



Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

Opinion

After matters have settled with people's support, we are now awaiting good news

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THERE are some people who remain oblivious to the changing times.

Among such people are those who firmly believe that the latest measures of the new era will lead to a stronger repetition of the events that occurred in the 1980s.

However, there is no doubt that their assumptions are based on illusions.

Today, things are different from what they were in the 70s and 80s.

Today, more than 40 years after those events and 33 years since liberation, Kuwaitis are convinced that any reckless adventure could jeopardize their national destiny.

It is known in political science that a corrupt state is better than no state.

They worked to exploit everything for their personal interests.

They worked to exploit everything for their personal interests, from roads and services to development projects.

In their delusion, these individuals went as far as to undermine the authority of the Amir.

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

TOP U.N. COURT ORDERS ISRAEL TO HALT AGGRESSION

Kuwait backs ICJ verdict against assault on Rafah

EU calls for immediate Israeli compliance

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait on Saturday welcomed the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) verdict against the Israeli occupying forces to stop their aggression on the Palestinian city of Rafah.

In a press release, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed the necessity to implement all temporary measures announced by the ICJ since South Africa's filed lawsuit against the Israeli occupying forces.

The release reiterated call on the international community to shoulder its due responsibilities

Kuwait hails decades of historic GCC unity on 43rd anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has a rich history of strategic cooperation, said Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya.

In a statement to KUNA on Saturday, on the occasion of the GCC's 43rd establishment

Continued on Page 5



Chief of Staff of the Kuwait Army Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain inspects ongoing work at Abdullah Al-Mubarak and Nawaf Al-Ahmad air bases on Saturday.

Kuwait Army chief inspects air base projects for progress

Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, Chief of Staff of the Kuwait Army, inspected the projects at Abdullah Al-Mubarak and Nawaf Al-Ahmad air bases on Saturday.

of army initiatives.

In a press statement, Lieutenant General Al-Muzain emphasized the importance of accelerating the pace of work to ensure timely completion.

ments and equipment at the bases.

Lieutenant General Al-Muzain was accompanied by Air Force Commander Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, Head of Military Base Transition Engineer Faisal Al-Hajri, and several Air Force officers and engineers.

NBK-Egypt posts 1 Q 2024 net profit

Details Page 8

ALSAYER Group holds employee convention

Details Page 10

China stands with Kuwait on sovereignty: Ambassador Jianwei

'Kuwait, China maintain strategic partnership'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Ambassador of China to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei said the Chinese-Gulf relations are developing very significantly.

In his speech during a press conference held at his home, Ambassador Jianwei said the Gulf countries have aspirations to strengthen cooperation with China as it is a peaceful country and its economy is ranked second in the world.

Regarding the latest developments in the agreement with Kuwait to manage Mubarak Port, he explained, "During the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, a cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries regarding Mubarak Port."



Photo by Iehab Qurtal H.E. Zhang Jianwei, China's Ambassador to Kuwait

when completed, it will bring development to Kuwait."

Strategic partner

Amb. Jianwei said, "We have confidence in the future of cooperation with Kuwait, which is going through an important stage.

Kuwait is a strategic partner for China, which will remain a reliable partner with Kuwait. We are working with the Kuwaiti side in accordance with these agreements on the ground.

In response to a question about whether there is an expected visit by the Chinese president to Kuwait in the near future, the ambassador replied, "The president pays great attention to Kuwait and there is a desire on his part to visit it."

He then emphasized the implementation of the agreements reached between the leadership of the two countries during the visit made by His Highness the Amir, when he was the Crown Prince, to China last September.

Amb. Jianwei said, "We are working with Kuwait to materialize these agreements, because realizing

Continued on Page 5

Continued on Page 5

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable of congratulations to King Abdullah II of Jordan on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Jordanian monarch good health and the Hashemite Kingdom's people further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to King Abdullah II of Jordan on the occasion of the Hashemite Kingdom's National Day.

GENEVA: Kuwait is continuously taking part in preserving heritage with the international community, said a senior Kuwaiti diplomat on Saturday.

The remarks came in a statement to KUNA by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN and Other International Organizations Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, who chaired Kuwait's delegation in the Diplomatic Conference on adopting a new treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, under the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva.

The ambassador hailed WIPO's role in preserving heritage, as well as in finding a balanced international system for intellectual property, which encourages innovation and creativity.

The 11-day conference saw the signing of a treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, said Al-Hayen.

The event also included signing the conference's final statement by 180 countries, including Kuwait, he added.



Al-Hayen

Reforms enhance resilience, border security

EU adopts Schengen Borders Code update

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): The European Union Friday gave its final approval to a new Schengen Borders Code, the EU's rulebook that deals with the management of internal and external borders, as well as the rules governing border control of persons crossing the external EU borders.

