

## Local

# Home farming growing in Kuwait

## Farmers use innovative techniques to overcome harsh conditions



KUWAIT: Seasonal fruits grown in a home garden in Kuwait. — KUNA photos



Apples grown in a home garden in Kuwait.

KUWAIT: Homes have become a core of green societies in Kuwait, with many families setting up traditional and modern gardens with eye-catching products. Kuwaitis are not new to gardening which has contributed to food security, and many citizens recently started home gardening and thus producing daily and seasonal vegetables.

Home farmers overcome some difficulties, like limited resources, by seeking new methods that enabled them to see fresh products on their tables. Some farmers said home farming has become a passion which taught them discipline and patience, as well as being a good way to spend free time in a productive manner.



### Contributing to better food security

#### 'Beautiful and positive'

Khadija Al-Refae, another farmer, said home gardening has "beautiful and positive" impacts on physical and psychological wellbeing of people which contributed to better condition of the heart, bones and muscles. "Exposure to sun rays while farming increases

Vitamin D, from which many people suffer deficit," she said. Home farmers can use empty spaces like yards, roof tops or windows to plant their domestic gardens. Nouri Al-Ostath, with an experience in home gardening, said farmers could plant vertically by using pots which could produce many fruits like peach, apple and figs.

The Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources was also encouraging experienced and amateur farmers to do their own home gardens, contributing to better food security. The authority published guidelines to help farmers design their gardens to ultimately have better produce. These



Strawberries grown in a home garden in Kuwait.



Flowers planted in a home garden in Kuwait.

guidelines range from preparation of soil, irrigation system and water quality, fertilizers and spacing. One of the main objectives of the home gardens is producing daily needs of leafy vegetables, toma-

atoes and carrots for example. The authority was also offering training courses over the fundamentals of home gardening to contribute to healthy environment. — KUNA

## Furious France recalls envoys to...

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Paris sees itself as a major power in the Indo-Pacific due to overseas territories such as New Caledonia and French Polynesia which give it a strategic and military foothold unmatched by any other European country. France had made no effort to disguise its fury even before the recalls and on Thursday Le Drian accused Australia of backstabbing and Washington of Donald Trump-era behavior over the submarines deal.

The row has for now at least put on hold hopes of a post-Trump renaissance in Paris-Washington relations under Biden and his Secretary of State Blinken, a fluent French speaker who was educated in Paris. France's European Affairs Minister Clement Beigne also said Friday that Paris was unable to trust Canberra in ongoing European Union trade deal talks following the decision.

France meanwhile called off a gala at its ambassador's house in Washington scheduled for Friday. The event was supposed to celebrate the anniversary of a decisive naval battle in the American Revolution, in which France played a key role.

Australia earlier shrugged off Chinese anger over its decision to acquire the US nuclear-powered submarines, while vowing to defend the rule of law in airspace and waters where Beijing has staked hotly contested claims.

Beijing described the new alliance as an "extremely irresponsible" threat to regional stability, questioning Australia's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and warning the Western allies that they risked "shooting themselves in the foot". China has its own "very substantive program of nuclear submarine building", Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison argued Friday in an interview with radio station 2GB.

China claims almost all of the resource-rich South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars in shipping trade passes annually, rejecting competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Beijing has been accused of deploying a range of military hardware including anti-ship missiles and surface-to-air missiles there, and ignored a 2016 international tribunal decision that declared its historical claim over most of the waters to be without basis.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, in Washington, said she understood the "disappointment" in Paris and hoped to work with France to ensure it understands "the value we place on the bilateral relationship and the work that we want to continue to do together". — AFP

said Ahmadi's activities that day were "completely harmless", and that the man was "just as innocent a victim as were the others tragically killed". Ahmadi's brother Aimal told AFP that the car had been filled with children pretending that the parking routine was an adventure.

"The rocket came and hit the car full of kids inside our house," he said. "It killed all of them. My brother and his four children were killed. I lost my small daughter... nephews and nieces," he said disconsolately. AFP was unable to independently verify Aimal's account. "On behalf of the men and women of the Department of Defense, I offer my deepest condolences to surviving family members of those who were killed, including Mr Ahmadi, and to the staff of Nutrition and Education International, Mr Ahmadi's employer," Austin said.

