



THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025 / RAJAB 22, 1446 AH

emergency number 112



Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

NO. 18806 **16 PAGES**

150 FILS



"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

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:

🛛 @Ahmedaljarallah Ahmed aljarallah ahmed@aljarallah.com



Scan QR code Scan Me aljarallah.com

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.



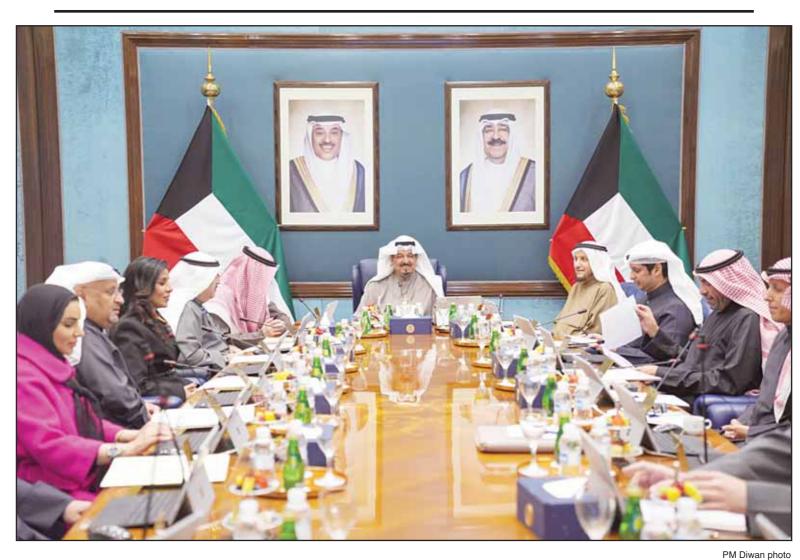
Al-Jarallah: Arab Times, Al-Seyassah support IWG humanitarian activities



NBK Group's Chief Wealth Officer addresses Tamakan Program

Inflation in Kuwait climbs 2.5 pct as food leads surge

Transport costs drop 1.47%, easing pressure



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 ex-

cent in prices, marking the larg-

est contributor to overall inflation

in December. Prices in the clothing sector rose by 5.13 percent,

reflecting higher costs in this cat-

egory, while the education group

also experienced an increase of

0.71 percent, signaling higher costs in educational services.

periencing a notable decline. The food and beverages group saw a substantial rise of 5 per-

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.

.. day

Yet tomorrow is another

Zahed Matar

Kuwait takes aim at terror funding

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21, (KUNA): Kuwait is keen on creating laws to crimi-nalize 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.

Continued on Page 5

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.

Continued on Page 5

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

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.

Continued on Page 5



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.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

Twenty stripped of Kuwaiti citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Kuwait Alyawm, the official gazette has 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-com-mitment 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.

Continued on Page 5



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)

Prayer Timings					
Fajr 05:19	Asr 14:5				
Sunrise 06:42	Maghrib 17:1				
Zohr 11:59	Isha 18:3				



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-

	V	Veather				
	20 km/h with a chance for frost			Bubyan	18	0
forming over agricultural and des-			Jahra	22	1(
	ert areas.			Failaka Island	22	1
	Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Salmiyah	18	1:
	Kuwait City	21	10	Ahmadi	23	08
	Kuwait Airport	21	06	Jal Aliyah	20	08
	Abdaly	22	08	Nuwaisib	23	0

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.



Photos by Rizk Tawfiq 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.



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.

No substitute to crude oil in near future – KPC CEO



2

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 Julaia 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 Jalaa 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 Julaia 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-Éidan 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.



Photo by Samer Shaqair 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. Abdulhadi 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

In addition, First Lieutenant Taif Othman Al-Duwaisan highlighted that a range of services are available through the Sahel 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.



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)



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

run automatically, managed by humans or

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 coun-

Our failure, or perhaps unwillingness, to

keep pace with the digital revolution will

hinder our growth, compromise our secu-

rity 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.

needs light and countless tasks will be han-

dled seamlessly without the need for physi-

cal interaction. This will enable individuals

to multitask like never before, all without

A room will light up simply because it

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

tries like ours.

robots that outperform us.

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.

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.

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



3

LOCAL

diwaniya 🕝 العانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Political forces, public silence after dissolution negate democratic values'

"THE decree dissolving the National Assembly and suspending certain articles of the Constitution included a commitment that this period of dissolution and suspension would not exceed four years," columnist Abdul Latif Al-Duaij wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"During this time, the parliamentary and constitutional experience would be reviewed, the errors identified and the reasons behind the dissolution addressed. As we now enter the first year of this experiment, silence prevails.

"There are no government initiatives, nor any indication that the matter is being given the attention it deserves. The public seems indifferent and the so-called political forces are completely absent from the discussion. This is both strange and suspicious.

"The political forces should have been actively involved from day one of the dissolution. Even if discussing or addressing the dissolution itself is politically sensitive, studying the parliamentary and constitutional experiences, as the decree called for, is entirely feasible.

"What is expected from political forces -- if we in-deed have political forces and politicians -- is for them to put forward their views and suggestions on how to address the perceived flaws in the constitutional experience.

"The Âmiri decree to dissolve the National Assembly specifically called for a study of the democratic 'experiment' within a period not exceeding four years, with the results to be submitted to His Highness the Amir of the country for review and further action.

"Therefore, the political forces should not hesitate to respond to His Highness's call and begin presenting their opinions on the challenges faced by the democratic 'experiment' and offer appropriate solutions.

"Some might argue that no one has specifically invited the political forces to participate and that the responsibility for this study lies solely with the government. This argument, however, is entirely incorrect.

"The political forces and the public, in general, are both concerned and are invited to participate and express their views.

'This is the essence of democracy and a testament to our commitment to it . It is truly unfortunate that both the political forces and the people have remained silent during this period, neglecting the matter of the National Assembly's dissolution and the suspension of certain constitutional articles.

"This silence can only be interpreted as a lack of interest in the future of the National Assembly and the suspended constitutional provisions.

"The failure to address these issues at such a critical time raises serious questions about the commitment to the principles of democracy and constitutional integrity."

Also:

"His Excellency Ambassador Baha'a Eddine Al-Naqqar served as the Ambassador of the sisterly Republic of Syria to Tunisia in the 1960s. During his tenure, we developed a close relationship of friendship and fellowship," columnist Mohammad Salem Al-Balhan wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Through him, we had the honor of meeting the late President Noureddine Al-Atassi, who, at that time, was a volunteer doctor in the ranks of the Algerian Liberation Forces.

"He served as an attaché in one of the brigades stationed in Tunisia, with the Kef region as its headquarters. The late President Al-Atassi would visit Tunis frequently and Ambassador Baha'a Eddine Al-Naggar was always his host during these visits.

"It was through Ambassador Al-Naggar that we had the privilege of meeting

President Al-Atassi, who was deeply committed to his volunteer work as a doctor during a pivotal period in Algeria's history.

"Once Algeria gained its independence and France withdrew its forces, the Algerian armies stationed in neighboring countries returned to Algeria. It was then that President Al-Atassi returned to Syria.

"Shortly after, he paid an official visit to Tunisia in his new capacity as Vice President of the Syrian Republic, accompanied by the Syrian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Hassan Marioud. After this, Ambassador Baha'a Eddine Al-Naqqar was transferred to Damascus and I was subsequently assigned to Beirut, Lebanon.

"At that time, President Noureddine Al-Atassi assumed leadership of Syria until a coup led by Hafez al-Assad overthrew his government. The Assad family went on to lead Syria, with Hafez al-Assad in power until his death, after which his son, President Bashar al-Assad, succeeded him.

"President Bashar al-Assad's term ended with his flight from Syria -- had it not been for that, his fate might have mirrored that of many Arab leaders who came before him, many of whom were assassinated.

"The only exception in this tragic narrative is the Arab Republic of Egypt, which respected its historical symbols. After King Farouk's deposition, Egypt conducted official ceremonies to bid him farewell, reflecting the nobility of its people.

"It is deeply unfortunate that many Arab countries, which have claimed democracy, have seen their leaders assassinated or tortured. This is a sad reality and it is, quite frankly, unacceptable.

"In conclusion, we pray to God Almighty to restore this nation to its rightful place of honor and glory, of which Arabs and Muslims have long been proud. We ask for success in the missions of all who serve the peoples of this ancient and proud nation."

- Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Syrian jailed 10 years, fined KD20K in e-crime, impersonation lawsuit

Student's father gets two years for beating up teacher

By Jaber Al-Hamoud Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The Court of Cassation has issued a decisive ruling in a case involving cybercrime and impersonation, sentencing a Syrian man to 10 years in prison and imposing a fine of 20.000 dinars.

The conviction follows his involvement in hacking a government website, impersonating an employee of the Consumer Protection Department, and unlawfully seizing 15,000 dinars from a female citizen's bank account.

The incident came to light when the accused exploited technology to infiltrate a government website and assumed the identity of officials responsible for consumer protection.

Using the messaging application WhatsApp, he contacted the citizen, fraudulently claim-

ing to represent the Ministry of Commerce. Through this deceit, he managed to transfer 15,000 dinars from the victim's bank account to his own.

The Public Prosecution presented evidence proving the actions of the accused, including his hacking of a government platform and impersonation of a public employee to commit financial fraud.

This ruling highlights the stringent measures taken by Kuwait's judiciary to combat cybercrimes and protect public trust in governmental systems.

Student's father jailed: The Criminal Court has sentenced an individual to two-year imprisonment with hard labor for assaulting a teacher at his son's school during a dispute between them.

Investigations revealed that the defendant had assaulted several teachers at the boys' high school, and all but one teacher chose to waive the charges against him.

Verdict set for Feb 10: The Court of Cassation has adjourned to February 10 its verdict in the case filed against two citizens who are accused of defrauding 500 people in a "luxury cars" scam.

Previously, the Court of Appeals had upheld a ten-year prison sentence and a KD 34 million fine issued against the owner and manager of a luxury car dealership. Also, a two-year prison sentence with hard labor was imposed for fraud and deception.

The two defendants were charged with fraud and money laundering after more than 500 individuals, both in Kuwait and abroad, accused them of defrauding them in a scheme involving the supply of luxury vehicles.

The defendants allegedly transferred the funds, amounting to more than KD 17 million and one and a half million Qatari riyals, to conceal their illegal source. The victims were misled into believing they could purchase luxury cars at discounted prices, and the cars would be shipped and delivered to them.

an unidentified GCC country has

been referred to the Directorate-

General for Drugs Control on

suspicion of consuming alcohol,

The daily added, police found

with the suspect a small bottle of

mineral water with some liquid content which looked like water

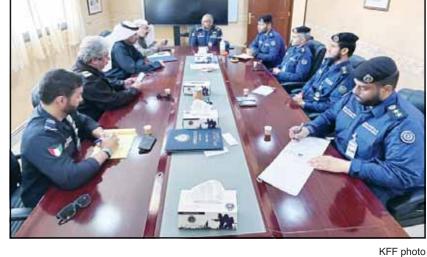
A security source said a police

patrol driving along the Fourth

Ring Road ordered the man to pull

reports Al-Anba daily.

but smelled of alcohol.



Kuwait Fire Force and Kuwait Emergency Medical Services (EMS) officials during

KFF and EMS to collaborate on joint training initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: In a significant move to enhance the capabilities of Kuwait's Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) held a coordination meeting recently with the EMS to focus on the development of a joint memorandum of understanding aimed at improving training and work efficiency

with courses tailored specifically to their needs in emergency response and manage-

The training initiative aims to ensure that the KFF members acquire essential skills, which are aligned with scientific and professional standards in the field. This includes developing specialized teaching and ogies that will be a within the KFF Training Department. Both departments have agreed on the importance of equipping personnel with the necessary expertise to effectively manage emergency situations.



Expatriate accuses ex-wife of insulting, beating him

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20: An expatriate has accused his ex-wife of severely beating him in front of his residence in Hawally, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an unusual case, the expatriate reported the incident to the police and provided a medical report from a government hospital to support his claims. The case was registered at a police station in Hawalli Governorate on Thursday, January 16. Along with his statement, the expatriate also provided security forces with the details of his ex-wife, who is accused of

physically assaulting him. Although he did not explain the reasons behind the assault, he confirmed that there were witnesses to the incident.

According to a security source, the 1989-born expatriate went to the police station and reported that his ex-wife, who is six years younger than him, showed up at his residence and called him. When he went outside to see who was calling, he was surprised by his ex-wife insulting and yelling at him before physically assaulting him. The attack reportedly

involved more than just slapping, and caused him injuries.

In a separate incident, a 1992born man went to the Andalous Police Station, and lodged a complaint against his elder brother, accusing him of assaulting him due to a family dispute at their home. The young man provided a medical report that detailed the injuries and bruises he sustained on various parts of his body.

over for zig-zag driving and dis-Man caught drunk: An unidencovered that the driver was under tified 26-year-old citizen from the influence of alcohol.

Citizen files 'breach-of-trust' case after delay of five years

Two armed men rob money

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: After a delay of five years, a citizen filed a breach of trust case involving KD 9,700 against another citizen at a police station in Hawalli Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the 1959-born citizen reported that a 1983born citizen deceived him in 2020 into entering a partnership for trading vehicles, and promised him profits of up to 100 percent. Based on the partner-ship, he gave the suspect KD 9,700 in cash, but later discovered that the suspect had no involvement in the vehicle trade. When he recently attempted to contact the suspect to recover the original amount, he claimed to have lost the

money in the trade.

When asked why the case was not filed sooner, the complainant explained that he had been incarcerated in the Central Prison at the time the suspect received the money and was only recently released. During his imprisonment, he attempted to contact the suspect both from within the prison and through other means, but was unsuccessful.

The sources said the suspect would be summoned by detectives for questioning regarding the claim. However, it remains unclear whether the complainant has any witnesses who can verify that the money was handed over to the suspect at the time.

