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Opinion

## Your Highness the Prime Minister, do we want to eat the grapes or fight the guard?

**Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

YOUR Highness the Prime Minister, Your Excellency the Minister of Finance, Kuwait has a huge opportunity to establish an advanced network of industries, services, and other productive sectors amid rapid regional and international economic developments.

Drawing on the old WWII adage, "When you hear

the roar of cannons, start building", Kuwait's unique geographical location positions it to play a major economic role in the region.

However, to realize this potential, essential changes are required, foremost among them easing the harsh operating conditions currently imposed on local companies and institutions.

It is extremely difficult for businesses to operate under such intense pressure, with the constant threat of closure, often triggered by minor administrative errors or even by failing to repay interest, not just the loan principal, to banks.

This challenging environment stems from strict

directives of the Central Bank of Kuwait that compel commercial banks to aggressively pursue debt collection without adequately considering the negative impact on the local economy. Such rigidity is applied even to institutions that hold collateral valued at three times the amount of their loans.

While such strict measures may be understandable during periods of active trade and normal economic conditions, they are ill-suited to the present situation.

Given the current international and regional context, including wars, political instability in neighboring countries, and anticipated major global transformations, it is vital to support productive sectors.

Allowing these sectors to operate smoothly is essential for them to contribute effectively to increasing national output. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government provided significant support to manufacturers, service providers, and retailers.

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Kuwait Army photo  
The Kuwait Army participating in the joint air show during the Gulf Shield 2026 exercise held in Saudi Arabia.

## Kuwait Air Force wraps up 'Gulf Shield 2026' exercise

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): The Air Force and Air Defense Forces of Kuwait Army on Friday concluded their participation in the Gulf Shield 2026, hosted by the Kingdom Saudi Arabia since Sunday, January 4.

The exercise, which gathered armed forces from Gulf Cooperation Council member countries and the Joint GCC Military Command, fell in the framework of regional efforts to enhance the

Continued on Page 5

## Wafra farmers grapple with decline in stalls, waste piles

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: A decline has recently been noted in the number of stalls selling fresh Kuwaiti fruits and vegetables at the Kuwaiti Farmers' Market in the Al-Wafra Agricultural area, near the main branch of the Al-Wafra Agricultural Cooperative Society, which opened nearly a month ago, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Many Al-Wafra farmers attributed the decline to the closure of tourist farms in the area, while some fruit and vegetable vendors said it was due to stricter enforcement of health regulations by the

relevant authorities, particularly regarding the safety and hygiene of the workers handling the produce.

Another factor contributing to the decline was the increase in sales outlets set up in front of many Al-Wafra farms.

Meanwhile, farmer Salem Al-Radhan, owner of a farm in Al-Wafra Agricultural area Block 2, raised concerns about the accumulation of farm waste and debris along roadsides and streets in many agricultural plots.

Continued on Page 5

Flight delays follow crisis

## Kuwaiti citizens urged caution amid growing unrest in Tehran

By Mohammed Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Due to ongoing unrest in Iran and the closure of certain airspace, several airlines operating from Kuwait International Airport have temporarily suspended flights to specific destinations.

One airline has announced a temporary suspension, warning that the situation may lead to flight cancellations, delays, or route changes.

The airline also indicated that other flights across its wider network are likely to be affected.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign



In this frame grab from video obtained by the AP outside Iran, a masked demonstrator holds a picture of Iran's Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi during a protest in Tehran, Iran, Friday, Jan 9, 2026. (AP)

Ministry safeguarding fair prices, protects consumers

By Marwa Al-Bahrani  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched a comprehensive monitoring plan that includes extensive field inspections of commercial and consumer markets. This effort, ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, is aimed to ensure the availability of

essential goods and verify adherence to approved prices and regulations.

Director of the Commercial Control Department at the ministry, Faisal Al-Ansari, stated that the inspections covered a range of locations, including cooperative societies, central markets, and specialty shops selling items such as dates, meat, poultry, flour, tea, coffee, and cardamom, all of which see increased demand before Ramadan.

Continued on Page 5



Kuwait City glows under Saturday's partly cloudy skies, as northwest winds stir dust, and temperatures peak at 20°C.

## China reaffirms strong partnership with Kuwait's development agenda

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Liu Xiang, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait, reaffirmed China's commitment to being a reliable partner in Kuwait's development, reflecting the saying, "The companion comes before the road."

In an interview with Al-Akhbar TV on Monday evening, Xiang highlighted Kuwait's strategic role in the Belt and Road Initiative, citing its advantageous geographical location and abundant energy resources, including both oil and solar power, which make Kuwait a natural partner for China.

Highlighting that a prominent example of this collaboration is the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, Xiang explained that signing the contract for this project represents a major step in implementing the cooperation agreements witnessed by the leaders of both countries, thus expanding the scope of bilateral cooperation.

This success is attributed to the direct guidance and support from the leadership of both countries. It resulted from extensive consultations and sustained, coordinated efforts by both sides.

Reciprocal visits by various government agencies and Chinese companies further reflected a serious commitment to turning agreements into tangible results that benefit the people of both China and Kuwait.

Xiang expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti government, noting that His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, led a ministerial follow-up committee that held around 40 weekly meetings, which is an unprecedented



Liu Xiang, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait.

number reflecting a high level of responsibility and professionalism.

Xiang went on to explain that the Chinese side dealt with the project with the same diligence, carefully reviewing each step. Both sides are moving in the same direction and have achieved satisfactory results. CCCC, which is the company executing the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, has committed significant resources to making it a model of cooperation between China and Kuwait.

He expressed hope that both sides would continue to uphold the principles of sincere cooperation and mutual benefit to advance the project, support the diversified development of the Kuwaiti economy, and help realize the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Xiang stressed that Kuwait has been a center of trade since ancient times, with Kuwaiti ships, such as dhows,

Kuwait opens investment window for vehicle auction market project

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has invited local, regional and international companies and alliances to submit an expression of interest to invest in Vehicle Auction Market Project in Kuwait, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In a statement it issued on Saturday, the authority said the project is consistent with the state's policy toward activating the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program through private sector participation in the implementation and operation of strategic and development projects in the State of Kuwait.

### Newswatch

IRBIL: U.S. Ambassador to Turkey and Special Envoy for Syria Thomas Barrack

discussed the latest developments in Syria with leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Masoud Barzani on Saturday.

The KDP said in a statement that this came in a phone call during which both sides exchanged views on political conditions in the region and in Syria, as well as recent developments and tensions, particularly in the city of Aleppo.

Both sides stressed the need to exert all efforts to de-escalate tensions, end unrest and clashes, and take serious steps to restore security and stability and achieve peace, it added. (KUNA)

Burgan Bank, Kamco

Invest to host their 3rd Investment Conference



9 KFH concludes 2025 with exceptional achievements & 58 awards

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 05:20 Asr ..... 14:48  
 Sunrise .. 06:44 Maghrib .. 17:07  
 Zohr ..... 11:55 Isha ..... 18:29

# Local

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Rather cold and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h with a chance for frost forming over agricultural and desert areas.

**By Night:** Rather cold to cold and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

## Station

Max Exp Min Rec

Kuwait City 20 15  
 Kuwait Airport 21 12

Abdaly	23	15
Bubyan	20	12
Jahra	22	14
Failaka Island	20	13
Salmiyah	21	17
Ahmadi	20	11
Jal Aliyah	22	13
Nuwaibis	21	15

## French embassy holds economic reception, eyes sports partnerships with Kuwait



Some pictures taken during the event.



Photos by Rizk Taufiq

## By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The French Embassy in Kuwait, in cooperation with the Business France trade office, hosted a high-level economic reception that brought together around 100 business leaders, investors, and decision-makers from France and Kuwait specialized in the fields of sports and international event management.

The reception took place on the sidelines of Kuwait's hosting of the International Champions Cup football match and was attended by notable sports figures, including former Paris Saint-Germain player Didier Doumè and Alessandro Antonello, CEO of Olympique de Marseille.

David Abdellakher-Kourir, second counselor at the French Embassy, highlighted the commitment of French economic stakeholders to being sustainable partners with Kuwait in developing modern sports infrastructure and building integrated professional ecosystems around the sports sector.

He stressed that Kuwait's hosting of major international sporting events, including the International Champions Cup, highlights the role of sports as a driver of international appeal, a tool for enhancing global presence, and a means of bringing people together.

He called for taking advantage of this momentum to build future partnerships based on shared interests and sustainable economic benefits for both countries.

## Kuwait expresses deep regret over Kyiv Qatar embassy 'hit'

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs voiced on Friday its deep regret over the damage at the Qatari Embassy's building due to the bombing targeted Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, on Thursday.

In a statement, the Ministry renewed Kuwait's principled and unwavering stance, calling for the resolution of crises through diplomacy and dialogue.

It also affirmed the State of Kuwait's backing to all international efforts aiming to finding peaceful settlement to the crisis in line with the international law and the UN Charter.

— See Also Page 6

The statement underlined the critical importance of abiding by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, particularly regarding the obligation of the host states to provide necessary protection to diplomatic missions, their personnel and facilities.

It added that the convention also stresses that the diplomatic missions must be kept away from the dangers of armed disputes in accordance with the international law and host countries' commitments.

## MoSA plan to invigorate oversight, transparency

### Jobs available for horde of top officials: MoSA

## By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs and Cooperative Affairs, Dr. Sayed Issa Mahmoud, announced that the Ministry of Social Affairs is now accepting applications for 90 financial and administrative controller positions, as part of the ministry's plan to strengthen oversight, enhance transparency, and expand its team of controllers.

Following directives from Minister Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, the initiative aims to provide greater transparency and create job opportunities for Kuwaiti citizens.

Dr. Issa explained that applications can be submitted through a dedicated link on the ministry's website and will remain open for ten working days, from January 18 to January 29.

Of the 90 positions, 30 are for financial controllers and 60 for administrative controllers. Applicants must be Kuwaiti citizens, with a bachelor's degree in accounting required for financial controller roles and a bachelor's degree in law required for administrative controller roles.

Applications missing any required information will not be accepted online.

After the 10-day application period, a date will be scheduled for a test at one of the universities, followed by a mandatory training course for the applicants.

Those who successfully complete the training will move on to a personal interview, after which the necessary procedures will be finalized with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for employment in the Cooperative Control Department, in accordance with CSC's terms and conditions.

Regarding the detailed requirements, he explained that applicants for specialized, technically graded Cooperative Control positions at the Ministry of Social Affairs must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum overall grade of "Very Good" or its equivalent under the points system.

The degree must be from Kuwait University or another university accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education, and in one of the specializations listed in Civil Service Council Resolution No. 34/2016 concerning bachelor's positions and the benefits of Kuwaiti employees in specialized, technically graded Cooperative Control roles, as amended by the resolution.

The requirements also stipulate that applicants must not be current or former members of a cooperative society's board of directors who were dismissed, and must not be older than 40 years of age by the application deadline.

Applicants are also required to successfully pass the written exam and personal interview, in accordance with the procedures set by the ministry.

All applications must be submitted using the standardized form available through the designated link on the Ministry of Social Affairs' official website.

#### The application must include the following documents:

- academic qualifications (transcript and, for non-Kuwait University graduates, an equivalency certificate from the Ministry of Higher Education),
- a copy of a valid civil ID
- a curriculum vitae,
- a personal photograph,
- a phone number and email address,
- a certificate of previous experience (if applicable, a career progression certificate)
- a criminal record certificate issued by the Ministry of Interior.

Also, a letter from the current employer approving the secondment or transfer must be submitted upon acceptance of the position. Dr. Issa said any application submitted after the deadline or missing any required documents or conditions will be rejected.

### Shifting in 2 years

## MEW puts 'inter-dept' staff transfer on hold

## By Mohammad Gharem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Dr. Adel Al-Zamel, issued a decision to suspend transfers from the ministry's sectors to some organizational units that are facing staffing overcrowding.

The decision highlighted the sectors from which transfers are permitted and those to which they are allowed.

It explained that the percentage of employees transferred to or from a sector should not exceed three percent of its total workforce. Sectors exempt from transfers are not subject to this limit, and all transfers require the approval of the receiving entity. A mechanism for prioritizing transfer applicants will be established.

Also, a specific period during the year will be designated for accepting transfer applications.

Applications will be accepted immediately following the announcement, with transfer decisions to be issued starting in April after review.

The decision also specifies the number of employees in both the sector from which the transfer is made and the sector receiving the transfer, based on the actual needs of the organizational units.

It called on the Administrative Affairs Sector to verify the compatibility of an employee's specialization with the work of the receiving organizational unit. This includes identifying whether the employee's specialization is technical or administrative and specifying the organizational units involved, ensuring that each unit retains the necessary personnel before any transfers are implemented.

The decision explained that a newly appointed employee may not request a transfer until two years have passed since their appointment date. Also, an employee cannot request a transfer until three years have passed since their previous transfer outside the sector.

Employees wishing to transfer to locations such as Wafra, Khairan, and Sabah Al-Ahmad to be closer to their residences must provide a housing allocation letter as proof, subject to approval by the receiving entity and operational needs.

It stressed the importance of recording all employee leave, permissions, assignments, and annual performance evaluations in the Civil Service Commission's integrated systems before any transfer is processed.

The decision further stipulated that once a transfer is issued, it cannot be canceled or withdrawn.

### Other Voices

## The vaccine earthquake

## By Ahmad alsarraf

DURING his first term, US President Donald Trump strongly opposed the measures introduced by health authorities to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. He refused to wear a mask or get vaccinated, often labeling those who supported such precautions as failures, charlatans, or profiteers.

After his re-election, President Trump appointed Senator Robert Kennedy Jr., a well-known critic of vaccines and preventive health measures, as Secretary of Health.

Kennedy applied his views through a series of changes, the most recent of which marked a major shift as the list of recommended vaccines for American children was drastically reduced, cutting routine immunizations from 17 diseases to 11.

Officials announced at a press conference that Jim O'Neill, acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), updated the agency's immunization schedule to reflect these changes, effective immediately.

This marks a major shift in vaccine policy across the United States, and it is likely that other countries will be influenced to follow suit, whether out of fear, respect, conviction, or because the US already supplies them with these vaccines.

Although each of the 50 US states, rather than the federal government, which oversees CDC, has the authority to set preventive vaccination requirements, CDC recommendations carry significant influence over state regulations.

Meanwhile, public health experts have strongly criticized the drastic changes, arguing that federal officials have provided no evidence to justify them and have ignored the opinions of vaccine specialists.

As reported by The New York Times,

Dr. Helen Chu, a physician and immunologist at the University of Washington in Seattle and a former member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Vaccines, stated, "The sudden change to the childhood immunization schedule in the United States is very concerning and unnecessary, and will endanger the health of children in the United States."

Dr. Chu also criticized health officials' claims that the move would increase public confidence in vaccines and raise vaccination rates, warning that it is more likely to have the opposite effect.

She stressed that parents are already concerned about vaccine safety based on news reports, and the recent changes will only increase confusion and reduce vaccination rates.

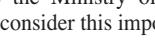
Dr. Chu warned that declining confidence in vaccines could lead to a steady drop in immunization and a resurgence of preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles, which saw more cases in the United States in 2025 than in any year since 1993.

Dr. Sean O'Leary, chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Infectious Diseases, commented, "Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly clear that we no longer trust our federal government to provide reliable information about vaccines. This is a tragedy that will cause unnecessary suffering."

Dr. O'Leary explained that the academy will continue to publish evidence-based vaccination schedules, prioritizing the health and safety of Americans rather than political agendas. It has also filed a lawsuit against health authorities after \$12 million in grants for its child health programs were revoked.

The vaccines affected by the changes include those for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningococcal disease, rotavirus, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus.

I hope the Ministry of Health will carefully consider this important issue.



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



Kuwait witnessed clear, crispy skies on Saturday, January 10, 2026. Slight rise in daytime temperature but nights continue to be chilly.

## PAHW spends KD 391mn on housing projects in year '25

## By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) reported financial expenditures of approximately KD 391.3 million in 2025 for projects signed or tendered within the South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing Project, which is one of Kuwait's largest and most ambitious strategic housing projects.

The approved projects during the year included the construction, supply, implementation, and maintenance of high-voltage main power stations, extensive infrastructure works in several residential suburbs, irrigation reservoir buildings, electrical substations, and consultancy services for project management and supervision.

Specifically, the projects within the South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing Project comprised the construction of four high-voltage main power stations and three major infrastructure tenders covering all residential suburbs.

The scope of work also included consultancy contracts for management and supervision of implementation, reflecting an integrated approach that combines engineering execution with technical oversight to ensure compliance with approved standards and project timelines.

According to informed sources, this level of spending underscores PAHW's commitment to accelerating progress on the project, which serves as a cornerstone of the state's plan to address the backlog of housing applications and provide comprehensive infrastructure for future urban development.

The massive housing project aims to create a fully integrated residential city with essential services, including road networks, electricity, water, and sewage systems, all built to the highest approved technical and engineering standards and in line with sustainable development requirements.

This level of financial investment highlights the strategic importance of the South Saad Al-Abdullah project, not only as a housing project but also as an economic driver supporting the contracting, engineering, and related supply chain sectors. Also, the city's contracts and projects are progressing ahead of schedule.



Dr. Al-Zamel

## LOCAL

diwaniya  ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## World on the brink in widespread thuggery

"ANYONE who claims the world lives in peace and security under the protection of UN laws is delusional and a dreamer. The world is ruled by bullies, where thuggery prevails. It is like a jungle, where the strong devour the weak, rather than one governed by laws of respect and mutual cooperation," columnist **Hamad Salem Al-Marri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"What the administration of US President Donald Trump did by kidnapping Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro from the heart of the Venezuelan presidential palace, after ordering US forces to bomb several Venezuelan military and civilian sites, and what Russian President Vladimir Putin did by invading Ukraine and occupying large parts of its territory, serve as conclusive proof that the world lives in an age of bullying, aimed at controlling the world and reshaping it according to the interests of the strongest bully.



Hamad Al-Marri

"This group views Al-Zaidan's actions as an expression of justice against those who harmed the country and its people, rather than as an act of treason or disloyalty.

"On the other hand, others argue that the period in which the incident occurred was exceptional in every aspect, as Iraq was engulfed in chaos, authority had collapsed, and fear gripped everyone. They believe that the harsh decisions made under such critical circumstances cannot be judged by the standards of peace and stability.

"This group views Al-Zaidan's actions, whether one agrees with them or not, as the result of complex calculations driven by survival, fear, and pressure, rather than deliberate treason.

"Al-Zaidan recounted the events as he experienced them firsthand, and his account had a significant impact on public opinion. He stated that Uday and Qusay often treated him with disrespect and arrogance when they were at his home, and they frequently detained his son, Shaalan, and made unreasonable demands, demonstrating a complete disregard for the suffering of the Iraqi people.

"It is clear that Uday and Qusay were merely extensions of their tyrannical father, who ruled Iraq through assassinations, imprisonment, and an iron fist, while the Iraqi people endured poverty, injustice, humiliation, and fear. Uday and Qusay never fought for Iraq or its citizens; rather, they safeguarded their father's power, followed in his footsteps, reinforced his authority, and perpetuated a legacy of oppression and corruption in the country."

□ □ □

"We like to believe that having many choices means more freedom, that we have more than one path, more than one opportunity, and more than one possibility." Certified life coach and consultant in personal science and public relations **Hala Bader Al-Humaidhi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"However, the reality we live in today is slightly different. The abundance of choices has become a silent burden that exhausts our minds. From the moment we wake up, we begin making endless decisions - what to wear, what to eat, which message to reply to first, whether to accept an opportunity or wait for another, and which path to take.

"These decisions may seem simple, but when they accumulate, they consume our mental energy and put us in a state that specialists call decision fatigue, where our ability to choose diminishes.

"Why have we become more hesitant? Hesitation is not a weakness, but rather a natural response to a world full of comparisons, high expectations, and fear of regret. We do not just live our own lives; we also constantly observe the lives of others.



Al-Humaidhi

"We see people making what seem like the right choices, succeeding, moving forward, and appearing to always know what they want. At that point, an inner voice begins to whisper - Did I choose the best option? Did I wait too long to decide? Could my life have been better if I had chosen differently?

"This silent dialogue drains us, pushing some to postpone decisions out of fear of making a mistake, and others to make rushed decisions simply to escape the burden of thinking. "A decision is not a single moment of courage, but a journey of awareness. We often think of it as a decisive instant, like pressing a button or making a brave leap. In reality, it is a process that begins with awareness and ends with bearing the consequences.

"Making a conscious decision does not mean fear has disappeared, but it means choosing to move forward despite the fear and accepting the outcome without being harsh on yourself.

"To lighten this burden, we need to reduce the number of small daily decisions. Routine is not boring but it is a way to protect mental energy. Stop comparing your life to what you see on screens. What we see is only a facade and never the full story.

"You need to shift the question from 'What's the best option?' to 'What's the most suitable option for me right now?'.

"Accept imperfection. Every decision carries both gains and losses, and this is a natural part of life. Peace of mind does not come from having many choices, but from choosing consciously and in a way that truly suits us."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

## Kuwaiti toddler dies, two hurt in '7th' accident

By Munif Nayef

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10 : A tragic traffic accident that occurred on the Seventh Ring Road toward King Fahad Expressway, claimed the life of a one-year-old Kuwaiti girl and left two others injured - a Kuwaiti woman in her twenties and an Asian man.

