



Amir receives Crown Prince Kuwait Prime Minister ... four decades of expertise



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Wednesday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has a distinguished, deep scientific, professional and political experience acquired from serving in multiple official posts for decades.

His Highness the Prime Minister's march was capped with a resolution by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on April 15, 2024, appointing him at the head of the government.

He had been quite successful in his work in the sectors of banking and public administration, mirroring a unique mentality of deep know-how on setting the priorities to press ahead with the aspired development.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, born in 1952, studied at Al-Sharqiah School in Kuwait, the American University in Beirut, and got a Bachelor's degree in bank funding and investments in 1976 from the University of Illinois, the US.

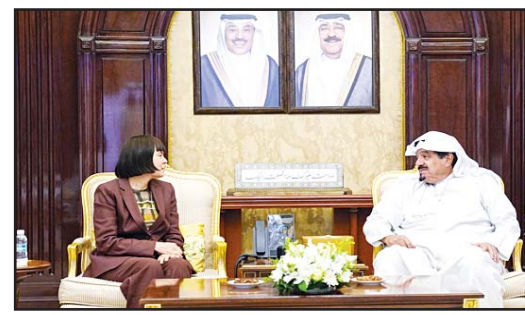
Forty years ago, he kicked off his career march working at the Kuwait Financial Center until the 70s, and then he joined the Central Bank of Kuwait where



HH the PM with UAE Ambassador.



HH the PM with Canada's Ambassador.



HH the PM with US Ambassador.

Prime Minister receives UAE, Canada and US ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Mutar Al-Neyadi, Canada's Ambassador to Kuwait Aliya Mawani and the US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Hideko Sasahara at Bayan Palace on Wednesday.

His Highness and the Ambassadors discussed the bilateral relations between their countries, along with issues of common interest. Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel – Head of the Diwan of the Prime Minister, attended the meeting as well.

Kuwait targets drug abuse

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, June 26: "Drug addiction is a global problem that continues to exacerbate and threatens almost every home," says Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi.

In his speech during the celebration of the World Day to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the

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KUNA photo
Minister of Electricity and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri during his visit to Minister of Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan.

Ministries praise collab for infrastructure goals

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: Within the framework of taking effective steps towards achieving the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri made an urgent visit to Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, during which they discussed key ideas and plans related to infrastructure and new projects aimed at advancing the wheels of progress and development in the country, as well as crucial joint topics and projects.

The two ministers exchanged opinions and experiences on the mechanisms to accelerate the pace of work, remove obstacles to the implementation of housing projects and solve the problems in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, South Saad Al-Abdullah and Al-Mutlaa as quickly as possible.

Both parties stressed the urgent need for continuous cooperation and exchange of experiences between ministries as an essential step to ensure the effective completion of vital projects that will greatly support Kuwait's infrastructure and contribute to achieving the State's strategic goals

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KNPC expands digital upgrade for efficiency

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has made strenuous efforts to enhance the digital transformation process in all its operations to protect assets, develop operational efficiency and maintain its competitiveness in global markets.

In a statement to KUNA, Manager of Information Technology Department at KNPC Eng. Naji Al-Marri said that KNPC's journey in the field of digital transformation and the accumulated experience it has gained since its establishment in 1960 have brought it very close to declaring itself a "paperless company."

Al-Marri added that the company has achieved advanced levels of mechanization of its operations in its various facilities, including the main building, Mina Abdullah and Mina Al-Ahmadi refineries, local marketing, Sabhan and Ahmadi warehouses.

He noted the efforts of successive generations of employees in the company that stand behind achieving this technical institutional excellence, pointing out it has given them the opportunity to present their ideas and development projects in the technical field.

He explained that the company is currently moving towards building a modern digital infrastructure to accommodate artificial intelligence technologies and other technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He stated that the digital transformation has led to improving performance of technical work in refineries and administrative departments through the use of latest modern technologies and working to simplify and unify operations and procedures in all fields of the company.

For his part, KNPC Chairman of the Digital Transformation and Innovation Committees Eng. Bassam Al-Shammari said in a similar statement said that various digital transformation initiatives have been adopted by the company.

He added that among these initiatives are the integrated hydrocarbon supply chain, the digital twin, smart asset management, improving current systems, smart energy management, smart monitoring, smart connected workforce, smart automation and smart procurement.

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Visa 20 to Visa 18 transfer under review

– Details Page 2 –

Cabinet warns against fake news, threatens legal steps

Gov't informed of progress in Philippines labor resumption



PM Diwan photos
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet has cautioned against the perils of rumor-mongering and disinformation, urging social media and news services to ensure professionalism, credibility and national interest.

The Cabinet gave the warning during its weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace Tuesday under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

It lashed out at some social media sites and news services for having recently published ungrounded reports on measures taken by ministries and governmental bodies.

Calling on everybody to shoulder responsibility for publishing or republishing fake news stories, the Cabinet warned that legal action would be taken against anyone involved in rumormongering and disinformation.

During the meeting, First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah apprised the Cabinet of the outcome of his meeting with Philippines Department of Migrant Workers Undersecretary Bernard Ollia, which ultimately found a breakthrough to lift the ban on domestic employment from the Philippines.

He added that both sides had also agreed to form a joint committee pertinent to domestic labor affairs, one that would convene in a routine manner to address any sticking points that could potentially emerge.

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News watch

BEIRUT: Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said on Wednesday that Lebanon would avoid escalating the situation in the southern border with the Israeli occupation in line with its international commitments.

Speaking to media, Mikati – after meeting with Vatican Secretary Pietro Parolin – said the stability and the interests of Lebanon should not be connected to regional wars.

He affirmed that Lebanon's priority was to safeguard its security and work on economic recovery as soon as possible. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Al-Sudani held talks on Wednesday with US ambassador to Baghdad Alina Romanowski, focusing on plans to end the mission of the global coalition fighting the so-called Islamic State.

The talks revolved around the role of an Iraqi ad hoc committee tasked with wrapping up the mission of global coalition forces in Baghdad, in addition to current happenings around the region, chief among them the Israeli war against the Gaza Strip, said a statement by the Iraqi prime minister's office. (KUNA)

ADEN: Yemenia Airways announced Wednesday that Houthi Militia had seized four of its aircraft at Sanaa International Airport, threatening the safety of air navigation and making it difficult to operate flights to and from Yemen's airports.

In a statement, Yemenia said that it was surprised that the militia seized three of its Airbus 320 aircraft, bringing the number of aircraft seized to four, noting that the Airbus 330 had been detained for more than a month. (KUNA)

EPA develops renewable energy strategy in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): Acting Director General of Kuwait Environment Public Authority (EPA) Eng. Sameera Al-Kandari reaffirmed on Wednesday Kuwait's endeavor to enhance mutual cooperation with European Union countries in the field of renewable energy.

Al-Kandari's speech came during The Green Transition symposium organized by the authority in coordination with the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Investment funds, stressing that the country seeks, through its cooperation with the European Union countries, to gain expertise in capacity building, technology transfer, improving energy efficiency and using the best practices and available solutions.

For her part, the European Union Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen said that the Union is one of the most important supporters in the field of green transition, stressing the commitment in supporting Kuwait to achieve its goals in the field of renewable energy for the year 2030.

She stressed that this event provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and present the best solutions in the topics of green transition and the integration of renewable energy technologies, in addition to improving environmental regulation and economic diversification strategies in Kuwait through investment in the field of renewable energy.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Acting Director General of Kuwait Environment Public Authority (EPA) Eng. Sameera Al-Kandari.

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5 domestic labor offices shut down

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: The Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Faisal Al-Ansari, disclosed that five domestic labor offices in the Hawalli region have been closed due to serious violations.

These violations primarily involved non-compliance with ministerial regulations and laws governing the recruitment process.

In an interview with Al-Seyassah,

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KUNA photo
Acting Director General of Kuwait Environment Public Authority (EPA) Eng. Sameera Al-Kandari.

Day by Day

WHEN Bahrain chose to suspend the Constitution, a commission was established comprising highly skilled individuals, including prominent constitutional experts. Their collective efforts produced a comprehensive report that brought immense satisfaction to the people of Bahrain, ensured national stability, resolved all disputes, and reinstated legitimacy to the regime.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:15 Asr 15:25
 Sunrise... 04:50 Maghrib .. 18:51
 Zohr 11:50 Isha 20:24

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to light variable wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-38 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	35

	Kuwait Airport	Abdaly	Jahra	Salmiyah	Nuwaisib	Wafra
	47	48	48	43	46	48
	34	30	34	35	34	32

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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receiving some of the officials.

