

4 Kuwaiti photographer wins first place at Siena Awards



7 India 'cockroach' leaders vow to keep up protests



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Houthi carnage at Riyadh airport

12 killed, 309 injured • Amir sends condolences • Kuwait condemns attack

Amiri decree names expert members to Central Bank board

KUWAIT: An Amiri decree no. 163 of 2026 was issued Sunday appointing four experienced members to the Central Bank of Kuwait's board of directors for a three-year term. The appointees are Sheikh Abdullah Jaber Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah, Ridhab Mohammad Yousuf Al-Roumi, Hala Adel Yousuf Boursesli and Farah Abdulaziz Saud Al-Abdulrazzaq. The decree tasks the minister of finance with its implementation and takes effect from the date of issuance. It will be published in the official gazette. — KUNA



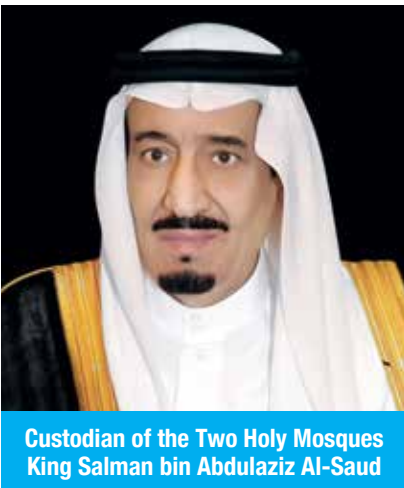
Kuwait maintains Tier 2 rank in US trafficking report

KUWAIT: Kuwait has maintained its Tier 2 ranking for the second consecutive year in the US State Department's 2026 Trafficking in Persons Report, reflecting increased efforts to combat human trafficking, the National Permanent Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling and the public prosecution said. Undersecretary of the Justice Ministry and committee Vice-Chairperson Awatif Al-Sanad said on Sunday that the report recorded an increase in criminal investigations, prosecutions and convictions, as well as a rise in the number of identified victims referred for care and increased financial allocations for victim services. In a statement issued on Saturday, the public prosecution said it had initiated criminal proceedings against 64 suspects under law no. 91 of 2013 on combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling. It also pursued related crimes, including money laundering and the forgery of official and banking documents. The number of trafficking cases under investigation rose from three to 11 during the reporting period, while convictions were secured against suspects in human trafficking cases, the prosecution said. The attorney general also established a specialized unit to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling during the reporting period. The unit is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the national referral mechanism, standardizing procedures for identifying and protecting victims, improving investigative methods, developing a comprehensive database and providing technical guidance to prosecutors and law enforcement agencies. The prosecution added that its members had received training on the proper legal classification of trafficking cases, while an online reporting service had been made available through its website. Al-Sanad said Kuwait would continue strengthening its efforts to combat trafficking and protect victims, adding that the committee would work with relevant authorities to improve procedures, enhance implementation and draw on the report's observations to safeguard human rights and meet the country's international obligations. — KUNA

RIYADH/KUWAIT: Kuwait strongly condemned a Houthi attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh that killed 12 people and injured 309, as Saudi authorities reported further missile and drone interceptions and Kuwait Airways cancelled two flights following the temporary suspension of airport operations. Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation said the dead included four Saudi nationals, two Bangladeshi residents and one person each from the United States, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Sudan. The injured are receiving treatment at several hospitals, including some in critical condition, while authorities assess the material damage. The Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia said one of its citizens died on Sunday after being wounded in the attack on the Riyadh airport a day earlier. Saudi-led coalition spokesman Maj Gen Turki Al-Maliki said Sunday that an unidentified projectile struck Terminal 4, causing a fire and injuries, while a cruise missile was intercepted near the airport. Al-Maliki said Saturday that the Houthi attack on a passenger terminal, which caused civilian casualties among travelers and airport workers, amounted to a fully fledged war crime under international humanitarian law. He vowed a firm response in accordance with international law. The coalition also announced the interception and destruction of a Houthi ballistic missile targeting Al-Kharj on Saturday and a drone over the Eastern Province early Sunday. Kuwait's foreign ministry condemned



the attack as a flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law, warning that repeated strikes on civilian facilities and vital infrastructure threatened aviation safety and civilian lives. It called on the international commu-



nity to take a firm stance and ensure those responsible are held accountable. The ministry reaffirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for measures to protect its security and stability, stressing that the kingdom's security was inseparable from that of Kuwait and other GCC states. It also extended condolences to Saudi Arabia,

