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PM chairs 129th Supreme
Petroleum Council Meeting
Page 8

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THREE IRANIANS CAUGHT IN KUWAIT WATERS OVER PIRACY



Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

What's next, Your Excellency, First Deputy Prime Minister?

THE vast majority of Kuwaitis unequivocally support the commitment to combat all forms of corruption in the new era.

This strong stance against bribery, inappropriate appointments, and other corrupt practices has set Kuwait on the right trajectory toward the long-awaited good governance.

The new administration has consistently affirmed its dedication to guarantee justice for everyone, ensuring that no individual is wronged.

Kuwait's pursuit of utmost justice extends to sensitive matters like national identity and citizenship revocation.

In this context, the establishment of the long-awaited Grievances Committee is now a crucial and necessary step.

Historically, Kuwait has always been an oasis of freedom, marked by a remarkable relationship between the ruler and the ruled, making people completely at ease to express their opinions.

For 400 years, this haven has fostered creativity and diligence, inspiring sincere work from everyone for the sake of the nation. Justice prevailed throughout these four centuries, because the rulers of Kuwait prioritized establishing humane relationships among the populace.

This commitment to justice and human relations distinguished Kuwait from other countries in the region, making it a hallmark of creativity, art, and individual initiative in the economy and beyond.

Indeed, the serious issues like forgery and dual citizenship demand decisive action, hence, punishment and accountability are essential.

This stance is widely supported in Kuwait, where people commend the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for tackling this sensitive file under high-level directives, despite the resulting

challenges.

However, a critical issue has emerged: the number of stateless persons or Bedouins has remarkably increased due to the withdrawal of citizenship.

Starting with around 200,000, this simple calculation suggests that about 25 percent of the population of Kuwait is now stateless -- a demographic crisis for any nation.

While the government states that those residing illegally with foreign citizenships must surrender, a path must be found for those whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked and lack identification documents to regularize their status.

Some countries offer solutions for people in this predicament, such as providing a 'passport' or a document to facilitate leaving the country to rectify their status, especially if they are without employment or means of livelihood. Other nations grant permanent residency, particularly to those with rare and in-demand skills.

In fact, many countries, including Germany, France, Turkiye, Canada, Britain and Australia, have granted citizenship to refugees to bolster their workforce. These nations strategically leverage immigration to develop their economies, maintain industrial dominance, maintain food self-sufficiency, and benefit from the diverse skills and expertise of newcomers.

Continued on Page 5

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Expat gamblers slapped with KD 1 mln fine, jail

Kuwait acts against online gambling, money laundering

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Criminal Court issued a rigid verdict in the case of a gang involved in online gambling and money laundering.

Several expatriates, including a woman and a bank employee, were sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labor and were fined KD1 million.

This decision was taken based on the meticulous investigation and 'high-quality operation' carried out by the Anti-Terrorism and Money Laundering Department at the Ministry of Interior.

In addition, an import company was heavily penalized. The court imposed a fine of KD1,839,000 and permanently banned the company from engaging in any commercial activity, whether directly or indirectly.

The court also mandated the publication of the verdict in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youn'.

Continued on Page 5



Ministry of Interior photos

Top: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah during the unveiling of the new patrol vehicles. Above left and right: A number of modern patrol vehicles.

Kuwait records KD 336 mln total air ticket sales in 2025

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Recent statistics revealed that total ticket sales in 2025 reached KD336,346 million, equivalent to \$1,094 billion, indicating the remarkable growth of the air travel sector in the country.

The newspaper obtained a copy of statistics issued by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), disclosing that the total number of tickets sold in 2025 reached 3,308 million -- higher than the total sales of 3,266 million in 2024.

The statistics showed that July recorded the highest

ticket sales with a total of 338,000 tickets, followed by May with 327,000, and then August with 304,000. Sales during the summer period exceeded one million tickets.

The statistics also indicated that tickets issued in Kuwait constituted 5.23 percent of the total tickets issued in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Meanwhile, IATA identified 83 airlines operating at Kuwait International Airport -- a decrease of two airlines compared to last year, while the number of licensed travel agencies operating in the country reached 610.

Continued on Page 5

In a press statement, the ministry said the delivery of the vehicles followed Cabinet

approval and reflects the constructive cooperation between state institutions and the private sector, contributing to supporting security efforts and enhancing the capabilities of patrol units to perform their duties in the public interest, while promoting safety and stability.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef praised the community initiative, highlighting its importance in supporting and strengthening the

overall security system, while commanding the private sector's contributions to serving the nation and society.

Fahad Alghamian, Chairman of Ali Al-Ghamian & Sons Company, reaffirmed the company's commitment to serving the country and actively supporting national efforts through community initiatives that reflect its social responsibility and strengthen partnerships with state institutions.

Sharq project tender awaits SAB review

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) has referred the settlement of the tender for the third phase of the seacoast real estate project in Sharq, Kuwait City, to the State Audit Bureau for pre-audit, review, and reconciliation procedures before approving the contract with the winning company.

Continued on Page 5



BAGHDAD: Kuwait Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Zaman met on Monday with Iraqi National Security Adviser Qassem Al-Araji to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

In a statement to KUNA, Ambassador Zaman said the meeting focused on the fraternal ties between Kuwait and Iraq and exploring ways to develop them in a manner that serves their mutual interests, noting the strong social relations between the two peoples. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: Lebanon lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council and UN Secretary General over Israeli occupation's violations of the Lebanese sovereignty in the past few months.

The foreign ministry, in a statement Monday, said the Lebanese Mission to the UN submitted the complaint and asked that it be registered as an official document of the UNSC and UN General Assembly. (KUNA)

Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Head of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receive Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Dooms (top) and Canadian Ambassador Tara Scheurwater (bottom) at Bayan Palace on Monday.

Royal court hosts Belgium, Canada envoys

Minister of Amiri Diwan Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Head of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received, at Bayan Palace Monday, Belgium Ambassador to Kuwait Christian

The two sides discussed solid bilateral relations and ways of further boosting cooperation.

Sheikh Hamad and Sheikh Thamer Jaber also received Canadian Ambassador Tara Scheurwater, and discussed historic relations and how to develop them in all fields. (KUNA)

Kuwait court upholds five-year sentence in exit permit forgery

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The First Circuit of the Court of Cassation upheld the ruling issued by the Court of Appeals which sentenced an employee to five-year imprisonment, dismissal from his job, and a KD 500 fine, after convicting him of forging an exit permit at the Nuwaiseb land border crossing.

The defendant exploited his position to falsify the exit permit for a citizen and his wife, who were under a travel ban due to their dual citizenship, following correspondence with Saudi authorities regarding their legal status.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait declares 12-month halt in measles and rubella transmission

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi announced on Monday that the State of Kuwait successfully halted the active transmission of measles and rubella for 12 consecutive months,

as confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as maintained high vaccination coverage against several diseases within a strengthened and effective epidemiological surveillance system.

The minister made this announcement in his speech at the opening of the Third Kuwait Public Health Conference, a national and regional platform for discussing health issues, in the presence of experts from Kuwait and abroad.

He said the Infection Prevention Department continues its efforts to enhance the safety of healthcare facilities, combat healthcare-associated infections, and support programs to address antimicrobial resistance, in line with national and regional action plans.

Dr. Al-Awadhi highlighted the expansion of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program for individuals aged 9 to 45, as well as the provision of early detection services for breast, cervical, and other cancers.

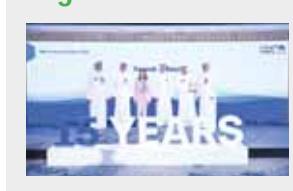
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2 notables visits, calls



9 join forces to accelerate sustainable growth for SMEs



10 NBK empowers future leaders through training programs

Prayer Timings

Fajr 05:18 Asr 15:00
 Sunrise .. 06:41 Maghrib .. 17:21
 Zohr 12:01 Isha 18:41

Local



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Amir congratulates Indian President on Republic Day

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Moshai Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to President of India Droupadi Murmu, on her country's Republic Day.

His Highness the Amir wished Murmu good health and further progress and prosperity for India and its people.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to President of India Droupadi Murmu, on her country's Republic Day.

See Also Page 4

Minister decree to restructure STC

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef issued Ministerial Decree No. 10/2026, amending the composition of the Supreme Traffic Council (STC), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decree, which was published in the official gazette "Kuwait al-Youn" on Sunday, stipulates the amendment of Article 1 of Ministerial Decree No. 254/2022 regarding the Supreme Traffic Council to read as follows:

The Supreme Traffic Council shall be formed under the chairmanship of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, with the following members:

■ Undersecretary of the Ministry of

- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information
- Head of the Traffic and Operations Sector
- Director General of Kuwait Municipality
- Director General of the General Traffic Department
- Director General of the General Department of Legal Affairs
- Director General of the General Department of Governorate Affairs
- Brigadier General Khaled Abdulla Mesfer Al-Adwani as the Secretary

Gulfood 2026 gives boost to Kuwaiti factories, products

DUBAI, Jan 26, (KUNA): Deputy Director General at the Public Authority for Industry (PAI), Meshari Al-Munawer, said on Monday Kuwait's participation in Gulfood 2026 supports national factories and strengthens Kuwaiti products in regional and global markets.

Al-Munawer told KUNA that the participation aligns with Kuwait's industrial strategic plan, as the Authority seeks to enable national factories to expand abroad and establish direct links with importers, distributors, and commercial partners worldwide.



Al-Munawer

He noted that Kuwait is participating with a unified national industrial pavilion featuring several local food-sector companies, reflecting the diversity, quality, and competitiveness of Kuwaiti industries at a leading global event.

He explained that this provides access to



Deputy FM Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Chinese ambassador



Deputy FM meets Argentine envoy



Deputy FM meets Italian official

Deputy FM receives ambassadors

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Ukrainian Ambassador to the country, Maksym Subkh. Both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Italy, Fabrizio Saggio. Both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Sheikh Jarrah held a banquet in honour of the visiting official.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador

Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Chinese Ambassador to the country, Yang Xin. Both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Argentine Ambassador to the country, Romero Velloso. Both sides touched on the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Sheikh Jarrah held a banquet in honour of the visiting official.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Rather cold to mild and partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-28 km/h with a chance for fog forming at night.

By Night: Rather cold to cold and

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait Airport	20	08
Abdaly	20	07
Bubyani	17	03
Jahra	19	12
Failaka Island	17	07
Salmyah	18	11
Ahmadi	19	05
Jal Aliyah	18	07
Nuwaibis	21	09

Weather

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LOCAL

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Competent Kuwaiti women mainstay of sound society

"THE State of Kuwait has long been a beacon of charitable and humanitarian work, with a tradition of giving that predates the discovery of oil and is rooted in the authentic Islamic values of mercy and solidarity. Kuwaiti women have played a prominent role as essential partners in building this humanitarian legacy. They have not only participated but have also taken leadership roles in humanitarian and volunteer efforts, both locally and internationally," journalist Hamed Al-Hamli wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Since the early 20th century, Kuwaiti women have contributed to humanitarian causes, caring for orphans, and supporting Arab causes since the 1930s. By the time Kuwait gained independence in 1961, women's associations had been established, such as the Women's Cultural and Social Society, which focused on awareness and charitable work. These efforts were followed by other associations dedicated to combating illiteracy, supporting families, and providing relief to those affected by disasters.

"Today, Kuwaiti women play a leading role in volunteer organizations such as "Kuwaiti Women's Humanitarian Giving," which focuses on drilling wells, building schools, and supporting development projects in countries including Yemen, India, and Syria. They have proven their competence in managing charitable projects through organizations like the International Islamic Charitable Organization and associations such as Al-Najat Charity and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri, which lead relief and sustainable development campaigns.

"At international forums, including the 2014 World Conference on the Role of Women in Charitable Work, Kuwaiti women highlighted their contributions to community building and disaster relief, making Kuwait a global hub for humanitarian efforts. Among these pioneering figures is Hessa Mubarak Al-Hassawi, known as Umm Jassim, who stands out as an icon of quiet and continuous giving. Umm Jassim was the companion of the late Dr. Bader Jassim Al-Yaqoub. She shared his humanitarian vision and supported him through the most challenging times. She was often described as the "beating heart" of his charitable projects.

"Umm Jassim's efforts, along with those of her generous family whose legacy is tied to the history of Mubarak Al-Hassawi's philanthropy, have significantly contributed to helping those in need and promoting social responsibility. The work of Kuwaiti women affirms that giving is not merely about donations, but about building future generations and strengthening communities."

Also:

"In light of the real estate boom, technological advancements, and the rise of social media advertising, real estate fraud has recently increased, often through fake advertisements and deals. These advertisements prey on individuals' desire to own their dream home, as real estate is widely seen as a safe investment," Kuwaiti writer Lawyer Sarah Al-Jassem wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Fraudsters use deceptive tactics in misleading advertisements, featuring attractive images, enticing prices, and unrealistic slogans to lure buyers and steal their money. Many people fall victim after realizing that what they purchased was nothing more than a false promise on paper. Real estate fraud includes selling property that belongs to someone else, selling the same property to multiple buyers, advertising unlicensed or nonexistent projects, or using images of existing projects without authorization.

"Some individuals create fake accounts or use the names of companies not officially registered with the relevant authorities, whether as real estate firms or licensed brokers, trapping many victims in fraud. All forms of real estate fraud are criminalized by law and can threaten the stability of local and international real estate transactions due to their economic impact. Penalties may be harsher if the crime involves modern technology or impersonation and can include imprisonment, fines, restitution of stolen funds, and civil liability for material and moral damages.

"A perpetrator is not exempt from criminal liability for signing a fictitious contract with a victim, as long as fraudulent intent is proven and the seller does not own or have the right to dispose of the property. To avoid falling victim to real estate fraud, it is important to consult legal experts to verify property ownership and obtain the necessary permits and approvals from the relevant authorities. It is also advised to avoid dealing



Hamed Al-Hamli

with advertisements from unlicensed or unknown entities, refrain from paying any sums without official documentation, and carefully review property documents to ensure their authenticity. Combating real estate fraud is not solely the responsibility of regulatory bodies, but it is a shared responsibility.

"Real estate fraud is no longer just an individual crime, but it has become a widespread phenomenon that requires stricter oversight of social media advertisements and increased legal awareness among the public. Property is not purchased through advertisements but through official documentation and established rights, thus protecting funds and preserving societal stability."

□ □ □

"The remarkable advancements we see today in communications and social media were, not long ago, little more than aspirations, illusions, and fantasies," Syrian writer Dr. Adnan Mahrez wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"The secrets behind these changes in the field of communication can only be understood by returning to the beginnings of media activity, represented by print journalism. Without the invention of print, communication would not have been able to flourish and develop.

"Therefore, there is an overlap between media activity and technological means; both are interconnected, and neither has ceased to support the other throughout the history of communication and media.

"Inventions such as the printing press, telegraph, radio, and television facilitated communication and media activities, driving them forward and allowing them to transcend time and space, bridge distances, and reduce differences on the ground, transforming the entire world into a "global village."

"This means that people across the globe can easily communicate and exchange information and news, regardless of language, religion, ethnicity, time, or location. Consequently, the defining feature of this era, and the most accurate way to describe it, is the "Age of Communication."

"The greatest changes in human history are driven by communication technologies and developments in new media and communication tools, including social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google, as well as blogs, Instagram, smartphones, 3D satellite television, and other technologies.

"While satellites have undeniably enabled rapid communication across vast distances, the true drivers of these achievements lie in information and communication technologies and the associated digital systems.

"This remarkable development in media has had positive effects in terms of diversifying sources of knowledge and information, enhancing openness to the world through cultural exchange, and promoting tolerance, coexistence, mutual respect, acceptance of others, and understanding. It has also brought people closer together despite differences in religion, beliefs, culture, and language. However, these can also have negative impacts on culture and national identity.

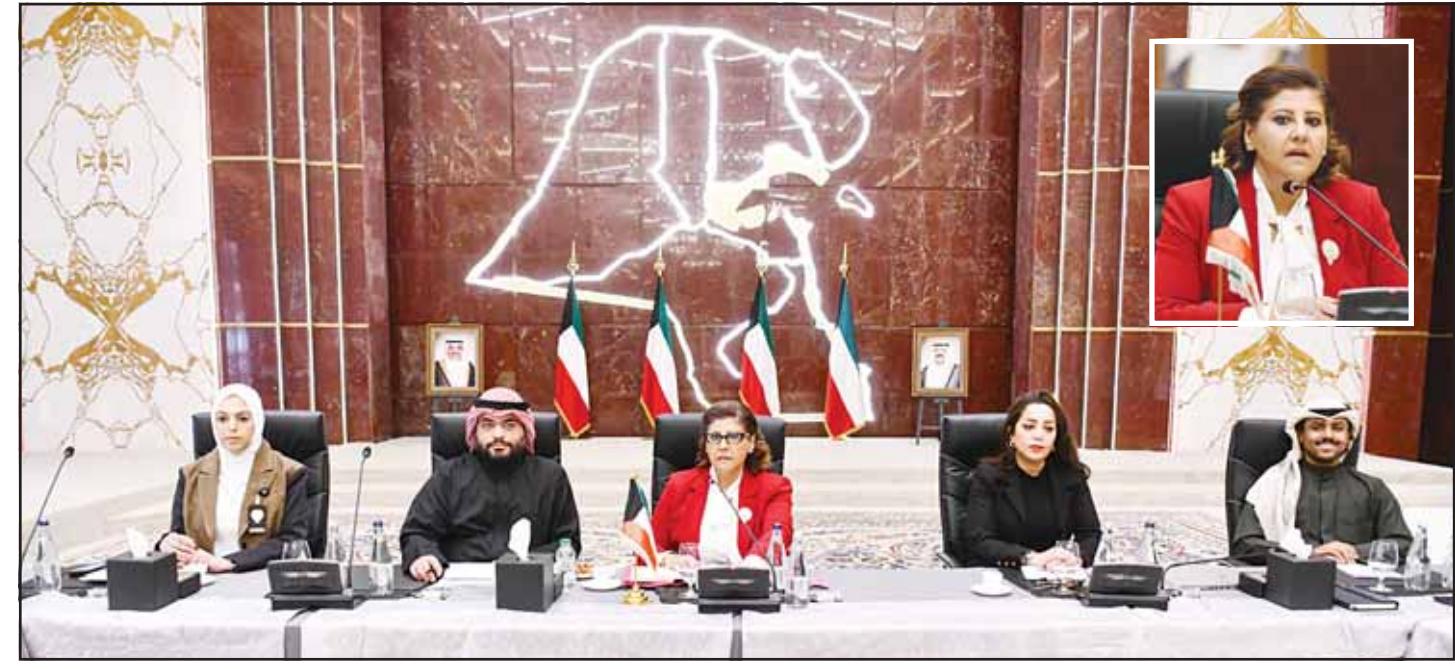
"Its various channels have the potential to undermine cultural foundations, build a global culture that dominates local traditions, disrupt social relationships and family ties, negatively influence the upbringing of children and the behavior of youth, cast doubt on religious beliefs, and spread ideas and behaviors that contradict societal values and principles.

"What we face today is a dirty media war, in which actors use every available tool to manipulate and control minds and ideas, incite hatred, and spread hate speech. Industrialized nations with advanced technologies exploit all forms of digital media for purposes that can be harmful to culture, distort it, or even erase the cultural identities of other societies.

"In his book, "Information Warfare: How States Control Our Minds," French author David Colletti reveals that history has entered a new phase of conflict, in which control over information has become the most potent weapon of nations.

"He further notes that the West believed the "age of truth" had arrived, and that the Internet and globalized media would make lies impossible. However, the opposite has occurred. While information has been freed from state control, it has fallen into the hands of those who possess the means to spread it."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photos

Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Office, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah chairs the meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Inset: Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah

Kuwait stresses civil society role increase in rights efforts

Joint expertise eyed to achieve shared goals

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Office, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah reiterated Kuwait's commitment to implementing international recommendations on involving civil society organizations in preparing national human rights reports.

In a statement to KUNA on Monday, on the sidelines of a coordination meeting between the national committee responsible

for drafting reports and following up human rights recommendations and active civil society institutions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Sheikha Jawaher underscored the importance of exchanging ideas and constructive proposals to achieve shared goals.

The meeting aims to document field data and prepare parallel reports submitted to relevant United Nations committees, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), while supporting the implementation of recommendations issued in international reports, she explained.

The meeting also seeks to coordinate national

efforts by briefing civil society organizations on the committee's action plan, including Kuwait's fourth national report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), due to be presented in October in Geneva, Switzerland, she added.

The report will highlight legislative, judicial and administrative measures taken to implement the rights outlined in the covenant, she pointed out.

Sheikha Jawaher noted the meeting also discussed Kuwait's bid to regain membership of UNHRC for the 2027-29 term, reflecting its continued commitment to promoting and protecting human rights at the national and international levels.

62 to lose nationality in 'neatly crafted' forgery

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Authorities have uncovered a sophisticated forgery case involving the fraudulent registration of children under false identities. The case came to light after the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, received credible information and immediately referred it to the Nationality Investigations Department for a thorough inquiry and verification, reports Al-Rai daily.

The case involves 62 individuals. The first defendant, the alleged relative, has 28 sons and daughters registered under his file, including the four children of the Gulf national whose registration was fraudulent. The second defendant, the alleged relative's brother, has 30 sons and daughters registered under his file with Kuwaiti citizenship.

The files of the three defendants and all their dependents were presented to the Higher Committee for Citizenship, which decided to revoke their Kuwaiti citizenship.

According to informed sources, the case centers on a Kuwaiti woman married to a Gulf national who allegedly registered her children under her brother's and his Kuwaiti wife's nationality files. She reportedly impersonated her brother's wife during each birth, using the civil ID cards of both her brother and his wife. Initial investigations revealed that the four forged births were registered between 2001 and 2003 as part of an organized fraudulent scheme.

Review

The Nationality Investigations Department began an intensive review of the brother's file, verifying the number of children registered under his name and examining their registered addresses. Investigators discovered that while some children were registered at the brother's actual address, others were listed at a different location.

Monitoring of entry and exit movements of all registered children revealed that those registered at addresses different from the brother's were actually residing with the Gulf national, believed to be the woman's husband, and traveling with him.

The investigation uncovered a medical trip abroad that took place less than a year ago. Through coordination between the Nationality Investigations Department and Airport Security, authorities confirmed that the children's seats on the flight were adjacent to the Gulf national's seat. Airport security camera footage clearly showed the children accompanying the Gulf national from the moment they entered the airport until they boarded the plane and sat together.

After completing the investigation, the First Deputy Attorney General was informed that the information had been verified, and all procedures were finalized. However, the case was deliberately frozen, awaiting the Gulf national's return from medical treatment abroad, at which point he could be apprehended.

Public auction for 137 cars in 'Jleeb' on Feb 1

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The General Traffic Department, through the Vehicle and Motorcycle Auction Committee, announced that 137 vehicles will be auctioned at the Vehicle Impoundment Section in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, the department disclosed that the vehicles were advertised in the official gazette, Kuwait Al-Yous, on Dec 21, 2025. It called on the owners of these vehicles to visit the General Traffic Department (Traffic Violations Investigation Unit – Vehicle and Motorcycle Auction Committee) at the Vehicle Impoundment Section in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, indicating that the vehicles remain unclaimed despite the completion of the required procedures.

The department confirmed that the vehicles are scheduled to be sold through a public auction at 2:00 pm on Feb 1, 2026, at the Vehicle Impoundment Section in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, located next to the slaughterhouse in the area.

Individuals wishing to take part in the auction are invited to inspect the vehicles by visiting the Vehicle Impoundment Section in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on Jan 30 and 31, 2026, between 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

The department disclosed that an auction participation fee of KD10 will be charged, in addition to the deposit corresponding to the vehicle's value and any other applicable fees, all to be paid through KNET. In the event the KNET device malfunctions, cash payments will be accepted.

It added that the vehicles offered for sale vary in make and model, indicating the most recent among them is the 2023 American model.

Court orders PAHW to issue ownership docs to woman

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

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Court of First Instance obliged the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice to issue a property ownership document to a divorced female citizen, after they refused to do so for more than five years since the date of divorce.

The court affirmed the female citizen's right to obtain the ownership document without the need to consult her ex-husband.

The ruling was issued based on the legal defense presented by Attorney Khairiya Al-Rashidi, who argued that her client has full legal right to register the property under her name based on her legal status after the divorce and the absence of legal basis to justify delaying the issuance of the document or making it contingent on the ex-husband's approval.

The court indicated in its reasoning that

the two administrative bodies' refusal to take the necessary action constituted a negative decision contrary to the law, thus, requiring its annulment and obligating them to implement the ruling immediately.

The court also ordered the defendants to pay KD300 in legal fees and expenses.

