



## Amir receives Crown Prince, Premier and 1st Deputy PM

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal 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 the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah.  
Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.  
His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah.

## Banking sector growth cushions economy

# Kuwait's oil-based budget deficit to last till 2027

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The general budget of Kuwait has entered an era of deficit expected to extend until 2027, primarily due to its significant reliance on oil exports, reports Al-Seyassah daily.  
The weekly economic report highlighted several key topics from the past week, focusing on the gross domestic product (GDP) during the fourth quarter of 2023, foreign direct investment (FDI), and foreign ownership in the Kuwaiti banking sector as of June 2024.  
GDP Contraction in Q4 2023 -- The Central Administration of Statistics released preliminary

GDP data for Q4 2023 on June 13, indicating a 4.6% decline at current prices compared to Q4 2022, dropping from approximately 13.504 billion dinars to 12.883 billion dinars.  
At constant prices, the GDP fell by 4.4%, from about 10.802 billion dinars to 10.332 billion dinars. This decline was attributed to a 6.4% decrease in the added value of the oil sector, with the non-oil sector also contracting by about 2.3%.  
Impact of Oil Dependency -- The high dependency on oil exports makes it challenging to control economic performance and public finances.

During periods of high oil prices and production, growth rates soared, with the oil sector's contribution to GDP reaching 57.6% in Q3 2022, resulting in a budget surplus.  
However, the decline in oil prices and production in 2023 led to economic contraction and reduced the oil sector's contribution to 47.2%, pushing the general budget into a deficit expected to persist until 2027 or beyond.

Continued on Page 5

### Opinion

## 30 ministries lack ministerial stability

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

INTEGRITY and transparency are the themes of this stage that witnesses the birth of the second Kuwaiti state. For this reason, it is necessary to put the finger on the wound.

The country has been witnessing mismanagement over the past four decades due to the instability of the ministerial position because of bickering and conflicts between the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers -- when personal interests influenced the general demeanor of parliamentarians and ministers.

This is in addition to the interference of stakeholders and influential people who made most, if not all, governments live in a 'fixed' situation. This was evident when no Cabinet was announced until this or that parliamentarian was content with the list depending on their interests. The announcement was halted when a lawmaker found that his interests were not addressed by this or that minister.

All the State facilities never stabilized as a result of this. Every minister who comes hardly knows those working with him, and then he leaves the post. After that, someone else is appointed, as if ministerial work is a laboratory and ministers are testing tools.

Within 33 years, 30 cabinets were formed, some of which did not last more than a month or two. This instability affected the overall situation in the country, especially development.

All governments and their programs focused on solving the housing crisis, but the proposed solution did not see the light due to the fact that there were beneficiaries pressing to obstruct it through their tools in the National Assembly. This is why the attempt to address the problems failed.

This includes Minister Bader Al-Hamidi's plan in 2004, which was based on vertical construction in residential cities, taking into account the Kuwaiti social environment. It was a realistic plan, which could only be denied by those who did not want to solve the perennial crisis; while some countries, especially the neighboring countries, implemented it and they succeeded.

This is an example of the failure of development plans. The causes of which include firstly, the stakeholders who benefit from the real estate trade; and secondly, satisfying the voter who wants to build a four-story house in order to invest in rental housings.

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

## Dawn raid targets expat lawbreakers

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Ministry of Interior will start implementing a comprehensive security plan at dawn on Monday to arrest Residency Law violators who did not take advantage of the grace period granted to them to either leave the country or amend their status, reports Al-Rai daily.

It can be recalled that the grace period lasted for more than three months due to the decision to extend until the end of June in compliance with the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah.

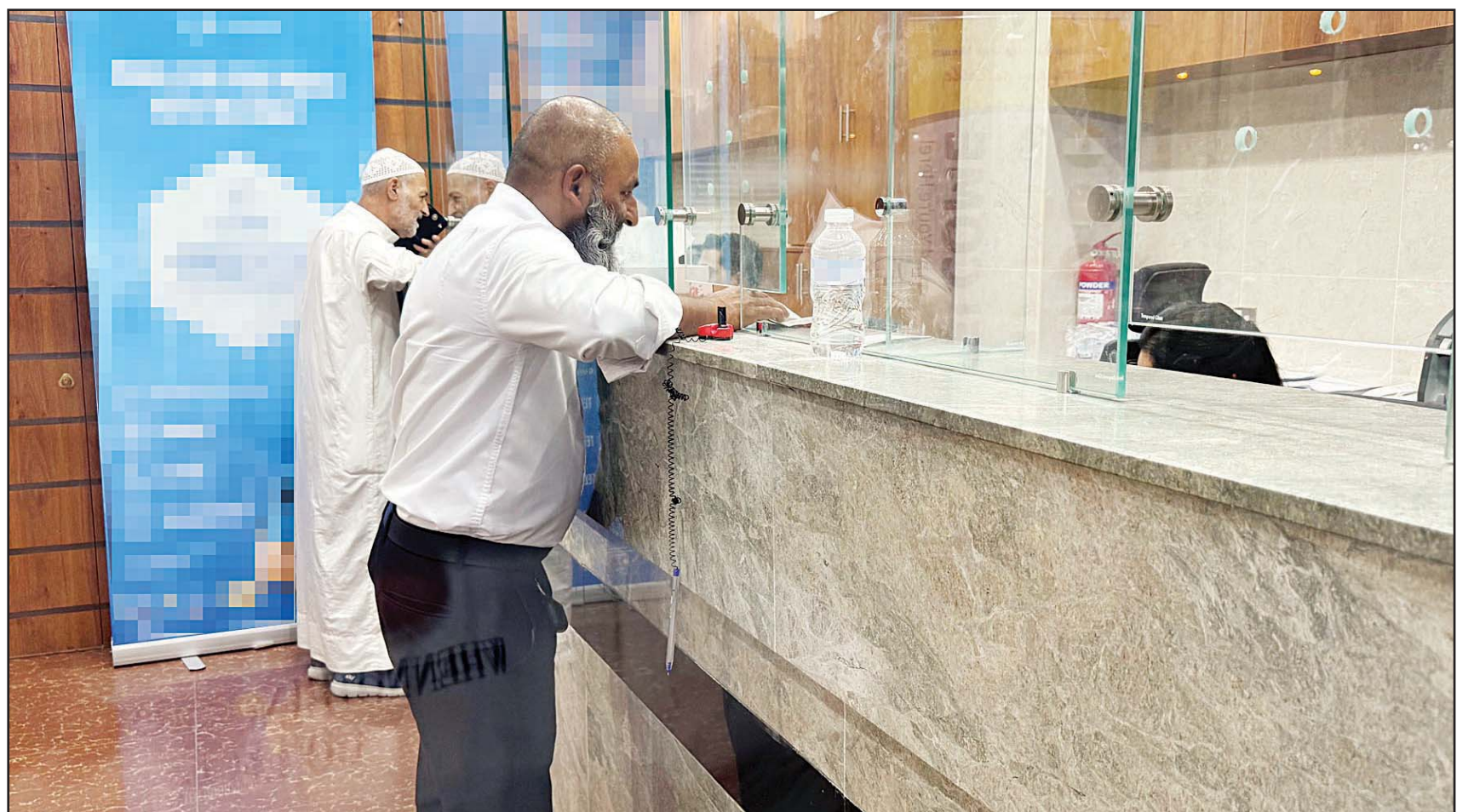
In a previous interview with the daily, Assistant Director of the Residency Affairs General Department Brigadier General Mazyad Al-Mutairi warned that "no violator will escape" once the extended deadline ends. He said the campaign will cover all governorates, with clear directives to be firm in dealing with violators who were given the golden opportunity to leave the country or amend their status for almost four months.

