

## Local

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## Kuwait's Sept trade surplus with Japan nearly doubles

**TOKYO:** Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan in September nearly doubled from a year earlier to JPY 64.7 billion (\$566 million) on robust exports, government data showed yesterday. The surplus surged by 180.7 percent, up for the sixth straight month, and Kuwait posted black ink with Japan for 13 years and eight months, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report. Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan jumped 110.1 percent year-on-year to JPY 74.7 billion (\$653 million) for the sixth straight month of expansion. Imports from Japan declined 20.0 percent to JPY 10.0 billion (\$87 million), down for the first time in seven months. Middle East's trade surplus with Japan inflated 146.6 percent to JPY 660.2 billion (\$5.8 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region soaring 95.7 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 95.1 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, surged 98.1 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan fell 4.7 percent on sluggish car shipments. Japan posted a global trade deficit of JPY 622.8 billion (\$5.4 billion) in September for the second consecutive month of red ink, as car exports plunged 40.3 percent due to supply chain disruptions in Southeast Asia. However, exports from the world's third-biggest economy still rose 13.0 percent from a year earlier, thanks to sales of steel and mineral fuels. Imports also grew 38.6 percent on higher bills of crude oil, medicine and coal. China remained Japan's biggest trade partner, followed by the US. The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors. — KUNA

### Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** Vehicles drive towards Kuwait City at sunset. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## Russia to enhance cooperation with Kuwait in various fields

**MOSCOW:** Russia expressed its desire to strengthen cooperation with the State of Kuwait in investment, economic and trade fields. This came in a statement yesterday by the Russian Foreign Ministry after the talks held between Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafiri and the Russian President's Special Envoy to the Middle East and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov the previous day. The statement said that the two sides affirmed their common determination to enhance cooperation in the trade, economic and investment fields based on agreements previously reached at the highest levels. Furthermore, the statement noted that the talks touched on the developments in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and the Palestinian-Israeli settlement, stressing in this regard the importance of forming a system for



**MOSCOW:** Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Majdi Al-Dhafiri (left) holds talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Presidential Special Envoy for the Middle East and Africa Mikhail Bogdanov. — KUNA

collective security and sustainable development in the Arab Gulf region based on the principles of mutual respect and good neighborliness.

Dhafiri had delivered a message on Tuesday from Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah to his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov. Speaking to the press at the end of talks, Dhafiri said the letter includes Kuwait's vision on ties with Russia. The ties are based on distinguished and stable bonds as well as mutual understanding and appreciation of each other, he added, noting that Kuwait values its

relations with friends and allies in Russia. Dhafiri described talks with the Russian side as "explicit and clear", saying they were based on common grounds of understanding and harmony. The talks covered means of developing and upgrading the bilateral relations in all fields to the strategic partnership level, he said, terming ties with Russia as "wonderful". Expressing common concerns, the two sides said that there would be intensified political talks in the near future to enhance harmony and understanding between Kuwait and Russia, and between Russia and GCC states, he made clear. — KUNA

## Saudi bowling chief to attend Kuwait Open final

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** President of Saudi Arabia's Bowling Federation Abdulmalek Al-Shithri, accompanied by Secretary General Jayed bin Majid Al-Otaibi, will attend the closing ceremony of Kuwait Open Bowling tournament on Saturday at Kuwait Bowling Center in Salmiya. Shithri's presence was out of the Saudi Bowling Federation's keenness to have effective participation in the tournament. The two guests will attend competitions during the last

two days of the tournament in support of the Saudi national team.

Today will see the conclusion of the men's A+ trials before the start of the final rounds, which will continue until the last day, as competition is getting more intense as participants vie to be in the top three places. The beginners and juniors competitions concluded with Abdulrahman Al-Kandari winning the under-18 competition, with Abdulrazaq Mohammad second and Hussein Maytham third. The beginners U15 competition was won by Yusuf Faraj, followed by Nasser Al-Kandari and Ali Karti.



**Abdulmalek Al-Shithri**



## Kuwait men's ice hockey league kicks off

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti National Men's Ice Hockey League 2021-2022 opened at Kuwait

Winter Games Club (KWGC) in Bayan on Tuesday with five teams participating. The 15-round tournament opens the club's new season of the game, KWGC Chairman Fheid Al-Ajmi said. The women's edition of the league gets underway next week with four teams competing, he pointed out. The club will for the first time organize competitions of the game for three age categories - eight years and under, 10 years and under and 12 years and under, he added. — KUNA



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