KUNA photos

HH Crown Prince receives MoFA officials, diplomats, army and police chiefs

In a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received senior officials of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, chiefs of accredited diplomatic missions in Kuwait and senior officials of the Army, Police, National Guard and Fire Service Direc-

torate at Al-Sabah Family's Diwan in Bayan Palace on Tuesday. Also, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received at Bayan Palace, Wednesday, President of the Supreme Judicial Council, President of the Court of Cassation, Dr. Adel Boursli. (KUNA)

HH Amir sends congratulations to Madagascar on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Rajoelina good health and wellbeing and for Madagascar more progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Andry Rajoelina, on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Rajoelina good health and wellbeing.

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

Draft eyed to lift ban on domestic workers 'transfer' for two months

Sheikh Fahad Yousef leads labor market reform initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), chaired the initial session of the authority's board for the 2024/2025 term, underscoring the leadership's commitment to enhancing and organizing the labor market.

The Ministry of Interior's General Administration of Security Relations and Media announced in a press release that a key outcome of the meeting was the approval of the Public Authority for Manpower's financial statements for the fiscal year 2023/2024, aiming to foster transparency. The statement highlighted the ongoing efforts to refine policies benefiting diverse sectors in the nation, reflecting the leadership's vision of achieving harmony and synergy across sectors, and bolstering workforce efficiency to drive sustainable development.

Furthermore, preparations are underway within the authority to draft a decision temporarily lifting the ban on transferring domestic workers to the private sector for an approximate two-month period. This step will be accompanied by stringent controls and conditions to ensure orderly processes and balance in the labor market supply and demand.

The authority reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to labor market development and meeting its requirements, aligning with the state's strategic objectives for human and economic advancement. The session was attended by members of the authority's board of directors and representatives from the private sector, emphasizing collaboration and partnership between public and private entities.

Capital Governorate to collaborate with MEW

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: Governor Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali of the Capital affirmed the governorate's complete readiness to collaborate closely with the Ministry of Electricity and Water. The aim is to utilize all available resources and capabilities effectively in order to reduce electrical loads, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This collaborative effort is part of a shared vision that includes awareness campaigns and other initiatives, all aimed at achieving desired outcomes that support national and community efforts.

The statement came during a meeting at the Governorate Office, attended by Engineer Faisal Sumait, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Electrical Transmission Networks, and Engineer Fahad Al-Mutairi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Customer Service at the Ministry of Electricity.

Also present were members of the Conservation Committee at the Ministry of Electricity and Sheikhha Mathal Al-Ahmad, Head of the Voluntary Work Center, alongside other governorate officials.



First Deputy PM, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef chairs the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Manpower.

KUNA photo

Kuwait's Q8 organizes smart city conference in Rome

KPI signs partnership agreement with Italy's Fox Petrol to produce biofuels

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) announced on Wednesday completing the agreement to acquire a 50 percent stake in Italy's Eco Fox SRL, a company wholly owned by Fox Petrol, which specializes in the production of biofuels.

In a statement to KUNA, KPI stated that this announcement follows the approval of the European Union's Directorate-General for Competition in accordance with the laws of the European Union and the Italian Republic.

This deal is considered the first biofuel play by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in its international operations, making it achieve a key component in KPC and its subsidiaries strategy for Energy Transition 2050, the statement added.

KPI's Chief Executive Officer, Shafi Al-Ajmi, expressed his pride in this accomplishment that enhances the provision of sustainable fuel to the company's customers across Europe, particularly in the Italian market.

He noted that it aligns with KPI's strategy to grow and enhance its market share in Europe, while diversifying the company's products in line with European demand and the global trend towards sustainability.

Al-Ajmi also highlighted the significant role played by national talent in capturing global investment opportunities and exploring every avenue to advance the company's operations in European markets, thanking them for their contribution to this achievement.

Executive Vice President for Marketing at KPI Fadel Al-Faraj stated that this acquisition is particularly significant as it represents a launching point for the 'Q8' brand to become a leader in sustainable biofuel production in Europe.

What adds to the importance of this achievement is its coincidence with the 40th anniversary of KPI's founding, Al-Faraj added.

The company in Italy has transformed from a traditional fuel supplier to a sustainable fuel partner for our customers, adding that KPI will continue to

meet customer demands and achieve KPC's goals for sustainable energy transformation.

It is worth noting that Fox Petrol has been operating in the biofuel market in Italy since the 1990s, producing a range of advanced biodiesel and by-products for industrial use.

The company has a production plant with an annual capacity of 200,000 tons, a bonded warehouse with a storage capacity of 30,000 cubic meters, and logistical support capable of receiving and shipping products by sea and land.

Established in 1983, KPI is a global marketing company under KPC, managing over 4,700 retail fuel and transport service stations across Europe.

KPI supplies aviation fuel to over 70 international airports, manufacturing high-quality oils globally, and holds stakes in three refineries in Italy, Vietnam, and Oman through partnerships with international oil companies.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8) organized a conference in Rome, dubbed "Smart city roadmap for the government", aiming to promote partnership between private public sectors and pave the way to cities of the future.

Attending the conference alongside Italian Minister of Environment Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy, Nasser Al-Qahtani, stated that the conference handles topics of utmost importance.

He called it a valuable opportunity for public and private sectors to exchange perspectives, and discuss energy consumption in light of climate changes affecting the whole world.

Al-Qahtani also said that it is a reflection of Kuwait's commitment to UN charter on climate change and decreasing carbon emissions.

He commended Q8's efforts in organizing this conference as it became of social and economic weight in Italian market, making notable contributions.

The conference, launched yesterday, was also attended by a number of high officials from both Kuwaiti and Italian sides.



KUNA photo

Minister of Foreign Affairs while receiving the copy of the credentials of the new Honduran ambassador to the country.

FM receives credentials of Honduras envoy

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received Wednesday the credentials of the new Ambassador of Honduras to the country Francisco Jose Herrera Alvarado.

During the meeting, the minister wished the new ambassador success in his work in the country and further prosperity to ties between the two countries. (KUNA)

N-emergencies course kicks off

Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society calls for revolutionary e-medicine track system

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: Members of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society, Muhammad Al-Enazi and Abdulaziz Al-Jadaan, have expressed their support for efforts aimed at establishing a comprehensive electronic system to track and monitor the procurement, distribution, and supply of medicines from procurement to the final beneficiary.

They highlighted the critical need to link drug prescriptions between government and private sectors to minimize instances of duplicate prescriptions and interruptions in medication availability despite sufficient resources.

In a press statement titled "The Electronic Prescription to Address Waste and Theft of Medicines," they emphasized that such a program should be the outcome of collaborative efforts within the Ministry of Health.

This includes departments such as Information Systems, Drug Inspection, Medical Warehouses, and other technical units. Their goal is to ensure transparency and efficiency in medication procurement processes, advocating that procurement should not be conducted through private companies or tenders to safeguard the confidentiality and security of pharmaceutical information.

They underscored that pharmaceutical information is vital for national security and should be protected from any unauthorized access, compromise, or cyber threats. This approach aims to enhance the integrity of pharmaceutical supply

chains and ensure that medications reach patients without interruptions or security breaches.

The initiative reflects a commitment to modernizing the medicine and pharmacy sector in Kuwait, addressing longstanding challenges through technological advancement and stringent security measures.

N-emergencies course: The Ministry of Health has announced the commencement of the "Building Medical Capacity to Respond to Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies" course, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative is organized by the Radiation Protection Department in collaboration with several international bodies including the European Union, the United Nations, the CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) Center of Excellence, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The course is part of Kuwait's comprehensive strategy to enhance its readiness for health emergencies, focusing on monitoring, preparedness, and swift response. It involves the participation of trainers and lecturers from Kuwait as well as experts from various countries worldwide who specialize in combating and responding to radiological and nuclear risks.

This collaborative effort underscores Kuwait's commitment to bolstering its capabilities in managing potential radiological and nuclear emergencies, ensuring effective coordination and preparedness on a global scale.

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): The Acting Chief of Kuwait Fire Force Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad has decided to promote up to 564 non-commissioned officers

of various ranks in appreciation of their devotion and sincere efforts in protecting souls and properties.

The KFF said in a statement on Wednesday that Lieut. Gen. Fahad

has taken the decision upon instructions by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.

LOCAL

Municipal Council's Technical Committee okays key urban development proposals

Panel approves major fiber optic network and zoning changes

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: During its second meeting, the Municipal Council's Technical Committee, led by council member Munira Al-Amir and attended by Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri, approved three out of 12 agenda items.

