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## Opinion

### These are the concerns of our country and its people

**By Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE statement, which was recently published in Al-Qabas newspaper and contained signatures of 212 Kuwaiti figures, expresses the distress that the country is experiencing.

Indeed, we are not exaggerating when we say the statement contained thorny issues, which were explained by His Highness the Amir in his sublime speech during the oath-taking session.

Undoubtedly, such a statement removes the glass barrier between the people and their leadership, and opens the path for a new vision based on serious work to solve citizens' challenges, especially since Kuwait faces many challenges, as highlighted by the signatories of the statement, which we hoped would be published in all newspapers.

This is the first popular frankness following the unusual cooperation witnessed between the two authorities to approve laws that were based on private interests.

This seasonal cooperation did not take into account the national interest, which is why the Kuwaitis rejected some of them.

Our problem in Kuwait is that the army of advisors who surround the decision makers obscure the vision of reality from them, and they operate according to the rule of "All is well."

Nonetheless, the country is reeling under the weight of several crises that cast their shadows on all aspects of life, pushing people to "wash their hands," as the public say, of constitutional institutions.

There is no doubt that open councils to hear people's opinions would solve many problems, because they break down the barriers between the ruler and the ruled.

In this regard, I recall when King Salman bin Abdulaziz assumed power, and said, "Our doors are open and our ears are listening to every citizen. May Allah have mercy on those who point out my faults to me."

The Saudi King worked to establish a grievances bureau and opened accounts on social media to receive complaints and suggestions from his people. The Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also worked to follow up on everything published. That is why the face of the Kingdom changed within seven years, after a major workshop in regulations and decisions, which made Saudi Arabia emerge from the bottleneck of budget deficit and head towards abundance.

It goes without saying that listening to people's demands directly by the decision makers had a significant impact in resolving many issues.

The same applies to the United Arab Emirates, as all its officials, from the oldest to the youngest, live in the field.

I remember the day I had a meeting with the Vice President of the UAE Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid in Dubai in a public place, among many other meetings.

I sensed that he listened to people's complaints, because the time is for work, not for composing poems of praise, as is the case in all other Gulf countries.

These countries did not rely on the opinions of advisors, something that Kuwait has unfortunately been witnessing for three decades.

This is why the imbalance in the relationship between the two powers - the legislative and the executive - has become rooted due to the approach based on private interests.

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

## NewsWatch

**RIYADH:** The Saudi Cabinet, chaired by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**, approved Tuesday a number of memoranda and agreements to boost cooperation with several friendly countries.

In a statement, aired by the official news agency (SPA) following the meeting, Saudi Minister of Information said the Cabinet agreed on a memorandum of understanding for enhancing mutual direct investment with Türkiye. (KUNA)

**BEIRUT:** The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) stated Wednesday that assassination of Hamas official, **Saleh Al-Aroui**, could carry devastating implications on people on the sides of the Blue Line.

Deputy Director of UNIFIL's information office, Candice Ardil, revealed to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) that she is deeply concerned over the chance of escalation. (KUNA)

**LONDON:** UK Foreign Secretary **David Cameron** discussed, via phone Tuesday, with US counterpart **Antony Blinken** Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea and the worsening humanitarian situation in the **Gaza Strip**.

"The Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State discussed the international community's shared condemnation of the illegal and unjustified attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea by Houthi militants," UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesperson said. (KUNA)

# Gender impersonation in Kuwait faces KD 3,000 fine, 2 years jail

**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3:** MPs **Fahd Falah Bin Jame'e, Falah Al-Hajri, Hamad Al-Matar, Osama Al-Shaheen and Hamdan Al-Azmi** have submitted a bill to toughen penalties on whoever acts like the opposite gender.

According to the bill, those convicted will be imprisoned for two years maximum and fined KD3,000 maximum. In case the convict occupies a public sector job, the punishment is tougher - maximum of three years imprisonment and a fine ranging from KD3,000 to KD7,000. In all cases, those convicted are obligated to remove all

signs of acting or behaving like the opposite gender.

MP **Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi** has submitted a proposal to allow Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis to obtain family visa for their non-Kuwaiti children as long as the mother is alive.

He suggested that there should be no age limit for the beneficiaries of the proposal, and that they should be exempted from the health insurance fees.

MP **Osama Al-Shaheen** submitted a proposal for the Central Bank of Kuwait to publish the names of the owners of inactive bank accounts in Kuwait Gazette and grant them a grace period to contact the banks. Once the grace period ends, the deposits in inactive accounts whose owners did not respond will be transferred to charitable organizations as donations to be distributed to the needy in the country.

Meanwhile, The Environment, Food and Water Security Af-

fairs Committee on Wednesday discussed the assignment given by the National Assembly to investigate the reasons behind the participation of Kuwait in Doha Horticultural Exhibition EXPO 2023. Present at the meeting were representatives of the Ministry of Finance, State Audit Bureau (SAB) and Environment Public Authority (EPA).

The Family, Women and Children Affairs Committee on Wednesday met with representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Public Authority for Manpower (PAM). They talked about the enforcement of the laws on protection from family violence and the rights of children, as well as following up the issuance of the executive regulations for both laws.

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### MPs tackle family visa, bank account dormancy



First batch of 'Undersecretary Officer - Sergeant' course graduates honored at the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences on Wednesday. Ministry of Interior photo

## Kuwait reforms target labor market stability

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3:** In response to the challenges faced by the country in recent years, including random employment and growing chaos due to visa trade and other violations, the government took significant steps in 2023 to address demographic imbalances and enhance the labor market, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Council of Ministers appointed **Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled**, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, to spearhead efforts in this crucial area. This appointment led to the implementation of numerous regulatory and encouraging measures, significantly activating Law No. 74 of 2020, which pertains to the regulation of demographics.

In line with the Kuwaitization plan and the directives of **Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled**, Chairman of the National Committee for Demographics and Labor Market Development, various decisions were taken to achieve social, economic, and job security. Following the issuance of executive regulations for the demographic law, the Council of Ministers outlined mechanisms to address demographic imbalances, effectively implementing the law.

To safeguard Kuwaiti families from loose labor practices and commercial fraud, and combat visa traders who exploit workers the "Electronic Worker ID" was introduced through the My ID application. This digital ID contains comprehensive worker data, contributing to the regulation of the labor market.

Aligned with the worker's smart identity, the "Kuwait Visa" application was launched, featuring an electronic entry visa (e-Visa) aimed at reducing forgery and tampering with entry visas. This initiative ensures fast and accurate electronic verification before workers board planes and enter the country, thereby protecting society and preventing the entry of individuals with criminal records or infectious diseases.

In a bid to increase the proportion of national workers in the private sector and create attractive job opportunities, several decisions were made. Notably, the Kuwaitization of cooperative societies' project aims to generate 3,000 job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, including supervisory and leadership roles. This initiative has witnessed high demand, and the first phase has seen national workers employed in leadership positions.

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### Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad chairs Arab Planning Institute meeting

## Kuwait Defense Minister emphasizes joint Arab action

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3:** The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense **Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah** says the challenges and opportunities in global economic and social developments require greater insistence on strengthening joint Arab action, due to its great importance in supporting Arab developmental issues, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Planning Institute for the year 2023/2024 headed by **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad**, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Council, and with the participation of representatives of Arab member states to discuss the institute's achievements during the past year, **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad** affirmed support for any Arab movement that can give the people of Palestine their rights and can lead to comprehensive peace and justice.

In his opening speech, **Sheikh Ahmad Al-**

**Fahad** welcomed the participating delegations from the Arab member states.

He said, "The Arab Planning Institute is considered the most important institution for joint development work. It is keen to provide its services and exert efforts in a manner consistent with regional and international economic developments.

Today we are on the verge of a new phase full of challenges and opportunities in global economic and social developments. This requires greater insistence on strengthening joint Arab action because of its great importance as one of the pillars of the



Sheikh Ahmad

development of various institutions supporting Arab development issues.

The institute was able to keep pace with the developmental changes and challenges in the countries of the region, at a time when the general performance indicators during the year 2022/2023 showed the achievement of the institute's desired goals.

The institute's plan had 215 training activities, including 153 in-person programs at its headquarters in the State of Kuwait, and 62 virtual programs. Efforts were also exerted to implement a number of qualitative consultative studies."

**Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad** expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by the representatives of the Arab member states of the institute during the past year, saying, "The institute's

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People stay next to destroyed cars after an explosion in Kerman, Iran, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024. Iran says bomb blasts at an event honoring a prominent Iranian general slain in a U.S. airstrike in 2020 have killed at least 103 people and wounded 188 others. (AP)

## Iran blasts claim 103, wound 188

**DUBAI, Jan 3, (AP):** Two bombs exploded minutes apart Wednesday at a commemoration for a prominent Iranian general slain in a U.S. drone strike in 2020, officials in Iran said, killing at least 103 people and wounding at least 188 as the Middle East remains on edge over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for what appeared to be the deadliest militant attack to target Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. The blasts shook the city of Kerman, about 820 kilometers (510 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran, and sent shrapnel hurtling into a screaming crowd fleeing the first explosion.

The gathering marked the fourth anniversary of the killing of Gen. **Qassem Soleimani**, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq in January 2020.

## Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:19	Asr	14:43
Sunrise	06:43	Maghrib	17:02
Zohr	11:53	Isha	18:25

# Local

**Expected weather for the next 24 hours:**

**By Day:** Mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

## Weather

**By Night:** Rather cold with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.

**Station** **Max Exp** **Min Rec**  
Kuwait City 22 14

Kuwait Airport	22	12
Abdaly	22	12
Jahra	22	13
Salmiyah	21	15
Nuwaisib	23	13
Wafra	23	12

**BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT:** <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

## First one Kuwaiti, saw daylight at 12:01am

# 13 Kuwaitis among 27 babies born on first day of new year

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: The obstetrics and gynaecology departments in government hospitals recorded a total of 27 births on the first day of the year, including 13 Kuwaitis -- one of whom is the first baby (a boy) born at the beginning of the year, specifically at 12:01 am in Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, reports Al Anba daily.

The second baby is an Egyptian boy born at 1:08 am in Farwaniya Hospital, third is a Kuwaiti baby boy born at 1:49 am in Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, fourth is a Kuwaiti baby boy born at 2:04 am in Adan Hospital, fifth is a baby girl of unspecified nationality born at 2:17 am in Jahra Hospital and sixth is a Syrian baby girl born at 2:25 am in the Maternity Hospital.

Adan Hospital also witnessed the birth of two sets of twins through Caesarian section -- the first are Kuwait baby girls born at 6:22 am and the second are Kuwait baby boys born at 8:44 am.

Chairman of the Council of Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments



Dr. Amal Khadr

and Head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Farwaniya Hospital Dr Amal Khadr disclosed that there were seven births on the first day of the year -- five males and two females.

In a statement to the daily, Khadr revealed that first birth was of a male Egyptian baby at 1:08 am through natural method, second is an Indian baby boy born at 3:33 am through Caesarian section, third is an Indian baby girl born at 3:45 am through natural method, fourth birth is a male baby of unspecified nationality through natural method at 6:55 am, fifth is a Syrian baby girl through natural method at 7:23, sixth is a male Syrian baby born at 7:26 am through natural method and seventh is a male Egyptian baby born at 7:43 am through natural method.

Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Adan Hospital Dr Abeer Al-Dhaidi said the hospital recorded seven births -- all of them Kuwaitis, including two sets of twins -- male and female. She told the daily that the first birth is a Kuwaiti baby boy via natural birth at 2:04 am, second is another Kuwaiti baby boy born at 2:49 am via natural birth, third are the female twins born at 6:22 am through Caesarian section, fourth

are the male twins at 8:45 am via cesarean sections, fifth is a female baby born at 8:52 am, sixth is a male baby born at 7:10 am and seventh is a male baby born at 11:45 am through Caesarian section.

Head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the Maternity Hospital Dr Iman Al-Shamali the first baby born at the hospital is a female Syrian at 2:25 am, second is a male Syrian baby born at 2:45 am, third is a male Syrian baby born at 3:00 am, fourth is a male baby of unspecified nationality born via cesarean section at 5:12 and fifth is an Indian baby boy born at 7:14 am.

Head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at Jahra Hospital Dr Hanan Al-Husseini confirmed four births on the first day of the year -- first is a female baby of unknown nationality born at 2:17 am, second is an Indian baby girl born at 2:54 am, third is a Kuwaiti baby born at 5:34 am and fourth is a Kuwaiti baby girl born at 9:13 am.

Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital recorded four births, the first of which is a Kuwaiti baby boy born at 12:01 am, second is a Kuwaiti baby boy born through caesarian section 1:49 am, third is a Kuwaiti baby boy at 5:18 am and fourth is a Kuwaiti baby boy born at 11:02 am.



KUNA photo

Commander of the Egyptian Navy meets his Kuwaiti counterpart.

## Kuwait Navy team visits Egyptian naval units

A delegation of the Kuwaiti Navy on Tuesday inspected Egyptian naval units that have recently joined the Egyptian fleet, in the coastal city of Alexandria, spokesperson of the Egyptian Armed Forces Colonel Gharib Abdel-Hafez Gharib said in a press release.

The Kuwaiti delegation also examined the cadets' facilities at the naval academy in Alexandria, he said, adding that the Kuwaiti personnel headed by Commander of the Kuwaiti Navy Commodore Hazzaa Al-Alati met with the Commander of the Egyptian Navy, Vice Admiral Ashraf Atwa

Megahed.

The Kuwaiti military delegation also examined the Arsenal of Alexandria and the shipyard, he said, noting that the visit is in line with the efforts to bolster cooperation and exchange expertise between the Kuwaiti and Egyptian navies. (KUNA)

# 'No laxity in enforcing law in whole of Jahra'

Hospital brawls down: Brig Gen Al-Azmi

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: The Acting Director of Jahra Security Directorate Brigadier General Saleh Oqla Al-Azmi has affirmed that there will be no laxity in enforcing the law in all areas of Jahra Governorate, and in pursuing reckless people, drug dealers and users, violators, and outlaws, in accordance with direct instructions from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the acting Undersecretary Lieutenant General Salem Al Nawaf, and the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Rujaib.

In an interview with Al-Seyassah, Brigadier General Oqla Al-Azmi explained that the directorate refers all who are involved in quarrels in public facilities, hospitals, associations, and other places to the concerned authorities such as the General Administration of Investigations or the Public Prosecution. There has been a decrease in the number of quarrels compared to the previous years.

He revealed the opening of three new police stations in Jahra Governorate in Qasr, Naseem, and Mutlaa. There are plans to open another police station in Saad Al-Abdullah City, coinciding with the urban expansion and population density.

The goal of the security deployment is to ensure the safety of everyone and achieve security discipline.

There is an increase in the number of security checkpoints during the weekdays and weekends to arrest wanted individuals and outlaws, including three security checkpoints in Mutla'a, Subiya, and Salmi to deal with all reports that reach the Control Room with speed.

**Question:** What are the security measures taken to achieve security discipline in camps and rural areas?

**Answer:** Jahra Governorate is one of the largest governorates in the country in terms of area. It includes areas for farms, livestock pens, camps, and reserves. Many people go to these places during holidays.

We have established three fixed security checkpoints -- one in Subiya, one at the end of Jaber Causeway, and one on Mutlaa Road. On Salmi Road, we have intensified the security deployment in the desert areas to deal with all reports quickly.

The heads of police stations and commanders are constantly present in these areas, as the field presence of officers in these locations achieves the required discipline, and addresses any negatives. They also give appropriate directions to non-commissioned officers and individuals for dealing with reports and cases in sound legal ways.

**Q:** Have new police stations been opened in Jahra Governorate?

**A:** Following the urban expansion in the governorate, a new police station was opened in the Mutlaa City, although the area has not yet been fully inhabited. We are also in the process of opening another police station in this area. Qasr police station and Naseem police station have been opened. We are in the process of opening another police station in Saad Al-Abdullah city to serve the region, as it includes a large number of residents.

**Q:** What about security campaigns?

**A:** We hold security campaigns around the clock, and these campaigns are intensified during the weekends. Night checkpoints are set up with officers supervising these points to arrest violators, wanted persons, and outlaws. Through these checkpoints, we have arrested drug users, those sentenced to prison, and violators of the residency law, and referred them to the concerned authorities.

**Q:** What about grocery stores and food trucks?

**A:** There are no grocery stores or food trucks inside the mainland, which has greatly contributed to the decrease in gatherings around them, as well as decrease in the sale of prohibited items. Quarrels no longer occur like the way they usually did in these places. Work in these restaurants

and grocery stores has been organized, as they are located in sites determined by the municipality. Any grocery store or food truck found in desert areas will be banned and necessary legal measures will be taken against it.

**Q:** Tell us more about the quarrels that occur, especially in hospitals. How do you deal with them?

**A:** We have new procedures regarding quarrels. Any quarrel that occurs in a public facility, whether it is in a hospital, association, or government department, legal measures will be taken, and the case will be referred for investigations or to the public prosecution depending on the type of case.

Previously, when disputes arose between two parties, a resolution was reached at the police station following the incident. However, this issue is now over, and appropriate measures are implemented. We have noticed a reduction in conflicts after the implementation of these measures.

**Q:** How do you deal with reckless motorists?

**A:** Patrol teams rush to the sites in residential areas where reports about the presence of reckless motorists. Security men arrest them and refer them to the concerned authorities. For example, we caught 23 individuals including juveniles who had gathered for driving recklessly in Sulaibiya Block 8. They were detained and referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

**Q:** The phenomenon of shooting at weddings has started to appear again recently. What are the causes, and how do you deal with them?

**A:** This phenomenon has actually started to disappear due to the strict legal procedures followed in monitoring and controlling shooters. Nevertheless, there are some violations but they are limited.

In the recent past, an individual had opened fire in front of a wedding hall. The groom and his father were summoned to the police station, and the shooter was arrested and referred to the Public Prosecution. We are currently distributing patrol teams to wedding sites to prevent such violations.



Brig Gen Saleh Al-Azmi

**Q:** What are the reasons for the deportation of some expatriates?

**A:** There are several reasons, including committing acts contrary to public morals and violating residency and work laws. After confirming and verifying that an expatriate committed such an act, measures are taken to deport him from the country for the public good.

**Q:** What about drug seizures? Do you have any statistics on these seizures in 2023?

**A:** In 2023, about 570 people were arrested in possession of narcotic substances, and were referred to the concerned authorities. This is because of the security deployment and the instructions of the senior leadership in the Ministry of Interior to deal firmly with the promoters and users of illicit drugs.

In conclusion, Brigadier General Saleh Oqla Al-Azmi affirmed that the Jahra Security Directorate, based on instructions and directives from the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the acting Undersecretary Lieutenant General Salem Al-Nawaf, and the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs, Operations and Traffic, Major General Abdullah Al-Rujaib, works to provide all kinds of security assistance and deal quickly with reports that reach the emergency hotline No. 112, in addition to security deployment in all areas and provision of the highest levels of security.

## 46 illegal tents removed

# 'Camping licenses will be pulled if parties held during mourning'

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: Kuwait Municipality teams have intensified their monitoring efforts on spring camps across multiple locations in the Jahra and Al-Ahmadi governorates and issued warnings of cancelling camping licenses if any celebrations are held during the official mourning period in the country, reports Al-Rai daily.

During the official holiday, municipal teams collaborated with street vendor departments in the hygiene and road works departments of Jahra and Al-Ahmadi governorates and joint efforts resulted in the removal of 46 illegal camps and the dismantling of 140 others, along with 20 mobile grocery stores.

These structures were relocated to the municipal reservation sites in Al-Naeem

and Mina Abdullah areas.

Additionally, 70 street vendor violation reports were issued, and the violators were referred to the relevant authorities for further legal actions.

Camp license holders are urged to strictly adhere to the municipality's conditions, regulations, and laws, refraining from organizing any celebrations during the official mourning period.

The municipality emphasizes the immediate withdrawal of licenses upon detection of any non-compliance.

The municipality underscores that inspection teams will promptly remove any camps found violating terms and conditions, emphasizing the importance of adhering to the established rules for setting up spring camps.

## Job evaluation for 2023 begins

# 'Staff can submit grievances online'

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: Director of the Evaluation and Measurement Department at the Ministry of Health Elham Akbar has confirmed the creation of a mechanism for submitting annual evaluation grievances electronically starting this year under the directives of Health Minister Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi, acting Undersecretary of the ministry Dr Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Faris, indicating that the Evaluation and Measurement Department is the first in the Administrative Affairs Sector that has become fully digital, reports Al-Anba daily.



Dr. Al-Awadhi

In an exclusive interview with the daily, Akbar announced the start of the annual evaluation of employees for the year 2023 -- a total of 68,574 male and female employees; urging the concerned officials to be precise in evaluating competency without favoritism and to give everyone his dues.

She added the application of institutional governance in the Evaluation and Measurement Department; which is based on the principles of transparency, justice, integri-

ty, and raising the quality of service and efficiency of performance. She said "the new electronic system enables us to follow the evaluation process in all sectors and facilities of the ministry by determining the number of employees that were evaluated, and ensuring that the evaluation runs smoothly, quickly and without problems.

Out of the 68,574 employees whose performance for 2023 will be evaluated include 11,959 doctors, 3,087 dentists, 10,822 administrators, 2,569 pharmacists, 22,544 nurses, 362 technical support workers, 13,788 medical technical workers, 2,718 non-medical technical workers, 460 support staff and 265 in the rodent control project contract.

A special e-mail address was created for the evaluators -- direct superiors, in cooperation with the Digital Health Affairs Sector headed by Eng Adel Al-Rashidi. All circulars and login information for the evaluation system (secret numbers) were sent to them, and the evaluators will complete the process from the beginning of January until the end. The new electronic system makes it easier for them to evaluate the performance as they can access the evaluation system any time and from any computer device.

The evaluation report will be printed, approved with the signature and seal of the direct superior, and referred to the next superior before the end of January, so that he can express his opinion during the first seven days of February.

## Bedoun gets three years in official docus forgery

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Ahmad Al-Sadi, sentenced a Bedoun man to three-year imprisonment with hard labor for forging a ruling issued in 1972 for demanding the Ministry of Interior to issue a Kuwaiti citizenship certificate.

According to the case file, the suspect tried to implement the ruling issued in an "executive form" by going to the Nationality and Passports Department and requesting the implementation of a final ruling in favor of his deceased father. Upon examination of the ruling by the Nationality and Passports Department and referring it to the Investigations Department, it was revealed that the ruling's registration number does not exist and that the ruling was a forgery. He was referred to the Public Prosecution, which investigated him and referred him to court.

**Detention extended:** The detention renewal judge decided to extend for ten more days the detention of the individuals who assaulted security personnel while they were performing their duty in Jabriya. They had been referred to Central Prison based on the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled.

The Ministry of Interior had issued a statement regarding the incident of assault on a securityman while he was performing his duty in Jabriya.

It stated that legal measures had been taken against those involved in the incident and a number of cases have been registered against them, namely assaulting a public employee while performing work, insulting a public employee, and misusing a phone for illegal photography.

**Funds misappropriated:** The Criminal Court upheld the prosecution's decision to file the report submitted by Nazaha concerning the misappropriation of public funds in the Ministry of Health, totaling around KD 800,000 for purportedly treating Kuwaiti men and women abroad using falsified invoices.

It is worth highlighting that the Court of Cassation, in a previous ruling, had acquitted the defendants of forgery due to a gap in the financial control regulations within the Overseas Treatment Department and Accounting Department of the Ministry of Health.

**Scout camp postponed:** The Ministry of Education has postponed the 77th annual scout camp until February, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the decision issued by acting Undersecretary Anwar Al-Hamdan, stating that in view of the State of Kuwait mourning the death of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may Allah have mercy on him.



