



KUNA photo

Weather Forecaster at Kuwait Meteorological Department Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi says the country was affected by low air mass on the surface of the earth accompanied by damp air that resulted in fog in some areas early Thursday morning. He told KUNA that the southeasterly winds would become moderate over the period, causing sandy winds

in some areas, adding that low and medium clouds will increase gradually. Al-Qarawi explained that the weather in the country on Friday will be partly cloudy during the day with low to moderate southwesterly winds of speed ranging between 12 and 32 km/hr. Maximum temperature is expected to be 26-28 degrees Celsius.

# Hawalli restaurant serving pork in its menu 'busted'

Serious violation of the law, Shariah

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 25: A team of inspectors from the Department of Monitoring, Inspection and Consumer Protection at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has discovered a restaurant in Hawalli that included pork in its menu.**

In a statement, the department noted its officials on a routine inspection of shops, companies and restaurants within the governorate detected the violation.

The officials regarded the act as 'serious violation of the law and Shariah'—given that the operators

have full knowledge that pork and its byproducts are prohibited according to laws of the land.

The team seized all types of meat from the restaurant to evaluate the quantity of forbidden items, while samples have been sent to the laboratory of Ministry of Health before taking necessary legal measures in that regard.

Meanwhile, officials from the Inspection Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition embarked on an inspection tour of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

The campaign covered Al-Qurain Markets, and Quosour and Adan Cooperative Society during which almost 51 kilograms of rotten foodstuffs were destroyed, and 6 citations plus 3 warning letters were issued.

Ahmadi team also issued 33 cita-

tions in Ahmadi and secured an order to destroy 5 kilograms of rotten foodstuffs. They also issued 6 undertakings in Mahboula and Eqaila areas.

Minister of Health Dr Basel Al-Sabah on Thursday visited the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition to have firsthand information about obstacles and challenges the authority is facing in order to proffer appropriate solutions.

Director General of the authority Essa Al-Kandari disclosed that the minister held a meeting with members of the administrative board and senior officials to discuss some of their needs, including budget related issues, allocation of permanent head office and branches at various governorates, and request for food test laboratory.

## Kuwait climbs

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This also led to Kuwait being named in the top 10 list of countries with the cleanest drinking water and best water treatment facilities by the World Health Organisation in 2017.

## Kuwait protests

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trade ties with Doha, accusing it of financing terrorism.

Riyadh also accuses Qatar of cosyng up to the kingdom's arch-rival Iran. Qatar rejects the charges and says it is being penalised for straying from its neighbours' backing for authoritarian rulers.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has sought to maintain neutrality while he has tried to arbitrate an end to the rift, which has worsened to the point where both sides vilify each other regularly.

Kuwaiti courts, enforcing strict laws that prohibit citizens from insulting other countries or their leaders, have passed prison sentences on writers accused of misusing social media.

Earlier this week, a Kuwait court sentenced a newspaper columnist to a second five-year prison term in absentia for insulting Saudi Arabia. Abdullah Mohammed al-Saleh, who now lives in Britain, has said he had only exercised legitimate criticism of the kingdom.

Earlier this month, Kuwaiti media reported that writer Fouad al-Hashem was sentenced to seven years in jail for insulting Qatar.

## Four Americans

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the 2016 US election and possible collusion with President Donald Trump's campaign.

"Glenn was in Kabul on a potential success story involving Afghanistan and its steps to battle extremism. The focus was highlighting the country's new president and constructing a democracy forum event for Afghani women," Selig Multimedia said.

At least 25 people were killed when five gunman dressed in Afghan army uniforms stormed the Kabul hotel on Saturday night. Seven Ukrainians and one German were among the dead.

The Taleban, which attacked the same hotel in 2011, claimed responsibility for the attack, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement.

The health ministry official said at least 25 people had been killed, including 13 foreigners. But AFP has independently verified that 15 foreigners — seven Ukrainians, four Americans, two Venezuelans, one German and one Kazakh — died in the massacre.

"We have 25 deaths from the International Hotel attack in Kabul — seven Afghans, 13 foreigners and five suspected attackers," health ministry spokesman Wahid Majrooh told AFP.

That was hours after he gave a different toll, telling AFP that 25 Afghans had been killed and that "we don't know about the foreign fatalities."

An Afghan security official also said 25 people had been killed in the 12-hour attack on Saturday night but that figure included three badly burned bodies "which we believe are of foreigners".

"To be honest I am not very sure about the final death toll yet," he said on the condition of anonymity.

Adding to the confusion, the interior ministry told AFP that the official death toll still stood at 22 but suggested that figure could change in the coming days.

"The fact-finding mission and investigation work will be finalised today and... the interior minister will have a press conference on Saturday where he will give the new details," interior ministry deputy spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said.