□ □ □

Drugs found on man: A 21-year-old man was referred to the Drug Control General Department (DCCG) on suspicion of drug use, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source stated that while a traffic patrol was on duty in Ardiya Industrial Area in Farwaniya Governorate, officers got suspicious of a pedestrian who appeared nervous. When asked to present his identification documents, he showed his civil identification card through the 'Kuwait Mobile ID' application. Officers then noticed a transparent bag containing a crystalline substance suspected to be narcotics beneath his phone, along with tools believed to be used for drug consumption.

LOCAL

Ambassador Tripathi stresses progress toward Viksit Bharat 2047 and community collaboration

Indian Embassy in Kuwait celebrates 77th Republic Day of India

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Indian Embassy in Kuwait on Monday celebrated the 77th Republic Day of India, during which a huge turnout of Indians residing in the country gathered.

On its official Instagram account, the Embassy revealed that those who attended the event are "united by heritage, shared values and a deep sense of belonging."

During the celebration, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Paramita Tripathi spread the Tricolour, honored Mahatma Gandhi and the martyred soldiers.

In her speech on the occasion, the Ambassador affirmed that "India is making tremendous progress in diverse fields. Our 1.4 billion brothers and sisters are striving ahead and aiming high in this transformative journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047. Today, all over India and across the world, wherever there are Indians and friends of India, the



Photos by Rezk Tawfiq
Left: Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, Paramita Tripathi, salutes the Tricolor during the 77th Republic Day celebrations at the Embassy. Right: Ambassador Tripathi, addresses a large gathering of Indian nationals during the 77th Republic Day celebrations at the Embassy.

tricolor is unfurled with pride. This is my first Republic Day in Kuwait. I am honored to unfurl the tricolor in Kuwait today amongst all of you, and I am happy to welcome you

to the Embassy, your Embassy, to celebrate the 77th Republic Day of India."

She stressed that "the welfare and well-being of every member

of the Indian community in Kuwait is our priority. The Embassy is always ready to extend all possible assistance to Indian nationals in need or distress. The Embassy,

along with its four outsourcing facilitation centers, is providing consular assistance to Indian nationals in Kuwait. We have 24/7 helplines, social workers, and consular and labor wings for specific issues. I meet Indian nationals at the monthly Open House meetings for consular or labor-related issues."

She added "The Embassy is not alone in this effort. I thank the Kuwait Government for ensuring the well-being and safety of Indian nationals in Kuwait. It would be amiss on my part to not appreciate the good work being done by numerous associations, groups and individuals for the betterment of the lives of fellow Indian nationals in Kuwait. Many community associations have been doing remarkable work by helping the community in Kuwait, as well as in India, such as by adopting and funding schools in the rural areas, sponsoring education of needy students."

She went on to say "I am happy to share that the Indian community is appreciated immensely for its contribution to the economy and society of Kuwait. When I meet Kuwaiti dignitaries, they praise the hard-working, intelligent, and skilled Indian professionals across diverse walks of life, from engineers to accountants to scientists to doctors, nurses and teachers. It would surely be difficult to find a building in Kuwait, an oil company in Kuwait, or a household in Kuwait that would not have benefited from the large Indian workforce present here."

She also urged the Indian community in Kuwait to "follow all local rules and regulations strictly, and be aware of changes or new rules introduced by the Kuwait and Indian Governments, as well as promote the culture and heritage of India and its States."

Al Hamra Kuwaiti Company

Pursuant to the provisions of the law regarding Application No. 2 of 2025 concerning restructuring, we hereby invite the parties whose names are listed below to submit their claims along with the supporting documents and to send them to the Restructuring Trustee at the following email address:[majizkuw@gmail.com] . within a period not exceeding two months from its date.

No	Suppliers	No	Suppliers	No	Suppliers	No	Suppliers	No	Suppliers	No	Suppliers
1	Al Sultan & Khalaf Trading Co	98	Saad Abdullah Mousa Sayed Ahmad	195	Ahmed Gadel Rab Mahmoud Tawfiq	292	Western Services Gen Tradg & Cont Co	389	Amon Combined For General Trading & Contracting	486	Al Sadd General Contracting Buildings
2	Antonio Iskander Jeha	99	Khaled Mohammed Mohammed Abdul Haleem	196	Hassan Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed	293	Alimir Zakhari Ibrahim Khaleel	390	Umar Farooq Safer Hussain	487	Al-Batul Hardware Company
3	Omar Khaled Al Mohammad	100	Burgan Engineering Gen Cont Co	197	Lutfi Abdul Mobdi Mostafa	294	Al Raed Security Co	391	Ahmed Fawzy Ahmed Jad	488	Alsoor Ready Mix Concrete Co.
4	Ghanim Abdullah Al-Othman Gen Tradg & Cont Co	101	Radi Sanour Jayed	198	Carpets Industry Co. K.S.C.	295	Alaa Jameel Haleem Saleh	392	Al Sultan International Est	489	Al Kamar Contracting Co. For Building & Roads Cleaning
5	Nets Gen Trdg & Cont Co W.L.L.	102	Emad Morees Ayoub	199	Adel Hussain Mohd Fathallah Mohdh	296	Enaya Insurance Co	393	Mohammad Khair Kari Lakot Ullah	490	Moustafa Saber Moustafa Mohamed
6	Al Emtia Gen Tradg & Cont Co.	103	B-Tek Estb Gen Cont For Bldg	200	Salah Mohamed Abdel Aziz Mostafa	297	Le Marco Gen Cont For Bldg Co	394	Shahabuddin Butt	491	Mahmoud Hamed Mohamed Rezk
7	Nassar Rahamathullah Sheik	104	Hamdi Alia Abdul Karim Abdul Rahman	201	Mahmoud Mohammad Haseeb Mohammad	298	Alpha Specialties Co for Gen Tradg & Contracting	395	Alamir Qasem Mahmoud Qasem	492	Haitam Hamadah Mahmoud Abdulraheem
8	Aalaal Translation Co.	105	A.M.A Plus For Gen Trdg & Cont Co	202	Scientific Supply House Co	299	J.T.C Heavy & Light Equipment & Machinery Leasing Co.	396	Said N R Mansour	493	Al-Khalid Tyres And Spares Parts Co. W.L.L.
9	General Transportation & Equipment Co.	106	Arex Est For Gen Tradg & Cont	203	Asnaf Trading Co	300	Rizwan Farooqui Khaliquzama	397	Bader Meshref Awadh Alaskar Alchafeeri	494	Original Group International
10	General Trading Co. W.L.L.	107	Ashraf Mohd Mohd Ibrahim	204	Mohammed Mohammed Abdulkareem Mohamed Saleem	301	N.F.T Specialized In Tower Cranes LLC	398	The Residential projects for General Contracting For Buildings	495	Memar Al-Dakhilah General Contracting For Building Co.
11	CLIC National Fence & Metal Industries	108	Al Sayed Ahmed Ali Ibrahim	205	Classic Home Gen.Trad.&Const. Co	302	Tamer Dessouky Elsayed Mostafa Behiry	399	Samran Sharif Mohammad Sharif	496	Morkos Fadi Zeyada Youssef
12	Ale-emar Co For Ready Mix & Contracting Co	109	Al Zamil Tradg Group Co	206	International Group Contracting Building Co.	303	MATCO S.R.L.	400	Al-Fouz International Aluminium	497	Top Colors General Trading and Contracting Co.
13	Khaled Zaker Al Ahmed	110	Al Sayed Al Shabrawi Abdul Hameed	207	Alostora Travel Company	304	Al Furqan Al Kuwaitia Gen Tradg & Cont Co	401	Zaid Mohammad Oujan Alaradah	498	Al-Amarra & Al-Atta Co. For Gen Trading & Contracting
14	Kuwaiti Digital Computer Co.	111	Mohair Simon Asador	208	M. N. Construction General Contracting For Buildings	305	Adel Behbahani Eng Consultants Office	402	Noor Karim Meer Hassan	499	Essam Farrag Mohamed Elsayed
15	Faisal Al Qatami Steel Trading Co. W.L.L.	112	Abdul Hakeem Ahmed Mohd	209	Bassam Hussain Mohammad Abdulaziz	306	Durwazeh Int. General Trading Co.	403	Abdoh Omar Alrasheed Adam	500	Amaz International Gen. Trd & Contr. W.L.L.
16	Yusuf Ahmad Alghanim & Sons	113	Issam Yehia Shoahan	210	Jakir Hussain	307	AlNibras AlAhiya For Gen Trading & Cont Co.	404	Gulf Manager Gen. Trad. & Cont Co	501	Future Solutions Co.
17	Herculan B.V.	114	Alamana Industries Co	211	National Engineering For Elevators & Escalators	308	AI Ezz International Co.	405	Aboud Ahmad Mohammad	502	Bronze International Contracting Co.
18	Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Hassan	115	Hamdi Abdul Shafi Maki Ibrahim	212	Majdi Sabri Louz Habeeb	309	Eskan El Nmazgah General Building Contracting Co. W.L.L.	406	Printech United Gen.Trd.Co	503	Noushy Fahim Attia Ghoubrial
19	Al-Kazemi Int'l Gen Trdg & Cont Group Co.	116	Al Jai Real Estate Services Co.	213	Ahmad Mahmoud Najeeb Zaqouq	310	Bi Trust General Trading Co.	407	Tanzifco Company W.L.L.	504	Alaa Fotouh Saleem Albayoumi
20	Kuwait Co For Process Plant Const & Cont	117	Michael Fayez Fares Geneidni	214	Al Muthana Aluminium Industries	311	Al Diwan General Trading Co	408	Alkit Construction General Trading & Contracting Co (W.L.L)	505	Fawzy Elidbri Metry Ibrahim
21	Almeer Industries For Control Panels	118	Gulf Group For Mech & Elect Works Co	215	Mansour Ali Amoun Jounghani	312	Akram Mikhael Lamel Abdulsayed	409	Ahmed Eldees Abdulraheem	506	Compass Group General Trading Co.
22	Al-Sabili National Co Gen Trdg & Cont	119	Vishnu Batidar	216	Najji Sabri Louz Habeeb	313	Ashraf Mohammad Abdulkhameed Hindawi	410	BOODY IBRAHIM	507	Sanse Overseas General Trading Co.
23	National Cleaning Co	120	Fathi Ahmed Abu Zaid	217	Al Sayed Ahmad Hefni Haasanain	314	Mohamad Hussain Ibhai Siddhapuri	411	Remal Elahlia Co Real Estate	508	Ahmed Esmeleneeh Mahmoud Abdelraheem
24	Nizar Bolous El Hage	121	Ali Ahmed Ali Ibrahim	218	Medhat Adli Mohammad Abdulaziz	315	Super Middle East Freight & Logistic Co.	412	Al Kulab International Trading Co W.L.L.	509	Al-Bashaer Gulf For Rental Car Co.
25	Aishaya Trading Co. W.L.L.	122	Khalaf Ghais Mohd Abdul Aal	219	Abu Al Majd Kamal Abu Al Majd Eissa	316	Ghazoul Global Co. For General Trading & Contracting (W.L.L)	413	Saudi International Insulation Manufacturing Company LLC	510	Ahmed Abdelaal Elseny Mohamed
26	High Slant Precast Factory	123	Mohammed Azam Jahan Khan	220	Nasraideen Ali Khalieeb Abdoh	317	Ali Abdulnoor Abdulfathah Haasanain	414	Khaled Zakeria Mahmud Saleh	511	Aqeeq Al- Denmal Co.
27	Atef Noor Nimir Abdullah	124	Ahmed Qenawi Mohd Qenawi	221	Sami Ishan Hanna Jadallah	318	Khalid Mohamed Abdelfaheem Hassan	415	Al Multi International General Trading & Machinery Co.W.L.L-Kuwait	512	Mostafa Nasser Abdulla Omran
28	Makram Samir Halim Khaleel	125	High Point Furniture & Decoration Co	222	Trams Lumber Trading Co.	319	Barkat Al Khair International Gen. Trad. & Cont. Co.	416	Mahmoud Mohamed Abdelaimeen Abdelrahim	513	Dahy Hosny Mohamed Mansour
29	Al Maha Office Supplies Center	126	Shaukat Ali Riyast Ali	223	Eclectic Interiors Contracting Co.	320	Al Hassan National Group Co. For Trad. & Cont.	417	Saeed Shafiq Ibrahim Mohamed	514	Fawaz Trading & Engineering Services Co.
30	Kuwait Auto Parts Imports Co. W.L.L.	127	Al Mailam Industries Co	224	Abdulraheem Mohammad Ahmad Mousa	321	Alsayed Barakat Wahab Alsayed	419	Promo Trade Middle East Co. General Trading & Contracting	515	Christian Kane
31	Gibril Kamal Aref Mohn	128	Hossam Qansus Mohd Omar	225	Copenhagen Contractors	322	Uthai Hamra Group Gen. Trad. & Cont. Co.(Name: Paveglass Factory)	420	Shams Global Gen Trad & Cont. Co.	516	Syed Shamilia Syed Zubedulla
32	Greenline Co.	129	Diaa Attia Al Sayed Al Derini	226	Sirop Garabet Kesheshian	323	Awad Al Murtaja Group Gen. Trad. & Cont.	421	Ahmed Morad Abdelmoaty Mohamed	517	ALFY SABET GABRA BOTROS
33	Al Sayed Aref Abdul Lateef Hilal	130	Mohammed Farouk Solanki	227	Tarof Trading Co. W.L.L	324	Almadi Plus For Gen. Trad. & Cont. Co.	422	Ahmad H M Alsaadeq	518	BITAR A ATTIA
34	Henkel Polybit Industries Ltd	131	Zhang Younijadda	228	Remon Alfay Jad Alsayed Bekheet	325	International Group Contracting Const. & Airconditioning W.L.L	423	Mutawa Mahmoud Mutawa Mahmoud	519	Tarek Zeiad Salama Gabr
35	Salem M Al Nisf Electrical Co	132	Ali Saeed Douraqui	229	Khaled Abdulla Alabdulaziz Ibrahim	326	Emad Aldeen Mohammad Abdulaziz Ali	424	One World United General Trading & Contracting Co	520	kualit electrical wiring accessories company wll
36	Technical International Co. Gen. Trad. & Cont. W.L.L	133	Mohammed Shafiq Mohn Shafi	230	Ali Abdulkareem Sayed Ahmad Algharibali	327	Sadeem Marble Co.	425	Future Structures Co	521	ALI BAHRAM SALEHI FARD JOUNEIGHANI
37	Kuwait Towers Factory	134	Sameer Farid Shennouda	231	Gulf Insurance & Reinsurance Company K.S.C.C.	328	Sab Specailties General Trading Contracting	426	Mohamed Salah Ali Mohamed	522	ALBRIGHT STONEBRIDGE GROUP (ASG)
38	Mahmoud Afra Sebayah Bardajani	135	Alamontta Construction	232	Gulf Inspection International Co	329	Sahary City For Gen. Trad. & Cont.	427	Not AlArabiya for General Contracting Building Co	523	Tutis International W.L.L.
39	Anas Abdul Sattar Zakar	136	Moumen Gad Abd Rabbo Mehran	233	EPO Gulf Specialties	330	Saeed Ahmad Albadawi Outub	428	Super Tech Construction Materials	524	Nabil Toufic Yehia
40	Rebound	137	Ghaida Al Kuwait Gen Trad & Cont Co	234	Ayman Mahmoud Othman Alatrabi	331	Mahmoud Elsayed Ibrahim Hassan	429	Ez Al Deira for Carp.Bldg.& Steel Materials	525	ITP Media Group FZ LLC
41	Al Essa Decoration Materials & Contracting Co.	138	Kelsar Masih Lal Masih	235	Oracle Systems Ltd	332	The Imperial Group For General Trading & Contracting W.L.L.	430	Sama Advance Co for General Trading & Contracting W.L.L.	526	Korn/Ferry (Schweiz) AG
42	Solat Al Rahim Saleh Jounghani	139	Raji George Chacko George	236	Yousef Mohammad Jaloul	333	Arafat Mohamed Motawa Gelany	431	Josip Reda Azez Soliman	527	AUTOMAK Automotive Company K.S.C.C.
43	Aref Abdul Lateef Hilal	140	Nasar Sayed Mahmoud Alam	237	Seraj Aldeen Mohammad Bahjat Ali	334	Prince Egyptian Co. For Gen. Cont. For Buildings	432	City Mart General Contracting Building Co	528	RADISSON BLU HOTEL
44	Ahlia Chemicals Company	141	Hazem Mohamed mohamed Abdellatif	238	Induction Center	335	Awaidah Group For General Contracting	433	Al-Masoud		

LOCAL

Information Minister announces winners of Sheraa media awards

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): Kuwait's Information Minister Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi on Monday announced the winners of an annual award recognizing standout talent in the national media industry, citing the results of the prize's higher committee.

The award, called, "Sheraa," is an annual initiative that aims to nurture and support exceptional talent within Kuwait's media industry, an effort that enjoys the firm backing of Kuwait's political leadership, the minister told KUNA as he revealed the winners of the award's diverse categories.

The award is in line with the information ministry's strategy that revolves around quality content, while reinforcing the principles



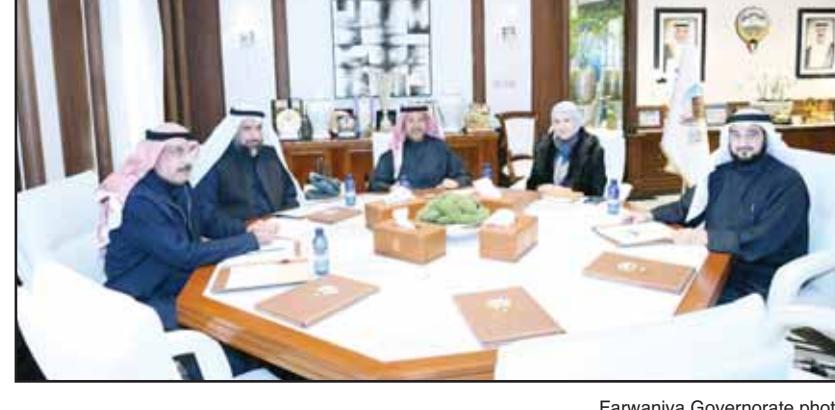
Al-Mutairi

of "credibility, creativity and professionalism," said the minister, ahead of a ceremony to fete the winners slated for February 11.

In the individual category, Mohammad Murad won top honors for best photograph, while Abdullah Al-Enezi and Abdullah Buffain bagged awards for best cartoonist and interviewer, respectively, according to the results.

Hamad Al-Shemmani was named the best content creator, while Turki Al-Rashidi won the best newspaper column award and Yousef Al-Abdullah took home a prize for the best investigative report, in addition to the top critical analysis award that went to Fudha Al-Meali.

In other awards, Hassan Al-Jenai was named leading "media personality," while interviewer Faisal Al-Aqil was named the most promising youngster in the media industry, while local daily Al-Qabas bagged an award for its work on the digital transformation.



Farwaniya Governor photo

Farwaniya Governor with the heads of Governorate Council committees.

Farwaniya Governor meets Council leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Atabi Al-Sabah received the heads of several Farwaniya Governorate Council committees at his office on Monday, January 26.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the guests included the following:

- Dr. Munther Al-Hassawi, Head of the Complaints and Petitions Committee
- retired Lieutenant General Ali Abdulhadi Al-Shanah, Head of the Public Services Committee

■ Hessa Abdullah Al-Mutawa, Head of the Development and Initiatives Committee

■ Saad Abdullah Al-Hadba, a member of the Farwaniya Governorate Council

During the meeting, they discussed various issues related to improving services for residents and explored ways to enhance coordination and cooperation between the Farwaniya Governorate Council committees and relevant institutions, with the aim of raising the quality of the services and development performance in all areas of Farwaniya Governorate.

Continued from Page 1

What's next,

Notably, the United States previously granted permanent residency to undocumented immigrants, even integrating them into its military during times of necessity. A considerable number of these individuals—around 100,000—were deployed to the Middle East during the liberation of Iraq from Saddam Hussein's regime.

It is therefore vital to address the current crisis concerning individuals without a lawful means of livelihood, as failure to do so will lead to severe negative repercussions.

Without identification documents, these individuals feel cornered. Desperation and hunger could prompt a person to take extreme measures for survival.

To preempt such a situation, governing institutions must exercise foresight and caution, carefully considering the consequences of any decision to prevent adverse outcomes.

In light of this, we urgently bring this matter to the attention of His Excellency the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, who is known for his strong humanitarian principles. We appeal to him and his team to dedicate efforts toward finding a solution that best serves the interests of Kuwait and its people.

Expat gamblers

In another aspect of the case, the court refrained from sentencing five other defendants, including two women. They were released on KD500 bail each, on the condition that they maintain good conduct for one year.

This part of the case is related to the gang's operation of a gambling website.

Investigations revealed that the proceeds from these gambling activities were laundered by depositing them into bank accounts associated with a medical clinic and several commercial companies.

The ministry reiterated its commitment to combat gambling and money laundering, emphasizing that dealing with or participating in activities of illegal websites is a punishable offense. It assured the public of its continuous efforts and determination to take legal action against anyone involved in such crimes.

In other news, the Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Directorate of Coast Guard, announced on Monday the seizure of a speedboat carrying three Iranian nationals involved in armed robbery and maritime piracy.

In a press statement, the ministry said the operation comes as part of its ongoing security efforts to protect Kuwait's territorial and economic waters and safeguard the country's security and resources.

The statement noted that the seizure followed the detection of an unidentified maritime target approaching Kuwait's maritime border.

The vessel was stopped according to approved security procedures after attempting to flee and maneuver, and the patrol team successfully took control of the boat and arrested the three suspects.

Following investigations, authorities confirmed the suspects' involvement in armed robbery and piracy operations targeting Kuwaiti fishing boats and other vessels in the region.

Legal procedures were taken against them, and they were referred to the Public Prosecution.

The ministry affirmed its continued vigilance over Kuwait's waters, stressing that no entity or individual threatening the national security or the safety of seafarers would be tolerated, and emphasized that Coast Guard personnel will remain alert to any attempts to undermine the country's security.

Kuwait declares

As part of preparedness to monitor infectious diseases and protect public health for citizens, residents, and travelers, the minister affirmed the approval of a comprehensive plan to develop health centers at land, sea, and air border crossings, as well as to expand the "Itma'in" (Reassurance) clinics for counseling and early detection services.

Dr. Al-Awadi emphasized the continuation of annual winter vaccination campaigns and maternal and infant protection programs to reduce seasonal illnesses, enhance the safety of healthcare facilities, combat community-acquired infections, and support initiatives to fight antimicrobial resistance.

He also highlighted the role of the Kuwait Center for Disease Prevention and Control in monitoring public health priorities, implementing training programs, organizing specialized workshops, and strengthening partnerships with regional and international organizations.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hamid Ghoulam, head of the conference's organizing committee, stated that the two-day event will present the latest developments in infectious diseases, health surveillance systems, emergency response, chemical safety, vaccines, and efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance.

He stressed the importance of integrating efforts and exchanging expertise among health institutions, government and academic bodies, and regional and international partners.

Dr. Ghoulam noted that Kuwait has made significant progress in strengthening its capacities in disease surveillance, prevention, and control through the development of modern digital systems, the training of qualified national cadres, and the activation of regional partnerships, including fruitful cooperation with the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control and international scientific institutions.

Kuwait court

He was found guilty of forging official documents with the intent of helping others bypass travel restrictions.

The Criminal Court had previously issued a default judgment sentencing the fugitive citizen and his wife to five years in prison after their involvement in the case was confirmed.

Kuwait records

Moreover, reliable sources told the newspaper that airport authorities are in constant communication and coordination with the airlines to determine their flight needs and destinations for the upcoming summer season, which is expected to witness a high volume of travelers.

Sources confirmed that airport authorities are committed to improving the performance of operational sectors and enhancing services provided to passengers to ensure smooth passenger flow at the airport.

Sharq project

KAPP had previously announced the receipt of bids, followed by the opening of the offer envelopes.

According to disclosures by the winning company, United Real Estate, and data from KAPP, the usufruct term will be 15 years, aiming to enhance the tourism and entertainment sector in line with the "New Kuwait 2035" vision.



Issuing Authority

First Takaful Insurance Company K.S.C.P.

Commercial Registration No.: 81584

Issue Manager and Underwriting Agent

Arzan Financial Group for Financing and Investment ("Arzan")

This advertisement has been prepared for promotional purposes, and no material information regarding investment in the security has been omitted in this advertisement.

Invitation to Subscribe to the Capital Increase of First Takaful Insurance Company K.S.C.P.

