



NON-COMPLIANCE COULD RESULT IN ARRIVALS RETURN TO ORIGIN

No biometrics, no transactions

Deadline alert

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: With the end of the first month of the time period set for citizens and residents to undergo biometric enrollment process, the Ministry of Interior has affirmed that it will stop all of the ministry's transactions for those who do not undergo this process within the time period granted from March 1 to June 1.

In this context, a security source revealed to Al-Seyassah that all travelers coming to the country, irrespective of whether they are Gulf Arabs, residents, or visitors, via the airport and land ports in Abdali, Salmi, and Nuwaiseeb, are subject to a biometric fingerprint procedure.

He said this procedure is considered obligatory, and whoever refuses to undertake it will be sent back to where he came from, with the exception of citizens.

During His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's recent visit to the Ministry of Interior on the occasion of Ramadan, Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf announced the ministry's plan to implement the biometric fingerprint system across all ports of the country by mid-May 2023. This initiative involves the General Administration of Information Systems, the General Administration of Forensic Evidence, and the Ports Security Sector. Data for 1,694,000 individuals, including citizens, Gulf citizens, residents, visitors, and Bedouins, has been created and updated. Efforts are underway to collect fingerprints from the targeted groups through designated centers.

The Ministry of Interior revealed the designated centers and commercial complexes for biometric enrollment, including the governorate security directorates and the personal identification sections in Ali Al-Sabah and Jahra areas for residents. Additionally, biometric services will be available at the Avenues Mall, 360 Mall, Kout Mall, Capital Mall, and the Ministries Complex.

Newswatch

WASHINGTON: The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) announced, late Wednesday, the successful engagement and destruction of four long-range unmanned aerial systems (UAS) targeting US warships launched by Houthis in the Red Sea.

In a statement by CENTCOM, the incident took place between 2:00 and 2:20 a.m. (Sanaa time), where the "UAS were aimed at a US warship and engaged in self-defense over the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported to US or coalition ships." (KUNA)

HEBBARIYE, Lebanon: A series of Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon killed 16 people and a barrage of rockets fired by the militant group Hezbollah killed one Israeli man, making Wednesday the deadliest day in more than five months of fighting along the border.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, concerns have grown about further escalation along the Israel-Lebanon frontier. Tens of thousands of people on both sides have been displaced by the violence. (AP)

NAIROBI: The world wasted an estimated 19% of the food produced globally in 2022, or about 1.05 billion metric tons, according to a new United Nations report. The U.N. Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report, published Wednesday, tracks the progress of countries to halve food waste by 2030.

The U.N. said the number of countries reporting for the index nearly doubled from the first report in 2021. (AP)

Ramadan Timings

Iftar Friday 18:05
Imsak Saturday 04:17
Iftar Saturday 18:06
Imsak Sunday 04:16

Kuwaiti athletes call on Assembly hopefuls to address sports development

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

Most election candidates turn diwanias into campaign hubs

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Most of the 2024 National Assembly election candidates have opted to use their diwanias as campaign centers where they hold meetings with their constituents, instead of setting up tents for this purpose as practiced in previous elections.

In the 2022 elections, Kuwait Municipality issued 187 licenses for campaign tents or centers; 128 in 2023 and only 86 this year.

Candidates are also keen on visiting the diwanias of their constituents in a bid to strengthen communication lines and direct contact with them.

In addition, candidates also utilize podcast interviews to reach out to voters. Since the election is being held in Ramadan, candidates have been taking advantage of the occasion to invite people to celebrate Ramadan evenings with them including Ghabqa.

Meanwhile, former MP and Fourth Constituency candidate Mo-

hammad Hayef Al-Mutairi urged Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah to intensify efforts to deal with election violations. He disclosed that in the previous election, the Ministry of Interior focused on combating forgery and vote-buying.

He inquired why the ministry did not launch a hotline for receiving reports on such violations from the citizens.

While the campaigns for the 2024 National Assembly elections, scheduled on April 4, are in full swing, a number of Kuwaiti athletes and officials called on candidates to highlight issues related to sports and its development.

In several interviews with KUNA, they affirmed that development sports in Kuwait was as vital as any other sector in the country, deeming it as a necessity.

Lawmakers in Kuwait should and must set their vision on boosting sports in the country to revitalize this important domain, Olympian

shooter and champion Abdullah Al-Turqi told KUNA.

Al-Turqi indicated that since Kuwaiti population has a majority of youth, the quest to develop sports in the country was not something trivial.

Those involved in sports, whether athletes or officials, are eager to see Kuwaiti sports soar high, the Kuwaiti athlete indicated, noting that 2024 National Assembly candidates have the chance to bring such issues into the limelight.

He stressed that sports occupied the youths' time and made them veer off illicit activities such as reckless driving and God forbid narcotics.

On his part, President of the Kuwaiti Winter Games Club Fahad Al-Ajmi affirmed that sports must take center stage in political discourse, expressing bewilderment over the lack of sports issues in some of the candidates' rhetoric.

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Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah presides over a meeting attended by senior military leaders.

Kuwait Defense Minister urges top brass to boost cooperation

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, urged military leaders on Thursday to strengthen cooperation and coordination across various sectors of the Kuwaiti army while accelerating work pace and achievements.

The call was made during a meeting chaired by Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, as stated in a press release from the Ministry of Defense. The meeting, attended by senior military leaders and Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, focused on discussing and reviewing programs and plans for various

military sectors. Identified were key obstacles and difficulties hindering the execution of assigned tasks and duties within these sectors.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef emphasized the importance of intensified follow-up efforts, direct monitoring of workflow mechanisms, and efforts to enhance the capabilities of unit members according to the highest technical and technological standards. This is aimed at keeping pace with advancements in armament and military equipment.

Furthermore, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef reiterated the Ministry of Defense's commitment to following the directives of His Highness the Amir, Su-

preme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. These directives, articulated during His Highness's visit to the Ministry of Defense on the occasion of Ramadan, emphasized the establishment of justice and impartiality, the implementation of legal measures to safeguard public funds, and the inspection of camps' infrastructure. Additionally, they stressed the intensification of training and joint exercises to enhance the performance and readiness of Kuwaiti army members, along with providing support and encouragement to Kuwaiti cadres from within the country. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Hamas's strategic pivot to territorial claims

In an era where global and local forces intertwine, the conflict between Israel and Hamas takes on new dimensions. Dr. Enrico Molinaro's groundbreaking research unveils a pivotal shift in Hamas's strategy, from its roots in Glocalist ideology towards a Westphalian model of statehood and sovereignty. Through an in-depth exploration of Hamas's transition, Dr. Molinaro navigates the complexities of identity, power, and ambition that define the struggle for a nation. As the world watches the unfolding events in Gaza and Israel, understanding these strategic shifts becomes crucial for grasping the future trajectories of this enduring conflict.

By Enrico Molinaro, Ph.D.

President of Mediterranean Perspectives, National Coordinator of the Anna Lindh Foundation in Italy

Did the Hamas' military wing, the Ezzedeen al-Qassam Brigades, launch the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation of October 7, 2023, for territorial or religious motivations? An innovative epistemological perspective distinguishing two opposite Glocalist or Westphalian collective identity models may help understanding the events occurring in Israel and Gaza.

The Westphalian identity vision relates to well-defined State physical boundaries, while the opposite Glocalist model highlights on the contrary communities within ideological, economic, theological, or spiritual intra- or trans-national virtual borders.

Since they revised their organization's Charter in 2017, the Hamas leadership has apparently been shifting from the original Glocalist approach to the Westphalian model, aiming at establishing (art. 20) "a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital along the lines of the 4th of June 1967".

On January 21, 2024, Hamas released the "Our Narrative" Report, officially claiming its goal for the 10/7 attack of "stopping the expansion of West Bank settlements and bringing an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip".

Hamas denied allegations of war crimes, such as rapes and intentional mutilations, adding that its members were "keen to avoid harming civilians" and that any such targeting was by accident. In fact, all the acts of cruel violence that Israelis experienced as a result of the 10/7 attack are under the moral, legal, and political responsibility of Hamas, including those in which they were not directly involved,



Molinaro

comparing their brutal actions to those of the Islamic State (ISIS/Daesh): "Hamas is ISIS". The two organizations, in fact, are quite different from each other.

ISIS is composed mainly of Iraqi and Syrian fighters, or from other areas of the world (Europe, Asia, North Africa), while Hamas has exclusively Palestinian members. Hamas' attacks are aimed at Israeli targets; ISIS on the contrary has declared religious goals, as its propaganda is aimed at the entire Muslim community scattered around the globe, urging them to fight against the "infidels", and carrying out attacks in Europe or other countries.

These significant differences, in light of the aforementioned Westphalian/Glocalist epistemological methodology, help understand why the Glocalist Islamic State carried out on January 3, 2024, the Suicide Bombing on the Memorial Route for the Assassination (by former Glocalist U.S. President Trump) of Westphalian Qasem Soleimani within the City of Kerman, in Iran, claiming the attack through its social networks.

Continued on Page 5

War toll stuns doctors

Kuwait condemns Israel's land seizure in West Bank

KUWAIT CITY, March 28, (Agencies): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed Kuwait's condemnation of the Israeli occupation's decision to seize 8,000 dunams of the Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

This is a blatant violation of international law and norms as well as relevant UN resolutions, the Ministry said in a statement.

It reaffirmed reiterated that the Israeli occupation's continued confiscation of Palestinian land and deprivation of the Palestinian people of their rights and possessions under the watchful eyes of the international community would not serve the international efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Continued on Page 5



Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji receives US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.

Bid to strengthen bonds

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji met on Wednesday with US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara on ways of promoting distinguished relations between both friendly countries in all domains.

During the meeting, they also looked into several issues and

topics pertinent to further promoting bilateral cooperation and bolstering bonds of friendship between Kuwait and the US, the minister's office said in a press statement.

The Political Officer at the US Embassy in Kuwait Kelly Wood was present at the meeting, according to the statement. (KUNA)

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Need to balance businesses and its effect on environment'

"INDEED, the integration of environmental, social, and corporate governance practices (ESG) has become increasingly vital in the modern business landscape -- the recognition that companies must balance profit-making with their impacts on the environment and society reflects a broader understanding of sustainability and responsible business practices," columnist **Dr Muhammad Al-Sayegh** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



Dr. Al-Sayegh

"In the environmental realm, companies are realizing that their operations have significant implications for ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate change. The traditional focus solely on financial profit is no longer sufficient or acceptable, given the pressing environmental challenges we face. Instead, businesses are expected to consider the full spectrum of their activities and strive to minimize their negative environmental footprint.

"One key aspect of environmental responsibility is reducing carbon emissions. This involves implementing measures to decrease the release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, which contribute to global warming and climate change.

"Companies can achieve this by adopting cleaner technologies, increasing energy efficiency, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and implementing sustainable transportation practices.

"Furthermore, improving the efficiency of natural resource utilization is essential for environmental sustainability. This entails minimizing waste, optimizing resource extraction processes, and recycling materials whenever possible. By doing so, companies can reduce their environmental impact and contribute to the conservation of finite resources like water, minerals, and forests.

"Enhancing biodiversity is another critical aspect of environmental stewardship. Companies can support biodiversity conservation by preserving natural habitats, mitigating habitat destruction caused by their operations, and implementing sustainable land-use practices.

"Protecting biodiversity not only helps maintain ecosystem health but also supports essential ecosystem services upon which human well-being depends, such as pollination, water purification, and soil fertility.

"In summary, integrating ESG principles into business strategies is essential for achieving long-term success while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and society. By prioritizing environmental sustainability, companies can demonstrate their commitment to responsible stewardship and contribute to a more resilient and prosperous future for all.

"Social responsibility is a critical component of ESG practices, requiring companies to consider the broader societal impacts of their decisions and actions. This includes initiatives to promote social justice, support local communities, and improve the well-being of workers and employees.

