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Trade war fuels safe-haven demand

Gold glows brighter in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: Gold prices rose as demand for the yellow metal increased amid concerns over tariffs and the ongoing trade war between the US and several countries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Meanwhile, lower-than-expected US inflation data provided additional support by reinforcing expectations of interest rate cuts.

By 3:50 am Kuwait time, spot gold was up 0.2 percent at \$2,938.24 per ounce, while US gold futures remained steady

at \$2,945.70.

Data showed that the US consumer price index rose less than expected last month. However, this improvement is likely to be temporary, given the impact of tight import tariffs, which are expected to raise the cost of most goods in the coming months.

Lower inflation provides more room for the US Federal Reserve to cut interest rates. Non-yielding gold tends to remain resilient amid lower interest rates.

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Cabinet sets Eid al-Fitr holiday schedule

KUWAIT CITY, March 13, (KUNA): The Council of Ministers convened its weekly meeting today, Thursday, under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

During the session, the Council approved a three-day holiday for all ministries, government agencies, public bodies, and institutions on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, provided that the first day of Eid falls on Sunday, March 30, 2025. In this case, official work will resume on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

However, if Eid al-Fitr is confirmed to begin on

Monday, March 31, 2025, a five-day holiday will be observed. The break will commence on Sunday, March 30, 2025, marking the completion of Ramadan, followed by a holiday on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Work will then resume on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

For institutions with essential services or a special nature of work, their holiday schedule will be determined by the relevant authorities, ensuring the continuity of public services and the public interest.

KUWAIT URGES VIGILANCE AS CELEBRATIONS BRING CHILDREN TO STREETS



Photo by Samer Shiqer

Festive Girgean treats in a kaleidoscope of colors, adding sweetness to the Ramadan celebration.

Rising prices sour Girgean festivities

Mol enhances traffic controls

By Najeh Bilal and Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: Girgean is a celebration that takes place in Gulf countries in the middle of the holy month of Ramadan every year.

This occasion brings joy to children and adults alike, as children go door to door to receive different kinds of sweets.

The newspaper's staff conducted a market tour to look into the prices, during which a number of citizens confirmed that the prices of Girgean goods this year rose significantly compared to last year.

Market and consumer association officials attributed the 30 percent increase in the prices of Girgean goods this year to the rise of prices of chocolates and sweets in the producing countries.

Mohammad Al-Enezi, a citizen, called on regulatory authorities to monitor prices of Girgean goods, as they have risen significantly this year. "Despite the fact that the prices of sweets, chocolates and nuts were relatively stable about a month before Ramadan, merchants often exploit such an occasion to raise prices and achieve high profits," he asserted.

Umm Safaa agrees with this opinion, stressing there is indeed a clear exaggeration in the prices of Girgean goods this year. She disclosed that the price of a basket containing 10 bags of goods -- supposedly the finest chocolates and sweets -- increased from KD28 during the Girgean season last year to KD 35 this season, while a basket containing 15 bags has reached KD48, compared to KD39 last season.

She pointed out that some inexpensive types are unsafe for children's health, as they use colorful candy and poor-quality packaging. She called on officials from consumer associations and supermarkets to put an end to the excessive hike of Girgean prices.

After taking a quick look at the prices, citizen Shafi Al-Saidi said he abandoned the idea of buying Girgean directly from the markets; indicating that he would rather buy Girgean products online, where the prices are lower by about 20 percent.

He expressed dissatisfaction over the high prices, stating that some stores sell medium-quality "popular" two-kilogram bags of mixed nuts for KD7, even though the price last year was not more than KD5.

Bu Ibrahim, a sales manager at a shopping center, pointed out that the rise in Girgean prices is an inevitable result of the rising prices of various types of sweets, chocolates and nuts in the producing countries. "Nevertheless, some types of Girgean products are reasonably priced and are suitable for those with limited income, while those with refined taste prefer the finest types of nuts, candy and chocolate; and are also interested in purchasing these products in luxurious boxes and various packaging," he explained.

He stated that prices have increased by 20 to 30 percent depending on the country of origin, especially the French products that are among the finest, indicating a medium-sized packet of French chocolate can cost up to KD60.

He said the demand for Girgean products usually increases after the third week of Ramadan each year. He pointed out that shipping, transportation and packaging costs have increased as well, in addition to the price increase in the sugar product used in manufacturing the sweets.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait rolls out third debt relief campaign for struggling citizens

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: The Ministry of Social Affairs has announced that the third national campaign to pay off the debts of citizens will start on Friday and will continue for a month, in cooperation with charitable societies and charities and under the direct supervision of the ministry to ensure the highest standards of integrity, transparency and justice in the distribution of aid.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that this campaign is in compliance with the directive of the wise political leadership and a continuation of the State's approach in supporting struggling citizens. It affirmed that it is keen on establishing a mechanism to guarantee the aid reaches the rightful beneficiaries through clear regulations and standards, which will be applied in coordination with the authorized charitable societies and charities.

It explained that it will directly supervise the implementation of the campaign, adding that an electronic monitoring system has been adopted to closely monitor the collection and disbursement of donations to ensure compliance with the regulations.

It stated that the charitable societies will collect donations through their own links, while adhering to strict standards in identifying beneficiaries to ensure fair distribution; as it is required that the beneficiary is a Kuwaiti citizen

who cannot afford to pay non-criminal financial obligations, with official documents proving his inability to pay.

The ministry added that all contributions will be handed over to the concerned authorities to pay the debts like the Civil Enforcement Department at the Ministry of Justice for those subject to executive procedures such as travel ban, vehicle seizure and salary cut, or through the General Department for the Implementation of Criminal Judgments at the Ministry of Interior for citizens in correctional institutions in order to make sure that legal procedures are implemented as per the highest level of transparency.

It also stressed that registration for the campaign will be electronic only through the 'Central Aid Platform' and no visitors will be received by the ministry, charitable societies or charities, in compliance with the unified automated system that aims to achieve justice and prevent any violation or unjustified exception.

It affirmed setting the criteria for paying debts, as Sharia provisions will be adhered to in the payment procedures, with a detailed study of the financial status of each beneficiary to ensure their eligibility for assistance. It added that a ceiling has been set for the payment amount not to exceed KD20,000; so that the largest possible number of eligible citizens could benefit from the campaign.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait strengthens economic ties with UK and Airbus leader



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noora Al-Fassam with UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis.

KUWAIT CITY, March 13, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noora Al-Fassam discussed Wednesday economic cooperation with UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis and President of Airbus in Africa and Middle East Gabriel Semelas.

During the meeting, they also tackled a set of economic issues that contribute to achieving Kuwait's development goals during the coming period, the Ministry of Finance said in a press release.

'No citizenship for unjust claimants'

Nationality Law review in progress: Acting PM

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Interior Ministry has stressed that the Kuwaiti citizenship issue is thorny and length, affirming that all articles of the Nationality Law will be reviewed, including the amendments to Article Five.

In a statement during his visit to Al-Zawawi Diwaniya on Thursday, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef explained that any decision related to Kuwaiti citizenship will be made carefully. He said everything will happen in due time and in a just manner, especially for those who have acquired rights that are not theirs.