When the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received reports of a collision on the road, police, paramedic, and fire teams rushed to the location.

Upon arrival, paramedics confirmed the child's death at the scene and provided medical aid to the injured woman and man. The child's body was transferred to the Forensic Medicine Department, and the injured were referred to the nearest hospital.

Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation to determine the exact circumstances of the accident.

Meanwhile, fire broke out in a house in Al-Naseem area in Jahra on Friday afternoon, resulting in injuries to one individual, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Firefighters from the Jahra and Jahra Industrial fire stations rushed to the location after receiving information about the house on fire, and extinguished it before it spread to the neighboring houses.

The site was handed over to the relevant authorities for investigations.



KFF photo

Damaged caused by the fire in Al-Naseem house.

## 5-year jail slashed for citizen in forgery case after appeal

Arrests made in exam cheating scheme

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Court of Appeals overturned a five-year prison sentence issued against a citizen, and acquitted him of charges of forging an official document (airport departure records) and a private document (boarding pass).



Masoud

The investigating officer testified that undercover investigations had revealed the defendant's presence with the main suspect in the airport departure area, while the suspect was using another person's passport and attempting to involve him in the forgery.

The defendants were referred to the Public Prosecution.

During the court session, Lawyer Waleed Masoud

who represented the citizen, stated that there was no forgery or criminal intent and emphasized that his client was unaware of any fraudulent activity.

He stressed that merely being present at the scene does not constitute evidence of participation or complicity.

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**Headphones for cheating:** Ministry of Interior's Cybercrime Department arrested a Kuwaiti citizen and two Arab nationals for promoting a social media application that encouraged high school students to cheat on their exams, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to security sources, the Ministry of Education had reported a social media site that offered exams and questions for sale and attempted to lure students. The Criminal Investigation Department tracked the site and identified the individuals behind it, leading to their detention for questioning.

Investigators also identified several phone numbers linked to students and their parents, who are now being summoned to determine whether they obtained any exam materials from the site.

The cheating scheme was uncovered after multiple students were caught using small earpieces during exams. Upon questioning, they admitted to communicating with the promoters through two social media accounts, prompting coordinated action between the Ministry of Education and the

Ministry of Interior.

The sources emphasized that strict measures will be taken to prevent further attempts to compromise the integrity of school exams.

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**ATV thief arrested:** A young man accused of stealing an all-terrain vehicle (buggy) in Oyoun, Jahra was arrested shortly after the theft was reported, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to security sources, Taima detectives acted quickly following a report from the buggy owner. After a thorough investigation, the suspect was apprehended and referred to the relevant authorities for further action.

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**MoJ new e-service:** The Ministry of Justice has launched a new electronic service on the Sahel application that allows debtors and creditors to access bank execution reports instantly. The service, called "Printing Execution Reports," is available under the General Directorate of Sentences Enforcement option, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry explained that the service enables users to obtain reports related to debtor seizures and the release of seizures via Sahel app, and submit them directly to government agencies and other concerned authorities without the need for in-person visits.

## 'Dump waste in containers, keep environs clean'

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality revealed that Mubarak Al-Kabeer Municipality issued a total of 151 road occupancy licenses during 2025, including 57 new licenses, 72 renewals, and 22 temporary licenses, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The department explained that field teams from the Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Departments continue to intensify inspection tours to monitor compliance and remove violations of municipal hygiene and road occupancy regulations in all governorates. The regulatory bodies have been playing an active role in enforcing municipal laws.

The Public Hygiene and Road Occupancy Department in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Municipality is conducting extensive tours of residential areas to improve cleanliness, remove obstructions from roads and public spaces, and prevent waste dumping outside designated containers.

Meanwhile, the Animal Production Sector of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) detected several violations in Kabad livestock pens, reports Al-Rai daily.

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen oversight and regulate operations, the Kabad Livestock Pens Monitoring Unit conducted field inspection tours to ensure the livestock pens comply with approved regulations.

A number of citations were issued to violators, and legal action was taken in accordance with applicable laws and bylaws.

The Animal Production Department affirmed its commitment to continuing periodic inspections to raise compliance levels, maintain public order, and serve the public interest.

The department also urged all livestock pen owners to follow the approved regulations and requirements to avoid legal consequences.

## Crackdown on minors driving cars continues

By Munif Nayef

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The General Traffic Department (GTD) continued its traffic campaigns, with patrol officers apprehending five juveniles driving without licenses, and referring them to the Juvenile Prosecution for further legal proceedings.

A security source revealed that the five juveniles were caught within 24 hours and promptly handed over to the Juvenile Prosecution, adding that the General Traffic Department continues to target juveniles who drive without licenses and is taking all necessary legal measures against them.

□ □ □

**Dip in violations seen:** Overlapping violations have dropped significantly in all governorates following stricter enforcement, leading to greater compliance with traffic laws among drivers.

According to security sources, the General Traffic Department issued 24 citations for such violations in all governorates recently, which reflects motorists' improved adherence to regulations. The department initially used to record hundreds of violations daily, but after implementing stricter measures and impounding vehicles, the number fell to just 24.

## Evacuation of 'kiosks' in Enjaz Market underway

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Based on directives from the Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Manal Al-Asfour for the evacuation of kiosks in Braih Salem and Enjaz markets within seven days of notification, Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Director of the Capital Municipality, revealed that the process has officially begun in Enjaz Market, reports Al-Rai daily.

He explained that municipality teams have started issuing notices to all shop occupants in the market. The seven-day deadline is in line with the decision due to the expiration of contracts with the investing company and the termination of legal rights to occupy the premises. Failure to evacuate within the specified time-frame will lead to enforced eviction in coordination with relevant authorities and legal action against violators. Continued occupancy would be considered an unauthorized encroachment on state property.

Al-Mutairi affirmed that the municipality is committed to protecting public funds and will not tolerate any violations of the decision.



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## LOCAL

# Arab Planning Institute holds first board meeting of '25-'26

Minister hails reforms and sustainable development

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): The Board of Trustees of the Arab Planning Institute held its first meeting for the 2025-2026 session in Kuwait on Thursday.

Minister of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy, Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem, chaired the meeting, attended by representatives from member Arab states.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem said the meeting marks a pivotal phase following the successful completion of the Institute's 2024-2025 annual plan, the final year of its ninth strategy (2020-2025).

He praised Director General Dr. Adel Al-Wuqayan for developing specialized developmental services, implementing financial and administrative reforms, and directing the Institute's expertise toward achieving its objectives.

The minister noted that the ninth strategy's final year integrated training, consultancy, research, developmental meetings, and partnerships, reinforcing the Institute's role in Arab planning and development.

He expressed hope that the meeting would prepare the launch of the tenth strategy (2025-2030) to address evolving planning and development needs in a rapidly changing world.

Achievements during the ninth strategy's final year included more than 100 training activities, both in-person and virtual, involving over 3,000 participants from various Arab countries.

Programs covered advanced topics such as digital transformation, green economy, artificial intelligence, sustainability, cybersecurity, and specialized programs for leadership and small and medium enterprises.

In research and consultancy, the Institute completed six advisory studies and launched 13 new projects covering strategic planning, macroeconomics, developmental evaluation, institutional development, and economic modeling.

It also produced over 42 research papers and key publications, including the Journal of Development and Economic Policies and developmental guides in partnership with Arab institutions.

The Institute organized 12 regional and international events, participated in 44 others, signed



Minister Al-Mukhaizeem is pictured with the Director General of the Arab Planning Institute, Dr. Adel Al-Waqqan, and the institute's team.



Representatives of the Arab countries, members of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Planning Institute, attended the first meeting of the year 2025-2026.

seven memoranda of understanding, and joined regional financial and developmental networks, highlighting its leadership in Arab development.

for their efforts in implementing past achievements and organizing the first Board meeting of 2025-2026.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem explained that the tenth strategy focuses on proactivity, innovation, institutional and digital modernization, specialized planning programs, economic modeling, AI, green transformation, and maximizing knowledge impact for decision-makers and researchers.

He thanked the Institute's management and staff

Founded in 1980, the Arab Planning Institute is an independent, non-profit regional organization based in Kuwait, supporting Arab countries' economic and social development through capacity building, research, consultancy, meetings, publishing, entrepreneurship, and information services.

## MoH celebrates historic election

Kuwait's Al-Foudari joins board of global Life Support Organization

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Ministry of Health announced the election of Dr. Huda Al-Foudari, Head of the Anesthesia and Intensive Care Departments, to the Board of Directors of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO), effective January 2026 for a four-year term.

This achievement highlights the advanced standing of Kuwaiti expertise in international medical forums.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that Dr. Al-Foudari's selection came in recognition of her professional and leadership role during her chairmanship of the Southwest Asia and Africa chapter, as well as her outstanding scientific and organizational contributions in the field of extracorporeal life support.

She is the first Arab physician from outside the United States to join the organization's Board of Directors.

ELSO is a global, non-profit medical organization dedicated to developing and supporting extracorporeal life support technologies, particularly

extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), which is one of the most advanced treatment solutions for critical cases, especially severe heart or lung failure.

ELSO, founded in 1989 by American physician Robert H. Bartlett, includes around 800 specialized medical centers in 66 countries and plays a vital role in advancing medical practices and improving healthcare quality in this field.

Dr. Al-Foudari's appointment to the Board of Directors will strengthen Kuwait's role in shaping the organization's future policies and strategies, and will promote international cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the field of extracorporeal life support.

The Southwest Asia and Africa Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (SWACELSO) elected Dr. Huda Al-Foudari as its president in February 2024, in recognition of her influential role and her chairmanship of the organization's Training, Communication, and Simulation Committee.

It is worth noting that the ECMO device, also known as the artificial heart and lung machine, available in the intensive care units of hospitals in Kuwait, is one of the most advanced treatment technologies for critical care patients with severe heart or lung failure and is a major component of modern medicine in saving complex and life-threatening cases.

## Defense ministry achieves Bronze Level in Ada'a governance project

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Adminis-

trative and Financial Department at the

Ministry of Defense announced that it has achieved the Bronze Level in the "Ada'a" project, which aims to implement the Code of Conduct for Public Officials in cooperation with the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), under the slogan "Our Behavior Reflects Our Iden-

tity", reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ada'a project supports the Ministry of Defense's institutional objectives by ac-

tivating governance standards, strengthen-

ing institutional partnerships, and raising

awareness of the Code of Conduct for Pub-

lic Officials. These contribute to improving

the quality of performance and the services

provided to the nation.

## Kuwait University organizes two-day workshop on translational medicine

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University's Health Sciences Center organized a two-day workshop on translational medicine, in which leading experts and researchers in neurosci-

ence and neurology participated.

According to a press release issued by the university, the workshop was held under the patronage and in the presence of the acting Dean of the faculty Professor Adnan Abel.

The acting Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Dr. Heba Al-Hussaini highlighted that the workshop reflects the Faculty of Medicine's commitment to enhancing its academic and research role, and providing a high-level scientific platform to present the latest developments in neuroscience and clinical practice.

She noted the faculty's focus on translational medicine, which aims to convert laboratory research into practical applica-

tions to treat patients and improve health-care quality.

The Faculty of Medicine hosted dis-

tinguished speakers from the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, including Professor Roxana Octavia Carrari, an expert in Alzheimer's disease, drug delivery to the brain, and the development of new treatment methods, as well as Professor Ajay Verma, a leading international specialist in translational neuroscience and central nervous system drug delivery.

Dr. Al-Hussaini praised the interactive nature of the scientific sessions, the ex-

change of expertise, and the networking op-

portunities offered by the workshop.

She highlighted that such events support

medical research, advance healthcare in

Kuwait, and mark the beginning of ongoing

scientific collaborations and research initia-

tives benefiting the community.



Kuwait University photos  
Kuwait University hosts a translational medicine workshop, featuring international neuroscience experts and interactive sessions to advance medical research and healthcare.

## News in Brief

**PAFN revamps structure:** The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has approved a new organizational structure designed to improve performance efficiency, strengthen oversight, enhance services, and promote food safety and public health, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAFN spokesperson Dr. Shaima Al-Asfour confirmed that the new organizational structure reflects the authority's commitment to service improvement and food safety. She noted that it provides a modern regulatory framework that meets the demands of the next phase while supporting greater operational efficiency and higher-quality services.

**CSC releases job seeker list:** The Civil Service Commission (CSC) released the job seeker registration list for period 93 on Friday, January 9, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

CSC urged registered job seekers to check their ranking and update their information through the official CSC website <http://csc.gov.kw>, or via the Sahel app.

**Social assistance reaches 36,268:** The Ministry of Social Affairs announced in its latest statistics published on its website that the number of beneficiaries receiving social assistance has reached 36,268, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry explained that all citizens can open a file with the Family Welfare Department through its official website to apply for support.

## JANUARY

Room Description	Price
One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD46.000 /-net
One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD102.148 /-net

Terms & conditions apply

## LOCAL

## MPW handles 2,696 calls in Dec

## CAPT board holds 57 meetings, tackles more than 4,700 issues

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Anwar Al-Tawari, the acting Secretary-General of Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), revealed on his X account that the Board of Directors of CAPT held 57 meetings during the second and third quarters of the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

He explained that these meetings discussed and handled more than 4,700 issues related to various government bodies, with the aim of accelerating project implementation, improving operational efficiency, and enhancing the effectiveness of public spending.

CAPT also released statistics for the same period, including the execution of 46 penalties against companies, the receipt of 295 complaints and reports,

the issuance of 586 recommendations, 4 cases of project delays, 661 tenders issued, 893 initial deposits, 330 publications, 136 bid openings, 4,972 session attendances, 131 government entities represented, 465 working hours, 590 change orders, 431 practice requests, and 82 extension orders.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Works announced that it handled 2,696 reports that it received via its emergency hotline No. 150 in the month of December 2025.

The reports were distributed by governorate as follows:

- Jaha Governorate: 580 reports
- Farwaniya Governorate: 767 reports
- Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate: 155 reports
- Capital Governorate: 481 reports
- Hawally Governorate: 371 reports
- Ahmadi Governorate: 342 reports.

## Kuwait joins OIC session on Somalia

JEDDAH, Jan 10, (KUNA): The 22nd Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) convened at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday to discuss developments in the Federal Republic of Somalia. Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya participated in the meeting.

The session comes in the wake of recent developments, including the Israeli occupation authorities'

recognition of the so-called Somaliland region as an independent state, which constitutes a violation of Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The meeting aims to formulate a unified Islamic stance on these violations and reaffirm the OIC's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, in accordance with international conventions and relevant OIC resolutions.

## KISR launches 8th annual Children's Science Fair

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) launched its eighth annual Children's Science Fair on Thursday at the Capital Mall, under the theme "Small Minds ... Big Discoveries." The fair, which runs until January 10, features wide participation from specialized academic and community organizations and aims to promote scientific literacy among young people while presenting scientific concepts in a simplified and interactive manner.

KISR Director General Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan stated in a press release following the opening that the event is an important annual milestone on the institute's agenda, celebrating promising minds and exploring the creative potential of children. He noted that the fair provides a comprehensive educational space designed to cultivate an innovative generation that transforms curiosity into knowledge and ambition

into creativity.

Al-Humaidan emphasized the institute's strong commitment to investing in human capital from a young age, describing children as the "nucleus of the future." He added that this year's fair continues a successful series of science fairs that have attracted over 5,000 children to date, contributing to shaping their scientific awareness and motivating them to research and explore.

He explained that this year's exhibition focuses on integrating knowledge with practical application by providing inspiring and stimulating learning environments that foster critical thinking. Researchers from the institute are present to interact directly with children, explaining and simplifying scientific experiments to suit different age groups.

He mentioned that the exhibition includes a diverse range of innovative scientific experiments, most notably



Group photo of participants and organizers at KISR's 8th Annual Science Fair, 'Small Minds ... Big Discoveries,' showcasing young innovators and researchers.

the integration of renewable energy technologies in residential areas to enhance environmental sustainability, experiments in Li-Fi (Visible Light-Fi) technology for data transmission as a future alternative to Wi-Fi networks, and presentations on improving the

efficiency of solar panels using smart tracking systems.

Al-Humaidan praised the vital role of strategic partners, foremost among them the American University of the Middle East (AUM), the Scientific Center, and other sponsors, emphasizing that this partnership reflects the integration of roles between research and academic institutions and the private sector within the framework of social responsibility to support educational initiatives that serve Kuwaiti society.

## Continued from Page 1

## Your Highness

This assistance was crucial, as it enabled these entities to navigate the crisis with minimal losses and, in many cases, to continue and expand their operations.

However, subsequent regional instability, particularly developments in the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Iran, has negatively affected all economic sectors.

In this context, the government's continued presence and proactive support are essential, especially as indicators point to dramatic and unprecedented regional developments that require stronger economic and financial resilience.

A notable warning sign was the decline in consumer spending, which the Cabinet failed to address effectively, treating it as a temporary issue. This stands in sharp contrast to the decisive measures adopted by other Gulf countries.

For example, the Saudi government implemented major steps, including waiving consumer loans for citizens and freezing the collection of fees from companies, institutions, and factories for a five-year period.

In addition, the government actively promoted individual enterprise by directing commercial banks to reschedule debts, particularly for struggling businesses and projects, and to reduce loan interest rates.

By facilitating lending, the aim was to prevent a slowdown in the local economy, based on the principle that time can resolve all problems if there is a clear vision for maintaining long-term strength. This approach recognized the need to develop the economy in line with current realities and ensure steady progress.

Ultimately, the prevailing philosophy in some Gulf countries was that collateral exceeding the value of the loan provides banks with strength and flexibility in their credit policies. In stark contrast, excessive rigidity in Kuwait's policies has often led to business bankruptcies.

At the same time, some banks, seeking to retain their existing clients, maintained a limited degree of operational flexibility. They reinforced their positions by securing collateral from companies and institutions that exceeded the value of the loans granted.

While banks sought to achieve their objectives with minimal negative impact, this flexibility was severely limited by the Central Bank of Kuwait's explicit directives mandating strict lending practices.

The adverse consequences of this rigidity became clear when the Central Bank of Kuwait later suspended lending and imposed even stricter policies.

As a result, the economy suffered, with consumers feeling less financially secure and unable to spend as freely as before, leading them to adopt a more

cautious approach to spending.

Ultimately, easing restrictions on the public helps cushion the economy against shocks. In contrast, when a government tightens procedures excessively, it often deepens and prolongs the crisis, making the government itself the greatest loser, both economically and financially.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, Your Excellency the Minister of Finance, the opportunity to implement numerous solutions is immediately available, particularly with the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait involved, should the Cabinet choose to seize it for the future.

The clamor of war in the region is growing louder, and those who fail to plan and build today will find themselves economically disadvantaged once regional and international stability is restored.

Therefore, we pose a final question - Do we want to eat the grapes or fight the guard?

## Kuwait intensifies

Continuous monitoring is being carried out across central markets and shops to ensure merchants comply with the ministry's regulations and to prevent practices that could harm consumers or disrupt the market.

Al-Ansari emphasized that these inspections are essential to the ministry's efforts to regulate markets and maintain stability ahead of Ramadan.

Market and shop managers have been formally warned about the need to fully comply with all regulations and bylaws.

The ministry affirmed its readiness to take immediate legal action against any violators, and its commitment to consumer protection.

It stated that inspection tours will continue in the coming period to ensure the availability of essential goods at fair prices and high quality throughout the holy month.

## Wafra farmers

He urged farm owners to designate a specific area for burning farm waste and converting it into ash that can be used as fertilizer for palm trees, adding that if every farmer burned their waste in a remote location, about 70 percent of it could be put to productive use, rather than causing harm to public health and the environment.

In addition, farmer Mashabek Mohammed Al-Jalal Al-Sahl expressed hope that all Al-Wafra farmers would cooperate with the cleaning company and Kuwait Municipality to remove farm waste from all agricultural plots in the area.

He urged farm owners to provide containers for farm waste, indicating that the cleaning company should trans-

## Health ministry implements strategic leadership changes

## Al-Awadhi approves appointments to key positions

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi has issued ministerial decrees for reshuffling and appointing several heads of technical departments, directors of administrations, and directors of hospitals and specialized centers. The move reflects the ministry's commitment to enhancing the efficiency of healthcare leadership and ensuring administrative and technical stability.

In an official statement, the ministry explained that these decisions are part of a comprehensive organizational plan aimed at improving institutional performance, speeding up decision-making, and enhancing coordination between clinical and administrative functions. The changes are expected to improve governance, boost operational efficiency, and positively impact healthcare quality and patient safety.

The reshuffle is important for realigning leadership positions in various health sectors, ensuring clarity of authorities and responsibilities, and maintaining the continuity of operational and development plans, particularly in priority areas such as public health, emergency medical services, child protection, and general

and specialized hospitals.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi issued additional administrative decisions to complete the institutional restructuring process, aiming to strengthen coordination between executive and medical leadership and ensure smooth functional integration.

The ministerial decisions included the appointment of several heads of medical departments and directors of administrations.

