



Kuwait University launches e-health form for students

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8, (KUNA): Kuwait University (KU) launched an online health status form for students on Monday, marking a significant step towards enhancing medical follow-up and fortifying primary health services.

Dr. Fayez Al-Dhafiri, KU Acting Secretary General, expressed confidence that the introduction of this new service would elevate health services on campus and expedite responses to emergency situations.

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Opinion

Sheikh Mohammad, we want Kuwait to be the 'Pearl of the Gulf'

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHEN a person has the opportunity to lead, he must have ambition and perseverance. That is why there are leaders who worked to push their countries to the top, while others failed because they lacked the ability to strive for achievement.

In the last century, history witnessed figures who promoted their country to the highest ranks after it suffered for decades from crises economically, politically and socially.

For example, before Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore was a peninsula described as the poorest in East Asia, but when this man assumed the prime ministership, his only concern was to get out of the legacy left by British colonialism.

He worked quickly to promote education, enact laws to encourage investment, and open up the country. Between 1959 and 1990, his country became the fourth largest economy in the world, and its population had the highest per capita income in Asia.



Al-Jarallah

Ambition was this man's motivation, just like Deng Xiaoping, who inherited a bankrupt China that was suffering from a closed totalitarian economy.

He began his era by not relying on partisan teachings or the power centers of the ruling party. He instead relied on technocrats, and took a bold step when he sought the help of the British economist of Iraqi origin Elias Korkis, and gave him full powers.

Therefore, within a few years, Korkis launched the Chinese Development Renaissance Project strategy, and today the country is considered the most dynamic, vibrant, and growing economy.

When talking about the Asian Tigers, the first thing one remembers is Malaysia, which for decades had been suffering from corruption, chaos, and crime. When Mahathir Mohamad assumed the prime ministership, he served as a role model for achieving renaissance. He was even called in Asia as the leader who combined knowledge, wisdom, and political acumen. He was a skilled captain who steered his country's ship amidst the waves of a choppy sea.

Not far from it is Indonesia, which is witnessing economic development and the expansion of infrastructure and foreign investments. This paved the way for it to become an economic power in Asia, facilitated by some ambitious leaders, including Joko Widodo, who began his presidency in 2014 by working to change the economic strategy and develop the country in an amazing way.

The desire for renaissance does not require genius, but rather insistence on achieving ambitions. An example of this is some of the countries of the region.

During the era of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed, the United Arab Emirates took rapid steps until it became one among the economically active countries. Both Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid came to complete the renaissance process.

Also, Saudi Arabia, before the era of King Salman bin Abdulaziz and his Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, suffered from isolation and backwardness in laws and regulations. Corruption was rampant there. But when it found the determination to achieve renaissance, within seven years, it achieved what other countries had been unable to achieve in decades.

Unfortunately, these cases are referenced at a time when Kuwait, once a Gulf and Arab pioneer, appears to be lingering on the sidelines of history, reminiscing about the past and echoing rhetoric. Instead of showcasing progress, it unfortunately reflects a prevailing state of backwardness across various domains.

This is due to the fact that there are those who seek to shackle it with the restrictions of the deep state that controls every corner of the country.

Therefore, as we mentioned previously, there are many challenges facing the new Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem, so all we hope is that his capabilities will be close to the aspirations of the people, and that Kuwait will return to being the "Pearl of the Gulf".

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Ties strategic, historical links strong

Bahrain, UK eye co-op boost

MANAMA, Jan 8, (KUNA): The Kingdom of Bahrain discussed with the United Kingdom on Monday ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

The Bahrain News Agency (BNA) said that this came during reception of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad, Minister of State for Trade Policy at the Ministry of International Trade in the United Kingdom, Greg Hands, and his accompanying delegation at the Gudaibiya Palace.

The Bahraini Crown Prince emphasized during the meeting that the strategic relations and strong historical links between Bahrain and the United Kingdom are continually developing.

He noted that the two friendly countries were becoming more cooperative in their economic and investment sectors and that it was essential to support them in broadening their horizons in order to achieve common goals.

Bahraini Minister of Industry and Commerce Abdullah Fakhro emphasized the rich history of trade and investment between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Bahrain. He highlighted the necessity of strengthening cooperative efforts by increasing trade exchange in order to foster competitiveness across a range of domains.

