



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Jihad and Hamas, enough with the lies and betrayals

"IT IS enough for a person to be betrayed once he shows loyalty to traitors." – This proverb applies to some Arabs, especially those who turn their backs against those who have stood by them, and who express gratitude to those who deceived them and used them to achieve their own agendas.

These individuals even turned against their brothers who struggled for over a year to put an end to the war, not only in Gaza but also in Lebanon. Instead of acknowledging the favor, at least in a statement from the leaders of those Palestinian militias, they chose to offer their sincere gratitude to Iran!

We are not surprised by those who have long been accustomed to denying favors, for they have closed their eyes to the truth.

Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran, and Iran took no action. It only issued empty and meaningless statements and slogans. Furthermore, Iran denied any knowledge of Operation Al-Aqsa

Flood, despite having incited it on October 7, 2023.

However, when a truce was announced for the Gaza Strip, some Palestinian faction leaders rushed to express their gratitude to Iran and its allies in Lebanon. They ignored the fact that real support had come from the Arab Gulf states, especially through air bridges, from the time of Hamas's coup against the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah in 2007. During all the wars Gaza has witnessed, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the

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Amiri Diwan photo

HH the Amir receives Prince Hassan bin Talal.

Amir receives Prince Hassan bin Talal

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday Prince Hassan bin Talal, on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting was attended by senior state officials.



2 Al-Jarallah: Arab Times, Al-Seyassah support IWG humanitarian activities



9 NBK Group's Chief Wealth Officer addresses Tamakan Program

Day by Day

IT is essential for the state's traffic authority to educate citizens about traffic laws, clearly communicating the penalties and dangers involved, so that no one can claim ignorance of them or the consequences they entail.

This education is necessary because it will provide the public with clear knowledge, ensuring that everyone is informed about the law.

Furthermore, it will show violators the deterrent penalties for their offenses.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait takes aim at terror funding

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21, (KUNA): Kuwait is keen on creating laws to criminalize the financing of terrorism to implement key UN Security Council resolutions to exit the stage of enhanced follow-up for FATF evaluation, said Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan.

This was stated in Al-Mashaan's speech at the workshop held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entitled "Targeted Financial Sanctions, Asset Recovery and Mutual Legal Assistance", which was organized in cooperation with the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law and attended by the Institute's Director, Reinhard Oehrig.

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Inflation in Kuwait climbs 2.5 pct as food leads surge

Transport costs drop 1.47%, easing pressure



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21, (KUNA): Kuwait's consumer price index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, rose by 2.5 percent in December 2024 compared to the same month in the previous year, according to data released by the Central Administration of Statistics.

The statistics agency also reported a 0.45 percent increase in the inflation rate on a monthly basis, comparing December with November 2024.

The increase in inflation is primarily attributed to rising prices in several major sectors, including food, clothing and education, with the transportation sector experiencing a notable decline.

The food and beverages group saw a substantial rise of 5 percent in prices, marking the largest contributor to overall inflation in December. Prices in the clothing sector rose by 5.13 percent, reflecting higher costs in this category, while the education group also experienced an increase of 0.71 percent, signaling higher costs in educational services.

The health sector reported a 4 percent increase in prices, which contributed to overall inflationary pressure; the home furnishings group saw a rise of 3.51 percent in December compared to the same month in 2023 and the cigarettes and tobacco group rose slightly by 0.07 percent on an annual basis.

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Kuwait to boost awareness ahead of traffic law rollout

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21, (KUNA): Interior Ministry Undersecretary and Chairman of the Supreme Traffic Council, Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, intensified awareness campaigns on Tuesday before starting to implement the new traffic law.

This came in a press statement by the General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Interior Ministry after

Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf chaired the 23rd meeting of the Supreme Traffic Council.

Council members representing the Ministries of Interior, Education, Public Works and Information, in addition to the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation and Kuwait Municipality were present at the meeting.

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NewsWatch

Twenty stripped of Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Kuwait published a special supplement today detailing two decisions made by the Supreme Committee for Nationality Investigation, resulting in the revocation of citizenship of 20 individuals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The first decision, No. (3/1-2) of 2025, says the nationality of 19 people -- 11 women and 8 men -- under various legal provisions: 6 under establishment, 7 under 'Article Seven', and 6 under 'Article Seven, Paragraph 3, have been revoked.

The second decision, numbered (2/1-2), revokes the nationality of one woman based on Article 10 of the same decree.

BEIRUT: Lebanese President Joseph Aoun affirmed on Tuesday Lebanon's insistence on complete Israeli troop pullout from southern Lebanon within the 60 days set period as declared on Nov 27.

The Lebanese Presidency said in a statement that the president notified the visiting German Defense Minister Maragrita Robles that the occupation's non-commitment to the full withdrawal contradicts the pledges offered to Lebanon during the negotiations before reaching the deal. (KUNA)

HH Amir mourns 66 lives lost in Turkiye hotel blaze

ANKARA, Jan 21, (Agencies): A fire at a 12-story hotel at a popular ski resort in northwestern Turkiye on Tuesday killed at least 66 people, Turkiye's Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said.

Yerlikaya said at least 51 other people were injured in the disaster that struck the Grand Kartal hotel

in the resort of Kartalkaya, in Bolu province's Koroglu mountains, some 300 kilometers (185 miles) east of Istanbul. The fire occurred during the schools' semester break, when hotels in the region are packed.

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Firefighters work at the scene after a fire broke out at a hotel in the ski resort of Kartalkaya, located in the Bolu province, northwest Turkiye, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. (AP)



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister during the inauguration of Kuwait's first sustainable factory for processing local wool.

PM attends opening of new wool factory

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's first sustainable factory for processing local wool was inaugurated on Monday, Jan 20.

In a press release issued by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), it announced that this pioneering factory is the result of an initiative by the SADU Society, with the support of KFAS and hosted by the Livestock Transport and Trading Company. This strategic partnership aims to develop the local wool industry, add value to this valuable natural resource, and promote the concept of sustainability in national projects.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 05:19 Asr 14:57
 Sunrise .. 06:42 Maghrib .. 17:17
 Zohr 11:59 Isha 18:37

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

By Night: Cold to very cold and partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind, with speeds of 06-

Weather

20 km/h with a chance for frost forming over agricultural and desert areas.	Bubyan	18	06
	Jahra	22	10
	Failaka Island	22	11
	Salmiyah	18	13
	Ahmadi	23	08
	Jal Aliyah	20	08
	Nuwaisib	23	07

Al-Jarallah: Arab Times, Al-Seyassah support IWG humanitarian activities



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Saud Al-Farhan, Managing Editor of Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao (extreme left), and the visiting wives of ambassadors in the Chief Editor's office.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah and the visitors expressing gratitude to Arab Times for highlighting their activities and events in the media.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Ahmed Al-Jarallah, the Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers, received Polina Dlamini, President of the International Women's Group (IWG) and spouse of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Eswatini, at his office on Tuesday morning. She was accompanied by Laura Duclaud, Vice President of IWG and spouse of the Mexican Ambassador, and Baigalmaa Bayantsagaan, Vice President of IWG and spouse of the Mongolian Ambassador.

The meeting was held in the presence of Marlon Aquino Malinao, Managing Editor of the Arab Times, along with Saud Al-Farhan and Mohamed Al-Farhan.

During the meeting, the IWG delegation expressed their gratitude to Arab Times for highlighting their activities and events in the media. They also conveyed their interest in enhancing cooperation with the newspaper.

The two sides discussed several cultural topics, and during these discussions, the IWG delegation highlighted their initiatives aimed at improving cultural and social understanding among the various nationalities residing in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Al-Jarallah praised the prominent role played by IWG in promoting cultural understanding and communication among the people residing in Kuwait.

He commended the group's efforts in organizing events that reflect global cultural diversity, and affirmed that the positive impact of such initiatives not only strengthens understanding among nations but also helps showcase Kuwaiti culture and traditions on an international level.

Al-Jarallah emphasized the importance of cooperating with IWG to support shared humanitarian values and enhance the role of women in building cultural and social bridges between different nationalities.

He reaffirmed the commitment of both Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers to continue covering and showcasing the group's activities in the media.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Saud Al-Farhan, Mohamed Al-Farhan, Managing Editor of Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao and the guests discussing various issues.

Photos by Rizk Tawfiq

No substitute to crude oil in near future – KPC CEO

Discovery of new oilfield to stamp Kuwait status: Sheikh Nawaf

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah says Kuwait is one of the most important oil producers in the world, and the new offshore oil discovery in the Julaiya field will improve Kuwait's position and value in the global energy sector.

Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah affirmed that there would be no substitute to oil as an energy resource in the near future and the situation would remain unchanged for decades to come.

Sheikh Nawaf Saud was speaking to journalists during the three-day Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO) Oil Spills Conference, themed "sustainably clean seas."

In statements issued to the media during the opening of the conference and exhibition for oil spills, which was held under the theme "Clean Sustainable Seas", Al-Saud stressed that many refineries around the world, particularly in East Asia, prefer Kuwaiti oil, which affirms the global confidence in Kuwaiti oil and boosts demand for it for decades to come.

He said, "Kuwait produces one billion barrels of oil annually. The new oil discoveries contribute to increasing the country's strategic reserves."

Kuwait has completed the engineering studies for the Durra gas field, and the development plan for the field is proceeding according to schedule, with full agreement and coordination with partners in Saudi

Arabia.

The new explorations are unrelated to the Durra field. The Jalaia offshore field is a new discovery and represents the second offshore find. This field is significant due to the presence of reservoirs that highlight its global importance. Kuwait will begin exploration operations in marine areas, marking a major milestone, as these operations come more than 85 years after the discovery of oil in land areas."

Regarding Kuwait's target production capacity as of the end of 2024, Al-Saud said Kuwait's production capacity has already surpassed three million barrels per day and the country is progressing according to its production plans.

He affirmed that KPC is focused on increasing Kuwait's production capacity, revealing that there is a strategic plan in place to reach four million barrels per day by 2035.

Al-Saud highlighted Kuwait's great interest in environmental aspects.

He explained that the country has developed a long-term, integrated plan for monitoring and follow-up. This plan aims to ensure the efficient implementation of an integrated management program for coastal areas, with the goal of protecting the marine environment and supporting the rehabilitation of its ecosystem.

Meanwhile, the CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Ahmad Al-Eidan expressed his great appreciation for the recent announcement of the second marine discovery in the Julaiya field.