The Board of Directors of First Takaful Insurance Company K.S.C.C. (the "Issuer" or the "Company") is pleased to invite the Company's shareholders registered in the shareholders' register at the close of trading on 28 January 2026 (the "Record Date"), as well as the holders of Priority rights to whom such Priority subscription rights have been transferred (the "Priority Rights") during the trading period of such rights, to subscribe to the offering shares with a nominal value of KWD 6,000,000,000, comprising 60,000,000 ordinary shares (the "Offering Shares" or the "Shares"), at an offering price of 100 Kuwaiti fils per share with no issue premium, during the subscription period from 29 January 2026 (inclusive) to 12 February 2026 (inclusive).

Note: Please refer to the Subscription Prospectus for all defined terms.

Issuing Entity	First Takaful Insurance Company K.S.C.C.
Commercial Registration Number	81584
Total Issue Value	KWD 6,000,000
Subscription Price	100 Fils per share
Eligible Subscribers (or the "Subscribers")	"Shareholders whose names are registered in the Company's share register with the clearing and depository agent (Kuwait Clearing Company) at the close of trading on the Boursa on the Record Date. For clarification, any trading in the Company's shares prior to the Record Date that is not fully settled on the Boursa by the Record Date ("Ex-Rights Date"), and consequently not recorded in the Company's share register, will not be considered for the purpose of determining the eligible shareholders registered in the Company's share register on the Record Date. Priority Rights holders who include persons who have acquired Priority Rights through transfer or purchase during the trading period of such rights."
Number of Shares Allocated to Each Eligible Shareholder	"56.29% of the total current issued shares registered in the name of the Eligible Shareholder on the Record Date, after taking into account the treasury shares held by the Company, the rights arising from which have been allocated to the Eligible Shareholders as of the Record Date."
Minimum Subscription	One (1) Offering Share
Maximum Subscription	Offering Shares only.
Priority Rights Subscription Period	"The subscription period for the offering shares begins on Thursday, January 29, 2026 (which is included in the subscription period) and will remain open for fifteen (15) calendar days until Thursday, February 12, 2026 (which is included in the subscription period until 13:00 PM). In all cases where the subscription is not exhausted, the Board of Directors of the issuing entity may extend the subscription period for one or more similar or shorter periods, provided that the original subscription period and its extension do not exceed a total of three months."
Consequences of Non-Subscription	"Eligible shareholders who choose not to subscribe to the offer shares will be subject to a dilution of their ownership percentage in the Issuer's capital, in addition to any potential change in the value of their current issued shares."
Disposition of Priority Rights	"Priority rights may be disposed of, traded, or waived without consideration without restriction, in accordance with the rules applicable to both the Boursa and the clearing and depository agent. Subscribers may resort to the following options: • Subscribers may exercise their priority right to subscribe to the offer shares, in whole or in part. • Subscribers may exercise their priority right to subscribe to the offer shares and subscribe to additional offer shares. • Subscribers may trade their priority rights by buying and/or selling during the subscription period and up to at least five business days before the closing of the subscription. Trading shall take place in accordance with the relevant rules applied by the Boursa. • Subscribers may waive their priority right to subscribe to the offer shares (and to the additional offer shares, as the case may be, or part thereof) without consideration, according to the approved mechanism during the subscription period and up to at least five business days before the closing of the subscription. Any such waivers shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant rules applied by the Boursa. • Subscribers may refrain from exercising any of the aforementioned options—whether through trading, waiving, or exercising the priority right to subscribe to the offer shares—leaving the right to subscribe to the unsubscribed shares to the remaining subscribers."
Priority Rights Trading Period	"The period for disposing of priority rights begins from the subscription opening date and continues until at least five business days before the subscription closing date, January 29, 2026, has been set as the commencement date for trading priority rights, and February 5, 2026, as the last day for trading such rights."
Subscription to Excess Offering Shares	"Subscribers have the right to subscribe to the excess offer shares in addition to the priority right shares. The offering price for the additional offer shares ("Additional Offer Shares") shall be 100 Kuwaiti Fils per additional offer share. In the event that a subscriber does not subscribe, sell, or waive their priority rights, this shall be deemed a waiver of their priority right to subscribe to the capital increase shares in favor of subscribers who wish to subscribe to a number of shares exceeding their allocated proportion. The remaining unsubscribed offer shares will be allocated to subscribers who applied for additional offer shares on a pro-rata basis, based on the ratio of the number of remaining unsubscribed shares to the total number of additional shares requested by the subscribers."
Priority Rights Trading and ISIN Code	KW0002560231
Issue Manager and Underwriting Agent	Arzan Financial Group for Financing and Investment ("Arzan")
Clearing and Depository Agent	Kuwait Clearing Company K.S.C.
How to Subscribe	Subscription Procedures Subscriptions and all required documents must be submitted through the subscription website. First: Subscription via the Application or Website: The electronic system allows subscription to the capital increase for 50,000 shares (equivalent to 5,000 Kuwaiti Dinars) or less, and payment is made through the K-NET service. The subscriber shall perform the following steps: 1. Access the website via the link: https://www.ipo.com.kw or download the IPO Kuwait application. 2. The subscriber enters their Civil ID number, and the system then determines the subscriber's eligibility (verification is conducted during the priority rights exercise period only). 3. The subscriber enters the number of shares they wish to subscribe to. 4. The subscriber is redirected to the payment page via the K-NET service, where the subscriber must pay from their own personal account. (Payment by another person on behalf of the subscriber is not permitted except in cases provided for by law, and the subscriber shall bear all legal consequences in the event of a violation). 5. If the payment process is successful, the system will display a confirmation containing the subscription payment details. The system will automatically send an email with a receipt in PDF format, as well as an SMS to the mobile phone, to confirm the successful completion of the subscription process. 6. Subscription is conducted solely through the website or the electronic application. Therefore, the shareholder must subscribe for themselves and pay from their own account, or waive/sell the priority right, except in cases provided for by law. The subscriber bears all legal consequences in case of violation. 7. The system allows the shareholder to submit multiple subscription applications if they have not subscribed for their full priority right entitlement. Second: Subscription for more than 50,000 shares: 1. The subscriber shall access the following link (https://www.ipo.com.kw) to print a subscription data document showing, including but not limited to, the subscriber's name, Civil ID number, the number of shares desired for subscription, and their value. 2. The subscriber shall go to their bank and present a copy of the subscription data document printed from the link above, and transfer the required amount to the (non-profit bearing) bank account designated for the capital increase (as a net amount without deducting any fees by both the remitting bank and the receiving bank) as mentioned below: • Bank Name: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) • Account Number: 011010241109 • IBAN: KW 89 KWIB 0000 0000 1010 2411 09 • SWIFT Code: KWIBKWKW • Beneficiary: First Takaful Insurance Company • Reference/Description: Civil ID number (for residents and non-residents), or Commercial Registration number (for companies) of the subscriber, in addition to the application number and the subscriber's contact information. 3. The subscriber shall obtain an original deposit slip for the transferred amount from their bank and upload it to the subscription website via the link sent to the subscriber to complete the remaining procedures. 4. If the subscription process is approved, a confirmation containing the subscription payment details will be sent. The system will automatically send an email with a receipt in PDF format and an SMS to the mobile phone to confirm the successful completion of the subscription process. 5. If the subscription is not approved, an email will be sent stating the reason for rejection, and the subscriber may try again. The system allows the shareholder to submit multiple subscription applications if they have not subscribed for their full available priority right. Third: Subscription through a Portfolio Manager (if shares are held by a company managing third-party portfolios): 1. The subscriber shall contact the portfolio manager to inquire about the subscription mechanism. 2. The portfolio manager shall follow the procedures mentioned in section "Second" to complete the subscription, while providing the full subscription details. Required documents when submitting the subscription application: The subscriber must specify the number of Offer Shares they wish to subscribe to in the subscription application and transfer the full subscription amount due. The subscriber is committed to submitting the subscription form during the specified subscription periods. Required documents when submitting the Subscription Application: The subscription application must be submitted through the link sent by the electronic system, accompanied by the following documents: Individual Subscribers (Natural Persons): • Subscription application form signed by the subscriber. • A copy of the subscriber's Civil ID. • A copy of the passport to verify the subscriber's signature. • A copy of the bank transfer advice. Corporate Subscribers (Legal Entities): • Subscription application form signed by the subscriber. • A copy of the bank transfer advice. • A copy of the IBAN certificate/number. • A copy of the Commercial Registration certificate. • A copy of the authorized signatory certificate or a Commercial Register extract, as applicable. • A copy of the authorized signatory's Civil ID. • A letter issued by the authorized signatory on behalf of the legal entity approving the subscription. Non-Kuwaiti Subscribers: Non-Kuwaiti subscribers (whether natural persons or legal entities – as the case may be) must provide documents equivalent to those mentioned above, issued by the relevant authorities in their respective countries, in the event that they do not possess documents issued in the State of Kuwait in this regard. Without prejudice to other grounds for rejection, the Company, the Clearing and Depository Agent, and the Subscription Agents reserve the right to reject any subscription application if the required value has not been actually paid and credited in full to the subscription account at the time of subscription with the Subscription Agents and the Clearing and Depository Agent.
Risk Factors	There are certain risks associated with investing in the Offer Shares, including commercial and legal risk factors, which include: Risks Related to the Issuer Company's Activities and Operations: • Risks related to the renewal of required licenses. • Risks related to reinsurance. • Risks related to the cancellation or non-renewal of insurance policies. • Risks related to lack of development and expansion. • Risks related to misjudgment/underestimation of risks. • Risks related to the insurance business cycle. Market Risks: Foreign currency risks – Interest rate risks – Price risks – Credit risks – Legal and regulatory systems may create a volatile environment for investment and business activities. Legal Risks: Risks related to Kuwait and the MENA region – Kuwait and other legal systems in the GCC countries continue to evolve, which may create an uncertain environment for investment and business activity – Operational risks – Cybersecurity risks – Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) risks – Geopolitical risks – Liquidity risks. Regulatory Risks Related to the Issuer: Bankruptcy under Kuwaiti law – Force majeure – Liquidity and share price changes – Investment suitability – Dividend distribution – Risks related to the unprofitability or sale of priority rights – Risks of insufficient demand for priority rights and the company's shares, or withdrawal from subscription – Risks of speculation in priority rights – Taxes on offer share payments – Income tax can be applied to companies and other entities in Kuwait, as can Value Added Tax (VAT) – Change in law – Risks of taxation of dividend profits – GCC countries may enter into a monetary union. For more details regarding any of the risk factors, please refer to a copy of the Subscription Prospectus (available for download and printing) regarding the offering on the Issuer's website (http://www.firsttakaful.com.kw), the website of the Issue Manager and Subscription Agent, the Kuwait Bourse website (http://www.boursakwai.com.kw), or by obtaining a hard copy from the offices of the Issuer, the Issue Manager and Subscription Agent, or Boursa Kuwait. "Prior to investing in any of the Offering Shares, potential investors must carefully consider—in addition to all other information contained in the Prospectus relating to the Offering—the risk factors outlined in the table above and seek professional advice. For further details, please refer to a copy of the Prospectus regarding the Offering on the aforementioned websites. This announcement does not include all the information that potential investors should study before making a decision to invest in the Offering Shares, nor can it be confirmed that this information is complete."
Subscription Information	The essential information regarding investment in the Offering Shares is contained in the Prospectus. The subscription terms and conditions set forth in the Prospectus, and the subscription application shall apply. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus and to consult a person licensed by law who specializes in providing advice on the contents of the Prospectus, investment in shares, and the related risks before making a decision to subscribe for the

Kuwait assumes chairmanship of UN Tourism Mideast Commission

Agreement boosts regional tourism standing

MADRID, Jan 26, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Muhaisen signed Sunday an agreement with UN Tourism Secretary-General Shaikha Al Nowais in which Kuwait will assume the chairmanship of the Middle East Regional Commission.

The signing ceremony was held in Madrid in the presence of Kuwait's Ambassador to Spain Ziad Al-Anbaei, as part of the strategic partnership between Kuwait and UN Tourism, and on behalf of Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi.

In the agreement, Kuwait will chair the 52nd session of the Middle East Regional Commission, to be led by the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs.



KUNA photo
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Muhaisen signs the agreement with UN Tourism Secretary-General Shaikha Al Nowais.

The commission's first meeting was attended by tourism ministers from member states and is scheduled for February.

In this context, Kuwait is preparing to host a first of its kind regional tourism conference titled "Enhancing Tourism Through Artificial Intelligence," reflecting the country's expanding role in the international tourism landscape.

and its growing status as a key partner in shaping the future of tourism in the region.

The Kuwaiti delegation concluded its official visit with a tour of the Casa Arabe in Madrid, one of Europe's leading Arab cultural institutions, where it met with Director-General Ambassador Miguel Moro Agular.

Discussions underscored the vital role of media and culture in promoting intercultural dialogue, strengthening ties between nations, and reinforcing Arab cultural presence on the global stage.

The event marks a strategic milestone highlighting Kuwait's forward-looking tourism vision, strengthening its international profile, and demonstrating its institutional and technological readiness to support sustainable tourism and digital transformation.

The visit comes as part of an official Kuwaiti delegation led by Dr. Muhaisen to Spain to attend the FITUR 2026 International Tourism Fair, one of the world's leading tourism exhibitions, reaffirming Kuwait's commitment to enhancing its media and tourism presence on the global stage.

PAAET launches faculty and trainer recruitment

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) has announced the opening of applications for several faculty and training positions in the Colleges of Health Sciences and Business Studies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAAET explained that the application deadline is February 8. Applications will be accepted only online through the PAAET website. No applications or documents will be accepted after the deadline.

Applicants must choose only one specialization from the announced list. They may update their personal information, change their specialization, or add new documents, and can track the status of their application (complete/incomplete) throughout the application period.

Applicants will be contacted via the email ad-

dress used when creating their account.

All required documents must be uploaded in PDF format only. Complete documentation is mandatory for the application to be considered valid, and an application fee of KD 10 must be paid electronically.

Applicants must be Kuwaiti citizens, with an age limit of 45 years for Bachelor's and Master's degree holders, and 50 years for PhD holders. They must also be of good character, in good health, and meet the required GPA for their chosen specialization. Upon appointment, candidates are required to obtain the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) or its equivalent. PhD holders will be appointed as Assistant Professors, and Master's degree holders as Assistant Lecturers. All degrees must be accredited and

recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait, and full-time study is required, except for graduates from Kuwaiti universities.

PAAET also outlined the appointment requirements for the position of Training Staff Member (Trainer - B) for Bachelor's degree holders.

The announcement covered a wide range of specializations within the College of Health Sciences for Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD holders. These included Oral and Dental Health, Applied Medical Sciences (Respiratory Therapy, Anesthesia), Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics, Microbiology), Environmental Health, Public Health, Epidemiology and Health Risk Management, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Emergency Medical Services, Medical Records, and Food Science and Nutrition.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait Amir congratulates Australia on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia Sam Mostyn on her country's National Day, Australia Day.

His Highness the Amir wished Mostyn good health and further progress and prosperity for Australia and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to Governor General

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His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Monday to Governor General

KU to host 3rd National Robotics Championship set for February 1

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: During a press conference on the third Kuwait National Robotics Championship, the Faculty of Science at Kuwait University announced the objectives of the tournament, and highlighted the university's role in hosting the event, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Nearly 130 teams from various age groups participated in the championship, which reflects the university's commitment to supporting innovation, science, and technology, and emphasizing its partnership with the Public Authority for Youth in empowering young people and promoting a culture of robotics and Artificial Intelligence in society.

The acting Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dr. Haider Bebehani, stated that the qualifying rounds for the championship will be held from February 1 to February 8.

He explained that the winning teams will qualify for the finals, which will be held in the United States. The championship is in line with the political leadership's focus on youth and investing in the future. Through initiatives like this, the university aims to empower students and develop their skills in innovation, robotics, and artificial intelligence.

CSCEC tapped for KD999mn project

CAPT OK's Kabad North power deal

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) approved the request of the Ministry of Public Works to enter into a direct contract (No. H/261) with China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), valued at KD999.85 million for 3,650 days.

This contract is for the construction, operation, and maintenance of North Kabad Power Station and its infrastructure.

The approval was formalized during the meeting of CAPT last Wednesday. This decision is supported by documents submitted with the ministry's original letter. These documents include Decree No. 48/2024, which ratified the Memorandum of Understanding for infrastructure cooperation between the ministry and China's National Development and Reform Commission, Cabinet Resolution No. 1246 issued during

Meeting No. 36/2025, and a letter from the Legal Advice and Legislation Department.

A separate request from the ministry seeking an exemption from the National Workforce Employment Regulations specifically for this contract was included as well.

This undertaking is a fundamental element of the ministry's strategy aimed at modernizing, developing, and increasing the capacity and output of treated water.

Kabad North Power Station is designed to function as the primary supplier for the entire northern region, providing high-standard treated water for utilization in agricultural, industrial and oil sectors.

Kabad North Wastewater Treatment Plant is a nationally recognized major project for Kuwait. Upon completion, it is slated to become the country's largest plant, boasting the capability to produce up to one million cubic meters of treated water per day. The facility will integrate the most advanced wastewater treatment and renewable energy technologies.

MoE moves to standardize exams

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Ministry of Education is moving towards standardizing intermediate-level exams in all educational districts, as part of its ongoing reform efforts to improve educational assessment and measurement, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed that the relevant authorities are carefully studying the standardization of intermediate-level exams, stressing that the public education sector already ex-



Al-Tabtabaei

pressed its approval, paving the way for final approval by Minister of Education Eng. Jalal Al-Tabtabaei.

Sources pointed out that this move is vital due to its positive impact on the educational process, particularly in terms of ensuring fairness among intermediate-level students. "This will be achieved by standardizing the technical aspect of exams in all the educational districts, guaranteeing fair evaluation and equal opportunities for all students. It will also improve the quality and accuracy of grading, leading to realistic results that accurately reflect the students' abilities without manipulation. It will help establish a unified standard for evaluating students," sources explained.

14 abandoned vehicles removed

Clean streets campaign intensifies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality said the field teams from the Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy departments continue to step up their inspection campaigns to uncover and remove violations of municipal sanitation and road occupancy regulations in the governorates, while activating the supervisory role of regulatory authorities to ensure the enforcement of municipal laws, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The department disclosed that 14 abandoned and scrap vehicles, along with two food trucks found to be in violation of the regulations, were removed in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate and transferred to the garage for impounded vehicles, while five vehicles were released.

The Public Sanitation and Road Occupancy Department at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Municipality branch issued 11 violation citations related to public sanitation and road occupancy, as well as one violation citation against three



Al-Jarida photo
Abandoned vehicles removed in Mubarak Al-Kabeer during municipality inspections.

street vendors.

Moreover, 95 removal warnings were issued, including notices for abandoned vehicles and commercial containers, during inspection tours carried out by the teams. The department stressed that intensive field tours are ongoing in residential areas to guarantee cleanliness, remove obstructions from roads, eliminate visual pollution, and prevent the disposal of waste outside designated containers.

JANUARY

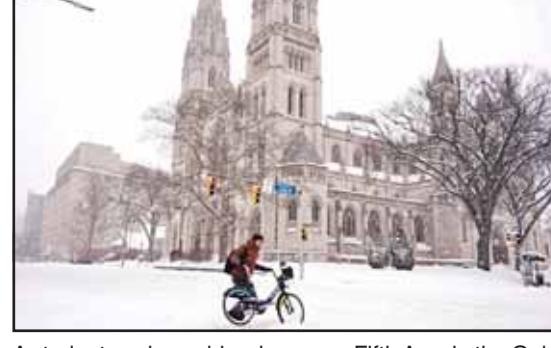
Room Description	Price
One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD46.000 /-net
One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD102.148 /-net

Terms & conditions apply

INTERNATIONAL



Pedestrians cross the street near Radio City Music Hall during a winter storm on Jan 25, in New York. (AP)



A student pushes a bicycle across Fifth Ave, in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh during a winter storm on Jan 25. (AP)

Lower 48 states forecast to have coldest average low temperature

Lives lost, power cut and flights cancelled as winter storm hits US

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (Agencies): A powerful winter storm sweeping across the United States on Sunday has killed 11 people and led to massive power outages and flight cancellations, severely disrupting daily life and travel in multiple regions.

Authorities have reported 11 storm-related deaths amid the country's coldest temperatures so far this winter, local media reported.

The storm also knocked out power supplies across the country. More than 820,000 customers were without electricity, according to PowerOutage.us, a website tracking real-time power outage data, with southern states including Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana among the hardest hit.

Over 11,500 flights were cancelled on Sunday, data from flight-tracking service FlightAware showed. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport said on its website that all airlines had cancelled departing flights for the day, while 91 percent of flights were cancelled at New York's LaGuardia Airport.

This winter storm began on Friday and moved from the southern part of the country into the Northeast, the US National Weather Service said Saturday night. It has noted that heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain would affect nearly 190 million people -- more than half the US population -- and warned that freezing air and ice accumulation following the storm could prolong its impacts through this week.

The US work week opened with yet more snow dump-

ing on the Northeast under the tail end of a colossal winter storm that brought ice and power outages, impassable roads, canceled flights and frigid cold to much of the southern and eastern United States. Deep snow - over a foot (30 centimeters) extending in a 1,300-mile (2,100-kilometer) swath from Arkansas to New England - halted traffic, canceled flights and triggered wide school cancellations Monday.

Up to two feet (60 centimeters) were forecast in some of the harder-hit places.

In Falmouth, Massachusetts, about an hour's drive south of Boston, snow was coming down in sheets and closing down the town. Local minister Nell Fields had to shovel out just to be able to let her dog outside. Seven inches (18 centimeters) had fallen, with up to that much more still on the way.

"I feel that the universe just put a big, huge pause on us with all the snow," Fields said.

On Manhattan's Upper East Side, January Cotrel enjoyed the fresh snow on a block that always closes during snowstorms for residents to sled, throw snowballs and make snowmen. "I pray for two feet every time we get a snowstorm. I want as much as we can get," she said. "Let the city just shut down for a day and it's beautiful, and then we can get back to life."

Meanwhile, bitter cold followed in the storm's wake. Overnight Sunday, the entire Lower 48 states were forecast to have their coldest average low temperature - 9.8 degrees (minus 12.3 Celsius) - since January 2014.

Record warmth in Florida was the only thing keeping that average from going even colder, said former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief scientist Ryan Maue, who calculates national averages based on National Weather Service data.

From Montana to the Florida Panhandle, the weather service posted cold weather advisories and extreme cold warnings as temperatures in many places dipped to zero (minus-18 degrees Celsius) and even colder. Wind made conditions even chillier and the overnight cold threatened to freeze roads early Monday in a cruel reprise of the weekend's lousy travel weather.

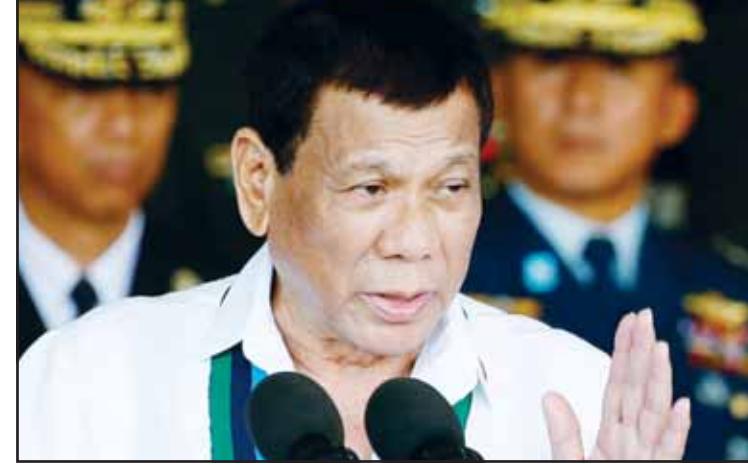
Even with precipitation ending in Mississippi, "that doesn't mean the danger is behind us," Gov. Tate Reeves said in a news conference Sunday.

Freezing rain that slickened roads and brought trees and branches down on roads and power lines were the main peril in the South over the weekend. In Corinth, Mississippi, heavy machinery manufacturer Caterpillar told employees at its remanufacturing site to stay home Monday and Tuesday.

It already was Mississippi's worst ice storm since 1994 with its biggest-ever deployment of ice-melting chemicals - 200,000 gallons (750,000 liters) - plus salt and sand to treat icy roads, Reeves said. He urged people not to drive anywhere unless absolutely necessary. "Do please reach out to friends and family," Reeves added.

Hearing on Feb 23

Philippine ex-prez Duterte fit to stand trial: ICC



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte addresses troops during the 82nd anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines on Dec. 20, 2017. (AP)

for Feb. 23.

The panel included experts in geriatric neurology and psychiatry. According to court filings, Duterte underwent cognitive testing, as well as mental and physical examinations.

