navigation, and attacks and threats targeting commercial and transport vessels.

He urged Iran to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 2817 and immediately cease actions and threats obstructing lawful transit passage or freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, or threatening maritime security in Bab Al-Mandeb.

He underscored the importance of respecting navigational rights and freedoms under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Regarding Gaza, Al-Bannai strongly condemned restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation on the entry of humanitarian aid and essential supplies into the territory, warning that they systematically exacerbate hunger and civilian suffering.

He called for the immediate lifting of these restrictions and the rapid, safe and unimpeded delivery of aid on a large scale.

On Sudan, Al-Bannai expressed grave concern over the growing risk of famine in parts of Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan.

He called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, unhindered cross-border and frontline humanitarian access, and safe conditions for farmers to cultivate their land.

He also urged urgent action to address acute hunger in Yemen, Somalia, Lebanon and Syria.

Farwaniya checks

The Kuwait Fire Force issued 133 formal notices and closed 102 facilities.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality placed 204 warning stickers, removed 107 abandoned vehicles, issued 22 citations for the unauthorized use of public spaces, and cleared debris and scrap materials equivalent to 10 truckloads.

The Public Authority for Manpower issued three citations against street vendors, while the Ministry of Commerce and Industry recorded 61 enforcement, inspection, and closure reports.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy disconnected power to 36 locations, while the Environment Public Authority issued seven citations and the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition issued 18 citations.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that the necessary legal measures had been taken against those arrested.

The Ministry of Interior also announced the arrest of four Asian expatriates in connection with three separate drug-related cases, and the seizure of various narcotics and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and personal use.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Drug Control General Department, seized a total of 250 sheets of the narcotic substance known as Chemical, 1.5 kilograms of marijuana, 510 grams of methamphetamine (shabu), 150 grams of hashish, and 250 Lyrica capsules. They also confiscated three precision scales and a quantity of empty bags.

One of the suspects, a Bangladeshi national, who was arrested in Farwaniya, revealed that an individual outside the country had been supplying him with the seized substances.

The suspects and confiscated items were referred to the relevant authorities for the necessary legal procedures.

In Mahboula, an Asian national for concealing narcotics in several locations across a sandy lot in preparation for distributing and selling them.

According to an official statement issued by the ministry, the arrest was made by security patrols from the Ahmadi Security Directorate during routine operations in the area. Officers spotted the suspect hiding drugs in different locations across the sandy lot as part of an indirect distribution method designed to avoid direct contact with buyers.

The suspect was immediately arrested, and the seized narcotics were confiscated. He was referred to the relevant authorities for legal action.

The Ministry of Interior reaffirmed its commitment to combating drug-related crimes, pursuing drug dealers, and taking legal action against those involved in activities that threaten public safety.

Senator vows AI hearings after watchdogs get platforms to plan terrorist attacks

House Dem targets Trump family, top officials in early steps toward investigations

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): The top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee is laying the groundwork for long-promised investigations into the Trump administration that will launch with the new Congress in January.

Rep. Robert Garcia of California, who is expected to lead the House Oversight Committee when Democrats take control, sent letters directing members of President Donald Trump's family and top administration officials to preserve documents, an early step toward launching investigations into the president and his administration.

The letters, released Wednesday, cover a wide range of potential investigations, including alleged financial conflicts involving Trump's family, misconduct at the Department of Homeland Security and the administration's handling of files related to Jeffrey Epstein.

"Oversight Democrats are fighting to put an end to this Administration's self-dealing, misconduct, and abuse," Garcia said in a statement. "These investigations will lay the groundwork for legislation which helps all Americans. This is just the beginning."

Targets of the letters include two of Trump's sons, Vice President JD Vance, White House chief of staff Stephen Miller, Attorney General Todd Blanche and Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law.

The letters offer an early glimpse of how Democrats plan to use their newly won congressional majority to scrutinize Trump and his administration. As favorable election results rolled in for Democrats on the night of the midterms, Garcia posted a two-word warning on social media: "Lawyer up."

The preservation notices do not compel recipients to turn over documents, but they signal the investigations Democrats intend to pursue once they gain control of the committee and its subpoena power in January.

Before the midterms, Garcia outlined several areas Democrats would scrutinize, including the administration's handling of the Epstein investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations and potential financial conflicts involving Trump's family.

The letters to Eric Trump, Donald Trump Jr. and Kushner seek to preserve documents related to alleged conflicts of interest and their business dealings. Garcia also sent notices to former ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle and former Homeland Security secretary Kristi Noem over separate allegations of misconduct and financial conflicts.



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

The letters to Vance and Blanche focus on the administration's handling of files related to Epstein, including allegations by Democrats that White House officials sought to conceal information and manage the political fallout from the investigation.

The moves come as the White House has increasingly warned Garcia and other Democrats that their planned investigations into the Trump administration may open them up to investigations from the Justice Department.

Last week, White House counsel Will Scharf said in a letter to Garcia that "threats to executive branch officials designed to deter them from public service, or process designed merely to abuse or instill fear in the recipient may cross the line into blatant criminality."

The investigative powers of Congress are well established, inherent in its constitutional authority as a check on the other branches of government. Modern US history is filled with congressional probes and their aftermath, from the Watergate investigation to the 9/11 attacks to Republicans' more recent look into President Joe Biden's family.

Also:

WASHINGTON: The incoming chair of the Senate Homeland Security Committee is preparing hearings on AI after government watchdogs found the four most-used platforms - ChatGPT, **Claude**, **Gemini** and **Grok** - all created proposals for a terrorist attack in the US when prompted by investigators.

Sen. **Maggie Hassan**, D-N.H., who will helm the panel in the new year, tasked the Government Accountability Office with investigating how commercially available AI could be used for malicious purposes, posing national security risks.

According to a report released Wednesday, the GAO found that within 12 hours of its covert testing, the platforms were able to create viable plans to use explosive devices for attacks with mass casualties in U.S. cities or to attack parts of the nation's electrical grid to create economic harm.

"We need to act now," Hassan said on a conference call with reporters.

The senator announced that one of the first hearings she will hold when the new Congress takes over in January will focus on AI risks and ways to improve safety.

"The AI public safety threat is no longer theoretical," Hassan said in a statement. "If Congress does not act, it is a question of when - not if - a bad actor will use AI to plan and carry out a major attack."

Trump meets longtime friend Imelda Marcos

49th ASEAN Summit concludes in Philippines

MANILA, Nov 18, (Agencies): The 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Summits concluded on Tuesday evening.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. of the Philippines, the rotating chair of ASEAN this year, said ASEAN should continue to "strengthen peace and stability, bring our economies closer, and expand protections and opportunities for our people."

Marcos handed over the ASEAN chairmanship for 2027 to Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.

In his remarks, Wong said, "Singapore has chosen deeper integration, wider partnerships as the theme for our chairmanship."

"We must take further steps towards a single ASEAN market where businesses can set up and operate more seamlessly across borders," he said, adding wider partnerships ensure "Southeast Asia remains the region where all countries can engage and cooperate."

Established in 1967, ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Timor-Leste. The year 2027 will mark the 60th anniversary of the regional bloc.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday reunited with longtime friend Imelda Marcos, the widow of an ousted dictator and mother of the incumbent Philippine president, who is known for her vast shoe collection.

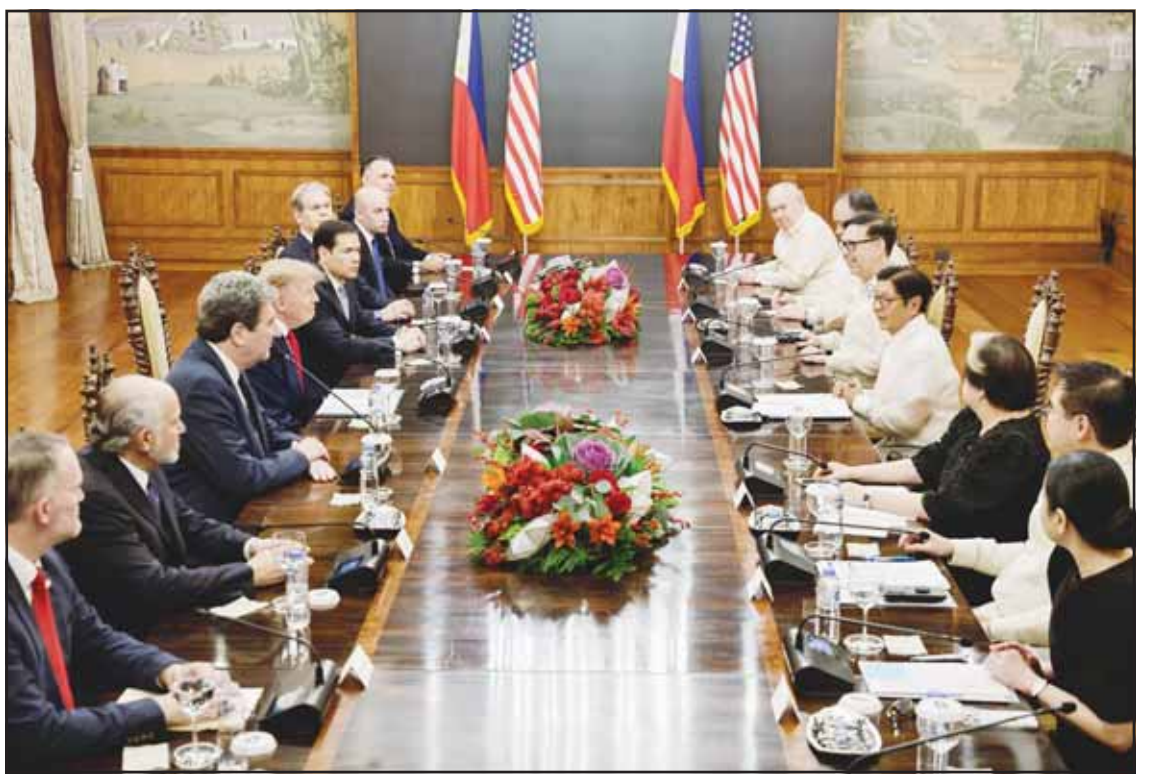
The brief meeting took place in the Philippine capital Manila at the Malacanang presidential palace, where Trump held a bilateral meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who received him with a red-carpet welcome and full military honors, Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez said.