Over 48K citations issued in 1-week GTD campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The General Traffic Department reported significant law enforcement actions between January 11 and 17, 2025, including the monitoring and recording of 48,104 violations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In addition to these violations, the department took decisive steps to improve road safety and address illegal activities.

The Department detained 50 reckless drivers during this period. These individuals were arrested and their vehicles were impounded as part of efforts to curb dangerous driving behaviors.

A total of 204 vehicles were seized, reinforcing the commitment to road safety and law enforcement.

In a separate development, 27 juveniles were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution for their involvement in various traffic offenses.

Moreover, 77 motorcycles were seized and sent to the impoundment garage, as part of ongoing efforts to address illegal use of motorcycles on public roads.

The Operations Department also handled 2,007 reports, which included 1,150 traffic accidents. These incidents ranged from minor collisions to more severe accidents resulting in injuries. All accident cases were forwarded to the relevant police stations for further investigation.

Further investigations led to the arrest of one individual found in possession of suspected narcotic substances, another person in an abnormal condition and four individuals without identification. In total, 51 wanted individuals were arrested, including those with expired residency and 45 vehicles linked to theft or judicial seizure were impounded.

The General Traffic Department emphasized its continued dedication to maintaining public safety, cracking down on reckless behavior and ensuring that all individuals comply with traffic regulations.

Those detained, along with seized items and vehicles, have been referred to the appropriate authorities for further legal proceedings.

th the KFF members and students en rolled in various training courses, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The two departments discussed key areas of collaboration, including the development of courses and curricula that will benefit both KFF officers and EMS staff.

A key objective of the collaboration is to provide accredited training to KFF officers,

By working together, the KFF and the EMS aim to build a more integrated and efficient approach to public safety.



SAYING HI 🐫 , HELLO 🐫 , AND SHARING EMOJIS 😊 on social media is not enough OUR 2025 INITIATIVE Elevating Family 🎇 and Friend Bonds Call now and grab your voucher to enjoy **BIG** discounts!

Hurry, it's a limited-time offer SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY

FOR MORE DETAILS ON OUR OFFERS, CONTACT US. **\$ 1800188**

55011985



exchange in Mahboula area KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The Ahmadi Investigation Department has launched a manhunt for two unidentified persons for committing an armed robbery at a money exchange in Mahboula, reports Al-Anba

daily. The suspects reportedly escaped with approximately 10,000 dinars in various currencies.

Further investigation into the vehicle used in the crime revealed that its license plates did not match the original vehicle registration.

According to the Public Relations and

Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior Ministry when the emergency call center received a report of the robbery security officers were dispatched to the scene, and talked to the 45-year-old expatriate who works at the exchange.

He reported that while he and others were inside, two men barged into the shop brandishing a rifle and stole the cash from the safe.

The surveillance cameras captured the footage of the vehicle but it turned out that the plate numbers do not match the description of the white Japanese-made sedan.

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



KUNA photo

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 is-

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

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 selfsufficiency, 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.



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 Coun-

cil member Fahad Al-Abduljader to amend some fees in the Advertise-Regulation ment No. 599/2023, said there is no need to modify the current advertising fees. explained It

that the Munici-Al-Abduljader pal Council holds the authority to is-

sue, 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.

Only a few months have passed since the issuance and amendment of the deci-

599/2023, and later amended by Ministe-

rial Resolution No. 223/2024.

sion, 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 represented 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.



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 In-telligence 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 com-

mitment 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 KW-FIU Deputy Chairman Yousef Al-Omar, National Committee Secretary Maryam Al-Essa, and several officials from the ministry.





One Night Stay in a Queen Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of breakfast was BHD 76.230

Now BHD 49.550 Net

One Night Stay in a 2 Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of breakfast was BHD 170.247 Net

Now BHD 110.661 Net

Promo period from 1st January to 31st January 2025

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 Email: reservation@albander.com

www.albander.com

KUNA photo Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila 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 chal-

lenges 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.

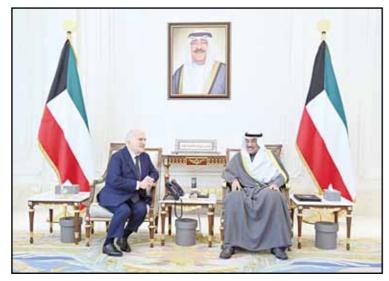
It is also customary for the buyer's name to be included on the description certificate issued by KFF, but this is impossible if the preliminary contract has not been signed and the property has not yet been offered on the market. Since the buyer has not been identified at this stage, placing their name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

LOCAL



Crown Prince's Diwan photo His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal.

Crown Prince hosts Prince Hassan bin Talal

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Tuesday Prince Hassan bin Talal on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting was attended by the

Head the Office of His Highness

the Crown Prince, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Jamal Mohammad Al-Thiyab, the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Crown Prince's Diwan, Mazen Issa Al-Issa, and the Ambassador of Jordan to Kuwait, Sinan Rakan Al-Majali. (KUNA)

3,345 homes to be finished in 3 years

PAHW launches major affordable housing project with 9,800 homes

By Mohammed AI-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has launched a major affordable housing project in Kuwait, which will include 9,800 homes. The project, which is located south of Salmi Road about 16 kilometers from Jahra City, has already begun to take shape with machinery and equipment deployed at the site.

Construction work officially began earlier this month, with a focus on network budgeting and soil testing, in preparation for the construction of thousands of affordable homes. The new housing units will serve as an alternative to the areas of Sulaibiya and Taima.

Head of the Engineers of the First Region at PAHW Dr. Bader Al-Thaidi confirmed that all contracts for the project have been finalized, and these include contracts for the construction of homes, public buildings, roadworks, and utility installations.

The first phase of the affordable housing project, which involves the construction of 3,345 homes and public buildings, began earlier this month and is expected to be completed within three years. The subsequent phases, which include an additional 6,455 homes, will also be completed within the same timeframe.

Two consulting offices have been contracted to oversee the construction of the homes and public buildings.

PAHW is committed to upholding the highest technical standards and ensuring the implementation of the project in the best possible manner.

To ensure timely progress and adherence to all technical specifications, PAHW is closely monitoring the implementation of the project. A dedicated supervision body is present on site along with the consulting offices to supervise the implementing companies and ensure the quality of work and speed of completion.

Experts call for sustainable solutions to 'water challenges' in MENA region

Prince Hassan advocates for cross-border collaboration

By Inaas Awadh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Prince Hassan bin Talal, the keynote speaker at the Middle East and North Africa Water Development Financing Forum, organized by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in coordination with the World Bank, highlighted in his opening speech the huge financial burden in the region, as the money spent on armies, wars, and airports in the region amounts to trillions of dollars.

Spending less than one percent of that amount could have significantly improved water resources in the region, particularly when it comes to groundwater discoveries", he said, referencing various studies and research that have shown that groundwater in Somalia is equivalent in volume to the water content in Australia.

Prince Hassan explained that financing and developing water resources and sanitation projects in the West Asia region requires an estimated USD 21 billion. The rate of water leakage and loss in the region ranges from 20 to 50 percent of the total water supply. By 2050, the decline in water resources in the region is expected to result in a reduction in the gross domestic product related to water, with estimates ranging from 6 to 14 percent. This trend is incompatible with the region's development needs. Also, 80 percent of the saline water in the region remains unused and wasted without reprocessing.

He identified several factors that negatively affect water resources development projects, including geological divisions, political realities, and ongoing conflicts and disputes in various regions of the world, such as the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, and in Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, and others.

Prince Hassan indicated that the decline in ice mass in the Scandinavian



Photo by Mohammad Morsi Photo during the Middle East and North Africa Water Development Financing Forum.

region will contribute to the opening of new shipping and trade routes between the countries of the region, extending from east to west.

He stressed the need for real development integration in the region to enhance water resources.

Prince Hassan said most projects in this area remain inactive and unimplemented, largely due to the lack of a strong voice from the Middle East on the global stage.

He affirmed the significant social and economic impact of water-related development projects, stressing that approximately 300 million people in the Greater Levant region, comprising Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, and Turkey, benefit from water resources.

Prince Hassan also stated that many countries in the region have chosen the path of normalization to achieve peace.

He highlighted the importance of governments committing to the realization of a just life and human dignity for their peoples, and focusing on resource management and development to achieve self-sufficiency within an integrated ecological system that includes energy, water, and food.

In conclusion, Prince Hassan called for the launch of the "Blue Green" initiative, which prioritizes water projects as key to managing natural resources, with the aim of achieving human dignity and environmental sustainability.

Meanwhile, Director General of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Bader Al-Saad stated that water security in the region is the most pressing challenge for achieving sustainable development

He said the Middle East and North Africa region is one of the most waterscarce areas in the world, as they hold

less than one percent of the world's renewable freshwater resources but is home to over six percent of the global population.

Al-Saad highlighted that climate change, population growth, and urban expansion are intensifying pressures on water resources, adding, "By 2050, water availability could decline by 20 percent, while demand is expected to increase by 50 percent"

He said agriculture, which accounts for 85 percent of water consumption in the region, faces increasing risks, and cities are already grappling with water shortages.

Al-Saad explained that innovation plays a major role in addressing these challenges, and offering solutions to compensate for water resource shortages. Innovation can be relied upon in aspects related to water desalination, wastewater reuse, and improving the effectiveness of desalination processes, reducing costs, and enhancing environmental sustainability.

Many water facilities face challenges such as low tariffs, high subsidies, and increased operating expenses, making financial sustainability a key priority in addressing water issues.

He stressed that the forum serves as a platform for exploring solutions, including public-private partnerships, green bonds, integrating climate finance, and utilizing tools such as carbon markets and the Green Climate Fund.

Al-Saad affirmed that one of the forum's main goals is to create a cycle of investment, knowledge, and data products focused on sustainability and equitable access to water.

He said, "Water security is not just about resources but it is also about economic development, social stability, and human dignity. Our solutions must be comprehensive for ensuring that no one is left behind"

5

In conclusion, Al-Saad affirmed the need to tackle challenges through co-operation, innovation, and financing, while unleashing sustainable solutions for water security in the region.

He stressed the importance of working together for a more sustainable and prosperous Middle East and North Africa, adding that he hopes the dis-cussions at the forum will contribute to enhancing water security for future generations.

Meanwhile, the Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank Ousmane Dione said, We are here today because the Middle East and North Africa region is standing at a crossroad. It is the most waterscarce region in the world. Droughts and desertification have become more frequent and severe here, with climate change exacerbating these pressures and posing existential risks that could make parts of the region uninhabitable.

The history of the region teaches us that scarcity has never determined its fate, but rather, challenges have been transformed into opportunities through creativity for centuries.

He cited ancient underground irrigation systems, such as the khattara in Morocco, the fogara in Algeria, and the falaj in Oman, as enduring symbols of innovation, adding, "Today, the transformative power of desalination technology, led by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, continues this proud tradition of innovation.

However, innovation alone is not enough to address water scarcity, as climate change has become a force multiplier in terms of disrupting water resources in ways we are only beginning to understand.

The World Bank's country climate and development reports reveal that while some countries in the Middle East and North Africa may experience more water at certain times of the year, the overall impact on GDP and livelihoods remains highly negative.

Water is at the heart of these challenges, and must be at the heart of our solutions. Addressing this existential threat requires a radical rethinking of how we manage and use water. It also requires us to work together, across borders, sectors, and organizations, to mobilize the financial, human, and intellectual resources needed to secure the future of water in the region.

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's weekly draw

Jihad and

UAE, and other Gulf states were the ones to shoulder the diplomatic and estinian state, which has already been recognized by about 135 countries. The world is still waiting for a Palestinian negotiator who knows how to impose conditions on the enemy,

identification, freezing and confiscation of assets linked to terrorist activities, including virtual/electronic assets, with a focus on leveraging mutual legal assistance to facilitate crosssources, producing wool threads for handicrafts, preserving cultural heritage, and enhancing weaving skills. The society explained that the fac-

tory is distinguished by its use of sustainable water and energy technologies. In line with Kuwait's vision for sustainable and environmentally friendly practices, photovoltaic solar cells with a total capacity of 15 kW have been installed on the factory's roof for generating approximately 25,000 kWh of electricity annually and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by around 15 tons per year. Also, the factory uses advanced systems and eco-friendly materials to treat about 70,000 cubic meters of water annually, which is then reused for irrigation. Meanwhile, the Livestock Transport and Trading Company highlighted its role in providing space and sheep wool for the factory, and affirmed the project's contribution to supporting the local economy and developing traditional crafts. It stated that the project offers unique opportunities for young people to acquire new skills and allows for innovation by integrating traditional crafts with modern technologies. This project strengthens Kuwait's position as a leader in industrial innovation and heritage preservation, showcasing the importance of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable development.

ternational Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 cameligible to enter the weekly, monthly

tomer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month. Al Dirwaza account holders are

relief efforts to stop these wars and speed up reconstruction.

There are many cities and neighborhoods that these countries have established in the Gaza Strip, yet they did not receive any gratitude from the leaders of the factions that dominate the authority in that afflicted area. Instead, the militias have used the podiums of mosques to incite against the Gulf states in the most severe manner.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the leaders of Hamas and others, who live off Iranian crumbs, spit on the plate they ate from and slap the hand extended to help their people. The reason is simple: they are fundamentally disconnected from their people and live in towers where they have abandoned their Arabism.

Thus, the militias ignored the 1,280 Kuwaiti trucks loaded with aid, 1,200 Saudi trucks, 1,000 trucks from Egypt, and 650 Emirati trucks. On the other hand, Iran-whom they excessively thanked-did not send a single tablet of medicine or a bag of flour, nor treat a single wounded person. The Arab and Gulf countries, however, treated many injured individuals and established field hospitals in most areas of the Gaza Strip.

