

Francophonie flourishes as Kuwait strengthens cultural ties Page 2

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Kuwait steps up crackdown on property violations in Khaitan Page 3

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Kuwait taps 5 Asian nations for expertise

Prime Minister drives infrastructure push

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting at Bayan Palace on Wednesday to discuss ways to develop infrastructure and complete plans for surveying and categorizing state-owned land, thus serving future projects and making most use of state resources in line with its developmental vision.

Several ministers, senior state officials and relevant authorities' representatives were present at the meeting.

Also on Wednesday, Minister of Public Works Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan met with a diplomatic delegation representing China, Japan, South Korea, India and Pakistan to discuss infrastructure projects and development plans in Kuwait.

Minister Al-Mashaan underscored the Ministry of Public Works' commitment to strengthening ties of cooperation and emphasized the importance of collaboration with friendly nations, as well as the exchange of expertise and experience in the fields of infrastructure, project development, and sustainable development, all of which support Kuwait's broader development trajectory.

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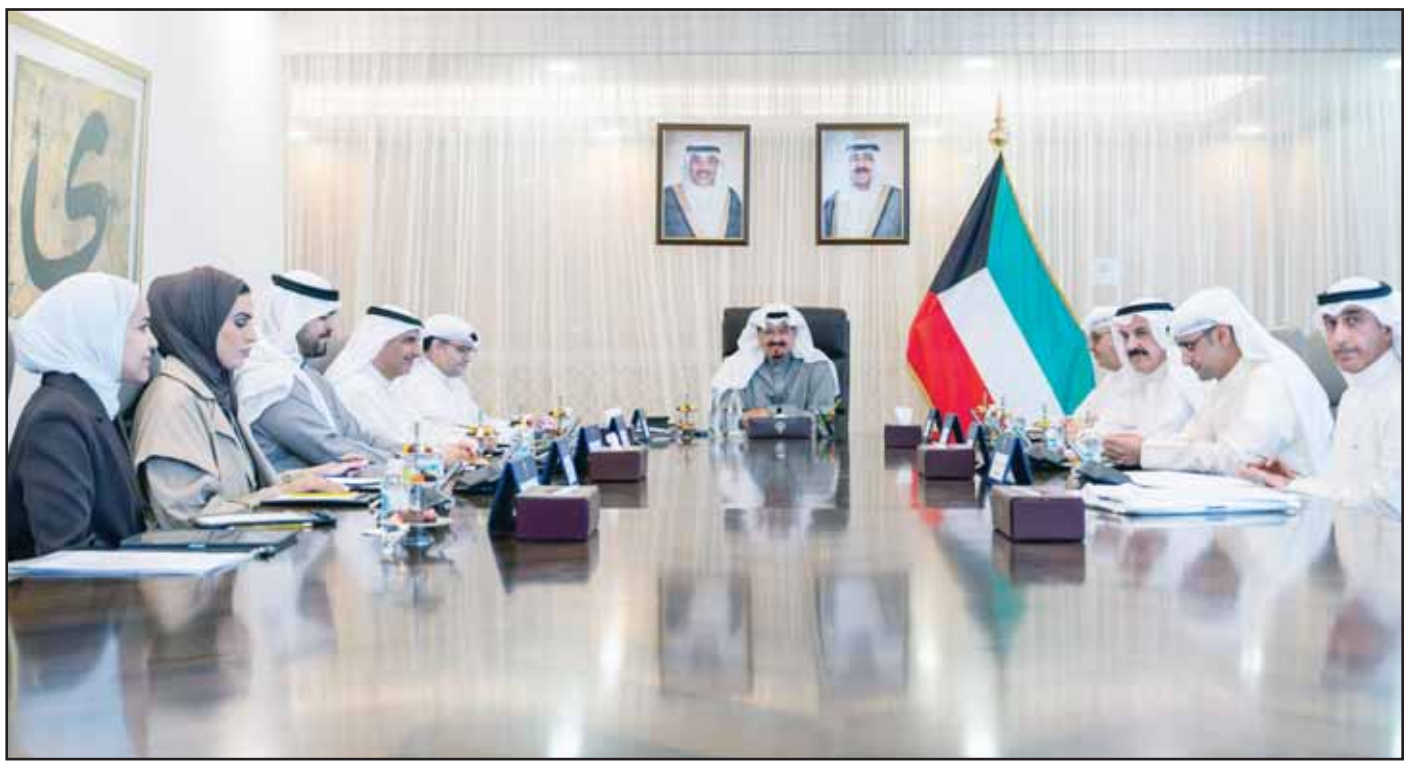

PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs a meeting at Bayan Palace on Wednesday to discuss infrastructure development and plans to survey and classify state-owned land.

Salmiya junction shut till 29th Nov

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Ministry of Public Works, in coordination with the General Traffic Department, announced the temporary closure of the intersection of Amman Street and Al-Mughira Bin Shu'ba Street in Salmiya to carry out maintenance work, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure will begin at midnight on Thursday, November 26, and continue until 5:00 am on Sunday, November 29.

Kuwait brass get security 'in sync'





Kuwait Army photos

Left: Kuwaiti Army Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraiaan chairs a coordination meeting with senior military and security officials to discuss joint cooperation and operational readiness. Right: Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraiaan meets GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Military Affairs Maj. Gen. Salman Al-Fadhala to discuss strengthening military cooperation among GCC states.

Kuwait blasts Houthi attacks on Riyadh

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Army Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraiaan chaired a coordination meeting attended by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib, National Guard Undersecretary Lt. Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas and Kuwait Fire Force Chief Lt. Gen. Talal Mohammad Al-Roumi.

The General Staff said in a statement that the meeting discussed ways to develop coordination mechanisms and joint work among military and security agencies, enhance cooperation, unify efforts and integrate roles to ensure faster response and higher readiness in carrying out shared duties.

A number of senior officers and commanders from the military and security agencies attended the meeting, the statement added.

Also on Wednesday, Kuwait's Army Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraian met with GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Military Affairs Maj. Gen. Salman Al-Fadhala to discuss enhancing military cooperation among GCC states.

A statement by the General Staff on Wednesday said the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest during the meeting, held at Al-Shuraiaan's office in the presence of Al-Fadhalas accompanying delegation.

In other news, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Tuesday the State of Kuwait's strong condemnation and denunciation of the continued terrorist attacks launched by the Houthi militia against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The latest incident involved the targeting of a tower at the Financial Center in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, resulting in injuries to several individuals, constituting a blatant violation of the Kingdom's sovereignty and a flagrant breach of international law and international humanitarian law.

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Superbugs pose mounting threat

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said that combating infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance had become an integral part of Kuwait's national health security system, stressing the importance of scientific dialogue, expertise exchange and joint action to address emerging health challenges.

Addressing the opening of the Fourth Kuwait Conference on AIDS and Antimicrobial Therapy, held over two days with the participation of local and international experts, Al-Awadhi said confronting these challenges required more than providing treatment, encompassing early preparedness, prevention, epidemiological surveillance, scientific research and stronger institutional response capabilities.

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MoH photo

Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi inaugurates the Fourth Kuwait Conference on AIDS and Antimicrobial Therapy.

Kuwaitis get early driving training option

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The General Traffic Department announced that Kuwaiti citizens who have reached the age of 17 years and 10 months can now submit driving learner applications through the Sahel app to begin their driving training.

In a post on the Ministry of Interior's official social media account,

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Kuwait gears up for Ramadan

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Ministry of Islamic Affairs Undersecretary Dr. Sulaiman Al-Suwailem on Wednesday visited the Hawally Governorate Mosques Department to assess its operational performance and preparations for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

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Ministry of Islamic Affairs photo

Group photo during Ministry of Islamic Affairs Undersecretary Dr. Sulaiman Al-Suwailem's visit to the Hawally Mosques Department.

Newswatch

CAIRO: The High-Level Arab Conference honored on Wednesday Kuwaiti disability rights activist **Rehab Bouresli** in recognition of her role in supporting the rights of persons with disabilities and promoting their participation in society.

Speaking to KUNA, Bouresli expressed her pride in this honor, which took place during the Conference marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The gathering served as a significant milestone to evaluate the achievements of the past two decades and address the challenges still facing the implementation of the Convention, she said.

The conference featured live testimonies from persons with disabilities, in which they reviewed the changes the Convention has created in their lives over the past 20 years. (KUNA)



Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs receives Ambassador of Oman.



Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs receives Ambassador of Turkiye.

Amiri Diwan Minister hosts three envoys

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah received separately at Bayan Palace on Wednesday the ambassadors of Turkiye, Oman and Australia to Kuwait.

During his meeting with Turkish Ambassador Can Oguz, the minister discussed the distinguished bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation in various fields, as well as the latest regional and international developments.

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Amiri Diwan photos

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs receives Ambassador of Australia.



HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

When the Afghans marched into Iran, they found no empire to resist them

Extremist rule delivered the final blow to the Safavid state

Shah Sultan Hussein isolated himself in palace pleasures, while weapons rusted and the state treasury collapsed

Gangs armed with axes were unleashed in the streets

The army was corrupt, and leadership was absent, allowing the capital, Isfahan, to fall

The crown fell into the mud, and an empire that once ruled vast territories came to an end

One Moroccan man shattered a myth that had ruled over an entire people

The people of the Maldives lived in constant terror

A virgin girl was taken and left alone in a house of idols to face the jinn

They found Abu al-Barakat alive and took him to their king to tell him of the miracle

Thus ended the story of Wallada bint al-Mustakfi and the poet Ibn Zaydun

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:58	Asr	14:30
Sunrise	06:21	Maghrib	16:50
Zohr	11:35	Isha	18:13

Francophonie flourishes as Kuwait strengthens cultural ties



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed delivers his speech during the ceremony.

Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed: Francophonie is a vibrant space for communication, creativity, and the exchange of knowledge

- Kuwait's two decades of celebrating Francophonie reflect its growing importance
- Africa has become the beating heart of the Francophonie and the primary driver of its expansion
- The French language contributed to shaping the concepts of the modern state and constitutions, and to establishing values
- French ambassador highlights language's unifying power

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Chairman of the Council for the Promotion of Francophonie in Kuwait Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed said the country's annual observance of International Francophonie Day over the past two decades proves the growing importance of the Francophonie movement in the region.

Sheikh Nasser made the statement in French during a reception held under his patronage at the residence of French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin, marking the conclusion of Francophonie Month.

The event gathered ambassadors of Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) member states, members of the diplomatic corps, a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, delegates from government bodies, cultural institutions and the private sector, as well as politicians, writers, artists and media representatives.

It featured a piano performance by Sharifa Al-Atiqi, a student at Al-Jazaer School, who presented an original composition, followed by the violin performance of Maria Artinian.

Sheikh Nasser indicated that although Kuwait is not yet an official member of the OIF, it maintains a rich, active and longstanding relationship with the French language.

He said this year's celebration coincides with the 38th International Francophonie Day and the 56th anniversary of the organization's establishment, stressing that the continuation of such celebrations for an extended period is an achievement in itself.

He pointed out that Kuwait's observance of the occasion has developed into an annual tradition dating back to the turn of the millennium. He stated that in the last two decades, the celebrations have grown into a month-long program of activities, featuring spelling competitions, film screenings, sports tournaments and panel discussions at Kuwait University. He also recalled that during the term of French President Jacques Chirac, Radio France Internationale (RFI) began broadcasting in French to Kuwait via satellite.

He revealed that the Francophonie has recorded remarkable achievements, foremost among them is the steady expansion of the global French-speaking population. He stressed that Africa has emerged as "the beating heart of the Francophonie and the primary driver of its expansion," signaling a gradual shift in the movement's center of gravity from the banks of the Seine in Paris to the heart of the African continent.

He also talked about the organization's 20th summit, held this year in Phnom Penh -- the Cambodian capital, with the theme, "Reinvesting in Peace for Shared Prosperity and Sustainable Stability." He said the theme is a reflection of Cambodia's own experience of overcoming conflict and embarking on a path of reconstruction.

He added that the organization's achievements extend to the political, educational and economic fields. He disclosed that one of its landmark initiatives was the adoption of the Bamako Declaration in 2000 which, for the first time, formally linked membership in the Francophonie with a commitment to champion democracy and human rights.

He indicated that the organization also monitors elections, mediates conflicts and has established a voting bloc within the United Nations in the interest of developing countries.

He went on to say that in the academic and media fields, the organization established the Francophone University Agency (AUF), which brings together more than 1,000 universities and research institutions in over 110 countries, as well as the TV5Monde television network that reaches hundreds of millions of households worldwide.

"Within UNESCO, the organization played a leading role in efforts to secure the adoption of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Its other initiatives include organizing the Francophone Games every four years, implementing teacher-training programs in Africa, and supporting entrepreneurship and digital transformation," he elaborated.

He emphasized that the French language has played a significant role in shaping the concepts of the modern state and its constitutions, while helping establish the principles of freedom, citizenship and human rights.

He stated that French has provided the intellectual backdrop for major developments in modern philosophy, ranging from existentialism to postmodernism, while contributing to the emergence and flourishing of the Theatre of the Absurd and the French New Wave in cinema.



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed and French Ambassador Olivier Gauvin

He confirmed that the language also embraced the Négritude Movement, which helped restore recognition of and appreciation for African identity.

He explained that the French language, with its precise grammatical rules, rigorous structure and rationalist heritage rooted in Cartesian philosophy, has preserved its prominent position in diplomacy and international treaties. "It continues to play an important role within the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee," he added.

He asserted that although English has become the dominant language of finance, business and technology, French retains a distinguished place as a language of intellectual inquiry, critical analysis, philosophy and literature. He stressed that proficiency in French, along with English, is a valuable cultural and professional asset, opening more opportunities in regional and international institutions.

He said the Francophonie should not be viewed as just a legacy of the past, but rather as a dynamic and evolving space for communication, creativity and the exchange of knowledge.

He also indicated that in view of the worldwide expansion of the Anglophone sphere, the Francophonie does not intend to compete with or displace English, as it rather promotes a model of linguistic and cultural complementarity. "Linguistic and cultural diversity enriches humanity, while dialogue among civilizations remains essential to building a more open, understanding and peaceful world," he added.

On the other hand, Gauvin affirmed that the Francophonie in Kuwait has become a reality, manifesting the depth of the historical and cultural ties between the two countries.

Recalling the historic pearl trade between Kuwaiti seafarers and French jewelry house Cartier, he said the jewelers of that era could hardly have imagined that Kuwait, a hub of commerce and tolerance, would one day become "a sanctuary for a different kind of gem -- the French language."

Ambassador Gauvin praised Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed's efforts to intensify the presence of the French language in Kuwait, asserting that the Francophonie is far more than an institutional framework, as it depicts a story of friendship and affection connecting the French language with the people who speak it.

He also commended the Kuwaiti authorities for their commitment to giving French a distinguished place within the country's educational system. He acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry of Education and Anwar Al-Radwan, Director of the Technical Guidance Department for the French Language, whose contributions have helped expand French language education to include the Grade 10, beginning with the current academic year. He confirmed that the scale and scope of French language education in Kuwait are particularly remarkable compared with other countries in the region.

He clarified that the global Francophone community currently consists of more than 400 million people, a figure expected to rise to 600 million by 2050.