Trump arrived in Manila on Tuesday night to join leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in their annual summit meetings with major Asian and Western counterparts. In a speech before ASEAN and other Asian leaders over dinner Tuesday, Trump praised Marcos and his parents.

"I just don't wanna date myself, but I knew your parents very well," Trump said, addressing the Philippine president. "They were great. I believe in genetics and they did a good job."

Romualdez, who was among the Philippine officials who met Trump at the presidential palace Wednesday, did not immediately provide details of the meeting between the U.S. leader and Imelda Marcos.

Now using a wheelchair at age 97, the former jet set Philippine first lady, who many remember for her enormous shoe collection in a poverty-stricken Southeast Asian country, partied in New York decades ago in her heyday as the controversial wife of a strongman leader. She met Trump during one of those parties.



President Donald Trump, (fourth left), and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., (fourth right), lead their delegations during a bilateral meeting at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila, Philippines on Nov 18. (AP)



People attend a rally titled 'November 17th for Change' organized by the opposition Progressive Slovakia (PS) party during the 37th anniversary of the pro-democratic Velvet Revolution, in Bratislava, Slovakia on Nov 17. (AP)

Rwanda seen in Europe as ideal destination for rejected migrants

KAMPALA, Uganda, Nov 18, (AP): A group of five European countries is planning to create a "return hub" in Rwanda where rejected asylum seekers could be sent as part of efforts to deter more people from entering Europe.

Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands are in talks with the United Nations refugee agency about ensuring the proposal complies with international human rights standards. No agreement has been signed.

Once again, Rwanda has emerged as a potential partner for European governments seeking often controversial solutions to unwanted migration.

In 2022, Rwanda struck a pact with the British government to take migrants arriving in Britain as stowaways or in small boats crossing the English Channel. The Supreme Court in London ruled in 2023 that the policy was unlawful because Rwanda was not a safe third country for migrants sent there.

After Britain scrapped the deal, which included payments to Rwanda to help cover costs, Rwanda brought a case at the Permanent Court of Arbitration alleging breaches of the agreement. A panel of international arbitrators in June rejected a multimillion-dollar claim by Rwanda against the U.K.

Rwanda's interior minister, Vincent Biruta, said in a statement Monday that the new proposed partnership with Europe "will ultimately save lives by helping to stop criminal human smugglers who profit from migrants making desperate, dangerous journeys." He described Rwanda as "a welcoming country for refugees and migrants" who may have nowhere else to go.



Rwanda's Interior Minister Vincent Biruta and Austria's Chancellor Christian Stocker brief the media after talks at the migration conference in Vienna, Austria on Nov 16. (AP)

The European nations, meanwhile, said Rwanda "has established itself as a reliable and responsible partner in addressing the global challenges of migration and forced displacement."

Here's a look at why Rwanda, one of Africa's smallest and most densely populated countries, keeps emerging as a destination for deportees:

Rwanda's government has a reputation for efficiency and little tolerance for petty corruption in its bureaucracy.

It tells investors, for example, that they can set up a company in a single day, projecting an image of efficiency considered rare in the region.

Slovakians rally against PM Fico

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia, Nov 18, (Agencies): Thousands in Slovakia took to the streets Tuesday to rally against the government of pro-Russian Prime Minister Robert Fico on the anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution that brought an end to decades of communist rule in what was then Czechoslovakia.

Opposition parties organized the protests in dozens of communities across the country, where Fico remains Europe's most pro-Russian leader since Hungary's Viktor Orbán was ousted from power in April.

"We've had enough of Fico," chanted people in Bratislava, where organizers estimated 25,000 gathered in the downtown SNP square. One banner had a message for the prime minister: "Go to hell."

The capital's rally united the liberal groups Progressive Slovakia and the Democrats with pro-business Freedom and Solidarity, the conservative Christian Democrats and an alliance of ethnic Hungarians. Together they hope to defeat Fico and his coalition government in next year's parliamentary election.

Also:

PARIS: The turnout was down sharply on Tuesday at largely peaceful demonstrations across **France** marking a one-day strike called by public sector workers seeking pay rises.

Tuesday's strike, which was supported by high school and university students, was the third unified work stoppage in the public sector since the start of the school protests in September.

Ukrainian drones and missiles strike Kerch Bridge: Zelenskyy

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 18, (AP): Ukrainian drones and missiles struck the vital Kerch Bridge linking Russia to the occupied Crimean Peninsula, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday, calling it an "unprecedented" operation as Russia reported that its forces downed a record number of Ukrainian drones for the second straight day.

Zelenskyy portrayed the bridge operation as a masterstroke following a weekslong effort by Ukrainian forces to gradually wear down Russian air defenses before bombarding the prized target with a barrage of missiles and drones overnight.

Zelenskyy didn't detail the damage, but the Ukrainian General Staff said that an arch and a span of the bridge's road section collapsed, severing the road link, while the railway line was still standing but with a damaged arch.

Russia's Investigative Committee, the nation's top criminal investigation agency, said the bridge was attacked by drones and sustained damage but didn't elaborate.

The Kerch Bridge is a crucial link in moving military and civilian supplies from Russia to Crimea and for supporting troops on the front line. The construction of the bridge, a potent symbol of Russia's illegal annexation of the peninsula in 2014, was inflammatory to Ukrainians.

"The symbol of the occupation has cracked," the Ukrainian General Staff said in a statement.

Moscow's forces, meanwhile, fired ballistic missiles and drones at Kyiv, hitting two of the Ukrainian capital's main bridges and killing at least two people.

A recent escalation in aerial attacks came as Russia and Ukraine await a date for the next round of U.S.-mediated talks aimed at ending the war that began with Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbor on Feb. 24, 2022.

U.S. President Donald Trump says he plans to talk about the war in Ukraine during his highly anticipated meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in China this week.

The Kerch Bridge attack was the culmination of weeks of preparatory strikes over seven stages of the operation, Zelenskyy said on social media.

Ukrainian forces knocked out defense systems, radars, electronic warfare equipment and other designated targets before launching Monday night's final attack, he said.

Domestically developed long-range drones struck the bridge's road section during the night while Ukraine's Neptune missiles and other drones aimed at the rail section, he said. Precision-guided Flamingo missiles delivered the final blow, he said.

Lat/Am

Thousands demonstrate in Haiti: Thousands of people poured into the streets of Haiti's capital and beyond Tuesday to praise El Salvador's President **Nayib Bukele** and his troops as they fight gangs in the Caribbean nation.

Some clutched signs begging Bukele to not give up.

"Keep fighting … because otherwise, they'll end up killing us all," one sign read.

"Give them the drones and the dogs!" others yelled in reference to the explosive drones that have targeted areas controlled by powerful gangs and the newly unveiled robot dogs making their rounds in Port-au-Prince.



Bukele

By Tuesday night, Haitian Justice Minister Patrick Pélissier, who is in El Salvador, told reporters there was "no date" for the Salvadoran troops to leave, and that their support was necessary to reinforce Haitian police at least until elections are held next year. He said they would work on establishing a legal framework so Salvadoran forces can stay longer. Meanwhile, Haiti's government announced that the Council of Ministers ratified a cooperation deal between the two countries but did not provide specifics.

Last month, Bukele deployed some 2,500 troops to Haiti after four of their own came under attack on Oct. 18 and remain missing. Fighting between gangs and foreign forces backed by Haitian authorities has only increased since then as Haiti remains mired in violence, with more than 20,000 people killed in the past five years and gangs controlling an estimated 70% of Port-au-Prince.

That's why Maxseau Lomba joined Tuesday's march. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Top Puerto Rico govt official resigns: Puerto Rico's embattled secretary of the Department of Family announced Monday that she would resign by year's end as she denied corruption allegations swirling around her.

Lawmakers in the US territory had demanded for months that Suzanne Roig step down over the latest political scandal to hit the administration of Gov. Jenniffer González, which has seen several high-ranking officials resign or be fired in recent years.

Roig is under investigation by Puerto Rico's Senate, the island's Justice Department and its Office of the Inspector General.

In recent months, Blanca Medina Díaz, who was dismissed as head of the Administration for the Socioeconomic Development of the Family, which is within the department Roig oversees, publicly accused Roig of pressuring her to approve a nearly $40 million contract that Medina alleges was illegal and would have used federal funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. The alleged push came after Roig and other officials visited Louisiana. (AP)

Business

Kuwaiti oil price drops $4 to $81.73

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil fell USD 4 to USD 81.73 per barrel (pb) on Tuesday from USD 85.73 on Monday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

In global markets, Brent crude rose 70 cents to USD 93.14 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate gained 29 cents to USD 86.01 pb.

Sector unveils 'North Star' to cut costs and boost profits

KPC invests KD95 million to modernize Kuwait's oil sector



Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah tours exhibition during forum.





