

News in brief

Jahra jewelry store
thieves arrested

KUWAIT: Police arrested four people who appeared in a video clip that circulated on social media showing them stealing from a jewelry store in Jahra, the interior ministry announced yesterday. Earlier, a video went viral online showing thieves clad in white breaking into a Jahra jewelry store, smashing and grabbing gold before escaping. The crime reportedly happened in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Murder in the desert

KUWAIT: Police yesterday arrested a man accused of killing a person during a fight in Julaiah. Police rushed to the scene in response to an emergency call reporting that a man died following a fight in the desert. Police were able to arrest the runaway suspect shortly afterwards. Preliminary investigations indicate that the suspect choked the victim to death during a fight before escaping.

Kuwait oil price soars

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti crude oil surged by \$2.26 to \$85.04 per barrel (pb) on Wednesday, as opposed to \$82.78 pb the day earlier, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced yesterday. Globally, the Brent crude went up by 95 cents to \$84.67 pb and West Texas Intermediate also rose by \$1.42 to \$82.64 pb.

Speaker offers condolences

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem on Wednesday sent a cable of condolences to European Parliament (EP) President Roberta Metsola over the passing away of former EP president David Sassoli. The Italian politician and journalist was 65. He served as EP President since 2019 until his death on January 11. The cable expressed sorrow over the tragic event, as well as recalling Sassoli's efforts in sustaining cooperation between Arab parliaments and the EP.

Ambassador meets Turkish minister

ANKARA: Kuwait's Ambassador in Ankara Ghassan Al-Zawawi met with Turkish Interior Minister Suleman Soyulu and discussed issues related to Kuwaiti citizens in Turkey. The Embassy of Kuwait said in a statement the two officials also discussed cooperation between the interior ministries in the two countries. Zawawi and Soyulu also talked about means of cementing bilateral relations and cooperation, said the embassy.

GCC-EU keen on cooperation

RIYADH: Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is keen on boosting GCC-EU cooperation to achieve mutual interest and seek more development, said Secretary General Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf yesterday. The GCC Secretariat revealed that Hajraf's statement came during his meeting with EU Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Patrick Simonnet and several European Ambassadors at the council's headquarter in Riyadh. Hajraf touched upon the outcome of the 42nd GCC summit, which was held in Riyadh on December 14th, and he also displayed the GCC achievements and future plans during the meeting. The meeting also focused on venues of possible cooperation between the EU and the GCC as well as recent regional and international developments.

Incoming flights diverted
to nearby airports: DGCA

KUWAIT: Kuwait City skyscrapers engulfed in heavy fog early morning yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Incoming flights were temporarily diverted to nearby airports yesterday morning due to fog and low visibility, Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said. Aircrafts' take-off and landing resumed later yesterday after weather conditions improved in the country, it added. Kuwait forecasters had warned Wednesday that the country would experience low horizontal visibility due to fog. — KUNA



A traditional blacksmith workshop. — Photos by Sajeev K Peter



A traditional diwaniah.

Kuwait's heritage
museum revisited

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: For a lover of history, a visit to Kuwait's heritage museum is a truly rewarding experience. Offering a peek into the historic past, the Kuwait Heritage Museum veritably delineates Kuwait's culture and history. One of the galleries of Kuwait National Museum, this heritage museum highlights the importance of Kuwait's history from the very first days of its founding. Established in 1983 and designed by architect Michel Ecochard, the Heritage Museum depicts, in intricate details, the life and culture of Kuwait and introduces us to Kuwait's vibrant past.

Some of the wax figures exhibited in this segment appear real. The exhibits detail how people in Kuwait survived harsh weather conditions in the past and what they did for a living, be it fishing, weaving or dhow-making, carpentry etc. Aspects such as traditional education are highlighted in a lifelike remodeling of a "kuttab", a small elementary school - a tradition that lasted till the inauguration of the first school in Kuwait called "Al-Mubarakkiyya" in 1912. Every aspect of traditional Kuwaiti life is covered including domestic architecture such as the model of a "Diwaniah" (main



A traditional fisherfolk village.

reception room), main cloak shop, gun shop, spice market, and the Safat square. A display of traditional writing tools, musical instruments, weapons, cameras, and traditional games offer a slice of life of Kuwait's rich literary and cultural past.

There are rich depictions of ship-building and seafaring life that have been crucial in the multicultural genesis of Kuwait. The Al-Muhallab, an historic dhow — a huge ship outside the National Museum — is a testament to Kuwait's rich seafaring traditions. The museum also hosts numerous

detailed models on shipbuilding and labor with displays of the tools of the Nokhatha (Sea Captain) such as telescopes (darbeel), bild, adad, firjan, etc.

The museum also houses invaluable statues and inscriptions such as a statue of King Mithridates II from the First Millennium BC and the Ikaros Stone, which contains 45 lines of Greek writing, and a letter from one of the kings of the Seleucid Empire to the leader of the island Ikazarkos. A tour of the gallery is, undoubtedly, a journey through Kuwait's cultural heritage and its legacy.



A visitor reads an inscription.



Old shipping documents.



Photographic equipment.



Traditional gun shop.



Traditional fishermen.



Traditional spice vendor.