He revealed that the Francophonie provides a platform for cooperation in education, culture, economics, innovation and digital technology, creating new opportunities for young people in higher education and employment. He said these efforts are based on the principles of solidarity, tolerance, justice and inclusivity.

He also discussed the diverse program of events throughout the Francophonie Month, which included activities covering sports, literature, cinema, poetry and culinary arts, in addition visits to public schools by ambassadors and representatives from Tunisia, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland and Armenia.

Furthermore, Anwar Al-Radwan affirmed that the celebration is an opportunity to recognize and honor French language teachers, describing them as bridges between peoples who transmit languages, cultures and values, while helping prepare a generation that is open to the wider world.

She expressed her appreciation to Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed for attending the event, to the French ambassador for extending the invitation, and to the administrations of secondary schools for their warm reception of the Francophone delegation.

She said the French language cannot always be translated literally, explaining that its meaning must be understood within its cultural context. She pointed out that this is one of the aspects, which makes learning foreign languages so beautiful and enriching.

It is worth noting that the number of French speakers worldwide has reached 396 million, up from previous estimates of 321 million, and it is projected to rise to 590 million by 2050.

French is competing for fourth place among the world's most widely spoken languages, along with Arabic and Hindi, following English, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

More than 170 million people in five continents are currently learning French.

Africa accounts for 65 percent of all French speakers, while nine out of every 10 new French speakers in the future are expected to come from the continent. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 68 million French speakers, is the world's largest Francophone country, surpassing France.

On March 20, 1970, the Niamey Convention paved the way for the establishment of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation -- the predecessor of the current OIF. The initiative was spearheaded by Habib Bourguiba, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Hamani Diori and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, with the support of Charles de Gaulle and François Mitterrand.

French has been taught in Kuwait for about six decades, following its introduction into public secondary schools in the 1960s.

In 1969, an agreement on educational, cultural and scientific cooperation led to the establishment of the Voltaire Institute, which served as the forerunner of today's French Institute.

The French Lycée, a school established in the 1980s, now accommodates more than 1,000 students of various nationalities.

More than 50,000 Kuwaiti students study French every year, supported by around 1,400 teachers, whereas the Kuwait University has the French Language Department.





Photos by Samer Shqair

Group photos of the attendees



The Moroccan Ambassador honoring Dina Al-Atiqi, Anwar Al-Radwan, and Salma Al-Rish



Saeed Maamar, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah, and the French Ambassador



Ambassador Olivier Gauvin and colleague Mohammed Al-Farhan

HORIZON TALK

Ahmed Al-Jarallah



When the Afghans marched into Iran, they found no empire to resist them

- Extremist rule delivered the final blow to the Safavid state
- Shah Sultan Hussein isolated himself in palace pleasures, while weapons rusted and the state treasury collapsed
- Gangs armed with axes were unleashed in the streets
- The army was corrupt, and leadership was absent, allowing the capital, Isfahan, to fall
- The crown fell into the mud, and an empire that once ruled vast territories came to an end
- One Moroccan man shattered a myth that had ruled over an entire people
- The people of the Maldives lived in constant terror
- A virgin girl was taken and left alone in a house of idols to face the jinn
- They found Abu al-Barakat alive and took him to their king to tell him of the miracle
- Thus ended the story of Wallada bint al-Mustakfi and the poet Ibn Zaydun.

IT was a great state riddled with internal corruption, but the final blow came from an extremist authority that decided to exterminate half its people.

In the final years of the Safavid state, its fall was not merely a military defeat. Shah Sultan Hussein isolated himself from the people, indulging in pleasures in his palace while weapons rusted and the treasury collapsed. To cover up this rampant corruption, the state was handed over to the religious establishment.

As a result, sectarianism turned into a bloody inquisition. The greatest victims were the inhabitants of the outlying regions, such as Afghanistan and Balochistan.

It was not marginalization; it was ethnic cleansing. Mosques and schools were demolished, and scholars were exiled. Most terrifyingly, armed gangs wielding axes were unleashed in the markets, cursing religious figures. Any passerby who refused to join in the cursing had their head smashed immediately.

With this madness, the state turned millions of people into ticking time bombs.

From the depths of this oppression in Kandahar, the volcano erupted. The Afghan commander Mahmud Hotaki marched with an army thirsting for revenge. Ironically, he found not an empire to fight, but a corrupt army and an absent leadership. The capital, Isfahan, fell, and the crown was left in the mud.

Any regime built on corruption and then cloaked in religion to rule its people will repeat the fall of Isfahan. Nations do not die from external forces; they commit suicide from within. Those who raise the sword of sectarianism against their own people will ultimately be struck down by it.

How did the Maldives convert to Islam?

An entire island used to sacrifice one of its girls every month until a Moroccan man arrived and shattered a myth that had ruled over an entire people. By the will of God, one man changed the destiny of a nation.

The traveler Ibn Battuta recounts that, before the 12th century, the people of the Maldives lived in constant terror. It was said that a virgin girl was taken every month and left alone in a house of idols on the seashore to be claimed by a jinn called Ranimam, who appeared from the sea like a ship filled with lanterns.

This continued until the Moroccan scholar Abu al-Barakat al-Barbari arrived and found an old woman weeping because her only daughter had been chosen. He told her, "I will go in her place at night."

He entered the house of idols in the girl's place after performing ablution. He began reciting the Holy Quran when the jinn appeared to him from the sea. Abu al-Barakat continued reciting until the jinn retreated into the sea and never returned.

The following morning, the old woman and the islanders came to retrieve the body, but instead, they found Abu al-Barakat alive and reciting the Quran.

They took him to their king, Shanuraza, and told him about the miracle. The king asked Abu al-Barakat to repeat what he had done the following month. He did so, and the demon fled once again, by the blessings of the Quran.

At that moment, God opened the king's heart to Islam, and he and his relatives embraced the faith. The king destroyed the idols, and a thousand islands converted to Islam thanks to this Moroccan man.

Abu al-Barakat's tomb still stands in the capital, Malé, bearing an inscription that reads - "Sultan Ahmad Shanuraza converted to Islam at the hands of Abu al-Barakat the Berber."

The story of Wallada bint al-Mustakfi and Ibn Zaydun

The greatest love story in Andalusia ended in betrayal, and its ending was never written.

The story unfolded in Cordoba, where an extraordinary poet princess once lived.

The princess's court was a gathering place for the greatest poets of Andalusia until a man arrived and changed everything.

He was a poet whose verses flowed with magic. A passionate love story blossomed between the princess and the poet, and they exchanged some of the most beautiful and delicate poems ever recorded in history.

People believed that the princess and the poet were made for each other.

However, the poet suddenly betrayed the princess with her maidservant. Despite this, the princess neither broke down nor backed down, but she refused to forgive him.

She wrote a satirical poem that haunted the poet throughout his life, including the following lines:

"If you were truly in love, you would have chosen a woman worthy of being compared to me, not my slave girl.

You abandoned a fruitful branch, beautiful and vibrant, and preferred a withered one, barren and unfruitful.

Although you knew I resembled the moon, you abandoned me and chose Jupiter."

The poet regretted his actions, but it was too late. He left no stone unturned in his attempts to win the princess back. He wrote numerous poems seeking reconciliation, but she never returned to him.

Among his verses were the following:

"Distance has replaced our closeness, and separation has replaced our meetings.

There is no longer any hope of meeting, neither in the morning nor in the evening."

In Cordoba, particularly in Plaza de Santo de los Mártires, a monument still stands in the shape of two hands reaching for each other but never touching.

The monument eloquently captures the relationship between the princess and the poet, which began with a profound literary passion but was later torn apart by circumstances, political intrigue, and malicious gossip.

This is the story of the poet-princess Wallada bint al-Mustakfi and the poet Ibn Zaydun.

Kuwait steps up crackdown on property violations in Khaitan

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef vows no leniency



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah issues directives to officials during the campaign in Khaitan.



Ministry of Interior photos

Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah leads the inspection.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Under the direct supervision of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Ministry of Interior conducted a two-day joint field campaign in Khaitan to address encroachments on state property, illegal extensions and other violations, resulting in 1,340 enforcement actions.

The campaign, which builds on previous field operations, involved the Kuwait Municipality, General Fire Force, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, Public Authority for Manpower, and Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said the campaign aims to protect state property and address violations involving construction beyond property boundaries and unauthorized expansion onto state-owned land. It also covers compliance with fire prevention and safety standards, health and food regulations, and labor laws to safeguard public safety and protect state interests.



A violating establishment being demolished during the crackdown in Khaitan.

Inspections uncovered several properties, restaurants and cafés encroaching on state land, as well as violations involving the occupation of roads and failure to meet health requirements. The concerned authorities took immediate action against the violations, each within its respective jurisdiction.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said the field campaigns form part of an ongoing nationwide enforcement drive that began in several areas and will extend to all governorates. He stressed that inspections and follow-up operations will continue until all violations are addressed.

He underscored the importance of protecting Kuwait's reputation and safeguarding the security and safety of everyone living in the country, stressing that these responsibilities allow no room for leniency.

He also emphasized the need for close coordination among the participating authorities to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Reaffirming the government's firm stance, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said state property is protected and encroachments will not be tolerated. He stressed that no leniency will be shown toward properties violating regulations and that all necessary legal measures will be taken to remove encroachments and hold offenders accountable.

"The law applies to everyone without exception," he affirmed.

Africans arrested with 124 liquor bottles

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of seven African nationals for their involvement in alcohol distribution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

They were arrested during a security operation carried out by the Security Directorates Affairs Sector's Capital Security Directorate in cooperation with the Special Missions Unit.

According to the ministry, the investigation began after a delivery driver was arrested in possession of A4 papers soaked in narcotics. Further inquiries led security personnel to residences used for distributing alcohol.

Officers seized 124 bottles of alcohol during the operation. It was also discovered that some of the suspects were wanted in connection with absconding reports.

The suspects and the seized items were referred to the relevant authorities for further legal action.





KUNA photos

Acting Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and Vice President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies, Mohammed Al-Mannai, during his participation in the General Assembly of FANA.

UAE's Al-Shehhi elected FANA president for two-year term

ABU DHABI, Nov 25, (KUNA): The General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) elected Secretary-General of the UAE National Media Office and Emirates News Agency (WAM) supervisor Mohammed Al-Shehhi as the federation's president for a two-year term.

The election took place during FANA's 52nd General Assembly, hosted by Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) represented by Acting Director General and FANA Vice President Mohammad Al-Mana'i.

Al-Shehhi thanked member states and Arab news agencies for their confidence, describing the election as a responsibility to advance joint work and strengthen the federation's role and standing.

He said the UAE would place its expertise and relations at the service of efforts to enhance FANA's presence, expand its partnerships and help member agencies benefit from technological developments while upholding credibility and professional responsibility.

FANA Secretary-General Dr. Farid Ayyar said the assembly also elected KUNA and Morocco's news agency as vice presidents for two years.

It further elected four agencies to the federation's General Secretariat: Jordan News Agency, Saudi Press Agency, Qatar News Agency and Tunis Afrique Presse.



President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), Mohammed Al-Shehhi, during the proceedings of the 52nd General Assembly Conference in Abu Dhabi.

Ayyar praised KUNA's role in Arab and regional media since its establishment in 1976, noting its active contribution through FANA membership.

He said the General Secretariat works to shape strategic directions for joint Arab media action and strengthen institutional coordination in addressing the rapidly evolving challenges facing the media sector.

IACA praises Kuwait's Nazaha commitment to international anti-corruption standards

Kos reaffirms support for country's reforms

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Dean of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) Drago Kos praised Tuesday the role of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) and its steadfast commitment to international standards in combating corruption.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Nazaha noted that the Dean's remarks followed official discussions with its Chairperson, Dr. Rana Al-Fares.

The talks explored avenues to leverage specialized international expertise, alongside technical and academic support, to review and develop the law establishing the Authority, an initiative aimed at strengthening its mandates and powers while enhancing operational efficiency in line with global best practices.

The statement quoted Kos as stating that the State of Kuwait has been a valued party to the Academy for over a decade, commending Nazaha's active role in this partnership and highlighting its adherence to international standards and openness to institutional collaboration.



KUNA photo

The head of the Public Authority for Combating Corruption (Nazaha), Dr. Rana Al-Fares, meets with the Dean of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, Drago Kos.

During his visit, the IACA Dean reviewed proposed legislative amendments to the law establishing the Authority as part of a strategic effort to refine the legal framework governing its operations.

Aligned with international standards and global best practices, these amendments are expected, once enacted, to bolster the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts and elevate Nazaha's standing among the world's leading anti-corruption agencies.

For her part, Nazaha Chairperson Dr. Rana Al-Fares emphasized the Authority's commitment to leveraging the legislative experiences of countries that have achieved tangible progress in combating corruption.

She highlighted the importance of adapting these international practices to align with the provisions of the Kuwaiti Constitution and the specificities of the national legal system, while ensuring full consistency with Kuwait's obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Al-Fares added that the visit by the IACA Dean reflects a long-standing cooperative relationship spanning more than ten years, noting that Kuwait acceded to the agreement establishing the Academy pursuant to Decree No. 325 of 2014 and has remained actively engaged in the proceedings of its Assembly of Parties.

According to the statement, IACA Dean Drago Kos holds prominent international standing in the fields of anti-corruption and good governance, having previously chaired the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, and the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption in the Republic of Slovenia.

Kuwait participates in 127th UN Tourism Executive Council session

ABU DHABI, Nov 25, (KUNA): The 127th session of the Executive Council of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) commenced Tuesday in the Emirati capital, Abu Dhabi, with the participation of the State of Kuwait.

Kuwait is attending the session in its capacity as the current chair of the organization's Regional Commission for the Middle East.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information announced that the Kuwaiti delegation is led by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Muhaisen, representing Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar.