Highlights from Kuwait's Oil Sector Digital Transformation Forum 2026.

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah announced that the corporation invested more than KD95 million in its digital portfolio over the past four years.

Speaking at the Kuwait Digital Transformation in the Oil Sector Forum, he revealed that the investment is for the establishment of an integrated, intelligent and interconnected oil sector, in which technology is embedded in operational processes and asset management in order to contribute to greater value creation.

He also confirmed the launching of 'Polaris', a project named after the North Star and provides a unified framework for decision-making. He said the platform links all oil subsidiaries and ensures transparency at the executive level.

He talked about efforts to overhaul the operational structure of the corporation by bringing financial and human resources functions together on a single platform to strengthen transparency and enhance the efficiency of resource management.

He compared digital transformation to Archimedes' lever, describing it as a powerful instrument capable of moving the entire industry, particularly as the global energy landscape evolves and technology reshapes the ways energy resources are discovered, produced and refined. He stressed



Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah delivers His address at the forum.



KUNA photos

A view of the audience at Kuwait's Oil Sector Digital Transformation Forum 2026.

that digital transformation is a strategic imperative for meeting national responsibilities, while maintaining competitiveness, independence and operational agility. He said this has been evident over the past year, as fulfilling commitments to the nation and customers depends on making decisions swiftly and accurately based on reliable data.

He pointed out that information and data have emerged as vital national assets, carrying strategic value comparable to that of natural resources. "By making effective use of data and ensuring their protection, the corporation can advance its mission of sustainably maximizing the value of Kuwait's hydrocarbon resources and supporting the growth of the national economy," he added.

He indicated that as the sector looks ahead, it must recognize that the success of digital transformation is measured by the results it delivers -- safer operations, greater efficiency, improved decision-making and a skilled workforce equipped to meet future challenges. "Its success should be judged by the ability to maximize the value of Kuwait's natural resources and keep the oil sector competitive and prepared for an increasingly complex global business environment," he explained.

He stressed the need to reinforce digital governance within the KPC group to create an integrated digital economic ecosystem. He called for coordinated action among oil companies, government institutions, academic organizations and international technology providers to explore ideas, lay down solutions and turn partnerships into sustainable capabilities that generate business value.

Meanwhile, Deputy Managing Director for Sustainability at KPC Abdullah Al-Ayyar disclosed that the corporation hosted the first Digital Transformation Forum for the oil sector to showcase the latest developments in the field and the forum is expected to become an annual event.

He said the forum also witnessed the announcement of the 'North Star' (Najm Al-Shamal) project, which is designed to provide decision-makers in the oil sector with comprehensive data. He indicated that the project covers the entire oil value chain, extending from wells, production and refining to distribution and end customers. He stated that the initiative is expected to enhance performance, improve operational efficiency and substantially reduce costs. "It also supports efforts to increase profitability by equipping decision-makers with a comprehensive overview of operations, enabling them to make informed choices using accurate and up-to-date information," he clarified.

He considers the project one of the outcomes of the oil sector's ongoing digital transformation efforts and expressed confidence that it will positively influence performance and achievement levels in the period ahead.

He underscored the importance of organizing the forum every year, describing it as a platform for showcasing the contributions of KPC and its subsidiaries. "The event highlights the latest developments and challenges the sector is facing in its digital transformation journey, while giving partners and international companies an opportunity to exchange expertise and introduce advanced solutions and technologies that can address issues and help advance the corporation's strategy," he added.

Moreover, Bader Al-Attar, KPC's Managing Director of Planning and Finance, said the conference provides an opportunity for the oil sector to present its achievements.

He observed that the progress recorded by the sector and its subsidiaries is measurable and based on concrete results. He asserted that digital transformation is still at an early stage of implementation.

Al-Attar explained that the sector's digital transformation consists of several milestones rather than a single phase, with each stage delivering its own benefits and progress.

He also cited the extensive potential for applying technology throughout the industry, including exploration, drilling, refining, petrochemicals and transportation.

Training turns commitment into better services

KCCI and NLI host AI fundamentals workshop for representatives of 20 government entities



Official addresses the audience during the workshop.



Officials from around 20 government entities attend the AI leadership workshop organized by KCCI and NLI at KCCI headquarters.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), in collaboration with the National Leadership Institute (NLI), organized a workshop titled "Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals for Leaders" on Monday at the KCCI headquarters, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Officials representing about 20 government entities attended the workshop, which is part of the efforts of KCCI to raise awareness about artificial intelligence and create an environment that supports its integration into the Kuwaiti economy.

In his opening remarks, KCCI Director General Rabah Abdulrahman Al-Rabah revealed "our research and consultations with businesses showed that the successful use of artificial intelligence depends on leadership's understanding of its potential, limitations and risks. Preparing for such changes is in line with Kuwait's efforts to diversify its sources of growth, as the technology offers opportunities to increase productivity, improve services and create new economic activities. This understanding is important for government leaders, especially since the private sector has started to experiment with AI applications."

He affirmed that government and regulatory bodies play a pivotal role in creating an environment that enables businesses to develop initiatives by establishing clear frameworks which support innovation, regulate data usage and protection, and define responsibilities related to the use of such technology.

The workshop consisted of two sessions. The first was on prioritizing the development of government services based on the needs of beneficiaries, as well as the responsibility of government entities regarding decisions that affect individuals' rights and entitlements.

The second session focused on considerations for government entities before adopting new initiatives, including the expected benefits for beneficiaries and the organization's capacity for implementation and long-term sustainability.

Participants discussed strategies for data protection and methods for measuring service improvements before scaling up the implementation.

Reflecting on the workshop's impact, one participant pointed out that "the workshop helped us understand what we need to consider before adopting these technologies — specifically regarding data protection and the verification of information. We now have a clearer understanding of the areas where we can generate the greatest value for our organization and those who benefit from its services."

Regarding the role of this type of training, another participant said "Kuwait is taking significant steps toward developing digital services and upskilling government personnel. Workshops play a vital role in translating this commitment into tangible service improvements, as they allow leaders to discuss initiatives that are suitable for their respective organizations and what is required to ensure their success."

CanCham Kuwait launched to bridge business communities

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Embassy of Canada in Kuwait has officially launched the Canada-Kuwait Business Council (CKBC), also known as 'CanCham Kuwait', in a move aimed at strengthening economic and commercial ties between the two countries, encouraging investment and opening new avenues for cooperation in their respective business sectors.

The launch was announced during a reception hosted by Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Tara Scheurwater at her residence, with representatives of various entities involved in trade and investment in attendance.

CKBC serves as a common platform for Canadian and Kuwaiti companies, entrepreneurs and business leaders, providing opportunities for networking, exchanging expertise and promoting investment. Its primary objective is to translate the long-standing bilateral relationship into tangible commercial prospects.

The formation of the Council is significant in view of Canada's competitive advantages in several sectors like technology, education, energy, infrastructure, agriculture and advanced manufacturing.

It also complements the economic diversification strategy of Kuwait by building on the country's strategic position in the Gulf and its broad range of investment opportunities.

Debra Clark, one of the co-founders of the council, revealed that the vision behind its establishment extends beyond conventional networking and fostering business relationships. She explained that the objective is to bring companies together, encourage investment and transform professional connections into high-value business opportunities.

She pointed out that the dedication of the founding members, along with the support of Ambassador Scheurwater and the Canadian Embassy, provides a solid foundation for building a bridge between the two countries. She said this initiative aims to deepen trade relations, promote investment, push for development and education, drive economic growth and establish sustainable partnerships.

On the other hand, Ambassador Scheurwater welcomed the establishment of the council, emphasizing that it will open considerable prospects for strengthening business ties between Kuwait and Canada, in addition to broadening cooperation in trade, innovation and investment.

She is confident that this new phase in bilateral commercial relations will pave the way for successful partnerships, fresh opportunities and tangible economic gains for both countries.

Moreover, the Canadian Embassy reaffirmed its commitment to continue cooperating with the council, its founding members and the business communities in both countries, in support of its mission to strengthen trade and investment ties between Kuwait and Canada.



Group photo at the launch of CanCham Kuwait.

As part of its ongoing commitment to expanding innovative digital banking solutions

KIB launches Freeform Gold Account, bringing gold ownership to its mobile app

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) held a press conference to announce the launch of its new Freeform Gold Account, a digital gold ownership proposition that enables eligible customers to buy, hold, and sell gold through the KIB Mobile application. The launch forms part of the Bank's efforts to broaden its digital offering and provide customers with a simple and convenient way to own gold within its digital banking ecosystem and Sharia-compliant banking framework.

The account offers 24-karat Swiss gold with a purity of 999.9, allowing customers to purchase quantities ranging from as little as 0.1 grams up to 10 kilograms per transaction, subject to approved limits. Customers can open and manage their accounts entirely through the KIB Mobile app, buy and sell gold around the clock, and monitor their balances and transaction details directly through the app.

Commenting on the launch, Othman Tawfeqe, General Manager of Retail Banking at KIB, stated: "We launched the Freeform Gold Account as part of our commitment to expanding the options available to our customers and providing solutions that support their everyday financial needs, in line with our corporate slogan, 'Bank for Life.' By enabling customers to own gold starting from as little as 0.1 grams, we are giving them the opportunity to start with small quantities that suit their financial capabilities, without having to wait until they accumulate a large sum or purchase an entire gold bar."

He added: "The account allows customers to gradually build their gold holdings and add new quantities according to their budgets and priorities, with the flexibility to choose the amount and timing that best suit their needs. We offer this service as part of the established banking relationship between customers and KIB, built on standards of credibility, quality, and responsibility, further strengthening customers' confidence in their banking choices."

