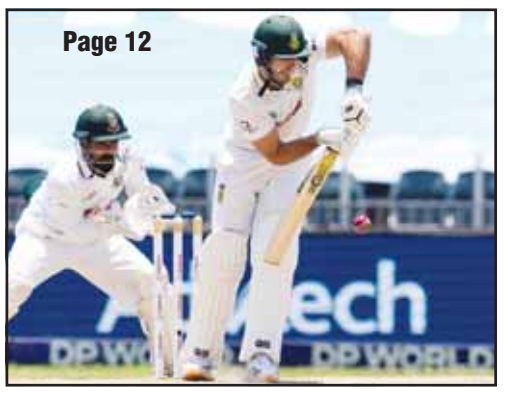


ARAB TIMES
THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT
Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com
Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20-21, 2026 / JUMADA AL-THANI 10-11, 1448 AH | emergency number 112 | NO. 19365 | 12 PAGES | 150 FILS

Time's up for 494 Jleeb buildings

Two-week deadline set as demolition clock ticks

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The two-week countdown has started for the evacuation and demolition of 494 buildings in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, as per the administrative order issued by Kuwait Municipality Director General Engineer Manal Al-Asfoor on Wednesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Administrative Order no. 2054/2026 mandates property owners to vacate and demolish the affected structures within two weeks from the date of its publication in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm'.

The decision is based on the reports of the Government Center for Testing, Quality Control and Research, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Public Works, affirming that all 494 buildings are structurally faulty and vulnerable to collapse. These buildings are considered an imminent threat to lives and properties.

The properties covered by the demolition order are located in two blocks -- 257 buildings in Block Three and 237 in Block Two.

The Municipality had earlier published a comprehensive inventory of the affected properties, specifying each plot number and automated reference number to enable owners to determine whether their buildings fall under the order, which also stipulates measures to be taken in the event of non-compliance. The competent municipal authority will oversee the owners' adherence to the demolition deadline. If the specified period ends without the required action being taken, the Municipality will carry out the demolition work at the owners' expense, provided the buildings are fully vacated.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait ruling seals death in Rumaithiya suitcase murder

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Court of Cassation, presided over by Justice Saleh Al-Murshed, upheld the death sentence imposed by a lower court on a defendant convicted of murdering a woman in Rumaithiya, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Case files indicate that the defendant tried to cover up the crime by putting the body of the victim inside a suitcase to dispose of it.

During the trial at the Criminal Court, the Public Prosecution, represented by Prosecutor Faris Al-Dabbous, demanded for the maximum penalty, citing the heinous nature of the crime and the violation of the fundamental right to life. The prosecution described the defendant as a "predator who shattered the victim's innocence, depriving her of the right to life — a right recognized and protected by all divine religions." It urged the court to impose the harshest possible sentence in order to uphold justice and ensure accountability, while sending a strong deterrent message to anyone contemplating murder.

Continued on Page 5

No major weather swings as Kuwait heads into weekend

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department has forecast generally warm weather during the day and cool conditions at night in Kuwait over the weekend.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the acting Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali explained that the country is currently being affected by a weak low-pressure system, followed by an extension of high pressure accompanied by a relatively warm air mass.

Winds are expected to shift from easterly to northwesterly, with speeds ranging from light to moderate.

On Friday, temperatures are expected to remain warm during the day, with variable winds shifting to northwesterly at speeds of 8 to 30 kilometers per hour. Scattered clouds are also expected, while maximum temperatures will range between 29 and 31 degrees Celsius.

Continued on Page 5



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

British Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Qudsi Rasheed and Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah lead the ceremonial cake-cutting ceremony in celebration of the King's birthday, sharing the festive moment with guests. – See Page 9



Kuwait Army photo

Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans Brigadier General Raed Al-Sakran with Head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Turkish General Staff Brigadier General Ahmad Durgut.

Kuwait and Turkiye push for stronger defense partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans Brigadier General Raed Al-Sakran discussed ways to enhance military cooperation and exchange expertise with Head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Turkish General Staff Brigadier General Ahmad Durgut.

The General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army said in a statement Thursday that Al-Sakran met Durgut on the sidelines of the seventh Kuwaiti-Turkish Military Dialogue.

The meeting addressed agenda items and ways to strengthen cooperation, reflecting the depth of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, the statement added.

Kuwait eyes AI-driven policing at 'World Police Summit 2026'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Major General Hamad Al-Munifi headed the Kuwaiti delegation to the World Police Summit 2026 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Senior security officials, police officers and experts from around the world are among the participants in the summit.

On the sidelines of the summit, Al-Munifi met with Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the UAE Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Members of the Kuwaiti delegation looked into the latest developments in police technologies and artificial intelligence applications for combating crimes and maintain public security.

They also visited the Smart Police Station in Dubai, where they were briefed on digital service delivery systems and the procedures for completing transactions electronically.



Ministry of Interior photo

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Major General Hamad Al-Munifi at the World Police Summit 2026 in Dubai.

Moreover, Dubai Police Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri awarded a certificate of appreciation and the Security Cooperation Medal (First Class)

Continued on Page 5

Safe haven for children opens in Kuwait

Child protection top national priority: Al-Huwailah

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah reiterated that protecting children is the topmost national priority, and that the best interest of the child must be the guiding principle behind every decision and measure taken.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Child Protection Center, which is affiliated with the Protection Centers Department under the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Al-Huwailah stressed that preserving a child's dignity and safety, while guaranteeing the right to a secure and decent life, constitutes a national responsibility that must never be compromised.

She said the establishment of the center is not the culmination of efforts, as it is rather the beginning of greater responsibilities and more specialized institutional action. "With the opening of this center, we are not just establishing a new facility, because we are creating a protective shield, a safe haven, and a symbol of human rights, legal and social advocacy. This embodies the commitment of the country to protect children and it is a practical action based on the principles enshrined in the Constitution, child protection legislation, and laws and regulations on domestic violence," she revealed.



Ministry of Social Affairs photo

Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah speaks at the inauguration of the Child Protection Center.

She considers the center an institutional milestone in strengthening the child protection framework, as it is a highly professional model in this field, supported by qualified national specialists equipped to handle all cases with sensitivity, diligence and professionalism.

She added the center provides support and counseling services, lays down mechanisms for follow up and early intervention, and raises public awareness through close coordination with security, judicial, health and educational authorities, along with civil society organizations and families, which remain the primary environment in which children grow and develop.

No building permits sans traffic impact compliance

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Municipal Council member Dr. Hassan Kamal stressed the need to link the results of traffic impact studies with the issuance of building permits, land-use changes, road development and public transport systems to protect the road network of the country and prevent the worsening of the traffic congestion problem.



Dr. Kamal

Kamal explained that traffic studies assess the capacity of surrounding roads to accommodate new projects, identify potential bottlenecks, and propose engineering solutions. However, he pointed out that the reality regarding certain licensed projects—or those that have undergone land-use changes, particularly in established urban areas—reveals a gap between the requirements set out in these studies and the actual implementation of their recommendations prior to project licensing and operation. He said this gap widens when solutions are limited to road expansion, failing to incorporate public transport systems that could reduce reliance on private vehicles.

He indicated that traffic management requires close coordination among three key entities, in addition to the project developers as follows: the Kuwait Municipality that grants permits and oversees land use, the Traffic General Department at the Ministry of Interior that approves traffic impact studies, and the Ministry of Public Works that is in charge of the design, construction and supervision of roads.

He pointed out that the lack of coordination among these entities defers crises. He stated that new projects, changes in land use, and revision of building regulations or permitted activities increase density, hence, putting more strain on an infrastructure that is not equipped to handle such demands.

He suggested that the Ministry of Public Works and project developers must be required to implement the recommendations of approved traffic studies before any project becomes operational, ensuring that potential issues are addressed before they evolve into problems which are difficult to solve through engineering interventions.

He called for rigorous scrutiny of the quality of data inputs for these studies, as well as the engineering standards applied.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

Houthi assault targets Riyadh financial tower

RIYADH, Nov 19, (KUNA): One of the towers of the Financial District in Riyadh came under a terrorist attack by the terrorist Houthi militia, causing material damage, the Saudi Civil Defense said on Thursday.

The Civil Defense responded to an incident in which one of the towers of the Financial District in Riyadh was subjected to a terrorist attack by the terrorist Houthi militia, resulting in material damage to several floors of the tower and neighboring buildings, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, quoting the Civil Defense's spokesman.

❑ ❑ ❑

BEIJING: Chinese President **Xi Jinping** on Thursday called for stronger cooperation and coordination between **China**, **Russia** and the **United States** to address global challenges and safeguard international peace and security.

According to Xinhua News Agency, Xi made the remarks during a historic trilateral summit with Russian President **Vladimir Putin** and US President **Donald Trump** on the sidelines of the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in **Shenzhen**. (KUNA)

— Earlier Story Page 6



7 NBK wins 'Digital HR of the Year in Private Sector' award



7 Zain marks World Children's Day by ranking 1st in MENA in Global Child Forum's benchmark



8 KFH reinforces operational resilience with crisis simulation exercise

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:53	Asr	14:31
Sunrise	06:16	Maghrib	16:52
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:14

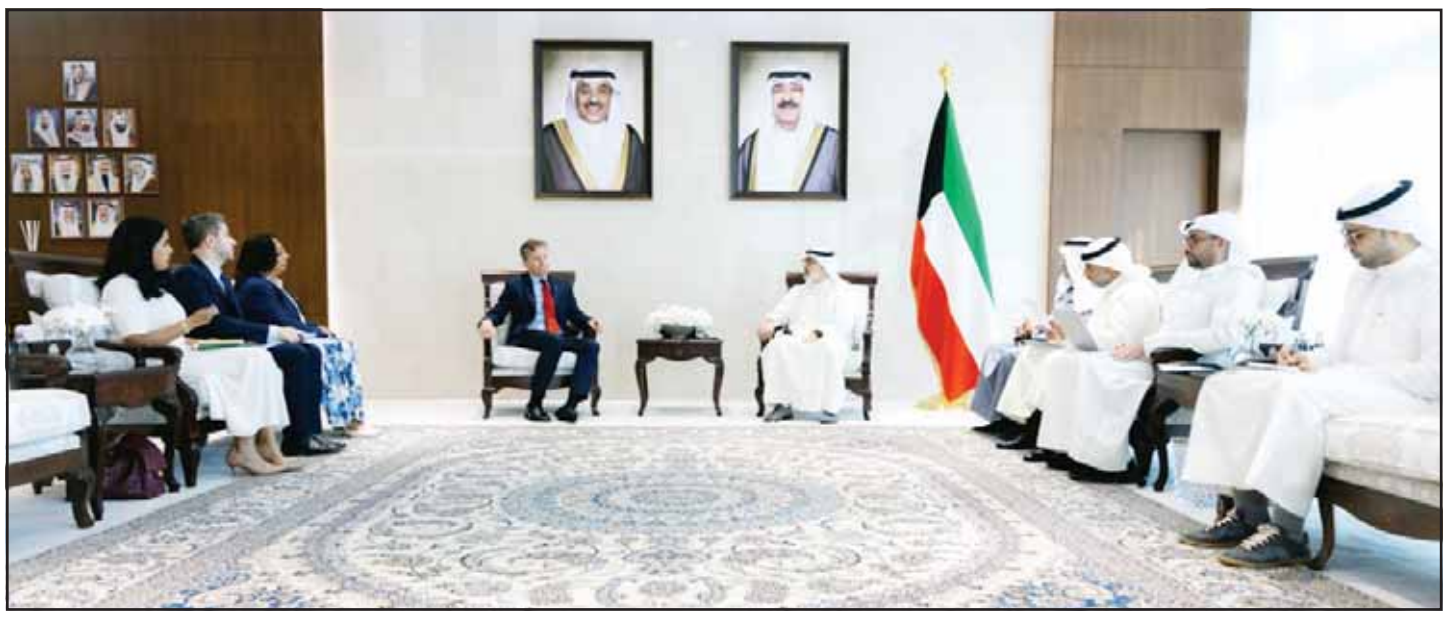
Amir, Crown Prince, PM greet Monaco on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of the Principality of Monaco, on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness wished the prince long-lasting health and wished Monaco and its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of the Principality of Monaco, on the occasion of his country's National Day, wishing him long-lasting health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of the Principality of Monaco, on the occasion of his country's National Day.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during a meeting with visiting United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher.

Kuwait FM welcomes UN humanitarian official

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met on Thursday with visiting United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the close ties between the State of Kuwait and the UN, along with its specialized bodies and agencies, especially in the humanitarian field, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release.

They discussed ways to promote cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support international efforts and bolster the effectiveness of responses to humanitarian crises.

They also addressed major challenges facing civilians in conflict and disaster zones and underlined the significance of backing international efforts aimed at ensuring the safe, sustainable, and unhindered flow and delivery of humanitarian aid to all those in need and affected without discrimination, based on humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law, to help alleviate their suffering and answer their urgent needs.

Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah also hosted a luncheon in honor of the UN official and his accompanying delegation. (KUNA)



PACA photo

Public Authority for Civil Aviation President Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah during the signing of agreement with UK.

PACA seals air transport deals with UK, Argentina

WASHINGTON, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's delegation participating in the 7th International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Transport Conference in Montreal continued Wednesday its meetings with civil aviation authorities and international organizations.

The delegation, headed by Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) President Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah, signed a new agreement to regulate air transport and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the UK aimed at updating frameworks for bilateral cooperation in civil aviation.

The delegation also signed an agreement to regulate air transport and an MoU on operational aspects with Argentina in a move to set updated standards and frameworks for cooperation between both countries, as well as enhancing cooperation in the field of civil aviation.

Sheikh Humoud also held a meeting with Indonesia's Transport Minister Dudy Purwagandhi on the sidelines of the conference, during which they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and develop future cooperation in the aviation field.

Other Voices

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and the Canadian highway system

By Ahmad alsarraf

Canada is a vast industrial nation that relies heavily on trucks to transport agricultural and industrial products from production sites to factories, ports, and consumers.

It was observed that heavy trucks were taking a toll on road infrastructure, increasing repair and maintenance costs. As a result, shipping companies were forced to reduce their truck loads, driving up the prices of Canadian products.



Ahmad alsarraf

This caught the attention of a Canadian engineer of Egyptian origin, who proposed that the government lift restrictions on maximum truck loads in exchange for an annual fee. The revenue generated would then be allocated to maintaining and repairing roads damaged by the heavier loads.

The proposal was adopted and delivered significant economic benefits, particularly amid growing trade competition with producers from other countries.

In Kuwait, the Ministry of Public Works faces a similar challenge. The country's roads are not designed to withstand the weight of heavy truck loads, making the right-hand lanes of highways more vulnerable to wear, erosion, and subsidence than other lanes.

During a recent meeting attended by road officials from the Ministry of Public Works and Kuwait Municipality, along with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, several proposals were presented to address the problem.

These included imposing weight restrictions on trucks to prevent them from exceeding specified load limits. The meeting also discussed revising road paving specifications to provide additional reinforcement and maintenance for the right-hand lanes, which are commonly used by heavy trucks, as well as considering other measures to protect road infrastructure.

Truck owners should be allowed to exceed the existing weight restrictions, provided their vehicles do not carry excessive loads and they pay an annual fee. The revenue collected would then be allocated to maintaining and repairing truck lanes.

To prevent manipulation or evasion of the annual fee, mobile checkpoints equipped with weighing devices could be deployed to inspect trucks, verify their loads, and ensure that the required fees have been paid. Advanced mobile weighing systems designed specifically for this purpose are already used by traffic and regulatory authorities during surprise inspections.

Portable axle-load scales are also available and can be placed directly on road surfaces to measure truck weights.

Another option is portable truck weighing systems, which consist of interconnected steel or iron platforms that can be quickly installed on any solid, level surface without requiring the deep concrete foundations needed for permanent weighing stations. These platforms can be dismantled, transported by truck to another location, and reassembled as needed.

For the system to function accurately, each truck's empty weight and maximum load capacity must be clearly recorded on its body and in its official registration documents.

❑ ❑ ❑

Email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Kuwait Education Ministry wins UAE education excellence award

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Education Ministry announced Thursday it has won two awards as part of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance 2026 in an achievement that reflects Kuwait's educational excellence.

Najla Al-Harbi won the "Distinguished Teacher" award in recognition of her dedication and creativity in the field of education, while Muneera Al-Hajri received the "Distinguished Educator" award in appreciation of her educational efforts and contributions, the ministry said in a press release.

The ministry congratulated the two winners on this accomplishment, expressing its pride in distinguished national talents within the educational sector and commending their efforts and contributions to advancing educational excellence and creativity.