In a discussion with Hands and his group, Fakhro talked about a number of topics of mutual interest for advancing bilateral investments.

He stressed Bahrain's enthusiasm to enhance bilateral cooperation with the United Kingdom in all fields, especially trade, highlighting the important role of the private sector in both countries, which contributes significantly to achieving common goals.

Kuwait sets price cap for hiring domestic workers

India leads as primary source of domestic workforce

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban has issued a decision setting the fees for recruiting domestic workers.



File photo shows domestic workers queue at the Kuwait airport.

KUNA photo

In a press statement, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry confirmed that in coordination with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and in line with the recommendations of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Al-Aiban issued a decision amending Article One of Ministerial Resolution No. 103/2022, specifying the maximum cost of recruiting domestic workers, including the travel ticket.

The statement added: "This decision will enable citizens to collect their full entitlements, including the ticket price, in the event of a dispute arising with recruitment offices if the domestic worker refuses to complete the contract period with the employer."

The decision sets the maximum fee for hiring domestic workers from Asian countries at KD750 (including the ticket), KD575 for domestic workers from African countries and KD350 for individuals holding a special passport provided by the sponsor.

Meanwhile, official statistics from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) revealed that the total number of registered domestic workers in mid-2023 reached 811,307.

India has the highest number of registered domestic workers with 361,222 (44.5 percent of the total); followed by the Philippines in second place with 201,110 (24.8 percent); Sri Lanka is third with 102,685 (12.6 percent); Bangladesh is fourth with 85,989 (10.6 percent); Nepal is fifth with 25,554 (3.1 percent); Ethiopia is sixth with 11,684 (1.4 percent); Benin is seventh with 5,105 (0.6 percent); Indonesia is eighth with 2,103 (0.3 percent); Mali is ninth with 1,901 (0.2 percent) and Madagascar is 10th with 1,838 (0.2 percent).

It added that 11,616 individuals of other nationalities constitute 1.4 percent of the total domestic worker population.

Road plans in focus

MP presses Kuwait ICC action on Israel

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari has submitted a proposal for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Legal Advice and Legislation Department, and Ministry of Justice to form a joint committee that will coordinate efforts for Kuwait to join South Africa in filing a case against Israel at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for violating the Genocide Convention in Gaza.

He disclosed this is one of the recommendations presented in the special parliamentary session on supporting Palestine, in addition to declaring the leaders and military commanders of Israel as war criminals in international courts and parliaments.

In addition, the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee issued a statement calling on the government, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to join South Africa in suing the Zionist entity and to implement the recommendations presented in the special parliamentary session on supporting Palestine that was held on Nov 1, 2023.

The committee said it will soon meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah to coordinate efforts in dealing with the Israeli crimes targeting the people of Gaza. It also stressed the need to unify parliamentary and government efforts to protect human rights as part of the humanitarian, Arab and Muslim responsibilities towards the Palestinian issue.

Meanwhile, the Disabled Affairs Committee on Monday discussed its assignment to follow up the execution of Disabled Affairs Law No. 8/2010 by the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA).

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Economic growth on agenda

API affirms support for Lebanese workforce

BEIRUT, Jan 8, (KUNA): The Arab Planning Institute (API) General Director Dr. Bader Al-Shami affirmed on Monday interest in refining Lebanese workforce's abilities and preparing them to take initiatives for a successful future.

This came in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after a delegation from the Kuwait-headquartered institute met with Prime Minister of the Lebanese caretaker government, Najib Mikati, where they discussed economic growth and future of the Lebanese economy.

Al-Shami said facts revealed in Lebanon's latest budget highlight a number of "achievements" compared to previous years, which were positive and could further be built upon to make positive results in the future.

He pointed out that start of the economic wheel contributes to moving the situation in Lebanon in a positive way, stressing the importance of political stability.

Furthermore, Al-Shami elaborated on the role of the API in supporting political and economic institutions in Arab countries through a number of programs and initiatives, especially small and medium enterprises.

The API's role for which it was established and the contributions of Arab countries to it is "to develop the human and technical capabilities of individuals" and enable them to contribute to creating a promising future for their countries, Al-Shami stated.

Al-Shami mentioned that the institute's delegation will visit the Basil Fuleihan Financial and Economic Institute in Lebanon and hold a meeting with the president of the institute, Lamia Al-Moubayed Bissat.

