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Opinion

HH the Amir declared his revolution against archaic constitution and laws

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE renaissance of any country requires updating, rather upgrading the outdated laws that no longer reflect contemporary needs.

For example, Kuwait used to provide services to its people free of charge when its population was relatively small.

In line with the efforts led by His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad for the modernization of the state, he launched a bitter remedy for dealing with the issues arising from certain constitutional articles.

These articles had led to abuse of power by some parliamentarians, who acted as a shadow government and allowed the National Assembly to encroach upon the powers of other authorities.

This was why His Highness the Amir of the moment ordered a comprehensive modernization workshop to address these problems, which was why there are many laws and regulations that necessitated amendments.

Among the most pressing amendments is the need to clearly define who should receive support or subsidies. This reform aims to avoid the misleading rhetoric of "not touching the citizen's pocket," which can obscure the true nature of the necessary changes.

This summer, we witnessed an electricity crisis that exposed the Council of Ministers' inability to provide electricity for everyone, given that the demand far exceeds the state's capacity.

Even though the situation is difficult, it is important to recognize that Kuwait is one of the most water-scarce countries and invests huge sums for electricity generation.

However, as the saying goes, "Your uncle's money doesn't concern you", many citizens leave their electricity meters running in their villas and homes while traveling during the summer.

Similarly, the issue of food aid reveals a similar disconnect. Although most Kuwaitis do not need it, there are those who refuse to forgo it, clinging to the notion of "not touching the citizen's pocket", which is on everyone's tongue.

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Raids check quality, authenticity of gold

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2. (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing strict oversight on all commercial activities related to gold, jewelry, and precious metals.

In a press statement issued on Monday, the official spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Abdullah Al-Hariz denied the rumors circulating lately on social media regarding the seizure of gold with forged stamps.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to Faisal Al-Rajehi, congratulating him on winning the bronze medal in Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables to Al-Rajehi, congratulating him on his remarkable achievement and extending their best wishes for his continued success. (KUNA)

Al-Sudani made the remarks during talks with Major General Kevin C. Leahy, commander of the U.S.-led coalition against IS in Iraq, in the presence of U.S. ambassador to Iraq Alina L. Romanowski, said al-Sudani's media office in a statement. (Xinhua)

BAGHDAD: The Islamic State (IS) militant group no longer poses a threat to Iraq and dialogue to end the U.S.-led international coalition to fight the IS group continues, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani said Sunday.

Al-Sudani made the remarks during talks with Major General Kevin C. Leahy, commander of the U.S.-led coalition against IS in Iraq, in the presence of U.S. ambassador to Iraq Alina L. Romanowski, said al-Sudani's media office in a statement. (Xinhua)

Commercial license linked to disclosure of real beneficiary

Move to promote transparency in cash dealings



School-going children are given rigorous training by the Kuwaiti Naval Forces, disembarking from a patrol boat and heading towards the shore.

Kuwaiti youth gear up for future roles

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2. (KUNA): Under the patronage of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Army Officers Club celebrated the graduation of 100 trainees from the "Young Recruit Camp" program on Monday.

According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Defense, the four-week program served as a mini-training camp, with introductory field visits to key military divisions, including the Air Force, Navy, the 25th Commando Brigade, and the Army Fire Department, which allowed the participants to gain firsthand experience and an understanding of the work undertaken by their counterparts in the armed forces.

The "Young Recruit" program is designed to instill discipline and responsibility in young people, and introduce them to the fundamentals of teamwork and military training through age-appropriate methods.

Chairman of the Army Officers Club Lieutenant General (retired) Khaled Al-Kandari affirmed the importance of such courses in promoting national values and loyalty to the homeland, as well as for instilling a sense of belonging and spirit of cooperation among the younger generation.

He said these courses impart basic military skills which help in preparing youth to become informed and capable individuals who are ready to take on responsibilities in the future.

KFU eyes PM intervention to end fishermen's woes

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Head of the Kuwait Fishermen Union (KFU) Dhafer Al-Suwaiyan expressed optimism regarding His Highness the Prime Minister's directives to the members of the government to deal with citizens' problems and work towards resolving them.

He said he hopes the challenges faced by fishermen will be resolved, as they have become real obstacles to achieving sustainable food security from marine products.

Al-Suwaiyan appealed to His Highness the Prime Minister to honor the union's request for a meeting, revealing that the union has formally requested an appointment to discuss the challenges facing the fishing industry and seek solutions.