The committee approved the request of the Ministry of Communication to allocate a plot measuring 2,016 square meters for

the third major fiber optic network project in Subiya under the following conditions:

- Commitment to the requirements specified by the Public Facilities and Services Committee in the concerned Municipality branch and coordinate with the committee before implementing the project,
- Provide parking spaces,
- Coordinate with the agency in charge of the Silk City and Bubyah Island projects before signing any contract,
- Commitment to adjust the location in case it overlaps with any infrastructure.

The committee also approved the request of Kuwaiti Lawyers Association to suspend the issuance of licenses to law firms located in private residential areas, and agreed to grant one-year grace period to these law firms. It is worth mentioning that the grace period granted by Kuwait Municipality to these firms will end on June 30, 2024.

In addition, the committee approved the proposal of Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri to amend Article 10 of Ministerial Resolution No. 322/2023 regarding the system of dividing and subdividing construction plots.

Moreover, the committee referred four items to the executive body as follows: proposal of council member Fahad Al-Abduljader to allocate markets for selling local produce in each governorate, proposal of Al-Amir to specify the architectural identity of government buildings, request of Kuwait Scout Association to name the roundabout adjacent to its headquarters, and request to allocate agricultural plots for the National Fund for the Care and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises.

The committee returned three items to the executive body for further study as follows: proposal of Al-Abduljader regarding the acquisition of houses and land in Khaitan - Block 5, proposal of Al-Mahri to amend the Municipal Council's decision on numbering some regulatory plots in Kuwait City, and the proposal of council member Abdullah Al-Daei to add a health activity to the activities of cooperative societies.

The committee deferred discussion on the proposal of council member Fahad Musaed Al-Abd Al-Jader regarding public school parking lots, and retained on its agenda the request of the owners of food trucks to allocate areas for their business.

These decisions reflect the council's proactive approach towards urban planning, infrastructure development, and regulatory reforms aimed at improving residential and commercial environments in Kuwait.

The initiatives are intended to streamline operations, enhance public services, and foster sustainable growth across various sectors.



Municipal Council's Technical Committee during its second meeting.

PIFSS announces 20 dinar increase in pension for retirees and shareholders

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) announced that starting in August, there will be a 20-dinar increase in pensions for Kuwaiti retirees and shareholders, based on their entitlement percentages, reports Al-

Seyassah daily.

The institution clarified that the distribution of this increase will be automatic, handled directly by the institution, eliminating the need for individuals to apply for or review the adjustment themselves.



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.
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 23rd June to 31st July 2024

Terms & conditions apply*



KUNA photo
Ambassador Sheikh Al-Zain Sabah Al-Naser Al-Sabah during the ceremony of presenting her credentials.

Kuwait envoy to US Sheikh Al-Zain submits credentials to Governor-General of Jamaica

WASHINGTON, June 26, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Al-Zain Sabah Al-Naser Al-Sabah submitted her credentials as non-resident ambassador to the Governor-General of Jamaica Patrick Linton Allen, in a ceremony held at Allen's residence in Kingston.

According to a statement from the Kuwait Embassy in Washington to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah conveyed on Tuesday greetings

from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to the Governor-General of Jamaica.

The Ambassador expressed Kuwait's appreciation for Jamaica's supportive stance towards Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion, also, praised the strong bilateral relations between the two countries for 50 years.

He wished further prosperity of the bilateral relations for serving joint interests.

Festivities highlight Tajik heritage

Republic of Tajikistan Embassy celebrates National Unity Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan celebrated the National Unity Day today – the event that is celebrated annually on June 27, stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of peace and reconciliation.

Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, HE Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda said, "This day commemorates the signing of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in 1997, which brought an end to a challenging period in the nation's history and marked the beginning of a new era of unity and prosperity. National Unity Day is a jubilant celebration of the values of harmony, resilience, and national unity."

Understanding the significance of National Unity Day, he said, entails revisiting Tajikistan's historical context. This Central Asian nation, known for its beauty and cultural richness, achieved independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, but the early years were fraught with political turmoil, culminating in a civil war in 1992.

He went on to say, this conflict inflicted considerable hardship yet also showcased the resilience and fortitude of the Tajik people. By 1997, the war concluded, leaving a profound impact on the nation. It prompted a collective realization among Tajikistan's citizens about the critical importance of unity and peace. The signing of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord on June 27, 1997, marked a pivotal moment towards healing and reconstruction, symbolizing a shared commitment to moving beyond conflict towards a cohesive future.

National Unity Day is celebrated fervently across Tajikistan. Official ceremonies commemorate the peace agreement, with leaders delivering speeches that underscore the enduring significance of national unity and collaboration. These events serve not only as reflections on past achievements but also as celebrations of the present and future, imbued with optimism and

determination.

Cultural festivities feature prominently, showcasing traditional music and dance that highlight Tajikistan's rich heritage. These celebrations promote a sense of shared identity and pride, fostering unity and camaraderie among communities. National Unity Day thus becomes an occasion for Tajikistan to honor its journey, celebrate accomplishments, and reaffirm its commitment to a peaceful and prosperous future, he added.

The Tajik envoy, stressed, "Beyond its commemorative aspects, National Unity Day carries profound symbolism. It embodies the remarkable resilience and strength of the Tajik people, serving as a powerful reminder of the preciousness of peace – something that demands collective nurturing and appreciation. The day emphasizes the importance of dialogue, tolerance, and mutual respect in forging a harmonious society."

"National unity stands as the cornerstone of Tajikistan's development, exemplified by its transition from conflict to peace through dialogue and cooperation. This ongoing journey emphasizes the value of diversity and inclusion, enriching the nation as it progresses in rebuilding its economy, infrastructure, and social institutions. National Unity Day thus celebrates these achievements and looks forward to the boundless potential ahead."

"In essence, National Unity Day in Tajikistan is not merely a commemoration but a jubilant celebration of the Tajik people's resilience, determination, and unity. It embodies pride, joy, and optimism for the future, reaffirming the nation's commitment to peace, harmony, and prosperity for all its citizens. As Tajikistan continues to evolve, National Unity Day will remain a steadfast symbol, inspiring and uniting the nation towards a shared identity and collective purpose," he said



HE Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan

6.5 million loan agreement inked

KFAED to fund Chinguri bridge project

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: During the 2024 regular meeting of the heads of institutions of the Arab Funds Coordination Group, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development signed a loan agreement worth 6.5 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance the Chinguri bridge project in Bangladesh, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Representing the Government of Bangladesh, Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Relations of the Ministry of Finance, Mirana Marukh, signed the agreement, while Acting Director General Waleed Al-Bahar signed on behalf of KFAED, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Chinguri Bridge Project aims to bolster economic and social development in southwest Bangladesh by enhancing passenger and goods transport infrastructure.

It will also strengthen the country's road network by connecting southwestern regions with the capital, Dhaka.

Kuwait condemns 'multiple' attacks in Russia's Dagestan

KUWAIT CITY, June 26, (KUNA): Kuwait on Tuesday condemned a string of attacks targeting churches and synagogues in Russia's predominantly Muslim region of Dagestan, which left scores of people either dead or injured.

Kuwait remains "firmly opposed" to any form of "violence and terrorism," said a foreign ministry statement, wishing a swift recovery for those wounded amid the rampage.

This initiative aligns with sustainable development goals, including poverty eradication, economic growth, industry, innovation, infrastructure development, and the promotion of sustainable cities and communities.

Ministry of Oil enhances 'efficiency' with Civil Service Bureau workshop

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: The Civil Service Bureau conducted a training workshop at the Ministry of Oil focused on enhancing service development, streamlining procedures, and creating a work procedures guide, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative aligns with Circular No. (24) of 2020 issued by the Bureau, which emphasizes the importance of developing services, documenting procedures, and simplifying them across all government agencies.

The workshop included introductory sessions on performance records for employees of the Ministry of Oil. It covered methods for determining functional tasks within

organizational units, how to document daily tasks, and how performance is evaluated based on assigned responsibilities by supervisory officials.

In preparation for the forthcoming guideline on managing employee performance, an initial workshop was conducted for selected government agencies.

This workshop served as an introduction to the framework for assessing employee performance, emphasizing efficiency, quality, and task completion. The Bureau plans to continue and expand these workshops across other government agencies in the future.

LOCAL



Part of the audience at the conference.



Guests during a discussion at the conference.