He asserted "Kuwait has gone through an exceptional phase that will not be repeated. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was committed to amend the national identity card."

He pointed out that the security situation in the country is not a coincidence, as it is rather the result of interference by individuals who are outside the Kuwaiti society; hence, the need for intensified efforts to maintain national security and stability.

Regarding the number of Bedouins in the country, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said "unfortunately, the recorded numbers are not the actual figures. Those whose citizenship has been revoked are considered Bedouins until a decision is made. The Central Agency for Remedying the Situation of Illegal Residents (CARIRS) is currently handling the affairs of Bedouins and there is a new law for them, but I do not know when it will be issued. Some Bedouins have presented American and Canadian passports, as well as those from Arab countries. Their number is approximately 200. Ask the Ministry of Justice how many people sold their homes and properties for fear of being exposed, but I have no proof. I do not want to wrong anyone. Citizenship forgers are being exposed quickly and this work is ongoing. If one is not exposed today, he will be exposed tomorrow."

Continued on Page 5

'Gesture of goodwill between allies'

Kuwait frees group of jailed Americans

WASHINGTON, March 13, (AP): Kuwait has released a group of American prisoners, including veterans and military contractors jailed for years on drug-related charges, in a move seen as a gesture of goodwill between two allies, a representative for the detainees told The Associated Press.

The release follows a recent visit to the region by Adam Boehler, the Trump administration's top hostage envoy, and comes amid a

continued U.S. government push to bring home American citizens jailed in foreign countries.

Six of the newly freed prisoners were accompanied on a flight from Kuwait to New York by Jonathan Franks, a private consultant who works on cases involving American hostages and detainees and who had been in the country to help secure their release.

Continued on Page 5



This image provided by Jonathan Franks shows him with six American prisoners detained by Kuwait as they pose for a photo at Kuwait International Airport Wednesday, March 12, 2025, before flying home to the United States. Franks is a private consultant who helped work for their release. (AP)

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait has welcomed the Jeddah-hosted US-Ukraine talks. A foreign ministry statement extolled Saudi efforts in this regard, which aim at reaching a political settlement for the Russia-Ukraine conflict, underlining the State of Kuwait's belief and support for resolving such crises in peaceful manners.

The talks came upon directives of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, and attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in addition to Ukraine's Head of the Office of the President Andriy Yermak, Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrii Sybiha, and Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, along with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has denied reports on social media regarding the reintroduction of the entry visa requirement for Kuwaiti citizens traveling to Iran, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The embassy confirmed that the suspension of the visa requirement continues without interruption, with renewals every six months, as long as the stay in Iran does not exceed 15 days.

It also stated that the embassy issues annual multiple-entry visas to Kuwaiti citizens who make consecutive trips to Iranian cities.

Ramadan Timings

Iftar Friday 17:56
Imsak Saturday 04:38
Iftar Saturday 17:57
Imsak Sunday 04:37



2 Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid welcomes Ramadan well-wishers at Dar Moza



5 Crown Prince marks Ramadan with visit to Jabriya Diwaniya



12 Savor the Flavor of Mexico: Traditional Barbacoa Recipe

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:41 Asr 15:22
 Sunrise .. 06:00 Maghrib .. 17:55
 Zohr 11:58 Isha 19:11

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Warm with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Rather cold and partly cloudy to cloudy with light

Weather

to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	27	17
Kuwait Airport	26	15
Abdaly	27	14

Bubyan	27	13
Jahra	27	16
Failaka Island	28	17
Salmiyah	25	19
Ahmadi	24	13
Jal Aliyah	25	14
Nuwaisib	27	15

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid welcomes Ramadan well-wishers at Dar Moza



His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad and other members of royal family.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah arrives.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Ahmed Al-Jarallah greets Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid Al-Sabah.



Sheikh Ahmad Jaber Al-Abdullah and Bahrain Ambassador Salah Al-Maliki.



Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid and Qatar ambassador.



Saudi ambassador extends greetings.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Chinese ambassador and other guests.



Sheikh Mubarak Al-Jaber and other members of royal family.



Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid Al-Sabah warmly welcomed Ramadan well-wishers at Dar Moza in Qortuba, led by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah along with a number of Royal Family members, officials, public figures and friends.

All those present at the event exchanged greetings on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

They implored Allah Almighty to make this a month of goodness, mercy, peace and blessings and to return it to the Islamic nation with security and

stability.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid expressed his gratitude to everyone for their kind sentiments, praying to Allah to accept everyone's good deeds and to make Ramadan a month of goodness and blessings for everyone.

EU values Kuwait as close, reliable friend – Koistinen

You can count on us: EU Ambassador

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Kuwait Anne Koistinen said that "in these difficult times around the world, the EU values Kuwait as a close and reliable friend. Our message to the Kuwaiti leadership and government is very clear: you can count on the EU."

She affirmed "this year is very important for our relations, as Kuwait will host the next EU-GCC ministerial meeting later this year."

Koistinen made the statement during the Ramadan Ghabqa held at her home recently. She stated "I take this opportunity to congratulate Ku-

wait on assuming the rotating presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for 2025. The EU is keen on working with Kuwait to strengthen relations with the GCC during its rotating presidency."

She pointed out that the EU and Kuwait enjoy a strong friendship based on shared interests, including Kuwait's vocal support for multilateralism and the principles of good international cooperation.

She added that the EU highly appreciates Kuwait's prudent and moderate positions, and believes there is much potential. "The positive impact of our relations is also evident, as there is much we can do together at the bilateral, regional and international levels," she stressed.

She asserted that the EU and Kuwait are strong

humanitarian actors supporting vulnerable communities around the world, strengthening the United Nations (UN) system and multilateral organizations, and cooperating with them.

She confirmed that "Kuwait is a key partner for the EU in the humanitarian and development fields." She said Director General of the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Maciej Popowski visited Kuwait last month, during which he agreed with Kuwaiti officials to continue working together on humanitarian crises and strengthening multilateralism.

She said the EU is Kuwait's second largest trading partner, "reflecting our strong economic ties."

She also emphasized that "Gaza and Ukraine continue to remind all of us about the international community's need for an effective multilateral system based on universal rules and values that are respected by everyone. Never has respect for the UN Charter, the rules-based international order, and international law been more at stake than now."

Ministry grappling with staff shortage

MoE in disarray as senior Education official resigns

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: The acting director of Educational Affairs Department in the Capital Educational District submitted his retirement application effective March 31, 2025; reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The acting director also oversees the intermediate, primary and kindergarten levels.

Sources from the educational sector revealed that this move comes at a critical time, as the Ministry of Education is already grappling with a growing number of vacancies in supervisory positions.

Concerns have been raised that the ongoing departure of experienced educational officials, coupled with the failure to appoint suitable replacements, could lead to administrative disruptions that might affect the quality of education. Many supervisory positions in the ministry, educational districts and school administrations

are currently being managed on a temporary assignment basis, sources disclosed.

Sources warned that failure to permanently fill up these positions could undermine the educational process and the effectiveness of administrative operations in schools and educational districts. They called for urgent action to fill these vacancies and address the ongoing loss of qualified personnel to maintain stability and guarantee the continued progress of the educational system.