Bissat is the representative of the Minister of Finance on the Board of Trustees of the AP.

Kuwait passport ranks 45th globally, third in Arab Gulf

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: The Kuwaiti passport is ranked 45th in the world, according to the Global Passport Index for the current year 2024, as it allows entry to 112 countries (62 without a visa, and 50 granted a visa upon arrival), reports Al-Rai daily.

At the Arab and Gulf levels, the Kuwaiti passport ranked third after the UAE passport ranked first as the most powerful passport in the world, as it allows entry to 180 countries (132 without a visa, and 48 visa upon arrival); the Qatari passport, ranked 44th in the world and second in Arab world since it allows entry to 117 countries (73 without a visa and 44 upon arrival).

The Kuwaiti passport has advanced one place compared to last year 2023, when it was ranked 46th globally, while maintaining its third rank in the Arab world.

The passport of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranked fourth in the Arab world and 47th in the world, allowing entry to 101 countries (56 without a visa, and 45 upon arrival).

Globally, the German passport came in second place, along with the Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch passports (each of which allows entry to 178 countries), while the Swedish passport came in third place globally, along with Finland, Luxembourg, Austria, and Switzerland passports (each of which

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Newswatch

MANAMA: The Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa confirmed on Sunday that the bilateral ties between Bahrain and United States continue to develop by sharing historical strategies and many joint conventions.

Bahrain News Agency (BNA) stated the Crown Prince met with a delegation from the United States Congress, including Senator Joni Ernst, at Riffa Palace. (KUNA)

ABU DHABI: UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan affirmed on Sunday that the UAE participation in the international project of establishing a lunar station, Gateway, and its planned dispatch of a UAE astronaut to the station depicted the UAE keenness on serving science and humanity.

The president was speaking during a ceremony marking the UAE proclamation of joining the space project, alongside the US, Japan, Canada, the European Union, and its plan to dispatch an astronaut to it, to be the first Emirati and Arab to go on such a space trek. (KUNA)

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US seeks to prevent escalation

Israeli airstrike kills elite Hezbollah commander

BEIRUT, Jan 8, (AP): An Israeli airstrike killed an elite Hezbollah commander in southern Lebanon on Monday, the latest in an escalating exchange of strikes along the border that have raised fears of another Mideast war even as the fighting in Gaza exacts a mounting toll on civilians.

The strike on an SUV killed a commander in a secretive Hezbollah force that operates along the border, according to a Lebanese security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity according to regulations. Hezbollah identified the slain fighter as Wissam al-Tawil without providing details.

He is the most senior militant in the armed group to have been killed since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel triggered all-out war in Gaza and lower-intensity fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which has

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This undated picture released by Hezbollah Military Media shows senior Hezbollah commander Wissam Tawil, who was killed in Kherbet Selem village, south Lebanon, on Jan 8, 2024. (AP)

Leaders of Sri Lanka, Algeria, Ukraine and Eswatini send greetings

HH Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad congratulated on assuming power

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a letter Monday from President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe, congratulating him on assuming power. In the letter, he wished His Highness the Amir eternal good health and further success in leading Kuwait's progress and development. In return, His Highness the Amir sent a letter to the President of Sri

Lanka, expressing his sincere appreciation for his kind words and heartfelt sentiments, and wishing him eternal good health. **Algeria** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal received a cable from Algeria's President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, congratulating His Highness the Amir on assuming the office.

President Tebboune expressed his sincere congratulations, wishing His Highness the Amir success and good health, prosperity and progress for Kuwait. His Highness the Amir sent a reply cable to the president expressing his appreciation for the heartfelt sentiments and wishing him good health. **Ukraine** His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Mishal received a phone call on Monday from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, expressing his condolences over the demise of the late Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Ukrainian president then congratulated His Highness the Amir on assuming office and wished him health and a prosperous future for Kuwait under his wise leadership. In turn, His Highness the Amir

thanked the Ukrainian president for his kind words and sincere sentiments, wishing him good health and Ukraine further progress. **Eswatini** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal received a letter from Eswatini's Prime Minister Russell Dlamini, carrying congratulations from King Mswati III and the Queen Mother for

assuming top office. In the letter, the King wished His Highness the Amir success in leading Kuwait's development march, and good health and wellbeing. His Highness the Amir sent Eswatini's Prime Minister a letter expressing his gratitude and appreciation to the King for his heartfelt sentiments, wishing him long-lasting health and Eswatini further progress and prosperity.