Sheikh Talal

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Lack of real reforms by govt leads to frustration in public'

"WHEN the legislative and executive branches veer away from addressing citizens' concerns and instead engage in opportunistic and conciliatory actions of limited benefit, such as raising retiree salaries and pushing for general salary increases to tackle the high cost of living amidst a genuine financial deficit, they divert the National Assembly's attention from pressing public matters," columnist **Naji Al-Mullah** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.



Naji Al-Mullah

"This often involves pursuits unrelated to popular priorities and only hinders the attainment of meaningful gains. Electoral campaigns or attempts to raise thresholds become distractions, facilitating the perpetuation of a council that mirrors its unproductive predecessors.

"In a previous article, I emphasized the futility of battling imaginary windmills like Don Quixote and urged a focus on tangible objectives such as land liberation, demographic composition adjustment, strategic privatization for potential savings up to 9 billion, Kuwaitization of jobs, progressive taxation, targeted subsidy distribution, allocation of sovereign fund profits, and the reinvestment of revenues from industrial, service, and craft vouchers back into the state.

"I cautioned against making impractical demands, as they only provide grounds for dissolving the council, potentially leading to bitter outcomes in subsequent elections (refer to our article dated 01/15/2021).

"The current landscape differs as there are no opposition forces actively undermining the National Assembly's effectiveness. On the contrary, since His Highness Sheikh Meshal, may God protect and preserve him, assumed leadership responsibilities delegated by the late Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, support has been extended to streamline the electoral process and ensure its neutrality by curbing government interference.

"The leadership refrains from meddling in the election of the National Assembly Speaker and Council committees.

"Notably, before the last elections, His Highness urged voters to choose assembly members wisely, cautioning candidates against populist demands that strain the public treasury amid financial deficits.

"However, despite leadership support, the government's inability and hesitancy to match the swift project completion seen in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates has caused frustration.

"The government's failure to fulfill people's demands and expedite societal development has led to mounting dissatisfaction. Collusion between some parliamentarians and the government, attempting to circumvent votes of no confidence and weaken final interrogations through amnesty, employment tactics, transfers, and demands for state employee salary hikes, triggered the political leadership's ire.

"Consequently, the leadership suspended all recruitment, transfer, and assignment processes for three months, expressing dissatisfaction in the Amir's recent speech.

"In addressing this situation, it is crucial to activate Article 98 of the Constitution, promptly submitting the ministry's work program to the Council upon its formation.

"This immediate submission, guided by conditions and procedures outlined in a previous article, is a conscientious and responsible contribution from civil society organizations and activists capable of generating viable projects.

"This approach minimizes room for petty conflicts or opportunistic maneuvers, transforming society into a productive workshop where political noise fades amidst tangible actions. The distractions of the electoral circus lose their allure, revealing the tricks and secrets of its participants as increasingly irrelevant and ineffective."

### Also:

"When the Kuwaiti legislator drafted the 1962 constitution, he recommended that it be reviewed after five years for evaluation and amendment for more freedoms, oversight, and legislation ... and this did not happen, unfortunately," columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Article 6 of the Constitution stipulates: 'The system of government in Kuwait is democratic, in which sovereignty belongs to the nation, the source of all powers, and the exercise of sovereignty shall be in the manner set forth in this Constitution.'"

"Article 36 states: '... every person has the right to express his opinion...'"

"Therefore, the demand to 'suspend the constitution' was rejected, even if the demander was an academic professor whom we respect on a personal

level, and perhaps he meant the phrase 'suspend the constitution' with the aim of making the necessary amendments to improve practice, and it remains a point of view that is respected and rejected by the overwhelming majority.

"Why don't we make amendments to the constitutional articles and internal regulations without suspending the constitution, which is considered to regulate the relationship between the ruler and the ruled?"

"The evidence for this is what we followed of some of the proposals demanded by members of the National Assembly regarding amending constitutional articles and articles of internal regulations ... The constitution is in effect and does not need comment!"

"What is strange is that, after about 62 years, we have not made a comparison between the population and residential areas in 1962 and the current number in 2024!"

"Why do we remain at the number of 50 members of the National Assembly, while the number of ministers is fixed and has not changed, and some ministers are assigned two portfolios and are affiliated with different bodies?"

"Why only change the number of votes and districts in a way that does not grant freedom in choosing who will represent them from the district and only the right to one or two votes?... The electoral system is the reason and the unfair distribution of districts according to the number of voters in each district has caused the emergence of an unhealthy democratic practice.

"The problem is the democratic practice, the good selection of representatives, and the lack of actual movement to change some articles of the constitution and the internal regulations of the National Assembly in order to gain more freedom, impose stronger oversight, and improve legislative performance.

"I am almost certain that if we eliminated nepotism and fought corruption by putting the corrupt in prisons, and recovering the stolen money, and this comes by appointing 'correct' leaders, all problems would become a thing of the past and the voters' choice would become based on competence according to the concept of statesmen.

"The closest path to amendment, any amendment, begins with good choices and the approach of dialogue that many sincere Kuwaiti men are calling for... May God help us."

"Good year! Oh Allah, make this new year a year of goodness for our sanctuary -- Kuwait, and its people, and protect the shepherd and the flock (the leader and the people). It has been reported that the first baby born at Jaber Hospital at the beginning of the new year is a Kuwaiti. God willing, let this be a good omen for all of us, for Kuwait to return to its people, and for us to get rid of the decision-makers everywhere in Kuwait -- sometimes in the name of an advisor and at other times in the name of an office manager or a private secretary until one of them started to rule from behind a curtain. There are many examples and we have memorized them through the back of the unseen," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"It is enough for the service bureau to transfer every graduate to a place that does not suit his specialization. This is tantamount to a programmed killing of Kuwaiti competencies and elimination of the ambition of young people entering the workforce. Regrettably, an entire generation has been destroyed.

"If the government measures the direction of the Kuwaiti street by what is going on in mainstream and social media, let everyone know that there are approximately 300,000 fake accounts managed by non-Kuwaitis whose job is to incite discord among people and launch personal wars for some influential people. This is not free. As long as there is war, there is money to be paid and people who benefit!"

"It is said that 'strike while the iron is hot'.

"If strong decisions will be issued, it must begin with social media, which has become a bleeding wound in the body of the State. Whoever doubts this could simply post on X (formerly Twitter): 'No to naturalization', and then monitor how many sites will be attacked in a manner that will be defeated by the losers! This does not happen in all Gulf countries. No tweeter dares to speak or criticize an act of sovereignty. If he speaks, his Sun would set!"

"Honestly and frankly, we are being targeted. We hope that the new year will be a year of decisiveness in the interest of the nation and the citizen, and that the new ministers and the next prime minister will adopt it, that is, if there is a partial or complete change in the government. However, if the successors follow the path of the predecessors, then there will be no benefit, no profit and no tomorrow for us."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

# 'Fish trade loses its charm'

Vendors decry too many restrictions, fish scarcity

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3:** Several stall vendors at the Souk Sharq have given up their rented stalls due to challenges such as unmet operational expenses, labor shortages, the scarcity of local fish, and the overwhelming imported fish flooding the local market each month, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The transformation of the fishing profession, stringent regulations on fishermen, the forced relocation of many without repatriation, and the burgeoning online fish trade might collectively signal the irreversible conclusion of the fish market era. This sentiment is echoed by numerous observers, sellers, and specialists in the field.

Abu Rudaina, a seller at the fish market in the Sharq region, affirmed that local fish is scarcely found, and market demand is notably weak, particularly during extended vacations.

Fisherman Ala' Khawaja voiced concerns about the imminent threat of extinction to the fishing profession, attributing it to stringent regulations on fishermen and the reduction of diesel subsidies, resulting in a diminished local catch this season.

Khawaja highlighted the influx of imported fish, amounting to around 40 containers from various countries, adversely impacting the local market. He noted the recent decision to conclude the shrimp fishing season on January 1, adversely affected fishermen who are accustomed to extending the season by an additional month to offset losses.

Khawaja expressed hope for a reversal of the decision and an extension of the fishing season by a month. He appealed to relevant authorities to consider extending the fishing season until at least February when the Nuwaibi season begins.

Khawaja emphasized that the fish market currently relies heavily on imports from Egypt, Pakistan, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Norway, while the local product is nearly stagnant and faces a threat of unavailability in upcoming seasons due to fishermen's reluctance.



Contraband seized from drug addicts.

## Two Kuwaitis, bedoun arrested; drugs seized

By Mansour Al-Sultan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3:** The deployment of Jahra rescue patrols near the Sulaibiya farms led to the arrest of three persons who were in possession of drugs.

According to a security source, the rescue patrol members encountered the suspects at the onset of the New Year.

In the first arrest of the year, the suspects riding in a vehicle showed signs of confusion and when they asked to pull over, one of them climbed out of the vehicle and attempted in vain to escape.

As he was running a sachet of heroin fell from his pocket. Upon conducting a precautionary search, eight hashish-filled cigarettes, a sachet of heroin, and a bag of chemical substances were found with the suspects.

The security source added the two detainees are Kuwaitis and the third a bedoun.

Meanwhile, support patrols from the Ahmadi Security Directorate, yesterday morning, detained a person in his twenties in the Umm Al-Hayman area for drug abuse and possession of narcotic substances and paraphernalia.

**Traffic cop run over:** Personnel from the Jahra Governorate Search and Investigation Department are looking for an unidentified person for running over a first lieutenant from the General Traffic Department, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A reliable security source said the suspect is expected to be arrested soon, since all the details pertaining to the vehicle involved have been gathered by the security authorities.

A hit-and-run report was filed at the Al-Qashaniyah police station following the incident two days ago when police received a report about reckless behavior.

In response police patrols closed the road for safety reasons, but the driver of a vehicle collided with the patrol, reversed the vehicle, ran over the first lieutenant, and fled the scene.

The injured officer was hospitalized with minor injuries.

**No clips while driving:** Colonel Othman Al-Mansouri said filming with a mobile phone while driving is very dangerous phenomenon and causes accidents that result in a person's death or injury, in addition to causing traffic jam, reports **Al-Anba** daily.



Al-Mansouri

**Traffic diverted:** The General Traffic Department of the Ministry of Interior has diverted the traffic on the fifth loop with the Riyadh Street following a crack in one of the water pipes which led to flooding of the area, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said the traffic on the "loop" on the Fifth Ring Road with the Riyadh Street coming from Salmiya and from the Jahra area has been diverted towards the Airport Road parallel to the Khaitan area.

The Ministry of Public Works has called on vehicle drivers to adhere to the instructions of traffic police and take alternative routes until the accident is dealt with, in the best interest of public safety.



Empty stalls are seen at the fish market in Souq Sharq. Photo by Mohammad Morsi

## Other Voices

### Al-Zaid ... and the cemetery

By Ahmad alsarraf

I did my duty to offer condolences to the family of the deceased, the late colleague **Naji Saud Al-Zaid**, who left after leaving behind a rich legacy of academic, scientific and journalistic work, where he excelled in **Al-Qabas**, and later in **Al-Jarida**, and was an example of a person committed to what he wrote and what he preached. It demands the necessity of respecting work, the law, and being honest with oneself before being honest with others.



alsarraf

My meetings with him, when he was writing in **Al-Qabas**, were rare, partly due to the difference in our paths, and the scarcity of my visits to the **Al-Qabas** building. I did not meet him after he stopped writing for **Al-Qabas**, until recently, after illness forced him to go to hospital, where he remained for a long period, before his death, at a relatively young age.

My views and positions differed very little from his, and what united us was more than what divided us. He was concerned, like other good citizens, whose numbers are decreasing every day, about the state's situation, hoping that things would soon turn for the better, but destiny did not give him time to see the dawn of the coming reform, which we have finally become self-wishing for!

My visit to the cemetery, although rare, was as painful as usual, not only to offer condolences to a great friend, but also because the place is filled with scenes, chaos, and violations that increase every day, and the painful irony is that among those who came to offer their condolences to the deceased, were those who disobeyed everything that the deceased represented and wrote about the necessity of respecting others

and respecting the laws, where you find those who, without shame, and among them those who appear to have all the characteristics of the clergy and the trappings of religiosity, violate the simplest rules of taste, and bypass everyone, without care or respect, despite dozens of paintings that adorn the funeral hall, asking mourners to remain committed to the rules and not to jump the queue when offering condolences, especially in a place that has reverence and respect, knowing that the difference in time, between the one who respected himself and his role, and the one who insulted himself and did not respect others, does not exceed a very few minutes.

Then the second appearance of chaos begins after the end of the funeral, as vehicles tangle with each other on their way, either out of the parking lots, or through the poorly designed cemetery gates. This is in addition to the dozens who parked their vehicles in no parking places, causing inconvenience and delay to others.

It is strange that someone leaves his house and spends more than an hour going back and forth, and when the line of mourners begins to move, he does not have patience for a few minutes, and insists on insulting others.

This is one of the characteristics of backward peoples and people with bad habits, and those who commit acts that were previously forbidden by those who attended his burial in many of his articles, but it seems that these are not readers of his articles, not even newspaper readers.

Moreover, no Minister of Education has ever cared about the bad state of morals in the country, and so he did not even think about including a few pages of it in school curricula.

Nations without morals – and we, of course, cannot survive!

□ □ □

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

MoH, Mol, Info hold meeting

## Bid to develop skills, joint work

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3:** Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Mohammad Al-Azmi held meetings with his counterparts in the Ministry of Information, represented by the Director of Public Relations Department **Jamal Al-Badeh**, and the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Director of Public Relations and Security Media Department Brigadier General **Tawhid Al-Kandari**, with the aim of exchanging expertise and experiences in order to develop skills, training, and joint work.

In a press statement, the Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at

the Ministry of Health Dr. Muhammad Al-Azmi said he seeks, through these meetings, to develop means of communication with the relevant authorities in order to build and keep pace with new visions that focus on strengthening ties with various media authorities in the sectors, and to build bridges of communication and cooperation.

He explained that these meetings also seek to deliver effective messages through cooperation with the concerned authorities in everything that would serve the nation and citizens. They emphasized on taking advantage of national capabilities and competencies to be in line with the aspirations of the Ministry of Health with the cooperation of relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Interior.

# SPIN & WIN

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# Consumers decry rise in prices of onions, call for MoCI intervention

'Need to take action against violating markets, grocery stores'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: A number of consumers and specialists expressed their dissatisfaction regarding the rise in the prices of onions by more than 100 percent recently, as well as the scarcity of onions in some cooperative societies and markets. Even though the price hike is evident to everyone, the Ministry of Commerce has failed to acknowledge the rise in these prices.**

In meetings with the daily, they called on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to monitor and hold various sales outlets accountable, as the price of one kilogram of onion varies from one outlet to another. Earlier, the price ranged from 190 to 250 fils, but now it ranges from 450 fils to 550 fils.

In this regard, a Kuwaiti citizen Abu Hamoud said he bought a five-kilo onion bag for KD 2.475 recently, but prior to the current crisis, one kilogram of onion cost less than 250 fils.

He expressed his surprise by the lack of intervention by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as it



Jaber Al-Azmi

seems it does not recognize the current crisis.

Abu Hamoud called for the need to import huge quantities of onions in the coming period to prevent any rise in the prices, especially since there is a group of merchants who increase prices automatically.

## Reduced

Another citizen Ali Al-Hajri said, "Indeed, onion prices have increased in nearly two weeks. There are some markets that sell onions at reduced prices of around 290 fils, but this type is almost rotten, while the clean and fresh onions are sold for 450 to 570 fils per kilogram."

Meanwhile, Adel Hassan highlighted that an Arab country's cessation of exporting onions to Kuwait was one of the fundamental reasons

behind the rise in its prices.

He called on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to hold inspection campaigns to monitor prices and compare them before and after the escalation of the crisis.

Hassan said, "As long as the ministry confirms the availability of onions, it must take action against the violating associations, markets, and grocery stores that raise prices, and deter them from continuing in this unreasonable manner."

In this regard, Lawyer Salem Al-Kandari, who is interested in economic affairs, said the current onion crisis brought to mind the scarcity of this item during the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating that the price of one kilogram of onions has actually increased to about 500 fils.

He stressed the importance of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to reconsider its import strategy, and the need for the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to expand the cultivated areas of main vegetables such as onions, garlic and tomatoes so that the Kuwaiti market does not suffer from a scarcity of onions in the future.

He also stressed the need for the availability of cold warehouses for onion stocks.

Lawyer Al-Kandari called on the government to expand the areas of agriculture in the first place so that the local market does not remain dependent on imports only.

He highlighted the need to emu-

late Saudi Arabia, which has expanded its agricultural sector to a very high extent.

Furthermore, Bou Hamad, a vegetable marketing official at a cooperative society, affirmed that onion prices have increased in varying proportions among consumer societies in recent days.

## Significant

He confirmed that a five-kilo Iranian onion bag used to be sold for KD 1.6 in his cooperative society but it is currently being sold for KD 2.470, which is a significant increase, adding that the price of one kilogram of onion has increased from 190 fils to more than 450 fils.

In addition, Head of the Kuwait Farmers Union Jaber Al-Azmi explained that Kuwaiti onions are planted in the months of December, January, and February, and are harvested in March, April, and May. However, even at the peak of their harvest, they do not cover the entire local market due to which it is necessary to expand their cultivation, especially since they are crops that are easily grown.

He indicated that red onions are imported from some countries, such as Egypt, India, Sudan, and others, but when some countries stop exporting them, a crisis occurs, adding that the state should therefore allow farmers to expand their cultivation so that the country is not exposed to any crises of this kind.

## These are

Continued from Page 1

It is a cancer that spreads throughout all state agencies, rendering them vulnerable. Everyone seeks to "loot" public money either through projects, employment, etc., until the institutions become personal farms for every official and MP.

Previous governments did not provide anything for the country either, but instead increased its backwardness.

In many parliaments, the greatest concern was to increase their electoral and financial assets... All at the expense of the state.

Therefore, citizens today place their hopes in His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad - may Allah guide him - who pinpointed the flaws in his royal speech, to get the country out of its crises, and end the chaos that has spread in the state.

## Kuwait reforms

Continued from Page 1

The project seeks to organize and develop cooperative work across Kuwait to meet the special needs of Kuwaiti families, contributing to the enhancement of administrative and technical skills among national workers.

Efforts to encourage national workers and develop the labor market extended to the Kuwaitization of government contracts, with regulations introduced to create appealing job opportunities for national workers in government projects.

In 2023, under the leadership of Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the Public Authority for Manpower underwent amendments and additions, particularly in the segment eligible for labor support. These changes aim to incentivize work in the private sector, reducing the inclination of workers to seek employment in other sectors.

The many projects that are in the implementation phase, including 'The National Labor Market Platform' contains real-time labor market data with the aim of quickly studying and achieving alignment between educational outcomes and labor market needs. And the "electronic lease contract", which aims to automate lease contracts for the residential, investment and commercial sectors.

After a previous ban on students working in the private sector due to the executive regulations for the student reward decision, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled directed the Minister of Education and the Minister of Higher Education to amend the ministerial decision regarding the executive regulations for the student reward regarding allowing students to combine the student reward with work. In the private sector, with the aim of encouraging students to invest their free time in a way that benefits them.

## Kuwait launches

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait and abroad. The center offers urgent and immediate consular services, replying to all inquiries especially in emergency cases.

The center is the main point of contact for answering any inquiry regarding the services being offered for students studying abroad and receiving calls and questions on a 24 hour daily basis as well as during public holidays.

The center is reachable through the number 159 in Kuwait and 00965159 abroad. The back up number is: 009652225504.

The new service has been launched in line with the Foreign Ministry's strategy for ensuring the best services and helping Kuwaiti citizens, along with expanding and improving the services.

## Kuwait Defense

Continued from Page 1

general performance indicators would not have been achieved without your directives, recommendations, and continued support."

He affirmed the support of Kuwait (the headquarters country) for all of the institute's activities, based on its keenness about the success of its development programs, and out of its belief in the importance of supporting joint Arab action.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad touched on the Zionist aggression against Gaza, asking Allah Almighty to "relieve the distress of our people in Palestine".

Demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, he said, "We are part of this nation, and we support any Arab movement that will help the Palestinian people obtain their full legitimate rights, and lead to peace in its just and comprehensive form."

In a similar speech, the Director of the Arab Planning Institute Abdullah Al-Shami affirmed the keenness of the institute to ensure that its continuing efforts are linked to the development planning process and to the multiple dimensions of economic, social and environmental development, in a way that serves Arab development and helps in confronting various developmental challenges.

He also stressed the institute's keenness about its plan for this year to enhance support for development planning institutions and bodies in Arab countries, build Arab capacities, publish studies and provide advisory services and applied research in support of Arab plans, in addition to focusing on developing skills and analytical and practical capabilities in the areas of planning and economic management.

Al-Shami stated that the institute takes into account the economic and social consequences of successive global shocks, in line with the requirements and development needs in Arab countries, and works on enhancing joint Arab action.

He explained that the meeting discussed the accomplishments of the institute's various activities during the year of 2022/2023, which is the third year of the institute's ninth strategy plan for the years 2020/2025. These activities were implemented based on the annual work plan approved by the Council at its meeting held in Egypt in June 2022.

He revealed that the Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the final accounts of the

Arab Planning Institute as it stands in the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2023.

Al-Shami expressed his gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, and the Chairman of the Arab Planning Institute's Board of Trustees Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad for chairing the meeting and listening to the opinions and observations of representatives of member states about the institute's performance and ways to develop it to support the Arab development process.

In addition, Head of the National Planning Institute in Egypt Dr. Ashraf El-Arabi said the Board of Trustees' meeting discussed several items, the most important of which was to follow up on what was accomplished during the past year, which witnessed a large number of activities.

Al-Arabi explained that the Arab Planning Institute launched its development report two months ago in Dubai. Its main topic was "climate change and the extent of its impact on the Arab region".

The dimension related to climate change is a fundamental axis within the Arab Planning Institute's work plan, in addition to the economic and social dimensions.

The training programs, studies and economic consultations launched by the Arab Planning Institute over the past year helped greatly in formulating the Arab vision towards climate change.

The development report was published within the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention in Abu Dhabi (COP 28) to confirm the Arab vision in the field of combating the impacts of global warming.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab Planning Institute is an independent non-profit Arab institution based in the State of Kuwait. It was established in 1980 with the aim of supporting economic and social development in the Arab countries through research, studies, consultations and various training programs.

## Gender impersonation

Continued from Page 1

On the other hand, MP Abdullahi Al-Ajmi forwarded queries to Minister of Communications, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi regarding ministerial Decision No. 95/2022 and 96/2022 on the two-year suspension of the written exams for those applying for supervisory and teaching posts in the educational sector, as well as the recruitment of new employees in the departments and centers concerned with the Holy Quran and Islamic Studies.

He wants to know why these decisions were applied only on the teaching posts, excluding the supervisory positions; if new teachers were hired after the issuance of the decision to suspend the written exams; recruitment criteria adopted if the answer is 'yes'; and if the employees who complained about the results of exams taken prior to the issuance of the decision were appointed after hearing their complaints.

MP Hamad Al-Matar asked Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah about the reasons behind the closure of Sulaibikhat Police Station even if it is badly needed to maintain security in the area, especially since many bachelors are residing there. He wants to know the alternative police station, and the number of cases and security reports filed in Doha in the last five years.

MP Muhammad Al-Hewaila forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Economic and Investment Affairs Saad Al-Barrak; Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manea; Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban; Minister of Information, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi; Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah; Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and acting Minister of Public Works Jassem Al-Ostad; Minister of State for Municipal and Communication Affairs Fahad Al-Shaulah; Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba; Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi; and Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Family, Women and Children Affairs Sheikh Feras Al-Sabah.