The appointments include the following:

- Dr. Ahmed Khader Al-Shatti as Director of the Child Protection Center
- Dr. Fahad Ahmed Al-Ghamas as Director of the Emergency Medical Services Department
- Dr. Hamid Ghoulam Hassan as Director of the Social Health Department
- Dr. Ali Bader Al-Radhan as Director of the Government Health Cooperation Department under the General Directorate of Private Medical Services
- Dr. Mona Abbas Al-Khabbaz as Director of the Public Health Department
- Dr. Shujaa Dali Al-Anzi as Director of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital
- Dr. Ammar Muhareb Al-Fadhl as Director of Al-Adan Hospital
- Dr. Ali Mohammed Ali Mulla as Director of the Maternity Hospital
- Dr. Ibtisam Ibrahim Khudair Al-Huwaiti as Director of the National Bank Hospital
- Dr. Mohsen Fallah Al-Ajmi as Director of the Addiction Treatment Center
- Dr. Khaled Abdullah Al-AbdalHadi as Head of the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Center for Speech and Hearing Therapy
- Dr. Malek Saleh Al-Nabhan as Director of the Al-Rashed Allergy Center
- Dr. Mohammed Atef Al-Salem as Director of the Infectious Diseases Hospital
- Dr. Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Abdullah as Director of the Palliative Medicine Hospital
- Dr. Jamal Mohammed Jamal as Director of the Physical Medicine Hospital
- Dr. Salah Abdulkaziz Al-Shayji as Director of the Chest Diseases Hospital
- Dr. Nada Ali Al-Hassan as Director of Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Hospital
- Dr. Hussein Hamid Al-Shatti as Head of the Medical Board at the Addiction Treatment Center
- Dr. Amina Mohammed Al-Haj as Head of the Medical Board at the Physical Medicine Hospital
- Dr. Ammar Muhareb Al-Fadhl as Director of the Ahmadi Health Zone.

The ministry emphasized that these decisions are part of a strategic plan to empower healthcare leaders, strengthen governance, and ensure sustainable administrative and technical development.

## Limited eligibility

## KU opens internal transfer requests online January 13

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Kuwait University will start accepting internal transfer applications online through its registration portal <http://portal.ku.edu.kw/sis> from 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 13, until 12:00 midnight on Thursday, January 15, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Deanship of the Admissions and Registration stated that students who do not meet the transfer requirements will receive a notification outlining the conditions they must fulfill to apply at a later date.

It also confirmed that students currently enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Dentistry, and College of Law are not eligible to transfer under this system.

Xiang affirmed that economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has produced substantial results, noting that China has been Kuwait's largest trading partner since 2015 and has risen from twelfth to second place in the rankings of foreign direct investment in Kuwait.

He revealed that the Kuwait Investment Authority has opened its second overseas office in Shanghai and has increased its investments in China in recent years.

Xiang highlighted the participation of Chinese companies in major Kuwaiti infrastructure and engineering projects, including the Central Bank of Kuwait building, Sabah Al-Salem University City, South Al-Mutlaa, and the Seventh Ring Road.

In the same context, the Chargé d'Affaires noted that Chinese technology companies helped make Kuwait the first country in the Middle East to achieve full 5G network coverage and trained numerous specialists in information and communication technology.

He also highlighted the growing popularity of Chinese cars in the Kuwaiti market.

Regarding new projects and opportunities for expanding cooperation, Xiang stated that the new year marks the beginning of a new phase, adding that the cooperation agreements signed, witnessed by the leaders of both countries, cover renewable energy, wastewater treatment, waste recycling, and housing, and efforts must continue to ensure their implementation.

He expressed China's aspiration to further deepen and expand practical cooperation with Kuwait and to encourage more efficient and reputable Chinese companies to operate in the Kuwaiti market, which will strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Xiang noted that Kuwait provided significant support to China at the start of its reform and opening-up policies and was the first country in the Middle East to sign a cooperation agreement with China on the Belt and Road Initiative.

He explained that in recent years, under the strategic guidance of the leaders of both countries, China-Kuwait relations reached their most prosperous era, which reaffirms China's firm commitment to the "One China" principle.

China fully supports Kuwait in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The year 2026 will mark the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Kuwait, opening new opportunities for cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, wastewater treatment, waste recycling, and housing.

During its next five-year plan, China will continue to expand high-level opening-up, promote bilateral investment, and implement the Belt and Road Initiative with high quality, creating even greater opportunities for cooperation with Kuwait.

## Continued from Page 1

## Kuwait Air

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Emergency): +965 1591-965 2222 5504

Protests sweeping across Iran neared the two-week mark Saturday, with the country's government acknowledging the ongoing demonstrations despite an intensifying crackdown and as the Islamic Republic remains cut off from the rest of the world.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult. But the death toll in the protests has grown to at least 72 people killed, with over 2,300 others detained, according to the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency. Iranian state TV is reporting on security force casualties while portraying control over the nation.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has signaled a coming clampdown, despite U.S. warnings. Tehran escalated its threats Saturday, with the Iran's attorney general, Mohammad Movahedi Azad, warning that anyone taking part in protests will be considered an "enemy of God," a death-penalty charge. The statement carried by Iranian state television said even those who "helped rioters" would face the charge.

Prosecutors must carefully and without delay, by issuing indictments, prepare the grounds for the trial and decisive confrontation with those who, by betraying the nation and creating insecurity, seek foreign domination over the country," the statement read. "Proceedings must be conducted without leniency, compassion or indulgence."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio offered support for the protesters.

"The United States supports the brave people of Iran," Rubio wrote Saturday on the social platform X. The State Department separately warned: "Do not play games with President Trump. When he says he'll do something, he means it."

Saturday marks the start of the work week in Iran, but many schools and universities reportedly held online classes, Iranian state TV reported. Internal Iranian government websites are believed to be functioning.

State TV repeatedly played a driving, martial orchestral arrangement from the "Epic of Khorramshahr" by Iranian composer Majid Entezami, while showing pro-government demonstrations. The song, aired repeatedly during the 12-day war launched by Israel, honors Iran's 1982 liberation of the city of Khorramshahr during the Iran-Iraq war. It has been used in videos of protesting women cutting away their hair to protest the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini as well.

Field reports indicate that peace prevailed in most cities of the country at

## Kuwaiti citizens

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Emergency): +965 1591-965 2222 5504

Protests sweeping across Iran neared the two-week mark Saturday, with the country's government acknowledging the ongoing demonstrations despite an intensifying crackdown and as the Islamic Republic remains cut off from the rest of the world.

Death to Khamenei!" a man chanted.

The semiofficial Fars news agency, believed to be close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and one of the few media outlets able to publish to the outside world, released surveillance camera footage of what it said came from demonstrations in Isfahan. In it, a protester appeared to fire a long gun, while others set fires and threw gasoline bombs at what appeared to be a government compound.

The Young Journalists' Club, associated with state TV, reported that protesters killed three members of the Guard's all-volunteer Basij force in the city of Gachsaran. It also reported a security official was stabbed to death in Hamadan province, a police officer killed in the port city of Bandar Abbas and another in Gilan, as well as one person slain in Mashhad.

State television also



Left: A woman clears snow from a road on top of the Feldberg mountain near Frankfurt, Germany, Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026. Right: A fallen tree in Falmouth, south west England, Friday Jan. 9, 2026, as storm Goretti continues to batter the UK with people across the country facing widespread power cuts, travel disruption and school closures. (AP)



## Winter storm slams UK and France as cold snap spreads across Europe

Thousands of homes and businesses across northern France and southern England were without power Friday morning and residents faced widespread travel delays after a storm swept in off the Atlantic, bringing high winds, rain and snow to the region.

The low-pressure system, named Storm Goretti, pummeled the Isles of Scilly overnight, with wind gusts up to 99 mph (159

kph) recorded in the archipelago off the southwestern tip of England. Local government officials reported blocked roads, unstable buildings and power outages that left some people without water.

More than 57,000 were without power across southwestern England, the Midlands and Wales, according to National Grid, which runs the country's electricity trans-

mission network.

As the storm moved across the United Kingdom, it collided with an existing mass of Arctic air, bringing snow to northern areas and heavy rain to the south.

That extended the misery in northern Scotland, where snowplows have been working overtime to keep roads open after more than a half-meter (around 20 inches)

of snow fell earlier in the week. More than 250 schools across Scotland were closed on Friday, with some remaining shut for a fifth straight day.

National Rail warned people across the U.K. to check before traveling, because the storm had disrupted services across England, Scotland and Wales. Birmingham Airport, which closed briefly because of snow,

said that it had reopened with "reduced runway operations."

The disruptions came after the Met Office, Britain's national weather service, issued a rare red weather warning - its highest - in southwestern England for Thursday evening.

Red warnings are issued when the forecaster considers it "very likely" that there will be life-threatening conditions. (AP)



Britain's Prince William and Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales, speak to a patient at the therapy gym during a visit to Charing Cross Hospital, in London, England, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. (AP)

## North America

**Trump can't block program money:** A federal judge ruled Friday that President Donald Trump's administration cannot block federal money for child care subsidies and other programs aimed at supporting low-income families with children from flowing to five Democratic-led states for now.

The states of California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota and New York argued that a policy announced Tuesday to freeze billions of dollars in funds for three grant programs is having an immediate impact on them and creating "operational chaos." In court filings and a hearing earlier Friday, the states contended that the government did not have a legal reason for holding back the money from them.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said it was pausing the funding because it had "reason to believe" the states were granting benefits to people in the country illegally, though it did not provide evidence or explain why it was targeting those states and not others.

U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian, who was nominated to the bench by President Joe Biden, did not rule on the legality of the funding freeze but said the five states met a legal threshold "to protect the status quo" for at least 14 days while arguments are made in court.

Health department officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The affected programs are the Child Care and Development Fund, which subsidizes child care for 1.3 million children from low-income families; the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which provides cash assistance and job training; and the Social Services Block Grant, a smaller fund that provides money for a variety of programs.

The five states say they receive a total of more than \$10

billion a year from the programs.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who is leading the lawsuit, called the ruling a "critical victory for families whose lives have been upended by this administration's cruelty." (AP)

□ □ □

**Canada sends military to Manitoba:** The Canadian government on Friday approved the deployment of a specialized military team to the Pimicikamak Cree Nation in Manitoba province to address a severe infrastructure crisis following a prolonged power outage.

Minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience Eleanor Olszewski announced the decision in a statement posted on X, saying that the team will provide targeted assessment and advisory support focused on water treatment and sewage systems, power generation, project management and logistics.

This deployment came in response to a state of emergency declared by the Pimicikamak Cree Nation on Dec. 29, 2025, after a snapped power line left the community without electricity for days amid freezing temperatures.

According to local media, the outage caused extensive damage, including burst pipes, sewage backups, and compromised water and heating systems.

Pimicikamak Cree Nation Chief David Monias had been advocating for the deployment of the Canadian Armed Forces to provide emergency logistical support. He told local media that at least 200 homes were uninhabitable due to the damage, and the vast majority of the community's more than 1,300 homes have yet to be assessed for damage.

About 4,000 residents of the First Nation, which has an on-reserve population of around 7,000, have been evacuated to other communities across the province, local media reported. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

U.S. citizen, former f---ing veteran," says her wife, standing outside the passenger side of the SUV holding up her phone. "You wanna come at us, you wanna come at us, I say go get yourself some lunch big boy."

Other officers are approaching the driver's side of the car at about the same time and one says: "Get out of the car, get out of the f---ing car." Ross is now at the front driver side of the vehicle. Good reverses briefly, then turns the steering wheel toward the passenger side as she drives ahead and Ross opens fire.

The camera becomes unsteady and points toward the sky and then returns to the street view showing Good's SUV careening away.

"F---ing b---," someone at the scene says.

A crashing sound is heard as Good's vehicle smashes into others parked on the street.

Federal agencies have encouraged officers to document encounters in which people may attempt to interfere with enforcement actions, but policing experts have cautioned that recording on a handheld device can complicate already volatile situations by occupying an officer's hands and narrowing focus at moments when rapid decision-making is required.



This image from video made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer Jonathan Ross via Alpha News shows his reflection in the vehicle of Renee Good in her vehicle in Minneapolis on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026. (AP)

be seen walking around the vehicle and approaching the officer. A series of exchanges occurred:

"That's fine, I'm not mad at you," Good says as the officer passes by her door. She has one hand on the steering wheel and the other outside the open

driver side window.

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Sirens blaring in the background, he approaches and circles Good's vehicle in the middle of the road while apparently filming on his cellphone. At the same time, Good's wife also was recording the encounter and can

be seen walking around the vehicle and approaching the officer. A series of exchanges occurred:

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## Officer's video of fatal Minneapolis ICE shooting brings fresh scrutiny

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan 10, (AP): A Minnesota prosecutor on Friday called on the public to share with investigators any recordings and evidence connected to the fatal shooting of Renee Good as a new video emerged showing the final moments of her encounter with an immigration officer.

The Minneapolis killing and a separate shooting in Portland, Oregon, a day later by the Border Patrol have set off protests in multiple cities and denunciations of immigration enforcement tactics by the U.S. government. The Trump administration has defended the officer who shot Good in her car, saying he was protecting himself and fellow agents.

The reaction to the shooting has largely been focused on witness cellphone video of the encounter. A new, 47-second video that was published online by a Minnesota-based conservative news site, Alpha News, and later reprinted on social media by the Department of Homeland Security shows the shooting from the perspective of ICE officer Jonathan Ross, who fired the shots.

Sirens blaring in the background, he approaches and circles Good's vehicle in the middle of the road while apparently filming on his cellphone. At the same time, Good's wife also was recording the encounter and can

## Strike kills four, injures 25 others in Kiev

## Russia fires hypersonic missile at Ukraine

KIEV, Jan 10, (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday confirmed that Russia used an Oreshnik hypersonic ballistic missile in its attack on Ukraine overnight into Friday.

"Overall, last night there were 242 drones. There were also 13 ballistic missiles targeting energy facilities and civilian infrastructure, one Oreshnik medium-range ballistic missile, as well as 22 cruise missiles," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a post on the social platform X.

The Oreshnik hypersonic missile is capable of reaching high speeds, according to media reports. In November 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed that Russia had successfully tested the missile system, hitting targets in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

Russia's overnight assault killed at least 4 people and injured 25 others in Kiev, according to the Kiev City Prosecutor's Office.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybila said that Ukraine will initiate an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council, a meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Council, as well as a response within the European Union, following the strike.

The intense barrage and the launch of the nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile came days after Ukraine and its allies reported major progress toward agreeing on how to defend the country from further Moscow aggression if a U.S.-led peace deal is struck.

Europe's leaders condemned the attack as "escalatory and unacceptable," and the European Union's top foreign policy envoy said Russian President Vladimir Putin's reply to diplomacy was "more missiles and destruction."

The attack also coincides with a new chill in relations between Moscow and Washington after Russia condemned the U.S. seizure of an oil tanker in the North Atlantic. It comes as U.S. President Donald Trump signaled he is on board with a hard-hitting sanctions package meant to economically cripple Moscow, which has given no public signal it is willing to budge from its maximalist demands on Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials said four people were killed and at least 25 wounded in Kyiv as apartment buildings were struck overnight.

Those killed included an emergency medical aid worker, according to Kyiv City Military Administration head Yurii Tkachenko. Four doctors and one



This photo provided by the Ukrainian Security Service on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, shows a fragment believed to be a part of a Russian Oreshnik intermediate range hypersonic ballistic missile that hit the Lviv region. (AP)

police officer were injured while responding to the attacks, authorities said.

About half of snowy Kyiv's apartment buildings - nearly 6,000 - were left without heat amid daytime temperatures of about minus 8 degrees Celsius (17.6 Fahrenheit), Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Water supplies also were disrupted.

Municipal services restored power and heat to public facilities, including hospitals and maternity wards, using portable boiler units, he said

### Mediating

The attack damaged the Qatari Embassy in Kyiv, according to President Volodymyr Zelensky, who noted that Qatar has played a key role in mediating the exchange of prisoners of war.

He called for a "clear response" from the international community, particularly from the U.S., which he said Russia takes seriously.

Ukraine's Security Service said it identified debris from the Oreshnik missile in the Lviv region in the country's west. It was fired from Russia's Kapustin Yar test range near the Caspian Sea in southwestern Russia and targeted civilian infrastructure, investigators said.

"I heard a loud, shocking explosion, and it's normal at this time of the war to hear these things here," said Lviv resident Kristofer Chokhovich, who said he was an American. "I just want everyone in the world to know that Ukraine is strong and we don't care

how many missiles you send."

Another resident, Ulyana Fedun, described the attack as "very unpleasant" but not scary because "we've been living in this state for four years."

Russia's Defense Ministry said the attack was a retaliation to what Moscow claimed was a Ukrainian drone strike on one of Putin's residences last month. Both Trump and Ukraine rejected the Russian claim.

Moscow didn't say where the Oreshnik hit, but Russian media and military bloggers said it targeted an underground natural gas storage facility in the Lviv region. Western military aid flows to Ukraine from a supply hub in Poland just across the border.

Putin has previously said the Oreshnik streaks to its target at Mach 10, "like a meteorite," and is immune to any missile defense system. Several of them used in a conventional strike could be as devastating as a nuclear attack, according to Putin, who has warned the West that Russia could use it against allies of Kyiv that allow it to strike inside Russia with longer-range missiles.

Ukrainian intelligence says the missile has six warheads, each carrying six submunitions.

Russia first used the Oreshnik missile on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro in November 2024. Analysts say it gives Russia a new element of psychological warfare, unnerving Ukrainians and intimidating Western countries that aid Ukraine.

## Greenlanders say 'no' to US control



This photo taken on March 20, 2025 shows the scenery of Nuuk, Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark. (Xinhua)

The statement was signed by Nielsen, Pele Broberg, Mute B. Egede, Aleqa Hammond and Aqqalu C. Jeremiassen.

While Greenland is the largest island in the world, it has a population of around 57,000 and doesn't have its own military. Defense is provided by Denmark, whose military is dwarfed by that of the U.S.

It's unclear how the remaining NATO members would respond if the U.S. decided to forcibly take control of the island or if they would come to Denmark's aid.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 1,000 days of conflict shatter Sudan's future

GENEVA, Jan 10, (KUNA): United Nations agencies warned Friday of Sudan's continued war risks plunging the country deeper into a severe humanitarian crisis amid shrinking funding, expanding displacement, worsening living and health conditions, and confirmed famine in several areas.

This came during a joint press briefing in Geneva by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) held to mark the 1,000th day since the outbreak of the war on the 9th of January 2023.

OCHA Spokesperson Jens Laerke said that nearly 34 million people in Sudan now require humanitarian assistance, describing the scale of suffering as "staggering", adding that the entire region suffers from the spillover of the crisis.

He reiterated that Sudan has become the largest displacement crisis in the world with 9.3 million people displaced internally and more than 4.3 million forced to flee across borders, while population movements are being recorded in (Khartoum) where people are returning to a capital devastated by war and littered with explosive hazards.

He warned that continued fighting on multiple fronts particularly in (Kordofan) and (Darfur) has severely restricted access to food health care farms and markets. Sieges have cut off the towns of (Kadugli) and (Dilling), while in (Darfur) fighting on the ground and aerial attacks persist. He added that more than 21 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure with famine confirmed in (El Fasher) and (Kadugli) and at least 20 other areas at risk.

Laerke also mentioned the horrifying reports of serious violations of international humanitarian law including alleged mass killings during the Rapid Support Forces' takeover of (El Fasher) in late October.

He said the women are bearing the heaviest burden of the crisis, saying that data show that female-headed households are now three times more likely to be food insecure than those led by men, with hunger increasingly taking on a gendered dimension.

He further noted that cuts in financial support have forced a sharp prioritization of the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, while nearly 34 million people need assistance partners aim to reach only about 20 million due to funding constraints.

The plan requires 2.9 billion dollars, around 70 percent of last year's appeal reflecting funding realities rather than reduced needs.

For his part, UNICEF spokesperson **Ricardo Pires** said "Sudan has become one of the most devastating humanitarian crises in the world with more than 33 million people two-thirds of the population-needing urgent assistance half of them children."

Pires added that more than five million children have been forced from their homes the equivalent of 5,000 children displaced every single day since the conflict began many of them repeatedly.

"Children continue to be killed and injured including reports this week of eight children killed in an attack in (Al-Obeid) North (Kordofan)," he warned.

He also warned that malnutrition has reached alarming levels particularly in (North Darfur), saying that nearly 85,000 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition in less than a year an average of one child every six minutes.

He added that measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases are resurging as immunization coverage has fallen below 50 percent amid the collapse of the health system. Pires also highlighted the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war placing millions of children at risk, with survivors including children as young as one year old.

### Venezuela tankers seizure sends shockwaves

### Cuba teeters as Venezuelan oil chokes

HAVANA, Jan 10, (AP): As U.S. seizures of Venezuela-linked oil tankers surge, concerns grow in Cuba about whether the island's government and economy will survive.

Experts warn that a sudden halt in Venezuelan oil shipments to Cuba could lead to widespread social unrest and mass migration following the stunning U.S. military raid that resulted in the capture of former President Nicolás Maduro.

"I'd be lying if I told you that I don't want to leave the country," said 16-year-old Cuban student Amanda Gómez. "We're all thinking about leaving, from the youngest to the oldest."