After everything that happened during those 471 days, Hamas and Jihad have proven they are not worthy of ruling the Gaza Strip, which is home to about 2.5 million Palestinian people who live under extremely difficult conditions and are subjected to arbitrary practices by those factions. These factions work to fulfill the Iranian agenda and show no regard for their people's legitimate rights.

They did not know how to save their country; instead, they became deeply involved with Iran, which destroyed Syria and committed atrocities there, as well as Lebanon, after spreading sectarian strife, and used Gaza to further its own agenda of avoiding sanctions and circumventing the blockade imposed on Iran.

Now, with Trump back in the White House, the leaders of the Iranian regime are increasingly aware that time is running out and they have no choice but to submit.

This means that those who placed their bets on the leaders of Iran must reconsider their alliances and stop building sandcastles on the shores of the Gaza Strip, as the waves of developments will soon demolish them. It is necessary that these factions relinquish power and instead focus on saving their people from these absurd adventures.

It is time for the Palestinian people to live under better conditions and have an internationally recognized national authority. This authority should be capable of compelling Israel to accept the solution of establishing a Palrather than someone who tortures his own people, brings death, destruction, and devastation upon them, and then expresses gratitude to Iran for the massacre it helped create.

Kuwait to

In the meeting, Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf stressed the importance of cooperation between government agencies and civil society to achieve the national strategic goals for traffic safety.

He conveyed the greetings and wishes of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, for the council to succeed in its tasks.

The meeting discussed ways to improve public transport services, review developments in traffic safety and discuss future plans for reducing traffic accidents by improving road infrastructure.

Kuwait takes

The workshop is being held Tuesday in cooperation with the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law to train and qualify those concerned with combating terrorism and its financing.

He pointed out the committee's keenness to develop the competencies and human cadres in Kuwait to implement the international obligations stipulated in the Security Council resolutions issued under Chapter VII and translate them by taking precautionary measures to combat the financing of terrorism and prevent terrorist organizations from exploiting the financial system

The workshop aims to highlight the results and conclusions of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) / Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force on Kuwait, which was published in October 2024.

Senior Practitioner from the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, Jens Cofield Andreasen, took part in its sessions under the slogan (Targeted Financial Sanctions).

It also focused on building on recommendations 6 and 7 of the Financial Action Task Force and the importance of developing laws to criminalize the financing of terrorism and the necessary procedures to implement the main resolutions of the UN Security Council on financial sanctions.

The second session will focus on asset recovery, freezing, confiscation and mutual legal assistance based on FATF Recommendation 4.

This session will delve into the

border cooperation.

Continued from Page 1

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. It sets international standards that aim to prevent illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.

Inflation in

The transportation sector was the only group to see a price decrease, dropping by 1.47 percent compared to December 2023. This decline offset some of the increases in other categories, particularly the rise in fuel prices. Other notable price changes are as

follows Housing Services: The prices of housing services rose by 0.9 percent.

Communications: The communications group saw an annual rise of 0.88 percent.

■ Entertainment and Culture: Prices in entertainment and culture increased by 2.64 percent, contributing to overall inflation.

Restaurants and Hotels: The restaurants and hotels group experienced a price increase of 2.03 percent.

Various Goods and Services: The prices in the various goods and services group rose by 5.43 percent.

When excluding the food and beverages category, the overall inflation rate stood at 2.02 percent in November 2024, indicating that other sectors contributed significantly to the overall rise in consumer prices.

The inflationary pressures in Kuwait for December 2024 reflect a combination of rising costs in essential sectors like food, clothing and healthcare, while transportation saw a slight reprieve.

PM attends

KFAS explained that the idea for the factory, presented by the SADU Society, led to a feasibility study on the use of local wool to produce sustainable threads for local needs. After this, KFAS funded a research project, which was carried out in cooperation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the SADU Society, to explore the potential of producing wool from Al-Naimi sheep, which are known for their fine wool. The research focused on enhancing the wool's quality and using it for handicrafts. The positive results highlighted the importance of the industry and its economic potential, leading to the recommendation to establish the factory.

The SADU Society affirmed that this pioneering factory contributes to sustainable development by promoting the responsible use of natural re-

HH Amir

"We are in deep pain. We have unfortunately lost 66 lives in the fire that broke out at this hotel." Yerlikava told reporters after inspecting the site.

Health Minister Kemal Memisoglu said at least one of the injured was in serious condition, while 17 other people had been discharged after being treated.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday addressed a cable of condolences to Turkish President Recep Tayyib Erdogan on human losses in the fire that broke out at a resort in the town of Bolu.

His Highness the Amir prayed for souls of the victims and wished the injured quick recovery Similarly, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah conveyed a cable of condolences to President Erdogan, offering prayers for the victims and well wishes for the recovery of the injured.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to President Erdogan, extending Kuwait's sympathy over the tragic loss of lives in the Bolu resort fire.

The hotel had 238 registered guests, Yerlikaya said. The fire was reported at 3:27 a.m. and the fire department began to respond at 4:15 a.m., he told reporters.

paign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The third weekly draw, based on customers' December deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: Kuwait In-

The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Hamdeyah Jassim Mohammad Albarrak, Rawda Ahmed Mohammed Omar, Nassar Mabrouk Nassar Alazmi, Zainab Yousef Shabaan Husain, Abeer Mohammad Abdullah Aldekheel, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded Ali Sabah Hussein Albsisi, Huda Naser Haji Almashmoum, Ahmed Ateyeh Alseed Ateyeh, Salem Mohammed Althabit Alyakoubi, Seham Mubarak Sulaiman Alshamroukh, Zahrah Hussain Hassan Alshamali, Rasha Abdelfattah Hamed Eissa.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the cusand annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a twomonth cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.



INTERNATIONAL

US Senate confirms Marco Rubio as Secretary of State

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (Agencies): The US Senate voted unanimously to appoint Senator Marco Rubio as Secretary of State in the administration of new President Donald Trump, who took office yesterday, Monday.

According to the Senate media department, Rubio received 99 votes out of 100 in yesterday's

vote, and no member of the Senate voted against him. Rubio became the first member of Trump's cabinet to receive Sen-

Rubio ate approval. just hours after the new president was sworn in for a second and final

term. Last week, Rubio testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on several issues, including his general vision for American foreign policy, stressing that the priority will be the US, and that "wisdom in conducting foreign policy does not mean abandoning our values.

Yesterday, Trump announced in a statement that Robert Salesses will be acting Secretary of Defense, while Benjamin Hoffman will serve as acting Secretary of Homeland Security, and lawyer James McHenry will serve as acting Attorney General, while senior Treasury official David Liebrick will lead the department temporarily.

These temporary secretaries will serve until the Senate approves Trump's chosen secretaries, whose approval could take a few days, as the Senate continues to work on their confirmation.

On his first full day as Secretary of state, Rubio is meeting with his counterparts from a group of countries known as the Quad, which is made up of the United States plus India, Japan and Australia, representing nearly 2 billion people and more than a third of global GDP. The grouping has been around for more than 15 years, but has recently grown in importance. What exactly is it?

Senate passes immigrant detention bill, likely to be first measure Trump signs

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): Fresh off President Donald Trump's inauguration, the Senate on Monday passed a bill that would require federal authorities to detain migrants accused of theft and violent crimes, the first measure he likely will sign into law and giving more weight to his plans to deport millions of migrants.

Trump has made a broad crackdown on illegal immigration his top priority, and Congress, with Republicans in control and some Democrats willing to go along, is showing it is ready to fol-low suit. The bill passed 64-35, with 12 Democrats joining with Republicans voting in favor.

Passage of the Laken Riley Act named after a Georgia nursing student whose murder by a Venezuelan man last year became a rallying cry for Trump's White House campaign - was a sign of how Congress has shifted sharply right on border security and immigration. Passage came just minutes before Trump signed the first of his executive orders.

"We don't want criminals coming into our country," Trump told supporters at the Capitol earlier Monday, adding he looked forward to holding a bill



From left: Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., Sen James Lankford, R-Okla., Sen Ted Budd, R-N.C., Sen John Barrasso, R-Wyo, and Sen Katie Britt, R-Ala, talk to reporters about the Laken Riley Act, a bill to detain unauthorized immigrants who have been accused of certain crimes, at the Capitol in Washington on Jan 9. (AP)

signing "within a week or so."

The bill now heads back to the Republican-controlled House, which passed its version earlier this month and will need to approve changes made in the Senate. The Senate expanded the legislation to target immigrants who assault a police officer or are accused of crimes that kill or seriously injure someone

Trump is already ending many of former President Joe Biden's border and immigration programs, turning the United States away from the Democrat's attempts at more humane immigration policies at a time when record numbers of people were sometimes arriving at the border with Mexico. Swift action on immigration policy in the new Congress was proof of how Democrats were no longer resisting some strict enforcement proposals.

6

"Anyone who commits a crime should be held accountable. That's why I voted to pass the Laken Riley Act," Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., said on social media after its passage. Sen. John Fetterman, D-Pa., said that a "secure border" and support for immigration were "fully compatible."

The bill cleared a key procedural vote in the Senate last week also with support from Democrats, and similar legislation gained support from 48 House Democrats earlier this month.

"If you come into this country illegally and you commit a crime, you should not be free to roam the streets of this nation," said Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., who helped push the bill through the Senate.

Aggressive start for returning US president

Trump begins erasing Biden legacy with pardons, orders immediately after taking office

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): Donald Trump began erasing Joe Biden 's legacy immediately after taking office as the nation's 47th president on Monday, pardoning nearly all of his sup-porters who rioted at the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, and issuing a blizzard of executive orders that signal his desire to remake American institutions.

It was an aggressive start for a returning president who feels emboldened and vindicated by his unprecedented political comeback. Four years after being voted out of the White House, Trump has a second chance to launch what he called "a golden age' for the country

He signed orders for increasing border security, designating drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, limiting birthright citizenship, freezing new regulations and establishing a task force for reducing the size of the federal government. He also rescinded dozens of directives issued by Biden, including those relating to climate change and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives

Trump said that walking back into the already-remodeled Oval Office after his inauguration was "one of the

better feelings I've ever had." Unlike during his first term, when new staff members scrambled to figure out what exactly their president was trying to achieve, Trump moved rapidly and methodically to advance his agenda Monday

His first action after arriving at the White House was pardoning about 1,500 people charged in connection with the Jan. 6 attack, even if they had been convicted of assaulting police officers. Trump commuted the sentences of another 14 people, including lead-ers of the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys

The decision amounted to a sweeping cloak of impunity for Trump supporters who upended the country's tradition of peaceful transfers of power by trying to overturn his election defeat four years ago. Trump described them as "hostages" and said he expected them to be freed shortly. A crowd gathered outside a Wash-ington, D.C., jail to welcome their release.

Trump's inauguration combined formal ceremony and freewheeling rhetoric, a reminder of how Trump can abide solemnity for only so long



US President Donald Trump holds up an executive order after signing it at an indoor Presidential Inauguration parade event in Washington on Jan 20. (AP)

before going off script with a blend of humor and vitriol. Before leaving the White House for an evening of inaugural balls, Trump spent nearly an hour parrying questions by reporters. He promised that tariffs on Canada

and Mexico were coming, suggested that he might visit China and praised the decorators for the new look of his Oval Office. Among other changes, a portrait of Franklin Delano Roosevelt placed with one of George Washing-

Frigid weather rewrote the particulars of the day. Trump's swearing-in was moved indoors to the Capitol Rotunda - the first time that has happened in 40 years - and the inaugural parade was replaced by an event with marching bands at Capital One Arena.

In his inaugural address, Trump declared the beginning of "the complete restoration of America and the revolution of common sense.

Trump said the government faces "a crisis of trust." He claimed to have "a mandate to completely and totally reverse a horrible betrayal," promising to "give the people back their faith, their wealth, their democracy and indeed their freedom."

"From this moment on," he added as Biden watched from the front row, "America's decline is over."

Also present at the ceremony was Vice President Kamala Harris, who replaced Biden on the ballot after he abandoned his reelection bid last summer, only to be defeated by Trump in the general election.

Trump said he would lead a government that "expands our territory,"

a reference to his goals of acquiring Greenland from Denmark and restoring U.S. control of the Panama Canal

He also pledged to "pursue our manifest destiny into the stars" by launching American astronauts to Mars. Elon Musk, the world's richest man and the owner of a space rocket company with billions of dollars in federal contracts, cheered and flashed two thumbs up as Trump spoke.

Trump supporters who descended on the city to watch the incoming president take the oath of office from the National Mall were left to find other places to view the ceremony when it was moved inside. But a cadre of tech titans - including Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos, Tim Cook and Sundar Pichai - were given prominent positions in the Rotunda. They mingled with Trump's incoming team in a striking display of wealth for a Republican president who is also a billionaire but branded himself as a working-class crusader.

After the ceremony, Trump walked with Biden to the building's east side, where the Democrat left via helicopter to begin his post-presidential life.

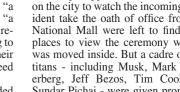
Russia and China emphasize close relations

Putin discusses 'multipolar global order' with Xi

MOSCOW, Jan 21, (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin had a call Tuesday with Chinese President Xi Jinping, em









phasizing the two countries' close ties, a day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th U.S. president.

The two leaders have developed strong personal links that helped bring relations between Moscow and Beijing, growing even closer after Putin sent troops into Ukraine in 2022. China has become a major customer of Russian oil and gas and a source of key technologies amid sweeping Western sanctions on Moscow.

In Tuesday's call with Xi, Putin emphasized that Russia-China relations are based on shared interests, equality and mutual benefits, noting that they "don't depend on internal political factors and the current international environment.'

"We jointly support the development of a more just multipolar global order and work to ensure indivisible security in Eurasia and the world as a whole. Putin told Xi in remarks carried by the Russian state TV. "Joint efforts by Russia and China play an important stabilizing role in global affairs.