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Al-Huwaila pledges strict action in disability fraud

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As part of the comprehensive and thorough reviews being conducted by various state agencies and institutions on several critical matters, including nationality and academic certificates, to uncover cases of fraud and forgery, informed sources told Al-Seyassah daily that the Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, is set to put under the microscope all

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KFH celebrates 46th anniversary

Details Page 9

Clients must meet deadline

Biometrics, active bank accounts tied

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The banks operating in Kuwait are preparing to implement biometric fingerprint requirements for account holders, reports Al-Rai daily.

This measure comes as the extended deadline for Kuwaiti citizens to complete their biometric fingerprint registration with the Ministry of Interior approaches its September 30 deadline, say reliable sources.

The Central Bank of Kuwait has instructed banks to enforce the new biometric fingerprint policy in four stages which are:

Alert Messages -- Banks will start by sending notifications to customers, urging them to complete their biometric registration within the deadline. This step is expected to begin this week.

Suspension of e-Transactions -- By September 30, all electronic transactions for non-compliant customers will be halted, including access to account balances, statements, and fund transfers.

Bank Card Suspension -- By October 31, all bank cards of those who have not completed the

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'Open-door' policy to continue: Al-Mishari

By Mohammed Al-Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari affirmed the continuation of the open-door policy for all citizens.

Following his first visit to the Kuwait Credit Bank in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Al-Mishari stressed the need to provide the best service to citizens, raise the efficiency of the services provided to them, and

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KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced that commercial licenses will not be issued or renewed for any companies, including sole proprietorships and closed joint-stock companies, unless they comply with the requirement to disclose the beneficial owner through the commercial registry portal on the ministry's website.

The ministry's official spokesperson Abdullah Al-Hariz informed KUNA on Monday that this new legal procedure is mandatory for all companies and commercial institutions to identify the natural person who holds actual and final control over the company.

He stressed that companies and institutions under the supervision of the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Department must comply with this disclosure requirement or face financial penalties, as stipulated in Article 15 of law No. 106/2013 concerning Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing.

Al-Hariz clarified that the disclosure requirement applies to all commercial companies registered in Kuwait, with the exception of those wholly owned by the state and listed companies under the Capital Markets Authority's supervision.

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'Port project to fuel economy'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As the Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Nora Al-Fassam, discussed with the visiting Chinese government delegation the details and mechanisms for beginning the implementation of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project in all its phases, the Minister of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, revealed that the first phase of the project has reached 50 percent completion.

She emphasized the commitment to completing this phase swiftly to operate the port, followed by the "simultaneous execution" of the second and third phases to enable the port to operate at maximum capacity.

In a press statement following her meeting at Shuwaikh Port with the head and members of the Chinese delegation, in the presence of Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat,

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Call for united Arab stand to help end Palestinians agony

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2. (KUNA): The Council for Arab and International Relations (CAIR) has called for a solid and united Arab stance in support of Palestinians against the atrocious Israeli occupation aggression, and for joining South Africa at the International Court of Justice, as well as an Arab Summit resolution on breaking the siege.

The council, chaired by Mohammad Al-Saqer, mentioned in a press release on Monday, this genocide and forced eviction of the Palestinian people in Gaza and West Bank, are a blatant challenge to international unanimity condemning these fascist policies and practices.

About a year since the beginning of the crisis, the humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip has reached catastrophic levels, reads the statement, saying that number of martyrs reached 50,000 including those lost under the rubble, around 92,000 injured, and 1.7 million diseased.

Around 1.6 million Gazans currently sequestered in a 24 square km strip, without access to any basic necessities of shelter, water, food, or medicine.

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Relief aid is headed for Sudan.

10th aid planeload heads to Sudan

Kuwait's tenth relief planeload departed to Sudan on Monday carrying on board 10 tons of foodstuff, organized by Al-Salam society for humanitarian and charity work, in cooperation with Kuwait's ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Social Affairs.

In remarks to KUNA Deputy Director General of the society, Ha-

mad Al-Oun said this aid plane is to support and help the people of Sudan during this humanitarian crisis as the country is facing extreme shortage of food, water, medicine as well as floods and heavy rains that left millions of Sudanese displaced especially with the current situation of armed conflicts.