Sheikh Athbi charts vision for a 'people-centered' Farwaniya

Governor pledges better services for 1.23 million residents

By Bassam Al-Qassas and **Waleed Al-Mutairi**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: "A Governorate Close to the People" is the phrase that best describes the vision of the Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi in managing Kuwait's most densely populated governorate.

With a population of more than 1,231,000 spread across an area of 190 square kilometers, the governor has adopted a field-based approach based on a comprehensive development vision. This approach aims to ensure the governorate's activities are balanced, inclusive development and caters to the needs of both citizens and residents.

In an extensive interview with the daily, the governor discussed Farwaniya's history, current situation, and future development plans.

He emphasized that Farwaniya is one of Kuwait's most vital and prominent governorates, given its significant population, commercial activity, and extensive public services.

The governor stressed that Farwaniya Governorate receives considerable care and attention from the country's wise political leadership - His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince, and His Highness the Prime Minister.

The governor discussed a wide range of issues affecting the governorate, including bachelor housing, the presence of undocumented or marginal labor, the condition of healthcare centers, school readiness, and services provided to people with disabilities.

"Everything concerning Farwaniya is a trust I bear before God and the nation," Sheikh Athbi said, adding, "My office is open to everyone."

Below is the full interview:

Question: What vision guides your work in the governorate today?

Answer: I lead a field-based approach driven by a comprehensive development vision under the theme, "A Governorate Close to the People."

I strive to ensure that the governorate's activities are balanced and inclusive, with a focus on addressing the needs of both citizens and residents.

Q: What are the main issues and projects you are currently working on?

A: The governorate is implementing a range of service-oriented projects covering infrastructure, public facilities, roads, parks, and the expansion of green spaces.

In the education sector, we work to ensure the smooth operation of the educational process and monitor the readiness of schools.

In healthcare, the Minister of Health and I inaugurated the new West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Health Center, which serves more than 30,000 residents.

On security and public services, we have addressed issues related to bachelor housing and undocumented or unregulated labor in coordination with the Public Authority for Manpower. We have also discussed inspection and regulatory efforts targeting commercial establishments with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi speaks during an interview with Bassam Al-Qassas and Waleed Al-Mutairi.

Q: Where do the needs of people with disabilities rank among your priorities?

A: Caring for and empowering people with disabilities, while highlighting their talents and abilities, is a shared societal responsibility.

I recently met with Dr. Dalal Al-Othman, Director-General of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs, to discuss ways to improve the services provided to them.

We also explored ways to simplify procedures for obtaining wheelchairs, assistive devices, and designated parking permits.

Furthermore, we have supported the "Threads of Hope" (Khuyoot Al-Amal) initiative, which provides women with disabilities with training in various handicrafts.

Q: How do you put the concept of "community partnership" into practice?

A: We promote community partnership through an open-door policy, regular meetings with residents, and frequent field visits to address their needs and concerns.

We also maintain close coordination with the private sector. In this regard, I recently met with the CEO of Warba Bank to discuss areas of cooperation.

We also appreciate the efforts of the Union of Cleaning Companies and its initiatives to increase green spaces and introduce more vegetation across various areas of the governorate.

Q: Let's go back to the beginning. When was Farwaniya Governorate established, and what are its defining characteristics?

A: Farwaniya Governorate was officially established under Amiri Decree No. 156/1988, issued on October 12, 1988, during the reign of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The decree divided Kuwait into five governorates, including Farwaniya, which is located south of Kuwait City and covers an area of 190 square kilometers.

According to statistics from the Public Authority for Civil Information as of June 30, 2016, Farwaniya Governorate had a population of approximately 1,155,865.

Current estimates indicate that the population has now exceeded 1,231,255, making Farwaniya the most densely populated governorate in Kuwait. This places a significant responsibility on us to meet the growing needs of its residents.

The governorate comprises 19 areas, including 15 residential areas and four industrial and commercial zones.

The residential areas are Khaitan, Farwaniya, Omariya, Rabiya, Rehab, Ishbiliya, Ardiya, Andalous, Riggae, Firdous, Sabah Al-Nasser, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Abdullah Al-Mubarak, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and South Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

The four industrial areas are Ardiya Industrial, Al-Rai Industrial, Dajeej, and Shaddadiya.

The governorate is home to several prominent national landmarks and major facilities, including Kuwait International Airport, Jaber International Stadium, The Avenues, which is one of the largest shopping complexes in the Middle East, Sabah Al-Ahmad University in Shaddadiya, several applied education institutes, and the Kuwait Zoo.

Q: Do you have any final thoughts?

A: I have a clear vision for developing the Farwaniya Governorate in line with modern advancements and the changing needs of society.

I consider everything related to Farwaniya Governorate a sacred trust and a responsibility that I bear before Almighty Allah and the nation.

I am committed to working closely with everyone, including ministers, officials, residents, and community leaders, to serve the interests of the governorate and the country as a whole. Serving Kuwait is a duty we uphold with dedication, regardless of our positions, and an honor we take great pride in.

My office door is open to everyone. We will continue working with the utmost dedication to ensure that Kuwait's flag flies high under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince. May God protect them both.

Services

Farwaniya Governorate offers a wide range of public services and facilities across several sectors.

■ Religious: The governorate has a total of 350 mosques

■ Municipality: Farwaniya Municipality provides engineering inspection, safety, and sanitation services.

■ Security: The governorate is home to the Farwaniya Security Directorate, 14 police stations, and four fire stations located in Farwaniya, Ardiya, Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and West Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

■ Education: Established in 1986, the Farwaniya Educational Zone oversees more than 200 schools.

■ Healthcare: Healthcare facilities include the main Farwaniya Hospital and 23 health centers.

■ Sports: The governorate has four sports clubs - Al-Tadamon, Khaitan, Al-Nasr, and Al-Sulaibikhat.

■ Social Services: The governorate has 13 cooperative societies.

Achievements of the Governor

Farwaniya Governorate has witnessed the implementation and completion of several service and development projects and initiatives aimed at improving service standards, enhancing quality of life, and strengthening infrastructure efficiency.

These efforts have been carried out through ongoing coordination with the relevant ministries and government entities.

Healthcare Sector

■ The opening of the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Health Center, expanding healthcare services for residents of newly developed areas.

■ Priority in honoring healthcare workers in recognition of their dedication and contributions, encouraging them to continue their efforts in serving the community.

Educational Sector

■ Coordination with the Ministry of Education and relevant authorities to address the needs of newly developed residential areas, particularly amid population growth and high student density.

■ Efforts to establish new schools to accommodate urban expansion

■ The opening of four schools, with preparations underway to open four additional schools in the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.

■ The governor has also prioritized honoring outstanding students to recognize their achievements and encourage further academic excellence.

Roads Sector

■ The intersection of Jordan Street and Al-Ghazali Street has been opened following its conversion from a three-way into a four-way intersection

■ Work is underway to convert the intersection at the Farwaniya Hospital traffic signal into a four-way junction.

■ Ongoing road development and maintenance projects aim to improve intersection efficiency, enhance traffic flow, and support new residential areas.

■ The expansion of the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak exit has been completed to improve traffic movement.

■ Access roads for Road 6.5 have been opened, providing two lanes leading to the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.

■ The Sabah Al-Nasser Bridge has been partially opened.

Agricultural Sector

■ Promoting afforestation, landscaping, and improvements to the urban environment through environmental and community-based initiatives.

■ Addressing concerns related to public services and facilities, including organizing cleanup campaigns in parks across Khaitan, Al-Raqi, Al-Firdous, and other areas.

■ Preparing to launch a landscaping and afforestation project at the intersection of the Fifth Ring Road and Airport Road.

Mosques Sector

■ Overseeing the opening of several mosques across the governorate, including Nasser Faleh Al-Subaie Mosque, Marbeed Al-Suwaiji Mosque, Hunaima Falah Al-Hadba Mosque, Shaha Ghazi Mayeh Mosque, Nasser Turki Al-Otaibi Mosque, and Jaza Saad Al-Rajhi Mosque.

Hawalli Governorate launches campaign to raise awareness to combat obesity



Hawalli and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Sabah inaugurates an awareness exhibition held alongside the anti-obesity campaign.



Hawalli and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor visits one of the Ministry of Health's booths.



KUNA photos

Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Sabah listens as a participant explains an exhibit at the awareness exhibition.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Hawalli Governorate on Thursday launched an awareness campaign to combat obesity, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, held under the patronage and in the presence of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor and Acting Hawalli Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Chairperson of the Health, Educational, and Community Development Affairs Committee at the Governorate Council, Dr. Fay ben Salama, told KUNA that the campaign features an awareness exhibition with health pavilions and interactive activities, with the participation of several health and community organizations.

It aims to raise awareness of the health risks associated with obesity, promote balanced nutrition and physical activity, and encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles.

She added that the campaign reflects the committee's commitment to strengthening health awareness and promoting prevention through community initiatives targeting different age groups, particularly children and young people, seeking to encourage sustainable healthy habits.

The campaign also features activities and competitions, as well as a series of lectures and workshops organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Education across schools in Hawalli Governorate.

Ben Salama noted that the campaign also seeks to strengthen partnerships between government authorities and community institutions, promote a culture of prevention and health awareness, and contribute to building a healthier and more sustainable society.

Significance of the Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Bangladesh observes 21 November as its Armed Forces Day, a date of great historical importance for the nation. Members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces take great pride in marking this occasion with ceremonies conducted in a dignified and honourable manner.

After 23 years of relentless struggle for their rightful freedom, the Liberation War of Bangladesh began on 26 March 1971. The war continued for 9 months. In its early stages, the war was driven by a guerrilla resistance movement composed of Bangladeshi military personnel, paramilitary forces, and civilians. At the later stage of the liberation war, the Bangladesh Liberation Force was organized into the conventional Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force. Beginning on 21 Nov 1971, the coordinated and simultaneous operations of the Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Force gained offensive momentum. This ultimately led to the surrender of the occupying forces on 16 December 1971, when Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation on the world map. This hard-won independence came at the cost of the supreme sacrifices made by countless brave citizens and members of the Armed Forces.

On this significant day, people across Bangladesh pay tribute to the nation's war heroes and martyrs. The day inspires members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces to renew their oath to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their motherland. It also highlights the essential values of comradeship, unity, and joint effort in confronting any adversary.



Armed Forces Day 2026 poster highlights military personnel, naval forces and air force.

Formed during the Liberation War, the Bangladesh Armed Forces remain a source of national pride and a symbol of trust and confidence in Bangladesh. Beyond their traditional defense role, the Bangladesh Armed Forces play an important role in nation-building activities, disaster management, and internal security duties. Bangladesh today stand as one of the top troop-contributing countries in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, with over 4,000 personnel currently deployed in 7 United Nations missions worldwide.

The Armed Forces of Bangladesh are being modernized under the 'Forces Goal 2030' initiative and maintain strong, friendly relations with militaries around the world. The partnership between the Bangladesh Armed Forces and the Kuwait Armed Forces is particularly notable.

In addition to mutual visits and training exchanges, Bangladesh Armed Forces has played a constructive role in Kuwait's development. For the past 35 years, the Bangladesh Military Contingent to Kuwait - consisting of several contingents - has provided skilled technical and professional support in engineering, medical, communications, security, administration, and other fields to rebuild Kuwait. A total of 99 members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces have sacrificed their lives while discharging duties for the friendly country, Kuwait. Since 1991, proud Bangladeshi military personnel have continued to serve the Kuwait Armed Forces with utmost sincerity and dedication.

Long live the Bangladesh and Kuwait Armed Forces, long live the enduring friendship between Kuwait and Bangladesh!

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

We have lost our role models... lost minds, generation without direction

"NOT every crisis we face today is based on education, upbringing, or a lack of awareness. There is a deeper and more dangerous crisis, one that goes beyond educational shortcomings and reflects a decline in moral values," Kuwaiti writer **Fatima Nasser Al-Muzayel** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"This is evident in certain behaviors and practices that increasingly disregard the boundaries of good taste, decency, and core values.

We see this clearly on various social media platforms, where rudeness is portrayed as "boldness," vulgarity is promoted as "personal freedom," and public decency is openly disregarded, with little concern for its impact on society or the distorted values being instilled in younger generations.



Nasser Al-Muzayel

At its core, this is a crisis involving those who should serve as sources of awareness, uphold moral values, and help shape future generations.

It is a crisis marked by the absence of role models, where some adults become a burden on the very concept of maturity. As people grow older, wisdom seems to fade, and the dignity that should accompany maturity is lost, replaced by the normalization of vulgarity.

A lack of restraint is presented as "spontaneity," while crossing boundaries is portrayed as "freedom." In this environment, the balance of values is disrupted, and true role models are nowhere to be found.

Where is the decency in our words? Where is the respect for others? And where is the understanding that what we write reflects our upbringing, culture, and level of awareness?

Social media platforms are not lawless spaces where anything goes. Freedom does not justify crossing boundaries or abandoning one's values and morals.

What we see today in certain posts and degrading online content is not an expression of boldness, but it reflects shallow thinking, poor upbringing, and a disregard for moral boundaries.

Even more concerning is that this decline extends beyond objectionable behavior to the use of language that reveals a profound lack of awareness, refinement, and moral integrity.

Unfortunately, both men and women on these platforms engage in exchanging offensive and vulgar language, while crude and inappropriate expressions are written and circulated with little hesitation.

This is often accompanied by unacceptable behavior and practices that fall far below the most basic standards of decency and respect, as though the digital space has become an open arena for transgression, where public decorum is routinely disregarded.

Perhaps most painful is that some of these behaviors come from individuals working in fields supposedly rooted in education and guidance - people who should be setting an example and serving as role models.

How can we expect our children to value modesty when they see adults treating vulgarity as a legitimate right and crossing the boundaries of decency and good taste without shame or accountability?

How can we teach them self-respect when they see individuals defining their presence through insolence, provocation, and unrestrained audacity?

True upbringing is not about having a voice that is merely skilled at preaching. It is about setting an example through conduct that others can respect and emulate.

Generations are not lost overnight; they are lost when they search for role models and find none.

Maturity is a form of awareness reflected in self-restraint, respect for others, and an understanding of the impact of one's words and the consequences of one's actions.

How can we hope to advance our nations and societies when some of those who should serve as role models for future generations display behavior that contradicts our values and strip the very concept of refinement of its true meaning?

What future can we expect for our adolescents when those who should demonstrate the greatest maturity and awareness—adults themselves—engage in such behavior?

They treat digital platforms as open spaces for indiscriminate encounters, casual exchanges, and relationships that cross the boundaries of public decency, showing little regard for even the most basic standards of decorum and dignity.

We must restore balance to the way we use technology. Social media should serve as a platform for positive interaction and the exchange of ideas and culture, not as an arena for crude posts, vulgar videos, inappropriate imagery, or verbal abuse, behaviors increasingly displayed by adults and young people alike.

Such conduct, openly expressed in comments and online discussions, creates the impression that politeness and modesty are optional rather than essential values.

When adults lose their composure, they do more than damage their own reputations; they create a void in the lives of a generation searching for trustworthy role models.

Societies do not thrive simply by possessing advanced technology or expanding the reach of public platforms. Their true strength lies in the values they uphold, the moral principles they preserve, and the individuals they present as role models for future generations.

As the poet Ahmed Shawqi famously wrote, "Nations are defined by their morals; when their morals disappear, so do they.""

Also:

"A Moroccan friend told me 35 years ago that some people in Morocco were attempting to cross the Strait of Gibraltar by sea to reach Spain. However, they often underestimated the dangers posed by high waves, which could capsize their boats and result in the drowning of passengers," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"In recent years, conditions in several West African countries have become increasingly unstable due to poverty, violence, and civil wars, prompting many Africans to migrate north to Morocco and Libya in the hope of crossing the Mediterranean to Italy.

In Morocco and Tunisia, migrants gather in makeshift camps and pay human smuggling gangs to transport them by sea to the Spanish or Italian coasts, hoping to find work and earn a living to support their impoverished families. Others dream of pursuing careers as professional football players with European clubs.

A regular ferry crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar costs around 25 euros, equivalent to approximately KD 9. However, migrants who rely on smugglers may pay as much as 2,000 euros, or around KD 740, a substantial amount that many African migrants save over a long period.

Boat capsizing incidents are frequent, with many migrants losing their lives at sea due to rough waves and storms. Among the victims are women and young children who cannot swim and are often exposed to dangerously cold waters.

Italy and Spain have made considerable efforts to rescue migrants at sea. Moroccan naval vessels also recover the bodies of those who drown, while migrants who are apprehended may face imprisonment or deportation to their countries of origin.

Following the expulsion of Arabs from Andalusia, Spain extended its presence into Moroccan territory, retaining control of the two enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla and erecting barbed-wire fences along their borders with Morocco.