He wants to know the measures taken by each ministry to complete the public facilities in Wafra Residential Area, number of ongoing projects, number of completed projects, cost of each project, and target completion dates for the ongoing projects.

MP Fahd Fahad Bin Jame'e asked HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah about the number of vacant senior positions in the ministries and public institutions.

MP Jarrah Al-Fawzan asked Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manea to provide him with the names and number of consultants at the ministry, if any of them requested to appoint certain individuals to supervisory positions, if any of the consultants have been subjected to disciplinary action, if the consultants are authorized to interfere in the executive functions of departments at the Ministry of Education.

MP Muhammad Hayef asked Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban about ministerial Decision No. 67/2020 issued on March 11, 2020 to fix the prices of commodities and consider the prices specified prior to the issuance of the decision as the maximum, which should not be increased unless a new decision in this regard is issued. He cited the decision highlighting the penalties stated in Law No. 117/2013 against whoever manipulates the prices of commodities; including the confiscation of commodities, and then sell them in the outlets specified by the ministry.

He wants to know if the ministerial decision is still valid. If yes, why did the Consumer Cooperative Societies Union issued a decision to increase the prices of some basic foodstuff? Was the decision taken through the coordination of the union and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry? What measures have been taken regarding the increase of prices and if the commodities whose prices increased were determined? Did the concerned department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry object to the price hike decision? If yes, he demanded for copies of all the relevant correspondences.

In addition, National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun presided over the meeting of the Assembly Office recently, during which they decided to terminate all the expatriate, Bedoun and Kuwaiti employees at the National Assembly TV under the wages item. They also decided to limit the television's activity to broadcasting news.

The Office is expected to take another decision later -- to continue the operation of the Assembly TV or to close it.

## KPC sets \$70 per barrel estimate for fiscal 2024/'25 budget

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3:** Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has estimated the indicative price of a barrel of Kuwaiti oil at \$70 for the budget for fiscal 2024/2025, which starts in April, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed that the price estimated by KPC is ultimately

subject to the estimates and considerations of the Ministry of Finance when preparing the draft State budget in its final form.

The figures show that the corporation's estimate of the price of \$70 per barrel means fixing the indicative price for the second year in a row,

as it was \$70 per barrel during the 2023/2024 budget with an oil production volume of 2.676 million barrels per day, compared to \$80 per barrel in the 2022/2023 budget, during which the estimated production volume was 2.73 million barrels per day.

According to data from the Min-

istry of Oil, Kuwait's oil production during the period from January until the end of March 2024 will reach 2.413 million barrels per day in compliance with OPEC+ decisions, which included an additional voluntary reduction of 135,000 barrels per day in that period.



# January

## Room Promotion






Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 53.361/-net</b>	<b>BHD 119.173/-net</b>
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 61.000/-net</b>	<b>BHD 136.198/-net</b>

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Terms & conditions apply\*

# Kuwait Investment Authority - Debts Purchased for the State's Account Settlement and Management Office



**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Alia Electrical Tools Company W.L.L (Yaqoub Mohammad Ali Hayati, and Ahmad and Salim Hussein Alia W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2007/19 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 13/8/2008**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 910,459/443 KD  
(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 3,183,015/476 KD  
(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling amount to: 36,640/271 KD  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Gulf Bank, debt purchased by the state amounting to: 3,183,015/476 KD in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Ahmad Abdul Hafeez Hussein Alia, guarantor of / Alia Electrical Tools Company W.L.L (Yaqoub Mohammad Ali Hayati, and Ahmad and Salim Hussein Alia W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2007/19 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 13/8/2008**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Alia Electrical Tools Company W.L.L as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 303,486/481 KD  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Alia Electrical Tools Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13: amounts to 1,059,443/502 KD  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Gulf Bank, debt purchased by the state amounting to: 1,059,443/502 KD, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Alia Electrical Tools Company (Yaqoub Mohammad Ali Hayati, and Ahmad and Salim Hussein Alia W.L.L) in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Salim Abdul Hafeez Hussein Alia, guarantor of / Alia Electrical Tools Company W.L.L (Yaqoub Mohammad Ali Hayati, and Ahmad and Salim Hussein Alia W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2007/19 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 13/8/2008**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Alia Electrical Tools Company W.L.L as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 303,486/481 KD  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Alia Electrical Tools Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 1,059,443/502 KD  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Gulf Bank, debt purchased by the state amounting to 1,059,443/502, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Alia Electrical Tools Company (Yaqoub Mohammad Ali Hayati, and Ahmad and Salim Hussein Alia (W.L.L) in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company (Najat Ahmad Abdul Fattah Al-Attar and Partners W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2005/98 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 26/7/2005**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 99,544/743 KD  
(2) The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to 355,276/125 KD.  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Burgan Bank, debt purchased by the state amounting to: 355,276/125 KD in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Najat Ahmad Abdul Fattah Al-Attar, guarantor of / Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company (Najat Ahmad Abdul Fattah Al-Attar and Partners W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2005/98 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 26/7/2005**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 24,886/185 KD  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 amounts to 88,819/031 KD  
(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling amount to: 527/675 KD  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Burgan Bank, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: 88,819/031 KD, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L, in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Abd Mohammad Youssef Abu Samaan, guarantor of / Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company (Najat Ahmad Abdul Fattah Al-Attar and Partners W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2005/98 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 26/7/2005**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L, as on 1/8/1990, amounts to 24,886/185 KD.  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 amounts to 88,819/031 KD.  
(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Burgan Bank, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: 88,819/031 KD, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L, in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Kamel Rashid Al Haj Asaad, guarantor of / Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company (Najat Ahmad Abdul Fattah Al-Attar and Partners W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2005/98 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 26/7/2005**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L as on 1/8/1990 amounts to 24,886/185 KD.  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L, in accordance with Article 13, amounts to KD 88,819/031.  
(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Burgan Bank, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: 88,819/031 KD, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Al-Thiqa Construction Materials Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Gondola Travel Company W.L.L**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2002/74 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 21/1/2003**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 131,506/681 KD  
(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 465,375/234 KD  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
The National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 465,375/234 in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankrupt / Abdul Aziz Musa Al-Hasani, guarantor of / Gondola Travel Company W.L.L**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2002/74, Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 21/1/2003**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Gondola Travel Company W.L.L as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 32,219/137 KD.  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Gondola Travel Company in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 115,584/543 KD  
(3) Amounts collected: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
(1) The National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 115,584/543, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for Gondola Travel Company W.L.L, in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. (41)  
(2) The National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 207,049/554, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the Public Electricity and Refrigeration Company in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. (41)

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of the temporary debts for the bankrupt / Mansour Marouki Hanna Ibrahim, guarantor of / Gondola Travel Company W.L.L**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2002/74 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 21/1/2003**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the Gondola Travel Company W.L.L, as on 1/9/1990, amounts to: 32,219/137 KD  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the Gondola Travel Company W.L.L, according to Article 13, amounts to: 115,584/543 KD  
(3) Amounts collected: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• The National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 115,584/543, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the Gondola Travel Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. (41)

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts of the bankrupt / Abdul Aziz Sharaf Mohammad Al-Sharaf**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 29/2010 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 7/7/2010**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to 5,820 KD  
(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article (13) amounts to: 5,820 KD  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• The Industrial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 5,820 in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts of the bankrupt / Jash Abdul Mohsen Hajji Ali Al Mahdi, guarantor of the bankrupt / Abdul Aziz Sharaf Mohammad Al-Sharaf**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 29/2010 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 7/7/2010**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to 5,820 KD  
(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article (13) amounts to 5,820 KD  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amount to: 18,471/146 KD  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
(1) The Industrial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 5,820 in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993  
(2) Kuwait Credit Bank, 35,200 KD according to the bank's letter dated 5/10/2016 and the account statement dated 3/10/2016  
Third: Debts that the Authority deems to be excluded in its capacity:  
• The Commercial Bank of Kuwait 11,179/590 KD pursuant to a bank loan contract dated 16/11/2008, and the ruling issued in Case No. (2017/5516) First Instance Commercial / 31, and the Authority has not been contested in law as a receiver

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of the Kuwaiti Spark Plugs Manufacturing Company**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 4/2018 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 18/4/2018**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 1,980,518/000 KD  
(2) The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: 11,051,044/074 KD  
(3) The amounts collected amount to: 65,043/180 KD  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• Gulf Bank, a debt purchased by the state amounting to 11,051,044/074 KD, as the indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / United Mechanical Contracting Company (W.L.L) (Suleiman Mohammad Al-Kandari and Talal Hamad Al-Mubarak W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2010/16 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 1/12/2010**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 672,134/-- KD  
(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 4,491,888/412 KD  
(3) Amounts collected: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
The Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 4,491,888/412 in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.  
Third: Debts that the Authority deems to be excluded in its capacity:  
• The Commercial Bank of Kuwait, amounting to: - 500,000/-- KD according to the submitted bank's letter and its attachments dated 16/12/2012. The bank did not take the executive measures prescribed by the law until the date of filing the case in 2009, and therefore the right to claim the statute of limitations was forfeited in accordance with the text of Article (438) of the Civil Law.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of the temporary debts of the bankrupt / Talal Hamad Mubarak Al-Mubarak, guarantor of / United Mechanical Contracting Company W.L.L (Suleiman Mohammad Al-Kandari and Talal Hamad Al-Mubarak W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2010/16 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 1/12/2010**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the United Mechanical Contracting Company W.L.L as on 1/8/1990, amounts to 224,044/667 KD  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the United Mechanical Contracting Company in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 1,516,647/547 KD.  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• The Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to 1,516,647/547 KD, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for United Mechanical Contracting Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of the temporary debts of the bankrupt / Yacht General Trading Company (limited partnership)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2002/81 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 25/3/2003**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 151,644/414 KD  
(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 387,134/643 KD  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling: None  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• The National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to 387,134/643 KD in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of the temporary debts of the bankrupt / Hamoud Abdul Rahman Al-Tuwajiri, (guarantor of the Yacht General Trading Company - limited partnership)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 2002/81 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 25/3/2003**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the Yacht General Trading Company as on 1/8/1990 amounting to: 147,315/485 KD  
(2) The bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the Yacht General Trading Company, according to Article 13, amounting to: 376,053/732 KD.  
(3) Amounts collected after the bankruptcy declaration ruling amounting to: 30,935/468 KD.  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
• The National Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to KD 376,053/732, the bankrupt's share of the indebtedness guaranteed for the Yacht General Trading Company in accordance with Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993

**Summary of the report on the bankruptcy proceedings and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of / Turki Abdul Samad Al Turki**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 22/2005 Bankruptcy General Debts / 1 dated 24/5/2005**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 amounts to: 714,857/661 KD  
(2) The indebtedness in accordance with Article 13 amounts to: 2,800,080/670 KD  
(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling amount to: 43,444/916 KD  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable in its capacity:  
(1) The Commercial Bank of Kuwait, a debt purchased by the state amounting to: 2,800,080/670 KD. The debt is in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.  
(2) Refrigeration and Storage Industries Company, 10,280/200 KD (excluding legal expenses and interest) according to the letter submitted by the creditor company's agent, dated 21/8/2005, to which is attached the ruling issued in appeal No. 2610/2002, Commercial/6, dated 21/5/2003, and the Court of Cassation's decision not to accept the appeal in the court room on 29/2/2004.  
(3) Central Air Conditioning Works Company, 4,354/196 KD (excluding legal expenses and interest) according to the letter submitted by the creditor company's agent on 9/5/2006 to which is attached a certificate of the operative part of judgment No. 2004/695 T.M.J./20 of 26/10/2005 and certificate of the operative part of judgment of appeal No. 2005/1215, partial appeal / 5, dated 25/4/2006, excluding expenses and interest at the rate of 7%.  
(4) Khaled Jaber Badran Ajaimi, 15,001/- KD (other than the legal expenses) according to the letter submitted by the creditor to which is attached the ruling issued in Case No. 2005/2411 civil first instance / 7 dated 28/5/2006 and appeal ruling No. 2006/1667 Civil/2 dated 30/9/2006, excluding expenses, which obliges him to return the amount along with material and moral compensation based on the incident mentioned in the penal rulings before the issuance of the bankruptcy ruling.  
(5) Ministry of Education KWD 4,003/409 pursuant to the judgment issued regarding the two appeals Nos. 820, 817/2011 administrative, dated 25/05/2005 against the Authority in its capacity.  
(6) The General Organization for Social Insurance KWD 118.292/200, according to the letter submitted by the Organization on 3/12/2006 which shows the accumulation of additional amounts as a result of non-regular payment of the contributions due for insurance Al Turki Trading & Contracting Est owned by the bankrupted.  
(7) Burgan Bank, KWD 914.994/336 as per the letter submitted by the bank and its attachments since the debt arose before the bankruptcy ruling.

**Summary of bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of the late/ Abdul Samad Turki Hassan Al Turki**  
**(Guarantor / Turki Abdul Samad Al Turki)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 22/2005 for General Debts Bankruptcy/1, dated 24/5/2005.**

First: Firstly, Financial and Accounting Procedures  
(1) The guaranteed debt as it exists on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 714.857/661.  
(2) The debt guaranteed in accordance with Article 13 amounts to KWD 2.800.080/670.  
(3) Amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, considers acceptable:  
• Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 2.800.080/670, the debt guaranteed in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**Summary of bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of the late/ Khalil Ghattas Al-Sarraf**  
**Guarantor / Arab Union Contracting Company Uarcco (Abdul-Aziz Abdulrahman Al Zamil and Partners W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 52/2007, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 3/7/2007.**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) Its share in the debt as of 1/8/1990 is KWD 348.435/814.  
(2) Its share of the debt according to Article 13 is KWD 1.855.394/508.  
(3) The amounts collected: KWD 200.000/-  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable.  
Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait: Debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 1.855.394/508, its share of the debt guaranteed to International Contractors Group Company (Uracco) in accordance with Article 15 of Law No. 41 of 1993.  
Third: Debts that the Authority deems to be excluded:  
(1) Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait: KWD 2.550.964/311 according to the bank's letter dated 18/10/2018, with the statement of account attached, but it did not provide official documents proving debt validity.  
(2) International Contractors Group Company: KWD 212.112/940 according to the company's letter dated 14/4/2008 - 3/2/2016, which included only a fixed current account in the company's budget and books, and according to the text of Article No. 404 of the Civil Code, paragraph 3, the company's right to claim its debt has lapsed by statute of limitations. The company also did not provide any official document proving the validity of this debt.

**Summary of bankruptcy proceedings report and the list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of the Italian House for Furniture and Decoration W.L.L**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 27/2011, General Debts Bankruptcy/1, dated 13/7/2011**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as it stands on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 3.563.022/659.  
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 23.346.517/969.  
(3) Amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable:  
• Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 23.346.517/969, which is the debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**Summary of bankruptcy proceedings report the and a list of temporary debts for bankruptcy of / Adnan Abdul Hamid Abdul Aziz Al-Sayegh (Guarantor/ Italian House Furniture and Decoration Company W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 27/2011, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 13/7/2011**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) Its share in the debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 1.199.007/996.  
(2) Its share of the debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 8.560.845/226.  
(3) The amounts collected: KWD 18.498/208.  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable.  
(1) Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 92.255.076/649, the personal debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.  
(2) Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 8.560.845/226, its share of the debt guaranteed to the Italian House Furniture and Decoration Company W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of Shatco Trading and Contracting Company (Mahmoud Hassan Abdel Sayed Al Shatti and Partner W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 29/2011, General Debts Bankruptcy/1, dated 8/6/2011**

First: financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The indebtedness as it stands on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 100.263/762.  
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 683.458/968.  
(3) Amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority deems acceptable.  
• Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 683.458/968, the debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Wahbi Baidarous Azar Guarantor/ Shatco Trading and Contracting Company (Mahmoud Hassan Abdel Sayed Al Shatti and Partner W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 29/2011, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 8/6/2011**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) Its share in the debt as of 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 50.131/881.  
(2) Its share of the debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 355.735/103.  
(3) The amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
• Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 355.735/103, its share of the debt guaranteed to Shatco Trading and Contracting Company in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Fiafi Trading & Contracting Co. (Barak Abdulmajid Yousef Al Mandil, & Ghanima Fahd Al Marzouk - W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 43/2010, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 22/6/2011**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The debt standing as on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 5.045.791/822.  
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 31.536.101/111.  
(3) The amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
(4) Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 31.536.101/111, the debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Mohamed Al Mutawa & Mohamed Ibrahim for furnishings and carpets trading (Mohamed Abbas Hassan Al Mutawa and Partner W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 62/2010, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 12/1/2011**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The debt standing as on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 63.028/-.  
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 390.274/221.  
(3) The amounts collected after the bankruptcy ruling: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
• Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 390.274/221, the debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Mohamed Ibrahim Ramadan Shanik Guarantor/ Mohamed Al Mutawa & Mohamed Ibrahim for furnishings and carpets trading (Mohamed Abbas Hassan Al Mutawa and Partner W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 62/2010, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 12/1/2011**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The debt standing as on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 31.514/-.  
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 209.295/331.  
(3) The amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
• Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 209.295/331, the debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Adel Farid Abu Rajila Guarantor/ Al-Karma Readymade Clothes Company (Ahlam Abdul Rahman Al Sameraie and Partner W.L.L)**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 258/2003, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 24/8/2004**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) Its share of the debt standing guaranteed as on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 109.593/013.  
(2) Its share of the debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 217.547/456.  
(3) The amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
• Ahli Union Bank: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 217.547/456, its share in the debt guaranteed to Al-Karma Readymade Clothes Company, Ahlam Abdul Rahman Al Sameraie and Partner W.L.L in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.  
Third: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems inacceptable.  
• Kuwait Finance House: amounts to KWD 2.898/000, for which it did not submit documents proving its debt.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Abdulkarim Soliman Ali Al Anzi**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 39/2011, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 10/8/2011**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The debt standing as on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 16.479/000.  
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 105.099/226.  
(3) The amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
• Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 105.099/226, the debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Ghonima Mohamed Mattar Al Hardan**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 179/2002, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 26/11/2002**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) The debt standing as on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 139.431/.  
(2) The debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 515.167/286.  
(3) The amounts collected after bankruptcy ruling: KWD 419/838  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to KWD 515.167/286, the debt in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.  
Industrial Bank of Kuwait: the debt purchased by the state (personal debt) amounting KWD 11.856/-, the original indebtedness as on 1/8/1990 included in the bankruptcy ruling without calculating interest in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. (41) of 1993.

**A summary of the bankruptcy proceedings report and a list of temporary debts for the bankruptcy of/ Nayef Abdul Wahtab Al-Zouabi Guarantor/ Eman Youssef Yacoub Al Mutawa**  
**Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Case No. 141/2003, General Debts Bankruptcy /1, dated 16/3/2004**

First: Financial and accounting procedures:  
(1) Its share of the debt standing guaranteed as on 1/8/1990 amounts to KWD 190.799/000.  
(2) Its share of the debt according to Article 13 amounts to KWD 778.050/621.  
(3) The amounts collected: none  
Second: Debts that the Authority, in its capacity, deems acceptable.  
(1) Commercial Bank of Kuwait: The debt purchased by the state amounts to 778.050/621 KWD, its share of the debt guaranteed to Ms. Eman Youssef Yacoub Al Mutawa in accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.  
Hussein Hashem Ahmed Behbehani, KWD 3.075/000 according to partial payment order No. 44246/2003

**According to the Provision of Article 111 of Law No. 71 of 2020, "The debtor and each creditor, even if his name is not included in the list of debts, may appeal to the Bankruptcy Department against debts included in the list, within ten days from the date of announcing the list.**

World News Roundup



Rioters loyal to President Donald Trump gather on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021. Federal prosecutors have recommended a six-month term of imprisonment for Ray Epps, a man at the center of a right-wing conspiracy theory about the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol. Inset: Former President Donald Trump reacts to supporters during a commit to caucus rally, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, in Waterloo, Iowa. An appeals court said Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, that Michael Cohen can't hold Trump, his former boss, liable for allegedly jailing him in retaliation for writing a tell-all memoir. (AP)

Ukraine

Stir up discontent

'Ukraine seeks to embarrass Putin'

MOSCOW, Jan 3, (AP): Russia said Wednesday it shot down 12 missiles fired at one of its southern regions bordering Ukraine, as Kyiv's forces seek to embarrass the Kremlin and puncture President Vladimir Putin's argument that life is going on as normal despite the 22-month war.

The situation in the border city of Belgorod, which came under two rounds of shelling on Wednesday morning, "remains tense," said regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov, writing on Telegram.

"Air defense systems worked," he said, promising more details about possible damage after inspecting the area later in the day, part of a New Year's holiday week in Russia.

Ukraine fired two Tochka-U missiles and seven rockets at the region late Tuesday, followed by six Tochka-U missiles and six Vilkha rockets on Wednesday, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

The Soviet-built Tochka-U missile system has a range of up to 120 kilometers (75 miles) and a warhead that can carry cluster munitions. Ukraine has received some cluster munitions from the United States but the Tochka-U and Vilkha can use their own cluster munitions.

The Russian side of the frontier has come under increasingly frequent attack in recent days. Throughout the war, border villages have sporadically been targeted by Ukrainian artillery fire, rockets, mortar shells and drones launched from thick forests where they are hard to detect.

Lately, as Russia fired missiles and drones at Ukrainian cities, Kyiv's troops have aimed at Belgorod's regional capital, which is about 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

Belgorod, with a population of about 340,000, is the biggest Russian city near the border. It can be reached by relatively simple and movable weapons such as multiple rocket launchers.

On Saturday, shelling of Belgorod killed 25 people, including five children, in one of the deadliest strikes on Russian soil since Moscow's full-scale invasion. Another civilian was killed Tuesday in a new salvo. Hitting Belgorod and disrupting city life is a dramatic way for Ukraine to show it can strike back against Russia, whose military outnumbered and outguns Kyiv's forces.

Tactic

The tactic appeared to be having some success, with signs the attacks are unsettling the public, political leaders and military observers.

On Monday, Putin lashed out against the Belgorod attacks by Ukraine. "They want to intimidate us and create uncertainty within our country," he said, promising to step up retaliation. Answering a question from a soldier who asked him about civilian casualties in Belgorod, Putin said: "I also feel a simmering anger."

Many Russian military bloggers have expressed regret about Moscow's withdrawal from the border area in September 2022 amid a swift counteroffensive by Kyiv, and they have argued that more territory must be seized to secure Belgorod and other border areas.

Russia describes Ukrainians as "terrorists" who indiscriminately target residential areas while insisting Moscow only aims at depots, arms factories and other military facilities - even though there is ample evidence that Russia is hitting Ukrainian civilian targets. Ukrainian officials rarely acknowledge responsibility for strikes on Russian territory.

In another Russian border region on Wednesday, the city of Zeleznogorsk was briefly cut off from the power grid after Ukrainian shelling, local officials said.

Authorities were forced to temporarily shut down an electricity substation in the city of 100,000 people in the Kursk region to repair the damage from an aerial attack, Kursk Gov. Roman Starovoi said on Telegram.

Residents were without power or heat, he said, although electricity was restored in most of the city about two hours later, he said.

Also:

**BRUSSELS:** NATO announced Wednesday that it would help buy up to 1,000 Patriot missiles so that allies can better protect their territory as Russia ramps up its air assault on Ukraine.

NATO's Support and Procurement Agency said it will support a group of nations, including Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain, in buying the Patriots, which are used to defend against cruise and ballistic missiles as well as enemy aircraft.