"Companies can demonstrate social responsibility by engaging in various initiatives and projects aimed at benefiting society. This may involve financial support for social programs, volunteering efforts, or partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Additionally, companies can prioritize fair labor practices, ensuring that workers are treated ethically and in accordance with international standards and conventions.

"Patagonia and Microsoft serve as exemplary models of companies that prioritize environmental and social responsibility. Patagonia's commitment to sustainability, evidenced by its extensive use of recycled materials in its products, demonstrates a dedication to environmental stewardship.

"Meanwhile, Microsoft's initiatives to promote social justice and contribute positively to society showcase its commitment to social responsibility.

"Effective corporate governance is essential for ensuring that companies operate transparently and accountably, balancing profit-making objectives with environmental and social considerations. This requires strong management structures, clear accountability mechanisms, and collaboration among various stakeholders.

"Furthermore, governments play a crucial role in fostering a regulatory environment that incentivizes responsible corporate behavior. Laws and regulations should be enacted or updated to discourage actions that harm the environment or exploit workers, while also providing mechanisms to hold companies accountable for their actions.

"By adopting transparent and accountable practices, fostering social responsibility, and adhering to environmental sustainability principles, companies can contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future for both the planet and society."

Also:

"The statements made by the former representative and minister, attacking members of the ruling family, are deeply concerning and have the potential to sow division and discord within the Kuwaiti society. Such rhetoric, which incites hatred and promotes animosity towards a particular group, is not conducive to fostering unity and stability within the nation," columnist **Dr Abdul**

Mohsen Hamada wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"It is important to recognize the long-standing history of cooperation and partnership between the ruling family and the people of Kuwait, which spans over three centuries since the establishment of the state.

"Throughout this time, Kuwait has thrived as a nation, with the ruling family playing a significant role in its development and progress.

"While no society is without its challenges and crises, Kuwait has demonstrated resilience and the ability to overcome obstacles through dialogue and understanding between the government and its citizens.

"It is essential to uphold these principles of cooperation and mutual respect to ensure the continued prosperity and well-being of Kuwait and its people.

"Moreover, it is worth noting the positive achievements of Kuwait, such as being ranked as one of the cheapest cities in terms of the cost of living and among the best Gulf countries in healthcare, according to the World Health Organization.

"These accomplishments reflect the commitment of Kuwait to the welfare of its citizens and highlight the potential for further progress and advancement.

"In times of political discourse, it is crucial for leaders and representatives to prioritize unity and harmony, refraining from divisive rhetoric that undermines the fabric of society. By fostering a culture of respect, cooperation, and dialogue, Kuwait can continue to thrive as a nation and uphold the principles of democracy and inclusivity for all its citizens.

"The insults and dangerous rhetoric directed towards the state's future and reputation by certain candidates are indeed alarming and have the potential to undermine the security and stability of Kuwait. It is essential to recognize the immense value of Kuwait's sovereign fund, which has been diligently managed to ensure a prosperous future for generations to come.

"The behavior of these individuals reflects their character and intentions, as 'every vessel exudes what is in it.' Those who resort to negative and divisive language demonstrate a lack of concern for the well-being of the state and its people. It is imperative to remain vigilant against such individuals and their detrimental impact on the nation's progress and unity.

"Despite the challenges posed by such rhetoric, Kuwait has a history of resilience and cooperation that has enabled it to overcome crises in the past. Through the collaboration of the wise leaders of the ruling family and the conscientious citizens of Kuwait, the country has consistently navigated through difficult times and emerged stronger.

"As Kuwait continues to progress, it is crucial to preserve and develop its democratic system, ensuring that the voices of all citizens are heard and respected. By upholding democratic principles and fostering unity among its people, Kuwait can safeguard its future and protect itself from the influence of malicious actors.

"Ultimately, it is the collective responsibility of all Kuwaitis to safeguard their country's democratic values, promote social cohesion, and work towards a prosperous and harmonious future. With the grace of God and the determination of its people, Kuwait will undoubtedly overcome any challenges it faces and continue to thrive as a beacon of democracy and stability in the region."

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"Further study... Whenever the distinguished Council of Ministers meets, we start with good news, and then we wait for decisions while holding our breath as the 'rational' government will achieve for the citizen something creditable to it in the absence of the National Assembly. If the result is nothing, we await the achievement with deep regret, and then they postpone it for further study!" columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Further study means 'rubber' in our current custom. This phrase means referral to a committee, and the committee is exactly the 'freezer' of decisions! This stage, gentlemen, requires resolution. Decisions should be made and implemented by force! This is the most important move.

"If you look into the issue of potholes on the streets and the flying gravel, you will see the resulting condition -- destroyed streets, especially after the recent rain. Despite the damage caused to every street in Kuwait -- internal or external, the government just keeps on watching. There is no 'red eye' ordering the restoration of streets, as if such a situation does not concern them, or as if they are not present in this country and are not the owners of the house, even the landlord is better than them!

"Yesterday, they told us: 'We would bring foreign companies and eliminate the problem, invent a new mixture for bitumen, and benefit from the experience of others.' We believed them, but the matter is nothing more than a dream, for which we could not find an explanation. The government did not apologize to us for not implementing it, on the basis that it was a previous government, a minister has departed and 'we have no job'.

"So, what did you do to protect lives and properties as a result of the destruction of the streets and the presence of potholes? All we hear is 'more study'. Our situation reminds us of the proverb: 'When he was told to divorce her and marry her sister, his answer was...' The government knows the answer well!

— Compiled by **PFX Fernandes**



What's left of the car after the accident. Inset: Dr Al-Tabtabai (left) and Dr Al-Shatti

Mad rush to reach home for 'iftar' leads to accidents and loss of life

Traffic chaos, zig-zag driving, against faith: Sharia scholars

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Numerous drivers rush recklessly to reach home for 'iftar' without regard for road etiquette or the safety of others, resulting in tragic traffic accidents where lives are lost. What is the stance of Sharia scholars on such reckless driving before breaking the fast? Is it considered both morally and legally wrong?

Dr. Sayyed Muhammad Al-Tabtabai, reports **Al-Anba** daily, stresses that a Muslim should maintain composure and dignity in all situations, especially during fasting, a time dedicated to worship and connection with the Almighty. The haste displayed by drivers, particularly before iftar, is deemed inappropriate as it often leads to horrific accidents mere minutes before breaking the fast. Islam does not demand such recklessness in the pursuit of iftar.

Excessive speed, running red lights, and similar behaviors during the traffic rush before iftar significantly increase the risk of accidents. Dr. Al-Tabtabai advises Mus-

lims to either leave early for their destinations or wait until after iftar, aligning with the Prophet's (PBUH) guidance on the importance of early breaking of the fast. He suggests carrying dates in the car for breaking fast, all of which are permissible until one frees themselves from haste before the Maghrib call to prayer.

Dr. Al-Tabtabai underscores the media's responsibility in highlighting tragic accidents as cautionary tales for drivers. He emphasizes the need for learning from others' mistakes, citing the numerous families who lose their providers or individuals who suffer permanent disabilities due to speeding and reckless driving during Ramadan.

On the other hand, Dr. Bassam Al-Shatti condemns behaviors like rushing, arguing, and gossiping, which are contrary to Muslim ethics year-round, let alone during the month of Ramadan, characterized by mercy, tolerance, and cooperation. He questions why drivers fail to heed the call of God to avoid self-destruction, opting instead for reckless speeding, especially before iftar.

Dr. Al-Shatti emphasizes that driving fast contradicts the values of mercy and tolerance espoused by Islam, particularly during Ramadan. He deems the traffic chaos before iftar impermissible under Islamic law due to its potential for catastrophic accidents, labeling it as sinful and a disobedience to God Almighty.

I did not insult elderly man: woman

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: In a recent incident, a 24-year-old woman has vehemently denied allegations leveled against her by a 50-year-old man, claiming that she insulted him while driving, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The woman refutes the accusation, stating that she did not utter any insults towards the plaintiff. She explained that she was engaged in a phone conversation at the time, and the plaintiff may have misinterpreted her words as directed towards him.

Despite the woman's denial, the plaintiff maintains his accusations against her. Fol-

lowing investigations, it was determined that both parties are sticking to their respective statements. Consequently, the case has been referred to the appropriate jurisdiction for further resolution.

The plaintiff, a Gulf national born in 1971, reported the incident, alleging that the woman, driving a Japanese car, insulted him while attempting to overtake his vehicle on Tunis Street.

Subsequently, the woman was identified based on the provided car plate number. She was interrogated by the Maidan Hawalli detectives, where she reiterated her denial of the accusations against her.

Fire directorate refutes claims on social media

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) has issued a statement refuting claims circulating on social media regarding the response time of firefighters to a vehicle fire in Wafra Farms, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The statement asserts that these claims are inaccurate and misleading. Furthermore, the DGFD has emphasized that legal action will be taken against individuals responsible for spreading false information about the incident.

The department urged citizens and residents to refrain from sharing unverified news and to verify the authenticity of sources before disseminating information on social media platforms.

The statement clarifies that the DGFD responded promptly to the vehicle fire incident in Wafra and refutes any allegations suggesting otherwise. They have urged the public to rely on official channels for accurate information regarding firefighting operations and emergencies.

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Drug addict nabbed: The Mubarak Al-Kabeer police have arrested an unidentified person for possessing and consuming drugs, reports **Al-Anba** daily. The daily said the man was caught at a police checkpoint in Al-Qurain and that at the time of arrest he was under the influence of drugs. Police found in his car narcotic substances and drug paraphernalia. He has been handed over to the Directorate-General for Drugs Control.

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Fake goods seized: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has shut down two stores in Mubarakiya Market for selling counterfeit goods bearing the trademarks of the most famous international brands, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In a press statement, the ministry confirmed the implementation of the immediate closure order for these two stores, and that the necessary legal procedures are being completed.

The ministry added its inspection teams are carrying out their tasks daily to ensure strict compliance with the regulations.



Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf during the visit.

'Guards committed to get foreign expertise'

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf has confirmed the National Guard's commitment to cooperate with brotherly and friendly countries in the security and military fields, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf made the statement when he visited the Computer and Languages Center at the National Guard, accompanied by Undersecretary Lieutenant General Eng Hashem Al-Rifai and senior officials.

In a press statement, the National Guard revealed that Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf was briefed on the courses offered by the center and the 'Capabilities 22' program: which aims to qualify members in various foreign languages like English, French, Spanish, German, Chinese, Russian and Turkish, as well as to send a number of them abroad to learn these languages until they master the skill of simultaneous translation.

It added Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf was also informed about the center's teaching of sign language in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Center for the Deaf, as it held courses in various parts of the country. It affirmed the leadership's keenness to provide full support for the qualification of members with the aim of keeping pace with development in various fields.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf praised the efforts of those in charge of the center in refining the skills of the members and granting the International Computer Driving License (ICDL). He said the National Guard focuses on cooperating with brotherly and friendly countries in all military and security fields, and seeks to build bridges of joint cooperation.

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Trainees awarded certificates along with cash rewards

LOYAC concludes 'Green Trail' program sponsored by IHS

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The LOYAC Foundation recently held a ceremony to honor 24 trainees who participated in the Green Trail Program, sponsored by "IHS," at the foundation's headquarters in the tribal school, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This edition of the program took place between February 2 and 18 last year and aimed to educate young people aged 16 to 22 about scientific facts related to agriculture, its various types, and their impact on climate change. The program, which lasted for one month with training sessions held four hours a day from Sunday to Wednesday, involved both theoretical lectures and practical field training conducted

by specialists. At the conclusion of the program, the trainees received certificates of completion for 70 environmental hours along with cash rewards. The field training included planting activities in the Sidra Reserve, where participants learned how to renew nutrient-deficient desert areas. Over 2,000 training hours

were completed during the program, and around 1,000 plants were planted, including 200 palm trees and 500 apple trees. Muhammad Al-Kulaib, the leader of renewable environmental programs at LOYAC, expressed satisfaction with the program's success, emphasizing the significance of training youth

to become future leaders and advocates for a sustainable environment. He highlighted the importance of the partnership between LOYAC and IHS, emphasizing their shared commitment to empowering youth and fostering environmental awareness. Dr. Khaled Al-Banna, the Executive Director of IHS, expressed pride

in sponsoring the Green Trail Program, emphasizing the company's dedication to initiatives that promote environmental awareness and combat climate change. He emphasized the importance of empowering young people and reiterated the company's commitment to contributing to a more sustainable future through such initiatives.



