



Kuwait extends defense fund withdrawal period by 2 years

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: In an effort to enable relevant authorities to complete armament programs, keep pace with regional developments, and ensure the readiness of the armed forces, a Decree-Law (No. 61/2025) has been issued to extend the period stipulated in Law No. 3/2016, which authorizes the government to withdraw funds from the general reserve, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

and the ministers, each within their jurisdiction, to implement the decree-law, which will take effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

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His Highness the Amir



His Highness the Crown Prince

HH Amir meets Crown Prince, Acting Premier

KUWAIT CITY, April 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah. Also on Sunday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

TRADE WAR TRIGGERS PANIC IN KUWAIT MARKET, RECOVERY SEEN Kuwait stocks plunge as US tariffs bite

KD 2.44 billion vanishes from Bursa Kuwait in sharp decline

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Bursa Kuwait closed today's trading session with a sharp decline, losing approximately KD 2.44 billion in market capitalization, which is a drop of 5.15 percent, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This decrease reflects the global market downturn at the end of last week, driven by the ongoing trade war between the United States and other countries, as well as the sharp declines in oil prices.

The market capitalization of companies listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange dropped to KD 44.91 billion by the end of today's session, compared to KD 47.35 billion at the close of trading last Thursday.

The markets of Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain opened today's trading session with sharp declines exceeding five percent in the Saudi, Kuwaiti, and Qatari markets.

The general market index dropped by 5.16 percent, or approximately 412.84 points, to reach 7,587.89 points.

The Premier Market index fell by 5.69 percent, or around 488.79 points, settling at 8,106 points. Meanwhile, the Main Market index declined by 2.67 percent, or 192.66 points, to 7,013.23 points.

Global financial markets experienced a sharp decline over the course of two days following US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on most of the United States' trading partners. These actions reignited fears of a potential global recession.

The S&P 500 index dropped ten percent on Thursday and Friday, erasing more than \$5 trillion in market value.

The total decline for the index reached 17.4 percent from its all-time high on February 19, 2025, marking one of the steepest two-day declines in seven decades.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti economists attributed the sharp decline in the performance of Bursa Kuwait to the negative repercussions of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on imports from various countries, including Kuwait.

In separate interviews with the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Sunday, experts highlighted the huge drop in stock market indices, driven by growing uncertainty in the investment arena.

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Police arrest 36

Kuwait's new traffic fines begin April 22

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry is currently conducting a series of field awareness campaigns to inform motorists about the new Traffic Law penalties that will take effect on April 22.

The department disclosed that violations stipulated in Article 33 (bis) will result in KD150 fine. These violations include running a red light, reckless driving, endangering lives or properties, racing without a permit, performing stunts on the road, driving beyond the speed limit, driving auto-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or bicycles in undesignated areas, driving against traffic, driving an unlicensed or unregistered vehicle, using altered or fake license plates, transporting passengers without a permit, parking in spaces designated for those with disabilities, and obstructing traffic without a permit.

Repeat offenders under Article 33 (bis) may face imprisonment for up to three years and a fine of up to KD1,000.

In a related development, the department continued its traffic and security campaigns in different governorates over the past week.

These campaigns resulted in the arrest of 15 individuals proven to have violated the Residency Law, and 21 others who committed various crimes and evaded arrest.

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi

The return of students to schools on Sunday marked a noticeable rise in vehicular movement across the country.

Healthy eating initiative

Kuwait pushes for calorie disclosure in food service

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Technical Committee at the Municipal Council has referred to the executive authority the letter of Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali regarding the proposed mechanism on requiring restaurants and cafés to list the calorie contents of food and beverages.

Kuwait Municipality is currently studying a mechanism to implement the proposal based on the guidelines attached to it.

Municipal sources revealed to the newspaper that work is underway to lay down the rules and regulations on the calories of meals and foods served in restaurants and cafés, in cooperation with the concerned government agencies, specifically the Food and Drug Administration.

Sources said the regulations for implementing the proposed mechanism will have a positive impact on the quality of food services in Kuwait in general, and will contribute to promoting a healthy eating pattern for citizens and expatriates.

Sources disclosed the new mechanism will most likely be implemented in the Capital Governorate initially, and then gradually expand to the rest of the restaurants and cafés in the country.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the guidelines for restaurants and cafés, upon which the Municipality based its study; including a mechanism for measuring calories in meals through laboratory analysis or by calculating the components of meals and drinks or calculating the calories of the ingredients such that each gram of protein is equal to four kilocalories, one gram of carbohydrates is equal to four kilocalories, and one gram of fat equals nine kilocalories.

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Kuwait leads humanitarian advocacy at UN, supporting global justice and rights

GENEVA, April 6, (KUNA): Kuwait asserted its firm position on humanitarian issues, particularly in Palestine, Syria, Sudan, and Myanmar, reiterating its commitment to international law, human rights protection, justice and dignity promotion in conflict zones, and holding violators accountable, especially occupying powers.

According to official statements presented by Kuwait's permanent UN delegation during its participation in the 58th session of the UN's Human Rights Council, which concluded on April 4, the Palestinian cause remains a top priority.

Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations headquarters in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, called on the international community to assume its moral and legal responsibilities towards Palestinian people, implement an immediate ceasefire, and ensure the unrestricted flow of aid.

He expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the Israeli occupation's incessant violations in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank, including settlement expansion, population displacement, and the denial of humanitarian aid.

Kuwait also supported numerous draft resolutions, particularly those related to the Palestinian issue proposed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), reaffirming its deep commitment to supporting the rights of Palestinian people and condemning the continued Israeli settlement activity, both in the occupied Palestinian territories and in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Additionally, Kuwait supported the resolution on the effects of anti-personnel mines due to the painful experience its people endured because of anti-personnel mines planted during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Hayen noted that anti-personnel mines have caused immense human, economic, and environmental suffering, and that their effects are still present today, more than 35 years af-

ter its liberation.

For that reason, he reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to Ottawa's "Mine Ban Treaty" and called on non-States Parties to accede and support international mine clearance efforts, while simultaneously achieving sustainable development goals.

Moreover, Kuwait called for preserving Syria's unity, sovereignty, and independence, and for lifting sanctions imposed on Syrian people due to their direct impact on their living conditions.

Kuwait also called to support the Sudanese people and protect them from collapse, it expressed its concern over the humanitarian deterioration in Sudan, stressing the importance of a ceasefire and engaging in a comprehensive political process based on the Jeddah Declaration.

Regarding the situation in Myanmar, Kuwait expressed its condemnation of the human rights violations committed against the Rohingya minority, calling on the international community to ensure the safe and dignified return of refugees and holding perpetrators accountable.

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KUNA photo
Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations headquarters in Geneva.

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait declared that lying or submitting false or forged documents will result in a permanent travel ban to the United States, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The embassy stated via its X account that providing forged documents to support a visa application is a serious violation that can lead to visa ineligibility.

KUWAIT CITY: The Al-Ojairi Scientific Center stated that Kuwait is currently experiencing the "Dharaan" season, which began with "Tali" al-Muqaddam and lasts for 13 days, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The center explained in a press statement that "Tali" al-Muqaddam, which starts on April 3 and is also known as "the second heat", consists of two bright stars and is the third of the spring rising. This season witnesses higher temperatures compared to previous periods, with rice and wheat being planted and harvested.

Headaches, common cold, and dust allergies are common during this time.

DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip killed at least 24 people, including over a dozen women and children, local health officials said Sunday, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to the United States to meet with President Donald Trump about the war.

Israel last month ended its ceasefire with Hamas and renewed its air and ground offensive, carrying out waves of strikes and seizing territory to pressure the militant group to accept a new deal for a truce and release of remaining hostages. (AP)



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Al-Jarallah applauds 'The Last Journey,' calls for more political freedom in Kuwaiti theater

Kuwait-UAE talks focus on youth empowerment

KUWAIT CITY, April 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi discussed on Sunday with the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Sultan Al-Neyadi ways to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in various youth fields.