Photos by Leah Qurtal

Sheikha Intisar Al-Ali poses for a group photo with the participants.

New supervisors appointed

7-member 'investigation' committee established to probe disability affairs

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: Dr. Amthar Al-Huwaila, Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, has issued a ministerial decision to establish an investigation committee comprising seven members from the Fatwa and Legislation Department, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This committee is tasked with investigating all violations and issues related to the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs over a period of six months, with the possibility of extension.

The committee will specifically review files within the authority, focusing on those marred by violations highlighted in the annual report from the Audit Bureau, along with its associated observations and objections.

Regular progress reports on the committee's findings will be submitted to the minister.

In parallel, the Personnel Affairs Committee at the Ministry of Social Affairs convened under the

leadership of Acting Undersecretary Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi.

The committee, which included Assistant Undersecretaries, the Director of the Administrative Affairs Department, and the President of the Ministry's Workers' Union, met to finalize the process of filling vacant supervisory positions.

According to sources, the committee agreed to appoint individuals to 13 to 15 vacant supervisory roles, primarily within the social development sector. Once the meeting minutes are adopted, the nominated candidates will undergo the necessary approvals from the Civil Service Bureau before administrative decisions are issued by the Ministry.

Furthermore, it was noted that decisions concerning 15 employees who were confirmed in supervisory positions prior to the Eid al-Adha holiday will be issued this week after approval by the Diwan.

The Ministry emphasizes the importance of an open-door policy for these new supervisors, encouraging constructive engagement with auditors and focusing on enhancing work methodologies and plans to meet the needs of Kuwaiti citizens and align with national aspirations.



Dr Al-Huwaila

5 domestic

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Al-Ansari revealed that a committee from the Commercial Control Department issued multiple violations against the owners of these offices. The violations included the collection of cash payments exceeding the legally specified limits for recruitment fees.

According to ministerial decisions, payments for recruitment services must be conducted through KNET, Kuwait's national electronic payment system. However, these offices were found to have accepted cash payments that exceeded the prescribed limits, contravening established laws.

Al-Ansari commended the efforts of the committee, emergency teams, and inspection units for their diligent oversight of markets, offices, and other establishments.

He emphasized the ministry's unwavering commitment to enforcing regulations and holding accountable anyone who attempts to manipulate or circumvent the law.

This action underscores the ministry's stance on ensuring compliance with legal standards in all sectors, particularly in matters affecting labor and recruitment practices within the country.

Cabinet warns

Continued from Page 1

Afterwards, the Cabinet listened to an explanation from Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri about the country's power system.

In this context, the ministers voiced

sincere thanks and appreciation to all citizens and residents, along with state bodies and private companies for swift response to calls for cutting power consumption.

The Ministry of Information was then asked to interview ministers and senior state officials to highlight their services and accomplishments in a bid to bolster communication between officials and citizens.

Furthermore, the Cabinet tasked the Kuwait Municipality with completing its efforts, in collaboration with other state bodies to put in place ministerial decrees pertinent to Sulaibikhat Bay and Al-Jahra Corniche development projects.

In this regard, the Cabinet asked the municipality to send it a periodical report on relevant developments and executive steps bearing on both developmental projects.

Finally, the ministers approved the Kuwaiti nationality verification committee's recent decisions, including the withdrawal of some people's nationality as per Law 15/1959 as for Kuwaiti nationality.

Kuwait Prime

Continued from Page 1

he remained until 1987. Later, he occupied the post of the banking supervision administration before shifting to Burgan Bank where was named the chairperson serving in the top post between 1987 and 1998.

Having acquired tremendous experience in the finance and business worlds, he began climbing the public echelon serving as a minister as of July 1999 in the departments of finance and transport.

Sheikh Ahmad had carried the port-

Sheikha Intisar highlights significant environmental concerns & solutions

Conference advocates native plants for sustainability

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: Sheikha Intisar Al-Ali, head of the Al-Nawar Initiative and organizer of the first Kuwait Wildlife Conference, highlighted significant environmental concerns and solutions during the event, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Speaking at the conference organized by Noir Kuwait Agricultural Services Company in collaboration with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, she emphasized the high annual cost of approximately two million dinars for transporting "Safi" sand in Kuwait. The conference, held under the theme "For a sustainable and healthy Kuwait... How do we achieve it with fungal plants?", was patronized by Dr. Mahmoud Bushahri, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and Minister of State for Housing Affairs.

Sheikha Intisar Al-Ali underscored the critical issue of desertification in Kuwait, citing an annual rate of 285 square kilometers lost to desert



Sheikha Intisar speaking at the conference.

encroachment. She advocated for increasing awareness of scientific knowledge and successful practices in wildlife and environmental agriculture to promote health and sustainability.

She stressed the feasibility of utilizing fungal plants at a lower cost to combat desertification sustainably, contrasting them with imported plants that require intensive irrigation and maintenance, leading to en-

vironmental and financial burdens.

Highlighting the significance of native plants like Al-Arfaj as Kuwait's national flower, she proposed incorporating such species into cosmetic agriculture along roads, residential areas, and gardens to reflect Kuwait's natural environment, climate, history, and culture. She emphasized that Kuwait, as a desert nation, should not aim to transform into a forest ecosystem at considerable

environmental and financial expense, given the country's limited natural resources.

Eng. Fenis Al-Ajmi, Director of the Security and Safety Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, echoed the importance of fungal plants in Kuwait's natural landscape. He emphasized their role in lowering temperatures, enhancing green spaces, preventing sand encroachment, and improving overall environmental health. He called for collective efforts to achieve these vital environmental goals.

Ali Al-Shanfa, General Manager of Noir Kuwait Agricultural Services Company, expressed commitment to enhancing Kuwait's environment by introducing plant systems resilient to its arid climate. He highlighted the challenges faced in organizing the conference, emphasizing the importance of inviting experienced guests to enrich discussions and drive practical outcomes for Kuwait's environmental sustainability.

Overall, the conference aimed to promote innovative and sustainable approaches using native plants to preserve Kuwait's environment and promote a healthier ecosystem amid its challenging climate conditions.

ing the audio-visual law, the publishing law and blessed a package of amendments to the two laws.

While in office at the ministry of oil, a new strategy was adopted to increase the crude output, luring and training national cadres to run the oil operations in and outside Kuwait, in addition to reaching new markets.

Moreover, during his service in the chain of offices, he exerted great efforts to cement the bonds and ties with great powers, friendly and brotherly nations, in addition to regional and international organizations.

He also advocates strengthening the inter-GCC interaction in various fields, supporting the Palestinian cause, promoting the status of Kuwait and riding decision making of personal interests.

Kuwait targets

Continued from Page 1

slogan, "The evidence is clear... let us continue prevention"; Al-Awadhi affirmed "there is an integrated system in Kuwait that primarily aims to intensify efforts to combat drug addiction and rehabilitate young people who have fallen into this scourge, so they can be effective and positive members of society."

He disclosed the Council of Ministers issued a directive for the concerned ministries to coordinate their efforts in confronting this devastating scourge, which is a major challenge to societies.

He cited the efforts of the ministry, specifically the Addiction Treatment Center, which is working hard in the field of combating drug addiction and providing advanced services in the field of detoxification, as well as advanced rehabilitation and psychological treatments.

He praised the work of various ministries and civil society institutions in

addressing the problem. He pointed out that not only Kuwait is suffering from this issue, but also other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the entire world.

He confirmed the ministry is keen on providing the necessary healthcare and rehabilitation for those who suffer from this scourge; citing as an example the expansion of the Addiction Treatment Center, which has 155 beds, and provides services to women and adolescents.

He then stressed that the celebration aims to educate communities about the danger of drugs, how to recognize the symptoms of addiction among drug users, and list the means to avoid falling into the danger of this scourge through proper socialization and meeting the needs of young people at an early stage in line with their intellectual and physical development.

Ministries praise

Continued from Page 1

within its 2035 vision.

They underscored the need for effective coordination between ministries to facilitate work procedures and ensure the efficient provision of public services to citizens. They agreed to adopt a series of urgent measures to expedite the construction process and develop the necessary infrastructure to support housing projects, in addition to the importance of accelerating the pace of work and removing all obstacles to ongoing projects, especially those related to residential care and solving the problems of citizens in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak and South Saad Al-Abdullah. These efforts are within the framework of the joint endeavor to improve the quality of life for citizens and provide an appropriate environ-

ment that meets their aspirations.

Moreover, they agreed to prepare a joint action plan and a timetable with the aim of following up the implementation of the directives and periodically evaluating the achievements to ensure the desired results are reached within the specified period.