He explained that oil discoveries are not always guaranteed successes, as is the case worldwide. KOC developed the exploration program for the marine area, which spans about 6,000 kilometers,

excluding Al-Jun, and the goal was to identify 16 to 17 potential oil sites in the area.

The company's success was reflected in the discovery of the first two wells out of the 17 targeted wells, which is considered a huge achievement, especially since the success rate of exploration typically hovers around 20 percent. However, KOC exceeded expectations and succeeded in discovering oil in the first two marine wells. This achievement has fueled further ambition to continue exploring until the company reaches 100 percent success.

It is important to differentiate between production capacity and actual production. Production capacity refers to what Kuwait can produce daily, while actual production is determined by OPEC plus based on Kuwait's share.

The strategy of KPC is to produce 3.65 million barrels per day by 2035 and to maintain that level for KOC, with an additional 350,000 barrels allocated to Kuwait Gulf Oil Company.

Exploration efforts are aimed at maximizing reserves and sustaining production. Therefore, any new discovery will naturally increase production capacity.

Al-Eidan revealed that Halliburton, which receives KD 180 million for drilling six wells, will be compensated through these oil discoveries, and the returns from them will be great.

Furthermore, the CEO of KPC Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah delivered a speech at the RECSO conference on behalf of the Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi in which he stated that Kuwait has developed a comprehensive long-term plan to ensure the efficient implementation of its integrated coastal zone management program.



KUNA photo Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, receives Director of Multilateral and Strategic Partnerships at the World Food Program, Stanlake Samkange.

Deputy FM receives officials

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Tuesday, World Bank Vice President for Middle East and North Africa, Ousmane Dione. During the meeting, boosting cooperation and coordination between the two sides were touched on.

The Deputy Foreign Minister also received Director of Multilateral Partnerships and Strategic Partnerships at the World Food Programme (WFP), Stanlake Samkange. During the meeting, boosting cooperation and coordination between the two sides were discussed. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Ready or not, future is coming

By Ahmad alsarraf

Very soon, everything will be connected to the Internet -- our cars, offices, homes and all the machines we rely on, from air conditioners and phones to cooking and cooling devices, lighting and temperature control systems.

Each device will be programmed to manage itself, so we'll no longer be caught off guard when fuel, gas, or batteries run out, or when the water tank empties or food vanishes from the fridge.

Governments will be able to remotely control smart cities -- traffic systems, refineries, energy grids, border controls and ports. Hospitals, farms and factories will run automatically, managed by humans or robots that outperform us.

These robots won't need rest, vacations, or sick days and their decisions can't be swayed by bribery or personal interests. Advanced nations will continue to surge ahead, widening the scientific, economic and security gap between them and countries like ours.

Our failure, or perhaps unwillingness, to keep pace with the digital revolution will hinder our growth, compromise our security and increase our dependence on the West. We will find ourselves struggling to address challenges without outside support, as their systems evolve to the point where everything will be automated.

A room will light up simply because it needs light and countless tasks will be handled seamlessly without the need for physical interaction. This will enable individuals to multitask like never before, all without

leaving their seats.

The future is thrilling and alarming, a story of rapid progress for the West while we remain stagnant, stuck in superficial concerns.

As the technological divide grows, we will be left behind and our strength will continue to erode. Instead of focusing on these critical changes, there will still be groups exploiting religion and manipulating the masses, while the world undergoes monumental scientific and technological transformations.

In the midst of these developments, it's hard to ignore the irony that, in recent times, Gulf countries -- Kuwait included -- have become known for sending 'celebrity preachers' and 'fashion influencers' to Western capitals.

They arrive in grand style, showing off their expensive attire and luxurious vehicles to deliver lectures, completely detached from the image of the traditional cleric.

It's perplexing that these individuals, who stand out more for their fashion and charm than for any substantive expertise, have become role models, with thousands of people following their every move.

Simply having money will not shield us from the tide of change. Western robots are on their way and they will likely gain control. These machines will become more autonomous, capable of handling complex tasks and soon, they will be our partners.

However, their creators -- those who program them -- will hold the real power. Many of the jobs that our people rely on will soon be replaced by robots, as automation takes over.

While new fields like space engineering may offer opportunities, we remain unaware or unwilling to prepare for them. The future is coming, whether we're ready or not.



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Photo by Samer Shaqir

Women employees are evacuated from the workplaces during the drill.

Mock fire drill conducted

A mock fire and evacuation drill was carried out yesterday, Jan 21 at the Doha West Power Station by the Kuwait National Guard in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Kuwait Fire Force

and the ministries of Health and Electricity and Water.

The drill was part of training programs to deal with incidents that the station may occur at the station.

New National Identity Center opened in Mubarak Al-Kabeer

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Director of the National Identity Centers Department at the General Department of Nationality and Travel Documents Colonel (Legal) Nasser Al-Khudair announced the opening of a new National Identity Center in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

He said these centers are distributed in all governorates, and they are specialized in issuing passports for citizens, and citizenship certificates for individuals who have reached the age of 18, as well as birth and death certificates.

Meanwhile, in a televised video, the Assistant Director of the National Identity Centers Department Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Abdullahi Al-Dousari encouraged citizens to renew their passports well in advance of the expiry date and to obtain citizenship certificates for their children upon reaching the legal age of 18 years.

He stressed the need to safeguard official documents from loss or damage to avoid legal complications.

In a related matter, First Lieutenant Abdulaziz Al-Jareed revealed the working hours for the National Identity Centers. He said the morning shift is from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, and the evening shift is from 7:00 pm to 3:00 pm in Ahmadi, Capital, Hawally, and Jahra Governorates.

In addition, First Lieutenant Taif Othman Al-Duwaisan highlighted that a range of services are available through the Sabel application, including passport renewals for individuals over the age of 21, nationality certificates for children under 18 years of age, emergency travel documents for those outside Kuwait, and the issuance of copies of original Kuwaiti passports.

LOCAL

Permanent Nat'l Committee enhances measures to combat human trafficking

Kuwait prepares to host pivotal Middle Eastern forum

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The Permanent National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants convened its nineteenth meeting Monday, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman, Tariq Al-Asfour, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting, attended by representatives of all participating entities, focused on critical matters related to combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling both nationally and internationally.

The committee highlighted the importance of streamlining executive and legislative processes to combat human trafficking, ensuring the unification of national efforts and the consistent presentation of data.

In a press statement, the committee emphasized its aim to synchronize actions across different stakeholders and adhere to robust work mechanisms.

The discussion also centered around the alignment of national actions with international standards to achieve the best results in the fight against trafficking.

One of the key items discussed was the review of special proposals from committee members for the next stages of work.

The meeting also reviewed the outcomes of a joint visit by the committee and the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association to a shelter for trafficking victims.

The visit's goal was to explore the best ways to improve legal support for victims and enhance cooperation between legal professionals and institutions involved in providing shelter and support services.

A significant part of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the committee's ongoing collaboration with Bahrain's counterpart committee.

Both parties have worked to establish frameworks



The Permanent National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants holds its 19th meeting.

for the exchange of expertise and executive practices in combating human trafficking.

This bilateral cooperation is vital in fostering regional collaboration and ensuring that both countries work together effectively to tackle this growing issue.

The committee also unveiled an ambitious work plan for the years 2025-2028. This plan, which was formulated based on the best international frameworks, has been carefully reviewed to ensure its alignment with national legislation.

Once adopted, the plan will serve as a comprehensive blueprint for Kuwait's efforts to combat trafficking, ensuring that actions taken are both sustainable and effective.

Another major topic of discussion was Kuwait's role in hosting the Sixth Government Forum to

Combat Trafficking in Persons for Middle Eastern countries.

The forum will provide an invaluable platform for exchanging ideas, strategies and best practices on combating human trafficking.

By hosting this regional forum, Kuwait aims to play a leading role in fostering regional cooperation and advancing the shared goal of eliminating human trafficking in the Middle East.

In conclusion, the meeting demonstrated Kuwait's commitment to combating human trafficking through continued legislative reforms, enhanced regional cooperation and international collaboration.

The committee's efforts reflect a strong national resolve to address this critical issue and to support victims of trafficking through comprehensive legal and social measures.

Acting Director approves legal review

Municipality confirms lack of need to change current advertising fees

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Kuwait Municipality, in response to a proposal by the Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Abduljader to amend some fees in the Advertisement Regulation No. 599/2023, said there is no need to modify the current advertising fees.

It explained that the Municipal Council holds the authority to issue, amend, or cancel municipal regulations and fees, based on Article 21 of the municipality Law No. 33/2016. Any changes to the fees would be considered only when there are specific reasons that necessitate such adjustments.

The advertising fees were initially set under ministerial resolution No.

599/2023, and later amended by Ministerial Resolution No. 223/2024.

Only a few months have passed since the issuance and amendment of the decision, which means the currently-set fees were discussed and approved, and no new developments warrant any changes. Therefore, there is no need or reason to amend the fees at this time.

The internal regulations governing the work of the council, specifically Article 36, state that a subject cannot be re-presented for reconsideration unless one year has passed since the decision was issued, unless the competent minister or two-thirds of the council members request it, and there are new developments related to the issue.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting of the Municipality's Advertisement Committee, which approved referring it to the Legal Department for further review.

The response was prepared by the Legal Department and subsequently approved by the acting Director of Kuwait Municipality Manal Al-Asfour.



Al-Abduljader

Efforts support FATF compliance

Ministry of Social Affairs and KWFIU strengthen financial crime measures

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah discussed on Monday with the Chairman of Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit (KWFIU) Dr. Hamad Al-Mukrad ways to enhance joint cooperation to support Kuwait's efforts in combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

In a press statement, the ministry said the meeting focused on enhancing collaboration and exchanging expertise between the two entities, contributing to improving procedures related to the Ministry of Social Affairs and aligning with international standards in this domain.

According to the statement, Al-Huwailah commended the efforts of the ministry's team and emphasized the importance of leveraging national expertise

and international experiences to strengthen compliance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

She also stressed the leaderships commitment to supporting the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, ensuring the highest standards of integrity and protecting the country's financial system.

The minister reiterated that these efforts reflect Kuwait's adherence to implementing supreme directives and reinforcing its international standing in combating financial crimes and terrorism financing.

The meeting was attended by KWFIU Deputy Chairman Yousef Al-Omar, National Committee Secretary Maryam Al-Essa, and several officials from the ministry.

MoSA eyes 11 major BOT projects to boost revenues

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Social Affairs is currently studying the launch of 11 projects through the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model for private sector investment, in cooperation with the Partnership Projects Authority, reports Al-Jarida daily.