From his side, Mohammad Al-Duwailah, General Manager of Treasury at KIB, said: "Gold continues to hold a special position as one of the most trusted and valued assets among customers, given its established role in wealth diversification and long-term value preservation. Through the Freeform Gold Account, we at KIB aim to make gold ownership more accessible while adhering to clear and reliable standards for gold purity, pricing, and safekeeping. We view gold as one of the available options for diversifying savings, rather than the sole alternative to other forms of saving, while remaining committed to offering competitive prices and transparent information that helps customers make decisions aligned with their financial goals."

He added: "One of the account's key advantages is the level of clarity it provides customers throughout the various stages of gold ownership. Customers can view market-linked buying and selling prices before completing any transaction, giving them greater transparency when making their decisions. KIB also does not charge any additional fees on gold purchases beyond the purchase price displayed to customers. However, it is important to distinguish between buying and selling prices, as each transaction has its own applicable price. The value of gold holdings remains subject to fluctuations in market gold prices, with no fixed or guaranteed returns."

Meanwhile, Mohamed El-Shareef, General Manager of the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department at KIB, said: "We at KIB focus on developing solutions that combine ease of use with tangible value for our customers. From opening the account and buying or selling gold to monitoring their portfolios, all transactions are carried out entirely through the KIB Mobile app."



Right to left: Mohammad Al-Duwailah, Othman Tawfeqe, Mohamed El-Shareef, and Dr. Mohammed Al-Shamri

El-Shareef added: "Eligible KIB customers can open a Gold Account in approximately two minutes through the app, after completing the necessary requirements and agreeing to the terms and conditions, without the need to visit a branch. New customers can also join the Bank digitally and then open a Gold Account once they meet the eligibility requirements, making the experience more convenient and flexible."

The Freeform Gold Account is available to KIB individual customers aged 21 and above, subject to the Bank's approved terms and conditions.

In this context, Dr. Mohammed Al-Shamri, General Manager of the Internal Shariah Audit Department at KIB, affirmed: "All products and services offered by KIB are grounded in compliance with Islamic Sharia principles. The Freeform Gold Account has been designed in accordance with the Sharia requirements governing gold transactions and has undergone the required reviews and obtained the relevant Sharia approvals. The review covered aspects related to customers' ownership of gold, its safekeeping arrangements, and the Sharia requirements for possession and exchange in buying and selling transactions."

He added: "The account is based on a clear principle whereby customers make their own buying and selling decisions on their own behalf and for their own account. Upon completion of the purchase and transfer of gold ownership to the customer, the Bank, acting as the customer's agent, manages the operations relating to the account and safeguards the gold owned by the customer, in accordance with the approved arrangements. The customer's ownership of the gold is duly established, and the quantity owned is recorded in their account, enabling the customer to deal with the gold in accordance with the product's applicable mechanism. These arrangements ensure that the requirements for constructive possession (Qabd Hukmi) are met in accordance with the approved Sharia standards. They also clearly distinguish between the customer's ownership of the gold, the Bank's role in safeguarding it, and the processes through which transactions are executed."

When buying gold, customers select the desired quantity or value, review the applicable buy rate, and confirm the transaction within the available rate-booking window. Once completed, the purchased quantity is reflected in the customer's digital gold holding. When selling, customers select the quantity, review the applicable sell rate, and confirm the transaction digitally. The resulting amount is settled in Kuwaiti dinars to the relevant KIB account.

The Freeform Gold Account has been developed within KIB's Islamic banking framework and structured to be Sharia-compliant, providing customers with a digital way to own gold while maintaining the standards and principles that underpin the Bank's offerings.

It is worth noting that the launch of the Freeform Gold Account forms part of KIB's broader strategy to enhance customer experience and expand its digital banking capabilities through solutions that respond to evolving financial needs. In line with its "Bank for Life" slogan, KIB continues to develop products that combine innovation, convenience, and the principles of Islamic banking.



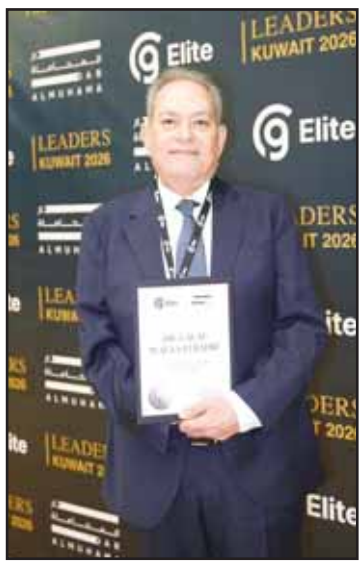
A snapshot from the press conference.

Recognition of NBK's legal excellence: El-Badri

NBK's Dr. El-Badri named among Kuwait's GC Elite Leaders for 2026



Dr. Galal Wafaa El-Badri poses with officials following the award presentation at the ceremony organized by GC Elite in partnership with Dar Al Muhama Law Firm in Kuwait.



Dr. Galal Wafaa El-Badri, General Counsel and Head of the Legal Affairs Group at National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), poses with his award.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: GC Elite has recognized Dr. Galal Wafaa El-Badri, General Counsel and Head of the Legal Affairs Group at National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), among the country's most distinguished in-house legal leaders in its prestigious GC Elite Leaders Kuwait 2026 list, through a peer-driven initiative celebrating professional excellence and leadership.

Dr. El-Badri was honored at an official ceremony organized by GC Elite in partnership with Dar Al Muhama Law Firm in Kuwait. The event celebrated outstanding General Counsel and senior in-house legal leaders who have demonstrated a tangible professional impact within their organizations and across Kuwait's broader business environment through their contributions to strengthening governance, compliance and risk management, supporting business sustainability, and actively shaping their organizations' strategic decisions and direction.

During the ceremony, the honorees received certificates of recognition in the presence of distinguished General Counsel and senior in-house legal leaders from across Kuwait.

El-Badri's selection followed an independent research and assessment process involving more than 250 senior in-house legal leaders in Kuwait. The evaluation drew on peer nominations and assessments, specialist market knowledge, and direct engagement with the in-house legal community to identify the country's most influential and accomplished legal leaders.

This recognition highlights Dr. El-Badri's professional standing and his role in strengthening NBK's governance framework, as well as his contributions to advancing the in-house legal profession and his active engagement with the wider legal community.

- El-Badri's selection follows an independent research and assessment process involving more than 250 senior in-house legal leaders in Kuwait
- The assessment focused on the professional impact of legal leaders within their organizations and their contributions to Kuwait's business environment

The GC Elite Leaders Kuwait 2026 list recognizes legal leaders who combine professional excellence with institutional influence, contributing to the adoption of best practices, strengthening legal and governance frameworks, and supporting business growth in Kuwait.

Commenting on the recognition, Dr. Galal El-Badri said: "We are delighted with this recognition, which reflects the collective efforts of NBK's Legal Affairs Group and underscores the increasingly important role of legal departments in supporting business sustainability and strengthening governance and compliance practices within organizations."

"This recognition is a testament to NBK's institutional approach to upholding the highest legal and regulatory standards and fostering a culture built on integrity, transparency, effective governance, and prudent risk management. It also underscores the importance of close collaboration between Legal Affairs and the Bank's various business divisions in enhancing decision-making efficiency and achieving institutional objectives," El-Badri added.

The recognition further reinforces NBK's longstanding commitment to upholding the highest standards of governance and compliance and strengthening its position as a leading financial institution in Kuwait and the region. It also reflects the Bank's distinguished standing in legal compliance and its commitment to adopting institutional best practices in accordance with the highest professional and regulatory standards.

NBK's Legal Affairs Group adopts a comprehensive strategy encompassing scenario planning, the assessment of contractual and operational frameworks, and the delivery of flexible legal solutions that respond to evolving regulatory and economic conditions, while continuously developing its operating models to ensure future readiness.

The Group also maintains close collaboration and coordination with various departments across the Bank, particularly Risk Management, Compliance, Information Technology, and Procurement. This integrated approach enables the provision of timely legal advice and equips senior management with clear legal perspectives to support well-informed strategic decision-making.

GC Elite is a global platform dedicated to recognizing outstanding in-house legal leaders and highlighting their contributions to business performance, governance, and institutional decision-making. Through its GC Elite Leaders initiative, the platform conducts research and recognition programs across international markets, showcasing the role of General Counsel and senior legal executives in creating institutional value and strengthening the strategic influence of the legal function within organizations.

Exclusive residences go up for rent

Al Habtoor Group appoints fäm Properties as exclusive leasing partner for iconic tower

DUBAI, Nov 18: Al Habtoor Group has signed an agreement with Dubai-based real estate agency fäm Properties, appointing the company as the exclusive leasing partner for a select portfolio of residences retained by the Group at Al Habtoor Tower, one of Dubai's prominent residential developments. Under the agreement, these residences will enter the rental market for the first time, offering prospective tenants the opportunity to experience living in one of the city's most recognisable residential developments.

Rising approximately 400 metres across 91 floors, Al Habtoor Tower comprises 1,740 residential units, making it the largest residential building in the world. The completed development combines contemporary architecture with an extensive range of residential, hospitality and leisure facilities.

As part of the exclusive agreement, fäm Properties will oversee the leasing of the selected residences retained by the Group, offering a range of homes to suit different lifestyles and preferences. The portfolio includes one-bedroom apartments, prestigious Ultra Residences on the upper floors, and exclusive Sky Villas featuring private swimming pools.