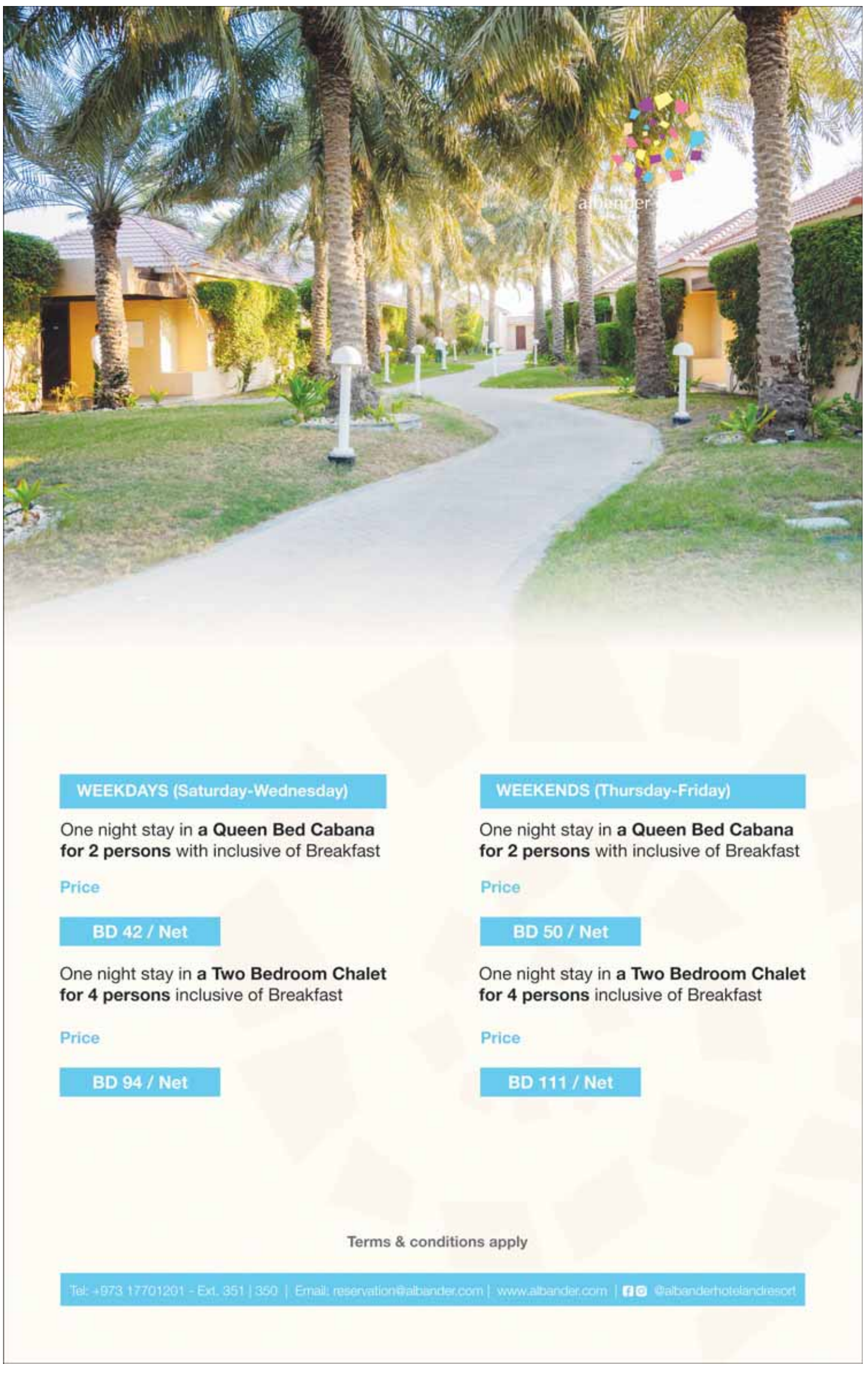
According to the statement, the Council's proceedings take place against the backdrop of the growing significance of tourism as a key driver for economic and cultural development.

It noted that the session serves as a premier international platform for exchanging perspectives, coordinating efforts regarding the future of the tourism sector, enhancing its capacity to adapt to global changes, and leveraging its potential to support sustainable development.

Kuwait's participation holds particular importance given its active regional role and the opportunities afforded by its chairmanship of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

This leadership position facilitates closer cooperation among regional states, aligns shared visions for tourism development, and contributes to international preparations for 2027, designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.

The Council's meetings will address a wide range of topics and initiatives aimed at advancing the international tourism framework, fostering integration across related sectors, and elevating the quality of tourism services and experiences, reinforcing tourism's role in building bridges of communication between peoples and cultures.



Kuwait, UK experts join forces to tackle evolving cyber threats

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): The Eighth Conference on Cybersecurity Education and Research opened Tuesday, organized by Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) in cooperation with the Kuwait's National Cyber Security Center (NCSC), Cardiff University and Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS).

NCSC said in a press statement that the conference brings together specialists from Kuwait and the United Kingdom to discuss four main themes including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, operational technology and industrial systems security, cyber threats, digital forensics and incident response, and cybersecurity research and development.

The one-day event features lectures and a specialized panel discussion addressing research and cybersecurity practical issues.

In his address, KCST President Professor Khalid Al-Begain said the college had organized the conference for eight consecutive years, reflecting its commitment to cybersecurity and its growing role in protecting societies and digital infrastructure.

He described the conference as an established scientific platform bringing together academics, researchers, specialists and decision-makers from Kuwait and the wider region.

Al-Begain said the event supports scientific research, strengthens academic and institutional cooperation, and provides opportunities to exchange expertise between local and international institutions.

He added that the conference helps build partnerships, develop professional capabilities and connect academic research with the sector's practical needs.

For his part, Director of Cyber Excellence and Capacity Development Department at NCSC Bader Al-Osaimi stressed the importance of investing in national talent and scientific research to advance cybersecurity capabilities.

He said the center seeks to strengthen academic partnerships and align research and education with cybersecurity needs, particularly in AI.

Al-Osaimi praised the conference's role in bringing together experts and researchers, supporting innovation and strengthening Kuwait's readiness for future cyber threats.

Meanwhile, Professor Omer Rana of Cardiff University said the conference had long served as a bridge between cybersecurity research communities in Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

He said advances in autonomous AI systems offer new defensive capabilities but also pose emerging cybersecurity risks.

Rana cited assessments by the UK's AI Safety Institute (AISI) indicating that the length of tasks advanced models can complete independently is doubling every four to five months, while their ability to handle expert-level challenges continues to grow.

He said the dual-use nature of AI highlighted the importance of agentic cybersecurity systems in keeping pace with technological developments and addressing their associated risks.

Rana noted that the conference provides a platform for exchanging expertise and identifying safeguards and preventive measures to protect shared digital infrastructure.





KUNA photos

The Eighth Conference on Cybersecurity Education & Research kicks off, organized by Kuwait College of Science & Technology with Kuwait's National Cyber Security Center, Cardiff University & Kuwait Information Technology Society.



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Kuwait Ali Ben Issa, Deputy Editor-in-Chief Sulaiman Al-Jarallah, and Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah



Editor-in-Chief Al-Jarallah during his meeting with the Moroccan Ambassador.

Retired Lieutenant General Al-Ali pays visit to Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism

Editor-in-Chief Al-Jarallah welcomes Ambassador of Morocco

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah met with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Kuwait Ali Ben Issa at his office on Wednesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Deputy Editor-in-Chief Sulaiman Al-Jarallah and his son, Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen the longstanding relations between the two friendly countries, as well as opportunities to expand media cooperation and communication between the two countries.

The discussions reflected the dynamic and steadily developing bilateral relationship, and close coordination between the leaders of both countries on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Both parties underscored the important role of the media in bringing the two friendly nations closer, stressing the need for continuous communication between diplomatic missions and media institutions to highlight bilateral cooperation and present the achievements and developments in the two countries.

Al-Jarallah praised the Moroccan Embassy's active role in promoting bilateral relations and its continuous commitment to maintain close engagement with Kuwaiti media institutions.



Photos by Rezk Tawfik

Editor-in-Chief with retired Lieutenant General Abdul-Fattah Al-Ali, Deputy Editor-in-Chief Sulaiman Al-Jarallah, and Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah

He also expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Ben Issa for his ongoing cooperation and openness with the press, commending his efforts to keep the Kuwaiti public informed about developments in Morocco and the progress achieved through the fruitful partnership between the two countries.

Meanwhile Ambassador Ben Issa expressed his gratitude for the warm reception, reaffirming the embassy's commitment to maintain communication and solidify cooperation with Kuwaiti media institutions. He asserted that such initiatives deepen the longstanding bonds of brotherhood and friendship between the two peoples.

Moreover, the Editor-in-Chief also received retired Lieutenant General Abdul-Fattah Al-Ali at his office on the same day.

During the visit, they had friendly conversations and then tackled a number of local issues and other matters of mutual interest.



Editor-in-Chief Al-Jarallah receives retired Lieutenant General Abdul-Fattah Al-Ali.

Kuwait reaffirms support for Morocco's Western Sahara autonomy initiative

NEW YORK, Nov 25, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait reaffirmed its steadfast support for the autonomy initiative presented by the Kingdom of Morocco and welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 2797 (2025), while calling for the continuation of negotiations in good faith to reach a final political settlement.

This came in a statement delivered by Third Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Abdulaziz Al-Seidi evening during a UN General Assembly session held pursuant to Resolution 76/262 regarding the use of the veto in the Security Council.



Al-Seidi

Al-Seidi stated that the State of Kuwait is following developments concerning the Moroccan Western Sahara with close interest, reiterating its support for the efforts of the United Nations, led by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to achieve a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution.

He emphasized the importance of continuing international and diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving this issue in a manner that enhances regional security and stability, while opening broader horizons for cooperation, integration, development, and prosperity across the region.

Al-Seidi further explained that General Assembly Resolution 76/262 established an important mechanism to enhance transparency and accountability regarding the use of the veto in the Security Council, providing member states with the opportunity to discuss issues on which the Council has been unable to reach a decision due to the exercise of this power.

Kuwait gauges 5,620 pupils' reading skills

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The second phase of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2026), which evaluates students' reading abilities and comprehension skills, commenced Monday, at the Mishref Primary School for Girls, and it will continue until Dec 3.

Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education Hamad Al-Hamad visited the school to monitor the testing process, check compliance with the guidelines and standards, and ensure that all procedures are carried out according to the organizational plan.

The ministry announced that 5,620 students from 173 schools are involved in the study. The sample comprises 108 public schools in various educational districts, 24 private Arabic schools, 24 Indian and Pakistani schools, and 17 American, British and bilingual schools. The evaluation takes place over a two-week period, with dates assigned to each educational district as per the schedule.

The tests are administered online in school computer laboratories, targeting Grade Five students, under a specialized implementation framework approved for Kuwait and designed to meet international standards.

As part of the study, questionnaires are also distributed to students, parents, language teachers, and school principals to collect information about the educational and home environments that may affect academic performance.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait brass

In an official press statement, the Ministry emphasized that the repeated targeting of civilian objects and economic facilities represents a dangerous escalation and a direct threat to civilian lives.

It noted that this pattern of aggression necessitates a firm international stance to halt these cowardly attacks and hold the perpetrators accountable.

The Ministry reaffirmed the State of Kuwait's absolute solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, expressing full support for all measures taken by Riyadh to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and stability.

It further stressed that the security of the Kingdom is an integral part of the security of the State of Kuwait and the security of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Meanwhile, the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen called on civilians to evacuate Yemen's Hodeidah Port early Wednesday, urging them to follow the accompanying map for their safety.

The warning came in a statement posted on X by coalition spokesman Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, who also reported several drone interceptions in separate updates overnight Tuesday into Wednesday.

Al-Malki announced that four drones had been intercepted and destroyed in Ras Tanura Governorate, in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Region. Falling shrapnel was reported following the interceptions, but an initial assessment indicated no casualties.

Amiri Diwan

He also met with Omani Ambassador Ali bin Ahmed Al-Shanfari, reviewing the historic fraternal ties between the two countries and ways to expand cooperation in line with the aspirations of their leaderships and peoples.

In a separate meeting with Australian Ambassador Amanda Rethmuller, Sheikh Hamad discussed bilateral relations and prospects for developing cooperation, alongside an exchange of views on regional and international developments.

The minister wished the ambassadors success in their diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

Director of the Minister's Office Sami Al-Mulla attended the meetings.

Kuwait gears

Director of the department Dr. Talal Al-Mudaij, supervisors of the Cultural Affairs, Administrative Affairs and Maintenance divisions, and a number of department heads warmly welcomed Al-Suwailem.

During the visit, Al-Mudaij briefed the undersecretary on the workflow and operations of the entire department, as well as his vision and development plans aimed at improving institutional performance, raising service standards and enhancing the quality of services.

Meanwhile, Al-Suwailem expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the director, other department officials and the staff, praising their warm reception and high level of preparedness in various divisions in terms of performing their duties.

He stressed the importance of early preparations for the holy month of Ramadan, calling for a heightened level of readiness to ensure the successful implementation of Ramadan plans and programs. He said these preparations should reflect the distinctive spiritual atmosphere associated with Kuwait's renowned Ramadan centers, which are considered a unique feature of the country's religious and cultural identity, and for which Kuwait has earned recognition regionally and internationally.

Kuwaitis get

the department explained that applicants can access the form by selecting Ministry of Interior Services, followed by General Traffic Department, Driving License Services, and Driving Learner Form. Applicants must then follow the instructions to complete the process.

The department clarified that the application form is intended for training purposes only. Driving tests and driving license issuance procedures will take place once applicants reach the age of 18.

Prime Minister

The Ministry stated that the visit was part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "Economic Diplomacy" program, organized by the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute.

The visit began with a presentation delivered by Ayman Al-Mousawi Director of the Strategic Planning Department, attended by the Ministry's Directors-General, which highlighted the role of the Public Works Ministry as a key partner in implementing the advanced infrastructure of the "Kuwait Vision 2035" development plan.

The presentation also showcased the Ministry's major technical projects, key achievements, and various development initiatives.

Superbugs pose

He highlighted the global 95-95-95 targets, which aim for 95 percent of people living with HIV to know their status, 95 percent of those diagnosed to receive treatment and 95 percent of those treated to achieve viral suppression.

He stressed that care must protect patients' privacy and dignity while addressing stigma and discrimination.

On antimicrobial resistance, Al-Awadhi warned that it posed a growing global challenge threatening the effectiveness of treatments relied upon across many medical specialties, with implications extending beyond infection treatment to complex surgeries, organ transplants, cancer care and critical care.

He underscored the shared responsibility to preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobials through their prudent use, stronger prescription stewardship, infection prevention and control, laboratory surveillance and public awareness.

He also called for international cooperation, data exchange and joint research, alongside stronger partnerships with the World Health Organization, the Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and international scientific institutions.

Conference Chairman Dr. Osama Al-Baqsami said medical science faced a striking contrast: HIV had evolved from a diagnosis associated with fear and death into a condition people could live with for decades, while antibiotics that had saved millions of lives were losing effectiveness as microbes developed resistance.

Citing UNAIDS estimates, he said around 41 million people worldwide were living with HIV in 2025, with one million new infections and 500,000 AIDS-related deaths recorded that year.

More than 32 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy, while sustained viral suppression had been scientifically proven to prevent sexual transmission.

Al-Baqsami also cited World Health Organization data showing that one in six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections worldwide was resistant to antibiotics in 2023, rising to one in three reported infections in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

A 2024 study published in The Lancet estimated that bacterial antimicrobial resistance directly caused around one million deaths in 2021 and could lead to more than 39 million cumulative deaths between 2025 and 2050 unless stronger action is taken, he added.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
State of Kuwait | دولة الكويت

RECALL INFORMATION

Mercedes-Benz
Model: 223
Model year: 2021-2025
Total Vehicles: 676



RECALL REASON
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain S-Class (223 platform) vehicles, the brake hoses on the front axle might develop a leak over the vehicle lifetime. In this case, brake fluid might leak. This might lead to a reduced braking performance in one of the two brake circuits, increasing the risk of a crash.

REMEDY
As a precautionary measure, the Mercedes-Benz service organization will replace the front axle brake hoses on the affected vehicles. The required work certainly be fixed free.

CONTACT
Please contact Al Mulla Automobiles Co, Phone 1-887-888
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre – Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area- 9 street
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre – Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area –13 Street

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46 ,47 and 48) of no.27/2015 issuing the executive by laws no. 39/2014 on Consumer Protection.

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US president gives the Medal of Freedom to Giuliani

Trump targets Newsom, Dems in Justice Dept speech focused on violent crime

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, (AP): US President Donald Trump condemned California Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to commute hundreds of death sentences in the state, using a Justice Department visit to sharply chastise an outspoken Democratic critic who is considering his own bid for the White House.