Xi similarly praised close cooperation between Moscow and Beijing, saying it helps "bring positive energy to reforming and developing the global system."

While neither leader directly mentioned Trump in the televised fragment of their call, the timing of the conversation may signal that Putin and Xi want to coordinate their action in dialogue with the new U.S. administration.

The Chinese president had a call

Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping via videoconference at Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside of Moscow, Russia on Jan 21. (AP)

with Trump on Friday and expressed hope for positive ties with the US.

Trump had threatened to impose tariffs and other measures against China in his second term, while also hinting at ways in which the two rival powers could cooperate on issues such as regional conflicts and curbing the export of substances used in the production of fentanyl.

Putin, who is yet to talk to Trump, congratulated him on taking office in televised remarks during a video call with officials and welcomed his intention to open a dialogue with Moscow

Trump told reporters Monday after taking office that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had told him he wanted to make a peace deal and voiced hope that Putin would follow suit. He added that Putin would be destroying Russia by failing to make a deal, pointing out Russia's economic troubles, including high inflation.

Putin hailed Trump's openness to dialogue as he spoke to Russia's Security Council members shortly before the U.S. president's inauguration.

"We hear the statements from Trump and members of his team about their desire to restore direct contact with Russia, which were halted through no fault of ours by the outgoing administration," Putin said on Monday. "We also hear his statements about the need to do everything to prevent World War III. We certainly welcome such an approach and congratulate the U.S. president-elect on taking office.

French President Emmanuel Macron delivers his New Year speech to the French Army as he visits the Digital Support and Cyber Command (CATNC) of the French Army, in Cesson-Sevigne, western France on Jan 20. (AP)

Wake up and spend more on defense, French President Macron tells Europe

CESSON-SEVIGNE, France, Jan 21, (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron called on Europe Monday to "wake up" and spend more on defense in order to reduce its reliance on the United States for its security, in a speech to the French military as Donald Trump returns to power.

Macron referred to expected changes in Washington's foreign policy, especially regarding the war in Ukraine, saying it was an "opportunity for a European strategic wake-up call," in his New Year's speech to the military at the Army Digital and Cyber Support Command based in western France.

"What will we do in Europe tomorrow if our American ally withdraws its warships from the Mediterranean? If they send their fighter jets from the Atlantic to the Pacific?" he asked. Trump has criticized the cost of the war in Ukraine for U.S. taxpayers through major military aid packages and has made it clear that he wants to shift more of the fiscal burden onto Europe. He has vowed to bring the conflict to a swift end, voicing hope that peace could be negotiated in six months.

France and Europe need to adapt to evolving threats and changing interests, Macron said. "Who would have thought a year ago that Greenland would be at the center of political and strategic debates? That's the way it is.'

He said providing lasting support to Ukraine is key so that Kyiv is in a strong position when engaging in any future peace negotiations.

Ukraine must receive "guarantees" against any return of the war on its territory when hostilities cease and Europe must take "play its full role" in the process, he said.

Last week, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he discussed with Macron about the possibility of Western troops deploying in Ukraine to safeguard any peace deal ending the nearly three-year war with Russia.

"As one of these guarantees, we discussed the French initiative to deploy military contingents in Ukraine," Zelenskyy said.

Potentially sending European troops as peacekeepers to Ukraine is fraught with risk. Such a move may not deter Russia from attacking Ukraine again in the future, which is the fear of Ukrainian officials, and could drag European countries into a direct confrontation with Moscow. That, in turn, could pull NATO - including the United States into a conflict.

British prime minister says killing of three girls must lead to 'fundamental change'

LONDON, Jan 21, (AP): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Tuesday that the killing of three girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class must lead to "fundamental change" in how the British state protects citizens and a reckoning with new threats from violent individuals whose mix of motivations test the traditional definition of terrorism.

Starmer said the government must also answer "tough questions" about how authorities failed to stop a violence-obsessed teenager before he stabbed the girls to death in the seaside town of Southport in July.

In a televised statement, the prime minister said that a public inquiry would tackle failings in the case of Axel Rudakubana, who wounded a further eight children, their instructor

and a passer-by. "The tragedy of the Southport killings must be a line in the sand for Britain," Starmer said.

Rudakubana, 18, unexpectedly changed his pleas to guilty on Monday, the first day of his trial at Liverpool Crown Court. He is due to be sentenced on Thursday.

His guilty plea means that details that had been withheld from the public to try to ensure a fair trial can now be

reported. They include the fact that Rudakubana was referred three times to the governantiment's extremism program, Prevent, when he was 13

whom failed to spot the danger he posed. The attack occurred on the first day

of summer vacation when two dozen little girls were in a class to learn yoga and dance to the songs of Taylor Swift. What was supposed to be a day of joy turned to terror and heartbreak when Rudakubana, armed with a knife, intruded and began stabbing the girls and their teacher.

He killed Alice Da Silva Aguiar, 9, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Bebe King, 6. Eight other girls, ranging in age from 7 to 13, were wounded, along with instructor Leanne Lucas and John Hayes, who worked in a business next door and intervened.

The killings in the northwest England town triggered days of anti-immigrant violence across the country after far-right activists seized on incorrect reports that the attacker was an asylum-seeker who had recently arrived in the U.K.

Rudakubana was born in Cardiff to Rwandan parents.

Critics have accused Starmer's government of withholding information about the suspect in the aftermath of the attack. Starmer said there was no conspiracy of silence, just a desire to see justice done.

Europe

Slovenia mine accident kills 1: An accident in a coal mine in northeast-

ern Slovenia killed at least one miner and left two others missing. officials said Tuesday. Water suddenly rushed into the mine in the town of Velenje on Monday even-

Musar officials

ing,

and media said. Most miners managed to escape, but three remained trapped, the STA news agency reported.

The director general of the Premogovnik Velenje mine, Marko Mavec, told the agency on Tuesday that chances were slim that the two

missing miners are still alive. It was not immediately clear what caused the accident. Slovenian President Natasa Pirc Musar called for a thorough investigation "so that similar tragedies can be prevented in the future and the safety of all miners ensured." (AP)

Leaders fail to reach deal: A meeting between the two leaders in ethnically divided Cyprus ended without an agreement on Monday, with both sides failing to reach a decision on a deal aimed at building trust that included opening new crossing points across a UN-controlled buffer zone.

Nicos Christodoulides, the country's Greek Cypriot president and Ersin Ta-tar, the leader of the breakaway Turkish Cypriots, said in a joint statement that they have instructed their representatives to continue talks and that they would meet "in the coming days."

The leaders met for nearly two hours at the official residence of Colin Stewart, the UN peacekeeping force's chief of mission in Cyprus, to hammer out an agreement on opening new crossing points at specific points along a 180-kilometer (120-mile) UN-controlled buffer zone that cuts across the island. (AP)





and 14, and was in contact with multiple state

agencies - all of

INTERNATIONAL

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 wideranging 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 coun-try'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

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, Catursari said.

Television reports on Tuesday

villages, while others carried victims on bamboo stretchers or body bags to ambulances or trucks. "Bad weather, mudslides and

rugged terrain hampered the res-cue operation," Catursari 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 spokes-

Strong quake in Taiwan injures 27, causes scattered damage Taiwan's fire department said 27

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

six people, including a 1-month-old baby, who were rescued from a col-lapsed house in the Nanxi district of Tainan. The Zhuwei bridge on a provincial highway was reported to miles), Taiwan's Central Weather be damaged. Administration said. The U.S. Geological Survey measured the earth-

No deaths have been reported, though rescuers were still assessing damage. Two people in Tainan and one

'Deadly ELN attacks in northeast'

Colombia's president to declare state of emergency

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

people were sent to hospitals for

minor injuries. Among them were

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.

Pekalongan regency of Central Java province, as mud, rocks and trees tumbled down on mountainside hamlets, said Bergas Catursasi, who heads the local Disaster 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

person Abdul Muhari said flash floods swept away villagers and vehicles passing through devastated villages and triggered a landslide that buried two houses. (AP)

quake at a less powerful magnitude

There were scattered reports of minor to moderate damage around person in Chiayi city were rescued without injuries after being trapped the cities of Chiayi and Tainan. in elevators

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 tion 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).

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

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



Soldiers deploy in Tibu, Colom-bia 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,"

rife with human rights and hu-manitarian law violations," Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, said. The rights group's report comes at a

fighting beginning the

of this year, the Callamard United Nations refugee agency said in a report Monday. (AP)

I.Coast vehicle collision kills 15: 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.

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 Ponan-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)



the

time of increased fighting between Congolese army and



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.



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

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

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."

Meshal Al-Wazzan

ternal policy to document

the Bank's commitments

and transparent standards

for classifying and evaluating sustainability initiatives."

■ Meshal Al-Wazzan: "We've implemented an in-

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.



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 communitydriven 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 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. 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

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 Busi-

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, Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer and the Chairnerson of UEC



Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah



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

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

ness 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.

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. 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

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.

'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-Salhiya 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.





BUSINESS

'Tamakan Program continues to bridge gap between education and industry'

NBK Group's Chief Wealth Officer addresses Tamakan Program

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: As part of its ongoing panel discussions with NBK's executive management, the Tamakan Program welcomed Mr. Faisal Al-Hamad, Chief Executive Officer of NBK Wealth. Leveraging his extensive experience in the banking sector, Mr. Al-Hamad engaged the program's youth participants in an insightful and interactive session, shar-ing valuable industry knowledge and addressing their questions with clarity and depth.

NBK's sponsorship of the sixth edition of the "Tamakan" Program, organized by Creative Confidence, underscores its dedication to empowering Kuwaiti university graduates. This program provides an immersive, hands-on training experience, designed to equip emerging national talents with the essential skills and practical knowledge necessary for a seamless transition into a dynamic, high-performing workforce.

Overcoming Challenges

At the outset of the panel discussion, Al-Hamad reflected on his academic journey and the obstacles he encountered early in his career. He shared: "After graduating from university in the United States, I began my professional journey with a company where my work took me between America and London for four years. Following that, I pursued a master's degree in business administration before deciding to return to Kuwait to continue my career."

"I joined NBK Capital in 2007, driven by a passion for development, continuous learning, and gaining in-depth knowledge of all aspects of this field to enhance my expertise.," Al-Hamad added, emphasizing that the work environment is one of NBK's defining features, highlighting the bank's commitment to training and development as a fundamental pathway for all employees. This reflects NBK's belief that its human capital is its most valuable asset and that delivering exceptional services necessitates a highly skilled and well-trained workforce.

He emphasized that every journey is bound to encounter obstacles and challenges, regardless of the field. However, what truly matters is having the desire and ambition to succeed, coupled with a commitment to self-improvement. He highlighted the importance of developing skills, leveraging experiences within the workplace, and contributing innovative ideas and solutions to enhance operations. Taking on greater responsibilities and delivering added value to the organization, he noted, are key drivers of personal and professional growth.

Al-Hamad emphasized the importance of patience and long-term vision in career growth. He stated, "It is essential not to rush for promotions, as many individuals leave leading institutions simply in pursuit of a higher job title or larger salary, without considering the invaluable added value the institution can provide. The experiences gained over time lay a solid foundation, equipping individuals with the skills and expertise necessary to tackle future challenges and navigate changes in the labor market with confidence."

Al-Hamad encouraged young people to seize the opportunities available to them to enhance their skills and gain valuable experiences through training courses, workshops, events, and seminars. He stressed the importance of expanding knowledge, exchanging ideas, and benefiting from the expertise within their teams. Additionally, he emphasized the need to learn from past mistakes, avoid repeating them, and constantly seek innovative solutions that contribute to the development of the work system.

Success Requires Perseverance

In response to a question from a participant in the "Tamakan" Program regarding how to achieve success in their career, Al-Hamad explained, "A successful journey demands perseverance, resilience, and responsibility. This is particularly true in the face of increasing competition in the labor market and the rapid technological advancements occurring in the banking sector, which require talented individuals and teams to adapt and stay ahead of these changes.

Al-Hamad encouraged the program participants to seize the educational and training opportunities that arise at the outset of their careers. He high-lighted that the "Tamakan" Program stands out as one of the most valuable opportunities, as it plays a crucial role in enhancing the skills needed to successfully enter the labor market.

He explained that "Tamakan" has successfully provided the labor market with numerous exceptional talents over the years. He emphasized the importance for every participant to make the most of this opportunity, as it serves as a crucial starting point for building a promising career future.

Al-Hamad highlighted that one of the key features of the Tamakan Program is the panel discussions and open dialogues it organizes, where partici-

Oil field to add 5K bpd to production



Faisal Al-Hamad shares career insights with Tamakan graduates.

pants have the opportunity to engage with NBK leaders who possess decades of experience in the banking industry. These interactions provide young people with valuable insights that can help them achieve their future ambitions.

Work Environment

In response to a question about the work environment, Al-Hamad stated, "Anyone with passion, ambition, and the desire to take on leadership roles should seek a work environment that offers added value and enhances their experiences and skills through training programs and workshops. This will help them grow and prepare for leadership positions in the future.

He noted that the work environment at NBK is exemplary, as it continuously supports employees in developing their skills by offering educational programs tailored to each individual's needs. These programs, in collaboration with renowned educational institutions, aim to enhance employees' skills across various domains.

Furthermore, Al-Hamad emphasized that competition within the banking sector is intense, with organizations vying to attract top talent and competencies that can drive performance and innovation. He highlighted that NBK stands out by consistently empowering its team to contribute innovative ideas and solutions, which play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of the bank's products and services for its customers.

NBK Wealth

In his speech, Al-Hamad addressed the recent changes and the launch of the "NBK Wealth" brand, stating, "We fully recognize that change is a constant in the market, and customer needs are continually evolving. To stay aligned with these shifts and our future vision, which is grounded in scien-tific principles, we introduced the NBK Wealth brand. This move is aimed at establishing the largest wealth management entity locally and positioning us as one of the largest regional groups in the field of comprehensive wealth management.'

