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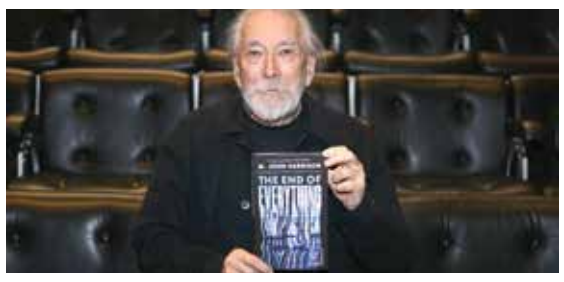
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Kuwait to host GCC forward HQ

Defense ministers allocate forces, pledge stronger military integration

MANAMA: Gulf Cooperation Council defense ministers on Tuesday approved the establishment of an advanced forward command for the Unified Military Command in Kuwait, with appropriate forces allocated to it, Secretary-General Jasem Al-Budaiwi announced. The decision was taken at the 23rd meeting of the GCC Joint Defense Council in Manama, chaired by Bahraini Defense Minister Lt Gen Abdullah Al-Nuaimi and attended by the six member states' defense ministers, including Kuwait's Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Al-Budaiwi said joint military cooperation enjoys the full support of GCC leaders, recalling their directives at an extraordinary summit in Jeddah last April to strengthen military coordination and confront common threats. He highlighted Iranian attacks against GCC states, praising the military cooperation demonstrated by member countries and stressing that their security is a shared responsibility. He also paid tribute to GCC military personnel killed while defending their countries and praised the armed forces' courage and professionalism.

The secretary-general condemned attacks on civilian facilities and infrastructure across GCC states, as well as Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia, particularly the targeting of holy sites. He reaffirmed the GCC's full solidarity with the kingdom, stressing that its security is inseparable from that of other member states.

Kuwait's defense ministry said the meeting also discussed strengthening military integration, coordination and the defense capabilities and readiness of GCC armed forces. Ministers stressed that joint defense cooperation is essential to protecting national interests and economic resources against regional threats.

Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa received the participating delegations, including Sheikh Abdullah and Al-Budaiwi, at Riffa Palace. Prince Salman stressed the need to further develop the GCC's joint defense system and enhance its readiness to address regional challenges. — KUNA

Zain Group reports 17-yr high results for 9M 2026

Bader Al-Kharafi hands over exec leadership while retaining position as Vice Chairman

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading regional TechCo providing innovative ICT and digital lifestyle solutions in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, released its consolidated financial results for the third quarter (Q3) and nine-month (9M) periods ended September 30, 2026. The Group now serves 53 million active customers, a 3 percent year-on-year (YoY) increase.

For 9M 2026, Zain Group reported a 17-year high consolidated revenue of KD 1.8 billion ($5.71 billion), an increase of 4 percent YoY. Consolidated EBITDA reached KD 587 million ($1.91 billion), up 4 percent YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 34 percent. Net income soared 59 percent YoY to KD 304 million ($990 million), which includes a gain of $501 million from Group's strategic investments undertaken by Zain Ventures. Earnings per share (EPS) stood at 70 fils ($0.23).

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, is handing over executive leadership of the Group while retaining his position as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. He will continue his executive duties through the first quarter of 2027 following the announcement of the annual financial results. The Board of Directors said Al-Kharafi led Zain through a pivotal phase of transformation and growth, contributing with his vision and leadership to reshaping the Group's strategic path and consolidating its position as one of the prominent technology conglomerates in the Middle East and Africa markets.

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Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi

Amir receives message from Jordanian King



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a written message from Jordanian King Abdullah II on bilateral ties and ways to strengthen them across various fields. Jordanian Ambassador to Kuwait Sinan Rakan Al-Majali delivered the message to HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Tuesday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs a Cabinet meeting. — KUNA

Nod to family court law

KUWAIT: The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a draft decree-law issuing a new family court law aimed at simplifying litigation procedures in family disputes, expediting rulings and strengthening enforcement while safeguarding the best interests of children. Justice Minister Nasser Al-Sumait said the proposed law allows custodial parents to obtain, renew and collect their children's official documents, including civil ID cards and passports, and enroll them in schools or transfer them between schools within Kuwait without requiring a separate court order. The draft law also introduces coercive fines against parties who refuse to comply with court-ordered visitation arrangements. The Cabinet referred the draft decree-law to HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA (See Page 3)



ANTALYA: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is welcomed on arrival in Turkey. — KUNA

PM leads Kuwait's COP31 delegation

ANTALYA: HH the PM Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrived in Antalya, Turkey on Tuesday to lead Kuwait's delegation to the Leaders' Summit of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, representing HH the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Ahmad said Kuwait is continuing efforts to establish an integrated institutional approach to climate action, with government agencies coordinating to link climate commitments to the country's development and implementation projects. He said Kuwait aims to increase its emissions-reduction targets through measurable goals, specific projects and clear methodologies for calculating reductions, ensuring climate commitments are translated into practical government programs.

He also reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to the Circular Carbon Economy framework, which provides a practical approach to managing emissions across all sectors. — KUNA

Deputy gov inspects Aramco building after Houthi attack

RIYADH: Deputy Governor of Riyadh Region Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz inspected a civilian administrative building belonging to Saudi Aramco in Riyadh to assess the minor damage caused by the attack on civilian facilities by the terrorist Houthi militia. Prince Mohammed stated that these attacks reaffirm what the kingdom has long asserted about the Houthi militia's targeting of civilian facilities.

During the visit, the deputy governor was briefed on the procedures followed by the relevant authorities at Saudi Aramco and in Riyadh region. He directed that all necessary resources be provided to facilitate the work of the company's employees. The deputy governor also praised the leadership's efforts to ensure the kingdom's security and stability, commending the national solidarity and readiness of Saudi forces. — SPA



RIYADH: Officials inspect damage to Aramco tower. — SPA

MoI: Illegal use of buses leads to deportation

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The interior ministry warned on Tuesday that expats who operate buses outside their licensed activities will be deported and companies that violate the licenses will be penalized. "Companies renting buses or transporting passengers outside the scope of the legal license will have their licenses withdrawn, and any person involved in operating such buses illegally will be deported," the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said it has been noticed lately that some companies were misusing their buses for activities that they were not licensed for, like transporting passengers and workers for money. Some companies even rent their licensed buses to other companies in violation of the law and in breach of their official licenses, the statement said. When renting buses to transport school students or workers, individuals and companies must deal only with licensed companies, added the statement.

Under the new rules, businesses must be established as one-person companies headed by their Kuwaiti founders, who must be at least 21 years old and of full legal capacity, with no disqualifying criminal convictions. Applications can be submitted through the Kuwait Business Centre or Sahel and Sahel Business apps. Licenses are valid for four years and renewable. — KUNA (See Page 3)

MoCI regulates freelance firms

KUWAIT: The ministry of commerce and industry has issued two decisions regulating freelance businesses, defining permitted activities and licensing requirements for companies operating without commercial premises.

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