"There could be some new information and changes."

Afghan media outlets have reported significantly higher death tolls. Tolo News previously quoted the interior ministry as saying 29 people had been killed, but also cited "reliable sources" as saying the number was around 43.

Afghan officials have a long history of understating death tolls in high-profile attacks and there is widespread speculation in Kabul that the true death toll in the hotel attack is far higher than what they have said.

"The government is concerned about the inevitable repercussions that this and yesterday's attack (in Jalalabad) are going to have," an Afghan media source told AFP.

"Businesses are going to think twice about coming in, foreigners are going to leave. We have seen in the past — specifically after last year's truck bombing and previous hotel attacks — that a lot of foreigners leave."

## US-Turkey

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de-escalation. We are prepared to work with Turkey on legitimate security concerns," he added.

Washington has more than 2,000 special forces and support troops inside Syria, mainly east of the Euphrates in an area also controlled by the YPG but separate from Afrin, which is west of the river.

In response to Erdogan's call on the US to stop supplying weapons to the YPG, Trump told the Turkish leader that "his country no longer supplied the group ... and pledged not to resume" weapons delivery, the official said.

Trump also expressed concern about "the destructive and false" anti-American rhetoric emanating from Turkey, the White House said.

But the Turkish official said Trump "did not use the phrase 'destructive and false rhetoric coming from Turkey'", adding Trump said "open criticism" of the US "raised concerns".

As the operation entered its sixth day, an AFP correspondent saw tanks on the Turkish side of the border and soldiers ready to go into Syria amid tight security.

Turkish artillery fire pounded the Afrin region, state-run news agency Anadolu said.

Two people, a Turk and a Syrian, were killed on Wednesday after two rockets fired from Syria by the YPG landed in the border town of Kilis, province governor Mehmet Tekinarslan said.

Three Turkish soldiers have been killed since the start of the offensive while the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has said 48 Ankara-backed Syrian rebels and 42 US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and YPG fighters had been killed.

The SDF is an umbrella grouping composed mainly of YPG. Yildirim said over "300 terror organisation members were neutralised". He vowed Turkey would not allow a "terror structure on its southern border ... whether it is east or west of the Euphrates".

The Observatory has said at least 30 civilians have been killed but Ankara strongly rejects such claims, saying that it is doing everything to avoid civilian casualties.

## Qataris eye

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understanding on air defence and military supplies in October, when Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu visited the Gulf state.

Last June Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt severed ties with Qatar and imposed travel and economic sanctions on the Gulf Arab state, accusing it of "supporting terrorism" and cosyng up to Iran.

Doha has said the four countries are trying to force it to alter its policies to be in line with their own.

Qatar seeks no military escalation with the United Arab Emirates, its foreign minister told Reuters, following a renewed bout of verbal sparring between the two Gulf states over alleged military overflights.

Earlier this month Qatar accused UAE military planes of repeatedly violating its airspace, while Bahrain and the UAE said Qatari warplanes had harassed two civilian Emirati airliners.

The two sides denied each other's accusations but have signalled they want to de-escalate the row, which comes at a time when relations between Qatar and its Gulf neighbours are very strained.

"Qatar will never provoke any country," Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said in an interview during the World Economic Forum in Davos, in which he also said the rift between Doha and its Gulf neighbours was hampering regional security cooperation.

He said Qatar welcomed comments by a senior UAE military official this week that the military had received orders not to worsen the seven-month dispute with Doha.

"As far as we know, there is no intention about this military conflict. We have seen their announcement yesterday which we have welcomed. For us we don't see any solution other than resorting to dialogue," Sheikh Mohammed added.

Last June the UAE, along with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt, cut off travel and trade ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism and their arch-rival Iran.

Doha denies the charges and says the countries aim to curtail its sovereignty.

## No help

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"These jihadists have never had any qualms about what they're doing, and I don't see why we should have any for them," French defence minister Florence Parly said Monday.

Three French women captured after Iraqi forces retook the city of Mosul last July are awaiting trial in Baghdad, sources close to their cases say, and risk the death penalty as well.

Two of the women are being held along with their young children.

"When they are caught by local authorities, as far as possible they should be tried by these local authorities," Parly added in a separate interview on Sunday.

Britain has also taken a firm stance against repatriation, as has Belgium, which denied a request by Tarik Jadaoun, a Belgium detained in Iraq, to be sent home in exchange for cooperating with the authorities.

"I don't see how it's possible to negotiate with war criminals," Prime Minister Charles Michel said in December, adding that "there can be no leniency."

Security experts generally discount the value of any intelligence offered by former extremists, while warning that bringing back their children exposes other risks.

Youths exposed to decapitations and other atrocities "could be time bombs, given what they have seen," said Paris prosecutor Francois Molins, who has overseen investigations into terror attacks on French soil.