They explained that these projects are expected to enhance the ministry's revenues in an unprecedented manner that may potentially help it reach self-

sufficiency, ease pressure on the state treasury, and ensure the provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services.

Five of the projects are BOT projects, including an elderly care center in Ishbiliya, a civil society complex and headquarters for public benefit associations, and the establishment of children's parks and sports clubs, nurseries, and the Sabah Al-Ahmad Resort for elderly care.



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Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah with the Chairman of Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit (KWFIU) Dr. Hamad Al-Mukrad.

Traders seek practical solution

Real Estate brokers challenge new electronic notebook rule

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Approximately 130 real estate brokers and traders filed a grievance with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry yesterday against ministerial Resolution No. 234/2024, which mandates the use of an electronic notebook for real estate brokers and halted the use of the traditional paper real estate broker's notebook.

In their letter, the complainants requested for reconsideration of the decision, and proposed the option to conclude preliminary paper contracts before moving to electronic contracts, as it would help avoid the practical challenges arising from the implementation of the resolution and facilitate the sales processes.

The letter, which was signed by about 30 traders and 100 real estate brokers, affirmed that, according to Islamic jurisprudence and judicial precedent, contracts are binding between the contracting parties. It is customary for a preliminary contract to be concluded by the real estate broker to ensure the sale between the buyer and seller, with both parties obligated to fulfill their respective duties.

Implementation

Since the implementation of the decision to replace the paper broker's book with the electronic book, many real estate transactions have been hindered. The decision requires the extraction of two description certificates from Kuwait Municipality and the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) before the contracting parties can complete preliminary contracts in the electronic book. This has caused both buyers and sellers to refrain from finalizing sales to avoid delays in obtaining these certificates from government agencies.

According to the prevailing custom, the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice is responsible for requesting the two description certificates from the municipality and KFF, and submitting them upon final registration with the notary public.

However, the new decision deviates from this custom by requiring the seller to secure the two certificates before finalizing the preliminary contract. This does not account for the time needed to obtain the certificates, which can take more than 15 days.

As a result, it may cause one of the parties to abandon the sale, leading to unnecessary loss of time and effort.

The grievance highlighted six basic challenges faced by traders and brokers in implementing the decision. First is that the description certificate has a limited validity period from the date of issuance, and the decision mandates that it must be obtained before the preliminary contract is concluded. This places the responsibility on the seller to secure the certificate before listing the property through the real estate broker.

If the property does not sell within the certificate's validity period, the seller must reapply for the certificate to finalize the preliminary contract if the buyer expresses interest. Should the buyer decline the purchase, the seller is forced to repeatedly obtain the certificate, which becomes burdensome and wastes both time and effort.

It is also customary for the buyer's name to be included on the description certificate issued by KFF, but this is impossible if the preliminary contract has not been signed and the property has not yet been offered on the market. Since the buyer has not been identified at this stage, placing their name on the certificate is not feasible.

The letter also highlighted that the decision causes real estate brokers to waste time, effort, and incur financial losses due to marketing campaigns, as they cannot formalize a contract to secure their rights without obtaining the two description certificates. This practical challenge calls for the conclusion of a preliminary paper contract.

In addition, if the buyer seeks financing from banking institutions, they cannot register the contract electronically without approval from the financing bank, a process that could take up to a month. During this time, the lack of a preliminary contract does not guarantee the commitment of either party to complete the sale, which further underscores the need for a paper contract.

The grievance explained that the decision, which took effect on January 5, stipulated that it should be implemented in accordance with the decisions that regulate it. However, these regulatory decisions have not yet been issued, leading to delays and obstacles in the buying and selling process. The prolonged wait for responses from the municipality and KFF to issue the description certificates discourages parties from finalizing the sale, which will then invalidate the transaction.

Impeached prez denies he ordered army to drag lawmakers out of Nat'l Assembly**S.Korea's Yoon defends martial law decree in first public appearance since arrest**

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 21, (AP): South Korea's impeached president denied Tuesday that he ordered the military to drag lawmakers out of the National Assembly to prevent them from voting to reject his martial law decree last month, as he appeared for the first time before the Constitutional Court that will determine his fate.

Yoon Suk Yeol's presence at the court was his first public appearance since becoming South Korea's first sitting president to be detained over his short-lived declaration of martial law, which plunged the country into political turmoil.

After abruptly imposing martial law on Dec 3, Yoon sent troops and police officers to encircle the National Assembly, but enough lawmakers managed to enter to vote unanimously to reject his decree, forcing Yoon's Cabinet to lift the measure early the following morning.

Yoon, a conservative, has since argued that his dispatch of troops was not meant to block the assembly but instead was a warning to the main liberal opposition Democratic Party, which has used its legislature majority to obstruct Yoon's agenda, undermine his budget bill and impeach some of his top officials. In his announcement of martial law, Yoon called the assembly "a den of criminals" that was bogging down government affairs, and vowed to eliminate "shameless North Korea followers and anti-state forces."

The commanders of military units sent to the assembly have disagreed with Yoon's stance. Kwak Jong-keun, commander of a special forces unit, told an assembly hearing that Yoon had called him directly and asked that his troops "quickly destroy the door and drag out the lawmakers who are inside." Kwak said he didn't carry out the order.

Asked by acting Constitutional Court chief justice Moon Hyungbae whether he ordered the commanders to pull out the lawmakers, Yoon replied that he didn't do so.



South Korea's arrested President Yoon Suk-yeol attends the third formal hearing of his impeachment trial at the constitutional court in Seoul, South Korea on Jan 21. (Xinhua)

Yoon said the lawmakers could have gathered somewhere later to overturn the decree. He also argued that there would have been a popular backlash if he had tried to physically prevent an assembly vote.

"If I had obstructed (the vote), I think I wouldn't have been able to handle the consequences," Yoon said.

Asked by Moon about reports that he gave a memo on establishing an

emergency legislative body to a top official before imposing martial law, Yoon said he didn't do so. Whether Yoon plotted to launch such a body would help explain his true intentions for martial law.

The assembly impeached Yoon on Dec 14, suspending his presidential powers. The Constitutional Court has until June to determine whether to formally dismiss him as president or reinstate him. Observers say a court ruling is expected to come sooner.

Separately, law enforcement authorities are investigating whether Yoon and others committed rebellion, abuse of power and other crimes in connection with the martial law decree. By law, the leader of a rebellion can face life in prison or the death penalty.

Yoon earlier ignored several requests to appear for questioning and remained in his presidential residence in Seoul, though his defense minister, police chief and several top military commanders had already been arrested over their roles in the enforcement of martial law. He was eventually detained on Jan. 15 when authorities mobilized hundreds of police and investigators near his residence. While South Korean presidents have wide-ranging immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to allegations of rebellion or treason.

Yoon's martial law decree has rattled South Korea's diplomatic activities and financial markets and hurt its international image as a vibrant democracy. Yoon's subsequent defiance and the opposition's push to oust him have also intensified South Korea's already-serious internal divide.

After a Seoul district court on Sunday approved a formal arrest warrant to extend Yoon's detainment, dozens of his supporters stormed the court building, destroying windows, doors and other property. They also attacked police officers with bricks, steel pipes and other objects. The violence left 17 police officers injured, and police said they detained 46 protesters.



This photo taken with a mobile phone provided by Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) shows rescuers conducting rescue operation after landslides hit Ubung Kaja Village in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia on Jan 20. (Xinhua)

Landslides, flash floods on Indonesia's Java island leave 17 dead

Indonesian rescuers recovered the bodies of at least 17 people who were swept away in flash floods or buried under tons of mud and rocks that hit hilly villages on the country's main island of Java, officials said Tuesday. Eight people were missing.

Torrential rains on Monday caused rivers to burst their banks, tearing through nine villages in Pekalongan regency of Central Java province, as mud, rocks and trees tumbled down on mountain-side hamlets, said Bergas Catur-sasi, who heads the local Disaster

Management Agency.

He said rescue workers by Tuesday had pulled out at least 17 bodies in the worst-hit village of Petungkriyono, and rescuers are searching for eight villagers who are reportedly still missing. Eleven injured people managed to escape and were rushed to nearby hospitals, Catur-sari said.

Television reports on Tuesday showed police, soldiers and rescue workers used excavators, farm equipment and their bare hands to sift through the rubble looking for the dead and missing in devastated

villages, while others carried victims on bamboo stretchers or body bags to ambulances or trucks.

"Bad weather, mudslides and rugged terrain hampered the rescue operation," Catur-sari said, adding that people who were fishing in the river and those who were taking shelter from the rain were swept away by flash floods. National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Abdul Muhari said flash floods swept away villagers and vehicles passing through devastated villages and triggered a landslide that buried two houses. (AP)



This photo taken on Jan 21, 2025 shows damaged buildings after an earthquake in Tainan City, southeast China's Taiwan. (Xinhua)

Strong quake in Taiwan injures 27, causes scattered damage

A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck southern Taiwan early Tuesday, leaving 27 people with minor injuries and some reported damage.

The quake hit at 12:17 am and was centered 38 kilometers (24 miles) southeast of Chiayi County Hall at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), Taiwan's Central Weather Administration said. The U.S. Geological Survey measured the earthquake at a less powerful magnitude 6.

There were scattered reports of minor to moderate damage around the cities of Chiayi and Tainan.

Taiwan's fire department said 27 people were sent to hospitals for minor injuries. Among them were six people, including a 1-month-old baby, who were rescued from a collapsed house in the Nanxi district of Tainan. The Zhuwei bridge on a provincial highway was reported to be damaged.

No deaths have been reported, though rescuers were still assessing damage.

Two people in Tainan and one person in Chiayi city were rescued without injuries after being trapped in elevators.

The quake caused a fire at a printing factory in Chiayi, but it was extinguished, and there were no reports of injuries.

Last April, a magnitude 7.4 quake hit the island's mountainous eastern coast of Hualien, killing at least 13 people and injuring more than 1,000 others. The strongest earthquake in 25 years was followed by hundreds of aftershocks.

Taiwan lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur. (AP)

Trump seeks to designate drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations

MEXICO CITY, Jan 21, (AP): US President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday saying the United States would designate drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations in a move that could push a militarized agenda for the border and Latin America.

The order highlighted Mexican drug cartels and other Latin American criminal groups like Venezuela gang Tren de Aragua and Salvadoran gang Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), which it said "threaten the safety of the American people, the security of the United States, and the stability of the international order in the Western Hemisphere."

The order did not list the groups by name, but said Cabinet secretaries would recommend groups for designation as terrorist organizations in the next 14 days. It was among a slew of orders Trump signed Monday to kick off his administration.

