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Opinion



Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

The Lebanese must remove their thorns by themselves

“stricken with the plague”, as the US Secretary of State Alexander Haig had described in the 1980s. Despite this, the Gulf states continued to support Lebanon, with the hope that the country would recover and that the warlords would learn from their mistakes. They exerted efforts to rebuild the areas that were destroyed by the Israeli invasion in 1978. Similarly, during the 1982 invasion, the Gulf nations extended the same support without hesitation. In 2006, after the war, the Gulf states once again invested heavily in Lebanon’s

reconstruction. Everyone saw the numerous banners expressing gratitude to the Gulf states, as well as the visit of the former Amir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa to South Lebanon shortly after the conflict ended. The GCC countries did not offer their support out of self-interest, as some other nations may have, but rather because they believed that the recovery of any Arab country is a matter of national interest for all Arabs, including the Gulf states, of course. However, it is important to pause and consider whether all the funds provided

were actually used for reconstruction, or if some were diverted into the accounts of Lebanese tycoons, with only a small portion allocated for rebuilding efforts. Furthermore, we must also reflect on the information that has been leaked from investigations into Riad Salameh, the former governor of Lebanon’s Central Bank, and the 30-year financial mystery that has plagued Lebanon. According to Riad Salameh, the majority of aid from the Arabian Gulf nations that arrived in Lebanon was first deposited into the Central Bank before being transferred to the accounts of par-

ty and sectarian leaders. These leaders then moved the funds to their overseas accounts in Switzerland, France, or the United States. If we compare Salameh’s statements with those of some Lebanese leaders who have estimated the cost of reconstruction after the current war at around USD 45

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- 8 NBK wins gold for excellence in health and wellbeing
9 Gulf Bank announces Nov 30, 2024 as final date to enter world’s largest draw for KD 2mln grand prize
9 Zain ranked as a regional leader in the Global Child Forum’s ‘The State of Children’s Rights and Business 2024’ Benchmark

Food, clothing push Kuwait cost of living to new heights

October sees 2.44 pct yearly inflation growth



Photos capture the Cabinet meeting in progress, with Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah presiding over the weekly session on Tuesday.

Cabinet approves draft decrees regarding new appointments

Kuwait’s Cabinet on Tuesday reinforced national commitments to fight climate change in line with the Paris Agreement, at a time where world leaders are gathering to discuss the matter at a UN climate summit in Azerbaijan. Amid its weekly session, presided over by Acting Prime Minister, Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, the Cabinet praised the speech given at the UN COP29 climate summit by His Highness the Amir’s representative His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in which he cited climate change as among the world’s most

perennial concerns. In his speech, His Highness the Crown Prince underlined that Kuwait, alongside the rest of the world, is feeling the effects of climate change at a rapid pace, which calls for a series of national initiatives that fall under the Paris Agreement on climate change, which mainly entails efforts to cut carbon emissions and keep global warming in check, the Cabinet said. Discussing the matter further, the Cabinet emphasized the increasingly significant role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in aiding the most vulnerable nations through a

series of projects that are instrumental in allowing them to cushion the blow of climate change, it added. The aforementioned projects are a combination of grants and loans worth up to USD 23 billion, which is a testament to Kuwait’s unflinching commitment to global efforts aiming to fight climate change, ultimately reaching carbon neutrality by the year 2060, in addition to making solar energy the predominant source of national electricity generation by the year 2050.

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KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait’s consumer price index (inflation), on an annual basis, grew by 2.44 percent last October, according to the Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau (KCSB).

In a statement to KUNA on Tuesday, the bureau said the inflation rate rose 0.13 percent, compared to last September -- on a monthly basis.

It attributed the rise in inflation on an annual basis to the increase in the prices of the main groups that affect the movement of the index numbers, especially clothing, food and education, excluding transportation.

The index for the first group (food and beverages) rose by 4.98 pct last October compared to the same month in 2023, while the price index for the second group (cigarettes and tobacco) rose slightly by 0.15 pct on an annual basis, it added.

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Day by Day

FOR nearly five years, Darwazat Abdulrazzaq remained in a state of disrepair, a symbol of inefficiency and delay. The prolonged maintenance of such a small-scale project became almost comical, with each relevant authority shifting the blame for the delay. Whether it was the contractor, the Ministry of Public Works, the government, or supervisory staff, no one clearly assumed responsibility.

The saying goes, ‘Where there’s a will, there’s a way,’ and recent developments have proven it true. At last, after years of setbacks and finger-pointing, the project is nearing completion.

In just a few weeks, Darwazat Abdulrazzaq will finally be inaugurated, showcasing a polished and perfected image to the public.

... Yet, tomorrow is another day. Zahed Matar

Newswatch

RIYADH: The Saudi Cabinet convened on Tuesday and urged the international community to fulfill its responsibilities regarding the ongoing violations of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people. In a statement released by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Minister of Media Salman Al-Dosari emphasized the Cabinet’s firm rejection of the continued targeting of civilians and humanitarian aid organizations by Israeli forces. This declaration followed a Cabinet session chaired by Custodian of the



King Salman bin Abdulaziz. Two Holy Mosques

The Cabinet expressed deep concern over extremist statements made by Israeli officials regarding the imposition of sovereignty over the West Bank and the expansion of settlements. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: A U.S. envoy has arrived in Beirut to meet with Lebanese officials about a possible cease-fire in the Israel-Hezbollah war.

Amos Hochstein, a senior advisor to United States President Joe Biden, arrived Tuesday, a day after Hezbollah reportedly gave a positive response to a U.S. draft proposal to end the war, which has been ongoing for more than 13 months. (AP)

BAGHDAD: A policeman was killed and another wounded when resolving tribal clashes in the southern Iraqi province of Muthanna, the Iraqi Interior Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The incident occurred late on Monday night when armed men from two tribes clashed over an agricultural land near the provincial capital Samawah, prompting police intervention to resolve the armed dispute, according to the statement. (Xinhua)

Adopting ‘smart cities’ crucial amid rapid global challenges

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has stressed the importance of the shift towards smart and sustainable cities to keep pace with rapid global developments and overcome challenges in the technical and environmental fields, pointing out that Kuwait is keen on transforming itself into a regional center for innovation and technological development.

