

Gulf Bank Marathon brings Kuwait together with record 11,000 participants

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ARAB TIMES

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PAKISTANI INJURED IN IRAN ASSAULT REMAINS IN I.C.U.

Global outcry over Kuwait attack



Ministry of Defense photo

Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah visits one of those injured in Thursday's Iranian attack to check on his condition and review the medical care being provided.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Mashaan with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totonchi on Friday to deliver a formal protest over Tehran's continued attacks on the country.



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini joins members of the Catholic community and other attendees during a memorial Mass for the two Italian nationals killed in a drone attack.

Memorial service honors Italians killed in drone strike; Kuwait summons Iranian envoy

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and **Agencies**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, accompanied by Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraian, visited those wounded in the Iranian attack to check on their condition and review the medical care they were receiving. During Friday's visit, the minister received a briefing from the medical team on the injured's health and treatment, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement. He praised the medical staff for their dedication and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Zafar Iqbal confirmed that the health condition of the Pakistani injured in the Iranian attack on a vital site in Kuwait last Thursday continues to improve and stabilize.

In a statement to the newspaper, Iqbal revealed that the injured Pakistani remains under medical care in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Al-Sabah Hospital. He said he visited the injured Pakistani and met with the attending medical team to receive updates on his health condition and progress.

He expressed his appreciation to the Kuwaiti authorities and the medical and nursing teams for their care and efforts, affirming that the Pakistani Embassy is closely following up the patient's condition in coordination with the hospital and it is providing all the necessary support and assistance.

He also extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the two Italians who lost their lives in the attack, while wishing a speedy recovery to the Kuwaiti and Pakistani who sustained injuries.

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Opinion



Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Kuwait ponders while other Gulf states take action

THE original master plan of the country, which was drafted in the 1950s, projected a population increase of about 50 percent only, while the road infrastructure projects in the 1970s and 1980s were designed for around 800,000 vehicles.

Unfortunately, these early frameworks overlooked the future urban expansion, rapid demographic growth, and the necessary transport infrastructure to sustain the long-term economic development of the nation.

A comprehensive vision for at least 50 years is needed, instead of short-term planning for five or 10 years.

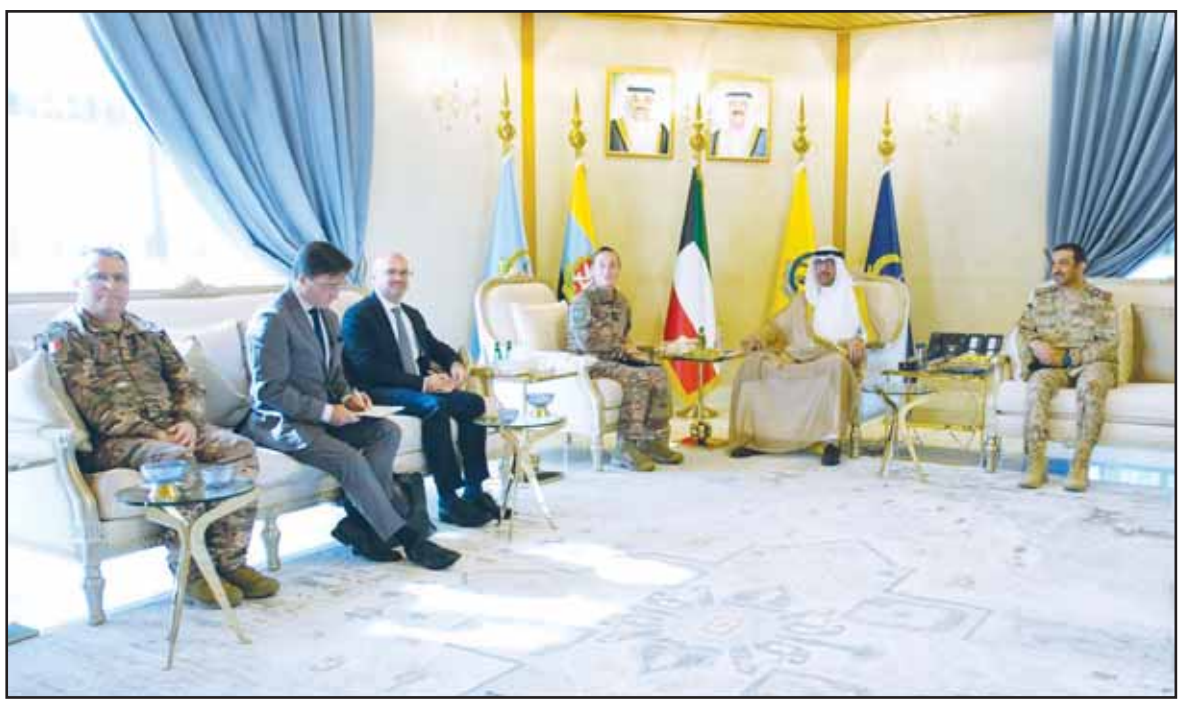
Today, official statistics revealed there are more than three million cars and motorcycles on our roads, hence, severe traffic congestion is unavoidable, especially during peak commuting hours. This gridlock usually prevents individuals from reaching their destinations on time, creating widespread disruption for businesses and daily activities.

The broader impact of this crisis is staggering. About a decade ago, Kuwait ranked 216th on the Global Traffic Index. Today, citizens and residents forfeit roughly 82 hours each year to traffic delays, creating hundreds of millions of economic losses monthly due to lost productivity. These compounded losses must be addressed through forward-looking research to prevent Kuwait from falling further behind its Gulf neighbors and the global economy.

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Kuwait, France tighten military coordination



Ministry of Defense photo

Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah recieves Chief of the Defense Staff of the French Armed Forces, Air Force General Fabien Mandon.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and visiting Chief of the Defense Staff of the French Armed Forces, Air Force General Fabien Mandon discussed ways to promote bilateral military and defense cooperation.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali welcomed the Chief of the French Defense Staff and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country, the Ministry of Defense said in a press release on Saturday.

During the meeting, they exchanged cordial talks and reviewed several topics of mutual interest, reflecting the depth of the close relations between the two friendly countries, it added.

Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lit. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraian and French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin attended the meeting.

Continued on Page 5

Other Voices

How many more innocent lives must be lost to Iranian aggression?

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

On Thursday, November 26, Kuwait witnessed yet another tragic attack that claimed the lives of two Italian nationals, Antonio Saccoccio, aged 65, and Emanuele Lo Russo, aged 36, and injured a Kuwaiti citizen and a Pakistani national.



Al-Hajeri

Antonio was approaching retirement after dedicating many years of his life to his profession, while Emanuele was a young man with many years of life and opportunities ahead of him. Both came to Kuwait to carry out their professional duties, never imagining that they would not return home to their loved ones.

This Iranian attack on Kuwait is an unforgivable act of aggression that deserves condemnation in the strongest possible terms. It is a blatant violation of our sovereignty and a continuation of the atrocities committed by Iran against Kuwait and other countries in the region throughout this war. The loss of innocent lives is a painful reminder of the consequences of Iran's continued aggression, for which it must be held fully accountable.

Since the outbreak of the war in February, Iran's attacks have endangered innocent lives, damaged vital infrastructure and threatened the safety and security of citizens and residents across the Gulf.

Even civilian facilities have not been spared.

Kuwait has consistently advocated peace, dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Despite repeated violations of our sovereignty, our leadership has demonstrated remarkable restraint and commitment to diplomacy. However, restraint must never be mistaken for weakness, nor should Kuwait's commitment to peace be taken for granted.

Continued on Page 5

Trauma care gets a lifesaving push

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Surgery Department at the new Jahra Hospital organized the Jahra Trauma and Accident Day in the main auditorium of the hospital on Saturday.

Experts in trauma surgery and emergency surgical care exchanged knowledge and discussed developments in the field during the event.

Speaking at the event, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Sabah stressed the importance of the conference and specialized workshop on trauma surgery and healthcare systems, emphasizing their role in strengthening emergency response capabilities and developing the healthcare infrastructure of the country.

He pointed out that the event was held at an important time, taking into consideration the vital role of trauma management in responding

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Kingdom of **Thailand Dr. Mishal Al-Mansour** presented his credentials to King of **Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn** at the Royal Palace in the capital, **Bangkok**.

During the reception, the Kuwaiti Ambassador conveyed to the King the greetings of His Highness the **Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** and His Highness the **Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah**, wishing further progress and prosperity for the friendly Kingdom of Thailand, the Kuwaiti Embassy said in a press release on Saturday. (KUNA)

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RIYADH: The Saudi-led Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in **Yemen** announced on Saturday that a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia was intercepted and destroyed over **Saudi Arabia**'s southern **Al-Shaqiq**. This came in a brief statement by the Coalition's Spokesperson Major General Turki Al-Malki, on his official (X) account.

The spokesperson said that interception shrapnel fell without causing any civilian casualties, affirming that attempts to target civilians and civilian objects will be met with a response. (KUNA)

– Earlier Story Page 6





7 ABK successfully completes KD 150M capital increase with subscription exceeding 500%



8 NBK named Best Trade Finance Bank in Kuwait for 2026



9 KFH showcases future vision to strengthen retail banking leadership

Artificial intelligence joins force

Cameras roll as Kuwait police go 'high-tech'

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Ministry of Interior has procured 1,200 body cameras, commonly known as 'body cams', which will be distributed to its field units in order to intensify security operations and guarantee transparency.

In addition, the ministry equipped its patrol vehicles with advanced dashboard cameras or 'dash cams'. It is currently testing the smart glasses and a robot for identifying wanted individuals.

The body cameras are linked to 'Amn' (Security) platform -- a mechanism developed by Kuwaiti personnel to connect various security systems, surveillance cameras and intelligent analytical tools through a unified interface.

The ministry also showcased a drone patrol unit capable of transmitting live footage from incident scenes directly to the Operations Unit, providing security personnel with real-time visual information to help them perform their duties well.

Officials from the Security Systems General Department shared these details with the newspaper when the ministry participated in the 2026 NEXUS Exhibition at 360 Mall, focusing on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Director of the Consulting Department at the Security Systems General Department Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Munir Al-Qattan explained that the new cameras will be provided to the field sectors whose personnel deal with the public.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:00	Asr	14:30
Sunrise	06:23	Maghrib	16:50
Zohr	11:36	Isha	18:13



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince

Amir, Crown Prince, PM greet Albania, Mauritania

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable to the President of Albania, Bajram Begaj, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president and the people of Albania further progress and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable of congratulations to the President of Albania, Bajram Begaj, on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the President good health and welfare.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable to the President of Albania, Bajram Begaj, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

Mauritania

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable to the President of Mauritania, Mohammad Ould Ghazouani, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Ghazouani and people of Mauritania further success and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable to the President of Mauritania, Mohammad Ould Ghazouani, congratulating him on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the President continued welfare and wellbeing.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a cable of congratulations to the President of Mauritania, Mohammad Ould Ghazouani, on his country's Independence Day.

Early screening key

One in four in Kuwait has 'Type 2' diabetes

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi inaugurated an event organized by the Kuwait Diabetes Association at 360 Mall, with the theme, "BridgeTech Shapes Your Future."

Dr. Waleed Al-Dahi, Consultant in Endocrinology and Diabetes and President of Kuwait Diabetes Association, revealed that the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in the country reached 25 percent, putting Kuwait among those with the highest rates worldwide and in the Gulf region.

He confirmed the impact of genetic factors on the development of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, emphasizing that individuals with a family history of these conditions should manage their blood sugar level and regularly monitor the risk factors. He explained that effective blood sugar management from the earliest stages following diagnosis is essential to preventing long-term complications.

He pointed out that studies have proven that patients who maintain good blood sugar control from the beginning of their diagnosis have a significantly lower risk of developing diabetes-related complications.

He also disclosed that the association, established in 1996, works hard to raise public awareness on diabetes, its symptoms, complications and prevention measures.

He added that the event is part of worldwide activities for the World Diabetes Month in November, which include awareness campaigns and educational initiatives, in cooperation with the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

He presented the recommended targets for controlling diabetes-related risk factors, such as maintaining HbA1c (glycated hemoglobin) level below seven percent, blood pressure below 130/80 mmHg, and LDL (bad) cholesterol below 2.5 mmol/L.

He also stressed the importance of undergoing annual retinal examinations, regularly checking urine albumin levels, and completing yearly foot examinations, as consistent screening helps identify potential complications at an early stage and supports their prevention.

Other Voices

Chicken feathers and Lebanese banks

By Ahmad alsarraf

It is said that a tyrannical ruler once seized a chicken in front of his court and began plucking its feathers one by one. The chicken squawked in pain, kicking and struggling with all its might, but to no avail.

When the last feather had been plucked, the ruler threw the chicken onto the cold, stony ground. Naked, shivering, and in pain, it remained where it was. To everyone's surprise, there was no protest, no cry, and not even an attempt to escape the tyrant.

Ahmad alsarraf

The ruler then reached into his pocket, took out a few kernels of corn, and scattered them on the ground. The chicken stopped shivering, seemingly forgot its pain, approached the ruler's feet, and began to eat.

The ruler moved away and scattered more kernels of corn, and the chicken followed him. He continued walking, scattering more corn along the way, while the hen followed submissively and contentedly, clinging to his boot despite the fact that he had stripped her of everything that protected her from the cold and had nearly killed her.

The ruler turned to those around him and said, "This is how people are controlled."

In psychology, this is known as "trauma bonding." It begins by stripping people of everything - their hopes, savings, sense of self-worth, and dignity. From time to time, a small portion of what was taken from them is returned, or just enough is given to keep them alive. Eventually, many forget who caused their suffering and begin to see their oppressor as a kind person, continuing to thank him even when that so-called kindness comes from their own pockets and at their own expense.

Something similar happens in human relationships, between governments and their people, between companies and their employees over unpaid salaries, and between unjust banks and their depositors whose savings have been seized.

I was reminded of the story above when the manager of a Lebanese bank called me. This was one of the banks where millions of Lebanese citizens, along with depositors of various other nationalities, lost nearly $80 billion in savings, including my own and my children's.

She informed me that, in accordance with a Cabinet decision, the bank would begin disbursing a monthly amount to each of us.

My children, whose savings had already been wiped out by the bank, were delighted by the bank's initiative and became preoccupied with the few kernels of corn being thrown their way. They forgot the injustice they had suffered, having long since given up hope of ever recovering what had been taken from them.

Over time, they forgot what had happened, content with the monthly payments they were promised, even if the amounts continued to shrink and there was no guarantee that the payments would continue. Even if they did, it would take years to recover their money, by which time inflation would have significantly eroded its value.

The decision came from the government. Had it been left to another entity, perhaps not even crumbs would have been thrown to the penniless chickens.

What happened in Lebanon is unprecedented. I hope matters never reach the point where people are stripped of everything they own, only to be thrown a few scraps afterward.

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Email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Muhaisen promotes regional tourism partnerships in Tashkent

Kuwait eyes bigger role in sustainable tourism

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): The International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism is deemed an opportunity to promote regional cooperation, share expertise and advance joint tourism initiatives, said the Kuwaiti Information Ministry's Undersecretary Dr. Nasser Muhaisen Saturday.

Muhaisen made the remarks on the sidelines of Kuwait's participation in the opening ceremony of the international event for 2027, which was held in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, in the presence of Head of the Presidential Administration of Uzbekistan Saida Mirziyoyeva and representatives of UN Tourism Organization (UN Tourism) member states, the ministry said in a press release.

Muhaisen headed Kuwait's delegation, representing Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar.



Ministry of Information photo
Kuwait's Information Ministry's Undersecretary Dr. Nasser Muhaisen during his participation in the ceremony.

As part of Kuwait's chairmanship of the UN Tourism's Regional Commission for the Middle East, Dr. Muhaisen reviewed the theme adopted by the region's countries for the International Year, titled "Diversification, Stability, and Long-Term Transformation," reflecting their direction toward consolidating the role of tourism in diversifying economies, supporting stability, and attaining sustainable long-term transformation.

For his part, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Uzbekistan Turki Al-Mukrad expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the event, commending its attractive tourism assets, cultural diversity, ancient historical and civilizational heritage and the continuous tourism development.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2027 as the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism (Resolution A/RES/78/260, adopted on February 26, 2024). Led by UN Tourism in coordination with Uzbekistan, which hosted the official launch on November 27, 2026, in Tashkent, the initiative promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, environmental protection, cultural preservation, and climate and crisis resilience.

Nazaha strengthens Kuwait's global anti-graft engagement

Al-Daihani calls for stronger int'l anti-corruption ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): Kuwait is committed to promoting cooperation with the international community in combating corruption crimes, Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Dr. Majed Al-Daihani said on Friday.

He made the remarks while addressing the 14th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network), which kicked off on Thursday at the United Nations' Vienna International Centre in Austria and concludes on Friday, Nazaha said in a press release sent to KUNA.

Al-Daihani underlined Nazaha's commitment to representing Kuwait in international anti-corruption forums.

Nazaha is an active member through its valuable participation in all plenary meetings of the GlobE Network, its contributions to experience-sharing sessions, its cooperation with the network's secretariat on beneficial ownership transparency, and its leadership of thematic working groups, he added.

Nazaha's participation in the meeting came at the invitation of the network's Chair, in Nazaha's capacity as the lead for both the First Thematic Working Group (concerned with information exchange) and the Third Thematic Working Group (concerned with knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning), he noted.

The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network), which comprises 257 members from 137 countries, connects anti-corruption law enforcement worldwide, helping them work together quickly, securely, and effectively.



Lebanese Ambassador Ghady Khoury and Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Ben Issa



Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait and colleague Mohammed Al-Farhan

Moroccan envoy highlights deep Kuwait-Morocco ties

'Diwaniya embodies Kuwait's cultural identity'

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Ben Issa confirmed that the diwaniya is an integral part of Kuwaiti culture and national identity, describing it as a traditional social gathering place that embodies the values of dialogue, hospitality and the exchange of ideas.

Ambassador Issa made the statement during the 'Francophonie Diwaniya', organized by the Moroccan Embassy at Bayt Al-Maghrib (House of Morocco) in Kuwait as part of the celebrations for the Francophonie Month 2026.

Several ambassadors, diplomats and cultural enthusiasts interested in the Francophone community attended the event -- an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity and improve dialogue among different communities.