Entering either of these enclaves effectively means entering the territory of the European Union. Some African migrants managed to reach Europe through smuggling networks, a trend that coincided with the outbreak of the Syrian civil war, which forced large numbers of Syrians to flee their country for Turkiye and Europe. Refugees from Afghanistan also joined the migration flows.



Al-Dawas

However, in 2016, the ISIS terrorist organization mobilized its extremist operatives, who carried out attacks that killed civilians in France, Belgium, and Germany.

In response, several Balkan countries, including Hungary, Macedonia, Croatia, and Slovenia, erected barbed-wire fences along their borders, effectively restricting the movement of refugees.

In France, a right-wing movement opposed to immigration and Islam gained momentum. In Austria, the young Sebastian Kurz came to power at the head of a government that adopted a hardline stance on immigration. Hungary, meanwhile, maintained a similarly hardline government under Viktor Orbán.

Anti-immigrant sentiment has spread across Europe, while thousands of Africans continue to risk their lives crossing the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in overcrowded, flimsy boats. Many make the dangerous journey through war-affected areas of Yemen in search of job opportunities in Saudi Arabia."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

PAFN destroys 643 kg of adulterated food

Riyadh Road toward airport closed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: During a joint inspection campaign in Farwaniya Governorate, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, issued 13 violation reports and five food destruction reports, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAFN explained that the campaign resulted in the destruction of 642.975 kilograms of adulterated food deemed unfit for human consumption. Inspectors also identified several violations related to health requirements and licensing regulations.

Reaffirming its commitment to protecting public health and consumer safety, PAFN stressed that its inspection and monitoring efforts will continue.

❑ ❑ ❑

53 citations issued in Farwaniya: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and relevant government agencies, conducted an inspection campaign covering 45 food establishments in Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in 53 violation reports, one written undertaking, and two food destruction reports involving a total of 214 kilograms of food products.

PAFN reaffirmed its commitment to continuing inspection campaigns to ensure food safety and protect consumer health.

❑ ❑ ❑

Kuwait announces 48-hour closure: In coordination with the General Traffic Department, the Ministry of Public Works has announced the complete closure of Riyadh Road (Route 50) toward the airport to carry out asphalt maintenance work, reports Al-Seyassah daily

The closure will cover the stretch from the Fourth Ring Road intersection, opposite Khaldiya.

According to the ministry, the closure will take effect at dawn on Friday, and remain in place until dawn on Sunday.

❑ ❑ ❑

Fourth Ring Road flyover opens: The Ministry of Public Works, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, has announced the opening of the flyover at the intersection of the Fourth Ring Road and Damascus Street, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The opening also includes the traffic signal leading to the Fourth Ring Road toward Salmiya. Both facilities were opened to traffic early Wednesday morning.

❑ ❑ ❑

Ex-MP spared punishment in forgery: A former parliamentarian, who also served as an official at the Ministry of Interior, has been spared punishment by the Criminal Court despite being convicted of falsifying official documents during his tenure at the ministry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In another case, the Court of Appeals overturned the conviction of the chairman of a cooperative society, clearing him of the charge of abusing his position in a manner that supposedly caused the institution financial losses of about KD196,650.

The legal proceedings were in response to a complaint filed by Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), which alleged the chairman handed over a subsidy cheque issued by the company contracted to provide oil-change, electrical and tyre repair services for the cooperative without securing the mandatory 15 percent share of the total value of the cheque.



Ministry of Education promotes reading and student engagement at 49th Kuwait International Book Fair

China showcases over 500 book titles

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Ministry of Education announced its participation in the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair, taking place from November 18 to 28, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry hosts a dedicated pavilion featuring its educational and pedagogical publications. It will also organize visits for students from various academic levels and present cultural initiatives aimed at encouraging reading and promoting greater interest in books and knowledge.

Ahmed Al-Majdi, Director of the Libraries Department at the Ministry of Education, emphasized the ministry's commitment to participating in the annual Kuwait International Book Fair.

He explained that the book fair provides an opportunity to showcase the ministry's educational publications and explore books from various publishers for potential acquisition by school libraries. Student visits will be organized throughout the fair.



People visit the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair in Hawalli Governorate, Kuwait on Nov 18. (Xinhua)



A woman reads a book at the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair in Hawalli Governorate, Kuwait on Nov 18. (Xinhua)

The ministry is also participating in the "A Child Reads" initiative, launched under the guidance of the Minister of Education. The pavilion will feature winners of the 10th edition of the "Reading Challenge," who will serve as inspiring role models for other students.

Al-Majdi encouraged parents to bring their children to the fair and establish home libraries to foster a love of reading and learning.

He stressed that reading and writing are essential skills despite rapid technological advancements, adding that nurturing children's interest in books and culture helps develop an informed and educated generation.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar stressed on Wednesday that culture is a fundamental pillar of building a modern state, not an intellectual luxury, highlighting the importance of books in giving generations a deeper understanding of their language, values, and history.

This came during Al-Omar's speech, on behalf of his Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on the opening ceremony of the 49th Kuwait International Bookfair, held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.

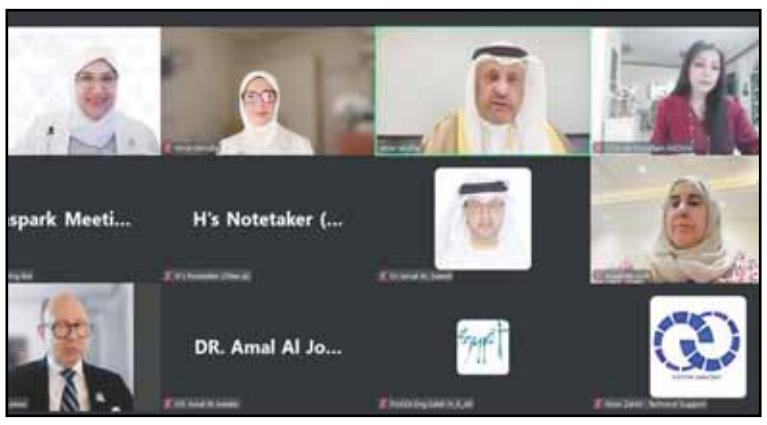
He welcomed Qatar's Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Thani as guest of honor of this session, emphasizing both countries' shared heritage and cultures.

For his part, Writer and Poet Dr. Khalifa Al-Wuqayan emphasized that culture has contributed to documenting Kuwait's history and civilizational presence, and enhanced its status through its literary, scientific, and cultural contributions of its people both inside and outside the country.

The 49th Kuwait International Book Fair opened Wednesday with more than 500 book titles on display at the Chinese pavilion.

Jointly set up by the China Cultural Center in Kuwait and China Intercontinental Press, the pavilion displays more than 800 copies of books, about 80 percent of which are in languages other than Chinese, mainly Arabic and English, according to the center.

The collection covers Chinese governance, literature, history and culture, humanities and social sciences, and Chinese language learning.



A photo from the virtual conference.

Kuwait bets on AI and technology to drive economic diversification

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Affairs and acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar affirmed that Kuwait is moving towards investing in technology and data, specifically the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in government and economic sectors, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

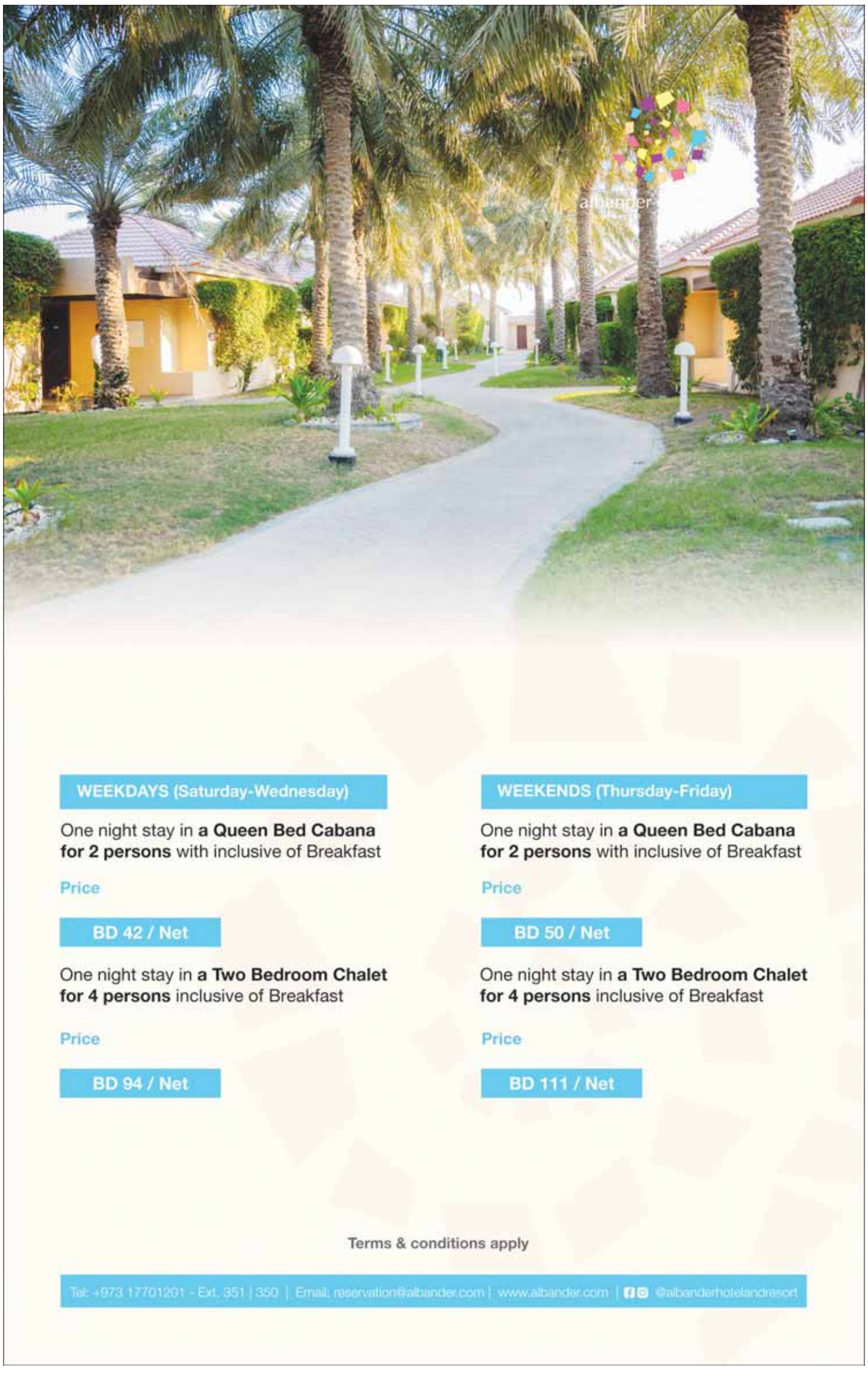
In his speech at the first session of the Seventh International Virtual Conference titled, "Techno-Innovation, Techno-Entrepreneurship and Techno-AI for Economic Diversification," Al-Omar pointed out that the country established important organizations, such as the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) and Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), to develop its digital infrastructure and data governance. He said the initiatives of the government include sovereign investments and partnerships with leading global technology companies.

He recalled the statement of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the 45th Gulf Summit on the importance of diversifying income sources and pushing for innovation in artificial intelligence. He indicated that the main theme of the conference is in line with the Kuwait 2035 vision.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of the conference Dr. Hanadi Al-Mubaraki revealed that 100 experts from 20 countries are participating in the two-day event organized by the Ecosystem Company, coinciding with Global Entrepreneurship Week.

Mohamed Ben Amor, Secretary General of the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO), said the studies conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) indicate that artificial intelligence will contribute about $15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, and $320 billion of which is attributed to the Middle East.

Aseel Al-Munifi, former Ministry of Finance Undersecretary, pointed out that transitioning to an innovation-driven economy requires digital financial governance, investment in digital infrastructure and cybersecurity, and flexible legislation that supports financial innovations.



KUNA concludes training program on field reporting, breaking news

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): KUNA Center for Media Development concluded Thursday a training program titled "Media Skills for Field Coverage, Crises and Breaking News," with the participation of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the National Guard and Kuwait Ports Authority personnel.

The program, which began last Sunday, was delivered by media specialist Oqab Al-Qobaa. It aimed to enhance participants' field reporting skills and familiarize them with the work of news agency correspondents and the skills required to cover various events and emergencies.

The program addressed key reporting skills, including news judgement, quick thinking, decision-making, broad knowledge and the ability to work under pressure.

Participants also examined media coverage mechanisms during disasters and crises, including coordination with media institutions and diverse sources.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Qobaa said the program focused on the professional and practical skills required by field reporters, particularly the ability to respond quickly to events, report information accurately and make appropriate decisions under different circumstances.

He added that covering crises and breaking news requires journalists to uphold professional standards, verify information, consult multiple sources and observe media ethics while maintaining the credibility of news reports.

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

KUNA Center for Media Development concluded Thursday its training program on infographic journalism, with the participation of personnel from Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the State Audit Bureau and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The program, which began last Sunday, introduced digital tools and infographics, their importance and applications in digital journalism. It highlighted their role in transforming tables, figures and data into simplified visuals that convey information and media messages quickly and accurately.

Combining theoretical and practical approaches, the program focused on methods of preparing data and converting it into charts and infographics. It also covered selecting appropriate visual formats and producing designs suited to the nature of the media content.

Participants were introduced to design websites and software, as well as techniques for creating visual content and preparing it for online publication.

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



Participants in the training program 'Media Skills for Field Coverage, Crises and Breaking News'.



KUNA photos

Participants in the training program on infographic journalism.

Kuwait Air Force hosts NATO Allied Command Operations delegation

NATO center in Kuwait concludes anti-maritime terror course

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Center in Kuwait concluded a training course on countering maritime terrorism on Thursday, in cooperation with the NATO Maritime Security Centre of Excellence in Turkiye, with GCC trainees attending.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the course, which was held from November 16 to 19, Director of the Regional Center Counselor Emad Al-Kandari said that the program helped strengthen the participants' capabilities and develop their skills in addressing maritime terrorist threats and protecting critical maritime infrastructure.

The course focused on enhancing the participants' understanding of maritime interdiction operations from both strategic and operational perspectives, raising awareness of defense mechanisms against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats and countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, he added.

The program featured practical exercises and simulation scenarios for various maritime threats aimed at boosting decision-making skills and bolstering coordination and cooperation in addressing different security challenges, he noted.



KUNA photo

Group photo of the participants in the training course on countering maritime terrorism.

In other news, the Kuwait Air Force, represented by Salem Al-Sabah Air Base, hosted a delegation from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allied Command Operations on Thursday as part of efforts to promote military cooperation and share expertise with friendly countries and military organizations.

The visit's program featured a specialized workshop covering aerial search, reconnaissance, and surveillance procedures, where relevant operational concepts and procedures were discussed, the Ministry of Defense said in a press release.

The visit comes in the context of the Air Force's commitment to bolstering international military partnerships and advancing its operational and training capabilities to keep pace with the latest developments in aerial operations, it added.

Continued from Page 1

Time's up

Individual notifications will not be served to the concerned property owners, as the order expressly stipulates that its publication in 'Kuwait Al-Youm' is the official notification. It takes effect on the date of its publication and the relevant authorities must implement it.

The demolition order is part of the ongoing campaign in the area. It is in accordance with the correspondence from the Ministry of Public Works on the completion of procedures related to unauthorized housing units identified during the campaign.

The decision also takes into consideration a letter from the deputy director general for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorates, dated Nov 2, 2026, as well as correspondence from the Legal Department at the Municipality dated Nov 10, 2026.

The administrative order was issued pursuant to Kuwait Municipality Law No. 33/2016, its amendments and executive regulations promulgated under Council of Ministers Resolution No. 1358/2018.

It also draws on Ministerial Resolution No. 363/2009 about the organizational structure of the executive body and branches of the Municipality, Ministerial Resolution No. 206/2009 regulating construction activities, Ministerial Resolution No. 517/2025 delegating certain powers to the director general and the public interest requirements.

No building

He asserted that neglecting such studies creates a cumulative impact, extending beyond localized bottlenecks to affect districts, governorates and the nation as a whole. He said urban expansion without proper traffic integration diminishes road efficiency, drains the economy and hinders development.

He clarified that expanding roads alone cannot resolve congestion in view of population growth, as increasing road capacity often attracts more vehicles, such that bottlenecks return within a few years.

He stressed that public transportation is the most efficient means of moving large numbers of people, while occupying less space on roads and land. "It helps alleviate congestion, reduces costs related to time, fuel and road maintenance, lowers emissions and noise levels, enhances traffic safety, connects residential areas with employment hubs and services, and provides an additional mode of transportation," he explained.

