

A happy Eid Al-Adha to all

The Arab Times will be off the news-stands from Sunday till Tuesday. The next issue of the paper will appear on the stands on Wednesday, June 19. — See you then

AMIR ALLOCATES FUNDS FOR 49 FIRE VICTIMS; REPATRIATION PLANNED

Electrical fault behind Mangaf blaze

- 45 Indians, 3 Filipinos identified among dead
- Interior Minister leads inspection campaign
- PAM tightens oversight of expat housing safety
- Citizen, expats detained over fire tragedy
- Kuwait Municipality shuts 568 basements

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

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: The Public Prosecution has ordered the provisional detention of a citizen and some expatriates on charges of manslaughter and accidental injury as a result of negligence in security and safety measures to prevent fire.

This is to complete the investigation procedures regarding the incident of a building fire in Mangaf, which resulted in the death of 49 expatriates and injuries to 49 others.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah ordered allocating a sum of money for each of the 49 deceased from the blazed Mangaf apartment building, said First Deputy Premier Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah on Thursday.

In a press release after an inspection tour of properties violating safety and building codes, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf, also Minister of Interior and Minister of Defense, underlined that the bodies of the victims will all be transferred back to their homeland onboard Kuwaiti military airplanes.

The Philippines' Department of Migrant Workers Undersecretary, Hans Leo Cacadac, has confirmed that three Filipinos are among those dead in the Mangaf fire.

Repatriation

Cacadac has instructed the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the Migrant Workers Office in Kuwait to closely work with the Embassy of the Philippines, under the leadership of Ambassador Jose Cabrera, in taking the necessary measures for the repatriation of the remains of the three Filipinos.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah announced that 48 of those who perished in the fire have been identified. He said 45 of those who died are Indians and three are Filipinos. He added the authorities are still exerting tremendous efforts to identify the remaining body.

In latest developments, the General Fire Force disclosed that the fire that engulfed a building in Mangaf on Wednesday was caused by an electrical short circuit. According to a press statement, the Accident Investigation Department's teams concluded their technical inspections, which included analyzing samples of fire debris and conducting interviews with witnesses present during the incident. Their investigation determined that the fire originated in the security guard's room located on the ground floor of the six-story building.

The specialists from the Investigations Department meticulously examined the site to ascertain the exact cause of the fire. Their findings unequivocally pointed to an electrical short circuit as the root cause. This discovery underscores the importance of adhering to electrical safety protocols to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf on Thursday headed an overall inspection campaign on illegal



First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah leads an inspection campaign on illegal properties across Kuwait, accompanied by Minister of Public Works and Minister of Municipality Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan. The campaign covered areas including Al-Mangaf, Al-Mahboula, Khaitan, and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.



Photos by Mohamad Morsi



Photo by Mohamad Morsi

Teams from the Interior Ministry, Kuwait Municipality, Kuwait Fire Force, Ministry of Electricity and Water and Public Authority for Manpower take part in the inspection campaign.

properties in many areas in Kuwait.

The minister, accompanied by Minister of Public Works and Minister of Municipality Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan began their inspection campaign in Al-Mangaf, Al-Mahboula, Khaitan, and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

The Interior Ministry, Kuwait Municipality, Kuwait Fire Force, Ministry of Electricity and Water and Public Authority for Manpower took part in the campaign.

Kuwait Municipality declared on Thursday its teams had shut down 568 irregular basements of residential and commercial buildings in the past ten months.

The personnel issued 1,639 citations and "blocked" 596 properties. Moreover, up to

189 basements packed with various unlicensed items had been evacuated.

The declaration came against the backdrop of a fiery fire that gutted an apartment building in Al-Mangaf, leaving massive damage and taking 49 lives. In response, the authorities vowed to clamp down on any misuse of properties.

Following the recent fire incident in Mangaf, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) intensified its campaigns in labor accommodations, reports Aljarida daily.

According to informed sources in PAM, the National Center for Health and Safety affiliated with PAM will launch extensive campaigns

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MoFA photo

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs.

Kuwait, India ministers meet over Mangaf tragedy

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met with Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, Thursday, at the Ministry headquarters.

The Indian minister of state, along with a delegation, is currently on a visit to the country.

Minister Al-Yahya offered his sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the Indian victims in the building that caught fire in Al-Mangaf on Wednesday, affirming the government's keenness to follow up on the condition of the injured, providing them with full medical care and

wishing them a speedy recovery.

He stressed that the concerned authorities of the State of Kuwait are doing everything necessary to determine the circumstances and causes of the horrific incident and that justice will take its course with transparency and integrity.

For his part, the Indian Minister commended the rapid response and presence of the concerned officials at the scene, appreciating the government's follow-up on the injured, and the direct communication of Kuwaiti's Foreign Affairs Ministry with the Indian embassy. (KUNA)

PAM, private sector tackle Kuwaiti hiring

Benefits draw Kuwaitis to public jobs

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has conducted several meetings with different private institutions to figure out the reasons behind their unwillingness to hire Kuwait workers in case PAM increases the percentage, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to informed sources, banks constituted the majority of the participants in the discussions, as the banking field is considered the most attractive field in the private sector for Kuwaiti graduates. As per reports issued by national banks union, almost 12,200 Kuwaiti citizens are working at private banks as of the end of December 2023, making up 77 percent of the total bank workers. This percentage is higher than the one determined by PAM. Increasing the percentage of Kuwaiti workers in private banks requires enhancing the establishment of sustainable projects that will allow banks to increase the banking business so that more number of national workers can be received.

The sources explained that industrial businesses were also part of the discussions and questions were raised about the reasons behind the hesitation among citizens to join this field.

Representatives of Kuwait Industries Union affirmed their keenness to increase the number of national workers but highlighted that there are some challenges associated with the implementation.

They explained that the generous benefits provided by the government

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior **Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah** met with Minister of State for External Affairs **Kirti Vardhan Singh**, Thursday, along with his entourage.