Al-Neyadi stressed during the meeting the need to continue cooperation between the two countries and implementing directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Al-Mutairi said that strengthening joint work and exchanging experiences between youth institutions in both countries would help develop youth work and achieve sustainable development.

The two sides agreed on the importance of adopting a unified Gulf vision for youth issues that enhances the status of Gulf youth and expresses their aspirations.

Both sides also agreed on exchanging visits and expertise between delegations, which contributes to advancing cooperation, and empowering youth.

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KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi receives Dr. Sultan Al-Neyadi.

MoH announces tender for 200 ambulances, hospital upgrades

Plan boosts emergency services

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Ministry of Health has announced its plan to float a tender for the supply of 200 new ambulances in fiscal 2025/2026 in order to develop the medical emergency fleet.

The ministry also published an announcement in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) about several tenders for the development of electronic systems in hospitals, provision of medical services, and expansion of medical facilities.

According to the ministry, these tenders are as follows:

- Updating the electronic records system at Jaber Hospital, Farwaniya Hospital, Jahra Hospital, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, and Kuwait Cancer Control Center;
- Provision of specialists to develop and support the health and administrative systems;
- Provision of technical support services for servers and networks of the Information Systems Department and the main operations room at the ministry;
- Construction, completion and maintenance of various primary healthcare centers, including a specialized dental center in Adan, a health center in Abdullah Al-Mubarak (Block Six), a center in Sabah Al-Salem North (Block 10), a health center in Saad Al-Abdullah (Block Five), and the

- Manara Center for Mental Health;
- Maintenance, construction and minor expansion of nine buildings, hospitals and centers;
- Replacement of central water-cooled chillers and their accessories at the post office station in Amiri Hospital;
- Supply and installation of emergency generators and their accessories for various locations in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health District;
- Completion of the kitchen building at Farwaniya Hospital;
- Increase the cost of the new Amiri Hospital switchboard and connection of its annex buildings to a unified central communications system;
- Supply, installation, operation and maintenance of the nurses' call system at Jaber Hospital;
- 10 tenders for the purchase of medicines and medical supplies.

Ministry allocates KD4 mln for project

CAPT opens bids for Hawally water complex construction

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has opened bidding envelopes for the construction of Hawally Water Distribution Complex and three related works.

The agency will submit the bids to the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for the specialized committee to review them and conduct a technical study in this regard.

The study will be referred to the agency for the issuance of a decision on awarding the project, as well as to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) in preparation for signing the contract with the winning company and initiating the implementation procedures.

Sources revealed that the ministry has allocated about KD4 million in its annual budget for the construction of the complex.

They affirmed the importance of this project; through which the ministry will increase the storage capacity of fresh water by 66 million gallons per day, the pumping rate to 54.5 million gallons per

day and the pumping of brackish water to 23.5 gallons per day.

They asserted that the complex is a vital facility, requiring continuous development to better serve the citizens and expatriates in the densely populated governorate.

In a related development, sources stated that the ministry has asked CAPT to award the tender for the construction of a freshwater filling station and related works in Dhahr to the company with the lowest bid -- KD3.469 million.

Sources indicated that CAPT authorized the ministry to prepare a valuation budget based on the lowest bid and then present its recommendation.

Sources explained that through the construction of the station, the ministry will supply fresh water to those residing in the area; particularly those in remote, border and agricultural parts.

Sources added the station is considered a strategic alternative in the event of an emergency, confirming it will also replace the water filling station in Mangaf that causes inconvenience to those residing in the area due to the influx of tankers.

Undersecretary oversees start of project

Shadadiya access road set in motion

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Eid Al-Rashidi supervised the launch of the construction project for the road connecting the Shadadiya Industrial Area to the Seventh Ring Road.

The project is part of ongoing efforts to enhance infrastructure, support economic development in Kuwait, and improve transportation and logistics services. It will enhance industrial and commercial activity in the area, improve road networks, and enhance the efficiency of public services, all in line with the highest technical and environmental standards.

MEW opens applications for electricity connections in Al-Mutlaa's N5 suburb

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced the start of receiving applications for electricity connections to N5 suburb of Al-Mutlaa Residential City in parts of Block 1 and Block 2, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that there are

338 Plots in Block 1 and 128 Plots in Block 2. The ministry will now start receiving applications for electricity connections to a total of 466 Plots in these two blocks. Electricity was activated in parts of Block 1 and Block 2 in N5 suburb with the cooperation of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

Ministry eyes full digital integration

MoSA disburses more than KD18m in March aid for over 40,000 individuals

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: Director of the Family Welfare Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs Hanan Al-Ghareeb revealed that the total social assistance for March amounted to KWD 18,157,847, and 40,713 individuals, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Ghareeb explained that the assistance is distributed among 21 segments of society, including those facing difficult circumstances, students studying abroad, housewives, the elderly, families with students, orphans, widows, divorcees, the sick, the financially weak, unmarried women, families of prisoners, recently released prisoners, families of recently released prisoners, foster parents, and Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis. The ministry also provides assistance to orphans, children of divorced parents, and those in the custody of their grandmoth-

ers. Al-Ghareeb went on to explain that there is a debt collection committee in place, and the ministry has successfully recovered more than 50 percent of the debts accumulated in previous years. Also, a dedicated team has been reviewing the files of individuals whose citizenship has been revoked.

She revealed that the Ministry of Health has reached out to the Ministry of Social Affairs to establish an automated link for reviewing patient files.

Al-Ghareeb stressed that work is underway to establish links with both Kuwait University and the Ministry of Justice, indicating that once these links are completed, the ministry will have successfully connected with all relevant entities involved in social assistance cases.

4-step plan outlined for seamless rollout

Local firm proposes recycling initiative to schools with incentives for students

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: In an effort to promote environmental awareness, a local company has proposed to the Ministry of Education the installation of recycling machines in schools, reports Al-Rai daily.

The company explained that the initiative includes a points-based incentive program, where students will earn points for every recyclable item they deposit. These points can be redeemed for discounts at local stores and restaurants through partnerships established as part of the initiative.

In a letter addressed to the Minister of Education Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, the company requested support to implement the initiative, and help create a more sustainable future for students and schools.

The company outlined a four-phase implementation plan:

- Planning and preparation: The first

phase will focus on identifying schools for the pilot program, securing funding and partnerships, and developing educational materials.

- Installation and training: The second phase will involve installing the recycling machines in selected schools and training both staff and students on their use.

- Launch and promotion: The third phase involves launching the program and promoting the initiative through social media platforms and school newsletters.

- Monitoring and evaluation: The fourth phase will focus on monitoring usage, collecting data on recycling rates, evaluating the program's impact, and making any necessary adjustments.

The company clarified that the recycling program will include the collection of materials such as plastic bottles and cans.

Drug user arrested along Faiha Road

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The emergency patrols at the Capital Police Station arrested a drug user in possession of 49 Lyrice pills, reports Al-Anba daily.

During investigations, he confessed to trafficking in drugs; and that he had an appointment with a 'customer'. He was immediately referred to the competent authorities.

The emergency patrols got suspicious of a vehicle on Faiha Road and the apparent confusion on the demeanor of the driver. It was noted that he was in an abnormal condition as a result of drug consumption. Upon inspection of the vehicle, the officers found the psychotropic pills.

It is worth mentioning that the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) in the Interior Ministry conducted a study on the drugs Pregabalin and Gabapentin, known by the trade names Lyrice and Neurontin, and confirmed the dangers of the two drugs and their potential misuse.