Al-Hamad further emphasized, "Our proactive vision allows us to differentiate ourselves from our competitors," elaborating that NBK Wealth Group now encompasses a diverse range of entities, including Watani Investment Company, Watani Wealth Management Company (Saudi Arabia), NBK Banque Privée (Suisse) SA, National Bank Of Kuwait (International) PLC, and Watani Financial Brokerage Company (WFBC)

Moreover, he pointed out that NBK Wealth aims to attract new customer segments and investors, noting that the group's brand has gained significant recognition across global markets, leading to an increasingly wider presence.

Al-Hamad highlighted that the Group is focused on strengthening its position as the leading and trusted partner in wealth management through a global network of integrated operations. Additionally, the group has formed strategic partnerships with leading international institutions, which will enhance various aspects of its services, including advisory support and the development of innovative investment solutions. Furthermore, NBK Wealth contin-

Al-Hamad:

- Driven by Our Forward-Thinking Vision, We Have Secured a Leading Presence in Regional and Global Wealth Management Markets
- Our decades of experience empower us to anticipate customer needs and consistently exceed their expectations
- Through a global network of integrated operations, we aim to position NBK Wealth as the trusted leader in wealth management
- "NBK Wealth" has gained significant popularity across various markets, expanding its reach and influence

Advice to Youth:

- Seek out organizations that invest in their employees, offering skills, experience, and opportunities to add value
- Understand that every journey comes with its share of obstacles and challenges, but desire and ambition are key to overcoming them
- Build a successful career through perseverance, resilience, and a strong sense of responsibility
- "Tamakan" has proven its success by equipping the labor market with exceptional talent over the years

ues to offer unique services, including asset management, trading, lending, deposits, and other tailored solutions for high-net-worth individuals.

In response to a question from a participant in the Tamkeen Program regarding the specialized services offered by NBK Wealth, Al-Hamad explained: "At NBK Wealth, we provide a broad array of comprehensive solutions in private banking, wealth management, financial planning, investment management, and advisory services. These services are delivered through our extensive global network of integrated operations, ensuring we meet the diverse needs of our clients. while aligning with their individual risk tolerance levels.²

Al-Hamad further emphasized: "Drawing on our extensive experience, we possess a deep understanding of our clients' needs and are equipped to exceed their expectations. Over the decades, we have continuously elevated our services and developed tailored wealth management solutions that cater to the diverse needs of individuals, families, and institutions, all aimed at build-"We have established strong bridges of trust and long-term relationships

with our customers, built on the strength of our brand and our extensive experience in the banking industry. Our core philosophy revolves around understanding each customer's unique financial needs and goals, and crafting customized solutions to meet those needs," Al-Hamad added.

He emphasized NBK Wealth's commitment to creating lasting value and building a generational legacy for its clients through tailored investment strategies, diversified financial portfolios, and expert advice rooted in comprehensive economic analysis and future projections. He also highlighted the importance of adapting to clients' evolving needs and offering innovative investment solutions that align with their long-term aspirations.

It is worth noting that Tamakan was honored with "The Social Work Pioneer Project Award" by the GCC Council of Ministers of Social Affairs and Labor. This prestigious accolade recognizes Tamakan as a trailblazing training initiative for Kuwaiti fresh graduates, fostering professional selfdevelopment and empowering them to emerge as a dynamic and effective workforce in the region.

Kuwait delegation participates in

Iraq discovers vast oil field with 2 bln barrels of crude

BAGHDAD, Jan 21 (KUNA): The state-owned Naft Al-Wasat Company announced the discovery of a huge oil field in the nation's center, containing more than two billion barrels of oil.

The company said in a statement that, in cooperation with the Chinese company EBS, it discovered the field east of Baghdad.

The company's Director General

Mohammad Yassin said in a statement preliminary tests at the site resulted in extraction of huge amounts of medium and light crude oil.

The new discovery will add to the nation's oil reserves, he said, putting projected daily output at the site at 5,000 barrels of crude oil.

Iraq is rich in the world's largest crude reserves, estimated at 145 billion barrels.

World Economic Forum in Davos

Al-Fassam to hold discussions on investments & global economic trends

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 21: A high-level delegation from the State of Kuwait is participating in the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, which is being held in Davos, Switzerland from Jan 20 to Jan 24 under the theme "Cooperation for the Smart Age".

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance, the Kuwaiti delegation is headed by the Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Eng. Noura Suleiman Al-Fassam, representing His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ah-

nomic organizations, and representatives of civil society institutions from

logue sessions and joint discussions focused on finding solutions and exploring serious opportunities within the framework of international efforts to tackle global instability arising from



Ministry of Finance photo Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Eng. Noura Suleiman Al-Fassam.

> During the forum, Minister Eng, Al-Fassam is scheduled to hold discussions with a number of officials and decision-makers on a range of important issues, including strengthening international partnerships, attracting foreign investments, and assessing the prospects for the global economy amid ongoing economic developments.

She will also meet with officials and leaders from both the public and private sectors in various countries to highlight

the State of Kuwait's economic efforts toward building a diversified and sustainable economy, explore potential support for international partners in achieving these goals, and discuss opportunities for cooperation.

Eng. Al-Fassan will participate in two dialogue sessions. The first session, organized by the World Economic Forum, will focus on a long-term vision for economic growth in the Middle East region. The second session, organized by the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, will discuss economic diversification, its impact on sustainability, and the role of the GCC countries in global economic growth. This session will also feature the participation of the Secretary-General of the GCC and several Finance and Economy ministers from GCC member states

This participation reflects the State of Kuwait's commitment to strengthening its position on the international stage and actively contributing to global and regional efforts for supporting sustainable economic development.

It is worth noting that the World Economic Forum is a non-profit organization founded in 1971 with the mission to bring together decision-makers to transform ideas into practical solutions for sustainable development. This year, the forum is holding its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, with the participation of 3,000 individuals from over 130 countries.

mad Al-Sabah. The forum witnessed wide participation of many leaders, heads of state geopolitical conflicts and their resultand government, decision-makers from ing challenges various international financial and ecotrends impacting the economies of

around the world. The forum will feature several dia-

Al-Budaiwi and Chan discuss strengthening economic ties GCC Secretary General lauds UAE, Saudi, and Oman pavilions at WEF

It will also focus on global economic

various countries, the most important

of which are solutions to mitigate cli-

mate change. It will also cover a range

of topics of global importance, includ-

ing the use of artificial intelligence for

the benefit of the global economy, the

impact of technology on economic

growth, and cybersecurity.

RIYADH, Jan 21, (KUNA): Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi praised on Tuesday the content provided by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabian, and Omani pavilions, on the sidelines of the 55th annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Da-

vos, Switzerland. The effort by the pavilions reflects the great innovation in the economic, touristic, and investment projects by the GCC countries, enhancing cooperation with the international community to achieve greater development and prosperity, added Al-Budaiwi.

He stressed the vital role these pavilions play in displaying the economic and cultural strength of the GCC countries, by building effective partnerships that enhance their standing in the world.

Also:

RIYADH: Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi met on Monday with Hong Kong Finance Minister Paul Chan Mopo in the Swiss city of Davos, on the sidelines of the 55th annual World Economic Forum (WEF).

During the meeting, both sides discussed some topics, mainly the GCC-Hong Kong ties and means of developing and boosting them in all fields particularly in investment and economy in a manner that archives joint goals, along free trade between the two sides.

They also focused on GCC participation in the panel discussion held as part of the 2025 Asian Financial Forum (AFF) in Hong Kong, lauding the outcomes of this session that was prepared for the first time within the forum's sessions.

KUNA photo

GCC chief praises UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Oman pavilions at the World Economic Forum.

Syria issues public tenders to import oil & derivatives

DAMASCUS, Jan 21, (Xinhua): Syrian authorities have issued public tenders to import oil and its derivatives, aiming to improve the efficiency of imports and foster a competitive environment in the country, according to a report by the state-run SANA news agency on Monday. "We seek to make the oil sector in

Syria highly transparent and gain people's trust," the report quoted Ghaiath Diab, oil and mineral resources minister in the Syrian interim government, as saying.

Previously, Diab said that Syria's largest oil refinery, the Baniyas Refinery, was undergoing equipment maintenance and would restart production to help meet the nation's fuel needs after the arrival of crude oil shipments. The oil sector in Syria suffers

from several difficulties and challenges, including sanctions imposed on the country, which have hindered securing oil derivatives. Diab has called for lifting the sanctions to restore the pace of economic life, according to local media reports.

'Libya's role praised'

AEO chief urges oil producers to advance energy transition plans

TUNIS, Jan 21, (KUNA): It is imperative for oil producers around the region to ratchet up efforts aiming to push forward energy transition plans, the chief of the Arab Energy Organization (AEO) said, citing climate change as justification for the move.

The emergence of "new challenges," faced by Arab oil producers and exporters, particularly dealing with a business supply chain audit law known as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), which could spark a negative ripple effect across national economies as a whole, Jamal Al-Loughani told an energy and economic summit in Libya.

It is now incumbent upon oil firms to adhere to the Paris Climate agreement, which calls on the world's largest economies to pledge to a timely transition to a net-zero carbon emissions energy systems by the year 2050, the official underlined. He praised the efforts of the talks'

host-nation Libya and Tripoli's "active participation" in the AEO's activities and endeavors, besides being an oil powerhouse in terms of the "quality and purity" of its crude-based products, added the official.

Member states of the AEO, formerly known as the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, face a myriad of challenges, chief among them a dearth of investment in the oil industry, which could subsequently threaten supply chains amid soaring demand, he said, emphasizing the need for to push forward energy transition plans.

Introducing a raft of economic reforms is one viable strategy that could lure investment in the oil industry, at a time where major firms and businesses are "thirsty" for further growth in this "significant sector," in addition to handling existential challenges with "prudence," added the official.

10

Can the suspension stick?

Trump issues an executive order to suspend the US TikTok ban

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday to keep TikTok operating for 75 days, a relief to the social media platform's users even as national security questions persist. TikTok's China-based par

TikTok's China-based parent ByteDance was supposed to find a U.S. buyer or be banned on Jan. 19. Trump's order could give ByteDance more time to find a buyer.

"I guess I have a warm spot for Tik-Tok," Trump said. Shou Zi Chew, TikTok's CEO, at-

tended Trump's inauguration earlier in the day, seated with American tech heavyweights.

Trump has amassed nearly 15 mil-lion followers on TikTok since he joined last year, and he has credited the trendsetting platform with helping him gain traction among young voters. Yet its 170 million U.S. users could not access TikTok for more than 12 hours

between Saturday night and Sunday morning The platform went offline before the

ban approved by Congress and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court took effect Sunday. After Trump promised he would pause the ban Monday, TikTok restored access for existing users. Google and Apple, however, still have not reinstated TikTok to their app stores.

Business leaders, lawmakers, legal scholars, and influencers who make money on TikTok are watching to see how Trump tries to resolve a thicket of regulatory, legal, financial and geopolitical issues with his signature.

TikTok's app allows users to create and watch short-form videos, and broke new ground by operating with an algorithm that fed viewers recommendations based on their viewing habits. But concerns about its potential to serve as a tool for Beijing to manipulate and spy on Americans pre-date Trump's first presidency

In 2020, Trump issued executive orders banning dealings with ByteDance and the owners of the Chinese messaging app WeChat. Courts ended up blocking the orders, but less than a year ago Congress overwhelmingly passed a law citing national security concerns to ban TikTok unless ByteDance sold it to an approved buyer.

The law, which went into force Sunday, allows for fines of up to \$5,000 per U.S. TikTok user against major mobile app stores - like the ones operated by Apple and Google - and internet hosting services like Oracle if they continued to distribute TikTok to U.S. users beyond the deadline for ByteDance's divestment.

Trump on Sunday said he had asked TikTok's U.S. service providers to continue supporting the platform and app while he prepared to sign an executive order to stop the ban for now.

"The order will also confirm that there will be no liability for any company that helped keep TikTok from going dark before my order," Trump posted on Truth Social, his social networking site.

The law that Congress passed and now-former President Joe Biden signed in April allowed for a 90-day extension if there had been progress toward a sale before the statute's effective date. Less certain is whether that provision can be applied retroactively, according to Sarah Kreps, director of Cornell University's Tech Policy Institute.

"Executive orders cannot override existing laws," Kreps said. "It's not clear that the new president has that authority to issue the 90-day extension of a law that's already gone into effect." Kreps also doubts the conditions for a delay exist at this point without so much as even a potential buyer being named to prove that a sale was moving



President Donald Trump signs an executive order on TikTok in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

Trump says 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico coming on February 1 as he signs several orders on economy

Inflation blamed on the \$1.9 trillion in pandemic aid provided in 2021 by Biden

WASHINGTON, Jan 21, (AP): President Donald Trump said Monday that he expects to put 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting on Feb. 1, while declining to flesh out his plans for taxing Chinese imports.

Trump made the announcement in response to reporters' questions while signing executive actions in the Oval Office on his first day back in the White House.

Trump threatened tariffs of as much as 60% on China during his campaign, but appeared to temper his plans after a phone call last week with Chinese President Xi Jinping. He said Monday there would be more discussions with his counterpart in the world's second largest economy

'We're going to have meetings and calls with President Xi," Trump said

Trump is placing a big bet that his executive actions can

cut energy prices and tame inflation and that the tariffs will strengthen the economy instead of exposing consumers to higher prices. But it's unclear whether his orders will be enough to foster the growing economy with lower prices that he promised voters.

Trump specifically blamed the inflation on the \$1.9 trillion in pandemic aid provided in 2021 by then-President Joe Biden, while saying that his predecessor's policies restricted oil drilling despite domestic output being near record levels. "The inflation crisis was caused by massive overspend-

ing," Trump said in his inaugural address.