"The Cartels have engaged in a campaign of violence and terror throughout the Western Hemisphere that has not only destabilized countries with significant importance for our national interests but also flooded the United States with deadly drugs, violent criminals, and vicious gangs," the order read. It was unclear what the impact could be for fighting the cartels, but there was concern it could be another way



US President Donald Trump signs executive orders in the Oval Office of the White House on Jan 20, in Washington. (AP)

to make it more difficult for people from the countries where those groups operate to access the US.

In came in addition to measures including the declaration of an emergency on the US southern border, a promise to slap 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada on Feb 1 and ending the use of the CBP One app, which allowed migrants to apply for asylum appointments before reaching the border.

Trump has also promised to carry out mass deportations and threatened military intervention in Mexico to fight cartels, something sharply rejected by Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

Many have voiced concern the

terrorist designation could provide the U.S. justification to take military action against cartels.

Vanda Felbab-Brown, an organized crime expert for the Brookings Institution, said the order could have "huge implications from trade to migrants."

As cartels have gained a firm grip on control of the lucrative migrant smuggling trade in recent years, it's virtually impossible for migrants and asylum seekers to pass through Mexico and other Latin American countries without paying some sort of fee to cartels. The moment they do, she said, it could disqualify them from seeking asylum.

'Safety concerns'**Lawmakers in Punjab impose total ban on kite flying**

LAHORE, Pakistan, Jan 21, (AP): Lawmakers in Pakistan's most populous Punjab province on Tuesday passed a law permanently banning kite flying. The measure, which includes enhanced prison terms and heavy fines on kite fliers and kite manufacturers, comes ahead of the decades-old festival of Basant.

A ban on kite flying was initially imposed in 2005 in Lahore, the capital of the province, when at least 11 bystand-



Rehman

ers were fatally cut by wire or string made from metal or coated with glass during competitions.

The ban was extended beyond Lahore to other cities and under the latest legislation it will come

into effect across the province ahead of the Basant festival, whose centerpiece is kite flying to welcome spring.

Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, a lawmaker from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party, moved the bill in the Punjab Assembly on Tuesday, which was passed with a majority vote. Those breaching the law could face a prison sentence of between three to five years and a fine of up to 2 million rupees (\$7,200).

'Deadly ELN attacks in northeast'**Colombia's president to declare state of emergency**

BOGOTA, Colombia, Jan 21, (AP): Colombian President Gustavo Petro said Monday that he will declare a state of emergency over the guerrilla attacks in the northeast that have killed dozens of people and forced thousands to flee their homes.

In a message on X, Petro said that he will "declare a state of internal commotion," a measure that enables the executive branch to pass certain kinds of legislation without congressional approval for three months. The measure will go into effect after a decree is signed by the president and his Cabinet, but it can also be invalidated by Colombia's constitutional court.

Internal commotion decrees were used in the early 2000s by the administration of then-President Álvaro Uribe to increase financing for the military through a special war tax. According to Colombia's constitution, this emergency measure cannot be used to suspend congress or eliminate civil rights. "I hope the judicial system supports us," Petro wrote on X.

Earlier on Monday Petro had warned that his nation's military will take offensive actions against the National Liberation Army after the rebels, known as the ELN, unleashed a wave



Soldiers deploy in Tibu, Colombia on Jan 20, following a spate of guerrilla attacks that have killed dozens of people and forced thousands to flee their homes in the Catatumbo region. (AP)

of attacks in Colombia's Catatumbo region, in which at least 80 people have been killed.

"The ELN has chosen the path of war, and that's what they will get,"

Petro wrote in a message on X, in which he accused the rebels of turning into a drug trafficking group and compared their methods to those of Pablo Escobar, the infamous cartel leader who bombed government buildings and murdered his enemies by hiring hundreds of hitmen.

Petro, who was a member of a guerrilla group during his youth, initiated peace talks with the ELN in 2022, after promising in his presidential campaign that he could get the rebels to demobilize within three months of taking office.

But talks have stalled over multiple disagreements about how the rebels would disarm and the kinds of economic reforms that the government would implement in exchange for their disarmament. The ELN has also criticized the government for staging separate negotiations with a breakout group in the country's southwest and angered officials by continuing to kidnap civilians and extort businesses.

On Friday Petro suspended negotiations with the rebels after violence escalated in Catatumbo, a mountainous region that produces around 15% of Colombia's coca crop and is located along the border with Venezuela.

Africa**M23 accused of 'war crimes':**

Prominent human rights group Amnesty International accused Congo's army and a rebel group of bombing densely populated areas in attacks that "likely constitute war crimes."

Both the Congolese armed forces and the M23 rebel group fired unguided rockets and other explosives into densely populated areas in eastern Congo more than 150 times between January and July last year, Amnesty said in a report released Sunday. The attacks killed more than 100 civilians and wounded hundreds more.

Amnesty International called on the International Criminal Court to investigate the attacks as war crimes.

"The devastating escalation in the use of explosive weapons is a new and dangerous development in a three-decade conflict already

rife with human rights and humanitarian law violations," Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, said. The rights group's report comes at a time of increased fighting between the Congolese army and several rebel groups in the east of the country.

More than 237,000 people have been displaced by the fighting since the beginning of this year, the United Nations refugee agency said in a report Monday. (AP)



Callamard

I.Coast vehicle collision kills 15:

A crash involving a freight truck and a passenger bus in Ivory Coast on Tuesday killed at least 15 people and injured 23 more, authorities said.

The two vehicles collided in Poman-Ouinlo, a village in the west of the country, the National Office for Civil Protection said in a post on Facebook without giving any details as to the cause.

The passenger bus was carrying 70 people. Photos from the scene posted by the emergency services showed the damaged bus, its roof completely caved in.

"The civil firefighters of Guémon", the region where the crash took place, "are on the scene to care for the victims", the National Office for Civil Protection said.

Crashes are common in the west African country due to dilapidated roads and reckless driving, killing over 1,000 people annually, according to the transportation ministry. (AP)

Kuwait crude oil drops to \$83.58 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil dropped USD 1.02 during Monday's trading to reach USD 83.58 per barrel compared with USD 84.60 pb last Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said

Tuesday. Benchmark Brent futures lost 64 cents to USD 80.15 pb and West Texas Intermediate dropped USD 1.30 to USD 76.58 pb.

Business

Bank introduces policies to strengthen ESG commitments

Gulf Bank completes sustainability governance infrastructure

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: In line with its strong commitment to promoting sustainability and driving sustainable development on both environmental and societal levels, Gulf Bank has announced the completion of its sustainability governance infrastructure. This milestone includes the establishment of frameworks for "Sustainable Finance" and "Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Risk Management." Additionally, the bank has implemented an internal policy to document its sustainability commitments and introduced transparent standards for classifying and evaluating sustainability-related initiatives.

Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Saddah, Chief Risk Officer at Gulf Bank, commented on this achievement, saying: "The completion of our sustainability governance infrastructure represents a key milestone in reinforcing the bank's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals. It highlights our ongoing efforts to refine our strategies and fully integrate sustainability standards into all future operations and activities."

Sustainable Finance Framework

The newly established Sustainable Finance Framework aligns with the requirements and guidelines of the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Capital Markets Authority, which prioritize the integration of sustainability principles into financial products, governance, and risk management practices. This framework provides clear directives for issuing green loans and bonds, along with comprehensive procedures to guide issuers, investors, and stakeholders in understanding Gulf Bank's sustainable financing solutions.

Additionally, the framework implements strict criteria for project selection, ensuring that funding is allocated to initiatives with meaningful environmental or social impact. By doing so, it promotes greater transparency and accountability in investment decisions, further solidifying Gulf Bank's role in advancing both local and global sustainability goals, including those outlined in Kuwait Vision 2035.

ESG Risk Management

Gulf Bank's ESG Risk Management Framework integrates climate-related risks into its internal capital adequacy evaluations and decision-making processes. This approach allows the Bank to assess the impact of these risks on its financial resilience and long-term stability, embedding sustainability as a fundamental aspect of its operations.

Internal Policies and Code of Conduct

Mr. Meshal Al-Wazzan, Chief Strategy Officer at Gulf Bank, empha-



Abdulrahman Al-Saddah



Meshal Al-Wazzan

Abdulrahman Al-Saddah: "We have taken a significant step toward strengthening the Bank's role in achieving sustainable development goals."

Meshal Al-Wazzan: "We've implemented an internal policy to document the Bank's commitments and transparent standards for classifying and evaluating sustainability initiatives."

sized:

"The Bank has developed an internal policy to document its commitments to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. This policy provides a clear framework to ensure all departments align with the Gulf Bank Sustainability Strategy 2024-2030, outlining governance structures, roles, responsibilities, and the ethical practices required to achieve our sustainability objectives."

Transparent Standards for Classifying Initiatives

To enhance its sustainability strategy, Gulf Bank has implemented clear criteria for assessing and classifying ESG-related initiatives. These criteria emphasize the impact and value of each initiative, allowing for informed decisions on resource allocation. This ensures alignment with the Bank's short, medium, and long-term sustainability goals, as detailed in its 2024-2030 strategy.

Key ESG Performance Highlights in 2023



The strategy outlines clear targets, timelines, and performance metrics, aiming to deliver measurable progress over the next six years.

Sustainability Report

Gulf Bank has recently released its fourth annual Sustainability Report for 2023, highlighting the significant progress made across multiple sustainability areas. The report demonstrates the bank's strong commitment to ESG principles and features impactful initiatives that have improved its services, operations, and community-driven projects.

Boursa Kuwait sees positive movement across all indices

Healthcare sector remains stable amid market gains

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The Boursa Kuwait experienced a strong performance in Monday's session, with all indices showing positive movement, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The growth was driven by an increase in market trading metrics, including traded value, volume of shares and executed deals. Nine out of the 13 market sectors saw gains, with only three sectors experiencing declines, while the healthcare sector remained stable.

The market value increased by 0.52 percent, rising by 235.4 million dinars, to reach 44.86 billion dinars from 44.62 billion dinars in the previous session.

The General Market Index rose by 39.8 points, reaching 7580 points, up by 0.53 percent and the Premier Market Index gained 44.19 points, up by 0.55 percent, closing at 8054 points.

It accounted for 65.8 percent of the total traded

liquidity, reaching a traded value of 47.155 million dinars with 143.8 million shares traded.

The Main Market Index rose by 30.49 points, or 0.43 percent, to close at 7175 points, with a traded value of 24.5 million dinars and 172.6 million shares exchanged.