KNPC expands

Continued from Page 1

He pointed out that the company developed an operational structure for the digital transformation strategy and formed committees to manage the plans, including the Supreme Steering Committee and the Digital Project Management Office.

He explained that the tasks of the Supreme Steering Committee include monitoring the progress made on established and approved operational plans and reviewing performance and achieving goals.

Al-Shammari added that the tasks of the Digital Project Management Office include providing reports of timeline, benefits, budget, achieved return, work requirements and guidance on issues and challenges that arise during project implementation.

KNPC conducted the largest search for local and global markets to find the best solutions, information and partnership with local and international companies with experience in managing and implementing digital transformation projects.

The company currently has a single digital community with a membership of 130 employees from various administrative and technical departments of the company, and coordinates with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) regarding the implementation of this strategy.



Joelle Mardinian: making waves in beauty and philanthropy

Joelle Mardinian



Joelle Mardinian

TV star ... empowering communities

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

In the world of entertainment, beauty, business, philanthropy and a renowned TV presenter has captivated audiences with her charisma and insightful interviews, bringing stories to life on screen. Behind the scenes, her artistry as a makeup artist transforms faces into canvases of beauty, a skill honed through years of creativity and precision.

She is a visionary entrepreneur, who founded ventures that redefine industry standards and empower aspiring talents. Her journey is not just about business. As a dedicated philanthropist, she channels her influence and resources to support causes close to her heart, making a meaningful impact in communities around the globe.

In 2008, she started her entrepreneurial journey by founding her own company. This marked a significant transition from her earlier career as a freelancer, demonstrating her ambition to pursue business ownership and entrepreneurship.

Meet Joelle Mardinian the multifaceted talent, a true inspiration whose passion and dedication continue to shine bright in every endeavor who founded 'Maison de Joelle' -- a business venture related to beauty, fashion, and a boutique of some sort and given the name's French connotation suggests elegance and style.

As an entrepreneur, Joelle established and built her brand, potentially offering products or services that align with her personal vision and expertise and reflects her entrepreneurial spirit and desire for independence in her professional life.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times she takes the reader on a passionate journey and dedication to help the less fortunate.

Arab Times: Joelle, you've had an impressive journey as a TV presenter, makeup artist and entrepreneur. Can you tell us about the key moments that shaped your career?

Joelle Mardinian: When I believe in something, nothing can hinder me; I am like an unstoppable force, akin to a train without brakes. This determination has propelled me throughout my career journey. I recall the early struggles -- struggling to speak Arabic fluently, unable to read from a teleprompter, lacking formal training as a TV presenter.

Yet, driven by my desire to showcase my abilities, I tirelessly improved with each episode of my show, evolving year after year. For 14 consecutive years, I dedicated myself to making the Joelle show one of the finest globally. I have come to realize, and it is crystal clear to me now, that I am engaged in a cause and the fight is ongoing. I face attacks from various sides aimed at silencing my support for Gaza.

However, I refuse to waver in my commitment. I believe fervently in speaking out for justice, especially for the oppressed. Despite the challenges I encounter due to my unwavering support for Gaza, I remain undeterred. I am prepared to sacrifice my social media presence, friendships, and even business opportunities.

Notably, my daily advocacy for Gaza has cost me numerous contracts. These obstacles have only strengthened my resolve.

AT: What inspired you to create the "Joelle" program on MBC1, and how has the show evolved over the years?

Joelle: I was inspired by a British program called 'What Not to Wear', which focused on transforming women in the fashion industry, hosted by Trinny and Susannah. I was deeply captivated by the show and enjoyed it immensely. However, I found myself frustrated because it mainly centered on the clothes and physical transformations, showcasing new haircuts, beautiful makeup, but never delving into the entire process comprehensively.

My dream was to present the show differently and I approached the MBC (Middle East Broadcasting Center) and expressed my background as a makeup artist for top celebrities. I was unaware that the MBC had already acquired the rights and were looking for someone to anchor the Arabic version of the show. It seemed serendipitous that they had been searching for the right presenter, and I knocked on their door at the perfect moment.

AT: As the founder of Maison de Joelle, what was your vision for the salon, and how do you ensure it stays ahead in a competitive industry?

Joelle: Maison de Joelle came about due to my reputation as a makeup artist. Wherever I went with my clients to salons, I would instruct the workers on how I wanted the makeup, hair, or lips done. This left clients assuming I owned these salons. As my fame grew through TV shows on MBC1, and with the opening of Joelle salon, I saw an opportunity to innovate. At that time, people frequented different places for hairdo, makeup, nails, henna, lips, or eyelashes. I conceived the idea of offering all these services under one roof -- a cozy, homelike setting where clients could feel at ease. The result? Maison de Joelle -- a beautiful, unique concept that I adore.

AT: You have worked as a creative director for Max Factor, given this background how do you approach creating new makeup collections?

Joelle: For me becoming the creative director at Max Factor was like a dream come true for me. From the moment I first used Max Factor mascara, I fell in love with the brand. Founded 120 years ago, Max Factor himself was the original

makeup artist who transformed the iconic looks of Hollywood celebrities. I was captivated not only by the makeup but also by Max Factor's remarkable success story -- offering superb quality at affordable prices.

During my tenure as creative director at Max Factor for a decade, I was driven by a desire to innovate. I believed in evolving with the times; what was trendy in makeup five or ten years ago shouldn't be the same today. Drawing inspiration from Max Factor's legacy, I strived to create new and modern trends, setting the stage for fresh looks and styles. It was a privilege to contribute to a brand that continues to define beauty and elegance in the industry.

AT: Clinica Joelle has become a well-known brand in aesthetic treatments. What sets it apart from other clinics, and what are your future plans for expansion?

Joelle: Clinica Joelle, founded in 2013, is a unique establishment where we house exceptional doctors under one roof. Each specialist works independently, not as a team. I take pride in our roster of top dermatologists, dietitians, skincare experts, and slimming specialists. What sets Clinica Joelle apart is the genuine passion our doctors have for their work. They are dedicated because our business is thriving and expanding, fueled by my longstanding reputation in the industry since my television debut in 2004.

My commitment to honesty has earned me a solid reputation among clients who trust that I always prioritize their best interests. Integrity is at the core of everything I do -- I have never compromised on quality or taken shortcuts. Above all, I value my reputation more than financial gain. Quality is paramount to me; I refuse to sacrifice it for quantity.

I've made substantial investments, confident that my dedication and high-quality offerings will be recognized and rewarded over time. The compliments from satisfied clients who adore our high-end products are the greatest testament to our success.

AT: You've recently launched a new collection of lenses. Can you share more about this latest venture and what makes this collection unique?

Joelle: In June of this year, I launched the EyeCandy Joelle, my third line of contact lenses, and I couldn't be more passionate about this product. For me, applying makeup without adding contact lenses is like serving a cake without the cherry -- it completes the look, enhances the eyes, and elevates overall beauty. It's transformative, turning the wearer into a trendsetter, jet setter, or fashion icon.

With the first and second lines of lenses under my belt, I carefully selected 11 colors for EyeCandy Joelle to infuse fun and glamour into every look, catering to all eye colors. I encourage people to experiment with lenses that match their

personal style and taste.

I challenge the stigma around wearing lenses; if we're comfortable with fake eyelashes or lip color, why should lenses be any different? EyeCandy aims to break these taboos, celebrating glamour and enhancing natural beauty across the Arab world. Through my work on MBC, I've tackled societal norms surrounding cosmetic enhancements like lips or botox, promoting openness and acceptance.

Matching my lenses to my outfit has become a personal trademark -- I'm deeply proud of EyeCandy Joelle and am tirelessly working to elevate it even further. For me, it's not just a product; it's a statement about embracing desires and breaking barriers in pursuit of personal expression and beauty.

AT: You are donating 10% of the profits from your new lens collection to support the people in Gaza. What inspired this charitable initiative, and how do you choose the causes you support?

Joelle: The initiative to support Gaza through my brand, Dabdub, named after my adopted son Nathan, holds a deep personal significance. Nathan came into our lives almost six years ago after a lengthy adoption process that spanned nearly four years. The desire to adopt had been with me since my teenage years, driven by a strong belief in providing better lives for children, particularly those orphaned by natural or man-made disasters.

My daughter Ella, despite her young age at the time, was incredibly supportive and enthusiastic about the adoption of Nathan. Her unwavering determination played a significant role in bringing Nathan, affectionately known as Dabdub, into our family.