LOYAC tree planting.

Al-Jarida photo

MoSA's request to allocate site for new bank in Mishref B-4 gets nod

KPC, MEW sign agreement on joint road map

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff & Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Kuwait Municipality approved the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs to allocate a site to build a bank in Mishref Block 4 with dimensions of 20x10m on a total area of 200 square meters.

The technical recommendation for the transaction, endorsed by Kuwait Municipality's Director General Saud Al-Dabbous, emphasized compliance with the feedback provided by the members of the Public Facilities and Services Subcommittee during the meeting on May 2, 2023. It also required coordination with them prior to implementation, with a key aspect being the confirmation from the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation to uphold its services and avoid disrupting the rain drainage system.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy recommended coordination prior to starting work with Salmiya

Emergency Services Department to improve the water services in the area without any conflict with their paths at the specified location.



Al-Dabbous

It recommended that the Ministry of Public Works maintains its services in the area, without disruption and without bearing any costs for transferring other services to the ministry, as well as conducting a traffic study for all entrances and exits in the event of a drive-thru self-service, placing a distance of three meters between the bank location and the sidewalk stone.

It authorized the competent departments to move and modify the dimensions and area of the site to no more than the designated areas, in the event that it conflicts with any existing infrastructure services or any regulatory reasons during installation.

KPC, MEW sign deal: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy have reached an agreement on a joint road map aimed at enhancing cooperation and over-

coming obstacles hindering the implementation of collaborative projects between the two sectors, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This agreement includes the formation of a higher energy committee comprised of leaders from both sides, tasked with developing plans to ensure the efficient supply of energy to consumers.

The agreement was reached during a meeting chaired by Dr. Imad Muhammad Al-Ateeqi, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, along with Dr. Salem Falah Al-Hajraf, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, and Minister of State for Housing Affairs.

Also present at the meeting were Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and other relevant leaders from both sides.

Various topics of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting, reflecting the ongoing coordination and collaboration between the two entities. Dr. Imad Al-Ateeqi commended the continuous and fruitful cooperation between the oil sector and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, emphasizing that such collaboration is in the best interest of the country.



Ambassador Dr Swaika with Info-Minister Al-Mutairi.

Indian envoy calls on Minister Al-Mutairi

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on HE Abdulrahman Baddah Al-Mutairi, Kuwait's Minister

of Information & Culture, and discussed ways of further strengthening cooperation in media, information and cultural domain.

Achievement significant breakthrough

Climate change insights from Kuwaiti student's research on 'flying dragonfly'

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The scientific achievement led by Kuwaiti student Dalal Ali Hamada at the University of Colorado, Denver, in collaboration with university scientists and professors, marks a significant breakthrough in the field of biology, reports Al-Qabas daily.



Dalal

The research, which focused on the waxy substance secreted by the "flying dragonfly" or "popshir" insect in Kuwaiti dialect, sheds light on how these insects adapt to climate changes and rising temperatures in their environment.

Published and approved in the prestigious American scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, the research highlights the importance of

understanding nature and living organisms for scientists worldwide.

The discovery of the waxy substance and its protective function against the sun's ultraviolet rays not only expands our knowledge of insect biology but also has implications for addressing climate change and global warming.

Dalal Hamada emphasized the significance of such research in aiding scientists' efforts to combat climate change and its effects. By uncovering the mechanisms through which insects adapt to environmental changes, researchers can develop strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect biodiversity.

Overall, this scientific achievement underscores the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the contributions of young researchers like Dalal Ali Hamada in advancing our understanding of the natural world and addressing pressing global challenges.

MEED mag's report on energy in MENA region provides broad analysis for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The MEED magazine's report on energy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for 2024 provides a comprehensive analysis of investment expectations, demand and generation capacity, future project plans, and initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, reports Al-Anba daily.

Key highlights of the report include: Population Growth and Industrial Expansion -- The MENA region is experiencing increased energy consumption due to population growth and industrial expansion. This trend underscores the importance of prioritizing electricity generation capacity.

Investment Opportunities -- With approximately \$30 billion in annual capital spending on major projects, the energy sector remains a robust source of business and investment opportunities in the region. However, the nature of investments is evolving due to the energy transition.

Energy Transition -- Governments in the region are shifting their focus towards reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. This transition includes reforms aimed at reducing energy subsidies and waste, reflecting a broader commitment to sustainability.

Diversification of Energy Mix -- Countries in the MENA region are diversifying their energy mix to address shortages in gas supplies and leverage cost-effective renewable technologies. Solar and wind projects are particularly popular, with growing interest in other forms of renewable and alternative energy such as waste-to-energy and nuclear power. Green hydrogen facilities are also gaining traction.

Technological Innovation -- Utilities are investing in digital data technologies like the Internet of Things, smart grids, artificial intelligence, and digital twins to enhance efficiency and minimize waste.

Overall, the report emphasizes the region's transition towards a more sustainable and diversified energy landscape, driv-

Minister Dr Mashaan issues two decisions

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Minister of Public Works and the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan yesterday issued two ministerial decisions to implement Civil Service Council's Resolution No. 2/2024 regarding the rules, provisions, and controls of the official work in the oversight and inspection sector.

The decisions will also apply to the departments affiliated with the minister, the Legal Department, the executive body of Kuwait Municipality, and the General Secretariat of the Municipal Council, all of which are meant to implement the automated interface between the finger scan system for registering attendance and departure of all employees in the municipality and Municipal Council, and the integrated systems of the civil service.

According to the two decisions, municipal leaders must take all necessary measures to implement the finger scan system for recording attendance and departure of employees, and implement the rules, provisions and controls of official work. The responsibility for ensuring employees' presence at their jobs falls on the direct official. The official working hours are in accordance with the decisions and circulars issued in this regard.

The concerned sectors in the two entities, each according to their specialization, are responsible for following up their implementation mechanism to complete the automated interface.

en by both economic and environmental imperatives.

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Ambassador Dr Swaika with some of the guests at the event.



Ambassador's wife interacting with some of the female guests.

Gathering features an exquisite blend of Indian culture, music and cuisine

Ambassador of India to Kuwait hosts 'Ramadan Ghabqa'

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Ambassador of India to Kuwait, HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika, hosted a 'Ramadan Ghabqa' at India House on March 27, (Wednesday) to celebrate the festive spirit of the holy month of Ramadan with friends of India in Kuwait, including members of the diplomatic corps and the Indian community. During the event, the ambassador conveyed heartfelt Ramadan Mubarak greetings to all attendees and well-wishers in Kuwait.

The gathering featured an exquisite blend of Indian culture, music, and cuisine. Indian classical music on sitar, tabla, and flute filled the air, creating a special atmosphere. The culinary experience was enhanced by an eclectic menu of Indian dishes popular during the Ramadan month in India.

Ramadan holds a significant place in India, a country known for its rich tapestry of diverse religions and cultures, and home to the world's second-largest Muslim popula-

tion. Throughout India, Ramadan is celebrated with streets adorned with lights, delicious delicacies sold in markets, and people of all faiths exchanging greetings with each other.

The month of Ramadan in India showcases the vibrant mosaic of the country, highlighting its ethos of unity in diversity, where individuals from various socio-cultural and religious backgrounds coexist harmoniously. In Kuwait, the tradition of hosting 'Ghabqa' during Ramadan is also ob-

served by several Indian community associations, reflecting the deep cultural and people-to-people ties between India and Kuwait.

The ambassador's Ramadan Ghabqa was attended by Kuwaiti dignitaries, including ministers, senior government officials, ambassadors, and High Commissioners of various countries, as well as distinguished members of the Indian community.

Most election

Continued from Page 1

Finding solutions to problems plaguing sports development in the country and boosting the "soft power" impact of sports are indicators of countries that seek true progress, he stressed.

Public and private sports clubs and entities all deserve attention, affirmed Al-Ajmi, adding that the youth of Kuwait were worthy of such care.

Also giving a similar input, head of the women committee at the Kuwaiti Karate Federation Souad Al-Roumi indicated that sports was sort of a language that connected nations and reflected positively on overall development.

She said that recent upsets in Kuwaiti sports might attribute to lack of attention on part of lawmakers who should do their utmost to address all challenges facing athletes in the country and finding means to overcome them.

She also stressed that women sports must also be included in the discussion to have an overall impact on the development of Kuwaiti sports.

Candidates might have a lack of knowledge when it came to sports, Dr. Hamad Majed -- a sports consultant -- told KUNA.

The absence of a clear national program for sports also might contribute the seeming disinterest in sports by some candidates, Majed said, calling on lawmakers to set aside their political differences when it came to this vital issue for many of the youths in the country.

He stressed that winners of the elections must include sports development in their agenda when reaching parliament, saying that developing sports was part of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Hamas's strategic

Continued from Page 1

The events developed over almost half a century in Iran since the death of Glocalist Ayatollah Khomeini can explain this ISIS attack. The current Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has been basically following the Westphalian-oriented policy of his predecessor (since 2013) Hassan Rouhani, expressing the desire to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal signed in 2015 with Westphalian US President Obama, ending decades of tensions over Iran's controversial nuclear program, which Glocalist US President Donald Trump boycotted in 2018, and, on the suggestion of the Westphalian Chinese leader Xi, took the historical decision to normalize relations with Sunni Saudi Arabia, joining together the Westphalian BRICS Group.

ISIS, on the contrary, follows the opposite transboundary Glocalist model. Its spokesman Mujahid Abu Hudhayfah Al-Ansari, while inviting Muslims to eliminate Jews around the world, accused Hamas of not establishing Islamic rule or the Sharia legal system in Gaza. According to the Glocalist Islamic State, Westphalian Hamas has prevented the Islamization of Gaza in every possible way: "Hamas is not a party worthy of leading Gaza and in whose ranks the Muslims of Gaza should fight", Al-Ansari said.

Moreover, the ISIS spokesman stressed that with Israel there is first and foremost a religious war, while Hamas' goals are "the liberation of the homeland, patriotism and strengthening their own power, which is why they believe that blood must be shed", calling Hamas the 'guardian', Al-Ansari called on Gaza fighters to "fight the Jews as Allah has ordained and for what Allah has established (i.e. Islamic rule and the Sharia system), and not for the establishment of the land (i.e. patriotism and the rule of Hamas), to govern according to the laws established from above by Allah and not laws invented by men".

Whatever will be the outcome of the current war, an analysis of the ongoing Westphalian world historical cycle offers new scenarios where a radical change in the leadership of the two sides in the conflict may soon occur.

On the Israeli front, several demonstrations are clamoring for the resignation of the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

On the Palestinian side, the Hamas' 10/7 attack also aimed at freeing Palestinian national leader Marwan Barghouti, - the charismatic leader of the first and the second

Intifada held in Israeli jails for 21 years - apparently the only one capable of acting as a go-between to achieve peace and leading the united Palestinians after the end of the war, thus facilitating the aforementioned Westphalian Two-States peace solution for Palestinians and Israelis in conflict.

Mixed weather

Continued from Page 1

per hour, while scattered clouds dot the skies. Maximum temperatures are anticipated to range between 28 and 29 degrees Celsius, with sea conditions described as light to moderate, occasionally rising to between 2 and 6 feet.