In his speech, Issa indicated that the diwaniya is a space for meetings, discussions, welcoming guests and sharing perspectives, emphasizing that these common values affirm the strong fraternal bond between Morocco and Kuwait.

He warmly welcomed the attendees and expressed his sincere appreciation for their presence and participation in an event dedicated to the values of cultural exchange, harmony and sharing.

He pointed out that the embassy has been participating in celebrations of the International Day of the Francophonie by organizing a series of activities to commemorate the occasion.

Describing French language as "a window to the world, a spark for creativity, and a bridge for intercultural dialogue," he explained that Francophonie in Morocco is part of a tradition of intercultural communication and knowledge exchange. He said this tradition continues to be nurtured through literary activities, language competitions and major international academic events.

He confirmed the participation of his country in the initiatives of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in several fields like education, vocational training, cultural diplomacy and peacekeeping, as well as its continuous efforts to create more opportunities for young people.



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq
Ambassadors of Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain and Tunisia.

He drew particular attention to the commitment of his country through Rabat's hosting of the Second Ministerial Conference on Peacekeeping in the Francophone Environment in May 2026, as well as Agadir's hosting of the Sixth World Week of Scientific Francophonie in October, under the patronage of King Mohammed VI.

He added that Morocco was represented at the highest level during the 20th Francophonie Summit on Nov 15-16 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where Fatim-Zahra Ammor attended on behalf of King Mohammed VI as a representative of the head of government.

He also announced that Morocco is scheduled to host the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policy in 2027 -- the first time an event of this kind will be held on African and Arab soil.

He stressed that these initiatives and international engagements prove Morocco's commitment to intensify the global presence of the Francophonie, expanding cooperation among its members and upholding its fundamental values of solidarity, dialogue, knowledge-sharing and closer relations among peoples.

He added that the diwaniya event is an opportunity to celebrate a deeply rooted tradition that is an essential part of the culture and identity of Kuwaiti brothers and friends.

He revealed that the diwaniya was included on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2025, a recognition that highlights its cultural and humanitarian significance at the international level.

He explained that the event was a tribute to this enduring social tradition, which he described as a "venue for connection, dialogue, hospitality, and sharing," adding that he was happy to celebrate these shared values with his Kuwaiti friends. He stated that these values remain deeply embedded in Kuwaiti society, which is widely associated with generosity, warm hospitality and openness to the wider world. He stressed that these values are shared by Morocco and Kuwait, stating that relations between the two countries are built on a long history of friendship, solidarity and mutual trust.

He affirmed that the fraternal and strategic partnership reflects the commitment and wise leadership of both countries, under King Mohammed VI and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He said both leaders are committed to strengthening these exceptional relations, giving them renewed momentum and exploring new opportunities for cooperation and partnership in various sectors, in a manner that serves the common interests and aspirations of the citizens of the two countries.

He asserted that Morocco takes pride in its longstanding relationship with the State of Kuwait, describing it as a partnership built on a rich legacy of brotherhood, cooperation and solidarity.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Kuwait ... from oil-based economy to a knowledge-based economy

"HIS Highness the Prime Minister recently inaugurated the Microsoft Innovation and Digital Transformation Center, marking a step toward a new productive path for Kuwait based on income diversification, modernization, and development. These goals reflect the vision of the political leadership and the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," columnist **Sheikh Engineer Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Sheikh Fahad

"The inauguration, attended by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, carries significance beyond traditional technological cooperation. It raises fundamental questions about the future of Kuwait's economy and its position in the new global economic order.

The event should be viewed not merely as the opening of a technology center, but as an opportunity to rethink Kuwait's economic model and examine the role of knowledge, innovation, and human capital in building national wealth.

Throughout the 20th century, a nation's economic strength was largely determined by its natural resources, industrial capital, and infrastructure.

Kuwait was among the countries that successfully transformed its oil wealth into a substantial financial and economic base. However, the global economy is entering a new phase in which data, computing power, algorithms, and specialized human skills are becoming strategic assets capable of generating sustainable economic value.

One of the defining features of this transformation is that countries are no longer competing solely to acquire technology, but also to develop, utilize, and convert it into exportable industries, services, and products.

This presents Kuwait with a historic opportunity. Just as oil helped build the modern state, the digital economy can become a key driver of a more diversified, productive, and sustainable national economy.

However, this transformation cannot be achieved simply by importing advanced technologies. It requires building a national ecosystem capable of generating knowledge, developing technological solutions, and acquiring the expertise needed to compete globally.

Partnerships between global technology companies and governments offer significant opportunities to accelerate digital transformation. However, such partnerships alone cannot guarantee the development of a domestic technology industry.

Kuwait's real challenge lies in turning the presence of Microsoft and other leading technology companies into an integrated economic platform that brings together government institutions, universities, the private sector, and entrepreneurs.

The new center, with its focus on artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and cybersecurity, could serve as a launchpad for developing practical solutions to address the challenges facing Kuwait's economy.

In the public sector, AI technologies can help transform government services, streamline procedures, improve decision-making, and enhance spending efficiency.

However, it is not enough for Kuwait to simply host global technology companies. The country must also develop a clear strategy to harness these technologies and use them to build its national industries.

One of the important initiatives highlighted during the center's announcement was the "Kuwait Skills" initiative, led by Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The initiative aims to strengthen the digital capabilities of Kuwaiti nationals, a particularly important goal given the ongoing transformation of the global labor market. AI will not only change the nature of jobs but also reshape the skills required and redefine individual and organizational productivity.

Investment in human capital should go beyond training in the use of digital applications. It must also focus on developing advanced expertise in software engineering, data science, cybersecurity, AI engineering, and digital systems management.

Kuwaiti universities should be linked to the implemented projects, collaboration between researchers and companies should be encouraged, and clear career pathways should be established to help national talent progress from learning to innovation and production."

Also:

"As environmental challenges in the Arabian Gulf continue to intensify, traditional approaches to environmental education are no longer sufficient. This is where "Blue Education" comes in," Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Nasser Hussein Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"It is a comprehensive educational framework that connects theoretical knowledge with practical action, transforming students from passive learners into active partners in protecting their marine environment.

The Arabian Gulf has unique environmental characteristics, making it one of the hottest and saltiest bodies of water in the world. Surface water temperatures can reach 32 degrees Celsius, while salinity levels exceed 38 parts per thousand.

These sensitive environmental conditions increase the Gulf's vulnerability to climate change and human activities, directly affecting coral reef health, fish stock stability, and the overall ecological balance.

Given the Gulf societies' dependence on the sea for food security and economic activity, strengthening environmental awareness in classrooms has become increasingly essential.

Blue Education goes beyond simply adding more content to school curricula. It represents an approach to developing marine citizenship.

The concept aims to deepen students' understanding of the sea's vital role in their lives and future. It also connects classroom learning to real-world data on water quality and surrounding environmental conditions. This approach encourages critical thinking and analytical skills, empowering students to develop solutions based on scientific evidence.

In a country like Kuwait, Blue Education offers an opportunity to reconnect with the sea and strengthen its historical ties with the country through a modern scientific perspective.

The Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) plays a central role in this framework by providing schools with reliable data on water quality and pollution levels, turning classroom lessons into practical learning experiences.

This partnership includes an intensive three-week training program, with each week dedicated to a specific grade level. The program equips teachers with the skills to transform complex scientific data into interactive learning materials tailored to students' abilities.

Beyond the formal curriculum, the "hidden curriculum" also plays an important role in fostering an environmental culture. Daily practices, beach clean-up campaigns, water monitoring projects, and school competitions help translate environmental values into lasting habits and responsible behavior.

Turning the Gulf into a living laboratory allows students to examine real-world samples, conduct field activities, and support environmental reports with practical research. This approach has demonstrated success in several regional pilot programs, including green school initiatives in the UAE, field research projects in Saudi Arabia, and direct partnerships between schools and ROPME in Kuwait.

Effective implementation of this model requires clear and practical steps, including curriculum development, teacher training, the introduction of specialized units in science and social studies, and continuous professional development programs in coordination with environmental organizations."

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"Taking responsibility is essential, particularly when accidents result in the loss of human lives," columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Political leadership, therefore, sometimes requires great care and precision, especially when addressing serious incidents for which a minister may bear indirect responsibility.

Following two recent high-speed train collisions in Spain, Transport Minister Oscar Puente quickly announced his resignation, stating, "A transport minister in a country like Spain cannot remain in office after two such serious accidents in less than a year, regardless of the circumstances or the extent of his direct responsibility." The minister immediately informed the House of Representatives of his decision to resign as Minister of Transport. He also withdrew his candidacy for the early parliamentary elections scheduled for November 29.



Adel Musaed

I recall the resignation of Dr. Masouma Al-Mubarak, Kuwait's first female minister, who chose to step down from the Cabinet, accepting moral and political responsibility for the hospital fire in Jahra.

Such a culture of accountability strengthens administrative practices and reinforces the political and ethical standards expected of public officials. In countries that respect the will of the people and the principles of responsible leadership, officials are expected to consider resignation when serious accidents occur under their watch.

Accepting political responsibility requires courage rather than evasion. This principle was demonstrated once again in Spain following a similar accident.

Strangely, in some Arab countries, officials do not assume political responsibility when accidents occur. Instead, they remain in their positions as though nothing has happened.

I recall that the late Lebanese minister George Fram resigned in the 1990s after his electricity plan was rejected, choosing to step down rather than bear responsibility for waste and mismanagement in the electricity sector.

The issue is not about democracy or political balancing. Rather, it is about the fundamental meaning of responsibility and accountability.

Recently, a train collision occurred in an Arab country. Despite the seriousness of the incident, the Minister of Transport refused to resign, describing resignation as an "escape from responsibility." Instead, he insisted that he would remain in office and continue carrying out his duties."

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

PAM affirms legal obligation to pay salaries to co-op employees

Two arrested in drug bust, including member of ruling family

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Engineer Rabab Al-Osaimi affirmed that the regular payment of salaries to employees of cooperative societies is a legal obligation under the Private Sector Labor Law, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The statement was made in a press release issued by PAM on Thursday following Al-Osaimi's meeting with cooperative society directors to discuss suspended salary payments to employees at several cooperative societies and ways to address the issue.

Al-Osaimi emphasized PAM's commitment to working with cooperative societies to protect workers' rights and ensure job stability.

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Police seize hashish, 600-plus pills: The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of two individuals, including a member of the ruling family, in a drug-related operation carried out by the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Drug Control General Department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that the operation resulted in the seizure of 1.2 kilograms of hashish, 262 Lyrica capsules, 100 Xanax tablets, 200 Tramadol tablets, 38 unidentified tablets suspected to be narcotics, and four precision scales.

The necessary legal procedures are being completed to refer the suspects and the seized items to the Narcotics Prosecution.

The ministry stressed that these efforts reflect its commitment to enforcing the law equally and without exception, regardless of the individuals involved, including members of the ruling family.

❑ ❑ ❑

Young man in critical condition: A young man was admitted to the intensive care unit at Al-Adan Hospital after sustaining a stab wound to the chest during a fight in Sabah Al-Salem last week, reports Al-Anba daily.

Security authorities have detained a Kuwaiti national suspected of involvement in the incident.

According to security sources, the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received a report of a fight in the area, prompting security personnel to rush to the scene. Upon arrival, officers found a young man, born in 1996, suffering from a deep stab wound to the chest that caused severe bleeding.

The injured man was rushed to Al-Adan Hospital, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit. His condition was described as critical.

Meanwhile, security personnel arrested a Kuwaiti national, born in 2002, suspected of involvement in the assault. The suspect remains in custody pending further investigations.

The relevant authorities are continuing their inquiries to establish the circumstances and motives behind the fight, while awaiting further developments in the victim's medical condition.

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Kuwaiti man sentenced to life in prison: The Criminal Court has sentenced a 43-year-old Kuwaiti man to life imprisonment for strangling his wife to death during Ramadan last year at their family home in Qurain, reports Al-Anba daily.

The court also referred the civil case to the competent court.

The defendant was charged by the Public Prosecution with premeditated murder following an investigation into the incident.

According to the investigation, the couple had argued after the wife refused to join her husband's family for iftar.

The defendant entered her room and confronted her about her refusal. When she ignored him, he became increasingly angry and strangled her to death. He later turned himself in at the local police station.

Lawyer Nawaf Al-Wuhaib, representing the victim's heirs, told the daily that he had presented documents and medical reports to the court showing that the defendant had repeatedly abused his wife.

He said the victim had kept the documents hidden during her lifetime, describing their emergence after her death as "a message from someone absent to a justice system that remains present."

Court overturns decision to suspend student's scholarship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Court of Appeals has overturned an administrative decision to suspend a student's scholarship, along with all resulting consequences, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ruling stated that the second semester of the 2024 academic year must be treated as sick leave, entitling the student to her full tuition allowance.

The court also ordered the respondent administrative authority to pay the appeal costs, in addition to KD 30 in legal fees.

Lawyer Mohammed Al-Ansari filed the appeal, arguing that his client's interruption of studies was caused by unforeseen health circumstances that required her hospitalization.

He said the ruling underscores the importance of assessing each scholarship student's circumstances individually, taking into account their specific health conditions and supporting medical documentation, adding that administrative authorities should avoid issuing blanket decisions that could adversely affect students' academic progress and financial entitlements.

❑ ❑ ❑

Misdemeanor Court acquits man: The Misdemeanor Court acquitted a defendant charged with bringing foreign workers into the country without an actual need for their services, ruling that the legal elements required to establish the alleged offense were not satisfied and that the defendant's legal position is strong, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Attorney Ali Al-Hussainan, lawyer of the defendant, presented a comprehensive legal defense, supported by written submissions, challenging the facts of the case and the arguments put forward by the prosecution.



The Kuwait Fire Force successfully brings the blaze under control.

Fire guts electronics showroom

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Fire broke out at an electronics and electrical appliances showroom in the Al-Rai area on Friday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced in a post on its official X account that firefighting teams from the Shuwaikh Industrial and Ardiya fire stations responded to the incident and successfully brought the blaze under control.

KFF confirmed that no casualties were reported.

Woman accused of stealing cosmetics from shopping mall

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The manager of a well-known shopping mall has filed a police report accusing a woman of stealing cosmetics after surveillance footage captured her taking several products and leaving the premises, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the complaint, the video showed the woman standing near the cosmetics shelves before placing several items inside her handbag. She then left the shopping mall within two minutes.

The manager said the theft was discovered when a specialized team reviewed the mall's surveillance camera recordings.

According to security sources, the theft case was referred to detectives following the registration of the complaint to carry out the necessary investigations. Investigations into such cases include reviewing surveillance footage from outside the mall, examining vehicle license plates, and conducting additional inquiries to identify and apprehend the suspect.

The sources also highlighted the role of modern technologies, including biometric fingerprinting, in uncovering theft cases.

They stressed that the value of the stolen items does not affect the legal classification of the incident, as theft remains a criminal offense regardless of the value or type of property involved.

The sources added that the widespread installation of surveillance cameras in shopping malls has played a significant role in reducing such incidents.

Court upholds seven-year jail term in KD 1.1m bribery case

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Third Circuit of the Court of Cassation rejected the appeal filed by a department head in a ministry, upholding the Court of Appeals' ruling sentencing him to seven years imprisonment with hard labor, dismissal from his position, and a fine of KD 1,115,000, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The defendant was convicted of accepting bribes in exchange for awarding seven tenders to a company with a total value of KD 296,000.

The court also upheld the same sentence for the defendant's expatriate partner as well as deportation after serving the penalty.

The convicted head of department had been accused of exploiting his position to award seven tenders to a company in exchange for bribes equivalent to approximately half their value, in collusion with the second defendant.

Falling wooden panels leave Indian expatriate paralyzed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: An Indian expatriate sustained serious injuries, including complete paralysis of both lower limbs, after wooden panels fell on him from a house undergoing renovation in Ali Sabah Al-Salem, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received a report of the accident, prompting security personnel and relevant authorities to respond to the scene.

An initial inspection revealed that the injured man was an Indian house driver, born in 2003, who was passing the property when the panels fell on him.

He was rushed to Adan Hospital and admitted to the intensive care unit for treatment and medical observation According to the medical report, the victim suffered fractures to the fifth through tenth thoracic vertebrae, complete paralysis of both lower limbs, and a fracture of the left femur.

The homeowner, a Kuwaiti national born in 1974, told authorities that renovation work was underway at the property when the accident occurred. He said wooden panels fell as the driver was walking underneath them. The homeowner suggested that strong winds and the adverse weather conditions experienced in the country in recent days may have caused the panels to fall.





KUNA photo

Kuwait's Ambassador to Mexico and non-resident Ambassador to Honduras, Saleh Al-Haddad, with the President of Honduras, Nasri Asfoura.

Kuwait and Honduras discuss bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ambassador to Mexico and Non-Resident Ambassador to Honduras Salah Al-Haddad discussed with Honduran President Nasry Asfura ways to promote bilateral relations, and cooperation with Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

This took place during a meeting held at the Presidential Palace in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, on Wednesday in the presence of Honduran Foreign Minister Mireya Aguero, during Ambassador Al-Haddad's visit to Honduras, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Mexico said in a statement to KUNA.

During the meeting, the Kuwaiti Ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President Asfura, wishing him good health and continued progress and prosperity for the Republic of Honduras.

In return, the Honduran President asked the Kuwaiti Ambassador to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing His Highness the Amir continued health and well-being.

Al-Haddad expressed his country's pride in the strong historical relations between the two friendly countries, affirming Kuwait's willingness to promote them across various fields.

He praised the honorable stance of the Republic of Honduras in strongly rejecting and condemning the Iranian aggressions and attacks against the State of Kuwait from the very first day of those attacks, as well as its support for UN Security Council Resolution No. (2817) demanding an end to and condemning those attacks.

For his part, President Asfura underlined the strength of relations between the two countries and his country's keenness to bolster and develop them, reaffirming his condemnation of the Iranian attacks on the State of Kuwait.

The Honduran president pointed out his country's steadfast positions and firm principles in supporting peace and stability.

He also stressed his country's condemnation of all those attacks that threaten the lives of Kuwaiti citizens and residents, expressing his hopes for improved conditions in the region.

During the meeting, they reviewed ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations and discussed cooperation with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), in addition to issues of mutual interest.