Accordingly, a meeting was held at the Public Prosecution Office, with officials from

the Ministry of Health, DCGD and Criminal Evidence General Department in attendance. They discussed the dangers of the two drugs, given their use as alternatives to narcotics. A recommendation was made to criminalize the consumption of these drugs and include them in the list of psychotropic substances.

The Ministry of Health then issued Ministerial Resolution No. 47/2021 to include the two substances in Schedule Four attached to Law No. 48/1987 on combating psychotropic substances and regulating their use and trade. This resolution shall be effective upon its publication in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm).

Following the issuance of the decision, it is now necessary for anyone who possesses the two substances without a prescription to be referred to the Narcotics Prosecution Office to take legal action against them. The penalty for possession of these substances is imprisonment of up to five years, while the penalty for trafficking is up to 10 years.

Demand spans all levels

PAM reports 32,020 new job seeker registrations

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The number of job seekers, who registered with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) over the past six months, reached 32,020 -- including 26 doctorate degree holders and 18,141 university graduates.

According to the statistics obtained by the newspaper: the number of master's degree holders who registered at the authority totaled 628; along with 6,758 diploma holders; 1,755 high school graduates with two or more years experience; 223 with one-year high school; 712 with a primary school certificate; 408 high school graduates with one year experience; 355 with a two-year intermediate certificate; 628 who hold an intermediate certificate with three or more years experience; 497 who hold a secondary school certificate with at least one year experience; 865 with a secondary school certificate; and 87 with vocational training and parallel education.

New reservoirs, energy infrastructure on agenda

Ahmadi Committee to discuss major development proposals

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Ahmadi Governorate Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Nassar Al-Azmi, will hold its fifth meeting for the third legislative round on Wednesday.

The committee will discuss the following items in its agenda:

- Proposal of member Fahad Al-Khanin on the relocation of the street adjacent to the plots between Sector 62-Block One and Block One park in Abu Halifa;
- Request of the Ministry of Public Works to cancel the allocation of reservoirs in South Sabah, which were previously allocated pursuant to a decision issued by the council;
- Request of the same ministry to al-

locate an alternative site in the northern part of the cancelled reservoir sites measuring 9,600 square meters, including three reservoirs and an above-ground power supply transformer (UDS). This will be deducted from the total area of the site allocated as afforestation area for the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR);

- Request of the same ministry to allocate a 440-meter-long, 700-meter-diameter pipeline to feed the reservoir in South Sabahiya;

- Request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate overhead lines with a length of 700 meters and a width of 200 meters to connect the main transformer station in Wafra (Z2) to the overhead lines.



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Innovation and digital transformation set to dominate discussions

Abdullah Al-Salem University to host First Higher Education summit

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: Chairperson of the Founding Board of Directors of Abdullah Al-Salem University Dr. Moudi Al-Hamoud said the First Higher Education in the Age of Innovation Summit will be held on April 16-17, under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal.

The summit will feature a select group of education leaders, decision-makers, and technology experts and researchers in and outside Kuwait. It will be held at the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Theater in the campus in Shuwaikh.

Al-Hamoud stated the summit stems from the commitment of the university to support innovation and excellence in higher education, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

She affirmed the summit is scheduled at a strategic time; hence, the need for everyone to "reshape the concepts of higher education, and respond intelligently and flexibly to the rapid changes in the digital environment."

She said the summit is a national platform for unifying visions and guiding future policies toward an innovative and effective educational model based on artificial intelligence, data analysis and effective digi-

tal governance.

She added the summit will tackle several important topics; such as the digital transformation of universities, technology-enabled adaptive curricula, cybersecurity, data privacy, smart campuses, virtual and augmented reality in education, mechanisms for funding scientific research, and integration between educational institutions and productive sectors.

She disclosed the summit will be held simultaneously with an innovation and technology exhibition, through which the Kuwaiti University students will showcase their outstanding projects. "This reflects the

depth of young national talent and enhances their role in shaping Kuwait's digital economy," she asserted.

Abdullah Al-Salem University extended its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all supporting entities; and called on the universities, educational institutions, relevant government institutions and research centers to actively participate in this summit and contribute to laying the future foundations for an advanced national educational vision that integrates knowledge and technology, serves the country's sustainable development goals, and builds a creative human capital capable of competing regionally and globally.

1,443 successful reconciliations recorded in 2024

Poor communication and lack of respect among major causes of divorce in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: Head of the Family Dispute Experts Section at the Family Consultation Department of the Ministry of Justice Mashael Al-Mishaal says there are ten main causes of divorce, with poor communication between spouses being the leading factor, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an interview, Al-Mishaal revealed that the department successfully prevented several divorces over the years, with 1,443 reconciliation cases recorded in 2024 alone.

She affirmed the importance of not using children as tools for pressure or revenge between the spouses.

Al-Mishaal said the department's primary goal is to repair relationships to maintain Kuwaiti families and prevent divorce from the early stages.

She explained that poor communication between spouses is one of the top causes of divorce. While it has decreased recently, it still remains a leading factor. Besides poor communication between spouses, other main causes of divorce in Kuwait include lack of respect, infidelity, and issues such as social media addiction and substance abuse. For expatriates, "divorce for harm" is common, where one spouse leaves the country to go to their home country, which often leads to divorce.

Regarding concerns over dramatic portrayals of Kuwait as a society filled with divorced individuals, Al-Mishaal described them as an inaccurate and exaggerated depiction.

She highlighted that there is significant awareness in Kuwaiti society, with many making efforts to resolve issues before they escalate.

Al-Mishaal elaborated on the department's efforts in 2024 to help reconcile couples and prevent divorce.

She explained that the main goal is to preserve the family unit and deal with issues at the earliest stages to prevent divorce. Before filing for divorce, couples are required to consult with the department's Family Dispute Resolution Section, where efforts are made to mediate and

resolve the matter amicably. If reconciliation attempts fail, the judge refers the case to the Family Dispute Experts Section for arbitration, where both parties receive advice and guidance to resolve their differences.

The department also offers a program called "Wafa" for couples-to-be, through which awareness and guidance on marital responsibilities and ways to prevent issues during married life are provided.

Al-Mishaal criticized the way divorce rates are often portrayed in an exaggerated manner in Kuwaiti dramas by depicting Kuwaiti society as one that is filled with divorced individuals.

She emphasized that Kuwait has a high level of awareness regarding family issues, with many people seeking the department's services before their problems escalate.

Al-Mishaal also highlighted the importance of family education, particularly through the "Wafa" program, which prepares couples for marriage and helps reduce the likelihood of divorce. The program provides future spouses with a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities within marriage.

She explained that for those who have already divorced, the department offers post-divorce counseling to help individuals cope with emotional challenges and maintain their well-being. The Family Reconciliation Center provides these services, including consultations for children to ensure they receive the necessary support after a divorce.

In conclusion, Al-Mishaal emphasized that children thrive best when raised in a stable family environment, with both parents actively involved.

She advised that even after divorce, parents should maintain a respectful relationship for the sake of their children's emotional well-being.

It is worth highlighting that the Family Dispute Experts Section at the Ministry of Justice continues to play a crucial role in resolving family issues and promoting a healthier, more stable family environment in Kuwait.

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Kuwait stocks

They also highlighted a wave of sell-offs that affected many of the traded stocks.

According to the economic expert Mohammad Ramadan, Trump's move to impose tariffs exceeded global market expectations, and resulted in a negative reaction in most stock markets, including those in the region.

He explained that the response from affected countries and their financial markets remains uncertain. The future is unclear, as no one knows whether there will be retaliatory tariffs or negotiations among groups, which has in turn created an even more ambiguous situation. This uncertainty has led investors to adopt a more cautious approach and withdraw part of their funds from the market.

Investors are highly fearful because the decision was sudden and unexpected, and such surprises often trigger market declines.

Ramadan said, "It is still unclear what the consequences or actions from investors will be."

He believes that while there may be direct negative consequences in the short term, many issues can be dealt with in the medium term.