As night falls, the weather is expected to transition to cooler conditions, with light to moderate northwesterly winds persisting at speeds ranging from 10 to 32 kilometers per hour. Scattered clouds will continue to adorn the night sky, with minimum temperatures projected to range between 17 and 19 degrees Celsius. Similar sea conditions are forecasted, maintaining a light to moderate state with wave heights between 2 and 4 feet.

On Friday, the forecast predicts hot weather accompanied by partly cloudy skies. Moderate northwesterly winds are expected, occasionally reaching speeds between 10 and 40 kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures are forecasted to range from 29 to 31 degrees Celsius, with sea conditions remaining light to moderate, occasionally witnessing wave heights between 2 and 6 feet.

Heading into Friday night, the weather is anticipated to turn cooler and partly cloudy, with light to moderate northwesterly to variable winds prevailing. Wind speeds may fluctuate between 8 and 28 kilometers per hour, with minimum temperatures ranging from 17 to 19 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions are projected to persist in a light to moderate state, with wave heights varying between 1 and 4 feet.

Anticipating Saturday's weather, Al-Qarawi emphasized a continuation of hot and cloudy conditions, accompanied by variable winds shifting to northwesterly directions. Wind speeds are expected to remain light to moderate, intermittently reaching speeds between 10 and 40 kilometers per hour. The likelihood of scattered rain, possibly thunderous at times, adds a dynamic element to the forecast. Maximum temperatures during the day are estimated to hover between 29 and 31 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions are expected to maintain a light to moderate state, with wave heights periodically reaching heights of 2 to 6 feet.

As Saturday transitions into night, the weather is forecasted to revert to cooler and cloudier conditions, with light to moderate northwesterly to northeasterly winds prevailing. Wind speeds may vary between 8 and 40 kilometers per hour, with the potential for scattered rain, occasionally thunderous. Minimum temperatures are projected to range from 16 to 19 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions are anticipated to persist in a light to moderate state, with wave heights fluctuating between 2 and 6 feet.

Kuwait condemns

Continued from Page 1

It urged the UN Security Council to assume its responsibility and take firm actions to stop these Israeli violations and the occupation's illegal settlement policy.

Meanwhile, an international team of doctors visiting a hospital in central Gaza was prepared for the worst. But the gruesome impact Israel's war against Hamas is having on Palestinian children still left them stunned.

One toddler died from a brain injury caused by an Israeli strike that fractured his skull. His cousin, an infant, is still fighting for her life with part of her face blown off by the same strike.

An unrelated 10-year-old boy screamed out in pain for his parents, not knowing that they were killed in the strike. Beside him was his sister, but he didn't recognize her because bums covered almost her entire body.

These gut-wrenching casualties were described to The Associated Press by Tanya Haj-Hassan, a pediatric intensive-care doctor from Jordan, following a 10-hour overnight shift at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the town of Deir al-Balah.

Kuwait contract awards rebound in Feb 2024, shows MEED report

MoE sets aside KD 60m for excellent job bonus

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: MEED magazine's report highlighted the fluctuating trend in contract awards in Kuwait, noting a decline in January 2024 followed by an increase in February 2024, reports Al-Anba daily.

In February 2024, Kuwait awarded contracts totaling \$144 million, marking a 14% increase compared to the previous month. These contracts were divided into three main projects:

Public Buildings in Al-Mutlaa Residential City - The largest contract, worth \$60 million, was awarded by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to the local United Construction Company.

This project involves the construction of public buildings in Al-Mutlaa Residential City. Another contract, valued at \$45 million, was awarded for construction work in Al-Mutlaa Residential City. This project is also initiated by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare.

Ground Cable Extension in Jahra Governorate - The third contract, worth \$39 million, was awarded by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for extending ground cables at a power station in the Jahra Governorate.

Despite the increase in contract awards, Kuwait ranked fifth in the Gulf and sixth regionally in terms of the value of contracts awarded in February.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led the region with contracts worth \$5.024 billion, followed by the UAE, Oman, and Qatar. Bahrain ranked sixth in the Gulf and ninth regionally with contracts worth \$58 million.

The report underscores Kuwait's ongoing efforts to invest in infrastructure projects and stimulate economic growth through strategic contract awards.

KD60m set for bonus: The Ministry of Education has allocated KD60 million for the excellent job performance bonus of eligible employees for the year 2023; including the administrative staff and teachers, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed to the daily that the ministry will ask the educational districts to send the list of administrative employees entitled to the bonus next week in order to review the list before submission to the Financial Affairs Sector.

Sources clarified that the performance of teachers will be evaluated at the end of the current academic year and those eligible among them will receive the bonus either at the end of August or the beginning of September.



A photo from some of the activities.

'Bank committed to empower future leaders of Kuwait'

ABK supports Kuwaiti students through sponsorship of EGNUKS confab in Egypt

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is pleased to announce its sponsorship of National Union of Kuwaiti Students - Egypt's (EGNUKS) recent conference.

Held over a period of two days in March 2024, the event welcomed esteemed guests, including Minister Plenipotentiary Mishari Al-Nibari, the acting Charge d'Affaires of the Kuwait Embassy in Cairo, Egypt and Dr. Khaled AlMuharib, Head of the Cultural Office. From ABK, Mohammed Talib Behbehani, Head of Private Banking, attended in addition to a representative from Corporate Communications.

Highlighting the significance of their involvement, Behbehani emphasized, "This sponsorship underscores our unwavering commitment to empowering Kuwaiti students pursuing education abroad. This initiative reflects our commitment to social responsibility, aimed at guiding students on their academic journey and equipping them with valuable experiences to navigate challenges

successfully." During the conference, ABK curated a range of engaging activities tailored to Kuwaiti students in Egypt, including exciting cash prizes and an informative segment by ABK-Egypt staff introducing students to the Bank's diverse products and services.

In line with its dedication to fostering educational opportunities, ABK has been a strong supporter of Kuwaiti students both locally and internationally. Behbehani concluded, "Sponsoring the EGNUKS conference is a testament to ABK's enduring dedication to fostering edu-



Honoring the bank for sponsoring the conference.

ational excellence and empowering the future leaders of Kuwait." The Bank's holistic approach not only encompasses current students but also extends support to fresh graduates by providing job opportunities and tailored training through ABK Academy. Since its inception in 2009, the academy has been instrumental in developing the skills of aspiring banking professionals, aligning with ABK's steadfast commitment to nurturing national talent and driving employment opportunities through targeted initiatives like job fairs and youth development programs.

Project valued at approximately \$380 million

KOC extends pressure systems project tender deadline

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The MEED magazine reported that the Kuwait Oil Company has extended the deadline for submitting bids for a project involving the installation of pressure and depletion systems and sulfur recovery units in several early production facilities, reports Al-Anba daily.

The project, valued at approximately \$380 million, had its deadline extended

until April 21. This extension follows multiple previous postponements, with deadlines set for December 17, March 19, and February 18.

The latest extension comes amidst efforts by contracting companies to secure approvals amid the country's political situation.

The project entails installing compression systems and recovery units at the Early Production Facility 50

and Jurassic Production Facility 3. Bidding documents were initially released on September 17, 2023, with December 17 set as the initial deadline for bids.

However, sources indicated that delays were expected due to an expanded scope, which included additional pressure systems, potentially increasing the project's value beyond the initial estimate.

oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down USD 1.04 to USD 85.40 per barrel on Thursday compared to USD 86.44 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Thursday.

The price of the Brent crude went down by 16 cents to USD 86.09 per barrel, the same with the West Texas Intermediate, which went down by 28 cents to USD 81.35 per barrel. (KUNA)

Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) has announced impressive financial results for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2023. The company achieved a net profit of 30 million dinars (\$98 million), marking a notable 19 percent increase compared to the previous year's profit of 25.3 million dinars (\$82.5 million), reports Al-Jarida daily.

This growth in profitability reflects the success of the strategic initiatives implemented by the company's Board of Directors and Executive Management.

Key highlights of the financial performance include:

Revenue Growth -- Total revenues from operations surged by 30 percent, reaching 1.3 billion dinars (\$4.2 billion) in 2023 compared to 1 billion dinars (\$3.3 billion) in 2022.

Shareholders' Equity and Assets -- Shareholders' equity increased by 4 percent, rising from 587.8 million dinars (\$1.9 billion) to 611.2 million dinars (\$2 billion). Additionally, the company's combined assets grew by 8 percent to 12.3 billion

Kuwait Projects Company reports strong financial growth

dinars (\$40.1 billion) at the end of 2023, compared to 11.4 billion dinars (\$37.2 billion) at the end of 2022.

Strategic Initiatives -- The company successfully executed a series of strategic exit, merger, and acquisition deals aimed at diversifying its portfolio and maximizing value for stakeholders. These initiatives contributed to a noticeable improvement in financial indicators, including revenues and profits.

Strategic Exits and Mergers -- The company exited from Gulf Insurance Group

and sold its ownership stake in United Petroleum Projects Company, while also announcing an important merger deal between OSN+ and Anghami, which is expected to create the largest online broadcasting platform in the region.

Financial Restructuring -- Kuwait Projects Company executed various financing deals, including purchasing and canceling Kuwaiti term bonds, repayment of medium-term Eurobonds, and completing the issuance of five-year sukuk, marking a significant milestone in Islamic finance.

Market Movements

28-03-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+1.15	4,232.94	SAUDI - Tadawul	-42.09	12,565.89
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+5.36	6,903.53	JAPAN - Nikkei	-594.66	40,168.07
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+578.03	67,166.38			

Business

IEA, IEF and OPEC emphasize global energy market stability

Joint workshop highlights energy market dynamics

VIENNA, March 28, (KUNA): The International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) stressed on Wednesday the significance of ensuring stability in the global energy market amid a rapidly changing world.

This came in a joint press release issued at the wrap-up of the 10th Joint IEA-IEF-OPEC Workshop on the Interactions between Physical and Financial Energy Markets.

The high-level technical meeting was chaired by Aayed S. Al-Qahtani, Director of OPEC's Research Division, together with Christof van Agt Ross, Director of the IEF's Energy Dialogue, and Joel Couse, Special Advisor to the IEA.

Discussions during the workshop had three sessions. The first addressed the "Factors driving oil market volatility". This was followed by a second session on "Evolving crude benchmarks, price formation and interaction with derivatives markets".

The third session covered "Ensuring adequate financing to sustain oil and gas developments".

In his remarks, Al-Qahtani said: "Our latest World Oil Outlook puts cumulative oil-related investment requirements from now until 2045 at approximately USD 14 trillion or around USD 610 billion on average per year. This massive spending will be required to meet global oil demand, which is expected to reach 116 mb/d by 2045."

"This must be an industry priority if we are to maintain security of supply and avoid unwanted volatility in the years ahead," said Al-Qahtani, adding that "we must continue to do everything we can to avoid volatility, and this includes speculative positioning, which can adversely impact the global oil market."

Following to the press release published on Thursday 28 March 2024 regarding the Annual ordinary General Assembly meeting of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), we would like to note that the cash dividends record date and payment date have been amended as follows:

Record date: 18 April 2024 Instead of 15 April 2024
Payment date: 23 April 2024 Instead of 21 April 2024

For further information and details please refer to the company's disclosures available on the Boursa Kuwait website

Van Agt Ross told the workshop that though physical and financial energy market linkages are better understood and have become more transparent, they require constant analysis to support the stability of world energy markets in a rapidly changing world.

For his part, Couse said the continuation of this regular event has contributed to a better understanding of price formation in oil markets, and energy markets generally. Today's workshop demonstrates again the importance of the ongoing dialogue between OPEC, the IEF and the IEA on subjects of common interest to the three parties.

The Joint Workshop is part of the trilateral work program established by the three organizations and endorsed by energy ministers at the 12th International Energy Forum in Cancun, Mexico, in March 2010.