Kuwait Ministry of Education opens applications for '26/'27 trainer pool

Al-Tabtabaei pushes for school-level improvements

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Ministry of Education has announced the opening of applications for individuals wishing to join its pool of trainers for the 2026/2027 training year.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that applications can be submitted electronically through the 'Taa' platform. It indicated that registration commenced Thursday and will continue until Nov 30, with nine training fields for applicants.

According to the ministry, its training program for the 2026/2027 year covers several areas like leadership, management and planning, digital transformation and technology, interpersonal skills and human behavior, safety, security and mental health, workplace culture and professional governance, quality and professional excellence, and professional development.

It also unveiled the conditions and eligibility requirements that applicants must satisfy to be considered for the program. The main requirements include possession of the 'Train the Trainer' (TOT) certificate, which must be obtained through face-to-face training at an accredited institution.

Applicants must also provide evidence of having previously delivered at least five in-person training courses for recognized entities.

At least one of these courses must be related to the training field for which the applicant is seeking accreditation, with each course comprising a minimum of six training hours.

Applicants must have at least 15 years of professional experience, achieved an 'excellent' rating in their performance evaluations in the previous two years, and have an unblemished disciplinary record -- no penalties imposed over the past three years.



KUNA photo

Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaie holds an extensive meeting with educational leaders to review the results of his official visit to Finland.

Meanwhile, Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei held an extensive meeting with senior educational officials to discuss developments in the academic sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Khaled Al-Rasheed, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad, Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Technical Affairs Eng. Mohammad Al-Khalidi, directors general and other ministry officials attended the meeting.

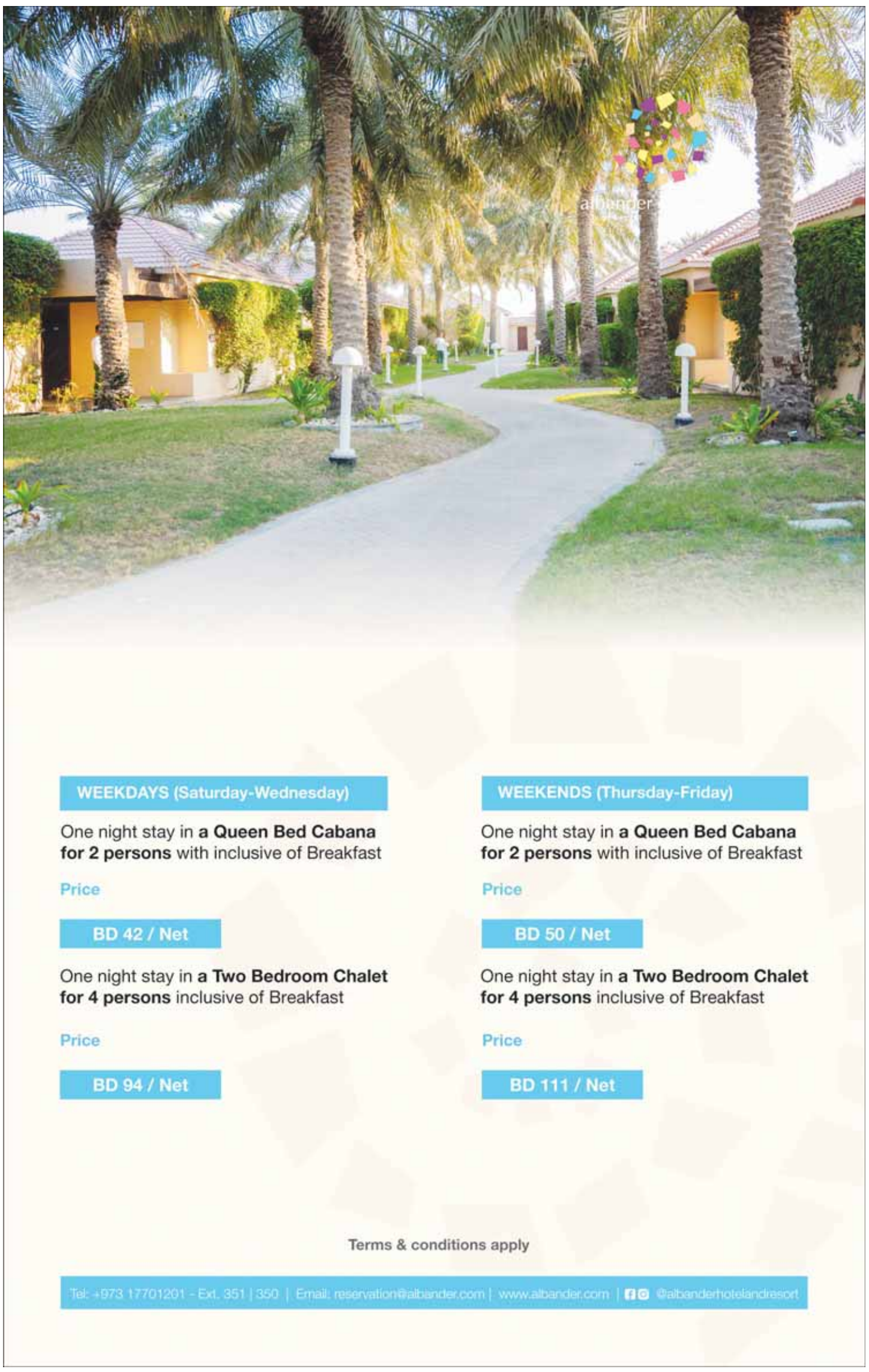
During the meeting, the minister presented the results of his recently concluded official visit to Helsinki, Finland.

The visit included a series of discussions and meetings aimed at exploring opportunities for cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Finland in the field of education.

Discussions centered on drawing upon Finnish expertise to improve educational policies and practices, in line with the objective of the ministry to modernize the academic system as per the international standards and best practices.

Al-Tabtabaei affirmed that the visit opened several avenues for cooperation, particularly in developing the professional licensing system for teachers and strengthening mechanisms for the continuous assessment of teacher competencies. He said these initiatives will improve professional performance, promote continuous development, and ascertain the quality of educational outcomes.

He added that the potential areas of cooperation included reviewing and developing the teacher-trainee program, and conducting an external evaluation of the newly introduced school curricula. He explained that the evaluation aims to measure the effectiveness of the curricula and their alignment with educational objectives, while identifying areas that require further improvement based on scientific and educational principles.



Continued from Page 1

Cameras roll

He disclosed that the concerned ministry personnel will wear the body cameras while performing their duties in the field, ensuring that interactions and operational activities are properly documented. He said the main purpose is to record field interactions, and safeguard the rights of the public and security personnel. He added that the cameras are connected to the 'Amn' platform, hence, enabling the use of live footage for digital analysis and support security procedures in accordance with the regulations. He indicated that the platform is one of the major technological projects presented at the exhibition, linking various systems in and outside the ministry like surveillance cameras, incident reporting systems and fire alarm systems. "It enables these systems to be interconnected, facilitating the direct exchange of information and strengthening coordination among the security units," he elaborated.

He also announced that the patrol vehicles of the ministry are now equipped with advanced dashboard cameras, which offer improved image quality and clarity compared with previous models. He revealed these cameras monitor the front and rear sides of a vehicle, as well as its interior, providing comprehensive documentation of events, traffic incidents and various field situations, and help protect the rights of all parties involved.

On the latest technological developments, he disclosed that the ministry is currently testing smart glasses that resemble conventional prescription eyewear. He stated that these glasses allow security personnel to carry out their duties normally while benefiting from facial recognition technology capable of identifying wanted individuals. He explained that the glasses generate an alert when a wanted person is detected and display the individual's information to the wearer. He added the security personnel can then notify the Operations Unit and take the necessary action. He reiterated that the technology is still in the testing and evaluation stage, affirming that the ministry assessing its efficiency in security environments before making a decision regarding its use in the field.

He went on to say that the ministry is developing a robot equipped with cameras and technology for identifying wanted individuals. He indicated that the robot will be used indoors, working with foot patrols to detect the presence of wanted persons, verify their identity and display relevant matching information. He added that the technology is still undergoing trials to evaluate its effectiveness and suitability for use in security operations.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the ministry to keep pace with rapid technological developments and adopt modern innovations to strengthen the capabilities of the security units. He stressed that these efforts are in line with the directives of the senior ministry officials, who are keen on improving security performance through advanced technical solutions that expedite response times and enhance the handling of reports and incidents.

He pointed out that the participation of the ministry in the exhibition is an opportunity to present its latest projects and technological developments, proving how modern solutions can contribute to advancing security operations and improving overall operational efficiency.

Meanwhile, Eng. Noura Al-Harbi, technical lead for the security system at the Security Systems General Department, described the 'Amn' platform as a significant step toward integrating security systems, surveillance technologies and intelligent analytical tools.

She revealed that the platform provides an integrated solution through multiple systems and cameras on a streamlined interface, ensuring the effectiveness of security operations, accelerating response times and supporting faster and more informed decision-making.

Al-Harbi said the platform incorporates surveillance camera systems from the wider security framework, as well as those operated by the General Traffic Department.

She added that the platform includes a range of advanced analytical technologies, such as facial recognition and vehicle license plate recognition, which help security investigations, monitoring and other operational requirements. She confirmed that the 112 Operations Unit and other relevant sectors in the ministry are using the platform, indicating it provides a unified interface through which personnel can access information from different systems, making it easier to monitor security operations and manage the available resources efficiently.

She emphasized that the value of these technologies extends beyond conventional surveillance, as they also play an important role in investigative and analytical works and contribute to resolving cases. "This is achieved through the use of artificial intelligence and intelligent analytical tools to process images and video footage and compare the resulting information with databases, helping investigators identify details and establish connections. The platform was developed entirely by Kuwaiti personnel from the Human Resources and Information Technology departments in the ministry.

The team's success in developing the platform and integrating multiple security systems into a single operational hub proves the capability of the national workforce in creating advanced technical solutions to support and enhance security operations. Many of the systems and technologies incorporated into the platform have been in operation for several years. The main objective of the platform is to bring the existing systems into a unified interface, thereby, strengthening integration and maximizing their effectiveness instead of requiring personnel to operate each system independently. The central concept behind the platform is reflected in its slogan, 'A single perspective, faster decision-making," she elaborated.

Major Eng. Mohammad Al-Siddiqi, acting Director of the Licensing Department, disclosed that the drone patrol unit showcased at the exhibition can transmit live video footage directly to the Operations Unit. He said this capability supports faster and more effective decision-making by giving security officials a comprehensive, real-time view of events and situations as they unfold. He indicated that the unit is used to monitor various events, celebrations and public occasions, in addition to supporting search and investigation operations and field reconnaissance missions. He affirmed that the technology provides security agencies with a distinctive aerial perspective, helping personnel carry out their responsibilities more effectively and maintain a clearer understanding of developments on the ground. He added that the unit includes a reconnaissance drone equipped with thermal imaging and daylight cameras, allowing it to operate round the clock and transmit live footage to the security command center.

He went on to say that the unit also features an integrated drone launch and landing platform installed within the vehicle, together with an internal display that presents footage from the vehicle's external cameras alongside the drone's live video feed. "This enables personnel to monitor and manage missions directly from the scene. The unit is equipped with specialized systems capable of detecting unauthorized drones and identifying the locations of their operators, further strengthening monitoring capabilities and supporting security measures," he explained.

Kuwait seals key telecom agreements at ITU

New resolutions seek safer, more resilient connectivity

DOHA, Nov 28, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to Qatar Ahmad Al-Shuraim signed the final documents of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference in Doha on Friday.

The conference adopted a set of decisions and resolutions aimed at promoting universal connectivity, sustainable digital transformation, developing telecommunications infrastructure and expanding access to modern technologies.

Al-Shuraim signed the documents in the presence of Vice Chairperson of Kuwait's Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Manal Al-Mazyad and Marketing Coordinator of CITRA's External Communications Department Ahmad Al-Nawmas.

The conference adopted the ITU Strategic Plan for 2028-2031 and the financial framework for the same period, aimed at enhancing resource-use efficiency, transparency and financial oversight, while linking expenditure to priorities and targeted outcomes.



ITU photos

Left: Kuwait Ambassador to Qatar Ahmad Al-Shuraim. Right: Ambassador Shuraim with CITRA Vice Chairperson Manal Al-Mazyad and Marketing Coordinator of CITRA's External Communications Department Ahmad Al-Nawmas.

The decisions also covered promoting the use of artificial intelligence in the telecommunications and information technology sector, supporting capacity-building, skills development and knowledge exchange, as well as advancing the Internet of Things (IoT), digital twins, and sustainable smart cities and communities.

The final documents underscored the importance of bridging the digital divide, supporting developing countries in upgrading their networks and services, expanding access to telecommunications, and enabling women, youth and persons with disabilities to benefit from digital transformation.

They also stressed the need to enhance online child protection and safeguard telecommunications consumers.

Regarding infrastructure, the documents called for strengthening the resilience of submarine cables, terrestrial networks and satellite systems, expanding international cooperation and exchanging best practices to ensure service continuity, as well as supporting the use of telecommunications in early warning systems and emergency and disaster response.

They also addressed the role of digital technologies in combating climate change and protecting the environment, improving the efficiency of satellite network filing procedures, and supporting issues related to radio frequency spectrum and orbital resources in lunar exploration activities.

ITU member states agreed that India would host the next Plenipotentiary Conference in 2030, while accepting Uzbekistan's offer to host the 2028 edition of the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly.

Kuwait won a seat on the ITU Council representing Region E on November 16 in elections held during the Plenipotentiary Conference, hosted by Doha from November 9 to 27.

Kuwait's delegation was headed by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference is the Union's supreme policy-making body, responsible for setting its strategic direction, adopting its plans and electing its leadership.

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Kuwait ponders

Kuwait has vast undeveloped areas and numerous long-term strategies for easing traffic congestion and pushing for national economic growth. These strategies are essential for supporting major developments that require strong infrastructure—projects that could be vital revenue sources for the state.

This situation makes us call to mind an adage that was once popular throughout the Gulf -- "Kuwait conceives the ideas, while the neighboring Gulf nations execute them." The proposed Kuwait metro system is an example of this pattern.

It was first presented in 1985 and supported by a comprehensive study in 1986, yet it was shelved and forgotten.

In contrast, Dubai launched its metro project in 2009. Despite early doubts in the region, Dubai's metro system turned out to be a resounding success—generating substantial revenue, saving valuable time and capital, and sparking a transformation in the transport network of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The traffic crisis we face is self-inflicted due to poorly conceived measures and the inability to execute solutions promptly. Although strategic blueprints exist, we consistently fall short in putting well-designed plans into practice. Relying on superficial 'painkillers' is just a temporary relief and will never deliver a permanent cure.

Let us take into consideration two examples of such mismanagement. Recent interruptions to school bus routes have worsened the rush-hour gridlock, and major road maintenance work is often scheduled right after the beginning of the academic year.

Missteps like these are frequently made under the banner of progress, only to be compounded by more errors when the initial attempts fail.

This flawed approach extends into the regulatory frameworks, including restrictive land zoning and rigid corporate laws. By creating unnecessary friction for commercial operations, the policies alienate domestic and international capital, choking off economic activity and worsening the overall contraction.

Under these circumstances, it is natural to ask why the valuable perspectives of our national experts remain overlooked, even if their concepts achieve significant success overseas.

Critical questions arise: Up to what extent have Kuwaiti enterprises succeeded on the international stage? How many citizens have distinguished themselves as trailblazers in the Gulf region and elsewhere, even if their capabilities are unrecognized in their own country?

How many

On March 11, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2817, condemning Iran's attacks against several countries in the region and demanding their immediate cessation. Yet months later, innocent lives continue to be lost. International condemnation alone is insufficient without meaningful action to ensure accountability.

Today, Kuwait mourns alongside Italy. I extend my deepest condolences to the families of Antonio Saccoccio and Emanuele Lo Russo, as well as to the government and people of Italy. I also wish our two injured brothers a full and speedy recovery.

No family should have to bury a loved one because of a war they had no part in starting.

Kuwait deserves to live in peace, and everyone who calls this country home deserves to live in safety. Neither is negotiable.

Trauma care

to accidents and improving the efficiency and preparedness of healthcare systems. He explained that developing an effective healthcare system requires an integrated and high quality framework for managing accidents and responding to emergencies.

He asserted that healthcare system development are based on these factors -- healthcare services, research, training and education, and innovation, stressing that integrating these elements can deliver a tangible and qualitative advancement in healthcare performance.

He added that exchanging expertise and transferring knowledge among specialists and participants at the event contribute to the development of professional capabilities and healthcare standards.

On the other hand, Surgery Department Director Dr. Mohammad Al-Jasmi underscored the importance of organizing the event in light of the current regional situation. He explained that the event contributes to improving healthcare system efficiency and the training of doctors, emphasizing that even a single minute can make a difference in saving a patient's life.

He asserted that the ministry remains committed to exchanging medical expertise with healthcare systems around the world to save as many lives as possible under different circumstances, including road accidents, construction injuries, conflicts and wars. He said the ministry is determined to ensure that the healthcare system stays at the forefront of efforts to protect lives and provide life-saving medical care to injured individuals.

In another development, last Thursday, the undersecretary visited one of the individuals injured in the Iranian attack on a vital facility in the country. He looked into the condition of the injured, was briefed on the treatment plan and assessed the requirements for continuous care, including the availability of essential medical supplies.

He stressed that the ministry is keen on maintaining close coordination with medical and technical teams to monitor the provision of healthcare to the injured in accordance with his medical condition and treatment needs.

Global outcry

He revealed that Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar had a telephone conversation with Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber immediately after the attack. He added that Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack in the strongest possible terms, reaffirming Pakistan's firm and unwavering support for the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

He praised the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and highlighted the continuous commitment of Kuwait to promote peace and stability throughout the Gulf region.

He stressed that Pakistan stands in full solidarity with Kuwait's leadership and people as they face challenges and developments that threaten regional security and stability. He said the Pakistanis living and working in Kuwait consider the country their home, standing beside their Kuwaiti brothers and sisters during difficult times and expressing their readiness to make any sacrifice for this blessed and humanitarian nation.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to maintain close cooperation with Kuwait and other partners, strengthen communication channels, promote dialogue and work together to prevent further escalation in the region.