According to industry sources, the contract could be worth around \$5.5 billion.

The purchase could help allies free up more of their own defense systems for Ukraine. The agency said that "other user nations are expected to benefit from the conditions of the contract," without elaborating.

"Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian civilians, cities and towns show how important modern air defenses are," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in a statement. "Scaling up ammunition production is key for Ukraine's security and for ours."

As an organization, NATO provides only non-lethal support to Ukraine, but its members send weapons and ammunition individually or in groups.



Putin

Somalia

Act of aggression

Somalian gov't condemns Ethiopia-Somaliland pact

CAIRO, Jan 3, (KUNA): The Somali government strongly condemned the Ethiopian government signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Somaliland region to use its Red Sea port of Berbera without the approval of the federal government.

"The Federal Government of Somalia categorically regards Ethiopia's actions as an act of aggression and a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia," the government said in a statement following an extraordinary meeting today.

It also vehemently condemned and strongly rejected the outrageous actions of the Federal Government of Ethiopia in signing an unauthorized Memorandum of Understanding with Somaliland (the Northern Regions of Somalia) on January 1, 2024 in Addis Ababa.

The Somali government argued that the Somaliland remains an integral part of the Federal Republic of Somalia and may not enter into international agreements without the involvement and prior authorization of the Federal Government of Somalia.

The government dismissed the move as a hostile act that undermines the amicable relations, peace and stability in a region beset by numerous challenges.

"It constitutes a blatant transgression and intrusion into the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia."

Null and void

It affirmed that the so-called "Memorandum Partnership of Understanding of and Cooperation" is therefore null and void and it is not accepted by the Federal Government and lacks any legal foundation.

In response to this act, the Somali government recalled today its ambassador to Ethiopia for urgent consultation.

It cautioned the Ethiopian government to refrain from any actions that infringe upon Somalia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

"Furthermore, the Federal Government of Somalia reserves the right to lawfully respond to any egregious measures undertaken by the Federal Government of Ethiopia," it warned.

"The Government of Somalia, drawing upon the strength of its citizenry, is prepared and obligated to defend, safeguard, and maintain the nation's sovereignty, dignity, territorial integrity, and social cohesion."

It called on the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League, IGAD, and other international partners concerned with peace and stability in the region and the world, to observe the rules they are founded upon and to fulfill their established responsibilities by supporting Somalia's right to maintain its territorial integrity and to exert pressure on Ethiopia to return to the confines of international laws.

It also requested that the United Nations' Security Council and the African Union convene urgent meetings to address Ethiopia's violations and interference with Somalia's sovereignty and territorial unity.

In a related development, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud phoned Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and discussed with him efforts to strengthen the historical ties that bind the Somali and Egyptian people, and to address the common issues facing the region, such as security, stability, and development.

President Mohamud thanked President Al-Sisi for Egypt's continued support to Somalia, especially in the fields of education, health, and capacity building. He also expressed his appreciation for Egypt's role in the African Union and the Arab League, and its efforts to promote peace and dialogue in the region. President Al-Sisi praised Somalia's progress in the political, economic, and security spheres, and reiterated Egypt's readiness to provide all forms of assistance to Somalia in its reconstruction and development process.



Mohamud



US President Joe Biden speaks at the Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, in Milwaukee. (AP)

Politics

Democracy at a crossroads

Biden launches campaign year with urgent 'warning'

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (AP): US President Joe Biden is starting the campaign year by evoking the Revolutionary War to mark the third anniversary of the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and visiting the South Carolina church where a white gunman massacred Black parishioners - seeking to present in the starkest possible terms an election he argues could determine the fate of American democracy.

On Saturday, Biden will travel to near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where George Washington and the Continental Army spent a bleak winter nearly 250 years ago. There, he'll decry former President Donald Trump for the riot by a mob of his supporters who overran the Capitol in an attempt to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

Two days later, the president will visit Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, where nine people were shot and killed in a June 2015 white supremacist attack.

Affirmation

Biden's kicking off 2024 by delving into some of the country's darkest moments rather than an upbeat affirmation of his record is meant to clarify for voters what his team sees as the stakes of November's election. During both events, he will characterize his predecessor as a serious threat to the nation's founding principles, arguing that Trump - who has built a commanding early lead in the Republican presidential primary - will seek to undermine U.S. democracy should he win a second term.

"We are running a campaign like the fate of our democracy depends on it, because it does," Biden reelection campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez said on a conference call with reporters.

Trump, who faces 91 criminal charges stemming from his efforts to overturn his loss to Biden and three other felony cases, argues that Biden and top Democrats are themselves seeking to undermine democracy by using the legal system to thwart the campaign of his chief rival.

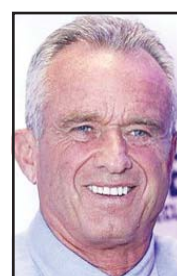
"Joe Biden and his allies are a real and compelling threat to our Democracy," Trump campaign senior advisers Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles wrote in a memo this week. "In fact, in a way

cluding potential changes to the state's so-called yellow flag law, which allows a judge to remove guns from someone in a mental health crisis.

The Maine Gun Safety Coalition planned a demonstration in the Hall of Flags to show support for victims and their families.

"Our hearts are broken about the shootings in Lewiston," said David Farmer, spokesperson for the group. "There is an urgent need for action on gun safety reform. We cannot wait any longer to confront this growing problem."

Also on the agenda was a request by State Rep. John Andrews, who sits on the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, to impeach Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, who denied Republican former President Donald Trump a spot on the state's primary ballot over his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. (AP)



Kennedy



Shapiro

America

**Kennedy Jr. qualifies:** Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has collected enough signatures to appear on the 2024 presidential ballot in Utah, election officials say, marking the first state where the independent candidate and prominent anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist has qualified.

Kennedy has met the 1,000-signature requirement needed to qualify for the Utah ballot and can officially file to run as a presidential candidate in the state before a March 5 deadline, state Elections Director Ryan Cowley said.

Utah is the first state where Kennedy's campaign submitted signatures and qualified for ballot access, campaign spokesperson Stefanie Spear said. She did not indicate which day he would file for candidacy.

A scion of one of the nation's most famous Democratic dynasties, the longtime environmental lawyer veered from the party last fall and announced his independent bid for the White House. He is a son of former senator and U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and a nephew of Democratic President John F. Kennedy.

The candidate rose to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic for his embrace of public health conspiracy theories and has a loyal following of people who reject the scientific consensus that vaccines are safe and effective.

His success at gaining ballot access in Utah reignites questions of whether the independent could play spoiler for the eventual Democratic and Republican nominees. While it's unlikely that an independent or a third-party candidate would win the presidency, they could siphon support from the major candidates in a way that tips the scales. (AP)

**Shapiro faces calls:** In 2024, Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro could face a more complicated sophomore year in charge of Pennsylvania after his first year brought a highway collapse, a budget stalemate and friction with allies and adversaries as he navigated the battleground state's political divides.

He is under pressure to respond to a court ruling that Pennsylvania's system of public school funding unconstitutionally discriminates against poorer districts.

His administration must also oversee a presidential election that, four years ago, was marred by a barrage of right-wing conspiracy theories, Donald Trump-allied efforts in court to overturn it and threats against election administrators.

And Shapiro, viewed nationally as a rising political star, must navigate the nation's only politically divided legislature in which allies and adversaries alike are wary of him.

He often emphasized the need to gain approval from both the Democratic-controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate, and focused more on what his administration accomplished - what he called a "get stuff done" administration - rather than farther-reaching agenda items that are stuck in partisan stalemate. (AP)

**Gun restriction bills on tap:** Honoring victims, survivors and first responders fol-



This aerial photo shows an area hit by a fire following earthquakes in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024. A series of powerful earthquakes that hit western Japan left multiple people dead and damaged thousands of buildings, vehicles and boats. Inset: In this photo provided by Japanese Ministry of Defense, Japanese Self Defense Force members carry an injured person out of a collapsed house, following strong earthquakes in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. (AP)

## Japan

### Rescuers race against time in search for survivors

# Quake toll 73 as dozens believed trapped

## Transport officials and police begin probe after fatal collision at airport

SUZU, Japan, Jan 3, (AP): Japanese rescue workers and canine units searched urgently through rubble Wednesday ahead of predicted bitter cold and heavy rain in what the prime minister called a race against time after powerful earthquakes killed at least 73 people in western Japan.

Fifteen people were listed as officially missing and possibly trapped under collapsed buildings.

Ishikawa prefecture and nearby areas were shaken by more aftershocks on Wednesday, adding to the dozens that followed Monday's magnitude 7.6 temblor centered near Noto, about 300 kilometers (185 miles) from Tokyo on the opposite coast. The quake set off tsunami warnings, followed by waves measuring more than 1 meter (3 feet) in some places.

The first 72 hours are especially critical for rescues, experts say, because the prospects for survival greatly diminish after that.

### Critical moment

"More than 40 hours have passed. This is a race against time, and I feel that we are at a critical moment," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters. "We have received reports many people are still waiting for rescue under collapsed buildings."

The narrow Noto Peninsula has added to the challenges in reaching some communities. Water, power and cellphone service were still down in some areas.

Naomi Gonno says she and her children got out of their house just as it came crashing down.

But her children were screaming "Granma," and Gonno saw that her mother was trapped under the smashed house, with only her hand visible. She was able to squeeze her way out through a tiny space, Gonno said.

"I can't believe we're still alive," she said. "We are living in fear."

Relief officials handed out water, blankets, food and other supplies. Search dogs joined military personnel and firefighters trying to find missing people, although the exact number is unclear.

Weather forecasts warned of heavy

TOKYO, Jan 3, (AP): Transport officials and police began separate investigations at Tokyo's Haneda Airport on Wednesday, a day after a large passenger plane and a Japanese coast guard aircraft collided on the runway and burst into flames, killing five people.

The accident occurred Tuesday evening when the Japan Airlines flight JAL-516 plane landed on one of Haneda's four runways after the coast guard aircraft - a Bombardier Dash-8 - had also entered, preparing to take off. Both sides said they received a go-ahead from aviation officials.

An orange fireball erupted from the aircraft, and the JAL plane continued down the runway covered in flames while spewing gray smoke. Within 20 minutes, all 379 passengers and crew members slid down emergency chutes and survived. The pilot of the coast guard plane, which exploded, evacu-

ated with injuries but five crew members aboard the coast guard plane were killed.

Transport safety officials were focusing on communication between air traffic control officials and the two aircraft to determine what led to the collision.

Police began a separate probe into possible professional negligence. On Wednesday, Tokyo police said that investigators examined the debris on the runway and were to interview the involved parties.

The Japan Airlines A350 had flown from Shin Chitose airport near the northern Japanese city of Sapporo, and the coast guard Bombardier was preparing to depart for Niigata to deliver relief supplies to residents in the central Japan regions hit by powerful earthquakes on Monday that killed more than 60 people.

On Wednesday, six experts from the

Japan Transport Safety Board examined what remained of the aircraft, the board said. TV footage showed the severely damaged A350's wings among the charred, broken parts of fuselages. The smaller coast guard plane looked like a mound of rubble.

Transport safety investigators plan to interview the pilots and officials from both sides, as well as air traffic control officials to find out how the two planes simultaneously ended up on the runway, JTSB said.

The two sides had different understandings of their permission to use the runway.

JAL Managing Executive Officer Tadayuki Tsutsumi told a news conference late Tuesday that the A350 was making a "normal entry and landing" on the runway. Another JAL executive, Noriyuki Aoki, said the flight had received permission to land from aviation officials.

Nearly 33,000 people are staying at evacuation centers, and some said they were hungry and cold, unable to sleep and afraid.

When Monday's quake hit, Yasuo Kobatake ran out of his house with just one sock on. The shaking threw him to the ground, and a concrete wall came crashing down, barely missing him, he said. He was eating only rice balls and a few sips of water in paper cups at the elementary school where he and others have been sheltering. They slept on cushions, with no blankets.

"It was so cold. I thought I'd freeze to death," he said.

In the aftermath of the quakes and tsunami, boats lay overturned in the sea, roads were blocked by mounds of dirt, and pillars and walls lay scat-

tered from flattened homes. A large fire turned an entire section of Wajima city into ashes.

Officials warned that more major quakes could follow.

Japan is prone to earthquakes, with many fault lines and volcanoes. A massive quake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in 2011 caused widespread damage in northeastern Japan.

No major problems were reported at nuclear plants after Monday's quake. The Shika nuclear plant in Ishikawa suffered a partial electricity failure, but backup power kicked in, ensuring the critical cooling process continued.

Japan is an organized, conformist and relatively crime-free society where warnings are systematically relayed as a public service.

## South Korea

### Lee in ICU

## Police raid premises of opp'n leader's attacker

SEOUL, Jan 3, (AP): South Korean police on Wednesday raided the residence and office of a man who stabbed the country's opposition leader, Lee Jae-myung, in the neck in an attack that left him hospitalized in an intensive care unit, officials said.

The assault occurred when Lee was passing through a throng of journalists after visiting the proposed site of a new airport in the southeastern city of Busan on Tuesday. The attacker, posing as a supporter, approached Lee asking for his autograph before he took out a 18-centimeter (7-inch) knife to attack him.

After receiving emergency treatment in Busan, Lee was transported by a helicopter to the Seoul National University Hospital for surgery. Cho Jeong-sik, the party's secretary general, said Wednesday the two-hour surgery was successful and that Lee remained in the hospital's intensive care unit for recovery. Police and emergency officials earlier said Lee was conscious after the attack and wasn't in critical condition.

The suspect was detained by police immediately after the attack. Police said he told investigators he attempted to kill Lee and that he had plotted his attack alone, but his motive is unknown.

Busan police said they sent officers to search the suspect's residence and office in the central city of Asan on Wednesday as part of their investigation. Police said they plan to ask for a formal arrest warrant for the suspect over alleged attempted murder.

Police disclosed few further details about the suspect except that he was aged about 67 and bought the climbing knife online. Police refused to disclose what kind of office he has in Asan, but local media photos showed officers searching a real estate office.

Lee, 59, is a tough-speaking liberal who lost the 2022 presidential election to President Yoon Suk Yeol by 0.7 percentage points, the narrowest margin recorded in a South Korean presidential election. Their closely fought presidential race and post-election bickering between their allies have deepened South Korea's already toxic conservative-liberal divide.

Recent public surveys have put Lee as one of the two leading early favorites for the next presidential election in 2027, along with Yoon's popular former justice minister, Han Dong-hoon.

## Subcontinent

### Sheikh Hasina braces for election:

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is facing a general election Sunday, a vote she is all but certain to win. Critics say it could further tighten her grip on power after a 15-year-rule that turned a politician who once fought for democratic freedoms into an increasingly autocratic leader.

Hasina's main rival, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, is boycotting the polls, claiming her government cannot ensure a fair vote, and making it increasingly likely the 76-year-old premier will secure her fourth consecutive and fifth overall term in office.

Her supporters say Hasina - the longest-serving leader in Bangladesh's history - and her Awami League have given them a country with a growing industry and humming development projects. The stability has staved off military coups that

have shaken the young, predominantly Muslim nation strategically located between India and Myanmar.

But Hasina's political life, like her country, began with violence. On Aug. 15, 1975, a group of military officers behind a coup assassinated her father, Sheikh Mujib Rahman, the first leader of independent Bangladesh.

Some say the brutal act, which also killed nearly her entire family, pushed her



Sheikh Hasina



Sheikh Mujib

to consolidate unprecedented power and motivated her throughout her career in politics. (AP)

**Truck collision kills 12 in India:** At least 12 people were killed and 25 others were injured on Wednesday after a bus collided with a truck near Dergaon in Golaghat district of north eastern Indian State of Assam.

The Asian News International said, quoting Superintendent of Police of Golaghat district Rajen Singh, that the accident occurred around 5:00 am (local-time) on Wednesday, resulting in the death of 12 people, while 25 others were injured.

"The bus carrying a team was going towards Tilinga Mandir from the Kamarbandha area of Golaghat district. The bus collided with a truck in the Balijan area and the truck was coming in the opposite direction from Jorhat's side."

"Twenty-seven injured persons were referred to Jorhat Medical College and

Hospital where two people succumbed to their injuries," Rajen Singh said. (KUNA)

### Pak security forces kill 4 militants:

At least four "terrorists", including a suicide bomber, were killed in a security operation in Pakistan's northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province bordering Afghanistan on Tuesday, said military.

According to a statement issued by Pakistan military's media wing Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), four terrorists, including a suicide bomber, were killed in an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan tribal district of KPK.

During the operation, an intense exchange of fire took place between Pakistani troops and the terrorists.

ISPR said the militants were "actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces and were planning to conduct a high profile terrorist attack, which was averted due to proactive response by the security forces." (AP)

## Kuwait oil up

The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up by 56 cents to USD 80.12 per barrel on Tuesday, compared with USD 79.56 per barrel last Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Wednesday.

In international markets, the Brent crude dropped by USD 1.15 to USD 75.89 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which also dropped USD 1.27 to USD 70.38 per barrel. (KUNA)

## Iraq oil exports

Iraq's oil ministry said on Wednesday that the total of exported oil through the Oil Marketing Company (SOMO) reached 108 million oil barrels with total revenues worth USD 8.3 billion. It was estimated that the oil export rates reached 3.486 million barrels, each barrel worth USD 76.96, daily, added the ministry.

The statement did not mention any oil exports through the Ceyhan port in Türkiye following Baghdad and Ankara's failure in finding a settlement on the matter to export the oil extracted from the Kurdistan region through Türkiye.

## U.S. small business job growth continues

U.S. small businesses experienced job growth for all of 2023 and extended a cycle of consistent job growth for 33-straight months, according to December data from the Paychex Small Business Employment Watch. The Small Business Jobs Index closed the year at 101.21 (1.2% growth), while hourly earnings growth for U.S. workers in December (3.48%) was down from 4.93% in December of 2022. "As the Paychex Small Business Employment Watch has consistently shown all

year, the resiliency of the small business community has allowed them to meet the many challenges of 2023 and continue to grow," said John Gibson, Paychex president and CEO. "Wage inflation also continues to slow indicating that the actions taken by the Fed are having their desired effect on inflation."

"With a prolonged tight labor market challenging employers to find and retain qualified workers, policymakers should focus their efforts on increasing the participation rate and quality of the U.S.

workforce. The Fed's actions appear to be driving a soft landing as we've seen wage inflation normalize without negative impacts on job growth across the U.S. As we look ahead to 2024, small businesses will need to continue to show their resilience as they face many of the same challenges of 2023, such as retaining and attracting quality employees, accessing affordable growth capital, and navigating even more government regulations," Gibson added. (Business Wire)

## Market Movements

03-01-2024

PAKISTAN - KSE 100

Change Closing pts  
+0.40 64,685.70



UAE - DFM  
JAPAN - Nikkei  
PHILIPPINES - PSEi  
SAUDI - Tadawul  
EGYPT - EGX 30

Change Closing pts

-0.33 4,077.58  
-0.22 33,464.88  
-0.84 6,498.88  
-1.60 11,928.89  
-0.37 25,408.51

# Business

## Dubai best performing market in region

# GCC equity markets under-perform in global rally

By Kamco Invest

**GCC underperforms global rally as markets move in different directions...**

Global equity markets closed the 2023 little short of a record level after consistent gains registered during the last two months of the year. Japanese and US indices were the top performers during the year with gains in the latter coming mainly from stellar gains seen in tech stocks. The Nasdaq index up by 43.4% mainly led by gain in seven tech stocks with their contribution reaching more than 17% of the MSCI All Country World Index. The growth in equity markets mainly reflected resilient economic growth against skepticism of geopolitical shocks, better-than-expected corporate profit growth and a forecasted end to the record rate hike cycle.

GCC equity market index closed 2023 with one of the smallest annual gains globally. The index closed the year at 714.69 points registering a gain of 3.7% after recording mixed performance at the country level. Out of the seven exchanges, four recorded gains while three closed in the red. Dubai was the best performing market in the region with a gain of 21.7% followed by Saudi Arabia, also with a double-digit gain of 14.2%. Bahrain and Qatari indices also closed in the green, although with much smaller gains of 4.0% and 1.4%. On the other hand, Oman was the biggest decliner in the region with a fall of 7.1% followed by 6.5% decline in the Kuwait All Share index and 6.2% decline in ADX.

The performance in the GCC also highlighted the importance of a strong pipeline of IPOs that are critical for attracting international capital flows and generating resilient market performance. Both Saudi Arabia and Dubai exchanges saw IPOs of some of the key companies in the region garnering strong investor demand. The markets, especially Saudi Arabia, were also insulated from the decline in crude oil prices that is still essential for economic growth in the region.

### Global Market Performance

**Global markets see biggest gain since 2019; reverse last year's performance...**

Financial markets across the globe witnessed steep volatility towards the close of 2023 reflecting speculations around interest rate moves, inflation, economic growth and geopolitical situation. Shares have gained steeply over the last two months while benchmark bond yields dropped from a 16-year high of 5.0% in October-2023 for 10-year US treasury bonds to reach 3.9% at the close of the year. The sharp decline in yields reflected increasing expectation of rate cuts in 2023 that got exaggerated towards the last few weeks of 2023 as investors and traders priced in higher-than-expected rate cuts in 2024, including in the EU. Equity markets witnessed a stellar year with a gain of 21.8% for the MSCI World Index,

GCC Equity Markets	Index Closing	2023 Chg%	M-Cap (USD Bn)	2023 Val Traded (USD Bn)	P/E (x) TTM	P/B (x) TTM	Div. Yield
Kuwait - Premier Market Index	7,477.0	(7.9%)	134.0	34.4	13.4	0.8	2.9%
Kuwait - Main 50 Index	5,487.4	(4.0%)					
Kuwait - Main Market Index	5,569.7	(0.5%)					
Kuwait - All Share Index	6,817.3	(6.5%)					
Saudi Arabia	11,967.4	14.2%	3,003.3	352.0	20.2	2.4	2.9%
Abu Dhabi	9,577.9	(6.2%)	788.8	77.4	27.2	3.0	1.6%
Dubai	4,059.8	21.7%	185.1	26.0	9.1	1.3	4.3%
Qatar	10,830.6	1.4%	171.6	34.2	12.6	1.4	4.5%
Bahrain	1,971.5	4.0%	85.9	0.6	7.0	0.7	8.5%
Oman	4,514.1	(7.1%)	23.0	2.6	13.8	0.9	4.9%
Total GCC			4,391.8	527.1	18.7	2.2	2.9%

the highest since 2019 and a reversal from last year's decline of 19.5%. The index has seen a sharp recovery of 16.0% from a 7-month low level reached at the end of October-2023. The MSCI world index reached a record level on the second-last trading day of 2023 but witnessed a small decline on the last day to reach 3,169.18 points. Meanwhile, the importance of ESG was once again reiterated with the associated S&P ESG index gaining 25.9% during the year. Although equity markets were the highlight of the year, global high yield corporate bonds also showed double digit-gains of 13.5% mainly led by falling yields amid a perceived decline in risk associated with economic growth and corporate failures. In terms of performance of safe haven assets, gold gained 13.1% during the year and hit all time highs in several countries, reflecting geopolitical issues while the greenback declined by 2.1% against a basket of currencies. On the other hand, commodities were the biggest decliners of the year mainly led by more than 10% decline in the price of crude oil.

Most global equity markets witnessed healthy double-digit gains during the year. Japanese equities were the best performers at the country level with a gain of 28.2% followed by the S&P 500 index that was up 24.2% during the year. The gain in US market was led by tech stocks with the associated Nasdaq index up 43.4% mainly reflecting strong gains in the 'Super Seven' tech stocks—Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon, Nvidia, Tesla and Meta. This also supported the performance of global developed markets that recorded a gain of 20.1% while emerging markets lagged with a much smaller gain of 7.0%. GCC markets largely underperformed with one of the lowest gains of around 3.7% by the end of the year.