The speech offered the president a platform to showcase what he said was his administration's success in combating violent crime, a favored Trump topic he has repeatedly invoked to rally his Republican base. But the address, Trump's second at the department in less than two years, veered openly into partisan politics as the president lambasted both a governor with whom he has openly feuded and a Democratic Party he depicted as soft-on-crime and part of a "radical left."

"For years now, we have watched the radical left commit one betrayal of justice and safety after another," Trump said in a speech that was also interspersed with first-person accounts from relatives of victims of crimes affected by Newsom's clemency who criticized the commutations.

Newsom has said the announcement this month to commute the sentences of more than 500 inmates to punishments of life in prison without parole was among the most difficult choices of his career because it will surface painful memories for crime victims' families. The state's Supreme Court would be required to approve the majority of those commutations.

"I won't take lectures on accountability from a president who has used the pardon power to help wealthy friends and business associates avoid accountability while victims are left fighting to recover what was stolen from them. Justice should be about the people we serve, not the political interests of the people in power," Newsom said in a statement about Trump's speech.

Asked at an event Monday why he didn't take the death penalty repeal to the ballot, Newsom said he had the "constitutional right" to do what he did. He added: "I may be the first to have received the kind of response from the sitting president of the United States at the Department of Justice with the FBI director - talk about weaponization."



Rep. Brandon Gill looks on as US President Donald Trump points after speaking at the headquarters of the Department of Justice in Washington on Nov 23. (AP)

The speech marked the latest tussle between Trump and Newsom.

In June, Newsom accused the Justice Department of launching a politically motivated investigation into him and his wife, which his office said was focused on "increasingly personal matters involving the governor's family and professional network." He has denied any wrongdoing. The president has repeatedly gone after the heavily Democratic California during his second term and the state has pushed back by suing the federal government dozens of times.

The president's address unfolded against the backdrop of sweeping Republican losses in this month's midterm elections, which gave Democrats control of the House and Senate. The development tees up possible congressional inquiries into everything from the mass firings of federal agents and prosecutors by the Trump administration Justice Department to a series of politically charged investigations into Trump adversaries that have been rejected by grand juries and judges alike.

Trump was introduced by Attorney General Todd Blanche, his former personal defense lawyer who has been unapologetic in his view that the Justice Department as an executive branch agency is an extension of the White House and that the president is free to exert his will over the institution. He said Monday that the Justice Department in the Trump administration was seeking the death penalty whenever appropriate.

"I want to take just a moment and tell every law enforcement member watching or here in this room that we have your back, that President Trump has your back, and he will always have your back," Blanche said.

Also:

WASHINGTON: President **Donald Trump** on Tuesday awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, to former **New York** Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**.

Giuliani was hailed for leading New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Trump has called Giuliani, a fellow New Yorker, the "greatest Mayor in the history of New York City, and an equally great American Patriot."

Giuliani, 82, said in a statement he was honored by the award.

"I share the credit with all the men and women who worked with me, disagreed with me, and loved me - particularly those who lost their lives in the causes we undertook together," he said.

The event was closed to the press, but Giuliani's son, Andrew Giuliani, described it afterward as a special honor that was tough to put into words.



Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting and delivers important remarks titled Building an Asia-Pacific Community and Writing a New Chapter of the Asia-Pacific Miracle' in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, Nov 19. (Xinhua)

Palestinian cause lies at heart of ME affairs: Chinese president

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the Palestinian cause lies at the heart of Middle East affairs, and that the key to resolving it is pursuing the two-state solution and resuming peace negotiations.

China's Xinhua News Agency reported that Xi made the remarks in a cable sent to a United Nations meeting held on Monday to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Xinhua quoted Xi as saying that justice must prevail and must not be absent again, reaffirming China's firm support for the Palestinian people's just cause of restoring their legitimate national rights.

He called on the international community to translate its consensus and commitments in support of the Palestinian people into concrete and practical measures, contributing to a lasting ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and protecting civilians.

Xi pledged that China would continue working with all countries that uphold peace and justice to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause as soon as possible, in accordance with international law, contributing to lasting peace and stability in the Middle East and worldwide.

Libyan army vows retaliation after 2 naval officers die of wounds from Ukraine attack

CAIRO, Nov 25, (AP): Two Libyan naval officers died from wounds sustained in a weekend Ukrainian sea drone attack on a Russian warship docked at a port in eastern Libya, Libyan military authorities said, vowing unspecified retaliation against Kyiv for the deaths.

The two men were pronounced dead Tuesday evening after being wounded in Sunday's attack on the navy corvette at the Benghazi Naval Base, where it was refueling and resupplying, the Libyan National Army, or LNA, said in a statement.

The government-allied LNA is a regular army with an operational structure, a navy and an air force. It controls eastern and southern parts of the country and has close relations with Russia, while western Libya - from where the drone attack reportedly was launched - is controlled by armed groups and militias.

Ukrainian forces are operating in western Libya under a covert deal endorsed by the West, using the North African country's territory to strike a Russian tanker in the Mediterranean in March, according to Libyan officials who spoke at the time.

Ukrainian officials offered no immediate response Wednesday, though they insisted the previous day that Kyiv's forces hadn't targeted Libyans in the operation, conducted some 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles) from the war's front line. At least 10 people, including Libyan and Russian nationals, were wounded in the attack, according to a Libyan official.



In this screen grab from a video provided by the Security Service of Ukraine on Nov 23, a Ukrainian Sea Baby drone attacks the Russian navy corvette Merkury near Benghazi, Libya. (AP)

The attack brought the Russia-Ukraine war to a new battleground. The Libyan deaths stoked tensions over Kyiv's daring attack and added a new dimension to fears that Europe's biggest conflict since World War II is spreading further beyond Ukraine.

The internationally recognized government in Tripoli has cultivated ties with Ukraine and its Western allies, partly to support its efforts to stay in power.

Since Russia invaded its neighbor nearly five years ago, political, diplomatic and economic fallout from the war has been felt far beyond Ukraine's borders, now including North Africa.

The war has prompted Europe, which is wary of Moscow, to spend billions on improving its defenses, especially as questions have arisen about U.S. commitment to the continent.

Western officials have accused Russia of staging dozens of cyberattacks and other acts of sabotage across Europe, striking cargo vessels in the Black Sea off the coasts of NATO members Romania and Bulgaria, and deliberately violating European airspace.

Russia and Ukraine have traded increasingly damaging long-range attacks, even as they engage in U.S.-mediated talks that so far have done nothing to stop the fighting.

The LNA's General Command vowed to retaliate "at the appropriate time and place, and by the appropriate means."

Commanded by strongman Gen. Khalifa Hifter, the LNA is the most powerful group in Libya, a country fractured by years of civil war and chaos.

An initial investigation found that several Ukrainian sea drones were launched against the ship from a base operated by Ukrainian forces in western Libya, according to two officials, who were briefed on the investigation.

At least four drones were intercepted and destroyed in Sunday's attack, while two struck the corvette, which is designed to patrol coastal waters and escort other vessels, local officials said.

The officials, who are affiliated with the Libyan National Army, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Migration to Spain breaks single-day record with nearly 2,000 arrivals

BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 25, (AP): Spanish authorities said nearly 2,000 migrants arrived at Spain's Canary Islands on Tuesday, a record high for migrants reaching the archipelago on a single day.

The islands located off the coast of West Africa saw a surge in arrivals just before Spain holds a national election later this week, when migration will be a major concern for many voters.

Spain's maritime rescue service said that 1,990 people arrived on 15 different boats as search and rescue vessels accompanied one dinghy after another to the small island of El Hierro.

"Sadly, this is a historic day," the Canary Islands' regional leader Fernando Clavijo said in an interview with Spanish radio Cadena Ser.

There were around 100 minors among Tuesday's arrivals, including a four-day-old baby that had been born during the journey, Clavijo said.



Migrants crowd a wooden boat as they sail to the port in La Restinga on the Canary island of El Hierro, Spain on Nov 24. (AP)

The Canary Islands, a tourist hotspot for many Europeans drawn to its year-round mild weather, have for years been a key entry point for migrants desperate to reach Europe. The route is also extremely dangerous with thousands dying in the attempted crossing.

Although the islands lie about 65 miles (105 kilometers) from the nearest African coast, many migrants take longer routes to evade security forces. The journeys can last days or weeks, with many boats missing their target and drifting into the open Atlantic.

Indonesia's flood kills three miners

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Nov 25, (AP): Rescuers recovered three bodies Wednesday and searched for 23 other miners believed trapped by flooding more than a day earlier in an unauthorized gold mine in Indonesia.

The miners were digging for grains of gold late Monday when heavy rain caused the nearby Ciseureuh River to overflow into a mine shaft in Bogor regency of West Java province.

The shaft, estimated to be about 100 meters (330 feet) deep, is located in a mountainous area south of the capital, Jakarta.

Eleven miners escaped from one section of the excavation before floodwaters filled the shaft, West Java police spokesperson Hendra Rochmawan said. Local miners and residents initially tried to pump water from the site themselves before the situation became unmanageable.

Authorities were not immediately notified because the miners were operating illegally, officials said.

"The problem was that nobody reported it and nobody wanted to report it because the activity was illegal," said M. Adam Hamdani, head of emergency and logistics at the Bogor disaster mitigation agency.

Rochmawan said police first received reports of trapped miners about 16 hours after the flooding occurred. After an initial assessment by local authorities, firefighters and other agencies, state-owned mining company PT Antam forwarded a formal report to the Jakarta Search and Rescue Agency shortly after midnight Wednesday, triggering a full-scale rescue operation.

The search-and-rescue team used submersible water pumps to suck water from the hole and tried to close off openings where groundwater seeped in.

"Water inside the hole has not yet receded and is expected to take a long time to drain," Jakarta Search and Rescue Agency chief Desiana Kartika Bahari said.

She said high water levels, narrow access, slippery terrain and limited lighting complicated rescue efforts.

The first victim was recovered shortly after midday, followed by two others about an hour later. All three were found dead at depths of 30 to 40 meters (100 to 130 feet), Bahari said. Their identities were not immediately known.



The Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Nov 25. (Xinhua)

China launches Shenzhou 24

China on Wednesday launched the Shenzhou 24 spacecraft with three astronauts - two Chinese and a Pakistani - sending the first foreign crew member to its space station.

Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, 40, flew alongside Chinese astronauts Tang Hongbo, 51, and Wu Yi, 39, after the craft blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China on Wednesday morning. It successfully separated from a rocket and entered its predetermined orbit. They later entered the space station and took group photos with three other astronauts from the Shenzhou 23 mission.

The launch marked the first joint flight involving Chinese and foreign astronauts in the history of China's crewed space program.

Hours earlier, crowds of people attended a send-off ceremony, with many holding up their phones to capture the moment.

In Pakistan, shouts of "God is great!" and "Long live Pakistan-China friendship!" rang out as the spacecraft carrying Ali climbed toward space.

Many families living thousands of kilometers from the launch site shared the milestone for their country's space program through television broadcasts. In restaurants, customers followed the images on television, joining the celebrations with cries celebrating Pakistan's friendship with China. (AP)

Amnesty calls for investigation into possible war crimes in Ethiopia's Tigray

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 25, (AP): Shelling of civilian neighborhoods in Tigray by Ethiopian forces and an allied militia should be investigated as possible war crimes, Amnesty International said Tuesday, as residents near the Eritrean border described military buildups and fears of another war.

Amnesty said it independently verified 14 civilian deaths in four artillery attacks on Alamata between Sept. 26-28, when Ethiopian forces and the allied Tigray Peace Forces advanced on the city.

It also accused forces allied with the Tigray People's Liberation Front of endangering civilians by establishing military positions in residential areas and schools. The TPLF rejected those allegations in a written response to Amnesty. The findings come amid renewed fighting in Tigray and growing fears of a wider confrontation between Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea.



A bullet-riddled vehicle sits abandoned on the grounds of Wukro Lodge, once occupied by Eritrean troops, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia on Jan 26, 2026. (AP)

Amnesty interviewed residents, including survivors and medical personnel, and analyzed videos, photographs and satellite imagery.

Business

Kuwaiti oil price drops $4.36 to $76.04 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil dropped USD 4.36 to USD 76.04 per barrel (pb) in Tuesday's trading compared with USD 80.40 pb Monday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

In global markets, Brent crude climbed by USD 2.03 to USD 91.40 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate surged by USD 1.88 to USD 82.05 pb.

Bahrain: Conflict adds to fiscal pressures, and further consolidation measures are expected

By National Bank of Kuwait

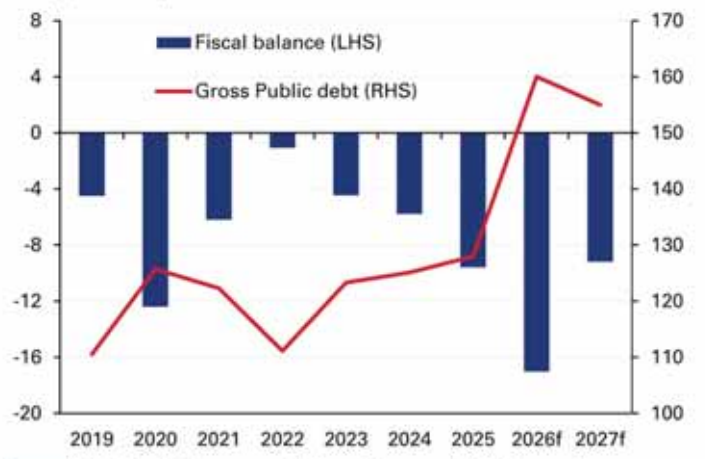
Regional conflict amplified Bahrain's existing economic vulnerabilities: Bahrain entered the US-Iran conflict facing economic vulnerabilities, in the shape of high public debt, persistent fiscal deficits and reliance on financial support from its Gulf neighbors, though having posted decent growth of 3.4% per year in 2023-25. Disruptions to oil production, refinery operations, regional trade and financial services have compounded these weaknesses, with GDP expected to contract by 13.6% in 2026. The oil sector (which accounts for a relatively small 15% of GDP) is expected to drive this downturn, declining by 56% as production falls to an average of 0.08 mb/d versus 0.18 mb/d pre-conflict. Non-oil activity is also expected to contract, by 6%, reflecting weaker business confidence, disrupted supply-chains, higher transportation costs and softer tourism and services activity. We expect GDP to rebound by 13% in 2027 as regional conditions gradually normalize and as oil production and non-oil activity recover. However, this partly reflects a low comparison base, with output staying below its pre-conflict trajectory. The recovery will depend on restoring regional trade flows and rebuilding investor confidence.