MoC yet to collect dues of KD 60mn

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

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Communications has accumulated dues totaling KD 60 million from individuals and companies.

In a press release, the ministry stated that it will coordinate with government

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Al-Jalal made the statement at the opening of the International Conference on Smart Management and Innovation for Sustainable Cities, during which he delivered a speech as the representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah. With the theme, “Envisioning the Future of Smart Cities,” the Arab Open University in Kuwait organized the

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Lebanon child deaths 231 in 6 weeks

Kuwait denounces attacks on UNRWA

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned on Monday the repeated and systematic targeting of facilities, institutions and workers of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Pal-

estine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In a statement, the ministry said that the latest deliberate attack was against Abu Asi School in the Gaza Strip that killed and wounded scores of people.

Kuwait denounces and rejects such a criminal policy committed by Israeli occupation forces, it pointed out.

The State of Kuwait calls on the international community and the Security Council to compel Israeli occupation to stop its unlimited practices against the Palestinian people, who are defending their legitimate rights, it noted.

In addition, Kuwait calls for combating all attempts seeking to

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KUNA photo Kuwait’s fourth air bridge relief plane arrives in Beirut, Monday, loaded with 40 tons of food and blankets.

Program seeks to transform Kuwait into investment hub

Blueprint rolled out to revitalize private sector

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait is embarking on policies and projects that would create a more dynamic private sector in addition to ushering in an era of overall development.

Through seven axes points included in the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development’s 2023-24 annual plan, a whole program dubbed “enabling a dynamic private sector” would focus on general policies that would be reflected on the ground in actual execution.

The program to enable a dynamic private sector would be implemented through 17 projects supervised by nine

government entities. The program aims at transforming Kuwait into a hub that attracts investments via a direct involvement of the private sector, which would be tasked to create a feasible, just, and competitive environment that would push for innovation in various fields.

The financing of the program in the last fiscal year amounted to KD 168 million (USD 613.8 million) with spending on the 17 projects reaching around 48.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023-24.

The follow-up report on the aforementioned annual plan pointed to Al-Zour refinery strategic development plan within the framework of enabling

the private sector, which would be executed by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). The report revealed that the project was at 99.9 percent completion.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) is partaking in seven projects, six of which were ongoing while a single project was in its essential stages.

Amongst the KISR-run projects is the national project to develop a laboratories network at 34 percent completion, while the project to farm salmon was in its initial stage at 46 percent in addition to a project for an economic complex to farm fish and shrimp.

In regards to projects supervised

by the Public Authority for Industry (PAI), the report indicated that Al-Shadadiya Industrial Area project reached 82.5 percent in completion at an advancement rate of 3.3 percent in the third quarter of 2023-24.

Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) is supervising two projects including the northern Al-Zour and Khairan stations energy projects.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Direct Investment Public Authority (KDIPA) was supervising two ongoing projects including the economic region at a 62 percent completion as of the fourth

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Kuwait busts int’l drug ring, seizes 16kg stash

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced on Monday busting an international drug trafficking ring selling narcotics and psychotropic substances in the country.

In a press release, the ministry said the busted ring is coordinating with and working upon directives from an overseas drug network.

The raid resulted in arresting seven defendants, holding Asian nationalities, with 16 kg of varied narcotics, in addition to 9,000 pills of psychotropic substances, unveiled the statement.

The accused were referred to prosecution to take required legal measures against them, it added.

This comes within the framework of the General Administration for Drug Control’s continued security efforts aiming to combat drug smugglers, it stated.

The ministry said the administration would continue its campaigns to arrest those trying to bring, or trade in narcotics, stressing commitment to protecting society from this perilous scourge.

LOCAL

PAHW awards 2 tenders to construct power stations in S. Saad Al-Abdullah

'Total number of housing applications stands at 98,099'

By Mohammed Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has awarded two tenders for the construction of the two largest main power stations in South Saad Al-Abdullah City, with a total value of up to KD 58.8 million.

According to informed sources, three companies submitted bids for the first tender, and three others for the second tender. After careful evaluation of the bids, the contracts were awarded to the companies with the best financial and technical proposals.

In a related development, PAHW stated in its October report that the total number of housing applications currently stands at 98,099.

The sources explained that the total number of housing units planned for distribution in South Saad Al-Abdullah City includes 24,508 units, consisting of 23,551 plots and

957 housing products. Of these, 4,551 units have been allocated to applicants who registered by June 2006, with a total of 16,643 units already distributed.

Regarding the number of public buildings under construction, PAHW reported that a total of 124 buildings are currently being implemented. These include 68 buildings in Mutlaa Residential City, 31 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, 7 in East Sabah Al-Ahmad, 15 in Sabah Al-Ahmad, and one building each in South Khaitan, Jaber Al-Ahmad, and Saad Al-Abdullah.

Progress

The sources highlighted the progress of several key residential projects. For instance, the East Sabah Al-Ahmad project includes 1,184 housing units, with the first contract involving 587 homes that are 99.47 percent complete, and the second contract involving 597 homes that are 90.12 percent complete.

The progress on the main roads in South Sabah Al-Ahmad City has reached a contractual completion rate of 19.43 percent, with an

actual completion rate of 34.62 percent.

In the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project, the main roads have seen a contractual completion rate of 3.17 percent, with an actual completion rate of 10.39 percent.

The sources said certificates were issued to "whomever it may concern" for 28,288 ready-to-deliver plots in Mutlaa, 3,260 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and 1,448 in Khaitan.

PAHW explained that two construction contracts were signed for the Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City. These contracts involve the establishment and maintenance of a youth center, as well as the supply, installation, implementation, and maintenance of ten main transformer stations in the South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential Project, covering N5, N7, and N9 suburbs.