Duterte's lead lawyer, Nick Kauf-

man, said he was disappointed in the decision and would seek to appeal. The defense was "denied the opportunity to present its own medical evidence and to question, in court, the contradictory findings of professionals selected by the judges," he said.

Rescuers save hundreds

18 dead after ferry sinks in Philippines



Survivors rest on a rescue boat after a ferry sank in waters off Basilan province in the southern Philippines on Jan 26. (AP)

sailing in good weather from the port city of Zamboanga to southern Jolo island in Sulu province with 332 passengers and 27 crew members. It sank about a nautical mile (nearly 2 kilometers) from the island village of Baluk-baluk in Basilan province, coast guard Com-

mander Romel Dua told The Associated Press.

"There were two coast guard safety officers on board and they were the first to call and alert us to deploy rescue vessels," Dua said, adding that the two safety marshals survived.

Differences with US will be resolved through diplomacy: Rodriguez

US used secret weapon to disable Venezuelan equipment in Maduro raid, says Trump

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (Agencies): US President Donald Trump said the US used a secret weapon he called "The Discombobulator" to disable Venezuelan equipment when the US captured Nicolás Maduro. Trump also renewed his threat to conduct military strikes on land against drug cartels, including in Mexico.

Trump made the comments in an interview Friday with the New York Post.

The Republican president was commenting on reports that the US had a pulsed energy weapon and said, "The Discombobulator. I'm not allowed to talk about it."

He said the weapon made Venezuelan equipment "not work."

"They never got their rockets off. They had Russian and Chinese rockets, and they never got one off," Trump said in the interview. "We came in, they pressed buttons and nothing worked. They were all set for us."

Trump had previously said when describing the raid on Maduro's compound that the US had turned off "almost all of the lights in Caracas,"

but he didn't detail how they accomplished that.

The president also indicated the US will continue its campaign of military strikes and could extend it from South America into North America as the administration tries to target drug cartels.

"We know their routes. We know their homes. We know everything about them," Trump said. "We're going to hit the cartels."

When asked if the strikes could occur in Central America or Mexico, Trump said: "Could be anywhere."

The US on Friday carried out a strike on an alleged drug-trafficking boat in the eastern Pacific Ocean, the first such action since Maduro's capture.

It marks at least 36 known strikes on boats in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific since early September that have killed at least 117 people.

Trump said the US has removed the oil aboard seven oil tankers connected to Venezuela that it has seized but wouldn't reveal where the ships are now.

"I'm not allowed to tell you," Trump



US President Donald Trump arrives at Joint Base Andrews, Md., after attending the World Economic Forum in Davos on Jan 22. (AP)

said. "But let's put it this way, they don't have any oil. We take the oil."

During the interview, the president also said that he was still trying to figure out where to hang the Nobel

Office.

Trump also told the newspaper that the framework of an Arctic security deal he struck with NATO chief Mark Rutte would give the US ownership of the land where American bases are located.

"We'll have everything we want," Trump said. "We have some interesting talks going on."

Much of the potential deal remains unclear. Leaders of Denmark and Greenland have said the island's sovereignty was non-negotiable and a NATO spokesperson said Rutte, in his conversations with Trump, did not propose any "compromise to sovereignty."

The president said he would not go to the Super Bowl and called it a "terrible choice" for Bad Bunny and Green Day to perform at the game. He attended last year's Super Bowl in New Orleans.

Also:

CARACAS: Venezuela's acting president **Dely Rodriguez** said Sunday that differences with the United States

would be resolved through diplomatic channels.

Speaking at an event with oil workers at the Puerto La Cruz refinery in northeastern Venezuela, Rodriguez said her government would address long-standing disputes with Washington "face to face" through what she described as Bolivarian diplomacy.

"We are not afraid, because what must unite us as a people is guaranteeing peace and stability for this country," Rodriguez said.

She said Venezuela never imagined that a South American capital would be subjected to a military attack by a foreign power, referring to the event on Jan 3, when US forces attacked Caracas and took by force President **Nicolas Maduro and his wife**.

Rodriguez called for national unity and urged Venezuelans to resolve internal differences through domestic political dialogue, without foreign interference.

"Enough of orders from Washington to politicians in Venezuela," she said. "Venezuela must resolve its own differences and conflicts."

Brazil takes over Mexico's embassy in Peru

Gun attack in central Mexico kills 11, injures 12



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum speaks at the National Palace in Mexico City on Nov 7, 2025. (AP)

following a diplomatic rift over a Peruvian politician who was granted asylum by Mexican President **Claudia Sheinbaum**.

The Mexican foreign ministry said in a statement it is "granting a request from the Mexican government" with the "consent of the Peruvian government." It added it will guard the Mexican embassy building, the residence of its head of mission, assets and files.

Peru severed diplomatic relations with Mexico more than two months ago to protest Sheinbaum's granting asylum to former prime minister **Betsy Chávez**, who had been sentenced to more than 11 years in prison on charges of rebellion.

Mexican diplomats withdrew in November, but the two countries continued their consular relations.

A Peruvian Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Saturday said that **Brazil** had taken charge of the Mexican embassy after co-ordinating with local authorities.

Earlier on Sunday, two officials at Brazil's Foreign Ministry confirmed to The Associated Press that their country's flag was flying over the building in **Lima** since the day before. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Mexican authorities did not comment Sunday.

ADF kills 25 in eastern Congo

GOMA, Congo, Jan 26, (AP): An attack by an Islamic State-linked militant group in eastern Congo killed at least 25 people early Sunday, a rights group based in Ituri province said.

The dead from the attack by the Allied Democratic Force, or ADF, include 15 men who were burned alive in a house and seven who were shot in the village of Apakulu in the Ituri territory of Ituri province. Three others were killed in Walese Vonkutu administrative area. "This tragedy occurred around 4 a.m. and claimed the lives of at least 25 people. This incursion by the ADF is a true massacre," Christophe Munyandreu, president of the Convention for the Respect of Human Rights, said.



People gather around the charred remains of a burned vehicle following a deadly attack in Komanda, Ituri province of eastern Congo on July 27, 2025. (AP)

Subcontinent

Xi congratulates Indian prez on Republic Day: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a congratulatory message to his Indian counterpart, **Droupadi Murmu**, on India's 77th Republic Day.

Xi highlighted that over the past year, China-India relations have continued to improve and develop, which aligns with the fundamental interests of both countries and their people, and is of great significance for maintaining and promoting world peace and prosperity.

Xi emphasized that China has always believed that being good neighbors, friends and partners who help each other succeed, and achieving the "dragon and the elephant dancing together," is the right choice for both China and India. (Xinhua)



Murmu

Sri Lanka seeks land donations: Sri Lanka has invited citizens to donate land to help build new houses for families displaced by Cyclone Ditwah as the government accelerates nationwide reconstruction efforts.

Issuing a press release, the President's Media Division (PMD) said many families lost their homes and properties in the disaster, and a housing construction project is underway for families whose houses were destroyed.

The government is calling on philanthropic individuals and landowners across the country to contribute land needed for permanent housing.

The PMD said details are available through the government website and hotline, and prospective donors can submit information directly to the authorities. (Xinhua)

2 terrorists killed in Pakistan: Two terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said on Monday.

According to a police statement, the militants opened fire on a police mobile van during a routine patrol in the Bannu district, prompting an immediate response from police personnel. (Xinhua)

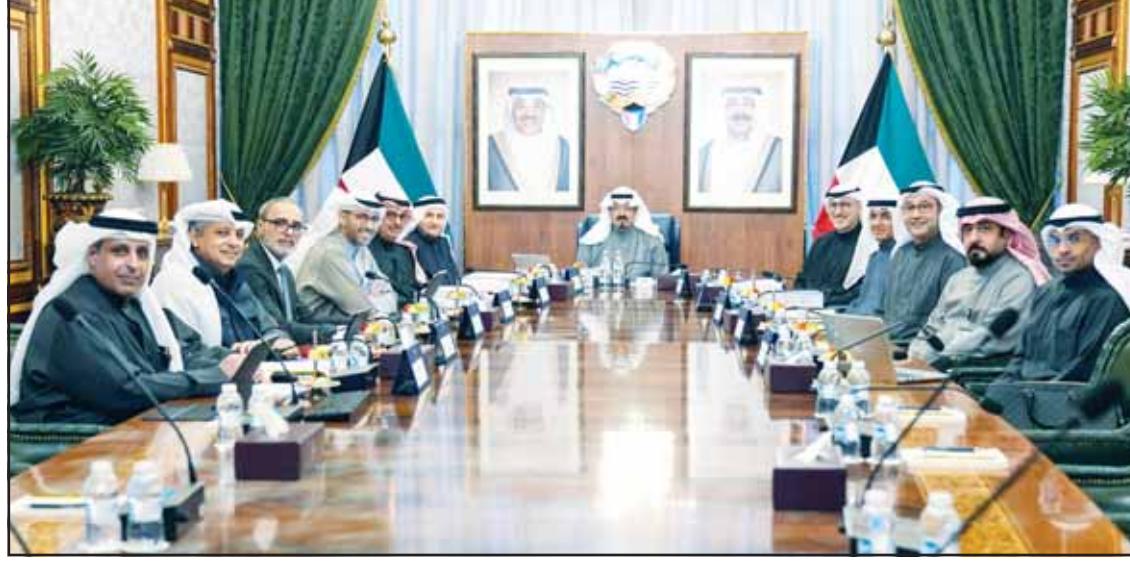
Boursa Kuwait ends Monday's session lower

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Monday's trading session on a negative note, with its general index falling by 81.88 points, or 0.93 percent, to settle at 8,717.72 points. Trading activity totaled 217.1 million shares across 19,759 transactions, with a combined value of KD 70.8 million (approxi-

mately USD 216 million).

The main market index dropped 66.85 points, or 0.82 percent, ending at 8,109.67 points.

About 84.7 million shares changed hands through 8,283 transactions, worth KD 14.13 million (around USD 43 million).



PM chairs SPC meeting on KPC projects and strategies.

PM chairs 129th Supreme Petroleum Council Meeting

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdulla Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Monday the 129th meeting (2026/1) of the Supreme Petroleum Council at Bayan Palace.

During the meeting, the council discussed key projects approved by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries, as well as the strategies associated with the implementation of these projects.

stc wins in two categories at the Global Business Outlook Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced that it has won the 'Best Corporate Governance Telecom Company – 2025', and 'Best Leadership in Compliance and Corporate Governance Initiatives – Telecommunications 2025' at the Global Business Outlook (GBO) Awards 2025. The awards ceremony was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and aimed at recognizing organizations that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in different categories related to business and innovation and attended by Mr. Essam Issa Al-Asousi, Chief Corporate Affairs, and Mr. Ahmed Al-Murad, General Manager of Legal Affairs and Compliance at stc Kuwait, who accepted the two awards on behalf of the company.

stc was recognized as the 'Best Corporate Governance Telecom Company – 2025' at the GBO Awards due to its continued diligence in implementing and maintaining a comprehensive and robust corporate governance frame-

work. The Company's governance model is built on the principles of integrity, accountability, and transparency, and is designed to support effective decision-making, safeguard stakeholder interests, and ensure long-term institutional sustainability.

This framework encompasses key areas including the independence and effectiveness of the Board of Directors and its committees, adherence to regulatory and supervisory requirements, transparency and disclosure, protection of shareholders' and stakeholders' rights, as well as advanced risk management and internal control mechanisms. stc continuously monitors and aligns its policies and procedures with local regulatory requirements and internationally recognized best practices to ensure ongoing compliance and operational readiness.

Additionally, the Company was recognized as the 'Best Leadership in Compliance and Corporate Governance Initiatives – Telecommunications 2025' for its advanced compliance and corporate governance initiatives within the telecom sector. This recognition highlights stc's structured approach to

embedding a culture of compliance and ethical conduct across all organizational levels, supported by clear governance policies, effective oversight, and proactive engagement with regulatory authorities.

Since 2021, stc has consistently received international recognitions for its corporate governance and compliance frameworks, reflecting a progressive journey from establishing strong governance foundations to achieving sector-wide leadership in governance and compliance. These achievements demonstrate a systematic and sustainable approach to governance that supports the Company's long-term strategic objectives and stakeholder confidence.

The recognition further highlights stc's commitment to fostering a strong corporate culture rooted in integrity and accountability, where governance and compliance serve as core components of the Company's institutional identity. This approach is reflected in ongoing initiatives related to compliance, risk management, internal controls, and transparency.

These achievements align with stc's commitment to continuously enhancing its governance and compliance frameworks, in parallel with its role as a key enabler of digital transformation in Kuwait. The Company remains focused on delivering innovative services and platforms built on trust, sustainability, and corporate responsibility, while adhering to the highest standards of governance and ethical business practices.

About stc

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2008. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014.

stc Kuwait is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and solutions to customers, both for individuals and enterprises, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc Kuwait has expanded its portfolio by acquiring companies such as Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait, and e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries.



Essam Issa Al-Asousi and Ahmed Al-Murad during the award ceremony.

Jazeera Airways expands European connectivity with direct flights to Milan Bergamo



HE Lorenzo Morini, Italian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, addresses guests during the ceremony marking the start of the Kuwait-Milan Bergamo route.



Amelia Corti, Managing Director of SACBO, speaks at the Jazeera Airways event celebrating the launch of direct flights between Kuwait and Milan Bergamo.



Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, speaks at the launch event announcing direct flights from Kuwait to Milan Bergamo.



Jazeera Airways executives and partners celebrate the launch of the new direct route from Kuwait to Milan Bergamo – marking a milestone in expanding connectivity between Kuwait and Northern Italy.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, today announced the launch of direct flights from Kuwait International Airport (KWI) to Milan Bergamo Airport (BGY). With this new route, Jazeera becomes the first airline to operate direct flights between Kuwait and Milan Bergamo, offering travelers seamless access to Northern Italy and one of Europe's most dynamic lifestyle and cultural destinations.

Launching from 20th May 2026, the new service marks another step forward in Jazeera's growing international network, reinforcing its commitment to expanding connectivity between Kuwait and key global leisure and business markets.

Announcing the launch, Barathan Pasupathi, Chief Executive Officer of Jazeera Airways, said: "We are delighted to be the first airline to connect direct from Kuwait to Milan Bergamo. This is a key step in expanding Jazeera Airways' European network and giving travelers from Kuwait more choice and value. The route strengthens connectivity for trade, leisure as well as community travel and reflects our continued focus on opening new markets with convenient, affordable flights and a great onboard experience."

Milan Bergamo Airport is one of Italy's busiest gateways and is conveniently

located within reach of both Bergamo and Milan, serving as a strategic entry point for visitors exploring Northern Italy and wider Europe.

At the event, Amelia Corti, Managing Director of SACBO (Società per l'Aeroporto Civile di Bergamo - Orio al Serio) said: "We are proud to be the first Italian airport to welcome Jazeera Airways. The launch of the new route to Kuwait City further enhances Milan Bergamo Airport's connectivity, strengthening our presence in high-potential emerging markets and opening the door to new opportunities for tourism, business, and cultural exchanges. The introduction of

Planned Flight Schedule					
Flight Number	Frequency	From	To	Departure (Local Time)	Arrival (Local Time)
J9 011	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	Kuwait	Bergamo	09:00	13:45
J9 012		Bergamo	Kuwait	14:30	20:40

Flight schedules are subject to change

the three-times-weekly service to Kuwait City represents a landmark moment for Milan Bergamo Airport, enabling us not only to welcome new passenger flows but also to stimulate outbound travel toward an exciting new destination. We are confident that our partnership with Jazeera Airways will deliver strong, sustainable growth and create lasting value across both markets."

In addition to Milan, travelers will have easy access to the wider Lombardy region, including Lake Como, Lake Garda, and the Italian Alps – making the destination ideal for city breaks, nature escapes, and multi-city travel across Northern Italy.

On this part, HE Lorenzo Morini, the Italian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, said: "The flight connecting Kuwait City with Milan Bergamo airport provides a fundamental platform to reinforce the existing bonds between Italy and Kuwait and to open new avenues of collaboration between our countries. I am very grateful to Jazeera Airways for this initiative and I am proud to be part of this historic moment."

Flights are now open for booking across all channels. Tickets for the new Milan Bergamo route can be booked via jazeeraairways.com and the Jazeera Airways mobile app. Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of competitive fares and the added convenience of direct flights into Italy.

Business

Conference explores clean energy innovations

KFAED participates in engineers society clean energy conference

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Kuwait Fund for Economic Development (KFAED) participated in the 3rd Annual Conference of the Kuwait Society of Engineers, held on the occasion of the International Day of Clean Energy under the theme "The Role of Clean Energy in Achieving Carbon Neutrality Strategies", at the Society's headquarters.

KFAED's participation reflects its commitment to supporting national initiatives in clean energy and sustainable development, aligning with Kuwait's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, while contributing to global efforts to address climate change and transition toward a low-carbon economy.

The Fund was represented by Mr. Eng. Thamer Mohammed Al-Failakawi, Director of the Operations Department, who delivered a keynote speech during the opening session, highlighting KFAED's role in funding clean and renewable energy projects both locally and internationally.

Al-Failakawi emphasized:

"The Kuwait Fund for Economic Development places special focus on supporting clean and renewable energy projects, given their key role in achieving sustainable development and enhancing countries' capacity to tackle the impacts of climate change. We do this by financing strategic projects that reduce emissions and strengthen energy security."

He added that KFAED's efforts align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Goal 13: Climate Action.

Al-Failakawi also highlighted the need for broad international cooperation, stressing the importance of partnerships with governments, development institutions, and interna-



Eng. Thamer Al-Failakawi

tional organizations to share expertise and accelerate the transition to a clean energy, low-carbon future.

The conference served as a specialized platform bringing together leaders, experts, and speakers from Kuwait and abroad to discuss the latest legislation and technologies in clean energy, carbon economy frameworks, and advanced solutions such as energy storage and green hydrogen, in addition to showcasing successful projects and best practices in the field.



Group photo during the conference.

Ambassador Arakelyan highlights growing ties

Armenian delegation visits KCCI to explore investment opportunities

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): Armenia's First Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry Gevorg Mantashyan on Monday affirmed Armenia's keenness to deepen economic cooperation with Kuwait and build sustainable partnerships.

Speaking during a visit by an Armenian economic delegation to the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Mantashyan said both governments are working to create a supportive environment for business and joint investment, stressing Armenia's readiness to provide facilitation to turn opportunities into real projects.

Armenia's Ambassador to Kuwait Arsen Arakelyan highlighted long-standing ties between the two countries, noting the launch of direct flights between Kuwait and Yerevan last year and efforts to expand air connectivity to boost trade and tourism.

For his part, Assistant Director General of KCCI Firas Al-Oudah said the meeting reflects a commitment to expanding international partner-



ships, adding that despite limited trade volumes, significant potential exists mainly in innovation, technology and private enterprise.

The meeting was attended by rep-

resentatives of Kuwaiti government bodies, while the Armenian delegation included 15 members from sectors such as investment, energy, tourism, IT, logistics and food industries.

Initiative aims to equip SME leaders with sustainability and financing skills

Kuwait Finance House & UNDP join forces to accelerate sustainable growth for SMEs

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched the "Growing Sustainably" Training Program for SMEs to support sustainable business practices in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Through this training, KFH and UNDP will equip SME founders, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), and Managing Directors with practical tools to improve operations, assess sustainability readiness, and prepare for sustainable financing opportunities.

Group Chief Corporate Banking Officer at KFH, Yousef Al-Mutawa said "At KFH, we view SMEs not merely as clients, but as essential partners in Kuwait's economic development and diversification."

He mentioned that KFH has reaffirmed its strong commitment to SMEs, highlighting their vital role in building a resilient, competitive, and diversified national economy aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Mutawa stated that this training program reflects a forward-looking mindset, one that goes beyond day-to-day operations to focus on long-term growth, adaptability, and sustainability in an increasingly dynamic market environment.

"SMEs represent nearly 90 percent of all businesses in Kuwait, with an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 active companies operating across key sectors, including trade, hospitality, construction, and industry, beyond their scale. SMEs are a major driver of economic dynamism. They play a central role in job creation, respond swiftly to evolving



Yousef Al-Mutawa

Al-Mutawa: Supporting Kuwaiti SMEs build resilience, manage risk and thrive in evolving economy

Itani: Initiative reflects a shared belief in the critical role of SMEs

Morley: partnership strengthens SMEs role in Kuwait's economic transformation

market needs, and continuously innovate to remain competitive," added Al-Mutawa.

He continued saying, "As Kuwait advances its diversification agenda under Vision 2035, the resilience, efficiency, and competitiveness of SMEs will be decisive in shaping the country's future economic landscape, this is precisely why SMEs occupy a central position in KFH's long-term growth strategy."

Al-Mutawa indicated that from a business perspective, sustainability is fundamentally about how effectively a company manages its resources, anticipates risks, and prepares for future opportunities ensuring continuity, stability, and long-term value creation.

He reiterated KFH's dedication to supporting SMEs, enhancing their current business capabilities, and ensuring they are well-positioned for

long-term, sustainable growth.

He added, "Sustainability has become a fundamental business capability rather than a passing trend. SMEs that manage resources efficiently, strengthen governance, and plan for long-term risks are more resilient and better positioned for sustainable growth."

During his opening remarks at the launch of the training program, Zein AlAbdeen Itani, Acting Deputy General Manager of SMEs at KFH, noted that this initiative reflects a shared belief in the critical role SMEs play in Kuwait's economic future. He highlighted that KFH and UNDP aim to equip participants with clear guidance, practical tools, and relevant frameworks tailored specifically to the needs and realities of SMEs operating in Kuwait.

He emphasized that new models of sustainable and green financing continue to emerge. He noted

that SMEs capable of clearly articulating their current practices, identifying areas for enhancement, and demonstrating a genuine commitment to responsible business will be better positioned to access these evolving financing opportunities.

"SMEs that engage in these practices can expect to enhance their competitiveness in local and regional markets, build stronger, more transparent relationships with banks and business partners, and improve access to future financing and investment opportunities", Itani concluded.

Meanwhile, UNDP Resident Representative in Kuwait, Ms. Emma Morley said, "UNDP works in 170 countries worldwide, partnering with governments and the private sector to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. In Kuwait, our work aligns closely with Kuwait Vision 2035, including supporting financial institutions and businesses to shape markets that generate long-term environmental, social, and governance value."

She added, "We are proud of our strategic partnership with KFH, which reflects a shared understanding that a strong private sector, with SMEs at its core, is essential to Kuwait's economic transformation. KFH's commitment to embedding sustainability into its operations demonstrates leadership in advancing inclusive growth, resilience, and employment, while positioning SMEs as key partners in achieving Vision 2035."