the security of Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council states. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent cables of condolences to King Salman. Separately, Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held a phone call with Yemeni Foreign Minister and Minister of Expatriate Affairs Afrah Al-Zouba, reaffirming Kuwait's support for Yemen's legitimate government, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. They also discussed bilateral relations and regional developments. For a second say, Kuwait Airways cancelled flights KU775 from Kuwait to Riyadh and KU776 from Riyadh to Kuwait due to the temporary suspension of airport operations. The airline urged passengers to follow updates through its official channels, saying notifications would also be sent by text message to the numbers registered in bookings. It stressed that passenger and crew safety remained its top priority. The Saudi embassy in Kuwait on Sunday said it was organizing buses to transport its citizens back to the kingdom after their flights were cancelled. "The embassy will provide buses to transport Saudi citizens wishing to return to Riyadh whose flights had been cancelled, provided they have proof of a cancelled flight booking," read a statement posted online by the embassy. Passengers should gather at the embassy building in Daiya at 11:30 am, with departure at 1:00 pm on Monday, Oct 12. — KUNA

- Kuwait Airways cancels more flights
- Saudi embassy to repatriate citizens

Abdulaziz Al-Saud over the casualties. He expressed heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy, praying for mercy and forgiveness for the victims and a speedy recovery for the injured. HH the Amir reiterated Kuwait's strong condemnation and full support for Saudi measures to safeguard its security. He stressed that the security of Saudi Arabia is integral to

GCC stresses economic integration

MANAMA: Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa stressed Sunday that the Gulf Cooperation Council's historical ties, shared heritage and brotherly relations provide a solid foundation for strengthening cooperation and integration among member states. Prince Salman made the remarks while receiving GCC Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi and heads of delegations attending two meetings in Manama - the 10th preparatory committee meeting for the GCC Economic and Development Affairs Authority and the 28th meeting of Gulf environment ministers. Prince Salman reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to strengthening joint efforts and developing coordination across economic, development and environmental fields to advance regional partnerships and fulfill the aspirations of GCC countries and their peoples.

Separately, Al-Budaiwi stressed the need to accelerate economic integration and complete the GCC customs union and common market to strengthen the competitiveness of member states' economies and improve their ability to navigate global changes. Addressing the 10th preparatory committee meeting, Al-Budaiwi said rapid economic and geopolitical developments underscored the importance of closer



MANAMA: Bahraini Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa receives GCC Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi and heads of delegations. — KUNA

coordination, economic diversification and sustainable development. He also highlighted the need to complete the requirements for the customs union's final phase, implement the objectives of the common market and accelerate the GCC railway project. GCC economies continued to demonstrate resilience, with combined gross domestic product reaching approximately \$2.4 trillions in 2025, making the bloc the world's ninth-largest economy, according to the GCC Statistical Center. The non-oil sector accounted for about 79 percent of combined GDP, while intra-GCC exports exceeded \$177 billion, up 125 percent from 2007. Intra-GCC investment stocks surpassed \$171 billion, representing more than 21 percent of total inward foreign direct investment in member states. — KUNA (See Page 2)

wards as soon as they got in it," Alexandre Coissac, IOM chief of mission in Djibouti, told AFP. "This is a devastating loss of life," he said earlier in the statement. "Our thoughts are with the survivors and the families who have lost loved ones or remain without news of their relatives." Coissac said IOM teams were on the ground alongside Djiboutian authorities to provide emergency aid. "This tragedy is a stark reminder of the dangers faced by migrants along this migration corridor as they seek economic opportunities" by trying to cross the Bab al-Mandab Strait to Yemen and then reach Gulf countries, he said. Coissac said he had spoken to one survivor of the wreck who came from the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, where rebels are battling the federal government in a recent flare-up of violence. — AFP (See Page 6)

139 migrants dead, 84 missing in boat wreck off Djibouti

NAIROBI: At least 139 migrants died, including 15 children, and 84 went missing when an overcrowded boat sank while heading from Djibouti to Yemen, a UN agency said Sunday. The vessel was carrying 305 people, most of them Ethiopian, when it capsized north of the Djibouti town of Obock on the night of Oct 8-9, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said in a statement. "Survivors told me that the boat started to sink back-



Handout picture released on Oct 11, 2026 shows members of IOM Djibouti assisting survivors after a boat sank off the coast of Djibouti on the night of Oct 8-9. — AFP