Salo

fire that gutted a building in Al-Mangaf and wished the injured quick healing.

The Indian minister expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir **Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** and the State of Kuwait for the humanitarian action, relieving the victims, aiding their next of kin, and caring for the injured.

The statement added that Minister Sheikh Fahad separately hosted member of the Philippine Congress **Ron Salo** and accompanying officials who presented condolences on the fire victims. Moreover, the two sides discussed some issues of common interest. (KUNA)

Sweltering heat, humidity to grip Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, Director of the Meteorological Department, announced on Thursday that the weather over the weekend will be very hot during the day and hot to warm at night, with an increase in humidity and chances of light fog formation in coastal areas.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Qarawi noted that Kuwait is currently influenced by the extension of the Indian Monsoon Low. This brings a relatively hot and humid air mass with northwesterly winds, occasionally shifting to southeasterly at light to moderate speeds, sometimes becoming active. The general weather during this period, including the days of Eid, will remain very hot during the day and warm at night.

Friday's Weather: Daytime: Very hot and relatively humid in coastal areas with northwesterly to variable winds, turning northeasterly in coastal areas later, at light to moderate speeds (8 to 32 km/h). Maximum temperatures: 47-49°C. Sea condition: Light to moderate waves (1 to 4 feet).

Saturday's Weather: Daytime: Relatively hot and humid, especially in coastal areas, with northwesterly to southeasterly winds at light to moderate speeds (10 to 38 km/h). Maximum temperatures: 46-48°C. Sea condition: Light to moderate waves (1 to 3 feet).

Evening: Warm and humid in coastal areas with variable to southeasterly winds at light to moderate speeds (8 to 28 km/h). Minimum temperatures: 28-31°C. Sea condition: Light to moderate waves (1 to 3 feet).

Sunday's Weather: Daytime: Relatively hot and humid, especially in coastal areas, with northwesterly to southeasterly winds at light to moderate speeds (10 to 38 km/h). Maximum temperatures: 46-48°C. Sea condition: Light to moderate waves (1 to 3 feet).

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KUNA photo
Traditional hand weaving skills on display at Kuwait's Sadu Society live show held Wednesday. — See Page 4



MoFA photo

Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait.

Kuwait FM, US envoy discuss bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Thursday with US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Bassahara at his office in the ministry headquarters.

The foreign minister and the US ambassador, in their discussions, dealt with bilateral relations and strategic cooperation between the two countries, as well as latest regional and international developments, particularly current events in Gaza.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:13 Asr 15:22
 Sunrise .. 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:48
 Zohr 11:48 Isha 20:20

Local

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

HH Crown Prince, Prime Minister congratulate education minister

HH Amir congratulates Dr Al-Adwani on success of high-school exams

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on Thursday, sent a cable of congratulations to Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani on the success of Grade 12 exams for the scholastic year 2023-2024.

His Highness the Amir praised efforts exerted by the ministry officials on all levels, in preparing, correcting, and evaluating the tests, and all the facilities they offered to the students, wishing for further success and prosperity to the graduates in their future.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, sent a cable of congratulations to Minister Dr. Adel Al-Adwani on the success of Grade 12 exams for the scholastic year 2023-2024.

His Highness the Crown Prince praised efforts exerted by the ministry officials on all levels, in preparing, correcting, and evaluating the tests, and all the facilities they offered to the students, wishing for further success and prosperity to the graduates in their fu-



One of the students.



Left-right: Some of the students who have passed their Grade 12 exams pose with their parents.



Photos by Samer Shaqir

Minister Boushahri eyes tertiary treated water for cosmetic crops

Citizen Service Center opens at Jaber Al-Ahmad

By Mohammed Ghanem
 Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri said Director of the Water Filling Stations Department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Eng. Falah Al-Subaie studied the possibility of storing tertiary treated water produced by the Ministry of Public Works in water filling stations in the governorates to be used in cosmetic crops on roads and public areas as a way to solve the 'crops death' crisis.

Boushahri made the announcement during the opening of the Citizen Service Center and Training Center in Jaber Al-Ahmad recently.

He explained that through the proposal, the State no longer needs to establish other specialized stations for such water and it could be supplied throughout the day for cosmetic crops.

He called for the speedy completion of this study to determine the extent this idea can be applied in stations, especially since the country is advanced in the process of storing and distributing fresh water.

He also highlighted the importance of the training centers established by the ministry's Customer Service Sector, indicating these centers aim to educate the people about the importance of rationalizing energy consumption.

Emphasized

He emphasized the need to instruct the industrial and commercial sectors to operate air conditioners at 25 degrees Celsius; affirming the ministry spares no effort in providing its services to various sectors, and that rationalization contributes to reducing consumption during peak periods by approximately 30 percent.

He appreciated the efforts of the Customer Service Sector and the major role it plays in providing various services to citizens and transferring those services electronically.

Moreover, Assistant Undersecretary for the Customer Service Sector Eng. Falah Al-Mutairi affirmed the sector's commitment to develop the skills and capabilities of its employees through specialized training courses.

He pointed out that the opening of the Training Center in Jaber Al-Ahmad is a clear evidence of the ministry's interest in developing the capabilities of national professionals, as the center has been optimally prepared with the latest modern training techniques.

He added the opening of customer service centers will continue, especially in remote areas, to ease procedures for citizens and expatriates on one hand, and to increase energy bill payment collection rates on the other hand.



Minister of Finance Dr Al-Mudhaf during the meeting with US congressman French Hill.

Kuwait, US discuss combating money laundering

Minister of Finance and State Minister for Economic and Investment Affairs Dr. Anwar Al-Mudhaf discussed combating illegal financing and money laundering with visiting US congressman French Hill.

Financial terrorism, as well as future of virtual currencies and its effect on financial inclusion were also discussed during Al-Mudhaf's meeting with Hill, who is serving as Vice Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee and Chairman of

the subcommittee tasked with overseeing all areas related to digital assets and financial technology, relayed a ministry-issued statement on Thursday.