He recommended that the master plan should integrate public transit as a fundamental component of urban planning, rather than treating it as an afterthought once land-use patterns are established. "This can be achieved by linking the issuance of development permits with public transit provisions, reserving space for transit routes and stations, ensuring the integration of various transport modes, coordinating implementation, and establishing mandatory performance indicators for monitoring," he added.

He called for technical audit of the inputs used in traffic studies, and adoption of predictive models that account for future population growth and geographical expansion.

He said no new investment, urban or development project should be permitted to commence operations until the traffic-related improvements and recommendations are fully implemented.

He emphasized that the planning of new cities requires a proactive approach that integrates urban design with efficient public transport system in order to ensure high quality of life and avoid costly remedial measures later on.

No major

Sea conditions are forecast to remain light to moderate, with wave heights ranging from 1 to 4 feet.

Weather on Friday night is expected to be cool, with northwesterly winds blowing at light to moderate speeds of 12 to 38 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures are forecast to range between 12 and 14 degrees Celsius, while sea wave heights are expected to reach 2 to 5 feet.

On Saturday, daytime weather will be warm, with northwesterly and variable winds blowing at speeds of 8 to 38 kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 27 and 29 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions will remain light to moderate, with wave heights of 2 to 5 feet.

Saturday night will be cool, with variable winds shifting to northwesterly at light to moderate speeds of 8 to 28 kilometers per hour. Scattered clouds are expected, while minimum temperatures will range between 13 and 15 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will remain light to moderate, with waves reaching 1 to 3 feet.

Kuwait ruling

The report submitted by a medical committee consisting of psychiatrists confirmed that the defendant is mentally healthy, has no psychological disorder and has full cognitive capacity, awareness, insight and sound judgment.

Meanwhile, Attorney Yousef Al-Attar, lawyer for the heirs of the victim, pointed out that the death sentence imposed by the Criminal, Appeals and Cassation courts affirm that the defendant deserves the punishment.

He stated that the legal team representing the heirs filed a civil lawsuit and presented a detailed account of the circumstances surrounding the heinous crime to the court. He added that the heirs are now awaiting the implementation of the death sentence to ensure justice is served. He stressed that carrying out the punishment is a deterrent to anyone who might be thinking about taking the lives of innocent people.

Kuwait eyes

Class) to Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Sami Al-Musabahi on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. This is in recognition of Al-Musabahi's contributions to strengthening security coordination between the two countries. Al-Munifi attended the awarding ceremony.

Hala Industrial Co. شركة هلا الصناعية



Decoration works, wood products and cupboards are available

You can get all what you need at Hala Industrial

Contact us now

Subhan Industrial - Block 10 - Street 5 - Plot 151 - Tel: 60660817 - 66448545 - 50446599

Hala_Industrial

hala@halakw.com

Xi meets Trump, calling for continued efforts to steer China-US relations on right course

China's president makes 4 points on how major countries should get along with each other

SHENZHEN, Nov 19, (Xinhua): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday made four points on how major countries could find the right way to get along and jointly underpin world peace.

Major countries should uphold mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, win-win cooperation, and dialogue and consultation, Xi said at a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province.

Xi said that countries should respect one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity, respect the social systems and development paths of their own choice, and respect each other's core interests and major concerns.

They should not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs or each other's internal affairs, he said.

On major sensitive issues concerning one another, it is important to communicate in advance, try to see things from one another's perspective, act with caution, and in particular, not to challenge the red lines of one another, Xi said.

Xi said that China, Russia and the United States should be partners and friends. They should not go for conflict or confrontation among themselves, but should hold the line on peaceful coexistence and make efforts to avoid the Thucydides Trap.

As the main victors of World War II, China, Russia and the United States should steadfastly safeguard the postwar international order, Xi said.

He said that nuclear weapons, the Sword of Damocles that hangs over humanity, should be completely prohibited and thoroughly destroyed over time to make the world free of nuclear weapons.

He emphasized the importance of win-win cooperation. The three countries should strengthen economic cooperation and trade, combine their respective strengths as major countries in resources, manufacturing and consumption, so as to make the pie of cooperation bigger and achieve win-win and all-win outcomes. Decoupling and disruption of industrial and supply chains are not the way to go.

Xi said that the three countries could strengthen communication and coordination to safeguard the security and stability of the global energy market.

He said that the three countries should maintain regular high-level exchanges, keep dialogue channels open at all levels, and establish crisis communication and prevention mechanisms to ensure that misjudgments occur less, differences can be managed, and frictions will not escalate.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with US President Donald Trump, who is in China for the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province on Nov 19. (Xinhua)

Xi said that China, Russia and the United States should continue to encourage parties to a conflict to sit down and talk, and settle disputes through political and diplomatic means.

Xi met with Trump on Thursday in Shenzhen, calling for continued efforts to jointly steer the giant ship of China-US relations in the right direction toward the future.

Trump is in the southern Chinese city for the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting on Nov. 18-19.

During the meeting, Xi said that China-US relations have generally maintained a stable and positive trajectory, bringing tangible benefits to people of both countries and injecting stability and certainty into the world.

Xi said that he and Trump had jointly explored the right way for China and the United States, as two major countries, to get along, established a new positioning of a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability and given it new meaning based on respect, fairness and reciprocity.

The new positioning has been welcomed by the people of both China and the United States, as well as by the international community, he added.

Xi stressed that building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability is an unprecedented and pioneering endeavor, adding that the key to sustaining the current positive momentum lies in taking concrete action to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state.

The two sides agreed to map out an action plan for building a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability.

Xi called on the two sides to strengthen communication on economic and trade matters, address each other's concerns, and work toward mutual benefit.

The cooperation between the two countries on counternarcotics, the repatriation of illegal immigrants, and combating telecommunications and online fraud has yielded positive results, Xi said, adding that it can be further deepened based on respect, fairness, and reciprocity.

China and the United States should strengthen communication and coordination to guard against safety risks of artificial intelligence (AI) and ensure that AI always remains under human control, he said.

On the Taiwan question, the US side should do the right thing and avoid major disruptions to China-U.S. relations, Xi said.

Trump said he and Xi have jointly guided the development of US-China relations, and both sides should maintain the positive momentum of the stable development in bilateral relations.

The United States does not support "Taiwan independence," Trump said.

Denmark's parliament approves security deal with Greenland and US

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Nov 19, (AP): Denmark's parliament on Thursday approved a hard-wrought agreement with Greenland and the United States to strengthen security in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

The vote follows months of pressure by US President Donald Trump seeking to control Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of Denmark, a NATO ally.

The trilateral deal - between Trump and the Danish and Greenlandic leaders - paves the way for more US bases in Greenland and eases tensions over Trump's repeated calls for the vast island to become part of the US.

The 109-0 vote in the Folketing amounts to a final step: The deal was expected to enter into force once Denmark and Greenland had signed on.

Greenland's parliament approved the deal earlier this month, also with no opposition.

The text of the agreement says it will enter force once Denmark and Greenland inform the US "in a diplomatic note" indicating that their parliaments had completed all necessary steps.

The U.S. ambassador to Denmark, Kenneth Howery, welcomed the "strong support" in the Danish parliament for ratification of the deal "paving the way for it to enter into force."



Denmark's Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, (right), attends the second legislative process and vote on the security agreement between Denmark, Greenland, and the USA in the Parliament Hall at Christiansborg in Copenhagen on Nov 19. (AP)

"The agreement is a tremendous accomplishment, one that modernizes our partnership for the security challenges of the future and bolsters the security of the United States, the Kingdom of Denmark, including Greenland, and all of NATO," he wrote on X.

The aim is to bolster the US military presence on Greenland but keep the self-governing island under Danish control. It would still apply if Greenland eventually chooses independence.

Trump and the leaders of Greenland and Denmark signed the deal in September in New York, after months of quiet, behind-the-scenes negotiations to address his security concerns and Danish and Greenlandic fears of a possible US takeover.

Russia and Japan will keep talking as ties remain chilled: PM Takaichi

SHENZHEN, China, Nov 19, (AP): Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Thursday that she and Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks and agreed to keep communicating in the first such encounter between the two countries' leaders in seven years.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, she said she raised the issue of Moscow's treatment of Japanese businesses in Russia and urged Putin to release a Japanese journalist detained for alleged spying during their meeting late Wednesday in Shenzhen, China.

"We reached an agreement to maintain communication at various levels, including direct contact between the president and myself," Takaichi said.

Japan's ties with Russia have long been strained by a territorial dispute dating back decades.

Japan lodged a protest with Russia in October over the arrest of a Japanese journalist working for the Hokkaido Shimbun newspaper on suspicion of spying, demanding that Moscow provide an explanation, consular access and humane treatment.

Moscow recently seized control of some local subsidiaries of Japan Tobacco, the largest cigarette maker in Russia, and the company reported it expects a 724 billion yen ($4.5 billion) loss for this year due to the takeover.



Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi speaks to the media during a press conference on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China on Nov 19. (AP)

Earlier, Japan Tobacco had forecast a 662 billion yen profit for the financial year ending Dec. 31. The company said it has not given up legal ownership of the Russia-based subsidiaries or withdrawn from operating in Russia.

Tensions rose in August after Putin visited Iturup, one of four Russian-controlled islands off Japan's northern coast that Tokyo also claims. Earlier this month, Tokyo protested after two Russian aircraft briefly violated Japanese airspace off southwestern Japan.

The last bilateral in-person talks between Japanese and Russian leaders were held between then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Putin in September 2019, during the Eastern Economic Forum in the Russian city of Vladivostok.

US and Venezuela sign deal to reestablish military ties: Hegseth

CARACAS, Venezuela, Nov 19, (AP): The United States and Venezuela have signed a deal to reestablish military ties that will range from conducting joint training to intelligence sharing, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday in Caracas while visiting the South American nation's interim leaders.

Hegseth touted how US forces in January captured then-Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, telling an audience of diplomats and military officials from both countries that now Venezuela "has gone from our most aggressive regional threat to a compliant security partner."

He also praised the "close cooperation" with acting President Delcy Rodríguez that allowed officials "to stabilize Venezuela and rid it of narco-terrorists once and for all," in a reference to drug traffickers.

Hegseth's visit, the latest in a series of stops in Venezuela by members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet, underscores efforts by the US administration to deepen its influence in the South American country. Trump said in August that Hegseth helped broker a sweeping deal for the U.S. to take control of some Venezuelan oil reserves.

The Pentagon chief praised the energy deal by referencing another major military action by the Trump administration this year - the Iran war. The conflict has disrupted global energy supplies through a critical waterway in the Persian Gulf, raising gasoline prices and contributing to the Republican Party's severe losses in this month's midterm elections.

The Venezuela oil deal "makes the Strait of Hormuz a nonfactor for the Western Hemisphere," Hegseth said at the US Embassy in Caracas.



In this photo released by Miraflores presidential press office, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, (right), meets with Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela on Nov 18. (AP)

In the meeting with Hegseth, Rodríguez asserted that the deal enables "the energy development of our nations" and "benefits both the people of the United States and the people of Venezuela."

Asia

S.Korea court overturns ex-PM charges: South Korea's Supreme Court on Thursday overturned the conviction of former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo for aiding ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief imposition of martial law in December 2024.

Han had been convicted of helping legitimize the decree by securing its endorsement at a Cabinet meeting. But the Supreme Court said prosecutors had not sufficiently proven that he intended to help Yoon carry out his unlawful power grab.

The ruling sends Han's case back to the Seoul High Court, which sentenced him to 15 years in prison in May. It does not free him immediately: The Supreme Court extended his detention by two more months.

In a separate ruling Thursday, the Supreme Court upheld a four-year prison term for Yoon's wife, Kim Keon Hee, on corruption charges including stock price manipulation and bribery, the latest development in Yoon's sprawling saga.

Han and Kim, both currently imprisoned, did not attend the rulings.

Yoon's martial law decree, announced late at night on Dec. 3, 2024, followed a standoff with liberal opponents controlling the legislature, whom the conservative leader branded as "anti-state" forces obstructing his agenda and paralyzing state affairs. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

N.Korea expands U-enrichment facility: North Korea has been expanding its original uranium enrichment facility at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog said, in yet another sign that the North is delivering on its vow to bolster its nuclear weapons program.

The assessment by International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi came as U.S. President Donald Trump expressed his eagerness to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un while he was in Asia for a regional forum in China.

"Since mid-September 2026, a further extension to the original Yongbyon enrichment facility has been under construction with the new extension externally complete by late-October 2026," Grossi said in a statement Wednesday to the IAEA's board of governors. "The ongoing expansion of the DPRK's uranium enrichment program remains a cause for serious concern." (AP)

Pakistan military kills 22 militants

ISLAMABAD, Nov 19, (Agencies): Pakistani security forces acting on intelligence raided militant hideouts in the northwest near the Afghan border, setting off gunbattles that killed 22 militants, the military said Thursday.

It alleged that the militants killed were backed by neighboring India. There was no immediate comment from New Delhi, but Pakistan often accuses Afghanistan and India of supporting the Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups, allegations both countries deny.

The raids took place over the past 48 hours in the South Waziristan, Bannu and Tank districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said in a statement.

The military reported last week that security forces had killed 74 militants over several days in raids on hideouts in the northwest and in southwestern Balochistan province.

The military said troops were searching the areas for any remaining militants and pledged to continue operations against what it described as foreign-backed terrorism.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in separate statements praised the security forces for eliminating "Indian-supported" militants and vowed to continue the fight against militancy. Sharif said militants and their supporters would not be allowed to spread unrest in Pakistan and that the nation stood behind the forces fighting them.

Militant attacks targeting Pakistan's police and security forces have surged in recent years. Authorities have blamed the Pakistani Taliban, who are known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP, and allied militant groups for most of the violence.

The Pakistani Taliban are a separate group from but allied with Afghanistan's Taliban, who took power in Kabul in 2021. Many TTP leaders and fighters are believed to operate from sanctuaries across the Afghan border, straining relations between Islamabad and Kabul.

Four terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with police in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday, police said.

The operation was launched after police received reports of firing on personnel along Begu Khel Road in Lakki Marwat district.



A Malawian migrant jumps over a barricade as police officers manage the queue for their deportation at a temporary centre, in Durban, South Africa on June 18. (AP)

Migrants face health crisis amid protests in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 19, (Agencies): Migrants affected by protests against illegal immigration in South Africa have suffered devastating impacts to their health as they avoided visiting medical facilities or left the country to avoid violence in recent months, aid groups said Wednesday.

Many migrants who had been receiving medication in South Africa for HIV, tuberculosis and other ailments have had their treatment severely disrupted, they said.

Children, pregnant women and people traveling with newborns have been among the most affected, while others suffered physical injuries and illnesses including respiratory infections, high blood pressure and gastrointestinal issues during rushed journeys home from South Africa, they said.

South Africa has been gripped by anti-illegal migration protests accusing foreigners in the country illegally of committing crimes, stealing jobs amid high unemployment and overburdening public services. Tens of thousands have voluntarily repatriated to their home countries including Malawi, Nigeria and Ghana. Some fled after violent attacks.

Some protesters have blocked foreigners from accessing clinics and other public health facilities, claiming they are exclusively reserved for South Africans even though the law allows foreigners to receive treatment there.

"Many migrants at displacement sites reported not accessing healthcare for many months, and up to a year in some cases, due to fear of being turned away or harmed," said Claire Waterhouse, the Doctors Without Borders advocacy director for Southern Africa.

Patients with chronic infectious diseases including HIV or TB had defaulted or were close to defaulting on their treatment regimens, causing high distress and worsening illness and increasing the risk of resistance in wider populations.

Doctors Without Borders has been among the aid organizations supporting the migrants, setting up sites in Cape Town and Johannesburg and also in the town of Musina near the border with Zimbabwe.

In Zimbabwe, a site was set up at the Beitbridge border post and the Nyamapanda border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique where migrants who had left South Africa received treatment.

Khanyisa Mapipa, an attorney with rights group Section27, said the organization is pursuing a legal case against the Gauteng department of health and the city of Johannesburg.

Business

Kuwaiti oil price drops 44 cents to $81.29 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil dropped 44 cents to USD 81.29 barrel (pb) in Wednesday's trading compared with USD 81.73 pb on Tuesday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude fell by USD 1.19 to USD 91.95 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate fell by USD 2.75 to USD 83.26 pb.

Behbehani stresses IAEA safeguards

Kuwait welcomes Saudi-US nuclear pact

VIENNA, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait on Wednesday expressed its appreciation for the efforts of Saudi and US delegations in briefing the Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors on the bilateral agreement of nuclear energy cooperation signed between the two countries.

This came in a statement delivered by Ali Behbehani, Third Secretary and member of the Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations in Vienna during the meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors.