The sources noted that four construction tenders were issued for the supply, extension, and maintenance of underground cables feeding two transformer stations in both the South Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Saad Al-Abdullah housing projects.

Al-Fadhli appointed as new director of KAC's engineering dept

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), chaired by Abdul Mohsen Al-Faq'aa, has appointed Mohammad Hamid Al-Fadhli as the new director of the Engineering Department.

According to informed sources, this decision not only reflects Al-Fadhli's extensive experience and excellence in his work but also affirms that Kuwait Airways continues to prioritize national talent, and acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.

Meanwhile, they revealed that KAC has recently introduced price reductions on tickets, offering competitive discounts as part of ongoing promotions.

These offers are expected to continue throughout the coming year. Furthermore, the sources explained that the board of directors is actively preparing for the new airport by im-



Al-Fadhli

plementing a strategic plan that aligns with the airport's future requirements. This includes prioritizing the needs of the airline in connection with the new facilities, as well as expanding the number of business class lounges to meet growing demand.

In addition, the sources praised the expertise of the Kuwaiti engineering team at Kuwait Airways, particularly within the Engineering Department, for successfully completing the maintenance of a Kuwaiti aircraft that had suffered a malfunction in Bangladesh.

They affirmed that the team's prompt and efficient work allowed the plane to be safely re-

turned to Kuwait Airport, and this highlights the high level of trust and expertise that Kuwaiti staff possess in various departments of KAC.

The sources emphasized that this achievement also highlights the careful selection and training of Kuwaiti engineering personnel, who are able to quickly acquire the necessary skills and experience, adding that the board of directors of KAC remains committed to enhancing the capabilities of its employees by continually investing in specialized training, particularly in sensitive departments.

HH Crown Prince, PM send greetings

His Highness Amir congratulates Monaco Prince on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to the Prince of Monaco Albert II to congratulate him on his country's National Day, wishing him good health and for his people progress and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to Prince Albert II to congratulate him on his country's National Day, wishing him good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah too sent a cable to Prince Albert II to congratulate him on the occasion.



Al-Najat Complex for orphans for the education and rehabilitation of orphans in Chad.



KUNA photos

Chadian orphans practice sports as part of the complex's activities.

'Al-Najat' opens center to aid orphans in Chad

The Kuwaiti Al-Najat charity on Tuesday inaugurated "Al-Najat complex for orphans" to aid 150 orphans in the African country.

The complex is a hub to provide educational and medical services to the orphans and render them capable to be productive, said the society director general, Mohammad Al-Ansari, in

a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

It contains residents, a mosque, a water well, one clinic and a kitchen, he said, adding that there are also stores, training centers and teaching classes.

Kuwait advocates humanitarian diplomacy, aiding people in need throughout the world. (KUNA)

'Social Affairs' official highlights Kuwaiti pharmacists' pioneering role at the 50th anniversary of Kuwait Pharmaceutical Assoc

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi on Monday launched the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association; during which he honored about 100 pharmacists, including former council heads, founding members and other pharmacists who left an indelible mark in this field.

In a speech he delivered at the ceremony, Al-Ajmi confirmed the ministry's commitment to support public benefit associations that serve the community by providing the appropriate environment to develop their activities and programs in a way that achieves their professional and national goals.

He underscored the professional and effective role of the association, which was the fruit of the efforts of the founders who laid the first brick to consolidate the foundations of the pharmacy profession in the country; keeping in mind the interests of the nation and society.

Professional

He emphasized that the association today is one of the active groups, which clearly demonstrated the role of the professional pharmacist in raising public awareness on medicines and in highlighting the active presence of pharmacists in various health fields.

He said "we must benefit from pharmaceutical expertise and competencies and national youth energies that constitute the cornerstone in developing health services. We look forward to their continued dedication to serve our dear country and pushing the wheels of health development."

He highlighted the valiant role that pharmacists played during the corona pandemic, as they served on the front lines, offering professional and technical services with sincerity and commitment, setting the most amazing examples of selflessness and generosity in the service of their beloved nation.

He called on Kuwaiti pharmacists, who just graduated, to follow the example of the founders of the association in their activity, perseverance and dedication. "With your efforts, the pharmacy profession continues to flourish and its services develop, reflecting the progress that the country seeks in the health sector," he asserted.

Meanwhile, President of the association pharmacist Abdullah Al-Enezi asserted that the association has played a

pioneering role in supporting and developing the profession over the past 50 years by providing continuing education programs, promoting scientific research and enabling pharmacists to provide the best health services to the community. He said the association has always been on being at the forefront of development; thus, contributing to the improvement of healthcare in the country.

Foundations

He appreciated the role of the founders of the association who are credited for laying the first bricks of this pioneering entity, noting that "their vision and firm determination to advance the profession have established the solid foundations on which we stand today."

He reaffirmed the commitment to continue supporting and developing the profession to keep pace with the latest scientific and technical developments and to strive hard for the association to remain a beacon of innovation and progress and for the pharmacy profession in Kuwait to continue its at the national and international levels.

Secretary General of the association pharmacist Ali Hadi confirmed that the association worked hard to unify the ranks of pharmacists from different generations -- from pioneers to the new generation. "It consolidated the spirit of belongingness and cooperation among members of this noble profession. We draw inspiration from this rich journey with the determination to continue developing the profession and to face upcoming challenges with a spirit of innovation and dedication, in a way that ensures the provision of the best health services to our society," he added.

He also praised the role of the founders of the association and the first pharmacists who laid the foundation stone for the pharmacy profession in the country and sought with all sincerity and determination to advance this noble humanitarian profession. "Their efforts and achievements contributed to making the pharmacy profession a fundamental pillar in the healthcare system in our beloved country. Their vision contributed to developing this profession to be at the forefront of health fields in the country. The association played a pioneering role in supporting pharmacists and developing their skills 50 years. It has been a platform for cooperation and continuous education, committed to keep pace with the latest scientific and professional developments and to remain at the forefront of serving the Kuwaiti society," he concluded.