On Saturday, the Catholic Church in Kuwait received an outpouring of condolences following the tragic drone attack that claimed the lives of two Italians -- Antonio Saccoccio and Emanuele Lo Russo -- who were employed by Rheinmetall Italia, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

After the heartbreaking incident, Father Suleiman Hifawi, official spokesperson of the Catholic Church, issued a statement expressing his deepest condolences and sincere sympathy to the Italian Republic and the State of Kuwait, their respective leaders, governments and peoples, as well as the families and friends of all those who lost their lives.

The statement was issued on behalf of the Catholic Church, His Excellency Bishop Aldo Berardi -- Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia, and all the clergy, deacons, religious men and women, and members of the faithful community.

Father Hifawi stated: "'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted' (Matthew 5:4). With profound sorrow and deep grief, and on behalf of the Catholic Church in Kuwait, Bishop Aldo Berardi -- Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia, myself, and all the clergy, deacons, religious men and women, and members of the faithful community, we extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the Italian Republic, its government and people, as well as to the Embassy of the Italian Republic in Kuwait, represented by Ambassador Lorenzo Morini, Deputy Head of Mission Consul Nicola Valle, and all members of the diplomatic mission.

"We also convey our sincere condolences to the management and employees of Rheinmetall Italia, together with the families of the late Antonio Saccoccio and Emanuele Lo Russo, both employees of the company who tragically lost their lives in this incident. We share in their immense grief and sorrow during this difficult time.

"Furthermore, we extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah, the government and the esteemed people of Kuwait, as well as to the families of all those who lost their lives in previous attacks.

"We stand in solidarity with everyone who was injured or affected by these tragic events, praying for their swift recovery.

"We ask Almighty God to grant eternal peace and rest to those who have departed, and to bestow patience, strength and comfort upon their families, loved ones and colleagues as they endure this painful loss.

"We also pray that God protects the beloved State of Kuwait, its wise leadership, its noble people and everyone residing on its blessed land, and continues to bless the country with security, safety, stability and lasting peace."

On Friday, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry summoned Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait, Mohammad Totonchi, to deliver a formal protest over Tehran's continued attacks against the country. Citing Thursday's drone strike on a vital site — which killed two Italians, injured a Kuwaiti citizen and a Pakistani national, and inflicted serious material damage — the ministry said Deputy Foreign Minister Hamad Al-Mashaan condemned the attacks in the strongest terms as a flagrant violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a grave breach of international law, the UN Charter, and Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), holding Iran fully responsible. He also stressed that Kuwait reserves its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter and will take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty and the safety of its citizens and residents.

Regional and international condemnation quickly followed. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry strongly denounced the Iranian strikes on the Kuwaiti site, warning that the ongoing attacks fuel tension and instability and undermine efforts to restore security in the region. The Kingdom held Iran responsible for the consequences of continuing the violations, urged an immediate halt, and renewed its full solidarity with Kuwait.

The United Arab Emirates likewise condemned "in the strongest terms" Iran's hostile drone attack, calling it a flagrant violation of Kuwaiti sovereignty and a threat to its security and stability. The UAE reiterated its solidarity with Kuwait, backed all measures to safeguard its security, and offered condolences to the victims' families and wishes of recovery for the injured.

Bahrain, for its part, strongly condemned continued attacks by Iran-backed Houthi militias on civilian and economic facilities in Saudi Arabia, including a strike on a Jazan oil refinery that killed a Nepalese worker, as well as attacks on Jazan Port and attempted strikes on Ras Tanura, Jeddah Islamic Port, Riyadh, and other areas — all intercepted by Saudi air defenses. Bahrain said the assaults violated Saudi sovereignty and international law, endangered civilians, and threatened global energy supplies and trade. It reaffirmed its solidarity with Riyadh, backed Saudi Arabia's right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, and renewed its call on the Security Council to take firm action under relevant resolutions, particularly 2216, 2817, and 2837.

In Europe, UK Minister of State for the Middle East Stephen Doughty condemned Thursday's "reckless" drone attacks, saying on X that they were "utterly unacceptable" and affirming that "the UK stands firmly with Kuwait, Italy and all those affected." European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged increased pressure on Iran to end its attacks against its Gulf neighbors and EU partners, writing that "security in the Gulf is a matter of security for us all." Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed profound sorrow over the deaths of the two Italian citizens, offering her government's heartfelt condolences to the victims' families.

France condemned in the strongest terms the Iranian attacks on both Bahrain and Kuwait, declaring that the "unacceptable and unjustifiable" strikes must stop immediately. Paris expressed full solidarity with Bahrain, Kuwait, and Italy, reaffirmed its commitment to its partners' sovereignty and the protection of civilians under international law, and called on all parties to exercise maximum restraint while supporting ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Guterres separately condemned the drone attack that killed two people and injured several others in Kuwait. In a Friday statement, he voiced deep concern over the region's escalating tensions, urged all parties to refrain from any actions that could further undermine peace or jeopardize diplomacy, and warned that renewed hostilities would have catastrophic consequences. Dialogue and diplomacy, he stressed, remain the only viable path to lasting regional peace.

Kuwait, France

Also on Saturday, Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lit. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraian discussed with visiting Chief of the Defense Staff of the French Armed Forces, Air Force Gen. Fabien Mandon existing military and defense cooperation between both countries.

Al-Shuraian welcomed General Mandon and his accompanying delegation at the General Staff headquarters where an official reception ceremony was held for them, the General Staff said in a press release.

The Kuwaiti army chief held a meeting with the French guest and his accompanying delegation on existing military and defense cooperation between the two friendly nations, along with ways to develop it across various fields.

They also tackled several topics and issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on regional and international developments, underlining both countries' commitment to joint coordination.



KUNA photo

Kuwait Ambassador to Poland Saad Al-Mehaini with Krakow Mayor Lukasz Gibaa.

Direct flights fuel tourism

Kuwait, Krakow eye wider ties as tourist numbers rise

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to Poland Saad Al-Mehaini discussed with Krakow Mayor Lukasz Gibaa ways to enhance cooperation between their two countries in tourism, academic, trade and investment fields during a meeting held on the sidelines of his official visit to the city.

Al-Mehaini highlighted Krakow's prominent tourism appeal among Kuwaiti tourists and its role in strengthening bilateral relations as an important tourist destination that helps build bridges of communication and rapprochement between peoples, Kuwait Embassy in Poland said in a statement on Friday.

He pointed to the growing number of Kuwaiti tourists visiting Poland, particularly Krakow, amid direct flights operated by Kuwait's Jazeera Airways for several years.

These flights were previously limited to the summer season, while the airline plans to operate flights during the winter season starting in mid-December, in light of the growing demand among Kuwaiti tourists to visit the city, according to the statement.

Al-Mehaini expressed his aspiration to strengthen cooperation with Krakow's universities, including Jagiellonian University and AGH University of Science and Technology, in scientific research and education, as well as expand cooperation prospects in trade and investment.

He conveyed Kuwait's condolences, on behalf of its leadership, government and people, to the victims of the tragic shooting incident that took place in the city on November 7, leaving several people dead and injured and terrorizing innocent civilians.

He expressed surprise that such an incident had occurred in Poland, known for its security and peaceful people.

He affirmed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of the incident and its solidarity with Poland during this painful ordeal.

For his part, Gibaa expressed pleasure at the meeting, which came shortly after he assumed office and in the aftermath of the tragic incident in the city.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
State of Kuwait | دولـــة الكويـــت

RECALL INFORMATION



Kia Telluride (ON)	October 2022 - September 2024

RECALL REASON
The door belt molding face plate may gradually separate from the molding base and become loose.

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

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

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

@MOCIKW

Tracking websites list vessel's destination as Singapore

US military disables another ship trying to breach blockade on Iranian ports

WASHINGTON, Nov 28, (AP): The US military has disabled a merchant ship in the Gulf of Oman that was trying to run its blockade of Iranian ports, US Central Command said Friday.

A military aircraft fired "precision munitions" at the stern of the Palau-flagged M/V Pacific Archer on Thursday, and the "ship's propulsion was ultimately disabled and the civilian crew was unharmed," it said in a statement.

According to US Central Command, the Pacific Archer left the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas before it attempted to run the blockade. Ship tracking websites list the vessel's destination as Singapore.

The strike comes as the Trump administration weighs its options in the long-simmering war with Iran, which began at the end of February and has settled into a quiet stalemate in the past several months.

Earlier in November, officials in the region told The Associated Press that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was pushing the US to restart the war or allow Israel to launch airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities and missile capabilities.

Meanwhile, government and security officials from the Persian Gulf countries, as well as Pakistan and Turkey, were engaged in a diplomatic campaign, which included phone calls with senior U.S. officials, to stave off a renewed war in the region.

President Donald Trump has oscillated between threatening additional large-scale strikes on Iran and insisting that the war "militarily is effectively over."

The US military has maintained a sizable naval force in the region, including a constant presence of two aircraft carriers and a host of other ships.

The US has been blockading Iranian ports since April, though the blockade was lifted in the summer during talks with Tehran and resumed in July. Since then, the U.S. military says it has redirected 158 merchant ships and disabling those that refuse to comply.



Container ships are seen through haze in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, Iran on Nov 14. (AP)

The Pacific Archer is at least the 15th disclosed vessel to be disabled by the US military since the blockade began in the spring and the sixth since it resumed this summer. The previous vessel was disabled on Nov. 7.

In June, the practice drew condemnation when a military strike on a Guinea-Bissau-flagged tanker attempting to evade the American blockade resulted in three deaths.

Three Indian sailors were killed when American forces struck the Palau-flagged M/T Settebello, officials in India said at the time. The leader of the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency, condemned the attack.

U.S. Central Command has consistently said that American forces issue multiple warnings before firing on the merchant ships.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard said on Friday that two tankers attempted to transit the Strait of Hormuz through an "unauthorized" route, claiming that one of them struck a naval mine while the other was forced to turn back.

The claims could not be independently verified.

In a statement carried by Iran's state broadcaster, the country's Revolutionary Guard also said the number of oil tankers attempting to transit through unauthorized routes in the critical waterway has sharply decreased in recent days.

Iran continues to warn ships not to pass through the strategic shipping lane without approval from Tehran.

Oil flows in the first two weeks of November fell by around 20% to around 13 million barrels per day compared with October, when exports roughly equaled the prewar amounts of 15-16 million barrels per day, according to Rystad Energy.

Reasons for the November decline include Iranian attacks that discourage tankers from attempting the strait crossing and reduced flows through a key Saudi pipeline to the Red Sea port of Yanbu, which has also been attacked several times.

A report by UN Trade and Development finds that disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea, the Black Sea and the Panama Canal are lengthening voyages, raising fuel costs, driving port congestion and adding to uncertainty. Alternative ports, inland transport and logistics arrangements have kept trade moving, but at a higher cost.

UN warns hunger will deepen in ME as war, fuel costs and aid cuts collide

CAIRO, Nov 28, (AP): Hunger is expected to worsen in 16 countries over the next six months, with war-torn Sudan and Yemen among five nations facing the gravest risk, the United Nations' food agencies warned Friday. The agencies pointed to conflict, soaring fuel costs linked to war in the Middle East and steep cuts in aid.

The Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Program's Hunger Hotspots report covers December through May 2026.

It places Sudan, Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northern Nigeria at the highest level of concern. All five have appeared on the list repeatedly since 2022. The Palestinian territories were moved down one level following the October 2025 ceasefire in Gaza, though 67% of Gaza's population still faces crisis-level hunger or worse, and the report warned that the gains were fragile.

In Sudan, a risk of famine is expected to persist through January in 13 areas of North Darfur and South Kordofan, the report said. Nearly 19.5 million people, or 41% of the population, faced crisis-level hunger or worse in the latest nationwide analysis. In two displacement camps in South Darfur's Eastern Jebel Marra, acute malnutrition rates exceeded the threshold for famine.



A man waits to drink Yemen's traditional tea at a coffee shop in Aden, Yemen, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2026. (AP)

Sorghum prices in Sudan more than doubled in a year, driven by the fighting and by higher fuel costs tied to the Middle East conflict. Diesel prices have also more than doubled from a year earlier because of the Middle East conflict, according to the report.

Drought linked to El Niño - a natural warming of Pacific Ocean water that disrupts weather worldwide - has added to the strain, affecting up to 55% of cropland in Sennar state and 70% in Gedaref, two of Sudan's main farming states.

FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol told The Associated Press that El Niño-linked drought poses a major threat to Sudan on top of the war, compounding the conflict's toll on food production.

In Yemen, the report said, hunger is likely to worsen as fighting that resumed in July spreads across multiple fronts.

The country has been at war since 2014, when the Iran-backed Houthi rebels seized the capital, Sanaa, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene the following year.

Houthi ballistic missile intercepted

Pakistan, Turkey vow to support Saudi

ISLAMABAD, Nov 28, (AP): Pakistan and Turkey vowed to support Saudi Arabia against ongoing attacks by Houthi rebels as the three nations held talks Friday under a trilateral defense pact that treats an attack on one member as an attack on all.

Defense and military officials held more than two hours of talks in Islamabad to discuss developments in the Middle East and pledged to back diplomatic efforts to ease regional tensions, Pakistani officials said.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in televised remarks said the meeting agreed to continue supporting efforts aimed at de-escalation of regional tensions, and encouraging the peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and diplomacy.

Dar said the three sides reiterated their condemnation of the attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen that have targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The three sides reaffirmed their support for the kingdom "in safeguarding its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity" under the defense pact, Dar said.

The Pakistani, Turkish and Saudi flags lined the route through Islamabad as vehicles carrying delegates traveled through Islamabad under tight security.

Friday's meeting of the Strategic, Political and Defense Committee falls under the Joint Mecca Defense Agreement, signed in August in the Saudi holy city by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



From left: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sign a trilateral defense agreement in Makkah, Saudi Arabia on Aug 7. (AP)

Turkish officials have said Ankara is considering sending military assistance to Saudi Arabia but insist the Mecca agreement is defensive and that no Turkish troops would be deployed to fight in Yemen or attack the Houthis.

Pakistan has also described the agreement as purely defensive, saying it is not directed against any country, including Iran, and reflects a shared desire to strengthen strategic security cooperation.

Also:

RIYADH: The Saudi-led Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen announced on Saturday that a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia was intercepted and destroyed over Saudi Arabia's southern region.

This came in a brief statement by the Coalition's Spokesperson Major General **Turki Al-Malki**, on his official (X) account, but he revealed no further details.



People are seen at the blast site of a secondary school in Asadabad city, Kunar province, Afghanistan on Nov 28. (Xinhua)

Explosion at school in Afghanistan kills 10 and wounds more than 110

KABUL, Nov 28, (Agencies): At least 10 people were killed and more than 110 others injured in an explosion near a school in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province on Saturday, the Ministry of Interior Affairs announced.

According to the ministry, preliminary findings showed the blast occurred at an explosives storage site belonging to mining companies near the school in the Andir Sir area of Asadabad, the provincial capital.

The ministry said the incident was apparently caused by negligence and insufficient precaution.

An investigation is underway to determine further details of the incident, it added.

Sami ul Haq Bayan said initial information indicated the blast at the school on the outskirts of the provincial capital, Asadabad, occurred due to negligence at the depot storing explosives belonging to mining companies. An investigation into the incident was underway, he said.

Up to 15 of the wounded remain in hospital, while the rest were discharged after treatment, he added.

Earlier, Kunar Provincial Police Headquarters spokesperson Farid Dehqan said the explosion occurred at 10 a.m. at a school in the Andar Ser area on the outskirts of Asadabad.

Footage posted on social media showed cars bringing wounded children to the emergency department of a hospital in Asadabad, as well as images of the school building, part of which appeared to have collapsed.

Mining is a major industry in Afghanistan, a country that is rich in raw materials, including iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, gold, coal and precious stones. But safety standards at the mining companies are often poor, leading to accidents.

Gemstone mining is on the rise in Kunar, with various companies extracting precious stones which are subsequently sold at auction.

In August, a hand grenade attack at a school complex in the Afghan capital, Kabul, wounded more than 40 children aged between 9 and 14.

Meanwhile, nine teenagers were injured when a hand grenade left over from past wars exploded in the northern Afghan province of Samangan on Thursday, provincial police spokesman Hashmatullah Rahmani said Friday.

The incident occurred in Hazrat Sultan district on Thursday afternoon after three boys found the device and began playing with it with their friends on a football field. The grenade exploded, injuring nine teenagers, the official added.

In another development, six armed robbers were killed in a gunfight with police in afghanistan's capital, Kabul, on Wednesday, Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said.

The incident took place in the 8th Police District at around 2:00 a.m. local time, the official Radio and Television of afghanistan (RTA) quoted Zadran as saying.

Lat/Am

Mexico slams DEA: The government in Mexico is railing against the US Drug Enforcement Agency's anonymous tip line for reports against criminals and corrupt officials in the Latin American nation, slamming it as foreign interference.

Others in Mexico are embracing it.

In the state of Sinaloa, journalist Juan Manuel Partida Valdez was among the first to write to the WhatsApp line on Thursday, just a day after DEA chief Terry Cole called for anonymous reports on his X account.

The announcement opened the latest chapter in an ongoing struggle between the U.S. and Mexican governments over who has the right to take action against cartels in Mexico. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Thousands rally in Puerto Rico: Thousands of people protested Friday in Puerto Rico 's capital as anger and frustration erupted over record high electric rates, the surging cost of living, deterioration in basic services and other issues.

Retirees, university students, bus drivers and others joined the protest organized by some 30 groups ranging from unions to religious organizations. The crowds gathered in front of the largest mall in the Caribbean on Black Friday for what organizers dubbed the "Day of National Outrage."

Hundreds of demonstrators arrived by bus in San Juan from dozens of cities and towns across the island. (AP)

Africa

13 soldiers killed in Niger: Armed men killed 13 members of Niger's National Guard and wounded 20 others in an attack on an outpost in western Niger, the defense ministry said.

The attack took place Thursday in Sanam, in the Tillaberi region, the ministry said in a statement read on state television the same day. Several attackers were also killed and their equipment was destroyed, the statement said.