After years of outperforming global equity markets, GCC equity markets underperformed during 2023 by posting a smaller gain during the year as compared to double-digit gains for most major global equity markets. The MSCI GCC Index was up by 3.7% during the year after reporting a rela-

tively smaller decline during 2022. The trend in the index showed volatile performance during the year. The index declined to a 2.5 year low during October-2023 led by geopolitical tensions related to the war on Gaza and its impact on the region as well as subdued oil prices since the start of the year due to demand growth concerns, especially related to the recovery in China. However, due to the minimal impact from the war, the region witnessed swift recovery, in line with the recovery seen in other key global equity markets. The MSCI GCC index recovered almost 15% since the end of October-2023. One of the most notable trend during the 2H-2023 was the stark disconnect between crude oil prices and the GCC index as both the asset classes moved in opposite direction.

The performance of individual markets in the GCC were mixed in 2023. Dubai was the best performing market in the region with a strong double-digit gain of 21.7% followed by Saudi Arabia also with a healthy gain of 14.2%. Gains in Dubai was led by almost 50% gain in the Consumer Discretionary index and 38.4% gain in the heavyweight Real Estate Index that were partially offset by decline in Consumer Staples, Communications and Materials indices while in Saudi Arabia, the gains were led by a broad-based positive performance across sectors. Bahrain and Qatari indices also reported positive gains of 4.0% and 1.4%, respectively. On the other hand, Oman reported the biggest decline in the GCC during the year with the MSX 30 index recording a slide of 7.1%. Kuwait was next with the All Share index sliding by 6.5% closely followed by last two year's best performer Abu Dhabi with a decline of 6.2%.

The GCC sector performance chart showed gains across the board with all sectors in the green. The Pharma (+75.8%), Insurance (+57.9%) and Healthcare (+37.7%) indices topped yearly performance while heavyweight sectors like Banks and Energy showed relatively smaller gains of 6.1% and

20.0%, respectively.

### Boursa Kuwait

After closing 2022 with minimum gains, the Boursa Kuwait All Share Index wrapped-up 2023 at 6,817.3 points with the second-biggest decline in GCC at -6.5%. The Premier Market index witnessed the biggest decline among the Kuwait benchmarks, witnessing a decline of 7.9% after 18 out of the 31 constituents in the large-cap index reported declines during the year. The Main 50 index receded 4.0% during the year, followed by the Main Market index that reported a small decline of 0.5%.

The sector performance chart for 2023 favored decliners over gainers. The Technology index reported the biggest yearly decline of 16.9%, led by an equivalent decline in the sector's sole constituent stock, Automated Systems Co. The Energy sector was the second biggest decliner with a fall of 16.6% followed by Industrials index with a decline of 15.8%. Prominent decliners in the energy sector included Sener Holding Co. and Borgan Company for Well Drilling, Trading and Maintenance with declines of 32.1% and 22.7%, respectively. In terms of sectoral gainers, the Insurance index topped with a double-digit gain of 47.8% followed by Consumer Staples and Consumer Discretionary indices with yearly gains of 37.2% and 7.9%, respectively. Within the Insurance Index, shares of Gulf Insurance Group (GIG) and Kuwait Reinsurance Co. reported multi-fold gains during the year. The gain in GIG reflected the sale of 46.32% stake in the insurance company by Kipco to Fairfax. Gains in the Consumer Staples was mainly led by Mezzan Holding Co. which was up by 46.3%. Within the Consumer Discretionary sector, shares of IFA Hotels & Resorts Co. reported multi-fold gains during the year supported by strong earnings in 9M-2023.

Large-cap sectors like Banks recorded a decline of 8.2% during the year. Within the banking sector, Shares of all Kuwaiti banks declined barring Commercial Bank of Kuwait which posted gains of 4.0%. In the Telecom sector, shares of Ooredoo Kuwait was up by 5.0% while Hayat Communications witnessed gains of 41.7%. On the other hand, shares of Zain and STC Kuwait witnessed declines.

The yearly best performers chart was topped by IFA Hotels & Resorts Co. with a gain of 713.1% followed by The Energy House Holding and Int'l Financial Advisors Co. with gains of 240.6% and 209.8%, respectively. On the other hand, the yearly decliners chart was topped by Salbookh Trading Co. with a fall of 47.4% followed by National Real Estate Co. and First Investment Co. with the declines of 47.1% and 41.7%, respectively. In terms of trading activity, total volume traded during the year declined by 29.3% to reach 39.6 Bn shares in 2023 as compared to 56.0 Bn shares in 2022.

Continued on Page 9

# Trading activities of Kuwaiti investors saw surge in 2023

Gulf investments witnessed a decline

## Year-ender

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: In 2023, Kuwaiti investors experienced a growth in their market trading activities, with their investments reaching 162.513 million dinars. This upward trend continued into December, with an additional increase of 13.72 million dinars during the month.**

Analyzing the trading volume statistics on the Boursa Kuwait for 2023 based on nationality and trader category, individual Kuwaiti investors saw a rise in their investments by 57.298 million dinars. Simultaneously, Kuwaiti institutions and companies contributed to this surge with an increase of 134.5 million dinars. However, Kuwaiti investment funds faced a decline of 7.84 million dinars, and portfolio investments decreased by 21.479 million dinars.

Contrastingly, Gulf investments witnessed a decrease of 237.335 million dinars in 2023, with a further decline of 48.1 million dinars in December. Gulf individuals increased their investments by 14.557 million dinars, while Gulf institutions and companies experienced a reduction of 247.58 million dinars. Gulf investment funds faced a decline of 4.374 million dinars, but client portfolio investments increased by 65.7 thousand dinars.

Foreign investments, on the other hand, marked an increase of approximately 74.822 million dinars throughout 2023, with an additional surge of 34.391 million dinars in December. Although

## Introduction of 'oil and gas' into JPF a milestone for KOC strategy

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: MEED Magazine reported that Kuwait Oil Company and Kuwaiti Spitco Engineering Company brought oil and gas into the Jurassic Production Facility 4 (JPF-4), reports Al-Anba daily.

The sources said that the introduction of oil and gas into the Jurassic facility took place on December 18, ahead of the date specified in the contracted schedule, and this step represents a milestone in Kuwait Oil Company's strategy to enhance the production of free gas and light oil from the Jurassic oil and gas reservoirs in

foreign individuals decreased their investments by 121.3 thousand dinars in 2023, foreign institutions and companies witnessed a notable increase of 79.697 million dinars. Foreign investment funds saw a slight decrease of 4.75 million dinars.

Active trading accounts on the Boursa Kuwait exhibited a growth rate of 7.3 percent in 2023, rising from 17,702 thousand accounts in December 2022 to 18,994 thousand accounts by the end of December 2023. However, there was a marginal monthly decrease of 0.5 percent from November's figure of 19,103 thousand accounts.

In terms of account activity, the total number of active Kuwaiti accounts (individuals and institutions) increased by 1,342 thousand accounts or 8.4 percent in 2023, reaching 17,283 thousand accounts. Kuwaiti individuals contributed significantly to this growth, with a clear increase from 15,621

thousand accounts to 16,972 thousand accounts, representing an 8.6 percent rise. In contrast, Kuwaiti institutional accounts decreased by 2.8 percent, dropping from 320 accounts in December 2022 to 311 accounts in December 2023.

Dormant Kuwaiti accounts experienced a modest increase from 378.35 thousand accounts to 382.82 thousand accounts, reflecting a growth of 1.18 percent and approximately 4.47 thousand accounts. This increase was observed in both dormant accounts of Kuwaiti individuals (1.2 percent, about 4.4 thousand accounts) and dormant accounts of Kuwaiti institutions (0.6 percent, about 39 accounts).

Looking at Gulf accounts, the total active accounts of Gulf citizens (individuals and institutions) decreased by 7.5 percent, from 280 accounts in 2022 to 259 accounts in December 2023. The decline was observed in both active accounts of Gulf individuals (7.3 percent,

less than 10 kilometers east of the first facility.

The magazine said that both facilities will test, process and handle wet and sour hydrocarbon well fluids from several oil and gas fields.

These formations include Al-Rawdatain, Al-Sabriya, Northwestern Al-Rawdatain, Umm Naq, Dhab, Bahra, Marrat, Najma Sargelo, and other formations in the Jurassic fields.

Both projects are onshore surface production facilities and are being implemented on a build, own and operate (BOO) basis by the contractor implementing them.

14 accounts) and active accounts of Gulf institutions (7.9 percent, 7 accounts). Meanwhile, dormant Gulf accounts decreased by 2.2 percent (94 accounts), with growth seen in both dormant accounts of Gulf individuals (2.1 percent, 80 accounts) and dormant accounts of Gulf institutions (3.2 percent, 14 accounts).

For foreign accounts, the total active accounts of foreigners (individuals and institutions) decreased by 2 percent, from 1.48 thousand accounts in 2022 to 1.452 thousand accounts in December 2023. This decline was observed in both active accounts of foreign individuals (0.5 percent, 4 accounts) and active accounts of foreign institutions (4 percent, 25 accounts). Dormant foreign accounts increased by 2.7 percent (454 accounts), with growth seen in both dormant accounts of foreign individuals (2.4 percent, 355 accounts) and dormant accounts of foreign institutions (5.3 percent, 99 accounts).

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3, (KUNA): This is the second part of the major events that took place in 2023 and had a bearing on the world economy. The first part was carried yesterday.

March 30: The EU adopted a regulation that extends the EU member states' voluntary 15 percent gas demand reduction target, for one year.

March 30: The EU removed Pakistan from the list of High-Risk Third Countries linked with money laundering and terrorism financing.

March 30: EU member states and the European Parliament reached a political agreement on the energy renewables law, that includes a legally binding target to "raise the share of renewable energy in the EU's overall energy consumption to 42.5 percent by 2030".

April 2: Kazakhstan decided to reduce its oil production by 87 thousand barrels until the end of 2023.

April 2: Russia announces that it will continue to reduce oil production by 500,000 barrels per day until the end of 2023.

April 13: The United States and Indonesia sign an infrastructure and financial agreement worth USD 649 million.

April 18: The European Parliament approved an agreement with EU member states to establish the world's first carbon border tax, known as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

April 18: India and Russia agree to enhance trade and economic bilateral relations.

April 20: The United States provides USD 1 billion to the Green Climate Fund, which funds clean energy projects, as part of US steps in responds to Climate Crisis.

April 20: The European Parliament approved legislation on rules in the European Union to regulate digital currencies (bitcoin) and electronic money tokens and to prevent money laundering.

April 21: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launches an urban transformation campaign in Istanbul in which the government pays half of the cost of rebuilding old buildings.

April 24: Britain and the Netherlands agree to establish LionLink the largest electricity supply line in the world that crosses the borders of the two countries to enhance energy security in Britain.

April 24: The European Union and Norway sign an agreement to enhance cooperation in the field of clean energy and to enhance efforts to protect the environment and industrial transformation.

April 24: An alliance of nine countries at the North Sea summit held in the Belgian port city of Ostend, pledg-

es to develop the North Sea into the world's largest green energy plant, with plans to produce about 120 gigawatts of power from the sea winds by 2030.

May 1: JP Morgan Chase bank has acquired most stakes of the failing First Republic Bank that became the latest of the banks that failed to secure assets of the depositors.

May 2: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the discovery of an oil field with a production capacity of 100,000 barrels per day in Sirtank, southeastern Turkey.

May 2: The European Commission announces the adoption of exceptional and temporary preventive measures by imposing a partial ban on a limited number of products imported from Ukraine.

May 3: The World Bank selected Ajay Banga as President of the World Bank for a five-year term beginning June 2, 2023.

May 10: Austria announces a series of measures aimed at curbing inflation, by imposing of higher taxes on energy companies to reduce their profits if they do not take the initiative to reduce prices.

May 11: The 42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) concluded in Kuala Lumpur, where the leaders of the member states pledged to strengthen the centralization of the regional bloc and make joint efforts to reach economic integration for the sake of achieving economic integration to deal better with crises and challenges.

May 16: The European Union and India launched a platform for coordination between the two sides in facing common major challenges in the areas of trade, technology and security.

May 16: President Joe Biden has officially vetoed a resolution that would halt a Commerce Department rule temporarily suspending tariffs on solar panels imported from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam as it is against American innovation.

May 17: The International Energy Agency said Russia's oil exports rose to the highest level since its invasion of Ukraine to reach 8.3 million bpd.

May 17: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan announced the extension of Black Sea grain deal has been extended for two more months.

May 18: Iran and Pakistan inaugurated a joint border market as well as an electricity transmission line.

May 25: The European Parliament's (EP) Committee on International Trade voted to provide up to EUR 100 million (USD 107 million) in Macro-financial Assistance to North Macedonia.

To be continued





## Collaborative efforts aim to promote ethical business practices within the private sector

# AmCham Kuwait conducts workshops to combat forced labor, human trafficking

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: AmCham Kuwait collaborates with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to conduct an impactful training program aimed at preventing forced labor and trafficking in persons within the private sector. The comprehensive initiative, now completed, focused on familiarizing participants with the practical manifestations of forced labor (FL) and trafficking in persons (TIP), while providing essential information and practical guidance to employers.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Pete Swift, Chairman of AmCham Kuwait, who warmly welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of continuing the collaborative efforts in promoting ethical business practices and ensuring a fair and just work environment within the private sector. Swift then introduced Siham Nuseibeh, Technical Officer at the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO).

The training program, a collaborative effort between AmCham Kuwait and ILO, aimed to empower private sector companies by equipping participants with the knowledge to identify potential risks of forced labor in company recruitment, employment, and sourcing practices. Employers received practical guidance on how to effectively address, prevent, and eliminate these risks, fostering ethical business practices. This initiative not only contributes to the ethical framework of companies but also plays a crucial role in



Participants pose for a group photo during AmCham Kuwait's workshop in collaboration with ILO.

helping them enhance their reputation by ensuring fair and responsible employment practices throughout their operations.

The collaboration between AmCham Kuwait and ILO is particularly significant given that forced labor is a criminal offense. The

ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour (1930) defines forced labor as work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty, and for which the person has not offered themselves voluntarily.

Understanding forced labor involves recog-

nizing indicators such as isolation, restricted freedom of movement, retention of personal documents, abusive working conditions, violence, threats, abuse of vulnerability, excessive overtime, withholding/no payment of wages, and debt bondage, among others.

Similarly, the training addressed the definition of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, for exploitation."

The session provided insights into the 11 most common indicators of forced labor and trafficking in persons, offering practical examples to enhance understanding. Employers were also presented with the business case for combating forced labor, emphasizing the importance of avoiding legal risks, managing supply chain risks, maintaining a positive brand image, and meeting buyers' expectations. The training highlighted the session's focus on addressing risks throughout the employment process – from pre-employment to post-employment.

AmCham Kuwait and ILO remain dedicated to sustaining endeavors to advocate for ethical business practices and uphold a work environment characterized by fair practices within the private sector.

ABCK-AmCham Kuwait is a non-profit organization operating since 1985 and is composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait has acted as an advocate for American interest in the state of Kuwait. For More Information, please visit our website at [www.amchamkuwait.org](http://www.amchamkuwait.org) or follow us on the social media channel @abck1985

## KEF unveils exciting new tournament format

# T10 thrills await as TEC Challengers Cup 2024 hits the KOC Cricket Grounds on January 5th

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: TEC Challengers Cup 2024 Cricket Tournament conducted by Thrisur Engineering College Alumni Association (TECAL) will begin at KOC Cricket Grounds on January 5th. The eagerly awaited cricket tournament conducted for the members of Kuwait Engineers Forum (KEF) marks the start of the Engineers' Sports calendar in Kuwait for the season. The tournament this year has been changed to a new model, featuring six sponsored clubs instead of the usually followed inter alumni format. This change was made to ensure equal opportunities for participation to all KEF players.

A total of 78 players were up for grab in six clubs during the player auction conducted on 7th December 2023. Club Owners Black Panthers, High Range Blasters, Kerala Tuskers, Kuwait Super Kings, Orange Warriors and White Elephants had prepared their preferred team combinations, bidding budgets and played tactically to get the auctioneer's gavel fall on their bid, declaring "SOLD". The auction was a thrilling event drawing attention from players and cricket enthusiasts from KEF to discover which club acquired particular players and at what value.

The six-team tournament will be conducted in a league cum knock out, T10 format with 3 Clubs in each pool playing against clubs in the other pool during the league stage. Pool A clubs; Kuwait Super Kings, High Range Blasters and White Elephants will Play against Pool B



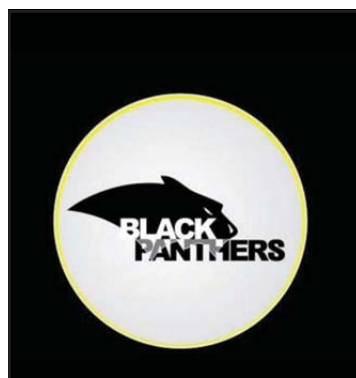
Orange Warriors logo



TEC Challengers Cup 2024 logo



White Elephants logo



Black Panthers logo



High Range Blasters logo



Kuwait Super Kings logo

Clubs; Black Panthers, Orange Warriors and Kerala Tuskers. 7 league matches will be held on 5th and the remaining 5 matches on 12th of January. The teams' line-up and inaugural function will be at 10:00 am after the first two matches. With the players and spectator interest on the rise, the new format promises the cricket enthusiasts of an action-packed weekend.

The top 4 teams after the league



Kerala Tuskers logo

matches will qualify for the semi-final where the topper will clash with the 4th placed side and 2nd placed will clash with the club placed 3rd. With six evenly balanced clubs in contest, it is expected to have very intense and closely fought matches throughout the tournament. Coupled with the glorious uncertainties of the game, cricket buffs can look forward to some thrilling action scheduled to start on 5th January 2024.

## NerdWallet

# Overspent in December? Here's how to battle the January blues

By Kimberly Palmer  
NerdWallet

The first workday in January after the holidays hits a little bit differently: The parties are over, debt payments are soon due and it can feel like there's nothing to look forward to.

You may be able to minimize the doldrums with some planning and other steps to turn things around, financial experts say.

"Financial stress can be temporary," says Tonya Rapley, financial educator and founder of the millennial money and lifestyle blog My Fab Finance. She suggests focusing on small steps such as paying this month's bills, then reminding yourself that you can recover from December's overspending.

Here are a few more ways to fight this month's financial downers:

**Make or update a budget**  
The new year is a great time to create or update a budget, which can give you back a sense of control, says Mike Crosson, CEO of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, a nonprofit financial coaching organization.

The popular 50/30/20 budget, for example, suggests putting 50% of your take-home income toward needs, 30% toward wants and 20% toward savings and any debt payments. You can adjust those percentages as needed, especially if you live in an urban area with high housing costs.

"The best way to get control back is to make a plan," Crosson says. "You can get back on top of this and back to where you feel good about your finances."

**Pay off debt**  
With interest rates higher than they were a couple of years ago, credit card debt is also more expensive, which makes paying it off a financial priority. How exactly you do that is up to you, Crosson says.

"Paying off the highest interest rate balance first makes the most common sense, but for some people, paying off

the smallest dollar amount first is most important because they feel like they accomplished something," Crosson says. Small wins can give you momentum to continue.

Online calculators for those two methods, known as the avalanche and the snowball, respectively, can help you stay on track.

**Track your payments carefully**  
If you purchased holiday gifts using "buy now, pay later," which allows shoppers to split payments into multiple installments, then it's important to note when those bills are due, says Christine Alemany, chief marketing officer for i2c, a global banking and payments platform.

Alemany suggests tracking your buy now, pay later due dates with a financial management tool or spreadsheet to avoid late fees or interest charges. "The variety of payment methods that consumers now have gives them the option to choose what's best for them," she says, but "that convenience needs to be balanced by discipline."

**Build up savings**  
Amid all of that repayment, it's also important to find a way to save money, Crosson says. "Having a savings line item in your budget is a critical step for virtually every consumer, even if it's \$20 or \$25 a month," he says. "There will be an emergency, and you will need it." Being able to turn to savings in the future also helps you avoid building up debt again, he adds.

The good news for Americans is that positive signs in the economy, such as a slower rate of inflation and lower gas prices, means it's a little easier to find room for savings, according to Alan Gin, associate professor of economics at the University of San Diego's Knauss School of Business.

With gas prices coming down, Gin says, "not only will consumers be more confident, but they will have more money." (AP)

## Transfer money and win big!

# Al Muzaini's transfer and win campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: Transfer your money through Al Muzaini or use any of Al Muzaini Exchange's services for a chance to win incredible prizes worth over \$30,000!

Al Muzaini Exchange, the number one money exchange in Kuwait since 1942 announces its "Transfer and Win Campaign 2023". Participants of the campaign must transfer money through Al Muzaini either by visiting any of Al Muzaini's branches and self-service kiosks, transferring online through the website and by using the Al Muzaini application. Utilizing services such as Foreign Currency Exchange, Western Union, Bill Payments, Visa Direct and Bank-to-Bank transfers for the purpose of transferring money shall make customers eligible to win with Al Muzaini.

The exciting Grand Prize for the campaign is \$10,000.

The campaign lasts from December 26, 2023 to February 29, 2024

There shall be daily winners winning cash prizes of \$100, weekly winners winning cash prizes of \$1,000 and monthly winners winning cash prizes of \$2,500 each month until the end of the campaign.

Mr. Hugh Fernandes, the General Manager of Al Muzaini said "We are extremely excited to bring forth our Transfer and Win Campaign and wish to reward our customers for performing transactions with us and for giving us the chance to serve them. There are lots of prizes to be



Al Muzaini's transfer and win campaign poster.

won and the campaign spans the length of two months. We will be immensely happy to see you win-

ning big with the Al Muzaini Transfer and Win Campaign."

Al Muzaini, always near you!

## Sure, it might be cold and dark

# Traveling to wintry places can be magical

By Beth J. Harpaz

Planning a trip this winter? Yes, it's tempting to look for sunny spots where you can lie on a beach or play golf. But some of my favorite winter vacations have been to northerly destinations at their coldest, darkest times of year.

I don't ski, so I'm not looking for powder. But I have seen northern lights in Alaska, explored an ice cave in Iceland, and stood outdoors in 20-degree weather watching migrating cranes in Nebraska.

I've been to Detroit in December, Canada for Christmas, Finland in February. And I've taken visitors around my hometown, New York City, in January, when holiday crowds are gone and prices are lower.

Here are some tips and ideas for planning a trip in the depths of winter.

There's a reason New York City runs Restaurant Week prix fixe menus and 2-for-1 Broadway specials Jan. 16 to Feb. 4: It's a way to drum up business at a slow time of year. Hotels and theater tickets also dip in price in January and February. Plus, you can get reservations that are otherwise impossible to score, and popular attractions have fewer crowds and shorter lines.

Weather can be mild on a sunny day in January in Manhattan, but bitter cold and snow are not unusual. While city streets are no fun to navigate covered in slush, consider that most of your time will be spent indoors visiting museums, seeing shows, shopping and eating your way around town. Similar price-and-crowd patterns hold true for other northerly cities like Boston, Chicago and Montreal, though all three are typically colder and snowier than New York. So check forecasts, wear warm and waterproof boots, and save a bundle - on airfare, too - compared to trips in May or October.