The total traded value surged by 23.9 percent, reaching 71.66 million dinars, up from 57.8 million dinars on Sunday.

The volume of shares traded increased by 20.4 percent, totaling 316.4 million shares compared to 262.6 million shares on Sunday and the number of executed deals rose by 12.9 percent, reaching 16,010 deals, up from 14,170 deals on Sunday.

Al-Argan International Real Estate Company led the gains with a 25.4 percent increase, trading 19.41 million shares and closing at 117 fils per share; KFIC Investment Company followed with a 7.5 percent rise, closing at 129 fils per share.

Other notable gainers included ASICO Industries Company (+6.64 percent), National Petroleum Services Company (NAPESCO) (+6.3 percent) and Al-

Madar Kuwait Holding Company (+6.2 percent).

The Gulf Insurance Company saw the largest drop, down 4.97 percent, although trading only 201 shares; the Holding Company decreased by 4.77 percent, with a trading volume of 50.5 thousand shares; Osos Holding Group Company (-3.79 percent) and Real Estate Trade Centers Company (-3.36 percent).

Kuwait Real Estate led the session in terms of traded value, reaching 16.14 million dinars with a rise of 5 fils per share; the Kuwait Finance House (KFH) followed with 7.33 million dinars in traded value, gaining 6 fils per share and the Kuwait Business City Real Estate Company traded 3.52 million dinars, closing up 1 fil per share.

Other notable companies with strong trading activity included The First Local Fuel Marketing Company and National Bank of Kuwait.

The positive market movement across the Boursa Kuwait on Monday reflects robust investor confidence, with notable gains in the real estate, investment and oil sectors.

Khalaf to drive growth & innovation

KIPCO names Ghada Khalaf as new CEO of United Education Company

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Ghada Khalaf as the new Chief Executive Officer of United Education Company (UEC), a subsidiary of KIPCO.

Ms Khalaf brings a wealth of experience in both the education and corporate sectors. She has held senior positions in leading local organizations across various industries, where she has been instrumental in driving excellence and strategic growth. Her operational expertise and her deep understanding of the education sector make her the ideal candidate to lead UEC.

On this occasion, Sheikhana Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer and the Chairperson of UEC, said:

"We would like to thank Mr Mishal Ali for his exceptional service to UEC in his role as CEO. His leadership has played a vital role in the company's achievements and growth. As we look to the future, we are confident that Ms Ghada Khalaf, with her extensive experience and vision, will continue to build upon UEC's successes and drive innovation and excellence in the education sector."

In her new role, Ms Khalaf will focus on advancing UEC's mission to provide high-quality education, fostering innovation and enhancing the student experience across the company's network of K-12 schools and its university. She will also spearhead UEC's strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing operational efficiencies.

On her part, Ms Ghada Khalaf, UEC's Chief Executive Officer, said: "I look forward to continuing to work with the talented team at UEC to strengthen its position as a leading provider of quality education in the region. Our focus will be on driving strategic growth, innovation and excellence to ensure that UEC continues to provide transformative educational methods that meet the evolving needs of students and educators alike."

Ms Khalaf joined KIPCO in 2023, serving as Group Senior Vice President – Investment, overseeing portfolio performance and identifying new



Sheikhana Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah



Ghada Khalaf

investment opportunities. She has extensive experience in various financial and investment sectors.

Ms Khalaf started her career as a chemical engineer and holds a Masters in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London, and an MBA from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University in the USA.

Founded in 2003, UEC is a prominent educational group based in Kuwait. It owns, develops, manages, and operates K-12 and higher education institutes in Kuwait. UEC launched its operations in 2004 with the establishment of the American University of Kuwait. In 2012, it established the American United School and acquired AlRayan Holding Company with its six schools. Spanning across Kuwait, UEC provides quality education to almost 20,000 students, offering different curriculums to cater to the local market's diverse demographic composition.

Foreign oil firms receive KD 718 mln

Kuwaiti banks allocate 13.92% of facilities to foreign entities

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The Kuwaiti banking sector has allocated a significant portion of its total banking facilities to foreign companies and various non-resident entities, with these facilities accounting for 13.92 percent of the total banking credit, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The overall banking facilities amount to 57.118 billion dinars, of which 7.956 billion dinars are directed towards non-resident debts.

Among these non-resident debts, 34 percent are loans to banks, totaling 2.755 billion dinars. Loans to financial institutions, excluding banks, account for 14.8 percent or 1.182 billion dinars, while the other services sector enjoys around 18.3 percent of these facilities, amounting to 1.460 billion dinars.

The banking sector has also provided facilities to specific industries such as:

Securities -- A relatively small portion of 55.7 million dinars has been allocated for investments in Kuwait's local stock exchange, mainly for compa-

nies and individuals engaging in securities activities. Oil and Gas -- Major foreign oil and gas companies operating in Kuwait received approximately 718.4 million dinars, making up about 9 percent of the total non-resident facilities.

Public Services -- The public services sector received around 652 million dinars, representing 8.1 percent of the total non-resident debt.

The Kuwaiti banks remain open to financing foreign companies and business owners who operate in the local market.

This is particularly true for large, well-funded companies involved in government contracts or other strategic sectors.

The focus on financing foreign entities is part of the banks' broader strategy to diversify risks and build relationships with major multinational companies that operate across various global markets.

By supporting these companies, local banks can benefit from access to services and channels in the

Non-resident entities, as defined in this context, include foreign individuals who have not obtained work or residence permits in Kuwait; foreign companies and commercial establishments that are not registered in Kuwait but are licensed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry or other relevant authorities and foreign companies engaged in work under special contracts with the Kuwaiti government, as well as foreign diplomatic missions and their affiliated bodies.

The allocation of banking facilities to foreign entities, particularly in the banking, oil and financial sectors, underscores the growing international engagement of Kuwait's banking industry.

With a focus on diversifying risks and establishing strategic partnerships with multinational corporations, Kuwaiti banks continue to play a crucial role in supporting foreign businesses operating within the country, contributing to a robust and resilient economy.

'Behbehani Luxury' boutique sets new standard for Kuwaiti luxury retail

Murad Yousuf Behbehani opens 'Behbehani Luxury' boutique at Al-Salhia Complex

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Murad Yousuf Behbehani, a leading name in the world of luxury in Kuwait, proudly announces the opening of the "Behbehani Luxury" boutique at Al-Salhia Complex. This milestone marks a new chapter in the company's rich history, which has long been associated with offering the finest watches and exquisite jewelry to its distinguished clientele.

The boutique sets a new standard for luxury and offers an ex-

ceptional experience that reflects the legacy of Murad Yousuf Behbehani in excellence. It features a curated collection of the world's most renowned brands.

Since 1935, the name "Murad Yousuf Behbehani" has been synonymous with luxury and distinction in Kuwait. Through unwavering dedication to delivering the best, the company has played a pivotal role in introducing the region to the finest global watch brands, contributing to a legacy that spans decades. From

timeless classic watches to contemporary creations, Behbehani's journey has always been driven by passion and precision, establishing it as a trusted destination for watch enthusiasts and collectors. The new Behbehani Luxury boutique at Al-Salhia Complex is more than just a store; it is a destination that seamlessly combines elegance and craftsmanship, offering an ambiance that caters to the most refined tastes and providing a one-of-a-kind experience for its customers.



Photos during the opening event.

Presidential Inauguration



Singer songwriter Carrie Underwood performs 'America the Beautiful' after President Donald Trump was sworn in during the 60th Presidential Inauguration in the Rotunda of the US Capitol in Washington, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025. (AP)



Jason Aldean performs at the Liberty Ball during the 60th Presidential Inauguration, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, at the Washington Convention Center in Washington. (AP)



Kid Rock attends the Commander in Chief Ball, part of the 60th Presidential Inauguration, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

Fashion



Models wear creations part of the men's Giorgio Armani Fall-Winter 2025-2026 collection, that was presented in Milan, Italy, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025. (AP)

Final show shines with crystals and velvet

Armani's luxe menswear sparkles at Milan

MILAN, Jan 21, (AP): Giorgio Armani's menswear collection previewing Monday on the final day of Milan Fashion Week was all about catching the light, which the 90-year-old designer achieved with shimmering textiles and a smattering of crystals.

Armani closed four days of menswear previews for Fall-Winter 2025-26 at his historic headquarters on Via Borgonuovo, freeing the fashion crowd to head to Paris for the next round.

Fans gathered behind barricades to snap photos of VIPs including Adrien Brodie, Joe Alwyn, Rocco Ritchie and Darren Star, arriving for

the show under a light drizzle.

Armani set the runway show deep inside the headquarters to a rhythmic almost club beat. Brimmed hats gave structure to the soft silhouette of wintery velvet and corduroy complemented by shimmering textiles that grabbed the light.

Trousers were pleated, gathering slightly at the ankle, creating movement and allowing an easy tuck into laced boots. Jackets layered over zipped vests. Scarfs substituted for ties, sometimes big knits that converted to hoods. Faux fur collars, a trend in Milan this season, were used sparingly on outerwear.

Jewel tones of ruby, emerald and sapphire brightened a neutral palette. Delicate crystal pins decorated evening wear lapels.

A handful of women's looks emphasized the versatility of the menswear silhouette. The show closed with couples dressed for a festive evening, glistening with sequins and crystals for him and for her.

Armani took a final bow wearing a blue velvet jacket, underlining his hallmark of comfort and elegance.

Brimmed hats. Textiles that shimmer. Unstructured bags. Sporty zip vests for suits. Scarves with built-in turtlenecks.

Rodrigo, Nicks join LA wildfire relief concert

Sting, Eilish, Gaga headline FireAid concert

NEW YORK, Jan 21, (AP): Sting, Billie Eilish, Lady Gaga, the Red Hot Chili Peppers are among the performers slated to take the stage at FireAid, a benefit concert for Los Angeles-area wildfire relief.

Announced last week, FireAid was originally scheduled to take place at the Intuit Dome in Inglewood, California. It will now take place in two venues: the Intuit Dome and the adjacent Kia Forum on Jan. 30.

It will be broadcast and streamed live on Apple Music, Apple TV+, Max, iHeartRadio, KTLA+, Netflix/Tudum, Paramount+, Prime Video, the Amazon Music Channel on Twitch, SiriusXM, Spotify, SoundCloud, Veeps and YouTube. It will also be shown at select AMC Theatre locations in the U.S.