Reflecting on this journey, I felt compelled to give back to those less fortunate, especially orphaned children. Thus, I founded Dabdub, a baby line named after Nathan, known for its high-quality, affordable products. Transparency is at the heart of our ethos, and we commit to donating 10% of our proceeds to orphans worldwide, with a particular focus on the children of Gaza.

This endeavor is not just about business but about making a meaningful impact in the lives of children who deserve love, care, and opportunities for a brighter future. Dabdub represents our family's commitment to compassion, generosity, and the belief that every child deserves a chance to thrive.

AT: How do you balance your business ventures with your philanthropic efforts, and why do you think it's important for entrepreneurs to give back to society?

Joelle: To be honest the challenging times were during the months from October to December 2023, when I was deeply affected by the heartbreaking events unfolding in Gaza. The scenes and news were understandably overwhelming, impacting my mental health and causing my business to come to a halt as I grappled with the tragedy.

Nonetheless, I prioritized my well-being and took the necessary time to regain balance in January 2024, realizing the importance of continuing my work for my family, my business, and my charitable endeavors. Despite the initial shock and distress, I found strength to persevere and decided not to give up on supporting Gaza and those in need.

Now, by dedicating myself to maintaining a balanced life that includes family, business, and ongoing charity work, I am making a positive impact and contributing to causes that matter deeply to me. This resilience and commitment reflect my compassion and determination to make a difference, even in the face of adversity.

AT: Promoting baby clean products shows your dedication to health and wellness. How do you incorporate your values into the products and brands you promote?

Joelle: I derive immense joy from creating products that I genuinely believe in -- products that I would use for myself, my daughter, my son, and my family. My passion lies in filling gaps in the market with innovative solutions. For instance, in the realm of lenses, I was the pioneer in presenting lenses that seamlessly complement makeup stands, avoiding the typical drab packaging. Traditionally, lenses were packaged in nondescript boxes without any branding, and makeup options were limited, almost indistinguishable from one another.

My vision was to empower women. The initial product line, EyeCandy, was conceived to celebrate individual beauty and self-worth. It's about making women feel proud, beautiful, and confident, whether they are enhancing their features with makeup, lashes, or lenses. EyeCandy is not just about aesthetics; it's about empowerment. When you look good, you feel good -- it's like experiencing a touch of sweetness for the eyes. EyeCandy products are designed to transform the wearer, instilling a sense of courage, fearlessness, and strength -- qualities akin to wild animals thriving in their natural habitat.

The core message of EyeCandy goes beyond mere packaging; it's about self-affirmation. It's about saying, "I am beautiful, attractive, brave, independent, and strong." It's about embracing life with zest, dreaming big, and becoming a fashion icon, a globetrotter -- a jet setter. EyeCandy encapsulates this message, offering more than just gorgeous lenses; it's a declaration of confidence and empowerment.

AT: What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as a businesswoman in the beauty and wellness industry, and how have you overcome them?

Joelle: One of the significant challenges I've faced, especially with Dabdub and other ventures, is competing with established giants like Johnson & Johnson. Regardless of personal opinions about them, these brands have built formidable reputations over many years. Their products dominate shelf space in every outlet, making it a daunting task to position our products alongside theirs.

Continued on Page 12



Joelle Mardinian

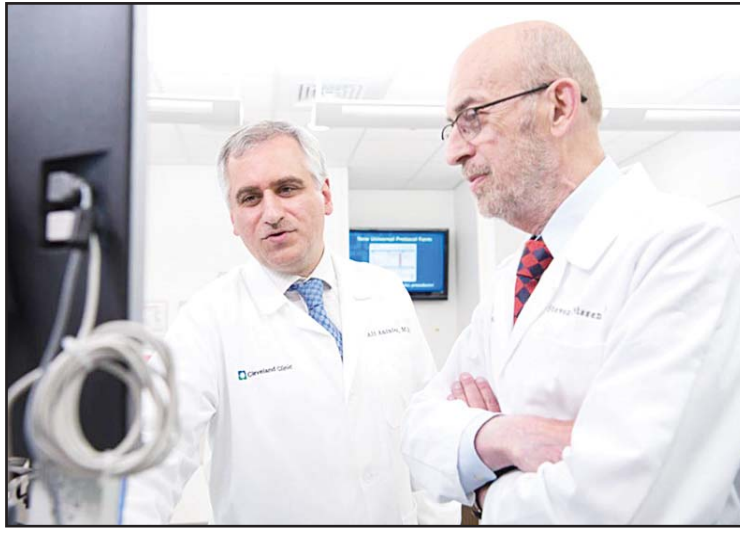
First-of-its-kind MOSAIC study shows benefits of bariatric surgery

Weight-loss surgery cuts death risk by 37% in sleep apnea patients

CLEVELAND, June 26: A study by global health system Cleveland Clinic shows that bariatric surgery performed in patients with obesity and moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea is associated with a significantly lower risk of death and major adverse cardiovascular events, compared with patients who did not have the surgery. This study was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

Ali Aminian, M.D., director of Cleveland Clinic's Bariatric & Metabolic Institute and primary investigator of the MOSAIC study, said, "The research shows that weight loss achieved with bariatric surgery is significantly associated with a 42% lower risk of major adverse cardiovascular events and 37% lower risk of death in patients with obesity and moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea."

According to a study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, nearly 1 billion adults around the world have obstructive sleep apnea.



Ali Aminian, M.D. (left) and Steven Nissen, M.D.

One of the most common risk factors for developing the sleep disorder is obesity. The Obesity Medicine Association reports that about 70% of adult patients with obstructive sleep apnea have obesity.

Patients with obstructive sleep apnea – which can disrupt metabolism and cause more weight gain – are at an increased risk of developing life-threatening conditions, including heart attack and heart failure.

The Cleveland Clinic-led MOSAIC (Metabolic surgery for OSA and Incident Cardiovascular disease) research is the first of its kind to report data on the long-term cardiovascular outcomes of bariatric surgery in patients with obstructive sleep apnea and obesity.

The observational study included 13,657 adult patients with a body mass index between 35-70 and the presence of moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea (diagnosed by a sleep study test) between 2004 and 2018. Baseline clinical characteristics of 970 patients who underwent bariatric surgery were balanced with 12,687 patients in the nonsurgical control group using overlap weighting methods. Follow-up ended in September 2022.

At the end of the study period, results show that the cumulative incidence of major adverse cardiovascular events at 10 years was 27% in the bariatric surgery group and 35.6% in the nonsurgical group. A major adverse cardiovascular event is defined as the first occurrence of

coronary artery events, cerebrovascular events, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, and all-cause mortality. Additional analysis shows that the cumulative incidence of all-cause mortality at 10 years was 9.1% in the bariatric surgery group and 12.5% in the nonsurgical group.

Steven Nissen, M.D., Chief Academic Officer of the Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute at Cleveland Clinic and co-senior author of the study, said: "There are currently no approved drug therapies for obstructive sleep apnea. Before the MOSAIC study, no therapy had been shown to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events and death in patients with sleep apnea."

At 10 years, patients in the bariatric surgery group lost 33.2 kg and patients in the nonsurgical control group lost 6.64 kg. Patients in the bariatric surgery group maintained 25% weight loss at least up to 10 years following the procedure.

"The current management guidelines of obstructive sleep apnea

recommend weight loss and lifestyle modifications," said Nancy Foldvary-Schaefer, D.O., director of Cleveland Clinic's Sleep Disorders Center. "The MOSAIC study findings support those recommendations. However, rather than focusing on lifestyle modification alone, treating obesity with more effective and durable methods such as bariatric surgery would be required to improve cardiovascular outcomes and survival in patients with obstructive sleep apnea and obesity."

Dr. Aminian added, "In select patients, bariatric surgery is a lifesaving treatment. The MOSAIC study suggests the presence of a dose-dependent response between the amount of weight loss and cardiovascular benefits in patients with obstructive sleep apnea; the greater the weight loss, the lower the risk of heart complications. With emergence of a new generation of obesity medications that can provide an average weight loss in the range of 15-20%, similar findings are theoretically possible from medical therapies."

Monkeypox screening

US issues alert on rising dengue cases worldwide

NEW YORK, June 26, (Agencies): US health officials on Tuesday warned doctors to be alert for dengue cases as the tropical disease breaks internationally.

The virus, which is spread by mosquitoes, has been surging worldwide, helped by climate change. In barely six months, countries in the Americas have already broken calendar-year records for dengue cases.

The World Health Organization declared an emergency in December, and Puerto Rico declared a public health emergency in March.