The northern lights flare on an 11-year cycle and 2024 is near the peak of that cycle. Of course, there are no guarantees you will see the aurora borealis, but at least this is a good year to try. Iceland, Alaska, and northern parts of Scandinavia and Canada are all good places for viewing, but do your research on weather data for cloud cover in specific destinations. You can't see northern lights in cloudy skies.

When my son was 9, we flew to Fairbanks, Alaska, in February, checked out the ice-carving festival (this year,

Feb. 17-March 31), then headed 60 miles north to Chena Hot Springs. The resort is its own little world; there's no town, no cell service, limited Wi-Fi; and meals served with produce from greenhouses. We visited the resort's ice museum, went dog sledding and snowmobiling, soaked in a geothermally heated outdoor pool, and yes, we saw the aurora.

City lights make it hard to see the northern lights, but on a recent trip to Reykjavik, Iceland, my husband and I simply drove our rental car to a waterfront walkway where people gather nightly to search the skies. The view there faces away from the city, and our detour paid off: We saw the aurora, albeit briefly.

Any trip you plan hoping to catch the northern lights should include other adventures. In Finland, you'll want to visit Helsinki's cozy cafes, plus Market Square and Old Market Hall, and, of course, saunas. Loyly Sauna is perched on the Baltic Sea, so dare to take a cold plunge in the icy waters while you're there. (AP)



DAI Education Volunteer flyer

# Melton thinks it's good it took years to make it in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, Jan 3, (AP): Fame didn't come overnight for Charles Melton.

The 32-year-old "May December" star, currently reaping praise and racking up awards and nominations for his scene-stealing performance alongside acclaimed Hollywood veterans Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore, has dutifully been chipping away at his resume since he moved to Los Angeles more than a decade ago.

"I was walking dogs and working Chinese takeout seven years ago," Melton recalled of his early days trying to make it as an actor.

But his role in "May December" - which has already snagged him several accolades heading into awards season, including outstanding supporting performance at the Gotham Awards - has notched him a spot as one of The Associated Press' breakthrough Entertainers of 2023.

And while his story isn't one of instant success, he believes the maturity he gained along the way was instrumental in giving him the chops necessary to make his characters believable, particularly in the debatably campy Todd Haynes melodrama.

"I remember hearing this thing a while ago that Bryan Cranston said. And the message I received was that, in order to craft a character, you have to be a craftsman of your own life outside of what you do," Melton says. "The chipping away, I think - I don't know, I think it's good."

That life experience and refined understanding of the human condition - combined with his foray into campy dramas with his role as (the second) Reggie in the cult teen series "Riverdale" - informed

Melton's "May December" character, Joe Yoo.

In the film, Gracie Atherton-Yoo (Moore), who years earlier became tabloid fodder for a sexual relationship with a seventh-grade Joe, agrees to let an actor (Portman) spend time with them to research an upcoming film about the decades-old scandal.

Now, Gracie is seemingly happily married to Joe, with kids of their own and a picturesque lifestyle in idyllic coastal Georgia.

"There's just so much that I looked at as far as repression and just how certain emotions we carry in our body and how that translates into the physicality of how someone moves and talks," Melton says.

## Interest

In the movie, Joe, now an emotionally stunted 36-year-old, is finally grappling with the trauma of his relationship's origins and questioning what that means for his marriage and life - a performance Haynes has said gave the director new insights into the character.

That thoughtful approach to crafting a performance has also been augmented by Melton's ever-growing interest in film as an art form.

In addition to being a Haynes enthusiast even before the actor starred in one of his projects - "Safe" and "I'm Not There" are some of his favorites - Melton has also developed an appreciation for auteurs like Ingmar Bergman and Paul Thomas Anderson.

But his love of cinema began with more approachable stories. He cited fond memories of going to the theater often with his dad

to see action movies and big blockbusters when they lived in South Korea.

"Growing up as an Army brat, there's not too many arthouse films that are being played, you know, in the military base markets internationally. So that was kind of the world that I lived in," Melton recalls.

His family eventually returned to the United States and settled down in Kansas, where Melton spent his teenage years. He played football at Kansas State University, but eventually dropped out to move to Los Angeles as he became enamored with the idea of telling stories in front of the camera thanks to his ever-growing love of cinema.

Though his role in "May December" and subsequent recognition for it has felt like a major "I made it" moment, each baby step along the way has also been a dream come true, from his first callback and his "43-second" guest star appearance on "Glee" to landing a lead role in Ry Russo-Young's romantic drama, "The Sun is Also a Star," alongside Yara Shahidi - a film he is proud of and a director he says he'd like to work with again.

But even as he relishes the critical acclaim he's garnered and looks forward to the future projects that come as a result, Melton has sought to be present in normal human moments amid the success, like going camping and making kimchi with his mom.

"There's a couple of things that I've been looking at that I'm really excited about, but right now, I'm just trying to breathe," he says.

Breakthrough Entertainer

## Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Jason Momoa in a scene from 'Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom,' currently showing in Kuwait cinemas. (AP)

## Film

'Society of the Snow,' a gripping tale of survival and culture

# Film revisits 1972 Andes crash tragedy

LOS ANGELES, Jan 3, (AP): When Gustavo Zerbino watched "La Sociedad de la Nieve," the 1972 plane crash survivor felt as if he was being submerged "into boiling water," reliving the roughly 70 days he and his teammates were stranded in the snow-covered Andes mountains.

Zerbino praised J.A. Bayona's raw and unfiltered film, which is being released Thursday as "Society of the Snow" on Netflix in the US, but said he also felt the same anxieties and emotions he felt while stranded as a young athlete more than 50 years ago.

"Fortunately, that feeling ended in 2 1/2 hours," he told The Associated Press this past October.

Bayona's movie is based on Pablo Vierci's book of the same title, and follows the story of the Uruguayan Air Force plane disaster. The Old Christians rugby team was traveling with relatives and friends to Chile for a match when their plane crashed, stranding them in the mountains where they faced snow storms, avalanches and starvation, forcing them to eat the flesh of those who had died.

The tale of the tragedy has been told numerous times. It's been referenced in shows like "Seinfeld," dramatized in countless films like the 1993 narrative film "Alive" with Ethan Hawke, served as the subject of documentaries and plays and even inspired Showtime's Emmy-nominated "Yellowjackets."

"We always felt something was missing," says Zerbino, reflecting on past projects. "'Society of the Snow' is the book that filled in that missing piece."

Tackling the complex story of endurance and survival, Bayona wanted to do more than just direct a dramatic interpretation of real-life tragedy. He wanted to tell a story that honored the event's survivors and victims and their Uruguayan culture.

"It's more a reflection than an action book and ultimately helped me a lot in understanding the characters," the Spanish director said of Vierci's book. Vierci is an associate producer on the film.

Bayona, whose credits include 2018's "Jurassic

World: Fallen Kingdom," wanted to build on the connection between the living and the dead, including a seamless on-screen homage throughout the film to those who died.

"When he showed us the drafts of what he was working on, it sent shivers down our spines; our hearts stopped. I mean, we already saw that it was very real, very powerful, and we saw that there was genius at work," Zerbino said.

The Golden Globe-nominated film is narrated by Numa Turcatti, who died shortly before the rescue and is played here by Enzo Vogrincic. That decision was made by the director and supported by Vierci.

## Compassion

"I was always attracted to the possibility and the need to tell it from the point of the view of the dead," Vierci said. "This is a story of 45 individuals providing a window through which we can observe how they endured major adversities and built a society where compassion and mercy prevailed."

Bayona's film seeks to honor the story and strays away from glamorizing or sensationalizing the horrors the passengers and crew members endured. Beyond speaking to the survivors, victims' loved ones and visiting the crash site, he wove in Candombe Uruguayan music at high points of tension and added Turcatti's favorite song from a popular Uruguayan band into one of the film's early blissful scenes.

"I was very interested in getting into the culture of Uruguay and the culture of the time," he said.

His approach even included crash survivors, like Carlitos Páez, who turned 19 while stranded and plays his own father in the movie.

"I wanted to get as close to reality as possible," said Bayona, who put his cast on a medically supervised weight-loss program and shot the avalanche scenes in freezing conditions.

The film is now shortlisted for best international

feature film at the 2024 Academy Awards.

When Vogrincic first heard about the project, the Uruguayan actor knew he had to be part of the story.

"From a young age, you already know about it," the actor said. "It fills you with a sense of pride because they're Uruguayan ... but as you get deeper into the story, you realize that the story is much bigger. It talks about humanity as a whole."

Zerbino watched the film with other crash survivors and victims' family members. The end credits were met with a standing ovation, he said.

According to the former rugby player, this was the first time many victims' relatives had engaged with retellings of the story.

"They hadn't read or watched past books or movies around the event because they didn't want to suffer. Some did, and others didn't, and well, they reconciled with the story through this film," said Zerbino who feels he made a commitment to preserve his late team members' legacies.

Bayona's film champions Zerbino and the other survivors' mission: to tell the story of those who gave up their literal selves to keep their friends alive.

"I have a commitment, a commitment from before leaving the mountain to be a witness and transmit the legacy of my dead friends," Zerbino said.

## Also:

LOS ANGELES: On Netflix, there's **Todd Haynes'** appealingly arch "May December" and the dazzling animated sequel "Spider-Man: Across the Spiderverse." On Prime Video, you can catch up to a pair of standouts from earlier in the year: **A.V. Rockwell's** sprawling New York tale "A Thousand and One" and **Wes Anderson's** elaborately layered "Asteroid City." And if you're looking for something further afield, seek out "The Eight Mountains," a majestic epic of friendship, streaming on the Criterion Channel.

**NEW YORK:** The woman who was pinned under a food truck when a driver fleeing police plowed into pedestrians in midtown Manhattan early on New Year's Day has been identified as an actor who has appeared in films such as "Black Panther" and "The Color Purple."

Actor and stunt performer **Carrie Bernans** suffered broken bones and chipped teeth and is in a great deal of pain following the crash near Penn Station on Monday, her mother posted to Instagram.

Bernans' publicist did not immediately return a message left Tuesday seeking comment.

Police said a 44-year-old man was fleeing officers at around 1:30 a.m. when he drove onto the sidewalk and injured several pedestrians, including a woman who was pinned under a food truck.

None of the injuries were life-threatening, police said. The driver was arrested on charges including attempted murder, reckless endangerment and driving while intoxicated.

The crash happened about a dozen blocks south of Times Square, where thousands of revelers had just celebrated the start of the New Year.

Bernans, 29, had an uncredited role as a member of the Dora Milaje fighting force in "Black Panther" and performed stunts in the musical version of "The Color Purple" released last month. She is the mother of a young son, and her mother posted that the child was not with her when she was injured. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The bloom is off the final rose for "The Bachelor" star **Rachel Lindsay** and husband **Bryan Abasolo**, who found love on the reality dating show. Court records show that Abasolo filed to end their marriage Tuesday.

He cited irreconcilable differences for the breakup and his filing in Los Angeles Superior Court says the pair separated on Dec. 31.

"After more than 4 years of marriage, Rachel and I have made the difficult decision to part ways and start anew," Abasolo said in a statement posted to his Instagram account. "Sometimes loving yourself and your partner means you must let go."

After competing on Season 21 of "The Bachelor," Lindsay gained fame as the first Black lead on

any iteration of "The Bachelor" franchise when she was picked as "The Bachelorette" in 2017. She chose Abasolo as her winning suitor and they married in August 2019. Lindsay, an attorney and author, recently left her correspondent position at entertainment news show "Extra." Abasolo is a chiropractor who has adopted the



Lindsay



Bernans

moniker "Dr. Abs." (AP)

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico: A small daily newspaper in the US Virgin Islands whose owner credited past generations of literate slaves for its survival is closing after 180 years in print.

The St. Croix Avis, which pub-

lished its first edition in 1844, can no longer compete with social media and digital newspaper subscription services, according to owner and publisher **Rena Brodhurst**.

"That is an impossible mission we are unable to fulfill," she said in a statement published Sunday.

It wasn't immediately clear when the paper would stop pub-

lishing, although Brodhurst said the company would soon exhaust its final shipment of newsprint.

"I give thanks to the Moravian Church that insisted the enslaved learn to read, write, and comprehend. The St. Croix Avis would never have been possible without that concept of ensuring a literate Black population," she said. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

## People &amp; Places

## Year-ender

## Year in review

## Influential people who died in 2023

NEW YORK, Jan. 3, (AP) — **Yevgeny Prigozhin** rose from being an ex-con and hot dog vendor to winning lucrative Kremlin contracts and heading a formidable mercenary army. But it all came to a sudden end when the private plane carrying him and others mysteriously exploded over Russia.

Prigozhin's Aug. 23 death put an exclamation point on what had already been an eventful year for the brutal mercenary leader. His Wagner Group troops brought Russia a rare victory in its grinding war in Ukraine, capturing the city of Bakhmut. But internal friction with Russian military leaders later burst into the open, with Prigozhin briefly mounting an armed rebellion — the most severe challenge yet to Russian President Vladimir Putin's rule.

The rebellion was called off and a deal was struck in less than 24 hours. However, just two months later, Prigozhin joined the list of those who have run afoul of the Kremlin and died unexpectedly.

He was just one of a number of noteworthy people who died in 2023.

The world also said goodbye to former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who died Nov. 29. Serving under two presidents, Kissinger's shadow loomed large in the foreign policy arena, prompting both admiration and criticism from around the globe. And he continued his involvement in global affairs even in his final months.

Another political figure who died this year was former U.S. first lady Rosalynn Carter, who died Nov. 19. She was the closest adviser to her husband, former President Jimmy Carter, during his one term in the White House and then across four decades of global humanitarian work.

Others from the world of politics who died this year include: former Italian Premier **Silvio Berlusconi**; former US senators **Dianne Feinstein**, **James Buckley** and **James Abourezk**; former British treasury chief **Nigel Lawson**; former Pakistani leader **Pervez Musharraf**; former US Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor**; former Chinese Premier **Li Ke-qiang**; former Finnish President **Martti Ahtisaari**; former New Mexico governor and American ambassador to the United Nations **Bill Richardson**; former New Jersey Lt. Gov. **Sheila Oliver**; and former Greek Foreign Minister **Theodoros Pangalos**.

Among the entertainers who left the world this year was singer **Tina Turner**, who died May 24. Turner's powerful voice and stage presence brought her fame across multiple decades, first with her abusive husband, Ike Turner, in the 1960's and 70's. But after leaving their marriage, she found fame again in the 1980's with her hit "What's Love Got to Do With It."

Others in the world of arts and entertainment who died this year include: actors **Suzanne Somers**, **Matthew Perry**, **Raquel Welch**, **Richard Belzer**, **Chaim Topol**, **Jacklyn Zeman**, **Lance Reddick**, **Alan Arkin**, **Paul Reubens**, **David McCallum**, **Richard Roundtree** and **Tom Sizemore**; musicians **Jimmy Buffett**, **Sinéad O'Connor**, **Rita Lee Jones**, **Burt Bacharach**, **David Crosby**, **Fito Olivares**, **Ryuichi Sakamoto**, **Astrud Gilberto**, **Coco Lee** and **Tony Bennett**; civil rights activist and entertainer **Harry Belafonte**; TV producer **Norman Lear**; author **Cormac McCarthy**; filmmaker **William Friedkin**; TV hosts **Bob Barker** and **Jerry Springer**; poet **Louise Glück**; guitarist **Jeff Beck**; fashion designer **Mary Quant**; wrestler **The Iron Sheik**; composer **Kaija Saariaho**; and "Sesame Street" co-creator **Lloyd Morrisett**.

Here is a roll call of some influential figures who died in 2023 (cause of death cited for younger people, if available):

## January

**Fred White**, 67. A drummer who backed up his brothers Maurice and Verdine White in the Grammy-winning ensemble Earth, Wind & Fire. Jan. 1.

**Ken Block**, 55. A motorsports icon known for his stunt driving and for co-founding the action sports apparel brand DC Shoes. Jan. 2. Snowmobiling accident.

**Walter Cunningham**, 90. The last surviving astronaut from the first successful crewed space mission in NASA's Apollo program. Jan. 3.

**Fay Weldon**, 91. A British author known for her sharp wit and acerbic observations about women's experiences and sexual politics in novels including "The Life And Loves Of A She-Devil." Jan. 4.

**Russell Pearce**, 75. A Republican lawmaker who was the driving force behind Arizona's landmark 2010 anti-immigration legislation known as the "show me your papers" law. Jan. 5.

**Charles Simic**, 84. The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet who awed critics and readers with his singular art of lyricism and economy, tragic insight and disruptive humor. Jan. 9.

**Lynette "Diamond" Hardaway**, 51. An ardent supporter of former President Donald Trump and one half of the conservative political commentary duo Diamond and Silk. Jan. 8.

**Jeff Beck**, 78. A guitar virtuoso who pushed the boundaries of blues, jazz and rock 'n' roll, influencing generations of shredders along the way and becoming known as the guitar player's guitar player. Jan. 10.

**Constantine**, 82. The former and last king of Greece, who won an Olympic gold medal in sailing and spent decades in exile after becoming entangled in his country's volatile politics in the 1960s. Jan. 10.

**Tatjana Patitz**, 56. She was one of an elite group of supermodels who graced magazine covers in the 1980s and '90s and appeared in George Michael's "Freedom! '90" music video. Jan. 11.

**Lisa Marie Presley**, 54. The only child of Elvis Presley and a singer-songwriter dedicated to her father's legacy. Jan. 12.

**Robbie Knievel**, 60. An American stunt performer who set records with daredevil motorcycle jumps following in the tire tracks of his thrill-seeking father Evel Knievel. Jan. 13.

**Ray Cordeiro**, 98. He interviewed music acts including the Beatles during a six-decade career on Hong Kong radio that earned him the title of the world's longest-working disc jockey. Jan. 13.

**Lloyd Morrisett**, 95. The co-creator of the beloved children's TV series "Sesame Street," which has used empathy and fuzzy monsters like Elmo and Cookie Monster to charm and teach generations around the world. Jan. 15.

**Gina Lollobrigida**, 95. An Italian film legend who achieved international stardom during the 1950s and was dubbed "the most beautiful woman in the world" after the title of one of her movies. Jan. 16.

To be continued



Presley



This image released by NBC shows John Larroquette as Dan Fielding, (left), and Marsha Warfield as Roz in a scene from the 'Night Court' episode entitled 'The Roz Affair.' (AP)



Charles Melton poses for a portrait on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Los Angeles. Melton has been named one of The Associated Press' Breakthrough Entertainers of 2023. (AP)



Rushdie



Shakur

## Variety

**MAYVILLE, N.Y.:** **Salman Rushdie's** plans to publish a book about a 2022 attempt on his life may delay the trial of his alleged attacker, which is scheduled to begin next week, attorneys said Tuesday.

**Hadi Matar**, the man charged with repeatedly stabbing Rushdie as the author was being introduced for a lecture, is entitled to the manuscript and related material as part of his trial preparation, **Chautauqua County Judge David Foley** said during a pretrial conference.

Foley gave Matar and his attorney until Wednesday to decide if they want to delay the trial until they have the book in hand, either in advance from the publisher or once it has been released in April. Defense attorney **Nathaniel Barone** said after court that he favored a delay but would consult with Matar.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Jan. 8. "It's not just the book," Barone said. "Every little note Rushdie wrote down, I get, I'm entitled to. Every discussion, every recording, anything he did in regard to this book."

Rushdie, who was left blinded in his right eye and with a damaged left hand in the August 2022 attack, announced in October that he had written about the attack in a memoir: "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder," which is available for pre-order. Trial preparation was already well under way when the attorneys involved in the case learned about the book.

District Attorney **Jason Schmidt** said Rushdie's representatives had declined the prosecutor's request for a copy of the manuscript, citing intellectual property rights. Schmidt downplayed the relevance of the book at the upcoming trial, given that the attack was witnessed by a large, live audience and Rushdie himself could testify.

"There were recordings of it," Schmidt said of the assault.

Matar, 26, of New Jersey has been held without bail since his arrest immediately after Rushdie was stabbed in front of a stunned audience at the Chautauqua Institution, a summer arts and education retreat in western New York.

Schmidt has said Matar was on a "mission to kill Mr. Rushdie" when he rushed from the audience to the stage and stabbed him more than a dozen times until being subdued by onlookers. (AP)

LAS VEGAS: A bail hearing was postponed Tuesday in Las Vegas for a former Los Angeles-area gang leader charged with orchestrating the killing of hip-hop music legend **Tupac Shakur** in 1996, giving defense attorneys time to respond to prosecutors' allegations that witnesses in the case may be at risk.

## Television

## A show that helped families build memories

## Warfield's Roz returns to 'Night Court'

NEW YORK, Jan. 3, (AP) — Fans of the rebooted hit NBC sitcom "Night Court" might have been forgiven for tuning in all season long and asking "Where's Roz?"

Roz Russell — played by comedian Marsha Warfield — was the salty, no-nonsense bailiff alongside Bull Shannon who had a world-weary view of the shenanigans in the courtroom during the show's original run from 1984 to 1992.

But Roz wasn't in the reboot that aired at the top of 2023. John Larroquette as prosecutor Dan Fielding was the only full-time cast member to return.

So fans were excited when Roz popped up in the season one finale, surprising Fielding as a defendant. "Roz?!" he exclaimed in disbelief. Seconds later, the screen went dark.

The reboot has been spearheaded by Melissa Rauch, a former star of "The Big Bang Theory" who is the new night court judge and the sunshine to Larroquette's gloom.

The revival earned the highest ratings for a comedy series on the network since 2017. Season two begins Tuesday with Warfield's Roz with a lot of explaining to do.

She talked to The Associated Press about the show, why it became so popular and what it felt like to be back on the set.

**AP:** Was it hard to keep your appearance a surprise?

**Warfield:** Yes and no, but not really. I'm pretty good at keeping

secrets, and especially when your job depends on it. I can pretty much handle that.

**AP:** Were you OK not being a full-time part of the reboot?

**Warfield:** I knew when they were talking about a reboot, in the way they were talking about it, being involved was not necessarily going to happen. That was OK. I wished them all the best from day one. You know, if they asked, I'd be happy to do it. But if they don't ask, I understand. So it was a pleasant surprise to get the call.

**AP:** Did you expect to be on the original show so long?

**Warfield:** I was only signed for one show and they were saying they didn't know what they were going to do with the role since the last two bailiffs had passed on. They didn't know if they were going to have revolving bailiffs or no bailiff or would just leave it to Bull or what. And so when I got the gig, it was just the one and I had no expectations.

**AP:** A steady gig must have been sweet.

**Warfield:** An ensemble part on a Top 10 show? It was wonderful for me.

**AP:** Why do you think the original struck such a nerve?

**Warfield:** "Night Court" had a big heart. It was wacky. It was zany. It was misogynist. It was awkward. It was all of that. It was burlesque. But underneath it all was the heart of a puppy.

**AP:** Does that apply to the reboot,

too?

**Warfield:** Yes, Melissa brings that same kind of heart to this project. This is a love thing. This is not just, "Oh, we can make money doing this." She loves this show. The people involved love the show and they love doing it. We did, too.

**AP:** What was it like stepping back on the set?

**Warfield:** It was like it was like going back to your prom when you're in your 70s.

**AP:** Is Roz the role you're most associated with?

**Warfield:** Pretty much, yeah, sure. I've done other things that have fortunately had positive responses and all that, but I did "Night Court" for six seasons and so a lot more people saw that and a lot of them now have fond memories. They also have memories not so much for themselves, but they have memories of being with their family. They're like, "I used to sneak and watch with my brother" or "My dad used to let me stay up and watch it." So it's the memories that they have of their families and the times they spent with people they cared about.