Key economic indicators

		2024	2025	2026e	2027f
Nominal GDP	$bn	47.2	49.0	42.3	47.9
Real GDP	% y/y	2.9	3.5	-13.6	13.2
- Oil sector	% y/y	-3.3	-1.5	-56.4	53.8
- Non-oil sector	% y/y	4.1	3.2	-6.0	6.0
Inflation (avg.)	% y/y	0.9	-0.1	1.7	2.0
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	-5.8	-9.6	-17.0	-9.2
Current acc. balance	% of GDP	4.8	5.8	-1.4	3.3

Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts

Debt and fiscal balance



Source: Ministry of Finance and National Economy, NBK forecasts

Fiscal imbalance and sovereign creditworthiness are constraints on the economic outlook: Conflict-related disruptions have weakened hydrocarbon and refinery revenues while delaying elements of the December 2025 fiscal consolidation package. We expect the budget deficit to widen to 17% of GDP in 2026 from 9.6% in 2025, before narrowing to 9.2% in 2027 as activity normalizes and consolidation resumes. Higher oil prices provide some revenue support but remain insufficient to address the underlying imbalance, with the fiscal breakeven oil price estimated at $127/bbl. Meanwhile, overall public debt is estimated to have neared 160% of GDP by October 2026, while interest payments absorb approximately 34% of government revenues. Yields on 5-year government bonds stood at a high 7.5% in mid-November, 250 bps above US treasuries. Reflecting these vulnerabilities, Fitch and S&P have affirmed Bahrain's sovereign rating at B with a stable outlook, while Moody's assigns a B2 rating with a negative outlook. The authorities will face pressure to resume fiscal reforms, broaden non-oil revenues and contain expenditures going forward, although further consolidation could weigh on domestic demand.

External financial support would underpin investor confidence: Foreign reserves declined from $5.2 billion in March 2026 to $2.4 billion in September, covering exactly two months of non-oil imports. The current account is expected to move from a surplus of 5.8% of GDP in 2025 to a deficit of 1.4% in 2026 as export disruptions outweigh weaker imports, before returning to a surplus of 3.3% in 2027. The government has received financial assistance packages from Gulf neighbors twice in the recent past (2011 and 2018), and renewed support would help reinforce foreign currency liquidity and maximize confidence in the peg – though its timing, scale and conditions remain uncertain amid wider regional financial pressures. Any assistance is likely to come with strong calls for credible fiscal reforms and a sustainable debt trajectory. The central banks of the UAE and Bahrain already agreed in April a BHD2 billion ($5.3bn) BHD-AED swap line, which, while not resolving the fiscal imbalance, will help to provide a cushion against emerging signs of liquidity stress.

Up to KD 900 cashback on international spending on fashion and hotel stays

NBK launches 'Your Winter Plan Starts Now!' campaign with exclusive rewards and benefits to enrich the travel experience

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has launched a new campaign under the theme "Your Winter Plan Starts Now!", offering customers the opportunity to earn up to KD 900 cashback when using their eligible cards for international spending on fashion and hotel stays. The campaign runs from November 19, 2026, to January 18, 2027.

The campaign reflects NBK's commitment to rewarding its customers and delivering added value during the winter travel season through a specially tailored offer that enables them to maximize the value of their international spending on travel-related activities and purchases. By offering attractive benefits and rewards, the campaign aims to enhance customers' travel experiences both before and during their trips.

The campaign focuses on two key spending categories closely associated with winter travel and holidays, namely fashion and hotel accommodation. It provides customers with an opportunity to gain additional value from their international purchases and hotel bookings, while earning direct rewards when using their eligible cards outside Kuwait.

The campaign also offers eligible customers the opportunity to benefit from cashback twice during the promotional period, which is divided into two phases. The first runs from November 19 to December 18, 2026, while the second extends from December 19, 2026, to January 18, 2027. Customers can earn cashback in each phase by meeting the campaign's applicable terms and conditions, providing additional opportunities to benefit from rewards throughout the winter travel season.



Hisham Al-Nusif, Chief, Consumer Banking at NBK

- A comprehensive range of benefits, including discounts, preferential rates, complimentary travel insurance and flexible installment plans
- **Al-Nusif:** We are committed to developing innovative offers and benefits that provide our customers with added value beyond traditional banking services

Customers wishing to participate in the campaign must register through NBK's website during the promotional period to ensure that eligible transactions within the specified spending categories are counted in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions.

Beyond cashback rewards, the campaign also offers a range of exclusive travel benefits designed to enhance customers' experiences during their trips. These include cashback offers at Q'go Travel and OFFTO for NBK KWT Visa Infinite Credit Cardholders, discounts on hotel bookings through Agoda, preferential car rental rates from Avis, and exclusive dining offers through the Visa Airport Companion app, as well as complimentary travel insurance with coverage of up to USD 2.5 million.

Customers can also convert their local and international purchases into flexible installment plans through NBK FlexiPay, benefiting from interest-free installments for up to 12 months. This provides them with greater flexibility in managing their expenses while making the most of their card benefits with ease.



NBK 'Your Winter Plan Starts Now!' campaign flyer

Commenting on the campaign, Mr. Hisham Al-Nusif, Chief, Consumer Banking at NBK, said: "At NBK, we remain committed to developing innovative offers and benefits that provide our customers with added value beyond traditional banking services, while keeping pace with their evolving needs and lifestyles. Our 'Your Winter Plan Starts Now!' campaign comes at an ideal time, as many people prepare for the winter travel season, offering our customers the opportunity to enjoy attractive cashback rewards and a comprehensive range of privileges that make traveling more convenient and flexible."

"When designing this campaign, we focused on offering direct rewards tailored to the spending categories most closely associated with winter travel, enabling customers to maximize the value of their spending on shopping and hotel accommodation. By allowing customers to earn cashback twice during the promotional period, we are providing them with greater opportunities to benefit from rewards and enjoy more value when planning their trips," he added.

Al-Nusif emphasized that the campaign reflects NBK's continued commitment to enhancing the value customers gain from using its banking cards. He noted that NBK continues to develop its offers, programs and strategic partnerships to meet evolving customer expectations and deliver the best value for their spending both in Kuwait and abroad.

Concluding his remarks, Al-Nusif said: "We believe that building long-term relationships with our customers begins with understanding their needs and providing solutions and benefits that add tangible value to their everyday lives. With this in mind, we continue to invest in developing distinctive offers and integrated banking experiences built on innovation and excellence, further strengthening NBK's position as a trusted banking partner that supports customers wherever they are and provides them with the highest standards of service, convenience and security."

NBK encourages customers to visit its website to register for the campaign and review the campaign details and applicable terms and conditions, enabling them to make the most of the exclusive benefits and offers available throughout the promotional period.

KIBS honors graduates of Risk Management Leaders & Certified Sharia Auditor programs

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Under the patronage of the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Chairman of Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS), Mr. Basel A. Al-Haroon, the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies honored on Wednesday, 18 November 2026, the graduates of the 7th cohort of the Certified Sharia Auditor Program and the 4th cohort of the Risk Management Leaders Program.

Both programs fall under Kafa'a Initiative, launched by CBK in collaboration with Kuwaiti banks and managed by KIBS, and dedicated to strengthening Kuwait's banking and financial sector by developing a sustainable pipeline of qualified national talent for future leadership roles.

Risk Management Leaders Program

The Risk Management Leaders Program was launched on October 12, 2025 and was concluded on February 6, 2026, across four well-structured phases. The first two phases, held in Kuwait, featured a series of training sessions and interactive lectures on risk management. These were conducted in collaboration with local and international professional lecturers allowing participants to earn accredited certificates in risk management. Local and international expert lecturers led the training, offering participants valuable insights and expertise. The third phase included the submission of case studies and graduation projects, followed by the fourth phase, where participants engaged in a one-week intensive hands-on field training at the University of St. Andrews The 13 participants gained practical experience, attended workshops, participated in interactive educational sessions.

Certified Sharia Auditor Program

On the other hand, and aiming to enhance the efficiency of Sharia auditing in Sharia-compliant financial institutions, recognizing auditing as a core pillar of Sharia supervisory governance amid ongoing developments in the Islamic banking sector, the Certified Sharia Auditor Program was held from April 19 until July 1, 2026, and attended by an elite group of Kuwaitis who work in or are interested in Sharia auditing.

The growing demand of the banking and financial sectors for more specialized Sharia audit professionals along with the need to enhance the qualifications of existing talents was the motivation behind launching the program and the success it has achieved. Previous programs witnessed strong demand, contributing to the provision of Islamic banking institutions with distinguished national talents who successfully met all the requirements for obtaining this certification.

This program, which graduated 25 participants this year, is accredited by CBK, the Capital Markets Authority and Walbrook Institute London, UK.

Ms. Rana A. Al-Nibari, the KIBS Director General, congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to continue their self-development and keep pace with the rapid developments taking place around the world. She extended her gratitude to CBK and local banks for supporting KIBS' efforts in delivering specialized education, advanced training and professional development as a driver of economic growth, institutional excellence and the national economy with distinguished talents and competencies through the Institute's programs or Kafa'a.

Several graduates shared their reflections on the programs, expressing appreciation to CBK and KIBS for the opportunity to acquire practical knowledge and skills that will contribute to their professional advancement in the financial sector and other vital sectors of the State of Kuwait.



Participants of the Risk Management Leaders Program at the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) pose for a group photo.



Participants of the Certified Sharia Auditor Program at the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) pose for a group photo.

Design Thinking workshop fosters employee-driven innovation

ALSAYER enhances employees' creative thinking skills

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: As part of its ongoing commitment to innovation, continuous improvement, and a people-centric culture, ALSAYER Group has established a strong platform for employee-led idea generation. Over the years, employees have contributed more than 170 innovative ideas, with over 30 winners recognized for proposing solutions that enhance different areas of the Group's operations.

To support the transformation of these ideas into practical and impactful solutions, ALSAYER Group partnered with Sprint Studio to conduct an interactive Design Thinking workshop for employees.

Sprint Studio is a Kuwait-based startup studio that partners with founders to build startups and delivers innovation programs within organizations. The workshop introduced participants to a structured, human-centered approach to problem-solving through practical activities, collaborative discussions, and hands-on exercises.

Participants learned how to look beyond visible symptoms and identify the root causes of challenges affecting employees, customers, and business operations. They were encouraged to examine business challenges from the perspective of those most affected, placing human experiences and end-user needs at the center of the decision-making process.

Guided by the principles of Design Thinking, the workshop covered the methodology's key stages, including empathizing with stakeholders, conducting interviews to gather insights, defining problem statements, generating potential solutions, and evaluating opportunities for implementation. The session demonstrated how understanding underlying challenges can lead to more relevant, sustainable, and impactful solutions that create value for both people and the organization.



ALSAYER Group and Sprint Studio officials, along with participating employees, pose for a group photo during the Design Thinking workshop.

Commenting on the workshop, Eng. Nehad AlHaj Ali, Group Manager of Corporate Excellence at ALSAYER Group, said: "Organizations often focus on solving visible challenges, yet the most effective and sustainable solutions emerge when we take the time to understand the people behind those challenges. Design Thinking provides a powerful framework for uncovering root causes, fostering empathy, and encouraging collaboration across teams. By adopting this mindset, we strengthen our ability to innovate, improve experiences, and create meaningful value for our stakeholders."

Mr. Ghanim Al-Dosary, Founder of Sprint Studio, highlighted the importance of human-centered innovation, stating: "Innovation is not about finding answers faster; it is about asking better questions. Design Thinking helps organizations understand the real problems worth solving by engaging directly with the people affected by them. When teams build empathy, challenge assumptions, and explore ideas collaboratively, they unlock opportunities to create solutions that are both impactful and relevant."

The workshop reflects ALSAYER Group's dedication to equipping employees with modern methodologies and future-focused skills that support organizational excellence. By embracing human-centered approaches such as Design Thinking, the Group continues to strengthen its culture of innovation, respond effectively to evolving business needs, and create positive experiences for employees, customers, and the wider community.

Session focuses on market trends, portfolios & risk management

Kamco Invest shares institutional investment insights at Kuwait Institutional Investor Summit



Abdullah M. AlSharekh, Managing Director of Markets and Investment Banking at Kamco Invest



Abdullah M. AlSharekh, Managing Director of Markets and Investment Banking at Kamco Invest, participates in the panel discussion titled 'Priced In or Priced Out?' at the Kuwait Institutional Investor Summit.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kamco Invest participated in the Kuwait Institutional Investor Summit, held on 17 November 2026 at the headquarters of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA). Organized by Institutional Investor in partnership with KIA and co-sponsored by Wafra, the summit brought together senior representatives from sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, asset managers and other institutional investors to exchange perspectives on investment opportunities, market valuations and the evolving dynamics shaping institutional portfolios.

Abdullah M. AlSharekh, Managing Director of Markets and Investment Banking at Kamco Invest, joined the panel discussion titled "Priced in or priced out? A cross-asset debate on where valuations, risk, and returns align for institutional portfolios today." The session examined the opportunities and challenges facing institutional investors across asset classes, with particular focus on changing market conditions, portfolio construction and the balance between risk and return.

The discussion highlighted how the evolving interest rate environment is creating opportunities across public and private markets, particularly in fixed income, while reinforcing the importance of assessing investment returns in relation to underlying risks. AlSharekh highlighted the role of diversification, liquidity management and the thorough understanding of portfolio exposures in building resilience across different market conditions.

Private markets were featured prominently in the discussion, with particular attention to opportunities in private equity and private credit. As these markets continue to evolve, disciplined underwriting, manager selection, liquidity considerations and the ability to generate realized returns remain important factors in assessing investment opportunities.

The panel also examined the growing influence of artificial intelligence on investment markets and valuations. While the rapid expansion of AI-related investments has generated significant market interest, the discussion considered whether current valuations adequately reflect underlying fundamentals and the technology's longer-term economic potential. AlSharekh emphasized the importance of assessing AI as a long-term investment theme, distinguishing between near-term market expectations and the technology's underlying economic potential, commercial adoption and sustainable returns.

Commenting on the key themes discussed during the panel, AlSharekh noted, "In today's investment environment, the challenge for institutional investors is not simply identifying opportunities, but understanding how they are priced, assessing the risks involved and determining how they contribute to portfolio resilience. Institutional investors have access to an increasingly broad range of investment opportunities and accordingly a disciplined approach to asset selection, liquidity and manager quality remains fundamental to achieving sustainable long-term returns."

Empowering local startups

stc main sponsor of 2nd edition of NEXUS 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a leader in enabling digital transformation and providing innovative services and platforms to customers in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the second edition of NEXUS 2026, Kuwait's largest tech event. The Company's participation builds on its role in enabling digital transformation and supporting the growth of Kuwait's technology sector. The sponsorship also aligns with the Company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework under its key pillar focused on supporting local startups and entrepreneurs.

The NEXUS 2026 technology and innovation exhibition will take place from the 26th till the 28th of November at The Arena Kuwait. Over the three days, technology companies and startups will present products and prototypes, with live demonstrations in areas such as artificial intelligence. The program includes conference sessions and workshops, as well as a competition in which selected startup founders will pitch their ventures to investors and industry leaders. Senior representatives from stc will be present at the event alongside government officials and other participants at the opening.

As the main sponsor of NEXUS 2026, stc will showcase its latest technologies and digital solutions at a dedicated booth. Visitors will be able to explore the services available and discuss the business requirements directly with the teams. As part of this showcase, stc will present integrated enterprise solutions, including technologies that help organizations develop their digital infrastructure, as well as it will demonstrate how its technology services and digital solutions help businesses modernize their operations. In addition, stc will take part in a dedicated panel discussion on how its subsidiaries' services can improve operational efficiency and help businesses adopt new technology.



stc – main sponsor of the second edition of NEXUS 2026.