Orders on Monday included opening up the Arctic Na-tional Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil drilling and easing the regulatory burdens on oil and natural gas production. He also declared a national energy emergency in hopes of jumpstarting more electricity production in the competition with China to build out technologies such as artificial intelligence that rely on data centers using massive amounts of energy. Trump also signed a directive telling federal agencies to

conduct a 30-day review of how they can help to lower the

costs of housing, health care, food, energy and home appliances as well as finding ways to bring more people into the workforce

Another measure he signed will keep the social media platform TikTok open for 75 days so it can find a U.S. buyer, instead of shutting it down.

Trump also signed a measure telling federal agencies to study trade policies and have the Treasury and Commerce departments advise on how to create an "External Revenue Service" for collecting customs and duties tied to trade. The measure set a series of April deadlines.

Still, Trump wanted to make clear on Monday in his speeches that he was eager to impose taxes on imports.

Trump pledged in his inaugural address that tariffs would be coming and said foreign countries would be paying the trade penalties, even though those taxes are currently paid by domestic importers and often passed along to consumers. Trump later on Monday said tariffs would "make us rich as hell.

A top official with the Canadian government said it would

be prepared for almost all possibilities regarding the status of trade with the United States.

"Perhaps he's made decisions to sort of suspend the threat of tariffs over a whole slate of countries. We will wait and see," Canadian Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc said. "Mr. Trump has been in a previous mandate unpredictable, so our job is to make sure we are ready for any scenario."

Overall, the Republican faces an array of challenges with fulfilling his ambitions to lower prices. Biden managed to see the inflation rate drop over two years yet he was leaving office with price growth still outpacing wages over the past four years.

A big driver of inflation is a persistent housing shortage, and U.S. oil production is already at record levels, with producers facing uncertainty about global demand this year. The Federal Reserve is technically the government body tasked with keeping inflation at a roughly 2% annual target. Its usual levers are setting short-term rates for banks lending to each other, in addition to bond purchases and public communications.

US leader gives everybody something to talk about with his actions

Other Voices

Trump first day actions loom large, Davos begins

DAVOS, Switzerland, Jan 21, (AP): As the World Economic Forum's annual gabfest gets into full swing Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump gave everybody something to talk about with his actions on his first day back in office.

Energy industry executives will mull Trump's vow to "drill, baby, drill." Foreign leaders will decipher



Strong labor markets fuel inflation

By Hassan F. Beidas

The US labor market demon-strated unexpected resilience last December, adding 256,000 jobs, surpassing forecasts of 212,000. This robust growth pushed the unemployment rate down to 4.1% signaling a strong end to the This vear. strong performance reinforces the cautious approach followed by the Federal Reserve in cutting interest Beidas rate in 2025. Despite a

with an economic growth: inflation remains a big concern. Consumer spending increased by 2.8% in November, exceeding the Federal Reserve's target. Moreover, Economists worry that President-elect Trump's proposed policies, such as increased tariffs and immigration restrictions, could further exacerbate inflationary pressures. According to statistics, current economic growth exceeds the non-inflationary rate of 1.8%, a level deemed sustainable by the Federal Reserve. While these policies may initially boost economic activity, they are likely to slow down growth in the long run. The recent jobs report highlights the complex interplay between economic growth and inflation. While a strong labor market is crucial for economic prosperity, it also carries the risk of overheating the economy and fueling inflation. This is evident in how the US markets reacted to the latest job report, with rising bond yields and falling stock markets. In my view, the Federal Reserve faces a delicate balancing act in managing monetary policy to support growth while maintaining price stability.

what he means by his wish to expand U.S. territory. Environmentalists will decry his planned exit from the Paris climate deal. Trade advocates can digest his newly christened "External Revenue Service" to collect tariffs and duties.

From the earliest speeches, panel discussions and back-channel meetings in the Swiss Alpine town of Davos, Trump's executive orders and evocative oratory will loom large.

Here's a look at what's on tap Tuesday in Davos.

Right from the start, participants will be able to riff off, and possibly rip into, Trump's new tack.

One of the earliest sessions serves up "early thoughts" about the U.S. presidency; another focuses on electric vehicles, a Biden administration "mandate" for which Trump vowed to revoke.

Yet another dissects how the European Union will balance its environmental ambitions with a need for economic development - and Trump's vow to declare a "national energy emergency" will certainly weigh on minds in Brussels.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, speaking Tuesday, said the bloc should "definitely stick to the goal" of the European Green Deal for both competitiveness and environmental reasons, as he alluded to Trump's vision and steps.

"The world is full of uncertainty - after yesterday even more, and maybe tomorrow there might be even more uncertainty," De Croo told a morning panel about Eu-

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, speaks at the Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. (AP)

rope's way forward. "Let's please, as Europeans within the European Union, not add uncertainty by creating ambiguity on our goals.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gets early billing on the Davos dais. Her morning speech will send an early signal about how the 27-country bloc is interpreting Washington's new line.

She's likely to try fancy footwork - France and her native Germany are riven by political discord and uncertainty, and some recently ascendant leaders like Italy's Giorgia Meloni have cast themselves as more Trump-friendly.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz,

who has lashed out at Trump ally Elon Musk's support for the European far-right, will also speak.

Scholz's hold on power in economically sluggish Germany appears tenuous: His Social Democrats are trailing third in polls showing conservative Friedrich Merz is the favorite to become the next chancellor after the Feb. 23 elections. Merz himself is set to take part in a discussion in Davos late Tuesday.

During his presidential campaign, Trump said he could end the Russia-Ukraine war in one day. He didn't mention either country in his inaugural address, even if he did say he wants to be "a peacemaker and a unifier" more generally.

Nearly three years after Russia's full-blown invasion, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will take the stage. Both Moscow and Kyiv have been seeking battlefield gains to strengthen their negotiating positions ahead of any prospective talks to end the conflict.

Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, and the prime minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, are likely to discuss the Gaza ceasefire.

And U.S. corporate chieftains for companies like Coca-Cola, Bank of America and Boston Consulting Group will share thoughts on the direction of the U.S. economy under Trump's new term.

3.9% year-over-year wage increase and 0.3 percent increase in hourly rate, according to the latest consumer spending statistics. Inflation remains a key concern for the Federal Reserve.

Compared to 2022-2023, While a recent slowdown in employment, the labor market's flexibility continues to drive economic activity, particularly through higher wages that stimulate consumer spending.

However, this strength comes

Part of Belt & Road Initiative

Pakistan's largest airport becomes operational

QUETTA, Pakistan, Jan 21, (AP): Pakistan's largest airport, funded and built in the country's restive southwest by Beijing, has become operational, officials said Monday.

Gwadar airport is in the province of Balochistan, which has for decades been the scene of an insurgency by separatists demanding autonomy or outright independence

Pakistani Defense Minister, Khawaja Mohammad Asif, and Chinese officials were among those attending a ceremony at Gwadar airport and watched the arrival of the Pakistan International Airlines inaugural flight from the southern city of Karachi.

The ceremony came months after Chinese Premier Li Qiang and his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif virtually inaugurated the airport, which has a capacity of handling 400,000 travelers annually.

Beijing has invested heavily in the coastal city of Gwadar. Besides the airport, which has an estimated cost of \$230 million, China has also constructed a deep seaport as part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative to increase trade by building infrastructure around the world. This aims to also give Beijing direct access to the shipping lanes of the Arabian Sea through Pakistan via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Work started on Gwadar airport in 2019. It was supposed to be operational last year but was delayed after a surge in attacks by militants and separatists on Chinese nationals working on projects in the province.

In televised remarks, Asif thanked China for building the airport and said the airport would play a key role in improving the country's economy, attracting international investment and bringing prosperity to Balochistan.

Ethnic Baloch, who accuse the Chinese and others of economic exploitation, oppose the project and other Chinese initiatives in the province.

The Ministry of Planning and Development stated that the airport can handle a combination of ATR 72, Airbus, (A-300), Boeing (B-737), and Boeing (B-747) for domestic and international routes.

Gwadar airport is the country's largest in terms of area, spread over 4,300 acres of land, according to Pakistan's civil aviation.

Wall Street begins Trump's second term with a drift higher

NEW YORK, Jan 21, (AP): U.S. stock indexes are drifting higher Tuesday following a mostly encouraging batch of profit reports from big companies.

The S&P 500 was 0.6% higher in early trading, as many markets around the world took tentative steps following Donald Trump's

return to the White House on Monday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 188 points, or 0.4%, as of 9:35 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.5% higher.

Trump has promised sweeping moves to reshape global trade and the economy, often at the expense of other countries, but stock indexes in Asia and Europe were mixed amid mostly modest moves. U.S. Treasury yields eased in the bond market, giving back some of the big gains made in recent months that cranked up the pressure on stock markets worldwide.

In the foreign-currency market, the values of both the Mexican peso and Canadian dollar sank after Trump said he expects to put 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting on Feb. 1. The peso fell 1% against the U.S. dollar, and the Canadian dollar slipped 0.6%.

Trump had threatened to place even stiffer tariffs on Chinese imports during his campaign, but he said Monday he wanted to have more discussions with the leader of the world's second-largest economy.

On Wall Street, 3M helped lead the market higher and climbed 3.6% after reporting profit and revenue for the end of 2024 that edged past analysts' expectations The company behind Scotch tape and Command strips also gave forecasts for financial results in 2025 that were roughly in line with analysts' expectations.

Charles Schwab jumped 6% after likewise delivering a better profit report for the end of 2024 than analysts expected. It credited clients pouring more dollars in, as its total client assets rose 19% from a year earlier to \$10.10 trillion.

They helped offset a 7.9% drop for Walgreen Boots Alliance. The U.S. Justice Department accused Walgreens late Friday of filling millions of prescriptions without a legitimate purpose, including for dangerous amounts of opioids. In the lawsuit, the government

says the drugstore chain's pharmacists filled controlled substance prescriptions with clear red flags that indicated they were highly likely to be unlawful. Walgreens, one of the country's largest pharmacy chains with over 8,000 locations, said in a statement

that it stands behind its pharmacists and "will not stand by and allow the government to put our pharmacists in a no-win situation, trying to comply with "rules" that simply do not exist.

In the bond market, Treasury yields eased to give back some of the big gains they'd made in recent months amid worries about higher inflation.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.57% from 4.62% late Friday. Like the U.S. stock market, bond trading had been closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

In stock markets abroad, indexes were rising slightly across Europe after finishing mixed in Asia. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.9% after embattled Chinese property developer Country Garden got a reprieve on its deadline for working out an agreement with its creditors.

Features



Landmark trial could cost royal millions

Prince Harry's legal battle with British tabloids begins

LONDON, Jan 21, (AP): The sequel to Prince Harry vs. the British tabloids begins Tuesday in a high-stakes trial pitting him against Rupert Murdoch's newspapers that could cost him millions even if he wins.

Harry, 40, the younger son of King Charles III, and one other claimant remain alone among hundreds who have settled lawsuits against News Group Newspapers. the publisher of The Sun and the now-defunct News of the World, over allegations their phones were hacked and investigators unlawfully snooped on their lives.

It will be the first case of its kind to go to trial against the publisher since a widespread phone hacking scandal forced Murdoch to close News of the World in 2011. News Group has settled more than 1,300 other claims.

For the Duke of Sussex, it will be the second trial in London's High Court in his long-running feud with the press that he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash while being chased by paparazzi. He also blames them for persistent attacks on his wife, actor Meghan Markle, that led them to leave the royal life and flee to the US in 2020.

Harry has said his mission to hold the media accountable has led to a rift with his family but it's one he feels compelled to carry out to expose wrongdoing.

He won a similar case against the publisher of the Daily Mirror in 2023 and he has another case pending against the Daily Mail's publisher.

Here's a look at the case:

Harry claims News Group journalists and private investigators they hired violated his privacy by using unlawful tactics to dig up dirt on him and his family between 1996 and 2011.

His fellow claimant, Tom Watson, a former deputy leader of the Labour Party, said his voicemails were intercepted during a period when he was investigating



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Duke and Duchess of Sussex leave after a service of thanksgiving for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II at St Paul's Cathedral in London, June 3, 2022. (AP)

the hacking scandal.

Their lawyer said the newspapers had a widespread practice of using deception to obtain medical, phone and flight records, bugged homes and placed listening devices in cars.

They allege that executives concealed the skullduggery through means that included destroying documents. "This allegation is wrong, unsustainable, and is strongly denied," News Group said in a statement.

Former executives accused of playing a role include Will Lewis, now CEO of the Washington Post, and Rebekah Brooks, CEO of News UK, a division of News Corp. They have denied wrongdoing.

Brooks was acquitted of phone hacking conspiracy charges in a criminal trial in 2014, though her former colleague, Andy Coulson, who was later spokesman for Prime Minister David Cameron, was jailed.

News Group strongly denies the allegations and it said Harry failed to bring his lawsuit within the required six-year limit.

News Group apologized to News of the World phone hacking victims in 2011. The Sun has never accepted liability.

Actor Hugh Grant had been one of Harry's remaining co-claimants, but said he was forced to accept "an enormous sum of money" to settle because he could have faced a legal bill of 10 million pounds (\$12.3 million) even if he won at trial. Under English civil law, a claimant who wins a court

judgment that is lower than what they were offered to settle, has to pay the legal bills for both sides. The law is intended to discourage lengthy trials.

Accountability

Despite the grave financial risk, Harry told The New York Times Dealbook Summit in December that he was not going to fold.

"They've settled because they've had to settle," he said of other claimants. "One of the main reasons for seeing this through is accountability, because I'm the last person that can actually achieve that.'

The trial, which is expected to last 10 weeks, will put Harry back in the witness box for several days in February.