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Kuwait's iconic landmark Souq Sharq faces decline

Stakeholders call for revitalization

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Souq Sharq, one of Kuwait's most iconic and historic commercial landmarks, is experiencing a significant decline in both visitor numbers and overall appeal. Since its grand opening on September 30, 1998, the mall, with its prominent location overlooking a picturesque harbor on

Arabian Gulf Street, has seen a notable drop in foot traffic and vitality over the past year and a half, reports Al-Rai daily.

Originally a bustling hub with around 70 restaurants and shops, including international brands, Souq Sharq has struggled with closures and decreased visitor interest. The closure of its cinema, once a major attraction, and the decline in store activity have contributed to the mall's downturn.

Visitors and experts have expressed their dismay over the mall's deteriorating condition.

Samira Al-Ajmi lamented the loss of one of Kuwait's most cherished family entertainment destinations, while Jafran Radhi noted that the market is often empty, even during peak times.

Yusef Al-Fulaijawi has emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive redevelopment of the mall to restore its former prominence.

He highlighted the need for renovation of the waterfront restaurants and cafes, as well as the yacht marina, to reinvigorate the mall's appeal.

Abdullah Muhammad observed that the mall's current quiet atmosphere makes it more suited for the elderly, but not for the diverse visitors it once attracted.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Ahmad criticized the deterioration of the mall's waterfront, suggesting that its potential is not being fully utilized.

Boutalal, a long-time visitor, called for a complete overhaul of the mall's facilities, both internally and externally, and recommended transferring its management to the private sector. He believes that such a move could spur the necessary investment and innovation to breathe new life into the complex.

As discussions continue about the future of Souq Sharq, there is a clear consensus among stakeholders and visitors that immediate and substantial development is needed to reclaim the mall's status as a leading commercial and tourist destination in Kuwait.



Al-Rai photo

Souq Sharq wearing a deserted look during peak hours.

Focus shifts to school canopies

Desert cleanup faces delay

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The committee responsible for removing encroachments on state property in desert areas, initially scheduled to begin today, has postponed its activities, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This delay is due to the need for further consideration of recent changes and updates on designated grazing areas by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources.

Moreover, the committee is awaiting the new Minister of Municipality Abdul Latif Al-Mishari's vision and

strategy on the issue.

The committee, originally formed under a decision by former Minister of Municipality Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan, was set to start its work without prior notice.

In the meantime, the committee has redirected its efforts toward removing school canopies. This task aligns with a Ministry of Education decision to clear these structures before the new school year begins.

The inspection teams have already removed a substantial number of canopies across all governorates.



People in Sudan receive treatment in mobile field clinics.

Ninth Kuwaiti aid planeload arrives

Kuwait launches second phase of 'anti-cholera' campaign in Sudan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Direct Aid Society launched on Monday the second phase of its anti-cholera and communicable diseases campaign in Sudan.

The society's Director Dr. Abdullah Al-Sumait told KUNA that the campaign would help the displaced in Kas-sala, Kharoum, and Al-Qadarif and the eastern region of the country.

He affirmed that the society's office in Sudan had reopened, focusing operations in the Port Sudan province to provide utmost assistance to those in desperate need.

He revealed that the Direct Aid had previously provided all sorts of aid and assistance to the displaced with the number amounting to 1.3 million people.

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti cargo plane, carrying 30 tons of relief supplies,



KUNA photos

The plane with food, relief and medical aid, as well as wheelchairs to assist medical personnel and ambulance teams is being unloaded.

landed at Port Sudan New International on Sunday.

This is the ninth planeload in the humanitarian air bridge launched by Kuwait on August 14, Kuwait Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Fahad Al-Thafeeri told KUNA.

The relief supplies include food-stuffs, medical supplies, and wheelchairs, the ambassador noted, adding that the relief efforts, that come at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, materialize Kuwait's solidarity with the brotherly people of Sudan.

The Kuwaiti diplomat expressed hope that Sudan will be able to overcome the wave of floods that caused 148 casualties so far and tens of injuries, as well as affecting more than half a million others, in addition to the destruction of over 100,000 houses, either fully or partially.

PAM, MoE to link certificate data

New system to verify foreign credentials

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: In a bid to tackle the issue of forged certificates, the Public Authority for Manpower has requested an urgent meeting with the Ministry of Education to discuss the establishment of an electronic linkage system, reports Al-Rai daily.