'Adopting united strategy to deal with municipal solid waste vital'

Council member probes landfill impact, waste conversion

By Inass Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: The Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi Saturday, submitted several questions to the executive body of Kuwait Municipality, including questions regarding the treatment of municipal solid waste and construction waste.

She called for adopting a united strategy to deal with municipal solid waste, in accordance with health, technical and environmental requirements in Kuwait.

Al-Farsi highlighted the country's need for environmentally-friendly solid waste treatment facilities in proportion to the huge amount of waste resulting from population growth.

She pointed out the workshops and field visits that took place at landfill sites in Kuwait, the construction of which is considered a depletion of natural resources from vacant lands, and results in significant pollution on land, adding that, "Over the years, it requires huge sums of money for the rehabilitation process."

Through her questions, Al-Farsi first inquired about the project to convert municipal solid waste into dry fuel for the benefit of Kuwait Cement Company, and the executive position of the project related to converting municipal solid waste into dry fuel (RDF), as well as the obstacles that prevent its implementation and the necessity of mentioning them, if any. She also asked about the waste

landfill sites that are related to the above mentioned project.

Al-Farsi asked if there are any waste landfills that will be closed and rehabilitated after the project, and if there is a technical feasibility study for the project, adding, "If the answer is yes, please provide us with the study."

Regarding the solid waste treatment project in Kabd", Al-Farsi indicated that she had previously submitted a question about the project, and the executive branch reported that the project had been canceled due to the investor's unwillingness to continue, and because of her belief in its importance as it converts waste into electrical energy. She asked whether there is an intention to re-introduce the project, and if there is a plan to convert treated solid waste into electrical energy to operate new cities and suburbs in the country.

She said, "Through the project to treat and benefit from construction waste, and based on the field visits carried out by the Municipal Council to visit manufacturers to receive and

process construction waste through the private sector to produce steel and materials suitable for construction, what is the extent of benefit from these manufactured and recycled materials? Do the specifications of the treated building materials match the standards of building materials required by consulting offices and approved contracting companies? Is there a need to expand the area of construction waste recycling plants to serve new city and suburb locations such as Al-Mutlaa City? Are there any obstacles in the process of recycling construction waste? If the answer is "yes", please mention the obstacles."

Al-Farsi also asked about street water coolers and food refrigerators, stressing that their widespread random distribution may lack many cultural and health controls and requirements. She asked several questions in this regard, such as the necessary licenses to install refrigerators and freezers, if any controls are followed in regulating their locations and spread, and the body in charge of their maintenance.



Alia Al-Farsi



Al-Bassam

DHAMAN emphasizes pivotal role of PM in implementing New Kuwait Plan

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) has stated that the appointment of Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah as Prime Minister will play a pivotal role in implementing the various provisions and objectives of the National Development Plan (New Kuwait).

Mr. Hamed Al-Bassam, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of DHAMAN, mentioned that the Prime Minister's possession of numerous national responsibilities and international experiences, resulting from holding various

important positions with strategic dimensions, will significantly contribute to advancing development.

Al-Bassam added that the Prime Minister's highest confidence in nominating new members of the state's ministries is a step hoped to have a tangible positive impact in achieving the aspirations of Kuwait in various fields, including the health sector. DHAMAN is one of the most important components within the New Kuwait Plan through the partnership between the public and private sectors to help diversify sources of income and develop healthcare.

Al-Bassam pointed out that DHAMAN represents the late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's desire - may God rest his soul in peace - to advance various areas of health services in Kuwait.



KUNA photo

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (including Kuwait), Jasem Al-Budaiwi and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell discussed the developments in Gaza. This came during a meeting between both officials at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat-General in Riyadh late Sunday, the Secretariat said in a statement. Both sides also discussed ways to enhance international and regional efforts aimed at ending the crisis in Gaza and putting an end to this humanitarian disaster, it said. The meeting also addressed GCC and EU senior officials' regional security dialogue, which is scheduled to be held on the 24th of January at the headquarters of the Secretariat-General in Riyadh. (KUNA)



Photo by Samer Shiqer

A traffic officer checks for documents of one of the motorists.