Among the tower's standout features are private sky pools situated at heights of more than 340 metres, offering residents sweeping panoramic views of Dubai. The tower also features a three-level sky crown incorporating dedicated hospitality and leisure spaces, further enriching the overall residential experience.

The tower's architecture blends contemporary design with elements inspired by traditional regional influences. Its glass façade, more than 1,500 private balconies and Mashrabiya-inspired architectural details create a distinctive exterior that contributes to Dubai's evolving skyline.

Mohammed Al Habtoor, Vice Chairman and CEO of Al Habtoor Group, said: "fäm Properties has established a strong track record and extensive expertise in Dubai's real estate market, and we are pleased to appoint the company as the exclusive leasing partner for a select portfolio of residences retained by the Group at Al Habtoor Tower. We look forward to introducing these residences to the market and are confident in fäm Properties' ability to successfully market and lease them".

He added: "Al Habtoor Tower reflects our vision of creating an exceptional residential experience that brings together outstanding design and the highest standards of contemporary living. We are confident that fäm Properties' in-depth market knowledge, established relationships and experienced team will play a key role in attracting prospective tenants whose expectations align with the distinctive lifestyle and residential experience the tower offers."







Al Habtoor Group officials and Dubai-based real estate agency fäm Properties representatives during the signing of the agreement.

Bookings, check-in & support made easier

Jazeera Airways introduces new 24/7 WhatsApp self-service for travelers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, has introduced a new 24/7 WhatsApp (+965 6222 1770) self-service channel, offering passengers a faster, simpler and more convenient way to manage their travel directly from their mobile devices.

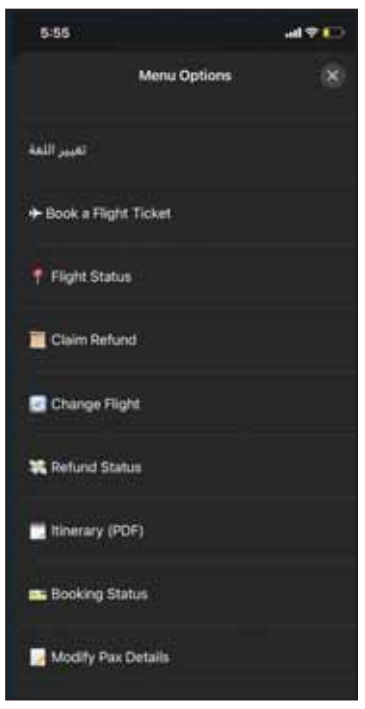
Available in English and Arabic, the new service enables passengers to access a wide range of booking, travel and customer support services at any time, without the need to call the or visit a customer service office.

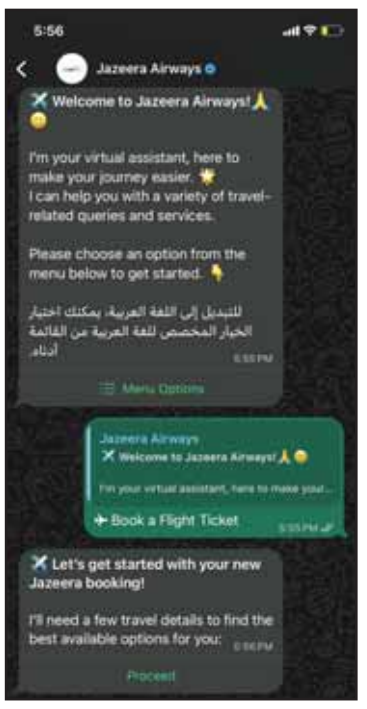
By simply sending a message to +965 6222 1770 on WhatsApp, passengers can book new flights, check and manage existing reservations, change travel dates and purchase additional services, including seat selection, meals and extra baggage.

The service also makes pre-travel preparations easier, allowing passengers to check in online, download their itineraries and check-in confirmations, track flight status and access terminal and boarding gate information.

For greater convenience, passengers can update their personal and contact details, including passport information, mobile numbers and email addresses. The platform also supports post-travel services such as refund requests to credit shell, refund status updates, tracking of left-behind baggage and checking the progress of customer complaints.

Passengers requiring additional assistance can connect directly with a live customer service agent through the same WhatsApp channel.





Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer, Jazeera Airways, said:

"At Jazeera Airways, we are continuously looking for ways to make travel simpler, smarter and more convenient for our passengers. Our new WhatsApp self-service channel puts essential travel services at their fingertips, giving them greater flexibility and control over their journey, anytime and anywhere. This is another step in our commitment to enhancing the customer experience through accessible, technology-driven solutions."

The introduction of WhatsApp self-service reflects Jazeera Airways' continued focus on digital innovation, operational efficiency and delivering a more seamless customer experience across every stage of the travel journey.

Passengers can access the service by saving +965 6222 1770 to their contacts and sending "Hi" on WhatsApp, or by starting a conversation directly through https://wa.me/96562221770.



A Jazeera Airways flight.

Session focuses on engaging businesses

AmCham Kuwait & UNDP consult Kuwait's private sector on sustainability priorities

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The American Business Council Kuwait (AmCham Kuwait), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), hosted a Sustainability Executive Programme Information and Validation Session, bringing together institutional and private-sector perspectives to gather feedback and better understand sustainability priorities across Kuwait's business community.

Held under the theme "Strategic Collaborations for Kuwait's Economic Transformation," the session provided an opportunity for companies and financial institutions operating in Kuwait to share their perspectives on sustainability priorities, organizational needs, and the challenges they face in integrating sustainability into their business strategies.

As sustainability becomes increasingly relevant to business operations, reporting requirements and financing opportunities, companies in Kuwait are navigating evolving expectations from customers, investors and supply chains. Strengthening institutional knowledge and capabilities can help businesses respond to these developments while contributing to Kuwait's sustainable development priorities.

The session focused on engaging businesses in discussions around key sustainability areas, including sustainability strategy and roadmaps, sustainability reporting, and sustainable finance. Participants were invited to share their experiences, identify priority areas, and provide feedback on the proposed direction and practical relevance of the programme.

A key objective of the validation process was to ensure that private-sector perspectives inform the development of a programme that responds to actual business needs. Feedback gathered during the discussions will help shape its content, learning approaches and delivery, taking into account the different needs and levels of sustainability readiness among businesses in Kuwait.

Looking Ahead

AmCham Kuwait and UNDP will build on the feedback gathered during the session to inform the next steps in developing the proposed Sustainability Executive Programme. Further details will be communicated as the initiative progresses.

Through this engagement, AmCham Kuwait and UNDP reaffirm their commitment to supporting private-sector participation in Kuwait's sustainable development journey, strengthening institutional capabilities, and encouraging the integration of sustainability considerations into



Representatives of AmCham Kuwait and UNDP pose for a group photo during the Sustainability Executive Programme Information and Validation Session.

'China-Russia ties bring stability to turbulent world'

Xi hosts welcome banquet for guests attending APEC meeting

SHENZHEN, Nov. 18, (Xinhua): Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, on Wednesday hosted a banquet in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, to welcome guests who are here to attend the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting.

"I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, our warmest welcome to all distinguished guests," Xi said in his toast.

Openness is deeply rooted in Shenzhen's DNA and innovation drives the city's vitality, while cooperation is where its strength comes from, Xi said, adding that the success of Shenzhen is also a microcosm of China's reform and opening up, as well as an example of fruitful cooperation across the Asia-Pacific.

Noting that openness, innovation and cooperation have been the distinctive features of APEC since its establishment, Xi said APEC has grasped the pulse of the times and guided the process of regional economic integration, making the Asia-Pacific the most dynamic region and a vital growth engine of the world economy.

"At tomorrow's Leaders' Meeting, we will discuss steps to expand mutual openness, explore pathways to innovation-driven growth, extend opportunities for result-oriented cooperation across various fields," Xi said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, pose for group photos with guests during the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China, Nov. 18, 2026. (Xinhua)

Before the banquet, Xi and Peng posed for group photos with leaders and representatives from APEC economies and their spouses.

After the banquet, they joined the guests to watch an artistic performance.

Earlier, Xi Jinping on welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump at Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport in south China's Guangdong Province.

Trump is in Shenzhen to attend the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (apec) Economic Leaders' Meeting, scheduled for Nov. 18-19.

Amid welcome music, Xi and Trump shook hands warmly. Honor guards of the Chinese People's Liberation Army presented arms to salute, and a girl handed the U.S. leader a bouquet.

The national flags of China and the United States fluttered in the wind as a military band played the national anthems of the two countries, and fighter jets flew overhead in salute. The two heads of state waved to a welcoming young crowd.

Xi recalled his state visit to the United States in September this year, when the U.S. presidential couple came to the airport in person and hosted a grand welcome ceremony, noting that China is a nation with a tradition of courtesy that values reciprocating goodwill.

Extending his welcome to Trump for visiting China again, Xi said that he looks forward to conducting in-depth exchanges with the U.S. president on major issues concerning bilateral relations, Asia-Pacific cooperation and the global landscape to advance a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability based on respect, fairness and reciprocity.

Trump thanked Xi for greeting him in person at the airport and for the special arrangements by the Chinese side. He said it is a great pleasure to visit China again, calling China a great country and Xi a great leader.

Trump said that every meeting with Xi had been very pleasant, and he believes that the visit will further advance bilateral relations and achieve complete success

Also, the Chinese President said that China-Russia relations have brought greater stability and certainty to a world of turbulence and transformation.

Xi made the remarks while meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is in Shenzhen to attend the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting on Nov. 18-19.