Security personnel and patrols from the Residency Affairs Investigations, Criminal Investigations, Public Security and Rescue Services departments will participate in the campaign while the Special Forces will provide support and reinforcement if the need arises. The campaign will be carried out round the clock.

Regarding those who will be arrested, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the embassies of concerned countries are currently coordinating regarding the issuance of travel documents for the deportation of violators immediately after taking legal measures, in addition to taking their fingerprints to permanently prevent them from entering the country again.

In this context, the concerned authorities will take the necessary action against anyone who harbors violators. They said this will result in legal accountability and bearing the expenses of the violators like the ticket and the fees paid by the sponsor when he recruited the worker.

# Exchange firms in Kuwait under laundering scrutiny



Clients sending money at an exchange company in Kuwait.

Photo by Mahmoud Jadedee

## Commerce Ministry bolsters license checks

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The issue of money laundering through exchange companies in Kuwait has come under scrutiny recently, revealing both positive assertions and concerning findings about their operations.**

According to the Financial Intelligence Unit's report for 2023, a total of 2,241

notifications of suspected money laundering operations were received, highlighting exchange companies as the second largest source of suspicions at 29% of the total notifications, equating to 640 notifications.

This underscores a significant area of concern regarding the role of these companies in facilitating illicit financial activities.

In December 2023, the Court of Cassation's ruling to imprison two expatriate money changers and fine them 60 million dinars further underscored the gravity of the situation.

The verdict stemmed from their involvement in a major money laundering scheme where transactions did not align with the companies' financial capabilities, involving large sums

without legitimate economic justifications.

Abdullah Najib Al-Mulla, head of the Federation of Exchange Companies, defended the industry, stating that exchange companies in Kuwait operate under strict oversight from the Central Bank.

Al-Mulla emphasized that none of these companies engage in unauthorized transfers, attributing this to the stringent controls enforced by the Central Bank.

He noted that customers receive immediate OTP (One-Time Password) notifications for any transactions, aiming to prevent unauthorized activities. However, concerns remain about the potential exploitation of customer data by unscrupulous individuals within these companies.

Dr. Sadiq Al-Bassam, from Kuwait University, acknowledged lapses in compliance among some exchange companies despite regulatory oversight.

He highlighted instances where companies abuse customer data to facilitate illicit transactions, emphasizing the need for stronger regulatory measures and

Continued on Page 5

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) on Sunday grieved the multitalented and renowned personality **Badr Al-Juwaihel** who passed away on Saturday.

The NCCAL Secretariat General, in a press release, conveyed condolences of the Minister of Information, Culture and the NCCAL Chairperson, **Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi**, to the deceased family, people and artists who adore him. (KUNA)

Continued on Page 5

## KFF boosts safety

# Centralized alarms save lives, protect properties

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Acting Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force, Major General Khaled Abdullah Fahad, emphasized on Sunday the life-saving potential of a project to connect building fire alarm systems to KFF's central command, aimed at protecting lives, properties, and ensuring societal safety. In an interview with KUNA, he outlined that a dedicated team is overseeing the implementation of this crucial initiative.

Major General Fahad praised the commitment of First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah in conducting inspection campaigns and addressing violations effectively. He highlighted the ambitious scope of the project, which aims to link over 50,000 buildings to the central command, enhancing response times to incidents and emergencies.

Explaining the project's structure, Major General Fahad detailed its division into three phases based on building types: new constructions, older buildings already equipped with fire detection systems, and those lacking any fire alarm systems. He stressed that the installation of panels in buildings will enable immediate notification to the central command, ensuring swift action within 120 seconds of an incident.

The responsibility for installing these panels lies with the landlords, initially focusing on critical structures such as hospitals. Major General Fahad shared statistics from 2023, indicating that the Kuwait Fire Force managed 16,080 incidents, including 4,394 fires and

1,257 in residential areas. Al-Farwaniya was identified as the governorate with the highest number of fires, predominantly caused by electrical faults.

Highlighting progress in safety, he noted a 25% decrease in firefighter injuries compared to 2022, with the longest fire incident lasting between 10 to 19 minutes.



Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah and IPHRC Chairman Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi during the 23rd regular session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

## GCC urges global action on Gaza

# Kuwait joins OIC's IPHRC session

JEDDAH, June 30, (KUNA): The 23rd regular session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) began Sunday at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with Kuwait participating, along with the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

Kuwait's delegation was led by Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, with the Consul General of Kuwait in Jeddah and Permanent Representative to the OIC Mohammad Al-Mutairi, and other officials.

In his opening speech, IPHRC Chairman Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi noted the establishment of IPHRC as

a significant milestone in OIC's five-decade history.

He underscored the need to study the impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) on fundamental human rights and called for a regulatory framework based on human rights principles to govern AI.

Echoing this, OIC Secretary General Hissein Taha stated the organization's continued support for IPHRC and its members in their human rights work.

He stressed the importance of understanding AI's impact on human rights to ensure technological progress aligns with core rights and values, mentioning the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) leading the creation of the Islamic World Charter for AI.

Continued on Page 5

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:16    Asr ..... 15:25  
 Sunrise .. 04:51    Maghrib .. 18:51  
 Zohr ..... 11:51    Isha ..... 20:24

# Local

BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

## HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send similar cables

# HH Amir sends cable of condolences to Moroccan King on passing of his mother

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to his brother, His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, expressing his sincere condolences and sympathy over the passing of His Majesty's mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Latifa, praying to Allah Almighty to bestow His mercy and forgiveness upon her and to grant her a place in His spacious gardens, and to inspire the royal family with patience and solace.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to his brother, His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, express-

ing his sincere condolences and sympathy over the passing of His Majesty's mother, praying to Allah Almighty to bestow His mercy and forgiveness upon her and to grant her a place in His spacious gardens, and to inspire the royal family with patience and solace.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has also sent a cable of condolences to his brother, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, expressing his sincere condolences and sympathy over the passing of His Majesty's mother, praying to Allah Almighty to bestow His mercy and forgiveness upon her and to grant her a place in His spacious gardens, and to inspire the royal family with patience and solace.

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-40 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with

## Weather

light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**Station**    **Max Exp**    **Min Rec**  
 Kuwait City    48    37

Kuwait Airport    48    28  
 Abdaly    48    30  
 Jahra    49    31  
 Salmiyah    43    36  
 Nuwaisib    46    30  
 Wafra    48    27

## HH the Amir congratulates Seychelles and Congo on national days

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has sent on Saturday, a cable of congratulations to Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles, on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished him good health and full scale prosperity and progress for his friendly people.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Wavel Ramkalawan on the National Day of

his country.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished him everlasting health and wellness.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Wavel Ramkalawan on his country's National Day.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Felix Tshisekedi, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the Congolese president and the Congolese people good health, wellness, and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a cable to President Felix Tshisekedi, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Congolese president good health and wellness.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah also sent a cable to President Felix Tshisekedi, congratulating him on his country's National Day.



KUNA photo

FM Al-Yahya discusses with the EU ambassador to the country enhancing cooperation between the two sides.

### FM, EU envoy discuss strengthening co-op

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Sunday with the European Union (EU) Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed ways to enhance strategic cooperation and developing partnerships in various fields. (KUNA)



Top and above: Some photos of Dr. Amir Irani during the tour across Europe.

## AIU Faculty's Dr. Amir Irani explores cutting-edge research across Europe

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: From May 24 to 29, 2024, Dr. Amir Irani, a distinguished faculty member of American International University (AIU), embarked on a significant journey of innovation and discovery. He visited three leading research institutions: the University of Nottingham in the UK, Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL) in Grenoble, France, and CERN in Geneva, Switzerland.