Camping ends March 15: Chairman of the Spring Camps Committee at Kuwait Municipality Faisal Al-Otaibi has announced that the spring camping season, which started on Nov 15, 2024 will end on March 15, 2025; reports Al-Anba daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Otaibi affirmed that the Municipality will enforce the regulations immediately after the camping season concludes. He clarified that there has been no extension of the camping period to date, and an extension requires approval from the Environment Public Authority (EPA). "The Municipality remains committed to the specified end date for the camping season," he asserted.

He urged camp owners to cooperate with the Municipality by removing their campsites on or before March 15 and ensure the sites are thoroughly cleaned to protect the natural environment and wildlife.

It is worth noting that the Municipality has implemented a comprehensive plan throughout the season to raise awareness among spring camp owners.



Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah with Chinese officials.

Kuwait, China ministers discuss cooperation in social protection

NEW YORK, March 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah praised the depth of friendly relations with China in the areas of social protection and family development.

Cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of China kept growing over the past 55 years, she noted on Wednesday during her meeting with Huang Xiaowei - a Chinese Minister and Vice Chairperson of the National Working Committee on Children and Women (NWCCW) of the State Council.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York, discussed ways of empowering women and promoting the social services being provided to families.

Dr. Al-Huwailah briefed Huang on Kuwait's social policies aiming to support women and children, promote family stability, achieve social justice and enhance coherence of the society.



Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah is presented a memento.

Both sides expressed desire to promote cooperation and exchange experiences in the area of social protection, women empowerment and vocational training.



The Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah addresses the unit during his visit to the 'Mubarak Duty' force.



Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah shakes hands with the soldiers.



Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah offers prayers at the military camp.

Defense minister hails high morale of armed forces

KUWAIT CITY, March 13, (KUNA): The Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah, paid a visit to the "Mubarak Duty" force in the northern region on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. He was accompanied by Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with several senior military officials.

According to a statement released by the Ministry of Defense on Wednesday, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah commenced his visit by receiving a detailed briefing from the task force

commander regarding the operational readiness of the force. Following the briefing, he joined the military personnel in an iftar banquet, sharing in the spirit of Ramadan.

During the visit, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah conveyed greetings and best wishes from His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, on the advent of Ramadan.

Expressing his gratitude and pride, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah commended the dedica-

tion and high morale of the armed forces. He acknowledged their relentless efforts and sacrifices in safeguarding the nation's security, stability, and territorial integrity.

Concluding his visit, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah urged the land forces to maintain their commitment to duty and continue their service to the homeland. He prayed for the continued safety and prosperity of Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, wishing that Ramadan brings peace and blessings to the nation and its people.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Racism ... eradicate disease in the heart before the mind

"RACISM is a disease that must be treated in the heart before the mind. No matter how high we rise in social circles, and obtain hundreds of certificates, positions and money, we will remain ignorant, and suffer from the disease of separation and discrimination between individuals in our society, and we will destroy this society, because we have not been able to treat our hearts that are sick from malicious diseases, such as racism," Kuwaiti author **Imad Khamis Al-Aqab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

from those who call for racism and the division of the people."

Also :

"In reality, there are many political interests and players whose mission is to cloud the atmosphere, tarnish the reputation of the transitional government, the era of change, and the administration of the new Syria," Kuwaiti author **Tareq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Definitely, this chaos, both internally and externally, is driven by the interests of players and those who sabotage the political, social, economic and administrative processes during the transitional period. This is intended to halt the wheel of development and ensure a dignified life for the brotherly Syrian people, following the convergence of the people's interests, their welcome of change, and the triumph of their revolution over the regime that has passed away. This comes after all this international support and recognition of the new era in Syria, both Arab and western.

"The success of the new political regime in quelling hotbeds of tension and thwarting coup attempts by outlaws and the new political authority is due to their reliance on a worn-out and criminal remnant, backed by foreign supporters who have interests with the former regime and others who have interests with the enemy of the Syrian nation and people.

"Hence, we see the sinful role of those who tamper with the interests of the brotherly Syrian people, obstructing the process of reform and democratic change, and rallying the people's sects around their new regime and government. However, there are signs of a rallying of all positions and parties from various Syrian factions, representing the strength of national will, to support the decisions of their new transitional government to impose order and stability across the Arab world in sisterly Syria.

"The Arab nation's rallying today around the new Syrian regime, following its return to the fold of the Arab world, completes the process of supporting the supreme Arab interests. The Syrian people are a latent force, possessing vast and diverse capabilities, which the Arab nation needs at this important and sensitive time. This will enable them to utilize their strength and will in their honorable political and social positions to serve the causes of the nation and the region, following the demise of the 'incubus' of the defunct regime, its aides, and those who support it from within and without.

"We wish our sisterly Syria, its people, and its young, new government the return of peace, stability and prosperity after the tampering of the 'tamperers' and haters, and their supporters, both from within and without was extinguished.

"May Allah protect Syria and its people."

— Compiled by **Mahmoud Attiyeh**



Imad Al-Aqab

"If our educational attainment is modest, we are still statesmen who dream of civilizational and scientific progress. We are people of culture, insight and awareness of what this progress will bring us in terms of unifying and building society, but acquiring knowledge alone will not be enough if our hearts are filled with hatred and discrimination between individuals.

"Our true religion has ordered us to educate ourselves, so we learn justice and tolerance, and not to differentiate between people based on skin color, race, religion, gender or any other factors. If our pure and sound hearts teach us the teachings of this true religion, we will live in a coexisting, civilized and generous society.

"So, we have to put hatred and contempt behind us, and focus on our true religion that calls us to be loving brothers, and we are responsible for our religious and cultural heritage. We have to preserve it and live according to its teachings.

"In ancient times, racism existed in the neighborhoods of tribes and nationalities, and today racism is still present in some of our societies. Discrimination between people is still cancerous in some countries, and politicians still exploit these ideas to pressure people's feelings, and to make them struggle with themselves.

"We are captive to old ideas, prejudice and discrimination, and there is no reason to use the factors of racism and discrimination in them. Racism also causes many social problems, such as exclusion and labor discrimination, poverty and lack of social solidarity, as well as many health and mental problems, and therefore, it is very important to address racism quickly and effectively.

"Racism is a disease that must be eradicated in the heart before the mind, and no matter what the educational attainment of any person, we must remember that we are part of one community, and that we are responsible for unifying and building it, based on the teachings of our religion and our human values.

"May Allah protect our country

Father gets right to see his child overnight despite losing custody

Underage driver's dad insults Kuwaiti in traffic row

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: In a first-of-its-kind legal precedent in child visitation cases, the Family Court's Ja'afari Circuit ruled that a father has the right to visit his daughter and have her stay overnight at his residence, despite her being in her mother's custody. This ruling marks an exception to the existing Ja'afari law, which typically prohibits a child from spending the night with a non-custodial parent.

Lawyer Hawra Al-Habib, who represented the father, explained that the legal provision prohibiting a child from spending the night with a non-custodial parent applies only to children who are below the age at which they can make their own decisions. It does not apply to children who have surpassed that age. Even if the children do not choose to spend the night with the non-custodial parent after reaching the age of choice, it does not mean that the other parent is deprived of the right to have their child spend the night at their home.