He underlined the significance of the verification activities and additional safeguards required to be implemented by the IAEA.

Behbehani welcomed the request submitted to authorize the IAEA Director General to implement the verification activities and additional safeguards enshrined in the agreement, considering it an effective and transparent mechanism that enables the IAEA to fulfill its relevant.



KUNA photo

Representatives of IAEA Member States during the meeting.

Recognized at GCC GOV HR awards

NBK wins 'Digital HR of the Year in Private Sector' award

- Recognition reflects Group Human Resources' efforts to establish an integrated digital workplace that enhances the employee experience
- The Bank successfully leveraged technology and artificial intelligence to transform HR services
- NBK adopts a vision that positions digital transformation as a means of enhancing employee experience and workplace efficiency



Head of HR Operations & Systems Administration, Jasim Al Mousa, with the Employee Banking Services and HR Systems teams at the 14th GCC GOV HR & Youth Summit & Awards 2026, celebrating the 'Digital HR of the Year in Private Sector' award.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has won the Digital HR of the Year in Private Sector award at the 14th Annual GCC GOV HR & Youth Summit & Awards 2026, one of the region's leading platforms dedicated to human capital development, institutional innovation and talent empowerment across GCC countries.

The summit was held on October 20 and 21, bringing together leading executives, decision-makers, experts and specialists in human resources, talent management and organizational transformation.

For more than a decade, the awards have celebrated leading institutions and initiatives that contribute to human capital development, promote innovation and youth empowerment, and enhance readiness to meet future requirements across various sectors.

The Digital HR category recognizes institutions that successfully leverage digital technologies and artificial intelligence tools to transform human resources practices and improve efficiency. This includes streamlining procedures, facilitating access to services, enhancing employee experience, optimizing operational processes and strengthening organizational flexibility, productivity and sustainability.

NBK received the award in recognition of its integrated HR digital transformation project, which focused on enhancing employee services, improving accessibility and elevating user experience through a series of interconnected digital initiatives. These initiatives supported the Bank's broader digital transformation strategy and established a more efficient and agile approach to human capital management.

Among the key initiatives contributing to this achievement was the introduction of a fully digital credit services for employees through Weyay Bank. The service enables employees to apply for loans, complete all required procedures and obtain approvals electronically, without submitting physical documents, using digital signature. As one of the first fully integrated digital solutions of its kind in Kuwait's banking sector, the initiative has helped simplify procedures, enhance employee privacy, accelerate application processing and provide greater convenience and flexibility in accessing financial services.



NBK 'Digital HR of the Year in Private Sector' award.

The Bank also launched NBK HR Pedia, an intelligent digital assistant available around the clock to provide employees with immediate and accurate responses to HR-related inquiries. The platform has improved access to information and services, strengthened employee self-service capabilities and accelerated responses to everyday inquiries.

As part of its efforts to modernize HR digital infrastructure, NBK completed a comprehensive employee records digitization and archiving project, converting more than 4,000 employee files from paper-based records into a secure, integrated electronic archive. This transformation has enabled faster and more efficient access to data and documents, strengthened governance, information protection and regulatory readiness, and significantly reduced reliance on paper documentation and conventional storage methods.

The Bank also expanded the use of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) across several routine operational procedures, reducing manual intervention, minimizing errors and improving operational efficiency and transaction processing speed.

These initiatives delivered tangible results in enhancing employee experience and operational efficiency. Employee records management is now fully digital, achieving a 100% digitization rate, while all eligible employee loan applications have been transferred to an end-to-end digital process without paper documentation. In addition, the HR digital assistant contributed to a 30% reduction in operational interventions and inquiries requiring manual handling, enabling HR teams to devote greater attention to strategic initiatives and higher-value activities.

This recognition adds another milestone to NBK's distinguished record of achievements and reflects Group Human Resources' sustained efforts to establish an integrated digital workplace that enhances employee experience and provides easier, faster access to essential information and services. These efforts contribute to improved performance efficiency while fostering a culture of innovation and continuous development across the Bank.

NBK's vision positions digital transformation as a means of enhancing employee experience and workplace efficiency, extending beyond the automation of traditional procedures. Accordingly, the Bank continues to introduce innovative initiatives powered by advanced technologies and artificial intelligence tools to deliver more accessible and flexible services, streamline everyday processes and enable employees to obtain the information and services they need efficiently. This allows them to devote greater attention to developing their capabilities and contributing to the achievement of the Bank's strategic objectives.

This achievement further reinforces NBK's leading position in human capital development and reflects its ongoing commitment to investing in its employees through innovation, continuous learning and digital transformation, strengthening workforce readiness for future requirements and supporting sustainable organizational excellence.

Experts share cybersecurity tips

NBK showcases its efforts to combat online fraud on 'Good Evening Kuwait'





NBK experts share cybersecurity and fraud prevention insights on Kuwait TV's "Good Evening Kuwait" programme.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: As part of its ongoing commitment to protecting customers and raising public awareness of online fraud risks, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) participated in Kuwait TV's "Good Evening Kuwait" program, represented by a team of specialists in digital communications, fraud prevention, and information security. The discussion highlighted the Bank's latest efforts and initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity and protect customers against growing cyber threats.

The episode featured Saud Al-Askar, Senior Officer – Social Media, Digital Communications; Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi, Senior Officer – Anti-Fraud; and Mohammad Alzatari, Manager – Incident Response and Awareness. The participants discussed NBK's role in combating evolving fraud techniques and promoting cybersecurity awareness among customers.

The participants highlighted the vital role of NBK's Digital Communications Department in sharing awareness messages and security alerts across the Bank's social media platforms, as well as its active contribution to supporting the nationwide banking awareness campaign "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya). The campaign aims to enhance financial and banking literacy across society, educating individuals about emerging fraud techniques and how to avoid falling victim to them.

They also discussed some of the most prevalent online fraud methods, including social engineering, impersonation, and phishing messages, alongside emerging risks associated with advanced technologies such as deepfakes and the use of artificial intelligence to carry out increasingly sophisticated and convincing fraud attempts.

- NBK's Digital Communications Department plays a pivotal role in raising awareness of fraud risks through social media platforms.
- The Bank's Information Security teams employ the latest security standards and technologies to safeguard customer data and banking systems.
- NBK maintains close coordination with relevant authorities to detect suspicious activities and mitigate fraud risks.

During the discussion, the participants outlined the advanced measures implemented by NBK to detect and monitor suspicious transactions in real time, as well as the procedures for handling customer fraud reports and maintaining close coordination with relevant authorities to mitigate fraud risks.

They emphasized the importance of promptly reporting any suspicious activity or attempted fraud, noting that early reporting can significantly improve the chances of recovering lost funds and minimizing potential losses.

The discussion also highlighted the role of Information Security teams in safeguarding customer data and banking systems against cyber threats by implementing the latest security standards and technologies, while continuously strengthening digital defenses to keep pace with rapid developments in cybersecurity.

Concluding the discussion, the participants stressed that customer awareness is an essential component of effective protection against fraud. They urged customers never to share their banking information, passwords, or one-time passwords (OTPs) with anyone, and to use only the Bank's official channels to help safeguard their accounts and personal information.

NBK's participation reflects its ongoing efforts to promote security awareness and foster a strong cybersecurity culture, in line with its commitment to providing a safe and trusted banking environment for customers and the wider community. These efforts complement the continued role of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in collaboration with local banks and Kuwait Banking Association, in strengthening banking and financial awareness across society as one of the region's largest banking awareness initiatives.

NBK leverages its extensive customer communication capabilities, including its digital platforms, which have the largest social media following among Kuwaiti banks, to ensure that awareness messages reach the widest possible audience and strengthen public understanding of fraud and cybercrime risks.

TechCo launches 3rd phase of its Internet Monsters social media campaign

Zain marks World Children's Day by ranking 1st in MENA in Global Child Forum's benchmark

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Zain Group, a leading regional TechCo, has maintained its position as the top-ranked company in the MENA region and 15th globally across all sectors in the Global Child Forum's The State of Children's Rights and Business 2026 benchmark for the fourth consecutive year. The company's recognition as a 'Leader' coincides with World Children's Day on November 20, reaffirming its commitment to protecting and advancing children's rights in an increasingly digital world.

Building on its commitment to child online safety, Zain recently launched the 3rd phase of its Internet Monsters awareness campaign, addressing the growing challenges children face as social media, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence become increasingly integrated into their everyday lives.

In the benchmark, Zain achieved an overall score of 9.2/10, a vast improvement from 8.5/10 in 2025, placing it first regionally, 9th within the telecom industry, and 15th globally. The result reflects Zain's continued progress in embedding children's rights into its governance, business practices, and operations, supported by coordinated initiatives and policies across the Group.

Among 1,802 of the world's largest companies assessed, Zain significantly outperformed all relevant benchmarks, achieving a score of 9.2/10 compared with the telecom sector average of 6.3, the broader industry average of 5.9, the global average of 4.9, and the regional average of 3.4.

Bader Al Kharafi, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO commented, "As AI and other digital technologies becomes increasingly central to children's lives, safeguarding their rights sits at the heart of our sustainability strategy. With more than one-third of internet users worldwide being children, and broadband access continuing to expand, this share is set to rise. Building a more inclusive and responsible digital future reaffirms our purpose of "Better Lives. Lasting Connections."

Jennifer Suleiman, Zain Group Chief Sustainability Officer, said: "This global benchmark reflects a commitment that goes beyond policies and statements to meaningful action. Zain has implemented a series of structured policies and partnerships designed to uphold and advance children's rights across the region reflecting our commitment to address the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2 calling on ending all forms of violence against children by 2030."

Ekin Ergün Björstedt, Secretary General - Global Child Forum, said: "Children's digital safety is now a core topic for the Telecommunications sector, and companies are expected to take concrete action on this issue. We are pleased to see Zain reporting on their actions in this area. We encourage other Telecommunications companies to do the same and put robust measures in place to protect children online."

Leadership in Global Child Forum's benchmark

Zain's classification as a 'Leader' recognizes its progress in moving beyond policy commitments to embedding children's rights into everyday business practices, supported by continuous monitoring, transparent reporting, and targeted initiatives. This commitment was reflected across all four assessment categories, with Zain achieving perfect scores of 10/10 in both Governance & Collaboration and Workplace, alongside 9/10 in Marketplace and 7.4/10 in Community & Environment, significantly outperforming the corresponding sector, industry, and regional averages in every category.

These results highlight the Group's strong approach to governance and accountability, responsible labor and supply chain practices, family-friendly workplace policies, ethical marketing, and product responsibility, reinforcing its commitment to safeguarding children's rights throughout its operations and value chain.

Advancing children's rights across Zain's markets

Zain's commitment to children's rights is reflected through a wide range of initiatives that address some of the most pressing challenges facing young people across the Middle East and Africa, including access to education, digital inclusion, online safety, and protection from abuse. These efforts form a central part of the Group's sustainability strategy and its ambition to build resilience among children and youth while empowering them to reach their full potential.





Zain Internet Monsters 2026

- Bader Al Kharafi: As AI and other digital technologies becomes increasingly central to children's lives, safeguarding their rights sits at the heart of our sustainability strategy
- Improved score of 9.2/10 places Zain in 'Leader' category, ranking 15th globally among 1,802 of the world's largest companies assessed
- Protecting children's rights through wide-ranging initiatives that embrace education, digital literacy, and online safety across Zain markets



Zain Headquarters

Internet Monsters: reimagining online safety in the age of AI

Under the tagline Not everything is as it seems, the campaign reimagines five familiar fairy tales through AI-supported creative production, animation, and video, transforming classic stories into engaging lessons about online safety. By drawing on stories children already recognize, the campaign encourages young audiences and their caregivers to question what they encounter online, identify potential threats, and develop safer, more responsible digital habits.

Each story addresses a distinct online risk. Little Red Riding Hood explores deceptive online identities, while Hansel and Gretel highlights how tempting digital content can conceal harmful intentions. Cinderella encourages children to report cyberbullying and seek support from trusted adults, Sleeping Beauty emphasizes the importance of protecting personal and payment information, and Snow White raises awareness about reviewing app permissions before granting access to personal data.

The campaign also demonstrates the potential of artificial intelligence as a tool for education and positive engagement, while reinforcing the importance of using emerging technologies critically, safely, and responsibly.

Featuring five short films in Arabic and English, the campaign is supported by educational content, interactive stories, quizzes, and polls designed to encourage conversations between children, parents, and caregivers. Running through the end of December, it reflects Zain's efforts to empower families with the awareness and knowledge needed to navigate an increasingly complex online environment.

Strengthening child protection services

Through its partnership with Child Helpline International (CHI), Zain continues to support efforts to strengthen child protection services and expand awareness of available assistance across its markets. The collaboration focuses on empowering children and families with access to trusted support channels, promoting children's rights, and encouraging communities to take an active role in safeguarding their wellbeing.

Embedding children's rights across business practices

Beyond its community initiatives, Zain continues to strengthen the integration of children's rights into its governance, business operations, and value chain. As part of these efforts, Zain conducts a children's rights gap analysis using UNICEF's Child Rights Impact Self-Assessment Tool for Mobile Operators (MO-CRIA) to identify opportunities to further strengthen child protection measures across the Group's business activities.

Zain also maintains strict safeguards against child labor throughout its operations and supply chain, supported by supplier assessments, due diligence procedures, and physical audits. No cases of child labor were reported across its value chain in 2025. These measures are complemented by responsible marketing standards, data protection policies, and accessible grievance mechanisms designed to protect children's rights and promote accountability.

Recognizing the importance of family wellbeing in supporting children's development, Zain has also introduced progressive workplace policies that provide meaningful support to working parents, including enhanced parental leave provisions, flexible working arrangements, and opportunities for extended parental bonding.

Supporting employee and family wellbeing during regional challenges

Amid the recent geopolitical tensions and uncertainty across the region, Zain expanded its Group-wide BE WELL program to provide emotional and psychological support to employees and their families, recognizing the particular impact of crises on children's mental health and wellbeing. The company introduced a dedicated Crisis Support Portal, offering practical resources and guidance to help employees, parents, and caregivers manage stress, support their children, and navigate challenging circumstances with greater confidence and resilience. These efforts were complemented by confidential multilingual support hotlines, professional counselling services for employees and their children, and digital wellbeing resources.

More on Global Child Forum

Founded in 2009 by the Swedish Royal Family, Global Child Forum is a leading organization dedicated to advancing children's rights through business engagement, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration. Its latest benchmark, developed in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group, assessed companies across nine sectors against 25 indicators, examining how businesses integrate children's rights into their governance, policies, and practices using publicly available information.

A comprehensive overview of Zain's performance is available through the Global Child Forum's Corporate Sector and Children's Rights Benchmark scorecard.

Nov 30 is the final deposit deadline to enter draw

Gulf Bank showcases AlDanah Millionaire Account benefits



Gulf Bank's team at Assima Mall.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Gulf Bank participated in a three-day activation at Assima Mall from November 19 to 21, aimed at introducing visitors to the benefits of the AlDanah Millionaire Account and informing them about upcoming draw dates, while also promoting financial awareness as part of its ongoing support for the "Let's Be Aware" banking awareness campaign.

The Gulf Bank booth attracted significant interest from visitors eager to learn more about the AlDanah Millionaire Account. The bank's team presented the account's enhanced prize structure, which includes a grand prize of KWD 1.5 million, an additional prize of KWD 1 million, and five prizes of KWD 200,000 each, awarded through five separate draws throughout the year.

The team highlighted that AlDanah Millionaire Account holders will have the opportunity to participate in the upcoming KWD 200,000 draw on January 13, 2027, while the KWD 1.5 million grand prize draw is scheduled for February 4, 2027. Customers were also reminded that November 30, 2026 is the final date for deposits to qualify for the grand prize draw.

As part of its commitment to transparency and credibility, Gulf Bank conducts all AlDanah Millionaire Account draws under the supervision of the internationally recognized auditing firms RSM and Grant Thornton. The draws are also streamed live through the bank's social media channels.

AlDanah Millionaire Account is one of Gulf Bank's flagship savings products, offering customers exceptional opportunities to win cash prizes worth millions of dinars. The account reflects the bank's continued commitment to encouraging a culture of saving while delivering a rewarding and distinctive banking experience.

Gulf Bank remains dedicated to providing customers with valuable opportunities that help them achieve their aspirations, improve their quality of life, and meet their financial goals, further strengthening its position as a trusted banking partner for all segments of society.

In addition, Gulf Bank's Private Banking and Premium Banking Division offers AlDanah draw winners specialized financial and investment advisory services, helping them manage their wealth effectively and plan for their long-term financial future.

