

## Local

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## News in brief

### Conflict in Ukraine affects economic growth: Kuwait

**CAIRO:** Secretary General of Kuwait Banking Association Dr Hamad Al-Hassawi on Wednesday said that the Russian-Ukrainian conflict affected the global economic growth in 2022. This came in Hassawi's speech at the second session of the Union of Arab Banking Conference for 2022, held in Cairo. He added that the war in Ukraine caused a humanitarian disaster, pointing out that the crisis affected the global economy while it was still recovering from COVID-19 effects, where it had a direct effect in the current global inflation. Hassawi stated that the Arab countries, mainly GCC states, "could take advantage of oil gains to build preventive financial reserves, improve its financial and external budgets and prioritize targeted social spending and productive investment." "Policy-making has become more complex as the overall policy space for dealing with extraordinary shocks amid rising debt and inflation rates is diminishing," he said.

### GCC welcomes partnership plan with EU: Chief

**RIYADH:** The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said on Wednesday it welcomed the approval of a joint proposal on building a "strategic partnership" with the European Union (EU), hailing the move as a measure that would bolster bilateral cooperation. The Gulf Arab bloc is eager to "enhance the strategic partnership" it has forged with the EU, its chief Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said in a statement, citing his aspirations for greater bilateral relations. The EU had discussed plans to broaden its cooperation with the GCC, saying on Wednesday it had approved a working plan on the matter, according to its top diplomat Josep Borrell.

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Vehicles drive under an overpass in Kuwait. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## Kuwait health minister lauds IAEA's commitment to radiation protection

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's health minister on Wednesday praised the efforts of the United Nations' atomic watchdog towards ensuring the protection of workers exposed to radioactive material, in addition to measures taken to limit the environmental impact of such substances. Dr Khaled Al-Saeed said his ministry is prepared to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in a bid to encourage similar efforts on a local level, telling visiting IAEA Deputy Director General Dr Najat Mokhtar that such a measure was necessary. Mokhtar, who also serves as the UN body's nuclear sciences and applications chief, said the IAEA is willing to assist member countries in benefiting from its Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative, an approach aiming to strengthen global responses to future pandemics. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Health Minister Dr Khaled Al-Saeed meets the IAEA Deputy Director General Dr Najat Mokhtar. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters hosted a gallery recently featuring artworks by 25 Kuwaiti visual artists. — KUNA photos