Priority for new residential cities

Works ministry plans to execute fourteen water-related projects

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed a plan to implement 14 projects to develop and modernize water networks and affiliated water facilities.

They explained that the ministry has set a priority for projects serving the new residential cities, given that water service is one of the main services in those cities that the state relies on to provide adequate housing for the citizens.

The city of Mutla has a large share of water projects, numbering five projects, which include the construction of three ground water tanks with a capacity of 115 million imperial gallons, as well as the construction of 18 fresh water towers and a fresh water filling station, in coordination with other government agencies, including the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, with the aim of providing fresh water to the

residents throughout the day without interruptions.

The water projects include two projects in West Al-Funaites, one for building a fresh water filling station instead of the existing water filling station in Mishref, as well as the establishment of fresh water transmission lines from West Al-Funaites to Shuwaikh. There is also a project to establish one water line of 1,600mm diameter from the Abdullah Port Water Complex to West Al-Funaites Complex, and another water line of 1,200mm diameter from the Abdullah Port Water Complex to Al-Zour with the aim of providing fresh water to new areas.

The sources indicated that the 14 projects are included in the ministry's plan and will be offered according to a specific timetable that depends on providing the necessary financial funds to propose and implement the projects, especially since a large number of these projects have had their tender procedures studied and prepared by the relevant sector.

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World News Roundup

America

Perils of hate

Biden wants Americans to grasp election stakes

WILMINGTON, Del., Jan 8, (AP): US President Joe Biden wants Americans to grasp the extraordinary stakes of this year's presidential election, as he sees them. As part of that effort, he's revisiting some of the nation's worst traumas to highlight what can happen when hate is allowed to fester.

Biden heads to Charleston, South Carolina, to Mother Emanuel AME Church, the site of a 2015 racist massacre in which nine Black churchgoers were shot to death during Bible study. The event comes after a blunt speech by the Democratic president on the eve of the anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, in which he excoriated former President Donald Trump for "glorifying" rather than condemning political violence.



Biden

It's a grim way to kick off a presidential campaign, particularly for a man known for his unflinching optimism and belief that American achievements are limitless. But his campaign advisers and aides say it's necessary to lay out the stakes in unequivocal terms, particularly after a few years without the cultural saturation of Trump's words and actions. And it's an effort to set up the contrast they hope will be paramount to voters in 2024.

"It shows the campaign meeting the moment," former Biden communications director Kate Bedingfield said. "We're facing a fundamental threat to our democracy in the form of Donald Trump, and rather than a cookie cutter launch - you know, here are my five policy platforms - he's speaking to people in a way that connects that and that lays out the stark challenges that are coming down the barrel."

Ignite

It was June 17, 2015, when a 21-year-old white man walked into the church and, intending to ignite a race war, shot and killed nine Black parishioners and wounded one more. Biden was vice president when he attended the memorial service in Charleston, where President Barack Obama famously sang "Amazing Grace."

Biden's aides and allies say that episode was among the critical moments when the nation's political divide started to sharpen and crack. Though Trump, the current Republican presidential front-runner, was not in office at the time and has called the shooting "horrible," Biden is seeking to tie Trump's current rhetoric to such violence.

Two years later, at the "Unite The Right" gathering of white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia, some carrying flaming torches, erupted in violent clashes with counterprotesters. Trump refused to condemn the white nationalists, saying "there is blame on both sides."

Biden and his aides argue it's all part of the same problem: Trump refused to condemn the actions of the white nationalists at that gathering. He's repeatedly used rhetoric once used by Adolf Hitler to argue that immigrants entering the U.S. illegally are "poisoning the blood of our country," yet he insisted he had no idea that one of the world's most reviled and infamous figures once used similar words.

And Trump has continually repeated his false claims that he won the 2020 election, as well as his assertion that the Capitol rioters were patriotic. He's called the long prison sentences handed down for some offenders - whom he calls "hostages" and were convicted of crimes like assaulting police officers on Jan. 6 or seditious conspiracy - "one of the saddest things."

Fate

Jim Clyburn, a South Carolina Democrat, said this year's election "will determine the fate of American democracy, our freedoms, and whether this country will stand up against hate and vitriol embodied by Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans," a reference to Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

"Few places embody these stakes like Mother Emanuel AME - a church that has witnessed the horrors of hate-fueled political violence and a church that has spoken to the conscience of this nation and shown us the path forward after moments of division and despair," Clyburn said in a statement.