Long before the Jan. 3 attack, severe blackouts were sidelining life in Cuba, where people endured long lines at gas stations and supermarkets amid the island's worst economic crisis in decades.

The lack of Venezuelan oil could push Cuba over the brink, experts say.

"This will take an already dire situation to new extremes," said Michael Galant, senior research and outreach associate at the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C. "This is what a collapsing economy looks like."

Galant said he believes that's the goal of the Trump administration: "to cause such an indiscriminate suffering in the civilian population to instigate some sort of uprising, regime change."

"This sort of besiegement of Cuba is very intentional. Will it work from their perspective? I think that the Cuban people have experienced suffering for a very long time, and the Cuban government is very well versed in how to handle these situations," Galant said. "I think it's very difficult to predict what will and will not spark actual regime instability. From the perspective of (U.S. Secretary of State Marco) Rubio, it's a sort of wait them out. ... There's always a breaking point."

From 2020 to 2024, Cuba saw its population drop by 1.4 million, which experts largely attribute to migration spurred by the worsening crisis. Juan Carlos Alibizú-Campos, a Cuban economist and demographics expert, noted that while Cubans with means have already left, migration will continue.

"Fuel is a factor that affects everything," he said. "People are going to feel that they are in worse conditions, and people who hadn't considered leaving will feel the need to do so."

At the Spanish embassy in Havana on Friday, Ernesto Macías, a 53-year-old doctor, stood in line behind dozens of people to request a family member



The oil tanker Ocean Mariner, Monrovia, arrives to the bay in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Jan. 9, 2026. (AP)

visa for his daughter, having already obtained his Spanish citizenship.

"I wouldn't want Cuba to be invaded or anything like that. I hope it doesn't happen, but I'm sure people will continue to emigrate because there is no other way," he said.

Cuba's gross domestic product has fallen 15% in the last six years, and President Miguel Díaz-Canel noted in December that there was a 4% decrease in 2025 alone.

Although the Cuban economy never fully recovered after the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, it experienced relative prosperity between 2000 and 2019, fueled by a boom in tourism and exports of services, nickel, rum and

tobacco.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and coupled with a radical increase in U.S. sanctions under Trump's second administration to pressure for political change - stifling every imaginable sector - Cuba's crisis erupted with force.

Through it all, Cuba remained dependent on Venezuela for oil, receiving an estimated 35,000 barrels a day from the South American country before the U.S. attacked, along with some 5,500 barrels daily from Mexico and roughly 7,500 from Russia, according to Jorge Piñón, of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, who tracks shipments using oil tracking services and satellite technology.



Rescuers continue operations on a collapsed waste segregation facility in Binaliw, Cebu city, central Philippines on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026. Inset: A woman waits as rescuers continue operations on a collapsed waste segregation facility in Binaliw, Cebu city, central Philippines on Saturday. (AP)

### Race against time as rescuers detect signs of life

### Four dead, dozens missing in Cebu landfill collapse

MANILA, Jan 10, (AP): Rescuers detected signs of life in an avalanche of garbage that killed at least four workers and left more than 30 others missing Thursday in a central Philippines landfill and plan to intensify search efforts, an official said Saturday.

Twelve workers have been rescued with injuries from the huge mound of garbage that collapsed among the low-slung buildings of a waste management facility in the village of Binaliw in Cebu City, authorities said.

Dozens of rescuers including police, firefighters and disaster-response personnel have raced against time to find more survivors in dangerous conditions in the rubble of twisted tin roofs, iron bars and combustible heaps of garbage and debris.

"Authorities confirmed the presence of detected signs of life in specific areas, requiring continued careful excavation and the deployment of a more advanced 50-ton crane, which is enroute with police escort," Cebu City Mayor Nestor Archival said in a statement.

"Safety of responders remains paramount due to hazards such as unstable debris and acetylene risks, prompting ad-

justments to the security perimeter and controlled access," Archival said.

The four dead, including an engineer and a female office worker, were all employees of the landfill and waste management facility with a staff of 110, according to the mayor and police.

The initial list of victims on Friday included two dead and 36 missing, which increased Saturday to four dead, according to Archival, who did not provide an updated number of people missing.

The cause of the collapse of the mountain of garbage remains unclear, but a survivor told The Associated Press on Friday that it happened in an instant without any warning despite fairly good weather at the time.

Jaylord Antigua, a 31-year-old office worker at the landfill, said the wall of garbage cascaded down and destroyed the administrative office he was in. He extricated himself with bruises on his face and arms by crawling in darkness in the rubble and debris. "I saw a light and crawled toward it in a hurry, because I feared there will be more landslides," Antigua said. "It was traumatic. I feared that it was my end,

so this is my second life."

It is unclear how the accident would affect garbage disposal in the landfill in Cebu, a bustling port city of nearly a million people that serves as a regional hub for trade, commerce and tourism.

Preparations "are also underway to manage the looming garbage collection issue," Archival said in his statement without further details.

Such landfills and open dumpsites have long been a source of safety and health concerns throughout the Philippines, especially in areas close to poor communities where many residents scavenge for junk and leftover food in the garbage heaps.

In July 2000, a huge garbage mound in a shantytown in suburban Quezon City, part of metropolitan Manila, collapsed and ignited a fire after days of stormy weather.

The disaster left more than 200 people dead and many more missing, damaged scores of shanties and prompted a law requiring the closure of illegal dump sites nationwide, as well as improved and more sustainable waste management by authorities.

### North Korea vows response as it accuses South of flying drones across the border

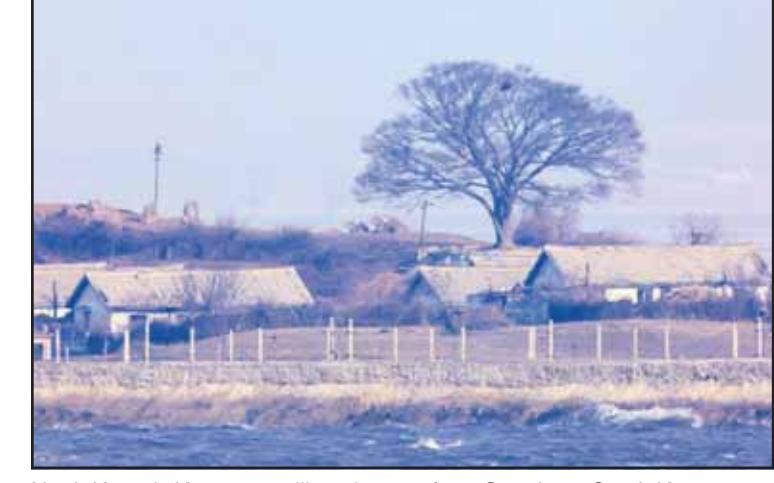
SEOUL, Jan 10, (AP): North Korea's military accused South Korea of flying drones across the border between the nations this week, warning Saturday that South Korea will face consequences for its "unpardonable hysteria."

South Korea quickly denied the accusation. But the development is likely to further dim prospects for efforts by South Korea's liberal government to restore ties with North Korea.

North Korean forces used special electronic warfare assets on Sunday to bring down a South Korean drone flying over North Korea's border town. The drone was equipped with two cameras that filmed unspecified areas, the General Staff of the North's Korean People's Army said in a statement carried by state media.

South Korea infiltrated another drone into North Korean airspace on Sept. 27 before it was forced to crash following electronic strikes by North Korea, the statement said, adding that authorities found the drone also contained video data on major objects in North Korea.

"We strongly denounce the hooligans' serial outrageous encroachment upon our sovereignty and undisguised provocative acts against us," the North Korean statement said. "The ROK military warmongers will be surely forced



North Korea's Kaepoong village is seen from Ganghwa, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026. (AP)

to pay a dear price for their unpardonable hysteria."

The ROK is the abbreviated form of the Republic of Korea, South Korea's official name.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said it did not operate drones during the times specified by North Korea and doesn't even possess the types of drones that North Korea claimed were used.

Senior ministry official Kim Hong-Cheol said in a statement that authori-

ties will investigate whether civilians flew the drones found in North Korea. He said South Korea has no intentions of provoking North Korea and will continue its efforts to build trust between the Koreas.

Since taking office in June, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has pushed hard to reopen talks with North Korea and reconcile the rivals. But North Korea has steadfastly rebuffed Lee's overtures.

### Subcontinent

**Wild elephant kills 2 in India:** Two more people were trampled to death and a forest department employee critically injured in the fresh elephant attack in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, officials said Saturday.

The attacks took place on Friday in the West Singhbhum district, about 160 km south of Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand. "The victims were identified as a 40-year-old man and a small child," an official said.

Forest department officials said the elephant moves during the night and carries out attacks in the dark. Thereafter, it hides in the dense forests during the daytime. (Xinhua)

**Bus accident death toll hits 14:** The death toll in a road accident in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh has increased to 14, officials said Saturday.

Forty passengers injured in the accident, some of them critically, are undergoing treatment in different hospitals.

The accident took place on Friday after a bus skidded off the mountainous road and plunged into a 500-meter-deep gorge at Haripurduar village of Sirmour district, about 142 km southeast of Shimla, the capital city of Himachal Pradesh. (Xinhua)

**Carbon monoxide poisoning kills 4:** At least four miners died from carbon monoxide poisoning in a precious and semi-precious stones mine in Khash district of northern

Bihar province on Friday, provincial police spokesman Ehsanullah Kamgar confirmed. The tragedy occurred on Friday afternoon when toxic gas accumulated inside the underground workings, suffocating the workers, Kamgar said.

The bodies of the deceased have since been recovered and handed over to their families, according to the official.

The incident is the latest in a series of fatal mining accidents in the province. In October 2025, two gold miners lost their lives when a tunnel collapsed in another mine in Bihar province. (Xinhua)



A Hindu pilgrim takes a free eye check up at a transit camp on way to Gangasagar, the confluence of River Ganges and Bay of Bengal, for holy dip on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, an auspicious day which falls on Jan. 14, in Kolkata, India, Friday, Jan. 9, 2026. (AP)

## Kuwait oil price surges to \$59.55 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti crude oil rose by USD 2.51 to USD 59.55 per barrel (pb) on Friday, compared with USD 57.04 pb the previous day, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

In global markets, Brent crude futures climbed USD 1.35 to USD 63.34 pb, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose USD 1.36 to USD 59.12 pb.

Bringing together thought leaders & industry experts

# Business

## Burgan Bank, Kamco Invest to host their 3rd Investment Conference

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Burgan Bank and Kamco Invest are set to host the third edition of their exclusive Investment Conference at St. Regis Kuwait on Monday, February 2nd, 2026. Building on the strong foundation of the previous editions, the event will convene an elite gathering of thought leaders, industry experts, and institutional investors for insightful discussions on critical topics shaping the global economy, geopolitics, and diverse asset classes.

As global markets continue to evolve amid geopolitical shifts, rapid technological advancement, and changing macroeconomic dynamics, the conference is firmly positioned as Kuwait's leading platform for market insight, strategic dialogue, and informed investment perspectives.

Under the theme "Insights & Strategies Shaping Opportunities," this year's conference brings together decision-makers, thought leaders, economists, and industry experts to examine the forces redefining capital allocation, opportunity identification, and investment performance. Through a series of in-depth discussions, the conference will address the dynamics shaping economic policy, market cycles, diversification approaches, and the outlook for both private and public markets. Topics will range from the GCC's expanding role as a global investment hub to the evolving landscape of regional banking, technology valuations, venture capital, and international trade.

Meshari Shehab, General Manager of Private Banking and Wealth Management at Burgan Bank commented, "We are pleased to co-host this impactful conference for the third consecutive year, reaffirming our commitment not only to delivering high-quality financial services, but also to actively contributing to the dialogue shaping today's financial and investment landscape. Leveraging on the combined banking and investment expertise between both entities, we aim to provide innovative solutions, practical insights, and forward-looking perspectives that deepen our clients' understanding of evolving market dynamics."

Sana Al-Hadlaq, Managing Director of Wealth Management at Kamco Invest added, "This conference has evolved into a key annual platform for sharing ideas and delivering meaningful insights to our clients and the investment community, building on the strong momentum and impact of previous editions. Each year, it brings together diverse perspectives to examine market developments, address emerging challenges, and uncover opportunities, equipping our clients with the clarity and confidence needed to make well-informed investment decisions."

Burgan Bank and Kamco Invest continue to work in close partnerships to deliver integrated and sophisticated financial offerings to their clients. Combining Burgan Bank's comprehensive banking capabilities with Kamco Invest's deep investment and advisory expertise, the two institutions provide a seamless approach to structuring, managing, growing, and preserving wealth. This collaboration extends across multiple business lines, reflecting a shared commitment to delivering tailored solutions, disciplined execution, and long-term value creation in the best interests of clients across generations.

The panels will feature esteemed guest speakers from Burgan Bank, Kamco Invest and renowned regional and international institutions and asset manage-



Meshari Shehab

Sana Al-Hadlaq



ment firms. This distinguished lineup of speakers will enrich the discussions and provide valuable insights into the evolving landscape of global investments.

It is worth noting that the first two editions of The Investment Conference firmly established the event as a leading investment forum in Kuwait and the region. Both editions brought together prominent local, regional, and international experts to discuss key global and regional developments. The conference continues to attract a distinguished audience of senior decision-makers and investors from the region and beyond, becoming a defining forum for meaningful industry engagement.

### About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offer-

ing to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), Burgan Bank Turkey (Turkey) and United Gulf Bank (Bahrain). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO /IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/IEC 20000-1: 2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMs) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.

### About Kamco Invest

Kamco Investment Company K.S.C (Public) "Kamco Invest" is a regional non-banking financial powerhouse headquartered in Kuwait with offices in key regional financial markets, established in 1998 and listed on Boursa Kuwait in 2003. It is an independently managed subsidiary of Burgan Bank, a member of KIPCO Group, adopting highest standards of corporate governance and regulated by the Capital Markets Authority and Central Bank of Kuwait. The Company offers a comprehensive range of investment solutions covering asset management, investment banking and brokerage.

Kamco Invest has AUM of over USD16.4bn as of 30 September 2025 allocated to various asset classes and jurisdictions, making it one of the largest asset managers in the MENA region. It has acted as investment banker to deals exceeding USD45.3bn from its inception to 30 September 2025 in equity capital markets, debt capital markets and mergers & acquisitions.

## The Boursa Kuwait enters new era of mandatory sustainability disclosure

Move aims to boost transparency and ESG practices

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA):** Listed companies on Boursa Kuwait are witnessing a qualitative shift in their operating practices and disclosure methodologies with sustainability reports becoming mandatory as of the start of 2026.

This step reflects the growing trend toward enhancing transparency and boosting environmental, social and corporate governance principles in the Kuwaiti market.

This transformation comes at a time of accelerating global economic changes and increasing demands from investors and international financial institutions to review companies' non-financial performance alongside their traditional financial data.

Sustainability disclosure represents a pivotal tool for investors, as it provides a more comprehensive picture of corporate performance and helps assess non-financial risks that may affect the sustainability of profits in the medium and long term.

These reports also contribute to strengthening confidence of local and foreign investors, improving companies' credit and investment ratings, supporting responsible institutional investment decisions, and enhancing discipline and governance within companies.

Kuwait Capital Markets Authority (CMA) issued a regulatory circular according to which companies listed on the First Market (Premier Market) prepare and submit sustainability reports starting in 2026.

These reports will cover company performance for the 2025 financial year and will be disclosed in Boursa Kuwait's website within specified timeframes to ensure compliance with global best practices.

The mandatory adoption of sustainability reports aligns with the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035, which places sustainable development, economic diversification and strengthening the role of the private sector among its top priorities.

This approach is an important driver for supporting economic transformation, stimulating innovation and improving business environment, thereby reinforcing Kuwait's position in global competitiveness and investment indices.

Sustainability reports focus on three main pillars. The first is environmental dimension, which addresses companies' policies on natural resource management, energy efficiency, reduction of carbon emissions, waste management and adherence to environmentally friendly practices.

The second pillar is the social dimension, which includes human resources issues such as workplace environment, equal opportunities, training, nationalization, occupational health and safety, as well as companies' roles in supporting the community and social initiatives.

The third pillar, governance, focuses on board structure and independence, compliance policies, risk management, transparency in decision-making, anti-corruption measures and

the protection of shareholders' rights.

Boursa Kuwait has played a pivotal role in paving the way for this transformation by launching awareness initiatives, issuing guidance manuals, and organizing workshops and training programs to familiarize companies with sustainability requirements and reporting mechanisms in accordance with approved standards.

These efforts aim to align the Kuwaiti market with global trends and enhance its competitiveness as a transparent and efficient regional financial center.

A number of executive leaders at listed Kuwaiti companies affirmed sustainability is no longer a regulatory option or a formal obligation, but has become a core element of long-term corporate strategies and a fundamental pillar for achieving growth, building trust and complying with international standards, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Kuwait Vision 2035.

In separate statements to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), they explained that sustainability reports provide a more comprehensive view of corporate performance, strengthen confidence of local and foreign investors, and improve companies' credit and investment ratings.

Bassel Kanaan, CEO of Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries Group, said the company's commitment to sustainability was the essence of its strategy and operational activities, stemming from its belief that sustainable practices represent the true guarantee of long-term success.

Kanaan explained the company has taken proactive steps to address risks associated with climate change by reviewing and updating its enterprise risk register, particularly in light of the growing global focus on climate action and the issuance of new amendments to international ISO standards.

He affirmed the group's commitment to principles of the circular economy through the adoption of reduction, reuse and recycling policies in environmental and waste management within its facilities.

This has led to a tangible reduction in waste, with key materials such as copper, aluminum, steel, lead, and plastic being reused and recycled with high efficiency.

He noted that governance represents a central element affecting all aspects of the company's operations, from decision-making to risk management and regulatory compliance.

He highlighted the continued development of the institutional framework by strengthening role of the board of directors in sustainability issues and improving levels of transparency and disclosure.

He added that the group has achieved further progress in environmental performance by expanding energy efficiency programs, improving waste management and strengthening water management initiatives, in addition to enhancing social impact through health and safety programs and launching new initiatives for learning and development, as well as supporting diversity, inclusion, and community

engagement.

Kanaan emphasized the company's future priorities include progressing toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2035 through continued investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy and emissions reduction initiatives, as well as leveraging digital solutions and sustainable technologies to enhance operational resilience, while continuing to integrate environmental, social and corporate governance practices across all projects.

For his part, Abdulmuttaeb Maaraifi, CEO of Commercial Real Estate Company, said sustainability was no longer an option but an integrated business approach that the company is keen to embed in all its operations and initiatives, in line with the SDGs and Kuwait Vision 2035, stemming from its responsibility toward society and environment.

He explained the company has translated its sustainability vision into practical initiatives covering education, capacity building, health, environment and community work, alongside adopting the highest standards of governance and transparency, and strengthening partnerships with government and private entities and civil society organizations, ensuring added value for all stakeholders.

Meanwhile, Maha Al-Rifai, Assistant Vice President of Investor Relations at Kuwait Investment Company, confirmed sustainability was no longer merely a side initiative but an integral part of the company's philosophy in governance and investment, with continuous efforts to align operations with international standards, particularly the principles of responsible investment.

She explained that the company's primary objective is to embed environmental, social and corporate governance principles at the core of decisions, strategies and disclosure policies at all levels.

She noted that 2024 marked a pivotal milestone with the launch of a comprehensive governance and environmental and social responsibility strategy, and the adoption of a supportive governance structure that enhances execution efficiency and accountability.

Al-Rifai added the company has achieved tangible progress in resource efficiency by reducing electricity and water consumption, and lowering emissions, in addition to strengthening commitment to responsible investment by aligning activities with the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

She confirmed the continued support for work environment, development of national talent and community initiatives, while improving job stability and enhancing diversity.

She noted that the 2024 report reflects the company's commitment to transparency and disclosure, and the entrenchment of sustainability as a key element of its long-term strategy in support of the national economy.

The Kuwait Capital Markets Authority announced on January 4 that 26 out of 34 companies listed on Boursa Kuwait, with a combined market value of KWD 36.7 billion (approximately USD 111.9 billion), issued the 2024 sustainability reports.

## Other Voices

### Captive Venezuela oil at \$50 pb

By Kamel Al-Harami

Independent Oil Analyst

THE recent developments in Venezuela, OPEC founder member, are causing havoc in the energy market. The U.S. administration has taken control of Venezuela's oil industry and is urging major oil companies to prepare to reinvest in the country and restore production to previous levels for export to the U.S.

However, U.S. companies are hesitant to proceed without comprehensive guarantees. They require assurances and legal backing from both the current and future U.S. governments. Taking over operations in a sovereign country and managing its main revenue source demands extensive protections, including insurance against any current or future international legal actions and financial compensation.

The takeover of Venezuela's oil industry is unprecedented, granting near-total control over the nation's wealth. It effectively allows one party to run the country's oil business single-handedly, without domestic interference, which raises concerns at both domestic and international levels.

The United States is taking steps to improve Venezuela's oil industry, aiming to increase crude oil production and make the sector more efficient, ultimately boosting the country's income. The plan envisions raising production from the current 600,000–700,000 barrels per day to 1.3 million barrels within the next 12 months.