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Climate

Grants vs debt debate

Climate change funds is key to UN talks in Baku

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Nov 19, (AP): Just as a simple lever can move heavy objects, rich nations are hoping another kind of leverage - the financial sort - can help them come up with the money that poorer nations need to cope with climate change.

It involves a complex package of grants, loans and private investment, and it's becoming the major currency at annual United Nations climate talks known as COP29.

But poor nations worry they'll get the short end of the lever: not much money and plenty of debt.

Half a world away in Brazil, leaders of the 20 most powerful economies issued a statement that among other things gave support to strong financial aid dealing with climate for poor nations and the use of leverage financial mechanisms. That was cheered by climate analysts and advocates. But at the same time, the G20 leaders noticeably avoided repeating the call for the world to transition away from fossil fuels, a key win at last year's climate talks.

Money is the key issue in Baku, where negotiators are working on a new amount for aid to help developing nations transition to clean energy, adapt to climate change and deal with weather disasters. It'll replace the current goal of \$100 billion annually - a goal set in 2009.

Talking

Experts put the need closer to \$1 trillion, while developing nations have said they'll need \$1.3 trillion in climate finance. But negotiators are talking about different types of money as well as amounts.

So far rich nations have not quite offered a number for the core of money they could provide. But the European Union is expected to finally do that and it will likely be in the \$200 to \$300 billion a year range, Linda Kalcher, executive director of the think tank Strategic Perspectives, said Tuesday. It might be even as much as four times the original \$100 billion, said Luca Bergamaschi, co-founding director of the Italian ECCO think tank.

But there's a big difference between \$200 billion and \$1.3 trillion. That can be bridged with "the power of leverage," said Avinash Persaud, climate adviser for the Inter-American Development Bank.

When a country gives a multilateral development bank like his \$1, it could be used with loans and private investment to get as much as \$16 in spending for transitioning away from dirty energy, Persaud

said. When it comes to spending to adapt to climate change, the bang for the buck, is a bit less, about \$6 for every dollar, he said.

The World Bank president said all the multinational development banks could spend \$125 billion on climate loans. Then those loans could be used as leverage for even more spending, several climate economics experts said.

"That's a big lever," said Melanie Robinson, global climate economics and finance director at World Resources Institute.

Grants

But when it comes to compensating poor nations already damaged by climate change - such as Caribbean nations devastated by repeated hurricanes - leverage doesn't work because there's no investment and loans. That's where straight-out grants could help, Persaud said.

If climate finance comes mostly in the form of loans, except for the damage compensation, it means more debt for nations that are already drowning in it, said Michai Robertson, climate finance negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States. And sometimes the leveraged or mobilized money doesn't quite appear as promised, he said.

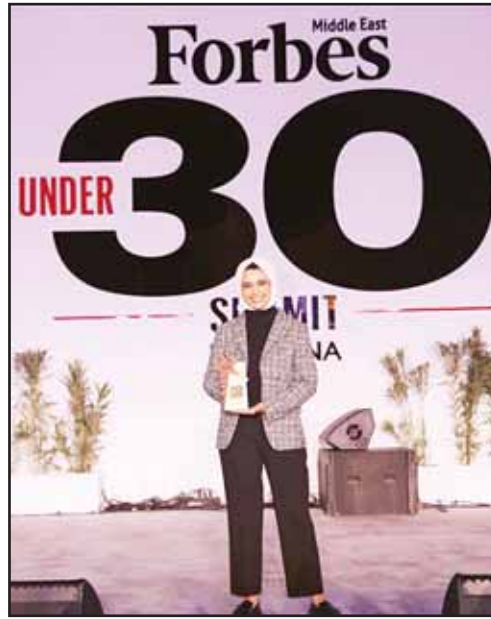
"All of these things are just nice ways of saying more debt," Robertson said. "Are we here to address the climate crisis, which especially small developing states, least developed countries, have basically done nothing to contribute to it? The new goal cannot be a prescription of unsustainable debt."

His organization argues that most of the \$1.3 trillion it seeks should be in grants and very low-interest and long-term loans that are easier to pay back. Only about \$400 billion should be in leveraged loans, Robertson said.

Another method for funding climate finance could be an international tax. That could be on shipping, aviation or billionaires, experts, such as Robertson, suggested.

That would be politically difficult, but "the reality is that the world cannot tax up to \$1 trillion of the taxpayers to make this happen, which is why we have to think about development finance and climate finance," said United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen suggested.

Leverage from loans "will be a critical part of the solution," Andersen said. But so must grants and so must debt relief, she added.



Engineer Lama Al-Oraiman



Dr. Asmaa Al-Kandari

KUNA photos

Kuwaiti women shaping future of global science

Kuwaiti women's excellence: Breaking new grounds in medicine, space tech

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwaiti women have achieved remarkable milestones in recent years, breaking barriers and reaching advanced levels in various fields, especially in medicine and space science with a significant support provided by Kuwaiti leadership.

These achievements showed the vital role Kuwaiti women have in these fields, as their success was not limited to personal accomplishments but great contribution to the advancement of global sciences through participation in international conferences and events.

In line with the goals of the Kuwait Vision 2035 for sustainable development, Kuwaiti women have proved their capability and efficiency in building and advancing the country in various fields.

One of the leading women figures is Consultant of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at Al-Jahra Hospital Dr. Asmaa Al-Kandari who participated in the annual World Conference on

Digestive Endoscopy in 2024, Milan, representing Kuwait and the only one from the Middle East to participate in such event.

Speaking to KUNA, Dr. Al-Kandari revealed that she was also a chosen as a representative of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) in the Middle East.

When asked about the Milan conference, Dr. Al-Kandari emphasized the importance of this event to her medical career, noting that thousands of endoscopy specialists viewed her two-endoscopy procedures.