According to a press release, contributions to FireAid will "be distributed under the advisement of the Annenberg Foundation, for short-term relief efforts and long-term initiatives to prevent future fire disasters ... All proceeds from the FireAid benefit concert at In-



This combination of photos shows Sting, from left posing for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Emancipation' in London, Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, Lady Gaga attending the Critics Choice Awards celebration at The Savoy Hotel on Sunday, March 13, 2022, in London, and Billie Eilish arriving at the 30th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 in Los Angeles. (AP)

Intuit Dome and Kia Forum will go directly to the event's designated beneficiaries."

The lineup also includes Joni Mitchell, Katy Perry, Lil Baby, Pink, Rod Stewart, Gwen Stefani, Green Day, Jelly Roll, Gracie Abrams, Stephen Stills, Stevie Nicks, Tate McRae and Earth, Wind & Fire.

Dave Matthews and John Mayer

will perform live together for the first time.

On Sunday night, it was announced that Olivia Rodrigo, Peso Pluma, Alanis Morissette, Anderson .Paak, Dawes, Graham Nash, John Fogerty, Stevie Wonder and the Black Crowes have also joined the lineup.

Tickets will go on sale Wednesday at 12 p.m. PDT via Ticketmas-

ter. Additional details about each venue's lineup will be announced at a later date.

The event is being produced by Shelli, Irving, and the Azoff family with Live Nation and AEG Presents.

Since the wildfires started, celebrities and entertainment organizations have pledged millions to help those who have been displaced or lost their homes, including a \$2.5 million contribution from Beyoncé to a newly launched LA Fire Relief Fund created by her charitable foundation, BeyGOOD.

Last week, the Recording Academy and MusiCares launched the Los Angeles Fire Relief Effort with a \$1 million donation. Thanks to additional contributions, they've already distributed \$2 million in emergency aid.

The 67th annual Grammy Awards will still take place Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, though the Recording Academy has refocused the event to support relief efforts following the devastating Los Angeles-area wildfires.

Events

Jury selection underway

A\$AP Rocky faces trial for 2021 Hollywood shooting

LOS ANGELES, Jan 21, (AP): Jury selection is scheduled to begin Tuesday in a trial against A\$AP Rocky, who is charged with firing a gun at a former friend and could get a decades-long prison sentence if convicted.

The 36-year-old has pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, and his attorney has said he committed no crime.

The Grammy-nominated hip-hop star, fashion mogul and actor is the longtime partner of Rihanna, and the two have two toddler sons together. It's not entirely clear whether Rihanna will appear to support him in court, but his attorney has suggested it's unlikely.

Rocky has been named one of the celebrity chairs of the Met Gala in May, and has a major role in a Spike Lee-directed film with Denzel Washington to be released soon after.

But his life could be upended with a conviction that could lead to a sentence of up to 24 years if jurors find him guilty of shooting at his former friend in Hollywood in 2021.

Superior Court Judge Mark Arnold said he intends to seat a jury quickly, and is keeping strict limits on how long attorneys can question prospective jurors.

"I will let the jurors know that regardless of who a defendant is,



Rapper A\$AP Rocky at Pre-Grammy Gala And Salute To Industry Icons in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 9, 2019. (AP)

whether they're the richest person in the world or the poorest person, everybody is to be treated the same," he said at a pretrial hearing.

Opening statements could come Wednesday. Arnold is allowing media cameras in court for the entire trial after a jury is selected.

In 2023, another judge ruled after a preliminary hearing that Rocky should stand trial for allegedly firing a gun at Terrell Ephron, a childhood friend who testified that their relationship had soured and a feud came to a head on the night of Nov. 6, 2021. Ephron testified that bullets grazed his knuckles.

Over 400 vie for scholarship

Teen dancers gear up for 'American Idol' of ballet

WORCESTER, Mass., Jan 21, (AP): Some might call it the "American Idol" of ballet dancing.

More than 400 hundred young ballet dancers from the Northeast gathered in Massachusetts with the hopes of winning a prestigious scholarship at the Youth America Grand Prix auditions. The four-day competition at a historic theater in Worcester, Massachusetts, is also one of the places where future ballet stars are scouted and go on to perform at the American Ballet Theatre, the Paris Opera Ballet and the New York City Ballet.

"I love performing for people and becoming like a character when I dance," said Karli Wilkinson, a 15-year-old from Dighton, Massachusetts, who was warming up under the watchful eye of her mother, Ashley Wilkinson. Her makeup and brown costume was meant to evoke a desert theme from another planet since her performance would be to the music from the movie "Dune."

"I don't really think about how many people are in the audience," she added. "I don't get too nervous. I mostly get excited."

Dressed in colorful outfits and their hair often tied in buns, the dancers ages 9 to 19 mingled about as they waited to take the stage. One after another in rapid-fire succession, they were called out by their number and performed solos lasting several

minutes. "It's amazing to see all the hard work that these kids do. Dance is often thought of as a sport that maybe is light. But these kids work so, so hard each and every day, putting in 20, 30 hours a week," said Ana Canelos, of North Falmouth. She called it a "magnificent" opportunity to see her 16-year-old and 10-year-old daughters perform along with others.

"To compete with just the caliber of individuals who are here, it's amazing," she added.

Organizers said about 1,200 dancers will be chosen from the 32 auditions held in the U.S. and the 14 worldwide to compete in the finals in April in Tampa, Florida. Thousands of scholarships will be offered at the auditions and also the finals. The scholarships provide opportunities for short-term, summer, or year-round study at leading dance schools and programs worldwide.

"It's an incredible opportunity for these dancers to be seen by the directors of schools and companies in the U.S. and abroad," said Racheal Nye, the director of school and studio company at the Oklahoma City Ballet.

Over the past 25 years, Youth America Grand Prix has awarded \$5 million in scholarships to the world's leading dance schools, with about \$450,000 now given out each year.



Dancer Sara Cook performs at the Youth America Grand Prix ballet competition, Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at the Hanover Theater in Worcester, Mass. (AP)



A group photo of the Cura Health team.



Trainer Sarah Shalhoub conducts a music relaxation session during the Wellness Day for the Cura Health team.

Event includes team-building, art therapy, and sound healing

Cura Health hosts Wellness Day to promote employee well-being

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Cura Health, a leading provider in Kuwait's pharmaceutical and healthcare sector, today hosted a wellness event for its employees at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa. The event featured a mix of team-building activities, art therapy sessions, and sound healing sessions, all designed to promote health and well-being among staff.

This initiative reflects Cura's dedication to corporate social responsibility and aligns with its mission to enhance well-being within the community it serves.

Cura Health Chairman and CEO, Mr. Faisal Ali Al-Mutawa said, "At Cura, we believe that promoting mental and physical well-being starts from the individual and extends to the community.

We are committed to investing in our community's health by fostering a culture of prevention, encouraging everyone to prioritize their health and adopt a healthy lifestyle. This will positively impact our employees' performance at work and in their daily lives."

The event's activities included art therapy by Art-Space, a sound healing session by Sara Shalhoub, and



A health day at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Resort.

team-building activities to address both mental and physical well-being.

Additionally, the company collaborated with L'Oreal, the French multinational personal care corpo-



Gifts presented to the Cura Health team.

ration, to provide employees with personalized consultations from a specialist and exclusive gifts tailored to their needs.

Recently, Cura marked World Mental Health Day by

organizing a mindfulness session for its employees titled "Stress Smarter," led by self-empowerment coach Sara Abiqwa. The company plans to host additional well-being-focused events in 2025, aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which aims to ensure healthy lives for all. These initiatives will cater to both employees and the wider public, furthering its mission to promote health and wellness in the community.

Cura Health, a subsidiary of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co., is a leader in Kuwait's pharmaceutical and healthcare sector, with world-class operations and a roster of reputable brands, including Novo Nordisk, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Viartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, GSK, Haleon, L'Oreal, Merck, among others. The company provides pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, skincare and haircare products, cosmetics, and veterinary medicine to pharmacies, hospitals, and laboratories. Cura Health is also the primary supplier to the Ministry of Health and private hospitals in the country.

January marks Glaucoma Awareness Month

What you need to know about glaucoma: Silent thief of sight

By Dr. Salem Almerri

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: January is Glaucoma Awareness Month, a perfect time to learn about this "silent thief of sight."

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that can slowly lead to permanent vision loss if not treated. It happens when high pressure inside the eye damages the optic nerve, which is essential for vision.

Your eye is a hollow organ that plays a crucial role in helping you see by forming images and signalling it to the brain. To keep its shape and stay healthy, your eye relies on the right amount of pressure, which comes from a clear fluid called aqueous humor. This fluid is produced behind the colored part of your eye (the iris) and flows out through tiny channels where the cornea (the clear front of the eye) meets the iris. Along with its function in structure integrity, aqueous fluid feeds the front part of the eye.

However, if too much fluid is made or it doesn't drain properly, the pressure inside your eye can build up. Over time, this increased pressure can damage the optic nerve, which connects your eye to your brain and is vital for vision.

Who is at risk?

You are at higher risk for glaucoma if you:

- Have a family history of glaucoma
- Are over 40 years old
- Are of Asian, Hispanic, or African heritage
- Are short-sighted (myopic)
- Have high blood pressure or diabetes
- Have a previous injury to eye
- Have long use of steroids

- Experience migraines or sleep apnea
- Have thin corneas

Why is glaucoma called a "silent disease"?

Glaucoma often has no early symptoms. Vision changes, such as blurriness or tunnel vision, usually occur later when significant damage has already happened. You can lose over 40% of your vision without noticing!

How is glaucoma detected?

It's estimated that about 80 million people worldwide have glaucoma, but many don't know it. Because it's a silent disease, screening is crucial, especially for people at higher risk. If you're under 40 and don't have risk factors, it's a good idea to get an eye check-up every two years. If you're over 40 or have any of the mentioned risk factors, it's recommended to have an eye exam every year. When screening, an ophthalmologist performs a comprehensive eye exam, which includes:

- Measuring eye pressure
- Examining the optic nerve after dilating your eyes
- Checking your field of vision

Your doctor might need to use an eye drop to widen your pupils to have a clear view of the back of your eye (retina and optic nerve). Since the effects of the drops can last 4-6 hours, it's a good idea to bring someone with you to your appointment.

Why screening matters?

Early detection allows for timely treatment to slow the disease and protect your vision. While glaucoma cannot be cured, its progression can be managed with medications, laser treatments, or surgery to preserve sight.

This Glaucoma Awareness Month, take action for your eye health, especially if you or your loved ones are high risk.



Photo of some of the participants.