This system aims to provide the Authority with automated access to data regarding the equivalency of high school and lower certificates issued outside Kuwait. The goal is to streamline verification processes and enhance the efficiency of the labor market by ensuring the au-

thenticity of academic credentials for both Kuwaitis and expatriates.

A previous meeting highlighted the importance of electronic data sharing, and it was agreed that PAM would receive detailed information via electronic linkage.

Empowering investors

CMA launches 17th issue of its electronic awareness magazine

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: On September 1, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) launched the 17th issue of its electronic awareness magazine, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This quarterly publication is dedicated to enhancing legal, financial, and investment awareness related to securities activities and provides updates on the Authority's news and activities.

The latest issue features an opening section by Prof. Ahmed Al-Malhem, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. In his piece, Prof. Al-Malhem outlines the Authority's strategic direction, detailing its approach from planning to implementation.

He discusses the following two major initiatives:

Regulatory Framework for Financial Technologies -- This project aims to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework to manage financial technologies and the services associated with them. The issue highlights the positive impacts of this initiative, including its methodology and the various stages of preparation, qualification, and testing.

Electronic Disclosure System -- This program focuses on enhancing transpar-



CMA photo

Capital Markets Authority Magazine - September 17th issue.

ency and efficiency in financial disclosures. The magazine details the process of developing and implementing this system, emphasizing the benefits and stages involved.

These initiatives are designed to improve the regulatory environment and support the growth and integrity of financial markets.

Admissions see a significant increase

PAAET opens doors to over 18K students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, has approved the admission results for the 2024-2025 training year, accepting 1,822 male and female students who hold less than secondary school certificates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the Dean of Admission and Registration, Dr. Fawzi Al-Dokhi, all applicants who met the admission criteria were accepted.

This includes 1,710 students with intermediate certificates (ninth grade), 59 students with primary certificates (fifth grade), and 53 students from special classes with lower secondary certificates.

Dr. Al-Dokhi emphasized that these students do not need to take any further action before the semester begins on September 16, except to prepare for their studies.

He encouraged all accepted students to regularly check the authority's website and official social media platforms for important instructions and updates.

The total number of students accepted for the upcoming academic and training year has now reached 18,993, including 17,171 high school graduates and 1,822 students with lower than secondary school certificates.

This marks a significant increase in admissions, reflecting the Authority's commitment to expanding educational opportunities for all students.



Minister Al-Mutairi

'Promote deep-rooted bonds of brotherhood'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi recently emphasized the deep-rooted bonds of brotherhood and love that connect the Gulf countries, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a post on the "X" platform, he highlighted that these connections are deeply ingrained in the history and hearts of the people, fostered by the wise leadership and strong fraternal relations among the Gulf nations.

Al-Mutairi stressed the importance of preserving Gulf unity and rejecting any actions or accounts that harm the Gulf social fabric.

He expressed support for efforts aimed at confronting and combating divisive or offensive content that threatens this unity.



September

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A legacy of leadership and solid success

Kuwait Finance House celebrates 46th anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: For 46 years, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has achieved distinguished success, passing through key phases since launching its operations on August 31, 1978. KFH was able to build a parallel financial and economic sector to its conventional counterpart, achieving leadership in this field and expanding its reach geographically across many countries. KFH introduced a diverse range of Islamic financial products and financing solutions that have enriched global markets, making Sharia-compliant products a reliable standard in financial and banking transactions worldwide. This success has allowed KFH to lead the Islamic banking industry, efficiently contributing to raising the level of the private sector in Kuwait and the global market. KFH also demonstrated the private sector's ability to be of an added value to the global economy.

640 branches across 12 countries

KFH has become a global financial group and a distinguished brand with credibility and trustworthiness, maintaining a solid financial position and achieving sustainable profits, with a global presence through around 640 branches spanning 12 different countries, including Kuwait, Turkey, Bahrain, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Germany. KFH is ranked first among the largest listed companies and banks on Boursa Kuwait in terms of a market capitalization which exceeded KD 12 billion. It also reports the highest profit rates in the banking sector, with a 2023 net profit attributable to the bank shareholders reaching KD 584.5 million, an increase of 63.4%, the highest profit in the banking sector of Kuwait.

In 2022, KFH acquired Ahli United Bank – Bahrain (AUB – Bahrain) and completed its conversion to a Sharia-compliant bank in December 2023. KFH also completed the merger with Ahli United Bank – Kuwait (AUBK) in February 2023. Moreover, KFH launched tam Digital Bank in October 2023 as the first Sharia-compliant digital bank in Kuwait.