Dengue remains less common in the continental United States, but in the 50 states so far this year there have been three times more cases than at the same point last year. Most were infections that travelers got abroad, and officials note there is no evidence of a current outbreak. But they also warn that local mosquitoes pose a threat.

In its health alert Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised doctors to know the symptoms, ask questions about where patients recently traveled and consider ordering dengue tests when appropriate.

Symptoms

Dengue (pronounced DEHN'-gay) is caused by a virus spread by a type of warm weather mosquito that is expanding its geographic reach because of climate change, experts say.

Many infected people don't get sick, but some experience headache, fever and flu-like symptoms. Severe cases can involve cause serious bleeding, shock and death.

Repeated infections can be especially dangerous.

There are four types of dengue virus, simply known as 1, 2, 3 and 4. When someone is first infected, their body builds antibodies against that type for life. If they get infected with another type of dengue, the antibodies from the first infection may fail to neutralize the second type – and actually can help the virus enter immune cells and replicate.

That's a concern in Puerto Rico, which for the last two decades has been widely exposed to type 1. Last month, the island reported its first dengue death of the year.

"We're currently seeing increases in the cases due to dengue 2 and dengue 3, for which the population has very little immunity," said Dr. Gabri-

ela Paz-Bailey, the Puerto-Rico-based chief of the CDC's dengue branch.

There is no widely available medicine for treating dengue infections.

Vaccines have been tricky. US officials in 2021 recommended one vaccine, made by Sanofi Pasteur. The three-dose vaccine is built to protect against all four dengue types and is recommended only for children ages 9 to 16 who have laboratory evidence of an earlier dengue infection and who live in an area – like Puerto Rico – where dengue is common.

Given those restrictions and other issues, it hasn't been widely used. As of late last month, only about 140 children had been vaccinated in Puerto Rico since shots became available there in 2022, and Sanofi Pasteur has told the CDC it is going to stop making the vaccine.

A different vaccine made by the Tokyo-based pharmaceutical company Takeda is not currently licensed in the U.S. Others are in development.

Across the world, more than 6.6 million infections were reported by about 80 countries last year. In the first four months of this year, 7.9 million cases and 4,000 deaths have been reported, according to the World Health Organization. It's been particularly intense in the Americas, including in Brazil and Peru.

In the United States, the numbers have been far more modest – about 3,000 cases last year in U.S. states and territories. But it was the worst in a decade, and included more infections that occurred locally, courtesy of native mosquitoes. Most were in Puerto Rico, but about 180 were in three US states – Florida, Texas and California.

So far this year, there have been nearly 1,500 locally-acquired US cases, nearly all of them in Puerto Rico.

Most cases in the continental US continue to be people who were infected while traveling internationally.

Also:

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa has started screening visitors into the country for monkeypox at all ports of entry due to a recent increase in cases of the disease, said the Border Management Authority (BMA) on Tuesday.

The commissioner of the BMA, Michael Masiapato, announced that port health officials have developed an outbreak preparedness plan that outlines the response in dealing with monkeypox, also known as Mpox.

Sovato Platform proves effective in test

Sovato performs successful remote robotic surgeries across 500 miles

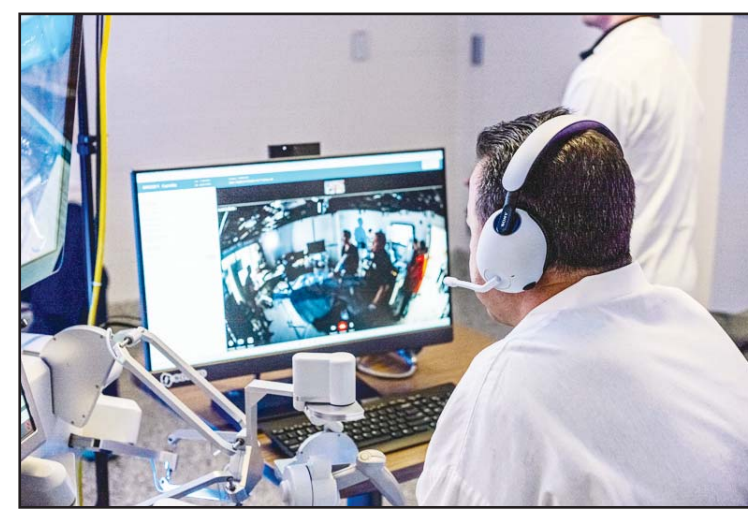
SANTA BARBARA, Calif., June 26, (AP): Sovato, a company enabling remote surgery and procedures, announced the use of the Sovato Platform in the successful completion of a series of remote robotic-assisted surgery (RAS) procedures in a preclinical technology demonstration.

As part of the preclinical tests, seven surgeons across four specialties performed Nephrectomy, Hysterectomy, Colectomy, and Cholecystectomy procedures, validating the broad application of remote surgery.

The preclinical test results and surgeon experience were presented at the Society of Robotic Surgery 2024 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The surgeons completed a user experience assessment based on the NASA Task Load Index, a self-evaluation tool used to measure a subjective mental workload assessment of a participant while performing a task.

The results revealed a high degree of confidence while performing the remote procedures. Surgeons also reported the ability to communicate effectively with the bedside assistant and having comparable situational awareness of the remote operating room compared to in-person surgery.

"I could not tell the difference between doing surgery in my operating



Dr. Michael Jobst, from Bryan Health, speaks with the remote surgical care team 500 miles away through the Sovato Platform. (Business Wire)

room or in an operating room that was 500 miles away," stated Francesco Bianco, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of General, Minimally Invasive & Robotic Surgery Department of Surgery, at the University of Illinois, Chicago, who presented the results. "The experience was seamless. There was no detectable delay. There was absolute comfort in communicating with the team on the remote side. Everything looked like a normal day in

my operating room."

The Sovato Platform is a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive solution for enabling and orchestrating remote robotic-assisted surgeries and procedures. Sovato brings together the remote surgery ecosystem, including healthcare providers and any RAS system, to deliver the curated fiberoptic network, clinical workflows, data, and supporting infrastructure required to enable safe, scalable, and profitable re-

remote surgery and procedure programs. For healthcare organizations, Sovato's platform supports the complete remote surgery program spanning the entire surgical journey for surgeons, care teams, and patients.

In the preclinical tests, the Sovato Platform was paired with a modified version of Virtual Incision's MIRA Surgical System to enable surgeons from multiple disciplines to perform the procedures across a 500-mile distance. The Sovato Platform enabled low latency, curated, fiberoptic connectivity from the surgeon console to control MIRA's arms and integrated an articulating camera at the remote location for full situational awareness. Surgeons maintained immersive verbal and visual communication with the remote care team using the Sovato Platform.

"Remote surgery offers the ability for surgeons and healthcare teams to care for patients who may not have access to minimally invasive surgery in many parts of the world," stated Marty Martino, MD, Medical Director, Gynecologic Oncology and Robotic Surgery at Ascension St. Vincent's. "To think about a surgeon located in one city and performing a remote surgery more than 500 miles away – all while feeling like you're right there in person with the patient and care team – is history in the making."

Doctors treat thousands of heatstroke victims

Pakistan's intense heatwave leaves 25 dead

ISLAMABAD, June 26, (Agencies): At least 25 people were killed and thousands have been admitted to hospitals after suffering heatstroke during an intense heatwave in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi over the last three days, rescue teams and local media said on Tuesday.

Doctors said many patients became dehydrated due to the high temperatures and were discharged after receiving first aid.

However, some individuals with pre-existing conditions, such as heart ailments and cancer, are being kept in the hospital for further treatment, local media quoted hospital sources as saying.

According to Pakistan's Meteorological Department, the maximum temperature crossed the 40 degrees Celsius mark over the last three days, mainly due to the suspension of sea breeze to the city.

The weather department forecasts that sea breezes will resume in Karachi on Wednesday evening, leading to a gradual drop in temperature. Enditem

A days-long intense heat wave has disrupted normal life in Pakistan, especially in its largest city, Karachi, where doctors treated thousands of victims of heatstroke at various hospitals, health officials said Tuesday.

Several people fell unconscious in the city and some of them later died, local media said.

Temperatures soared as high as 47 degrees Celsius (117 degrees Fahrenheit) in Sindh province on Tuesday. Authorities in Karachi, the provincial capital, are urging people to stay indoors, hydrate, and avoid unnecessary travel.

Weather forecasters say the heat wave, which began in May, will subside next week.