Xi noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation.

He said that China-Russia ties set an example for a new model of major-country relations featuring equality, mutual respect, good faith, and win-win cooperation.

Xi called on both countries to deepen all-round cooperation and firmly uphold the due responsibilities and obligations of major countries to guide and promote a multipolar world and democratization of international relations.

Both sides should leverage the mechanisms for exchanges between their governments, legislatures, militaries and political parties to ensure that the consensus reached by the two heads of state is effectively implemented, Xi said.

Xi called on the two countries to provide a more stable and predictable investment and business environment and protect the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises from both countries.

The development of China and Russia is closely intertwined with that of the Asia-Pacific region, and apec is an important platform for enhancing cooperation, Xi noted.

China stands ready to work with the Asia-Pacific family, including Russia, to chart a course for the region's prosperity and development and build an Asia-Pacific community together, Xi said.

Putin said he and Xi have held four productive meetings so far this year, helping sustain the sound development momentum in Russia-China relations. High-level exchanges have been close, bilateral trade has reached a new high, and practical cooperation has made substantial progress across various fields, he said.

Russia is willing to strengthen back-to-back strategic coordination with China, expand cooperation in trade, energy, education and other fields, and broaden cultural and people-to-people exchanges to better benefit the two peoples, Putin said.

Russia also stands ready to work with China to promote development and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, advance the process toward a multipolar world and build a more just and equitable global governance system, he added.

Another BoE rate hike in sight

UK inflation hits yearly high amid rising fuel prices

LONDON, Nov 18, (AP): Inflation in the U.K. rose to its highest level for a year, official figures showed Wednesday, an increase that keeps the possibility of a second straight interest rate hike next month from the Bank of England alive.

The Office for National Statistics said the rise in the annual rate to 3.6% in October from 3.5% the previous month was largely due to higher prices at the pump as the repercussions of the Iran war continue to ratchet up fuel prices.

October's increase took inflation further above the Bank of England's 2% target and with it set to rise further over coming months despite the recent pullback in oil and gas prices, many economists think the policymakers will raise interest rates again in December. "These figures make a December rate hike look difficult to avoid," said Suren Thiru, chief economist at ICAEW.

Earlier this month, the Bank of England raised its main interest rate for the first time in more than three years to 4% from 3.75% and said the outlook for U.K. borrowing costs largely hinges on what happens with the Iran war.

The main cause of the spike in inflation this year has been the sharp rise in fuel costs resulting from the Iran war and the ensuing bottlenecks in the Strait of Hormuz, which have squeezed global oil and gas supplies and pushed prices at the pump and household energy bills higher.

If the decline in oil and gas prices is sustained over the coming weeks, then the expected peak in inflation next summer - which the bank anticipates will reach 5% - could be lower. That could temper the need for future rate hikes, and not just by the Bank of England.



The facade of the Bank of England is seen in London on Nov. 2, 2017. (AP)

Young artists display creativity

Kala (Art) Kuwait hosts 'NIRAM-2026' Children's Day Painting Competition





Some photos from the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kala (Art) Kuwait presents "NIRAM-2026" Children's Day Painting Competition in association with 'Metro Hypermarket, Farwaniya', on Friday, 13th November 2026 at Indian Community School, Khaithan on the occasion of Children's Day celebrations. Kala (Art) Kuwait celebrates 22nd Anniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition which is opened for all students of Indian Schools in Kuwait.

Kala (Art) Kuwait conducted "NIRAM-2026" Children's Day Painting Competition in association with 'Metro Hypermarket, Farwaniya',on Friday, 13thNovember 2026 at Indian Community School Kuwait, Khaithan,on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the 137thbirthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Kala (Art) Kuwait is delighted to celebrate the 22ndAnniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition with color and grandeur,which is opened for students from all Indian Schools in Kuwait.

Participants poured into the venue of Kala (Art) Kuwait "NIRAM 2026"and the entire venue was full crowded with little artists from various corners of Indian Expatriate Community in Kuwait, as well as from Arab, Philippines and Sri Lankan nationals studying in Indian Schools, flashing with different colours and lines created a festive atmosphere. There were more than 2000 children took part in the competitions. Clay Sculpture also was a competition item for the students, and the parents were actively participated in the open canvas as well.

Mr. Basheer Batha, Marketing Head of the Metro Group, officially inaugurated the event. Mrs. Mona Hassan Mohammed, Marketing Head of Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group, inaugurated the open canvas painting competition. Mukesh V.P. (President, Kala(Art) Kuwait), Aneecha Shaijith (General Secretary), Ragesh P.D. (Program General Convener), Mohammed Aslam (Marketing Manager, Shifa Al Jazeera Medical Group) and Kanakarajan (Treasurer) delivered speeches.Metro Hypermarket representatives Kokila and Anjana; social workers Aniyan Kunju Papachan, Najeeb, Haneef, Shamsu, and Shaji; artists Shashikrishnan, Sunil Kulanada, and Hari Chengannur; 'Kala' (Art) executive members Sisitha Girish, Ajith Kumar, Shaijith, Aneesh Varghese, Sunil Kumar, Johnny Kumar, and Babu C. were present at the event. Sruthi and Sanjana served as the comperes.

Well Known Artists Mr. Sasi Krishnan, Mr. Hari Chengannur and Mr. Sunil Kulanadahad done the overall supervision of the competition. A team of more than 100 Volunteers of Kala (Art) Kuwait controlled the program.

The results of the Competitions will be announced by the organizing committee as well as the judging committee on 1st December2026 through leading newspapers and websites. The fabulous prize distribution ceremony will be held in11th December 2026 at Indian Community School, Khaithan.

Kala (Art) Kuwait, announce exclusive prizes for the winners. The first place winners of each group will receive a Gold coin & Gold medal, second place winner with silver medal and third place winner with bronze medal apart from memento & certificate. Besides the 1st, 2nd&3rd, places, there will be Merit Prizes and Ten (10) percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation prizes. Apart from the individual winners, there will be Overall Championship Trophy for the Schools who topped in the first three places in rating.

Also, a Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the School from which the maximum numbers of students were participated in this event, as a tribute to our beloved Late Mr. C. Bhaskaran, one of the founders and advisory board member of Kala (Art) Kuwait.

The organizers proudly express their satisfaction on the successful completion of the competition and take this opportunity to thank-all Children, Parents, Management and Teachers of all Indian schools in Kuwait, Representatives of various Indian socio-cultural organizations in Kuwait and all our Sponsors for their active participation and wholehearted support for making the event a grant success. Kala (Art) Kuwait has once again proved beyond doubt that it upholds the interests of all Art lovers in Kuwait and will continue its support for promotion of Art (Kala).









Some photos from the event.

ISEK celebrates Gandhi Jayanti 2026: Spreading the Light of Humanity

The Indian School of Excellence, Kuwait (ISEK), celebrated Gandhi Jayanti 2026 with a series of special assemblies presented by students from different grades. Centered on the theme "Humanity," the programmes paid heartfelt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and his timeless values of truth, non-violence, peace, compassion and unity.

The spirit of Bapu's teachings came alive through a vibrant blend of performances and presentations. Students began withQuran recitation, followed by soulful prayer songs. Action songs and group songs filled the auditorium with devotion and joy.

A quiz hosted by a student dressed as Bapu kept the audience engaged. Powerful declamations echoed the words of global leaders.

The message of humanity was also brought to life through creative performances. The tableau "The Spirit of Humanity" portrayed kindness and compassion, and a thoughtful skit addressed cyberbullying. Graceful dances such as "Reflection of Humanity" and "Tricolour of Humanity," along with a patriotic dance medley, celebrated unity, togetherness and national pride.

Addressing the gathering, ISEK Director Dr. Sherly Dennis and Vice Principal Mrs. Bismitha Shamsudeen spoke about the importance of humanity and the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. They encouraged students to practice kindness, compassion, respect and truthfulness in their daily lives, and appreciated the students and teachers for their dedicated efforts in making the celebrations meaningful.

The Gandhi Jayanti celebrations at the Indian School of Excellence were a meaningful reminder that humanity is reflected in our actions. They left everyone with Gandhiji's message to be kind, compassionate and human.

Event highlights quality as driver of performance

Progressive Professional Forum marks World Quality Day in Kuwait



A photo from the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Progressive Professional Forum (PPF), Kuwait, celebrated World Quality Day 2026 on November 12 at Kohinoor Auditorium, Souq Sabah, Fahaheel, under the theme "Quality: Powering Performance." The event brought together professionals from diverse fields, including engineering, management, business and quality assurance, to deliberate on the role of quality in enhancing organizational performance, driving productivity and achieving sustainable growth.

The program was inaugurated by PPF President Mr. Anil Kumar in the presence of General Secretary Mr. Bipin Punathil, Joint Secretary Mr. Kiran Babu and World Quality Day Convener Mr. Mridul Karat. In his inaugural address, Anil Kumar underscored the importance of embedding quality across organizational functions and ensuring that it is reflected in measurable business outcomes.

Delivering the welcome address, General Secretary Mr. Bipin Punathil emphasized the need to cultivate a strong culture of quality across all professional sectors. He noted that quality should not be viewed merely as the responsibility of quality control professionals or as a prerequisite for obtaining certifications, but as a shared commitment that must be embraced by every individual and organization.

A major highlight of the celebration was the release of a special edition magazine titled "Transcend the Quality," featuring articles, professional insights and experiences from quality practitioners. The publication focused on the integration of quality principles into organizational processes to enhance performance and promote professional excellence. The magazine was brought out under the editorial leadership of Mrs. Lekha Madhu and her editorial team.