Since then, the joint IEA-IEF-OPEC meetings covering the evolving inter-linkages between physical and financial energy markets have developed into unique, high-level technical events that bring together a diverse range of market participants to discuss issues that are not addressed in other high-level forums.

Company to distribute 49% of share capital of subsidiary

Agility approves interim in-kind dividends at KD 800m & cash dividends of KD 25.5m

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP (Agility) announced that its Board of Directors has approved an interim cash dividend distribution of KD 25.5 million (USD 83 million), equivalent to 10 fils per share. Agility's Board will meet on March 30 to discuss the full year financial results and dividends.

Shareholders approved paying dividends on an interim basis and listing shares of certain Agility assets on foreign stock exchanges at prior general assembly meetings held on May 30 and June 7, 2023.

Agility's Board has also approved an in-kind dividend distribution estimated at KD 800 million (USD 2.6 billion), representing shares forming 49% of the issued share capital of a subsidiary, Agility Global PLC, which is pursuing a listing on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX).

Agility Global PLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Agility that manages certain company operations and assets, notably Menzies Aviation, the company's investment



Tarek Sultan, Vice Chairman of Agility.

in Tristar Transport LLC, the operations of Agility Logistics Parks outside Kuwait, and the DSV investment.

Following the distribution, Agility, a listed company on the Kuwait Stock Exchange and Dubai Finan-

cial Market, will remain the controlling shareholder in Agility Global PLC with a 51% stake. Agility will continue to consolidate accounts for Agility Global PLC even after listing.

"Over the last 25 years, Agility has grown to encompass global and regional companies that lead in their sectors. We're proud of the value we've created for our 14,000 shareholders. Since the company was privatized in 1997, shareholder value has grown by a multiple of nearly 20 times. Today's dividend distribution is an additional step in that journey. The listing of Agility Global PLC crystallizes the value of assets for shareholders and gives the company access to additional capital markets to fund future growth," said Tarek Sultan, Agility's Vice Chairman. "Agility continues to be a global company proudly based in Kuwait; and will continue to invest and grow locally as well as globally."

ADX listing is expected May 2, subject to fulfilling certain regulatory requirements.

Project market grows by 1.6%

Kuwait leads project market surge in MENA region, highlighting dynamic growth trends

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The data from MEED Projects Index highlights significant contract awarding activity across various countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with Kuwait experiencing notable growth in its project market, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In February, Kuwait witnessed contracts worth \$144 million being awarded, with the largest deal worth \$60 million signed by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare for the Al-Mutla'a Residential City project. This contributed to a 1.6% growth in Kuwait's project market for the month.

Overall, the Gulf project market saw continuous growth for the 12th consecutive month, rising by 1.7% in March. The total value added during this period amounted to \$65.9 billion. The UAE played a significant role in this growth, contributing \$38.5 billion in value, particularly driven by developments such as the expansion of Al Maktoum International Airport and new projects by Emaar Properties.

Qatar also experienced strong growth in its project market, adding \$13.4 billion in value, largely due to Qatar Energy's announcement of the North West Field development, a \$12 billion LNG production pro-

gram expansion. However, Saudi Arabia's project market saw a marginal contraction of 0.3%, resulting in a loss of \$5 billion in value, while Bahrain's market grew modestly by 0.1%. Outside the Gulf, Iraq and Iran recorded growth rates of 1.6% and 1.2%, respectively.

Overall, these developments underscore the dynamic nature of the project market in the MENA region, with various countries experiencing fluctuations in activity influenced by factors such as government initiatives, economic conditions, and strategic investments in infrastructure and development projects.

Liquidity hits 52.1 million dinars

Boursa records declines in trading session

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: During yesterday's trading session on the Kuwait Stock Exchange, pressure increased on the indices, resulting in a decrease in the general market index by 0.44 percent to close at 7,367.26 points. Liquidity amounted to 52.1 million dinars, with 168.5 million shares traded through 9,942 transactions. Out of the 118 shares traded, 42 gained, 57 lost, and 19 remained unchanged, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Premier Market Index also ex-

perienced a decline of 0.27 percent, closing at 8,073.55 points, with liquidity totaling 45.9 million dinars. Trading volume reached 130.7 million shares through 6,997 transactions, with 33 shares traded, 8 gaining, 23 losing, and 2 remaining unchanged.

Similarly, the Main Market index decreased by 1.28 percent to close at 6,044.90 points, with liquidity at 6.2 million dinars, while the trading volume amounted to 37.8 million shares

through 2,947 transactions. Out of the 85 shares traded, 34 gained, 34 lost, and 17 remained unchanged.

Agility and GFH exhibited good performance at the beginning of the trading session, with anticipation for the announcement of profits and dividends for Agility shares. However, the market saw selling pressure, especially on IVA Hotels shares, while other leading stocks remained stable. Agility's stock witnessed significant demand, reaching 620 fils per share.

Saudi leads in ETF share

ETFs tracking emerging markets index vary in Gulf stock exchanges exposure

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: According to an economic analysis cited by the Arabian Gulf Business Insight website, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) tracking the Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Index (MSCI) exhibit varying levels of exposure to different Gulf stock exchanges, reports Al-Qabas daily.

While they are less exposed to Saudi Arabia, they demonstrate higher exposure to other Gulf markets such as the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait.

Over the past decade, the inclusion of the stock exchanges of these four Gulf countries in the MSCI index has attracted billions of dollars in investment flows to ETFs tracking the index on these exchanges.

As of February 15, 2024, the Saudi Stock Exchange has the largest share of ETFs for the MSCI index at 4.4%,

followed by the UAE at 1.3%, Qatar at 0.9%, and Kuwait at 0.8%.

Todd Rosenblut, head of research at VitaVI, an ETF analysis company, explained that while some ETFs aim to fully replicate the main index's exposure, investment managers may adjust for liquidity differences among emerging market stocks to closely align with index performance.

An analysis by Arabian Gulf Business Insight revealed that seven large ETFs, collectively managing \$131 billion in assets, track the MSCI index differently, potentially due to custom criteria set by these funds. On average, the Saudi weight among these ETFs is slightly lower than the standard weight of the Saudi Stock Exchange, while it is slightly higher for the UAE and remains comparable for Kuwait and Qatar.

Collectively, ETFs own \$9.5 billion in Gulf stock exchanges, with significant holdings in the Saudi Stock Exchange, UAE Stock Exchange, Qatar, and Kuwait. There are anticipated opportunities for increased fund allocations to MSCI traded indices on Gulf exchanges in the future, driven by improving sentiment towards emerging markets and economic conditions in the Gulf region.

The Kuwait Stock Exchange has experienced positive performance since November, with market indicators showing significant gains in February. The Premier Market Index has gained 8.2% since the beginning of the year, reaching approximately 43.8 billion dinars by the end of February.

Al Habtoor Group recognizes its outstanding Emirati employees

DUBAI, March 28: Al Habtoor Group (AHG) celebrated a select group of Emirati employees in recognition of their exceptional contributions, as part of the group's ongoing commitment to support Emiratisation and foster local talent development. This accolade is in appreciation of their excellence and commitment within the framework of the group's Emiratisation programme, which aims to encourage young Emiratis to actively engage in the workforce.

AHG's Founding Chairman Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor recognised fifteen exemplary Emirati employees from various roles across the Group's diverse units, marking a successful exceedance of the required Emiratisation ratio in the private sector. This achievement underscores the AHG's commitment to nurturing local talent and creating employment opportunities for Emirati youth.

During the recognition ceremony, Khalaf Al Habtoor expressed his pleasure over this milestone and thanked the employees for their tireless efforts, urging them to persist in their efforts to ensure the group's continued success in the future. He addressed them by saying: "You represent the future of our national enterprises, which have been established from the ground up by the people of this blessed land. The prosperity of our economy and its sustainability rely on you, aimed at securing your future and that of your children."

He also encouraged the AHG's Emirati employees to refine their skills and strive for the highest international standards in their work to achieve sustainable growth and excellence in every endeavour, stating: "Our governmental institutions have excelled under the guidance of our



Al Habtoor Group celebrates select group of Emirati employees in recognition of their exceptional contributions, as part of the group's ongoing commitment to support Emiratisation.

men and women, achieving global recognition in a manner that fills us with pride. The chance to expand your expertise and rise to prominent positions awaits you. At the Al Habtoor Group, we are dedicated to supporting every ambitious Emirati keen on learning and progressing in all our operational domains, with the advancement of our sons and daughters always being our foremost concern."

He added: "We are at present working on one of the world's largest projects, and it fills me with immense pride that our Emirati ID designers are spearheading the design efforts for these projects, which rival the finest and most opulent interior designs globally."

This recognition is aligned with the group's vision to build a sustainable future, provide employment and professional growth opportunities for Emirati talent, thereby enriching the local economy, and contributing to the United Arab Emirates's sustainable development.

The honourees included: Mohammad Alfalasi, Executive Manager in Development & Investment Department; ShammaAlshamsi, Development & Investment Associate; Rashid Rafiee, Manager at the Security Department; HamdaAlmurr, Senior Interior Design Engineer; Anas Almarzooqi, Group Director of Security; Sultan Abdullah, Public Relations Officer; NajilaAlblooshi, Traffic Administrator; Ayesha Ahli, Multimedia Designer; AzzaAlyammahi, Complex Protocol Executive; Mohammed Ibrahim, Complex Assistant Security Manager; Ali Mohammad, Loss Prevention Manager; Maryam Farsi, Senior Maintenance Engineer; and Noora Alblooshi, Manager, HR & Admin.

In 2023, AHG significantly advanced its Emiratisation programme, achieving an Emiratisation ratio between 6 to 8% across various sectors. This reflects its serious commitment to enhancing local capabilities and empowering Emirati youth to effective market participation.

Competition embodied Kuwait's rich cultural heritage and embraced local talents

Zain sponsors Bait Al Othman Museum's carrom tournament

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: For the second time, Zain has sponsored Bait Al Othman Museum's carrom tournament in collaboration with the Volunteer Work Center and the Public Authority for Sports. The competition came under the patronage and attendance of the Director of the Volunteer Work Center Sheikhha Amthah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

During the awards ceremony held at the museum in Hawalli, Zain was recognized for its support to the competition. In attendance were the tournament's patron, Sheikhha Amthah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Hawalli Governor and Al-Asimah Acting Governor Ali Al Asfar, Honorary President of Bait Al Othman Museum Adnan Al Othman, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed



Sheikha Amthah Al Ahmad honors Al Khashti. Present are Al Asfar and Al Othman.

Al Khashti, Director of Abdullah Al Othman Heritage Center Anwar Al Refaie, along with public figures, dip-

lomats, and participating teams. Zain's support to this unique local event came to reflect its keenness to



Zain joined a friendly match during the tournament.

support any cultural initiative or program that strengthens belonging to our national identity, promotes Kuwait's

rich heritage, embraces local talents, and helps introduce local traditions and values to new generations.

Bait Al Othman Museum, part of the Volunteer Work Center, hosted the carrom competition for two consecutive days. Carrom is a tabletop game of Indian origin that is deeply rooted in Kuwaiti heritage and tradition and stimulates mental focus and hand skill. This year's competition featured 240 teams with over 400 players and was supervised and refereed by a team from the Public Authority for Sports. Winners were awarded with valuable cash prizes.

Zain takes pride in supporting the programs and initiatives of Bait Al Othman Museum, one of Kuwait's top cultural and touristic destinations. The museum works to document and preserve Kuwait's rich history, heritage, and tradition, and hosts several cultural and social programs all year round.

As part of bank's 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan' program

KFH continues efforts to distribute Iftar meals across Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is continuing its efforts to distribute Ramadan Iftar meals across various locations in Kuwait as part of its "Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan" 2024 program.

The program champions a diverse range of community initiatives that integrate all segments of society, solidifying KFH's leadership in volunteer work, CSR, and sustainable development.