Amid a period when KFH received numerous prestigious global awards from recognized organizations, KFH has maintained its top credit ranking according to global credit rating agencies. In Forbes 2024 Top 100 Listed Companies, KFH ranked first in Kuwait and tenth in the Middle East for 2024 in terms of market cap and profitability. The Bank also secured the top spot on MEED magazine's list of the 100 largest listed companies in the Middle East and North Africa in terms of market capitalization. KFH is moving forward with its ambitious plan, targeting a place among the top 100 global banks in the coming years.

KFH's leading journey has been marked by continuous success, customer satisfaction and growth, while adhering to Sharia principles and practices. The approval of the Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board remains a fundamental requirement for licensing and implementing any product or service.

KFH was incorporated as per an Amiri decree dated March 23, 1977, with KD 10 million capital. Business started on August 31, 1978, with one branch and a limited number of employees. Today, KFH has 640 branches worldwide with around 18,000 employees.

KFH started its operations in a temporary location at Ahmed Al-Jaber Street and moved in 1983 to Emad Commercial Center on the same street until finally settling in its current location on Abdullah Al-Mubarak Street in 1986.

Prior to opening the door for new Islamic banks to be established in Kuwait, KFH remained, for several years, the only alternative for customers wishing to consider Sharia compliant banking. This enhanced competition and growth in Islamic financial services market. Despite the emergence of new banks in the market, KFH continued its growth with a remarkable increase in customers demand for its products and services. At this stage, KFH has made great strides and strengthened its pioneering position at the local market, and the Islamic financial institutions level. The Bank also enhanced its expansion and presence in international markets, alleviated its automated programs and systems to a new higher level and played a significant and unprecedented social role in the development of society and retail services. KFH has become the most recognized symbol of Islamic banking.

- Commitment to Sharia principles, offering the best services and achieving the highest profit rates
- Improving performance, customer service and expanding market share
- Sustainable growth, innovation and digital transformation and enhancing solvency are key elements for excellence



KFH car showroom



KFH's old head office

Today, KFH continues to flourish and innovate new investment tools and products and achieve high profit ratios and sustainable growth in all fields. During the last 10 years, KFH strategy was developed to focus on core bank <http://192.168.221.4/newspress/backup/files/images/2024/09/2/959422.jpeg?tmp=1725287742> ing business, enhance its ability to realize sustainable profit according to a new vision to lead the Islamic fi-



Ahmed Bazea Al-Yasseen



New building opening.



KFH office old picture



KFH's head office in 22nd Feb, 1987

nance sector worldwide. It also adopts technology and digital transformation which leads to enhancing customer experience.

Success factors

KFH success can be reflected in adhering to the operational approach based on Islamic Sharia principles, relying on scientific and professional methods of work, preparing future strategies and plans, and implementing the strategy of sustainable growth. This success is also translated in strong customer engagement, meeting their aspirations and demands, fostering creativity and innovation, while giving significant attention to human capital and keeping pace with the latest developments in the field, with a particular focus on digitalization and technological services, as well as relying on the best and cutting-edge technological innovations. These factors consistently drive the enhancement of financial capacity, expansion outlook, and alignment with technological and digital financial banking, fostering the growth of KFH across all levels.

Social commitment

KFH plays a prominent social role and continues to enhance its contributions as a benchmark of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at the private sector level. The Bank directs its contributions towards activities aimed at social development, which include infrastructure development, hospitals, research and educational centers, in addition to training of people with special needs. Additionally, KFH focuses on developing the skills and capabilities of young people, supporting academic research and students, promoting health awareness, and preserving the environment.

KFH's most prominent and recent achievements include Al Mubarakiya Reconstruction project in line with KFH's national and social strategy. The initiative is geared towards the reconstruction of 17 buildings and the development of surrounding buildings in Al Mubarakiya market. The estimated cost of the project is around KD 8 million.

In response to the national campaign for those in need, KFH has donated KD 7 million from its Zakat funds. KFH has also contributed about KD 6 million to support relief efforts for people affected by earthquakes, with KD 3 million allocated to Turkey and KD 3 million to those impacted in Syria. Various initiatives were also implemented in cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. Furthermore, KFH signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to reaffirm its prominent role in sustainable development.