She stressed the importance of this right in strengthening family relationships



Al-Habib

and communication between parents and their children.

In its ruling, the court affirmed that the father has the right to see his daughter on the dates set by the court, emphasizing that this decision promotes empathy, family harmony, and kinship ties in a manner that is in line with the child's best interests and complies with the law.

Accordingly, the court granted the father's request, allowing him the right to visit his daughter and spend the night at his residence. The court also ordered the complainant to pay the expenses and lawyer fees, in accordance with Article 119/1 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

□ □ □

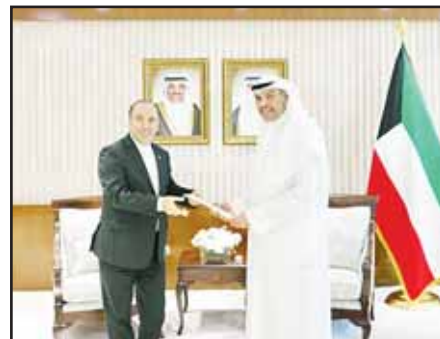
Insulted in traffic brawl: A citizen has lodged a complaint at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential Area police station, indicating that an elderly man insulted him, reports Al-Anba daily.

The complainant told police that a collision occurred between his vehicle and a juvenile's car in the same area. The juvenile asked him to wait until his father arrived to handle the situation and repair the vehicle, suggesting that this will prevent any issues when police officers arrived, as the juvenile did not have a driver's license. The complainant said "given the young age of the driver, I agreed to wait. Shortly afterward, the juvenile's elderly father arrived. Instead of acknowledging his mistake for allowing the child to drive, he insulted and defamed me."

As a result, a case of insult and slander was filed alongside the collision report. The juvenile was issued a citation for driving without a license and referred to the Juvenile Prosecution Office.

Iraq official visits Kuwait

Kuwait FM receives message from his Iranian counterpart



Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya receives message from Iranian counterpart delivered by the Iranian ambassador.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya receives the Iraq Foreign Ministry undersecretary.

KUWAIT CITY, March 13, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received Wednesday a written message from his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi.

The message, delivered by Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totonji during his visit to the Foreign Ministry headquarters, focused on the close bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen and develop cooperation in various fields.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received on Wednesday Undersecretary of Iraq's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Bilateral Relations Ambassador Mohammad Bahr Al-Uloom and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of their official visit to Kuwait.

During the meeting, also attended by Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, they discussed bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to enhance cooperation in various fields.

They also touched upon the latest regional and international developments of common interest.

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Educators argue it favors Science over other core subjects

Science subject exclusion from last period sparks controversy

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

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: The circular issued by acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Mansour Al-Dhafiri stating that Science should not be included in the last period of the school day for the 2025/2026 academic year has sparked various reactions in the educational field.

The circular, issued on March 10, was addressed to the directors general of educational districts and the Religious Education Department. This is in response to the General Technical Guidance for Science, which stated the nature of the Science subject requires mental concentration and active student attendance that may not be possible in the last period of the school day.

However, the decision was met with criticism from teachers and educators, some of which uploaded on the X platform. Some considered it discriminatory -- in favor of Science at the expense of other subjects;

questioning the fate of other subjects like Arabic, Mathematics and English that also require high mental concentration.

Some believe the decision may be related to the issue of teachers leaving early after the implementation of the fingerprint system. Critics think that prohibiting the teaching of Science in the last period could give Science teachers a chance to leave before the rush hour, at the expense of their colleagues in other disciplines.

On the other hand, teachers from other disciplines demanded that the decision include all subjects or that the last period be redistributed to the school administration or allocated for extracurricular activities; thus, ensuring fairness among all subjects.

Some educators said the decision could negatively affect the distribution of the school schedule, as it could lead to the continued overloading of other subjects in the last period, which could harm the students' performance in these subjects.

KFAED signs USD 2.1mn deal to aid displaced families in Yemen

Kuwait Fund strengthens ties with UNHCR

KUWAIT CITY, March 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed Thursday a deal with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), offering USD 2.1 million in support of housing rehabilitation and maintenance for the displaced people in Yemen.

The project targets returning internally displaced persons and supporting the self-reliance of returning families by providing them with the necessary materials, equipment and labor

costs to rehabilitate their homes damaged by the ongoing conflict in Yemen, KFAED said in a press release.

The number of direct beneficiaries of the project activities is estimated at about 670 families.

Acting Director General of KFAED Waleed Al-Bahar said that the deal reflected Kuwait's commitment to stand by the Yemeni people, who are facing harsh living conditions amid the humanitarian crisis due to war and economic instability.

For her part, UNHCR Representative to Kuwait Nisreen Rubaiana explained that Yemen remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian crises, with over four million people displaced due to ongoing conflict and economic in-

stability.

She added that approximately 6.7 million people, 40 percent of whom are internally displaced, lack adequate housing, pointing out that many returnees face difficult living conditions in damaged or destroyed homes, exposing them to protection risks and further displacement.

The grant is the eighth contribution of its kind between the two parties in the field of humanitarian support, as Kuwait Fund has previously provided about USD 24 million to UNHCR since 2016 to finance seven projects.

KFAED Acting Director General Waleed Al-Bahar and UNHCR Representative to Kuwait Nisreen Rubaiana signed the grant agreement.



Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development signs deal to support displaced people in Yemen.



Namaa Charity prepared and served 1,800 iftar meals to worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

KUNA photo

Kuwait's initiatives revive Ramadan spirit

Namaa Charity delivers iftar meals to 1,800 worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque

RAMALLAH, March 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Namaa Charity Foundation implemented an iftar project in Jerusalem, distributing iftar meals to 1,800 worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound over several days, in support of the steadfastness of the people of Jerusalem in the face of daily Israeli challenges.

The Director of Namaa Charity's Relief Department, Khaled Mubarak Al-Shammari, stated that the project was not merely a humanitarian act but rather a message of support and love for the resilience of the people of Jerusalem and an affirmation of the status of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Al-Shammari emphasized that the iftar project in Jerusalem serves as a message of solidarity with its people, who are suffering from a stifling economic and social siege while facing daily challenges from the occupation.

He added, "Namaa Charity seeks, through these initiatives, to achieve

social solidarity, encourage worship at Al-Aqsa Mosque, and revive the Ramadan atmosphere in the blessed city."

Al-Shammari explained that the iftar project aims to enhance the spirit of love and brotherhood among Muslims by providing food support to fasting worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque, especially in light of the difficult economic conditions faced by the people of Jerusalem.

He pointed out that the project aims to support worshippers in the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque by providing them with iftar meals during Ramadan nights, in appreciation of their steadfastness and devotion to the blessed mosque. It also contributes to creating a unique Ramadan atmosphere that strengthens the sense of belonging and spiritual closeness in the holy city, especially during the holy month.

He further noted that the initiative helps alleviate the economic burdens on the people of Jerusalem and pro-

vides them with moral support to face the daily challenges imposed by the occupation and the high cost of living.