Minister Al-Mudhaf spoke of the legal grounds, which Kuwaiti financial establishments are built on, the adopted practices and supervision they undergo, highlighting state efforts on reforming public budget structure and rebuilding the economy.

US Ambassador to the country Karen Sasahara attended the meeting. (KUNA)



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Abdullah Al-Yahya in a group photo during the celebration of World Refugee Day.

Ceremony held to mark World Refugee Day

Kuwait committed to help most vulnerable people across the world, says FM Al-Yahya

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya on Thursday affirmed the State of Kuwait's permanent commitment to helping the most vulnerable people across the world within the approach toward a world where no one will be without shelter.

Minister Al-Yahya was speaking on the occasion of World Refugee Day (falling on June 20), at a ceremony involving the UN Higher Commissioner for Refugees, held at the headquarters of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). Also attending was the GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi, KAFED's Acting Director General Walid Al-Bahar and heads of diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

This ceremony, held under the

theme, "the Kuwait of development and humanity," affirms solidarity of the country, along with the international community, with the refugees worldwide.

The world nowadays is witnessing humanitarian crises of unprecedented dimensions, leading to a staggering number of the relocated estimated at 120 million, said the minister, also KFAED's chairperson.

Conflicts and wars have increased in the Arab region causing tremendous humanitarian and social catastrophes, and drastic decline in development, and internal and external displacement of millions of people, he said, citing the extraordinary conditions in Sudan, Syria and occupied Palestine. According to the UNRWA, some six million Pal-

estinians are recorded as refugees.

It will go down in history that more than two million relocated Palestinians in Gaza have been subjected to genocide and torture, minister Al-Yahya stated.

He also noted that KFAED had given direct aid to millions of afflicted peoples, recalling that Kuwait had allocated USD 1.9 billion to relieve the Syrian refugees.

Kuwait is proud of its strong partnership with the UNHCR, he said, indicating that via this relationship, it had offered funding to build houses and attend to the refugees' needs in various spots of the world.

Concluding his speech, the minister affirmed that Kuwait would continue relieving peoples suffering from the dire impact of conflicts and natural disasters.



Cyprus Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Mavros.

KUNA photo

Deputy FM receives Cyprus, Korean envoys

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Wednesday received Cyprus Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Mavros and discussed bilateral ties and issues of common interest.

Also, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber on Wednesday received Ambassador of Korea to Kuwait Chung Byung-ha on the occasion of the end of his term as his country's ambassador to Kuwait. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Dear PM Modi ... and democratic path

By Ahmed alsarraf

Congratulations on the success of your party, for the third time in the parliamentary elections, the largest in history, with over 640 million voters participating.

My relationship with India, its citizens, and culture dates back to my childhood days over 70 years ago, with my English language teacher "John," extending to "Kumar," the accountant in my father's office, and becoming a part of my life thereafter.

During my work at the Gulf Bank six decades ago,

I received much attention from my Indian colleagues. From them, I learned work ethics, acquired English proficiency, and learned tolerance and love, leading me to leave the job, migrate, and return to my homeland, collaborating with several Indians from diverse backgrounds to establish a successful trading company, which, thanks to them, became the largest in its field after 35 years.

Dear Sir, your first and second terms as Prime Minister were marked by economic miracles that rightfully positioned India where it belongs.

However, those achievements were marred by bleak periods we never wished to see in India, a country with a rich history of coexistence, tolerance, brotherhood, renunciation of violence, and advocacy for peace!

In recent years, the extremism of the Hindu majority has intensified, affecting various other friendly Indian communities.

I do not wish to assume that you sought to exploit religious sentiment to gain more popularity and subsequent votes, but undoubtedly, this factor has gained you significant political leverage, even if unintentionally.

However, you know well that these are short-term gains, which may result in dangerous repercussions in the future, exacerbating internal peace issues. The fragility between the Hindu majority and the Muslim minority, now in a defensive position, may lead to massacres and further extremism,

which you and the friendly Indian people can well do without.

The election results have demonstrated the majority's rejection of the religious rigidity pursued by your party, which is an independent referendum in itself, a warning sign that extremism and minority hostility will not yield reassuring consequences, nor are they in the best interest of the great Indian nation.

A significant indicator is the recent significant drop in the Bombay Stock Exchange and the anticipated rise in unemployment and inflation rates.

In an article published recently in The New York Times, the author described the elections as "the greatest show on earth," a diverse and democratic spectacle, especially considering it took place in a troubled region hostile to freedoms and democracy.

I am unsure how democracy could be unfit for Kuwait, as some claim, while being suitable and beautiful for a small country like Luxembourg, nestled in the heart of advanced and affluent Europe, with an area of 51 sq kilometers and a population of 140 thousand.

Similarly, it suits India, the country with the lowest per capita income, the largest area and population globally, and the most diverse country on earth, with its languages, religions, and cultures.

India is the birthplace of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, with the largest Muslim population compared to any other country, where Christianity existed 2000 years ago, hosting the oldest Jewish temples.

The Dalai Lama resides there, and Zoroastrianism thrived in its plains from Persia. Armenians, Syrians, and others lived in its fields, and it was the world's largest economy for 1500 years of the last millennium.

It elected three Muslim presidents, and a Sikh served as its Prime Minister. Its ruling party leader was an Italian Catholic woman, and Mrs. Gandhi was its Prime Minister, with a rocket scientist as its president.

Yet, democracy would not suit a country like Kuwait?! What happened in India, and before that in Luxembourg, and dozens of other countries, should inspire us to continue on our democratic path after amending the constitution... for the better.