Dr. Al-Kandari praised government support for the healthcare sector, affirming that Kuwaiti physicians has the medical finesse to advance healthcare regionally and internationally.

In the field space sciences and technology, the Vice Chair of the Committee on Connecting Emerging Space Ecosystems in the Middle East and Central Asia at International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Engineer Lama Al-Oraiman expressed to KUNA her pride in holding this position.

She highlighted the essential role the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in supporting researchers, innovators, and outstanding individuals in science, technology, and innovation.

She recalled the announcement ceremony of the Kuwait National Space Research Center (KNSRC) last September, under the patronage and presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who emphasized Kuwait's commitment to creating a scientific environment that cater to the developments of Kuwaitis in all fields.

Regarding her award for Emerging Space Leaders from the IAF, Engineer Al-Oraiman expressed her joy and pride receiving this award, stressing the need for a greater representation of Kuwaiti women at international conferences.

Innovative future therapy

Experts turn to good bacteria to combat chronic UTIs issue

By Sarguru Subash
Texas A&M University

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

Millions of people in the US and around the world suffer from urinary tract infections every year. Some groups are especially prone to chronic UTIs, including women, older adults and some veterans.

These infections are typically treated with antibiotics, but overusing these drugs can make the microbes they target become resistant and reduce the medicines' effectiveness.

To solve this problem of chronic UTIs and antibiotic resistance, we combined our expertise in microbiology and engineering to create a living material that houses a specific strain of beneficial E. coli. Our research shows that the "good" bacteria released from this biomaterial can compete with "bad" bacteria for nutrients and win, dramatically reducing the number of disease-causing microbes.

With further development, we believe this technique could help manage recurring UTIs that do not respond to antibiotics.

For the microbes living in people, nutrients are limited and their presence varies between different parts of the body. Bacteria have to compete with other microbes and the host to acquire essential nutrients. By taking up available nutrients, beneficial bacteria can stop or slow the growth of harmful bacteria. When harmful bacteria are starved of important nutrients, they aren't able to reach high enough numbers to cause disease.

Delivering beneficial bacteria to the bladder to

prevent UTIs is challenging, though. For one, these helpful bacteria can naturally colonize only in people who are unable to fully empty their bladder, a condition called urinary retention. Even among these patients, how long these bacteria can colonize their bladders varies widely.

Current methods to deliver bacteria to the bladder are invasive and require repeated catheter insertion. Even when bacteria are successfully released into the bladder, urine will flush out these microbes because they cannot stick to the bladder wall.

Since beneficial bacteria cannot attach to and survive in the bladder for long, we developed a biomaterial that could slowly release bacteria in the bladder over time.

Our biomaterial is composed of living E. coli embedded in a matrix structure made of gel. It resembles a piece of jelly about 500 times smaller than a drop of water and can release bacteria for up to two weeks in the bladder. By delivering the bacteria via biomaterial, we overcome the need for the bacteria to attach to the bladder to persist in the organ.

We tested our biomaterial by placing it in human urine in petri dishes and exposing it to bacterial pathogens that cause UTIs. Our results showed that when mixed in a 50:50 ratio, the E. coli outcompeted the UTI-causing bacteria by increasing to around 85% of the total population. When we added more E. coli than UTI-causing bacteria, which is what we envision for future development and testing, the proportion of E. coli increased to over 99% of the population, essentially wiping out the UTI-causing bacteria. Moreover, the biomaterial continued releasing E. coli for up to two weeks in human urine.

Our findings suggest that E.coli could stick around and survive in the bladder for extended periods of time and successfully decrease the growth of many types of bacteria that cause UTIs. (AP)



Herlda Senhouse at her 113th birthday celebration on Feb. 28, 2024, in Wellesley, Mass. (AP)

America's 2nd oldest resident dies at 113

WELLESLEY, Mass., Nov 19, (AP): Herlda Senhouse, who founded a jazz dance group to raise money for Black students in the 1950s and lived to become the second-oldest person in the United States, has died at age 113.

Senhouse died "peacefully in her sleep" on Saturday, said Stephanie Hawkinson, public information officer for the town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, where Senhouse had lived for the last four decades.

"She never missed an opportunity to learn more, do more, experience more," said Hawkinson, who met Senhouse on her 108th birthday and had celebrated with her every year since.

Born Feb. 28, 1911, in Piedmont, West Virginia, Senhouse was sent to live with an aunt in Woburn, Massachusetts, at age 16 and graduated from Woburn High School.



Qatar Climate Minister Abdulla Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Subaie speaks during a plenary session at the COP29 UN Climate Summit, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. (AP)

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Al-Arabi edges Al-Shabab 3-2 in thriller

Kuwait Club sweeps Al-Sulaibikhat in Federation Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Kuwait Club cruised to a dominant 3-0 victory over Al-Sulaibikhat in the second round of the Federation Volleyball Championship. Meanwhile, Al-Arabi overcame significant challenges to edge out Al-Shabab 3-2 in a thrilling encounter.

Kuwait Club's win brought its tally to six points, while Al-Sulaibikhat remains without a point. Al-Arabi earned its first two points of the tournament, leaving Al-Shabab with one. The scoring system grants three points for a 3-0 or 3-1 victory, while a 3-2 win awards two points to the victor and one point to the loser.

The tournament follows a single-round league

format, with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals. The first-place team will face the fourth, and the second will take on the third, with the winners meeting in the final.

Kuwait Club, led by Turkish coach Taner Atik, displayed complete dominance, securing three straight sets with scores of 25-13, 25-10, and 25-14.

The second match saw Al-Arabi engage in a fierce battle with Al-Shabab. Al-Shabab took the first set 25-23, but Al-Arabi leveled the score by winning the second set 25-21. Al-Shabab regained the lead with a 25-20 win in the third set, but Al-Arabi fought back to take the fourth set 25-19, forcing a tiebreaker. The decider was a nail-biter, with Al-Arabi clinching it 17-15 to secure its first win of the championship.