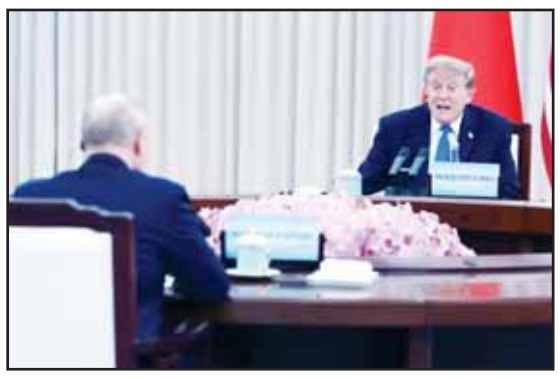
The ministry said a large group of heavily armed men carried out the assault and that troops were pursuing them. Several of the wounded were in serious condition, it said. (AP)

❑ ❑ ❑

Kenya cult leader found guilty: Kenyan cult leader Paul Mackenzie was on Friday found guilty of the manslaughter of 123 of his followers, the latest in a series of convictions against him for the deaths of hundreds of his followers.

The founder and pastor of the Good News International Church was found guilty of asking his followers to fast to death in order to meet Jesus. He was convicted together with 29 of his followers, including his wife Rhoda Mumbua, at a trial in the coastal city of Mombasa.

Authorities in 2023 uncovered more than 400 bodies in mass graves scattered across a vast ranch near Malindi town, where Mackenzie's followers had relocated to evade scrutiny. (AP)



US President Donald Trump meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Kylin Villa in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong Province on Nov 19. (AP)

Zelenskyy urges US to pressure Russia's Putin

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 28, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed frustration with the US stance toward Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in the latest sign of deepening tension between Kyiv and Washington, as new questions emerged about Europe's future financial commitments to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy said in an interview with the BBC broadcast Friday that he wants the US to apply more pressure on Putin to stop his invasion of Ukraine, which began almost five years ago and grinds on despite President Donald Trump's efforts to broker a peace deal.

The Ukrainian president described Trump calling Putin "my friend" at a recent summit in China as "strange" because the Russian leader is "an aggressor and a killer."

"He can't be a friend," Zelenskyy told the British broadcaster in Kyiv, likening the statement to someone calling Adolf Hitler a friend during World War II.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on Zelenskyy's remarks. But Trump on Thursday defended his reference to Putin. "We want to make a deal. We want to stop the killing," he said.

"I could walk in and say, 'I don't like you!' and then we have the same problem that we have with Zelenskyy and Putin," he said. Speaking to reporters at Mar-a-Lago, he added: "The biggest problem with that settlement is the fact that you have two leaders that really hate each other."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Zelenskyy was "insulting his counterpart," showing that the Ukrainian leader "is not willing to follow the path of (a) peace settlement."

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Putin for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine. The Trump administration has imposed sweeping sanctions on the court as part of its campaign to dismantle the tribunal over investigations into the U.S. and its allies, including Israel.

The Kremlin has said that Russia also does not recognize the ICC and considers its decisions "legally void." Peskov in 2023 called the court's move against Putin "outrageous and unacceptable."

Zelenskyy's comments were broadcast a day after Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and a U.S. envoy trying to mediate an end to the war, complimented Putin on being a "grandmaster" of politics and weeks after Kushner's partner in peace efforts, Steve Witkoff, described Putin as a "humanitarian."

Business

Kuwaiti oil price rises $1.27 to $82.11 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil rose by USD 1.27 to USD 82.11 per barrel on Friday, compared with USD 80.84 pb on Thursday, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Saturday.

Globally, Brent crude fell by USD 1.16 to USD 95.44 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate dropped 55 cents to USD 83.08 pb.

Strong participation reflects bank's solid financial foundation & proven track record

ABK successfully completes KD 150M capital increase with subscription exceeding 500%

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has announced the successful completion of the subscription to its KD 150 million capital increase, comprising KD 75 million in nominal share value and KD 75 million in share premium. The offering attracted exceptional demand, with subscriptions exceeding 500% of the shares offered and a total value of more than KD 750 million.

The capital increase further strengthens ABK's Tier 1 capital base and capital adequacy ratios in line with future growth requirements and international banking standards.

Commenting on the occasion, Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Chairman of ABK Group, said, "The success of the subscription and the strong demand for the offering reflect confidence in the Bank's financial performance and the success of our strategy to achieve sustainable growth and maximise shareholder value."



Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Chairman of ABK Group



Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group Chief Executive Officer of ABK



ABK headquarters

Behbehani said the high level of participation demonstrates the strength of ABK's financial foundation and its track record of performance. He noted that the capital increase will provide the financial flexibility needed to continue investing in digital infrastructure, develop innovative banking solutions for individual and corporate customers, and expand the Bank's capacity to finance major development projects in Kuwait. It will also enable ABK to continue creating value for all those it serves.

Behbehani expressed pride in the subscription's exceptional results, saying they reflect shareholders' commitment to continuing ABK's journey of success and their confidence in its ability to create sustainable long-term value.

He stressed that the move reaffirms ABK's commitment to meeting regulatory requirements and strengthening its capital adequacy ratios, providing greater flexibility and financial capacity to fund its expansion and deliver an advanced banking experience across all customer segments.

For his part, Giel-Jan M. Van Der Tol, Group Chief Executive Officer of ABK, said, "The exceptional level of demand for our capital increase is a strong endorsement of ABK's strategy, financial strength and growth ambitions. I would like to thank our shareholders and investors for the confidence they have placed in the Bank. With a stronger Tier 1 capital base, we are well positioned to pursue our strategic priorities and capture attractive growth opportunities while maintaining disciplined capital allocation and prudent risk management."

He continued, "The additional capital gives us greater capacity to accelerate disciplined growth across our franchise. We will continue investing in our digital capabilities and customer proposition, deepen our relationships across Retail, Corporate and Institutional Banking, and selectively deploy capital into opportunities that meet our risk adjusted return requirements. Our focus remains firmly on profitable growth and sustainable value creation."

Van Der Tol said the capital increase strengthens ABK's competitive position and gives it greater flexibility to manage resources and diversify revenue within a prudent risk management framework.

In closing, Behbehani and Van Der Tol thanked the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority, Boursa Kuwait, Kuwait Clearing Company, ABK Wealth Management as Lead Manager and Subscription Agent, and all shareholders who contributed to the successful completion of the subscription with the highest levels of efficiency and transparency.

Boursa Kuwait brings together asset managers to explore opportunities for ETF issuance and listing

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Boursa Kuwait hosted a specialized roundtable titled "Developing Kuwait's Index and ETF Ecosystem: Opportunities, Challenges and the Path Forward," organized in collaboration with CFA Society Kuwait and S&P Dow Jones Indices, one of the world's leading index providers. The session brought together representatives from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and several local investment firms interested in listing the first exchange-traded funds (ETFs) on Boursa Kuwait.

The roundtable builds on the significant developments witnessed in the Kuwaiti capital market throughout 2026, including the CMA's approval of the regulatory framework for ETFs and Boursa Kuwait's announcement of its full operational readiness to facilitate their listing and trading, including the establishment of a dedicated trading board. These developments pave the way for the market to progress from establishing the necessary frameworks to launching ETFs and diversifying the investment instruments available to market participants.

By bringing together regulators, the market operator, index providers and investment institutions, the roundtable provided a platform to explore opportunities from complementary perspectives and draw on international expertise in addressing the needs of the local market, reflecting Boursa Kuwait's role in facilitating dialogue among stakeholders and supporting the development of products that broaden investment choices and keep pace with the evolution of the Kuwaiti capital market.

Exploring opportunities and requirements for developing the ETF ecosystem

Discussions focused on the requirements for building an ETF ecosystem in Kuwait and the roles of financial institutions, asset managers and index providers in its development. Topics included index and fund design, liquidity provision and market making, the efficiency of trading mechanisms and drawing on regional and international experience to develop products suited to the characteristics of the Kuwaiti capital market and investors' needs.

The session also explored the relationship between active and index-based investing and their respective roles in portfolio construction and the diversification of asset management strategies. Participants discussed the importance of benchmark indices in measuring performance and developing investment products, as well as their role in providing institutional investors with tools to assess opportunities in the Kuwaiti market.

Investor awareness was also a key area of discussion, with an emphasis on understanding the characteristics of ETFs, how they operate and their associated risks. Investor education was highlighted as a complementary element to regulatory and operational readiness, supporting the informed adoption of these investment products.



Naser M. Al-Sanousi, Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication at Boursa Kuwait, alongside representatives from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and several local investment firms PHOTO: 1 interested in listing the first exchange-traded funds (ETFs) on Boursa Kuwait, during the roundtable titled 'Developing Kuwait's Index and ETF Ecosystem: Opportunities, Challenges and the Path Forward.'



Naser M. Al-Sanousi, Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication at Boursa Kuwait.



Abdulaziz Al-Wazzan, Board Member of CFA Society Kuwait.



Fahd Chaudhry, Director of Client Coverage for the Middle East and North Africa, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Turkey at S&P Dow Jones Indices (S&P DJI).

Al-Sanousi: Collaboration and knowledge exchange support product development

On this occasion, Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication at Boursa Kuwait, Mr. Naser M. Al-Sanousi, said, "Boursa Kuwait is committed to strengthening its partnerships with specialized local and international institutions and organizing forums that bring together capital market stakeholders, facilitating knowledge exchange and drawing on global experience in developing investment products and services."

"These efforts are particularly important as the Kuwaiti capital market moves towards the listing of ETFs, given their potential to diversify investment instruments and cater to the needs of different investor segments," he added.

Al-Sanousi said that diversifying investment instruments is a key component of capital market development and requires ongoing collaboration among regulators, capital market participants, asset managers and specialized institutions.

"Through these forums, we seek to leverage local and international expertise to support this objective, broaden investment choices and enhance the market's ability to cater to investors' diverse needs."

Al-Sanousi also emphasized that professional and knowledge-based partnerships play an important role in supporting these efforts, noting that Boursa Kuwait's collaboration with CFA Society Kuwait has facilitated a series of educational and awareness initiatives that combine the advancement of investment knowledge with discussions on practical issues related to market development.

Chaudhry: Kuwait's nascent ETF market offers opportunities for growth and expansion

Mr. Fahd Chaudhry, Director of Client Coverage for the Middle East and North Africa, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Turkey at S&P Dow Jones Indices (S&P DJI), highlighted the progress made across GCC markets in index-based investing and the growing interest in ETFs among financial institutions, supported by evolving regulatory frameworks and a broader range of available products.

"Kuwait's ETF platform remains in its formative stages, presenting significant opportunities for growth and the development of diverse investment products by drawing on regional and international experience. Markets across the region have made progress in this area, supported by evolving regulatory frameworks and growing interest in these instruments among financial institutions," he said.

"Benchmark indices play a fundamental role in supporting this development, enabling asset managers to design products aligned with their investment strategies and investors' needs across different asset classes, markets and sectors," he added.

"I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait and CFA Society Kuwait for hosting this productive roundtable and look forward to further collaboration in the future."

Mr. Chaudhry emphasized the importance of leveraging regional and international expertise to develop products suited to the characteristics of the Kuwaiti market and investors' needs, while considering the practical requirements of index design and fund development.

S&P Dow Jones Indices is one of the world's leading providers of financial indices and related data and research, with the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average among its best-known indices. Financial institutions and asset managers use its indices to measure market and portfolio performance and develop index-linked investment products, including ETFs.

Al-Wazzan: Knowledge exchange enhances understanding of market opportunities and growth requirements

Meanwhile, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Wazzan, Board Member of CFA Society Kuwait, highlighted the importance of ETFs as portfolio construction tools, given the trading flexibility and access they offer to a diverse range of markets, sectors and asset classes, depending on each fund's characteristics and investment strategy.

"This roundtable provides an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the future of ETFs in Kuwait and draw on global experience in developing these products. Through these discussions, we look forward to gaining a deeper understanding of the associated opportunities and challenges and identifying areas that require further attention to support the growth and wider adoption of these instruments in the Kuwaiti market," he said.

Al-Wazzan added that CFA Society Kuwait is committed to supporting professional development and enhancing knowledge of investment instruments by bringing together specialists and experts to exchange perspectives on capital market developments.

"Our collaboration with Boursa Kuwait enables us to align this knowledge with the needs of market participants and enrich professional dialogue on new products and services. We extend our sincere appreciation to Boursa Kuwait for its continued cooperation and support of the Society's initiatives over the years, which have contributed to the organization of numerous specialized programs and events and created greater opportunities for financial sector professionals to exchange knowledge and expertise. We look forward to continuing this productive partnership in the years ahead."

A knowledge-based partnership that keeps pace with capital market developments

The roundtable builds on a partnership between Boursa Kuwait and CFA Society Kuwait that dates to 2018, when the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide specialized educational content on investment fundamentals through the Boursa Academy online education platform and collaborate on training programs, workshops and awareness initiatives.

In 2026, Boursa Kuwait organized three initiatives addressing ETFs and index-based investing in collaboration with local and international financial and professional institutions. These included a webinar in collaboration with CFA Institute and CFA Society Kuwait in June, a seminar titled "Building the ETF Ecosystem: From Regulatory Framework to Market Growth" in August and the "MSCI Institutional Investor Forum" in September, which explored innovation in index design and the evolution of investment strategies.

The roundtable marks the fourth initiative in this series, focusing on opportunities for ETF market growth in Kuwait and building on regulatory and operational readiness to encourage the issuance and listing of these funds through greater engagement with asset managers and financial institutions and by drawing on regional and international experience.

Boursa Kuwait also continued its support for the CFA Institute Research Challenge, organized in collaboration with CFA Society Kuwait, which aims to develop university students' financial analysis and investment research skills and strengthen the link between academic knowledge and professional practice.

In collaboration with its partners in the capital market apparatus, led by the Capital Markets Authority, Boursa Kuwait continues to develop market infrastructure and services and expand the range of investment instruments available. These efforts form part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing the market's efficiency, competitiveness and ability to attract investors and issuers, supporting the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035 to establish Kuwait as a regional financial and commercial center.

Confab welcomes 516 delegates

Digital Transformation Kuwait '26 concludes successful fifth edition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The 5th Digital Transformation Kuwait Conference successfully concluded bringing together senior government officials, industry leaders, technology innovators and digital transformation experts for two days of high-level discussions, strategic insights and meaningful collaboration. Held under the theme "Beyond Transformation: Designing Kuwait's Intelligent Future," the conference reinforced its position as an important platform supporting Kuwait's digital transformation ambitions and the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

The highly successful fifth edition welcomed 516 high-profile delegates representing 288 organisations, with 43 distinguished speakers delivering insights through seven panel discussions, five keynote speeches and eight presentations. Reflecting the event's strategic importance, a significant number of attendees held leadership and management positions, demonstrating the strong engagement of decision-makers responsible for shaping digital transformation strategies across government institutions and the private sector.

The conference brought together prominent representatives from the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), the Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIoT), alongside senior executives from financial institutions, healthcare organisations, academic institutions and leading international technology companies.

Throughout the two-day programme, discussions explored the technologies, policies and strategies essential to building a more connected, secure and intelligent national digital ecosystem. Artificial intelligence emerged as a central theme, with particular emphasis on responsible AI adoption, national governance frameworks, data-driven decision-making and the integration of emerging technologies into government operations and public services.

A key outcome of the conference was the strong emphasis on translating technological innovation into practical, measurable benefits for businesses, government institutions and citizens. Discussions reinforced the importance of reliable digital infrastructure, secure data management, effective governance and collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders to support sustainable economic development and enhance the quality of digital services.

The event also provided an important platform for technology providers and industry partners to showcase innovative solutions and engage directly with decision-makers. Leading organisations, including Oracle, Huawei, AppLab, Nutanix, Redington, Deloitte, TrendAI, Backbase, Orion Health, Beyout by Elevatus and Network International, contributed to the conference through sponsorships, industry participation and technology-focused discussions, strengthening opportunities for future collaboration and digital innovation.

Beyond the conference sessions, the event achieved significant visibility across regional and international media platforms and was supported by 24 media partners. The success of the fifth edition further demonstrated the value of bringing together policymakers, technology leaders, industry specialists. media and innovators to exchange expertise, address emerging challenges and identify opportunities for collaboration and hence, strengthening the foundations of Kuwait's future digital economy.

Building on this momentum, Digital Transformation Kuwait will return for its sixth edition in November 2027, continuing its mission to connect influential decision-makers, showcase emerging technologies and support the partnerships and initiatives driving Kuwait towards a smarter, more innovative and digitally empowered future.





Top and above: Photos during the event.

Recognized by Global Trade Review for sixth consecutive year

NBK named Best Trade Finance Bank in Kuwait for 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Further reaffirming its sustained excellence and leading position in the trade finance sector, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been named Best Trade Finance Bank in Kuwait for 2026 for the sixth consecutive year in the annual awards conducted by Global Trade Review (GTR), a leading publication specializing in emerging global markets, trade and commodity finance, and banking.

This recognition reflects the pivotal role NBK plays in supporting trade activity and business financing by delivering advanced banking solutions tailored to the needs of corporates and institutions of all sizes, alongside its active contribution to stimulating economic activity and facilitating commercial transactions across various sectors.

The GTR+ MEA Leaders in Trade Awards are among the prominent recognitions in the trade finance sector across the Middle East and Africa, honoring financial institutions that have made a significant impact on shaping the region's trade finance landscape. The awards celebrate leading institutions demonstrating outstanding performance in trade, commodity, supply chain, and export finance through innovation, leadership, and the delivery of advanced financing solutions that support economic and commercial growth while enhancing the efficiency of financial and trade markets.

GTR selected NBK as Best Trade Finance Bank in Kuwait through an assessment process based on votes cast by readers and market participants. For the first time, the awards were determined through this voting approach, giving industry professionals a direct voice in recognizing the most influential and distinguished institutions. The assessment focused on institutions demonstrating strong leadership, innovation, and a positive impact on the trade finance sector, alongside their contributions to advancing financial services and solutions and improving the efficiency of trade operations across the region.



Pradeep Handa, Head of Foreign Corporate Banking, pictured with the Foreign Corporate Banking and Trade Finance team at the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK).

This recognition reflects NBK's strong presence in the trade finance market and the longstanding trust it enjoys among its customers and corporate and institutional partners. It also underscores the success of the Bank's strategy in delivering integrated trade finance solutions that support supply chains and cross-border trade while meeting the evolving requirements of local, regional, and international markets. These capabilities are underpinned by NBK's extensive regional and international network, exceptional customer service, and a highly skilled team of specialized professionals.