The reform is instrumental in making the Schengen area more resilient to present and future crises at its external borders. It also makes sure that people living and traveling in the EU can fully enjoy the benefits of borderless travel, noted an EU statement.

The regulation introduces the possibility to adopt EU-wide measures that restrict the access of third-country nationals to the EU in the event of a large-scale public health emergency.

It also puts in place a transfer procedure that will help tackle the secondary movement of migrants (from one EU member state to another).

"Travelling in the Schengen zone without border checks is one of the main accomplishments of the EU. With today's vote we have given member states tools at hand to maintain borderless travel within the Schengen area, while securing external borders, addressing irregular migration and public health risks," added the statement.

This regulation enters into force on the 20th day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It is directly applicable in the EU countries.

FM Al-Yahya extols unity, cooperation; ambassadors laud Kuwaiti initiatives

Kuwait strengthens ties with African nations on Africa Day

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya affirms the keenness of the State of Kuwait to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination with the countries of the African continent in a way that brings mutual benefits.

In statements issued to journalists on the sidelines of his participation in the Africa Day celebration, he wished the countries and people of Africa prosperity, development, security and safety.

Minister Al-Yahya stressed that the relationship between the State of Kuwait and the countries of the African continent is deep and historical.

He expressed his happiness in participating at the Africa Day celebration, highlighting that the African nations are united despite their different ethnicities and languages.

Meanwhile, the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps and the Ambassador of the Republic of Togo to Kuwait Mohamed Saad Ouro, in the speech he delivered on behalf of the African ambassadors, expressed his appreciation and gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad for his sincere support for the African continent since the time he ascended the throne as Amir of the State of Kuwait.

Amb. Ouro said, "Kuwait plays an important role in supporting our continent by providing many initiatives not only in economic development plans but also at the political and cultural level. This is a clear indication that the African-Kuwaiti relationship is witnessing tremendous growth in various fields, especially investments and trade, for further progress and prosperity for the conti-



Photos during the celebration commemorating Africa Day.

Photos by Samer Shaqir

nent and Kuwait."

He stressed the keenness of the African ambassadors to achieve the goals of the African Union's slogan, which is "Educating and Refining Africa" by enhancing cooperation with Kuwait in the cultural and educational fields.

Regarding the occasion, Amb. Ouro said, "Our beloved continent celebrates Africa Day, which is the day of the founding of the Organization of African Unity on May 25, 1963, in preparation for the establishment of the Organization of the African Union in 2002. It is a day when we celebrate our unity, and it is a colorful manifestation of the wonderful diversity of our cultures, which integrates and interconnects between cultures."

Minister Bushehri orders a probe into Qibla, Mirqab power outage

MEW reaches 98% national workforce

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable En-

ergy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri recently issued a directive on the formation of a technical investigation committee to determine the reasons behind the power outage in some parts of Qibla and Mirqab, which include some important government facilities.

He stressed that every negligent official will be held accountable, while emphasizing the need for emergency teams to be prepared and lay down proactive plans to limit power outages.

The minister's directive was issued after the main substation, Mirqab A, went out of service last Tuesday, which led to a two-hour power outage in some parts of Mirqab and Qibla, where many government headquarters are located, most notably the Ministries Complex and Kuwait Municipality, as well as a number of banks, governmental and non-governmental institutions, whose work was disrupted due to the power outage.

On the other hand, Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Training Sector at the ministry Eng. Ali Shaaban said the ministry will soon announce the second edition of the Innovation Award; indicating that the first award was in 2016.

He pointed out that the award is designated for the ministry's employees and the idea of the award is based on encouraging them to put forward ideas that can contribute to developing work procedures.

He added a promotional video will be released soon to encourage the employees to participate in the competition. "We will select three winners from each category, whether individuals or a group of not more than three people. All winners will receive the prize during an awards ceremony that will be held under the patronage of the minister," he revealed.

He explained that there will be dialogue sessions on topics related to the award categories, noting that one of the ideas applied in the past was related to management systems and information technology.

He stressed that the aim of the award is "to think about creative solutions" to push for development and advancement of the ministry.

Meanwhile, the nationalization process at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has reached 98 percent as of April 2024.

This achievement aligns with the ministry's commitment to implement decision number 11/2017 issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). It has been reported that 14,441 Kuwaitis have been appointed since the issuance of the aforementioned decision until April 2024. This brings the total number of national workers to 33,419, compared to 19,078 in 2017 -- 93.3 percent of the total workforce. During the same period, the number of expatriate workers decreased by 513, from 1,362 in 2017 to 848 as of April 2024, following the enforcement of the decision mentioned above.