Players vie for the ball during the Federation Championship.

Croatia, Denmark qualify for Nations League quarterfinals



Portugal's Joao Felix, left, takes a shot at goal next to Croatia's Josip Sutalo during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Croatia and Portugal at Poljud stadium in Split, Croatia. (AP)

Scotland sends Poland down into League B

MADRID, Nov 19, (AP): Denmark and Croatia completed the Nations League quarterfinals lineup after both sides secured draws.

Denmark went 0-0 in Serbia, and Croatia came from behind to share 1-1 with visiting Portugal.

They joined France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands in the last eight.

The quarterfinals will be held from March 20-23.

In Warsaw, Liverpool fullback Andy Robertson scored an injury time header to give Scotland a 2-1 win over Poland and send the host down into League B. Scotland has a playoff to secure its League A status.

Northern Ireland finished on top of League B after topping its group. Northern Ireland let slip a two-goal lead but drew in Luxembourg 2-2. Romania hammered Cyprus 4-1.

San Marino will jump into Group C after beating Lichtenstein 3-1.

After going nine matches without a win, Scotland appeared rejuvenated as it condemned a Robert Lewandowski-less Poland to League B.

Scotland took just one point from its first four games in Group A1 but beat Croatia at home on Friday and was 1-0 up after three minutes in Warsaw.

Billy Gilmour's threaded pass found Ben Doak, who rolled the ball to John McGinn to score his second goal in four days.

Scotland hit the woodwork twice in the first half and its inability to open a greater lead almost cost it when Kamil Piatkowski lashed a stunning strike into the top corner of the net to equalize 14 minutes into the second period.

However, Scotland pushed forward for a winner and Robertson headed the decider in the third minute of stoppage time.

Croatia needed only a draw to secure qualification but it made the home fans in Split sweat before getting the point it needed against group winner Portugal.

With 32 minutes gone, João Felix brought down a superb 45-yard pass from Vitinha and slipped the ball under the advancing keeper to give the visitors the lead. When Andrej Kramarić hit the post and Josko Gvardiol had a 62nd minute goal ruled out



Spain's Zaragoza celebrates scoring his side's third goal during a Nations League soccer match between Spain and Switzerland, at the Heliodoro Rodríguez López stadium in Tenerife, Spain. (AP)

for offside it looked like it might not be Croatia's night.

Bu Manchester City's Gvardiol got the equalizer just a few minutes later and Croatia held on to take the second quarterfinal spot from Group A1.

There was little to play for in Tenerife, where Spain, top of Group A4, took on the already relegated Switzerland.

Coach Luis de la Fuente offered a first start to Barcelona midfielder Marc Casadó and gave debuts to Samu and Aitor Paredes in a much-

changed Spain side.

But it was the two Bryans, Gil and Zaragoza, who got the goals that mattered for the European champions.

Pedri's first half penalty was saved but Yeremi Pino converted to put Spain ahead.

Joel Monteiro equalized for Switzerland after 63 minutes but Bryan Gil got Spain back in front five minutes later. Andi Zeqiri equalized again from the penalty spot with five minutes remaining but a stoppage time penalty from Bryan Zaragoza

at the other end gave Spain all three points.

In Leskovac, Serbia controlled most of the game against Denmark but could not get the goal it needed to progress from Group A4. Dušan Vlahović was in fine form for the home side but the Danes held out to take second spot, eight points behind winner Spain but two ahead of the Serbs, for which Strahinja Pavlović was sent off near the end.

Northern Ireland finished on top of Group C3 even though it blew a 2-0 lead in Luxembourg.

Isaac Price opened the scoring after 19 minutes and the Standard Liege midfielder set up Conor Bradley for the second five minutes into the second half. The opener was Northern Ireland's 100th under coach Michael O'Neill.

However, even though the home side scored twice in the last 18 minutes, Northern Ireland ended its campaign with 11 points, two ahead of Bulgaria, which drew at home with Belarus 1-1. Luxembourg finished last.

Romania finished on top of Group C2 with a 4-1 win over Cyprus. Daniel Bîrligea put Romania ahead after two minutes and Razvan Marin scored twice before Florinel Coman made it four.

Ioannis Pittas got Cyprus' goal and the Cypriots' Konstantinos Laifis was sent off 13 minutes from time.

Kosovo beat Lithuania 1-0 with an early goal from Muharrem Jashari, who was also sent off on the stroke of halftime.

Kosovo finished second, three points behind Romania, but an asterisk remains over the final placings following the abandonment of Friday's match between the teams in Bucharest.

The Kosovo players alleged they were victims of pro-Serbian chants by the home fans and walked off the field in the final minute. UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings.

San Marino will go into Group C at the expense of Gibraltar after beating Lichtenstein 3-1. Gibraltar started the day in pole position with six points but San Marino recovered from being 1-0 down at halftime to score three times in the second half.

Victory also lifted San Marino within reach of a place in the World Cup qualifying playoffs.

Al-Arabi plays winless Al-Yarmouk

Al-Salmiya looks to extend lead

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The eighth round of the preliminary phase of the Handball League wraps up with two matches at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex. Al-Salmiya will face Al-Qurain at 6:30 pm, while Al-Arabi takes on Al-Yarmouk at 5:00 pm.

Al-Salmiya leads the standings with 12 points and is keen to solidify its position and edge closer to securing a spot in the Premier League, which is reserved for the top six teams in the preliminary round. Al-Qurain, currently in seventh place with 7 points, aims to deliver a strong performance and secure a positive result to remain in contention for qualification.

In the second matchup, Al-Arabi is the clear favorite, facing an Al-Yarmouk side that has yet to earn a point after six rounds. Al-Arabi enters the game in second place with 10 points, while Al-Yarmouk languishes in 13th place.

The league follows a single-round format in its preliminary stage. The top six teams will advance to the



Al-Salmiya seeks to strengthen its lead in the league.