Major U.S. oil companies are being allowed to operate Venezuela's oil fields with free hand for managing the captive country's oil business.

The U.S. is also expected to receive or claim around 50 million barrels of oil. The basis for this figure, whether as compensation, repayment of old debts, or benefits to U.S. oil companies, remains unclear.

While bearing in mind the quality of Venezuelan oil, it is important to remember that it is heavy and sour, with a thick, tar-like consistency and high levels of sulfur and nickel. This makes it very expensive to produce and refine, requiring complex processing and blending before it can be exported. However, it is well-suited for U.S. refineries, which have long experience handling this type of heavy crude from the "Orinoco Belt".

Venezuela also holds the world's largest crude oil reserves, estimated at around 300 billion barrels, making it highly attractive for its long-term oil potential.

U.S. oil producers are unlikely to be pleased with the low price of \$50 a barrel. Many shale oil drillers cannot operate profitably at this level. With the planned importation of Venezuelan crude to the U.S., it will become even more difficult for domestic producers to make profits. Most USA producers are expected to voice their concerns in upcoming meetings with the U.S. administration to stress that \$50 per barrel is not sustainable.

All of the U.S. oil executives will likely say openly, "Sorry, \$50 a barrel is not viable." They may push for a temporary increase to \$60 a barrel for U.S. crude, with Brent at \$64. However, even this level may not be sustainable in the short term.



Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

For excellence in service &amp; operational performance

# KFH concludes 2025 with exceptional achievements & 58 awards



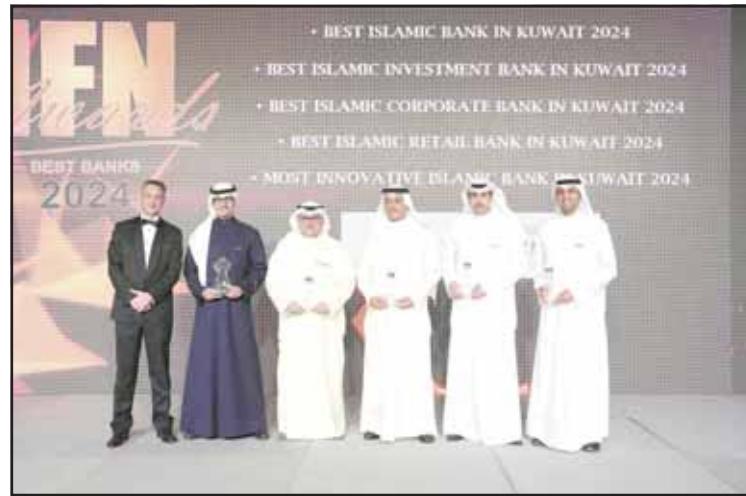
Mishal Al-Shaya, on behalf of the Group CEO Khaled Al-Shamian, accepted the Forbes Sustainability Leaders Award.



Khaled Al-Shamian receiving the award for Best Islamic Bank in the World from Global Finance.



Hamad Al-Ghannam receiving one of the bank's awards from Global Private Banking magazine.



Faisal Al-Surayye, Abdulaziz Al-Ghanem, Abdullah Al-Haddad, Tareq Al-Ajeel, and Saleh Al-Shaya receive Kuwait Finance House awards.



Talal Al-Arbeed, Nasser Al-Shaya, and Khalid Al-Shami receive Euromoney awards.



Ayman Al-Tabtabaei and the team receive the certificate from ISO officials.



Naser Al-Sanousi receiving one of the bank's awards from MEED magazine.



Mohammad Al-Arbeed, Nehal Al-Musallam, and Mariam Abaalkhail receive Kuwait Finance House awards.



Meshaal Al-Munaikh receiving the award.



Nasser Al-Shaya and Faisal Al-Surayye received an award from The Banker magazine.



Brandon Hall award



Khaled Al-Shamian



THE BANKER  
TOP 1000  
World Banks  
2025

Number 1 Best Performing Bank  
in Kuwait

market reputation.

## Best Investment Bank in Kuwait by MEED

KFH won Best Investment Bank – Kuwait Award at the prestigious MEED MENA Banking Excellence – Corporate & Investment Awards 2025. KFH's selection for this award followed a rigorous evaluation process that measured performance across several criteria, including market activity, advisory strength, innovation, and client impact. The bank demonstrated consistent excellence in all key areas of investment banking, solidifying its position as the top choice in this year's awards.

## Best Islamic Private Bank - Digital Innovation

KFH has been awarded "Best Islamic Private Bank - Digital Innovation 2025" by Global Private Banker magazine. This award recognizes KFH's successful transformation of its private banking and wealth management services for wealthy and high-net-worth clients.

## 9 Global Awards in Human Resources

KFH Group secured 9 global HR awards from the Brandon Hall Group, a world-renowned authority in institutional performance evaluation.

The awards earned by KFH Group are:

- Best High Potential Development (Gold)
- Best New Hire Onboarding Program (Gold)
- Best Unique or Innovative Learning and Development Program (Gold)
- Best Talent Acquisition Process (Silver)
- Best Learning Experience Platform-LXP Implementation (Silver)
- Best Talent Management Strategy (Silver)
- Best Certification Program (Silver)
- Best Governance Model for Talent Management (Bronze)
- Best Certification Program (KFH – Egypt) (Gold)

Best Bank for Financial Institutions in the Middle East

KFH has been recognized as the "Best Bank for Financial Institutions in the Middle East for 2025" by Global Finance, as part of Global Finance's 25th annual Best Treasury & Cash Management Banks awards for 2025.

## Best Performing Bank in Kuwait

KFH ranked 1st for Best Performing Bank in Kuwait, for The Banker's Top 1000 Global Banks Rankings 2025. This prestigious ranking underscores KFH's exceptional financial performance, highlighting the unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and customer satisfaction.

## Most Innovative Private Bank

KFH has been named the MENA's Most Innovative Private Bank for 2025 at

MEED's MENA Banking Excellence 2025 - Wealth & Private Banking.

## Forbes awards

KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef Al-Shamian, has been recognized on Forbes Middle East magazine's "The Middle East Sustainability Leaders 2025" list. Moreover, KFH won the Most Sustainable Projects in the Middle East award for 2025 from Forbes Middle East magazine. This recognition from Forbes highlights the bank's sustainability initiatives, which included a \$934.45 million investment in sustainability and green Sukuk in 2024.

## Largest company in Kuwait

Forbes ranked KFH at the top of the list of the largest companies listed on Boursa Kuwait for 2025, with a market value of \$43.4 billion (KD 13.4 billion).

## Top CEOs

Forbes magazine selected KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef Al-Shamian, as one of the top CEOs in the Middle East for 2025. Forbes based its selection on the CEOs' achievements

and performance, as well as their roles in extending beyond simple management to shaping the future and linking efficiency with innovation. The selection also considered their success in aligning business growth with national visions, leading economic diversification, and their overall impact on the region, the markets they oversee, and the size of the companies they lead.

## Best Private Bank for Islamic Services - Middle East

KFH received the "Best Private Bank for Islamic Services - Middle East" award at the 2025 Global Private Banking Awards, presented by Professional Wealth Management (PWM) magazine, a member of the Financial Times Group.

## AI Excellence Award

KFH received the AI Excellence Award during the Microsoft AI Summit, which was hosted by State of Kuwait and attended by a select group of technology experts from the region.

## Best-in-Class CIF Growth in Kuwait

KFH won 3 prestigious awards from VISA in recognition of its outstanding performance in 2024. These awards highlight KFH's commitment to innovation, customer satisfaction, and leadership in the banking sector, not to mention the keenness on continuously reinforcing the value of its banking cards. KFH won Best-in-Class CIF Growth in Kuwait, Best-in-Class Commercial Card Volume Growth in Kuwait, and Best-in-Class Cross Border E-commerce Growth in Kuwait.

## Most Influential Institutions in Legal Management

KFH Group's Legal Department has been named one of the most influential legal institutions of 2025. Furthermore, Group Chief Legal Officer and Board Secretary, Fawaz Munawer Al-Enezi, was inducted into the GC Powerlist Kuwait 2025. He was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in recognition of his outstanding leadership, his efforts in managing the Group Legal Department, and his significant contributions to strengthening the department's legal framework.

Senior Manager International and Subs Legal Affairs at KFH, Yousef Al-Oabaid Al-Azemi, has also been selected on this list, representing International Legal Affairs. The list is one of the most reputable international references for identifying top professional talents in the legal field.

## ISO Certifications in Quality and Facilities Management

KFH received two ISO certifications for its Quality Management System and Facility Management System. This accomplishment underscores KFH's commitment to the highest international business standards, operational discipline, service excellence, and alignment with Kuwait's sustainability goals.

## ISO Certification for Business Continuity Management

KFH attained ISO 22301 certification for its Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS) after successfully completing the required auditing procedures and meeting all certification standards in record time.

## Banking Excellence Award

KFH received the Banking Excellence Award during its participation in the Kuwait Builders Summit 2025 (KBS), which was held under the patronage and in the presence of the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdul Latif Al Mashari.

The award was based on specific criteria including quality, financial solvency, innovation, sustainability, and social responsibility. These criteria were determined for selecting the winners by an independent jury comprising a distinguished panel of academics, professionals, and consultants from various sectors.

These accolades underscore KFH's brand equity and its record of excellence across multiple disciplines. Key achievements include superior customer service, the integration of cutting-edge digital technologies, and leadership in financial services and investment solutions. Moreover, they highlight the bank's solid financial standing, its sustainability initiatives, and its leadership within the Islamic banking industry.

**World's Best Islamic Bank by Global Finance**

KFH Group has been recognized with 9 prestigious awards in the 18th Global Finance annual awards for the Best Islamic Financial Institutions in 2025. The awards are: World's Best Islamic Bank, World's Best Islamic Retail Bank, World's Best Islamic SME Bank, World's Best Takaful Provider, World's Best Islamic Project Finance Provider, Best Islamic Bank in the Middle East, Best Islamic Bank in Turkey (Kuveyt Turk), Best Islamic Bank in Kingdom of Bahrain (KFH Bahrain), and Best Bank in Kingdom of Bahrain (KFH Bahrain).

Bank of The Year by The Banker

KFH was named the Bank of the Year 2025 - Kuwait by The Banker magazine. The Banker's judging panel based its decision on meticulous financial data analysis, comparing growth and performance against a strategy of solid, consistent results. Strategic advantages, including investment in modern technology and innovation to expand business and improve customer satisfaction, were also key factors.

## Euromoney's Banking Excellence Awards

KFH Group has secured eight prestigious awards at Euromoney's Banking and Islamic Finance Excellence Awards for the year 2025. The awards are: "The Middle East's Best Islamic Bank", "Kuwait's Best Islamic Bank", "Kuwait's Best Bank", "Kuwait's Best Bank for SMEs", "Kuwait's Best Investment Bank (KFH Capital)", "The Middle East's Best Bank Transformation", "Bahrain's Best Islamic Bank", and "Bahrain's Best Digital Bank for Large Corporate".

## Best Islamic Bank by EMEA Finance

KFH has been recognized with four prestigious awards from EMEA Finance in the 17th edition of the Middle East Banking Awards 2025, in recognition of its leadership in the banking industry and its outstanding achievements in delivering innovative financial solutions and value-driven initiatives in Islamic banking. The awards are the Best Islamic bank in the Middle East, Best Bank in Kuwait, Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait awards, and the Sustainability Award- Middle East Level.

These accolades underscore KFH's esteemed position as a leading Islamic banking group and one of the most valuable and trusted financial brands locally and regionally, highlighting KFH's success in the Kuwaiti markets and the Middle East region.

## Best Islamic bank in Kuwait and the UK and the most Innovative Islamic bank

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group has received 7 awards from the globally renowned Islamic Finance News (IFN) magazine. KFH was named Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait, Best Islamic Corporate Bank in Kuwait, Best Islamic Retail Bank in Kuwait, Most Innovative Islamic Bank in Kuwait and Best Islamic Investment Bank in Kuwait. Additionally, KFH Group secured the IFN Bahrain Deal of the Year 2024 for arranging an ESG-compliant financing facility worth \$450 million. Meanwhile, KFH-UK won the Best New Islamic Bank award.

## Best Investment Bank in Frontier Markets and Kuwait

KFH Capital, the investment arm of Kuwait Finance House Group, received the "Best Investment Bank in Frontier Markets" and "Best Investment Bank in Kuwait" awards from Global Finance magazine.

Global Finance, with input from industry experts, used a series of criteria to score and select winners. These criteria include market share, number and size of deals, service and advice, structuring capabilities, efforts to address market conditions, innovation, pricing, after-market performance of underwriting and

## ALSAYER Group and the College of Science at Kuwait University organize the Teachers Orientation Program for the Hydrogen Vehicle Race Championship



KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: ALSAYER Group announced, as a strategic partner and a part of its commitment to supporting education, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainability, the start of the journey of the Horizon Educational Hydrogen Vehicle Racing Championship, the H2 Grand Prix. This was organized by Kuwait Universities College of Science and the global institution Horizon Educational.

This hosting initiative is part of ALSAYER Group's CSR initiatives and part of an educational program implemented by Kuwait University, represented by the College of Science, in partnership with the private sector and state institutions. It is carried out in collaboration with the College of Engineering and Petroleum, led by Dr. Omar Al-Ali, who heads Kuwait University's team in the championship, and Engineer Abdullah Al-Mukhyl, the technical trainer and supervisor of the participating teams, along with the Public Authority for Youth.

The program aims to qualify teachers and trainers responsible for preparing students, equipping them with the technical knowledge and practical skills necessary to train their student teams for the championship. This includes concepts of clean energy, hydrogen fuel cell technologies, engineering design, and teamwork.

Dean Haidar Behbehani emphasized that hosting this program aligns with the mission of the college and the Department of Computer Science to connect academic learning with practical application, empowering



Program supports clean energy and hydrogen fuel cell education.

educators to transfer modern expertise and knowledge to students. This contributes to preparing a generation that is aware of sustainable energy issues and capable of competing in regional and international forums.

Additionally, Mr. Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member and Chairman of the sustainability committee at ALSAYER Group stated that it is

a pleasure to partner with Kuwait University's College of Science and Horizon Educational to promote the development of practical skills in engineering, innovation, design, and teamwork. Through this workshop session, the teachers will be able to translate these skills to the students, highlighting a culture focused on growth and development.

Dr. Nora Al-Jurajif further explained that the Teachers Orientation Program represents a pivotal stage in the regional championship system, scheduled for April. It ensures that trainers are ready to guide students through the stages of design, construction, and testing, leading to active participation in the races. This enhances the quality of educational outcomes and fulfills the program's objectives.

Eng. Nehad AlHaj Ali, Group Manager of the Corporate Excellence department at ALSAYER Group noted that the training of the teachers is a crucial step in ensuring the success of the students to reach to the championships in April. This will guarantee a higher success rate for students, as the trainers have been equipped with important information from Horizon Educational and time to experiment with the best models. At ALSAYER Group we believe supporting initiatives from start to finish will sufficiently support the teachers and students learning about design thinking, engineering, programming, and development. These are the key skills that we strive to showcase in our workplace and beyond.

By empowering teachers to guide students through design, construction, and testing, the program strengthens educational outcomes and supports Kuwait University's mission to connect academic learning with real world innovation. It also reflects ALSAYER Group's commitment to sustainability and preparing a new generation ready to compete on the regional and international stage.

### Jazeera cuts fares to KD 10 for early 2026 travel

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, in its ongoing efforts to make travel affordable and accessible announced a special New Year Sale, offering customers exceptional value on flights from Kuwait to a wide range of regional and international destinations. With one-way fares starting from as low as KD 10, the limited-time promotion will run until 17 January 2026 for travel between 1 February 2026 and 15 May 2026.

Paul Carroll, Chief Commercial Officer of Jazeera Airways said: "At Jazeera Airways, we know price matters. This New Year Sale is about giving our customers certainty, simplicity, and real value – allowing them to book early, lock in low fares from just KD 10, and travel confidently across our network without surprises."

The offer applies exclusively to the airline's Light fare, which includes 7kg hand baggage, making it ideal for short breaks, family visits, and value-driven travel.

For the first phase of the sale, until 13 January 2026, tickets will be available through Jazeera Airways' direct channels, including the airline's website, mobile app, and call center (177). From 14 to 17 January 2026, the offer will be extended across all sales channels.

The promotion is valid for one-way and return travel only on flights departing from Kuwait and is subject to availability with applicable terms and conditions.

Passengers can choose from an extensive list of destinations across the Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia, Europe, and North Africa. These include Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai, Hail, Jeddah, Madinah, Qassim, Riyadh,



Jazeera Airways

Doha, Bahrain, Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Mashhad, Shiraz, Tehran, Najaf, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Dhaka, Colombo, Kathmandu, Alexandria, Assiut, Cairo, Luxor, Sphinx (Cairo), Yerevan, Baku, Tbilisi, Almaty, Bishkek, Tashkent, Moscow, Sarajevo, Trabzon.

With fares starting from just KD 10, customers are encouraged to plan ahead and travel smart while exploring Jazeera's extensive destination network.

A modern, seamless and smart banking experience

### NBK enhances its online banking platform

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: National Bank of Kuwait announced the complete revamp of its online banking platform, allowing customers to enjoy a more engaging, efficient, and flexible experience as they manage their finances anywhere and at any time.

This step reflects NBK's commitment to prioritizing customer experience and meeting their expectation with innovative solutions.

The revamped platform features a modern, intuitive design and provides an effortless and smart experience through its new user interface, enhanced dashboard, and faster transactions, reflecting NBK's customer-centric approach to innovation and digital transformation.

The revamped platform features a remarkable modern design and provides an effortless and smart experience with its new user interface, enhanced dashboard, and faster transactions, which reflect NBK's customer-centered innovative and digital transformative approach.

NBK's upgraded online platform enables customers to easily navigate through the available banking services, which have been largely enhanced to ensure fast access to the desired service.

These distinguished features include:

Evolutionary Digital Experience: Fresh and responsive interface, delivering a smoother digital banking experience that adapts seamlessly across devices like Laptops, Tabs and Mobile, operating systems, and browsers. The enhanced User Interface provides a familiar, yet richer User Experience aligned with our award-winning NBK Mobile app.

Easier Navigation: The new platform smartly lists an easy-to-use actions that allow customers to have instant access to services with fewer clicks, thanks to the "quick actions" section that group all your relevant and favorite actions.

Enhanced Efficiency: All accounts and products are now consolidated in one centralized dashboard, providing a comprehensive view of your banking relationships. Intelligent menu navigation enables customers to apply for new products, transfer funds to new and existing beneficiaries, pay bills and manage account settings all from a single, organized interface.

Futuristic Architecture: The platform is powered by next-generation web architecture designed for future of digital banking. Embedded with state-of art security measures, customers can bank with confidence, while enjoying unparalleled speed and responsiveness.

On this occasion, Mr. Mohammad Al-Dakhil, AVP



NBK's online banking revamp.

Head of Digital Banking Channels at NBK, commented: "By revamping our online banking platform, NBK has taken a step towards reshaping customer digital banking experience with a smarter interface, quicker performance, and a design that prioritizes ease of use".

Al-Dakhil also added: "At NBK, we believe that real innovation stems from understanding customers' needs and providing solutions beyond their expectations. This is why we are keen to make this platform a true reflection of NBK's digital transformation vision, as it will enable them to confidently and flexibly manage their finances whether on computers or mobile devices".

Furthermore, Al-Dakhil highlighted that NBK's revamped online banking platform represents a turning point in customer engagement with banking services, reaffirming the bank's leadership in innovation and digital transformation, in addition to its commitment to giving customers the best services possible.

The revamp is part of NBK's strategy of providing comprehensive customer-centered digital solutions that can keep up with the fast-paced banking sector developments and provide a smart banking environment where customers manage their finances with top flexibility and confidence.

Thanks to its continuous digital investments, NBK is committed to providing world-class banking services that meet the diverse needs of customers and their different lifestyles.

### KIB organizes PIFSS delegation for operational excellence workshop

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen integration between the public and private sectors and in reaffirmation of its commitment to advancing institutional knowledge and developing operational capabilities nationwide, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) hosted a professional workshop for a delegation from the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), comprising members of the Strategic Planning and Project Management departments. This initiative reflects the Bank's focus on exchanging practical expertise and adopting modern models for enhancing institutional performance, thereby supporting the establishment of a knowledge-based national partnership.

The workshop focused on presenting the KIB operating model, which the Bank adopted to enhance its operational processes, drawing on Lean & Agile principles designed to increase efficiency, reduce waste, and strengthen flexibility in decision-making. The Bank's team provided a detailed overview of how the model was developed, the results it has delivered over the past years, and the role it has played in elevating transparency and improving work practices across the Bank's various departments.

Commenting on this initiative, Fahad Al Bader, General Manager of the Operations Department at KIB, explained that hosting the delegation from the PIFSS aligns with the Bank's vision to strengthen its role in national institutional development. He stated that "sharing our operational expertise with key government institutions reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing the efficiency of the country's overall work system. Cooperation between the public and private sectors is not a secondary option; it is a fundamental pillar for ad-



Fahad Al-Bader, General Manager of the Operations Department at KIB.

vancing services and improving institutional performance in Kuwait."