Al-Shammari stressed that Kuwait places great importance on the Palestinian cause at all levels, including humanitarian and relief efforts, as charitable institutions work to provide food, educational, and medical support to enhance the resilience of the Palestinian people, especially those in Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem is not just a city but a symbol of pride and steadfastness, and it is our responsibility to stand by its people in every way possible," he affirmed.

He concluded by stating that Namaa Charity will continue to support relief and humanitarian projects in Palestine, calling on all charitable individuals to contribute to such initiatives to deliver a message of love and generosity to the people of Jerusalem, who face adversity with patience and determination.

Authority appoints 9 nutritionists for inspections

PAFN launches cafeteria investment drive

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has appointed nine nutritionists to inspect school cafeterias in order to ensure compliance with health and nutritional standards, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a letter to the Ministry of Education, the authority explained that, through cooperation between the Educational Development and School Activities Sector and the Community Nutrition Sector, the nutritionists were selected to assist with the supervision of school cafeterias for the 2024/2025 academic year; covering both public and private schools.

According to educational sources who spoke with the daily, the primary goal is to inspect the cafeterias to verify the safety of the food and meals served to students. This initiative is crucial in promoting students' health and preventing health issues related to unsafe food consumption.

Sources praised the proactive approach of PAFN in monitoring cafeteria food.

In a related development, PAFN announced the opening of applications for food companies interested in investing in the school cafeteria development project, in line with the school cafeteria regulations.

This is in accordance with Ministerial Resolution No.

5/2021, approved by the PAFN Board of Directors on Oct 12, 2021. Applicants are required to submit the necessary documents either in person at the headquarters of PAFN in Sabah Al-Salem, Block Two, Street 207, Building 82 or through its website; specifically the School Cafeteria Application Platform.

The authority will continue to accept applications until May 1, 2025. The required documents include a letter of approval from the Educational Activities Department at the Ministry of Education's main office, health and commercial licenses for the food facility, a copy of the civil identification card of the legal representative of the facility, a copy of the contract between the investor and the school, the school's commercial license, a license from the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) for the investment site, and approval from KFF for any additional activities within the school building (such as central gas installations and electrical appliances). Applicants must also provide the canteen regulations, which can be accessed through the barcode or purchased from the PAFN's website, stipulating the approved list of food products that meet the school canteen regulations.

If PAFN approves the applicant for canteen investment, it must issue a school canteen license valid for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Kuwait-funded aid delivered to displaced Yemenis

ADEN, March 13, (KUNA): Two Kuwaiti associations on Thursday distributed 562 food parcels to displaced families in the Yemeni regions of Maarib and Hadramut as part of the 10-year "Kuwait on your side" humanitarian campaign.

The Yemeni society, "alwsool al-ensani," said in a statement that it had delivered 321 food packages to the relocated families in Maarib, noting that the aid had been funded by the Kuwaiti Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity.

The society also reported distributing 241 food parcels in Al-Mukalla -- with funding by the Kuwaiti society "balad alkhair."

Abdulwasea Alwaseie, the secretary general of "alwsool," said in a statement the Kuwaiti aid was crucial to back up the impoverished families amid the current hard living conditions in the nation.



Food parcels distributed to displaced families in the Yemeni regions of Maarib and Hadramut as part of the 10-year 'Kuwait on your side' humanitarian campaign.

KUNA photo



The Kuwaiti diving team removes abandoned fishing nets in Bnaider.

Rare hawksbill turtle rescued

Kuwait Dive Team removes 3 tons of abandoned nets from southern sea

KUWAIT CITY, March 13, (KUNA): The Kuwait Dive Team, affiliated with the Voluntary Environmental Foundation, successfully removed three tons of abandoned fishing nets from the southern Kuwaiti sea, in Bnaider.

The team also rescued stranded marine creatures, including a rare hawksbill turtle. The abandoned nets were delivered to the Scientific Center for further action.

Team leader Waleed Al-Fadhel told KUNA on Tuesday that the team received a report about the abandoned nets located three kilometers off the coast of Bnaider. The team proceeded to remove them due to their danger to navigation and the marine ecosystem.

Al-Fadhel explained that the nets were very large and took several hours to remove. This effort is part of the team's ongoing plan to clean Kuwait's southern coasts

of all waste with the aim of protecting the marine environment and sea animals.

He called on beachgoers to protect sea turtles, which are rare and threatened with extinction, and to avoid littering in the sea. When turtles become entangled in nets, they risk suffocation and death. Floating plastic bags pose a danger to turtles, as they mistake the bags for jellyfish, which is a primary food source for them.

He explained that turtle nesting sites in Kuwait are limited to Qaruh Island, located southeast of the Kuwaiti coast. While many researchers monitor these nesting sites, turtles are widespread throughout Kuwaiti waters and are frequently spotted by beachgoers and divers.

There are seven species of sea turtles worldwide, with only two found in Kuwait: the hawksbill and the green turtle. These turtles can grow up to approximately two meters in length and weigh as much as 900 kilograms.

Since its foundation in 1986, the team has carried out various activities to protect sea turtles in marine facilities, help free them from cooling plant tanks, and rescue them from abandoned fishing nets. The team has also contributed to awareness campaigns targeting school students and the community, as well as social media campaigns, publications, films, and interactive workshops to raise awareness about turtle protection and prevent them from facing danger. The team participated in an integrated environmental program on Heron Island, Australia, where they learned about advanced programs aimed at protecting turtle nests, which coexist with the Great Barrier Reef.

Al-Fadhel expressed gratitude for the efforts of the government, as well as scientific, research, and environmental institutions in the country, for their commitment to sea turtle conservation. These efforts include monitoring their movements locally and throughout the Gulf using satellite tracking devices, as well as adhering to international agreements and treaties to protect turtles.



The diving team rescues a rare turtle trapped in a net.

KUNA photos

Greetings of peace and prosperity

Crown Prince marks Ramadan with visit to Jabriya Diwaniya

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah visited the diwaniya of Sheikhs Duaij and Faisal Al-Malik in Jabriya on Wednesday evening as part of his Ramadan visits to Kuwaiti diwanias.

Sheikhs Duaij and Faisal Al-Malik welcomed His Highness the Crown Prince and expressed their greetings on the occasion of Ramadan, wishing blessings and prosperity for Kuwait and the Islamic nation.

The gathering underscored the importance of social interaction and brotherhood, while reflecting Kuwaiti traditions and values.



Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah visits the Diwaniya of Sheikhs Duaij and Faisal Al-Malik in Jabriya as part of his annual Ramadan gatherings.

Photos by Rezk Taufiq

'State eyes youth as driving force for dev't'

KUWAIT CITY, March 13, (KUNA): The Minister of Information, Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi has affirmed the State concern for the youth as they constitute the prime force for achieving sustainable development.

The minister, in a statement to KUNA mark-

ing Kuwait Youth Day (March 13), underscored the fatherly care of the political leadership for the youngsters, noting that the Public Authority for Youth, at its centers, provides various programs and activities for engaging the juniors throughout the year.

These activities cover technological, social,

economic, cultural and business sectors, he said, affirming that these programs have proven quite helpful for the youngsters to make achievements at various levels. He boasted that the Kuwaiti youth played a crucial role in organizing diverse events and sports games namely the Arabian Gulf football tournaments.