In his Jan. 6 anniversary speech, Biden told people in his audience that Trump doesn't care about their future. "Trump is now promising a full-scale campaign of 'revenge' and 'retribution' - his words - for some years to come," Biden said. "They were his words, not mine. He went on to say he would be a dictator on Day One."

Biden has repeatedly suggested that democracy itself is on the ballot this year, asking whether it is still "America's sacred cause."

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 other top Democrats are themselves seeking to undermine democracy by using the legal system to thwart the campaign of Biden's chief rival.

South Carolina is the first official Democratic nominating contest where Biden is looking to flex his political muscle this year, and it's where his turnaround in 2020 began on his way to the White House.

Biden is expected to meet with the families of the victims of the church shooting, and it's in these moments when his aides believe he's most effective.

"This is a personal strength of his, and his ability to do this in an emotional way that connects with people is not to be underappreciated," Bedingfield said. "Because these are hard things to talk about. And it's hard to talk about them in a way that doesn't make people feel defeated. And he can do that."



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, a view of private houses damaged by a Russian missile attack in Novomoskovsk near Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, Monday, Jan. 8, 2024. Inset: Rescuers help a wounded person after residential houses were destroyed by a Russian missile attack. (AP)

Heavy wave of Russian missile attacks pounds areas across Ukraine

Russia launched its latest barrage of hypersonic and cruise missiles against Ukrainian targets early Monday, striking near the front lines of fighting in the east as well as in central and western parts of the country, officials said. At least four civilians were reported killed and at least 30

injured. Western officials and analysts had previously warned that Russia was stockpiling its cruise missiles in preparation for a strategy of winter bombardment, as bad weather keeps the 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) front line largely static after 22 months of war.

Unlike last winter, when the Kremlin's forces targeted Ukraine's power grid, Russia is now aiming at Kyiv's defense industry, they say. But the almost daily barrages have repeatedly hit civilian areas.

Monday's attacks struck a string of urban areas, including housing and a

shopping mall, across Ukraine. Russia fired 51 missiles of various types, as well as eight Shahed drones, at Ukraine, Ukrainian commander-in-chief Valerii Zaluzhnyi said. The Ukrainian Air Force intercepted 18 of the cruise missiles and all the drones, he said. (AP)

Politics

Raising expectations

Trump heading into Iowa caucuses



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump stands on stage after speaking during a commit to caucus rally, Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, in Clinton, Iowa. (AP)



Wagenknecht



Christodoulides

Europe

German opposition starts new party: A high-profile German opposition politician on Monday formally founded a new party that combines left-wing economic policy with a restrictive approach to migration and other positions that some observers believe could help it take votes away from the far-right Alternative for Germany.

Sahra Wagenknecht said her "Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance - Reason and Fairness" will make its electoral debut in the European Parliament election in June. She said she is confident that it also will run in three state elections in September in eastern regions where Alternative for Germany, or AfD, is very strong.

Wagenknecht broke in October with the Left Party, an opposition party in which she was long one of the leading figures, and announced her intention to launch the new venture. She and nine followers who quit the Left Party with her kept their seats in the German parliament.

Wagenknecht offers a mixture of left-leaning economic policy, with high wages and generous benefits, and a restrictive approach to migration. She also questions some environmentalists' plans to combat climate change and opposes current sanctions against Russia, which was once Germany's leading gas supplier, as well as German arms supplies to Ukraine. (AP)

Cyprus' prez shakes up Cabinet: Cyprus' president on Monday moved ahead with a considerable shake-up of his Cabinet, replacing his ministers of defense, health, justice and environment as well as the deputy ministers responsible for digital policy and European affairs in one fell swoop after just 10 months in power.

Monday's move comes after weeklong speculation about which of the 16 Cabinet posts would see new faces following a newspaper interview in which President Nikos Christodoulides indicated that the

changes were coming soon. The appointments take effect on Wednesday. Vassilis Palmas, the new defense minister, is a veteran politician who has acted as government spokesman and a deputy minister in two previous administrations.

The new health minister, Michalis Diamanos, is a lawyer with his own practice, while history professor Maria Panayiotou gets a promotion from environment commissioner to environment and agriculture minister. (AP)

Ex-Gambian interior minister on trial: A former interior minister of Gambia was going on trial Monday in Switzerland on charges including crimes against humanity for his alleged role in years of repression by the west African country's security forces against opponents of its longtime dictator.