Al Bader added that the KIB operating model is one of the most significant projects the Bank has adopted in recent years to establish an advanced operational environment. He noted that presenting this model to a government institution of the scale of the PIFSS reflects the mutual trust between both entities and lays the foundation for future collaboration that can support the development of more advanced operational initiatives. He highlighted that "KIB operating model is not merely an organizational framework. It represents an institutional culture that strengthens teams' ability to innovate and supports continuous improvement in line with internationally recognized methodologies."

He also emphasized that through this type of collaboration, the Bank aims to enable national institutions to adopt practical tools and methodologies that have proven effective in complex banking and regulatory environments.

KIB Life Academy, the Bank's learning center, hosted the workshop, which included detailed presentations, practical exercises, and joint discussions among the participating teams, with a focus on how the KIB operating model can be aligned with the nature of the Public Institution for Social Security's operations, particularly in project management and the improvement of daily processes. The workshop also featured real case studies from the model's implementation within the Bank, demonstrating how its tools have helped accelerate delivery, organize workflow, and reinforce discipline in operational governance.

The workshop also addressed the challenges of cross-departmental collaboration within large institutions and highlighted the importance of establishing effective communication mechanisms and developing performance measurement tools that support objective decision-making. A set of practical guidelines was presented that can be applied directly within the units of the PIFSS, particularly those responsible for strategic planning and monitoring the implementation of initiatives.

It is worth noting that KIB aims to serve as a strategic partner to government entities by sharing its institutional expertise and contributing to the development of national capabilities. KIB believes that strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors is a key pathway to enhancing efficiency, improving service quality, and advancing knowledge-driven and innovation-based operating models. These initiatives align with the Bank's vision to support institutional development in Kuwait and to help build a more flexible and sustainable operational environment.

### 'To broaden private-market access'

#### InvestGB signs strategic partnership with CVC

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Gulf Capital Investment Company KSCC "InvestGB", the investment arm of Gulf Bank, has announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with CVC, one of the world's leading private markets managers with a long-standing track record across private equity, secondaries, credit, and infrastructure and with a strong emphasis on Europe.

This partnership marks an important milestone for InvestGB, as CVC launches a tailored version of its private equity strategies, designed specifically to meet the needs of InvestGB clients. The new solution complements InvestGB's existing suite of primarily income-distributing offerings by introducing a product focused on capital appreciation, broadening the range of investment opportunities available to its clients.

Through this partnership with CVC, InvestGB continues to strengthen its platform with top-tier global expertise, reinforcing its mission to deliver diversified, sophisticated, and client-centric investment strategies.

Supported by a global network of 30 local offices, CVC manages 116 billion euros across four strategies: Europe/Americas, Asia, Strategic Opportunities and Catalyst. CVC's Secondaries business oversees 17 billion euros, while its Credit and Infrastructure platforms manage 49 billion euros and 19 billion euros respectively. With the ability to deploy its full global resources on each investment, CVC brings a distinct competitive advantage in sourcing opportunities and creating long-term value.



Hani AlAwadhi

Nick Clarry

Ragheb El Rami

globally and manages 116 billion euros across four strategies: Europe/Americas, Asia, Strategic Opportunities and Catalyst. CVC's Secondaries business oversees 17 billion euros, while its Credit and Infrastructure platforms manage 49 billion euros and 19 billion euros respectively. With the ability to deploy its full global resources on each investment, CVC brings a distinct competitive advantage in sourcing opportunities and creating long-term value.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Hani AlAwadhi, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of InvestGB, said: "Our partnership with CVC represents an important step in InvestGB's goal to bring world-class investment capabilities to our clients. This collaboration aligns with our strategy to expand our product offerings by providing our clients with access to premium private equity opportunities focused on durable, long-term value creation with a mechanism for superior capital accessibility than typical illiquid private equity investments."

We are proud to be working with a global leader of CVC's caliber and look forward to delivering enhanced value to our clients.

Private Markets

Mr. Nick Clarry, Chair of Private

Wealth and Head of Sports, Media & Entertainment at CVC, commented: "This partnership opens the door for individual investors to access CVC's private market opportunities through the CVC Private Wealth platform. It gives them exposure to the same high-performance strategies used by leading institutional investors, with a weighting towards Europe, and the potential for stronger returns, better diversification and lower correlation to public markets."

Mr. Ragheb El Rami, Partner at CVC added: "We are pleased to partner with InvestGB in advancing its long-term investment strategy. This collaboration will allow CVC's global platform and investment expertise to support InvestGB's ambition to broaden client access to high-quality private markets solutions. We look forward to working together to deliver strong, sustainable outcomes for their investors."

This partnership reinforces InvestGB's ongoing efforts to bring leading global investment expertise to Kuwait and expand its range of high-quality, diversified solutions for its clients. As InvestGB continues to grow its product suite and global partnerships, the company remains committed to enabling its clients to access innovative, best-in-class investment opportunities across international markets.

# Features

ARAB TIMES  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

## Awards

No acceptance speeches in the traditional sense and no suspense over envelopes

### Hollywood stars gather for all-winners celebration at AFI Awards



Gwyneth Paltrow arrives at the AFI Awards at the Four Seasons in Los Angeles. (AP)



Director Chloe Zhao arrives at the AFI Awards at the Four Seasons in Los Angeles. (AP)

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., Jan 10, (AP): If the American Film Institute Awards stands for anything, it's that everyone in the room - from Leonardo DiCaprio and Ryan Coogler to Timothée Chalamet and Ariana Grande - leaves feeling like a winner.

That spirit was on full display as the AFI Awards gathered its 2026 honorees for an invitation-only luncheon in Beverly Hills, where the institute once again celebrated the collaborative nature of film and television by honoring creative teams - in front of and behind the camera.

Inside the ballroom, there were no acceptance speeches in the traditional sense and no suspense over envelopes. Instead, AFI's ceremony unfolded as a series of thoughtfully written tributes: eloquent rationales for each honored film and television program, followed by brief clips designed to place the year's work within a broader cultural and artistic context.

AFI President Bob Gazzale spoke in front of star-filled room, ensuring there were no losers with only shared recognition.

The room reflected that mood. Filmmaker Steven Spielberg was spotted chatting with Coogler, whose wife and "Sinners" producer, Zinzi Coogler, stood beside him.

Meanwhile, Michael B. Jordan worked the room, trading hugs and handshakes with fellow honorees and guests including "Bugonia" star Jesse Plemons and "Task" actor Mark Ruffalo. Filmmakers James Cameron and Guillermo del Toro greeted each other.

Nearby, DiCaprio stood side by side with Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos and actors Benicio del Toro and Edward James Olmos. Chase Infini looked on from her table, gazing toward her "One Battle After Another" co-stars before the program kicked off.

On the red carpet, with "Death by Lightning" actor Nick Offerman beside him, George Clooney shared laughs with a photographer, adding to the easy-going tone that carried throughout the afternoon. After the event, Infini and Jordan reunited for a hug and a brief catch-up, a quiet moment that underscored the camaraderie in the room.

Films honored include "Avatar: Fire and Ash," "Bugonia," "Frankenstein," "Hamnet," "Jay Kelly," "Marty Supreme," "One Battle After Another," "Sinners," "Train Dreams" and "Wicked: For Good."

Television shows recognized were "Adolescence," "Andor," "Death by Lightning," "The Diplomat," "The Lowdown," "The Pitt," "Severance," "The Studio" and "Task."

Closing the ceremony was Carol Burnett, who delivered AFI's annual benediction, celebrating the honorees' achievements while reflecting on her own lifelong love of cinema and television.

"I've never lost the deep respect and love that I have for all the stories we tell through cinema and television and by all of those behind and in front of the camera," Burnett said. "Creative collaboration has always remained at the heart of our work, and AFI brings us all together. The world is a better place for having heard your voices."

The luncheon also featured AFI's signature March of Time video montage, a sweeping look at cinematic and television milestones from decades past, situating this year's honorees within the evolving history of the medium.



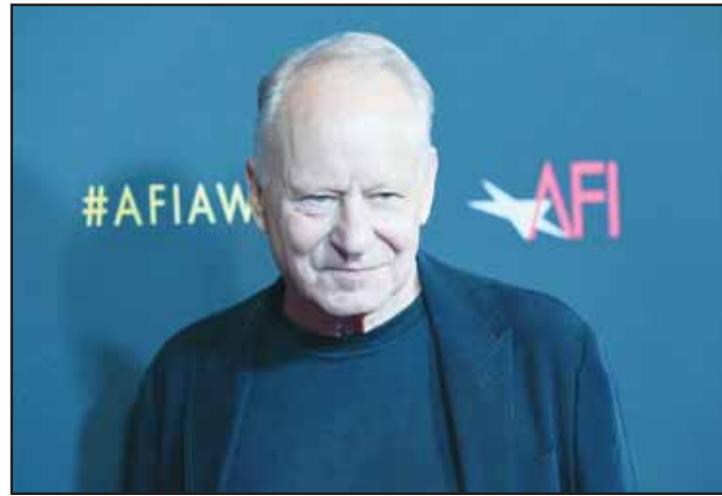
Actor Miles Teller arrives at the AFI Awards at the Four Seasons in Los Angeles. (AP)



Actor Ike Barinholtz arrives at the AFI Awards at the Four Seasons in Los Angeles. (AP)



Director Ryan Coogler, left, and his wife Zinzi Evans pose together at the AFI Awards on Jan. 9, 2026, at the Four Seasons in Los Angeles. (AP)



Actor Stellan Skarsgård arrives at the AFI Awards at the Four Seasons in Los Angeles. (AP)

## Mystery isn't over

### Laura Dave brings back the hit novel

NEW YORK, Jan 10, (AP): Those who read "The Last Thing He Told Me" and wondered what happens next for the characters will get their wish.

Writer Laura Dave has penned its sequel called "The First Time I Saw Him," out now. A second season of the TV adaptation starring Jennifer Garner and Angourie Rice debuts on Apple TV next month.

"After the book came out, I started getting so many questions, people saying, 'Well, what happens next?' I had really imagined it as a standalone book, but I was surprised that I had an answer to what happened."

"The Last Thing He Told Me" follows Hannah Hall, who has recently married Owen, a widowed man with a teen daughter named Bailey who is less than thrilled by this addition to her family. One day Owen disappears and leaves a note instructing Hannah to protect Bailey. The two are left to figure out what happened.

The book spent 65 weeks as a New York Times Best Seller. It was chosen by Reese Witherspoon for her Reese's Book Club. Dave co-created the TV series with her husband, Oscar-winning screenwriter Josh Singer. She wasn't a writer of Season 2 because she was busy writing the novel. "The First Time I Saw Him" picks up after the events of "The Last Thing He Told Me" but also fleshes out details from the past.

"If the first (book) is asking the question, what are we willing to do for the people we love? I think the second book is asking, what are we willing to do to be forgiven? And what are we willing to for a second chance? And so, to me, that was the journey back to Hannah and Owen's love story."

In an interview with the AP, Dave talks about her writing, being married to a fellow writer and how "The Last Thing He Told Me" helped to name a baby boy. Responses have been shortened for clarity and brevity.

**Dave:** It really wasn't. As much as these last couple books have been suspense books, there's been a huge love story at the center of both of them. My editor describes them as suspense novels rooted in hope which is sort of the opposite of what a suspense novel normally is. Normally, you find out that the person sleeping next to you is not who you thought they were. It's sort of rooted in revenge or vengeance or retaliation. I'm really interested in finding the good even underneath very dangerous behavior.

**Dave:** I was on a plane when we were shooting the first season of the show. We all had "The Last Thing He Told Me" crew hats. I was walking down the aisle on the plane, and there was this young mom holding a beautiful baby boy, and she stopped me and said, "Is this like the book 'The Last Thing He Told Me'?" And I said yes. I didn't say I was the author. She said, "Oh, this is Owen. I named him after Owen. I love the name Owen that I saw in the book, do you remember Owen?" I broke down.

**Dave:** My husband and I are writing the screenplay for "The Night We Lost Him" for Netflix. I know what my next two books will be. One, I've already started.

**Dave:** We're so different in our process. He'll show me things immediately while he's writing them. He will show me new scenes because especially with screenwriting, and certainly with TV writing, there's so much collaboration. So, you do it that way. I'm more like, I have to sort of be in my hole and get to the end and then get feedback. He's my best reader and my first reader. I love talking about story with him and character. I'm a really big fan of his writing. I don't know that I could be married to a writer if I didn't feel like they're the best writer around, and that's how I feel about him.



Author Laura Dave poses for a portrait in Santa Monica, Calif. (AP)

## Awards



Evan Handler, from left, Kristin Davis, Sarah Jessica Parker and David Eigenberg arrive at the Golden Globes Golden Eve at The Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP)

## Mirren gets DeMille prize

### Parker gets Golden Globes' Carol Burnett Award

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., Jan 10, (AP): Matthew Broderick presented his wife of nearly 30 years Sarah Jessica Parker with the Golden Globes' Carol Burnett Award for a life of achievement in television at Golden Eve, a ceremony that also added Helen Mirren to the list of legends that have won the Cecil B. DeMille Award.

Broderick suggested if she'd listened to him, it might not have happened.

"Do you really want to do TV?" the actor recalled asking Parker when she was first presented with the script for her career-making role as Carrie Bradshaw on "... and the City" in the 1990s. She would go on to win six Golden Globes and two Emmys.

Accepting the award, Parker said, "It has been a privilege and a dream to call myself an actor."

Golden Eve, a new separate ceremony for honorary career awards during the run-up to Sunday's Golden Globes, was held on Tuesday night at the Beverly Hilton hotel and aired on Thursday night on CBS. Both women will also be acknowledged on the main show, airing live on CBS.

"The DeMille Award was described to me as a career recognition," Mirren said from the stage. "But I prefer to

think of it as a life lived, a life survived, a life enjoyed, a life sweated, and a life carried on, hopefully. And given that hope, I prefer to think of this as an ongoing reflection of my career rather than a eulogy."

Harrison Ford, who won the DeMille Award in 2002, presented this year's edition to Mirren, his co-star in 1985's "The Mosquito Coast" and on the current "1923."

He called her "an undeniable screen presence who brings to every scene a powerful commitment to narrative and character. And when she goes full badass, it's awesome to watch."

Mirren, 80, an Oscar winner for her 2006 portrayal of Elizabeth II in "The Queen," has also won three Golden Globes and is up for a fourth this year for her role in the series "MobLand." She was named a Dame of the British Empire in 2003.

Mirren read off long lists of people her heroes and cherished collaborators. With her dramatic delivery, they were riveting.

"There are the women who have and always will inspire me: Monica Vitti, Anna Magnani, Jane Fonda, Bette Davis, Judy Garland," she said. "And those whose first names are

all that are needed. Madonna, Barbra, Cher, Sarah Jessica, Meryl, Kate with a K and Cate with a C, and, of course, ultimate goddess, Viola."

She looked out in the audience at her close friend Viola Davis, who won the DeMille Award last year and was among her presenters at this ceremony. Davis recalled her awe at seeing Mirren for the first time, in the 1989 black comedy "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover."

"It was the door kicking in moment, the thunderbolt, the sermon on the mount, the burning bush," Davis said. "Whatever I was in search of, right there I saw."

Garland, Fonda, Meryl Streep and Barbra Streisand, are also winners of the DeMille Award, along with Walt Disney, Oprah Winfrey, Eddie Murphy and Tom Hanks. It dates to 1952, when it was given to its namesake filmmaker.

Mirren's own husband of nearly 30 years, director Taylor Hackford, also spoke to honor her.

Hacker got a tearful tribute from longtime co-star Kristin Davis and a toast with cosmopolitans - Bradshaw's favorite drink that the show turned into a craze - led by Colman Domingo.

### Awards buzz builds as Producers Guild reveals 2026 nominees

LOS ANGELES, Jan 10, (AP): "One Battle After Another," "Sinners" and "Marty Supreme" scored another pivotal nomination from the Producers Guild.

The Producers Guild of America on Friday named 10 nominees for the Darryl F. Zanuck Award, their top prize and a reliable Oscar best picture bellwether, including awards season mainstays like "Frankenstein," "Hamnet" and "Sentimental Value."

"Bugonia" and "Train Dreams" were

also among the nominees, as well as two more unexpected choices: The Formula One racing movie "F1" and the horror hit "Weapons." Notably, four of the films on the list, "F1," "Weapons," "One Battle After Another" and "Sinners" were Warner Bros. theatrical releases.

Not included, however, were "Avatar: Fire and Ash" or "Wicked: For Good," two big budget, studio spectacles that might have been considered shoo-ins for

a producing honor. The nominees aligned closely with the five films singled out by the actors guild and the directors guild earlier this week. The full list of 10 could also very well predict the best picture batch when Oscar nominations are announced on Jan. 22.

The winner of the Zanuck award has gone on to win the best picture Oscar as well, including last year with "Anor."

The guild also nominated five films for

animated feature, including "KPop Demon Hunters," "Zootopia 2," "Elio," "The Bad Guys 2" and "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Infinity Castle."

They also recognize television shows and movies, where nominees in the various categories include "Andor," "The Pitt," "South Park," "Adolescence," "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" and "Mr. Scorsese."

The 37th annual Producers Guild Awards will be held on Feb. 28 in Los Angeles.

## Kuwaiti nationals recognized for their knowledge of Hindi

## Promoting Hindi in Kuwait: Indian Embassy celebrates World Hindi Day



KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Embassy of India in Kuwait celebrated "Vishwa Hindi Diwas" or "World Hindi Day" on 10 January 2026 at the Embassy Auditorium. More than 350 people participated, including faculty and students from all 25 Indian CBSE Schools in Kuwait, as well as friends of India with a special interest in Hindi. The event showcased the growing interest in the Hindi language and Indian culture in Kuwait, which hosts more than one million Indian diaspora. 2. In the run-up to the "Vishwa Hindi Diwas", Hindi recitation competitions were held for 3 age-group categories among the students of the 25 CBSE schools in Kuwait.

The winners were invited to perform at the Embassy Auditorium on the occasion of "Vishwa Hindi Diwas". The faculty also joined in and presented beautiful renditions of Hindi poems. Referring to the message of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion, Ambassador Mrs. Paramita Tripathi expressed her appreciation to all participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the World Hindi Diwas celebrations.

Ambassador Tripathi presented awards to the winners of the Hindi Recitation Competition and honoured four Kuwaiti nationals, namely: (i) Mr Mubarak Rashed Al-Azmi (Singer), (ii) Mr. Saad Dhaher Saadoun Al-Rasheedi (Former National Guard Officer), (iii) Ms Eman Hussain Ali Alkout (Member of Chess Federation, Kuwait) and (iv) Mr. Salah A M Khalaf (Business), for their knowledge of and interest in Hindi.

World Hindi Day is celebrated annually on January 10 to promote Hindi, a language spoken by millions of people worldwide, and to spread awareness about

its cultural and historical importance. Hindi holds a crucial place not only in India but also on the global stage, with a vast diaspora of Hindi speakers worldwide. 4. The Embassy of India in Kuwait has been instrumental in promoting Hindi

through a variety of initiatives and events throughout the year, such as competitions, workshops, and cultural programmes, which have fostered a deeper appreciation of the language among local communities and the Indian diaspora.



A displaced Palestinian woman inspects the damage to her temporary tent after a fire broke out in Gaza City. (Xinhua)

## Letter from Mideast

## A glimpse of Gaza life from my little sister's drawings

GAZA, Jan 10, (Xinhua): My name is Heba Alnabulsia. I live in al-Nuseirat refugee camp at the heart of Gaza, a place that has known both love and loss, laughter and fear. Today, I want to share the story of my youngest sister, Jana, and how her drawings have become our lifeline.

Jana began drawing at seven. Her first picture -- scribbled on a scrap of paper -- was a simple tree, a child's vision of life, growth, and peace. That was in 2020, during one of Gaza's brief respites from war.

Back then, her sketches burst with color -- bright, gentle, full of dreams and nature, much like our lives then. Even under blockade, we had our dreams. I was studying business administration at university and training at a bank. As for Jana, she would say: "My dream is to live my childhood in peace, safely with my family. I wish to complete my studies and become a doctor when I am older, and to enjoy my favorite hobby, which is drawing." Jana used to play with a toy stethoscope and pretend to heal people. She was always at the top of her class. Every Thursday, she would lose herself for hours in her sketches.

The girl who loves to learn is now 12, and she struggles to sleep. She wakes up crying from nightmares. The buzz of drones and the blast of missiles have replaced her school bell. Since Oct. 7, 2023, we have been displaced eight times.

Jana still draws, but her art has changed. Now she sketches tents, shattered homes, empty plates and warplanes. She holds a lifetime of trauma in her small hands.

One drawing shows a tent we lived in. We slept in schools, in tents, on the street, surrounded by the little we could carry: documents, some clothes, blankets, pots, buckets of water. In Jana's drawing, a Palestinian flag flies above the tent; a small fire warms those inside. She titled it "Save Gaza." In January 2025, after a brief ceasefire, we returned to what remained of our home. The walls were still standing, but the windows and doors were gone. From our room, Jana could see the ruins of a bombed mosque just meters away. On the other side, our neighbors' houses were flattened, with some families still buried beneath the rubble.