Ramadan said, "Markets are facing losses, especially due to the absence of positive indicators. As a result, we may see further declines or fluctuations until the situation becomes clearer to investors."

Meanwhile, Head of the Investment Funds and Portfolios Department at National Investments Company Mohammad Al-Hamad indicated that most financial markets experienced turbulence following the tariff decision, which caused widespread panic.

He explained that, while a ten percent tariff on Kuwait may not directly affect companies with substantial dealings in the U.S. markets, the psychological impact on the market has been significant, as it triggered panic.

The first quarter's performance had been positive and exceptional for several reasons, including developments surrounding mortgage issues, public debt, Gulf Bank's acquisition, mergers, and more. These developments have had a direct effect on investor sentiment.

Trump's presidency has been marked by "high volatility." However, Al-Hamad believes that if the situation stabilizes in the second quarter, particularly with the upcoming annual general meetings of companies, the market may experience greater stability and more positive developments.

Furthermore, a board member at Surooh Holding Company Sulaiman Al-Waqyan told KUNA that President Trump's message was that it is an "economic war" between major coun-

tries, which has had a negative impact on global stock markets, including the U.S. stock market, which is expected to drop by 25 to 30 percent.

Al-Waqyan said the Kuwaiti stock market will be moderately affected once the psychological shock from the significant declines in the general indices has been absorbed.

He indicated that most of the listed Kuwaiti companies are domestically focused, meaning the market will eventually return to normal.

Al-Waqyan expects the market to gradually regain its technical path once the negative effects of the downturn are absorbed. This will depend on any positive developments related to the tariff issue concerning Kuwait.

In addition, Head of Development at Rasameel Investment Company Hamad Al-Musaad told KUNA that the move was harsher than expected by the markets, as it led to a sharp decline in U.S. futures contracts by nearly two percent immediately after the announcement and by nearly three percent the following morning. European markets also saw a decline of about two percent.

Al-Musaad predicts that the tariffs will generate revenues between \$500 billion to \$600 billion, which could help reduce the U.S. budget deficit and potentially lead to tax cuts.

He ruled out the possibility of an economic recession, as economic indicators show gradual improvement in both the U.S. and the European Union, with credit markets remaining stable. Therefore, despite short-term market fluctuations, the outlook remains positive.

It is worth mentioning that last Wednesday, President Trump imposed tariffs on U.S. imports from all countries worldwide based on the principle of "reciprocity," starting at a minimum rate of ten percent. This marks the most severe escalation in U.S. tariffs in two centuries.

The 10% tariff on all U.S. imports took effect on Saturday, with higher tariffs set to be imposed next Wednesday.

Kuwait-UAE

At the end of the meeting, both sides stressed the keenness of empowering the Gulf youth and supporting their ambitions, with both sides exchanging souvenirs to commemorate the meeting.

Kuwait leads

Furthermore, Kuwait reaffirmed its full support for the renewal of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food mandate, noting that this mandate has become crucial due to an increase in global food insecurity.

Access to food is a vital issue that

affects the right to life, and it is evident in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly Gaza, where humanitarian aid delivery restrictions have led to catastrophic levels of hunger and suffering, the use of food as a weapon in conflict is a crime that must be addressed, emphasized Kuwait.

Kuwait's new

A security source informed the newspaper that while issuing traffic violation citations last week, the traffic officers apprehended the Residency Law violators.

The source affirmed all those arrested were referred to the competent authorities to take the necessary measures against them, and then deport them.

Kuwait pushes

The guidelines stressed the need to display the calories of meals and drinks at the point where consumers select or purchase meals. This should be done in several locations like the checkout counter, electronic menu boards in restaurants, meal menus, drive-through food ordering areas, websites, and smart phone applications.

The guidelines stipulate appropriate ways to make meals low in calories like adopting cooking methods that do not lead to an increase in calories by avoiding or minimizing frying when preparing meals; and using other methods such as baking, grilling or steaming, instead of frying.

Kuwait extends

The government stated in the memorandum that the extension of this period for two additional fiscal years is necessary due to the imminent expiration of the time period specified by the aforementioned law and the ongoing need to complete approved defense projects.

The government affirmed that the extension is intended to allow the relevant authorities to complete military armament and equipment programs in accordance with previously established plans, without exceeding the amount specified in Law No. 3/2016, as there have been no changes to the allocated funding.

The memorandum further affirmed that the Supreme Defense Council continues to exercise its powers under the aforementioned law, including overseeing the allocation of approved funds and supervising the implementation of contracts to ensure the optimal use of financial resources and the achievement of established defense objectives.

MoE faces pressure over delayed promotions by selection decision

Eligible employees await outcome

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Ministry of Education employees, who are eligible for promotion by selection this year, are waiting for the ministry to approve the promotion decision; which was supposed to be issued before March 31.

This decision should be made within the last quarter of the fiscal year to prevent repeating the mistake made two years ago when the ministry delayed approving the promotion of more than 4,000 eligible employees. This exposed the ministry to regulatory observations and the dilemma of approving such decisions at the end of the fiscal year.

According to educational sources, the promotion by selection for 2025 is in accordance with the Civil Service Law. Article 24 of the law states that "an employee may be promoted by selection through the decision of the Minister, based on the proposal of the Personnel Affairs Committee."

The Personnel Affairs Control Unit in the Promotions and Allowances Section at the Human Resources Department is responsible for preparing the lists of employee eligible for promotion by seniority or selection.

Promotions must be implemented upon approval and notification of the relevant authorities, in accordance with the deadlines specified in the applicable rules and regulations.

In this context, sources questioned the readiness of the lists of 2025 promotion by selection, which requires an employee to obtain an 'excellent' rating in the job performance evaluations for 2023 and 2024.

Sources stressed the need for the Administrative Affairs and Administrative Development Sector to closely monitor the storage of competency evaluations for employees in all work centers before March 31, 2025 to ensure protection of the rights of the employees.

Sources also wondered who will bear the responsibility for any delay in storing competency evaluations or issuing promotion decisions, especially if this results in the employee losing his right to promotion once the promotion decision is not issued before March 31.

Sources pointed out that Article 24 of the Civil Service Law states the promotion may not be retroactive to the date of the issuance of the promotion decision. "Therefore, a promotion by selection must not take effect prior to the date of issuance," sources explained.

Sources asked for clarification about the rumor on reserving numbers for ministerial decisions issued regarding promotion by selection, suggesting that these decisions were dated prior to their approval.

"The legal basis for this procedure remains unclear, considering that reserving numbers for decisions issued later constitutes a change in the actual date of issuance of the decisions.

Presumably, the decision number and date should be the same as the date of issuance," sources added.

Sources disclosed that promotion by selection includes all programs and job grades for employees in the ministry and its affiliated entities, who are eligible as at March 31, in accordance with the organizing systems and regulations and decisions of the Civil Service Commission (CSC); as the promotions include employees in public positions from the first to seventh grade, in addition to grades A and B and support jobs.



Kuwait National English School

Kuwait National English School Overseas Trip




During the last half-term break, the upper secondary students from Kuwait National English School in Hawally went with their teachers to Europe to visit Amsterdam, Cologne and ended in Frankfurt, and enjoyed the cold weather. It was an excellent opportunity to discover historical buildings, factories and to be exposed to the culture of other countries. They went to the cheese factory and A'DAM Lookout Swing in Amsterdam. They were lucky to visit the Mercedes Benz

factory in Frankfurt and also the Lindt Chocolate factory in Cologne as well as the famous Cologne Cathedral which is 600 years old. It has been a very successful, enjoyable and extremely well organized trip with different expert guides in the various places. Parents were all extremely happy being able to follow the trip with their children and on their return to see their excitement explaining what they had seen and learnt and the knowledge the students gained.