Additionally, the ministry is planning to conduct the necessary studies related to consultative services for operating and protecting the electricity system, as well as the commercial exchange of electricity with Gulf countries. The relevant tender is currently being prepared and is expected to be released in 2024/2025.



KUNA photo Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar meets Chinese official on commercial cooperation.

Commercial co-op

MoCI's Al-Omar meets China's NDRC official

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar discussed with vice chairman of the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) the prospects of promoting commercial cooperation.

The meeting took place on Thursday following the minister's participation in the China-GCC Forum on Investment and Industrial Cooperation in Xiamen city, Fujian province, southeast China, according to a statement from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Both sides commended the growing economic relations between Kuwait and China which gained momentum from the visit to China by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in last September.

During the visit, His Highness the Amir met Chinese President Xi Jinping and both countries signed a number of MoUs on mega development projects.

Al-Omar told the Chinese official that Kuwait attaches great importance to the implementation of the documents which were endorsed by the competent agencies in both countries, the statement added.



Ali Al-Muhanna

Al-Muhanna clinches most 'influential student' award

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: In a notable feat for Kuwaiti youth, Ali Al-Muhanna, currently pursuing psychology studies at the British University of Bristol, has secured the prestigious Most Influential Student Award, becoming the sole Gulf national to achieve this distinction reports Al-Qabas daily. Al-Muhanna said this esteemed accolade is bestowed upon just fifty students annually from a pool of 30,000 candidates at the university.

He attributed his success to a range of activities undertaken throughout the academic year, notably highlighting his prior publication addressing the challenges of academic pursuits and strategies for overcoming them.

Serving as president of the Kuwaiti Club and vice president of the Gulf Society at the university, Al-Muhanna and his peers orchestrated numerous educational and social initiatives, further solidifying his reputation as a highly esteemed and influential figure within the student body.

Looking ahead, Al-Muhanna eagerly anticipates the release of his third book, titled "The Conflict of Identity," wherein he delves into the intricacies of Western and Eastern societies and the transformative impact of educational scholarships on students' identities.

albander hotel & resort

May Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 2nd May to 31st May 2024

Terms & conditions apply*



Sunrisers Hyderabad's captain Pat Cummins, right, addresses a press conference as Kolkata Knight Riders' captain Shreyas Iyer looks on in Chennai, India, Saturday, May 25, 2024. Both teams will play in the finals of the Indian Premier League cricket tournament on Sunday. (AP)

— See Page 14

Sports

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

Kuwait Club win third straight league title

Al-Abyad rout Al-Qadisiya



Al-Arabi Club's Bandar Al-Salama controls the ball during the league match.

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Kuwait Club secured the Zain Premier League title for the third consecutive year and 19th title in its history by defeating Al-Qadisiya 3-0 in the ninth and penultimate round of the championship group.

In the same round, Al Arabi drew 1-1 with Al Fahaheel, and Al Salmiya triumphed over Al Nasr 5-3.

Kuwait Club's points tally reached 66, followed by Al Arabi with 59, Al-Qadisiya with 51, Al Salmiya with 35, and Al Fahaheel with 32. Al Nasr remained in sixth place with 24 points.

Mohammed Dahham scored for Kuwait in the 10th minute, Youssef Al-Haqan added an own goal in the 12th, and Youssef Nasser netted a penalty kick in the 60th minute.

"Al-Abyad" showed its strength against Al-Qadisiya, achieving its goal and securing three points to avoid facing Al-Arabi in a critical situation in the final round scheduled for tomorrow. This ensured they avoided any scenario that could complicate their mission.

Kuwait Club is just two behind Al-Arabi and Al-Qadisiya. Maintaining this performance could make it challenging for their rivals to catch up.

Kuwait Club's Tunisian coach, Nabil Maaloul, described this league edition as "the most difficult in terms of competing for the title." He took over mid-season with equal points with Al-Arabi and one point behind Al-Qadisiya. Maaloul noted that the Premier League teams' level was unprecedentedly strong, with Al-Qadisiya and Al-Arabi competing until the last rounds.

He praised the tremendous efforts by everyone in Kuwait Club, whose continuous and diligent work culminated in winning the title. Regarding his future with Kuwait Club next season, he mentioned that "things have not yet been resolved with the administration."

SOCCER

Vice President of the Football Association in Kuwait Club, Adel Oqla, attributed his team's success to continuous work in the "White Castle," the administration's support, and the great effort by the players, as well as the technical, administrative, and medical staff.