Then came the famine. Markets closed. We survived on canned food. Jana began to dream of what we could no longer find, so she drew them: oranges, bananas, grapes, peppers, carrots, popcorn, eggs and a slice of pizza.

I like her drawings very much, but I never imagined her art would one day help us survive.

During the war, I connected with friends abroad through social media, especially those who stood with Palestine. About a year ago, a friend in Seattle suggested turning Jana's drawings into merchandise. I sent photos of her work, and the friend helped turn them into stickers.

Others joined later. A friend in Japan made postcards from Jana's art, sold them at markets, and even brought them to Singapore. Some designed art books, T-shirts and earrings featuring Jana's images. In Washington, her work was displayed in an exhibition.

The modest income from these sales, channeled through friends who send what they can, has helped us buy food and a few, limited art supplies. As prices have skyrocketed beyond most families' reach in our war-torn Gaza, every dollar matters.

People who see her drawings call her a little artist with a mighty soul. Her art has touched hearts across the world, a reminder that hope can still grow, even from ruins.

One of her most widely shared drawings came during olive harvest season. In it, an olive tree stands firm, its roots spelling "Palestine" in Arabic. The leaves carry the colors of the Palestinian flag, swaying over gentle hills. The Al-Aqsa Mosque rises between the branches.

Jana also drew her wish for 2025 -- a keffiyeh, an olive tree, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, a home cradled in a palm, the map of Palestine, a victory sign rising through sorrow.

Her latest piece depicts a girl crying silently, wearing a mask painted resembling the Palestinian flag. "This drawing holds the weight of everything I couldn't say," the 12-year-old girl told me.

## Kuwait National Library: Where the nation's memory lives



Kuwait National Library building

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (KUNA): Kuwait National Library stands as the country's living memory, preserving its history and intellectual heritage while serving as a key center for research and intellectual property protection.

The library was founded in 1923 as the Public Library during the rule of late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and evolved through several names over the decades.

It later became the Library of Public Information in 1936, a name it retained until 1957.

Subsequently, it was known as the Main Information Library until 1962, then as the Main Public Library until 1966.

Afterward, it was renamed the Central Library until 1985, and later the State Central Library until 1994. By Amiri Decree No. 52 of 1994, the library was established as the National Library of Kuwait at Al-Mubarakiyah School, before the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad inaugurated its landmark building on Arabian Gulf Street in 2011.

The library preserves national memory by collecting and documenting Kuwaiti, Arab, and Islamic heritage, preparing the unified national catalog, developing ad-

vanced information systems to support research, and assigning International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNS) to all publications issued in Kuwait.

The library's new building was designed to house more than one million volumes and currently contains tens of thousands of books, references, manuscripts, and periodicals.

Kuwait National Library launched the "Memory of a Nation" project to digitally preserve rare books, documents, stamps, and coins, ensuring protected and modern access to cultural heritage for researchers and the public.



Acrobats from Cirque du Soleil rehearse for the show entitled 'Ovo' at The Royal Albert Hall, in London. (AP)

## Cirque du Soleil rehearses stunning Ovo show for families and fans

LONDON, Jan 10, (AP): Cirque du Soleil's show "Ovo," Portuguese for "egg," brings to life a colorful ecosystem teeming with insects.

Set around the arrival of a mysterious egg, the production explores the life cycle of insects, celebrating

biodiversity and transformation, while weaving in a playful love story between a quirky insect and a ladybug.

"Ovo" is currently in Britain for its 2026 residency at London's Royal Albert Hall.

## Rare copy of comic book that introduced world to Superman sells for \$15 million

NEW YORK, Jan 10, (AP): A rare copy of the comic book that introduced the world to Superman and also was once stolen from the home of actor Nicolas Cage has been sold for a record \$15 million.

The private deal for "Action Comics No. 1" was announced Friday. It eclipses the previous record price for a comic book, set last November when a copy of "Superman No. 1" was sold at auction for \$9.12 million.

The Action Comics sale was negotiated by Manhattan-based Metropolis Collectibles/Comic Connect, which said the comic book's owner and the buyer wished to remain anonymous.

The comic -- which sold for 10 cents when it came out in 1938 -- was an anthology of tales about mostly now little-known characters. But over a few panels, it told the origin story of Superman's birth on a dying planet, his journey to Earth and his decision as an adult to "turn his titanic strength into channels that would benefit mankind."

Its publication marked the beginning of the superhero genre. About 100 copies of Action Comics No. 1 are known to exist, according to Metropolis Collectibles/Comic Connect President Vincent Zurzolo.

"This is among the Holy Grail of comic books. Without Superman and his popularity, there would be no Batman or other superhero comic book legends," Zurzolo said. "It's importance in the comic book community shows with his deal, as it obliterates the previous record," Zurzolo said.

The comic book was stolen from Cage's Los Angeles home in 2000 but was recovered in 2011 when it was found by a man who had purchased



Vincent Zurzolo, president of Metropolis Collectibles/Comic Connect poses for a photo, Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, in New York, with Action Comics #1, a copy of a rare comic book that introduced the world to Superman and was sold for a record \$15 million. (AP)

the contents of an old storage locker in southern California. It eventually was returned to Cage, who had bought it in 1996 for \$150,000. Six months after it was returned to him, he sold it at auction for \$2.2 million.

Stephen Fishler, CEO of Metropolis Collectibles/Comic Connect, said the thief eventually played a big role in boosting the comic's value.

"During that 11-year period (it was missing), it skyrocketed in value," Fishler said. "The thief made Nicolas Cage a lot of money by stealing it."

Fishler compared it to the theft of Mona Lisa, which was stolen from the Louvre museum in Paris in 1911. "It was kept under the thief's bed for two years," Fishler noted.

## Washington National Opera bows out of Kennedy Center

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (AP): The Washington National Opera announced Friday that it will move performances away from the Kennedy Center in another high-profile departure following President Donald Trump's takeover of the U.S. capital's leading performing arts venue.

The opera said it will seek to end its affiliation with the Kennedy Center through an "amicable transition" and will return to operating independently. It cited financial constraints imposed after Trump fired the

Kennedy Center's board and installed allies to oversee it.

The opera will reduce its spring season and move performances to other venues "to ensure fiscal prudence and fulfill its obligations for a balanced budget," the opera said in a statement.

The statement did not mention Trump or the decision by the Kennedy Center's new board to add the president's name to the venue. Though Congress still formally calls it the John F. Ken-

nedy Center for the Performing Arts, the building's exterior and website now refer to it as the Trump Kennedy Center.

Ric Grenell, a Trump aide serving as the Center's interim executive director, said the venue has spent millions to support the Washington National Opera but it continues to operate at a deficit.

Parting ways will provide "the flexibility and funds to bring in operas from around the world and across the U.S.," Grenell wrote on X.

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## First human-specimen workshop and global MoU mark milestone edition

## Kuwait to host 4th Annual Orthopedic Surgery Conference on Jan 15-17

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Dr. Awad Al-Mutairi, Head of the Orthopedic Surgery Departments Council at the Ministry of Health and Head of the Orthopedic Surgery Department at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, announced the launch of the 4th Annual Orthopedic Surgery Conference, scheduled from January 15 to 17 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

The conference, held under the patronage of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, is organized by the Or-

thopedic Surgery Departments Council at the Ministry of Health.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Mutairi explained the conference is the largest scientific gathering of its kind in Kuwait for orthopedic surgery and related musculoskeletal specialties. It aims to exchange scientific and practical expertise, review the achievements of surgical departments, discuss the latest research papers, and provide practical training on advanced surgical techniques according to the best international practices. The conference will include more than 55 specialized scientific lectures and five workshops.

He also highlighted a first-of-its-kind workshop at the Faculty of Medicine, which will use human specimens to train physicians in advanced surgical procedures and the latest treatment methods, adding that the workshop aims to enhance the skills of national medical staff and improve clinical outcomes.

Dr. Al-Mutairi went on to explain that a preliminary memorandum of understanding will be signed on the sidelines of the conference between the Council of Orthopedic Surgery Departments and the World Federation of Orthopedic Surgeons, headquartered in Belgium. The agreement aims to facilitate the training of physicians and

organize scientific activities and specialized workshops led by international experts, thereby strengthening global partnerships and elevating the level of continuing medical education in this vital specialty.

The conference will also celebrate the accreditation of the Orthopedic Surgery Department at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital as a Center of Excellence in Orthopedic Surgery, the first such accreditation in Kuwait.

He expressed hope that other departments will follow suit, thus enhancing the quality of healthcare services and positioning Kuwait as a regional hub for advanced medical education and training.



Pharmacy manager Aylene Amestoy administers a patient with a seasonal flu vaccine at a CVS Pharmacy in Miami, on Sept. 9, 2025. (AP)

## New strain raises concern

## US flu cases ease slightly, but season far from over

NEW YORK, Jan 10, (AP): U.S. flu infections showed signs of a slight decline last week, but health officials say it is not clear that this severe flu season has peaked.

New government data posted Friday - for flu activity through last week - showed declines in medical office visits due to flu-like illness and in the number of states reporting high flu activity.

However, some measures show this season is already surpassing the flu epidemic of last winter, one of the harshest in recent history. And experts believe there is more suffering ahead.

"This is going to be a long, hard flu season," New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, in a statement Friday.

One type of flu virus, called A H3N2, historically has caused the most hospitalizations and deaths in older people. So far this season, that is the type most frequently reported. Even more concerning, more than 91% of the H3N2 infections analyzed were a new version - known as the subclade K variant - that differs from the strain in this year's flu shots.

The last flu season saw the highest overall flu hospitalization rate since the H1N1 flu pandemic 15 years ago. And child flu deaths reached 289, the worst recorded for any U.S. flu season this century - including that H1N1 "swine flu" pandemic of 2009-2010.

So far this season, there have been at least 15 million flu illnesses and 180,000 hospitalizations, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. It also estimates there have been 7,400 deaths, includ-

ing the deaths of at least 17 children.

Last week, 44 states reported high flu activity, down slightly from the week before. However, flu deaths and hospitalizations rose.

Determining exactly how flu season is going can be particularly tricky around the holidays. Schools are closed, and many people are traveling. Some people may be less likely to see a doctor, deciding to just suffer at home. Others may be more likely to go.

Also, some seasons see a surge in cases, then a decline, and then a second surge.

For years, federal health officials joined doctors' groups in recommending that everyone 6 months and older get an annual influenza vaccine. The shots may not prevent all symptoms but can prevent many infections from becoming severe, experts say.

But federal health officials on Monday announced they will no longer recommend flu vaccinations for U.S. children, saying it is a decision parents and patients should make in consultation with their doctors.

"I can't begin to express how concerned we are about the future health of the children in this country, who already have been unnecessarily dying from the flu - a vaccine preventable disease," said Michele Slafkosky, executive director of an advocacy organization called Families Fighting Flu.

"Now, with added confusion for parents and health care providers about childhood vaccines, I fear that flu seasons to come could be even more deadly for our youngest and most vulnerable," she said in a statement.

Screening just 10,000 protein targets using state-of-the-art molecular docking tools would take centuries of continuous computation on a single computer, severely hindering the matching of novel targets with potential molecules.

BEIJING, Jan 10, (Xinhua): Chinese researchers have developed an AI-powered virtual drug screening platform that achieves a million-fold increase in screening speeds and a significant improvement in prediction accuracy over conventional methods, according to Tsinghua University.

The platform, DrugCLIP, has allowed the research team to conduct the first-ever virtual screening project on a human-genome scale, opening new avenues for innovative drug discovery. The related study was published online in Science on Friday.

Currently, the vast majority of the human genome's potential targets and compounds remain untapped. The human genome encodes over 20,000 proteins, and only a small fraction have been explored as drug targets. Screening for promising lead compounds across this vast chemical and target space has become a major bottleneck in the field.

Screening just 10,000 protein targets using state-of-the-art molecular docking tools would take centuries of continuous computation on a single computer, severely hindering the matching of novel targets with potential molecules.

DrugCLIP reduces this timeframe dramatically, compressing what would take centuries into a single day on one computing node -- a fundamental unit in a high-performance or distributed computing system.

While AlphaFold, which won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, has addressed the challenge of protein structure prediction, DrugCLIP makes a complementary leap by establishing a critical bridge from protein structure to drug discovery, enabling large-scale virtual screening across the human genome.

At its core, DrugCLIP's breakthrough is in reformulating traditional molecular docking as a high-efficiency semantic search for protein pockets and small molecules in vector space. Running on a computing node with a 128-core CPU and 8 GPUs, the platform can score trillions of protein pocket-small molecule pairs daily, delivering a million-fold speed increase over conventional docking approaches.

In its inaugural genome-scale screening project, the team applied DrugCLIP to approximately 10,000 protein targets and 20,000 protein pockets, analyzing over 500 million small, drug-like molecules. The effort yielded more than 2 million potential active molecules, resulting in the largest known protein-ligand screening database to date.

This database is now freely available to the global scientific community, offering powerful data support for fundamental research and early-stage drug discovery.

A companion screening service platform has also been launched, allowing users to submit custom targets and protein pockets for analysis. As of the study's publication, the platform has served over 1,400 users and completed more than 13,500 screening tasks within a span of six months.

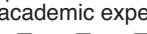
Looking ahead, the DrugCLIP team plans to collaborate closely with academic and industry partners to accelerate the discovery of novel targets and first-in-class therapies in areas such as oncology, infectious diseases and rare disorders.

The team will continue to enhance the platform's performance, expand its capabilities, and contribute to a more intelligent, efficient and accessible global ecosystem for drug innovation.

## The Conversation

## Live healthier in 2026 by breathing cleaner air at home

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.



By Katelyn Richard

Colorado State University

I have a health goal for the new year that doesn't require me to get out of bed earlier or eat fewer cookies. I am an atmospheric chemist and will be committing to clean air at home.

People in the U.S. spend as much as 90% of their lives indoors. Overall, air pollution is responsible for approximately 135,000 premature deaths per year in the U.S. And levels of some chemicals can be two to five times higher in indoor air than outdoors.

Fortunately, there are some straightforward ways to improve your home's air quality this year, in three major categories of activity.

Cooking is a major source of indoor air pollution.

Not all chemicals that cooking produces are bad, but some react to form other chemicals that like to clump together to form particulate matter. When inhaled, these particles enter the lungs and can then pass into the bloodstream, increasing people's risk of heart disease and decreasing lung function.

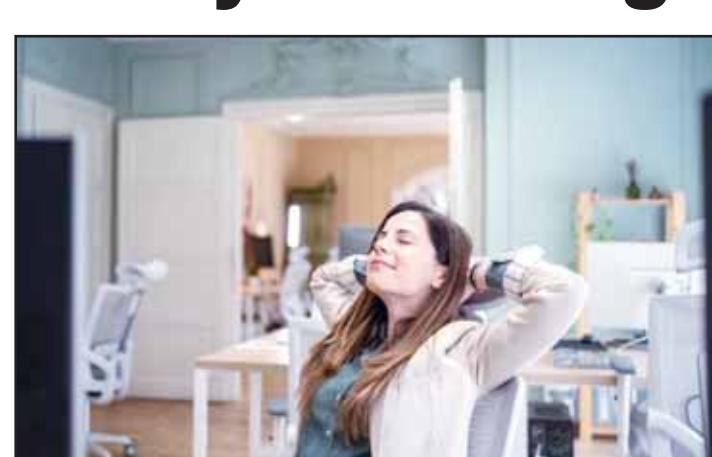
The amount of particulate matter produced from your cooking depends on the food type, oil used and cooking temperature. High-fat-content foods, such as cheese, pork and bacon, emit the most particles, especially when cooked at high temperatures. Sunflower oil produces the least amount of particulate matter, followed by vegetable oil and then olive oil.

Cooking with a gas stove produces more particulate matter than with an electric stove, and the gas stove also emits other hazardous chemicals such as nitrogen dioxide and benzene.

Two simple and effective measures to keep kitchen air clean and prevent particulate matter from spreading through the home are using your range hood fan and opening nearby windows while cooking. The suction will move harmful chemicals out of your home and away from your lungs, and the fresh air will dilute what remains.

In large cities such as Los Angeles and New York City, there are enough volatile organic chemicals from consumer products - paints, adhesives and personal care products - in the outdoor air to rival those produced by traffic and industry. Many of those products are first used indoors before they escape outside.

Government regulations limit the amount of chemicals allowed in some kinds of consumer products, such as adhesives and construction materials,



It's not hard to breathe easy at home.

because of their contribution to smog, but personal care products that contain fragrances remain largely unregulated.

Many common options for shampoo, conditioner, mousse, body wash, deodorant, lotion, laundry detergent and dryer sheets contain fragrance mixes composed of several chemicals, with the sole purpose of providing a pleasant aroma to consumer products. Fragrances release volatile organic compounds such as limonene, linalool, galaxolide, eugenol and diethyl phthalate that can react to form particulate matter. In addition to health risks from particulate matter formation, strong fragrances can trigger headaches, difficulty breathing, skin irritation and other physical responses that warrant concern.

I'm not suggesting you be smelly or live an unscented life. But consider whether you could choose perhaps three products that have your very favorite scents, and for the others buy fragrance-free versions when you need to resupply. That would reduce the volatile organic compounds and the ensuing potential for particulate matter formation without really changing how you smell.

Cleaning your home can improve indoor air quality by temporarily reducing the amount of chemicals on surfaces that can find their way back into the air. For example, oleic acid from cooking, squalene from human skin and bisphenol A from hard plastics can remain on surfaces for years if undisturbed.

But there's a caveat: Cleaners are made of strong chemicals, designed to disinfect, degrease and eliminate odors, that may do more harm for air quality than good. To that end, the healthiest option may be found by carefully choosing the right cleaner for the job. For less intensive tasks like dusting or cleaning crumbs off the counter, consider avoiding strong disinfectants like bleach, hydrogen peroxide and a category of chemicals called quaternary ammonium compounds that can often be found in disinfectants, hair products and fabric softeners.

However, if you are cleaning the bathroom or a forgotten, moldy leftovers container, you may prefer a stronger disinfecting product. Be aware that studies have found bleach cleaners can produce harmful chlorinated byproducts, such as chloroform and carbon tetrachloride, which are possible carcinogens and worth avoiding altogether.

Still, nearly all commercially available cleaning products contain volatile organic compounds - like limonene for citrus scent, lactic acid for limescale and bacteria removal, and 2-phenoxyethanol for product preservation - that will increase chemical and particulate matter concentrations in the immediate area.

In this case, dilution is key to limiting your exposure. Increase ventilation while using these products by running the bathroom fan, opening windows while you clean, and using only as much of a cleaning product as is really required to do the job.

Opening windows is an effective and often overlooked solution to improve indoor air quality. Chemicals that may be harmful to you in a closed space, where they are more concentrated, become less harmful when they are diluted and spread throughout the massive outdoor atmosphere. But avoid opening windows when smog, ozone or wildfire smoke levels are high outside, which would create an opportunity for outdoor air pollution to come indoors.

Luckily, your city or your neighbors are likely collecting outdoor air quality data that is publicly available to you, so you can track whether to open your windows.

If air pollution is too high outside, an indoor air cleaner may be a better option. And you don't have to shell out big bucks, either. Air quality engineers have shown that a homemade air cleaner using a box fan, four air filters and duct tape - all commonly available at hardware stores or online - can cost under \$70 and be as effective at cleaning the air as factory-made appliances.

Overall, the best way to improve air quality is to put fewer harmful chemicals into the air in the first place. While scientists and policymakers can measure and regulate outdoor air quality, it's up to us all to keep the air in our own homes clean and healthy. (AP)

# Giannis' late stops lift Bucks past Lakers

Blazers hold off Rockets for fifth straight win

LOS ANGELES, Jan 10, (AP): Giannis Antetokounmpo blocked a shot by LeBron James and stole the ball from him on consecutive possessions in the final minute, and the Milwaukee Bucks blew a fourth-quarter lead before rallying for a 105-101 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Kevin Porter Jr. scored 22 points, and he hit two free throws to break a tie after Antetokounmpo blocked a driving layup attempt by James with 39 seconds left.

Antetokounmpo then knocked the ball out of James' hands from behind with 2 seconds left, and Porter hit two more free throws to seal Milwaukee's fifth win in seven games - its first over a team with a winning record since Dec. 11. Antetokounmpo finished with 21 points in his lowest-scoring effort since returning from his right calf strain.

Luka Doncic had 24 points and nine assists on 8-of-25 shooting for the Lakers. He had his lowest-scoring performance since Christmas, and he fouled out on Porter's 3-point attempt with 16.2 seconds to play.

#### Trail Blazers 111, Rockets 105

In Portland, Touni Camara scored 25 points and the Portland Trail Blazers extended their winning streak to a season-best five games with a victory over the Houston Rockets.

Shaedon Sharpe and Deni Avdija each added 20 points for Portland.

Kevin Durant had 30 points and 12 rebounds for the Rockets. He passed Wilt Chamberlain for seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list when he made a 3-pointer in the third quarter.

Durant needed 15 points going into the game to eclipse Chamberlain, who scored 31,419 points. Durant's jumper with 7:57 left in the third gave him 31,422.

