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News in brief

Women judges increase to 15

KUWAIT: The number of female judges in Kuwait has risen to 15 after the promotion of two women judges from the public prosecution to the high court. "There is great trust from the prosecution and the high court to appoint two Kuwaiti prosecutors and more are expected to be promoted as judges in accordance with the rules and regulations, who will join their fellow judges in issuing verdicts," sources told Kuwait Times. The judges will handle important cases including public funds cases, as some of them headed their own departments. "There is a plan to appoint more judges for criminal litigations and court management after they successfully handled misdemeanor cases," the sources added.

Apple Pay to launch on Dec 7

KUWAIT: Apple Pay will officially launch in Kuwait for all users on Dec 7. The launch of Apple Pay comes after completing all the requirements and conducting the necessary tests, and it will be available to all Apple phone and Apple watch users in Kuwait. Apple Pay is a contactless payment technology for Apple devices that allows users to make payments in person without the need of using any bankcards.

Cosmetics with lialil banned

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies announced the withdrawal of cosmetics and personal care products of all kinds that contain butylphenyl methylpropional, also known as lialil, and its derivatives, which are classified as carcinogens by the European Chemicals Agency. On Tuesday, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Communications and Technology Mazen Al-Nahedh issued a ministerial decision banning the import, sale and purchase of all types of cosmetics containing lialil. Head of the Union Ali Al-Fahad said the union will conduct inspections to ensure markets heed the decision, warning against the danger of this substance to the health and safety of consumers. — KUNA

Bomb kills Iran colonel in Syria

TEHRAN: An improvised bomb has killed an Iranian colonel from the aerospace division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps near Syria's capital Damascus, Iranian media reported Wednesday, blaming archfoe the Zionist entity. "Colonel Davoud Jafari, one of Iran's military advisers in Syria and a member of the Guards' aerospace arm, was killed with a makeshift bomb planted by the roadside," the Tasnim news agency reported citing a Guards statement. — AFP



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani at Bayan Palace on Nov 23, 2022. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani affirmed Wednesday his country's seriousness in pursuing a true partnership with Kuwait: a clear and tangible relationship that benefits both nations. Speaking to KUNA, Sudani said the Kuwait visit reflects deep-rooted and historic ties between the two countries. "We listened and sensed the Kuwaiti leadership's real desire to further communication, cooperation and coordination across various fields," Sudani said in reference to his meetings with the country's top officials.

Sudani was welcomed by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the presence of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on Wednesday. The Iraqi delegation later left the country after the one-day official visit.

Sudani arrived in Kuwait on Wednesday after his Monday visit to Jordan, where he met King Abdullah II in Amman. The twin diplomatic trips are Sudani's first official visits after assuming the premiership. Sudani stressed "Iraq's keenness to build balanced relations with its neighbors based on mutual respect and preservation of sovereignty", a statement read.

In early 2022, Iraq paid all its due financial obligations resulting from the former regime of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1991. Baghdad paid \$352 billion in total as war reparations over 30 years. Following the end of the three-year war against IS, Kuwait hosted a donation conference for Iraq's reconstruction efforts. Iraq in recent years has attempted to normalize ties with its Gulf neighbors to attract their investment into the country's war-ravaged infrastructure. — Agencies

Top court endorses elections; MPs call for Kuwaitization

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The constitutional court on Wednesday turned down several petitions challenging the legality of the general elections held on Sept 29. The

petitions called on the court, whose rulings are final, to nullify the entire election process, claiming that two Amiri decrees issued ahead of the polls to regulate the elections violated the constitution.

The first decree authorized the use of civil IDs as proof of identity of voters and proof of address, while the second added new residential areas to the electoral constituencies. The new ruling means that the general elections have been confirmed and shielded against any challenges in the future.

The court also rejected 13 petitions filed by candidates challenging the results of the polls, while it decided to continue looking into 35 other petitions,

setting Dec 26 and 28 for next hearings. The candidates claim there were mathematical errors in the counting of votes and demanded a recount. The court had asked for detailed tallies from the interior ministry to study them.

Meanwhile, head of the National Assembly priorities committee MP Abdullah Fahhad said the government informed the panel that it will submit a number of draft laws to achieve political and economic reforms, one of them being a bill to enforce Kuwaitization of government jobs occupied by expats.

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Saudi win sparks rare Arab unity

DOHA: Saudi Arabia's unexpected World Cup victory over giants Argentina triggered a rare moment of joint celebration across the fractured Arab world including among Qataris - less than two years after a seething regional dispute. A caravan of Qatari cars, horns honking, paraded through the streets of Doha after the Saudis' famous 2-1 win over the South American champions, one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history.

Such scenes would have been unthinkable during the nearly four-year, Saudi-led blockade that cut Qatar's diplomatic, trade and transport ties with its closest neighbors over disputed claims of supporting extremists and being too close to Iran. Complicated regional relations were forgotten as Tunisians, Moroccans, Egyptians, Lebanese and Jordanians joined the throng of Saudi fans that partied in the Qatari capital.

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RABAT: Fans of the Morocco national team pose for a photo with their country's flag and that of Saudi Arabia after watching Morocco's Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup match against Croatia at a cafe on Nov 23, 2022. — AFP

Employee kills 6 in US Walmart mass shooting

WASHINGTON: A Walmart employee shot dead six people at a store bustling with Thanksgiving holiday shoppers, before turning the pistol on himself, police said Wednesday, in America's second mass shooting in four days. Four other people remained hospitalized in unknown condition following the Tuesday night

rampage in Chesapeake, Virginia, police chief Mark Solesky said.

Solesky told a news conference the gunman was believed to have died of a "self-inflicted gunshot wound," and that the motive behind the country's latest deadly outburst of gun violence was not immediately known. President Joe Biden condemned "yet another horrific and senseless" attack, mourning the fact "there are now even more tables across the country that will have empty seats this Thanksgiving." He added: "There are now more families who know the worst kind of loss and pain imaginable."

The assault two days before the quintessential American family holiday, marked this year on Nov 24,

followed a weekend gun attack at an LGBTQ club in Colorado that killed five people. It was also the second mass shooting in the state of Virginia this month: three students at the University of Virginia who played on its football team were killed November 13 by a classmate after a field trip.

Emergency calls were first made just after 10:00 pm Tuesday (0300 GMT Wednesday) while the store was still open. Officers arrived in a matter of two minutes and entered the Walmart two minutes later, Solesky said. US media reported that the gunman opened fire in a room where employees take meal breaks but the police chief said he could not confirm this.

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