□ □ □

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

'Cultural heritage and craftsmanship are key to Kuwaiti identity'

Kuwaiti Sadu Society holds traditional weaving exhibition at UNESCO

KSHR calls for safer housing conditions after a tragic fire

Employers urged to improve worker's accommodations

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: The Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR) extends its deepest condolences to the families and relatives of the victims of the tragic Mangaf fire, which claimed the lives of several workers while they were in their accommodation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This painful and heartbreaking incident underscores the urgent need to address the issue of decent housing for workers, which should be recognized as a fundamental human right rather than a luxury.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of the critical importance of providing decent housing for workers. Adequate living conditions are essential for the dignity, health, and safety of all workers. The Society emphasizes that employers have a responsibility to ensure that the accommodation they provide meets international standards for labor and workers' rights.

In light of this tragedy, the Kuwait Society for Human Rights urges employers to take immediate action to improve the standards of workers' housing.

This includes and ensuring safety by implementing comprehensive safety systems in all workers' accommodations.

Ministry announces opening of new schools for academic year 2024/25

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: Under the guidance of the Minister of Education and the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, the Ministry of Education is pleased to announce the opening of 19 new schools across various educational regions in preparation for the upcoming academic year 2024/2025.

Capital Educational District: four primary schools -- Boys' Primary School in Jaber Al-Ahmad, Girls' Primary School in Jaber Al-Ahmad; Kindergartens -- Kindergarten 1 and Kindergarten 2

Jahra Educational District: seven primary schools -- Boys' Primary School in Al-Mutlaa, Girls' Primary School in Al-Mutlaa, Boys' Middle School, Girls' Middle School and Boys' Secondary School and Girls' Secondary School

Kindergartens in Al-Mutlaa -- Re-opening of Kindergarten in Sa'ad Al-

Abdullah

Al-Ahmadi Educational Zone: four new schools -- Kindergarten in Al-Wafra, Kindergarten in Sabah Al-Middle Schools -- Boys' Middle School in Al-Wafra, Girls' Middle School in Al-Wafra

Farwaniya Educational Zone: three new schools -- Boys' Middle School in Sabah Al-Nasser, Girls' Middle School in Sabah Al-Nasser and Boys' High School in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak

These new educational institutions are part of government's ongoing commitment to provide quality education and expand educational opportunities for students.

The ministry looks forward to welcoming students to these new facilities and continuing the mission to foster a supportive and enriching learning environment.

accommodations.

This should include the provision of fire extinguishers, air purification devices, fire detection systems, and direct alarm systems to prevent similar accidents in the future.

This is in addition to adhering to international standards and recommendations issued by the International Labor Organization (ILO) concerning workers' housing and safety; providing decent accom-

modation and improvement of living conditions for workers, ensuring that all accommodations are safe, healthy, and dignified.

The Kuwait Society for Human Rights calls on all employers and relevant authorities to prioritize the well-being and safety of workers by adopting these measures. It is essential to prevent such tragedies and to uphold the fundamental rights of all workers.

PARIS, June 13, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Sadu Society held a live show on Wednesday at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a "Ragoum" exhibition of the distinctive artworks made by students as part of an innovative educational program.

The Head of the Sadu Society, Sheikhha Bibi Duaij Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, told KUNA that this educational initiative led by the Society emphasizes the importance of preserving traditional hand weaving skills along with the values rooted in precision and dedication as essential elements of cultural heritage and identity.

She added that this program was designed "specifically for Ministry of Education schools," explaining that it features a curriculum prepared "meticulously" by the Sadu Society team.

She said that the initiative included specialized training workshops for the Department of Art Education, where teachers were trained on skills related to Sadu weaving in its his-



Head of the Sadu Society, Sheikhha Bibi Duaij Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO, Dr. Adam Al-Mulla.

torical and cultural context.

In a similar statement to KUNA, the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO, Dr. Adam Al-Mulla, expressed his happiness at the participation of the Sadu Society and the Ministry of Education in this event, stressing that

such participations reflect the extent of Kuwait's keenness to move forward in enhancing effective cooperation with the sectors of education, culture, social sciences and humanities.

Al-Mulla stressed the importance of encouraging young people to work handicrafts, innovation and perseverance in highlighting the Kuwaiti cultural heritage so that it is known locally, regionally and globally.

Along with Sheikhha Bibi Duaij Al-Sabah, Many Kuwaiti officials participated, a member of the Kuwaiti Sadu Society, the general coordinator of the (Training the Trainer in Textile Art) program, Hanan Al-Kazemi, the technical supervisor for artistic education in the Ministry of Education, Umaima Malallah, and the technical advisor for artistic education in the Ministry of Education, Hamad Al-Hamad.

The exhibition includes a live display of the traditional art of weaving, in addition to distinctive artistic works performed by eighth grade students through the joint program that was included in their curriculum.

20 vital service buildings underway

PAHW signs a KD 1.6 million contract to build fire station in northern Al-Mutlaa

KUWAIT CITY, June 13, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), announced, Wednesday, that it has signed a contract to set up the Northern Fire Station in Al-Mutlaa, with a total value of KD 1.685 million about (USD 5.5 million).

In a statement, Acting General Manager of the Authority, Rashid Al-Enezi, said that this center is the second in the area, taking into consideration the approach to complete public service buildings in conjunction with citizens' housing, to provide their needs.

The project execution was set at 545 days, he explained, adding the PAHW is following up on construction of 20 service buildings in t N9, N10 districts, each includes a health center,

ambulance, central market, shops, police station, municipal building, social unit, community development center, post office, and an office for the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Other 20 service buildings are being constructed among N5, N6, N7, N8, N9, N10 and N12 districts, including six kindergartens, two elementary schools, two middle schools, and nine stores in addition to a gas branch, a telephone exchange building and post office, he added.

The Authority has completed construction of 116 buildings in the area, containing 20 schools, 26 mosques, three health centers, two ambulance centers, 20 stores, two central markets, four gas branches, two police stations, in addition to citizen service center and a fire station, two buildings for each of the municipality, the social unit, the community development center, and a post office, Al-Enezi said.