AlDanah account holders enjoy a range of unique benefits, including being part of the only savings account in Kuwait that allows unused winning chances to be carried forward from one year to the next. This feature forms part of a loyalty program designed to reward customers for their continued relationship with Gulf Bank.

The account also stands out for its low minimum balance requirement of just KWD 200 to qualify and participate in all prize draws, providing customers with greater opportunities to win throughout the year.

Customers' chances of winning increase with higher savings balances and longer retention periods, creating a rewarding loyalty experience. The account also offers complete flexibility, allowing deposits and withdrawals at any time while maintaining eligibility for prize draws.

As part of its commitment to enhancing financial literacy across the community and supporting the "Let's Be Aware" banking awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association, Gulf Bank used the event to highlight the campaign's key educational messages. These efforts aim to strengthen financial awareness among customers and educate them about the risks of electronic fraud and ways to protect themselves against it.

Highly adaptable to changing challenges

KFH reinforces operational resilience with crisis simulation exercise



Gulf Bank's team at Assima Mall.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: As part of its proactive approach to reinforcing organizational readiness and operational resilience, Business Continuity Management within the Group Risk at Kuwait Finance House (KFH) conducted an advanced crisis simulation exercise. Featuring realistic, complex, and unprecedented scenarios, the simulation modeled the potential consequences of geopolitical developments as well as regional and global changes.

The exercise aimed to assess actual organizational readiness within a simulated crisis environment. It evaluated the effectiveness of crisis management and business continuity plans, response speed, and decision making. Coordination and integration were also tested across key departments and relevant teams to ensure the uninterrupted continuity of critical banking operations and services under all circumstances.

The scenarios were designed in a dynamic and progressive manner to test the ability of relevant teams to manage rapid, concurrent developments. This included assessing their impact, setting priorities, and making timely decisions. These simulations reflected the nature of modern crises which are generally characterized by complexity, rapid change, and interconnected risks.

The exercise gains added significance given the rapid geopolitical and economic developments unfolding across the region and the world. This underscores the importance of shifting from a traditional approach to crisis readiness toward operational resilience and continuous preparedness. It demonstrates KFH's capacity for adaptation, agility, and effective recovery.

It is worth noting that the exercise is part of an integrated ecosystem adopted by KFH to strengthen business continuity, crisis management, and operational resilience. Aligned with regulatory requirements and industry best practices, it reinforces the bank's ability to continue delivering vital services efficiently and reliably under all circumstances.

Partnership targets economic growth

Jordan, EU launch 1st investment conference

AMMAN, Nov. 19, (Xinhua): Jordan and the European Union (EU) on Thursday launched their first investment conference, bringing together representatives from 51 countries and regions to explore investment opportunities worth around 15 billion U.S. dollars in the kingdom.

The one-day event at the Dead Sea was opened by King Abdullah II and attended by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Jordan's Ministry of Investment said.

It aimed to translate investment opportunities into bankable and implementable projects, attract investment, create jobs and facilitate the transfer of technology and expertise to Jordan, the ministry added.

The event drew nearly 800 participants, including 318 private-sector companies, and focused on five key areas: technology and the digital economy, the future of energy, high-value industries, logistics and infrastructure, and water security, according to the ministry.

Jordan presented 41 investment opportunities, covering renewable energy, water, infrastructure, digital technology, value-added industries and logistics, it noted.

In his opening remarks, the king said Jordan and the EU had worked for more than 20 years to build a solid strategic relationship that extends well beyond trade, calling the conference the beginning of a pivotal implementation phase.

Von der Leyen described Jordan as a smart investment politically and economically and a strong economic partner, saying Jordan-EU relations had advanced over the past two years through cooperation in employment, energy, security, trade, education, research, as well as through stronger defense and security ties.

On the sidelines, the two sides signed several financing agreements, including a 110-million-euro grant to support Jordan's economic modernization, and a 63-million-euro grant for economic resilience, trade and investment, according to the EU press release.

They also signed a memorandum of understanding, paving the way for up to 500 million euros in the fifth EU macro-financial assistance, it said.

50+ nations eye nuclear power

Hormuz crisis reshapes global energy outlook

PARIS, Nov. 19, (Xinhua): The disruption to energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz in 2026 has triggered the largest energy supply shock the world has faced, accelerating efforts to diversify energy supplies and promoting the shift toward electrification, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Thursday.

In its World Energy Outlook 2026, the IEA said the crisis through the Strait of Hormuz has compounded a broader sense of fragility in energy markets amid geopolitical tensions, rising climate risks, cyberattacks and other malicious activities affecting energy infrastructure.

The crisis has affected all corners of the world, the report said, adding that three-quarters of the world's population live in countries that import oil and gas, while more than 4 billion people live in countries that depend on the Strait of Hormuz for over 30 percent of their oil supplies.

In addition to the energy supply shock, climate and food security risks are also connected and can deepen each other, the IEA underlined, citing weather-related pressures such as a strong El Nino and fertilizer shortfalls threatening food security.

In response to the crisis, countries are increasingly prioritizing diversification across multiple dimensions, including energy suppliers, transportation routes, energy mixes and technology supply chains. The report found that many countries show a stronger preference for domestically available resources and are pushing for faster electrification.

The IEA said the crisis was expected to reinforce the expansion of renewable energy. The shift toward domestically available energy sources is set to provide further impetus, it added.

According to the report, trade data for 2026 show a rapid increase in imports of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules and batteries to countries in Africa and Asia. Solar power is set to lead the expansion, followed by onshore and offshore wind, as well as sources of firm or flexible power such as hydropower, bioenergy and geothermal energy.

The crisis may also reinforce the revival of nuclear power, the IEA said. Nearly 90 gigawatts (GW) of new nuclear capacity was under construction as of mid-2026, the highest level in more than 35 years. Meanwhile, more than 50 countries now have plans or targets for nuclear power, including emerging technologies such as small modular reactors.

The crisis had further strengthened the strategic case for electrification, with 25 countries announcing new electrification-related policies since February 2026, the agency said. However, it cautioned that the shift toward increasingly electrified energy systems would also bring new security risks, including cyberattacks targeting energy utilities, natural hazards and rising cooling demand resulting from long-term increases in average temperatures.

The IEA said confidence in the Strait of Hormuz had been shattered, prompting Gulf oil producers to pursue new pipeline projects with a combined capacity of around 7 million barrels per day to bypass the strategic waterway. The agency also warned that developing alternative routes would take time and that these routes could also remain vulnerable to instability in the Middle East.

PMI executive draws tobacco regulation parallels at COP31

Kuwait and GCC face choices over future of tobacco regulation

ANTALYA, Nov 19: Philip Morris International's Miguel Coleta discussed the company's changing business strategy, the regulatory challenges facing tobacco and nicotine products, and the differences between the energy transition and developments in the tobacco sector.

At COP31 in Antalya, delegates were debating how the world should manage its move away from fossil fuels. Miguel Coleta, Senior Director Sustainability, Market Activation & Support at Philip Morris International (PMI), has spent two decades working on the company's transition from its traditional cigarette business towards other tobacco and nicotine products.

"I would not want to overstate the parallel between that transition and the transformation of the tobacco sector, as they are fundamentally different issues," he told Arab Times. He said the comparison was primarily about leadership and how industries respond to changing expectations, regulations and long-term challenges.

Lessons from Dubai

Coleta points to the UAE's hosting of COP28 in late 2023 as an example of how international cooperation can help advance complex policy discussions. The UAE Consensus, he said, represented a pragmatic step that recognised the need for an orderly transition rather than expecting fossil fuels to disappear overnight.

He said the UAE's role in brokering the agreement demonstrated the importance of leadership, pragmatism and a willingness to bring different perspectives together.

He said the UAE's leadership went beyond the agreement itself. It helped set goals to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency. Delivery against national climate plans is still under way, but he pointed to major solar projects in the UAE and to hydrogen and carbon capture projects in Saudi Arabia as signs of growing momentum in the region.

Coleta said the same principles of dialogue and pragmatic policymaking could be applied to discussions about tobacco-related public health challenges. The issue remains relevant across the Gulf's hydrocarbon economies, including Kuwait, where economic priorities and public-health policies are both important considerations.

Changing the core product

In 2016, PMI announced a business strategy focused on reducing its reliance on conventional cigarettes and expanding its portfolio of products that do not involve burning tobacco. Coleta said the decision marked a significant change for a company whose business had historically been built around cigarette brands. PMI described itself as the first company in its industry to make such a commitment.

Coleta said the change had begun earlier, and his own career was part of the process. He trained in pharmaceutical medicine and worked in academia. He also served on the health committee of his home country's parliament. He joined PMI in 2005 to work in regulatory affairs on next-generation products. At that time, he said, the company was studying the standards and regulatory approaches of the pharmaceutical industry to understand how such products could be developed and brought to market responsibly.



Speakers take the stage at the Future Nicotine Forum, held at the Dubai World Trade Centre on Nov 10-11, 2025.

The company says it has since invested more than US$16 billion in research and development. Its R&D centre in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, employs more than 1,600 people. According to PMI, products classified by the company as smoke-free now account for around 40 per cent of its net revenue, compared with a negligible share in 2016. The company aims to increase that proportion to two-thirds by 2030.

These figures reflect the company's own reporting and business targets and do not, by themselves, establish the health effects of individual products.

Where the two transitions differ

Coleta was frank about the biggest difference between the two transitions. In climate, governments and industry work within an established global framework and a shared commitment to managing change. "In our sector, we do not yet have the same level of consensus or engagement," he said.

He said the tobacco debate remains divided, particularly over regulatory approaches to products other than conventional cigarettes. He added that more stakeholders are now considering the available scientific evidence and the role of regulation in addressing tobacco-related risks.

Coleta said discussions about changes in tobacco consumption involve two important considerations. The first is clear and consistent communication from public-health authorities, enabling adults to understand the available information and make informed decisions. The second is the establishment of clearly defined product categories, composition requirements and regulatory standards, taking into account that different tobacco and nicotine products may have different characteristics and risk profiles.

Who is responsible for what

Asked where industry's role should end, Coleta drew a clear line. "Governments must govern, and companies must operate responsibly," he said. Governments protect the public interest. Businesses create value, but that value should not be limited to financial performance or meeting quarterly targets.

For PMI, he said, this means addressing the health impact of its products while making sure its business practices do not harm human rights or the environment. He extended the same logic to how new products should be assessed. "We cannot address one challenge while creating a series of new ones," he said, adding that any approach must take its environmental and social effects into account.

Between prohibition and doing nothing

Coleta sees regulation as a deciding factor in how the tobacco and nicotine sector develops. In his view, effective rules should prevent underage access, establish standards for product composition and quality, and define how these products can be marketed and sold.

He warned that policies based only on prohibition can create unintended consequences, including illicit markets. "Equally, doing nothing is not a solution," he said. Products must meet appropriate standards, with transparency about how they are manufactured and what they contain. He added that scientific evidence should remain central to assessing their characteristics and potential risks in comparison with continued cigarette smoking.

Across the GCC, Coleta noted, the UAE and Saudi Arabia are moving ahead with regulatory frameworks for tobacco and nicotine products, while other markets are still considering their approaches. He said companies operating in the sector must take account of scientific evidence and comply with appropriate regulatory requirements.

Coleta said he is optimistic about PMI's direction. He acknowledged that significant challenges remain, especially in markets where engagement is limited or where policy has not yet taken an evidence-based approach. He said changes in the sector require long-term investment, clear business commitments and engagement with governments and other stakeholders.

"The opportunity lies in creating an environment where industry, regulators and policymakers can engage constructively, assess the evidence and identify practical solutions," he said. "That is what makes me optimistic about the region's ability to move forward."

As COP31 continues, Coleta believes the pragmatism and dialogue associated with the Gulf's climate discussions could also contribute to policy discussions on tobacco and nicotine regulation in Kuwait and across the region.

Symbol of strong relationship

British residence marks 90 years of UK-Kuwait friendship







By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: British Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Qudsi Rasheed highlighted the longstanding friendship between Kuwait and the United Kingdom, describing the British Ambassador's residence as a symbol of the strong relationship between the two countries over the past 90 years.

Speaking at the King's Birthday Party hosted at the British Embassy, with Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah attending as Guest of Honour, Rasheed said the residence, built in 1935, had witnessed major historical developments while continuing to serve as a meeting place for friendship and diplomacy.

He recalled that the land was granted to Britain by the then Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, following discussions with British official Colonel Harold Dickson, who developed a close personal relationship with the Amir. Sheikh Ahmad reportedly visited the residence several times a week.

The Ambassador also recalled the transition following Kuwait's independence in 1961, when Sir John Richmond, Britain's last Political Agent, became the country's first Ambassador.

Referring to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Rasheed paid tribute to Sir Michael Weston, who remained at the British residence throughout the occupation despite severe shortages of water, electricity and essential supplies. He said the continued presence of the British Embassy and the Union Jack flying above the residence symbolised Britain's solidarity with Kuwait during the crisis.





Photos by Rezk Tawfik

Top and above: Photos from the event.

Rasheed said recent regional tensions had again highlighted the importance of stability. Despite the challenges, the British residence had continued to welcome visitors and host discussions, while British military personnel worked alongside their Kuwaiti counterparts to support security.

He said the purpose of the residence remained unchanged since 1935: bringing people from the two countries together.

Concluding his speech, Rasheed described the residence as a house built on trust, adapted through change and tested by crisis, much like the friendship between Kuwait and the United Kingdom. He also extended his best wishes for the health of His Majesty King Charles III and His Highness the Amir of Kuwait.

South Korean Embassy in Kuwait hosts 10th Street Food Festival









KUNA photos

Visitors explore a variety of traditional and popular Korean street food during the 10th Korean Street Food Festival, organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kuwait under the theme 'Traveling Through Time'.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the State of Kuwait organized Wednesday its 10th Korean Street Food Festival under the theme "Traveling Through Time," drawing approximately 600 attendees in an atmosphere showcasing traditional and popular Korean cuisine.

Participants explored themed stalls designed to recreate the ambiance of Korea's traditional markets, classic snack shops, and modern roadside rest stops.

Guests sampled an array of iconic Korean street dishes, including tteokbokki (spicy rice cakes), kimchi pancakes, bibimbap (mixed rice with vegetables), japchae (stir-fried sweet potato starch noodles), fish cakes, and Korean-style fried chicken.

The festival also featured interactive displays showcasing Korean handicrafts, offering visitors an opportunity to explore diverse facets of Korean heritage through an experience blending popular gastronomy with traditional customs.

The cultural event attracted members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from the food and retail sectors, and local enthusiasts of Korean cuisine and culture.

IWG and French Embassy celebrate 'An Evening of Elegance & Creativity' at Residence of France

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The International Women's Group (IWG) Kuwait, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of France, hosted a French cultural event under the theme "An Evening of Elegance & Creativity" on Monday, November 16, 2026, at the Residence of France.

H.E. Mr. Olivier Gauvin, Ambassador of France to Kuwait, and his wife, Mrs. Sayeh Gauvin, were joined by the IWG board in welcoming members and guests. The evening was attended by IWG members including members of the diplomatic corps and guests from Kuwait's wider community.

The program commenced with an introduction by IWG Vice President Mrs. Rima Khalidi, wife of the Ambassador of the State of Palestine, followed by a welcome address from IWG President Mrs. Mona Haddad El-Khoury, wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon.

Drawing on Ernest Hemingway's famous words, 'Paris is a moveable feast,' Mrs. El-Khoury reflected on France's enduring ability to leave a lasting impression through its culture, art, cuisine, fashion and traditions. On behalf of the IWG, she thanked Ambassador and Mrs. Gauvin for their warm welcome and for hosting the group at the Residence of France.

In his remarks, Ambassador Gauvin praised the IWG's contribution to friendship and intercultural understanding in Kuwait. "Your association embodies the spirit of openness, tolerance, and friendship that characterizes Kuwait and makes this country such a welcoming place for harmonious personal and intercultural relationships," he said. "Tonight is both a celebration of the French art de vivre and France's diverse regions, and a tribute to all the women whose actions help change the world and make it a better place."

Mrs. Sayeh Gauvin shared how her experience serving on the IWG Board the previous year inspired the idea of a French cultural event in the gardens of the Residence.

A short film highlighted the diversity of France's regions, followed by a presentation on French gastronomy that explored the stories of Vatel and the Michelin brothers, including the origins of the Michelin Guide. A presentation on the history of Chanel traced the fashion house's influence on French style. Guests took part in quizzes on the presentations and on France, while an exhibition of hats complemented the evening's theme.







Top and above: Photos during the event.

Mrs. Gauvin and Mrs. El-Khoury thanked the evening's contributors. Members of the IWG Board gathered for a ceremonial cake cutting, and IWG Vice President Mrs. Leen Odeh, wife of the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Kuwait, led the raffle. Guests then enjoyed dinner accompanied by French music.