In 2023, Harry became the first senior member of the royal family to testify in court since the late 19th century, when Queen Victoria's eldest son, Prince Albert Edward, testified twice.

That has put Harry at odds with a family famous for a "never complain, never explain" attitude.

Harry revealed in court papers that his father opposed

his litigation. He also said his older brother William, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, had received a "huge sum" to settle a complaint against News Group.

Harry said his tabloid war was central to his fallout with his family.

"The mission continues, but it has, yes, it's caused, as you say, part of a rift," Harry said in the documentary "Tabloids On Trial."

Harry said he wished his family had joined him in making a stand against media offenses.

"But, you know, I'm doing this for my reasons," he said.

News Group has failed to kill the case over the past two years, but Harry has experienced some setbacks in a series of sometimes bruising hearings.

The publisher succeeded in getting Harry's phone hacking claims thrown out because the judge said he should have been aware of the widely publicized scandal and could have brought his lawsuit sooner.

The judge also rejected Harry's effort to broaden the case to include claims of eavesdropping on his mother, unearthing private information on his wife and implicating Murdoch.

Harry alleged Murdoch, who was chief executive of the company that controlled NGN, was part of the effort to conceal evidence of hacking or had "turned a blind eye" to it. The judge said those allegations would add nothing material to claims that include other "trusted lieutenants," such as Brooks and Murdoch's younger son, James Murdoch.

The judge also tossed out Harry's bid to include assertions that Buckingham Palace had a secret deal with News Group executives that called for a settlement and an apology to be worked out after other phone hacking litigation was resolved.

UK stabbings



LONDON, Jan 21, (AP): A British teen pleaded guilty Monday to murdering three girls and attempting to kill 10 other people in what a prosecutor said was a "meticulously planned" stabbing rampage at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in England last summer.

Axel Rudakubana, 18, entered the surprise plea as jury selection had been expected to begin at the start of his trial in Liverpool Crown Court. The July 29 stabbings sent shock



Swift

and led to a week of widespread rioting across parts of England and Northern Ireland after the suspect was falsely identified as an asylum-seeker who had recently arrived in Britain by boat. He was born in Wales.

Prime Minister





Keir Starmer wel comed Rudakubana's conviction but said it was "a moment of trauma for the nation."

"There are grave questions to answer as to how the state failed in its ultimate duty to protect these young girls," he said. "Britain will rightly demand answers, and we will leave no stone unturned in that pursuit.'

The attack occurred on the first day of summer vacation when the little girls at the Hart Space, a sanctuary hidden behind a row of houses, were in a class to learn yoga and dance to the songs of Taylor Swift. What was supposed to be a day of joy turned to terror and heartbreak when Rudakubana, armed with a knife, intruded and began stabbing the girls and their teacher in the seaside town of Southport in northwest England.

"This was an unspeakable attack - one which left an enduring mark on our community and the nation for its savagery and senselessness," Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor Ursula Doyle said. "A day which should have been one of carefree innocence; of children enjoying a dance workshop and making friendship bracelets, became a scene of the darkest horror as Axel Rudakubana carried out his meticulously planned rampage.

Prosecutors haven't said what they believe led Rudakubana - who was days shy of his 18th birthday - to commit the atrocities, but Doyle said that it was clear he had a "a sickening and sustained interest in death and violence.

Rudakubana had consistently refused to speak in court and did so once again when asked to identify himself at the start of the proceedings. But he broke his silence when he was read the 16-count indictment and asked to enter a plea, replying "guilty" to each charge



This is an undated handout photo issued by Merseyside Police of Axel Rudakubana on Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, who pleaded guilty at Liverpool Crown Court, England, to killing three girls and injuring others in a knife at-tack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class. (AP)

This image released by Sony Pictures shows Keke Palmer, left, and SZA in a scene from 'One of them Days.' (AP)

A much-needed comedy brings joy amid dark days

'One of Them Days' proves Palmer is a star

LOS ANGELES, Jan 21, (AP): Horror, not comedy, has been the go-to movie genre in recent years, but a movie like "One of Them Days," starring Keke Palmer and, in her bigscreen debut, SZA, is a good reminder of what we've been missing. Creepy stuff and jump scares, we've been

told, have proved better suited for channeling our abiding contemporary dread. But the communal joys of big-screen comedy have, and always will, suit dark days as much as light ones, if not more so. "One of Them Days," for instance, happens to arrive while Los Angeles, where the movie is set, has been decimated by wildfires. The Southern California skies, though, are crystal clear in "One of Them In the opening moments, someone Days. says, "It's always cooler on the West side."

"One of Them Days," which had its premiere cancelled by the fires, is a welcome warm breeze for a movie landscape that has largely frozen out the comedy. There's one overwhelming reason for this: Keke Palmer.

This is a buddy comedy, so it might seem unfair to single out one half of a duo. SZA, in her first feature, acquits herself well. But this is Palmer's show.

Palmer plays Dreux, a Los Angeles waitress who, when her artist roommate Alyssa (SZA)

BERLIN: Several people were injured at a con-

cert in Berlin by American rapper JPEGMafia be-cause of pepper spray, German news agency dpa

Six people were taken to a hospital with res-

Officials said it was still unclear what caused

After the crowd was evacuated from the

piratory problems and the rapper had to end the

Variety

reported Tuesday.

concert early, it said.

police were investigating.

gives their rent money to an untrustworthy boyfriend, Keshawn (Joshua David Neal), goes on a madcap, day-long odyssey to raise the money before they're evicted. This seemingly low-stakes premise is itself a kind of throwback to a more 1990s-flavored movie. The antic spirit of F. Gary Gray's "Friday" can be felt throughout "One of Them Days."

The tone here, courtesy of director Lawrence Lamont, producer Issa Rae and screenwriter Syreeta Singleton, is amiably realistic. Aside from a few cartoonish flourishes, "One of Them Days" is grounded in a working-class reality where every step toward upward mobility for Dreux and Alyssa is swiftly knocked backward.

Complex

They live in a dilapidated apartment complex in the neighborhood of Baldwin Village, nicknamed the Jungles. When they're forced to raise \$1,500 - a race complete with a tickingclock countdown to eviction, and, as things develop, until "certain death" - Dreux is also scheduled for the biggest job interview of her life, to become a franchise manager for the restaurant chain she's employed by.

The satire of "One of Them Days" is mostly directed at the feeble opportunities afforded to those striving to break out of a paycheck-to-

reported. (AP)

paycheck cycle. When the roommates seek a loan, their payday center advertises a comical APR of 1,900.5%. (The agent, who takes great pleasure in their credit scores, is memorably played by Keyla Monterroso Mejia.)

That's just one of the characters the two encounter in their pleasantly meandering journey to raise money via everything from blood donation to Air Jordans hung on power lines. Some of the characters along the way include Katt Williams, as a conscientious homeless man who warns against predatory lending; Vanessa Bell Calloway's stripper-turned-bloodbank-worker; a new white neighbor named Bethany (Maude Apatow); and Keshawn's new hook-up (Janelle James), who proves the movie's most regular villain, despite the looming presence of a fearsome gangster (Amin Joseph).

Anyone familiar with Rae's "Insecure" will recognize some of the hallmarks of that HBO series, namely the struggles of Black women trying to get a leg up in Los Angeles while also juggling romantic interests that might come from a wide range of backgrounds. Here, that's Dreux's crush, Maniac (Patrick Cage), who drives a Mercedes and who she suspects is a criminal.

If all of this sounds somewhat low stakes

former SMAP star issued a statement acknowledging a settlement over "a trouble," but he denied using any violence.

News of the scandal did not immediately trigger a flood of pullouts by sponsors. But many apparently started replacing their commercials with public ser-vice announcements after a news conference Friday by Fuji TV that triggered criticism that the company was lacking transparency and contrition over the affair. Major sponsors such as

Nakai

automakers Nissan Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp.; cosmetics maker (I failed to mention Lil Rel Howery as their prospective sneaker buyer), that's more of a pleasing feature than a bug in "One of Them Days." Besides, filling this movie with anything more - star cameos or broad comedy set pieces - would be a mistake. That would leave less room for the interplay between Palmer and SZA

"One of Them Days" hinges on central buddy comedy, which Lamont seems to recognize even in his feature directorial debut. SZA's uber-cool unsurprisingly transfers easily to the big screen; her performance is winning because it's so unforced.

But it's a testament to Palmer's dynamism as a performer that "One of Them Days" would work no matter where their day takes them. There's a freewheeling wit and ever-shifting subtlety to Palmer, who so enlivened Jordan Peele's "Nope." Only a theatrical comedy can really showcase charisma like hers. For an actress who's hustled to get to this point, "One of Them" days is perfect platform for Palmer, scrappy and unstoppable. "One of Them Days," a Sony Pictures re-

lease, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language throughout, sexual material and brief drug use. Running time: 97 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Shiseido; retailer Seven & I Holding Co. and life insurer Meiji Yasuda announced they were pull-ing ads from Fuji TV. Local media reports said more than 50 companies had done the same.

Nissan said Tuesday that it had pulled its Fuji TV adds and was watching developments before deciding on further steps.

During Friday's news conference, Fuji TV President Koichi Minato apologized and ac-knowledged his company had not disclosed the problem despite becoming aware of it about six months before the Shukan Bunshun report. Minato said Fuji TV would investigate the case but also said he believed his employees had not done

anything wrong. Fuji TV apologized for causing trouble to many advertisers and agencies but declined to disclose details. (AP)

After the weekly magazine Shukan Bunshun reported in December a 90 million yen (\$580,000) settlement between Nakai and a woman over the alleged sexual assault at a 2023 dinner party, the

TOKYO: Dozens of major Japanese companies have pulled their commercials on Fuji Television amid allegations company officials tried to cover up a sex scandal involving one of the country's

most famous TV hosts. The scandal centers on Masahiro Nakai, a former member of the super popular male band SMAP and now a popular host at Fuji and other Japanese networks. Nakai has been linked by local media to an alleged sexual assault at a party

the pepper spray incident on Monday night, but reportedly arranged by one of Fuji TV's staff. "Huxleys Neue Welt" concert hall, about 1,600 concert goers were initially taken to a parking lot by police and then allowed to go home, dpa



NEWS/FEATURES

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



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 firend 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 Terell 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

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 US.

According to a press release, contributions to FireAid will "be distributed under the advisement of the Annenberg Foundation, for short-term relief efforts and longterm 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)

tuit 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 Ticketmaster. 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.



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 yearround 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)

HEALTH



A group photo of the Cura Health team



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

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, Viatris, 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 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.

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



Photo of some of the participants.

KHA completes major study on heart diseases

30% of heart failure patients are under 45

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

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

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.



www.arabtimesonline.com

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya Phone: 24 734 000 www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

14

SPORTS

Services are designed to meet the anticipated surge

Dedicated express service in operation for Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games

HARBIN, Jan 21, (Xinhua): Around 11:00 a.m. on Monday, the D8003 train departed from Harbin to Yabuli West Station, officially marking the launch of the dedicated express railway line for the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin.

The express service for Harbin 2025 includes six high-speed trains running between Harbin and Yabuli West Station, as well as six conventional trains linking Harbin and Yabuli South Station. These services are designed to meet the anticipated surge in passenger demand during the Games, which will be held from February 7 to 14.

Currently, a total of 51 high-speed trains passing through Yabuli West Station have been scheduled. These trains operate at intervals of as short as seven minutes, with the fastest travel time between Harbin and Yabuli West reduced to just over an hour. Additionally, 12 conventional trains stop at Yabuli Station, and a new direct line between Beijing and Yabuli South Station has been introduced to further enhance transportation capacity for Harbin 2025.

According to Sun Jiahui, a staff member at China

Railway Harbin Group, the newly launched trains are equipped with advanced technologies to withstand extreme winter conditions, and the cabins have been designed to enhance both efficiency and comfort.

"The trains offer larger capacities and dedicated storage areas for snow sports equipment, meeting the diverse needs of passengers," Sun explained.

To accommodate the smooth travel of athletes, event staff and media personnel, special ticket windows have been set up at stations including Harbin Station, Harbin West Station and Yabuli West Station. Dedicated waiting

areas, streamlined entry and exit procedures and a customer service hotline have also been put in place.

The Asian Winter Games-themed decorations, including timetables and stickers on the trains, created a festive and exciting atmosphere, setting the stage for the upcoming Games.

"The Yabuli express lines are a key part of our efforts to support Harbin 2025. We are committed to providing comprehensive services to ensure smooth transportation during the event," said Zhang Tianshuang, deputy station director at Yabuli West Station.

Celtics hand Warriors most Como beats Udinese to move **lopsided home loss in 40 yrs**



Boston Celtics center Kristaps Porzingis (8) shoots against Golden State Warriors guard Moses Moody (4) during the first half of an NBA basketball game

Charlotte extends winning streak to season-high three

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 21, (AP): Jayson Tatum scored 22 points, Kristaps Por-zingis had 18 and Boston handed Golden State their most lopsided home loss in 40 years with a 125-85 vic-



Western Conference teams.

Cleveland had little trouble handling the Suns despite missing three rotational players as forwards Evan Mobley (calf), Isaac Okoro (shoulder) and guard Caris LeVert (wrist) sat out with injuries.

Kevin Durant scored 23 to lead Phoenix, which had won five of six. Devin Booker added 15 - 10 below his average - and had six turnovers. Suns guard Bradley Beal returned after missing the last two games with left ankle sprain and scored just five points in 25 minutes.

clear of Serie A relegation zone

Villarreal hammers Mallorca 4-0

MILAN, Jan 21, (AP): Gabriel Strefezza got a goal and an assist as Como powered its way to a 4-1 victory over Udinese that lifted Cesc Fàbregas' side three points clear of the Serie A relegation zone.

Assane Diao scored for the sec-ond game in a row to put Como 1-0 ahead in the fifth minute and Strefezza doubled the lead two minutes before halftime with a low shot after Udinese failed to clear a corner kick from the left.