The event also featured a panel discussion titled "Beyond the Certificate: Is Quality Really Powering Performance?" moderated by former PPF President Mr. Prasanth Warrier. The panel comprised Mr. M. S. Ray, Managing Director of TCB Cert Worldwide LLC; Mr. Karthik Ramadoss, General Manager (Operations) of Global Technology Co. WLL; and Mr. Jiju Mathews Joseph, Managing Director of Maqlink International Management Consultants.

The discussion examined whether quality certifications and compliance standards translate into tangible improvements in operational efficiency, workplace safety, productivity and sustainable organizational growth. Drawing on their industry experience, the panelists highlighted the importance of moving beyond documentation and certification towards implementing quality practices that deliver measurable results and lasting organizational improvements.

Adding a literary dimension to the program, two books authored by Mr. M. S. Ray, titled "The Soulful Organization" and "Transform Your Life & Business the ISO Way," were released. Another notable publication, "The Green Protocol," authored by former PPF President Mr. Prasanth Warrier, was also introduced during the event.

An interactive online quiz on quality, conducted by Mr. Mridul Karat, further engaged participants, testing their knowledge of quality principles, standards and practices. Mr. Sankar Ram emerged as the quiz winner and was recognized for his achievement.

PPF acknowledged the valuable support of its sponsors, Spetco, TCB Cert Worldwide and Al Mashaan General Trading, whose contributions helped make the event possible.

Speaking on the occasion, PPF representatives reaffirmed the forum's commitment to promoting professional excellence, knowledge sharing and continuous improvement through meaningful initiatives, professional interactions and collaborative discussions.

The Progressive Professional Forum (PPF), Kuwait, is a secular collective of professionals representing diverse disciplines, including engineering, medicine, law, finance and management. The organization aims to channel the professional expertise and social consciousness of its members towards inclusive societal development.

Through its annual World Quality Day celebrations, PPF has been bringing professionals together since 2014 to raise awareness about quality, facilitate knowledge exchange and encourage a culture of excellence across industries.

The program was compered by Mrs. Rameena Rabdeen and concluded with a vote of thanks by World Quality Day Convener Mr. Mridul Karat, followed by networking and dinner.

First cycling event of its kind in Kuwait

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait announces ABK Tour Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has announced the launch of the inaugural edition of ABK Tour Kuwait, the first cycling race of its kind in Kuwait, organized by Suffix as part of Kuwait's Season for Youth and Sports. The event will take place on Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21, 2026, along Gulf Road.

The two-day event will feature a children's race for participants aged 4 to 9, covering a distance of 800 meters on Friday, November 20, followed by a 16-kilometer time trial for professional and amateur cyclists on Saturday, November 21.

The initiative represents an important step toward encouraging physical activity across all segments of Kuwaiti society and raising awareness of the importance of adopting a healthy and active lifestyle.

As the first event of this scale to being held in Kuwait, ABK Tour Kuwait will bring together amateur and professional cyclists from different age groups, with the highest safety standards implemented throughout the event.

Registration remains open through (https://suffix.events/en/events/details/877), while participants can collect their race kits from the ABK Tour Kuwait Village at Shuwaikh Beach on Friday, between 2:00 pm and 9:00 pm.



Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer at ABK.



Ahmed Al Majed, Chief Operating Officer at Suffix.



Flyer of the event.

On this occasion, Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer at ABK, said: "We are proud to introduce this unique event for cycling enthusiasts, reflecting our unwavering commitment to supporting sports as an integral part of our corporate social responsibility and sustainability commitments in Kuwait."

He added that ABK has carefully designed the event to serve as an inclusive platform bringing together professional cyclists, amateurs and families in a safe, enjoyable and competitive environment. The initiative aims to deliver an exceptional sporting experience that combines competition and entertainment, while laying the foundation for ABK Tour Kuwait to become an annual fixture among the country's leading community initiatives.

Albenali continued: "Through ABK Tour Kuwait, we aim to create a community platform that brings sports enthusiasts together and inspires people of all ages to embrace a more active lifestyle. We wanted to go beyond traditional sponsorships by introducing a comprehensive and exceptional sporting experience that sets a new benchmark."

Albenali further stated: "We have witnessed growing enthusiasm for cycling across Kuwait, which inspired us to create a platform that brings together young talent and athletes in a professional environment comparable to major sporting competitions, while maintaining a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere."

"Our ambition extends beyond organizing a single-day race. We seek to promote a lasting culture of physical activity and sustainability. We invite everyone to be part of this historic inaugural event on Friday and Saturday."

Albenali noted that cash prizes and shopping vouchers will be awarded to the top Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti finishers in the time trial race, while commemorative medals will be presented to all participants.

Concluding his remarks, Albenali expressed his appreciation to Suffix, the event organizer, and commended the efforts of the Ministry of Interior and all participating entities for their contributions toward ensuring the safety and success of the event.

A New Milestone

For his part, Ahmed Al Majed, Chief Operating Officer at Suffix, expressed his pride in partnering with ABK to organize and host Kuwait's first cycling race of its kind, describing the initiative as a significant milestone in the development of the country's sporting events landscape.

He said: "At Suffix, we will leverage our extensive experience in organizing major sporting events to deliver an exceptional experience for all participants. From route planning and implementing the highest safety standards to providing internationally recognized timing and results systems, we are committed to ensuring that the inaugural edition is organized to the highest professional standards, reflecting the reputation of ABK and Suffix while meeting the expectations of professional and amateur cyclists alike."

Al Majed added: "Our vision extends beyond the competitive aspect of the race. We are working to create a comprehensive community experience that makes cycling more accessible to people of all ages. We greatly value ABK's trust and support as the official sponsor, which will contribute to delivering a safe and professionally organized event.

"We look forward to establishing ABK Tour Kuwait as an annual platform that brings together athletes and families, while further strengthening Kuwait's position as a destination for distinctive sporting events."

He emphasized that cyclist safety remains a top priority, with a strict 'No Helmet, No Ride' policy applying to all participants without exception, including children. This measure aims to promote helmet use and instill an understanding of cycling safety and personal responsibility among younger generations from an early age.

Al Majed concluded by thanking the ministries and government entities supporting the event, as well as the Public Authority for Youth and Sports for including the initiative in Kuwait's Season for Youth and Sports. He also commended all sponsors and partners for their valuable contributions to the event's success and objectives.

ABK invites cycling enthusiasts and families across Kuwait to participate in this landmark event and enjoy the various entertainment activities organized by sponsors alongside the races.

Over 500 children participated in the initiative, held in conjunction with World Diabetes Day

KFH organizes the largest health-focused sports event for children in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized the "KFH Obstacle Challenge Junior," Kuwait's largest health-focused sporting event for children and families, at Al Shaheed Park in conjunction with World Diabetes Day. The initiative reaffirms KFH's societal leadership and its continuous commitment to supporting such meaningful events.

Wide Participation

Drawing a remarkable turnout of over 500 children in an atmosphere filled with energy and engagement, the event reflected the initiative's success in blending health awareness with sports entertainment to create a comprehensive experience that enhances quality of life and instills healthy habits in the younger generation.

Health Awareness

The initiative reflects KFH's ongoing commitment to public health awareness, encouraging children and families to adopt active lifestyles and balanced nutrition to reduce the risks associated with inactivity and chronic diseases, particularly diabetes.

The event also reflects KFH's approach to supporting long-lasting initiatives that contribute to building a more active and healthy society, in line with its CSR strategy.

Comprehensive Interactive and Sports Activities

The "KFH Obstacle Challenge Junior" event featured a diverse range of sports and interactive activities specifically designed for children of various age groups to encourage physical activity and instill the importance of fitness and health from an early age.

It also included running races and safe, innovative obstacle courses that tested participants' motor skills and physical capabilities, alongside recreational games and family competitions that fostered a spirit of engagement and positive, healthy rivalry among children and their family members.













Top and above: Photos from the event.

With the aim of instilling healthy habits and encouraging children to maintain them, the event also incorporated interactive educational activities focused on the importance of regular exercise and balanced nutrition, presented in a simple manner suitable for all ages.

TechCo continues its longstanding support for Kuwait's major equestrian tournaments

Zain Kuwait strategic partner of 2nd Sahara International Show Jumping Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Zain Kuwait, the country's leading TechCo, announced its strategic partnership with the second edition of the Sahara International Show Jumping Championship 2026, set to take place at Sahara Equestrian Resort in Kuwait from 3 to 5 December. The partnership builds on Zain's continued support for equestrian sports and some of its largest championships, reflecting its dedication to encouraging Kuwaiti riders and empowering national talent to excel on the sporting stage.

The partnership was announced at Zain's HQ in Shuwaikh, attended by Hamad Al-Musaibeeh, Director of Corporate Relations and Communications at Zain Kuwait, and Fahad Al-Ajmi, Advisor to the Chairman and CEO of Sahara Equestrian Resort, alongside officials and team members from both organizations.

The championship is expected to attract over 200 riders, bringing together seasoned professionals and rising talents from several countries, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Egypt, India, Hungary, Germany, Syria, Jordan, and others. Participants will compete over three days of thrilling show jumping action at Sahara Equestrian Resort.

The championship will be held under the two-star international classification (CSI2*), reflecting the competition's technical standards and organizational requirements. The event offers Kuwaiti riders a valuable opportunity to compete alongside accomplished international athletes, gain experience, further develop their skills, and strengthen their readiness for regional and international competitions.