The national factor

One of the most significant pillars that shaped the journey of KFH is its focus on human capital, particularly the national capabilities and ambitious Kuwaiti youth, as they are the assets of success. The Human Resources strategy aims to create an environment that enhances employees' loyalty and engagement and fosters talent acquisition. In the last years, KFH has maintained a 100% hiring rate of Kuwaiti nationals, mostly recent graduates.

Digital transformation

KFH remains steadfast in its commitment to digital transformation, integrating the latest technological advancements across its service and product offerings. This dedication is focused on providing customers with the highest standards of quality, convenience, and security, while also contributing to cost reduction and strengthening competitive capabilities and profitability. KFH's digital services include: KFH online, KFH Go self-banking stations, various online services through XTM devices, instant card printing and many other online services. They are designed to continually expand the customer base, optimize operational efficiency, and drive the strategic focus on innovation and digital transformation. This approach enhances KFH's leadership in data security, digital solutions, and sustainability, reinforcing its position as a leader in the financial sector both in Kuwait and the world.

Additionally, tam Digital Bank, Kuwait's first digital sharia-complaint bank, and Zaheb digital merchant platform, are a testament to KFH's pioneering role in digital banking and its commitment to delivering seamless banking experience to customers.

Film

Jude Law debuts FBI manhunt drama 'The Order' at Venice

VENICE, Italy, Sept 2, (AP) — Jude Law plays an FBI agent investigating the violent crimes of a white supremacist group in “The Order,” which premiered Saturday at the Venice Film Festival.

An adaptation of Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt’s nonfiction book “The Silent Brotherhood,” Nicolas Hoult was cast as Robert Jay Mathews, the charismatic leader of the group which was considered the most radical hate group since the Ku Klux Klan. Their crimes, including bank robberies and armored car heists that the group was using to fund an armed revolution, led to one of the largest manhunts in FBI history, in 1983.

“What amazed me was it was a story I hadn’t heard about before,” said Law, who also produced. “It like a piece of work that needed to be made now.”

He added: “It’s always interesting finding a piece from the relative past that has some relationship to the present day.”

Law made the trip to Italy with his director, Justin Kurzel, and co-stars Hoult, Junee Smollett and Tye Sheridan for the premiere. His character, called Agent Huss, is an amalgam FBI agent and not based on a specific person. This, they said, was important for positioning him within this story.

“He represents an awful lot of us,” Law said. “He felt his hardest work was behind him and in fact he had his biggest battle ahead

of him.”

Kurzel, an Australian filmmaker known for the 2015 adaptation of “Macbeth” with Michael Fassbender, said he’d always wanted to make an American film in the vein of dramatic thrillers from the 1970s like “The French Connection,” “Mississippi Burning” and “All the Presidents’ Men.” He tried to make this film with the classic simplicity he admired in those classics.

Creative

Hoult felt it was a “difficult story to tell and difficult characters to inhabit,” but praised his director for helping to create a safe and creative environment as they explored the darkness of Mathews. He’d just recently learned, on the boat over to the Lido, that Kurzel had told Law to actually follow him around one day to get into character.

“The first time we spoke was in the first scene we interact,” Hoult said. “It gave a great energy.”

And all were struck by the parallels to today. Though no one wanted to comment directly on the upcoming US presidential election, the film, they hope, speaks for itself.

“The history of America is very complex,” Smollett said. “This level of bigotry is not new and it has existed in our nation since it was founded. As artists we get to hold a mirror up to society....

explore the very complex sides of humanity, the ugliness, the darkness in order for us to learn from it and hopefully not repeat it.”

“The Order” is playing in competition at Venice, alongside “Maria,” “Babygirl,” “The Room Next Door,” “Queen” and “Joker: Folie à Deux.”

Vertical Entertainment will release the film in theaters later this year.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: “The Fall Guy” is finally on Peacock, where it started streaming from Friday, alongside an “extended cut” version. It might not have reached the blockbuster heights the studio dreamed about during its theatrical run, but it’s pure delight: A comedy, action, romance that soars thanks to the charisma of its stars. Based on the 1980s **Lee Majors** television series (he gets a cameo), the film features **Ryan Gosling** as a stunt man, **Emily Blunt** as his director and dream girl, **Aaron Taylor-Johnson** as an egotistical movie star and “Ted Lasso’s” **Hannah Waddingham** as a Diet Coke slurping producer.