Continued from Page 1

Rising prices

He also revealed that Kuwait imports sweets and nuts from Asian countries, most notably India, Pakistan and Malaysia; European countries such as France and the Netherlands; the United States of America; Turkey; and some Arab countries. He added Kuwait has several sweet factories.

In related news, the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry continued its inspection tours in markets and shops in the holy month of Ramadan.

The Capital and Al-Siddiq Emergency Inspection Team, headed by Director of the Commercial Control Department Faisal Al-Ansari, intensified its inspection of sweet shops in Shuwaikh.

Al-Ansari told the newspaper that due to the high demand for sweets in the middle of Ramadan to celebrate Girgean, the department has intensified its campaigns to monitor prices and product quality in accordance with the plan established for this purpose. "This is to ensure that merchants strictly comply with the regulations and to protect consumers from violations," he elaborated.

He said the field visits are part of a comprehensive plan to continuously monitor markets and uncover commercial violations. He stressed the importance of consumers' cooperation in reporting violations, warning that deterrent legal action will be taken against anyone proven to have committed violations.

Meanwhile, as the Girgean celebration approaches during the holy month of Ramadan, the Ministry of Interior emphasized the importance of adhering to traffic regulations and security guidelines to ensure the safety of all, especially children, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry highlighted the need to avoid blocking internal roads in residential areas and prohibited the use of recreational vehicles, folklore bands, and food carts in these areas, as they can obstruct traffic and put individuals' lives at risk.

It also confirmed that strict legal action will be taken against violators.

The ministry called on guardians to closely monitor their children,

avoid relying on domestic workers, and follow safety instructions to ensure their well-being.

It also urged drivers to reduce their speed and stay alert on both internal and public roads to prevent accidents.

In addition, the Ministry of Interior said it has developed a comprehensive security and traffic plan for the holy month of Ramadan, which includes the deployment of fixed and mobile security patrols across various governorates to enhance public security and safety.

Kuwait rolls

It clarified that the campaign excludes debts arising from illegal or prohibited transactions, those owed to telecommunication companies or informal financing entities (under-financing), as they are not considered humanitarian priorities. It added that citizens, who benefited from previous campaigns, will no longer be covered and this will be done through the coordinated efforts of the Ministry of Justice and the participating entities.

The ministry added that localizing charitable work is one of the main pillars of the State's approach in promoting social solidarity and organizing humanitarian aid according to an institutional mechanism that ensures transparency and fairness in distribution. It pointed out that governing charitable work through unified electronic systems contributes to eliminating randomness and guarantees maximum utilization of available resources; thus, achieving the desired impact in supporting deserving groups.

Adopting this approach consolidates the concept of sustainability in giving by creating an accurate database of beneficiaries, and linking charitable initiatives to national development plans to ascertain that support reaches the rightful beneficiaries, the ministry asserted.

It then emphasized that the campaign aims to promote social solidarity and organize charitable work according to a unified mechanism that ensures transparency and integrity, praising the humanitarian role played by charitable societies and charities in supporting national efforts to help the needy.

It urged all segments of society to participate in this initiative, considering its great impact on alleviating the suffering of debtors and enabling them to overcome their financial crises, which contribute to achieving social stability and consolidating the humanitarian values that distinguish Kuwait.

Gold glows

Earlier this month, US President Donald Trump triggered a trade war by raising tariffs by 20 percent on Chinese goods and imposing new 25 percent tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports. Trump later eased the tariffs, granting a one-month exemption for certain goods that met the rules of origin under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Trump also backtracked on Tuesday afternoon from his pledge to double tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum to 50 percent, just hours after announcing the tariff increases.

The tariff hike was widely expected to increase inflation and economic uncertainty, which pushed gold to a record high of \$2,956.15 on February 24, 2025. Gold is often seen as a hedge against political risk and inflation.

Investors are now awaiting the US producer price index data, set to be released later Thursday, for further insights into the Federal Reserve's monetary policy.

Meanwhile, spot silver rose 0.2 percent to \$33.29 an ounce, platinum rose by 0.2 percent to \$985.18, and palladium increased by 0.6 percent to \$954.63.

Kuwait frees

"My clients and their families are grateful to the Kuwaiti government for this kind humanitarian gesture," Franks said in a statement.

He said that his clients maintain their innocence and that additional Americans he represents also are expected to be released by Kuwait later.

The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The names of the released prisoners were not immediately made public.

The Americans released Wednes-

day had not been designated by the U.S. government as wrongfully detained. The status is applied to a subsection of Americans jailed abroad and historically ensures the case is handled by the administration's special presidential envoy for hostage affairs - the office that handles negotiations for a release.

But advocates of those held in foreign countries are hopeful the Trump administration takes a more flexible approach and secures the release of those not deemed wrongfully detained.

"The sad reality is that these Americans were left in prison for years due to a misguided policy that had, before President Trump took office, effectively abandoned Americans abroad who hadn't been designated wrongfully detained," Franks said in a statement.

"These releases," he added, "demonstrate what is achievable when the U.S. government prioritizes bringing Americans home."

Nationality Law

On the Kuwaiti citizenship of artists, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef disclosed "we revoked the Kuwaiti citizenship of all artists who obtained it under the 'noble deeds' clause. What have they done in the country to obtain Kuwaiti citizenship under the 'noble deeds' clause?"

Regarding the celebrity money laundering case, he confirmed that "we will open a file on any person whose wealth we suspect is bloated. This file will not be closed until we do so."

On the social security file for those whose citizenship has been revoked, he stated that "all retired women whose citizenship was revoked will receive their full pension. Any woman who paid social security contributions and does not wish to continue with the social security institution will have her contributions fully refunded."

He added that countries will restore the original nationalities of those whose Kuwaiti citizenship and passports were withdrawn, stressing each country has its own time to complete such procedures.

KRCS's continued humanitarian aid to Sudan lauded by Darfur Governor

PORT SUDAN, Sudan, March 13, (KUNA): Governor of Sudan's Darfur region, Minni Minawi, on Wednesday expressed his deep thanks and gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its continuous humanitarian support since the outbreak of the Sudanese crisis nearly two years ago.

During his meeting with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Sudan, Dr. Fahad Al-Dhafiri, at the embassy headquarters in Port Sudan, Minawi affirmed that Kuwait has remained a strong humanitarian supporter of the Sudanese people. He expressed his thanks to the Kuwaiti leadership, government, and people for their continuous humanitarian support to the Darfur region and the camps for the displaced.

"Kuwait's support has not stopped. Kuwait launched an air bridge through which 35 planes arrived, carrying thousands of tons of food, medicine, and relief supplies, the most recent of which was a plane from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society carrying 40 tons of food and relief supplies to address the difficult conditions in Darfur," he added.

Minawi highlighted the difficult condi-



The Governor of Darfur Region delivers a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Kuwaiti Ambassador for the State of Kuwait's provision of humanitarian aid.

tions experienced by the people of Darfur and the displaced in the camps since May 2024, especially in Zamzam camp, which hosts millions of people displaced by the siege imposed on the city of El Fasher in North Darfur State.