**AP:** Might you come back again?

**Warfield:** If it's up to me, yeah, I'm back next week. But it ain't up to me. So if they call me, I'd be more than happy to. If they don't, again, I wish them all the best. I have no expectations, but I have tremendous affection for the show and I would be honored.

Their court filing made no reference to Davis instructing anyone to harm someone, or to anyone associated with the case being physically harmed.

"In (Davis') world, a 'green light' is an authorization to kill," prosecutors **Marc DiGiacomo** and **Binu Palal** told Clark County District Court Judge **Carli Kierny** in the court document, adding that at least one witness was provided assistance from federal authorities "so he could change his residence."

Prosecutors also point to Davis' own words since 2008 - in police interviews, in his 2019 tell-all memoir and in the media - that they say provides strong evidence that he orchestrated the September 1996 shooting.

Davis' bail hearing is now scheduled for Jan. 9. (AP)

**PASADENA, Calif.:** Floral floats, marching bands and equestrian units took to the streets under a sunny California sky as the 135th Rose Parade drew hundreds of thousands of spectators on New Year's Day.

The Pasadena tradition on Monday featured Broadway legend **Audra McDonald** as grand marshal and the theme "Celebrating a World of Music: The Universal Language."

After recent rains and gray skies, there was plenty of sun for the 8 a.m. start of the spectacle with a military flyover of a B-2 stealth bomber.

Among the fanciful floats was **Kaiser Permanente's** colorful "Symphony of You," which featured 8,000 roses and received the President Award for most outstanding use and presentation of flowers.

The top prize, the 2024 Sweepstakes Trophy, went to the **San Diego Zoo** for the 55-foot (16.8-meter) float "It All Started With a Roar," depicting its mascot Rex the Lion and celebrating wildlife conservation.

The scheduled performers included Destiny's Child singer **Michelle Williams**, "The Voice" winner **Cassadee Pope** and "American Idol" champion **Jordin Sparks**. (AP)



From left: Gustavo Zerbin, director J. A. Bayona, writer Pablo Vierci, and actor Enzo Vogrinic pose for a portrait to promote the film 'Society of the Snow' on Oct. 27, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP) — Details Page 11

## Amputations soar in Gaza amid ongoing conflict

## Gaza war victims face grim choices: lose limb or risk death

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Jan 3, (AP) — The doctors gave Shaimaa Nabahin an impossible choice: lose your left leg or risk death. The 22-year-old had been hospitalized in Gaza for around a week, after her ankle was partially severed in an Israeli airstrike, when doctors told her she was suffering from blood poisoning. Nabahin chose to maximize her chances of survival, and agreed to have her leg amputated 15 centimeters (6 inches) below the knee.

The decision upended life for the ambitious university student, as it has for untold others among the more than 54,500 war-wounded who faced similar gut-wrenching choices.

"My whole life has changed," said Nabahin, speaking from her bed at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah. "If I want to take a step or go anywhere, I need help."

## Treatment

The World Health Organization and the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza say amputations have become commonplace during the Israel-Hamas war, now in its 12th week, but could not offer precise figures. At the hospital in Deir al-Balah, dozens of recent amputees are in various stages of treatment and recovery.

Experts believe that in some cases, limbs could have been saved with proper treatment. But after weeks of Israel's blistering air and ground offensive, only nine out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are still operational. They are greatly overcrowded, offer limited treatment and lack basic equipment to perform surgeries. Many wounded are unable to reach the remaining hospitals, pinned down by Israeli bombardment and ground combat.

Sean Casey, a WHO official who recently visited several hospitals in Gaza, said the acute lack of vascular surgeons — the first responders to trauma injuries and best positioned to save limbs — is increasing the likelihood of amputations.

But also in many cases, he said, the severe nature of the injuries means some limbs are not salvageable, and need to be removed as soon as possible.

"People may die of the infections that they have because their limbs are infected," Casey told a news conference last week. "We saw patients who were septic."

Israel declared war after Hamas militants stormed across the border on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking more than 240 hostages. Israel has vowed to keep up the fight until Hamas is destroyed and removed from power in Gaza and all the hostages are freed. More than 20,600 Palestinians have been killed in the fighting, about 70% of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants among the dead.

Before the war, Gaza's health system was overwhelmed after years of conflict and a border blockade enforced by Israel and Egypt in response to the 2007 Hamas takeover of the territory. In 2018 and 2019, thousands were wounded by Israeli army fire in weekly Hamas-led anti-blockade protests, and more than 120 of the wounded had limbs ampu-

tated. Even then, Gaza amputees had a hard time getting prostheses that would help them return to an active life.

Those joining the ranks of amputees now face near-impossible conditions. Some 85% of the population of 2.3 million have been displaced, crowding into tents, schools-turned-shelters or homes of relatives. Water, food and other basic supplies are scarce.

On Nov. 13, when an Israeli airstrike hit the home of Nabahin's neighbor in Bureij, an urban refugee camp in central Gaza, her ankle and arteries in her leg were partially severed by a clump of cement that blew into her home from the explosion next door. She was the only one of her family who was injured, while a number of her neighbors were killed, she said.

She was quickly taken to nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where doctors managed to sew up her leg and stop the bleeding.

But after that, Nabahin said she received minimal treatment or attention from doctors, who were dealing with a growing number of critically wounded people amid dwindling medical supplies. Days later, her leg turned a dark color, she said.

"They discovered that there was ... shrapnel that was poisoning my blood," she said.

The amputation went well, but Nabahin said she remains in acute pain and can't sleep without sedatives.

Jourdel Francois, an orthopedic surgeon with Doctors Without Borders, says the risk of post-op infections in war-stricken Gaza is high. Francois, who worked at Nasser Hospital in the southern town of Khan Younis in November, said hygiene was poor, mainly because of scarce water and the general chaos in a hospital that's overwhelmed with patients while hosting thousands of displaced civilians.

## Surgery

He recalled a young girl whose legs had been crushed and urgently needed a double amputation, but she couldn't be booked into surgery that day because of the high number of other critical injuries. She died later that night, Francois said, likely from sepsis, or blood poisoning by bacteria.

"There are 50 (injured) people arriving every day, you have to make a choice," he told The Associated Press by phone after leaving Gaza.

At Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, many of the new amputees struggle to get to grips with how the loss of limb has changed their lives. Nawal Jaber, 54, had both legs amputated after she was injured on Nov. 22, when an Israeli bombardment hit her neighbor's empty house and damaged her house in Bureij. Her grandson was killed, and her husband and son were wounded, she said.

"I wish I could meet the needs of my children, (but) I am unable," the mother of eight said, with tears streaming down her face.

Before the conflict, Nabahin had started her degree in international relations in Gaza and planned to travel to Germany to continue her studies.

She said her goal now is to get out of Gaza, to "save what is left of me, and to install a prosthetic limb and live my life normally."

First to reach this significant milestone in Kuwait's ICT market

## Zain achieves 10 Gbps speed in 5.5G trial

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: In yet another impressive achievement that reaffirms its leadership position in the local ICT industry, Zain announces that it has achieved speeds of 10 Gigabits per second after completing a 5.5G technology trial on its network, becoming the first operator to reach this significant milestone in Kuwait's telecom market. The company also succeeded in testing Ultra-Reliable Low Latency Communication (URLLC), a key 5.5G feature.

The announcement was made after the successful completion of a 5.5G trial on Zain's network with global partner Huawei, and under supervision and in collaboration with the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

## Upgrade

Zain has invested early in upgrading and enhancing its network's infrastructure to prepare for the shift towards the 5.5G era, which brings limitless opportunities and opens up new horizons for businesses and consumers alike.

In addition, the achievement serves as a testament to Zain's leadership position and goes in line with its digitization efforts for the 'New Kuwait' vision.

5.5G, which features blazing-fast speeds and higher efficiency levels, combined with Ultra-Reliable Low Latency Communication (URLLC), which brings reduced latency and ultra-reliable connections, will meet the ever-growing demand of cloud computing, AI, big data, immersive AR/VR experiences, autonomous vehicles, and more. These fast growing technologies and more rely on higher, more stable speeds, and are increasingly adopted by businesses and government agencies.

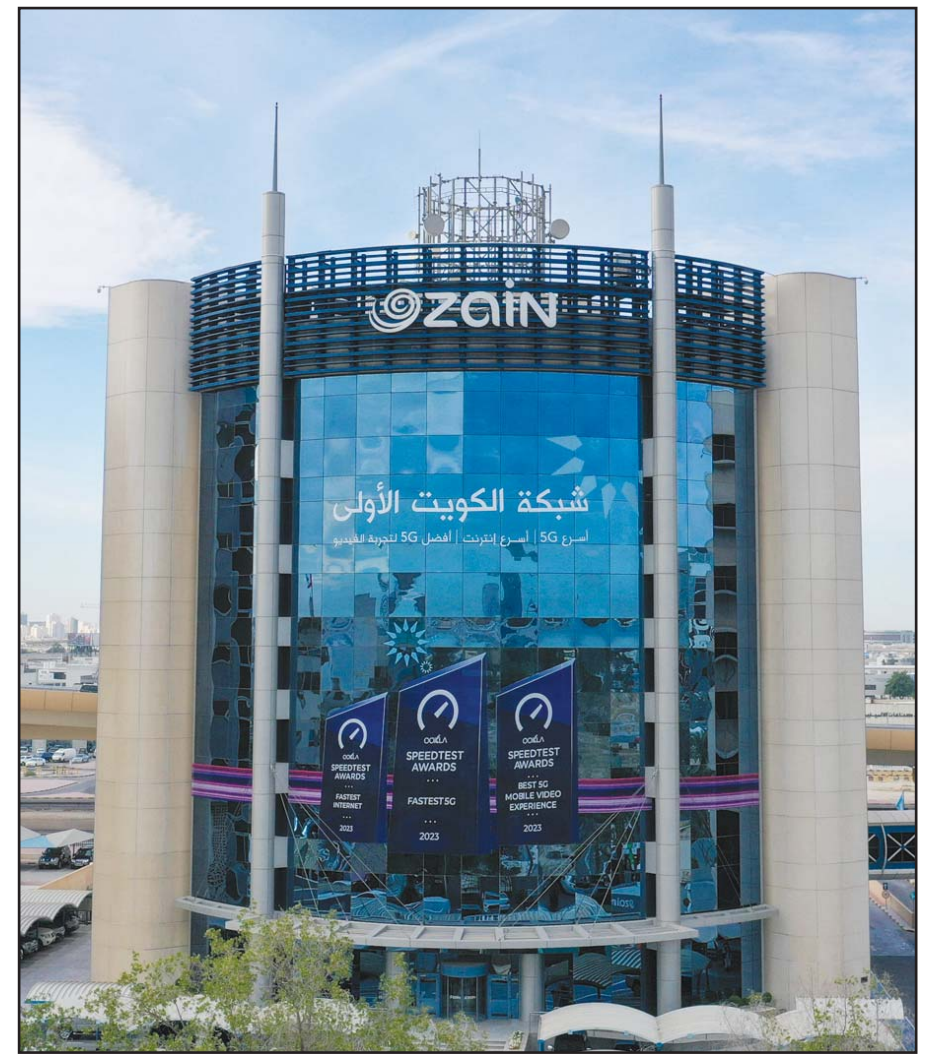
Zain has recently showcased its network's readiness for the rollout of 5G New Calling (5GNC), an emerging 5G network capability that paves the way for a new era of voice and video calling and will rely on the capabilities of 5.5G.

Zain participated in the GSMA's New Calling Summit in Paris to demonstrate these capabilities and successful trial of the service, becoming the only operator from the region to be hosted by the industry body to showcase 5GNC to the global telecom community.

Recently, Zain received several prestigious recognitions for its 5G leadership, most importantly three major awards from Ookla Speedtest: 'Fastest 5G Network', 'Best 5G Video Experience', and 'Fastest Internet'.

The company was also presented with the 'Outstanding 5G Business Development' award during SAMENA Council's Leadership & Excellence (LEAD) Awards. These accolades recognized Zain's excellence in empowering and accelerating business development using the most advanced 5G applications.

In 2019, Zain led the market as the first op-



Zain headquarters in Kuwait

erator to launch 5G services commercially, setting a precedent in the local and regional telecom industries. Since then, more successes have followed in adapting 5G technologies to overhaul the digital journeys of customers.

Zain continues to invest in its 5G infrastructure heavily, achieving the highest speeds and best operational efficiency levels over its networks.

The telco seeks to meet the increasing demand for data, while exploring new ecosystems and revenue streams made possible by technology innovation, with the goal of serving the needs of consumers, businesses, and government agencies.

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## Cronobacter can cause life-threatening infections

## Infant formula recalled over contamination risk

PARSIPPANY, N.J., Jan 3, (Agencies) — Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition (MJN), a producer of nutrition products, has announced that it has voluntarily chosen to recall from the US market select batches of Nutramigen Powder, a specialty infant formula for the dietary management of Cows Milk Allergy (CMA) in 12.6 and 19.8 oz cans, due to a possibility of contamination with Cronobacter sakazakii in product sampled outside the US.

All product in question went through extensive testing by MJN and tested negative for the bacteria.

Cronobacter sakazakii bacteria can cause severe, life-threatening infections (sepsis) or meningitis (an inflammation of the membranes that protect the brain and spine).

Symptoms of sepsis and meningitis may include poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice (yellow skin and

whites of the eyes), grunting breaths and abnormal movements. Cronobacter infection may also cause bowel damage and may spread through the blood to other parts of the body.

Nutramigen in 12.6 and 19.8 oz containers was manufactured in June 2023 and distributed primarily in June, July, and August 2023.

Based on the limited availability of the remaining stock of this special infant formula, it is believed that much, if not all, of the products recalled in the United States have been consumed.

There are no reports of illnesses or adverse events to date. The products were distributed through retail stores nationwide.

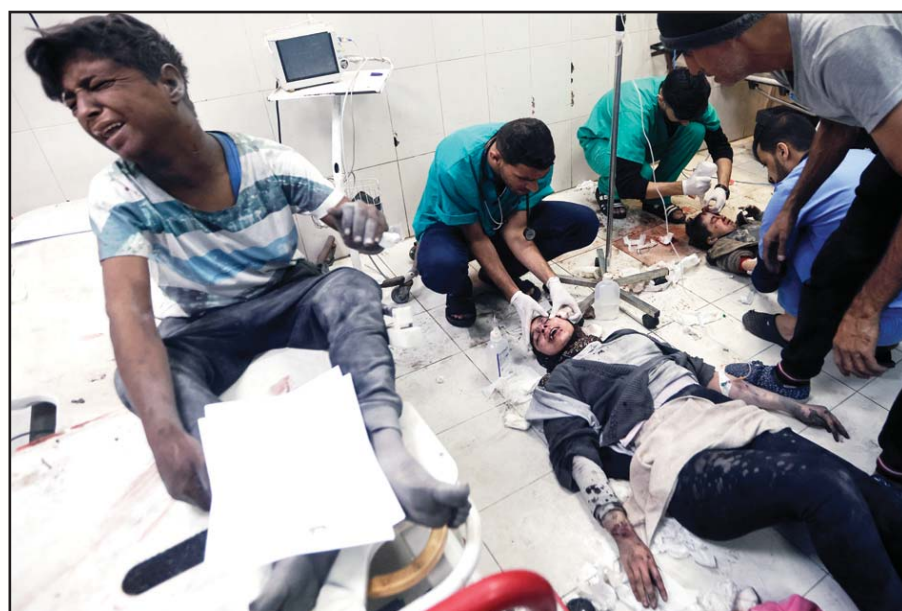
The batches in question can be identified by the batch code on the bottom of the can.

Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition manu-

factured additional products during this finished product campaign and distributed them outside of the US. Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition will be contacting the regulatory authorities in each of those countries to determine the proper disposition of those products.

We are committed to the highest level of quality and safety and it is for this reason that we have taken this measure. Other testing of the batches in question tested negative for and other bacteria.

The health and safety of infants is our highest priority. All of our products undergo rigorous and industry-leading quality tests and checks to ensure that they meet or exceed all standards set by regulatory bodies, including the World Health Organization and the US Food and Drug Administration. It is for this reason that we have confidence in the safety and quality of every infant formula we make.



Palestinians wounded in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip receive treatment at the Nasser hospital in Khan Younis, Southern Gaza Strip, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023. (AP)

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# Colorado State holds off New Mexico 76-68



Nikola Cacic stretches to reach the ball as partner Dejana Radanovic looks on during their mixed doubles match against Storm Hunter and Matt Ebden of Australia at the United Cup tennis tournament in Perth, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024. (AP)

## Osaka's first tourney as a mom ends in a loss

# Poland advance to United Cup semifinals

PERTH, Australia, Jan 3, (AP): Poland became the first team through to the United Cup semifinals with a dominant 3-0 win over China in Perth on Wednesday after France completed a sweep of Italy in Sydney to progress to the quarterfinals.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek beat No. 14 Zheng Qinwen 6-2, 6-3 in the women's singles to give Poland an unassailable 2-0 lead after Hubert Hurkacz's 6-3, 6-4 win over Zhang Zhizhen in the men's singles.

Polish pair Katarzyna Piter and Jan Zieliński finished the sweep with a 6-3,

5-7, 10-7 win over You Xiaodi and Sun Fajing in the mixed doubles.

The Poland team will travel across Australia for Saturday's semifinals in Sydney, where they will play the winner of the France vs. Norway quarterfinal.

"I really wanted to go to Sydney especially because my coach (Tomasz Wiktorowski) told me that I can get three days off in Sydney afterwards," the 22-year-old Swiatek said. "So for sure Bondi Beach is waiting for us."

"But for now we've got to focus on the semifinal

and hopefully the final. I'm really happy with my game and how the atmosphere in the team is."

Earlier Wednesday in Sydney, Caroline Garcia and Adrian Mannarino led France past Italy.

Mannarino beat Lorenzo Sonego in straight sets before Garcia beat Jasmine Paolini 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in the women's singles to give France a 2-0 lead and confirm top spot in Group D.

"We have gone a step further than last year," Garcia said. "Obviously we're very happy with it and we want to keep going."

French pair Elixane Lechemia and Édouard Roger-Vasselin completed the sweep with a straight sets win in the mixed doubles.

In the final group stage match in Sydney Greece played Canada to conclude Group B.

No. 6 Stefanos Tsitsipas returned after missing Greece's opener against Chile and defeated Canada's Steven Diez 6-2, 6-3 in 77 minutes to give the Greek team an early lead.

Maria Sakkari was play-

ing former U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez next.

Greece must beat Canada to have any chance of advancing to the quarterfinals. A win for Canada will see it advance as group winner.

Serbia - led by top-ranked Novak Djokovic - faced Australia in the night session in Perth.

Djokovic has been bothered by a wrist injury during the tournament but found a way past Jiri Lehecka in Serbia's last Group E match against the Czech Republic.

In Brisbane, Australia, Naomi Osaka's first tournament since becoming a mother ended in a 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 second-round loss Wednesday to three-time champion Karolina Pliskova at the Brisbane International.

Osaka, who has won the Australian Open and the U.S. Open singles titles twice, won her first match at the elite level since late 2022 on Monday in straight sets against Tamara Korpsch.

After that win, she said the birth in July of her daughter, Shai, and the changes to her mindset since becoming a mother had given her a better perspective on tennis.

A second-round encounter featuring two former No. 1-ranked players was a step up in tempo and a better indication of how Osaka's preparations are going for the Australian Open starting Jan. 14 in Melbourne.

"The week is definitely shorter than I wanted it to be," Osaka said in a news conference. "Overall, I think it was a great match and I had a lot of fun."

"I've trained so hard since giving birth, I need to enjoy these moments."

Osaka won the first set but Pliskova recovered and fired 16 aces and hit 50 winners, saving 10 of the 12 breakpoint chances she faced and making amends for her 11 double-faults.

"I saw the stats after and my break points could have been better," Osaka said, "but I think other than that we both played really well ... so hopefully she says the same thing!"

A former finalist at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open now ranked 39th, the 31-year-old Pliskova was playing for the first time since September after a left wrist injury curtailed her 2023 season.

"A lot of things to improve, but a good start," to the season, said Pliskova, who had her left wrist and hand taped for the opening match of the day on Pat Rafter Arena.

Top seed and defending Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka had a 6-3, 6-0 win over Lucia Bronzetti of Italy in the following match.

Second-seeded Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, was scheduled to meet Olivia Gadecki in a night match.

## Illinois thumps Northwestern

FORT COLLINS, Colo., Jan 3, (AP): Patrick Cartier scored a season-high 21 points, Nique Clifford and Isaiah Stevens went a combined 8 of 9 on free throws down the stretch and No. 13 Colorado State held off New Mexico 76-68 Tuesday night in the Mountain West Conference opener for both teams.

Colorado State (13-1, 1-0) opened a 17-point lead with 5:15 remaining, only to see the Lobos (12-2, 0-1) storm back and make things interesting. Clifford and Stevens ended the comeback bid at the line as the Rams won their fourth straight since a home loss to Saint Mary's on Dec. 9.

"We weren't perfect, you're never going to be, but I thought our guys did a lot of really good things here tonight," Colorado State coach Niko Medved said.

Stevens had 18 points and eight assists in his 131st career start. He's one away from matching the program mark held by Nico Carvacho (2015-20). Stevens already holds school records for points (he went over 2,000 on Tuesday) and assists.

Clifford finished with 12 points and 10 boards on a night when 10 Rams players took the floor for at least five minutes of action.

## BASKETBALL

"Coach says it all the time - we're at our best when the ball has energy. What that means is when we're sharing it," Cartier said. "That starts with (Stevens) and everyone follows suit."

In a back-and-forth game, the Rams pulled away midway through the second half courtesy of a 19-5 run. Joe Palmer, known as "Headband Joe" for wearing ... well, a headband ... got the crowd revved up with a deep 3-pointer. But a big lead was trimmed to six with 20 seconds left.

Stevens took it from there - making four free throws to fend off the Lobos.

"I thought we were in control of how we were playing the whole night," Medved said. JT Toppin had 17 points and 11 rebounds for New Mexico, and Jaalen House scored 14 despite dealing with foul trouble most of the game. The Lobos struggled from the free throw line, going 4 of 11 as their 11-game winning streak was snapped with their first loss in nearly two months.

"Terrific team," New Mexico coach Richard Pitino said of the Rams. "We will humbly watch (the game film), see where we can get better."

New Mexico was at full strength for the first time since the first game of the season. Jamal Mashburn Jr. returned last game after missing seven with thigh and thumb injuries. He had 13 points.

Entering this one, standout guards Mashburn and House had only played 37 minutes together on the court.

"We've got a lot of offensively talented guys that can get their shot anytime they want," Mashburn said. "So when that happens on a team, you've got to find a balance and a rhythm. That's what we're trying to find right now. We're going to go back to the drawing board, go back to practice and just work on it."

**Illinois 96, Northwestern 66**  
In Champaign, Ill., Marcus Domask scored 32 points and had a team-high six assists to lead No. 9 Illinois to a 96-66 Big Ten win Tuesday night over Northwestern in the Illini's second game without suspended star Terrance Shannon Jr.

Justin Harmon had 20 points, Quincy Guerrier scored 14 and Coleman Hawkins had 13 for the Illini (11-2, 2-0), who never trailed, led by as many as 33 points, and shot 63% from the field. Guerrier also had 10 rebounds for his fourth double-double of the season.

Domask was 11 of 15 from the field and 9 of 10 from the line.

"We're getting good ball movement and guys are making shots," Domask said about the nearly 200 points the Illini have scored in the two wins in Shannon's absence.

Harmon topped his season-high of 18 points that he scored Friday against Fairleigh Dickinson.

"Justin played 29 minutes off the bench tonight. He's being rewarded for his hard work," said Illinois coach Brad Underwood.