The electricity was received in 114 buildings, as 99 buildings were handed over to the beneficiary entities, representing various service buildings in the city in coordination with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, he added.

Future goals highlighted

Kuwait's Amiri Award honors top factories

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: During the sixth session of the Amiri Award for Distinguished Factories, the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry, Muhammad Al-Adwani, emphasized the national industrial sector's competitiveness on an international scale, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The forum, held at the Authority's theater, provided winners with a platform to share their success stories and participation experiences.

Al-Adwani highlighted the Authority's commitment to collaborating with industrial institutions to align with global advancements, serving the industrial strategy and Kuwait Vision 2035. He urged Kuwaiti industrial establishments to embrace a culture of excellence and continuous development to benefit both themselves and the country.

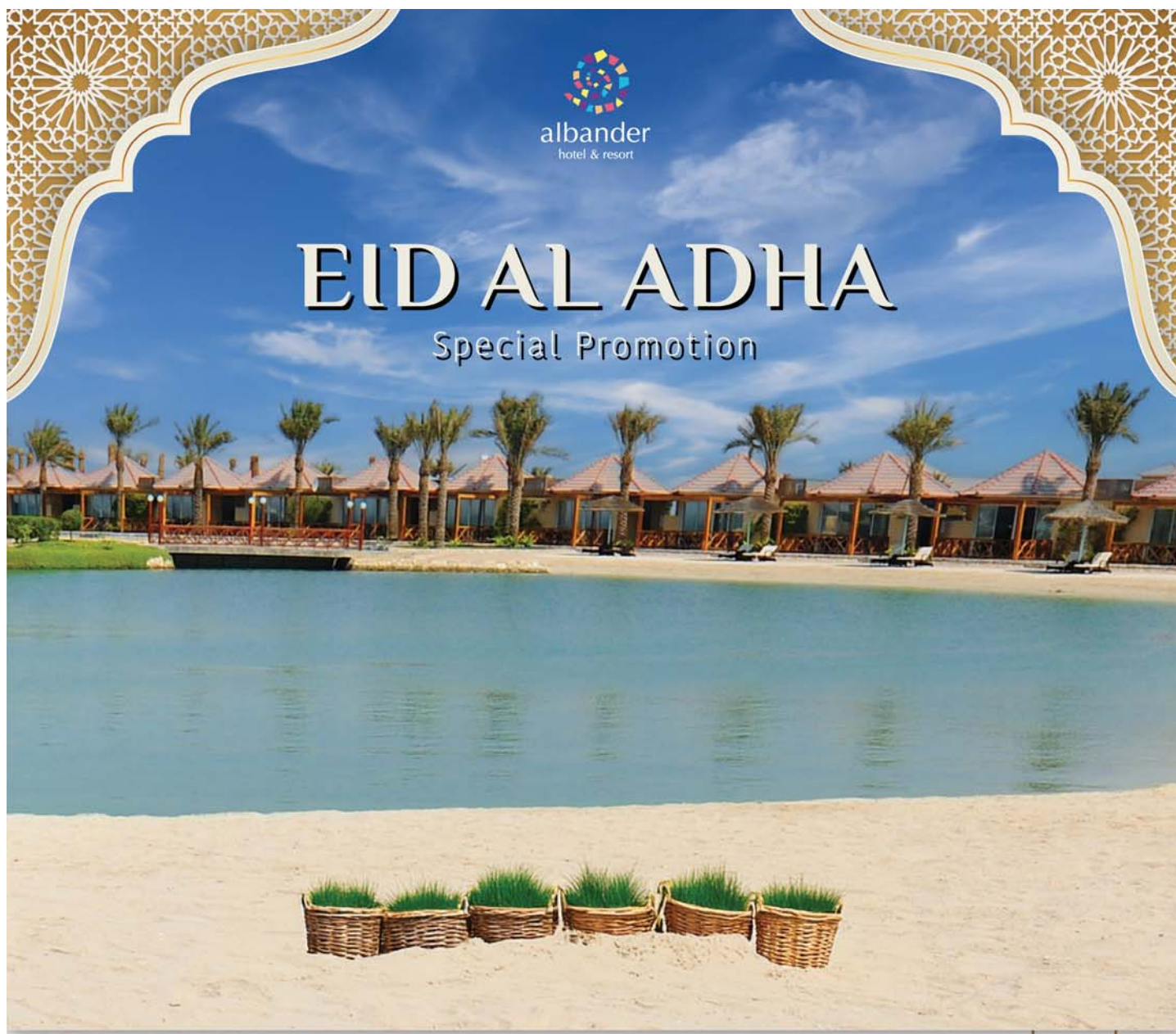
Expressing gratitude to His Highness the Amir for sponsoring the award, Al-Adwani expressed pride in the winning establishments of the sixth and previous sessions. Following the forum, he reiterated the award's significance as an incentive for industrial entities to pursue further development.

Al-Adwani affirmed upcoming sessions would witness developments aimed at enhancing the industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic product, supporting Kuwait's transformation into a regional and global financial hub, and ensuring food security.

The Industry Authority's official spokesperson, Walid Al-Majni, reiterated the Authority's commitment to supporting and advancing Kuwait's industrial sector in line with international standards.

He emphasized the forum's objective to facilitate the exchange of industrial experiences, particularly focusing on the challenges and gains experienced by winning factories.

Al-Majni noted the forum's role in encouraging broader participation from both large-scale factories and small to medium-sized industrial establishments, reflecting growing interest and momentum in the competition.



Room Promotion

From June 12th - 22nd of June 2024

Book for One-night (Inclusive of breakfast)	Queen Cabana (2 persons)	BHD 76.230
	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons)	BHD 170.247
Book for Two nights and get 10% discount (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night.	BHD 69.000 net
	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night	BHD 153.222
Book for Three nights and get 20% discount (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night.	BHD 61.000 net
	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night	BHD 136.198

Food & Beverage Promotion

- First three days of Eid, at the **Fish Market Restaurant** warmly welcomes everyone to enjoy a **15% discount**.
- 15% discount on Room Service
- First three days of Eid, lunch Buffet will be served at **Café Marisol Restaurant** with price of **BD6.500 per person**. Starts from 12:30 PM to 16:00 PM.