Entrepreneurs attending the exhibition will be able to learn about the InspireU business accelerator and the support it offers as they develop their projects. The program helps founders turn early ideas into viable businesses and prepare their ventures for growth.

In a statement, stc said its approach to digital transformation starts with understanding what businesses are trying to improve. The Company explained that conversations with customers often focus on practical questions, such as how a new service would work with the systems they already use. At NEXUS 2026, stc and its subsidiaries will be able to discuss those questions directly with businesses and explain what support is available. The Company sees that exchange as part of its role as a technology partner in Kuwait.

The Company added that strengthening Kuwait's startup and entrepreneurial ecosystem is a strategic priority for stc as a telecom and digital solutions pioneer. Its sponsorship of NEXUS 2026 and support for initiatives such as InspireU put this commitment into practice, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and build connections within the technology sector. Alongside leveraging its digital capabilities, these efforts contribute to the development of Kuwait's digital economy and support the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Bid to boost Kuwait's petrochemical industry

PIC participates at 20th edition of GPCA 2026 forum

DUBAI, Nov 25, (KUNA): CEO of Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) Nadia Al-Hajji said on Tuesday that the company's participation in the 20th edition of the annual Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum (GPCA 2026) reflects its commitment to strengthening Kuwait's presence in the petrochemical industry.

Al-Hajji said in a press statement that the (PIC) looks forward to hosting the 21st edition of the forum in Kuwait next year and welcoming industry leaders, experts and decision makers from around the world at an event that reflects Kuwait's growing position in the petrochemical industry regionally and globally.

The participation featured leadership and youth engagement in several forum sessions and specialized initiatives addressing leadership, the future of work, skills development and youth empowerment, fostering the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the sector, statement added.

The company pavilion served as a platform for engaging with industry leaders and partners, hosting discussions and interactive experiences highlighting the company's key initiatives and achievements, in addition to promoting Kuwait's hosting of the next edition of the forum.

Kuwait's hosting of the 21st edition of the forum in 2027 comes as part of efforts to strengthen its regional and international presence and support opportunities for cooperation and partnerships in the petrochemical sector.









KUNA photos

Top and above: Photos from GPCA 2026 Forum.

KFAED boosts cooperation with development partners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) back humanitarian and development projects, the fund's Acting Director-General Rasheed Al-Bader said on Wednesday.

The fund is ready to work with various partners to implement projects that serve the objectives of the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), he told the Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development 2026, held in Oslo, on November 24 and 25.

The two-day gathering discussed several topics, mainly the current challenges in the development world, especially amid the ongoing global conditions, in addition to activating important development tools to achieve the most successful, impactful projects in both short and long terms, he said.

The discussions focused on the future of international development cooperation and mechanisms for promoting joint action, alongside ways to expand blended finance to support sustainable development, he added.

The dialogue comes at a time when international development cooperation is undergoing rapid transformations, characterized by shifting geopolitical priorities, a widening financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and escalating global crises, Al-Bader noted.

The Arab Coordination Group (ACG) is a strategic alliance that aims to find and provide coordinated and effective development finance solutions.

Founded in 1975, the 10-member group has played a pivotal role in supporting economies and societies, having financed more than 13,000 development projects in over 160 countries worldwide.

Bank promotes environmental awareness and corporate social responsibility

Warba Bank sponsors 6th edition of Kuwait Sustainability Expo

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting community and environmental initiatives and advancing corporate social responsibility, Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the 6th edition of the Kuwait Sustainability Expo 2026. Held at Sahara Murouj from November 19 to 21, 2026, under the theme "From Awareness to Impact," the exhibition brought together institutions, companies, and entities active in sustainability and environmental action. The event was held in the presence and under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Governor of Ahmadi, and His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Acting Governor of Hawalli.

Warba Bank's sponsorship reflects its commitment to supporting national efforts aimed at spreading a culture of sustainability, encouraging positive practices related to environmental preservation, strengthening community participation, and highlighting the role of institutions in building a more conscious and sustainable future.

Sustainability as a Shared Responsibility

This sponsorship embodies Warba Bank's direction toward expanding its participation in initiatives that create a positive community impact and raise awareness of environmental issues. It is rooted in the bank's belief that sustainability is a shared responsibility requiring collective efforts from institutions, the private sector, and individuals to translate environmental concepts into practical daily behaviors.

The participation also forms an extension of the bank's efforts to support initiatives that allow direct engagement with various segments of society, including families and children, providing a space for interaction, learning, and recognizing the importance of conserving natural resources and the environment.



A glimpse of the visit by His Excellency Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Governor of Ahmadi, and His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Acting Governor of Hawalli, to Warba Bank's pavilion at the Kuwait Sustainability Expo 2026.

Al-Mutairi: Translating Awareness into Tangible Impact

Commenting on the sponsorship, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, stated:

"Our sponsorship of the 6th edition of the Kuwait Sustainability Expo stems from the bank's belief in the importance of supporting initiatives that promote environmental awareness and strengthen corporate social responsibility. Sustainability is no longer merely a matter of awareness; it has become a responsibility that requires active participation and the translation of awareness into practical actions that positively impact society and the environment."

Al-Mutairi added that this year's theme, "From Awareness to Impact," underscores the importance of moving from introducing environmental issues to practical implementation and active engagement. He noted that Warba Bank is keen to ensure its community initiatives deliver added value and convey awareness messages through interactive methods suited to different age groups.

Al-Mutairi explained that supporting such events reflects the bank's commitment to strengthening its social responsibility role and contributing to initiatives that encourage positive behaviors and help build a generation more conscious of the importance of sustainability and environmental protection.

Interactive Activities Targeting Children and Families

Al-Mutairi pointed out that Warba Bank's participation as a sponsor of the exhibition involved coordinating preparations for the participation of the character Saleh (Good Monster), aimed at children aged 5 to 12. The planned activities included interactive materials such as coloring books and masks, giving children the opportunity to learn about sustainability concepts in a simplified way that combines education and entertainment.

He affirmed that focusing on children represents an important aspect of spreading environmental culture, as they form a fundamental part of society's future, noting that delivering awareness messages in age-appropriate formats helps instill positive practices from an early age and strengthens their appreciation for protecting the environment and natural resources.

Al-Mutairi added that engaging with families and various segments of society through interactive events provides a broader opportunity to embed sustainability concepts, making community participation more effective and impactful.

Supporting National Initiatives and Enhancing Community Impact

Al-Mutairi emphasized that Warba Bank places high importance on participating in events that unite institutions and community entities under shared objectives—particularly initiatives focused on environmental awareness and sustainable practices—given their role in supporting efforts to build a society more mindful of its environmental responsibilities.

He noted that specialized exhibitions serve as vital platforms for exchanging expertise and ideas, highlighting positive initiatives and practices, and offering the public direct opportunities to interact with participating entities and learn about their roles in supporting sustainability.

Sustainability Among Corporate Social Responsibility Priorities

Al-Mutairi concluded by reaffirming Warba Bank's continued support for initiatives that strengthen community engagement and deliver a sustainable positive impact. He stressed that corporate social responsibility represents a key pillar of the bank's direction, and that participating in the Kuwait Sustainability Expo confirms its commitment to backing efforts aimed at spreading environmental awareness, encouraging responsible behavior, and fostering positive engagement with various community issues.

The Kuwait Sustainability Expo 2026 ran for three days at Sahara Murouj, from November 19 to 21, aiming to promote a culture of sustainability through community participation and interactive visitor experiences.



Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank

■ **Al-Mutairi:** We are committed to supporting initiatives that embed a culture of sustainability and translate environmental awareness into positive, sustainable community practices

■ Sustainability is no longer merely a matter of awareness; it is a shared responsibility requiring active participation and practical application.

■ Engaging children and families through interactive educational activities helps instill positive environmental habits from an early age.

Producers deny obstructing talks

OPEC Chief: Oil, gas-producing countries back COP31 outcome

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Haitham Al-Ghais affirmed Wednesday that oil and gas-producing countries backed the draft final decisions of the 31st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) "despite their reservations".

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Ghais underlined that they were not "a party to obstructing or withdrawing from the negotiations but rather worked in good faith throughout all stages of the negotiations."

Some media outlets blamed oil and gas-producing countries for the failure to arrive at an agreement on the conference's final decisions, accusing them of not negotiating in good faith and considering them an obstacle to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, accusations that are "divorced from reality", he said.

Oil and gas-producing countries supported the draft final decisions, known as the "Antalya Pact", "despite their reservations," viewing it as a consensual text that includes practical solutions to advance climate action and promote the implementation of commitments on the ground, he said, adding that those countries also backed the conference presidency's efforts.

The draft "Antalya Pact" included a full reference to the "UAE Consensus" reached during COP28 in 2023 involving emission reductions, climate change adaptation, and means of implementation, he added.

The OPEC chief noted that the conference presidency drafted the text and that oil and gas-producing countries accepted it, while other parties rejected it for the omission of the phrase "fossil fuels".

The European Union (EU) expanded its liquefied natural gas (LNG) import capacity by more than a third between 2021 and 2025 and nearly doubled its LNG imports over the same period, he said.

He highlighted the bloc's recent emphasis on reconsidering its refining capacity for energy security purposes, while several European countries are postponing blueprints to phase out coal-fired power plants.

The EU delayed the enforcement of methane emissions monitoring rules on oil and gas importers until 2029 and moved toward easing restrictions pertinent to the 2035 ban on internal combustion engine vehicles, Al-Ghais added.

Furthermore, the EU reached an agreement to revise sustainable finance rules, allowing oil, gas, and coal companies to benefit from transition funds carrying the official EU label.

The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), approved by member governments, includes carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) as well as carbon dioxide removal (CDR) within global emissions reduction pathways, he said, noting that carbon capture technologies were also obviously mentioned in the final text of COP28.

He added that COP31 exposed developed countries' collective willingness to help developing nations adapt to climate change, as the draft final decision omitted the reference to the USD 120 billion climate adaptation finance target.

In conclusion, Al-Ghais stressed that the world needs an "era of all energy sources" to strengthen supply security, an "era of all technologies" that help cut emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, and an "era of all peoples" in which no one is left behind.

Subsidized overproduction targeted

US plans new tariffs on China, EU & Brazil

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, (AP): President Donald Trump's administration is planning to hike tariffs on Chinese goods by an additional 20% and raise import taxes on products from the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and nine other major trading partners.

The new tariffs proposed on Wednesday are meant to discourage excessive factory output in those economies, boosted by subsidies and other trade barriers that the Republican administration says put American manufacturers at a disadvantage. The taxes are also intended to help replace the tariff revenues lost after the Supreme Court ruled in February that Trump could not declare an economic emergency to bypass Congress and impose across-the-board tariffs.

The new tariffs stem from investigations into the trade practices of 12 countries, the 27-member EU and the self-governing island of Taiwan.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said he did not expect the tariffs to rattle the global economy.

"We've talked to our trading partners about this - they know what we're proposing," Greer told CNBC. "I think a lot of this is baked in, and I don't think any of these would actually take effect earlier than a couple months from now."

The tariffs, rolled out the day before Thanksgiving, represent another controversial twist in Trump's economic policy. Voters in this month's midterm elections punished Republicans by handing majorities in the House and the Senate to Democrats, with about two-thirds of voters saying that Trump's policies had made the economy worse, according to The AP Voter Poll, a sweeping survey of the American electorate conducted in all 50 states.

Trump has promised that the import taxes will bring back manufacturing jobs and reduce the federal deficit, but last year's tariffs contributed to higher inflation that angered voters and led to calls by Democratic lawmakers to require congressional approval going forward.



President Donald Trump speaks during an event to announce new tariffs in the Rose Garden at the White House, April 2, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

The Trump administration is arguing that these countries' industrial policies have undercut American companies, contributing to a trade deficit in goods that has recently exceeded $1 trillion annually.

The legal basis of the planned tariffs is Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which enables the U.S. government to investigate and retaliate against foreign trade practices that violate existing deals, are not justified by market forces or actively discriminate against American goods. A senior Trump administration official told reporters that the new tariffs would be consistent with the trade deals that Trump reached last year with dozens of countries after threatening severe tariff hikes.

Brazil was separately singled out Wednesday for extra punishment after talks on trade issues stalled. The U.S. is proposing higher import taxes for raw and refined sugar and a new 10% tariff on aircraft, a move that would hit Embraer, Brazil's largest aircraft maker.

For some Chinese goods, the new 20% tariff will be stacked on top of other import taxes for a total rate of 45%.

Like China, Vietnam also faces a 20% rate, pending finalization of trade talks, the USTR said on Wednesday. The tariffs for other trading partners range from 10% to 18%.

The U.S. and China last year reached a trade truce that is set to expire on Jan. 10, 2027. Greer told CNBC that the administration is proposing a "broad exemption" for $30 billion worth of Chinese goods in line with the truce.

Trump met last week in Shenzhen, China, with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and plans to host him next month at the Group of 20 summit in Florida, an event at which the truce and issues over access to rare earth minerals and China's purchases of American agricultural products could be discussed again.

China has pushed back consistently on U.S. tariffs. On Wednesday, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs again stated its opposition while calling for the U.S. to resolve the issue through dialogue. "A tariff war or a trade war serves no party's interests," spokesperson Guo Jiakun said. "The so-called overcapacity is a false narrative, and China opposes using it as a pretext for political manipulation."

The new import taxes are targeted to specific products and would not stack on top of separate tariffs on automobiles, steel, aluminum and other products that the administration has separately imposed under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962.

Nor would they stack on top of levies of 10% to 12.5% announced in July for 60 trading partners that the White House said have inadequately enforced bans on goods produced by forced labor.

Other nations facing the new tariffs are Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand and Vietnam. The official, who had insisted on anonymity as a condition for discussing the reports before they were posted by the U.S. trade representative's office, said there are two other countries with pending investigations: Mexico and Norway.

The Associated Press confirmed the planned tariff announcement ahead of the call, according to people who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly. The plans were reported earlier on Tuesday by Bloomberg and The Wall Street Journal.

Sisi welcomes Maersk return

Egypt, Maersk CEO discuss full Suez Canal operations

CAIRO, Nov. 25, (Xinhua): Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Vincent Clerc, CEO of Danish shipping and logistics group A.P. Moller-Maersk, discussed in Cairo on Wednesday expanding cooperation and the company's operations through the Suez Canal, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

The Egyptian president welcomed Maersk's decision to resume operations through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, describing the waterway as safe for maritime traffic and free from threats.

Clerc said Egypt was a strategic partner and a key hub for the group's activities in the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa, adding that the Suez Canal remained the preferred route for Maersk's global network.

The company has already resumed some operations through the canal and the Red Sea and is working to restore its full network and services along the route over the coming months, Clerc said.

He also expressed the group's interest in expanding cooperation with Egypt in port operations, logistics, integrated supply chains and ship recycling.

Challenges mount for Fed

US inflation hits three-year high in October

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, (AP): A key inflation gauge remained high last month even as gas prices cooled in a sign that elevated costs remain a challenge for the Federal Reserve and elected officials in Washington.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that consumer prices rose 3.8% in October from a year earlier, up from 3.6% in September. On a monthly basis, consumer prices climbed 0.3% from September to October, down from a 0.6% increase the previous month.