Announcement of the list of debts of Al-Marouf and Al-Barjas Combined for General Trading & Contracting WLL

In implementation of the decision issued by the advisor, the bankruptcy judge, in Request No. (1) of 2024, restructuring, and in accordance with the text of Article (110) of the Bankruptcy Law, Mr. Sabah Al-Jalawi, in his capacity as the restructuring trustee, announces the list of acceptable debts, which is as follows:

Creditor Name	Amount Due to Creditor	Type of Debt
COPRI Construction Enterprises w.l.l.	KD 160,000	Ordinary debt
Golden Engineering Group General Trading & Contracting Co. WLL	KD 140,000	Ordinary debt
Combined Group Contracting Company (CGC)	KD 122,608.896	Ordinary debt

IFTAR INDULGENCE

SAVOR THE FLAVOR OF MEXICO: TRADITIONAL BARBACOA RECIPE

THE Embassy of Mexico in Kuwait is delighted to present an authentic taste of Mexico with this traditional barbacoa recipe. This beloved dish, known for its rich and robust flavors, is a true testament to Mexico's culinary heritage.

The Origin of Lamb Barbecue in Mexico

Barbacoa has deep roots in Mexican history, originating from the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean and Mesoamerica. Traditionally, this dish was prepared by slow-cooking meat in a pit, a technique that allowed the flavors to meld and the meat to become incredibly tender. However, the story of barbacoa extends beyond its origins. Its journey through history reflects a fascinating blend of culinary traditions from diverse cultures.

The technique of cooking meat in a pit was influenced by the arrival of Spanish colonizers, who brought their own traditions of slow-cooked meats, along with the influences of Arabic cuisine. Arabic traders introduced the concept of slow-cooked, spiced meats to the Iberian Peninsula, which was then adapted by Spanish settlers in the Americas. This cross-cultural exchange gave rise to the barbacoa we cherish today.

In Mexico, barbacoa has evolved to include local ingredients and techniques. One distinctive element is the use of maquey leaves (also known as maguey or agave leaves), which are used to wrap and cook the meat. This method imparts a unique, smoky flavor, enhancing the meat's tenderness and adding depth that is quintessential to Mexican barbacoa. Additionally, the slow-cooking process with maquey leaves produces a delicious consommé (a rich broth) that accompanies the dish and adds another layer of flavor.

On August 13, 2024, the community of Dajiedhi in the municipality of Actopan, Hidalgo, made history by breaking the Guinness World Record for the largest barbecue. This remarkable achievement attracted over 10,000 attendees, showcasing the region's commitment to its culinary heritage and solidifying Hidalgo's reputation as the cradle of traditional Mexican barbecue.

Traditionally, barbacoa is prepared by slow-cooking meat in a pit underground, a method that melds flavors beautifully and results in incredibly tender meat. For those without access to a pit, barbacoa can also be deliciously prepared in a slow cooker, making this beloved dish accessible to home cooks everywhere.

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES

The art of cooking barbacoa varies across Mexico, but one region is renowned for its exceptional barbacoa: Hidalgo. In Hidalgo, barbacoa is traditionally prepared in a pit, lined with maquey leaves, which imparts an unparalleled flavor and tenderness to the meat. The state is celebrated for its barbacoa festivals, where lo-

cals showcase their skills and offer a taste of this time-honored tradition.

Experience the essence of Mexican culture and cuisine with this barbacoa recipe. It's perfect for a hearty meal that brings people together and celebrates the vibrant traditions of Mexico.



His Excellency Eduardo Patricio Peña Haller, Ambassador of Mexico



RECIPE

SERVINGS: 4

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds lamb shoulder, trimmed of excess fat and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 4 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 chipotles in adobo sauce, finely chopped
- 1 (4-ounce) can diced green chiles
- 1 small white onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon dried Mexican oregano (or standard dried oregano)
- 2 teaspoons fine sea salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 cup beef stock or water

Instructions:

1. **Slow Cook:** Combine all ingredients in the bowl of a slow cooker. Toss gently to mix. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours, or on high for 3-4 hours, until the lamb is tender and shreds easily with a fork.

2. **Shred and Soak:** Shred the lamb into bite-sized pieces using two forks, right inside the slow cooker. Toss the meat with the juices, then cover and let it soak for an additional 10 minutes. Discard the bay leaves.

3. **Serve:** Use tongs or a slotted spoon to serve the barbacoa. Enjoy the deep, flavorful taste of this traditional Mexican delight!

ENJOY AND RAMADAN MUBARAK!

Kuwait sports family unites for annual Ramadan Ghabga at Al-Shuhoumi Diwan

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: In a warm and festive Ramadan atmosphere, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Honorary President of Al-Qurain Club, Ahmed Khalifa Al-Shuhoumi, alongside the Chairman of Al-Qurain Club, Abdulkarim Al-Shuhoumi, hosted the annual Ramadan Ghabga for the sports community at Al-Shuhoumi Diwan.

The gathering saw the attendance of many prominent sports figures, including His Highness the former Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf, former Speaker of the National Assembly and Honorary President of Kuwait Club, Marzouq Al-Ghanim; Dr. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser, former Minister of Foreign Affairs; Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah; Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah, President of the Arab Tennis Federation; Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef, President of the Football Association; as well as many federation and club heads, athletes—both former and current—and members of the diplomatic corps.

Ahmed Al-Shuhoumi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, emphasizing the importance of such gatherings during Ramadan, particularly for the sports community across various disciplines.

He stressed that Kuwaiti athletes deserve such recognition and support, highlighting the necessity of backing them in order to represent Kuwait with pride on the international stage.



Al-Shuhoumi welcomes officials to his Diwan.

Kuwait strengthens sports 'reputation' with hosting of 10th Arab Handball Cup

Kuwait targets new coach to drive success

KUWAIT CITY, March 13: Qaid Al-Adwani, Secretary-General of the Kuwait Handball Association, confirmed that Kuwait will host the 10th Arab Handball Cup next May, aligning with the political leadership's vision to make Kuwait a hub for Arab, continental and international sports events. This move is part of ongoing efforts to develop Kuwaiti sports, particularly handball.

The announcement followed the Arab Handball Federation's approval to hold the 10th edition of the Arab Handball Cup for men's national teams in Kuwait from May 4 to 12, coinciding with the International Handball Federation Week.

Al-Adwani expressed his gratitude for the tremendous support of Kuwaiti sports from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. This support has driven Kuwait's decision to host international tournaments that will showcase the country's bright image. He also thanked the Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, and Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah, for their ongoing commitment to bringing these events to fruition.

Al-Adwani also highlighted Kuwait's recent success in securing the bid to host the 2026 Asian Cup, set to begin on January 20. The announcement of hosting the Arab Handball Cup comes after a 23-year gap, with the last edition held in 2002.

Khaled Talib, Treasurer of the Kuwait Handball Association, explained that the Association's decision to bid for the Arab Championship was fueled by the national



A file photo of players in action.

team's strong performance at the recent World Cup finals. He added that hosting the tournament in Kuwait would boost the country's profile as a capable organizer of major sporting events.

Talib emphasized the high level of competition in the tournament, which will feature top teams such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Bahrain, and other Arab teams with star players and experienced technical staff.