Terms and conditions apply

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort



KUNA photo Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah with Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Hector Hajjar at the headquarters of the Permanent Delegation of Kuwait to the United Nations.

Advancing mutual aid initiatives

Kuwait and Lebanon strengthen social affairs ties in UN meeting

NEW YORK, June 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Social Affairs, Family, Childhood, and Minister of Youth Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interests with the Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Hector Hajjar.

The discussion took place during Dr. Al-Huwailah's meeting with Minister Hajjar on Wednesday at the permanent Kuwaiti mission to the United Nations.

Both parties emphasized the deep and strong bonds between the two countries and the distinctiveness of the relations, especially in fields related to social affairs and issues concerning people with disabilities.

The meeting also discussed the ongoing cooperation between the relevant authorities and agencies in both countries, and ways to support and enhance this cooperation further in the future.

Her melancholic and introspective tone set her apart

Françoise Hardy, French singing legend, dies at 80

PARIS, June 13, (AP) — Françoise Hardy, a French singing legend and pop icon since the 1960s, has died. She was 80.

Her son, musician Thomas Dutronc, announced her death on social media, sharing a poignant photo of himself as a child with his mother. Hardy had lymphatic cancer since 2004 and died Tuesday.

Born on Jan. 17, 1944, in Paris, Hardy's career began in 1962 when she recorded her first single, "Tous les garçons et les filles," at the age of 18. The song, which she wrote and composed, quickly became a hit, marking her rise as a key figure in the yé-yé movement, a French response to rock 'n' roll.

Her lyrics often captured the angst and longing of adolescence, resonating deeply with young audiences. Her melancholic and introspective tone set her apart from the more exuberant pop music of her peers.

Hardy's influence extended far beyond France. In 2023, she was the only French artist named in Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 200 greatest singers of all time. Her ethereal voice and distinctive beauty captivated audiences, earning her praise from music legends such as Mick Jagger, Bob Dylan and David Bowie.

"I was passionately in love with her. Every male in the world, and a number of females, also were," Bowie once said.

Hardy had a unique approach to songwriting, emphasizing the importance of melody in her creative process. Speaking to the Associ-

ated Press in 1996 about writing songs, she explained, "I always put the words on the music. It's always like that. I don't write before, and then, I'm looking for music. First, I get the music and (then) I try to put words on it." That method contributed to the distinctive quality of her music, blending poetic lyrics with evocative melodies.



Hardy

Jacques Dutronc was a significant part of her life and work. They met in the mid-1960s and had a son, Thomas, in 1973. Although their relationship faced challenges, including Dutronc's infidelities and their even-

Elegance

Hardy was also celebrated as a fashion muse. Her androgynous looks and understated elegance made her a favorite of the fashion world, with a tall, slender frame, angular features, and long, straight hair. This aesthetic aligned with the modern fashion of the 1960s, emphasizing simplicity and a certain boyish charm. She often wore designs from André Courrèges, Paco Rabanne, and Yves Saint Laurent, in styles that defined the era. Her influence in fashion extended over decades.

Hardy's relationship with fellow musician Jacques Dutronc was a significant part of her life and work. They met in the mid-1960s and had a son, Thomas, in 1973. Although their relationship faced challenges, including Dutronc's infidelities and their even-

tual separation, it deeply influenced her music. Their lives - residing on separate floors of the same Parisian building - mirrored their bittersweet partnership, which was reflected in Hardy's songs.

She also had a keen interest in astrology, authoring several books on the subject and hosting radio shows. Her lyrics and public persona often reflected her introspective nature and fascination with the celestial.

Hardy's battle with cancer was long. She endured numerous treatments, including radiotherapy, which left her deaf in one ear. Despite her health struggles, she continued to produce music, with her final album, "Personne d'autre," released in 2018. This album, marked by its contemplative themes and collaboration with the Finnish indie band Poets of the Fall, confronted issues of mortality.

Tributes have poured in from across the globe. French Culture Minister Rima Abdul Malak hailed her as "an eternal legend of French songs," while fellow musicians like Carla Bruni, Michel Polnareff, and Étienne Daho expressed their deep sorrow and admiration. International artists, including Blur's Graham Coxon and Public Enemy's Chuck D, also paid their homage.

Reflecting on her lifelong love for melodies, Hardy once said, "All my life, I've been on the lookout for beautiful melodies. Listening to them puts me in seventh heaven."

Obituary

Variety



This image released by A24 shows Julia Louis-Dreyfus in a scene from 'Tuesday.' (AP)

Film

Film breaks boundaries with unique narrative

'Tuesday' offers unique take on death

By Lindsey Bahr

Death has taken many forms in cinema. It's been Bengt Ekerot. Ian McKellen. John Cleese. Even Brad Pitt with blonde highlights. But in "Tuesday," filmmaker Daina O. Pusić's bold, fantastical and affecting debut, death looks like a lot like a macaw that's seen better days.

Covered in a thick layer of grime and oil with patches of feathers missing, "Tuesday's" Death can be as big as a room or as small as an ear canal. Its booming, gravelly voice (that of actor Arinzé Kene) sounds ancient and otherworldly. And it all adds up to something profoundly unsettling. Not exactly a comforting welcome into the afterlife, or whatever comes next.

"Tuesday," expanding nationwide Friday, is about death, and acceptance, between a mother and her dying daughter. But this is no Hallmark affair fitting for a sympathy card. It is prickly, wry, somewhat sentimental, a bit gritty and awfully painful at times. Or maybe it's just uniquely British. And you may just find yourself in a puddle of your own tears as a result.