Their names spread terror across the Islamic State group's cross-border "caliphate", but senior jihadists now languish in Iraqi prisons, subjects of mockery for the populace they ruled.

Once boasting nicknames like the Black Box and the Butcher of Mosul, the defeated IS commanders now draw vitriol on social media while news outlets have published selfies taken by Iraqi soldiers of them being captured or marched handcuffed in prison uniforms.

Following the jihadist group's ouster from second city Mosul last July, Iraqi forces went on the hunt for IS fighters who had fled the battlefield.

Researchers estimate they have since put behind bars some 20,000 suspected members of the group.

The search involved digging

through the rubble of war-torn Mosul and hunting through the tunnels and hideouts the jihadists had created during their three-year reign.

It was in Mosul's Old City, near the al-Nuri mosque where the self-proclaimed "caliph" Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made his only public appearance, that the elite Counter-Terrorism Service found the senior commander nicknamed the "Black Box of IS" — a moniker that came from his lynchpin role in the organisation.

Nizam Eddin al-Rifai had sent gunmen and suicide bombers in a desperate bid to repel government troops, said Sabah al-Noman, spokesman for elite units that spearheaded the Mosul offensive.

But in the end he had no choice but to surrender. Cornered by government soldiers, he left his underground hideout bare-chested, his unkempt beard matching his white hair.

Time was finally up for the notoriously hardline head judge of the "caliphate" which at its height ruled over roughly seven million people in Iraq and Syria.

The 60-year-old Mosulite is still under interrogation, Noman said, adding that he could still give up valuable information about IS.

Rifai's position made him the group's third in command, according to security sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

He also had the symbolically important role of "teaching theology to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi," the jihadists' self-proclaimed "caliph", they said.

Another infamous IS member, Mufti Abu Omar (whose real name is Ezzedine Taha Ahmed), spread terror far beyond Mosul through the group's propaganda efforts.

In one gruesome video, he appeared in military uniform. Sporting a kalashnikov rifle he ordered young people, suspected of being gay, thrown from the roof of a building to their deaths.

That clip and others earned the 62-year-old Iraqi the nickname "Butcher of Mosul".

Today, he is in the hands of the country's security forces, who nickname him "White Beard" — facial hair he trimmed as he tried to disguise himself as troops approached.

He escaped, like many jihadists, by mingling with the flood of civilians fleeing the battle-scarred city centre.

## Newswatch

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demand," Emirates said in a statement. (RTRS)

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**BEIRUT: Lebanon** has detained a suspected militant wanted over the killing of two army officers and attacks on the military near the town of Aarsal in the northeast, the army said on Wednesday.

It said the detained man was **Mohammed Ahmed Abdulghani** al-Hujairi and that he was an associate of a Syrian militant wanted for the 2015 bomb attack on a Beirut cafe that killed dozens of people. (RTRS)

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**JERUSALEM: US President Donald Trump's** controversial recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital led to a spike in Palestinian support for "armed struggle", a poll suggested Thursday.

Nearly twice as many Palestinians said they supported "armed struggle" against Israel compared with an identical survey six months previously, while there was also a fall in support for the two-state solution, the joint Israeli and Palestinian poll found. (AFP)

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**ABU DHABI: The United States** is in talks with the European Union about tightening sanctions on Iran over its missile program and foreign policy, House of Representatives Speaker **Paul Ryan** told a conference in the **United Arab Emirates** on Thursday.

Speaking in the capital **Abu Dhabi**, Ryan said the Islamic Republic was seeking to expand its influence in the region at the expense of staunch US allies like the UAE and Saudi Arabia and there is need to be constrained by sanctions. (RTRS)

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**BENGAZI: At least 37 people** died and scores were wounded after two car bombings outside a mosque frequented by jihadist opponents in Libya's second city Benghazi, medical officials said Wednesday.

The attack after evening prayers on Tuesday underlined the continued chaos in **Libya**, which has been wracked by violence and divisions since dictator **Muammar Gaddafi** was toppled and killed in a 2011 NATO-backed uprising. (AFP)

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**PARIS: French authorities** say a crash between a school bus and a car has left 27 people injured, including five children who were seriously injured.

The local authority in the Gers department said that 18 other children and four adults were slightly injured.

The bus was transporting 45 middle school pupils and five adults, including the driver. It's not clear how many people were in the car. (AP)

**ALGIERS: A collision** between a passenger bus and a taxi in **Algeria** killed 14 people and injured 22 others on Thursday, authorities said.

The accident occurred at Sfid on a national highway linking the northwestern areas of Saida and El Bayadh, according to the emergency services.

The 22 people injured were evacuated to hospital. (AFP)

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