Zein AlAbdeen Itani



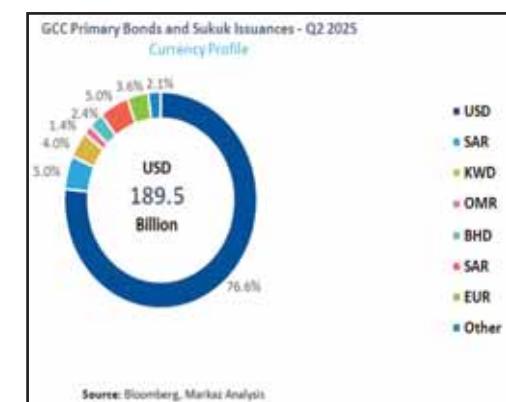
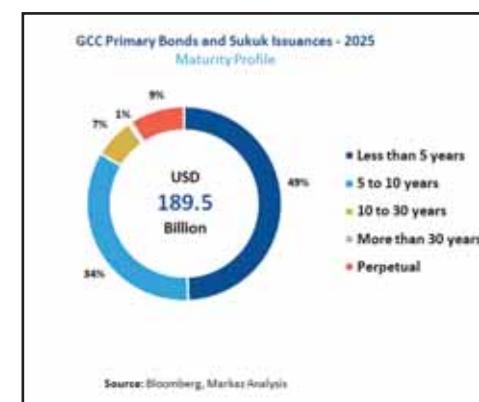
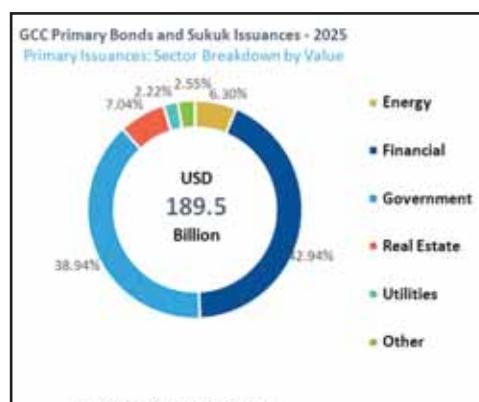
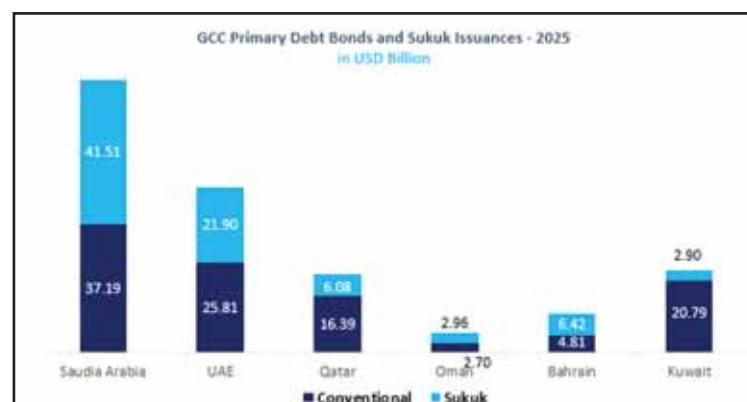
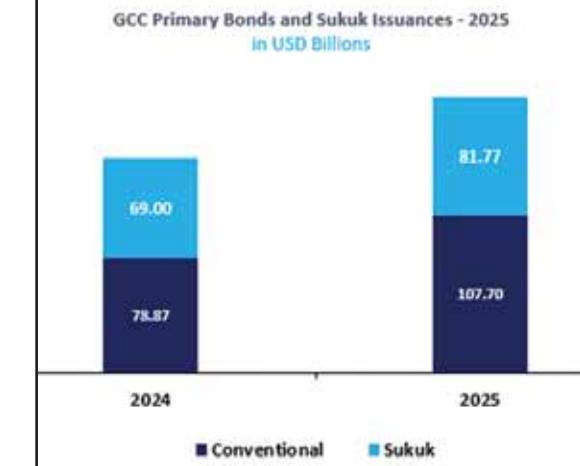
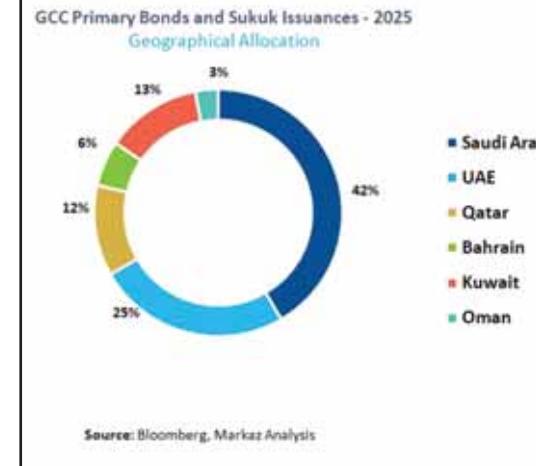
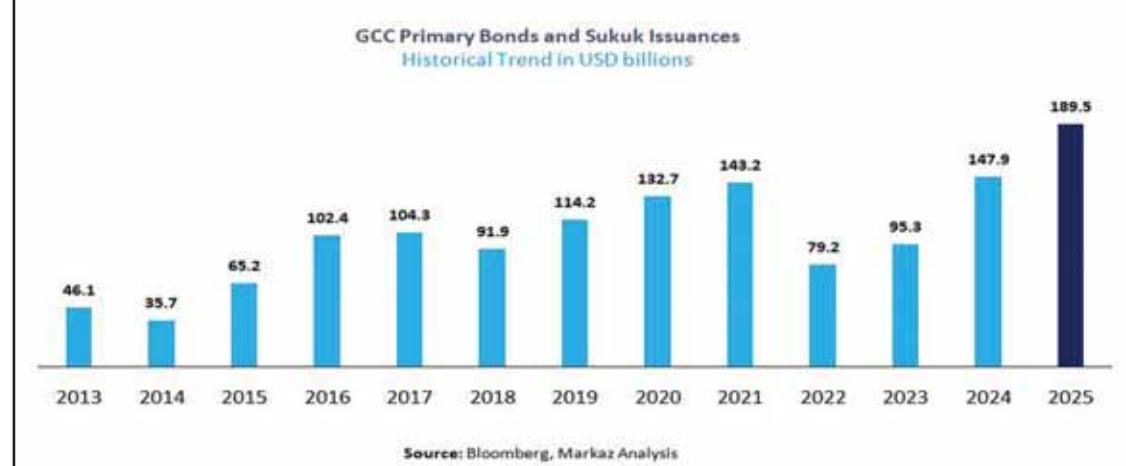
Emma Morley



Part of the training program in cooperation with UNDP.

Kuwaiti issuances record a 515% increase from the previous year to a total value of \$23.69 billion through 35 issuances

Markaz report: GCC fixed income market sees \$189.47 billion in primary issuances during 2025 representing 28% increase



KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: In its Fixed Income Report, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" states that primary debt issuances of Bonds and Sukuk in the Gulf Cooperation Council ("GCC") Countries amounted to USD 189.47 billion through 515 issuances during 2025, a 28.13% increase from the previous year, where issuances in 2024 amounted to USD 147.87 billion.

Issuances by Geography: Saudi-based issuances led the GCC during 2025, raising USD 78.70 billion through 139 issuances, down slightly from USD 79.46 billion in 2024, a decrease of 1.0%, and representing 41.5% of issuances during the year. UAE-based issuances ranked second, with USD 47.71 billion through 203 issuances, representing 25.2% of the market, an increase of 24.0% from the previous year. Kuwaiti entities were the third largest issuers in terms of value, with USD 23.69 billion issued through 35 issuances, an increase of 515% from the previous year and representing 12.5% of the issuances in 2025. Qatari issuers follow, with a total issuance size of USD 22.47 billion through 104 issuances, a 42.3% increase from 2024. Bahraini issuances recorded a 63.0% increase from the

previous year, recording a total value of USD 11.24 billion through 18 issuances. Omani entities recorded the lowest value of issuances during the year, with USD 5.66 billion raised through 16 issuances, representing 3.0% of the total value of issuances.

Sovereign vs. Corporate: Total GCC corporate primary issuances increased by 45.1% in 2025, amounting to USD 115.68 billion raised, compared to USD 79.71 billion raised in 2024. Corporate issuances represented 61.1% of total issuances for 2025, in line with the preference of issuances in 2024 where more corporates issued than sovereigns (Corporate issuances 2024: 53.9%). Government related corporate entities raised USD 16.28 billion through 16 issuances during the year, an increase of 3.19% from 2024 (USD 15.78 billion through 15 issuances). Total GCC sovereign primary issuances increased by 8.3% in 2025, raising USD 73.79 billion throughout the year, representing 38.9% of total issuances.

Conventional vs. Sukuk: Conventional issuances increased by 36.6% in 2025 compared to 2024, raising a total of USD 107.7 billion for the year. Sukuk issuances, meanwhile, increased by 18.5% in 2025, resulting in a total value of USD 81.77 bil-

lion for the year. As for issuance preferences, 2025 saw an increased appetite for conventional issuances in the GCC, representing 56.8% of total issuances for the year. This is in line with issuance preferences from 2024, where more conventional bonds were issued also.

Sector Segmentation: The Financial sector led the bond and sukuk issuances in 2025, with total value of USD 81.37 billion through 403 issuances representing 42.9% of total issuances. Government issuances follow, with USD 73.79 billion through 67 issuances, representing 38.9% of total issuances. This represents an increase for both the financial sector (58.7%) and for government issuances (8.3%) when compared to the previous year. The real estate sector follows, with USD 13.34 billion through 19 issuances, representing 7.0% of total issuances, with the remaining sectors together representing a small portion of total issuance (11.07%).

Maturity Profile: In 2025, primary issuances with less than 5-year tenors represented 49.3% of GCC debt capital markets with a total value amounting to USD 93.46 billion through 367 issuances. Primary issuances with 5-10 year tenors followed, raising USD 64.95 billion through 104 issuances, representing 34.3% of total issuances. Primary issuances with 10-30 year tenors represented 6.7% of GCC debt capital markets with a total value of USD 12.72 billion through 14 issuances during the year. One issuance came in with a maturity greater than ("GT") 30 years with a value of USD 1 billion, while perpetual issuances saw an increase in both the size and number of issuances when compared to 2024, with a total value of USD 17.35 billion through 29 issuances.

Issue Size Profile: During 2025, GCC primary issuances ranged in size from USD 2.0 million to USD 5 billion. Issuances with issue size of USD 1 billion or greater raised the largest amount, totaling USD 100.85 billion through 59 issuances and representing 53.2% of the total amount issued in the GCC. Issuances sized between USD 500 million and USD 1 billion followed, with a total issuance size of USD 58.79 billion through 94 issuances. The highest number of issuances was un-

der USD 100 million issue size, where there were 266 issuances that raised a total amount of USD 8.56 billion during 2025.

Currency Profile: US Dollar-denominated issuances led the GCC Bonds and Sukuk primary market again in 2025, raising a total of USD 145.10 billion through 318 issuances, representing a substantial 76.58% of the total value raised in primary issuances during the year. The second largest issue currency was the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD), where KWD denominated issuances raised a total of USD 7.54 billion through 16 issuances. As for currencies bucketed under "Other" which totaled USD 10.13 billion, the Hong Kong Dollar (HKD) represented 0.98% of total issuances with a total value of USD 1.86 billion through 49 issuances.

Rating: In terms of value, a total of 72.3% of GCC Conventional and Sukuk bonds were rated in 2025 by at least one of the following rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Moody's, Fitch and Capital Intelligence, an increase from 2024 (62.4% of all issuances rated). Issuances rated within the Investment Grade accounted for 64.9% of the total issuances during the year, while Sub-Investment Grade accounted for 7.3% of rated bonds.



Source: Bloomberg, Markaz Analysis

Reinforcing commitment to human capital development

NBK empowers future leaders through training programs

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has redefined the meaning of investing in its human capital. Thousands of training hours were not merely figures, but rather stories of growth, transformation, and the shaping of new leaders. Across every department, every branch, and every job level, there was an employee taking a new step toward a future marked by greater professional maturity and confidence.

Over the course of the past year, the Bank has taken notable strides in developing its employees, empowering leaders, and strengthening its institutional capabilities through a series of advanced initiatives and training programs across all levels. Through these efforts, NBK has further strengthened its position as one of the leading financial institutions committed to capacity building and to investing in human capital as a fundamental pillar of excellence and sustainability.

The initiatives launched over the past year ranged from introducing new waves of the Bank's academies and graduating participants from leading leadership programs, to expanding digital learning and delivering high-quality specialized programs. This underscores NBK's continued commitment to developing its people and equipping them to adapt confidently to the rapid transformations shaping the financial sector.

In 2025, the Bank delivered more than 147,000 training hours to Group employees, with the participation of 5,320 trainees, while overall employee satisfaction across all training courses and development programs reached 91%.

NBK Academy

In 2025, the Bank launched NBK Academy – Wave 30 and the second wave of NBK Tech Academy, with the participation of 29 trainees, reinforcing its commitment to developing top national talent and future banking leaders.

The programs offered participants a rigorous learning journey that combined technical, behavioral, and experiential modules, designed to prepare them for successful careers across the Bank's various divisions.

NBK Tech Academy

At the same time, the second wave of NBK Tech Academy enrolled nine high-caliber Kuwaiti technology talents. Participants received specialized training in cybersecurity, software development, AI, and data analytics, in support of the Bank's digital transformation strategy and its commitment to driving innovation.

This year also marked a significant milestone, as the Bank celebrated 15 years and 30 waves of the NBK Academy during a distinguished event that brought together alumni from previous cohorts. The gathering featured a leadership masterclass and an engaging panel discussion with a select group of speakers and graduates. The event underscored the Academy's pivotal role in developing hundreds of national talents and reinforced the

Bank's enduring legacy in empowering Kuwaiti youth.

Empowering Women in Leadership

A major highlight of 2025 was the graduation of NBK RISE – Cohort 2, with the participation of 25 high-potential female leaders. The program is one of the Bank's flagship initiatives aimed at advancing women into leadership roles and fostering a culture of empowerment and equal opportunity.

Participants embarked on a comprehensive development journey that included executive education, leadership training, mentorship by senior executives, and exposure to real business challenges. Cohort 2 graduates demonstrated notable growth in leadership confidence, strategic thinking, and organizational impact.

High Potential Talent Programs

NBK celebrated the graduation of participants from the PRIME Leadership Program and the NBK Pioneers Program, both designed to enhance leadership capabilities and performance excellence within the Bank's Sales and Distribution Divisions. The programs focused on strengthening the skills of branch managers and sales leaders in customer engagement, operational efficiency, and effective people leadership.

In addition, the Bank launched NBK High Fliers Program – Cohort 9, a fast-track development journey targeting high-performing early-career employees identified as future leaders. The program offers participants project-based learning, leadership mentorship, and exposure to cross-functional initiatives.

Leadership Programs

A total of 390 leaders from across the Bank participated in advanced leadership development programs focused on strategy, leadership effectiveness, and fostering a strong coaching culture within the organization.

AI Mindset

As part of NBK's digital transformation journey, 2025 marked the launch of the AI Mindset Curriculum, a comprehensive learning series delivered through both e-learning modules and instructor-led workshops.

The initiative aims to enhance AI awareness across all job levels and equip employees with a clear understanding of how artificial intelligence can be leveraged to support decision-making, boost productivity, and improve customer experience. The program also addressed key dimensions of AI, including ethics, innovation, risk management, and data-driven strategy.

Specialized Talent Programs

A total of 1,863 employees participated in a wide range of specialized programs, including the Credit Curriculum in collaboration with Moody's, the Trade Finance Academy in partnership with Euromoney, as well as advanced programs in audit, information technology, data, and more.

Bright Knowledge Network

The Bank continued to strengthen its learning culture through the Bright Knowledge Network initiative, an internal peer-to-peer learning platform. The initiative recorded more than 2,000 learning hours, with the participation of 743 employees across 27 interactive sessions, supporting knowledge sharing and the exchange of expertise across the organization.

NBK Ebtakir

The Bank launched the NBK Ebtakir intrapreneurship program, with the participation of 50 employees, in collaboration with the global Plug and Play platform. The program aims to empower employees to develop innovative ideas and future-ready solutions that support the Bank's innovation strategy.

Development Programs for International Locations

NBK's development efforts extended to its international locations, with 119 employees from overseas branches participating in behavioral and skills development programs, ensuring the consistent application of the Bank's standards of excellence across all markets in which it operates.

Numerous Awards

The Human Resources efforts at NBK Group during 2025 were crowned with a host of prestigious awards from leading local, regional, and international institutions. These included the Best Bank for Diversity and Inclusion in Kuwait Award from the renowned Euromoney magazine, as well as the Silver Award for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion for the NBK RISE program from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

In addition, the bank received two accolades at the GCC Government Human Resources and Youth Awards, namely: Most Distinctive Learning & Development in the Private Sector for the NBK Academy and NBK Tech Academy programs, and Excellence in E-Learning Innovation for the bank's learning platform, NBK Learning Hub.

NBK also secured the Bronze Award at the Brandon Hall Group Excellence in Human Capital Management Awards in two categories: Feedback and Recognition for the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Awards Program, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the NBK RISE program.

On this occasion, Najla Al-Sager, SVP - Head of Talent Management & Learning at NBK commented: "The scale of investment made by NBK this year in developing its employees reflects a firm conviction that human capital is the true driver of excellence and sustainability. We have delivered



Najla Al-Sager

Najla Al-Sager:

- The Bank delivered more than 147,000 training hours to Group employees, with the participation of 5,320 trainees
- Leadership programs, digital initiatives, and development programs reached thousands of employees
- Employee satisfaction with all training courses and development programs reached 91%
- 2025 witnessed a series of pioneering training initiatives focused on comprehensive employee empowerment



15 years of NBK Academy.



NBK Tech Academy.



NBK High Fliers Program – Cohort 9.

ered thousands of training hours through diverse and comprehensive programs, reaffirming our commitment to equipping our people with the knowledge and skills needed to keep pace with the rapid transformations in the banking sector and to strengthen their long-term adaptability and preparedness for the future."

"We have been keen to ensure that our initiatives reach all job

levels, from senior leadership to new employees, through advanced leadership programs, specialized initiatives, and digital learning platforms, in addition to innovative programs in AI and innovation. These integrated efforts reflect our vision of building a work environment founded on continuous learning, empowerment, and capability development," she added.

"We are proud of what we have

achieved in 2025, not only in terms of the number of participants or training hours, but in terms of the tangible impact we have seen on our employees' performance, confidence, and ability to innovate. NBK will continue to invest in the development of national talent, driven by its firm belief that the Bank's future and success rest on the strength and competence of its people," Al-Sager concluded.

Initiative supports 'Diraya' program

CINET wins Silver Award for Best ESG Campaign at MEPRA Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET), Kuwait's leading and sole provider of credit information and credit ratings, has won the Silver Award for Best Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Campaign at the Middle East Public Relations Association (MEPRA) Awards, in recognition of its impactful "Mr. Score" video commercial and the integrated awareness campaign accompanying it.

This regional recognition underscores CINET's ongoing commitment to its social role in enhancing credit awareness and promoting financial credit in Kuwait, while reinforcing responsible credit behavior as a fundamental pillar of sustainable economic development across the region.

Launched to simplify credit concepts for the wider public, the "Mr. Score" campaign aimed to encourage individuals to better understand their credit standing, borrowing behavior, and long-term financial decision-making. The campaign closely aligns with the "Diraya" Financial Awareness Campaign led by the Central Bank of Kuwait, supporting national efforts to foster informed and responsible financial participation.

Commenting on the achievement, Mrs. Alia Bader Al-Humaidhi, Chairperson of CINET, said: "This recognition reflects CINET's firm belief that credit awareness is a shared social responsibility. Through initiatives such as the 'Mr. Score' campaign, we strive to empower individuals with clear and accessible information that supports responsible financial behavior and long-term financial stability. These efforts are fully aligned with the Central Bank of Kuwait's 'Diraya' campaign, as part of our active role in strengthening financial literacy and building trust within the credit ecosystem."

The campaign coincided with a significant milestone in CINET's



Alia Al-Humaidhi

service expansion, marked by the integration of Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) facilities within the credit information framework. As of this year, BNPL transactions are reflected in clients' credit reports, representing a strategic step toward broadening CINET's service scope and meeting the needs of a wider, more digitally engaged audience.

By incorporating BNPL data, CINET enhances transparency and enables both consumers and financial institutions to gain a more comprehensive view of credit behavior, supporting informed lending and borrowing practices.

Winning the MEPRA Award—one of the Middle East's most prominent platforms for excellence in communications and public relations—highlights CINET's ability to deliver purpose-driven campaigns that combine social impact, regulatory alignment, and innovation, while contributing to the long-term resilience and sustainability of Kuwait's financial sector.

Boursa Kuwait launches its new "Boursa Boat," second dedicated vessel supporting marine environmental protection in Kuwait Bay

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Boursa Kuwait announced the launch of its new "Boursa Boat," the second vessel dedicated to supporting the efforts of the Kuwait Dive Team and the Environmental Voluntary Foundation, reflecting the company's continued commitment to backing field operations and volunteer initiatives aimed at protecting the marine environment in Kuwait Bay, one of the State of Kuwait's most important environmental and economic resources.

The launch of the vessel comes as part of Boursa Kuwait's strategic approach to translate its environmental commitment into tangible impact, enhancing the efficiency of volunteer field teams and supporting national efforts to preserve marine ecosystems, in line with the company's institutional role and responsibility toward society.

The boat has been designed and equipped with the latest technologies and specialized equipment, enabling the Kuwait Dive Team to carry out a wide range of environmental tasks, including the removal of marine debris and waste, retrieval of abandoned fishing nets, installation of marine moorings as well as monitoring coral reefs, documenting marine life and cleaning beaches and islands.

"Boursa Kuwait is proud of its strategic partnership with the Kuwait Dive Team affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, as a model of constructive cooperation between the private sector and institutional environmental action. The launch of the second Boursa Boat embodies our continued commitment, now in its sixth year, to supporting the team's operations in Kuwait Bay, which is considered one of the country's most prominent environmental and economic resources," said Boursa Kuwait's Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications, Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi.

This initiative carries particular importance given Kuwait Bay's strategic status as one of the main drivers of economic activity in the State of Kuwait, as it hosts vital ports such as Shuwaikh and Doha, in addition to power generation and desalination plants that form key pillars of the country's water and energy security.

Kuwait Bay also holds exceptional environmental value, as it is considered the world's second-largest nursery for fish and constitutes a unique marine ecosystem and a primary refuge for migratory birds along regional migration routes. The Bay includes three major natural reserves that serve as fundamental pillars for protecting biodiversity in the country: the Sabah Al-Ahmad Natural Reserve, Sulaibikhat Marine and Coastal Natural Reserve and Al-Khuwais Natural Reserve in Jahra, reinforcing its status as

one of the most important marine and coastal ecosystems in the region.

"The new Boursa Boat represents an extension of the 'Clean Seas' initiative launched in 2020, when Boursa Kuwait inaugurated its first vessel dedicated to supporting the Kuwait Dive Team's operations, within the framework of a sustainable institutional commitment to protecting Kuwait Bay's marine environment. The continuous annual support for this initiative has contributed to the removal of more than 671 tons of marine waste, enhancing the team's efficiency and expanding the positive impact of its work on Kuwait's marine environment," Al-Sanousi added.

"We extend our thanks and appreciation to the Kuwait Dive Team, the Environmental Voluntary Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme for their constructive efforts and hope that this partnership will serve as a model that inspires more private sector institutions to assume their role in supporting environmental sustainability and achieving long-term impact."

The strategic partnership with the Kuwait Dive Team, Environmental Voluntary Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme underscores that Boursa Kuwait's support for the marine environment is a sustainable commitment that translates sustainability into concrete results on the ground, preserving Kuwait Bay's biodiversity and the life of fish and migratory birds.

It also contributes to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including Life Below Water (Goal 14) through the protection of marine

ecosystems. Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12) by reducing marine waste and Partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17) through cooperation between the private sector, civil society and international institutions.

In 2025, the Kuwait Dive Team carried out 44 field missions, resulting in the removal of 173 tons of marine waste, in addition to retrieving ships and boats with a total weight of 90 tons, demonstrating the effectiveness of the partnership and its direct impact on protecting the marine environment.

Deputy Head of the Kuwait Dive Team Mr. Waleed Al-Shatti stated that the impact of this initiative was not limited to technical enablement but also contributed to raising community awareness and strengthening national capacities in protecting one of the most diverse marine environments in the region.

He expressed his gratitude for Boursa Kuwait's continued institutional support, highlighting the importance of this partnership in enabling the team to carry out its vital missions in Kuwait Bay, which is considered one of the richest and most important marine environments in the region.

Since its establishment in 1986, the Kuwait Dive Team has achieved qualitative accomplishments in the field of marine environmental protection, having removed more than 2000 tons of hazardous waste from Kuwaiti waters since 2009, including over 300 tons of plastic waste, embodying the tangible impact of these ongoing environmental efforts.



Boursa Kuwait launches second 'Boursa Boat' to support marine conservation.

Features

ARAB TIMES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024

Oscar-nominated films see steady gains

'Mercy' unseats 'Avatar' atop the box office on quiet weekend

NEW YORK, Jan 26, (AP): With a winter storm blanketing a large swath of the country, Hollywood had its quietest weekend of the year at the box office. The Amazon MGM sci-fi thriller "Mercy" dethroned "Avatar: Fire and Ash" from the No. 1 spot with \$11.2 million in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Hundreds of theaters were forced to close due to the storm, from Texas to Maine. More than 140 million Americans were under winter storm warnings, depressing moviegoers.

But the weekend was never going to be a blockbuster one, anyway. "Mercy," a \$60 million thriller starring Chris Pratt as a man in a near-future standing trial before an AI judge, was the top new release. It arrived with withering reviews (20% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and an equally poor reception (a "B-" CinemaScore) from audiences.

That was still enough to finally dislodge James Cameron's third Pandora epic from its monthlong perch atop the box office. "Avatar: Fire and Ash" slid to second place with \$7 million. While The Walt Disney Co. release is starting to peter out domestically, it remains a top draw overseas. It took in \$28.1 million internationally in its sixth weekend.

"Avatar: Fire and Ash" isn't going to come close to the box-office heights of the previous two "Avatar" movies. The 2009 original grossed \$2.9 billion and the 2022 sequel, "The Way of Water," tapped out at \$2.3 billion. "Fire and Ash" has now cleared \$1 billion internationally, but its domestic haul (\$378.5 million) is well off the pace of the other two films.

The "Oscar bump" that films once saw following nomination is largely a thing of the past. The lead movies in Thursday's nominations - "Sinners" and "One



This image released by Amazon MGM Studios shows Rebecca Ferguson in a scene from 'Mercy.' (AP)

Battle After Another" - long ago completed their theatrical runs. But a handful of nominees saw strong business.