Now, in terms of cinematic emotional blackmail, a parent coming to terms with a child's imminent death is pretty much in the red zone. That sort of setup could produce involuntary tears from an audience regardless of the level of talent involved. Thankfully for us, there is immense creativity and vision both in front of and behind the camera, including not just the writer-director but the special effects experts responsible for Death as well as the haunting and innovative sound design.

Lola Peticrew plays the titular Tuesday, a teen with a "Breathless" pixie cut, a love of jokes and rap music and a terminal illness that has bound her to an oxygen tank and the use of a wheelchair. Her mother, Zora (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), has entirely disconnected from the situation. She tiptoes around the house waiting for the nurse, Billie (a lovely Leah Harvey), to do the caretaking. She stays out all day, pawning household items for cash to pay for the care, ignoring Tuesday's calls and occasionally falling asleep on park benches.

At home, she doesn't want to talk to Tuesday about anything real - the death, her job, their precarious financial position - it's all been deeply repressed and compartmentalized and is making everyone crazy.

The day we meet Zora and Tuesday is the day Death arrives. Billie has left Tuesday on the patio for just a minute to start a bath. All of a sudden, the girl who was just joking around is having an episode, gasping for air, when the macaw lands by her side. Death is actually the first character introduced, in an unnerving series of deaths setting an ominous tone that will loom throughout. Some are ready to go, begging for relief. Some are just scared. And all have the same outcome once he's put his wing around them.

Conversation

Tuesday, however, decides to tell a joke. This disarms Death (who bursts out laughing) and suddenly they're in conversation together. She gives him a bath, puts on some music and asks a favor: She'd like to say goodbye to her mom first. Death obliges.

Of course the story both is and isn't that simple. "Tuesday" becomes some strange combination of body horror, fairy tale, domestic drama and apocalypse thriller. It is weird and transfixing - never predictable and never boring. Louis-Dreyfus is both chilling and deeply empathetic as this woman who has been paralyzed by grief even before it's happened. She seems to be preparing for her own death in a way, unable and unwilling to process a life without her daughter who, at this point, doesn't even realize that her mother still loves her. Peticrew holds her own, going head-to-head with Louis-Dreyfus at her cruelest, exhibiting a wisdom beyond her years and fitting of a person who's had to grow up and face death far too early.

"Tuesday" is ultimately a cathartic affair, whether death is top of mind at the moment or not. And it announces the arrival of a daring filmmaker worth following.

"Tuesday," an A24 release in theaters nationwide Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language. Running time: 111 minutes. Three and a

half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Quincy Jones has been nominated for seven Oscars in the past 55 years, including best original score, best song, and even best picture. Although he's never collected a competitive statuette during the Academy Awards, this November he'll receive an honorary Oscar from the Academy's Board of Governors in recognition of his contributions to the art of film.

Jones, casting director **Juliet Taylor**, filmmaker **Richard Curtis** and **James Bond** producers **Michael G. Wilson** and **Barbara Broccoli** will all be honored at this year's Governors Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Wednesday.

Jones, who has contributed to films like "In Cold Blood," "The Wiz" and "The Color Purple," and Taylor, whose casting credits include "Taxi Driver," "Annie Hall," "Sleepless in Seattle" and "Schindler's List," will receive Academy Honorary Awards. Most honorary Oscar recipients have not yet won a competitive Oscar.

Curtis, the "Notting Hill" and "Love Actually" filmmaker, will get the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for his charitable efforts. A co-founder of Comic Relief UK and USA, he has helped raise more than \$2 billion over the past 40 years. Jones was given the Hersholt award in 1994.

The Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award will go to EON Productions' Wilson and Broccoli, whose 007 credits include "Casino Royale," "Skyfall" and "No Time To Die." Broccoli's father, Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, was given the Thalberg award in 1981.

"The recipients of this year's Governors Awards have set the bar incredibly high across their remarkable careers, and the Academy's Board of Governors is thrilled to recognize them with Oscars," Academy President **Janet Yang** said in a statement. "Their profound love of cinema and indelible contribution to our art form make these five individuals truly deserving of these honors." (AP)

BEIJING: Domestic teen comedy "Be My Friend" continued to lead the box office chart on the Chinese mainland on Wednesday, official data showed.

The movie generated about 6.19 million yuan (870,321 US dollars) in box office revenue on the day, data from the China Movie Data Information Network revealed.

"Be My Friend" tells the story of a teenage girl, raised by a single mother, who travels back in time to understand her mother's past.

It was closely followed by the domestic crime comedy "Walk the Line," which raked in box office sales of 6.1 million yuan on the same day. (Xinhua)

LOS ANGELES: After organizers for Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog-eating contest said **Joey Chestnut** wouldn't compete this year because of a deal with a rival brand, Netflix swiftly announced a new hot dog-eating competition that will feature Chestnut and his "fiercest rival," **Chestnut**, a 16-time hot dog-eating champion, will face off with his frequent Nathan's competitor, **Takeru Kobayashi**, in a live Netflix special on Sept. 2, the streamer announced Wednesday.

The contest, titled "Chestnut vs. Kobayashi: Unfinished Beef," will feature the two chowing down on all-beef hot dogs, likely in a nod to reports that Chestnut's rival brand deal is with Impossible Foods, which makes plant-based hot dogs.

Major League Eating, the organization that oversees the Nathan's contest, announced Tuesday that Chestnut's deal was an "exclusivity" issue, saying that it was his decision to step back from the competition he has participated in since 2005. "We love him. The fans love him," said **George Shea**, a Major League Eating event organizer, adding: "He made the choice."

Chestnut disputed that he made the choice, saying on the social platform X that Nathan's and Major League Eating made the decision, adding that it would "deprive fans of the holiday's usual joy and entertainment."

He also wrote that fans could "rest assured" that they would see him eat again soon, adding: "STAY HUNGRY!" (AP)

ANNECY, France: Dozens of outstanding Chinese animations were presented here on Wednesday, attracting industry partners and animation lovers attending the Anecny International Animation Film Festival and Market (Mifa) held in eastern France.