The program also includes distributing Iftar snacks for drivers during Maghrib prayers. This initiative aims to ensure drivers reach home safely and avoid speeding, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. The program distributes Ramadan baskets in collaboration with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, aiming to foster the spirit of volunteerism and contribute to instilling the concept of giving.

The KFH program also offers



Baitek Volunteer Team

a variety of sports and health activities during Ramadan. These include the V-Fit Virtual Walking Challenge, held in collaboration with the V-Thru App. This challenge encourages participants to walk in Al Shaheed Park and the Avenues Mall before iftar. KFH is co-organizing a sports event for men and women with Circuit+ at Al Hamra Mall. Additionally, it co-organizes another sport event in the Arena Challenge at 360. In addition

to its Ramadan initiatives, KFH also organized the Qurra'a Baitek competition, Gergean events, and awareness videos. These videos were created in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait Fire Force, nutritionists, and doctors. KFH Ramadan program offers a variety of activities and events, including providing hospitality services in mosques, sharing Iftar meals with various groups during Iftar time, and more.



General photo from the contest.



Students receiving awards.



CEAS hosts inaugural programming contest

AUK celebrates student talent and innovation

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), in partnership with the ACM Student Chapter, hosted its first programming contest. The contest brought together students from different disciplines in the college to compete in a challenging yet rewarding environment.

Participants competed in trying to solve as many problems as they could with the 3-hour time frame. The contest drew participation from 25 students, spanning from freshmen to seniors, representing a diverse range of different majors that included computer science, computer engineering, and electrical engineering.

CEAS dean, Dr. Mohammed EL-Abd, remarked on the resounding success of the contest, "We are immensely proud of all the participants for their hard work and dedication. Their passion and enthusiasm are a testament to the caliber of our students. We look forward to building on the success of this inaugural event and continuing to provide opportunities for students to excel and thrive in the ever-evolving world of technology."

The programming contest was organized by a team of faculty from CEAS: Mrs. Dima Aburshaid, senior instructor; Ms. Razan AlFar, instructional assistant; and Mr. David Liang, teaching assistant.

Commenting on the contest, Mrs. Dima Aburshaid stated, "There is a huge learning curve in these contests. Participants are required to skim through a set of several problem statements, identify which problems to tackle first, read text and deduce the requirements, devise a solution, and debug their code to finally have the correct solution."

The contest concluded with an award ceremony recognizing the outstanding performance of seven students. Reem Qasem won first place, followed by MoemenElByah in second place, and Shrouq Abdul-salam in third. Special recognition was also extended to the top three experienced competitors: Yousef Al-Hamad, Bader Al-Otaibi, and Fahad Kalloush. A special recognition of the top novice coder was awarded to Jana Hassan.

Contests such as these foster invaluable skills and camaraderie among students, further enriching their educational experience, while also serving as a testament to the collaborative spirit and dedication of the AUK campus community.

Sponsorship promotes creativity and skill development

Warba signs strategic partnership with the Marketing Club at GUST

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Warba Bank took a new step in the field of marketing by signing a strategic agreement with the Marketing Club at the Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST), whereby Warba Bank will sponsor various activities and events of the Marketing Club based on its keenness to support various student activities and events.

Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, said: "Warba Bank's sponsorship of the Marketing Club at Gulf University for Science and Technology again proves Warba's keenness to direct students' energies to develop their creativity through its numerous activities and programs specialized in Islamic economic applications and the activity of Islamic banks, especially marketing, in addition to the role of social activities throughout the year, which Warba Bank will provide during the year 2024 in cooperation with the Marketing Club, and will be announced within the monthly plans announced in cooperation with the two parties."

Al-Mutairi added that Warba Bank will sponsor all activities organized by the Marketing Club at the university campus. Warba's team will also be present to support youth events and activities at all levels, stimulate their creativity and abilities, and develop their scientific and practical skills within its pioneering social responsibility program, through which it approaches all different segments of society, especially the category of students who need all forms of support before starting their professional life.

In turn, Abdul Aziz Ahmed Malallah - Head of the Marketing Club at Gulf University for Science and Technology, said: "We extend our sincere thanks to Warba Bank for its sponsorship of the Club, which is a usual sponsorship. Warba always communicates and seeks to support youth activities, especially at Gulf University for Science and Technology, and its previous support for the Public Relations Club." He added that this year, Warba Bank is sponsoring the Marketing Club to stimulate the creativity of young students and prepare them for the labor market, in addition to Warba Bank's interest, within its strategic plan, in supporting young people in all fields.



Photo during the signing of agreement.

The Marketing Club of the Gulf University of Science and Technology is considered one of the vital student clubs that cares for the learner in his administrative field in general and his marketing field in particular, as the Club provides a comprehensive set of accredited training courses, in addition to seminars, conferences, and field visits, that aims to make the student knowledgeable in his academic and practical specialization in the field of marketing.

Warba Bank is keen to sponsor all youth projects, as it announced last October its strategic partnership with the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Higher Education and its sponsorship of the school league, which comes of its keenness to pay attention to sports and youth activities, develop them, and encourage maintaining a healthy lifestyle for school students at all educational levels.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.

Event highlights love, talent, and cultural pride

Royal Britannia Kindergarten blends Mother's Day and Gergean festivity in heartwarming celebration

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Royal Britannia Kindergarten for special needs, proudly hosted a heartwarming celebration on Thursday, March 21st, blending the spirit of Mother's Day with the traditional festivity of Gergean. The event brought together dignitaries from the Kuwaiti Government and diplomatic corps, RB parents, and the community to witness the extraordinary talents of RB students and to honour the invaluable role of mothers.

Dr. Hanan Al Mutawa, chair, and co-founder of Royal Britannia Kindergarten, welcomed guests with warmth and gratitude.

As the stage came alive, the vibrant energy of RB students illuminated the room, showcasing their talents through a series of captivating performances. Led by Ms. Elisa R Isaac, Headteacher at RB, and the dedicated RB team, the event was a testament to the hard work and dedication invested in nurturing the students' abilities.

The program featured a delightful array of performances, including enchanting songs, mesmerising music chairs performance, and captivating oriental melodies. One of the highlights of the event was a touching rendition of "My Sweet Mummy," a heartfelt tribute to mothers everywhere. Dressed in charming attire designed to enhance the synchronisation of movement and rhythm, RB students poured their hearts into every note, leaving the audience spellbound.

In addition to celebrating Mother's Day, the event also paid homage to the traditional festivity of Gergean, a cherished cultural celebration in Kuwait. The auditorium was adorned with intricate decorations, reflecting the vibrant colours and joyous spirit of Gergean. Through this immersive experi-



Photos during the Royal Britannia Kindergarten Mother's Day and Gergean festivity celebration.



ence, RB students had the opportunity to learn about their own cultural identity and take pride in their heritage.

Amidst the festivities, tokens of appreciation were presented to mothers in attendance, symbolising gratitude for their unwavering love and support. The exchange of gifts served as a poignant reminder of the profound bond between mothers and their children, transcending

barriers and fostering unity within the RB community.

Dr. Hanan Al Mutawa expressed her heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the event, including the dedicated RB team, supportive parents, and esteemed guests. She emphasised the importance of creating inclusive spaces where every child feels valued, nurtured, and empowered to reach their

full potential. As the event drew to a close, guests departed with hearts full of joy and gratitude, carrying with them memories of a truly unforgettable celebration. The Mother's Day integrated Gergean festivity at Royal Britannia Kindergarten was not only a testament to the talent and resilience of RB students but also a celebration of the profound love and dedication of mothers everywhere.

Internet, AI studies among Women's Nonfiction Prize finalists

LONDON, March 28, (AP) — Books about the dizzying impact of the internet and artificial intelligence are among finalists for a new book prize that aims to help fix the gender imbalance in nonfiction publishing.

The shortlisted six books for the inaugural Women's Prize for Nonfiction, announced on Wednesday, include Canadian author-activist Naomi Klein's "Doppelganger," a plunge into online misinformation, and British journalist Madhumita Murgia's "Code-Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI."

The 30,000 pound (\$38,000) award is a sister to the 29-year-old Women's Prize for Fiction and is open to female English-language writers from any country in any nonfiction genre.

The finalists also include autobiographical works - poet Safiya Sinclair's "How to Say Babylon: A Jamaican Memoir" and British art critic Laura Cumming's "Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life and Sudden Death."

Rounding out the list are British author Noreen Masud's travelogue-memoir "A Flat Place," and Harvard history professor Tiya Miles' "All That She Carried," a history of American enslavement told through one Black family's keepsake.

British historian Suzannah Lipscomb, who is chairing the judging panel, said that "the readers of these books will never see the world - be it through art, history, landscape, politics, religion or technology - the same again."

The winners of both nonfiction and fiction prizes will be announced

at a ceremony in London on June 13.

The prize was set up in response to a gender imbalance in the book world, where men buy more nonfiction than women - and write more prize-winning nonfiction books.

The company Nielsen Book Research found in 2019 that while women bought 59% of all the books sold in the United Kingdom, men accounted for just over half of adult nonfiction purchases.

Prize organizers say that in 2022, only 26.5% of nonfiction books reviewed in Britain's newspapers were by women, and male writers dominated established nonfiction writing prizes.

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Jill Biden has written a children's picture book about her White House cat, Willow, that will be published in June.

Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday that "Willow the White House Cat" tells the story of how the short-haired tabby ended up at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Aides previously had said the cat impressed Jill Biden after it jumped on stage as she spoke at a Pennsylvania farm during the 2020 presidential campaign. Biden later adopted the cat and named it after her hometown of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

"As Willow bounds from room to room, exploring history in her new home, she learns quickly about all of the incredible people who make the 'People's House' run," the first lady said in the publisher's announcement. "They welcomed Willow with love and care, just as

they did **Joe** and me, the First Families who came before us, and all of the people who step foot into this home.

"Making many new friends along the way, Willow's journey gives the world a 'cats-eye' view of all the ins and outs of America's most famous address," she said.

Willow, now 4 years old, is the only Biden pet still living at the White House. They have had three German shepherd dogs. Champ died in 2021, and Major and later Commander were sent away after exhibiting aggressive behavior, including biting Secret Service personnel and members of the White House staff.

Presidential pets are an enduring source of public fascination and often the subject of books. **George H.W. Bush's** dog, Millie, "opined" on her White House life in "Millie's Book," and first lady **Hillary Clinton** wrote a book about the letters that were sent to her family pets, cat Socks and dog Buddy. Books have also been written about President **Barack Obama's** white-chested Portuguese water dog, Bo.

"Willow the White House Cat" will be published by Paula Wiseman Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. It was co-written with award-winning author **Alyssa Satin Capucilli** and illustrated by acclaimed artist **Kate Berube**. Jill Biden will donate proceeds from sales of the book to charities that support military dogs.

The first lady's previous children's titles are "Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops" and "Joey: The Story of Joe Biden." She published her memoir, "Where the Light Enters," in 2019.

Books

Variety



This image released by Neon shows Josh O'Connor, (center), in a scene from 'La Chimera.' (AP)

Film

A spellbinding journey into folk tale cinema

Rohrwacher's 'La Chimera' is pure magic

By Jake Coyle

When we talk about "movie magic," the first thing that comes to mind is often something like the bikes achieving liftoff in "E.T." But it applies no less to Alice Rohrwacher's wondrous "La Chimera," a grubbily transcendent folk tale of a film that finds its enchantment buried in the ground.

"Were you dreaming?" a train conductor asks the sleeping Arthur (Josh O'Connor), a distant, temperamental Brit in Italy with little more to his name than the rumpled cream-colored linen suit he wears. The answer is yes. Radiant memories of Arthur's dead lover, Benjamina, haunt his dreams and propel him on a strange quest into the underground tombs of Tuscany.