Meanwhile, **Ishana Night Shyamalan’s** thriller, “The Watchers,” in which **Dakota Fanning** plays an artist stranded in western Ireland where mysterious creatures lurk and stalk in the night, started streaming on MAX on Friday, Aug. 30.

Variety



Amy Ryan poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Wolfs' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024. (AP)

Film

Swinton, Moore attend fest with Almodóvar film

'Brutalist' makes bold statement at Venice

VENICE, Italy, Sept 2, (AP) — “The Brutalist,” a post-war epic about a Holocaust survivor attempting to rebuild a life in America, is a fantasy. But filmmaker Brady Corbet wishes it weren’t.

“The film is about the physical manifestation of the trauma of the 20th century,” Corbet said Sunday at the Venice Film Festival. “It’s dedicated to the artists that didn’t get to realize their vision.”

In part inspired by the late Jean-Louis Cohen’s book “Architecture in Uniform,” the film starring Adrien Brody as a Hungarian architect had its world premiere Sunday afternoon.

Spanning decades, “The Brutalist” tells the story of László Tóth and his attempts to pursue his art after the war in America. Brody plays Tóth, and Felicity Jones his wife, Erzsébet. He lives in near-poverty until a wealthy industrialist, Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce), gives him an important contract. Joe Alwyn and Alessandro Nivola also star.

Brody said it was a character and a story he felt an “immediate kinship and understanding for.” His mother, photographer Sylvia Plachy, was a Hungarian immigrant who fled in 1956 during the anti-Soviet revolution to restart and attempt to build a life as an artist.

“Even though it’s fiction, it feels very real and very real to me,” Brody said. “That’s so important for me to embody a character and make it real.”

Running 215-minutes (with a 15-minute intermission) and presented in 70mm (it was shot in Vista Vision), “The Brutalist” arrived in Venice with expectations high. Reviews were mostly positive, hailing its ambition and Brody’s performance.

Even the 70mm format alone seemed like a bold statement for a film without US distribution left: Though a favorite of cinephiles, the expense seems to be reserved for a select few, like Christopher Nolan and Denis Villeneuve. In other words, not often something afforded to an indie.

Wearing sunglasses, Corbet was feeling emotional speaking about the film, which he’d worked on for seven years.

“This film does everything that we are told we are not allowed to do,” said Corbet. He added that conversations about runtime are “silly.”

“I’ve read great novellas, I’ve read great multi-volume masterpieces,” Corbet said. “Maybe the next thing I make will be about 45 minutes, and I should be allowed to do that. ... As Harmony Korine once said, cinema is stuck in the birth canal. And I agree with him.”

In 2018 Corbet brought his divisive “Vox Lux,” in which Natalie Portman plays a pop star who witnessed a school shooting in her youth, to Venice. He earlier premiered “The Childhood of a Leader” there. Corbet, also an actor, wrote the script with his wife Mona Fast-vold, who is also a filmmaker (“The World to Come”). Corbet thanked the Venice Film Festival for supporting him.

“When no one was supporting these films, this festival was,” he said. “It made my films possible.”

“The Brutalist” is playing in competition at the festival, which is well underway having already hosted glamorous premieres with Angelina Jolie (“Maria”), Nicole Kidman (“Babygirl”), Cate Blanchett (“Disclaimer”), Jude Law (“The Order”) with many more to come.

Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar returned to the Venice Film Festival with stars Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore on Monday. “The Room Next Door” will have its world premiere on the Lido in the evening.

Though a new Almodóvar film is always an event for cinephiles, this one has special significance: It’s his English-language debut.

“My insecurity disappeared after the first table read with the actresses, with the exchange of the first indications,” he wrote in his director’s statement. “The language wasn’t going to be a problem, and not because I master English, but because of the total disposition of the whole cast to understand me and to make it easy for me to understand them.”

Moore and Swinton play disconnected friends, who met in their youths at a magazine job, and whose lives took different paths. Ingrid (Moore) wrote novels. Mar-

tha (Swinton) became a war reporter. And now after years apart, they meet again, in New York, when Ingrid finds out Martha has cancer and is in a nearby hospital.

Over the next weeks and months, they reconnect, learning about one another’s lives and Martha’s estranged daughter through a series of revealing conversations.