BUSINESS

'New US tariffs beneficial for Turkish exporters'

ISTANBUL, April 6, (KUNA): Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz said the 10 percent tariff recently instituted by President Donald Trump on US imports would be relatively in favor of Turkish exporters.

Though the tariff plays to our advantage so far, we keep watch on the situation, he said in statements to CNN Turk on Saturday.

Higher tariff rates usually force exporters to turn to markets other than the US, so Türkiye has to keep a wary eye on the situation, Yılmaz explained.

But the new US tariffs led to lower prices of staples in Türkiye, which is a positive impact, he explained.

However, he admitted that the new tariffs and subsequent countermeasures from other trading partners signaled that the world is moving towards more protectionism.

Last Wednesday, President Trump signed an executive order levying 25 percent tariffs on imported cars, and 20 percent on other imports from 100 countries, including EU members.

UK car production drops 13.9%

Jaguar Land Rover halts US shipments amid 25% tariff

LONDON, April 6, (AP): The maker of Jaguar and Land Rover cars is pausing shipments to the U.S. as Britain's struggling auto industry begins to respond to the 25% tax on vehicle imports imposed by President Donald Trump.

Jaguar Land Rover Automotive, one of Britain's biggest carmakers, said Saturday that the pause would take place this month.

"The USA is an important market for JLR's luxury brands," the company said in a statement. "As we work to address the new trading terms with our business partners, we are taking some short-term actions including a shipment pause in April, as we develop our mid- to longer-term plans."

Analysts said they expect other British carmakers to follow suit as the increased tariffs heap more pressure on an industry that is already struggling with declining demand at home and the need to retool their plants for the transition to electric vehicles.

"I expect similar stoppages from other producers as firms take stock of what is unfolding," said David Bailey, an automotive industry expert and professor of business economics at the University of Birmingham.

The number of cars made in the U.K. dropped 13.9% to 779,584 vehicles last year, according to the SMMT. More than 77% of those vehicles were destined for the export market. U.K. factories export cars such as Nissan's Qashqai and Juke, BMW Mini, and Toyota Corolla, as well as Land Rover and Jaguar models.

"The industry is already facing multiple headwinds and this announcement comes at the worst possible time," Mike Hawes, chief executive of the U.K.'s Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said last week. "SMMT is in constant contact with government and will be looking for trade discussions to accelerate as we need to secure a way forward that supports jobs and economic growth on both sides of the Atlantic."

U.K. carmakers have already tak-

en steps to lessen the immediate impact of the tariffs by building stockpiles in the U.S. before the increase took effect. SMMT figures show that exports to the U.S. jumped 38.5% from a year earlier in December, 12.4% in January and 34.6% in February.

"This was manufacturers like JLR trying to get ahead of the game in terms of getting inventory to the U.S. before the tariffs were implemented," Bailey said.

British carmakers shipped 8.3 billion pounds (\$10.7 billion) worth of vehicles to the U.S. in the 12 months through September, making cars the single biggest goods export to the U.S., according to government statistics.

But cars make up a relatively small part of overall trade between Britain and the U.S., which is heavily weighted toward services.

Britain exported 179.4 billion pounds (\$231.2 billion) of goods and services to the U.S. in the year through September, with services making up 68.2% of that figure.

Italian Stock Exchange drops 6.53% amid US tariff fears

ROME, April 6, (Xinhua): The Italian Stock Exchange suffered a significant one-day decline on Friday, despite Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni downplaying fears over U.S. tariffs that triggered the sell-off.

The Milan-based bourse ended the day down 6.53 percent and the FTSE Italia All-Share is firmly in the red, down 6.44 percent at 36,716 points.

The FTSE MIB index has now lost ground in eight of the last nine trading sessions, pushed lower mostly by investor concerns over the economic impacts of U.S. sweeping global tariffs.

Stock markets across Europe lost ground in recent days, but Italy has proved particularly vulnerable due to what was already slow economic growth and the country's high de-

pendence on exports. Around 10 percent of Italian exports across all sectors are destined for the United States.

Food and wine companies, Italian and French automaker Stellantis, and financial services companies have all been battered in recent sessions.

Meloni attempted to assuage investor, arguing that the impacts of the new U.S. tariffs were overblown.

"I am obviously concerned because this is a problem we have to resolve," Meloni said Friday. "But I do not see it as the catastrophe I have been hearing about over the last few days. Paradoxically, the reaction has worried me more than the tariffs themselves."

"We have to beware of all the scaremongering we've been seeing," Meloni added.

كيبكو KIPCO

CONDOLENCES

The Management and Staff of
Kuwait Projects Company (Holding)

and its subsidiaries
wish to offer their heartfelt
condolences to

Mr. Sunny Bhatia
Group Chief Financial Officer

on the sad demise of his
brother

May his soul rest in peace and may
God grant comfort and strength to
the bereaved family members

Warba Bank (K.S.C.P.) Shareholders' Public Subscription Announcement For the Bank's Share Capital Increase Amounting 2,183,600,000 Shares

Warba Bank (K.S.C.P.) announces Issuing Shares for the Bank's share capital increase with preemption right to eligible shareholders at 100% (One Hundred Percent) of the Bank's authorized and paid-up capital for 2,183,600,000 (two billion, one hundred eighty-three million, six hundred thousand) shares at KD 436,720,000 (Four hundred thirty-six million, seven hundred twenty thousand).

Issuer and Issue Manager: Warba Bank (K.S.C.P.), a Kuwaiti Public Shareholding Company, incorporated in the State of Kuwait.

Commercial Registration No. 334402

Clearing and Depository Agent: Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C.

We recommend reading and understanding the subscription prospectus, undertaking risk assessment and seeking professional advice before investing. This announcement does not contain all the information that prospective investors should consider before deciding to invest in the Issue Shares and does not purport to be complete.

Subscription Prospectus: Available for printing and downloading from Warba Bank's Website www.warbabank.com. A copy can also be obtained from Boursa Kuwait or the Bank's head Office at Sharq Area, Omar Ibn Al-Khattab Street, Al-Raya Tower, Mezzanine 1 floor.

Total Value of the Issue Shares: The total value of the issue shares shall be KD 436,720,000 (Four hundred thirty-six million, seven hundred twenty thousand), nominal Value of KD 218,360,000 (Two hundred eighteen million, three hundred sixty thousand) share premium of KD 218,360,000 (Two hundred eighteen million, three hundred sixty thousand).

Issue Share Price:	200 fils (Two Hundred Fils) per share ("Issue Price"), 100 Fils (Hundred Fils) nominal value and 100 Fils (Hundred Fils) share premium.
Type of Shares:	Ordinary Shares.
Minimum Subscription amount:	1 (One) Share.
Subscription Period:	From 10 April 2025 to 12 May 2025.
Subscription Period Allocated	
Exercising Preemption Right:	From 10 April 2025 to 24 April 2025.
Schedule for Trading	
Preemption Right:	From 10 April 2025 to 17 April 2025.

Preemption Right: Registered holders of Existing Shares recorded in the Bank's shareholder register at the Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C. at the close of trading on Boursa Kuwait on the Record Date. i.e. Shareholders recorded in the Bank's shareholders register at Boursa on 09 April 2025 according to cum-dividend date specified for 06 April 2025, and the holders of the Pre-emption Rights to subscribe to the Issue Shares. For clarity, any trading on the Bank's shares prior to the Record Date, but for which the trade settlement process at Boursa Kuwait have not been completed as of the Record Date (Ex Rights Date) and as a result have not yet been recorded on the Bank's shareholder register, will not be considered in determining the Eligible Shareholders of record as of the Record Date.

Public Subscription Period for Additional Shares: From 01 May 2025 to 12 May 2025.

Subscription for Additional Issue Shares: In the event that the shares offered for subscription are not fully subscribed during the exercise period of rights issue, eligible shareholders have the right to subscribe for additional Issue Shares ("Additional Issue Shares") in addition to those who are not entitled to Issue Shares under the preemption right.