During this trip, Dr. Irani delivered insightful talks, conducted important experiments, and explored potential collaborations. Dr. Amir Irani, an Assistant Professor of Physics at the American International University (AIU), joined the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in early 2023. Since then, he has captivated undergraduate students with his engaging lectures and hands-on laboratory sessions. His cutting-edge research in biophysics delves into the physical properties of biological matter, employing innovative physical models to unravel the mysteries of molecular interactions in biological environments. Dr. Irani's work promises to shed light on how molecules communicate and interact, potentially paving the way for engineering molecules for specific purposes.

Dr. Irani's visits had multiple goals: sharing his expertise through lectures, conducting crucial experimental research, and establishing collaborative relationships with these prestigious institutions. His journey highlighted his dedication to scientific advancement and the importance of international cooperation in research, aligning with AIU's mission to develop global academic connections.

At the University of Nottingham, Dr. Irani presented a talk on integrating computational simulations with experimental validation to have a deep understanding about

the polymeric structure of a well-known gelling agent called Pectin. After his talk, Dr. Irani toured the university's advanced research facilities and engaged in discussions with faculty members about potential collaborative projects.

At the Institut Laue-Langevin, Dr. Irani conducted quasi-elastic neutron scattering experiments to study the interaction between water and pectin polysaccharides. These experiments provided valuable insights into the dynamics of hydration water around these molecules, revealing the impact of water on their behavior and stability. He also toured the neutron scattering instruments and support facilities, gaining a deeper understanding of the advanced technologies employed at ILL, and bringing back knowledge that can enhance AIU's research capabilities.

The visit to CERN was a highlight of Dr. Irani's journey. He toured the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and learned about the groundbreaking experiments conducted there. This visit underscored the immense technological advancements and collaborative efforts at CERN, leaving a lasting impression on Dr. Irani and providing inspiration for AIU's scientific community.

Dr. Amir Irani's visits to these leading research institutions were profoundly enriching, providing new insights and opportunities for future collaborations. He extends his heartfelt thanks to AIU for funding this journey, which enabled him to engage with global scientific communities and advance his research.

AIU continues to work towards meeting Kuwait's Vision 2035 through various initiatives, striving to create the future leaders of tomorrow. By providing an authentic American educational experience in Kuwait, AIU is committed to fostering innovation and excellence in education and research.

# Ministry opens new Amghara fresh water station to serve Jahra, Mutlaa

MEW collects KD 150mn over electricity and water bills

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy opened the Amghara fresh water filling station on Saturday afternoon; which is designated for the private residential sector to serve the residents of Amghara and the neighboring areas, especially Jahra and Mutlaa Housing City.**

Acting Undersecretary of the ministry Eng. Maha Al-Asousi and acting Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Services Eng. Falah Al-Mutairi attended the opening ceremony.

Al-Mutairi confirmed that the opening of the station is an important step towards supplying water transported by tankers to serve customers in Amghara and neighboring areas, especially Mutlaa.

He added the station will contribute to reducing pressure on Jahra water filling station and meet the needs of customers in Mutlaa with the required speed.

He pointed out that the ministry seeks to gradually expand towards providing fresh water services in areas where demand is increasing, particularly water transported by tankers. He said 26 water filling stations cover the fresh water needs of the people in the aforementioned areas.

He affirmed the ministry's keenness, in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Food Authority, to fight against the unjustified increase in the prices of bottled water; explaining that the opening of the Amghara station will contribute to reducing bottled water prices in the region and neighboring areas.

In a related development, Al-Mutairi announced the opening of the first Mutlaa water filling station in mid-July to serve the residents of Mutlaa. He stated that the Customer Services Sector in the ministry is keen on providing fresh water to citizens residing in the new residential areas.

On the other hand, Al-Mutairi confirmed the collection of KD150 million as payment for electricity and water bills from the beginning of fiscal 2024/2025 until the last week of June, that is, in less than two months.

He attributed this to the efforts of employees in the Customer Service Sector and the directives of Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Bushahri to increase the bills collection rate.

He added the sector has completed the first phase of installing 200,000 smart electricity meters; while affirming the signing of a contract for the installation of 500,000 smart electricity and water meters at the beginning of July to cover all State facilities as part of the ministry's drive towards complete digital transformation.

### Online issuance of Canadian visa

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently looking for other visa options until the Schengen visa issue is addressed; especially during summer when the number of travelers increases remarkably, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources affirmed the ministry will soon complete the procedures for the online issuance of visa to a number of countries like the United Kingdom, adding that the online issuance of Canadian visa will start immediately after completing the requirements.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Ministry officials during the opening of the Amghara fresh water filling station.

### Works minister meets with chief of DGCA

## Al-Mashaan emphasizes on critical need to overcome obstacles at passenger terminal

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan has emphasized the critical need to identify and overcome all obstacles hindering the implementation of the new passenger terminal project (Terminal 2) at the Kuwait International Airport, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement following her meeting with the President of Civil Aviation, Sheikh Humoud Al-Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister Al-Mashaan discussed the progress of the project.

She highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance the infrastructure and operational capabilities of the airport and called for developing effective solutions to accelerate the pace of work.

The meeting also covered topics related to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Interior, the General Fire Force, and the monitoring of government performance.

Minister Al-Mashaan stressed the commitment of all parties to address issues relevant to their respective departments.

This meeting is part of a series of regular meetings

she holds to ensure the timely delivery of the new passenger terminal project and resolve outstanding issues with external parties with the required quality.

She explained that the relevant authorities are working closely with the Civil Aviation Authority to overcome any obstacles and support the continuous progress of this vital project, which is a key component of the plan to develop national infrastructure and strengthen the economy.

"We are determined to work cooperatively and intensively to ensure the completion of the new passenger terminal, which will significantly improve the passenger experience and expand our capabilities to accommodate the expected increase in air traffic," she added.

Minister Al-Mashaan emphasized that this project reaffirms the commitment to developing the civil aviation sector, which plays a vital role in supporting the country's economic growth.

She concluded by stressing that the project is not only important for the aviation sector but also part of a broader strategy to modernize and expand national infrastructure, highlighting the ministry's dedication to achieving these crucial goals.

### KAPP names firms OK'd for land comm network project

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has declared a list of companies and consortium qualified for partaking in the project of developing the land communication network.

KAPP said in a statement that the qualified parties are Bahrain Telecommunication, E and A

Holding Limited, TIM S.p.A. and Brookfield Corporation.

The project is designed to overhaul the fixed telecommunication network and establish a partnership between the private and public sectors to cover designing, funding, operating, and maintaining it.



Grant aims to redefine support systems for mental well-being

Intisar Foundation pioneers psychological trauma treatment for Arab women

KUWAIT CITY, June 30, (KUNA): Intisar Foundation plays an important role in treating the psychological trauma and violence that Arab women suffer from as a result of wars and unrest, using specialized programs concerned with mental health and cases of violence against women in the region. The Foundation, supervised by Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, is a non-profit charitable organization and the first in the Arab world that seeks to bring about "systematic" social change to facilitate psychological recovery and empower Arab women who have been exposed to the traumas of war and violence.

The Foundation's latest contribution was to provide a grant of 200,000 US dollars to the Arab Institute for Women affiliated with the Lebanese American University to organize three specialized annual lectures starting next year with the aim of giving the issue of women and their mental health priority in Arab society. Every woman who struggles to achieve her rights will benefit from this grant through specialized programs provided by the Arab Institute on women's rights issues in the Arab world and raising awareness of the importance of supporting women psychologically and promoting peace in the world.