The award adds to NBK's extensive track record of regional and international recognitions, reflecting its excellence in delivering comprehensive banking services and its leadership in corporate banking, digital innovation, wealth management, and sustainability. The Bank continues to strengthen its presence in Kuwait's banking sector, drawing on its longstanding banking expertise and an integrated range of advanced banking products and services.

As part of its sustainable growth strategy, NBK continues to capitalize on opportunities in local and regional markets, leveraging its extensive experience in leading financing syndications for major transactions and strategic projects across various vital sectors. This further strengthens its position as a preferred banking partner for leading local, regional and international corporates and institutions in pursuing their expansion plans and financing future projects.

Global Trade Review (GTR) is a leading international publication specializing in trade finance, providing in-depth coverage and analysis of trade, export and commodity finance, supply chains, trade credit insurance, treasury, and financial technology. Its awards are widely recognized across the international banking and financial community.

For more information about the award, please visit the following website:

GTR+ MEA Leaders in Trade Awards 2026: Winners announced | Global Trade Review (GTR)

KD 50,000 in cash prizes awarded

KIB announces five winners of Al Dirwaza Account Bonus Draw

KUWAITY CITY, Nov 28: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it has conducted the 2026 Al Dirwaza Account Bonus Draw, which saw five of its customers win cash prizes of KD 10,000 each, totaling KD 50,000. The draw, held at the Bank's headquarters, follows KIB's launch of the revamped 2026 Al Dirwaza Account prize campaign, featuring a diverse range of cash prizes and opportunities to win throughout the year.

Commenting on this occasion, Laila Naserallah, Senior Manager - Product Development at KIB, said: "We congratulate the five winners of the Bonus Draw and wish all our customers the best of luck in the upcoming draws. Through the revamped Al Dirwaza Account prize campaign, we aim to make saving more rewarding by offering a wider range of prizes and more opportunities to win, while encouraging customers to build consistent savings habits and benefit from the account's investment features. At KIB, we remain committed to enhancing our products to meet our customers' evolving needs and aspirations. This reflects our commitment to providing a comprehensive banking experience in line with our main slogan, 'Bank for Life.'"

The 2026 Al Dirwaza Account prize campaign features monthly draws with 15 winners, including one prize of KD 10,000, two prizes of KD 5,000 each, and 12 prizes of KD 1,000 each. The campaign also includes a semi-annual draw offering two prizes of KD 20,000 and KD 50,000, a Bonus Draw awarding KD 10,000 each to five winners and an annual grand prize of KD 250,000, bringing the total number of winners throughout the year to more than 120.



KIB Al Dirwaza Bonus Draw flyer

It is worth noting that Al Dirwaza is a Sharia-compliant investment savings account based on the Wakala investment principle. It offers expected annual profits of up to 2%, distributed monthly, along with up to four chances to win for every KD maintained in the account, subject to the applicable terms and conditions.

Customers can open an Al Dirwaza Account through KIB's digital platforms without the need to visit the branch, with the option to obtain a free, instantly issued ATM card. In addition, the Bank does not require customers to transfer their salaries to open the account, benefit from its features, or participate in the draws, enabling them to combine savings, investment, and chances to win through a seamless and flexible banking experience.

Egypt: Growth resilience tested by regional pressures as monetary easing approaches

By National Bank of Kuwait

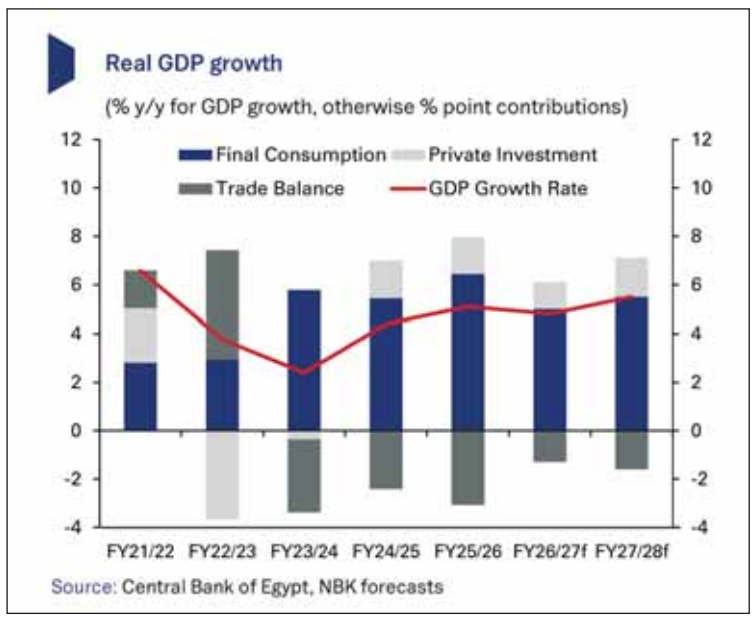
Economic growth to remain resilient, but recovery hinges on regional normalization: Egypt's GDP growth has held up relatively well this year even edging up to 4.9% y/y in Q3 26 despite regional disruption weighing on investment and foreign-currency earners. We forecast growth of 4.8% in FY26/27 (to June 2027) – only slightly below last year – accelerating to 5.5% in FY27/28. Higher borrowing costs following the central bank's October interest rate hike will weigh on private investment and consumption, although the drag should be limited if the tightening cycle proves short-lived. Our baseline forecast for 2027 assumes that the US-Iran conflict winds down, bringing with it lower oil prices and shipping costs and improved confidence. Lower energy prices would ease pressure on production costs, the public finances and the external account, while improved security conditions should support tourism and Suez Canal receipts. A more competitive pound (the EGP is -14% YTD in late November vs the US dollar) could boost exports and import substitution. Also, monetary policy easing and a recovery in global growth should support domestic demand. Conversely, conflict escalation could raise energy and freight costs, disrupt trade and deter tourists and investors. The recovery will also depend on whether lower rates revive private investment amid structural constraints including the state's large economic footprint and burdensome regulatory regime.

Monetary policy easing to resume in 2027 as inflation gradually moderates: After the CBE raised rates in October by 100 bps, it is expected to keep its overnight deposit and lending rates unchanged at 20% and 21%, respectively, at the next MPC meeting in December.

Key economic indicators

		24/25	25/26	26/27f	27/28f
Nominal GDP	$ billion	359.9	436.5	455.8	506.4
Real GDP	% y/y	4.4	5.1	4.8	5.5
Private Consumption	% y/y	6.2	6.3	5.3	7.8
Private Investment	% y/y	12.7	11.6	7.5	15.5
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	-7.1	-6.6	-6.7	-6.6
Primary fiscal bal.	% of GDP	3.6	3.9	5.1	6.1
Public debt	% of GDP	85.6	90.0	88.0	82.0
Current acc. balance	% of GDP	-4.2	-5.1	-5.3	-3.9
Inflation (avg.)	% y/y	20.9	13.2	13	9.0
FX rate (eop)	EGP/$1	49.6	49.2	-	-

Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts



Source: Central Bank of Egypt, NBK forecasts

Pound weakness, geopolitical uncertainty and the possibility of further US monetary tightening argue for caution. The hike should anchor expectations but will add to debt-servicing costs and weigh on investment. Assuming regional conditions improve and inflation resumes a sustained downward path, we expect the CBE to begin easing in 2027, with 100 bps of cuts in H1 and a further 300 bps in H2, bringing cumulative reductions to 400 bps for the year. The pace will depend on inflation, the exchange rate and portfolio flows. Inflation is forecast to average 13% in FY26/27, slightly below 13.2% in FY25/26, before declining to 9% in FY27/28, which is at the upper edge of the CBE's 7% (±2 p.p.) target range.

Fiscal and external pressures remain significant, but financing buffers provide support: The fiscal deficit is expected to remain around 6.6% of GDP in FY26/27 and FY27/28. Interest payments absorb roughly half of government expenditures and around 80% of tax revenues. Treasury yields remain above the FY26/27 budget assumption of 18% and are expected to average 24% by June 2027. Elevated oil prices in H2 26 and pound weakness will add to subsidy and foreign-currency spending costs. Public debt is forecast to edge down from 90% of GDP at end-FY25/26 to 88% by end-FY26/27, supported by nominal GDP growth. The current account deficit is expected to widen to 5.3% of GDP in FY26/27, from 5.1% in FY25/26, reflecting higher energy costs, pound weakness, softer travel receipts and Suez Canal revenues that remain below half their 2023 peak. Despite external financing needs of around $30 billion in FY26/27, reserves, positive bank net foreign assets, IMF and EU financing, debt issuance, portfolio inflows and FDI should keep funding manageable.

Other Voices

Is Europe facing a potential fuel shortage?

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

WILL Europe face a shortage of fuel supplies? And who will provide the heating oil it needs?

With Russian oil refineries shut down or operating below capacity because of repeated Ukrainian attacks, the situation is becoming increasingly challenging. So far, at least 15 refineries have been knocked out of operation or forced to halt production.



Kamel Al-Harami

EU oil imports from Russia have fallen from 115 million tons in 2020 to approximately 10 million tons in 2025. Meanwhile, Russia's share of EU gas imports has dropped to around 12 percent, compared with 40 percent in 2021.

The question that remains is how Europe will manage its fuel needs and which countries will supply the required volumes.

Another question is which countries can provide the quantities Europe needs. The United States simply cannot supply such large volumes. It also imports crude oil from Venezuela, which it needs for refining into finished products. Another question is whether the US has sufficient refining capacity to meet Europe's demand.

Meanwhile, refining capacity in the Arabian Gulf is limited, with most production already committed to Asian markets, including Pakistan, India, and Japan. These markets have secured long-term supply agreements. In Kuwait's case, our national refinery, built in 1960, was primarily intended to serve Asian markets, as was the Shuaiba refinery.

We have also had a bitter experience in Europe following the closure of the Suez Canal, when KNPC was forced to supply finished petroleum products to a German customer who insisted that we honor our commitments. KNPC fulfilled its contractual obligations through product exchanges, although the arrangement was costly and expensive.

Russia is also facing refining challenges. Its refining capacity has fallen from 5 million to 2.7 million barrels per day. At least 24 of Russia's 34 largest refineries have been hit over the past 120 days, resulting in a significant reduction in refining capacity.

This has contributed to rising gasoline prices. Russia has also banned jet fuel exports until 2027, adding further pressure to finished-product prices. It remains unclear how long these disruptions will continue.

However, the situation is good news for some refineries around the world, which stand to benefit from stronger refining margins and higher profits at a time when the global refining industry needs them.

Returning to our main concern, will Europe face an actual fuel shortage, higher fuel prices, or both?

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

LuLu Kuwait Super Friday offers up to 70% discounts across all categories





LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait's Super Friday promotion was inaugurated in the presence of popular tech and lifestyle vloggers Noura Belalif, Sarah Faisal and Mohammed Almeer, LuLu Kuwait Director Sreejith, Regional Director Sakeer Hussain, senior management representatives and brand partners.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait has launched its much-awaited Super Friday promotion, powered by Huawei, offering customers a week of exciting shopping opportunities with discounts of up to 70% on selected products across a wide range of categories. Running from 25 November to 1 December, the campaign features attractive deals on electronics, fashion, lifestyle products, home appliances, groceries and everyday essentials across all LuLu Hypermarkets in Kuwait.

The promotion was officially inaugurated on 26 November by popular Tech and lifestyle vloggers Ms. Noura Belalif, Ms. Sarah Faisal and Mr. Mohammed Almeer, alongside Mr. Sreejith, Director of LuLu Kuwait, and Mr. Sakeer Hussain, Regional Director, in the presence of senior management representatives, participating brand partners and invited guests.

Tech enthusiasts can enjoy significant savings across the electronics, IT, gaming and mobile sections, with discounts of up to 70% on selected home appliances, electrical products, toys, personal care products and IT accessories. Special offers on selected television models, audio devices, wearables, gaming accessories and mobile phones provide customers with an excellent opportunity to upgrade their gadgets and home entertainment systems at attractive prices.

Fashion enthusiasts can take advantage of a flat 50% discount on selected garments, along with the Big Brand Sale featuring popular international brands such as Reebok, Puma, Skechers, Woodland, U.S. Polo Assn. and GAP, with savings of up to 70% on selected styles. Additional attractive offers on ladies' bags, luggage and travel accessories further enhance the fashion shopping experience.

Customers can also enjoy discounts of up to 60% on selected spectacles and sunglasses from leading international brands. The LuLu Exclusive Styles campaign further offers discounts of up to 50% on selected Police products.

As the winter season approaches, LuLu has introduced special prices on seasonal essentials, including winter protectors, blankets and other winter products, helping customers prepare the cooler months while enjoying great value.

The Super Friday promotion also brings attractive offers, with discounts of up to 50% on selected products from LuLu's grocery range. Special deals on fresh fruits and vegetables, food products, pantry essentials and everyday household necessities ensure savings on products that customers need every day.

Through the Super Friday campaign, LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait continues to reinforce its commitment to providing quality products, a wide range of choices and exceptional value. With exciting deals across multiple categories, the promotion offers customers an opportunity to enjoy a rewarding shopping experience throughout the week.

Exclusive interview with 'Layali Al-Kuwait'

KFH showcases future vision to strengthen retail banking leadership



Meshal Alobaid, KFH Deputy General Manager Digital and Alternative Channels and Talal AlArbeed, KFH Deputy General Manager Cards in the studio.



The Kuwait Finance House team alongside the host of 'Layali Al-Kuwait.



Nehal Al-Musallam, KFH Deputy General Manager of Products.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: In an exclusive interview with the "Layali Al-Kuwait" program on Kuwait TV, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) showcased its ambitious vision for the future of the banking industry. The Bank highlighted its latest digital innovations and advanced solutions, which are reshaping customer experience and reinforcing its standing as a leading Islamic financial institution both locally and globally.

KFH also showcased a range of pioneering digital transformation, AI, and smart banking initiatives. These efforts reflect a proactive approach to adopting emerging technologies and developing innovative solutions that define the next generation of banking services and provide customers with a seamless, secure, efficient, and flexible experience aligned with the highest global standards.

During the interview, KFH Deputy General Manager Digital and Alternative Channels, Meshal Alobaid said that KFH continues to establish its leadership in digital innovation by adopting the latest AI solutions, led by "Fahad" and "Reem." These smart assistants mark a major leap in the Bank's digital transformation and reflect its vision of delivering a smarter, faster, more efficient, and more engaging banking experience.

Alobaid added that "Fahad" provides customers with immediate access to banking information and services along with more efficient support, while "Reem" represents an advanced application of generative AI designed to enhance the customer experience through smoother interactions and more personalized digital services.

AI Voice Analytics

Alobaid highlighted "AI Voice Analytics", which uses AI to analyze contact center calls and extract insights that help understand customer needs, while improving service quality and customer experience.

WhatsApp Banking

Alobaid said that WhatsApp Banking, which KFH launched for the first time in Kuwait, provides customers with continuous access to a wide range of financial and general banking services via WhatsApp 24/7, easily and securely.

Online Finance

Meanwhile, KFH Deputy General Manager of Products, Nehal Al-Musallam showcased the new "Online Financing" service, which consolidates the digital customer experience. Customers can now complete financing transactions seamlessly 24/7 via the KFHonline app or website without visiting a branch. As a flagship KFH offering, this simple, innovative solution meets evolving customer needs.



Kuwait Television hosts Nehal Al-Musallam, Talal AlArbeed, and Meshal Alobaid.

Al-Musallam also highlighted the Group's services, which leverage its regional and international capabilities to provide a more interconnected banking experience across its various markets.

Furthermore, she noted that customers can apply to open new accounts with the Group's banks in Egypt and Turkey via KFH Group Service Centers in Kuwait or open an account in Germany through the Kuveyt Turk Germany app, making cross-border banking services more accessible.

Baiti Challenges

Al-Musallam pointed out that KFH launched Baiti Challenges to foster financial literacy among children and establish positive financial habits by linking daily achievements to financial rewards in an innovative and interactive manner.

KFH Home Platform

Al-Musallam also highlighted the KFH Home digital platform, which offers a seamless end-to-end experience for home builders, spanning planning and budgeting to selecting construction materials, contractors, and related services. The platform supports informed decision-making and side-by-side comparisons, strengthening planning quality and customer readiness ahead of construction.

- **Alobaid:** "Fahad" and "Reem" reflect our commitment to innovation and digital transformation
- **Al-Musallam:** From "Baiti Challenges" to "KFH Home".. tailored solutions for all customer segments
  KFH connects customers with a network spanning across 3 continents
- **AlArbeed:** Strategic partnerships accelerate digital transformation and support business growth

KFH Rewards

KFH Deputy General Manager Cards, Talal AlArbeed, said that KFH continues to expand its KFH Rewards Program, offering customers broader benefits and options through a growing partner network while enhancing overall value and customer experience.

Zaheb Payment Links

AlArbeed added that KFH continues launching innovative digital solutions to support corporates. Among these initiatives is the Zaheb Payment Links service, which allows business owners to create electronic payment links and share them with customers to collect payments with ease and flexibility. This further speeds up the collection process and delivers a more flexible, efficient payment experience.

AlArbeed added that the strategic partnership with Ordable/ reflects KFH's commitment to accelerating digital transformation for SMEs by delivering advanced solutions that boost business efficiency and expand electronic channels.

He explained that the collaboration builds on ongoing enhancements to the Zaheb platform and offers merchants exclusive benefits, including first-year subscription discounts on Ordable/, alongside end-to-end tools for managing online stores, orders, and payments, ultimately driving operational efficiency and business growth.

Program uniting students to explore banking's future

Warba Bank empowers young talent through 'Rowad 7.0' banking program

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Warba Bank continued to implement its innovation program, "Rowad 7.0," as part of its ongoing efforts to invest in young talent and equip them to keep pace with rapid developments across the banking sector. The specialized training initiative combines applied knowledge, innovative thinking, and forward-looking exploration of technologies set to shape the future of banking services in the coming years.

Held under the theme "Future of Banking: Robotics on the Frontline," the seventh edition takes participants on a six-week educational and practical journey featuring weekly workshops and specialized sessions led by experts from Warba Bank and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), alongside leading technology organizations including Analog, Microsoft, and NVIDIA. This framework enables participants to explore the latest advancements in robotics and technology and their potential applications within the banking environment.