Boo Buie led Northwestern (10-3, 1-1) with 20 points. But the standout guard didn't have an assist, he had four turnovers and picked up a technical foul. Ty Berry, in his 100th career game for the Wildcats, had 14 points.

"This was a butt kicking in every sense of



Illinois' Coleman Hawkins goes up for a dunk against Northwestern's Boo Buie (0) and Luke Hunger (33) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, in Champaign, Ill. Illinois won 96-66. (AP)

the word," said Northwestern coach Chris Collins. "Domask was fantastic, but a lot of their guys were fantastic."

"The story of the game was our inability to defend them. We can't take this game and flush it, forget about it. We have to understand why we couldn't guard them and fix the problems."

The Illini led 46-29 halftime. They made seven of their first nine shots, went on an 11-0 run late in the first half, and held the Wildcats to 31% shooting in the half.

Northwestern finished 41% from the field.

The Illini have won nine straight games against Northwestern at the State Farm Center and 10 of 11 overall against the Wildcats.

Illinois is the Big Ten's winningest team in conference play since the start of the 2019-20 season. The Illini are now 57-25 in conference games over the last four-plus seasons. Illinois' No. 9 ranking in the AP Top 25 poll is its highest in the first week in January since it was No. 6 in 2006.

**Duke 86, Syracuse 66**  
In Durham, N.C., Mark Mitchell scored 18 of his career-high 21 points in the first half and Jared McCain finished with 18 points to lead No. 14 Duke over Syracuse 86-66 on Tuesday night.

Duke made all eight 3-point attempts after halftime and finished by shooting 75% from the field in the second half.

The Blue Devils have made at least one 3-point shot in every game for nearly 34 years.

The latest burst of 3s came at a good time.

"I got us going," Mitchell said. "Obviously, we have some lethal shooters. It was the law of averages that we'd make some."

Jeremy Roach's 17 points and Tyrese Proctor's 14 points were a boost from Duke's backcourt. Kyle Filipowski posted all 12 of his points in the second half as the Blue Devils (10-3, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) increased their winning streak to five games.

It was a huge turnaround in shooting after halftime. The Blue Devils were 0-for-9 on first-half 3s, then built a double-digit lead by hitting seven in a row.

"We talked about not making any 3s," Duke coach Jon Scheyer said. "I thought we missed maybe three or four that were good ones. We do make open shots, so just let it come."

Maliq Brown had 26 points on 11-for-16 shooting and Judah Mintz added 18 points for Syracuse (10-4, 1-2), which was 4-for-16 on 3-pointers and committed 17 turnovers as a five-game winning streak was halted.

"It was turnovers. I thought everything that happened, it was a lot on us," Syracuse coach Adrian Autry said. "Duke is a good defensive team. A lot of our turnovers were not making the right play, the right read. It wasn't about our shooting."

McCain drained four 3-pointers in the first 10:10 of the second half to push Duke to a 65-51 lead. He has five straight games with at least three 3-point baskets.

"I knew I didn't make a 3 (in the first half)," McCain said. "I didn't know it was everybody else, too."

Syracuse was within 49-47 before Proctor's 3 and two free throws and McCain's 3-pointer produced an 8-0 run.

"One thing we try to do is eliminate those runs," Autry said. "Sometimes you start forcing and ... we rushed some stuff."

Duke led 35-33 at the halftime, with Mitchell's 18 points putting the sophomore forward within two of his career high.

It was the only scheduled meeting of the season between the teams. It came 10 years after former Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim's often-replayed storming onto the Cameron Indoor Stadium court and subsequent ejection in the waning seconds of Duke's nar-

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## Sociedad salvage home draw against Alaves

## Greenwood one of three Getafe players sent off in loss to Rayo

MADRID, Jan 3, (AP): Mason Greenwood was accused of insulting a referee in the Spanish league on Tuesday, becoming one of three Getafe players sent off in a 2-0 loss to Rayo Vallecano.

The referee said in his post-match report that Greenwood insulted him in the 50th minute with an expletive in English, something that the British player and the Spanish club denied.

## SOCCER

"He doesn't speak Spanish very well, he told me that he was saying something else," Getafe coach José Bordalás said in his post-match interview. "He was frustrated because the referee was not calling any fouls on him, but he never offended anyone. It was just a comment that he made."

Referee Jorge Figueroa Vázquez also said in his report that, after being sent off, Greenwood made a gesture pointing to his head and expressing his disagreement with the decision.

Greenwood is playing with Getafe on a loan from Manchester United, which he left at the end of last season following a criminal investigation into a possible attempted rape that was closed by prosecutors.

Getafe also lost defender Damián Suárez for allegedly insulting the assistant referee moments after he was substituted in the 70th.

The hosts had been playing a man



Al Qadsia and Al Arabi players battling for the ball.

down from the 40th after forward Juanmi Latasa was sent off with a second yellow card.

Sergio Camello scored in first-half stoppage time and shortly after half-time to help Rayo end an eight-match winless streak in the Spanish league. The result left Rayo in 11th place. Getafe stayed eighth.

Real Sociedad overcome a red card to its goalkeeper in the first half to salvage a 1-1 home draw against Alaves.

Martín Zubimendi scored with a shot from inside the area six minutes

into stoppage time to secure the draw against the fellow Basque Country team.

The result extended a 25-match winless streak on the road for Alaves, which also conceded in stoppage time while playing with an extra man in a 1-0 loss to leader Real Madrid at home in the previous round.

Luiz Rioja converted a 76th-minute penalty kick to give the visitors the lead. Zubimendi got the late equalizer after reaching a loose ball inside the area and sending a low shot into the

## Misha emerges as a leading candidate

## Al-Qadsia seek new coach amidst Ibrahim health concerns

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: Following the recent "Derby" match ending in a 2-2 draw, Al-Qadsia is in pursuit of a new coach for the remainder of the current season due to Coach Mohamed Ibrahim's health issues. Dissatisfaction with the match's lineup and substitutions prompted this decision.

Negotiations with foreign coaches are underway, with Croatian Ante Misha emerging as a leading candidate. The official announcement of the new coach is expected after the fourteenth round against Al-Nasr next Sunday.

In another development, negotiations with player Eid Al-Rashidi, seeking 110 thousand dinars per season, have hindered an agreement, leading to his absence against Al-Arabi. Assistant coach Hassan Fadel empha-

net.

Sociedad played a man down from the 36th after a blunder by goalkeeper Alex Remiro. He left his area to intercept a long cross but misjudged the bounce of the ball, having to use his hand to keep it from going over his head and reaching an Alaves player in front of the open net.

Sociedad coach Imanol Alguacil had to replace forward André Silva with reserve goalkeeper Unai Marrero.

Forward Takefusa Kubo had nearly evened the match moments earlier

with a shot from outside the area that hit the crossbar. The hosts were awarded a penalty in the 88th but the call was reversed after video review.

The draw moved Alaves to 15th place, four points from the relegation zone. Sociedad stayed sixth, three points from fifth-place Athletic Bilbao.

Sociedad was coming off three consecutive scoreless draws in all competitions, while Alaves had lost three in a row in the Spanish league. It hadn't scored in four straight league matches.

sized the importance of Badr Al-Mutawa's presence, explaining his second-half substitution to maintain physical fitness and infuse new energy into the team.

## SOCCER

President Abdulaziz Ashour of Al-Arabi deemed the match result fair, praising both teams' strong performance. He advocated for foreign referees in crucial matches, citing the need for expertise.

Al-Arabi player Sultan Al-Anazi apologized for participating with knee cartilage and muscle tears against medical advice, citing team needs in the absence of key players.

The thirteenth league round concludes with Al-Fahaheel vs. Al-Jahra and Kazma vs. Al-Salmiya today.

Alaves forward Giuliano Simeone, son of Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone, entered the match in the 70th to make his first appearance since breaking his leg in a friendly in the off-season.

"It's bittersweet taste," Simeone said. "I'm happy to be playing again, but it's a shame that we let the win escape by conceding that goal in the end."

Midtable Valencia defeated 13th-place Villarreal 3-1 at home with a pair of penalty kicks converted by Pepelu.

## Pakistan 'rally' on Day 1 as Warner survives nervy over in Test farewell



Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan bats against Australia during their cricket Test match in Sydney. (AP)

## Cummins takes 5 wickets

SYDNEY, Jan 3, (AP): Australia captain Pat Cummins took 5-61 for his third consecutive five-wicket haul as Pakistan's brittle top order was again exposed before a combative lower order rally helped the tourists to 313 on Day 1 of the third and final cricket Test.

At 96-5 shortly after lunch Wednesday, Pakistan was in grave danger of being bundled out cheaply after it had won the toss and chose to bat under bright, blue skies at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

But an enterprising counterattack led by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan with a brisk 88, followed by a half-century from Agha Salman and a stunning maiden Test half-century by Aamer Jamal helped Pakistan recover to a respectable total.

Australian pair David Warner, playing his final test, and Usman Khawaja had to survive one over from spinner Sajid Khan under fading light before stumps.

Warner (6 not out) in characteristic style smashed the first ball for four but was lucky later in the over as he somehow survived the ball bouncing over the stumps from a defensive shot. Australia was 6 without loss at stumps.

Much of the pre-match attention may have been on Warner's last test for Australia, but it was the pace bowlers who stole the spotlight early.

Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood set the tone by each taking a wicket in the first two overs, before Cummins, coming off a ten-wicket haul in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne, snared two wickets including the prize scalp of Babar Azam as Pakistan batters crumbled.

Starc (2-75) struck with the second ball, teasing Shafique into an uncontrolled swipe which the opener could

only edge through to Steve Smith at second slip.

Hazlewood (1-65) struck in the next over when he had test rookie Saim Ayub edging through to Alex Carey in his debut innings.

From 4-2, Babar and Massood started the rebuild for Pakistan, with Babar especially attacking the Aussie quick bowlers.

But the rally was short-lived as Cummins removed Babar (26) with a ball that came back at the right-hander and struck him on the pad. Umpire Michael Gough turned down the initial Australian appeal, but the TV umpire overturned the decision.

Saud Shakeel was Cummins' second wicket, edging behind to Carey to leave Pakistan's first innings in tatters at 47-4.

Captain Shan Masood (35) and Rizwan shared a 49-run stand either side of the lunch break to steady Pakistan. Mitchell Marsh (1-27) ended that partnership by teasing an edge from Masood which flew through to Smith.

## CRICKET

Rizwan went on the attack and made an enterprising half-century off 74 balls. He continued to play his shots but eventually holed out to Hazlewood as Cummins' brought himself back in to the attack to take his third wicket.

"If you look back at all the best bowlers in the history of cricket, they've always had that in them - the ability to come on and take a wicket when the team needs to," Marsh said of Cummins' uncanny knack of choosing the right time to bowl. "I think the best part about Patty is that he always finds a way for us."

The Aussie skipper got his fourth when he had Sajid caught at midwicket by Nathan Lyon for 15 and a deserved fifth shortly after with Hasan Ali (0) picking out Starc in the deep.

In between Starc had ended Salman's impressive innings at 53 when he was caught by Travis Head at

square leg.

Pakistan's lower order continued, though, and a final-wicket partnership of 86 between Jamal and Mir Hamza frustrated Australia for almost 23 overs. Jamal, who made his Test debut in the series-opening match in Perth, blasted nine boundaries and four sixes in an enthralling 82 off 97 balls before finding Starc in the deep off Lyon (1-74) to end the innings.

The lead up to the match has been almost exclusively about Warner's last test for Australia, and the 112-Test veteran, flanked by his three daughters, led the home team out on to the SCG for his final Test.

On Tuesday, Warner took to social

media to plead for the return of his "baggy green" Test cricket cap which was in a bag that went missing in transit between Melbourne and Sydney this week. On Wednesday, he was wearing a new cap.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese joined the appeal for the caps to be returned.

"David Warner has represented Australia on more than one hundred occasions," Albanese said in Sydney on Wednesday. "The baggy green caps belong to him. He has earned them and they should be returned."

Australia won the first two Tests in Perth and Melbourne to clinch the three-match series.

## Kuwait handball goalkeeper coach Al-Khader joins Brazil for 2024 Oly

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: Ali Al-Khader, the esteemed goalkeeper coach for the Kuwait National Club handball team, has inked a deal with the Brazilian national team to serve as a goalkeeper coach and technical analyst during the upcoming 2024 Paris Handball Olympics. The tournament, scheduled for March, will witness the participation of Brazil, Spain, Hungary, and Bahrain.

In the event that Brazil secures qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics, Ali Al-Khader will be an integral part of the coaching staff accompanying the Seleção to Paris. Further negotiations are underway between the Brazilian national team and the Kuwait Club, exploring the possibility of utilizing the Greens' services during the South American Championship, expected to take place in February.

## HANDBALL

Adding another feather to his cap, Al-Khader's extensive CV includes playing for Al-Sahel, Al-Salmiya, and Al-Qurain clubs, as well as representing the national team. Following his playing career, he transitioned into coaching, contributing to the success of Al-Salmiya and the Saudi Gulf Club before assuming coaching roles for the Kuwait Club and the national team.

Al-Khader boasts a remarkable coaching record, securing Asian, Gulf, and Arab club championships with the Ku-



Ali Al-Khader with an official.

wait Club. His coaching journey also led to two appearances in the World Club Championship "Super Globe" with the Kuwait Club, along with numerous local championships in the league, cup, and super competitions.

Expressing his excitement about the new opportunity, Al-Khader shared that the contract with the Brazilian national team was at the request of their coach, Marco Solivera. Despite receiving several Asian offers, Al-Khader opted for the Brazilian national team, aiming for success in this mission. He extended gratitude to the Kuwait Club's Board of Directors for supporting his venture into coaching the Brazilian national team's goalkeepers.

Al-Khader affirmed his goal of qualifying with the Brazilian national team for the 2024 Paris Olympics and clinching victory in the South American Championship, considering it a significant achievement for any national coach in the sport.

## Cagliari beaten 4-1

## Jovi continues scoring streak as Milan reach Italian Cup quarters

MILAN, Jan 3, (AP): Luka Jovic scored two goals to help AC Milan beat Cagliari 4-1 in the Italian Cup.

Milan has won the Italian Cup five times but it last lifted the trophy in 2003 and hasn't reached the final since 2018. The Rossoneri will face either Atalanta or Sassuolo in the quarterfinals.

Milan coach Stefano Pioli was under pressure after a poor run that had seen his team eliminated from the Champions League at the group stage.

The Rossoneri also had a lengthy injury list and rested a number of star players - starting with four teenagers - but hadn't lost to Cagliari at San Siro since 1997.

Jovic opened the scoring in the 29th minute following a delightful assist

from Theo Hernandez and the duo combined again shortly before half-time.

The two goals took Jovic's tally to five in his past six matches. It took the Serbia forward until December to score his first goal for Milan after joining from Fiorentina at the start of the season.

Teenager Chaka Traorè extended Milan's lead early in the second half, with his third Rossoneri goal in his first start for the team.

Rafael Leão capped a great night for Milan in stoppage time, shortly after Paolo Azzi netted a consolation for Cagliari.

□ □ □

England great Wayne Rooney was fired as the manager of second-tier club Birmingham after 15 games.

Rooney earned only two wins since his controversial appointment in October. Birmingham was sixth in the Championship when he started, and has fallen to 20th.

The club was taken over last summer by a company owned by American businessman Tom Wagner, and it got rid of popular coach John Eustace, who had been in charge for 15 months and steered the club away from relegation.

## SOCCER

"Birmingham City has today parted company with manager Wayne Rooney and first-team coach Carl Robinson," the club said in a statement. "Despite their best efforts, results have not met the expectations that were made clear at the outset. Therefore, the board feels that a change in management is in the best interests of the football club."

Birmingham lost at Leeds 3-0 on Monday, and supporters called for the removal of Rooney, the former Manchester United and England striker.

NFL great Tom Brady became a minority owner of the club in August.

Rooney thanked Wagner, Brady and club CEO Garry Cook for the opportunity but said he wasn't given enough time.



Australia's women cricket team players pose with trophy after their win in the third one-day international cricket match against India in Mumbai, India. (AP)



Alex de Minaur of Australia hits a return shot to Novak Djokovic of Serbia during the United Cup tennis tournament in Perth, Australia. De Minaur won. (AP) - See Page 14

# Sports

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## Thunder hold off NBA-leading Celtics

Curry scores 36 points to lead Warriors past Magic

**OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan 3, (AP): That's another signature win for the Oklahoma City Thunder.**

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 36 points and Oklahoma City held off the NBA-leading Boston Celtics 127-123 on Tuesday night for its fifth straight victory.

Oklahoma City has won eight of nine. During that stretch, the Thunder have beaten defending champion Denver twice, ended the Los Angeles' Clippers win streak at nine, beaten Western Conference leader Minnesota and now topped the Celtics.

This one was tougher than some of the others. The Thunder beat Minnesota by 23 and Denver by 26 on the road last week.

This time, the Celtics trimmed an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter to two before Oklahoma City held on.

Josh Giddey had 23 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Chet Holmgren added 14 points, seven assists and four blocks for the Thunder, who entered the night with the league's fourth-best record.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 34 points and Jayson Tatum had 30 for the Celtics, who had won six straight and 11 of 12.

Boston led 61-58 at halftime behind 18 points from Porzingis. Gilgeous-Alexander kept the Thunder in it with 17.

The Thunder got off to a strong start in the second half, and Giddey's deep 3-pointer gave Oklahoma City a 76-69 lead. It got so frustrating for the Celtics that Mazzulla was called for a technical during the third quarter. Gilgeous-Alexander scored 16 points on 7-for-10 shooting in the period to help Oklahoma City take a 98-86 edge into the fourth.

### BASKETBALL

Oklahoma City started hot in the fourth. Jalen Williams took off on a fast break, cocked the ball back with his right hand and brought down the hammer on a dunk to give the Thunder a 108-90 lead.

The Celtics rallied late. Derrick White hit a 3-pointer with 41 seconds remaining to cut Boston's deficit to 121-119. Williams quickly responded with a short floater to push the lead back to four.

Porzingis was fouled with 15.2 seconds left, and he made both free throws to cut Oklahoma City's lead to 123-121.

Giddey was fouled with 12.1 seconds left. His first free throw rolled in and his second was perfect to put the Thunder up four.

Porzingis hit a shot deep in the left corner with 3.7 seconds left. It was called a 2-pointer because it was ruled his foot was on the line, and that was upheld upon review, so Boston still trailed by two.

Gilgeous-Alexander was fouled with 2.8 seconds remaining. With the crowd chanting "M-V-P!" he made both free throws to put the game away.

### 76ers 110, Bulls 97

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 31 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in his return from a sprained right ankle. Tyrese Maxey scored 21 points and Philadelphia beat Chicago.

Embiid missed all four games on the 76ers' holiday road trip, and they went 2-2. One of those games was in Chicago just three nights earlier, a 105-92 loss in which the Sixers never led in the second half.

Embiid is the reigning NBA MVP for a reason. With the big man back, the Sixers turned this into an early blowout against a Bulls team that had played well recently without injured guard Zach LaVine. LaVine can return to the lineup as early as Friday. Even the two-time All-Star wouldn't have helped much in this one as the Bulls fell to 10-6 this season without him.

The 76ers raced to a 43-18 lead after one quarter, with the Bulls missing all 10 3-pointers.

DeMar DeRozan led the Bulls with 16 points. Andre Drummond had 11 points, 17 rebounds and muffed a dunk to the delight of the home crowd when he was stuffed by the front of the rim. Forward Patrick Williams left with an injured right ankle.

### Grizzlies 106, Spurs 98

In Memphis, Ja Morant had 26 points, 10 assists and a fourth-quarter dunk over Victor Wembanyama. Desmond Bane added 24 points and Memphis used a second-half spurt to beat San Antonio.

Santi Aldama added 13 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis, which snapped a three-game losing streak. Wembanyama led the Spurs with 20 points, seven rebounds and four blocks. Keldon Johnson finished with 19 points, along with six rebounds and four assists. Julian Champagnie and Jeremy Sochan scored 12 points



Charlotte Hornets guard Terry Rozier (right), steals the ball from Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif. (AP)

Supreme Organizing Committee gears up for Olympics qualifier

## Kuwait's Asian Shotgun Championship set for January 12 kickoff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 3: In anticipation of the upcoming Kuwait Asian Shotgun Shooting Championship (trap and skeet), scheduled to take place at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Ranges Complex from January 12 to January 23, the Supreme Organizing Committee convened for an extensive meeting.

Engineer Duaij Al-Otaibi, the Committee's Chairman, and Championship Director-General Obaid Al-Osaimi, along with heads of working committees, were present at the meeting.

The committee extensively discussed the ongoing preparations and procedures, emphasizing the meticulous attention to detail across all aspects. The championship holds significant importance as a qualifying event for the 2024 Paris Olympics, drawing attention from the International Shooting Federation and the International Olympic Committee.

The Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti and Arab Shooting Federations, also the Championship Director, extended gratitude to His Highness Prince Sheikh Mishal for supporting the sport and fellow shooters. Thanks were also extended to the General Sports Authority and relevant ministries for their support in preparing for this significant event.

Al-Osaimi announced upcoming workshops for referees in collaboration with the International Shooting Federation to ensure their readiness to manage all stages of the tournament. Additionally, a press conference is scheduled at the club's headquarters next Saturday at noon to present detailed information about the championship.

Al-Osaimi emphasized the commitment of the Federation and the Shooting Club's Board of Directors to early preparation, given the tournament's role as a qualifier for the Paris Olympics. The event garners attention from the International

Shooting Federation and the International Olympic Committee.

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### SHOOTING

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Supreme Organizing Committee Chairman and Championship Director-General Obaid Al-Osaimi addressing the media.



West Ham's Jarrod Bowen (left), duels for the ball with Brighton's Jan Paul van Hecke during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham and Brighton, at the London stadium in London. (AP)

Hammers extend unbeaten run to 4

## West Ham and Brighton settle for goalless draw

LONDON, Jan 3, (AP): Defensive-minded West Ham held off late pressure from Brighton to settle for a 0-0 draw that extended its Premier League unbeaten run to four games on Tuesday.

One point was enough for Brighton to climb over Manchester United into seventh place, while the Hammers stayed in sixth.

Both teams were missing starters through injury, illness and suspension. West Ham was also without forward Mohammed Kudus, who was called up by Ghana for the Africa Cup of Nations.

### SOCCER

West Ham hasn't allowed a goal in its past four league matches — three of which were victories.

Brighton substitute Jakob Moder blazed a shot over the bar from close range in the 87th minute at London Stadium. The visitors threatened again minutes later but goalkeeper Alphonse Arela stretched to save Adam Lallana's shot from distance.

Just before the hour mark, Brighton's João Pedro beat several defenders but shot straight at Arela.

Tomas Soucek then missed on the other end, shooting wide in the 61st minute after Said Benrahma's cross fell to him.

Evan Ferguson provided a spark off the bench for Brighton. The 19-year-old Ireland striker shot just wide shortly after replacing Danny Welbeck.

Brighton midfielder James Milner made his 632nd top-flight appearance to tie Ryan Giggs for second-most in the Premier League. Milner could pass all-time leader Gareth Barry next season.

"It's quite a big number. It's taken a long time," Milner said before the game. "I think it's a nice thing but it's a big game for us tonight. We want to start the year with a win."

The 37-year-old Milner is in his first season at Brighton after eight years with Liverpool. He debuted with Leeds in the 2002-03 season at age 16.

Both teams face second-tier opponents in the third round of the FA Cup. Brighton plays at Stoke on Saturday. West Ham hosts Bristol on Sunday.