For her part, Director of the Arab Institute for Women, Myriam Sfeir,

expressed in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Sunday her appreciation for the "important" role played by the Intisar Foundation in supporting women's issues and rights in the Arab world. She thanked Sheikhha Intisar Al-Sabah for providing a grant that will give "strong motivation" to the university to do more for the cause of women's empowerment in the Arab world.

She stressed that the Intisar Foundation grant will serve the institute's programs with the aim of supporting women psychologically and helping them deal with the psychological problems they face, noting that the institute works within five main axes based on development programs, research and studies, in addition to communicating with interested people in the Arab world. She said that the institute seeks to achieve gender equality in legislation and pay attention to issues of women, security, and peace, out of its keenness to enhance women's political participation and reach marginalized groups.

In this regard, Sfeir pointed out the importance of strengthening education and research with the aim of social change and policy change through exchanging information on women's issues and building partnerships for strategic cooperation to treat the phenomenon of violence against women.



Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, along with the President of the Lebanese American University, representatives from the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Lebanon, and officials from the Intisar Foundation and the Arab Women's Institute, attended the event.

For her part, the Executive Director of the Intisar Foundation, Karima Anbar, said in a similar statement to KUNA that the Intisar Foundation is the first charitable organization in the Arab world that seeks to bring about systematic social change to facilitate the psychological recovery of Arab women from the traumas of war and violence.

She added that the Intisar Foundation is also the first charitable organization to use "drama" therapy in order to facilitate the process of women's healing and recovery from psychological traumas, explaining that drama therapy is a type of psychological treatment in which theater techniques are used to achieve therapeutic goals. She stated that drama therapy is characterized by an activity and experimental exercise that enables the individual participating in it to talk about his personal story, determine his goal, and solve his problem by expressing it, by seeking the help of drama therapists in the Middle East to contribute their expertise within their cultures and societies to support the (One Million Arab Women) initiative.



KUNA photos Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, along with Dr. Michel Moawad, President of the Lebanese American University, and Myriam Sfeir, Director of the Arab Institute for Women, participated in the Institute's grant presentation ceremony in Beirut.

Al-Awadi praises graduates' role in Kuwait's healthcare advancement

Kuwait University honors 96 doctors

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: During the celebration of the graduation of 96 male and female doctors from the College of Medicine at Kuwait University, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi emphasized the pivotal role that these graduates play in bolstering Kuwait's healthcare system.

Speaking to the press, he expressed his delight in witnessing the happiness among the families of graduates and supporters who stood by them throughout their academic journey.

He extended gratitude to the faculty members and professors of the College of Medicine for their guidance and support.

Addressing the graduates directly during the ceremony, Dr. Al-Awadi described the occasion as a significant milestone as they transition from academic life to their professional careers as doctors, entrusted with the critical responsibility of serving society and safeguarding the health of its members.

He underscored the importance of their role in advancing the medical sector and recognized their eagerness to succeed and excel, following in the footsteps of distinguished doctors who have come before them.

Dr. Al-Awadi highlighted the essential values of adhering to the humanitarian oath, emphasizing honesty, sincerity, and compassionate care for patients.

He stressed the importance of continuous education and professional development, urging the new doctors to stay informed about the latest advancements in medical technology. This, he explained, is crucial to keeping pace with the rapid technological advancements shaping the global medical landscape.

In conclusion, Minister Al-Awadi commended the families of the graduates for their significant role in their children's achievements, acknowledging their guidance and steadfast support throughout the rigorous medical education journey.

He expressed confidence that the new cohort of doctors will contribute positively to Kuwait's healthcare system, continuing the legacy of excellence in medical practice and patient care.



Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi honoring a female graduate. Al Jarida photo

Authority distributes duplicate certificates to college graduates

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Deanship of Admission and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training said the authority is distributing duplicate certificates to college graduates for the second semester of 2023/2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The distribution will take place at the Authority's headquarters in the Adailiya area, specifically at Building No. (12), Records and Information Department, starting from next Sunday.

In a press statement, the Deanship urged all interested students to complete an electronic form, pay the applicable fees, and schedule an appointment to collect their certificates. It emphasized that duplicate certificates will only be issued once the original certificate is received from the college registration offices.

For those requesting certificates in English, a valid copy of the passport must be submitted along with the application. Certificates will be released only to the student in person or to an authorized representative holding an official power of attorney.

The process for obtaining certificates includes submitting an application, settling the fees, and confirming an appointment for collection.

The certificates will be distributed during official working hours from 9 am to 1 pm.

MoE adapts strategy as students increase

Al-Adwani unveils new schools in Al-Mutlaa

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Adwani recently visited the new schools in Al-Mutlaa; which are among the 19 schools that will be inaugurated in academic year 2024/2025, reports Al-Anba daily.

On the sidelines of his visit, Al-Adwani revealed that the Ministry of Education is adopting a strategy to open schools in new residential areas in the interest of the students and to accommodate the rising number of students.

He affirmed the new schools have modern designs that meet the sustainable environment requirements like rationalizing energy consumption by using solar panels boards to limit dependence on traditional energy. He said the new schools in Al-Mutlaa have been equipped in an advanced manner, including the provision of elevators and areas for the disabled.

He explained the visit is in compliance with the directives of the Council of Ministers, stressing that all the concerned departments in his ministry are working hard to ensure the schools are ready to receive the students at the beginning of the next academic year.



Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Adwani inspect the new schools in Al-Mutlaa.

Campaign enhances sanitation standards

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The Public Relations Department in Kuwait Municipality said the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department in the Jahra Municipality branch conducted an extensive campaign aimed at upgrading the public sanitation standards and removing obstacles from the roads, reports Al-Anba daily.

Director of Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department in Jahra Municipality branch Nawaf Al-Mutairi revealed that the campaign resulted in the issuance of 15 violation citations and 49 warnings, impounding of six abandoned cars and four mobile groceries, and removal of a huge amount of waste including used and abandoned furniture.

# JULY

## Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 60.984 net</b>	<b>BHD 136.198 net</b>
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 76.230 net</b>	<b>BHD 170.247 net</b>

Promo period from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 Terms & conditions apply\*











Kuwait Finance House recognized for strong ESG practices

# KFH announces it has been included in FTSE4Good Index Series

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced it has been included in the FTSE4Good Index Series. Created by the global index and data provider FTSE Russell, the FTSE4Good Index Series is designed to measure the performance of companies demonstrating strong Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices. The FTSE4Good indexes are used by a wide variety of market participants to create and assess responsible investment funds and other products.

FTSE Russell evaluations are based on performance in areas such as Corporate Governance, Health & Safety, Anti-Corruption and Climate Change. Businesses included in the FTSE4Good Index Series meet a variety of environmental, social and governance criteria.

Commenting on this achievement, Acting KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood said: "Our inclusion in the FTSE4Good Index Series signifies KFH's dedication to ethical business conduct, transparency, and its proactive approach to addressing global sustainability challenges. It is a testament to KFH's strategic vision and commitment to integrating ESG principles into our core operations. Moreover, this inclusion underscores our efforts in fostering a sustainable future and enhancing value for our stakeholders."

He pointed out that KFH's sustainability initiatives include significant investments in green finance products, impactful environmental initiatives such as the "Keep It Green" campaign, robust corporate governance frameworks and reporting such as the first-of-its-kind carbon footprint report and the sustainability reports, in addition to the comprehensive community development program and applying responsible banking practices in all operations and activities.