Premier League, which will adopt a three-division format, with teams carrying forward points earned in the preliminary phase. Teams ranked seventh to fourteenth will compete in a two-division league to determine final rankings. Matches involving Kuwait and Kazma have been postponed to November 23 due to their participation in the ongoing Asian Championship in Doha, Qatar.

Sheikha Bibi Al-Salem Al-Sabah praises the meeting on women's growing role in sports

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Sheikha Bibi Al-Salem Al-Sabah, a member of the Women's Sports Committee at the Kuwait Olympic Committee, commended the recent meeting of the National Committee for the Implementation of the Security Council Resolution. Titled "The Growing Role of Kuwaiti Women in Sports," the meeting was organized by the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij. It took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters, bringing together prominent female sports leaders from various fields.

Sheikha Bibi highlighted that the meeting fostered extensive discussions about women's sports in Kuwait. She stated, "The gathering was diverse and inclusive, involving administrative leaders, technical staff, players, coaches, and referees. Every-



Sheikha Bibi

one spoke with full transparency about the current state of Kuwaiti women's sports, the progress achieved over recent years, and the key challenges that may impede further development in the near future." She expressed her hope for continued growth and advancement in women's sports in Kuwait.

AIU cites doping cover-ups

US runner on course for Olympic medal after Russian disqualified

MONACO, Nov 19, (AP): The results of the London Olympics are still changing more than 12 years later.

Shannon Rowbury of the United States took another step toward a long-delayed bronze medal on Tuesday when Russian runner Tatyana Tomashova was officially disqualified from the women's 1,500 meters final at the London Games.

The Athletics Integrity Unit, which oversees doping cases in track and field, said Tomashova had not filed an appeal against a doping ban she was given at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in September.

That means the decision is "final and binding" in the records of World Athletics, and the International Olympic Committee has been informed, the AIU added.

"We are committed to protecting the integrity of athletics and, even when events have long passed, we will investigate potential violations fully," AIU chair David Howman said in a statement. "I believe this outcome will still be meaningful for those who are justly recognized as a consequence."

Tomashova's disqualification should also raise Abeba Aregawi into the silver medal position. She was competing for Ethiopia at the time and later represented Sweden.

Tomashova was given a 10-year

doping ban in September. The court said at the time that she tested positive for anabolic steroids in samples she gave in June and July 2012, weeks ahead of the Olympics in London. The AIU has said the case was based on records that emerged much later indicating doping cover-ups at what was then the Moscow anti-doping laboratory.

The women's 1,500 meter final from the 2012 Olympics ranks among the most tainted events in Olympic history following more than a decade of doping revelations and legal battles.

The original gold and silver medalists from Turkey, Asli Cakir Alptekin and Gamze Bulut, have long since been disqualified and banned for doping, and so have other athletes. Tomashova was originally the fourth-place finisher and Rowbury crossed the line sixth.

There might be another long wait for the medals.

The IOC has final approval to reallocate medals. Medal presentation ceremonies can be held at a world championships or a future Olympics. The next Summer Games is in 2028 in Los Angeles. The IOC board is set to meet next month.

Rowbury is now aged 40 and retired from racing, and worked as a broadcaster at the Paris Olympics analyzing track races for NBC.



Xie Wenneng (front, left) of China vies with Kubo Takefusa (front, right) of Japan during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier match between China and Japan in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province. (Xinhua)

Sports

Kazma knocks out Kuwait Club to book semis spot in Asian Handball Clubs Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Nov 19: Kazma secured a decisive 32-25 victory in the Kuwaiti derby against Kuwait Club in the quarter-finals of the Asian Handball Clubs Championship in Doha, Qatar. The championship runs until November 23.

In another quarter-final clash, Sharjah of the UAE defeated Mes Kerman of Iran with a commanding 36-25 win.

Kazma sealed its victory four minutes before the match concluded, capitalizing on Kuwait Club's defensive and offensive errors. Key contributions came from standout performers like

goalkeeper Abdulaziz Al Dhafiri, who earned the Best Player of the Match award, and Wajdi Sinan. Meanwhile, Kuwait Club's players struggled to match its reputation as Arab champion, with the exception of goalkeeper Ali Safar, who delivered a commendable performance.

Kazma will face the winner of the Qatari derby between Al Duhail and Al Rayyan in the semi-finals tomorrow, Thursday.

In the preliminary round of the championship, Kazma finished fourth in Group 2. They achieved a victory over Oman's Al-Ahly Sidab but suffered defeats against Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej, Qatar's Al-Duhail, and Iran's Mes Kerman.



Kazma goalkeeper Al-Dhafiri named the best player of the match.

Japan on brink of reaching WC, Saudi Arabia upset



Indonesia's Calvin Verdonk, 17, battles for the ball against Saudi Arabia's Saud Abdulhamid, 12, and Faisal Alghamadi during the 2026 World Cup Asian 3rd round qualifier soccer match between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia at Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP)

Americans beat Jamaica 5-2 on aggregate

Pulisic scores brace as US advances to NL semis

ST. LOUIS, Nov 19, (AP): Mauricio Pochettino had a message for American players after a 5-2 aggregate win over Jamaica gave the three-time defending champion United States a berth in the CONCACAF Nations League semifinals.

"My advice is look after yourself. We need to be a stronger in March," Pochettino said. "We need to be desperate to arrive to March and to be all together. That is a sign that we improve a lot and then we start to feel that we are a real group of people, that we are going to fight for something special."

Christian Pulisic scored twice in the first half, Tim Weah got a goal in his return to the U.S. national team from a red card and the Americans beat Jamaica 4-2 on Monday night in the quarterfinal series finale. "We came out really hot," Pulisic

said. "We should definitely feel good after these results. We're obviously learning a lot of new things obviously with the new coach."

Pochettino has led the team in two windows since replacing Gregg Berhalter following first-round elimination at the Copa America. Just six camps with the top player pool remain before Pochettino picks his 2026 World Cup roster, the next ahead of a March 20 semifinal at Inglewood, California.