More than 71,000 Afghan and Pakistani civilians have died directly from the war launched by the United States after the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, with casualties rising dramatically after then president Donald Trump relaxed rules of engagement in 2017, according to a Brown University study in April. — AFP

## Philippine nurses face...

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The pandemic has exacerbated a pre-existing lack of nurses, said Maristela Abenojar, president of Filipino Nurses United - a situation she describes as "ironic" in one of the world's biggest exporters of healthcare workers. The "chronic understaffing" is down to inadequate salaries, she said. An entry-level nurse in a public hospital can earn 33,575 pesos (\$670) per month, official data show.

But Abenojar said most were on short-term contracts, earning 22,000 pesos with no benefits such as hazard pay. Meanwhile, those in the private sector were making as little as 8,000 pesos. And many

have had enough: About 40 percent of private hospital nurses have resigned since the start of the pandemic, according to the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines.

More than 5,000 nurses have been given the green light to go abroad this year after a COVID-19 ban was replaced with a cap to ensure enough nurses were available in the Philippines. It hasn't worked. "We can't get additional nurses, we can't compel them to apply," said Jose Rene de Grano of the private hospitals association.

In recent weeks, health workers have protested over unpaid benefits, including a coronavirus special risk allowance. Abenojar said many were still waiting. President Rodrigo Duterte has asked for patience while the government tries to come up with the money. "We don't feel cared for," said Melbert Reyes of the Philippine Nurses Association. — AFP

## Spoons become new symbol...

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used spoons, plates and even the handle of a kettle to dig the tunnel from his cell.

He began scraping his way out from the northern Zionist institution in December, the lawyer, Roslan Mahajana, said. Ardash was one of four fugitives later arrested after the army poured troops into the occupied West Bank as part of a massive manhunt. All six were accused of plotting or carrying out attacks against Zionists. Two men remain on the loose following the extremely rare escape. The

Zionist entity has begun an inquiry into lapses that led to the embarrassing incident, which Palestinians see as a "victory".

"With determination, vigilance... and cunning, and with a spoon, it was possible to dig a tunnel through which the Palestinians escaped and the enemy was imprisoned," writer Sari Orabi said on the Arabi 21 website. Palestinian cartoonist Mohammed Sabaaneh says the escape has served up "black humor" and exposed the Zionist entity's security system to ridicule. He has made several drawings featuring the utensil, including one titled "The Tunnel of Freedom".

The issue has also stirred admiration outside the Palestinian territories, where spoons have been carried in demonstrations supporting prisoners detained by the Zionist entity. — AFP

## US admits strike in Kabul killed...

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On Aug 26 an Islamic State-Khorasan suicide bomber had killed scores at the airport, including 13 US service members. Huge crowds were there clamoring to get inside and on board one of the final evacuation flights out of the country. "There were over 60 clear threat vectors that we were dealing with at this time," McKenzie said. US officials believed that the car had been loaded with explosives. The New York Times reported that it was filled with canisters of water. McKenzie said that no civilians had been spotted in the area at the time the strike was authorized.

One of those killed was an Afghan man who worked for a US aid group, Ezmarai Ahmadi. "We now know that there was no connection between Mr Ahmadi and ISIS-Khorasan," said Austin. He

## Algeria ex-president Abdelaziz...

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terms, most recently in 2014. Dubbed "Boutef" by Algerians, he won respect as a foreign minister in the 1970s and then for helping foster peace after the civil war, notably with an amnesty law that prompted thousands of Islamist fighters to hand in their weapons.

"He was welcomed in countries around the world, and the country improved when Bouteflika became president," said kitchen porter Amer, 46. Journalist Farid Alilat, who has written a biography

of Bouteflika, says that at the height of his rule in the early 2000s, the president had "all the levers of power". Crucially, he was backed by the army and the intelligence services. "He became an absolute president," Alilat told AFP.

Algeria was largely spared the wave of uprisings that swept the Arab world in 2011, with many crediting still-painful memories of the civil war - as well as a boost in state handouts - for keeping a lid on tensions. But Bouteflika's rule was marked by corruption, leaving many Algerians wondering how a country with vast oil wealth could end up with poor infrastructure and high unemployment that pushed many young people overseas. "He had a very comfortable life, even after he was ousted from power. But we have to admit that his legacy isn't the most glowing", said carpenter Mohamed, 46. — AFP