According to local media, the days-long heat wave also killed more than two dozen people in Karachi, but no government spokesman was available to confirm the number of heatstroke-related deaths.

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England's Phil Foden, (left) chests the ball next to Slovenia's Petar Stojanovic during a Group C match between England and Slovenia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Cologne, Germany. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait women's fencing team.

South Korea lead



Fencers battling for glory.

Curtain falls on Asian Fencing Championship

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: Today marks the conclusion of the Asian Fencing Championship (men's and women's) for the general category, which began last Friday at the Fairgrounds Hall in Mishrif. The event was organized by the Kuwaiti Fencing Association and featured 350 players from 36 countries.

The tournament saw intense competition among the teams. The South Korean team clinched the top spot in the rankings, surpassing Japan, which had been leading in previous days. The Korean team secured the gold medal in the men's saber team competition by defeating Iran, which took the silver medal, while Hong Kong claimed the bronze. In the women's team epee competition, South Korea triumphed over China, which



Kuwait shooting delegation.

10th 'edition' of Amir's international shooting competition kicks off in Italy

UMBRIA, June 26: Approximately 240 shooters from around the world are competing for top honors as the 10th edition of His Highness the Amir's International Shooting Competition commenced on Tuesday in the central Italian region of Umbria.

Kuwait is represented by a team of seven shooters participating in the skeet and trap events. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy, Nasser Al-Qahtani, highlighted that this year's competition coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Italy.

ranked athletes.

Rashid Al-Shamali, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Fencing Association and the technical director of the tournament, expressed his satisfaction with the championship's progress. He remarked that Asian teams have dominated fencing in recent years, with South Korea, Japan,

He praised the competition for its international prominence, noting that the sport of shooting has reached new heights in Kuwait, partly due to the recent positive results achieved by Kuwaiti shooters.

International Shooting Sport

SHOOTING

Federation chief, Luciano Rossi, echoed the ambassador's sentiments, recognizing Kuwait's success in the sport and appreciating its support for shooting on a global scale.

and Hong Kong securing the top three positions in the last World Championship. Al-Shamali added that this tournament in Kuwait offers a valuable opportunity for Asian teams to advance and develop, especially with the 2024 Paris Olympic Games approaching. He extended his best wishes to all participants.

U-19 coach Pestic expected to make some changes

Kuwait look to bounce back against Saudi Arabia

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

TAIF, Saudi Arabia, June 26: The Kuwaiti under-19 team is set to face the host Saudi team at 9:00 pm at King Fahd Sports City Stadium in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in the second round of the first group competitions of the West Asian Championship. Earlier, at 5:00 pm, Oman and Yemen will clash at the same venue.

In the first round, Kuwait lost 1-2 to Oman, while Yemen and Saudi Arabia ended their match in a 2-2 draw. The tournament features 12 teams divided into three groups, with matches being held at King Fahd Sports City Stadium and Okaz Club Stadium, continuing until July 5.

The teams compete in a single-stage league system in the first round. The top team from each group, along with the best second-placed team across all groups, advances to the semi-finals.

Despite its initial loss, Kuwait demonstrated a strong performance in the second half against Oman, creating numerous opportunities but



Kuwaiti players attempt to score against Saudi Arabia.

failing to equalize. Croatian coach Dario Pestic focused on addressing defensive lapses in a recent training session, emphasizing the need for proper organization to secure a positive result and enhance its chances of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Coach Dario Pestic is expected to make some changes to improve

performance and secure a victory, as a defeat would significantly hinder their qualification prospects, while a draw would also diminish its chances.

This tournament is part of Kuwait's preparation for the Asian Cup qualifiers, with group competitions set for September. Following

Poland deny France top spot, England win group

Austria upset Netherlands

BERLIN, June 26, (Xinhua): England claimed top spot in Group C despite being held to a goalless stalemate by stubborn Slovenia while Denmark finished in second after sharing the spoils with eliminated Serbia in the last round of group play.

Slovenia started highly motivated in the encounter knowing that at least one point would see them advance into the knockout stage whereas the Three Lions were already through.

Benjamin Sesko created the first clearcut opportunity after testing England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford with a header from close range in the fifth minute.

England sparked to life midway through the first half and thought it had broken the deadlock but for all that Bukayo Saka's goal was ruled offside.

Harry Kane posed threat in the closing stage of the first half after heading narrowly wide following Kieran Trippier's dangerous cross into the box.

After the break, chances were at premium as England controlled possession without doing damage to Slovenia's well-positioned defence.

Slovenia's defence kept England on the distance and secured one point to keep its Euro campaign alive.

"We wanted to complete the group stage atop the standings and



Poland's Kacper Urbanski fights for the ball against Adrien Rabiot of France during a Group D match between the France and Poland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

to be in control of our own destiny. It was a tough match, but we improved a bit compared to our last game. We controlled the ball but failed to finish the job in the final third," said Kane.

England coach Gareth Southgate added: "We were the better team and dominated. We had several chances to win the game but we missed the final pass." In the other Group C clash, Denmark couldn't break the deadlock against Serbia, but the goalless draw was enough for the Danes to reach the knockout stage as runner-up.

With the results, England tops the group with five points, followed by Denmark, Slovenia (both 3 points) and Serbia (2 points).

The top two of each of the six groups and the best four third finishers will enter the round-of-16 knockout stage. Enditem Austria won Group D after Marcel Sabitzer's late 3-2 winner stunned the Netherlands whereas Robert Lewandowski helped Poland hold France to a 1-1 stalemate in the last round of group play on Tuesday.

The Netherlands caught the worst possible start at Berlin Olympia stadium as Donyell Malen cleared Alexander Press' square pass into the wrong goal, giving Austria a 1-0 lead with six minutes played.

The Dutchmen responded well and tried to restore parity, but Tijja-

ni Reijnders squandered two promising opportunities as the match progressed.

Austria remained dangerous though as Sabitzer tested goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen with a low shot in the 38th minute.

The Netherlands caught a perfect start two minutes into the second half as Xavi Simons initiated a counterattack before feeding Cody Gakpo, who curled the ball into the far post corner with a well-placed shot.

It was a short-lived joy for Ronald Koeman's men as Austria bounced back and took the lead again after Florian Grillitsch's pinpoint cross allowed Romano Schmid to nod home at the hour mark.

The Netherlands remained unimpressed and made it two all with 75 minutes gone as Memphis Depay tapped home Wout Weghorst's assist by header.

Austria had the last laugh and clinched the group win after Sab-

SOCCER

itzer finished off Christoph Baumgartner's good build-up work from tight angle to round off the 3-2 victory.

"The team showed a great will today. They always came back and that against a strong opponent which is remarkable. In the end, we secured a deserved victory here. It is unbelievable that we have won this group after starting with a defeat," said Austria head coach Ralf Rangnick.

In the other Group D clash, France failed to secure the group win as veteran striker Robert Lewandowski cancelled out Kylian Mbappe's opener to ensure a 1-1 draw.

With the result, Austria finished the group atop the standings with six points, followed by France (5 points), the Netherlands (4 points) and Poland (1 point).

"I would like to thank the fans for showing up today despite us being eliminated. We fought until the end, and we had some really good spells," said Poland coach Michal Probiez.

Meanwhile, Phil Foden has "temporarily" left England's Euro 2024 base and returned to the U.K. for a "pressing family matter", the Football Association said.

English soccer's governing body did not elaborate further on the reason for Foden's departure. The Manchester City forward played in Tuesday's 0-0 draw with Slovenia.

England has advanced to the round of 16 and plays its next match on Sunday. It is not known how long Foden will be away from the team's base in Blankenhain, or if he will be available to play in that match.

The English Footballer of the Year started all three of the games in the group stage of the Euros and was expected to be in the starting lineup for the round of 16.



Kylian Mbappe of France celebrates after scoring a penalty kick during a Group D match between France and Poland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

SOCCER

lah Al-Ayoub, Abdullah Fares, Miqdad Safar, Abdul-Wahab Jassim, Youssef Majed, Hussein Al-Kankouni, Talal Al-Matroud, Abdul-Wahab Al-Shalal, Jassim Matar, Abdulaziz Abdeen, Fadel Al-Sarraf, Ahmed Boodi, Muhammad Al-Omran, Turki Al-Yousef, Omar Al-Azmi, Muntaser Suleiman, Bandar Qannas, Eid Talal, Thamer Al-Sulaili, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, Abdullah Al-Sarraf, Muhammad Arhama, Muhammad Al-Surai, Saud Al-Kandari, and Jassim Al-Anazi.