"Building our way up for the World Cup at home. I think that's the main goal," Weah said. "I think we're on the right track."

The U.S. dominated with 68% possession and a 16-9 advantage in shots. The Americans also qualified for next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup, while Jamaica will have to play in qualifying.

Pulisic put the U.S. ahead in the 13th

minute when he ran onto a long, looping pass from Weston McKennie and one-timed the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Andre Blake. Pulisic doubled the lead off a pass from McKennie that Tanner Tessmann dummed in the 33rd minute. Pulisic's shot deflected in off Di'Shon Bernard for his 33rd international goal and sixth multigoal game.

Ricardo Pepi, who scored off a Pulisic pass in the opening leg in Kingston on Thursday, boosted the lead to 3-0 in the 42nd with his 13th goal, a right-foot shot for his first international goal from outside the penalty area.

Demarai Gray scored the first of his two goals for Jamaica with a volley past goalkeeper Matt Turner in the 53rd. Weah, who hit a post in the fourth minute, put the U.S. ahead 4-1 in the 56th when he settled a pass from Yunus Musah and sent a shot just un-

der the crossbar for his seventh goal.

Gray scored off a rebound in the 68th for his seventh goal and second brace, after Turner parried Renaldo Cephas' initial shot.

Weah started in place of injured Johnny Cardoso after completing a two-game suspension for a red card against Panama in the Copa America last summer. That was the only change made by Pochettino from the first leg.

Defender Tim Ream, at 37 the oldest player on the roster, captained the Americans in his hometown of St. Louis.

Jamaica coach Steve McLaren, a former England manager, told the media that star Michail Antonio wasn't available because he lost his passport and couldn't get a U.S. visa.

Panama reached the semifinals, beating Costa Rica 3-2 on aggregate after a 2-2 draw in Panama City. César Blackman scored in the 13th minute and José Rodríguez in the third minute of first-half stoppage time for the hosts. Los Ticos got goals from Alejandro Bran in the 24th and Adrián Martínez in the 72nd. Panama finished a man short after Fidel Escobar's 80th-minute red card.

On Tuesday, Mexico is at home trying to overturn a 2-0 first-leg loss at Honduras, and Canada is home with a 1-0 lead against Suriname.

Tasmania stuns Guinea to qualify

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania, Nov 19, (AP): Borussia Dortmund star Serhou Guirassy will miss the Africa Cup of Nations next year after Tanzania upset Guinea 1-0 to qualify at the visitors' expense on Tuesday.

Simon Msuva scored with a diving header to Mudathir Yahya's cross in the 61st minute, giving Tanzania the first of three qualification places to be decided on the final day of qualifying.

Guinea needed just a point from the teams' final game in Group H,

but Msuva's goal lifted Tanzania into second place - one point ahead of Guinea - to qualify as runner-up behind group winner Congo.

Two more spots were to be decided later Tuesday with Mauritania hosting Cape Verde in Group C, hoping for a favor from group winner Egypt against Botswana. Botswana would qualify as runner-up if it avoids defeat against the Pharaohs.

Morocco will host the 24-team Africa Cup from Dec. 21, 2025 to Jan. 18, 2026.

Indonesia earned a famous victory in the third round of qualification, which last appeared at the World Cup in 1938 as Dutch East Indies. "Indonesia deserved to win this game," Saudi Arabia coach Herve Renard said. "We have four games left and it will be tough but it will be tough for everybody."

It was a first ever win for Indonesia in the third round of qualification. "I am so proud of my team and the country," goalkeeper Maarten Paes said. "Marselino scored two great goals and we defended so well. We knew that this was an important game and, to get a win, that gives us so much confidence. It is so close in our group."

In Group A, Uzbekistan took a big step towards a first World Cup after edging North Korea 1-0. The Uzbeks took the points with a first half strike from Abbosbek Fayzullaev, though Jong Il Gwon missed a late penalty for the Koreans, playing their home games in Laos.

The top two from each of the three groups of six progress automatically to the World Cup while the six teams who finish third and fourth will advance to the next stage of qualification.

Indonesia earns famous victory

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Al-Qadsiya and Kuwait Club intensify preparations for regional challenges



A file photo of players in action.

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Al-Qadsiya will face Al-Sulaibikhat in a friendly match as part of preparations for its trip to Manama, where it will face Bahrain's Al-Riffa next Wednesday in the third round of Group B in the Gulf Clubs Championship.

Currently, Al-Qadsiya stands third in the group with one point, edging Qatar's Al-Arabi (fourth place) on goal difference. Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq leads the group with 6 points, followed by Al-Riffa with 3 points. Al-Qadsiya's last match ended in a narrow 1-0 loss to Al-Ettifaq.

Montenegrin coach Zeljko Petrovic aims to assess the readiness of all players, including those returning from international duty with Al-Azraq in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers. Today, Al-Qadsiya is set to welcome back international players Khaled Ibrahim, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Eid Al-Rashidi, Rashed Al-Dosari, Adhbi Shehab, and Moaz Al-Dhafiri.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club's delegation is scheduled to depart for Uzbekistan next Sunday to face Nasaf Qarshi in the fifth round of Group D matches in the AFC Champions League 2.

Kuwait Club is currently at the bottom of the group with 2 points. Jordan's Al-Hussein Irbid tops the group with 9 points, followed by UAE's Shabab Al-Ahli with 7 points, and Nasaf Qarshi with 4 points. Kuwait Club's qualification hopes hinge on winning its next two matches against Nasaf Qarshi and Al-Hussein Irbid, coupled with Shabab Al-Ahli losing their remaining fixtures.

Fahad Al-Hajri, Sami Al-Sanea, Abdulrahman Kamil, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Reda Hani, Mishari Ghannam, Faisal Zayed, Mohammed Daham, Yousef Nasser, and Khaled Al-Kharqawi, are set to re-join the squad.

Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovicic has also requested a friendly match before the team's departure for Uzbekistan.