To the delight of all present, the evening was a beautiful and elegant celebration of the friendship between France and Kuwait and the role of women in strengthening those ties.

IEI Kuwait Chapter hosts financial seminar: 'Is Rs 10 Crore Enough to Relocate to India?'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Institution of Engineers (India) - Kuwait Chapter (IEI-KC), in collaboration with EVA Merafunds, held a Financial Planning Seminar at Park Inn by Radisson, Mahboula. Titled 'Is Rs 10 Crore Enough to Relocate to India?', the seminar addressed a question many Indian professionals in Kuwait ask when planning their return home.

The programme opened with the National Anthems of Kuwait and India, followed by a welcome address from Chairman Engr. Kartikeyan Elangovan. Engr. Hasan Syed, EC Member and Editor (Dhwani), then introduced the speaker, Mr. V. R. Aiyappan, CFA, FRM, Director of EVA Merafunds.

Mr. Aiyappan reviewed fixed income, real estate, gold and equities, and showed how inflation and lifestyle costs erode savings. Using a sustainable withdrawal rate of about 4%, he explained that Rs 10 crore can support a comfortable retirement at age 60 for monthly expenses of about Rs 1 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs 3 lakh (in today's value) for those currently above 40, above 50 and close to 60 respectively, but not for Rs 4 lakh. The session was educational and not investment advice. Live Slide polls and an open Q&A kept the audience engaged.



Members of the Institution of Engineers (India) – Kuwait Chapter (IEI-KC), in collaboration with EVA Merafunds, pose for a group photo during the seminar.

Chairman Engr. Kartikeyan Elangovan and Honorary General Secretary Engr. Satish Soni presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Aiyappan as sponsor and speaker. Dr. Mahendran announced the Engineering Excellence Award 2026-27, presented to Mr. Rajan Peter. The EC Champion Awards went to Engr. Farzeena Antulay and Engr. Nalin Vasanth, Joint General Secretary.

Five lucky draw winners were picked from the feedback forms, with Mr. Aiyappan conducting the draw. Engr. Satish Soni delivered the vote of thanks. Investor Table Pass holders then joined a personal discussion with the speaker, and the evening concluded with a group photograph and a networking dinner.

Goan Cultural Centre Kuwait to host Mini-Goa Day 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Goan Cultural Centre – Kuwait (GCC-Kuwait) will organize Mini-Goa Day 2026 at "The Venue" on December 11, bringing together members of the Goan community for a celebration of Goan culture and achievements.

The event will begin at 4 pm, the centre announced.

As part of the occasion, the centre has invited Goan students who excelled in their 10th and 12th Standard final examinations during the 2025–2026 academic year to come forward for recognition.

Eligible students have been requested to submit copies of their mark sheets and contact the following representatives through WhatsApp for further details:

- Mrs. Monica de Melo: 69691543
- Mr. Carmo Santos: 99047401

The centre said the details and mark sheets would help facilitate the recognition of students' academic achievements during the event.

Mini-Goa Day is being organized by GCC-Kuwait as an occasion to celebrate the Goan community and acknowledge the accomplishments of its younger generation.

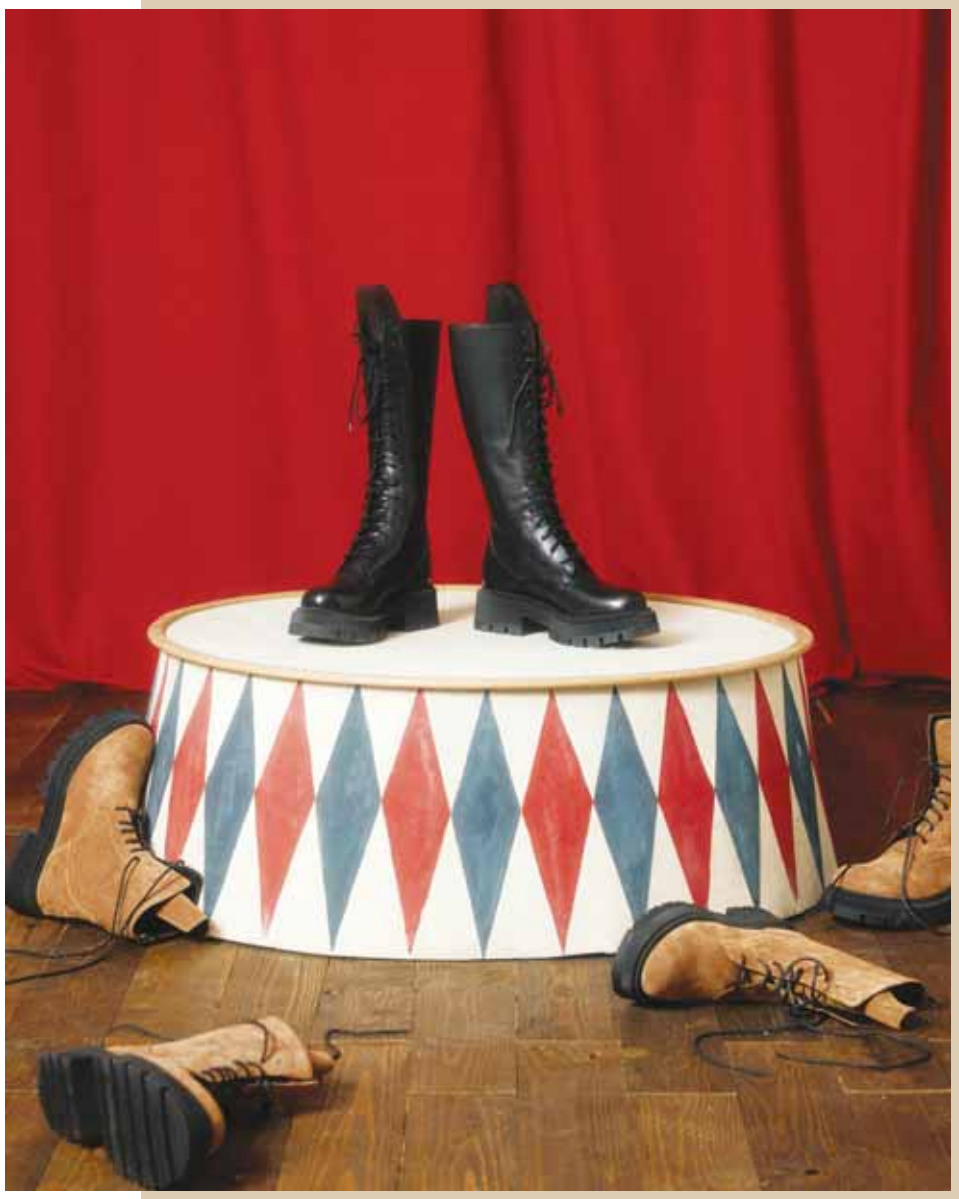


Poster of the event.

ARAB TIMES
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20-21, 2026







MonRoi Roma puts its best boot forward

ROME, Nov 19: From classic black leather to understated shades of suede, MonRoi Roma brings a distinctive edge to contemporary footwear with a collection of lace-up and combat boots that combine artisanal character with versatile styling.

Founded by Monica Gunnella, the Rome-based artisanal fashion brand presents a range of designs that highlight the appeal of carefully crafted footwear, with different textures, colors and silhouettes giving each pair its own character.

The latest collection features lace-up boots and combat boots in black leather, cream, olive and tan suede. The selection moves between timeless leather styling and softer suede finishes, offering different interpretations of two enduring footwear silhouettes.

Black leather brings a classic, confident look, while cream, olive and tan suede introduce a more understated, textured appeal. The variety of finishes gives the collection versatility, allowing the boots to complement different personal styles and occasions.

The new designs are presented through two distinct photographic stories, each capturing a different mood of the collection.

The first takes inspiration from the circus, creating a theatrical setting that gives the footwear a bold visual presence. Against this imaginative backdrop, the boots become more than functional fashion pieces, taking centre stage as expressions of individual style.

The second shoot adopts an indoor lifestyle approach, offering a more intimate and relaxed presentation of the collection. The setting highlights the designs from a different perspective, bringing attention to their colors, textures and styling possibilities.

Together, the two campaigns showcase the collection's range, from statement-making looks to more understated everyday styling.

A brand with a personal signature

Behind the collection is a brand whose identity is closely connected to family, heritage and personal memories.

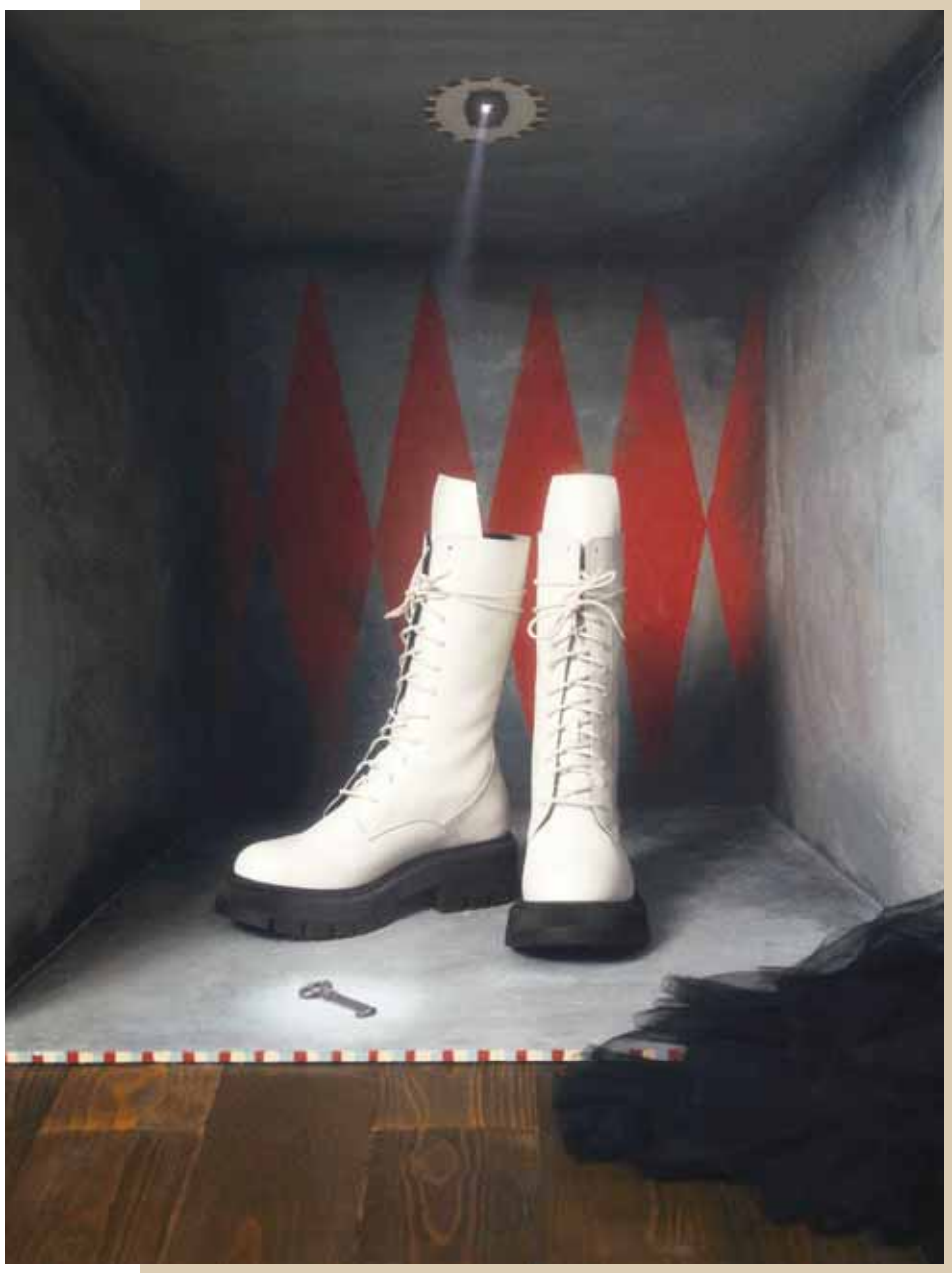
The name MonRoi carries a special meaning for Gunnella. Her father used to call her mother "Ma Reine," meaning "my queen" in French, while her mother affectionately called him "Mon Roi," or "my king."

The rose in the brand's symbol also recalls the flowers her father used to bring to his wife, making the emblem a tribute to their enduring love story.

Based in Rome, MonRoi Roma's wider collection extends beyond footwear to include clothing, handmade sandals and leather bags, reflecting its broader artisanal fashion vision.

With its latest boots collection, the brand places the spotlight on designs that bring together distinctive materials, versatile colors and contemporary styling, while retaining the personal identity behind the MonRoi name.

Product names, prices and further details about individual pieces are available upon request and through the brand's website, **monroiroma.com**.



Group winners and best runner-up to book quarterfinal spots

Salmiya, Tadamon lead Crown Prince Cup opening fixtures

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The 2026-2027 Crown Prince Cup group stage kicks off on Friday with two matches, marking the start of the competition under its revamped format.

Salmiya faces Khaitan at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 5:20 pm, while Tadamon hosts Al-Jazeera at Mubarak Al-Ayar Stadium at 7:30 pm.

Saturday's fixtures will see Fahaheel takes on Burgan at Al-Shabab Stadium at 5:20 pm, followed by Al-Nasr against Sulaibikhat at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium at 7:30 pm.

The opening round concludes next Sunday, when Al-Shabab meets Al-Sahel at Tadamon Stadium and Al-Jahra faces Al-Yarmouk at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.



The Crown Prince Cup trophy.

The tournament has undergone a format change this season following its expansion to 19 clubs. The top four finishers in last season's Zain Premier League — Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi, Kazma and Qadsia — have earned automatic places in the quarterfinals.

The remaining league teams, from fifth to 14th place, have been divided into three groups, joined by Khaitan and Burgan, who secured qualification through the playoffs.

Khaitan booked its place with a 4-0 victory over Police Union, while Burgan advanced after edging Al-Shamiya 1-0.

Group A comprises Salmiya, Khaitan, Al-Yarmouk and Al-Jahra. Group B features Tadamon, Al-Jazeera, Al-Nasr and Sulaibikhat, while Fahaheel, Burgan, Al-Shabab and Al-Sahel make up Group C.

The three group winners will advance to the quarterfinals, along with the best second-placed team across the groups.

They will join Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi, Qadsia and Kazma in the last eight, with a draw to determine the quarterfinal matchups. The knockout format will then continue through the semifinals and final.

The second and third rounds of the group stage are scheduled for January and February, with the quarterfinals set for late February 2027, followed by the semifinals.

Kuwait U-17 wraps up Asian Cup qualifiers against Oman

MUSCAT, Nov 19: Kuwait's Under-17 national team will bring its Asian Cup qualifying campaign to a close today when it takes on Oman at 7:00 pm at the Saada Sports Complex in Salalah, in the final round of Group Seven.

The Blues have already been ruled out of the qualification race following a 4-1 defeat to Lebanon in the second round.

Kuwait began its campaign with a 1-1 draw against Bahrain before recording an emphatic 6-0 victory over Brunei in its most recent outing.

Lebanon has already booked its place in the finals after collecting nine points from three matches. Its final meeting with Bahrain, which has four points, will not change the group standings, as Lebanon holds the head-to-head advantage over Oman, currently on six points, following its victory over the latter.



Players vie for the ball.

Under the qualifying format, only the group winners from the seven groups will advance to the AFC U-17 Asian Cup finals, scheduled to take place in Uzbekistan next year. Nine teams have already secured qualification.



Winners pose with their trophies.

Yarmouk hosts successful Kuwait Tennis Federation Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Kuwait Tennis Federation's Under-16 Championship wrapped up yesterday at the Yarmouk courts, with the final match and awards ceremony attended by Federation Chairman Abdulredha Al-Ghareeb, Yarmouk Vice Chairman Hussein Al-Ghareeb and representatives of the participating clubs.

Khaitan's Faisal Al-Mutawa, the Asian junior champion, secured third place in the singles event and contributed to his club's success in winning the team competition and gold medal.

Kuwait Club's Ahmed Al-Ashouk claimed the singles title, with Yarmouk's Mohammed Al-Turkit finishing second.

In the doubles competition, Yarmouk's Mohammed Al-Turkit and Rayan Al-Shawa took first place, while Khaitan's Rakan Al-Kandari and Mohammed Al-Humaidan finished runners-up.

In the team standings, Yarmouk was announced as the winner with 247 points, followed by Khaitan, Kuwait Club and Tadamon with 279, 230 and 41 points, respectively.