Subscription Instructions

First: Subscription through application or website:

The electronic system allows subscription to the share capital increase by 150,000 (One hundred fifty thousand) shares, equivalent to KD 30,000 (Thirty thousand) or less.

Payment shall be made by KNET service. The application shall not be deemed complete for the subscription process until all the aforementioned subscription steps are fulfilled.

The Subscriber shall:

1. Login to the website via the link: <https://www.ipo.com.kw>, or download "IPO Kuwait" application.
2. Register the civil number for individuals/commercial register for corporate persons, in addition to the e-mail and telephone number, thus the system shall verify whether the subscriber is eligible to subscribe or not (verification shall be conducted during the period of exercising the pre-emption right only).
3. Record the number of shares to be subscribed.
4. The subscriber shall then be transferred to the payment page via KNET service, where the subscriber can pay from his/her/its own account (no other person may pay on behalf of the subscriber except in the cases provided for under law "Required documents shall be reviewed when submitting the subscription application". The Subscriber shall bear all legal consequences in case of violation).
5. If the payment process is successful, the system will display confirmation including the subscription payment details and will automatically send an email with a receipt, in PDF format, and a text message to the mobile phone to confirm the successful completion of the subscription process.
6. Subscription shall be implemented through the website or electronic application only. Hence, the shareholder shall subscribe for himself and pay from his own account, waive or sell the pre-emption right as per his desire, in the cases stipulated by law "review the required documents when submitting the subscription application". The subscriber shall bear all legal consequences in case of violation.
7. The system allows the shareholder to submit multiple subscription applications in case he does not subscribe to the full pre-emption right available thereto.

Second: Subscription to more than 150,000 (One hundred fifty thousand) shares:

1. The Subscriber shall log on the link <https://www.ipo.com.kw>, or through "IPO Kuwait" application, to print the subscription information document, including, for example, the subscriber's name, Civil ID number/commercial register in case of corporate persons, in addition to email, telephone number and the number and value of shares to be subscribed to.
2. All subscribers with pledged shares shall submit to the Clearing and Depository Agent an original and duly signed letter of approval by the pledgee creditor stating that subscription to the share capital increase is permissible. The letter of approval shall be submitted through the subscription website or through the application. The subscriber shall submit a separate application for the pledged shares and another application for free shares.
3. Payment shall be made through the subscriber's bank, either by the subscriber visiting the bank to make the transfer, or through the electronic bank application, to make a bank transfer if this service is available. A copy of the subscription data printed document shall be printed out through the above link and the required amount shall be transferred to the bank account (non-profit-generating) designated for increasing the share capital of Warba Bank (as a net amount, without deducting any fees by both the transferring and the transferee banks) as mentioned below:

Name of Bank:	Warba Bank
Account Number:	1224089030
IBAN:	KW11WRBA000000000001224089030
Swift:	WRBAKW
Beneficiary:	Warba Bank Capital Increase 2025
Reference / Description:	Warba Bank capital increase2025 + subscriber's ID number (civil Identity Card number) + subscriber's contact details (Telephone number) + Subscription Application Form Number

4. The Subscriber shall obtain an original deposit voucher for the transferred amount from his bank, with a copy of the printed and signed subscription document and shall upload it via the subscription application or website to complete the remaining procedures. The signature on the document shall then be matched with the signature in the passport or shall be validated at the relevant bank.

5. If the subscription process is successful after reviewing the application and attached documents, the system will automatically send an email with a receipt in PDF format, as well as a text message to the mobile phone to confirm the successful completion of the subscription process.

6. If the subscription application is rejected, the Subscriber shall contact the clearing agent, Kuwait Clearing Company, to amend or complete the requirements that were not provided or to rectify any incorrect documents.

7. If any subscription application is not completed or not accepted fully and properly within the specified period (attaching all required supporting documents) through the website or application, after paying the due subscription amount as mentioned in the Prospectus, the subscription application submitted by that Subscriber shall be deemed cancelled, null and void, noting that subscription amounts shall not be accepted in cash.

Third: Subscription through the Portfolio Manager in the event that the shares are with a company that manages third parties' portfolios:

1. The customer of the investment company that manages third parties' portfolios shall submit a written application to subscribe to the number and value of the shares desired to be subscribed to within the periods specified in the subscription Prospectus.
2. The customer of the investment company that manages third parties' portfolios shall follow the procedures stipulated in clause (Second) above.
3. In all cases, the investment company shall follow the procedures specified (the required documents), specifically those mentioned in the clause pertaining to corporate subscribers.
4. The investment company that manages third parties' portfolios shall prepare the subscription application by itself, including all details required by the customer to authenticate his desire to subscribe to the share capital increase.
5. In all cases, the investment company shall bear any error in filling out the Subscription Application Form, or any failure to allocate due to non-payment of the value of the shares to be subscribed to.

In case any Subscriber fails to submit a fully completed and correct subscription application (attaching all required supporting documents) at the headquarters of the Clearing and Depository Agent after paying the due subscription amount, the Subscriber's application shall be deemed cancelled, null and void, noting that subscription amounts will not be accepted in cash.

For further details please visit Kuwait Clearing Company website.

Risk Management: Investment in the Issue shares is associated with some types of risks. These types of risks can be categorized as follows:

- (A) Risks associated with the issuer
- (B) Risks associated with regulatory systems
- (C) Market volatility risks and
- (D) Risks associated with the issue shares.

Therefore, such risks should be carefully studied before taking the decision for investment in the issue shares.

Neither Capital Markets Authority nor any regulatory body in the State of Kuwait shall bear any liability for the contents or accuracy of this announcement or for any loss arising from relying on this announcement.

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Kuwait's journalism legend attends first play in 20 years

Al-Jarallah applauds 'The Last Journey,' calls for more political freedom in Kuwaiti theater

By Fahh Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The dean of Kuwaiti journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah (Abu Mishal) chose to put down his pen for a while, and step away from life's concerns and the clamor of the press, perhaps in an attempt to ease the burden of the troubling news that weighs heavily on his mind day and night. Accompanied by media personality Saud Al-Farhan, Abu Mishal attended the play "The Last Journey", produced by artist Tariq Al-Ali and his partner Issa Al-Alawi, who warmly welcomed them at the Foroughi Theater.

This visit marked Al-Jarallah's first trip to the theater in over 20 years.

After the performance, which received widespread praise and applause, Al-Jarallah expressed his admiration for the artistic and visual quality of the play.

Addressing the play's star, artist Tariq Al-Ali, Al-Jarallah said, "If this is your theater, Tariq, go ahead and fear no one."

Despite his demanding schedule, Al-Jarallah found time to attend the theater, where he praised the direct approach and the political and social implications presented in "The Last Journey". He commended the play's exposure of corruption and corrupt individuals, which he sees as the essence of purposeful theater.

In exclusive statements, the editor-in-chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah said, "Kuwaiti theater was a symbol of leadership when it exported the cultural scene to all Arab countries."

Attention

He affirmed that theater has always been an important indicator of societal issues, and the topics raised on its stage were given serious attention in many Arab countries.

With his sharp political insight, Al-Jarallah attributed the long-term decline of Kuwaiti theater to previous National Assembly members, stating, "Unfortunately, we went through a period of parliamentary chaos that led to the decline of theater. Some politicians exerted pressure on the Ministry of Information, imposed their views and silenced opposing voices."

He indicated that theater, being an important sector, is naturally affected by the political environment.

Al-Jarallah expressed hope that Kuwait had moved past such political interference, noting that the theater's packed audience now serves as a testament to its relevance to the ongoing social and political revival in the country.

He emphasized that the theater's role today is even more significant, as it reflects the current events and issues facing the nation.