KHA completes major study on heart diseases

30% of heart failure patients are under 45

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The Kuwait Heart Association (KHA) has announced the successful completion of a comprehensive scientific study on heart failure diseases, which involved the participation of 10,000 patients from various hospitals across Kuwait over a period of 18 months, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The primary aim of the study was to improve treatment methods for heart failure diseases, which pose a significant health burden both in Kuwait and worldwide.

Dr. Mohammed Zubaid, Professor of Cardiology at the College of Medicine, Head of the Cardiology Unit at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital and a board member of the Kuwait Heart Association, shared key insights from the study.

He emphasized the importance of early identification of risk factors and timely interventions to manage heart failure diseases effectively.

The study's preliminary findings highlighted a particular focus on acute coronary syndromes and underscored the critical role of early detection and proactive management in alleviating the growing impact of heart failure diseases.

Dr. Zubaid explained that heart failure has become a major concern globally, with increasing cases and associated health risks.

The study revealed some important trends such as:

- 30 percent of heart failure patients are under the age of 45.
- 60 percent of these patients also suffer from diabetes.
- one percent of women develop heart failure after childbirth.

These findings stress the need for a more focused approach to diagnosing and treating heart failure, especially for younger populations and those with existing chronic conditions. The full results of the study will be published in the near future, providing valuable data that will contribute to refining heart failure care strategies.

The research will guide efforts to reduce risk factors, encourage healthier lifestyles and tackle contributing factors such as smoking and chronic diseases, which significantly increase the risk of developing heart failure.

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G 580, the all-new electric G-Class that combines iconic aesthetics with unique drive technology showcased

Al Mulla Automobiles concludes its participation in the 'Gulf Run' at Kuwait Motor Town



The all-new electric G-Class.



KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Al Mulla Automobiles Co., a subsidiary member of Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, has recently concluded its participation in the "Gulf Run" event 2025, which was held at Kuwait Motor Town.

Al Mulla Automobiles Co., took this opportunity to showcase the Mercedes-AMG GT 43 four door Coupe, Mercedes-AMG C 43 4MATIC, Mercedes-AMG GLA 35 Mercedes-AMG GLC 43 4MATIC, and the Mercedes-AMG SL 55, through on-track activities, presenting guests and clients with a safe platform to test-drive the vehicles on track and as passengers. The four-day event has been a great opportunity for the company to share with its fans a thrilling Mercedes-Benz experience at the "Gulf Run" event.

The event included a variety of activities for motorsports enthusiasts and participants, including Dealer Taxi Rides, Freestyle Motocross Show, Gulf Run Car Time Attack, and for the first time the Gulf Run Motorcycle Time Attack.

During the event, our sales consultants, product experts and service teams were available at Mercedes-Benz display to assist our visitors with any question or inquiries. Al Mulla Automobiles also had a boutique and accessories corner to present a variety of offerings from the latest Mercedes-Benz collection.

Al Mulla Automobiles hosted its guests at the Mercedes-Benz dis-

play within Kuwait Motor Town to showcase the Mercedes-AMG S 63, Mercedes-AMG GLC 43, Mercedes-AMG GLA 45S, Mercedes-AMG GLB 35 in addition to showcasing the all-new the exciting G 580.

The all-new electric G-Class combines iconic aesthetics with unique drive technology. Like no other car, the G-Class symbolizes the fusion of tradition and progress. Since more than 45 years, the G-Class stays true to its DNA, combining the time-less iconic design with uncompromising off-road performance. Its four single-wheel motors with virtual locks enhance off-road performance of the all-new G 580 with EQ Technology.

Founded in 2005 by a group of young Kuwaitis passionate about the automotive world, the "Gulf Run" has evolved into a comprehensive season of motorsport-related-services. This includes the prestigious 24-hour World Series Karting Race and the region's largest Time Attack event in both Kuwait and Bahrain.

For more information about Mercedes-Benz Kuwait passenger cars and vehicles, please visit Al Mulla Automobiles Mercedes-Benz showroom in Al Rai, Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues, WhatsApp or call the customer center at 1887888, follow the account on Instagram @Mercedes-BenzKuwait, or visit the website at <https://www.mercedes-benz-mena.com/kuwait/en>.



Top and above: Photos from the event

Chelsea ends 5-game winless streak with commanding win over Wolves



Chelsea's Marc Cucurella, left, scores his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Wolverhampton at Stamford Bridge stadium in London. (AP)

Blues move above Newcastle and City

LONDON, Jan 21, (AP): Chelsea ended a five-game winless run in the Premier League by beating Wolverhampton 3-1 to move above Newcastle and Manchester City into fourth place.

Tosin Adarabioyo put the home side ahead after 24 minutes when he scored from close range after Reece James's shot was deflected into his path six meters from goal. It was his third goal in three games after a recent double in the FA Cup against Morecambe.

Wolves was on the back foot for most of the first half but grabbed an equalizer in stoppage time with the help of a mistake by Chelsea keeper Robert Sánchez. Amid a flurry of pushing and shoving, Sánchez dropped a corner kick at the feet of Matt

Doherty who stabbed the ball home from a meter out. However, a revamped Chelsea, with James making a first league start since Nov 3 and Trevoh Chalobah impressing after his unexpected recall from loan club Crystal Palace, was too strong for a Wolves side that is now winless in four league games.

Marc Cucurella made it 2-1 when he chested down a cross from the right and bundled the ball into the net on the hour mark. Five minutes later, Chalobah's goal-bound header was helped on by Noni Madueke as Chelsea put the game beyond doubt.

Madueke said he apologized to Chalobah for nicking his goal but defended his "attacker's instinct" for being in the right place at the right time to make sure the ball crossed the line.

He also paid tribute to his teammate for showing what he called "leadership, character (and) bravery on the ball."

"He slotted in seamlessly so I am delighted for

him," Madueke said. "It is no coincidence with players like him and Reece (James) back in we won the game."

Doherty, meanwhile, lamented his team's poor defending at set pieces.

"You have to want the ball to come to you, or you have to want to attack it. We need to start putting our head in where it hurts and defending set pieces with an 'over my dead body' attitude," Doherty said. "Against every team in the Premier League you have to be on it for 90 minutes and I just thought tonight there were too many times where we weren't on it."

Chelsea moves onto 40 points, two clear of Newcastle and Man City and four behind Arsenal and Nottingham Forest. Liverpool tops the table with 50 points.

Wolves remains in 17th spot, one above the relegation zone but equal on points with 18th-placed Ipswich.

Kuwait Club and Burgan set for consolation clash in Doha

DOHA, Jan 21: The 43rd edition of the Arab Volleyball Championship for Clubs, hosted in Doha with 15 participating teams, concluded its first-round results, setting up key consolation and quarter-final matches.

In the consolation rounds for 9th to 12th places, Kuwait Club, third in Group 2, will face Burgan Club, third in Group 4, at 7:00 pm in Al-Arabi Club's hall. Additionally, UAE's Bani Yas will meet Bahrain's Dar Kulaib. Meanwhile, Libya's Al-Hilal will face Palestine's Gaza for 13th-15th positions.

Meanwhile the quarter-final matches feature intense clashes:

Al-Suwaihi (Libya) vs. Al-Shorta (Qatar)

Zamalek (Egypt) vs. Al-Jazira (UAE)

Al-Ahly (Egypt) vs. Al-Salam (Oman)

Qatar (Qatar) vs. Al-Seeb (Oman)

Al-Qadisiya Club's first volleyball team departed for Doha to begin an external training camp ahead of the West Asian Championship, scheduled in Bahrain from February 2-18. The Doha camp will run until February 5, after which the team will travel directly to Bahrain for final preparations starting Janu-



A file photo of Kuwait Club players celebrating.

ary 31.

The delegation, led by Board Member and Head of Volleyball Dr. Hussein Al-Qabandi, comprises Game Manager Ismail Dashti, Administrator Mohammed Al-Damkhi, Bahraini Head Coach Redha Ali, Assistant Coach Dordi Bejik, Physical Trainer Idris Jakich, Physiotherapist Nicola, Equipment Manager Samir Malana, and 15 players.

In domestic league matches, Al-Sulaibikhat defeated Al-Sahel 3-0, while Al-Shabab achieved the same scoreline against Al-Tadamon.

World Snooker Grand Prix to be held in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Jan 21, (Xinhua): The 2025 World Snooker Grand Prix will be held in Hong Kong for the first time from March 4 to 9 at Kai Tak Arena, organizers said here on Tuesday.

The World Snooker Grand Prix, which was inaugurated in 2015, marks the first time the tournament will be hosted outside of the UK, with a record-breaking venue size and prize money on offer.

The event will take place in the brand-new Kai Tak Arena, which can accommodate 5,000 spectators, making it the largest audience for any current event on the World Snooker Tour.

The total prize money has increased from 380,000 pounds last

year to 700,000 pounds this year, with the champion's prize rising from 100,000 pounds to 180,000 pounds, both setting new historic highs.

This will be the first ranking tournament held in Hong Kong in 35 years. Notably, Judd Trump and Ronnie O'Sullivan will be competing at home after becoming residents of Hong Kong.

With the world's top 32 players set to take part, those on track to qualify include China's top player Ding Junhui, Mark Selby, Neil Robertson, Shaun Murphy, Mark Allen, John Higgins, Mark Williams and current world champion Kyren Wilson.

Robinson wins GS, Brignone and Hector fail to finish

SAN VIGILIO DI MAREBBE, Italy, Jan 21, (AP): Alice Robinson's electric second won her the World Cup giant slalom after two of the biggest stars failed to finish the second run on Tuesday.

With overall leader Federica Brignone and Olympic champion Sara Hector out of the running, there was a new face on the top step of the GS podium for the first time this season as Robinson finished 0.56 seconds ahead of Swiss skier Lara Gut-Behrami and 0.94 ahead of Paula Moltzan of the United States.

Robinson, fifth fastest in the first run, charged down the steep Erta course again at the Kronplatz resort and faced an anxious wait to see if her advantage would hold out.

Hector, who led the discipline standings, left third to last and lost



New Zealand's Alice Robinson, center, celebrates on the podium after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup Giant Slalom, next to second-placed Switzerland's Lara Gut Behrami, left, and third-placed United States' Paula Moltzan, in Plan de Coronas, Italy. (AP)

her balance near the top, crashing straight into a gate and sliding into the side-netting. The Swedish skier let out a yell of annoyance but was on her feet quickly.

There were even bigger gasps of shock when first-run leader Brignone skied out at almost the same point, confirming Robinson's fourth World Cup victory but the New Zealand skier's first in nearly four years.

Brignone and Hector each won two of the previous four GS races this season.