Chloé Zhao's "Hamnet," nominated for eight Oscars including best picture, collected \$2 million in its first weekend of wide release. The Shakespeare drama, starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal, has been in theaters for two months, steadily

increasing its theatrical footprint. It's up to \$17.6 million domestically and \$42.1 million worldwide.

Josh Safdie's "Marty Supreme," nominated for nine Oscars, earned \$3.5 million in its sixth weekend of release. The A24 title, starring Timothée Chalamet, this week crosses \$100 million globally. It's made \$86.2 million domestically thus far.

But newer releases struggled. "Return to Silent Hill," the third installment in a horror series kick-started with 2006's "Silent Hill," opened with \$3.2 million. Though Sony released the 2006 film and Open Road distributed the 2012 follow-up, the low-budget "Return to Silent Hill" was put out by Iconic Events.

In its second week of release, "28 Years Later: The Bone Temple" dropped swiftly. The Sony release, directed by Nia DaCosta, opened last week to a disappointing \$13.3 million in sales despite good reviews. But its second weekend was even worse, dropping 71% with \$3.6 million.

Other new releases flopped. Roadside Attractions' "H Is For Hawk," starring Claire Foy, took in just \$150,000 from 472 theaters. Sony's "Clique," about a migrant worker with music aspirations, managed only \$1.2 million in 522 locations.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "Mercy," \$11.2 million; 2. "Avatar: Fire and Ash," \$7 million; 3. "Zootopia 2," \$5.7 million; 4. "The Housemaid," \$4.2 million; 5. "28 Years Later: The Bone Temple," \$3.6 million; 6. "Marty Supreme," \$3.5 million; 7. "Return to Silent Hill," \$2.7 million; 8. "Hamnet," \$2 million; 9. "Lord of the Rings," \$2 million and 10. "Primate," \$1.7 million.

Fashion

Top trends

Paris week highlights timeless style, craft

PARIS, Jan 26, (AP): Paris men's Fashion Week ended Sunday with two messages that kept coming up on runways: dress sharply, and build clothes to last.

Japanese powerhouse Sacai pushed new shapes by breaking up the usual top-and-bottom silhouette. Hermès, in an emotional farewell show for long-time designer Véronique Nichanian, made a case for simple lines and long life.

Here are five trends that stood out in the final days of shows, with a nod to each of the big collections.

The season's key item was the coat - long, tailored and meant to be noticed.

At Hermès, Nichanian closed her last men's show after 37 years with a dark coat in glossy crocodile leather.

Earlier looks included aviator-style pieces like shearling bombers, earflap caps and stand-up buckle collars, plus shearling dyed a coral-pink.

Accessories stayed strong: boxy overnight bags and boots with bright orange soles.

Junya Watanabe also made coats the center of his show, sending out classic camel and navy styles, then mixing them with sportier parts - like bomber backs, leather jacket fronts and down-jacket quilting - to make formal outerwear feel tougher and more modern.

Many designers worked with classic suits and jackets, but changed how they sit on the body.

Tailored

At Sacai, Chitose Abe added new sections to jackets, trousers and outerwear - extra panels, pockets and quilted inserts - often built around a triangle theme.

The show moved through tailored looks, workwear and strong denim, including collaborations with Levi's and A.P.C., but the big idea stayed clear: reshape the silhouette without losing wearability.

Comme des Garçons Homme Plus did the opposite with more shock.

Rei Kawakubo cut into black suits and coats - altering lapels and hems - then later sent out white versions of her shapes as the mood shifted from dark to bright.

The styling was intense (wigs and masks), but the clothes still pointed to tailoring as the base.

Another trend was restraint on the surface, with the craft happening in the cut.

Kiko Kostadinov stripped away decoration and focused on construction: clean coats and jackets with folded panels, curved collars and careful drape, often in black and mineral tones.

Even details were hidden - buttons behind plackets, no obvious hardware - so the shape and movement did the talking.

A lot of the week leaned formal, but not sweet.

Watanabe's show felt serious - café-table set, Miles Davis soundtrack, a somber cast - and his black, sharply tailored denim pieces (from an ongoing Levi's collaboration) were styled like a modern uniform.

Jacquemus took the same "dress up" impulse in a lighter direction, riffing on black-tie codes with playful tuxedo twists and a knowingly retro party mood.

The show, staged at the Picasso Museum, drew a celebrity crowd including Elton John, Sophie Marceau and Josh Hartnett, underlining how much the week now treats men's tailoring as both product and spectacle.

Louis Gabriel Nouchi pushed the idea further in an underground car park with loud techno and an "Alien" theme.



A model wears a creation as part of the Dries Van Noten Fall/Winter 2026-2027 Men's collection presented in Paris, Thursday, Jan. 22. (AP)

Film



Charli XCX attends the premiere of 'The Moment' during the Sundance Film Festival on Friday, Jan. 23, at Eccles Center in Park City, Utah. (AP)

Pop star says goodbye to Brat

Charli has her movie star moment at Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah, Jan 26, (AP): Charli XCX plays herself in "The Moment," a meta mockumentary about the end of Brat summer and grappling with otherworldly success.

"I was just really interested in telling this story about expectation," Charli XCX told The Associated Press the day after "The Moment" debuted at the Sundance Film Festival.

The 33-year-old pop star from Essex has been in the music industry since she was 16, with a career trajectory that she described as anything but straightforward. Then, in 2024, it hit a crescendo with her sixth studio album, "Brat," which became a pop culture phenomenon. Finally, she said, she felt understood for a moment. And then, just as quickly, it changed.

"There was this sort of, kind of, you know, persona that people really associated me with and then there were a lot of expectations put on me as a person, as an artist, of who I was then supposed to be. And I didn't fit into that sort of narrative," she said. "I had got to this place where I was finally feeling so understood. Then I was like not understood again."

Making something immensely popular and resonant can be a double-edged sword for an artist working in a business that would sometimes rather milk the "sure thing" forever than let someone evolve and move on. She found herself wanting to grapple with that tension, that existential conundrum that she'd experienced.

A straightforward documentary didn't seem like right approach, so she and Aidan Zamiri, the 30-year-old Scottish photographer and music video director, got to work on something else, something that felt truer to them. "The Moment" is a little "This Is Spinal Tap," a little "Black Swan," a little meta, with the likes of Kylie Jenner and Rachel Sennott playing themselves, a little funny and a little wild. It's heightened, but also true.

"I won't lie, there are definitely some crossovers," she said. "I haven't made the choices that Charli in the film makes, but I've definitely, like, come close to it. ... It was a very accurate depiction of what I've experienced in the

music industry."

One of the buzziest titles in a starry program, the A24 film will be in theaters faster than most: It opens in New York and Los Angeles on Jan. 30 and expands wide on Feb. 6.

In "The Moment," Charli XCX is under pressure as Brat summer comes to an end, having to stage a concert film with Amazon, with a sleazy director not of her choosing played by Alexander Skarsgård, promote a Brat credit card, and fall in line with what music executives want from her. She's also not sleeping and getting increasingly frazzled about everything.

Zamiri, who directed her "360" music video and has become one of her best friends, was excited by the challenge and to direct his first feature film. He also understood intrinsically what she was going through.

"It's this battle of expectations and of people wanting one thing from you and you feeling this pressure too, to stick with it, to keep providing that one thing for fear that maybe that attention, that excitement about you will falter if the next thing they don't love," Zamiri said. "I love the process of making stuff. But part of it, which is often really exciting but also weird, is the sharing with the world because then it's just no longer yours anymore ... it becomes its own thing which I think we saw happen in real-time with Brat."

As with the "Brat" album and everything she does, Charli XCX has been intimately involved in the marketing and promotion of the movie too.

"I love marketing, I really do," she said. "I think there's an interesting gap in film between the vision of the filmmaker and the marketing. It's been really cool working with A24, who are definitely determined to bridge that gap. I mean like, come on, with 'Marty Supreme,' for instance? It was so well done."

Her favorite part, though, is always the creative process, so to have made a film about just that was especially rewarding, she said, "even when I'm being an absolute crazy (expletive)."

There's a palpable energy around "The Moment" as it approaches its theatrical release. Charli XCX made sure that some fans actually got into the premiere, not just industry folks and those who could afford expensive festival passes. Afterward many celebrated into the wee hours of the morning at a DJ's party.

"I love all the fans wanting to roll up with their sunglasses on and their crop tops," Zamiri said. "I get the feeling they'll show up for this like they would for a concert. That's the coolest thing ever."

The Sundance Film Festival was a kind of coronation for Charli XCX, the actor, with three films across the first weekend, including Gregg Araki's "I Want Your..." where she played the uptight girlfriend of Cooper Hoffman's character, and Cathy Yan's "The Gallerist," as an art world influencer type with bleached eyebrows. They're not her first on screen credits, but they do show her range in addition to her ability to carry a film, even if she's playing a version of herself.

It's a big moment for Charli XCX personally, too. She's a self-professed cinephile with a not-so-secret Letterbox account, where she's logged 1,357 movies so far. In a recent review of "Paddington 2," she wrote "lives up 2 the hype." Her four favorites are Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread," David Cronenberg's "Maps to the Stars," Jacques Rivette's "Céline and Julie Go Boating" and Abel Ferrara's "The Addiction."

To now be so fully entrenched in the filmmaking industry, she said, "has been like everything and more." She also did a companion concept album for Emerald Fennell's upcoming "Wuthering Heights."

"I really am sort of like desperate to like learn more and more and more about, you know, about every part of the film industry: Making a film, being in film. I'm so hungry," she said. "I feel so incredibly lucky that I've been a part of the films that I have been part of thus far. I mean, like, to work with Aidan? To work with Gregg Araki? To do a (expletive) scene with like Natalie Portman? I'm like what the (expletive)?"

Mark Tully, known as 'voice of India,' dies at 90

NEW DELHI, Jan 26, (AP): Mark Tully, a longtime BBC correspondent who was widely known as the "voice of India" for his reporting on the South Asian nation, has died, the broadcaster said. He was 90.

Tully died Sunday at a New Delhi hospital after a brief illness.

Born in India's Kolkata city in 1935, Tully joined the BBC in 1965 and was appointed its New Delhi correspondent in 1971. He later served for more than two decades as the BBC's bureau chief for South Asia.

Tully reported on some of India's most consequential events, including the 1971 India-Pakistan war that led to the creation of Bangladesh, the siege of the Golden Temple in 1984, the 1991 assassina-

tion of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the 1992 demolition of the Babri mosque, which triggered nationwide riots.

Tully also reported from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Tully as "a towering voice of journalism."

"His connect with India and the people of our nation was reflected in his works. His reporting and insights have left an enduring mark on public discourse," Modi wrote on X.

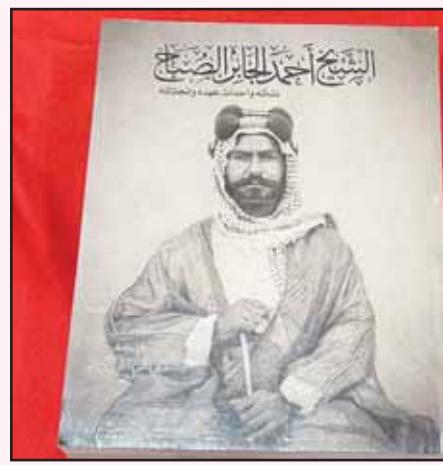
Britain knighted Tully in 2002 for services to broadcasting and journalism. He also received two of India's highest civilian honors, the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan.



Former BBC journalist in India Mark Tully, left, chats with a truck-driver at a highway tea shop in Dandekar, 20 kilometers (13 miles) northwest of Kolkata, India, Monday, Feb. 18, 2002. (AP)



Officials of the Research and Studies Center Pavilion at the Cairo International Book Fair.



'Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah' chronicles the life of the late Amir.



Dr. Khaled Al-Saeedi, faculty member of the Kuwait International Law School.



KUNA photos
Kuwait pavilion at the Cairo International Book Fair.

Kuwaiti publishers omnipresent amid Cairo int'l book fair

A wide array of Kuwaiti publishers were on hand as the 57th Cairo International Book Fair continued on Sunday in the Egyptian Capital, all of whom aim to shine the spotlight on some of the most prominent literary works and cultural landmarks.

The event, touted as among the most prominent "cultural gatherings" in the region, aims to ratchet up cooperation across the wider Arab region, while the Kuwaiti par-

ticipants in the book fair agree that the exhibition is tantamount to a global "platform" that allows Kuwait the chance to reinforce its presence in the cultural arena.

Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), one of the participants in the gathering, seeks to propel Kuwait's relations with Egypt to greater levels, said the body's representative Abdullatif Al-Kharafi, citing the Egyptian au-

dience's penchant for reading and knowledge-based cultural works.

On what the NCCAL's pavilion at the book fair is showcasing, he said that the works on display run the gamut from short stories to poems and intellectual series, all of which enjoy a "rabid fan base" among Egyptian readers, added the official.

Kuwait International Law School (KILAW) representative Sami Al-Wuhaibi

highlighted the gathering as instrumental in pushing forward the pan-Arab "cultural movement," citing the plethora of publications the school is displaying to bolster law-based knowledge and legal reasoning, he said.

On KILAW's participation in the Cairo international book fair, faculty member Dr. Khaled Al-Saeedi said that it was part of the body's academic expansion plans,

which seek to give the school's most notable works greater international exposure, he highlighted.

The Cairo International Book Fair is among the largest and most visited exhibitions in the region, bringing together international publishers, readers, authors and literary professionals under one roof to look into the latest trends in the industry. (KUNA)

Variety

PARK CITY, Utah: A man was arrested Friday night at a party during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, for allegedly assaulting a Florida congressman.

US Rep. Maxwell Frost wrote on X on Saturday that he was punched in the face by a man who told Frost that President Donald Trump was going to deport him.

The altercation occurred at a private party hosted by talent agency CAA at the High West Distillery, a popular venue for festival-adjacent events.

"He was heard screaming racist remarks as he drunkenly ran off," Frost wrote. "The individual was arrested and I am okay."

Frost, the first Gen Z member of Congress, thanked the venue security and the Park City Police Department for their help. A Park City Police Department representative said officers arrived on the scene just after midnight.

Christian Joel Young, 28, was arrested on charges of aggravated burglary, assaulting an elected official and assault and transported to Summit County Jail, according to court records. Young appeared to have crashed the party by jumping a fence and had a Sundance Film Festival pass that was not issued in his name, according to the police affidavit.

It was unclear if Young had an attorney who could speak on his behalf. The Associated Press left messages with the Summit County Sheriff's office and Utah courts in an attempt to request comment from Young or a lawyer. (AP)

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BRUSSELS: European Union regulators on Monday opened a formal investigation into Elon Musk's social media platform X after his artificial intelligence chatbot Grok started spewing non-consensual sexualized deepfake images on the platform.

The scrutiny from Brussels comes after Grok sparked a global backlash by allowing users through its AI image generation and editing capabilities to undress people, putting females in transparent bikinis or revealing clothing. Researchers said some images appeared to include children. Some governments banned the service or issued warnings.

The 27-nation EU's executive said it was looking into whether X has done enough as required by the bloc's digital regulations to contain the risks of spreading illegal content such as "manipulated sexually explicit images."

That includes content that "may amount to child sexual abuse material," the European Commission said. These risks have now "materialized," the commission said, exposing the bloc's citizens to "serious harm."

Regulators will examine whether Grok is living up to its obligations under the Digital Services Act, the bloc's wide-ranging rulebook for keeping internet users safe from harmful content and products. (AP)

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ULAN BATOR: A camel festival was held in Mongolia's southern province of Dundgovi on Sunday to promote tourism and pass on the camel culture to the next generations.

Under the auspices of Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, the camel festival is being organized by the Ministry of Culture, Sport, Tourism and Youth, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry as well as the provincial governor's office.

Hundreds of camel herders and camels across the nomadic country participated in the two-day festival held in the provincial capital city of Mandalgovi.

The festival features camel racing, camel polo, camel parade, camel relay races, and an exhibition of camel products.

In 2025, the camel population in Mongolia exceeded 501,000, according to a livestock census.

Dundgovi is located in the south of the Asian country, about 240 km from the capital city of Ulan Bator. (Xinhua)

Photography



The winning image that placed second in the Best Portfolio category for Landscapes, Weather, and Climate.



The winning photo showing Arabian red foxes in Kuwait's Doha region.



The images that won second place in the Best Portfolio category for Landscapes, Weather, and Climate.

The photograph that won the Award for Excellence in the Wildlife, Sea Life, and Birdlife category.

Kuwaiti artistry shines on the global stage

Kuwaiti photographers clinch top honors at Travel Photographer of the Year 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): Two Kuwaiti photographers have been distinguished as winners of the prestigious British Travel Photographer of the Year (TPOTY) 2025 Award, emerging victorious from a field of elite entrants spanning more than 160 countries.

Photographer Mohammad Murad secured the top prize in the Portfolios - Wildlife, Sea Life, Birdlife category. He further solidified his standing by receiving an Award for Excellence for best single image within the same category's Special Mention section. Compatriot Sulaiman Al-Atiqi was declared the runner-up in the Portfolios - Landscape, Weather, and Climate category, marking a significant double-victory for Kuwaiti artistry on the global stage.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Sunday following the official announcement, Murad disclosed that his winning portfolio featured an intimate study of Arabian red foxes in Kuwait's Doha region. The series was the culmination of over two months of rigorous field observation and monitoring.

Murad noted that his visual narrative explored the poignant proximity of these foxes to Kuwait City. The work serves as a stark commentary on environmental shifts and their direct impact on indigenous biodiversity, he clarified.

Regarding his excellence award, Murad highlighted a

photograph captured in Tanzania depicting a juvenile elephant alongside its mother. He utilized a sophisticated "intentional camera movement" (ICM) technique, employing a slow shutter speed to create an ethereal, painterly aesthetic.

The photographer expressed profound pride in the fact that one of his fox images has attained iconic status, having amassed 13 international accolades to date, including a recent win in China.

"My primary motivation remains elevating the profile of the State of Kuwait in international forums and ensuring a Kuwaiti imprint on the global contemporary art scene," Murad emphasized.

In a separate statement to KUNA, Sulaiman Al-Atiqi detailed his success in the landscape category, achieved through a series of four mesmerizing images documenting underwater lily gardens in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

His work captures the surreal intersection of submerged aquatic life and the vibrant terrestrial greenery above, forming a masterful tableau of nature's primary colors.

Al-Atiqi, whose work also recently placed third in the DPG Masters 2025 underwater photography competition, described this latest recognition as a "pivotal professional milestone."

Technology

12% use AI daily

Americans embrace AI at work, Gallup poll shows

NEW YORK, Jan 26, (AP): American workers adopted artificial intelligence into their work lives at a remarkable pace over the past few years, according to a new poll.

Some 12% of employed adults say they use AI daily in their job, according to a Gallup Workforce survey conducted this fall of more than 22,000 US workers.

The survey found roughly one-quarter say they use AI at least frequently, which is defined as at least a few times a week, and nearly half say they use it at least a few times a year. That compares with 21% who were using AI at least occasionally in 2023, when Gallup began asking the question, and points to the impact of the widespread commercial boom that ChatGPT sparked for generative AI tools that can write emails and computer code, summarize long documents, create images or help answer questions.

Home Depot store associate Gene Walinski is one of the employees embracing AI at work. The 70-year-old turns to an AI assistant on his personal phone roughly every hour on his shift so he can better answer questions about supplies that he is not "100% familiar with" in the store's electrical department in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. "I think my job would suffer if I couldn't because there would be a lot of shrugged shoulders and 'I don't know' and customers don't want to hear that," Walinski said.

While frequent AI use is on the rise with many employees, AI adoption remains higher among those working in technology-related fields.

About 6 in 10 technology workers say they use AI frequently, and about 3 in 10 do so daily.

The share of Americans working in the technology sector who say they use AI daily or regularly has grown significantly since 2023, but there are indications that AI adoption could be starting to plateau after an explosive increase between 2024 and 2025.

Documents

In finance, another sector with high AI adoption, 28-year-old investment banker Andrea Tanzi said he uses AI tools every day to synthesize documents and data sets that would otherwise take him several hours to review.

Tanzi, who works for Bank of America in New York, said he also makes uses of the bank's internal AI chatbot, Erica, to help with administrative tasks. In addition, majorities of those working in professional services, at colleges or universities or in K-12 education, say they use AI at least a few times a year.

Joyce Hatzidakis, 60, a high school art teacher in Riverside, California, started experimenting with AI chatbots to help "clean up" her communications with parents.

"I can scribble out a note and not worry about what I say and then tell it what tone I want," she said. "And then, when I reread it, if it's not quite right, I can have it edited again. I'm definitely getting less parent complaints."

Another Gallup Workforce survey from last year found that about 6 in 10 employees using AI are relying on chatbots or virtual assistance when they turn to AI tools. About 4 in 10 AI users at work reported using AI to consolidate information or data, to generate ideas or to learn new things.

Hatzidakis started with ChatGPT and then switched to Google's Gemini when the school district made that its official tool. She has even used it to help with recommendation letters because "there's only so many ways to say a kid is really creative."

The AI industry and the U.S. government are heavily promoting AI adoption in workplaces and schools. More people and organizations will need to buy these tools in order to justify the huge amounts of investment into building and running energy-hungry AI computing systems. But not all economists agree on how much they will boost productivity or affect employment prospects.



Art teacher Joyce Hatzidakis poses for a portrait in her classroom Thursday, Jan. 22, Riverside, Calif. (AP)

Egypt to restrict children's social media use to curb 'digital chaos'

CAIRO, Jan 26, (AP): Egypt's Parliament is looking into ways to regulate children's use of social media platforms to combat what lawmakers called "digital chaos," following some western countries that are considering banning young teenagers from social media.

The House of Representatives said in a statement late Sunday that it will work on a legislation to regulate children's use of social media and "put an end to the digital chaos our children are facing, and which negatively impacts their future."

Legislators will consult with the government and expert bodies to draft a law to "protect Egyptian children from any risks that threaten their thoughts and behavior," the statement said.

The statement came after President

Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi on Saturday urged his government and lawmakers to consider adopting legislation restricting children's use of social media, "until they reach an age when they can handle it properly."

The president's televised comments urged his government to look at other countries including Australia and the United Kingdom that are working on legislations to "restrict or ban" children from social media.

About 50% of children under 18 in Egypt use social media platforms where they are likely exposed to harmful content, cyberbullying and abuse, according to a 2024 report by the National Center for Social and Criminological Research, a government-linked think tank.

HEALTH/SCIENCE

GCC records region's best cancer survival rates, says Dr. Al-Saleh

Kuwait to host oncology conference on cancer awareness

By Marwa Al-Bahrani

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The Gulf Federation for Cancer Control, in cooperation with Kuwait Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society, announced that the Regional Oncology Conference – the Federation's 13th annual conference -- with the theme "Cancer: Reality and Challenges," will be held on Feb 2-3, under the patronage and in the presence of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi.

This announcement was made during a press conference held at the Society's headquarters, with Chairman of the Board of Directors and Conference Chairman Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, and member of the conference's higher committee and head of the coordinating committee for the 11th Gulf Cancer Awareness Week in Kuwait Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen in attendance.



President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Freedom to Dr. William Foege, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who helped lead the effort to eradicate smallpox, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 29, 2012. (AP)

'Father of global health'

Smallpox eradication pioneer Dr. Foege dies

ATLANTA, Jan 26, (AP): Dr. William Foege, a leader of one of humanity's greatest public health victories - the global eradication of smallpox - has died.

Foege died Saturday in Atlanta at the age of 89, according to the Task Force for Global Health, which he co-founded.

The 6-foot-7 inch Foege literally stood out in the field of public health. A whip-smart medical doctor with a calm demeanor, he had a canny knack for beating back infectious diseases.

He was director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and later held other key leadership roles in campaigns against international health problems.

But his greatest achievement came before all that, with his work on smallpox, one of the most lethal diseases in human history. For centuries, it killed about one-third of the people it infected and left most survivors with deep scars on their faces from the pus-filled lesions.

Smallpox vaccination campaigns were well established by the time Foege was young doctor. Indeed, it was no longer seen in the United States. But infections were still occurring elsewhere, and efforts to stamp them out were stalling.

Working as a medical missionary in Nigeria in the 1960s, Foege and his colleagues developed a "ring containment" strategy, in which a smallpox outbreak was contained by identifying each smallpox case and vaccinating everyone who the patients might come into contact with.

The method relied heavily on quick detective work and was born out of necessity. There simply wasn't enough vaccine available to immunize everyone, Foege wrote in "House on Fire," his 2011

book about the smallpox eradication effort.