Based on the theme of "crossing mountains and seas to embrace the diversity of civilizations,"



Chestnut



Kobayashi

the event promoted outstanding Chinese animations during Mifa running from Tuesday to Friday.

Directed by the State Council Information Office of China, the Chinese National Radio and Television Administration, and organized by the China Animation Association, this event aims to present a unique cultural experience and artistic journey to the

global animation community.

Outstanding animation works like "Stories of Dunhuang", "Boonie Bears-Time Twist", "Legendary Su Dongpo", "Blades of the Guardians" and works from about 11 Chinese companies were presented during the event. "I'm attracted to Chinese animation and impressed by its visual quality, colors, effects and touching history," **Hadrien Aim**, a college

student who majors in 3D animation, told Xinhua during his visit to the China pavilion at Mifa.

"The progress of China's animation is very fast, they have expanded the production and increased its quality," **Mohammad Sarshar**, CEO of Shams Animation of Iran, told Xinhua, adding that he was interested in the cooperation opportunities between China and Iran. (Xinhua)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 14-15, 2024

Dawri Zain celebrates season's top athletes



Waleed Al Khashti and Al Mutairi with the Excellence Awards winners.

Company holds Excellence Awards ceremony in partnership with KFA

KUWAIT CITY, June 13: For the second year running, Zain held its prestigious Excellence Awards ceremony to recognize the top athletes of the recently concluded 2023-2024 football season of the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain). During the event, the very best players were recognized on stage for their top performance, after having won the affection of thousands of fans throughout the season.

The special event was held at the Regency Hotel, attended by Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer, Waleed Al Khashti, Kuwait Football Association Vice Chairman, Haief Al Mutairi, KFA Board Member, Fatima Hayat, KFA Secretary-General, Salah Al Qenaie, Deputy General Manager of the Public Sports Authority - Sports for All Division, Hamed Al Hazeem, Al Qabas and SHASHA Managing Director, Nasser Al Momen, Zain and KFA officials, along with members of the local sports community and local and regional sports media. The event was presented by popular sports influencer Musaad Al Fouzan.

During the ceremony, Zain and the KFA took to the stage to celebrate and award the top performers of the 2023-2024 season with the cash prizes announced at the season's kick-off last year. The recognition came after the technical committee officially announced the winners on-stage, after which they were presented with the following cash prizes:

Winner	Club	Award
Mohammed Daham	Kuwait SC	Season's Best Player (KD 10,000)
Bader Al Mutawa	Qadsia SC	Season's Top Scorer - Locals (KD 2500)
Yousef Nasser	Kuwait SC	Season's Top Scorer - Locals (KD 2500)
Mohammed Daham	Kuwait SC	Season's Top Scorer - Locals (KD 2500)
Hamza Khaba	Arabi SC	Season's Top Scorer - Pros (KD 5000)
Saud Al Houshan	Kuwait SC	Season's Best Goalkeeper (KD 5000)
Nabeel Maloul	Kuwait SC	Season's Best Coach (KD 3000)
Muath Al Osaima'	Salmiya SC	Season's Best Rising Star (KD 2000)

In addition to the above, Zain also presented a weekly Player of the Round Award - Premier League (KD 500) and a weekly Player of the Round Award - First Division League (KD 200). Winners in these two categories were previously announced by Zain. The company also presented a Best Photo of the Season Award (KD 1000), dedicated to photographers, which was won by Faisal Al Loughani.

Zain remains a main supporter of



Waleed Al Khashti speaking at the event.

local athletes and believes that such encouragement contributes to elevating the league's performance and bringing even more excitement to all fans. For this reason, the company has pledged not only to continue this support but has also added new prize categories to reflect its interest in shouldering the local sports sector.

Prior to the season's kickoff, the Kuwait Football Association

formed a special committee to outline the standards and criteria on which the prize winners were selected. The committee is membered by former international players and experts Abdulaziz Hamadah (committee head), Hamad Al Enzi, Ahmad Mousa, Hussain Hakem, and Hussain Al Mutairi. Zain extends its thanks to the committee for their efforts in selecting the winners throughout the season.

The event also witnessed awarding

the top three winners of the Zain Fantasy League for the 2023-2024 season. The new season of the online competition was kicked-off by Zain last year to bring local sports to the digital scene. Over 6000 players signed up to play, and the three top winners were awarded as follows: first place winner Mutlaq Salman (KD 5000), second place winner Ahmad Sanasiri (KD 3500), and joint third place winners Shadi Makki and

Aysha Al Hamad (KD 750 each).

With this prestigious awards ceremony, Zain has successfully concluded the second season of its strategic partnership with the Kuwait Football Association, which continues throughout the 2022-2026 seasons. This season, the competitions included the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain), won by Kuwait SC, H.H. the Amir's Cup, won by Qadsia SC, and the Zain First Division League, won by Yarmouk SC.

Under this partnership, Zain's role centered around three main areas: supporting athletes with cash prizes, launching social events and interacting with fans at stadiums, and the first-ever Fantasy Football League in Kuwaiti football's history. These contributions and more went in line with the KFA's vision to bolster the local football scene. Zain also extended its appreciation



Zain team at the event.



Bader Al Mutawa and Mohammed Daham winners of the season's Top Scorer Award.

to SHASHA, the leading local streaming platform, for the distinguished experience of broadcasting Dawri Zain's matches this season. The latest streaming technologies were used to

air matches and analysis studies with the best sports pundits to fans through SHASHA's digital platforms.

Zain firmly believe that the private sector has a vital and active

role in developing the local sports and youth sectors, and it makes this belief a reality by sponsoring and supporting some of the biggest sports programs in the nation.



Haief Al Mutairi speaking at the event.



Mohammed Daham winner of the Best Player in the Season Award.



Saud Al Houshan winner of the Best Goalkeeper Award.