He emphasized that the championships and successes achieved by "Al-Abyad" increase the responsibility and require more work in the coming period. He noted the task this season was challenging due to fierce competition from Al-Arabi, Al-Qadisiya, and most participating teams.

Regarding the victory over Al-Qadisiya, Oqla pointed out that the players were highly focused and succeeded in achieving its goals within the first quarter of an hour.

During the ninth round of the Zain Premier League, Al-Arabi Club's player, Bandar Al-Salama, sustained an injury in the match against Al-Fahaheel. Despite no apparent contact from opposing players, Al-Salama collapsed in the first half. Medical tests confirmed a partial tear in his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). This injury comes after a previous ACL injury in November 2022, which sidelined him for six months.



Kuwait Club players celebrate after beating Al-Qadisiya to win the Zain Premier League.

Kuwait included in expanded World Championship 'lineup'

PRAGUE, May 25: Fuhaid Al-Ajmi, President of the Kuwaiti Winter Games Club, announced that the International Ice Hockey Federation has increased the number of teams in the fourth level of the World Championship, which includes the Kuwaiti team, from four to six. The expanded roster now includes teams from Kuwait, Iran, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Armenia. This decision was made during the Federation's General Assembly meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, with Kuwaiti representatives present.

Al-Ajmi explained that this increase will enhance competitiveness at this level, helping to develop and improve the technical skills of the teams in-

involved. He emphasized that the club will intensify its efforts to prepare the Kuwaiti team for the upcoming championship next year, aiming to win the title and advance to the third level. The

ICE HOCKEY

Kuwaiti team came close to achieving this in the previous championship held in Kuwait last April, finishing in second place.

He also noted that the club is committed to participating in meetings of international, continental, and regional federations for all five of its winter games.



Kuwaiti delegation to the International Ice Hockey Federation meeting.

Man United win FA Cup after stunning Man City

LONDON, May 25, (AP): Manchester United won the FA Cup after stunning defending champion Manchester City 2-1 in the final at Wembley on Saturday.

United's first silverware of the season deprived crosstown rival City of the first back-to-back English league-cup doubles.

SOCCER

The final was a repeat of last year's which City won 2-1, and Pep Guardiola's team did not give up its trophy without a fight.

Alejandro Garnacho opened the scoring in the 30th minute after mistakes from City defender Josko Gvardiol and goalkeeper Stefan Ortega.

Kobbie Mainoo then added a second goal in the 39th to spark pas-

'Laporta will have to explain why I won't continue'

BARCELONA, Spain, May 25, (AP): Xavi Hernández said Saturday that he is leaving Barcelona with "a clear conscience" that he did his best after the club decided to part ways with the former player, but that it will be up to president Joan Laporta to explain why he is going.

"These have obviously been tough days, but my conscience is clear," head

coach Xavi said. "I have been here two-and-a-half years. It has not been easy. But I think that we can feel proud of the work we have done."

In his first news conference since Barcelona announced on Friday that Xavi would not finish the final year of his contract, the 44-year-old said that he will now "take a break" from coaching.

His last game in charge will be at Sevilla on Sunday.

Xavi's departure comes just one month after he had walked back a previous decision he made in January to leave the club this summer. In April, he said that he had changed his mind because the team was playing better and he believed it could bounce back from a trophy-less campaign.

Laporta had publicly celebrated Xavi's commitment to stay at that time. But last week the president was reportedly displeased when the head coach spoke openly about how the club's poor finances would impede it from competing with fierce rival Real Madrid.

SOCCER

Neither Laporta nor any club official has said why they wanted Xavi to leave, and the head coach did not shed any light on the circumstances of his exit either.

"The president told me his reasons for why he thinks the club needs a change, and I can only respect that. I am a club man," Xavi said. "We shook hands, hugged and wished one another the best. From now on I will be just another fan."

"He will have to explain his motives," Xavi's only previous coaching job was at a Qatari club before Laporta brought him back to take over at Barcelona in November 2021. He led the team to the Spanish league title last year, its first major trophy since Lionel Messi left, and signed a one-year contract extension in September.

But Barcelona struggled to compete this campaign and it will finish the league a distant second to champion Madrid.

Spanish and German media speculated that former Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick would become Xavi's replacement.

Whoever arrives will inherit a team with young talents Lamine Yamal, Pau Cubarsi and the injured Gavi Páez but with very limited financial resources to sign new players.

Artem Dovbyk scored a hat trick as Girona crushed Granada 7-0 and put the perfect finish to the Catalan club's spectacular season on Friday.



Manchester City's Erling Haaland challenges for the ball with Manchester United's Diogo Dalot during the English FA Cup final soccer match between Manchester City and Manchester United at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)