It worked, and became pivotal in helping rid the world of smallpox for good. The last naturally occurring case was seen in Somalia in 1977. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared smallpox eradicated from the Earth.

"If you look at the simple metric of who has saved the most lives, he is right up there with the pantheon. Smallpox eradication has prevented hundreds of millions of deaths," said former CDC director Dr. Tom Frieden, who consulted with Foege regularly.

Foege was born March 12, 1936. His father was a Lutheran minister, but he became interested in medicine at 13 while working at a drugstore in Colville, Washington.

He got his medical degree from the University of Washington in 1961 and a master's in public health from Harvard in 1965.

He was director of the Atlanta-based CDC from 1977 to 1983, then held other international public health leadership roles, including stints as executive director at The Carter Center and senior fellow at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In 2012, President Barack Obama presented Foege with the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In 2016, while awarding Foege an honorary degree, Duke University President Richard Brodhead called him "the Father of Global Health."

"Bill Foege had an unflagging commitment to improving the health of people across the world, through powerful, purpose-driven coalitions applying the best science available," Task Force for Global Health CEO Dr. Patrick O'Carroll said in a statement. "We try to honor that commitment in every one of our programs, every day."

FDA investigation

Powdered whole milk may have caused botulism in infants: test

NEW YORK, Jan 26, (AP): Powdered whole milk used to make ByHeart infant formula could be a source of contamination that led to an outbreak of botulism that has sickened dozens of babies, US health officials indicated Friday.

Testing by the US Food and Drug Administration found the type of bacteria that can cause the illness in two samples linked to the formula, officials said.

The agency found that bacteria in an unopened can of formula matched a sample from a sick baby - and it also matched contamination detected in samples of organic whole milk powder used to make ByHeart formula and collected and tested by the company.

FDA testing also found contamination in a sample of whole milk powder supplied to ByHeart - and it matched the germ in a finished sample of the company's formula.

The findings are not conclusive, and the investigation continues "to determine the source of the contamination," the agency said in a statement.

In a statement, ByHeart officials said the new finding "suggests that we are significantly closer to determining the root cause of the contamination."

Neither FDA nor ByHeart named the supplier of the powdered whole milk.

At this time, there is no indication of a broader problem in the infant formula supply, the FDA said.

New York-based ByHeart has been at the center of a food poisoning outbreak that has sickened 51 babies in 19 states since December 2023. The problem was identified in November after officials with the California program that supplies the sole treatment for infant botulism detected a surge in cases in babies who consumed ByHeart formula.

No new cases in the outbreak have been identified since mid-December, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

ByHeart initially recalled two lots of formula, but it expanded the recall to all products days later. Federal health officials later said they could not rule out contamination of all products made since the company launched in March 2022.

That followed company testing, announced in November, that found six of 36 samples of formula from three different lots contained the dangerous type of bacteria that causes infant botulism.

Illnesses caused by botulism bacteria in infant formula are rare, and the size and scope of the ByHeart outbreak is unprecedented, food safety experts said.

In his speech, Al-Saleh pointed out that the conference is important, especially since it follows the recognition of the Federation as an observer in the World Health Organization (WHO). He said this reflects the alignment of the Federation's strategy with the priorities of WHO in the field of public health and strengthens regional cooperation to address health challenges, particularly in the areas of awareness, early detection, research and training.

He revealed that the conference will discuss the most common types of cancer and will host 40 experts and specialists from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and several other countries worldwide. He added the Arab Medical Union will also participate and had expressed its appreciation for Kuwait's hosting of this regional health event.

He revealed that the conference program includes specialized scientific sessions over two days, a workshop titled "Continuing Care for Cancer Survivors: A Gulf Experience",

and a competition to select the best scientific paper following approval by the scientific committee. He stated that more than 34 research papers were received from inside and outside Kuwait, and a cash prize will be awarded to the winner, which will be announced at the end of the conference.

He asserted that scientific studies have proven that the GCC countries have the best cancer recovery rates in the Middle East. He cited data from the GCC Statistical Center, showing 31,700 new cancer cases in 2023, with an incidence rate of 90 cases per 100,000 people, which is lower than the global average of 196.9 cases per 100,000 people.

He pointed out that females constitute 54.2 percent of the cases, and that Gulf efforts continue to improve diagnosis and treatment and address risk factors, such as smoking and obesity.

Moreover, Al-Shaheen confirmed that the conference coincides with the launch of the 11th Gulf Cancer Aware-

ness Week, in which all cancer-related societies in the GCC countries are participating under the slogan, "United in Our Excellence."

She added that the week's events will take place from Feb 1-7, focusing on raising health awareness, stressing the importance of early detection, and promoting a culture of adopting healthy lifestyles that reduce the risk factors for cancer.

She confirmed that more than 50 Gulf entities are participating in the awareness efforts, through the coordinated efforts of the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control and Gulf Health Council.

She added the entities that are members of the coordinating committee in Kuwait will participate in an awareness exhibition on the sidelines of the opening of the oncology conference, hoping that these joint efforts will contribute to achieving a positive and sustainable impact for the benefit of Gulf societies.

India flights

Thailand boosts Nipah screening

BANGKOK, Jan. 26, (Xinhua): Thailand's Civil Aviation Authority announced that it will implement comprehensive screening for all flights arriving from India's West Bengal, a high-risk region for Nipah virus, starting from 00:00 local time on Monday to prevent the virus from entering the country.

In a statement released on Sunday, the authority said the screening measures will be adjusted dynamically based on the evolving situation.

Key protocols currently in place involve airlines conducting preliminary health checks at the point of departure. Passengers who exhibit symptoms that call for further testing are required to present relevant medical certificates before boarding and must adhere to public health guidelines throughout the flight.

Upon arrival in Thailand, all travelers will undergo temperature checks and be required to fill out a health declaration form. Dedicated screening stations have been set up in the jet bridge areas of designated airports.

According to Thai media reports, direct flights operate between Kolkata in West Bengal and three major Thai airports -- Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, and Phuket, where the screening measures have already been rolled out.

No Nipah virus cases have been reported in Thailand so far, authorities said on Sunday.



Acting Director General of the KFAED Waleed Al-Bahar signs an agreement with a WHO representative.

tation shortly and urgently, contributing to the prevention of disability and long term health complications among children.

According to a statement by the Kuwait Fund, the project, expected to be implemented over a period of about 12 months, will cover multiple polio vaccination campaigns in the targeted areas, ensure adequate vaccine coverage, and identify children who have not yet been immunized.

The statement added that the project also includes organizing vaccination campaigns and enhancing community engagement to reach every child, reducing the risk of international spread, monitoring main routes of internally displaced persons and border crossings, and supporting access to water, food or fuel, as well

as distributing hygiene supplies, providing treatment, essential medicines, and delivering vaccines in addition to polio vaccines.

The project further aims to strengthen regional surveillance and laboratory activities to eradicate polio across the region, including environmental surveillance in epidemiologically vulnerable areas, and support an effective network of 12 WHO accredited polio laboratories across the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The fund noted that proposed activities also seek to bolster polio programs through the procurement of laboratory equipment and consumables, enhanced surveillance, secure sample transport, and capacity building to ensure health safety in countries at high risk of disease transmission.

'Focus on sleep hygiene over wearable scores'

Sleep-tracking devices have limits, experts warn



Wearable devices, including Apple Watches, can be used to track sleep, Wednesday, Jan. 21, in Atlanta, Ga. (AP)

Dr. Chantale Branson, a neurologist and professor at the Morehouse School of Medicine, said she frequently has patients showing up with sleep scores from fitness trackers in hand, sometimes fixated on granular details such as how much REM sleep they got on a certain night.

Branson says those patients are taking the wrong approach: the devices help highlight trends over time but should not be viewed as a definitive measure of one's sleep health. Nor should any single night's data be seen as significant.

"We would have believed them with or without the device and worked on trying to figure out why they can't sleep - and that is what the wearables do not do," she said.

Branson said she thinks people who check their sleep statistics every morning would be better served by spending their efforts on "sleep hygiene" such as creating a relaxing bedtime routine, avoiding screens before bed and making sure their sleep environment is comfortable.

She advises those concerned about their sleep to consult a clinician before spending money on a wearable.

Forger takes a more favorable view toward the devices, which he says help keep the overlooked importance of sleep front of mind. He recommends them even for people without significant sleep issues, saying they can offer insights that help users fine-tune their routines and feel more alert during the day.

"Seeing if your biological clock is in sync is a huge benefit because even if you're giving yourself the right amount of time, if you're sleeping at the wrong times, the sleep won't be as efficient," Forger said.

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Hosts win by eight wickets with 10 overs to spare

India wraps up series against NZ after Sharma's lightning 50

GUWAHATI, India, Jan 26, (AP): Opener Abhishek Sharma hit a whirlwind 68 not out off 20 balls as India beat New Zealand with ease, winning the third Twenty20 match by eight wickets with 10 overs to spare.

India took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

Sharma reached his 50 off only 14 deliveries, including four sixes, and put on 102 off 40 balls with skipper Suryakumar Yadav (57 not out off 26) as India reached 155-2 in 10 overs in reply to New Zealand's 153-9 in 20 overs.

Sharma's innings was India's second-fastest fifty in men's T20s.

"This is what my team wants from me - I want to execute it all the time," Sharma said. "It is not easy to do it, but I keep trying."

Jasprit Bumrah returned for India and took 3-17 in four overs as New Zealand was restricted to a sub-par score.

Glenn Phillips top-scored for the Black Caps with 48 off 40 and Mark Chapman was out for 32.

India won the first T20 in Nagpur by 48 runs, and the second T20 in Raipur by seven wickets.

The fourth T20 is at Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.



India's Abhishek Sharma plays a shot during the third T20 cricket match between India and New Zealand in Guwahati, India. (AP)

Chasing 154, India started badly by losing Sanju Samson for a golden duck to Matt Henry.

But Sharma hit five sixes and seven fours overall to put New Zealand's bowling to the sword.

Ishan Kishan hit 28 off 13 deliveries as the pair added 53 off only 19 balls for the second wicket. Kishan then holed out off Ish Sodhi, yet it didn't end New Zealand's misery.

India set a hectic pace, scoring 100 in only 6.3 overs. Yadav got his second consecutive half-century, off 25 balls. He finished with three sixes and six fours overall.

New Zealand was put into bat but failed to make a good start. Bumrah bowled Tim Seifert for 12 after Harshit Rana dismissed Devon Conway for one.

Hardik Pandya (2-23) made it 34-3 in 5.1 overs with Rachin Ravindra's dismissal for four.

New Zealand never really recovered from those early blows despite a 52-run partnership between Phillips and Chapman, who both fell to wrist spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2-18).

Bumrah then returned for another spell and got two more wickets.

'Pressure is privilege'

Pinheiro Braathen carries Brazil's Winter Oly dream

MILAN, Jan 26, (AP): When Lucas Pinheiro Braathen tells people in Brazil that he represents the country in Alpine skiing, he says they don't believe him.

They just might if he wins Brazil's first Winter Olympics medal next month.

"When I meet someone new (in Brazil) ... it's always this mindblowing moment and it always sparks a very interesting conversation," Pinheiro Braathen said with a smile in a recent interview with The Associated Press in Milan. "And funny enough, I actually think it's those interactions that maybe prove the most how fulfilling it is for me to represent Brazil in something like skiing because it just shows me how foreign it is. So that's really fun."

If Pinheiro Braathen does finish on the podium, it would also be a first Winter Olympics medal for any South American country, something he wasn't aware of.

"I mean thanks you just added a whole other layer of pressure so I'll happily bring that along," he laughed. "The greater the challenge, the greater the difference that I can bring and I believe it is the more pressure you feel, the bigger the difference that you can create."

Pinheiro Braathen's mother is Brazilian and his father is Norwegian. He had raced for Norway until abruptly retiring on the eve of the new season in 2023, only to come back a year later representing Brazil.

The 2023 World Cup slalom champion has already racked up a series of firsts under his new flag, becoming the first Brazilian skier to finish on a World Cup podium last year before claiming the country's first victory this season to add to his five for Norway.

"I simply try to capitalize off of that pressure and channel it into my performance because, yes, it makes the days leading into the competition extremely challenging because you know you have something greater to live up to rather than just the possibility of a great result," Pinheiro Braathen said.

"But it is exactly that that enables you to become the version of yourself where you can beat every single other athlete at that start gate and so, as I said, pressure is privilege. It is my most important currency."

Pinheiro Braathen likes to entertain. When he got his first podium result for Brazil, he celebrated with a samba dance. His reaction after claiming his first win was more visceral, as he fell to his knees and screamed "yeah!" with both arms in the air.

The 25-year-old admits he has no clue what he would do if he was to succeed in Bormio, where the men's Alpine ski racing will take place at the Olympics.

"If you achieve immense success in something that you've dedicated your life to, at least for me, it is impossible to curate what those moments look like," Pinheiro Braathen said. "It is truly whatever you feel that sees the light of day and that's what I think is so beautiful about those moments and it is simply what I chase every single day waking up. Yet another day getting to experience that feeling."

Pinheiro Braathen is one of skiing's most vibrant personalities, known for painting his fingernails and having a taste for fashion. He brings to the slopes the energy of Brazil and the discipline of Norway, having spent much of his childhood in both countries.

"I'm a person of cultural duality," he said. "Two perspectives always presented from birth and so for me I always find that I've never been living a life where I'm only presented to one reality, one culture or one way of living. It's always been these polar opposites and so I think that has shaped me to become who I am today and how I want to live my life."

Pinheiro Braathen has a close relationship with his father, Björn Braathen. So much so that he named the reindeer he won as part of the traditional winner's prize at the World Cup in Levi after him.

It was his father who introduced him to skiing, when he was 4 or 5, though Pinheiro Braathen didn't take to it initially.

"I bought everything for him, like shoes, like boots and skis and everything, and we went out and he would complain the whole time," Braathen said. "Like 'I'm cold, I'm not cut out for this, I'm freezing,' and, 'I'm Brazilian and this is not for me.'

A love for the sport eventually arrived. Braathen, who also serves as his son's team manager, doesn't mind that his son switched allegiances.

"As a Norwegian, people expect me to feel very bad about that, but I don't," he said. "It's my son and I just want him to be happy."



Brazil's Lucas Pinheiro Braathen at finish line during an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom in Kitzbuehel, Austria. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Foyth set to miss World Cup: Argentina defender Juan Foyth has ruptured his left Achilles tendon while playing for Villarreal in the Spanish league and is set to miss the World Cup.

Foyth was injured in the 23rd minute of Villarreal's 2-0 loss to Real Madrid on Saturday.

Villarreal said Sunday that tests confirmed the injury.

The club said it will "provide further information in due course regarding the surgical procedure he will have to undergo."

Recovery time for such injuries can be up to a year, meaning the 28-year-old central defender likely won't be able to play in the World Cup that begins in June.

Foyth has had long-term knee and shoulder injuries in the past. He recently had his contract with Villarreal extended until 2029. (AP)

□ □ □

Booker to miss at least a week: Phoenix Suns All-Star guard Devin Booker will miss at least a week with a sprained right ankle.

Booker will be re-evaluated in a week, the Suns said before Sunday night's game against Miami.

He and guard Jalen Green both went down with injuries in Phoenix's 110-103 loss to the Atlanta Hawks on Friday night.

Booker, a four-time All-Star, went down with five seconds remaining in the third quarter after stepping on the foot of the Hawks' Onyeka Okongwu. Booker leads the Suns with 25.4 points and 6.2 assists per game.

Green re-injured his right hamstring against the Hawks in his second game since missing 33 games. He was walking without a limp after the game and the Suns hope it won't be a long-term injury. (AP)

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New All Blacks coach must have test-level experience

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Jan 26, (AP): The

successful candidate who replaces Scott Robertson as All Blacks head coach will have to have coached already at test level, New Zealand Rugby has announced.

Robertson was fired in January two years into his four-year contract after a damning internal report in the All Blacks' 2025 season.

New Zealand Rugby chairman David Kirk, former All Black Keven Mealamu, former NZR head of high performance Don Tricker, acting NZR chief executive Steve Lancaster and another former All Black yet to be named will make up

the panel that chooses the next coach.

Kirk, Mealamu and Tricker participated in the review which led to Robertson's removal and Kirk and Mealamu interviewed current players who are said to have been critical of Robertson's methods.

Former Japan coach Jamie Joseph, who coached the Dunedin-based Highlanders, former Wallabies coach Dave Rennie, who coached the Hamilton-based Chiefs and Auckland Blues Fiji, will meet the stipulation of having coached at test level. Only New Zealanders can apply.

SPORTS

Farwaniya Governor highlights Kuwait Sports Day as a national initiative

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26, (KUNA): Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser has underscored the significance of Kuwait Sports Day, set for February 7 on Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Bridge, calling it a national initiative that encourages community participation in diverse sporting activities.

The Governor made the remarks after receiving the President and members of the Kuwait "Sports for All" Federation, who extended an official invitation to join the event, held under the patronage of Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

Sheikh Athbi noted that all state institutions are committed to participating, highlighting the event's role in promoting sports as a lifestyle. He also praised the continued support of government officials in ensuring the

success of Kuwait Sports Day.

He encouraged citizens and residents of Farwaniya to join the activities, which aim to foster community sports, encourage physical activity, and spread awareness of healthy living across all segments of society.

Federation President Faisal Al-Muqseed added that national leadership remains dedicated to supporting sports events and strengthening collaboration between government entities and sports organizations to enhance public health and active living.

Al-Muqseed emphasized the Federation's ongoing efforts with state institutions to organize an event that reflects Kuwait's commitment to people's well-being and quality of life, while expressing gratitude to the Farwaniya Governor and local residents for their active participation in Kuwait Sports Day.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser flanked by the federation's president and members.



The Kuwait team preparing for the opening match.



Manchester United's Matheus Cunha celebrates scoring their side's third goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Manchester United in London. (AP)

Kuwait kicks off Asian Futsal Champ'ship against Vietnam

By Hassan Mousa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
JAKARTA, Jan 26: The Kuwaiti national futsal team begins its campaign in the Asian Futsal Championship today, taking on Vietnam at 1:00 PM in Group B's opening match in Jakarta, Indonesia. Earlier, Lebanon faces Thailand at 9:00 AM in the same group.

The tournament features four groups, with the top two teams from each advancing to the quarterfinals.

Led by Spanish coach Bruno Garcia, Kuwait has prepared extensively for the championship,

participating in multiple training camps and friendly matches. The squad combines young talent with experienced players, including Abdullatif Al-Abbas, Saleh Al-Fadel, Ahmed Al-Farsi, and Abdulaziz Al-Hajri.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Garcia said the team is well-informed about its opponents and ready to deliver its best performance, stressing that Kuwait aims to win every match.

After facing Vietnam today, Kuwait will meet Thailand on Thursday and close its Group B matches against Lebanon on Saturday.

Man Utd opens up title race again

LONDON, Jan 26, (Xinhua): Manchester United extended its strong form under Michael Carrick with a 3-2 win away to Arsenal, a result that also boosted Manchester City's title hopes.

Matheus Cunha scored the winner in the 87th minute, two minutes after Mikel Merino's close-range finish from a corner had pulled Arsenal level late in an end-to-end match.

Arsenal took the lead in the 29th minute when Lisandro Martinez turned the ball into his own net, but Bryan Mbeumo pounced on a defensive error to equalize soon afterwards.

Patrick Dorgo restored United's lead five minutes into the second half, setting up a tense finish that cut Arsenal's advantage at the top of the table to four points.

Aston Villa stayed third and level on points with Manchester City after a 2-0 win away to Newcastle United, a result that also dented Newcastle's European hopes.

Emi Buendia opened the scoring in the 19th minute, and Ollie Watkins headed in a second two minutes from time to reward Villa's superiority.

Chelsea beat Crystal Palace 3-1 away, with young Brazilian Estevao scoring the opener and setting up Joao Pedro for the second before Enzo Fernandez added a penalty to make it 3-0. Chris Richards pulled one back late for Palace, which also had Adam Wharton sent off.

Nottingham Forest won 2-0 away to Brentford, with Igor Jesus heading in during the first half and Taiwo Awoniyi adding a second in the 79th minute from Morgan Gibbs-White's assist.

Pegula knocks Keys out to face Anisimova in quarters

Sinner extends winning streak to 18 at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 26, (AP): Jessica Pegula knocked out defending champion Madison Keys in the Australian Open on Monday to secure a quarterfinal against Amanda Anisimova, another all-American match.

Their fourth-round wins on Day 9 meant four Americans reached the women's singles last eight in Australia for the first time since 2001, when Serena and Venus Williams, Jennifer Capriati, Monica Seles and Lindsay Davenport made it through.

"Sucks that one American has to go out in the quarterfinals," Anisimova said.

Pegula had a slightly different take: "At least one of us will get through and I think that's great for American tennis. Yeah, it's been pretty crazy how well the women have been doing and how many top-ranked girls there are. I'm just happy to be a part of that conversation."

Pegula and Anisimova advanced a day after No. 3 Coco Gauff and 18-year-old Iva Jovic earned their places on the other side of the draw.

Pegula's 6-3, 6-4 win at Rod Laver Arena ended Keys' first Grand Slam title defense in a tough section of the draw.

Anisimova, runner-up at the last two majors at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, advanced 7-6 (4), 6-4 over Wang Xinyu as the temperature started rising at Melbourne Park and organizers triggered the heat stress policy which allowed for extra cool-



Jannik Sinner of Italy plays a backhand return to his compatriot Luciano Darderi during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

ing breaks.

"What a battle out there. Tough conditions against a really good opponent," Anisimova said. "There were a lot of fans from China today but, honestly, it made the atmosphere great."

No. 2 Iga Swiatek continued her quest to complete a career Grand Slam with a 6-0, 6-3 win over home qualifier Maddison Inglis, giving the center court crowd little to cheer on the Australia Day national holiday.

Swiatek next meets No. 5 Elena Rybakina, runner-up to Aryna Sabalenka here in 2023.

Pegula is in the quarterfinals for the fourth time in Australia but has never previously gone further at the season-opening major. Anisimova is in the last eight here for the first time.

"I have been seeing, hitting, moving, I feel very well this whole tournament, and to be able to keep

survive the third round.

Sinner struggled with the extreme heat and cramping in his Saturday afternoon win over No. 85-ranked Elliot Spizzirri, and only took control of that match after the roof was closed in the third set.

His evening match Monday was much cooler, and so was Sinner. He served a personal best 19 aces and improved his streak to 18 straight wins at Melbourne Park.

The Italian star next faces No. 8-seeded Ben Shelton, who beat No. 12 Casper Ruud 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in a night match. Sinner has won his last eight meetings with the 23-year-old American, including last year's semifinal.

Lorenzo Musetti reached the quarterfinals for the first time in Australia with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 win over an ailing Taylor Fritz.

It completed a Grand Slam set of quarterfinals for the 23-year-old Italian.

The fifth-seeded Musetti has had a disrupted run, with members of his support team having to return home for personal reasons. He also had to leave his family behind after the birth in November of his second son.

"I feel more mature on the court. I'm playing better for that, and for them," he said.

His next mission is against a rested Novak Djokovic. The 24-time major winner was scheduled to be the feature night match Monday but instead had a walkover into the quarterfinals.

With a forecast maximum temperature of 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) on Tuesday, organizers planned to open the gates early for fans. Matches on the three arena courts are likely to be played with the retractable roof on.

Dortmund seeks Champs League momentum despite fan discontent

BERLIN, Jan 26, (Xinhua): The mood around Borussia Dortmund is more complicated than the league table suggests ahead of Wednesday's UEFA Champions League match against Inter Milan.

Dortmund, the 2024 Champions League finalist, sits second in the Bundesliga and is pushing for a place in this season's Champions League knockout stage. Yet despite the results, dissatisfaction lingers among sections of the fan base. Coach Niko Kovac has delivered stability, even if supporters continue to crave a more expansive style of play. According to Opta, Dortmund has kept a clean sheet in 53 percent of matches this season. Ten of its 19 Bundesliga games have ended without conceding, the best record in Europe outside of Paris Saint-Germain.

Recent progress has also fueled optimism inside the squad, with attention

turning to defender Nico Schlotterbeck, who has become increasingly influential since returning from injury.

Media reports have suggested the Germany international is close to signing a contract extension, though Schlotterbeck said he is taking his time. "I have a deadline, which I keep to myself for the time being," he said. "I listen to my gut feelings, because I am an intuitive person." Schlotterbeck appeared rejuvenated after scoring in a 3-0 Bundesliga win over Union Berlin, following Kovac's decision to allow him greater freedom to join attacks. "I am back up front, and I enjoy it," the 26-year-old said.

Kovac had initially urged caution after Schlotterbeck's months-long absence, limiting his forward runs. Ten matches later, Dortmund is benefiting from his aerial strength and increased threat from set pieces.

