





4

Kuwaiti engineer wins Global Pitch Award at IE Venture Day




8

Zain Kuwait clinches three prizes at Telecom Review Excellence Awards




9

Emerging Companies Market set to launch, accept listing applications



14

NBK Run reinforces its status as Kuwait's largest sporting event



Mol foils diesel smuggling operation

Minister oversees seizure of Abdali farm used to store, smuggle petroleum products, visits border security units



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior personnel raid a farm in Al-Abdali used for storing and smuggling diesel outside the country. The operation was conducted under the direct supervision of Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and in the presence of Major General Hamed Al-Dawas, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Senior Hamas leader killed

JERUSALEM: Zionist entity said it killed the head of weapons production in Hamas's military wing in a strike in the Gaza Strip on Saturday. The civil defense agency and medical sources in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory told AFP a Zionist airstrike killed five people in the Tel Al-Hawa district, south-west of Gaza City. When contacted by AFP earlier on Saturday, the army did not say whether the strike reported in Tel Al-Hawa was the same as the one mentioned in an army statement before the announcement that it had killed Hamas's Raad Saad. Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister I Katz said in a joint statement that "in response to the detonation of a Hamas explosive device that wounded our forces today in the Yellow Area of the Gaza Strip... (they) instructed the elimination of the terrorist Raad Saad". — AFP

3 Americans killed in Syria

WASHINGTON: Three Americans were killed Saturday in Syria in an ambush attack by an Islamic State group member, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said. "Two US service members and one US civilian were killed, and three service members were injured, as a result of an ambush by a lone ISIS gunman in Syria. The gunman was engaged and killed," CENTCOM, which oversees the American military in the Middle East, said on X. — AFP

Criminal gang thwarted

MADRID: Spanish police on Saturday said they had thwarted a criminal gang that flew helicopters to smuggle hashish into the country from Morocco, in a rare operation against aerial drug trafficking. The helicopters were capable of transporting between 500 and 900 kilograms of drugs, which were stored in rural estates and warehouses in southern Spain before distribution by road to other European countries, the Civil Guard said in a statement. Police seized one of the helicopters, 657 kilograms (1,448 pounds) of hashish, five firearms, cash and vehicles during raids in the provinces of Malaga, Almeria and Murcia. Six arrests were made in the operation, which also involved Moroccan, Belgian and Swedish law enforcement. Spain's close ties with Latin America and proximity to Morocco make it a key entry point for drugs into Europe, but smuggling typically takes place by sea. Spanish police have in the past year also uncovered networks that used drones to transport drugs from Morocco. — AFP

KUWAIT: Under the direct supervision of Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Hamed Manahi Al-Dawas, the Ministry of Interior successfully dismantled an illegal operation involving the storage and smuggling of petroleum products. The move forms part of ongoing efforts to combat crimes that threaten the national

Kuwaiti, Indian navies conduct maritime drill

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Navy patrol boat Garoh and the Indian Navy ship Sarthak conducted a joint maritime exercise focused on firefighting operations and the protection of logistical assets in regional waters. In a statement issued on Saturday, the Kuwaiti military said the drill forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen maritime security, enhance operational readiness and reinforce cooperation with international partners. The exercise also reflects the commitment of both navies to safeguarding sea lanes, supporting freedom of navigation and contributing to stability in the maritime environment. — KUNA

UNAMI ends mission in Iraq; Salih becomes new UNHCR chief

BAGHDAD: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Saturday marked in Baghdad the end of the United Nations' political mission in Iraq, which supported the country's transition following the US-led invasion. At Baghdad's request, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) will shut down its operations after 22 years of assisting the country in its transition following the 2003 invasion and occupation that toppled longtime ruler Saddam Hussein. "UNAMI was honored and humbled to walk side-by-side with the Iraqi people," Guterres said at the mission's closing ceremony. But "while a mission may conclude, the United Nations will always walk alongside the people of Iraq on the path toward peace, sustainable development and human rights," he added. UN agencies and programs will continue to operate in Iraq. During a press conference earlier with Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani,

Iran seizes oil tanker in Gulf of Oman

TEHRAN: Iran has seized an oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, Iranian media said on Saturday, adding that 18 crew members from India, Sri Lanka and

economy and curb unlawful activities. The General Department of Criminal Investigations, represented by the Jahra Governorate Investigations Department, seized a farm in the Abdali area used for storing and smuggling diesel outside the country. Acting on intelligence reports indicating containers of petroleum products hidden on the site, authorities obtained a search warrant and carried out the operation. The raid led to the seizure of 33 containers of



Guterres said "there is one thing the world must understand, Iraq is now a normal country. "Relations between the UN and Iraq will become normal relations with the end of UNAMI." Sudani meanwhile said that the end of the UNAMI mandate "marks the beginning of a new chapter of cooperation". "Our relationship with the United Nations through UNAMI was pivotal and effective in meeting Iraq's needs and supporting it until it reached the stage of full self-reliance," he added. UNAMI was established by a UN Security

Bangladesh were on board. "An oil tanker carrying six million liters of contraband diesel fuel has been boarded off the coast of the Sea of Oman," the Fars news agency said, quoting an official from the southern province of Hormozgan. "The vessel had disabled all its navigation systems." Iranian forces regularly announce the interception of ships it says are illegally transporting fuel in the Gulf. Retail fuel prices in Iran are among the lowest in the world, making smuggling it to other

diesel, along with machinery and pumps used for extracting and transferring fuel. Nine suspects were arrested, including a Kuwaiti citizen believed to be orchestrating the illegal activities. The farm owner was apprehended at the Al-Nuwiseeb border crossing while attempting to flee. Authorities also confiscated receipts for overseas money transfers involving large sums, which are now under investigation.

Continued on Page 6

Council resolution at the request of the Iraqi government before being expanded four years later. Shortly after it was formed, a truck bomb struck the UN headquarters in Baghdad on August 19, 2003, killing the UN's first special representative in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, along with 21 others. UNAMI's tasks included advising the government on political dialogue and reconciliation, as well as helping with elections and security sector reform. But with Iraq regaining a sense of normalcy in recent years, authorities say there are no longer grounds for a UN political mission. Meanwhile, former Iraqi president Barham Salih is set to become the next United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, according to a document seen by AFP, taking over an agency tackling swinging budget cuts. Salih, 65, was president of Iraq from 2018 to 2022. He will replace Filippo Grandi, who is leaving at the end of December after 10 years as the UN refugees chief. A moderate and veteran Kurdish politician, Salih's long political career has included several senior positions in the Iraqi government and in the country's autonomous Kurdistan region after the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled longtime ruler Saddam Hussein.

Continued on Page 6

countries particularly profitable. Iran seized an oil tanker in Gulf waters last month "for carrying an unauthorized cargo", dismissing suggestions it was a retaliatory measure against another country. The latest interception came two days after the United States seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela. According to Washington, the ship's captain was transporting oil from Venezuela and Iran. The US Treasury sanctioned Venezuela in 2022 for alleged ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Hezbollah. — AFP