Robinson moved to the top of the GS standings, four points above Hector and 100 above Brignone.

Brignone's lead in the overall standings was trimmed to 55 points by defending champion Gut-Behrami.

Best of the Rest

Haas appoints Laura Mueller: Haas has appointed Laura Mueller as the first female race engineer in Formula 1.

Mueller will be working with French driver Esteban Ocon this year, Haas said on Tuesday.

Race engineer is a very visible role in F1 since they're on the radio to drivers during races and those messages are broadcast.

Haas was seventh in the constructor standings last year and has a new lineup with Ocon and Ollie Bearman.

Mueller was promoted from her role as performance engineer. The German has been with Haas since 2022.

"She's a pretty determined character," Haas team principal Ayao Komatsu was quoted as saying on the F1 website. "And then she's very hard working. Her work ethic is really, really good." (AP)

□ □ □

George to miss Six Nations opener: Hooker Jamie George will miss England's visit to Ireland to open the Six Nations next week after he injured a hamstring last weekend.

The former captain was hurt on Sunday in Saracens' Champions Cup home loss, and the English Rugby Union said on Tuesday he will not be available on Feb. 1 for the Six Nations opener in Dublin.

It was an attritional weekend for England players: Northampton lock Alex Coles, Leicester scrumhalf Jack van Poortvliet and Harlequins No. 8 Alex Dombard were also injured and ruled out of the Ireland game.

Northampton scrumhalf Alex Mitchell sustained a knee issue on Saturday but was taken to England's pre-tournament camp in Girona, Spain, which started on Tuesday. (AP)



Celtic's Adam Montgomery runs during a training session in Glasgow, Scotland, ahead of the Champions League soccer match between Celtic FC and BSC Young Boys. (AP)

Sports

Siyah and Al-A'rab steal the spotlight at Sheikh Khaled Duaij Al-Salman Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The horse "Siyah" from Al-Zaabi Stable, trained by Khaled Al-Suhail and ridden by jockey Luciano, triumphed in the late Sheikh Khaled Duaij Al-Salman Al-Sabah Cup. The race took place during the fourth mixed round over a distance of 1,600 meters, with Siyah completing the course in 1:42.52 minutes. The event was part of the 12th horse racing meeting at the Hunting and Equestrian Club.

In the fifth round, a (40-75 C4 handicap) over 2,400 meters, the horse "Al-A'rab" from Al-Zamel and Abu Jahoum Stables claimed victory. Under the guidance of trainer Mubarak Al-Ajmi and jockey Ali Al-Farmawi, Al-A'rab won the Sheikh Duaij Al-Salman Cup, finishing in 2:40.50 minutes.

Sheikh Duaij Khaled Al-Duaij presented the cups to the winners, while Ali Al-Fahd, the Director General of the Hunting and Equestrian Club, presented a commemorative shield to Sheikh Khaled Duaij Al-Salman Al-Sabah in recognition of his enduring support for Kuwaiti equestrianism.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Duaij reaffirmed his commitment to supporting and sponsoring Kuwaiti equestrian sports and horse racing, emphasizing the need for increased backing for horse owners and fans of this competitive sport.

He highlighted his late father, Sheikh Khaled Al-Duaij, as one of the founders of Kuwaiti equestrian sports, and noted that Al-Masayel Stable remains one of the oldest and most esteemed stables in Kuwait.



Al-Duaij hands the cup to the winners.

Djokovic ousts Alcaraz, gets closer to 25th Grand Slam title

Coco says she has more work to do after losing to Badosa

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 21, (AP): Novak Djokovic refused to let anything stop his pursuit of a record 25th Grand Slam trophy in the Australian Open quarterfinals. Not a problem with his left leg. Not an early deficit. And not the kid across the net, Carlos Alcaraz, who was making things difficult and eyeing his own bit of history.

Djokovic overcame it all, just as he has so often along the way to so many triumphs, moving into the semifinals at Melbourne Park for the 12th time with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Alcaraz in a scintillating showdown Tuesday night between a pair of stars born 16 years apart and at opposite ends of their careers.

The action was non-stop, the shot-making brilliant, even as the encounter stretched on for more than 3 1/2 hours and nearly to 1 a.m. - never more so, perhaps, than when Alcaraz saved a break point in the

fourth set. The 33-stroke exchange was the longest of the evening, and when it ended with Djokovic sailing a forehand long, the capacity crowd at Rod Laver Arena went wild. Djokovic reached for his bothersome leg and yelled toward his entourage; Alcaraz, his chest heaving, leaned on a towel box and grinned.

Turned out that only delayed the final result. When the match ended, Djokovic yelled toward his team's box, before giving his coach, Andy Murray, a hug. Then Djokovic applauded for No. 3 seed Alcaraz as he left the court. Coco Gauff's retooled forehand and serve abandoned her in the worst way and at the worst time at the Australian Open. The unforced errors just kept accumulating Tuesday, and so did the double-faults and break points, often followed by a palm placed over her eyes or a slap to a thigh.

Add it all up, and Gauff's trip to Melbourne Park - and her 13-match winning streak that dated to late last season - ended in the quarterfinals. Never able to take control on a hot afternoon in Rod Laver Arena,

the 2023 U.S. Open champion was eliminated by No. 11 Paula Badosa of Spain 7-5, 6-4.

Using tweaks to some key strokes, and a change to her coaching team after a disappointing end to her title defense in New York in September, the 20-year-old Gauff arrived in Australia with hopes of earning a second Grand Slam title.

The American entered Tuesday with a 9-0 record in 2025; she also won her last four matches of last season to collect the trophy at the WTA Finals in November.

"Just a lot more work to do," Gauff said after the 1-hour, 43-minute loss to Badosa, who had been 0-2 in Grand Slam quarterfinals. "I'm obviously disappointed, but I'm not completely crushed."

In Thursday's semifinals, she will go up against her close friend, No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time defending champion in Melbourne. Sabalenka stretched her winning streak in the tournament to 19 matches by getting past No. 27 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.



Aqla with the technical staff of Kuwait Club.

Intense competition between Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi for title

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Kuwait Club's Adel Aqla, described the ongoing rivalry between the team and Al-Arabi for the Zain Premier League title as a "great" competition, which has been unfolding for the past four seasons. Both teams are currently tied for the league lead after the twelfth round, each with 33 points.

Aqla commented on its recent 2-1 victory over Khaitan, acknowledging that it was far from easy. "It was a tough match, and we knew it wouldn't be simple," he said. "Khaitan played well, and it fought hard throughout. It sat back and defended, then capitalized on a mistake to score its only goal through our player, Reda Hani, who had a standout performance."

He went on to explain that mistakes are inevitable in football, but the three points were secured after Khaitan's Emmanuel Mbah was penalized for handling the ball inside the penalty area in the dying moments of the game.

Meanwhile, Khaitan Club's Mohammed Al-Mulla, praised his team's

efforts despite the loss. He acknowledged that his players gave a strong performance and deserved at least a draw. Al-Mulla expressed hope that the team would maintain this level of play and spirit in their upcoming matches to secure better results.

In other developments, Al-Qadisiya has resumed negotiations with Bahraini defender Walid Al-Hayam, after an earlier pursuit of Omani defender Thani bin Gharib fell through due to Al-Nahda Club's high asking price. Al-Qadisiya has been struggling with defensive issues, particularly in its recent match against Al-Arabi, where Montenegrin coach Zeljko Petrovic had to deploy midfielder Al-Mahdi Barahma in a defensive role due to injuries to key defenders Khaled Ibrahim, Khaled Sabah, and Faisal Al-Shatti, as well as the departure of Brazilian Igor Rossi.

Al-Qadisiyah is working to strengthen its squad ahead of its upcoming semi-final match against Al-Arabi in the Super Cup. However, with a significant points gap of 13 between them and the league leaders, Kuwait and Al-Arabi, it has realistically fallen out of contention for the league title.

Vital game for Real to ensure Champs League play-off spot

MADRID, Jan 21, (Xinhua): Real Madrid has a vital Champions League match on Wednesday at home to RB Salzburg, knowing that anything but a win could jeopardize the club's future in the tournament.

Madrid's win away to Atalanta before Christmas lifted Carlo Ancelotti's side to 20th in the 36-team group, but with just nine points from the first six group games, Los Blancos are still in danger of not finishing in the top 24 to ensure a place in the play-offs for a spot in the knockout stages.

With Madrid needing a miracle to finish in the top eight and ensure direct qualification to the next round, it has to focus on winning at home to Salzburg and then away to Brest next week to finish as high as possible in the group to ensure the easiest possible tie in the play-offs.

Ancelotti will be without Eduardo Camavinga for Wednesday's match after the midfielder injured his thigh

in last week's Copa del Rey game at home to Celta Vigo, and he joins long-term absentees Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao on the sidelines.

Vinicius Jr should return to the side after his suspension in La Liga this weekend, although that gives Ancelotti a difficult decision to make. Kylian Mbappe impressed with two goals against Las Palmas on Sunday, playing in his favorite position on the left, so Ancelotti has to decide whether to return Vinicius to the wing or leave Mbappe in a role where he is clearly happier.

David Alaba returned after a year out with injury in the closing minutes against Las Palmas, and the Austrian defender will probably have more game time against Salzburg, which has conceded 18 goals in five games in the competition.

Girona also plays on Wednesday, visiting AC Milan and looking for a miracle to lift it into the top 24.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a backhand return to Carlos Alcaraz of Spain during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

Kazakhstan explores swimming championships with Al-Musallam

ASTANA, Jan 21: Kazakhstan's Minister of Sports and Tourism, Yerbol Mirza Boyunsev, welcomed Captain Husain Al-Musallam, President of the International Aquatics Federation (FINA) and Director General of the Olympic Council of Asia, during a meeting held in the capital, Astana.

Dmitry Balandin, former Olympic swimmer and Vice President of the Olympic Committee and Kazakhstan Swimming Federation, and Ali Mazan Akyayev, Secretary of the Kazakh Olympic Committee, attended the discussion.

Key topics focused on the advancement of swimming in Kazakhstan, including potential plans to host world



Husain Al-Musallam with sports leaders in Kazakhstan.

swimming championships in alignment with the international calendar.

Another significant initiative addressed was a proposal to collaborate with the Ministry of Sports and Education to introduce swimming education programs in kindergartens and primary schools. This plan aims to allocate one hour of swimming training per week for children, divided into 30-minute sessions, with guidance from trainers accredited by the International Aquatics Federation.

Additionally, the meeting explored Kazakhstan's prospects of hosting Asian swimming tournaments in accordance with the Asian calendar.