"Rowad 7.0": An Experience Beyond Traditional Training

Launching the seventh edition reflects Warba Bank's commitment to evolving its youth-focused initiatives by providing an interactive learning environment that engages participants directly with the future of the financial and banking industry, allowing them to explore how modern technologies can improve workflows and elevate service delivery.

The current edition focuses on examining the capabilities of robotics in banking operations—particularly in frontline functions involving direct customer interaction—while assessing the role of these technologies in improving procedural efficiency, advancing service delivery mechanisms, and offering more sophisticated, flexible banking experiences.

Through the workshop series, participants study practical applications of robotics, analyze opportunities within the banking sector, and explore challenges associated with adopting such solutions, strengthening their ability to connect technical knowledge with the real-world needs of financial institutions.

Al-Ghaith: Knowledge Partnerships and Global Tech Expertise

Commenting on the program, Anwar Bader Al-Ghaith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer – Digital Transformation & Operations at Warba Bank, stated:

"The program is anchored in a collaboration between Warba Bank and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), reflecting our direction to enrich participants' experience by drawing on specialized expertise and knowledge resources from leading institutions in innovation and technology."

Al-Ghaith added: "Participants also receive training content and workshops delivered by specialists from prominent technology companies and



Anwar Bader Al-Ghaith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer – Digital Transformation & Operations at Warba Bank.

institutions, including Analog, Microsoft, and NVIDIA, alongside other industry experts. This exposes them to diverse perspectives on the future of technology, advanced applications of artificial intelligence and robotics, and their implications for operating models within financial institutions."

Al-Ghaith noted: "This diversity of participating entities adds significant value to the program, as the experience extends beyond theoretical learning to discussing practical uses of emerging technologies and analyzing how they can be leveraged to advance banking services and enhance operational efficiency."

From Knowledge to Solutions: Preparing for Demo Day in London

As the program progresses, participants are intensifying their research and applied work in preparation for the concluding phase, where they will present the ideas and projects developed over the training weeks during Demo Day, scheduled to take place in London on December 6, 2026.

This event marks the defining milestone of the "Rowad 7.0" journey, offering participants the opportunity to showcase their research findings and concepts on the future of robotics in banking, highlighting ideas that can enhance operations and elevate customer experience.

This stage holds particular significance as it bridges learning and technology exploration with the delivery of practical concepts grounded in research, analysis, and an understanding of sector needs, reflecting the knowledge and experience gained throughout the program.

Innovation as a Core Pillar of Warba Bank's Strategy

The "Rowad 7.0" program forms an extension of Warba Bank's approach to supporting innovation and adopting initiatives that prepare a generation equipped with the skills and knowledge required for the future, particularly amid ongoing digital and technological shifts across regional and global banking sectors.

The bank believes that investing in young minds is a vital pathway to fostering a culture of innovation and preparing talent capable of absorbing technological changes and turning them into opportunities for growth and development. Accordingly, the program provides a space for interaction between participants and experts to exchange ideas, share experiences, and address topics tied to future banking trends.

The program also embodies Warba Bank's commitment to supporting human and knowledge development through initiatives that move beyond traditional training, giving youth a genuine opportunity to understand future challenges and contribute to crafting innovative solutions.

"Let's Own Tomorrow,": Turning Vision into Practical Initiatives

The "Rowad" program translates Warba Bank's vision and brand promise, "Let's Own Tomorrow," into an initiative that invests in youth potential and supports their aspirations to gain specialized expertise in promising fields—foremost among them financial technology, innovation, and digital transformation.

Through its seventh edition, the bank reaffirms its commitment to building bridges between young talent, institutions, and specialized expertise, opening new horizons for participants to explore opportunities in the banking sector while strengthening innovation in the business environment and supporting the future evolution of financial services.

"Rowad 7.0" continues its journey as an initiative reflecting Warba Bank's dedication to empowering the next generation and preparing them to actively shape the future of banking at a time when smart technologies and robotics are emerging as key drivers of transformation in the financial industry.

Overview of Participating Talent in "Rowad 7.0":

- Total Participants: 25 students (15 male, 10 female)
- Nationalities: Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar
- Academic Levels: PhD (2), Master's (6), Bachelor's (17)
- Leading Universities: Durham University, University of Manchester, University of Westminster, University of Liverpool, University College London (UCL), University of Glasgow
- Key Majors: Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Financial Technology (FinTech), Engineering and Innovation Management, Business Administration, Law, Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Competing Teams: 5 teams

Al Mulla Automobiles-Mercedes-Benz Kuwait sponsors Oud Fashion Talks '26



A glimpse of the gala dinner held as part of Oud Fashion Talks 2026.



Nada Baeshen moderates a panel discussion featuring Indian couturier Gaurav Gupta and stylist Cedric Haddad during Oud Fashion Talks 2026 in Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Al Mulla Automobiles Co., a member of Al Mulla Group and the exclusive authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz in the State of Kuwait, concluded its sponsorship of Oud Fashion Talks 2026 as an official partner. The event was held on 20 and 21 November 2026 at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC), bringing together designers, founders and creative leaders from the regional and global fashion industries under a shared vision of creativity, innovation and cultural exchange.



Al Mulla Automobiles, a member of Al Mulla Group, presented the first look of the all-new Mercedes-Benz S-Class as part of its partnership with Oud Fashion Talks 2026. Al Mulla Automobiles presented the first look of the all-new Mercedes-Benz S-Class at the event, within a Mercedes-Benz lounge and a heritage display marking 140 years of Innovation by Mercedes-Benz (1886–2026)

Oud Fashion Talks aims to create a fashion hub and hybrid portal between the worlds of local and international fashion, connecting fashion enthusiasts with prominent industry figures and supporting local designers in advancing their role in the industry. This year's edition welcomed distinguished speakers and industry leaders including Gaurav Gupta, Cedric Haddad, Nada Baeshen, Safa Al Hashem, Nathalie Mroue, Dr. Mohammed AlJassar, and other notable figures from across the region and beyond.

The program featured an appearance by Indian couturier Gaurav Gupta, founder of the Gaurav Gupta label, known for sculptural, future-oriented designs that blend Indian construction and embellishment techniques. He took part in the opening panel, "The Power of Two: Designers, Stylists & The Red Car-pet," alongside stylist Cedric Haddad, moderated by Nada Baeshen.

Opening Gala Dinner, S-Class First Look & Panel Discussions

As part of the event experience, Oud Fashion Talks hosted an opening gala dinner for guest speakers, partners and participants on Thursday, 19 November, at the historic Aisha School in Kuwait City, a heritage venue that was home to the first girls' school in Kuwait.

As part of the partnership, Al Mulla Automobiles presented the first look of the all-new Mercedes-Benz S-Class at the event, within a Mercedes-Benz lounge and a heritage display marking 140 years of Innovation by Mercedes-Benz (1886–2026), giving attendees an opportunity to explore the vehicle's craftsmanship, luxury details and design identity up close. A gala dinner for guest speakers, partners and VIP guests formed part of the event experience.

The two-day program opened on Friday, 20 November with the panel "The Power of Two: Designers, Stylists & The Red Carpet," featuring Gaurav Gupta and Cedric Haddad in conversation with Nada Baeshen. The afternoon session, "Beyond Creativity and Design," moderated by former Member of Parliament Safa Al Hashem, brought together Shahd AlShehail, Founder and Creative Director of ABADIA, Nour Abdulhussain, Founder of Nour Abdul, and Nathalie Mroue, CEO and Co-Founder of Maison Pyramide Group. The day concluded with an Instagram workshop led by Joana Jamil, Global Partnerships Manager at Meta.

On Saturday, 21 November, the program continued with "Culture as an Economic Driver: The Role of National Institutes in Shaping Kuwait's Cultural Future," in which Safa Al Hashem moderated a discus-sion with Dr. Mohammed AlJassar, Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters (NCCAL), and Jaber AlQallaf, Head of the Creative Economy Program at NCCAL. Nada Baeshen then moderated "The Next Chapter: Growing Fashion Brands in the Middle East" with Dima Ayad, Founder and Creative Director, and Nafsika & Stephanie Skourti, Co-Founders of Nafsika Skourti, followed by "Perfume & Power: The Business of Scent," where Safa Al Hashem was joined by Khalid AlMannaa, CEO of Khaleet, Ziad Ibrahim, Vice President of Purchasing – Beauty at Boutiqaat Group, and Omar E. Beidoun, Vice President of Beidoun Trading Company. The program concluded with a workshop, "Behind the Scenes of Fashion: Professions, Paths, and Opportunities in the Fashion System," led by Anna Zinola, School and Education Director at Istituto Marangoni Riyadh.

Alongside the program, a designer exhibition hosted by Villa Uno gave local designers the opportunity to engage with industry experts and showcase their collections. The event was held in partnership with Boutiqaat, Khaleet, Beidoun, Villa Uno, Tamdeen Group and 3oud.com.

Supporting Leadership in Creativity and Innovation

Throughout the forum, Al Mulla Automobiles demonstrated its commitment to empowering cultural platforms that celebrate creativity, talent, and regional industry development. The partnership reinforces the company's ongoing support for luxury, artistic expression, and innovative initiatives that elevate Kuwait's position on the regional design and business landscape.

For more information on the all new Mercedes-Benz S Class, please visit the Mercedes-Benz Kuwait showroom in Al Rai, the Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues, or contact the Customer Service Center at 1887888. Follow @MercedesBenzKuwait on Instagram or visit: https://www.mercedes-benz-mena.com/kuwait/en

Books

'Family-oriented destination offering publications for all ages'

Gen Z, Alpha show strong interest in print books at Kuwait Book Fair

KUWAIT, Nov 28, (KUNA): Members of Generations Z and Alpha showed considerable interest in printed English-language books before exploring Arabic publications, at the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair.

The turnout highlights a notable contrast with their reputation as digitally oriented generations, raising questions about whether young readers are rediscovering traditional books.

KUNA spoke to publishing officials, educators, exhibitors and young visitors to examine this growing interest.

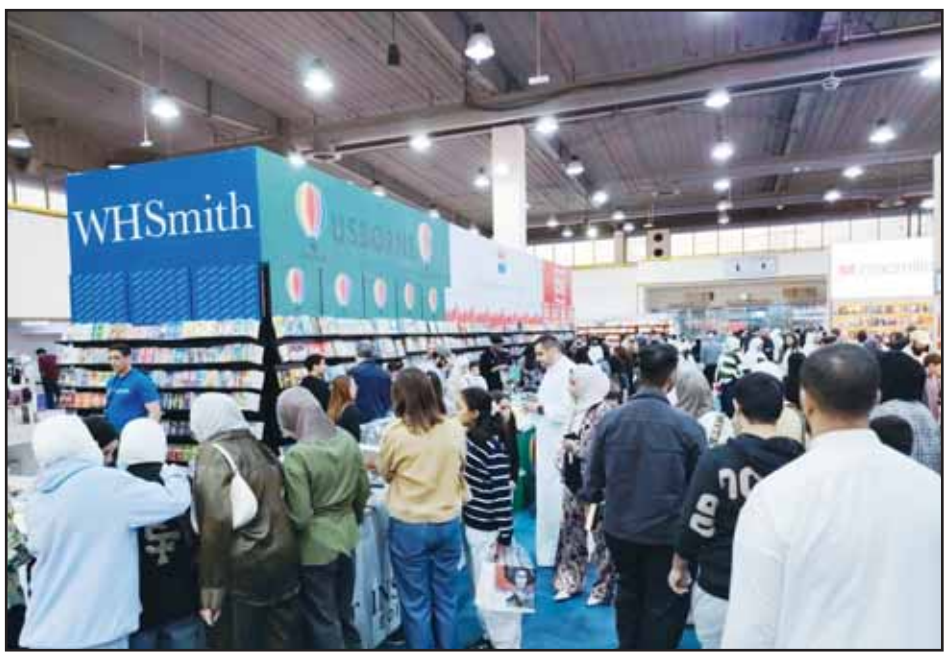
Book Fair Director Khalifa Al-Rabah described the event as a family-oriented destination offering publications for all ages. He said attendance figures reflected strong interest and would be announced after the fair concludes.

He noted that the number of Kuwaiti publishing houses increased by 14.3 percent this year, reaching 80 compared with around 70 last year.

The fair features 594 participants from 34 countries, including 380 private publishing houses, reflecting its regional and international appeal.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education is working to promote reading through digital resources and school initiatives.

Director of the Educational Libraries Department Ahmad Al-Majdi said the ministry had linked the Gulf Educational Digital Library to its website, providing students, teachers and researchers with easier access to information.





KUNA photos

Some photos from the event.

He added that 1,417 resources had been digitized and made available through official accounts, supporting research and independent learning.

The ministry also issued a circular in October activating free-reading sessions in schools and kindergartens and organized visits to the book fair.

Among young visitors, university student Yousef Mohammad said he was interested in books about Albert Einstein and classical literature, particularly works that broaden knowledge through reading and analysis.

He noted that many of his peers enjoyed English poetry and novels, prompting them to visit international publishing stands while also exploring Arabic publications.

University student Qassem Mousa said his interest in English books was partly related to academic assignments that develop debating skills. However, he noted that students' focus on grades sometimes comes at the expense of wider reading.

Yousef Al-Hassan, who enjoys the works of William Shakespeare and William Blake, described reading as a personal passion shaped by family, schools, education systems and individual motivation.

Mohammad Al-Sanea, a private-school graduate, also expressed appreciation for printed foreign publications, saying young people continued to value physical books despite the rapid expansion of digital technology.

From the publishers' perspective, Hamdan Al-Jubairi said his publishing house primarily targeted readers aged 15 to 29, stressing the importance of attractive design and presentation in influencing purchasing decisions.

He explained that larger print runs reduce production costs, allowing publishers to invest more in visual presentation. Arabic titles generally print between 1,000 and 3,000 copies, compared with up to 10,000 for foreign publications.

Ahmad Khaled, an official at a Saudi publishing house, agreed that higher investment in the production and design of foreign books gave them a competitive advantage.

He also suggested that the concentrated turnout at foreign publishing stands could partly reflect their smaller number compared with Arabic publishers.

As the fair concludes, the strong presence of younger readers highlights the continuing appeal of printed books alongside digital platforms, leaving open the question of how the two formats will shape future reading habits.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti artists with the Counselor at Kuwait Embassy in Beirut, Abdullah Al-Deyeen.

Kuwaiti artists showcase masterworks at Salam 2026 exhibition in Lebanon

ZOUK MOSBEH, Lebanon, Nov 28, (KUNA): A distinguished group of artists showcased the beauty of Kuwait's visual arts at the Second International Fine Art Festival (Salam 2026) in Zouk Mosbeh neighborhood, Keserwan-Jbeil Governorate, north Beirut, on Friday.

Representing Kuwait Embassy in Beirut at the opening ceremony, Counselor Abdullah Al-Deyeen said the embassy was keen to support Kuwaiti artists in joining their Arab peers at the exhibition, being organized by Artistidama Association.

Al-Deyeen praised, in statements to KUNA, the role of Kuwaiti artists in conveying Kuwait's civilizational image and its humanitarian and heritage message to the world.

Dr. Abeer Al-Kandari, a professor at Kuwait's College of Basic Education specializing in art education, told KUNA that she had chosen a painting depicting Lebanon's geographical landscape, through which she sought to express human emotions and their interaction with nature.

Meanwhile, artist Dr. Mona Qassem, a Kuwaiti visual artist and architectural designer, said she was keen to participate in the exhibition with a painting highlighting the beauty of Kuwaiti heritage, "from Sadu weaving to theater, traditional head ornaments, Al-Muzant, the golden palm motif, as well as incense and its significance in Kuwaiti gatherings, where it remains an essential tradition to this day."

Latifa Al-Mansour said she embarked on her artistic journey at the age of 15 before mastering color painting. She is participating with a realistic painting depicting the desert environment and highlighting its distinctive features and influence on Kuwaiti life.

On her part, Aseel Al-Failakawi said her painting highlights the traditional Kuwaiti craft of Sadu weaving, stressing the importance of interacting with artists from other countries, including painters and sculptors, through art exhibitions to "enrich artists' experiences and help them develop artistically."

Kuwaiti ceramic artist Nasser Al-Quraini said he is participating with a work entitled (The Swallow), which combines ceramic sculpture with pottery-making techniques to produce a piece that can also be used in homes.

Al-Quraini, who has participated in numerous exhibitions outside Kuwait, highlighted the importance of such events for artists, as they provide opportunities for cultural and artistic exchange and enable artists to connect with one another.

Dr. Agharid Al-Saad said her participation features a painting portraying Kuwait between the past and present, highlighting the country's history and subsequent development while showcasing its heritage, which remains preserved in elements ranging from currency to Sadu weaving.

Chief organizer of the event and chairperson of Artistidama Association Raja Nicolas said the exhibition, running from November 27 to 29, aimed to serve as "an artistic and cultural gathering that embodies the message of art in promoting communication, dialogue and peace among peoples."

Art is one of the noblest languages of communication among peoples and the exchange of knowledge, while reflecting their diversity and cultural richness and reinforcing human values, she added.

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Variety

LOS ANGELES: Former **US** president **Joe Biden**'s "Promise Me, America" sold around 21,000 copies during its first week on sale, according to Circana. It sold well enough to top The New York Times nonfiction bestseller list, but didn't approach the level of memoirs by such predecessors as **Barack Obama** and **Bill Clinton**.

Circana tracks around 85 percent of the physical books market. (AP)

Film

Princess Kate discusses cancer diagnosis and recovery in 'Heal'

LONDON, Nov 28, (AP): Fading in and out of consciousness during one phase of her cancer treatment, Britain's Princess Catherine struggled to make sense of her surroundings - a sterile hospital room with no fresh air, no greenery and nothing familiar to focus on.

But in that moment, as she recounts in a new documentary about her diagnosis and recovery, she became aware that someone was holding her hand.

"They weren't talking to me. They weren't trying to fix anything. They were just there,'' she recalls, without identifying her comforter. "And the presence of someone that stood by me in that time, I'll forever be grateful for. And it really made me realize the importance of simply being alongside somebody through their darkest times.''

That message of gratitude - for the medical treatment she received and the second chance she's been given - runs throughout the 30-minute film "Heal," in which the woman commonly known as Kate discusses her experiences since being diagnosed with cancer in early 2024. The vehicle for the film is her quest last June to complete the Three Peaks Challenge, a grueling effort to scale the tallest mountains in each of England, Scotland and Wales within 24 hours.