Before the film’s premiere, Swinton said that it would never have occurred to her that Almodóvar might eventually find a space for her in one of his films. She said she has “worshipped in his high church” ever since seeing “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown” in the late 1980s in London. In Almodóvar was a kindred artistic spirit, she thought.

“I still feel like a student seeing his first film,” Swinton said.

But she was English and he worked solely in Spanish. The idea of collaborating seemed like a fantasy only. Then one day, she said, she got up the nerve to say something to him.

“I said, ‘Listen I’ll learn Spanish for you, you can make me mute,’” Swinton said. “Characteristically, he laughed.”

Moore added: “I don’t know how I managed to walk into this world, but I felt lucky that he chose me.”

Almodóvar’s last Venice appearance was in 2021, where he presented the film “Parallel Mothers,” for which Penelope Cruz won its best actress prize. In 2019, Venice also gave him a lifetime achievement award. But his history with Venice stretches back 40 years.

“I was born as a film director in 1983 in Venice,” he said. A few years later, he’d return with the classic “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown.”

Of his latest, he wrote “Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore carry the weight of the whole film on their shoulders, and they are a spectacle. I have been fortunate in that both give a veritable recital. At times during shooting, both the crew and I were on the verge of tears watching them. It was a very moving shoot and, in some way, blessed.”

Though death looms in the film, when Martha asks Ingrid to join her in a house upstate for her final days, all felt that it’s a film about life.

LOS ANGELES: Just like in the movies, Deadpool can’t be killed. “Deadpool & Wolverine,” one of the defining movies of the summer, ruled the box office on a weekend with quiet openings and low theater attendance as the summer movie season came to an anticlimactic close.

For the second weekend in a row, “Deadpool & Wolverine,” Marvel’s smash hit that has shattered records and become the best-selling R-rated movie of all time, topped the charts, with other holdovers from the summer following behind. After six weeks in theaters, the film made \$15.2 million domestically Friday through Sunday, and it’s expected to cross the domestic \$600 million mark following Monday’s Labor Day holiday. The **Ryan Reynolds** and **Hugh Jackman** superhero flick will be one of only 16 titles to hit that milestone.

“Reagan,” a biopic starring **Dennis Quaid** as the 40th US president, was the only new release competitive with holdover films that opened earlier this summer. Exceeding projections, the first full-length film about President **Ronald Reagan** earned \$7.4 million over the three-day weekend, with an estimated cumulative total of \$9.2 million including projections for Monday.

Audiences have reacted to the movie positively, giving it an A CinemaScore and a 98% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. Critics have been less receptive, giving it a 19% rating and deeming it rotten on the popular ratings site. It ranked No. 4 on the charts.

The summer movie season, which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day, proved to be full of surprises, flops and overperformers. “Deadpool,” “Despicable Me 4,” “Inside Out 2,” and “Twisters” brought in impressive earnings and remained on the charts for several weeks after their releases, with all four titles claiming spots in the top 10 Labor Day weekend.

“If you were to write up a blueprint of perhaps the most unpredictable summer ever, 2024 might be just that,” said **Paul Dergarabedian**, senior media analyst at Comscore. “May gave us a challenge, but June, July and the beginning of August really delivered.”

The cumulative summer box

office clocked in at over \$3.6 billion domestically — a dip of 10% from 2023’s \$4 billion season that could likely be attributed to the “Barbenheimer” box office craze that drew crowds en masse to see “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” last summer.

The close of the season brought what Dergarabedian described as a “stranglehold” of familiar summer



hits on box office rankings, with “Alien: Romulus” and “It Ends With Us” rounding out the top three for the second weekend in a row. Six of the top 10 films of the weekend had been playing for three or more weeks.

“Alien: Romulus” placed second, earning \$9.3 million from Friday through Sunday. The sci-fi

horror film directed by **Fede Álvarez** and starring **Cailee Spaeny**, **Isabella Mercedes** and **David Jonsson**, has earned \$88.8 million domestically.

“It Ends With Us” ranked No. 3 for the third consecutive weekend, earning just over \$7.4 million with a slight edge over “Reagan.” The Sony movie starring **Blake**

Lively and **Justin Baldoni**, who also directed, is projected to reach a domestic total of \$136 million after the weekend. In a surprise bump, “Twisters” rounded out the top five with \$7.2 million in its seventh week in theaters. **Glen Powell** and **Daisy Edgar-Jones** star in the standalone sequel to the 1996 hit “Twister.” (AP)