Martin Payero pulled a goal back for Udinese early in the second half and the visitors pushed forward after Edoardo Goldaniga was sent off for a second booking in the 57th.

However, Udinese's numerical advantage lasted only six minutes as Oumar Solet was also shown a red card for two fouls in quick succession.

An own goal by Jaka Bijol 12 min-utes from time made it 3-1 and then Nico Paz finished off a well-worked fourth for Como in the final minute.

The result was Como's biggest win since returning to Serie A this season and lifted it from 17th to 13th place.

The loss extended Udinese's winless league run to four matches. It remains in 10th place.

Four goals in an eight-minute spell midway through the first half gave Villarreal a comprehensive 4-0 win over Mallorca in the Spanish league.

Logan Costa headed home from a corner kick to put the home side 1-0 up after 19 minutes and then Alejandro Baena took control as Villarreal punished the visitors with a scintillating display of counterattacking football.

Baena got the second after 23 minutes when he started and finished a quick break and then set up Dani Parejo to score a third two minutes later.

Yeremy Pino put the game beyond doubt with a half volley from Sergi Cardona's cross from the left after 27 minutes.

The second half was relatively tepid in comparison as Villarreal easily saw out a win that closes the gap with fourth-place Athletic Bil-

bao to six points. Villarreal took its goal tally for the league season to 38, with only Real

Madrid and Barcelona having scored more

Mallorca remains in sixth place.

Man City signs teenage Palmeiras defender Vitor Reis for \$36 million

MANCHESTER, England, Jan 21, (AP): Manchester City signed a second defender in two days, this time 19-year-old Vitor Reis from Palmeiras for 35 million euros (\$36 million) on Tuesday.

Lens' Abdukodir Khusanov signed on Monday for a 4 1/2-year contract. The length of Reis' contract wasn't given.

"I'm excited to join Manchester City," Reis said. "I want to make my mark as we seek more trophies."

The four-time defending Premier League champion has been unusually busy in the January transfer window following an alarming run of form leading up to Christmas. City was fifth in the standings and 12 points behind leader Liverpool, and fighting to reach the last 16 in the Champions League.

Reis was a Brazil Under-17 international and made 22 first-team appearances for Palmeiras.

"He is excellent on the ball and outstanding in the air - he has all the attributes needed to be one of the best," City director of football Txiki Begiristain said.

The moves for Reis and Khusanov, also a center back, come after injuries to City defenders including Ruben Dias, John Stones and Nathan Ake. An ACL injury for Ballon d'Or winner Rodri has also undermined City's challenge in the Premier League and Europe, with manager

tory.

The Celtics built a double-digit lead early and put the game away with a 43-24 edge in the third quarter.

Jaylen Brown added 17 points and Payton Pritchard scored 14 for Boston. Stephen Curry scored 18 points to lead Golden State. The Warriors shot 34.8% for the game, with Andrew Wiggins making just 1 of 11 shots.

The Warriors lost by at least 40 points at home for the sixth time since moving to California in 1962 and first since a 149-104 loss to Dallas on Jan. 15. 1985.

Hornets 110, Mavericks 105

In Charlotte, LaMelo Ball and Miles Bridges each scored 23 points and the Charlotte Hornets held on to beat the Dallas Mavericks to extend their winning streak to a season-high three games.

Nick Smith Jr. added 19 points and Mark Williams overcame foul trouble to finish with 13 points and 13 rebounds for Charlotte (11-28).

Kyrie Irving had 33 points and Daniel Gafford added a career-high 31 points and 15 rebounds for the Mavericks (23-20), who've lost four of their last five games.

The Mavericks trailed entering the fourth quarter but Irving - who had 26 points after halftime - began the take over, knocking down two quick 3s while adding another three points on free throws after luring Josh Green into fouling him on a 3-point attempt.

But the Hornets would battle back to take the lead for good on Smith's corner 3 with 4:16 left.

Ball, who had 20 points on five 3s in the first half, had a chance to put the game away with 13 seconds left but missed the tail end of a one-and-one. Klay Thompson tried to send the game into overtime, but missed a 3 from the right wing. Green added two free throws to seal the Charlotte win.

Pistons 107, Rockets 96

In Houston, Cade Cunningham had 32 points, nine rebounds and seven assists to lead Detroit to a win over Houston

Los Angeles Clippers guard Norman Powell (24) vies for the ball with Chicago Bulls center Nikola Vucevic during the second half of an NBA basket-ball game in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

over Atlanta.

the bench.

rest of the way.

matinee.

will be out with a big toe injury.

Knicks 119, Hawks 110

34 points to lead New York to a win

in Brunson's career as a Knick, and

it helped New York improve to 28-

16. Mikal Bridges added 26 points.

while New York swingman Josh Hart

chipped in with 14 points. Hart had

suffered a cervical compression in the

neck in the Knicks' 116-99 loss to the

Despite Trae Young leading seven

Hawks in double-figure scoring with 27, Atlanta fell to 22-20 and had its

three-game winning streak snapped.

De'Andre Hunter added 22 points off

through the fourth quarter, Brunson

converted a backdoor layup to give the

Knicks a 107-100 lead and on the en-

suing possession drew a charge from

Cavaliers 118, Suns 92

Cleveland began the season's unoffi-

cial second half by dominating Phoe-

nix in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Cavs, who opened the season

with 15 straight wins, improved the

NBA's best record to 36-6 - tied for

the eighth-best start in history. They're

also 21-2 at home and 13-1 against

In a 16-second span midway

Timberwolves on Friday night.

In New York, Jalen Brunson scored

It was the 68th 30-plus point game

Cunningham was 12 of 22 from the field. He scored 19 points in the third quarter as the Pistons built a 90-80 lead after three.

Jalen Duren had 16 points and 14 rebounds, Malik Beasley added 17 points off the bench, and Ausar Thompson had 11 points and nine rebounds for the Pistons, who shot 48% and were 10 of 27 on 3-pointers.

Fred VanVleet scored 20 points, and Jalen Green scored 19 points. Amen Thompson, who missed the game at Portland on Saturday with left calf soreness, added 17 points for Houston, which shot 39% and struggled from 3, connecting on 11 of 39.

Grizzlies 108, Timberwolves 106

In Memphis, Jaren Jackson Jr. had 24 points, including 15 in the fourth quarter, and Desmond Bane added 22 points as Memphis used a late rally to beat Minnesota.

Jackson, who was 6 of 8 in the final quarter, added 10 rebounds and a pair of blocks for Memphis, which won its third straight. Ja Morant finished with 19 points, despite going 5 of 16 from the field.

Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 32 points, while Naz Reid finished with 29 points, including 15 in the fourth as Minnesota tried to thwart the Memphis rally. Edwards had a chance to win the game, but his 3-point attempt with Bane and Jackson guarding him was off the mark.

Memphis outscored Minnesota 37-30 in the fourth.

Minnesota announced before the game that guard Donte DiVincenzo

Pelicans 123, Jazz 119, OT

In New Orleans, CJ McCollum scored six of his 45 points in overtime and New Orleans orchestrated the largest comeback in franchise history, overcoming a 25-point deficit to beat Utah.

Dejounte Murry had 26 points and 11 assists, and Trey Murphy III added 24 points for the Pelicans, who won for the fifth time in six games despite playing without forward Zion Williamson and center Yves Missi (both non-COVID illnesses).

Keyonte George scored 23 points and Isaiah Collier had 20 points and 11 assists for the Jazz. Walker Kessler had 19 points and 13 rebounds and Kyle Filipowski added 17 rebounds and 11 points.

A 24-3 run gave the Pelicans their first lead on Jose Alvarado's transition 3 from the left corner, which made it 90-89

Utah went back up 99-92, but Mc-Collum, who had 25 points in the second half, pulled the Pelicans back with three clutch 3s in the last six minutes of regulation.

Kessler's putback put Utah in front with 33 seconds left, but Murray's layup tied it at 110, setting up overtime.

Bulls 112, Clippers 99

In Inglewood, Zach LaVine scored 35 points and Chicago defeated Los Angeles to snap a five-game skid.

as the Bulls improved to 2-6 in backto-backs this season

The Clippers' four-game winning streak ended without starters Kawhi Leonard and Ivica Zubac. Norman Powell scored 27 points and James Harden added 17 points and 10 assists. The Clippers closed to 101-92 on a three-point play by Derrick Jones Jr. before the Bulls ended the game on an 11-7 surge.

Eintracht Frankfurt forward Omar Marmoush is reportedly another target for 75 million euros (\$77 million).

Pep Guardiola admitting recently his squad was too small to cope.

City has traditionally preferred to save major transfers for the offseason, but Guardiola has chosen to strengthen now.

City plays Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League on Wednesday, with both teams in danger of being eliminated.



In this file photo, Argentina's Ian Subiabre, left, battles for the ball against Brazil's Vitor Reis during their FIFA U-17 World Cup quarterfinal soccer match at Jakarta international Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP)

Bayern signs German youth int'I

MUNICH, Jan 21, (AP): Bayern Munich has signed highly rated German midfielder Tom Bischof from Bundesliga rival Hoffenheim for next season.

The 19-year-old Bischof was getting a contract through June 2029 after he arrives on a free transfer, the Bavarian powerhouse said on Tuesday.

Bischof's contract with Hoffenheim is due to expire at the end of this season. He was the club's youngest ever player in the Bundesliga when he made his league debut aged 16 years, 263 days in March 2022.

That was the first of 41 appearances in Germany's top division, where Bischof established himself as one of Hoffenheim's most important players. The club was unable to reach agreement on extending his contract amid reported interest from Bayern, Leipzig and Eintracht Frankfurt.

"It's no secret that we would have loved to extend Tom's contract beyond June 30," Hoffenheim sporting director Andreas Schicker said. "We tried everything to continue to convince him of the club in the last year of his contract and to show him what's possible. However, Tom's rapid sporting development has not gone unnoticed by other, very wellknown top clubs.

Baldwin Jr., Niederhauser lead Penn State over Rutgers 80-72 to snap 4-game skid

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa., Jan 21, (AP): Ace Baldwin Jr. had 22 points, Yanic Konan Niederhauser scored 18 and Penn State snapped a four-game losing streak with an 80-72 victory over Rutgers on Monday night.

Baldwin made 6 of 16 shots with three 3-pointers and 7 of 9 free throws for the Nittany Lions (13-6, 3-5 Big Ten Conference). He added eight assists and five steals. Niederhauser sank 7 of 8 shots and grabbed six rebounds.

Nick Kern had 16 points and six rebounds for Penn State and Fred Dilone V scored 12 with four assists.

Freshman Ace Bailey scored 30 on 13-for-15 shooting with four 3-pointers to lead the Scarlet Knights (10-9, 3-5). Lathan Sommerville added 12 points and six rebounds.

Baldwin had 10 points and Dilone scored nine to help Penn State take a 37-35 lead into halftime. Sommerville had four points in a 6-0 run to begin the game for the Scarlet Knights. The Nittany Lions grabbed their first lead at 21-20 on a three-point play by Baldwin and his 3-pointer was the final basket of the half.

Rutgers grabbed its first lead of the second half at 44-43 on a layup by Bailey with 16:12 left to play. Kern had four points, Baldwin buried a 3-pointer and Niederhauser had the final two baskets in an 11-0 run that gave Penn State a 61-53 lead with 6:17 remaining.

Sommerville made two free throws to get

Rutgers within 69-67 with 1:52 to go. Niederhauser made a free throw, and Kern had a layup after Rutgers' Dylan Harper missed a 3-pointer

with a chance to tie, preserving the victory. Donovan Dent scored 20 points as New Mexico beat Fresno State 95-67 on Monday night

Dent also added nine assists for the Lobos (16-4, 8-1 Mountain West Conference). Mustapha Amzil scored 15 and grabbed seven rebounds. Tru Washington shot 5 for 9, including 3 for 5 from beyond the arc to finish with 13 points.

Brian Amuneke led the way for the Bulldogs (5-14, 1-7) with 18 points. Jalen Weaver had 14 points and three steals. Elijah Price had 12 points and 11 rebounds.

New Mexico took the lead with 19:26 remaining in the first half and did not relinquish it. Washington led the team in scoring with 13 points in the first half to help put them up 45-27 at the break.

Dyson Daniels. New York cruised the Talen Horton-Tucker added 18 points off the bench. Josh Giddey had In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell 18 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists scored 33 points - 23 in the second half - and Darius Garland added 16 as

SPORTS

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



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 ve-hicles on track and as passengers. The four-day event has been a great opportunety 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 Ku-wait 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



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-Suwaihli (Libya) vs. Al-Shorta

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

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

Al-Aniy (Egypt) vs. Al-Salam (Oman) Qatar (Qatar) vs. Al-Seeb (Oman)

Al-Qadsiya Club's first volleyball team departed for Doha to be-



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

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. gin 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 JanuTrainer 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.

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 Dombrandt 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)

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

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 secondplaced Switzerland's Lara Gut Behrami, left, and third-placed United States' Paula Moltzan, in Plan de Corones, 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.



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)



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. 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-yearold 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-



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

efforts despite the loss. He acknowledged that his players gave a strong berrormance 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-Qadsiya 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-Qadsiya 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.

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

time defending champion in Melbourne. Sabalenka stretched her winning streak in the tournament to 19 matches by getting past No. 27 Anastasia Pavly-uchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.



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 Akyaev, 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. 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

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.



Editor-in-Chief
AHMED AL JARALLAH

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT Published by: Arab Times Publishing House

Editorial Office:

Tel: **24826912 -** Airport Road, Shuwaikh P.O. Box: 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: **arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com** Advertising: Tel: **99659717 - 50232062** E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com Annual Subscriptions: Individuals KD 30 Companies and Official Departments KD 45 Airmail charges extra for overseas