#### Warriors 137, Kings 103

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry had 27 points and a season-high 10 assists for his second double-double this season, and the Golden State Warriors beat the skidding Sacramento Kings.

Jimmy Butler added 15 points, six assists and six rebounds as the Warriors finished with a season-best 39 as-



Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Doncic, left, and Milwaukee Bucks guard Kevin Porter Jr. go after a loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

sists. Curry scored 18 by halftime and finished 10 of 21 from the floor with six 3-pointers for his 11th game in the last 13 with 25 or more points.

#### Suns 112, Knicks 107

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 31 points and Dillon Brooks added 27 as the Phoenix Suns beat the New York Knicks.

Royce O'Neale had 12 points on 4-for-6 shooting on 3-pointers and Mark Williams 10 to help Phoenix win for the fourth time in five games. Brooks shot 8 for 15 from the field, including 5 for 9 from beyond the arc. Booker was just 10 for 23, but made 4 of 6 from 3.

Jalen Brunson scored 27 points to lead the Knicks, who have lost five of seven. Miles McBride had 17 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 15 points and 12 rebounds, OG Anunoby also scored 15 and Jordan Clarkson 12 and Mikal Bridges 11.

#### Thunder 117, Grizzlies 116

In Memphis, Jalen Williams scored 26 points, Kenrich Williams added 21, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:07 left, and the Oklahoma City Thunder overcame a 21-point deficit in the second half and beat the Memphis Grizzlies.

Memphis and Oklahoma City were working with short-handed lineups.

Ajay Mitchell added 23 points for Oklahoma City, which has won 16 straight against Memphis, including a sweep in the first round of last year's playoffs. Aaron Wiggins finished with 16 points.

#### Clippers 121, Nets 105

In New York, James Harden scored 31 points, Kawhi Leonard had 26 and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Reserve guard Jordan Miller made his first six shots and added 21 points. John Collins had 16 for the Clippers, who bounced back from their loss to the New York Knicks on Wednesday to win for the eighth time in 10 games.

Leonard, questionable earlier in the day with a sprained right ankle, started slowly but had 19 points in the second half.

Rookie guard Egor Demin scored 19 points for the Nets, who lost on a buzzer-beater in overtime against Orlando on Wednesday.

#### 76ers 103, 91 Magic

In Orlando, Tyrese Maxey had 29 points and three steals, Joel Embiid added 22 points and nine rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Orlando Magic in a game in which the teams combined to make 8 of 57 3-point shots.

Paul George scored 12 of his 18

Efimova & Mitrofanov retain pairs crown

## Amber wins third straight US Figure Skating title



From left to right, silver medalist Alysa Liu, gold medalist Amber Glenn, bronze medalist Isabeau Levito and fourth place finisher Bradie Tennell pose with their medals after the women's free skating competition at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in St. Louis. (AP)

Skating officials to get the three-year waiting period for citizenship expedited. But time is running out before Sunday's deadline to announce the team.

The Americans have qualified the maximum three women's spots on the Olympic team.

They only have two spots in pairs.

Efimova and Mitrofanov would get one, should her citizenship get approved at the last minute. Kam and O'Shea are near locks to make their first Olympic team, while McBeath and Parkman are unable to go because he likewise does not have U.S. citizenship.

That could leave U.S. Figure Skating to make a judgment call on the second pairs team it sends to the Milan Cortina Games.

Emily Chan and Spencer Howe rallied from eighth after a difficult short program to finish fourth with 186.52 points Friday night, while the up-and-coming team of Audrey Shin and

Balazs Nagy were less than two points behind in fifth place.

Yet ahead of them all were Efimova and Mitrofanov, the clear-cut best of American pairs skating.

Their free skate, set to "Where Do I Begin?" from the 1970 Arthur Hiller romantic drama "Love Story," was intended to be a tribute to two-time Olympic champions Kaitlin and Meagan Davis.

"I hope," Liu said, "we can keep this energy next month for all of us."

and Sergey Grinkov, who was just 28 when he died of a heart attack in 1995.

Efimova and Mitrofanov opened with a beautiful triple twist, but then a sequence went awry after their triple salchow when he fell during a double axel, and Efimova nearly wiped his forehead with her skate blade. She also struggled on their side-by-side triple toe loops later in the program, but a strong finishing sequence left no doubt that they would repeat as champions.

Then it was the women's turn to take center stage.

Levito was up first among the American "big three," performing with her trademark balletic style in a sparkly blue dress to music from the 1988 Italian coming-of-age film "Cinema Paradiso" - just image that on the ice in Milan next month.

Her free skate score represented a season-best and thrust Levito into first place.

Liu clapped when the score was read amid her own warm-up, then proceeded to rip through the debut of a new free skate set to a medley of Lady Gaga songs. It was a performance every bit as good as Liu's showing at the world championships in Boston last year, when she became the first American to stand atop the podium in two decades.

The pressure was on Glenn to respond. And did she ever.

From her opening triple axel, the only 3 1/2-revolution jump that any of the medal contenders attempted, to the final chords of music, the 26-year-old from Plano, Texas, had the crowd on its feet. Glenn skated off to a standing ovation, then broke down in tears along with her coach, Damon Allen, when her huge score was read over the arena loudspeakers.

She was soon joined in the kiss-and-cry area by Liu and Levito, the likely triumvirate for the Milan Cortina Games.

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## Al-Anaz dominates at 12th 'Atyab Al-Marshoud' International Show Jumping Championship



Grand Prix winners celebrate victory on podium.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Sahara Resort star and national equestrian team rider, Anaz Al-Anaz, claimed two major victories during the first two days of the 12th edition of the international Atyab Al-Marshoud showjumping championship at the Kuwait Equestrian Center.

On the first day, Al-Anaz won the Grand Prix title at 140 cm, while Ab-

dullah Al-Ramadan secured first place in the medium prize event at 130 cm, and Fawaz Al-Rashed triumphed in the small prize event at 120 cm.

Al-Anaz continued his dominant performance on the second day, taking the Grand Prix at 145 cm, followed by Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Al-Sharbatly, Britain's Chad Fellows, Kuwaiti Fawaz Al-Subaie, Saudi Saad Al-Ajmi,

and Kuwaiti Yara Al-Hunaidi.

In the medium prize at 130 cm, Kuwait Club and national team rider Ali Al-Kharafi claimed the top spot.

The champions were officially crowned by Wafiq Al-Marshoud, Mursid Al-Marshoud, Qatari Ambassador Ali Al-Mahmoud, Bahraini Ambassador Salah Al-Maliki, and British Ambassador Qudsi Rasheed.

## Macclesfield stuns reigning champion Palace in FA Cup

Wrexham knocks out Forest on penalties



Crystal Palace's Kaden Rodney, center right, and Macclesfield Town's Paul Dawson vie for the ball, during the FA Cup third round soccer match between Macclesfield Town and Crystal Palace, at the Leasing.com Stadium, Macclesfield. (AP)

club's nickname.

Macclesfield held on against a Palace side whose dismal afternoon was summed up when U.S. central defender Chris Richards did a foul throw in the final minute of stoppage time, giving possession back to Macclesfield.

The fans sprinted onto the field at Moss Rose - a modest 5,900-capacity stadium in northwest England - in celebration at the final whistle while Dawson and Duffy were carried aloft.

The FA Cup has a long history of dramatic knockouts and huge upsets on the day, such as when non-league Hereford beat Newcastle 2-1 in a third round replay

in 1972 or when underdog Palace beat overwhelming favorite Liverpool 4-3 in the 1990 semifinals.

Now the magic of FA Cup has graced Macclesfield.

The big guns entered the FA Cup and one of them was shot down immediately.

Championship club Wrexham knocked out Premier League side Nottingham Forest 4-3 on penalties after a thrilling match ended 3-3 after 90 minutes and extra time.

Wrexham keeper Arthur Onokwo was the hero, saving twice to take his side into the fourth round.

The Welsh side co-owned by actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob

McElhenney was 2-0 up at the break thanks to goals from Libero Cacace and Ollie Rathbone.

Igor Jesus pulled one back with a header after 64 minutes only for Dominic Hyam to restore Wrexham's two-goal lead with a diving header 10 minutes later.

Forest substitute Callum Hudson-Odoi scored in the 76th and 89th minutes to force the game into extra time but when neither side could get a winner it went to penalties.

James MacLean missed for Wrexham but Onokwo saved from Igor Jesus and Omari Hutchinson to send the home fans into raptures.

Jerome Pino curled in a last-minute free kick over the wall to leave Macclesfield facing a nervous six minutes of stoppage time as home fans broke out into chants of "Silkmen! Silkmen!" - the

Sabalenka reaches Brisbane final

## Gauff powers US into United Cup semis



Coco Gauff of the U.S. hits a forehand to Iga Swiatek of Poland during their semifinal match at the United Cup tennis tournament in Sydney. (AP)

The turning point in the Wawrinka-Bergs match came in the eighth game of the third set when Bergs broke Wawrinka's serve to go up 5-3, then held serve to win the match.

Tournament organizers started play 30 minutes earlier than scheduled with searing temperatures of up to 43 Celsius (109 Fahrenheit) in the forecast for Sydney.

Bencic had won all six sets in her first three matches at the United Cup. She was two games away from another two-set win before Mertens pushed the match the distance.

Then Mertens came from 3-1 down in the third set, saved a pair

of break points that would have given Bencic a 4-1 lead, and was two points away from the set win with Bencic serving at 30-30, down 6-5.

But Bencic won the last nine points of the match following a decision to change her racket to a freshly-strung one, taking the match in 2 hours, 37 minutes.

Meanwhile, top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka has advanced to the Brisbane International final for the third year in a row after a 6-3, 6-4 win Saturday over Karolina Muchová.

Sabalenka clinched the semifinal at Pat Rafter Arena on her fourth match point to advance to Sunday's

final against Marta Kostyuk, who beat fourth-seeded Jessica Pegula 6-0, 6-3.

It was Kostyuk's third win in a row over a top-10 opponent. She came into the match with only one win in five previous matches against the American.

On Friday, in a rematch of last year's Australian Open final, Sabalenka broke Madison Keys in five straight service games on the way to a 6-3, 6-3 win. Last year at Melbourne Park, Keys beat Sabalenka for her first Grand Slam singles title.

The Brisbane International is a tuneup event for this year's Australian Open, which begins Jan. 18.

Although three match points slipped away amid a late flurry of pressure from the Czech player, Sabalenka sealed victory when a Muchová shot sailed long.

With 32 winners and all four break points saved, Sabalenka will look to carry that momentum into her 13th WTA 500-level final on Sunday.

In the men's tournament at Brisbane, Brandon Nakashima beat Aleksandar Kovacevic 7-6(4), 6-4 in an all-American semifinal. Nakashima will play the winner of the later semifinal between top-seeded Daniil Medvedev and American Alex Michelsen in Sunday's final.

It will be Nakashima's first ATP Tour final in four years. The 24-year-old American has not lost a set this week.

## Kuwait Club leads

Kuwait volleyball league paused for upgrades

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: The Volleyball Federation has temporarily suspended the national league due to maintenance work at the Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Assistant Secretary Naif Al-Khumaili confirmed on the federation's X account:

"The federation has decided to halt preliminary round matches of the public category league starting today until February 14, due to maintenance in the hall."

Al-Khumaili added that the maintenance aims to fully prepare the venue; ensuring teams compete in top-level, fully equipped facilities.

Meanwhile, in the seventh round of the league, Kuwait Club defeated Sulaiibkhat 3-0, while Qadsia also won 3-0 over Al-Nasr.

With these results, Kuwait Club strengthened its position at the top with 20 points, followed by Qadsia in second with 16 points, and Al-Arabi in third with 15 points. Karmia occupies fourth place (ahead of Sulaiibkhat in fifth by set differ-



Naif Al-Khumaili, Assistant Secretary of the Kuwait Volleyball Federation.

ence), each with 11 points. Burgan is sixth with 10 points, Al-Shabab seventh with 7 points, Al-Yarmouk eighth with 3 points, Al-Nasr remains ninth, and Al-Sahel is last without points.

The league format has teams compete in a single-section prelimi-

nary round. The top six teams advance to the Premier League stage, divided into three groups. The team with the most wins in this stage is crowned champion, while the first-place team in the preliminary round earns an advantage in the next stage for finishing first.

## Barcelona & Madrid face off in Super Cup final in Jeddah

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 10, (Xinhua): Barcelona and Real Madrid will meet again in the Spanish Super Cup final in Jeddah on Sunday, the fourth straight time the rivals have contested the showpiece since the competition adopted a four-team format in 2020 and moved to Saudi Arabia.

The match is also a repeat of last season's Copa del Rey final, which Barcelona won 3-2 after extra time in April. Real Madrid won the first meeting between the sides this season 2-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu in October.

Barcelona arrives top of La Liga with a four-point lead over its main rival, while questions remain over the future of Xabi Alonso as Real Madrid coach.

Alonso's side beat Atletico Madrid in the second semifinal, but Atletico was the better team and only poor finishing and the goal-keeping of Thibaut Courtois kept Atletico at bay.

Barcelona is unlikely to be as wasteful if presented with similar chances, especially with Lamine Yamal fresh after playing only the closing minutes of his side's comfortable win over Athletic Bilbao.

Real Madrid had to dig deep to beat Atletico and both sides looked exhausted after the semifinal, which also left Alonso's team with 24 hours less to recover than Barcelona.

Alonso also has injury concerns. Central defender Antonio Rudiger is likely to miss out with a knee problem, while Rodrygo, who scored the second goal on Thursday, is doubtful with a muscle issue.

That means either Dean Huijsen or Aurelien Tchouameni is likely to partner Raul Aesencio in central defense. There is also uncertainty over whether Kylian Mbappe will



Real Madrid's Rodrygo runs with the ball next to Atletico Madrid's Matteo Ruggieri during the Spanish Super Cup semifinal soccer match at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

be available.

Real Madrid's top scorer missed the semifinal with a knee injury but traveled to Jeddah after the game. In his pre-final press conference, Alonso refused to rule out Mbappe starting, but said the club would not take unnecessary risks with an important player.

Even if Mbappe does not play, his presence in Jeddah will raise expectations among Real Madrid fans and could create uncertainty for Barcelona. Last season, Barcelona beat Real Madrid 5-2 in the corresponding fixture, and Alonso will be determined to avoid a repeat.

## Best of the Rest

**Romero handed extra suspension:** Tottenham's Cristian Romero was suspended for one extra match and fined 50,000 pounds (\$67,000) on Friday following his sending off against Liverpool last month.

The Argentine defender admitted a charge of "failing to leave the field of play promptly and/or behaving in a confrontational and/or aggressive manner towards the referee" late in Spurs' 2-1 loss on Dec. 20.

Romero kicked out at Liverpool's Ibrahima Konate, earning a second yellow card of the match. He received an automatic one-match suspension for that incident.

The ban comes in a week when he made more headlines after posting a long message on Instagram in which he apologized to fans for Tottenham's results and went hard on unspecified people at the club.

"At times like this, it should be other people coming out to speak, but they don't - as has been happening for several years now," he wrote. "They only show up when things are going well. We'll stay here, working, sticking together and giving our all to turn things around. Especially at times like this, keeping quiet, working harder and moving forward all together, is part of football." (AP)

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A Senegal fan cheers for his national team ahead of the start of the Africa Cup of Nations quarterfinal soccer match between Senegal and Mali in Tangier, Morocco. (AP)

# Sports

## Al-Mutairi extolls Crown Prince for attending French Super Cup



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (Crown Prince Diwan photo)

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10, (Agencies) : Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, praised the attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the Trophée Des Champions (French Super Cup).

Speaking to reporters, the minister said, "Their attendance reflects the political leadership's strong support for sports and athletes in Kuwait."

He added that the presence of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium brought great joy to fans and members of the organizing committee.

Marseille coach Roberto De Zerbi was left in tears after his side's agonizing defeat to bitter.

"I have never cried after a defeat and today I cried when I got back to the dressing room," De Zerbi said after the match. "We had prepared in a special way against the best team in Europe, but Marseille deserved to win."

Since Marseille won the League Cup in 2012, PSG has become the major force in French soccer. Last year, the Paris club won the Champions League to join Marseille as the only French club to do so.

"Strange things happen at Marseille and we need to reverse the tendency," he said. "The objective is learning how to play every game like we did (against PSG). Against Nantes we showed nothing, (against PSG) we had everything."

Marseille is third in Ligue 1 but already seven points behind defending champion PSG and eight adrift of surprise leader Lens.

## Díaz keeps Morocco AFCON dream alive

### Senegal reaches semis

RABAT, Morocco, Jan 10, (AP): Brahim Díaz scored again and host Morocco joined Senegal in the semifinals of the Africa Cup of Nations with a 2-0 win over Cameroon.

Díaz extended his Moroccan record by scoring in a fifth straight game at the tournament when he ushered in with his goal Ayoub El Kaabi's header from a corner in the 27th minute. Díaz ran to the corner and shrugged as if to say he didn't know how he scored again.

Ismael Saibari sealed the win in the 74th with a low shot inside the far post after a corner, just minutes after Cameroon substitute Georges-Kévin Nkoudou went close at the other end.

That proved to be five-time champion Cameroon's only real chance as

the Indomitable Lions succumbed to the Atlas Lions for the first time in five meetings at an Africa Cup.

"It wasn't a perfect match because in the second half we allowed Cameroon to gain confidence again," Morocco coach Walid Regragui said. "We spent a lot of energy in the first half, we were all over the field. But in the second half we fell back, so there are things that can be improved. At the end of the day we're in the semifinals."

Cameroon players danced their way to the locker room before the game but when they took to the field they were greeted by deafening whistles at the near 70,000-capacity Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium.

Morocco will have the fans' support there in the semifinals, also, and the final on Jan. 18 should it progress.

The Atlas Lions might have won by more but for Cameroon captain Nouhou Tolo's spectacular clearance early on and Samuel Kotto's goal-line clearance in the second half. Abdessamad Ezzalzouli fired just wide and El Kaabi hit the side netting in the first half, then Ezzalzouli headed over in the second.

The tireless Díaz went off to ovations in the final minute. He'll have an extra day's rest over the team's next opponents.

Iliman Ndiaye's first-half strike was enough for Senegal to beat 10-man Mali 1-0 in the first quarter-final.

Ndiaye poked the ball home from close range in the 27th minute after Mali keeper Djigui Diarra let Krépin Diatta's cross slip through his fingers to land at Ndiaye's feet.

The winter rain which has soaked the tournament started to fall early at Grand Stade de Tanger and it would not have helped Diarra's grip on the ball.

Mali captain Yves Bissouma was already booked for a foul on Sadio



Morocco's Noussair Mazraoui, right, is challenged by Cameroon's Bryan Mbeumo during the Africa Cup of Nations quarterfinal soccer match between Cameroon and Morocco, in Rabat, Morocco. (AP)

Mané as his team made a courageous start, and the Eagles' hopes took a major blow when he was shown a second yellow card before the break for a foul on Idrissa Gueye.

Referee Abongile Tom had already sent off Woyo Coulibaly in Mali's previous game, a penalty shootout win over Tunisia, and Bissouma's sending off represented the

team's third sending off in as many games.

Abdoulaye Diaby had Mali's best chance before the hour mark but his shot was too close to Senegal keeper

Édouard Mendy.

Otherwise all the chances were at the other end; Diarra saved from Lamine Camara and Mané in stoppage time.

### Kuwait returns from European camp ahead of championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 10: Kuwait returns today from its European training camp in Slovenia and Croatia, as it gears up for the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship – World Cup 2027 qualifiers, set to be hosted in Kuwait at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex from January 15 to 29.

The tournament draw placed Kuwait in Group C alongside the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, and India. Group A features Oman, Qatar, and South Korea, Group B includes Bahrain, Jordan, China, and Iraq, while Group D consists of Japan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Australia.

During the European camp, Kuwait played three friendly matches against Algeria, Slovenia, and Georgia, and also held a joint training session with Kosovo.

Head coach Aron Kristjansson and his assistant Heni focused on finalizing the team's offensive and defensive strategies, as well as selecting the starting lineup for the Asian Championship, where Kuwait aims to compete strongly for the title.

Meanwhile, the Australian team arrived in Kuwait two days ago for a training camp at the Arena Mall Sports Complex in Sabah Al-Ahmad. During its stay, Australia will play friendly matches against



Action shot of a Kuwaiti handball player in mid-air, preparing to throw the ball, while teammates and opponents watch from behind on an indoor court.

Burgan Club and Sweden's Malmö team, which is also training at the venue. Australia will compete in Group D alongside Japan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait Handball Federation Treasurer Khaled Taleb confirmed that the European camp achieved its objectives, successfully implementing the coaching staff's plans. He also called on Kuwaiti fans to cheer on the team as it aims for success in this major continental tournament.

He added that the team is proceeding with its plan to continue achieving accomplishments in upcoming championships and to enhance external participation, strengthening

## Kuwaiti racers dominate third round of Bahrain drag racing championship



Kuwaiti Club racers celebrate their podium finishes at the third round of the 2025-2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship at Bahrain International Circuit.

the Kuwaiti club's presence in drag racing and consolidating its position as one of the region's prominent

competitors.

The fourth round of the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship would be held later this month and the championship would conclude in March.