AlRushood went on to say that in a testament to its successful environmentally friendly initiatives, the green building KFH Auto showroom won the GSAS Gold Level Sustainability Assessment System Certificate, the first-of-its-kind in Kuwait. KFH has implemented a range of innovative initiatives to enhance energy efficiency, reduce waste, and lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. KFH and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) joined forces to boost investment in achieving the

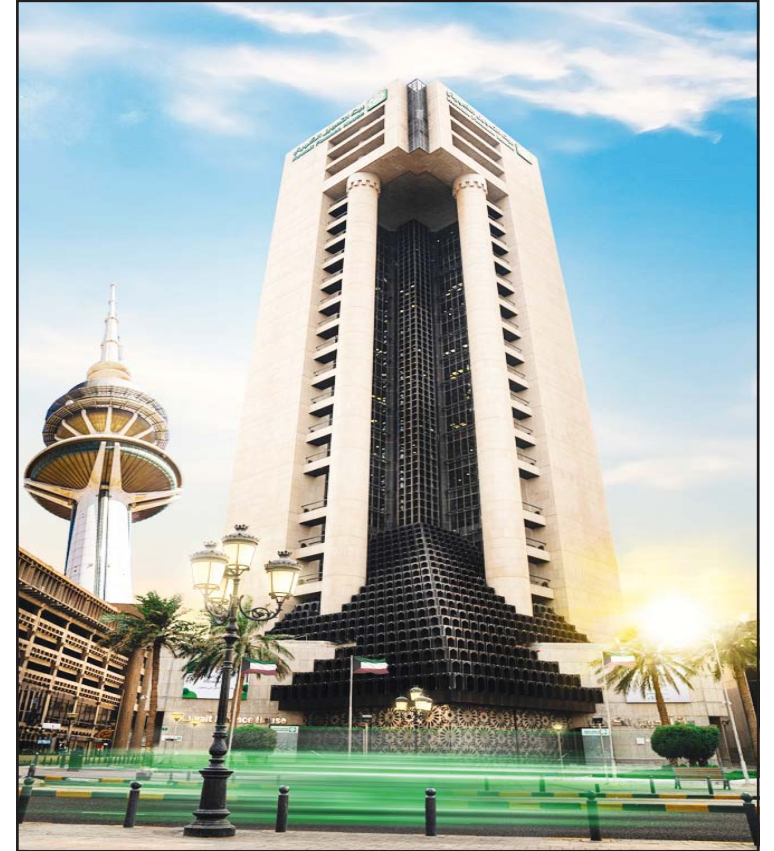


Acting Group CEO Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood

**Al Rushood:**  
 ■ Inclusion positions KFH as the bank of choice for investors seeking responsible investment opportunities

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This technical partnership with UNDP supports KFH to further ramp up its efforts to embed sustainability and the SDGs across its investment portfolio.

"We remain dedicated to advancing our sustainability agenda and setting higher standards in the financial sector, while strengthening KFH's position as a benchmark for other companies. Being a constituent of the FTSE4Good Index Series positions KFH as the bank of choice for investors seeking responsible investment opportunities while helping KFH to move forward in its sustainability strategy and ESG initiatives", AlRushood concluded.



KFH Headquarters

## Bank expands digital services with 200+ options

# KFH launches 'WAMD' for sending & receiving money via mobile number

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: In line with the latest payment technologies and to enhance the customer experience, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a new digital service called (WAMD). This service allows customers to send and receive money instantly and for free using their mobile numbers, 24/7.

KFH cements its digital leadership by launching (WAMD) through the KFHonline app, powered by K-Net. This service exemplifies the bank's commitment to providing cutting-edge digital financial solutions, services, and high-quality payment systems. It further aligns with KFH's ongoing efforts to develop its technological infrastructure, ensuring seamless delivery of technical services across all platforms. These efforts solidify KFH's role in leading the digital transformation of the banking sector.

Meanwhile, KFH Executive Manager Digital and Alternative Channels, Meshal Alobaid said that the WAMD service offers customers an unparalleled experience in transferring and requesting money. This experience



KFH Executive Manager Digital and Alternative Channels - Meshal Alobaid.

**Alobaid:**  
 Unparalleled experience in transferring and requesting money with high security standards

combines high security standards with exceptional ease and speed, ultimately improving the efficiency of customer transactions.

He explained that providing (WAMD) through the KFHonline

app enables customers to send money to other customers at KFH or any other local bank. Both the sender and beneficiary must be registered for WAMD using their phone numbers linked to their bank accounts. The request is valid for only 24 hours.

Alobaid said that (WAMD) is available to all KFH customers who have full access to the KFHonline app. Transfers can only be made through the app.

"The minimum amount a customer can send per transaction is KD 1, and the maximum is KD 1,000. There's also a daily limit of KD 3,000, meaning customers can make as many transactions as they want under this limit. Additionally, the maximum monthly sending amount is KD 20,000," he explained.

It is worth mentioning that KFHonline (available through both a mobile app and website) offers over 150 services, whereas XTM devices and KFH Go smart branches offer around 50 different services. Accordingly, the customer has the option to choose between around 200 e-services offered through apps and other various means.

Send and receive money between local banks instantly via mobile number with WAMD service using

## KFHOnline App

**WAMD**

KFH launches instant money transfer service.

## Renault and Geely partner with Aramco in powertrain venture

# Saudi Aramco acquires stake in HORSE Powertrain Limited

RIYADH, June 30, (Xinhua): Saudi Arabian Oil Company, commonly known as Saudi Aramco, has signed definitive agreements to acquire a 10 percent equity interest in HORSE Powertrain Limited, a global powertrain solutions company formed by Renault Group and Chinese automaker Geely Auto Group, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Saturday.

According to a statement by Aramco, after the acquisition, Renault and Geely will each retain a 45-percent equity stake, and the price to be paid by Aramco at closing, which is subject to customary closing conditions including the receipt of regulatory approvals, will be based on an enterprise valuation of 7.4 billion euros (7.93 billion U.S. dollars).

The investment aims to enhance Aramco's contribution to the global energy transition through the development and commercialization of more efficient mobility solutions, the SPA reported.

"Aramco's investment is expected to directly contribute to the development and deployment of affordable, efficient, and lower-carbon emission internal-combustion engines globally," said Ahmad O. Al-Khwaiter, Aramco's executive vice president of technology and innovation.

"With Geely and Renault, we plan to leverage our collective expertise and resources to support ground-breaking advances in both engine and fuel technologies," he added.

Meanwhile, HORSE Powertrain Limited said in a press release on its website that the investment by Aramco will support its growth and contribute to the development of competitive powertrains and synthetic fuel solutions. It noted that the company is expected to produce 5 million powertrain units annually, encompassing a complete portfolio of advanced powertrain technologies for partners around the world.

## Financial sector boosted by FATF decision

# Türkiye faces record inflation at over 75%

ANKARA, June 30, (Agencies): Türkiye's annual inflation has exceeded 75 percent, the highest in the past 18 months. While officials suggest this may represent the peak before a potential easing of prices, experts caution that the high cost of living is likely to linger.

Türkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek, who took on the challenging task of overseeing a comprehensive recovery program in June 2023, implemented a tighter monetary policy and declared that the "worst is over" as consumer prices reached what is believed to be a peak in May.

Simsek reversed Ankara's low interest rate policy that favoured growth over price stability, implementing stringent fiscal measures.

This move attracted hard currency, revitalized the central bank's low reserves, and helped stabilize the weakened national currency.

On Tuesday, Simsek said on social media platform X said Türkiye is on the verge of a "sharp decline in inflation," predicting that it would slow to as low as 40 percent in September and help bring more international investment needed for the country's recovery.