The cameras follow Kate, now 44 and in remission, as she challenges her own body to see what it can do after surgery, chemotherapy and recovery. But the pilgrimage is as much spiritual as physical.

As she traverses the mountains, at times wearing a T-shirt and ball cap under brilliant blue skies and at others donning a hooded parka to shield her from the chilling mist, Kate talks about the changes cancer has brought to her life, including the realization that our time on Earth is short.

"I think when you've had to confront your own vulnerabilities, you know, when faced with your own mortality, you have to accept that life is not infinite,'' she said. "And in those moments, yes, a shift does happen.''



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales meets artists at the Hugo Burge Foundation Lucy Brown, and Creative Director James Fox during a visit to the foundation in Greenlaw, Scotland on Nov 26. (AP)

Whether intentionally or not, the film underscores the idea that despite her wealth and privilege and royal status, Kate faces many of the same challenges and fears as other people. It's a theme she and her husband, Prince William, have stressed as they prepare for the time when they become king and queen.

But while "Heal" embodies Kate and William's embrace of the idea that the royals have to be more open, it also demonstrates their determination to tell their story the way they want it told. Despite speculation from reporters and social media influencers, the film doesn't reveal the type of cancer Kate was treated for or provide new details about her treatment.

Kate said the idea for the film began to germinate last spring as a way to support the Royal Marsden, the specialist cancer hospital where she was treated. The hospital, founded in 1851, has helped "hundreds of thousands of people'' after they "receive the words no one wants to hear,'' she said.

Proceeds from the film will go to the Royal Marsden charity, which is using Kate's trek as the focus of a public fundraising campaign.

At a private screening last week in London, Kate said she wanted to help make it possible for more people to get holistic care that addresses the emotional, psychological, spiritual and social challenges of a cancer diagnosis, as well as medical treatment.

"Healing, whether personal or collective, is not just about fixing what is wrong," she said. "It is about finding balance in how we live, between effort and acceptance, between control and trust, between thinking and simply being.''

Kate's comments come two years after King Charles III was credited with boosting early testing and treatment of prostate cancer by speaking publicly about his own treatment for an enlarged prostate. An undisclosed form of cancer was discovered during that process and the king continues to undergo treatment.

Kate's story is woven into the film as she hikes to the top of Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England and finally Snowdon, or Yr Wyddfa, in Wales.



A child stands in front of chain-linked fence looking towards idle parade floats after a strengthening storm forced the postponement of the 100th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York on Nov 6. (AP)

Macy's 100th Thanksgiving Day parade gets a do-over

NEW YORK, Nov 28, (AP): What's 48 hours? Macy's milestone 100th Thanksgiving Day parade is getting a do-over, long after most of the turkey leftovers have been repurposed into sandwiches.

The parade is set to step off Saturday morning with the same balloons and floats, 1,000 clowns and most of the original celebrities - plus the addition of LL Cool J and Gloria Gaynor - that were promised on Thursday, until bad weather postponed the annual kickoff of the holiday season.

"I'm pleased to say that we will deliver the 100th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that we've been planning for the last couple of years," Will Coss, vice president and executive producer of Macy's Studios, told The Associated Press late Friday.

A powerful storm forced the first-ever postponement of the holiday tradition.

Al-Jalahma takes part in Kuwait's largest and only internationally accredited marathon

Gulf Bank Marathon brings Kuwait together with record 11,000 participants



The minister officially kicks off the marathon.



Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, Sami Mahfouz, Faisal AlAdsani, Al-Hazami and Omar Al-Essa honor the winners.

- **The Minister:** "The marathon represents a distinguished sporting event and a 12-year journey of success, development, and growing participation."
- "The marathon's accreditation by the IAAF reflects Gulf Bank's efforts over the years to elevate the event to its distinguished level.
- **Najla Aleisa:** "We are proud of the success of the 12th edition and of the growing participation across all categories."
- **Ahmed AlMajed:** "We continue to strengthen our partnership to support sporting initiatives and build a more active and vibrant community."

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The 12th Gulf Bank 642 Marathon brought Kuwait's community together along the waterfront, drawing a record 11,000 participants. Kuwaiti citizens and expatriate residents took part alongside visitors from abroad. People of all ages, including people with disabilities, were part of the event, with families joining as participants and supporters. Around 1,000 participants traveled to Kuwait for the race.

The event was attended by the Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs H.E. Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, who took part in the 5K race, alongside leaders and representatives from Gulf Bank including Omar Al-Essa, Board Member, Sami Mahfouz, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Faisal AlAdsani, Deputy CEO and Najla Aleisa, the Bank's Chief Marketing Officer.

Minister Al-Jalahma said in a statement that the marathon represents a distinguished sporting eventa nd a 12-year journey of success, development, and growing participation.

He said the marathon's accreditation by the IAAF reflects Gulf Bank's efforts over the years to elevate the event to its distinguished level.

He added that the Public Authority for Youth and Sports welcomes such sporting and social events,which promote sports participation, healthy lifestyles, and positive social impact.

Minister Al-Jalahma thanked the Ministries of Interior and Health and other participating entities for their cooperation and efforts in ensuring the event's success.

Participation among expatriate residents increased this year. Four race distances gave first-time runners, recreational participants, and experienced athletes different ways to take part, while the Marathon Village gave families and supporters a place to share in the day.

The new route started at Al Watya Beach and passed prominent landmarks along Kuwait's waterfront. The 5K walk or run was open to participants aged 11 and over, the 10K to those aged 16 and over, and the 21K half marathon to those aged 18 and over. The event also featured the 42K full marathon.

A day for the whole community

Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, said, "What makes this marathon special is seeing Kuwait come together. Kuwaiti and expatriate families, people with disabilities, and people of all ages helped make the day what it was. Whether they ran, walked, volunteered, or cheered someone on, they all had a part in it. That sense of belonging is what we want to carry forward as we encourage more people to make physical activity part of their lives."

Aleisa added, "The new route gave us room to welcome more participants and share Kuwait's waterfront with people from across the country and abroad. We are proud to see the marathon grow while staying rooted in the community that has supported it from the beginning."

Partnerships that support a more active Kuwait

Ahmed Al Majed, Chief Operating Officer at Suffix, said, "The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon's growth year after year reflects the trust the community places in the event. We are committed to delivering a race experience that meets international standards and encourages people to make physical activity part of their daily lives."

He added, "Cooperation between government entities and the private sector has helped make the marathon a place for people to challenge themselves and support one another. Those partnerships allow us to keep investing in sporting initiatives that help build a healthier, more active community."

An internationally recognized race on Kuwait's waterfront

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is the first and only marathon in Kuwait to hold a World Athletics Road Race Label and is listed by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS). Eligible runners aged 40 and over can earn points toward the Abbott World Marathon Majors Wanda Age Group World Rankings and qualify for the age group world championships.

The marathon is part of Gulf Bank's ongoing commitment to health, sport, and community development. Since its launch, the event has welcomed more than 86,000 participants and drawn on the support of thousands of volunteers.

Gulf Bank 642 Marathon in numbers

- Kuwait's largest marathon and its only globally accredited marathon
- 12 consecutive editions
- More than 86,000 participants since launch, with only 400 runners in the first edition
- More than 13,000 participants from outside Kuwait since launch
- More than 80 nationalities represented since launch
- More than 9,500 volunteers since launch
- KD 2 million in annual contributions to Kuwait's economy
- US$50,000 in annual cash prizes

The 12th Gulf Bank 642 Marathon in Numbers

- 11,000 participants aged 10 to 85
- 6,000 Kuwaiti and 5,000 non-Kuwaiti participants
- 1,000 participants from outside Kuwait
- 41% women and 59% men
- 700 Gulf Bank employees participated
- $50K in prizes.

Gulf Bank at the Marathon Village

The Marathon Village offered activities and entertainment for participants, families, and supporters. At Gulf Bank's booth, visitors met the Bank's team, asked questions, and learned about its products and services.

Finisher medals inspired by Kuwait

Every finisher received a collectible medal. Each race distance had its own design inspired by Kuwait's heritage.

- 5K walk or run. A traditional dhow and marine life celebrate Kuwait's maritime heritage.
- 10K run. Gulf Bank's historic headquarters reflects the Bank's roots in Kuwait City.
- 21K half marathon. A falcon set against the Kuwaiti desert evokes the strength and resilience associated with the country's desert heritage.
- 42K full marathon. The Kuwait Towers and the Kuwaiti flag pair a landmark of the capital's skyline with a symbol of national pride.

Environmental sustainability in practice

Gulf Bank and Suffix incorporated environmental sustainability into event operations. More than 80 percent of event materials were reusable, all race shirts were made from recycled materials, and surplus medals are melted down so the material can be used again.

More than 500 volunteers

More than 500 volunteers helped deliver the event, including members of Gulf Bank's employee volunteer team, which supports the Bank's community initiatives throughout the year.

Record Gulf Bank employee participation

Approximately 700 Gulf Bank employees took part as participants and volunteers, setting a new record for employee involvement.

Promoting financial awareness through Diraya

At the Marathon Village, Gulf Bank promoted Diraya, the banking awareness campaign overseen by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association.

Acknowledgments

Aleisa and Al Majed thanked the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, and other government entities that supported the marathon. They also thanked the volunteers, media, participants, and families who helped make the event possible.



Gulf Bank and Suffix officials pose for a group photo at the starting line.



A huge turnout of local and international participants.



Some participants pose for a group photo with their commemorative medals.



A glimpse of the event, showcasing the wide diversity of participants.



Participants with determination take part in the marathon with joy and enthusiasm.



Philadelphia 76ers guard Tyrese Maxey (0) drives toward the basket while Indiana Pacers guard Braden Smith (3) defends during the first half of an NBA Cup basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

Sports

76ers advance to NBA Cup knockout round

Lakers crash out as Spurs seal dramatic victory

SAN ANTONIO, Nov 28, (AP): Stephon Castle had 26 points, Victor Wembanyama had 25 points and 16 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs surged in the second half for a 99-96 win over the Los Angeles Lakers to advance to the NBA Cup knockout round.

Castle was 10 for 15 from the field, including a 3-pointer that put San Antonio up 96-90 with 43.4 seconds remaining following De'Aaron Fox's rebound of Wembanyama's missed free throw.

Luka Doncic had 31 points to lead Los Angeles, which was eliminated from the NBA Cup with the loss. Austin Reaves added 21 points and Walker Kessler had 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Reaves was 5 for 9 on 3-pointers, including a 25-footer with 34 seconds remaining that cut the Spurs' lead to 96-93. Jake LaRavia hit a pair of free throws after Fox lost possession on a double dribble. Fox responded with a pair of free throws with 6.6 seconds left that put the Spurs up 98-95.

San Antonio overcame an anemic first half, outscoring Los Angeles 30-14 in the third quarter with Keldon Johnson's 3-pointer with two seconds remaining tying the game at 68 entering the fourth.

The Lakers took a 27-14 lead in the opening period as the Spurs shot 7 for 18 in posting a season-low for points in any quarter this season. San Antonio also set a season-low for any half in trailing 54-38 at halftime.

Castle hit consecutive 3-pointers to put San Antonio ahead 81-73 with his second 3 coming after Carter Bryant went soaring through the lane for an offensive rebound. Bryant finished with three points, three rebounds and several key defensive plays during the Spurs' rally.

San Antonio lost to the New York Knicks in last season's NBA Cup final.

LeBron James had 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and the Philadelphia 76ers breezed past the Indiana Pacers 111-87 to win East Group B and advance to the knockout round of the NBA Cup.



San Antonio Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama (1) goes to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Doncic (77) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio. (AP)

Joel Embiid added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Eastern Conference-leading Sixers (16-4), who have won seven of eight.

James hit three 3-pointers in the opening four minutes and scored 11 points in the first quarter as the Sixers never trailed. He finished 8 of 13 from the floor in 27 minutes.

Anfernee Simons added 19 points for Philadelphia, Tyrese Maxey scored 14 and Dominick Barlow had 12.

Jay Huff scored 18 points and Andrew Nembhard added 14 for Indiana, which made its fewest 3-pointers of the season, going 5 of 37 (13.5%) from beyond the arc. The Pacers beat Oklahoma City on Monday night but have lost five of six.

Ivica Zubac had 16 rebounds for Indiana.

Philadelphia shot 15 of 37 (40.5%) from 3-point range.

Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton is practicing with the team as he rehabs from a left hamstring strain but missed his 15th straight game. He last played on Oct. 26.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points and a career-high 23 rebounds, Bam Adebayo scored 25 points and the Miami Heat ended the New York Knicks' six-game winning streak and NBA Cup title reign with a 108-105 victory.

The Knicks erased a 23-point deficit to grab the lead in the fourth quarter, but Jalen Brunson hit only two of three free throws when he was fouled shooting a 3-pointer with 9.8 seconds remaining and the Heat held on.

Miami would win its group if Philadelphia lost in Indiana, but the 76ers had a huge lead in the fourth quarter.

Brunson had 27 points and eight assists for the Knicks, who needed to win by at least seven points and have the 76ers lose to have a chance to become the first team to advance to the knockout round of the tournament with a 2-2 record.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points and 10 rebounds while playing with an abdominal injury that had him listed as questionable until shortly before the game and wincing in pain a few times during it.

The Heat went 6 for 11 on 3s and the Knicks were 2 for 11 in the first quarter as Miami led 31-21. Towns got the first two baskets of the second before the Heat ran off 15 straight points for a 46-25 advantage. It was 58-35 after Adebayo's basket with 2:06 remaining, but the Knicks gained a little ground while Antetokounmpo was on the bench with three fouls and cut it to 60-44 at halftime.

The Knicks got back in it with a 9-0 run early in the third quarter and went ahead 92-91 midway through the fourth. Adebayo's basket snapped a 95-all tie with 4:02 to play and the Heat stayed ahead from there.

Kuwait edges Kazakhstan to boost qualifying hopes



Kuwait basketball players celebrate their victory over Kazakhstan.

Win lifts Blues tally to eight points

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

BEIRUT, Nov 28: Kuwait claimed a hard-fought 87-85 victory over Kazakhstan in their clash at the Nihad Naufal Sports Complex in Beirut, Lebanon, in the opening round of the second window of the Asian qualifiers for the 2029 FIBA Asia Cup.

The Blues secured the narrow win after an intense and evenly balanced contest, with neither side able to establish a clear advantage. The score remained close until the closing minutes, when Kuwait managed to pull ahead and seal the two-point victory, making a positive start to the second qualifying window.

The result lifted Kuwait's tally to eight points, level with Kazakhstan. Both teams had started the second window with six points earned in the first window. The victory further boosted Kuwait's hopes of securing a place in the final qualifying stage.

Under the Asian qualifying format, the top four teams in Group E advance to the final stage of qualification for the 2029 FIBA Asia Cup.

Kuwait Auto Club claims six podium finishes in Bahrain drag racing



Kuwait Auto Club celebrates its six podium finishes in the opening round of the Bahrain National Drag Racing Championship.

MANAMA, Nov 28, (KUNA): The Kuwait Automobile and Motorcycle Club secured six podium finishes in the opening round of the 2026-2027 Bahrain National Drag Racing Championship, held at the Bahrain International Circuit, with top drivers from Bahrain and across the region taking part.

Speaking to KUNA on Saturday, team manager Sheikh Sabah Dawood Al-Sabah praised the strong performances of the Kuwaiti racers in Friday's opening round, saying their results reflected the team's readiness and competitive capabilities.

Mohammad Bourashed led the Kuwaiti contingent by taking first place in the Super Street Bike category, while Bader bin Eidan finished third in the same class.

Shehab Bourbaa secured second place in the 8.0 Index Bike category, Hassan Ashkanani took third in the 4.5 Index category, Ahmad Zaman claimed third in the 4.8 Index category, and Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi finished second in the 8.5 Index category.

Other Kuwaiti competitors also delivered strong performances, securing high positions in the overall standings of the championship, which attracted leading drivers from Bahrain and the wider region.

KUNA photo

Jeers for United after second 4-0 rout for Pochettino

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 28, (AP): Manchester United fans jeered and left early as Mauricio Pochettino's first home game as head coach ended in 4-0 loss to Brentford in the Premier League on Saturday.

It's now back-to-back 4-0 routs for Pochettino in his two games in charge after being routed by Liverpool last week. It means United end the weekend still at the bottom of the table.

Pochettino left his role with the United States to try and turn around United, and he embraced his players on the field as jeers rang around Old Trafford after the final whistle.

Six losses from 12 games with just one win have United second to last, one place above Crystal Palace, which plays on Sunday.

In stark contrast, Brentford coach Keith Andrews was greeted with roars from the away fans after a standout win that moved his team up to fifth.

Leeds was sixth after a 3-0 win against Coventry.

Bayern Munich overcame an injury crisis and a red card for captain Joshua Kimmich to emerge unbeaten in the Bundesliga on Saturday, when Manchester United, Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain, Lazio and Inter Milan were all playing later.

Bayern's 0-0 draw at Hamburger SV maintained its unbeaten start to the league but it could allow leader Borussia Dortmund to go four points clear on Sunday with a win at home over Bayer Leverkusen.

Bayern was without injured stars Harry Kane, Michael Olise, Jamal Musiala, Serge Gnabry and Ismael Saibari among others, forcing coach Vincent Kompany to give the 19-year-old Noah Codjo-Evora his first start up front.

His team was reduced to 10 men before the break when Kimmich retaliated to an opponent running into him off the ball by pulling the back of his hair.

Kompany sent on Luis Díaz for Bara Sapoko Ndiaye after the interval, while midfielder Konrad Laimer followed for the 18-year-old Lennart Karl soon after. Laimer hobbled off late to become the next injured player, however.

Hamburg defender Mario Vušković played the whole game in his first start since returning from a doping ban.

Paderborn and Cologne enjoyed big wins over Schalke and Elversberg, respectively. Paderborn defeated Schalke 8-1 for its biggest-ever Bundesliga victory and Marius Bülter scored a hat trick as Cologne routed Elversberg 5-0.

Urs Fischer's Mainz scored two late goals to beat his former side Union Berlin 2-1. Fischer led Union to Bundesliga promotion in 2019 and later the Champions League, but now the Köpenick-based club is in a battle for survival.



Manchester United's Matheus Cunha, left, and Brentford's Sepp van den Berg fight for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Brentford in Manchester, England. (AP)

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