Zain's support for the championship continues its longstanding involvement in supporting some of Kuwait's biggest and most prominent equestrian tournaments over the years, including the Atyab Al-Marshoud International Showjumping Championship and the Kuwait Equestrian Federation League. These events have contributed to enriching Kuwait's sporting scene, highlighting the capabilities of local riders, and promoting equestrian sports among different segments of society.



Hamad Al-Musaibeeh and Fahad Al-Ajmi seal the partnership.



Al-Musaibeeh and Al-Ajmi with team members from Zain and 'Sahara'.

As with the major sporting events it supports, Zain is preparing to bring its signature touch to the championship through a range of interactive activities and experiences designed to engage fans and families. These activities aim to enrich the spectator experience and create an exciting blend of sports and entertainment, reflecting Zain's dedication to connecting with the community and sharing its passion for equestrian sports.

Zain takes pride in its longstanding relationship with Kuwait's equestrian community and its continued role in supporting this prestigious sport, which holds a special place in Kuwaiti and Arab heritage and identity. The company believes in the importance of fostering an encouraging sporting environment where young talents can develop their abilities, sharpen their skills, and compete at the highest levels, helping nurture a new generation of athletes capable of representing Kuwait with pride at major international championships.

Zain also takes pride in its continued support for Kuwaiti athletes across various sports and competitions, driven by its belief in the vital role of the private sector in advancing youth and sports development. The company remains dedicated to supporting national champions and emerging talents as they pursue excellence and sporting achievements, further strengthening Kuwait's standing on the regional and international sporting stage.





Charlotte Hornets guard Sion James (4) drives to the basket as Los Angeles Lakers guard Collin Sexton (10) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait looks to improve after mixed friendly results

Sousa: Blues still in development phase

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait national team coach Hélio Sousa said the recent international camp provided valuable opportunities to assess new players, identify emerging talent and address weaknesses ahead of upcoming competitions.

The Blues concluded their camp with mixed results, beating Syria 3-0 last Friday before losing 2-0 to Honduras.

Sousa made several changes to the starting lineup against Honduras, handing seven players starting roles after they had not featured from the outset against Syria.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, the Portuguese coach described the camp as a useful exercise, despite the defeat.

"The Blues are still in a development phase. It was a valuable experience, even though the result was not what we had hoped for," he said.

Sousa explained that limiting selection to players who regularly start for their clubs would leave the national team with fewer options, particularly in positions where clubs rely heavily on foreign professionals.

"If I only considered regular starters at their clubs, I would struggle to find even 11 or 15 players in certain positions," he said.

He emphasized the need to expand the selection pool and give more players opportunities to prove themselves and improve.

"Whenever I see a player making progress or someone who needs an opportunity to develop, I will not hesitate to call him up. I do not want the national team to be restricted to just 10 players," Sousa added.

The coach admitted that Kuwait lacked attacking efficiency against Honduras and lost some of its organizational discipline after conceding the opening goal.

Following the postponement of the Asian Cup, Sousa said the coaching staff used the available time to monitor additional players and give several of them their first international opportunities.

He stressed that facing stronger opponents was essential to testing the players and exposing them to more demanding challenges.

"We believe we are making progress, but there is still considerable work ahead before we become stronger and better equipped to compete against teams of this level," he said.

Addressing concerns over the defensive line, Sousa acknowledged that the coaching staff was working to resolve the issue and had several options at centre-back. However, injuries and suspensions had limited the available choices.

He also pointed to a shortage of options in certain positions, including goalkeeper, saying the technical staff was working to identify players with the necessary potential and abilities and help them develop a better understanding of their roles.

Sousa said he was satisfied with the commitment shown by the squad throughout the camp, but stressed the need for greater composure and tactical awareness.

"All the players gave their best, but we need to play with greater intelligence and composure rather than relying solely on enthusiasm and emotion," he concluded.



A glimpse of the Kuwait-Honduras match.

Norway stuns Denmark

Ten-man Portugal wins with goal from new No. 7



Portugal's Pedro Neto vies for the ball with Wales' Jay Dasilva, right, during the Nations League soccer match between Wales and Portugal in Cardiff, Wales. (AP)

CARDIFF, Nov 18, (AP): Portugal had a goal from its new No. 7 and the grit to hold on with 10 players in a 3-2 win against Wales in the Nations League , but it was another shaky display following Cristiano Ronaldo's retirement from the national team.

Erling Haaland scored a last-chance penalty winner as Norway stunned Denmark 3-2 for the last quarterfinal spot. That set off wild celebrations as the Manchester City striker tore off his shirt and rushed toward the fans.

Poor defending and discipline were issues for Portugal, but there were still far more positives than in Saturday's 4-1 loss to Denmark. Portugal finished its Nations League group with five wins from six games in a campaign overshadowed by the absence of Ronaldo.

Tribute banners were again on show among the Portugal fans in Cardiff, nearly two months after Ronaldo's last game for Portugal, a 1-0 win over Wales in September.

Ronaldo fell out with coach Jorge Jesus when he was an unused substitute for the following game against Norway, and then walked out on the squad. He declared his retirement from the national team Nov. 5.

Bruno Fernandes gave Portugal the lead when he curled the ball into the top corner but it lasted just two minutes before David Brooks leveled for Wales. When Sorba Thomas put Wales ahead on a rapid counter just before halftime, it was Portugal's turn for a quickfire equalizer from Pedro Neto.

Wearing the No. 7 shirt that was for so long Ronaldo's - with a line across the number to honor Ronaldo - Carlos Forbs scored the winner in the 70th with smart movement to set up a low shot.

The 22-year-old winger is a very different player to "CR7," not least because he's still making his name in the Belgian league with Brugge and all his three Portugal games have been off the bench.

It looked like Portugal might give the lead away again after Chelsea winger Neto was sent off for two reckless tackles in as many minutes, but Wales struggled to create many chances after that.

Denmark needed a draw against Norway to keep hold of second place and a quarterfinal place, but Haaland had other plans.



Denmark's Mads Hermansen, center, stops the ball as Rasmus Hoejlund, right, and Norway's Sander Berge fight for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Denmark and Norway, in Copenhagen. (AP)

Denmark raced into an early 2-0 lead, cut by Haaland to 2-1 just before halftime. Martin Odegaard leveled the score in the 84th to ensure a nervous finish.

There was more drama at the very end with a penalty for handball against Danish defender Joachim Andersen and a lengthy video review ended with Haaland sending the goalkeeper the wrong way from the spot in the 96th minute to push Norway into second above the Danes and into the quarterfinals.

It was his 68th goal in 61 games for Norway and his 25th in the Nations League, where he is by far the competition's highest-ever scorer.

Portugal tops the group and will be one of the four seeded teams in Friday's draw along with France, Germany and England. The non-seeded teams are Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain. The quarterfinals are played over two legs in March, with the winners heading to a final four tournament in June.

Austria, Northern Ireland and Sweden all drew their final group games in the second tier of the Nations League to win promotion to the top-level League A. They join Switzerland, which had won promotion back to the top tier earlier.

Police Sports Federation launches international showjumping event



Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef Al-Sabah

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait opens its 2026-2027 equestrian season today with an international showjumping championship organized by the Police Sports Federation at its arena in Subhan, under the patronage of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation and Kuwait Oil Company.

The competition brings together leading riders from local clubs and participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, India, Britain and Germany, adding an international dimension to the season's opening event.

The championship gets underway at noon, featuring rounds over fences ranging from 105cm to 140cm, with the Grand Prix set at 145cm. The competition runs through Saturday evening.

Chairman of the Police Sports Federation Brigadier General (Navy) Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef Al-Sabah invited equestrian fans to attend and follow the action at the Subhan venue, expressing confidence in another successful event following the achievements of the previous season.

He also extended his gratitude to First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah for his continued support for sports and his commitment to strengthening the country's sporting movement.

The participation of riders from several countries, representing different technical and training backgrounds, is expected to add depth to the competition and raise the standard of the various rounds.

The championship is particularly significant as the first international equestrian event on Kuwait's calendar for the 2026-2027 season. It also marks the second edition held in cooperation with Kuwait Oil Company, reinforcing efforts to maintain Kuwait's position as a host of international equestrian competitions.

The event is also designed to advance showjumping by improving riders' technical abilities and providing both male and female competitors with valuable experience through direct encounters with international riders from diverse equestrian schools and training systems.

Kuwait Club faces Kazma in friendly ahead of continental commitments

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait Club takes on Kazma in a friendly at 6:30 pm on Thursday at Al-Sadaqa Wal-Salam Stadium as both teams step up preparations for their upcoming continental commitments.

The Whites are preparing to host UAE side Al-Wahda next Wednesday in the fifth round of Group B in the AFC Champions League Two, while Kazma welcomes Iraq's Erbil on the same day in the fourth round of Group C in the Gulf Club Champions League.

Both sides will be absent from the Crown Prince Cup group-stage action, which gets underway tomorrow.

Kuwait Club will use the friendly to sharpen its preparations for the crucial meeting with Al-Wahda, knowing that a victory would boost its bid to secure a place in the Round of 16.

The Whites occupy second place in Group B with six points, three behind leader Al-Wahda. Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi and Bahrain's Khalidiya are joint third with four points apiece. The top two teams will qualify for the next stage.

Kazma, on the other hand, is hoping to put its preparations on the right track ahead of the decisive encounter with Erbil, as it seeks to revive its slim hopes of reaching the quarterfinals.

The Orange sit bottom of Group C without a point after suffering three consecutive defeats against Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq (0-2), UAE's Ajman (1-2) and Erbil (0-6).



Players preparing for the friendly.

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