Kuwait ice skating team clinches bronze

SARAJEVO, Jan 26, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti ice skating team secured a bronze medal at the Bosnia and Herzegovina International Ice Skating and Freestyle Skating Championship, which concluded in the Bjelasnica Mountain area.

Kuwait's success came as athlete Salman Al-Kandari earned third place in the freestyle slopestyle event. The team also competed in the large hill ski jump, delivering impressive performances.

The Kuwaiti delegation, consisting of Al-Kandari and Abdulwahab Al-Mutawaa, competed alongside teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Georgia, North Macedonia, Greece, and Portugal.

Mishal Fulaitth, Secretary of the Kuwait Winter Games Club and head of the sport, said the club was keen to involve its athletes in this international competition to prepare them for the World Championship in Germany this April. He praised both athletes for their strong performance and dedication.

Fulaitth also highlighted the importance



The team celebrates with the national flag.

of international competitions in boosting the technical skills and experience of Kuwaiti athletes. He reaffirmed the club's commitment to supporting its players across all five winter sports it oversees: ice skating, ice hockey, curling, speed skating, and figure skating.

Record turnout at inaugural 'Adwan Tribe' horse festival

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: The first "Adwan Tribe" Festival for Purebred Arabian Horses concluded successfully at the Sabhan Racecourse, Shooting and Equestrian Club, featuring a record 90+ horses competing under the sponsorship of Dr. Mohammed Nafea Al-Rashdan.

The festival included seven races, with Egyptian, Polish, French, and English categories. Standout horses included Baraq, Hamas, Jah Al-Kawn, Blawi, Wahj Al-Salaat, Al-Jarib, and Neom Al-Ula, excelling across the races from the first to the seventh.

Speaking at the festival, Dr. Al-Rashdan said, "While this festival was organized for the Adwan Tribe, participation was open to all in this inaugural edition, which will now be held annually. Horse riding helps young people develop talent, patience, resilience, and endurance. My son Nafea, who conceived the idea, has loved horses since childhood, and all my children share this passion."

He added that he will continue to support youth participation in equestrian sports, emphasizing that the event celebrated heritage, tradition, and fair competition.

tition, reflecting the true values of horsemanship, long associated with honor and dignity.



Mohammad Al-Rashdan alongside jockey Nafea Al-Rashdan.

Switzerland leaves Ammann off team

BERN, Switzerland, Jan 26, (AP): Switzerland left 44-year-old ski-jumping great Simon Ammann out of a team of 175 athletes picked Monday for the Milan Cortina Olympics that includes three defending champions.

At the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, he was a double gold medalist whose Harry Potter-like spectacles and boyish charm led to him being a studio guest on David Letterman's late-night show.

Ammann competed at all seven Winter Games since 1998 in Nagano, Japan and also won two gold medals at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

An eighth selection would have tied him with the Winter Games record held jointly by Japanese ski jumper Noriaki Kasai and German speed skater Claudia Pechstein, according to the history site Olympia.

Kasai took silver at age 41 in the large hill event at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, where Ammann placed 23rd.

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Arsenal's Leandro Trossard, right, is challenged by Manchester United's Diogo Dalot during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Manchester United in London. Manchester United won 3-2. (AP) — See Page 15

Sports

Amir congratulates Qatar on Sheikh Joaan's election as OCA president

A new era begins as Sheikh Joaan takes charge of Olympic Council of Asia

DOHA, Jan 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent congratulatory messages to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, following the election of Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani as President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere congratulations, noting that Sheikh Joaan's election reflects Qatar's prominent international standing. He wished Sheikh Joaan success in his new role and extended his best wishes to Qatar and its people for continued progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad.

His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also sent a congratulatory cable, wishing Sheikh Joaan success in his new position and reiterating his best wishes for Qatar's ongoing growth and development.

Similarly, His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdulla Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, conveyed his congratulations to the Amir of Qatar and expressed confidence in Sheikh Joaan's leadership in advancing Asian sport.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) on Monday elected Qatar's Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani as



President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

its new president during the 46th OCA General Assembly held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

According to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Sheikh Joaan becomes the 22nd president to serve the Olympic Movement in Asia since 1913. The General Assembly brought together more than 350 sports officials representing 45 Asian National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

He succeeds Raja Randhir Singh, who stepped down from the post for health reasons, as head of the world's largest regional

sports organization.

Sheikh Joaan is the fifth president in the OCA's history, underscoring Qatar's growing influence and leadership role in Asian sport. Participating NOCs expressed full confidence in his leadership and extensive experience in developing sport across the continent.

Following his official endorsement, the General Assembly viewed a video presentation highlighting Sheikh Joaan's achievements, which have contributed significantly to the development of sport in Qatar and strength-



KUNA photos
Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani, new President of the Olympic Council of Asia.

ened Doha's position as a global sporting hub.

In his address, Sheikh Joaan emphasized unity as a cornerstone of progress in Asian sport.

"Asia is the largest and most diverse continent within the Olympic family. This diversity is our greatest strength, but it also requires us to work in unity, guided by mutual respect and our shared commitment to Olympic values," he said.

"Through unity, we transform diversity into opportunity. We empower

our National Olympic Committees and provide a platform for our youth to excel on the world's sporting stage. Together, let us work towards a more united, stronger and successful OCA. Together for Asia."

Sheikh Joaan also paid tribute to his predecessor, saying: "I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my dear friend His Excellency Mr. Raja Randhir Singh for his leadership, vision and tireless efforts during challenging times."

During the meeting, members re-

viewed updates on upcoming major multi-sport events. Organizers confirmed that the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games will take place from September 19 to October 4, 2026, while the Sanya Asian Beach Games are scheduled for April 22 to 30, 2026.

The organizing committee of the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games set to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from February 8 to 10, 2026, also presented the latest updates on preparations for the event.

Meanwhile, the Executive Office of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has appointed Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, as Vice President of its Council for the West Asia region.

According to a statement from the Kuwait Olympic Committee, the appointment reflects the high level of trust and respect Kuwait holds within the Asian sports community. It also highlights the committee's proactive role in promoting and developing the Olympic movement at both regional and continental levels.

The committee emphasized that this new position will further enhance Kuwait's presence on the Asian sports stage and support initiatives aimed at advancing sports development across West Asia.

Kuwait eyes Championship final after World Cup berth

Coach describes team's victory as major achievement

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Following their qualification for the 2027 World Handball Championship in Germany, Kuwait is now aiming for the final of the 22nd Asian Handball Championship, currently taking place at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Kuwait faces Qatar at 6:00 PM in the semifinals, while Bahrain meets Japan at 4:00 PM. Other placement matches include UAE vs Iraq for seventh place, Saudi Arabia vs South Korea for fifth, Australia vs Oman for 13th, and

Iran vs Jordan for 11th, with India finishing 15th.

Acting President of the Kuwait Handball Federation, Shbeeb Al-Hajri, congratulated Kuwait's leadership and people on the team's historic tenth World Cup qualification, highlighting the critical support from the country's leadership, the federation's planning, the players' hard work, and the fans' unwavering backing.

Qaed Al-Adwani, Secretary of the Federation and Director of the 22nd Asian Championship, expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled, the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, and Minister of Youth Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi for their continuous support, which enabled the team's strong performance. Federation member Talal



Kuwait and South Korea players fighting for the ball.

Kuwait dominates GCC Swimming Championship with 88-medal haul

DUBAI, Jan 26, (KUNA): Kuwait dominated the 30th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Swimming Championship in Abu Dhabi 2026, finishing at the top of the overall standings. Kuwait secured a total of 88 medals, including 30 gold, 35 silver, and 23 bronze, showcasing their commanding performance across both men's and junior events.

The women's team also made a significant impact, contributing 23 medals and demonstrating strong technical skills and competitive resilience. In the men's division, Kuwait outpaced Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain, with Oman finishing sixth. For the women's events, the host UAE led the standings, followed by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait in fourth place.

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), head of the Kuwaiti delegation Musa Boushehri described the achievement as a testament to the dedication and hard work of both male and female athletes. He congratulated the swimmers for elevating Kuwait's regional standing and delivering performances reflective of the nation's growing prowess in the sport.

Boushehri highlighted the historic debut of Kuwait's women's team at the championship, noting it as a milestone for the nation and a reflection of the sport's expanding foundation. He emphasized that the success was the result of seamless teamwork, careful planning, and unwavering commitment throughout the competition.

He also expressed gratitude to the Public Authority for Sport for its support, which played a crucial role in facilitating these results. The delegation dedicated their victory to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the Kuwaiti people for their continued encouragement of Kuwaiti athletics.

Kuwait's contingent at the championship included 40 athletes, featuring nine female swimmers, marking the nation's historic first participation in the women's swimming category at this event.



KUNA photos
Top and above: Kuwaiti swimmers celebrate on the podium during the GCC Swimming Championship.

Al-Arabi suffers a setback in title race

Kuwait Club 'holds firm' at top of Zain Premier League after key win

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Jan 26: Kuwait Club reinforced its dominance in the Zain Premier League with a 1-0 victory over Al-Arabi in the 12th round, keeping a firm grip on the top spot. The win brings Kuwait Club closer to securing its fifth consecutive league title and the 21st in the club's history.

Kuwait Club now has 32 points, eight clear of second-place Al-Arabi, with 11 rounds remaining. Maintaining an undefeated record with 10 wins and 2 draws, the team has shown it remains a team difficult to beat, fully living up to its championship reputation.

Al-Arabi, meanwhile, suffered a setback in the title race, now closer to the mid-table teams ranked third to sixth, and will need to improve performance to stay competitive.

Al-Qadsia climbed to third place with 21 points after defeating Al-Fahaheel 2-0, while Al-Fahaheel dropped to fifth with 17 points. Kazma recorded a late 2-1 win over Al-Jahra to reach fourth place with 18 points, putting them in contention for third if they beat Al-Tadamon in their postponed match. Al-Jahra remains eighth with 7 points. Al-Salmiya claimed sixth place with



Kuwait Club player gestures as an opponent looks on during the Zain Premier League match between Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi.

17 points after bouncing back with a 3-1 win over Al-Tadamon, recovering from two defeats and four draws. Meanwhile, Farwaniya SC sits last with 5 points. In

the lower table, Al-Nasr drew 1-1 with seventh-place Al-Shabab, while Al-Ahmad earned a crucial point against Jleeb Al-Shouyukh.

Best of the Rest

Freeman receives Australia's highest honor: Cathy Freeman thrilled Australians when she won the women's 400 meters gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, wearing a skin-tight, hooded running suit. She then excited controversy when she took a victory lap carrying the Australian flag and a flag representing Australia's First Nations peoples.

On Monday, Freeman was awarded Australia's highest civil honor in the annual honors list commemorating the

Australia Day national holiday. The honor, she said, means that at 53 its time to start getting more serious. (AP)

Cambodia to host Asian Youth Games: Cambodia will host the 2031 Asian Youth Games, according to a news release from the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia.

NOCC secretary general Vath Chamroeun said hosting the Asian Youth Games would be a great source of pride for Cambodia, describing it as one of the region's most prestigious multi-sport events, with athletes from all 45 Olympic

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فريحة Farah

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Contents

2	Alef Cover Star	نجم غلاف مجلة ألف
4	International Optique	النظارات العالمية
8	A maze	متاهة
10	Color me	لوّنني
12	Music	موسيقى
14	Ice skating	ترزج على الجليد
16	Cheetah	الفهد
18	Strawberry	الفراولة
20	Alef Stars	نجمات ألف

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My Age is L: 3 years old

My favorite subject is : Science

My favorite cartoon character : Cocomelon

My favorite hobby is : drawing, coloring, and building blocks

My best friend's name is : Shaikha

When I grow up, I want to be : A pediatrician



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3

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What is a Hearing Aid?

A hearing aid is a small helper that goes in or behind a person's ear.

It helps people hear sounds better, like voices, music, birds or cars.

Some people's ears don't work as well as others. That's nobody's fault—it's just how their body is.

A hearing aid makes sounds louder and clearer, so their ears can do a better job.

People might need a hearing aid so they can:

- Hear what friends and family are saying
- Learn at school
- Stay safe by hearing things around them

It is kind of like how glasses help eyes see better—a hearing aid helps ears hear better.



Protect Your Ears



Here are some easy ways to protect our ears:

- If music or TV is too loud it can hurt your ears.
 - Turn down the sound.
- Don't put things in your ears. Toys, pencils, or fingers don't belong inside them.
 - Ears clean themselves.

- Wear ear protection for loud noises.
 - If it's very noisy, like at a concert or near loud machines, wear special ear covers.
- Wear ear plugs when swimming.
 - Ear plugs help keep water out of our ears.
- Tell an adult if your ears hurt.
 - If your ears feel painful, itchy, or funny, it's important to let an adult know.

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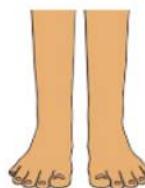
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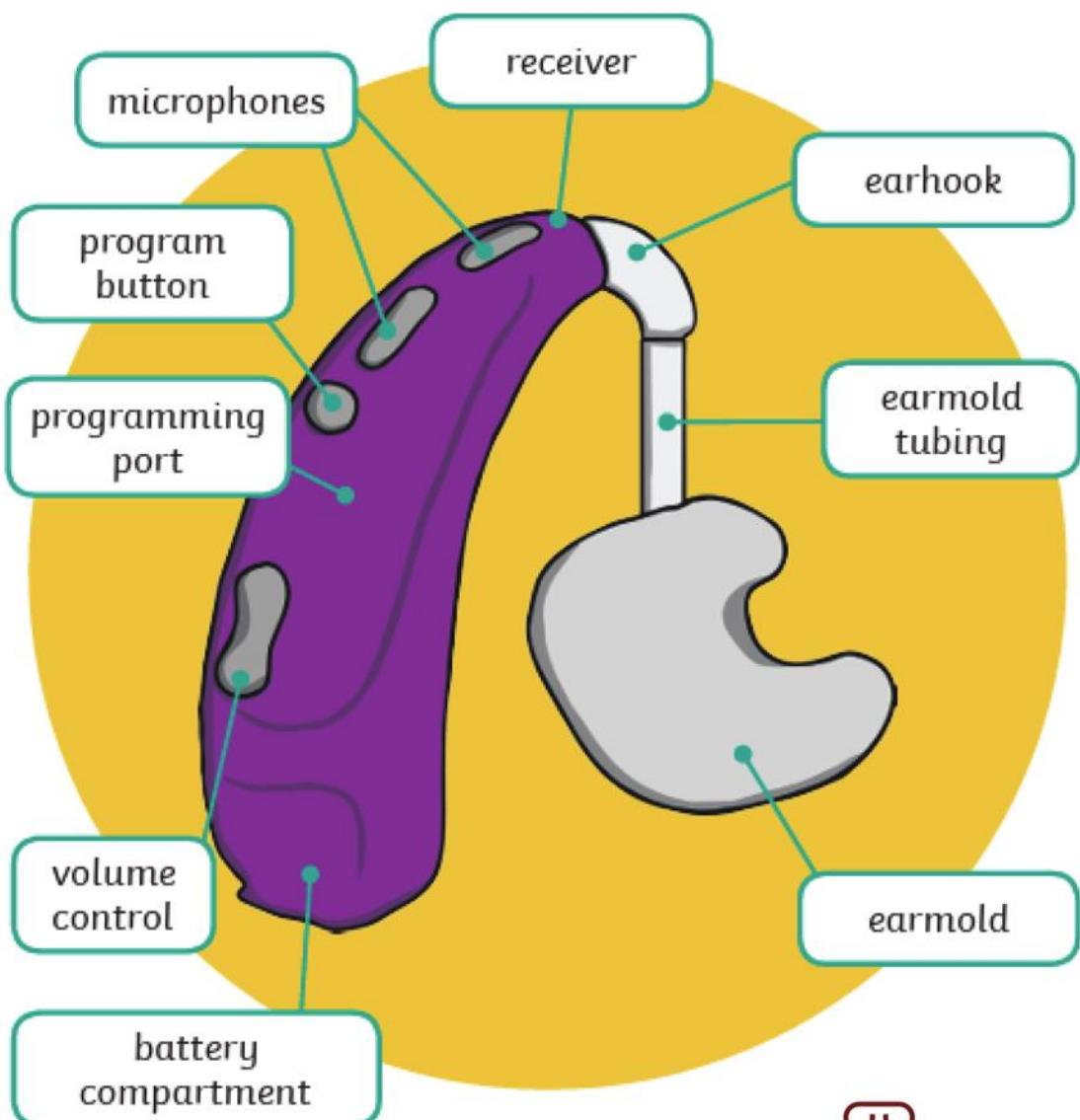


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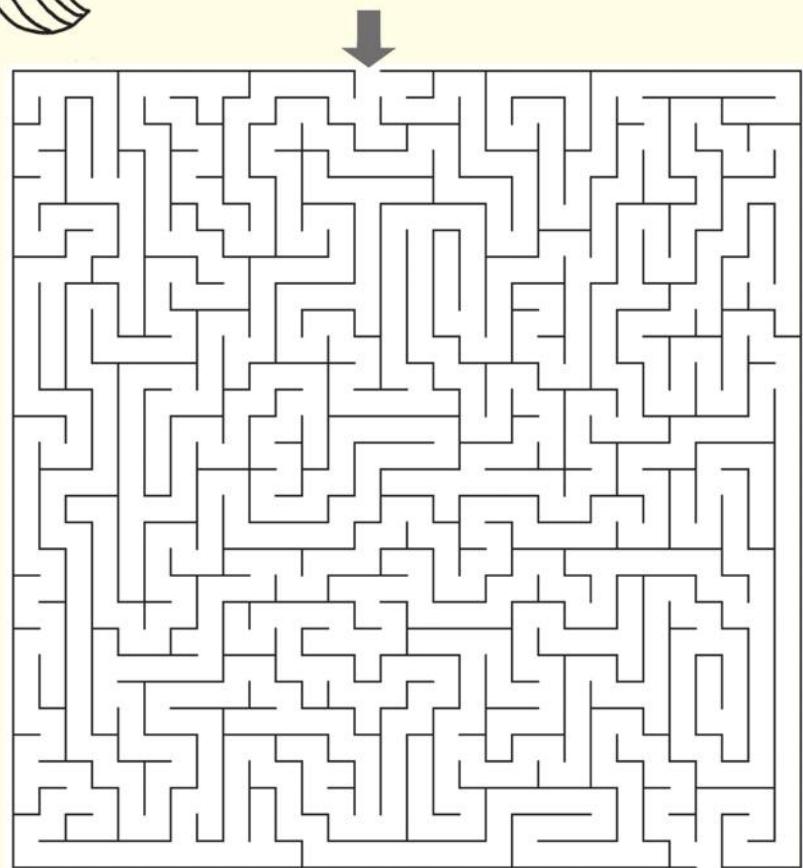
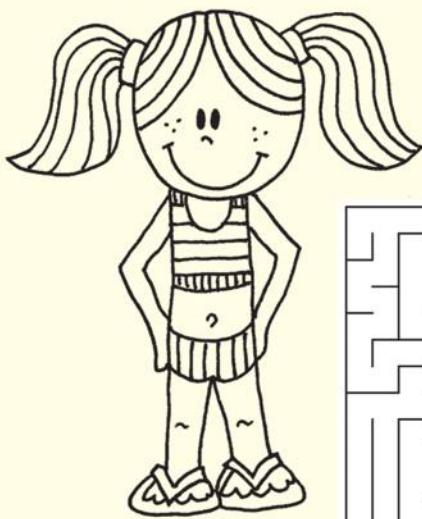
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A maze



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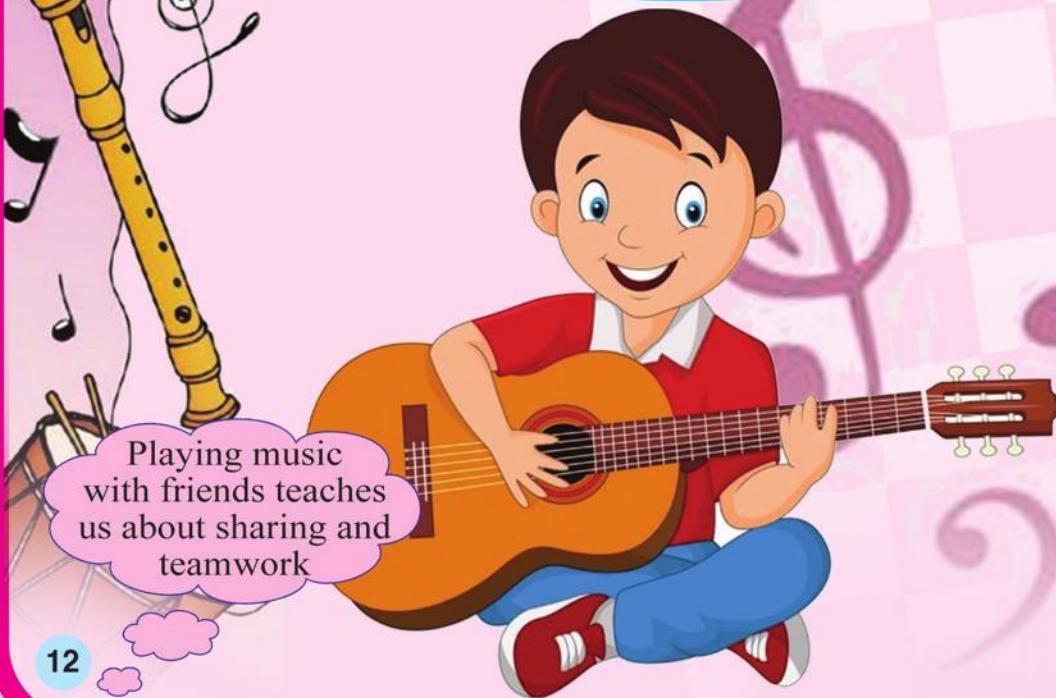


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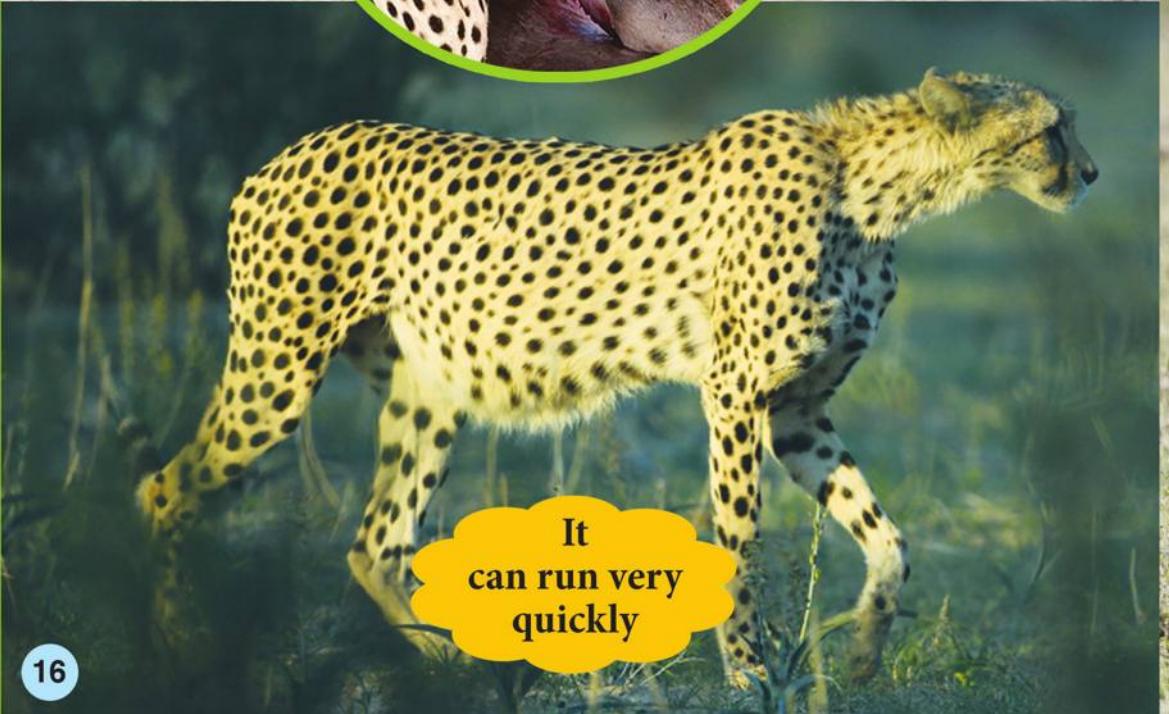
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Cheetah

The cheetah
is the fastest animal
on land



الفهد



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that keep us healthy
and strong

Eating
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body grow and
gives us energy

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