The stubbornly elevated price figures come as the economy is expanding at a healthy pace, driven by strong consumer spending and surging business investment as large tech firms splurge on building out AI infrastructure. Consumer spending has been resilient even as persistent inflation raises the costs of many necessities and has soured most Americans on the economy. Yet much of the spending is driven by upper-income households, and there are signs poorer Americans are relying more on credit to sustain their spending.

Gas prices rose just 0.8% last month, according to the department, after surging 9.2% in September. Food prices, however, jumped 0.4% from September to October, the biggest monthly increase since April.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core inflation accelerated to 3.3% in October from a year earlier, up from 3.1% in September. On a monthly basis, core prices rose 0.3% for the third month in a row.

The yearly core figure is now at its highest level in three years and above the Fed's target of 2%, which will likely intensify concerns among Fed officials that inflation is getting worse and further rate hikes are necessary.

Also Wednesday, the government said that the economy grew even faster in the July-September quarter than previously estimated, with growth revised upward to a 4.3% annual rate, the fastest in three years.

Consumer spending jumped 4.2% in the third quarter, while business investment soared 16.1%, lifted by big gains in spending on equipment and intellectual property products such as software.

"Taken together, the data reinforce the Fed's latest assessment that growth in economic activity is 'strong,' meaning more must be done to bring inflation down," Bradley Saunders, an economist at Capital Economics, a consulting firm, wrote.

The Fed combats inflation by lifting its key interest rate, which over time can raise borrowing costs for cars, homes and credit cards. By discouraging borrowing and spending, the Fed seeks to cool the economy and inflation.

Many officials have signaled that they support raising the Fed's short-term rate, and economists expect an increase at its next policy meeting Dec. 8-9. Solid economic growth and still-high inflation suggest that the Fed's key rate isn't yet high enough to cool price increases.

In October, the government also reported that incomes jumped 0.7%, before adjusting for inflation, a healthy gain after prices rose faster than incomes in the previous month.

Food

Overeating in general also makes you sleepy

Experts debunk Thanksgiving food myths, from turkey 'coma' to risky leftovers

CONCORD, NH, Nov 25, (AP): Was turkey on the table at the first Thanksgiving? Probably. Did anyone take a nap afterward? Unclear.

Among the many myths associated with Thanksgiving is the notion that today's traditional menu harkens back to what the Pilgrims and Wampanoag people actually ate in November 1621.

While no oral history has been passed down by the Native people, Pilgrim Edward Winslow briefly described the three-day feast in a letter to a friend, said Malka Benjamin, director of colonial interpretation and training at the Plimoth Patuxet Museums in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

According to Winslow's letter - the only surviving record of the celebration - the Wampanoag leader Massasoit provided five deer, while the Pilgrims killed enough fowl in one day to feed the entire colony for nearly a week. He didn't mention turkey specifically, but it frequently shows up in other first-hand accounts of the time period, Benjamin said.

"I feel very confident saying that it's highly likely there was turkey on the table, in addition to duck and goose and other kinds of birds," she said.

The menu also probably featured seafood, she said, along with squash and nasaump, a porridge-like Wampanoag dish made with ground corn and berries. Potatoes? Nope. And while cranberries were available, there was no sugar to turn them into sauce.

Here are some other more modern myths about Thanksgiving food and what experts have to say about them:

Unless you've been asleep for the last few decades, you've probably heard that tryptophan in turkey makes you sleepy. While the amino acid does spur the creation of feel-good brain chemicals like serotonin and melatonin, there's not enough of it in turkey to make you nod off, said Kimberly Dong, associate professor of public health at Tufts University School of Medicine. Chicken and beef have similar levels; cheddar cheese has even more.

"What's happening is that people are eating a lot of carbohydrate-rich foods



A grill-roasted brined turkey is presented on a table in Concord, NH, on Oct 19, 2008. (AP)

that are really quickly absorbed into the bloodstream," she said. That causes a spike in blood glucose levels followed by a rapid drop. It's that roller coaster that contributes to fatigue, she said, not the "turkey coma."

Overeating in general also makes you sleepy because blood gets diverted to the gastrointestinal tract to deal with digestion, leaving muscles tired, said Susan Roberts, a professor and nutrition scientist at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

"I'm not one of these punitive nutritionists. I think if you have overeaten and you do feel tired, fine, take a nap," she said. "Enjoy it."

That said, both Dong and Roberts take issue with the idea that overeating is a given. Skipping breakfast on Thanksgiving might sound smart, but trying to "save" calories for a big dinner usually backfires, Dong said, "because you are so ravenous by the time the food is served."

Instead, she recommends eating a light breakfast and staying hydrated early in the day. Roberts, meanwhile, suggests a multi-day strategy: eating high fiber foods for two days before Thanksgiving to keep hunger in check.

The experts disagree when it comes to leftovers, however. Dong says setting aside leftovers can counteract the "this is my one chance to eat this" mentality that leads to heaping helpings. But Roberts says hosts should pare back from the start, and that guests who feel they can't decline leftovers should throw most, if not all, of them away at home.

Willpower doesn't work when a plate of food is in front of you, she said, because the sights and smells activate the body to receive a big meal.

"A better place to use your willpower is before it ever comes in the house, when you're still full from the Thanksgiving meal," she said. "You can throw half or three-quarters of it away now and it's easy, but if you put it in the fridge, it becomes a whole different matter."

If you do end up with leftovers, be careful, says Anne Suelzer, a registered dietitian and licensed dietitian with Health Loft. Properly stored leftovers will be safe for three or four days, but don't rely on your senses to judge.

"The bacteria that make you sick usually don't change how food looks or smells," she said.

Leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours, and the clock starts when the food comes out of the oven, not when you're done eating.

"It helps to start packing things up while people are still at the table," she said.



Officials hold a Culture Ministry presentation beside the Parthenon about the reopening of the old Acropolis Museum following renovation and repurposing, as well as improvements to the archaeological site's eastern plateau, in Athens, Greece on Nov 23. (AP)

Greece's oldest modern-era museum reopens on Acropolis

A museum that has stood on the Acropolis since 1874, making it the oldest in modern Greece, reopened Monday after a high-tech makeover.

The squat stone building often goes unnoticed by visitors. It had been closed to the public since 2007, three years before the country was plunged into a massive financial crisis.

The seven-year restoration cost 6.2 million euros ($6.8 million), raised through public funds and private donations, Culture Minister Lina Mendoni said.

The site will host ancient artifacts never before exhibited, digital displays tracing the monuments' 2,500-year history and a viewing gallery where Culture Ministry technicians will carry out restoration work on ancient objects.

The museum opened in 1874, making it the first museum purpose-built since modern Greece gained independence several decades earlier.

It closed in 2007, becoming an administrative building after cranes carefully lowered its renowned sculptures and other masterpieces to the new Acropolis Museum at the foot of the hill.

"For us, it was inconceivable, almost an affront, that this historic building, with its uniquely privileged location, should be converted into offices and storerooms," Mendoni said.

"We therefore decided that the museum should reopen in accordance with its original purpose," she said.

The Parthenon and other temples on the Acropolis remain Greece's most visited ancient site, with more than 4.6 million admissions recorded last year.

Restoration work continues even during the peak summer months. The Parthenon recently shed its heavy scaffolding for the first time in years.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis attended Monday's inauguration and described the reopening as another milestone for Greece's cultural heritage.

He used the occasion to restate Greece's long-running demand for the return of the Parthenon Sculptures held by the British Museum in London.

"The rightful home of these priceless masterpieces is here, beneath the Attic light and in direct proximity to the temple to which they belong," he said, adding that Greece would not accept the return of the sculptures as a loan.

"No solution and no agreement can be based on the recognition of foreign ownership over our national treasures," Mitsotakis said. (AP)

Batman's iconic Batmobile goes unsold despite $3.25 million bid

LOS ANGELES, Nov 25, (AP): Buying the Batmobile apparently requires a bank account closer to Bruce Wayne's. Bidding on the sleek black vehicle stalled out at $3.25 million Monday, leaving it unsold.

The Batmobile - one of three custom-made versions used in Tim Burton's 1992 blockbuster "Batman Returns" - hit the auction block in Gardena, near Los Angeles, but bidding fell short of the reserve, the seller's minimum acceptable price.

The vehicle had a preauction estimate of $5 million to $7 million, and Julien's had hoped it would break the Batmobile auction record set in 2013, when the car driven by Adam West in the 1960s TV series sold for $4.6 million including fees.

A message was left Monday seeking comment from Julien's. The seller wishes to remain anonymous, the auction house previously said.

Known as the "Number One Hero car" and measuring just under 20 feet (about 6 meters) long with two sweeping tail fins, the car appeared in the majority of the film's driving sequences, Julien's said in auction notes on its website.

It spent years in storage before going on display at the Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin, California. It still has its original paint, Chevrolet V-8 engine and radio-controlled flaming exhaust system that Michael Keaton's Batman used to torch one of the Penguin's circus goons.



The Batmobile from the Batman Returns movie is displayed at Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin, Calif on Nov 20. (AP)

Citing the influence of Burton's "darker aesthetic" on modern superhero movies, Julien's called the car "one of the most recognized and important cinematic vehicles in Hollywood history."

Robert Thompson, a trustee professor of television and popular culture at Syracuse University, said superhero franchises have "spread out into so many iterations that I think it might dilute the exclusivity" of memorabilia. Still, the fact that a Batmobile could reach $3.25 million shows they still carry "a great deal of value," he said.

"Given the complex calculus of where Batman, Tim Burton's Batman, this particular vehicle of the three that are available in the world, all of that, they arrived at a price that was more than, clearly, bidders wanted to pay for it," Thompson said.

Julien's noted that the vehicle is "not street legal" and the engine and transmission have been tested a "limited number of times" since filming concluded.

Any buyer would have had to adhere to various restrictions, according to an agreement with Warner Bros. Consumer Products Inc., which handles DC Comics' intellectual property rights.

Film

Grande gives moribund franchise pair of shock paddles in 'In-Law'

By Mark Kennedy

The next chapter in the "Meet the Parents" franchise is upon us, so you know what's ahead: Get ready for the lie detector test and cue the hostile animal.

"Focker In-Law" turns out to be a perfectly adequate sequel in large part thanks to adding something absolutely "Wicked" - Ariana Grande, who helps breathe new life into the moribund Focker Cinematic Universe.

Grande plays Olivia, a corporate coach and former FBI hostage negotiator who is the girlfriend to Greg Focker's son. She's flying in to New York for Robert De Niro's birthday celebrations and to introduce herself to the dysfunctional clan.

This time, De Niro's stern patriarch has softened into a vegan health nut who likes tofu and Pelotons. He cedes the antagonist role to Grande, who becomes the yin to Ben Stiller's yang - a protective father who isn't quite sold on his son's angelic girlfriend.

Things get off to a rocky start when Stiller's character runs into Olivia accidentally on the same plane when both are strangers to each other. He's trying to sneak into the first class bathroom and tries to hide from the flight crew by jumping in her seat. She accuses him of stealing from her purse and the encounter ends with an embarrassing public pat-down.

Back on the ground, they eventually, officially meet - laughing off the odd incident - but the damage has been done: Greg and Olivia circle each other warily for the whole movie, neither trusting the other no matter how many bonding opportunities they're given.

Written and directed by John Hamburg, who co-wrote the previous three films in the series, "Focker In-Law" has callbacks to things like Mr. Jinx the cat, the spiky flight attendant played by Kali Rocha and cremated ashes. It's like a greatest hits compendium, with polygraph needles spiking wildly on a paper scroll again.

Mr. Jinx is, of course, long dead, but De Niro's character has a new pet, a German shepherd who responds to commands in German. It's a powerful pooch who naturally snarls a lot at Stiller's Greg. The dog loves Olivia, though, of course.



This image released by Universal Pictures and Paramount Pictures shows Robert De Niro, left, and Ariana Grande in a scene from 'Focker In-Law.' (AP)

De Niro's Jack also naturally bonds with Olivia almost immediately, much to Greg's befuddlement because he recalls how hard it was to get into Jack's circle of trust when he was younger.

Befuddlement turns to outright hostility when Greg burns dinner while Olivia produces a Michelin-level vegan banquet - plus saves the life of a choking participant. Things also flare up during what should be a leisurely bike ride that turns into something from "Mad Max: Fury Road."

Olivia accuses Greg of being an overly involved parent - he's guilty, I mean, who else cuts their own adult kid's meat? - while he begins to feel like she's using mind games to get her way. "I'm not one of your marionettes," he tells her.

How far will Greg go to sabotage this relationship? Or will he learn a lesson about letting go? More importantly, will there be a more cringe-inducing sight than De Niro and Stiller sharing a cold plunge tub?

There are some surreal touches here, like a totally random cameo from Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic and a performance of John Legend's "All of Me" that may forever ruin that love song for viewers. At its worst, "Focker In-Law" sometimes feels like just an extended episode of "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

You don't need a lie-detector test to know that Grande saves it. She uses her doe-eyed innocence brilliantly, playing perfect daughter-in-law material in one moment, but able to turn intense and steely no-nonsense the next. It's very funny and it's exactly the jolt the Focker franchise needed. This Thanksgiving, dig in.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Lionsgate's dystopian film "The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping" topped the North American box office during its opening weekend with an estimated 120 million U.S. dollars, according to data by measurement firm Rentrak.

The prequel film marks the sixth installment in The Hunger Games franchise. Directed by **Francis Lawrence**, it stars **Joseph Zada** as a young **Haymitch Abernathy**, alongside an ensemble cast. Set 24 years before the events of the original The Hunger Games, the film revisits the world of Panem, beginning on the morning of the reaping for the 50th Hunger Games, also known as the Second Quarter Quell.

"The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping" has received an approval rating of 68 percent based on 178 reviews to date on review-aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences surveyed by market research firm CinemaScore gave it an average grade of "A-" on a scale ranging from A+ to F. (AP)

Chinese humanoid robots join beachside fitness workout in Dubai

DUBAI, Nov 25, (Xinhua): Five unusual fitness assistants joined a beachside workout in Dubai on Monday afternoon, stretching and exercising alongside human participants as they followed an instructor's movements, drawing laughter and curious looks from onlookers.

The assistants were humanoid robots developed by Chinese company Unitree Robotics, taking part in a fitness class at Kite Beach as part of the 10th Dubai Fitness Challenge.

Launched in 2017, the monthlong challenge encourages residents and visitors to exercise for at least 30 minutes a day for 30 consecutive days under its "30x30" initiative.

This year's event runs from October 31 to November 29 and features major public activities including Dubai Ride, Dubai Run and Dubai Yoga.

A day earlier, Unitree's humanoid robots and a robotic dog joined participants at Dubai Run, which attracted around 310,000 people.

The robots moved alongside runners, adding an unusual technological element to the mass-participation event, while videos and photos of their appearance drew attention on social media.

The robots are also scheduled to appear at Dubai Yoga on November 29.

Huang Jiawei, marketing director of Unitree Robotics, said Dubai's diverse international population offered an opportunity to introduce the company's humanoid robots and robotic dogs to a wider audience.

"By taking part in the fitness challenge, the company hopes to give people a closer look at what Chinese robotics technology can do," Huang told Xinhua.

He said the event also highlighted growing interaction between humans and robots, with such technology potentially finding wider applications in everyday life and the workplace.