A melancholy spell seems to hang over Arthur, who has a mystical gift for finding ancient relics. It's the early 1980s. Arthur is returning home from a stint in jail for grave robbing. His homecoming is received like a hero's return by the scruffy, carnivalesque band of tombaroli - tomb raiders who plunder Etruscan artifacts - who look on Arthur more like a prince than a destitute thief. They call him "maestro."

With remarkable precision, Arthur is able to point to where to dig. In one scene, he takes a small, banded branch as an instrument for his dowsing. "La Chimera," itself, seems to emerge almost the same way - an earthy, spellbinding buried treasure with a sublime drawing power.

The precise moment I fell totally in love with "La Chimera" - and this is very much a movie to love - is an early montage in which Arthur and his fellow scavengers scamper across the countryside, hiding in fields from bumbling police, while a folk song about the tombarolo Englishman is sung. "La Chimera," the third in a loose trilogy for Rohrwacher following "The Wonders" and "Happy as Lazzaro," is the fullest realization yet of her cinema of "magical neo-realism."

Rohrwacher's great fascination is with the past. The hold it can have on the present. The vast yet minuscule distance between long-ago and today. "Happy as Lazzaro" charmingly walked a 19th century peasant into present day.

"La Chimera" is even more beguiling and mournful.

The tombaroli make a merry band, but Arthur's plight is shadowed by death. "He was looking for a passage to the afterlife," one of his companions says in the film, one of a handful of direct addresses.

Arthur and company make cash by selling their unearthed Etruscan wares. But he's driven less by money than a compulsion to reach the dead, to reach Benjamina. How deep will he dig? Will the darkness of the underworld envelop him?

Arthur also makes occasional visits to the mother of Benjamina, Flora (a typically magnificent Isabella Rossellini), who, like him, has not yet accepted the death of her daughter. She receives him courteously and deferentially, with an old-world manner. Flora's other daughters snicker that she only lets men smoke in the house.

Fable

At her crumbling villa, Arthur meets Italia (Carol Duarte, fabulous), a singing student who, Flora says, is tone deaf. But she might be the sharpest observer in the film. Italia, alone, is horrified by the plundering of the graves. In other ways, she's the embodiment of the time the tombs recall. It's noted that the Etruscans elevated women in society - one of, though not the only, relic of the past that "La Chimera" brings forward to today.

Past and present mingle in mysterious ways in "La Chimera." The greatest Etruscan discovery - a glorious subterranean chamber - is made on a beach with a factory just down the shoreline. But the even more remarkable excavation of the film is of Arthur's grieving soul. O'Connor is exquisite in a role that requires the deftest balance of tangible reality and otherworldly fable.

Like so many things in "La Chimera," O'Connor's performance is entrancing and confounding. How can a movie be so nimbly poised between past and present, you can't help but wonder. The stuff of fairy tales - of a kind of storytelling magic - is what Rohrwacher, herself, wants to unearth. "Were you dreaming?" Good question.

"La Chimera," a Neon release, is not rated by the Motion Picture Association. In Italian with English subtitles. Running time: 133 minutes. Four stars out of four.

Also:

NEW YORK: Donald Sutherland has a memoir coming out in November reflecting on his life of nearly 90 years and his 60-year career as one of Hollywood's top actors in films like "M.A.S.H.," "Kluge," "Ordinary People" and "The Hunger Games" saga.

Crown announced Wednesday that Sutherland's "Made Up, But Still True" will be published Nov. 12, when the actor will be 89 years old.

"Donald Sutherland has made an indelible mark on the industry since his life-changing role in M.A.S.H. catapulted him into the public eye nearly sixty years ago," the publisher said in a statement. "With his raw honesty and wicked sense of humor, the renowned actor chronicles his life in this generation-defining book, cataloging with powerful detail his far too many brushes with death, his loving relationship with his parents, and behind-the-scenes stories of the movies he's starred in."

A major figure in the New Hollywood of the 1970s who has worked steadily since, Sutherland was long considered among the best actors never to have been nominated for an Academy Award, despite appearing in several films that won the biggest of them. He was given an honorary Oscar for career achievement in 2017. He also has an Emmy and two Golden Globes.

"Made Up, But Still True" will be his first work as an author.

Born in **Saint John, Canada**, Sutherland barely survived a series of childhood diseases, including infantile paralysis, rheumatoid fever and spinal meningitis.

He chronicles those struggles in the book, along with his burgeoning teenage sexuality and his love for acting. He began acting on screen in the early 1960s.

Sutherland broke through in Hollywood with a small role in the 1967 World War II classic "The Dirty Dozen," and broke big with a starring role as Hawkeye Pierce in **Robert Altman's** "M.A.S.H."

He worked with auteurs including **Nicolas Roeg** in "Don't Look Now" and **Federico Fellini** in "Fellini's Casanova." And he appeared just as often in more popular fare, playing a spacey tank commander in "Kelly's Heroes," a demented arsonist in "Backdraft" and an authoritarian president in the "Hunger Games" films. (AP)

Features

ARAB TIMES
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 29-30, 2024

SYDNEY: Taylor Swift's father will not be charged over a paparazzi photographer's claim that **Scott Swift** assaulted him on the Sydney waterfront hours after the pop star's Australian tour ended last month.

Photographer **Ben McDonald** had alleged that one of Swift's security guards forced an umbrella into his face and camera and that **Scott Swift** then punched him at the **Neutral Bay Wharf**, where the father and daughter had just come ashore from a yacht Feb. 27.

Taylor Swift's representatives responded by accusing members of the media of aggression during the interaction.

Police began investigating the incident at the time and announced Wednesday that "no further police action" would be taken.

"No offences were detected, and the investigation was concluded with no further police action required," said the statement from the **New South Wales Police Force**.

More than 600,000 fans saw the Australian leg of her Eras Tour at seven Australian stadium concerts.

Her tour shattered records when it reportedly surpassed \$1 billion last year, and her film adaptation of the tour quickly took No. 1 at the box office and became the highest-grossing concert film to date. (AP)

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LOS ANGELES: Buckle up, cowpoke: On Wednesday, **Beyoncé** shared the track list for her forthcoming album, "Act II: Cowboy Carter."

"Cowboy Carter" arrives Friday, but fans got a sneak peek on the superstar's Instagram account, when she shared an image that appears to include the titles of her songs: from the previously released "Texas Hold 'Em" and "16 Carriages," now including "American Requiem," "Blackbird," "Protector," "My Rose," "Bodyguard," "Daughter," "Spaghetti," "Alligator Tears," "Smoke Hour II," "Just For Fun," "Il Most Wanted," "Levi's Jeans," "Flamenco," "Ya Ya," "Oh Louisiana," "Desert Eagle," "Riverdance," "Il Hands Il Heaven," "Tyrant," "Sweet Honey Buckin," and "Amen."

One song appears to be called "The Linda Martell Show," a

reference to the groundbreaking country performer who became the first Black woman to play the Grand Ole Opry.

There's also mention of "Dolly P" - likely a reference to **Dolly Parton** - and a track titled "Jolene," a reference to one of Parton's best-known songs. (AP)

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Swift Beyoncé

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.: The Illinois Supreme Court will hear an appeal of actor **Jussie Smollett's** disorderly conduct conviction for staging a racist and homophobic attack against himself in 2019, then lying to **Chicago** police about it.

The court on Wednesday accepted the appeal from Smollett, formerly a cast member of the

television drama "Empire." It will review a December state appellate court ruling that upheld his 2021 conviction by a Cook County jury.

The case kicked up an international uproar and produced an intensive manhunt by Chicago police detectives.

There is no date set for the high

court to hear arguments in the matter.

A special prosecutor refiled charges against Smollett after **Cook County** State's Attorney **Kim Foxx** dropped the case and Smollett forfeited his \$10,000 bond and conducted community service, which Smollett argues ended the case. (AP)

The Conversation

Oncologist explains why some patients receive both chemotherapy and surgery

Cancer often requires more than one treatment: expert

By Alexander Olawaiye
University of Pittsburgh

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

When Kate Middleton, the princess of Wales, announced in March 2024 that she was receiving "preventive chemotherapy" following abdominal surgery, many wondered what that entails. Formally known as adjuvant therapy, administering chemotherapy or other treatments after surgery is a common approach to treating certain types of cancer and is not necessarily intended to prevent cancer.

As an Oncologist at the University of Pittsburgh let me explain what factors doctors take into account when devising a cancer treatment plan.

There are many types of cancer treatment, including surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy and hormonal therapy, among others. Sometimes doctors combine multiple types of treatment. Which is the best treatment approach depends on which organ the tumor originated from and how much the tumor has spread at the time of diagnosis.

Broadly speaking, there are two types of cancers: solid tumors - or visible tumors that can be seen by the naked eye or through imaging - and liquid tumors, such as blood cancers. The primary treatment for solid cancers is surgery to physically remove the tumor, with the goal of getting rid of all tissues involved with the tumor.

Diagnosis

For example, in ovarian cancer, surgery often includes removing the ovaries, fallopian tubes and the uterus, along with any visible cancer tissue in the rest of the belly. Sometimes this requires removing the spleen or part of the small intestine or liver.

For skin cancers such as melanoma, surgery involves removing both the tumor and a good margin of normal-looking skin with it to capture any remaining cancer cells that may not be visible in the surrounding healthy skin. Likewise, a surgeon may also remove nearby lymph nodes.

When solid cancer is diagnosed early, the success of treatment following surgery is typically high. For example, an estimated 91% of cervical cancer patients who are diagnosed early are still alive at least five years after diagnosis. Endometrial cancer patients who are diagnosed early have an estimated five-year survival rate of 95%.

Despite surgical removal, many tumors come back. Researchers don't fully understand why cancers recur, but there are certain red flags that indicate the potential for recurrence.

One is how different the cancer cells look compared with healthy cells. The more different, the more

aggressive the tumor. When a tumor is more aggressive, it's more likely to invade neighboring tissues and spread to other parts of the body.

Another is the extent the cancer has spread at the time of diagnosis. This is what determines the stage of the cancer. For example, stage 1 cancer refers to a tumor that is confined to the organ it originally developed from. Stage 4 cancer refers to a tumor that has spread far from its origins to grow on other organs. The higher the stage, the higher the risk for a worse outcome.

A third factor is the organ where the cancer first originated. For instance, pancreatic cancers tend to be fatal even when diagnosed early because these tumors don't respond well to therapy. Ovarian cancer can have symptoms that are difficult to recognize, leading to late diagnoses. On the other hand, breast cancer and thyroid cancer tend to be less aggressive for longer periods of time, even when diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Chemotherapy

For patients with tumors that can be surgically removed, they often also receive chemotherapy or radiotherapy before or after the procedure. Doctors prescribe this additional, or adjuvant, treatment depending on the patient's risk of recurrence.

Recurrence typically happens when cancer cells escape from the tumor prior to or during surgical removal. Adjuvant chemotherapy or radiation after the procedure is aimed at killing these cells so they don't settle down and grow somewhere else in the body later on.

In some cases, surgical removal is not feasible or not advisable. This could be because the cancer has spread so much that completely cutting it out is impossible or the risk of complications or disability from the surgery is high.

For example, primary surgery often isn't a good option for ovarian cancer, since most patients are diagnosed in advanced stages; complete surgical removal, even if possible, may involve removing important organs such as the rectum and colon. This can lead to the need for a colostomy or ileostomy, where stool is passed directly from the large or small intestine to a bag outside the belly. Surgical removal of breast cancer may mean losing the affected breast.

The risk of unwanted side effects from surgical removal can be reduced through neoadjuvant therapy, or administering chemotherapy or radiation before the procedure to shrink the tumor and reduce the amount of surgery required. Studies have shown that neoadjuvant therapy can help ovarian cancer patients avoid colostomies after surgery and allow breast cancer patients to opt for a procedure that conserves their breast.

Neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment can include chemotherapy, immunotherapy, hormonal therapy, radiation therapy or a combination of these treatments. Further advances in research will offer doctors and patients even more approaches to effectively treat cancer. (AP)



Olawaiye

Food waste reduction key to environmental preservation

783 million people face chronic hunger amidst 19% global food waste, UN says

NAIROBI, Kenya, March 28, (AP) - The world wasted an estimated 19% of the food produced globally in 2022, or about 1.05 billion metric tons, according to a new United Nations report.

The U.N. Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report, published Wednesday, tracks the progress of countries to halve food waste by 2030.

The U.N. said the number of countries reporting for the index nearly doubled from the first report in 2021. The 2021 report estimated that 17% of the food produced globally in 2019, or 931 million metric tons (1.03 billion tons), was wasted, but authors warned against direct comparisons because of the lack of sufficient data from many countries.

The report is co-authored by UNEP and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), an international charity.

Researchers analyzed country data on households, food service and retailers. They found that each person wastes about 79 kilograms (about 174 pounds) of food annually, equal to at least 1 billion meals wasted worldwide daily.

Most of the waste - 60% - came in households. About 28% came from food service, or restaurants, with about 12% from retailers.

"It is a travesty," said co-author Clementine O'Connor, the focal point for food waste at UNEP. "It doesn't make any sense, and it is a complicated problem, but through collaboration and systemic action, it is one that can be tackled."

The report comes at a time when 783 million people around the world face chronic hunger and many places facing deepening food crises.

Food waste is also a global concern because of the environmental toll of production, including the land and water required to raise crops and animals and the greenhouse gas emissions it produces, including methane, a powerful gas that has accounted for about 30 percent of global warming since pre-industrial times.

Food loss and waste generates 8 to 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. If it were a country, it would rank third after China and the U.S.

Fadila Jumare, a Nigeria-based project associate at Busara Center for Behavioral Economics who has studied prevention of food waste in Kenya and Nigeria, said the problem further disadvantages many people who are already food insecure and cannot afford healthy diets.

"For humanity, food waste means that less food is available to the poorest population," said Jumare, who wasn't involved in the report.

Brian Roe, a food waste researcher at Ohio State University who wasn't involved with the report, said the index is important to tackling food waste.

"The key takeaway is that reducing the amount of food that is wasted is an avenue that can lead to many desirable outcomes - resource conservation, fewer environmental damages, greater food security, and more land for uses other than as landfills and food production," said Roe, who wasn't involved



Garbage is loaded into a landfill in Lenox Township, Mich., July 28, 2022. A new United Nations report estimates that 19% of the food produced around the world went to waste in 2022. (AP)

UK urges vaccination as measles cases surge

Japanese supplement recalled after 2 deaths

TOKYO, March 28, (AP) - Health supplement products believed to have caused two deaths and sickened more than 100 people have been ordered to be taken off store shelves in Japan.

The products from Kobayashi Pharmaceutical Co., billed as helping to lower cholesterol, contained an ingredient called "benikoji," a red species of mold.

In addition to the products from Osaka-based Kobayashi, more than 40 products from other companies containing benikoji, including miso paste, crackers and a vinegar dressing, were recalled, starting last week, a government health ministry official said Wednesday.

At least 106 people had been hospitalized, and many more are believed to have been sickened, although it's unclear if all the illnesses are directly linked to benikoji (pronounced benee-koh-jeeh).

The ministry has put up a list on its official site of all the recalled products, including some that use benikoji for food coloring.

The company is investigating the cause of the problem. The recalled products could be bought without a prescription from a doctor, and could be purchased at drug stores.

Kobayashi apologized and asked in an online statement: "Please stop taking our products, and please do not use

in the report.

The report showed notable growth in coverage of food waste in low- and middle-income countries, the authors said. But it may fall to wealthier nations to lead in international cooperation and policy development to reduce food waste, they said.

The report said many governments, regional and industry groups are using

them in the future."

Repeated calls to Kobayashi went unanswered. The company president and other top officials held a news conference last week when the problem first surfaced, bowing their heads in apology, as is the standard in Japan.

The ministry official warned there could be more victims in the days ahead. He asked everyone to stop ingesting anything with benikoji in it. Those with health problems, like weak kidneys, could be especially vulnerable, he said.

All the products were made in Japan, although it is unclear if any of the raw materials were imported. A recall of imported health supplements has happened before, but this is the first major recall of a domestically produced supplement, according to Japanese media reports.

Measles: UK health officials on Monday urged millions of parents to book their children for missed measles, mumps and rubella shots during a sharp increase in the number of measles cases and the lowest vaccination rates in a decade.

The National Health Service is launching a publicity campaign after figures showed there were about 250 confirmed measles cases in parts of England last year. Most cases were in children under 10 years old.

public-private partnerships to reduce food waste and its contributions to climate and water stress. Governments and municipalities collaborate with businesses in the food supply chain, whereby businesses commit to measure food waste.

The report said food redistribution - including donating surplus food to food banks and charities - is significant

The combined measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine is offered in the U.K. in two doses to all children, first at 12 months and then again at 3 years. Vaccination rates have dropped to about 85% nationally, and far lower in parts of London, according to U.K. Health Security Agency chief executive Jenny Harries.

That is "too low to maintain safe population coverage - we want that at about 95%" as advised by the World Health Organization, she said.

Public health officials say more than 3.4 million children under 16 years old are unprotected or not fully protected and at risk of catching the preventable diseases because they only received one of two vaccine doses.

Measles was declared eliminated in the U.K. in 2017, meaning the disease was no longer native to the country.

But transmissions began again when epidemics broke out in the rest of Europe. Officials said outbreaks can take place anywhere where vaccine coverage is below the 95% needed to achieve herd immunity.

WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in November that measles deaths globally spiked by more than 40% last year, and cases rose after vaccination levels dramatically dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

in tackling food waste among retailers.

One group doing that is Food Banking Kenya, a nonprofit that gets surplus food from farms, markets, supermarkets and packing houses and redistributes it to schoolchildren and vulnerable populations. Food waste is an increasing concern in Kenya, where an estimated 4.45 million tons of food is wasted every year.

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Last year witnessed a remarkable public interest

NBK organizes its second Dama Tournament at Al Mubarakiyah

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized its 2nd Dama Tournament at Al Aswaq in Al Mubarakiyah as part of its annual social program "Doing Good Deeds" in the holy month of Ramadan.

The Tournament that started last year and witnessed a remarkable public interest is designed to engage with youth and families visiting the area. NBK volunteers were there to help engagement between families to take part in the competition and to reward the top three winners in adult and youth categories in the tournament.

"Sharing such joyous moments stems from our inclusive corporate social responsibility towards the community, especially that NBK highly recognizes the importance of its social initiatives as the best way to achieve Kuwait's development, progress and prosperity", said Talal Al Turki, NBK Public Relations Senior Manager.

Al Turki added that the tournament is part of NBK's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program held during the holy month of Ramadan, which is filled with various charitable and humanitarian activities, as well as social welfare initiatives, in addition to volunteering efforts and charitable events.

It's worth mentioning that Ramadan program comprised a series of activities and initiatives aimed at encouraging community engagement and solidarity in Kuwait. NBK Ramadan Social Program includes distributing fast-breaking banquets at various locations throughout Kuwait. NBK also distributes Iftar meals via special convoys that tours the more crowded areas in the country. NBK volunteers manage and supervise the fast-breaking banquets distribution and the activities.

NBK carries on its humanitarian initiatives and support of social welfare programs, as it firmly believes in the importance of corporate social responsibility and its effective impact in serving the community and its people, as well as emphasizing the leading role NBK has been playing in that field for many decades.



Top and above photos taken from the tournament.

Al Turki:

NBK highly recognizes the importance of its social initiatives as the best way to achieve social development and welfare

Saad Al Abdullah Academy wins Warba Bank futsal league title

Minister Marafi commends sporting spirit



Futsal champion Saad Al Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences poses with officials.

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Saad Al Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences clinched the title of the Warba Bank Futsal League for Higher Education, triumphing over the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training 3-2. The exhilarating match took place in the Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Gymnasium Complex hall as part of the third sports tournament for higher education.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries including the Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, the Minister of State

FUTSAL

for Youth Affairs, and the Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Daoud Marafi, alongside a plethora of officials from private and government universities and colleges, as well as leaders from the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy.

Fawaz Rashid Al-Rashed of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training received the prestigious best player award of the league. Meanwhile, Musaed Ali Al-Mutairi, also from the Public Authority for Applied Education, secured the title of top scorer, and Youssef Ismail Ahmed of the International University of Science and Technology team was recognized as the league's best goalkeeper.

Zain Premier League resumes

Al-Qadisiya vs Al-Fahaheel kick starts exciting weekend

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Zain Premier League's Six League (Championship Group) is set to recommence this evening with a pivotal match in the twentieth round, featuring Al-Qadisiya against Al-Fahaheel at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 9:30 pm. Saturday's extravaganza will witness a showdown between Al-Arabi and Salmiya at Thamer Stadium, while Kuwait Club and Al-Nasr clash at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, both matches kicking off at 9:30 pm.

The league action was halted since

SOCCER

March 13 due to the national team's engagement in the joint qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup against Qatar.

Currently, Al-Arabi leads the standings with 45 points, trailing Kuwait by just one point. Al-Qadisiya sits third with 42 points, followed closely by Al-Nasr with 24 points, tied with Al-Fahaheel and Al-Salmiya.

In tonight's encounter, Al-Qadisiya aims to temporarily claim the top spot, hoping for slips from their rivals tomorrow. However, Al-Fahaheel, under the guidance of coach Mohammed Al-Mishaan, anticipates a challenging



A file photo of players battling for the ball.

task against a determined opponent eager to leave a mark in the league after missing out on the title contention.

This clash marks the fifth meeting between the two sides this season, with Al-Qadisiya securing victory in four previous encounters, albeit facing significant challenges. Meanwhile, Al-Fahaheel, led by Syrian coach Firas Al-Khatib, seeks to build on their recent draw against Kuwait and make a

statement against their formidable opponents.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi aims to maintain its lead atop the table as it takes on Al-Salmiya, while Kuwait Club faces Al-Nasr in a crucial battle to secure vital points in the competition. Both matches promise intense action and strategic maneuvers as teams vie for supremacy in the league standings.

Maryam Al-Husseini triumphs in inaugural Ramadan Bowling Tournament for women

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Maryam Al-Husseini emerged victorious as the champion of the inaugural Ramadan Bowling Tournament for women, organized by the Kuwait Airways Workers Union and its subsidiaries. The event, which concluded yesterday evening at the Kuwaiti Sports Bowling Club in Salmiya, witnessed spirited competition among 20 skilled players.

Securing first place, Maryam Al-Husseini claimed the title, while Munira Al-Houti clinched second place, earning a silver medal, and Latifa Al-Lingawi secured third place, receiving

BOWLING

a bronze medal. The top three positions were acknowledged by Dr. Ahmed Falah Al-Mahwish, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Airways Workers Union and its subsidiaries, along with the union secretary, pilot Abdullah Khaled Ahmed, and Khaled Habib, the representative of the Kuwaiti Bowling Sports Club.

Expressing his satisfaction, Dr. Ahmed Al-Mahwish emphasized the success of the tournament owing to the remarkable turnout and impeccable organization. He remarked, "We are delighted with the outcome, which serves as a catalyst for

future endeavors in the years to come." He highlighted the board's commitment to promoting diversity in sports during the holy month of Ramadan, catering to various interests, ages, and genders. Initiatives included padel, Futsal five-a-side, and culminated in the Ramadan bowling

tournament for women, reflecting a diverse range of sporting activities. Al-Mahwish underscored that the primary objective of hosting these Ramadan sports courses was to invigorate Kuwait's sports scene and foster the skills and abilities of all participants across the board.



Mahawish, Ahmed, and Habib with the winners.