He assured that the Kuwaiti national team is fully prepared for the tournament.

Additionally, Talib confirmed that the Kuwait Handball Association is in the process of hiring a new coach for the national team to better understand the players' strengths and strategies ahead of the upcoming Asian Championship. This step is part of the Federation's goal to elevate the national team to the high-

est level.

The Arab Handball Cup has been held nine times previously. Egypt won the first and second editions, Kuwait claimed victories in the third and fifth editions, Tunisia won the fourth and sixth editions, Saudi Arabia triumphed in the seventh, and Algeria took the eighth. Bahrain is the most recent titleholder, having won the tournament in 2002 in Jordan.

Bayern faces another tricky test against Union

Dortmund aims to bring some of its CL success to disastrous league campaign

DUESSELDORF, Germany, March 13, (AP): The two German teams in the Champions League quarterfinals are having very different Bundesliga seasons.

While Bayern Munich is eight points clear at the top and confirmed its domestic supremacy with a 5-0 aggregate win over Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League, Borussia Dortmund is 10th and will likely need a big late-season surge to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Beating Lille in the Champions League on Wednesday eased some of the pressure on new coach Niko Kovac but Dortmund takes on Leipzig on Saturday with both teams desperate for a win.

Dortmund's game against Leipzig on Saturday is a crucial test for Leipzig, too. Two wins from 10 Bundesliga games since the new year have seen Marco Rose's team slide to sixth.

Bayern's Champions League exertions took their toll last week in a shock 3-2 home loss to Bochum. A trip to Union Berlin on Saturday is another tricky test, given Union surprised Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1 last week.

Leverkusen has lost three

games in a row for the first time under coach Xabi Alonso. The injury-hit squad can turn things around with a win on Sunday over Stuttgart, itself on a four-game losing run.

When Manuel Neuer hurt himself celebrating last week, it gave 21-year-old Jonas Urbig an opportunity as Bayern goalkeeper. The loss to Bochum last week was a rocky start but Urbig won praise for some solid saves against Leverkusen.

Michy Batshuayi's first Bundesliga goal in seven years wasn't enough as Frankfurt lost to Union last week. Frankfurt could need more goals from the new signing to halt a slide since Omar Marmoush left for Manchester City. Frankfurt plays Bochum on Sunday.

The pressure is on Stuttgart striker Deniz Undav after seven Bundesliga games without scoring. Undav was a star last season as Stuttgart finished second but now risks being dropped.

Star attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz is a big absence for Leverkusen with an ankle ligament injury. Defender Mario Heremba was sent for scans on his

shoulder after the Bayern loss, while defender Edmond Tapsoba and midfielder Nathan Tella are doubtful to recover from injuries for Sunday.

Joshua Kimmich looks set to extend his contract at Bayern after all after a contract offer was reportedly withdrawn last month in frustration at the long-running talks. Kimmich said on Tuesday he was looking forward to "getting the ball over the line."

Serbia defender Milos Veljkovic will leave Werder Bremen for Red Star Belgrade after nine years, Bremen said on Tuesday.

Holstein Kiel captain Lewis Holtby is set to leave as a free agent.

"It's difficult and we aren't satisfied either. It's hard for us to get a result like this in the Bundesliga almost every week and play our best in the Champions League. We're trying everything to make it work in the Bundesliga too." - Dortmund forward Karim Adeyemi.

"I won't surf on a hype wave, no chance. My focus is absolutely on the Union Berlin game on Saturday and nothing is won until it's won." - Bayern coach Vincent Kompany.



Lille's Benjamin Andre tackles Dortmund's Julian Brandt during the Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match between Lille and Borussia Dortmund in Villeneuve-d'Ascq. (AP)

Alcaraz breezes past Dimitrov

Shelton reaches quarterfinals

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 13, (AP): Ben Shelton became the youngest American man since Andy Roddick in 2004 to reach the quarterfinals at the BNP Paribas Open, beating Brandon Nakashima in straight sets.

The 22-year-old Shelton cruised in the second set of a 7-6 (6), 6-1 victory. After a 61-minute opening set, he took a 5-0 lead in just 20 minutes in the deciding set. The 11th-seeded Shelton hasn't dropped a set in five career matches against Nakashima, a 23-year-old American.

Second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz hasn't dropped a set on his way to the quarterfinals. The four-time Grand Slam champion breezed to a 6-1, 6-1 victory over No. 14 seed Grigor Dimitrov.

On the women's side, No. 3 seed Coco Gauff was upset in the round of 16 by unseeded Belinda Bencic. The 28-year-old wild card from Switzerland rallied for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Bencic returned the favor from the Australian Open in January, when

Gauff won after dropping the first set. The defeat came the day before Gauff's 21st birthday as the 2023 U.S. Open champion was broken at 4-4 in the final set after going up 4-0.

Gauff struggled with her serve throughout the tournament and had eight double-faults against Bencic, with just four aces.

Australian Open champion Madison Keys, the No. 3 seed, rallied for a 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-3 victory over 19th-seeded Donna Vekic. The 30-year-old American extended her winning streak to 15 matches after trailing 5-3 and being two points from defeat in the second set.

Top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Sonay Kartal, who was facing an opponent ranked in the top 10 for the first time.

Jack Draper of Britain beat third-seeded American Taylor Fritz - a past champion at Indian Wells - 7-5, 6-4. Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina topped Australian Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-3.

Best of the Rest

FENIFOOT chief elected to FIFA Council: Nigerian Football Federation president Djibrilla Hima Hamidou was elected Wednesday to the FIFA Council representing the West African zone, as reported by Nigerian media.

Hamidou, who has served as president of the Nigerian Football Federation (FENIFOOT) since 2009, secured his position with 35 votes, defeating rivals from Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal, who received 18 and 13 votes respectively.

Born on March 7, 1965, Hamidou is also a member of the Executive Council of the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The FIFA Council consists of 37 members, including a president elected by the FIFA Congress, eight vice-presidents, and 28 other members elected by FIFA's member associations, each serving a four-year term. The president and council members are limited to a maximum of three consecutive or non-consecutive terms. (Xinhua)

Castano secures River Plate move: River Plate has reached a deal to sign Colombia international midfielder Kevin Castano from Russia's Krasnodar, the Argentine top-flight club said on Wednesday.

Castano arrived in Buenos Aires for a medical on Wednesday and is expected to sign a contract that runs until December 2028. Local media reported that transfer was worth 14 million U.S. dollars.

"You've arrived at the top, Kevin. Welcome to your new home," River Plate said in a statement posted on social media. (Xinhua)

Cerro Porteno advances: Paraguay's Cerro Porteno scored three second-half goals to advance to the Copa Libertadores group stage with a 4-2 home win over Peruvian side Melgar.

Sergio Araujo opened the scoring with a 12th minute strike but the hosts squandered a chance to double their lead when Cecilio Dominguez missed a penalty attempt on the half hour.

Tomas Martinez equalized from the penalty spot on the stroke of halftime following a Gaston Gimenez handball.

Cerro Porteno took control after the interval, netting three times in 24 minutes through Federico Carrizo, Francisco da Costa and Alexis Farina before Percy Liza struck a late goal that merely served as a consolation. (Xinhua)