Robots could also perform tasks in hazardous environments, helping improve workplace safety and people's quality of life, he added.

Yaqoub Al Zarouni, senior manager of the DFC, said the initiative began with a simple goal: encouraging people to exercise for 30 minutes a day over 30 days to develop healthier habits.

Over the past decade, it has grown into a citywide event featuring sporting activities, fitness villages and hubs catering to people of different ages, nationalities and fitness levels, he said.

Al Zarouni added that the participation of Chinese robots had brought a new technological dimension to the challenge, offering fitness enthusiasts a different experience.

Kuwait makes mark with two titles at Gulf Team Tennis Cup



Kuwait tennis players pose with their trophies.

Kuwait's Al-Qahtani named Best Player

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait enjoyed an impressive campaign at the 2026 Gulf Team Tennis Cup, capturing the men's and boys' under-12 titles, while also claiming silver in the women's competition and bronze in the boys' under-16 category.

The championship concluded on Tuesday in the presence of former National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Tamdeen Group Chairman and Kuwait Tennis Federation Honorary President Mohammed Al-Marzouq, Bahrain Tennis Federation President Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, and Kuwait Tennis Federation President Abdulredha Al-Gharib.

Kuwait secured the men's title with a 2-0 victory over Qatar in the final. Qatar finished runners-up, while Bahrain took third place. Kuwait's Bader Al-Qahtani was named Best Player.

The Kuwaiti team also topped the boys' under-12 competition, with Saudi Arabia finishing second and Bahrain third. Mohammed Youssef of Kuwait received the Best Player award.

Bahrain claimed the boys' under-16 title, followed by Saudi Arabia in second place and Kuwait in third. Bahrain's Hashem Abdulhussein Al-Tubli was named Best Player.

In the girls' under-16 event, Oman took the title ahead of Qatar and Bahrain, while Oman's Talia bint Issam Al-Busaidiya earned the Best Player award.

Qatar won the women's competition, with Kuwait settling for silver and Bahrain taking bronze.

Al-Gharib congratulated all GCC countries on the successful tournament, describing it as an exceptional sporting gathering. He highlighted its significance in bringing together five competitions for boys, juniors and men, alongside two women's events, for the first time in the history of Gulf tennis championships.

Al-Nimsh hails minister's support for beach volleyball development

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Kuwait Volleyball Association Secretary-General Talal Al-Nimsh has praised Minister of Youth and Sports Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma for his continued support of the sport, following a meeting with members of the Beach Volleyball Committee.

Al-Nimsh thanked the minister for the warm reception, describing the meeting as constructive and highlighting its focus on the latest developments in beach volleyball and plans to advance the sport in the coming period.

He said discussions covered the national teams' international participation schedule, preparations for hosting tours and tournaments in 2027, and the possibility of securing a dedicated venue in Kuwait for national team training.

The proposed facility would help enhance players' technical and physical preparation ahead of upcoming competitions, he added.

Al-Nimsh said the minister's interest and continued backing would provide a strong incentive to further develop Kuwaiti volleyball and improve the national teams' performance, enabling them to represent the country with distinction at regional and international events.



Al-Jalahma receiving Al-Nimsh and members of the Beach Volleyball Committee.

Salwa Al-Sabah Club crowned champ of Kuwait Volleyball Federation Cup

9 clubs compete as volleyball season begins

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The 2026-2027 volleyball season gets underway Thursday, with the launch of the Federation Championship for the senior category at the Kuwait Volleyball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Nine clubs are competing in the tournament, divided into two groups. Group A consists of Qadsia, Yarmouk, Sulaibikhat and Al-Shabab, while Group B includes Kuwait Club, Kazma, Al-Arabi, Al-Sahel and Al-Nasr.

Two Group B matches are scheduled for today, with Kazma taking on Al-Sahel at 5:00 pm before Al-Arabi meet Al-Nasr at 7:00 pm. The competition resumes next Sunday.

The extended 2025-2026 season wrapped up last week with the Federation Cup final, where Kazma claimed the title after defeating Kuwait Club. Qadsia finished third after overcoming Sulaibikhat in the playoff. Qadsia had earlier secured the league title, while the Super Cup was cancelled for the concluded season.



Salwa Al-Sabah Club receives the championship trophy.

In the women's competition, Salwa Al-Sabah Club were crowned champions of the Kuwait Volleyball Federation Cup for the 2025-2026 season after beating Fatat Club 3-1 in the final.

Oyoun Women's Club claimed third place with a 3-0 victory over Police Union Club in the third-place match.

Federation President Dr Jaber Al-Merri, board member Ziad Al-Enezi and Competitions Committee Chairman Aref Al-Subaihi presented the trophies to the winning teams.

Qurain and Sulaibikhat complete podium

Al-Nasr wins Youth Boxing Championship title



Boxers celebrate with their medals at the end of event.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: Al-Nasr Club emerged champion of the second Youth Boxing Championship for the 2026-2027 season after finishing at the top of the overall standings at the tournament, which concluded at the Kuwait Boxing Federation Hall in Sabah Al-Salem.

Qurain finished runner-up, while Sulaibikhat took third place.

Kuwait Boxing Federation Assistant Treasurer Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi presented trophies to the top three teams and medals to the winning boxers at the closing ceremony, which followed a series of closely contested bouts.

The gold medal winners included Al-Nasr's Abdulwahab Mohammed, Shehab Ahmed and Saif Mufleh; Bader Abdulameer of Kuwait Club; Ahmed Suleiman and Hassan Arkan of Qurain; Abdullah Najm and Musaed Jaber of Sulaibikhat; Dhari Faisal of Jahra; and Adnan Meshaal of Fahaheel.

Al-Mutairi congratulated the medal-winning teams and commended the performances of the participating clubs and boxers, wishing them continued success in future competitions.

He noted that the championship featured a high level of competition from the opening bouts, with all clubs taking part and boxers battling strongly for medals. The fight for the overall title remained open until the final day, highlighting the close competition and improving technical standards.

Al-Mutairi stressed that the Kuwait Boxing Federation is committed to developing the sport at all age levels by creating a competitive environment that helps identify promising talents, sharpen boxers' skills, and improve their technical abilities.

Man City underwhelms again

Bellingham inspires stirring Madrid recovery

MADRID, Nov 25, (AP): Another stirring comeback win for Real Madrid. More disappointment for Manchester City.

The Champions League followed a recent script for two of Europe's heavyweight teams, with Madrid - helped by a long-range stunner from Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappé's double - recovering to beat PSV Eindhoven 5-1 for a fifth straight victory in the league phase and City's underwhelming form continuing with a 2-2 draw against Napoli in Kevin De Bruyne's latest homecoming.

Arsenal was held to a 1-1 draw by Borussia Dortmund and Como won again to move into third place after five rounds of games.

Slovan Bratislava, meanwhile, remained the only team on zero points after a 15th straight loss in the competition's main phase - this time 2-0 to Real Betis.

Make that 10 straight wins in all competitions for Madrid, whose resurgence under Jose Mourinho will be a concern for the rest of European soccer.

Things weren't going so well against PSV on Tuesday after a 32nd-minute penalty by Ivan Perisic for the Dutch league leaders.

Enter Bellingham, who had started on the bench and was introduced at halftime to revitalize Madrid's attack at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

After Federico Valverde equalized, Bellingham scored one of the best goals of this season's competition by teeing the ball up with the left foot, then with his right foot, before sending a looping volley with the outside of his right foot in off the post.



Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham takes a shot during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Real Madrid and PSV in Madrid. (AP)

Mbappé added to the lead with goals in the 64th and 84th minutes, maintaining his record of scoring in every Champions League game so far this campaign, and Vinícius Júnior grabbed a fifth in the 87th.

Madrid, which previously had winners in the 90th minute or later against Roma and AEK Athens, has 15 points - three more than Paris Saint-Germain, which hosts Roma on Wednesday.

City's winless streak in Premier League reached four matches at the weekend, and there was no respite in the Champions League.

Rayan Cherki did at least rescue a point after City twice went behind to Napoli, for whom De Bruyne - a City great - started and was applauded off the field when substituted in the second half.

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'Sports for All' season kicks off Dec 1

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Kuwait Sports for All Federation will launch its 2026-2027 sports season on Dec 1, unveiling a packed calendar of sporting and community events that will run through March 2027.

Federation Secretary-General Dr Mishal Ramadan said the program, approved by the board of directors, forms part of the federation's 2026-2030 strategy to expand sports participation, promote physical activity across all segments of society and improve public health.

December's schedule will feature a football tournament for retirees on Dec 6, a padel league for retired men and women, and a race for people with disabilities. The program will also mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec 3 and International Universal Health Coverage Day on Dec 12.

January will see the conclusion of the retirees' football league with its final, alongside the federation's night race. February's program will include a Ramadan Carrom competition.



San Jose Earthquakes midfielder Beau Leroux (34) blocks a pass from Houston Dynamo FC forward Ibrahim Aliyu (24) during the first half MLS soccer playoff match in San Jose, California. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait celebrates shooting excellence



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud and Shooting Federation officials with the honorees.

Ceremony under Sheikh Salman's patronage

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Kuwait Shooting Federation honored its leading shooters in a ceremony under the patronage of its Honorary President, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, in recognition of their outstanding achievements at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya and the World Shooting Championships in Doha, which served as qualifiers for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The recognition highlighted the shooters' impressive performances on the continental and international stages, particularly those of Abdulrahman Al-Feihaan and Abdulaziz Al-Saad, who secured qualification spots for the Los Angeles Games, adding to Kuwait's distinguished Olympic shooting record.

Speaking at the ceremony, Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations President Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi expressed confidence that Kuwaiti shooters would achieve further success, stressing the need to intensify preparations for upcoming competitions and secure as many Olympic qualification places as possible.

He said the achievements represented both a responsibility and an incentive to sustain efforts and build on the progress made by Kuwaiti shooting. He attributed the success to the generous support and patronage of the country's political leadership.

Al-Otaibi also acknowledged the contributions of Minister of State for Youth and Sports Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma and the Public Authority for Youth and Sports in supporting development plans, enhancing athletes' performance and providing an environment conducive to further international achievements.

He extended special thanks to Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud for sponsoring the ceremony and his continued commitment to supporting Kuwaiti shooting, encouraging its champions and motivating them to achieve further success while raising the country's flag at international competitions.

The federation honored Khaled Al-Mudhaf, Abdulrahman Al-Feihaan, Abdulaziz Al-Saad, Mohammed Al-Awad, Hajar Fawzi, Talal Al-Turki, Abdullah Al-Turki, Mohammed Al-Daihani and Shahad Al-Hawwal, in addition to the technical and administrative teams of the participating national squads.

Al-Arabi and Salmiya eye Amir Cup semifinal berths



A file photo of Al Arabi players celebrating.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The quarterfinal stage of the 2025-2026 Amir Cup comes to a close on Thursday with two decisive encounters, as Salmiya meet Tadamon at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium at 5:20 pm, followed by Al-Arabi's clash with Khaitan at Thamer Stadium at 8:20 pm.

The winners of both matches will advance to the semifinals, scheduled for Dec 24.

Salmiya booked its quarterfinal place with a 2-1 win over Sulaibikhat in the preliminary round. The Sky Blues, who currently occupy fourth place in the Zain Premier League, will be keen to maintain their momentum and keep their cup ambitions alive.

They enter today's encounter on the back of a 4-2 victory over Khaitan last Saturday in the opening round of the Crown Prince Cup group stage.

Tadamon, meanwhile, is seeking to turn around its fortunes after a disappointing run of results. It is 10th in the league with six points and was held to a 1-1 draw by Al-Jazeera in their Crown Prince Cup opener.

In the second match, Al-Arabi will be aiming to continue its campaign and secure a place in the last four after defeating Al-Sahel 2-0 in the preliminary round.

The Green Castle has endured a challenging season, exiting the AFC Champions League Two qualifiers and the AFC Challenge League group stage. Their domestic campaign also began slowly, with two draws and a defeat, but three successive league victories have helped them recover. Al-Arabi now sit sixth with 12 points.

Khaitan, on the other hand, will be hoping to carry its positive performances into ThursdaY's encounter. It reached the quarterfinals by eliminating Kazma in the preliminary round, winning 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

It also pushed Salmiya hard in last Saturday's Crown Prince Cup encounter before going down 4-2.

Khaitan has made an encouraging start to its First Division campaign, collecting seven points from two wins and a draw to sit second. It trails leader Al-Jazeera by three points, although the latter has played one more match.

'Tournament has generated considerable interest'

Saudi delegation reviews Kuwait's preparations for Super Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): A delegation of Saudi officials visited Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium on Wednesday to assess preparations and inspect the readiness of its facilities ahead of Kuwait's hosting of the Saudi Football Super Cup next month.

The tour was attended by Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports Bashar Abdullah, representatives of the Al-Rai and Aayan companies' alliance, the tournament's organizing body, and officials from SMC Vibes, the exclusive commercial partner of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation.

Abdullah affirmed the authority's commitment to providing all the necessary requirements for a successful tournament and ensuring an organizational standard befitting Kuwait's status and reputation.

He praised the efforts of the authority's Construction and Maintenance Sector, commending its personnel for working around the clock to ensure the stadium is fully prepared and ready to host the major sporting event.

He noted that the tournament has generated considerable interest among sports fans across the Gulf, making it essential to intensify efforts and coordinate closely with all relevant parties to deliver an exceptional experience that reflects Kuwait's ability to host major sporting events.

Abdullah also invited Kuwaiti and Saudi fans to attend the matches and enjoy the accompanying activities, expressing hope that the tournament would provide a memorable sporting occasion reflecting the deep fraternal ties between the two countries and their peoples.

Meanwhile, SMC Vibes Chief Executive Officer Sultan Al-Sheikh expressed hope that hosting the Saudi Super Cup in Kuwait would fulfill the ambitions of all parties involved in organizing the event.



Saudi delegation reviews Kuwait's preparations for Super Cup.



Meeting in progress.



Officials pose for a group photo.

He said the inspection tour confirmed the stadium's readiness and its advanced facilities, expressing confidence that the upcoming edition would carry a distinctive Kuwaiti-Saudi Gulf character and meet the highest organizational standards.

Al-Sheikh added that fans could look forward to an outstanding sporting and entertainment experience, reflecting the extensive experience of the Al-Rai and Aayan alliance and SMC Vibes in organizing major sporting events.

He said further visits would be conducted to follow up on organizational and administrative preparations, fan services and the requirements of participating teams to ensure the tournament's success.

For his part, Al-Rai Media Group Chief Executive Officer Rashed Al-Omairi thanked Abdullah for welcoming the delegation and providing an opportunity to review preparations at the stadium.

Al-Omairi said the organizing committee had been monitoring preparations on an almost weekly basis, expressing satisfaction with the stadium's advanced level of readiness and the efforts being made by the various teams.

He noted that the pace of work had exceeded the planned preparation schedule, reflecting the efficiency of the work and coordination among the entities involved.

Al-Omairi also thanked all committees and participating organizations for their continued cooperation and efforts to deliver an outstanding tournament befitting Kuwait's sporting standing.

Kuwait will host the Saudi Football Super Cup from Dec 19 to 23 at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, with Al-Nassr, Al-Ahli, Al-Qadsiah and Al-Kholood competing for the title.

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