Regarding the influence of theater on public decision-making, Al-Jarallah stressed that theater plays a crucial and effective role.

Citing Egypt's National Theater as a model, he revealed that in the 1960s and 1970s, the plays presented there influenced leaders like Jamal Abdel Nasser, Anwar Sadat, and Hosni Mubarak to implement reform decisions for the country.

Al-Jarallah recalled an encounter at Kuwait Airport with the late President Anwar Sadat, during which he asked Sadat if he had seen the play "The Mule in the Jug," which was being performed in 1967. The play, which accused the Egyptian government of being subservient to the Soviet Union, sparked controversy at the time. Sadat confirmed he had seen the play but denied any claim that the Egyptian government was subservient to the Soviet Union.

Al-Jarallah said Sadat's response underscored the idea that theater and its content do reach the authorities, who, at that time, did not intervene to stop or condemn the performance.

Censorship

In conclusion, Al-Jarallah urged the Minister of Information and Culture, the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and the Chair of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters to ease censorship on theatrical productions, and allow theater to serve its vital role in critically examining and diagnosing societal issues.

He emphasized the need for members of the censorship committee to fully understand the vital role theater plays in shaping the country's cultural landscape. Such awareness would help revive the lost role of art critics, which has been absent for years.

Al-Jarallah expressed his enjoyment of the theatrical performance featuring iconic artist Tariq Al-Ali, particularly appreciating the actor's critique of the decline in Kuwaiti sports.

He highlighted how the play exposed the true nature of many who claim patriotism but reveal their true selves over time.

Al-Jarallah praised the directorial vision and innovative techniques used in the production, which effectively served the overall theme of the play.

In response, artist Tariq Al-Ali thanked Al-Jarallah for his attendance, stating that his presence at the Foroughi Theater was a direct endorsement of the theatrical movement and the efforts of theater artists in Kuwait.

Al-Ali highlighted that this support is in line with the long-standing calls from artists for the press to play a more prominent role in backing Kuwaiti theater.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah.

- Kuwait had moved past such political interference ... theater's packed audience now serves as a testament to its relevance to the ongoing social and political revival in the country.
- Kuwaiti theater was a symbol of leadership when it exported the cultural scene to all Arab countries.
- Theater has always been an important indicator of societal issues, and the topics raised on its stage were given serious attention in many Arab countries.
- Theater plays a crucial and effective role in influencing public decision-making.



A kiss on the forehead of Ahmed Al-Jarallah.



A scene from the play 'The Last Journey'



A scene from the play.

Artist Tariq Al-Ali thanked Al-Jarallah for his attendance, stating that his presence at the Foroughi Theater was a direct endorsement of the theatrical movement and the efforts of theater artists in Kuwait.



Ahmed Al-Jarallah (right)



Ahmed Al-Jarallah (centre) with Tariq Al-Ali and Issa Al-Alawi



Ahmed Al-Jarallah and Saud Al-Farhan with the Foroughi Theater team. Photos by Rizk Taufiq

Chinese expats hungry to see their movie on the big screen

Chinese community brings 'Ne Zha 2' to life on IMAX in US

COLUMBIA, Md., April 6, (AP): A group of Chinese people decided they wanted the nation's biggest movie to be big in the United States, literally. So they made it really big.

Zha 2," though. It is not a big hit internationally. And that's exactly what the people behind the screening want to change.



This photo provided by Jialin Sun shows Sun Bohan, the organizer of the movie screening and Hoff Xu, who cosplayed the character in the movie Ne Zha 2, posing for a picture at a screening in Columbia Md., on March 1. (AP)

the movie four times, saw Sun's post and reached out. She spent hours painting a special ticket for the screening that depicted Ne Zha sitting on a

in a small town. I love that I'm helping in my own way," said Xia, who cosplayed as a movie character at the event.

Film

A story of loss and unexpected bonds

Watts, giant dog tackle grief in 'The Friend'

LOS ANGELES, April 6, (AP): Having it all means different things to everyone, but a rent-controlled apartment in Manhattan is probably pretty close to a universal dream - even for non-New Yorkers.



This image released by Bleecker Street shows Naomi Watts in a scene from 'The Friend.' (AP)

all meant and perhaps how well she really did know this man: It's a kind of grief, that of a friend, that isn't regularly explored in films.



Rihanna attends the 38th annual Footwear News Achievement Awards at Cipriani South Street on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, in New York. (AP)

Model for philanthropy
Rihanna's CLF leads the way in celebrity giving

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP): Rihanna is accustomed to defying convention.

Philanthropists

Experts say it's rare to see such intentionality among famous philanthropists.

Priorities

A revamped team and refined priorities now match its broader ambitions.

Adaptation

The film is an adaptation of Sigrid Nunez's National Book Award-winning novel of the same name, made by filmmaking duo Scott McGehee and David Siegel ("What Maisie Knew").

Variety

BAMAKO, Mali: Renowned guitarist and singer Amadou Bagayoko of Mali's music duo Amadou & Mariam has died. He was 70.



Bagayoko

including France's Grammy Awards equivalent, Victoire de la Musique, in 2005, for "Dimanche à Bamako" and again in 2013 for "Folila."

TORONTO: The Kat Florence Lumina, a flawless 181.61-carat Paraiba tourmaline, is completing its global debut tour with final exhibitions across Asia before making its way to Bonhams Hong Kong, where it will be auctioned on May 22.

achieved, an ambitious yield by any standard.



Fulham's Timothy Castagne, left, challenges for the ball with Liverpool's Cody Gakpo during the English Premier League soccer match between Fulham and Liverpool, at Craven Cottage, London. (AP)

Sports

Bronze for Kuwait as GCC Beach Games begin



Kuwaiti flag bearer hoists the national flag during the opening ceremony.



The bronze-winning sailing team.

Oman welcomes over 330 athletes

MUSCAT, April 6: The third edition of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Beach Games officially kicked off in Muscat, Oman, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Shihab Al Said. The opening ceremony was held at the scenic Lake Theater in Qurum Natural Park and welcomed over 330 athletes, including 65 representing Kuwait. The multi-sport event runs until April 11.

The ceremony was attended by prominent sports officials, including Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, and Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwaiti and Asian Aquatics Federations. Kuwaiti sailor Amina Shah proudly carried the national flag during the athletes' parade, accompanied by members of the administrative delegation and team players.

Kuwait is participating in six events: beach soccer, beach volleyball, sailing, paragliding (air sports), athletics, and the equestrian discipline of tent pegging. The Kuwait Paragliding Team - featuring Ibrahim Al-

Rashoud, Ahmed Al-Mas, Mohammed Al-Dosari, and Talal Al-Mutawa - continues its competition today (Monday) with three scheduled rounds, following its first-round performance.

Ahmed Al-Shallahi, Chairman of the Kuwait Air Sports Club, expressed his confidence in the team's ability to achieve strong results. He thanked the Kuwait Olympic Committee and its President, Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, for their continued support and for ensuring optimal preparation and conditions for the athletes.

Kuwait's national sailing team clinched a bronze medal in the Optimist team competition on the opening day. The team comprised Ali Anki, Hamad Al-Masoud, Bader Bu Hamad,

and Abdulaziz Al-Mansour. The UAE claimed the gold medal, while the host nation, Oman, secured silver.

The beach volleyball tournament draw divided the teams into four groups:

Group 1: Kuwait 2, Oman 3, Qatar 1
Group 2: Kuwait 1, Oman 1, UAE 1
Group 3: Oman 2, Saudi Arabia 2, Bahrain 1
Group 4: Qatar 2, Saudi Arabia 1, Bahrain 2, Oman 4
Kuwait 1 will face UAE 1, and Kuwait 2 will take on Oman 3, with both matches scheduled for 9:00 AM at the northern Al Hail Beach courts.

Kuwait's beach volleyball squad includes Taha Sadiq, Jassim Al-Sabbagh, Nawaf Al-Rashidi, and Abdulwahab Talib.