However, economists said that while year-on-year inflation may drop, monthly rises will persist, thereby continuing to strain consumers financially.

"Monthly inflation is projected to increase by 2.5 percent each month. What will drop is the year-on-year inflation rate. Due to significant price hikes in June 2023, there will be a drop in annual inflation from an arithmetic perspective," Mustafa Sonmez, an Istanbul-based economist, told Xinhua.

"Prices are consistently rising, impacting consumers. We will not see a decrease in prices; instead, they will continue to rise while most households struggle to make ends meet due to stagnant wages," this analyst said.

Since the summer of 2023, Türkiye's central bank has implemented aggressive monetary tightening to cool the economy and vowed to "do whatever it takes" to prevent the inflation outlook from deteriorating.

The logic behind the Turkish government's disinflation strategy is to make borrowing more expensive so that people have less money to spend. In addition, people are also encouraged to save more.

But on the other hand, policymakers are reluctant to hike pensions and wages of millions of retirees and low-income earners this summer, citing concerns they would help accelerate inflation.

The year-end annual inflation rate of the central bank stands at 38 percent. Sonmez said that this rate is still very high on a global level.

"For inflation to not be a problem, it should decrease to single digits," he added.

Senol Babuscu, a professor of finance from Ankara's Baskent University, echoed his remarks.

"Inflation is expected to slow down, however, that doesn't mean prices are going to be falling. They will just be rising less quickly," he said to Xinhua.

There's an important difference between inflation increasing more slowly, what is called disinflation, and inflation reversing itself, which would lead to prices coming down, he explained.

But as wages are not expected to keep pace with inflation, consumers are continuing to struggle in reality, the expert emphasized.

Meanwhile, Türkiye's ruling Justice and Development Party is expected to submit soon a new tax reform package to parliament as part of a series of austerity measures to fight runaway inflation.

The reform package is part of a concerted effort to enhance and develop Türkiye's fiscal discipline, guaranteeing a more equitable tax system, party officials said.

However, strict tax law compliance, government inspections and more expensive loans have burdened small business owners.

"Small businesses are struggling with financial challenges," Bengi Vural, a cosmetics shop owner from Ankara, complained.

"It has become very difficult to keep up with the economy and anti-inflation measures," the shop owner said.

**Also:**

**ANKARA:** Türkiye on Friday welcomed a decision by an international watchdog to remove it from a so-called "gray list" of countries that have not fully implemented measures to fight money laundering and terrorism financing.

The announcement by the Financial Action Task Force in Singapore could bolster foreign investments in Türkiye, which is trying to rebound from a deep economic downturn. "We succeeded," Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek wrote on the social media platform X, as the decision was being announced.

Vice-President Cevdet Yilmaz said: "With this development, international investors' confidence in our country's financial system has become even stronger. The decision will have extremely positive consequences for the financial sector and the economy."

Being on the watchdog's gray list can scare away investors and creditors, hurting exports, output and consumption. It also can make global banks wary of doing business with a country.

FATF President T. Raja Kumar, who is finishing his two-year term, said Türkiye was taken off the gray list because of the "substantial progress" that it has made. Kumar said a FATF team visited Türkiye in May and confirmed that the country had taken "substantive steps" to improve its anti-money laundering regime, addressing all the items in its action plan.

## Saudi stock market rebounds

# GCC markets mixed as Qatar surges, Kuwait & Bahrain lag

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: In the last week of the first half of the year, most financial market indices across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries saw positive movements, except for Kuwait and Bahrain, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Here's a breakdown of the recent performances:

**Qatar Stock Exchange** – The index surged by 2.67% during the week, reflecting a recovery trend after significant losses earlier in the year. Despite this gain, it still holds the largest decline among GCC indices for the first half of 8.02%.

**Saudi Stock Market** – After a decline before Eid al-Adha and amidst news of the Aramco IPO, the main Saudi index rebounded, closing the week with a gain of approximately 2.5%. It now stands at 11,729.62 points, reducing its losses for the first half to 2%.

**UAE Markets** – Both the Abu Dhabi and Dubai markets recorded modest gains. Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange rose by 0.53% to close above 9,000 points, reducing its first-half losses to 5.40%. The Dubai Financial Market Index gained 0.44%, staying above 4,000

points with a 0.73% loss for the first half. **Oman Market** – Anticipating positive announcements for the first half, the Omani market remains stable with expectations of corporate profit growth following economic reforms.

**Kuwait Stock Exchange** – Kuwait's indices experienced significant declines with the general market index falling by 1.01% and the Premier Market Index similarly losing ground. The main index 50 recorded the largest decline at 1.71%, reducing its gains for the year to 4.3%.

**Bahrain Market** – The Bahrain market index decreased marginally by 0.54%, but it remains one of the better performers in the region for the first half with a growth of 3.53%.

Overall, while several GCC markets showed positive momentum towards the end of the first half, challenges remain for Kuwait and Bahrain amidst varying regional economic conditions and market reforms.

Meanwhile, the Amman Financial Market index saw a slight increase of 0.18%, maintaining a growth of 3.85% for the first half, making it the best performer among Gulf indices.

## Islamic loan volumes dip

# UAE and Saudi 'lead' ESG sukuk issuances in MENA

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Bloomberg reported that the Sukuk market in the Middle East and North Africa region continued its growth throughout the first half of 2024, reports Al-Seyassah daily. However, the performance of the Islamic Sukuk market saw a decline during this period, according to Bloomberg's capital markets data.

The expansion of the Sukuk market was largely driven by issues related to environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG). Specifically, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Sukuk, which fund green and social projects, increased by 48% year-on-year to

\$6.2 billion from eight issuances. Saudi Arabia emerged as the leading issuer in this sector, raising \$3.98 billion from five Sukuk, while the UAE contributed \$2.25 billion. Regional banks, including Emirates Islamic Bank, played a significant role, with Emirates Islamic Bank announcing its inaugural issuance totaling \$750 million.

This growth underscores the commitment of Islamic finance in the region to invest in ESG criteria, bolstered by the UAE's substantial climate finance pledges made at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) the previous year.



## The world's most popular audio streaming platform comes to MAX

# Zain teams up with Spotify for new offer to its customers

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Zain is teaming up with Spotify, the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service, to bring customers a new way to enjoy Spotify Premium for free for a few months. With this announcement, Zain is bringing Spotify to its MAX Internet plans, featuring the biggest streaming platforms and entertainment content providers on Kuwait's biggest and fastest 5G network.

Meshal Al Kandari, Zain Kuwait Chief Commercial Officer, said: "Welcoming Spotify to the MAX family brings even more worldclass entertainment to the biggest customer base in Kuwait. To celebrate this partnership, we're offering Wiyana postpaid subscribers three months of Spotify Premium for free, while eeZee prepaid subscribers will receive two months for free."



Zain announces Spotify Premium offer.

"We are thrilled to announce our collaboration with Zain to offer their customers unparalleled access to the rich and diverse world of music through Spotify Premium," said Akshat Arbola, Managing Director, Middle East, North Africa (MENA) and South Asia, Spotify. "This partnership underscores our commitment to delivering exceptional music experiences to users around the world."

The offer can be easily redeemed on the Zain app or the MyZain portal on kw.zain.com. After the free period ends, the subscription will be auto-renewed for KD 1.6 monthly. In addition, subscribers of select MAX plans can choose Spotify Premium as one of their included entertainment subscriptions.

With Spotify Premium, users can enjoy amazing exclusive fea-

tures like listening to millions of tracks, songs, podcasts, and more without ad breaks, downloading tracks to listen offline anytime and anywhere, full control over playing, repeating, and reordering tracks, high audio quality, listening together with friends in real-time, and organizing listening queues.