International referee Ahmed Salman Hashem served as chief referee, assisted by a number of Kuwait Tennis Federation officials.

Al-Ghareeb praised the high technical level and strong performances throughout the championship, saying the players had a promising future with the national team.

He congratulated the clubs of Yarmouk, Khaitan and Kuwait, wished the other participating teams success and thanked Yarmouk for hosting the tournament.

Kuwait clubs eye Gulf handball glory

Championship begins in Bahrain

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

MANAMA, Nov 19: The 42nd Gulf Handball Clubs Champions Cup gets underway on Saturday in Manama, Bahrain, with seven clubs competing for the title in a tournament running through Nov 30.

Kuwait will be represented by Kuwait Club and Burgan, alongside Bahrain's Al-Ahli and Al-Najma, Qatar's Al-Arabi and Al-Rayyan, and Oman's Oman Club.

The opening day's programme features three matches, with Al-Rayyan taking on Kuwait Club, Al-Najma meeting Al-Arabi and Al-Ahli facing Oman Club. Burgan, the reigning Asian club champions and Kuwait Federation Cup winners, will begin their campaign on Sunday against Oman Club in the second round.

The preliminary stage is scheduled to conclude on Nov 27, with both Kuwaiti sides hoping to make a strong impression and challenge for the title while maintaining Kuwait's prominent position in Gulf handball.

The tournament lineup underwent several changes following the withdrawals of Sharjah of the UAE, Bahrain's Al-Shabab, Saudi Arabia's Al-Muhit and Oman's Al-Amarat, forcing organizers to conduct three separate draws.



Players fighting for the ball.

Kuwait Club, the reigning Kuwaiti league champion, enters the competition determined to continue its strong regional performances and add another trophy to its collection.

Burgan, meanwhile, heads into the tournament on the back of an impressive six-month spell. It won the Asian Clubs Championship, hosted by Kuwait last June, before securing the Kuwait Federation Cup last week with victory over Sulaibikhat in the final.

Both teams will be eager to build on their technical preparation and strong morale, deliver competitive campaigns and underline the continued progress of Kuwaiti handball on the Gulf stage.

Kuwait youth boxers gear up for national tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The second Kuwait Boxing Federation Youth Championship gets underway on Saturday at the federation's hall in Sabah Al-Salem, with several teams set to compete in a tournament expected to build on the strong performances and fierce contests of its inaugural edition.

Federation Secretary-General Mutlaq Al-Azmi said preparations had been completed, confirming that all organizing committees were ready to ensure the tournament runs smoothly.

He stressed that the federation's board gives special attention to all age groups, particularly the youth category, which serves as a vital talent pool for the national team and a platform for identifying promising boxers and preparing the next generation to represent Kuwait in future competitions.

Al-Azmi noted that tournaments organized by the federation since last summer had witnessed closely contested bouts and high technical standards, with several titles decided only in the closing days. He said this reflected the steady development of the sport and the growing competitiveness among participants.

He also commended the federation's board and organizing committees for their efforts in staging previous competitions, expressing hope that future tournaments would maintain the same level of competition and achieve further progress in developing boxing in Kuwait.



Federation Secretary-General Mutlaq Al-Azmi

Bahrain-based Vedant Menon among young hopefuls chasing success in Malaysia

'Arrive and Drive World Cup will give karting bigger global boost by reducing barriers'

DUBAI, Nov 19 : FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem believes the FIA Karting Arrive and Drive World Cup will continue to open up the sport to a wider international pool of competitors by reducing the traditional barriers to entry.

The second edition of the World Cup event got under way on Thursday with 78 drivers from 37 nationalities worldwide going into action at the LYL International Circuit in Selangor, Malaysia, Asia's largest karting venue.

The four-day event, hosted by Motor Sports Singapore, will see Junior (12-14) and Senior (14-18) categories of emerging drivers competing in identical, standardised Kosmic Mercury karts with Vortex SV engines, provided by OTK Group and Vega tyres.

The format reduces costs for competitors while keeping the emphasis on driver skill, reinforcing the FIA's commitment to making motorsport more accessible, encouraging wider participation and developing the next generation of talent.

FIA President Ben Sulayem believes Kimi Antonelli's emergence as the youngest ever FIA Formula One World Drivers' Champion, following a successful karting career, is perfectly timed to increase the impact of the FIA Karting Arrive and Drive World Cup as an exciting new chapter for grassroots motorsport globally.



Drivers in action during the FIA Karting Arrive and Drive World Cup.

"The FIA Karting Arrive and Drive World Cup is one of the flagship events on the international karting calendar, building on the success of its inaugural edition and demonstrating the exciting potential of this innovative format," said the FIA President.

"Returning to the LYL International Circuit in Malaysia, the competition continues to showcase how Arrive and Drive is transforming karting by reducing barriers to entry, increasing affordability and ensuring that talent remains the defining factor on track.

"This event provides an important platform for emerging drivers from around the world to demonstrate their abilities and take the next step in their sporting careers.

"As we continue to strengthen the pathway from grassroots to the highest levels of our sport, initiatives such as Arrive and Drive play a vital role in identifying and developing the champions of the future." The FIA President believes passionately in the importance of karting, and the need to open up the sport to a much bigger young audience worldwide, and this was his motivation for founding the MENA Karting Championship Nations Cup in 2020.

Among the young hopefuls chasing Arrive and Drive success in Malaysia over the next three days is Bahrain-based Vedant Menon, who qualified for the senior class as one of the top finishers at the FIA Karting Arrive and Drive Asia-Pacific Championships at the legendary Circuit of Macau Coloane in September.

Leading finishers in the continental Arrive and Drive Championships in Europe and South America also qualified for the World Cup, while the remaining grid places were allocated to individual drivers through a wildcard entry process. Driver development is a core focus of the World Cup, with FIA workshops held before racing covering driver safety, nutrition, anti-doping and media training, designed to help drivers develop their knowledge and skills both on and off the track.

The action is live and free to watch on YouTube at:http://www.youtube.com/@fiakartingchampionship9818

Kompany says back in 'good health'

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Nov 19, (AP): Vincent Kompany says he is back in good health as he returns as Bayern Munich coach after a "very intense" few weeks as he recovered from a sudden collapse at training. At times, he added, it was even fun.

Kompany was hospitalized after collapsing at a reserve team training session on Oct. 23 and missed five Bayern games as he was treated for meningeal irritation, an inflammation of the tissue around the brain or spinal cord. He also sustained shoulder injuries in the fall, which left young players on the reserve team so shocked their next game had to be called off.

ARAB TIMES
Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper
For Subscriptions and Complaints
Please Call
51508991
51526559



Barbers Wanted
Of Asian Nationality
to work at a New Barbershop
in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh
Tel.: 60488804 - 67081921

Oly marathon champ Jepchirchir banned three years in doping case

MONACO, Nov 19, (AP): World and former Olympic marathon champion Peres Jepchirchir has been suspended for three years over a positive drug test for the banned substance EPO, the Athletics Integrity Unit said in a statement Thursday that announced sanctions for three Kenyan athletes.

AIU chief executive Brett Clothier warned that Kenya has "a long way to go" to improve its doping record as it prepares to host the world track and field championships.

Jepchirchir won women's marathon gold at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and the world title last year. The 33-year-old Kenyan runner is also a former world record holder in the half marathon.



Utah Jazz forward Kyle Filipowski (2) and Los Angeles Lakers guard Collin Sexton (10) fight for possession of the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. Jazz snapped Lakers' 9-game winning streak with 109-97 victory behind Keyonte George's 30 points. (AP)

Sports

GCC Olympic Committee chiefs back unified federations, Doha 2036 bid for Olympic Games

Al-Musallam participates in meeting on behalf of Sheikh Fahad Nasser

MANAMA, Nov 19, (KUNA): The Council of Presidents of the Olympic Committees of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states approved a series of key decisions aimed at strengthening joint Gulf sports cooperation.

These resolutions include establishing unified GCC sports federations and adopting their statutes, expressing full support for Doha's bid to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and awarding the hosting rights for the fourth GCC Beach Games in 2027 to the United Arab Emirates.

The decisions were adopted during the 38th meeting of the Council, held in the Bahraini capital, Manama, under the chairmanship of First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Kuwait Olympic Committee Secretary-General Captain Hussain Al-Musallam participated in the meeting on behalf of Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti delegation also included Assistant Secretary-General Captain Ali Al-Marri, Director General Ret. Maj. Gen. Mohammed Khalfan, and Technical Director for Sports Committees Dr. Hussain Al-Saeed.

In his opening address, Sheikh Khaled bin Hamad affirmed that Gulf sports have consistently demonstrated the capacity to achieve honorable accomplishments, attributing this success to unwavering leadership patronage alongside the dedicated efforts of athletes, technical staff, and administrative teams.

Sheikh Khalid emphasized that the gathering embodies the deep fraternal bonds uniting GCC member states and reflects a steadfast commitment to advancing joint Gulf action across the sports sector.

He also extended his congratulations to the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates on the notable achievements attained by their athletes at the fourth Youth Olympic Games, which recently concluded in Dakar, Senegal.

Kuwait Girls' Figure Skating Championship wraps up



Participants pose for a group photo during the closing ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The third Kuwait National Girls' Figure Skating Championship concluded at the Kuwait Winter Games Club rink, attracting 25 skaters over two days.

The competition featured events across all designated age categories, with 11 skaters taking to the ice on the second day to perform their routines before the winners were announced.

Sama Jarragh claimed the gold medal in the Junior category, while Fatima Al-Mutawa topped Intermediate Level 1 and Hayat Ali secured gold in the Intermediate Basic category.

In the Beginners category, Reem Al-Sayegh, Amina Al-Sayegh, Dana Al-Fahad, Fajr Behbehani, Noura Dashti, Fatima Al-Mutawa, Hajar Al-Manea and Jana Al-Jawhar finished in positions ranging from first to eighth.

Kuwait Winter Games Club Chairman Faheid Al-Ajmi told KUNA after the medal ceremony that this edition was particularly successful, highlighting the noticeable improvement in the skaters' performances and results. He said this reflected their development and the club's continued efforts to promote figure skating.

Jarragh described the competition as strong and expressed her delight at winning gold.

Meanwhile, promising skater Amina Al-Sayegh said she had taken up the sport four years ago, adding that she was pleased with her achievement and hoped to build on it with further success.

Nabil Al-Subaih leads with gold

Kuwait swimmers make strong start with 7 medals in Bahrain

MANAMA, Nov 19: Kuwait's national swimming team opened its campaign at the fifth Arab Age-Group Aquatics Championship in Bahrain with an impressive seven-medal haul, including four gold, one silver and two bronze medals, during the first morning session.

Yasmeen Nabil Al-Subaih led the way by claiming gold in the women's 15–16 age-group 400m individual medley, while teammate Mona Hamad Al-Farsi secured bronze in the same event.

In the men's 15–16 category, Hassan Zaid Rajab topped the podium in the 400m individual medley, with Omar Khaled Al-Khalfan taking bronze.

Khaled Sultan Al-Otaibi added gold in the open 400m event, while Mohammed Sultan Al-Otaibi earned silver in the same race.

Saud Abdulaziz Al-Enezi rounded off Kuwait's gold-medal tally with victory in the men's 17–18 age-group 400m individual medley.



Swimming champions with their medals.

The promising start highlights the team's readiness and competitive strength as Kuwait looks to build on its early success and collect more medals in the remaining events.

Sheikh Talal proud of bowling's global expansion

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, president of the International and Asian Bowling Federations and Kuwait Bowling Club, has expressed pride in his efforts to develop and expand the sport, taking it from Kuwait to the GCC, Arab countries, Asia and Europe.

He said his next goal was to extend bowling's reach into Africa, further strengthening its global presence and completing efforts to establish the sport in more regions around the world.

Sheikh Talal said the achievements of Kuwaiti bowlers were among his greatest sources of satisfaction, particularly their strong performances in Asian and international competitions and their success in bringing honor to the country.

He also praised the GCC countries, especially Qatar, for hosting the latest championship and continuing to demonstrate their ability to organize major sporting events. He highlighted Qatar's achievements in sporting, technical and administrative fields, including its successful hosting of Arab, international and world championships, particularly the World Cup.

Sheikh Talal expressed appreciation to officials and staff at the Asian and International Bowling Federations, as well as Kuwait Bowling Club, for their dedication and hard work in advancing the sport.

He said he was delighted with the progress achieved in bowling and its growing popularity across different parts of the world.



Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad speaking at the opening of one of the championships.



Kuwait Football Association Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef presents the national jersey to Barcelona Vice-President Rafael Yuste.

Al-Jalahma discusses sports cooperation with Barca VP

Preliminary agreement for friendly match between Kuwait & Barcelona

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: Kuwait Football Association Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef received Barcelona Vice-President Rafael Yuste.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef welcomed the Barcelona delegation, noting that a preliminary agreement had been reached to organize a friendly match between Barcelona and Kuwait's national team, the Blues, in February next year, coinciding with the National Day celebrations.

He added that the meeting discussed the exchange of expertise and cooperation between the KFA and Barcelona. Both sides agreed to arrange training placements for two Kuwaiti coaches at Barcelona, organize qualification courses and training programs, and explore cooperation in the development of women's football in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tariq Al-Jalahma welcomed Thursday visiting Vice President of the Spanish club FC Barcelona, to discuss several topics of mutual interest and prospects for sports cooperation.

During the meeting, they addressed ways to promote cooperation, exchange sports expertise and experiences and make use of international sports expertise, thus supporting young talents, developing their capabilities, and opening new horizons for cooperation with international sports institutions and clubs, the Public Authority for Youth and Sports said in a press release.

They underlined the importance of advancing sports programs and initiatives that contribute to elevating the level of sports and boosting opportunities to draw upon the successful experiences of international clubs in the fields of training, qualification, and talent discovery, it added.

The meeting comes in the context of the State of Kuwait's commitment to consolidating its international sports relations and furthering areas of cooperation with global sports institutions, it noted.

International equestrian events boost Kuwait's global profile: Al-Ali

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The International Show jumping Championship continued with strong participation from leading riders representing local clubs, as well as competitors from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, India, Britain and Germany.

The event is organized by the Sports Police Federation under the sponsorship of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation and Kuwait Oil Company.

The spotlight will be on Saturday's closing day, featuring the Grand Prix competition over obstacles set at 145 cm, with several riders expected to contend for the title.

Kuwaiti international judge Nabila Al-Ali said hosting international equestrian competitions marks an important step in raising Kuwait's standing in the sport regionally and internationally.



Nabila Al-Ali with members of the organizing committee.

She said the organization of such events reflects confidence in Kuwait's ability to stage major sporting competitions in accordance with the highest technical and organizational standards.

Al-Ali noted that international championships offer valuable opportunities for riders and judges to experience different equestrian schools, exchange expertise and improve competitive standards. They also help develop national talent, particularly among judges and technical officials.

She commended all those involved in organizing the championship, stressing that the continued hosting of international competitions is a major boost for equestrian sport in Kuwait and will help drive further progress and achievements.

SA beats B'desh on Day 5 of first test

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 19, (AP): Simon Harmer ran through Bangladesh's tail and South Africa knocked off the 12 runs required to win the first test by nine wickets on Thursday, taking a 1-0 lead in the teams' two-match cricket test series.

Resuming on 100-5 at the Wanderers, Bangladesh's lower-order batters couldn't handle the off-spin of Harmer, who took four of the remaining five wickets to help dismiss the tourists for 168 and have figures of 6-51.

It revived memories of Harmer taking 6-16 on Day 5 of the series-clinching victory over Australia last month.

The Proteas lost first-innings century-maker Marques Ackerman - for a second-ball duck - on the way to reaching their target before lunch, at 12-1. Soon after getting bowled off a no-ball, Aiden Markram (8 not out) scored the winning run.

South Africa dethroned Australia for the top spot in the ICC test team rankings with that series win last month and is the reigning world test champion.

In Harmer it has a 37-year-old player enjoying a renaissance in a test career that was drifting until a year ago, when he returned after a two-and-a-half-year absence and is now a reliable match-winner.

Having already removed Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mahfijul Islam late in Day 4, Harmer took the final four wickets of the match in his brilliant four-over burst that came after overnight batter Litton Das got an inside edge and played onto his own stumps off Kagiso Rabada (3-46).

ARAB TIMES
THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT
Published by: Arab Times Publishing House
Editor-in-Chief
AHMED AL JARALLAH
Editorial Office:
Tel: 24826912 - Airport Road, Shuwaikh
P.O. Box: 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait
E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com
Advertising:
Tel: 99659717 - 50232062
E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com
Annual Subscriptions:
Individuals KD 30, Companies & Official Departments KD 45
Airmail charges extra for overseas
Tel: 51526559 - 51508991