An official with the Grand Prix champions.

Al-Hajri shines with flawless equestrian league 5th round

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: Hamad Al-Hajri delivered a flawless performance to win the fifth round of the Kuwait Equestrian League, claiming victory in the prestigious Grand Prix. Competing at a height of 140 cm, Al-Hajri completed the round in an impressive 31.48 seconds without incurring any penalties.

Following Al-Hajri in the rankings were top riders Nick Channing, Steven Daniels, Fawaz Al-Subaie, Yara Al-Hunaidi, Abdullah Al-Awadhi, and Fawaz Al-Rashed. The winners were honored by Sufyan Buqmaz, Manag-

ing Director of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.

In the Medium Prize round (130 cm), jockey Rakan Al-Hasawi took first place after a strong performance against a competitive field. He was trailed by Nick Channing, Abrar Al-Musallam, Hamad Al-Hajri, and Ghazi Al-Fulajj.

The tournament's opening day featured an exciting fourth round (135 cm), where Fawaz Al-Subaie emerged victorious. He was followed closely by Abdullah Al-Awadhi, Nick Channing, Fawaz Rashid, and Marshood Al-Marshood.

SUZUKA, Japan, April 6, (AP): Max Verstappen won Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix to break a "mini-slump" of two wins from 16 races but needed a drive that his Red Bull team engineer called "perfection" to get it done.

It was Verstappen's fourth straight victory on the Suzuka circuit in central Japan and breaks the momentum of the McLarens of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, who won the season's first two races in Australia and China.

"We still have work to do," Verstappen said. "But it does show if we nail everything we can be up there."

He did just that. The four-time defending Formula 1 champion, Verstappen started from pole position after setting a course-record time in qualifying, which he called "insane." Norris placed second and Piastri was third. The track was dry despite rain earlier in the day to produce an incident-free race.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished fourth followed by George Russell of Mercedes and teammate Kimi Antonelli in sixth. Japanese driver Yuki

Norris and Piastri complete podium

Verstappen holds off McLarens to win 4th straight Japanese GP



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates with his trophy on the podium after the Japanese Formula One Grand Prix at the Suzuka Circuit in Suzuka, central Japan. (AP)

Tsunoda finished 12th in his first drive with Red Bull's top team.

"We keep pushing," Verstappen said. "Unbelievable. A great weekend for us."

Norris leads the driver's standings after three races with 62 points to 61 for Verstappen.

The weekend turned when Verstappen took the pole on his record lap

Saturday in qualifying. And there was only one incident of note in Sunday's race - one that's being dubbed the "grass-cutting moment."

Most of the leaders pitted around the 20-lap mark with Verstappen and Norris exiting the pits at almost exactly the same time with Norris forced to drive over the grass, unable to get by Verstappen and he tried to access the track.

"He drove himself into the grass," Verstappen said on the radio.

Norris said he had no bone to pick with Verstappen.

"He had the position and the right to do what he did," Norris said. Race stewards agreed. After the race, Verstappen saluted Japanese engine maker Honda, which this season will end its run of supplying the Red Bull team. And of course the win came on the Suzuka circuit, which Honda runs.

"If was fun, just pushing very hard at the end," Verstappen said. "The two McLarens were pushing very hard. We didn't give up improving the car and today it was in its best form."

Vinicius misses a penalty

Barca fails to capitalize on Real loss

BARCELONA, Spain, April 6, (AP): Vinicius Junior missed a penalty and Real Madrid conceded an injury-time goal in a stunning 2-1 home loss to Valencia that shook its La Liga title defense.

The shock result for Madrid was softened hours later when league leader Barcelona was held at home by Real Betis to 1-1. That meant Hansi Flick's side extended its lead to only four points over its fierce rival. There are eight rounds left including a clasico in May.

Hugo Duro came off Valencia's bench and headed home the winner that silenced Santiago Bernabeu Stadium deep in stoppage time.

Goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili saved Vinicius' early penalty and moments later Mouctar Diakhaby headed the visitors in front in the 17th minute.

Vinicius scored from close range to equalize in the 50th, but Mamardashvili and the defense held on until Duro struck and gave Valencia its first away win of the season.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti defended his team's effort, even saying that Madrid "deserved" to win the game and Vinicius' penalty was one of the match's "details that doomed us."

But the Italian manager conceded that the unexpected loss was a blow in the title race.

"It is much harder now to fight for

the league, but we only have one idea and that is to fight until the end because we still have a chance after this game," Ancelotti said.

He had to play third-string goalkeeper Fran González, who made his first-team debut for Madrid at age 19, because Thibaut Courtois and Andriy Lunin were injured. Ancelotti said he hopes both of his more experienced goalies will be fit in time to face Arsenal.



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal, left, and Betis' Romain Perraud compete for the ball during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Real Betis at the Lluís Companys Olympic stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

"We hadn't won on the road and there is not a better place to do so than here," Valencia midfielder Javi Guerra said. "There are three vital points for us and at a stadium where very few teams get a good result."

The victory confirmed the team's improvement since Carlos Corberán replaced Ruben Baraja in December. It has risen from the relegation zone to 15th place and seven points from danger.

Liverpool beaten by Fulham

Southampton relegated from Premier League

MANCHESTER, England, April 6, (AP): Southampton became the first team to be relegated from the Premier League this season after a 3-1 defeat to Tottenham on Sunday.

With just 10 points from 31 games, last-placed Southampton cannot finish above Wolverhampton Wanderers in 17th.

Top of the table Liverpool lost 3-2 at Fulham, but remains 11 points clear of second-placed Arsenal, which drew 1-1 with Everton on Saturday.

Southampton's relegation is the joint fourth earliest in the Premier League era. Derby's drop on March 29 in 2008 is still the earliest relegation since the league began in 1992. Huddersfield and Fulham suffered earlier relegations than Southampton, which is now joint with Leicester in 2002.

Meanwhile, Two English clubs stand in the way of a stellar Champions League semifinal between Real Madrid with Kylian Mbappé and his long-time previous team Paris Saint-Germain.

Mbappé and Madrid are at Arsenal on Tuesday for the first leg of their quarterfinal. The return game is on April 16.

PSG, fresh from winning the French league title with an unbeaten record for coach Luis Enrique, hosts Aston Villa on Wednesday.

The new Champions League for-



Chelsea's Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall, foreground and Brentford's Mikkel Damsgaard vie for the ball, during the English Premier League soccer match between Brentford and Chelsea, at the Gtech Community Stadium, in London. (AP)

mat with a tennis-style seeded knockout bracket set through to the final put those four teams in the same half of the draw.

Madrid already won six of the past 11 Champions League titles even before adding Mbappé for this season when his contract in Paris expired. PSG has never been European cham-

pion - and reached just one final in seven seasons with Mbappé - yet looked the most impressive team in the round of 16, eliminating Liverpool, the likely champion of England.

The bottom half of the draw has three domestic league leaders and one team struggling in eighth place in its standings. Bayern Munich hosts Inter Milan on Tuesday in the stadium that stages the final on May 31.

Barcelona starts heavily favored Wednesday at home to Borussia Dortmund, which might need to win this Champions League just to get an entry into the next one.

Real Madrid faces a path toward a record-extending 16th Champions League title just as difficult as the epic run of comeback wins in 2022: Mbappé's PSG, Chelsea, Manchester City and Liverpool in the final.

This time, after eliminating Man City and Atletico Madrid, coach Carlo Ancelotti must next outsmart Arsenal and Mikel Arteta who are left with one realistic chance of a trophy.

Mbappé and defender Antonio Rüdiger - who scored the decisive penalty in a shootout to beat Atletico - were cleared Friday by UEFA to play in London. Their one-game bans for excessive celebrations were deferred for one-year probationary periods.