With this step, Zain becomes the first telecom operator in Kuwait to partner with Spotify, the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service. Spotify features over 100 million tracks and 6 million podcast titles. Hundreds of millions of users enjoy Spotify in more than 180 markets.

Spotify is now part of the MAX family, featuring some of the biggest regional and global content providers like Disney+, Shahid, TOD, OSN+, STARZPLAY+, viu, and more. With MAX, Zain

brings thousands of hours of entertainment and sports content to the largest customer base in Kuwait.

MAX offers the best way for postpaid customers to enjoy three essential features all in one comprehensive plan: superfast 5G Internet, the latest Internet device of their choosing, and subscriptions in their favorite streaming platforms, starting at KD 12 monthly only.

This announcement is the latest step in Zain's strategy to provide best-in-class digital services and content to its customers across Kuwait. Working with regional and global content providers enables Zain to offer its customers access to the largest library of titles to choose from and the ability to enjoy beloved content anywhere, anytime, on Kuwait's fastest and most powerful 5G network.

## Win big with FayeZ App

# Warba Bank unveils new campaign to experience Warba World Summer Tour

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Warba Bank has launched a new campaign to promote the adventure of Warba World: Experience the Summer Tour through the FayeZ app. In this adventure, app users will travel across continents and international cities aboard a Warbahot air balloon, collecting points to win instant prizes via the app as well as to participate in a large weekly draw to win several prizes offered by leading companies.

Abdullah Walid Al Osaimi Executive Manager Partnership & Innovation states that the campaign consists of a fantastic summer tour aboard a Warba hot air balloon and visiting vibrant cities to find prizes. The launch of this campaign is part of the Warba Bank management's efforts to guarantee a special summer for all users of the app.

He explained that participants will test their balloon flying skills by penetrating the clouds and flying over famous and capital cities. He continues that the mission is to collect as many digital coins as possible in the designated cities and displaying driving skills.



Abdullah Walid Al Osaimi

He adds: "It's not just the element of challenge and thrill. Each coin collected by the participant will be added to the total score on the leaderboard, increasing the chances of winning the weekly and grand raffles and receiving special rewards every day from Warba Bank's partners."

Al Osaimi confirms that the

game is available to Warba Bank customers and non-customers by simply downloading the "FayeZ" application.

Travel around the cities and collect as many points as possible to have a chance to participate in the weekly grand raffle.

He stressed that "Warba" always focuses on all areas that interest today's youth demographic, including modern technological developments and new interests that shape the trends of the current young generation, and that by participating, the aim is to collaborate with the above-mentioned companies, win many prizes and provide customers with a lot of information.

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



Dr. Rawda Awwad with Ambassador of Malta and representatives from AUK and the University of Malta.



A photo of the meeting.

## Bank promotes financial literacy

# KIB concludes its gold sponsorship, participation in Tourista Expo 2024

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the conclusion of its gold sponsorship and active participation in Tourista Expo 2024, which was recently held at Assima Mall. The travel and tourism exhibition brought together the best travel agencies, travel insurance providers, airlines, travel accessories and products suppliers, local and international hotels, and more to engage with a diverse audience.

Commenting on the occasion, Saifaldin Al-Nasser, Senior Marketing Officer at KIB, said: "We are pleased with our gold sponsorship and participation in Tourista Expo 2024. We are al-



Saifaldin Al-Nasser

ways keen to be present at such prominent events, which provide a distinguished platform that brings together various leaders in this sector under one roof to offer diverse services and great deals for travel enthusiasts."

KIB's booth at the exhibition witnessed a large turnout of visitors, where the Bank's team showcased its distinguished suite of services, products and banking solutions. They also encouraged visitors to open an Al Dirwaza account, a savings account based on the Wakala investment principle, which is the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis.

Throughout the two-day exhibition, the Bank's team took the opportunity to promote financial and banking literacy among all segments of society, as part of KIB's support for the national 'Let's Be Aware' (Diraya) campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association in cooperation with local banks. This initiative aligns with KIB's commitment to its pioneering role in educating the community about various aspects of the banking sector, which is a fundamental pillar of its comprehensive social responsibility program.

It is worth noting that KIB spares no effort in maintaining its leading position among banking institutions by continuously supporting events and initiatives that have a positive impact on society. The Bank focuses on providing banking services and solutions that enhance the quality of life for community members, achieve sustainable development, and improve customer experiences, in line with its main slogan, 'Bank for Life.'

## University forges global academic partnerships

# AUK welcomes Maltese ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) recently hosted a meeting with His Excellency Prof George A. Said-Zammit, Ambassador of Malta to the State of Kuwait, and representatives from the University of Malta. This significant gathering aimed to discuss potential academic collaborations and exchange opportunities, enhancing AUK's mission of promoting global student mobility through various international programs.

During the meeting, AUK and the University of Malta explored a range of initiatives to provide students with opportunities to develop essential academic, professional, and personal skills. The discussions focused on facilitating academic exchanges, offering shorter

semester courses, and fostering cultural exposure. These efforts are designed to prepare students for a globalized world, equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in diverse professional environments.

Attending the meeting were Jake Grech, Student Advisor at University of Malta; Dr. Christian Zammit, Rector of the International Office at University of Malta; Professor Frank Bezzina, Pro-Rector for International Development & Quality Assurance at University of Malta; Dr. Rawda Awwad, AUK president; Abir Tannir, AUK Director of International Student Programs; Lara Jadayel, AUK International Student Programs Coordinator.

This meeting marks a significant step towards fostering academic excellence and international cooperation. Both AUK and the University of Malta are committed to creating enriching educational experiences that will benefit their students and the broader academic communities.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw)

## Account offers diversity of prizes

# Al-Tijari announces Al Najma draw winners



A flyer of Al-Najma Account's mega annual draw.

KUWAIT CITY, June 30: Commercial Bank of Kuwait conducted the weekly draw for Al Najma Account on Sunday June 30, 2024. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Mr. Mansour Al-Dhafiri.

The result of the draw were as follows: Al Najma weekly draw – the prize of 5,000/- Kuwaiti Dinars went to the winner Mr. Othman Yousef Al Shaer

The Bank stated that Al Najma Account prizes are distinguished by the diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that the account offers weekly prize of KD 5,000/-, monthly prize of KD 20,000/- and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the mega annual prize of KD 1,500,000.

Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 200, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 200 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy. The Bank revealed that Al Najma account is available to everyone, and anyone can open Al Najma account through CBK mobile application in simple steps from anywhere and at any time.



A flyer of the DAI event.











Switzerland players celebrate after a round of sixteen match between Switzerland and Italy at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin, Germany. Switzerland won 2-0 to qualify. (AP)

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

## Germany advance to Euro 2024 quarters

### Storm stops play

**DORTMUND, June 30, (AP):** Let that patriotic fervor soar. Host nation Germany is headed to the quarterfinals at the European Championship after a wet and wild win over Denmark.

"We're going to Berlin," sang the jubilant Germany fans who were first battered by rain and hail after a thunderstorm that stopped play for 25 minutes, then saw their team benefit from back-to-back video review calls that helped to set up a 2-0 victory in Dortmund.

Two more wins will take Germany to the capital for the July 14 final, in what could yet turn into a summer fairy tale for a nation whose soccer team is coming out of a sorry run of performances in major tournaments.

It could have been so different against the Danes, though.

The host-nation buzz was burst when, with the score at 0-0, Denmark defender Joachim Andersen swept home a close-range finish that looked to have put his team ahead in the 50th minute. The Vid-

eo Assistant Referee spotted an offside in the buildup, a free kick was awarded and the ball was played downfield immediately, leading to a cross by David Raum hitting the outstretched right arm of - who else? - Andersen.

The VAR got involved again and a penalty was awarded. Kai Havertz converted the spot kick and Jamal Musiala added a second goal - his third of the tournament, which is tied for the most with Georgia's Georges Mikautadze - in the 68th.

### SOCCER

"We played a super game - we had crazy fans again today," Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck said. "We're playing with euphoria, we're playing with fun, and that's what the most beautiful thing about football is."

It was Germany's first win in the knockout stage of a major tournament since 2016, since when the national team has failed to advance from the group stage at back-to-back World Cups and lost in the last 16 of the last Euros in 2021 to England.

Germany will play Spain or Georgia next and became the second team to advance from the round of 16, after Switzerland beat defending champion Italy 2-0 earlier Saturday.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann told German broadcaster ZDF that he used the rain delay to show his players incidents from the first half-hour of the game which his team dominated, playing the most soccer of the tournament, in his opinion.

Indeed, the players were able to head into the confines of the locker room while thunder, lightning and torrential rain struck, leaving spectators in the front rows particularly exposed as they scrambled higher in the stands. Many used black-yellow-and-red flags they had waved before the match, to welcome the players onto the field, as makeshift umbrellas.

"Oh, how lovely it is," some sang, and a few Danish supporters danced in waterfalls in the stands.

There was about a 20-minute delay before the rain relented and players re-emerged, undertaking warmups before play resumed a few minutes later. The pitch held up well in the circumstances.



Germany's Leroy Sane challenges for the ball with Denmark's Joakim Maehle during a round of sixteen match between Germany and Denmark at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

'It is time for the new generation to come through'

## Kohli, Sharma end T20 careers on a high as Indians celebrate WC win



India's players celebrate with the winners' trophy after winning against South Africa in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. (AP)

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 30, (AP):** Right up to the Twenty20 World Cup final, there were question marks about whether India should persist with playing Virat Kohli.

One of the greatest cricketers India has ever produced just wasn't scoring.

He'd tallied 75 runs in seven games, including two ducks. India won every game but Kohli was reduced to a concerning afterthought, saved by the middle order and bowlers.

The humbling scores followed a spectacular Indian Premier League for Kohli, who set or extended tournament records in scoring 741 runs at an average of nearly 62.

Captain and fellow opener Rohit Sharma, despite their low-scoring partnerships at the World Cup, insisted throughout that he and Kohli were the first names on the team list.

His faith was repaid in the final against South Africa on Saturday, when Kohli led India's batting with 76



India's Virat Kohli plays a shot during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match between India and South Africa at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. (AP)

### CRICKET

from 59 balls in a competitive total of 176-7. The bowlers brilliantly defended the total to win a thriller by seven runs and make India a world champion for the first time in 13 years.

"None of us doubted him," Sharma said of Kohli, shortly before the skipper announced his own retirement from T20 internationals later Saturday.

"We know his quality. He has been

at the top of his game for 15 years now. Big players will step up in big occasions and he played a crucial knock today. It was a team effort to get to that total but we knew we needed someone to bat time and he did that perfectly, using all his experience."

After being named man of the match, Kohli said it was his last T20 international. "One day you feel like you can't get a run, but one day things just click," he said.

## Kuwait U-19 secure first point in West Asian Championship

**TAIF, June 30:** The Kuwait U-19 national team earned its first point in the West Asian Championship by drawing with Yemen 1-1 in the third round of the first group competitions. The tournament is being hosted in Taif, Saudi Arabia, from June 25 to July 5.

Kuwait took the lead through Youssef Al-Majed midway through the first half, but Abdul-Aziz Masoum equalized for Yemen in the 30th minute.

Kuwait's team is ranked fourth in the group, while Yemen has 5 points, trailing the leading Saudi team on goal difference.

"I am so proud to get the runs for the team on the day it mattered most. The occasion prompted that change for me, I felt like it was now or never. We have wanted to lift a trophy for a long time. The occasion made me put my head down, respect the situation and play the innings that the team needed from me."

Class prevails when it comes to Kohli. He's produced so often when it's mattered.

In the 2014 final in Dhaka, he led all scorers with 77 off 58, though India

lost to Sri Lanka. In the 2016 semifinal in Mumbai, he hit an unbeaten 89 off 47 in the loss to West Indies.

He finished as the T20 captain at the 2021 World Cup, and hit 50 off 40 in the 2022 semifinal loss to England in Adelaide.

After six T20 World Cups, he's the highest scorer in tournament history, just ahead of Sharma, but he's decided to finish his 14-year T20 career on a high than stay to the next World Cup

### SOCCER

6. This camp will prepare them for the Asian Cup qualifiers, hosted by Kuwait in September. In these qualifiers, Kuwait will compete in Group C alongside South Korea, the UAE, Lebanon, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

in 2026 co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. He'd be 37 by then.

"It is time for the new generation to come through for India," Kohli said. "We have some amazing players coming through and they have to take this team forwards now."

"I wasn't feeling myself before today. I wasn't confident. So I am very grateful and humble right now. It has been difficult, so there are a lot of emotions. It hasn't quite sunk in for me yet. It's an amazing day, I am so thankful."

Cricket fans across India came out onto the streets, waving the national flag and setting off firecrackers to celebrate the national team's seven-run win against South Africa in a gripping final of the Twenty20 World Cup.

It was India's second T20 World Cup but its first title in 13 years and the frustration had been building. Over the last 12 months, India lost the World Test Championship final and also the 50-over World Cup final at home.

### Al-Qadisiya sign Dutch star Horst

Kuwait U-17 volleyball team heads to Jordan for Arab Championship

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 30:** Al-Qadisiya Club has signed Dutch professional Thijs ter Horst to join the first volleyball team for the upcoming 2024-2025 season. Al-Qadisiya management decided not to renew the contracts of Brazilian player DeAlma Moreira and Venezuelan player Willner Rivas but has renewed the contract of Bahraini coach Reda Ali following its successful performance last season, in which it won the Federation Cup title. Training for the Al-Qadisiya volleyball team is set to begin early next month.

Meanwhile, the national junior volleyball team departs today for Amman, Jordan, to participate in the first Arab Championship for junior teams under 17 years of age, scheduled to be held until the twelfth of this month.

The delegation is headed by Assistant Secretary of the Volleyball Federation Nayef Al-Khamili and includes Abdullah Al-Rayes Adria, national coach Khaled Al-Mutairi, his assistant Meshal Al-Sabti, Egyptian physiotherapist Ahmed Fouad, referee Ahmed Al-Balushi, and 12 players: Walid Al-Shammari, Ahmed Al-Sarhid, Salem Al-Shammari, Saad Al-Failakawi, Abdullah Al-Ali, Nasser Al-Sanea, Bandar Al-Ahmad, Salem Khadada, Muhammad Al-Dhababi, Mishari Al-Mutawtah, Muhammad Al-Dukhi,



Dutch star Ter Horst

and Muhammad Al-Huwaidi.

National coach Khaled Al-Mutairi confirmed that the team has prepared well for the Arab Championship through an intensive program that began in early May. The initial phase involved narrowing down the list of players selected by the technical staff in coordination with the training committee and national teams. The training program focused on all physical, technical, and tactical aspects, as well as tactical application and establishing a stable starting lineup for the upcoming tournament.



Kuwaiti player controls the ball as Yemen players defend during the Under-19 West Asian Championship in Saudi Arabia.