Advocacy groups hailed the trial of Ousman Sonko, Gambia's interior minister from 2006 to 2016 under then-President Yahya Jammeh, as an opportunity to reach a conviction under "universal jurisdiction," which allows the prosecution of serious crimes committed abroad. Sonko was taken Monday in a police van to Switzerland's federal criminal court in southern Bellinzona.

He applied for asylum in Switzerland in November 2016 and was arrested two months later. The Swiss attorney general's office said the indictment against Sonko, filed in April, covers alleged crimes during 16 years under Jammeh, whose rule was marked by arbitrary detention, sexual abuse and extrajudicial killings.

"The trial of Ousman Sonko is another major step in the search for justice for victims of brutal crimes and their families committed under Jammeh's rule," said Sirra Ndow, coordinator of the Jammeh2Justice campaign. (AP)



Dozens of people from all over the world line in front of the central registration center for asylum seekers in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Sept. 25, 2023. The number of people applying for asylum in Germany last year rose to 351,915, an increase of 51.1% compared with the year before. (AP)

Model series continues long model history of classic E-Class

Al Mulla Automobiles announces arrival of new Mercedes-Benz E-Class in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Al Mulla Automobiles Co., member of the Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, has recently announced that the arrival of the new Mercedes-Benz E-Class in Kuwait. For over 75 years, the E-Class has set the standard for mid-range luxury saloons. The new E-Class combines tradition and modernity: on the one hand, the model series continues the long model history of the classic E-Class; on the other hand, its new appearance builds a bridge to the avant-garde trendsetters. The new E-Class will be showcased in the Mercedes-Benz Flagship showroom in Al Rai and the Mercedes-Benz boutique in Avenues for guests and will be available for on-the-spot test drives.

Classic proportions and special character lines in the exterior design.

The new E-Class has the proportions of a classic three-box saloon: the short front overhang and long bonnet are followed by a greenhouse which is set well back. The "cab-backward" design is rounded off by the well-proportioned rear overhang.

A black panel-like surface connects the radiator grille with the headlamps. This insert in high-gloss black is visually reminiscent of the electric vehicle models by Mercedes-Benz. The three-dimensionally designed radiator grille is either progressive or classic, depending on the equipment line. A chrome radiator grille surround backlit by optical fibers is optionally available for all lines (Avantgarde, Exclusive and AMG Line). The new E-Class has high-performance LED headlamps as standard. As an optional extra, DIGITAL LIGHT is available without and with a projection function. All headlamp variants offer a distinctive day and night design. As a typical feature of the brand, the daytime running lights take the shape of an eyebrow. Power domes accentuate the bonnet.

The side view shows off the harmonious proportions and the distinctive "cab-backward" design to particularly good effect. The flush-fitting door handles familiar from the luxury Mercedes-Benz models are available as an option. The two separate character lines on the side emphasize the car's sporty character.

Highlights at the rear include the two-section LED lights with a new contour and special design: The unique star motif makes the day and night design of the rear lights unmistakable.

MBUX Super screen as a highlight of the interior design.

The dashboard makes for the digital experience in the interior. If the E-Class is equipped with the optional front passenger screen, the large glass surface of the MBUX Super screen extends to the central display. Visually detached from this is the driver's display in the driver's field of vision. The models without a passenger display feature a large trim element that extends to the center. Visually detached, the central display appears to float above the concave surface of this trim element.

The front section of the instrument panel is illuminated by the light strip of the Active Ambient Lighting. This runs in a wide arc from the windscreen, past the A-pillars and into the doors. This creates a generous feeling of space. An apparently free-floating control array in the upper section of the door panels matches the look of the glass surfaces of the screens.

The center console is designed as a homogeneous unit and merges in a straight line into the lower section of the dashboard. At the front, a stowage compartment with lid and cup holders is integrated into the three-dimensionally shaped trim element. There is a soft padded armrest in the rear part of the center console.

The door center panel merges seamlessly into the armrest with a



concave sweep. The front section here is designed as a metallic high-tech element. It serves as a grab and closing handle, and incorporates the switches for the power windows. Another highlight is the free-floating control array incorporating the door opener and the controls for the seat functions.

The contours of the seat surface and backrest flow elegantly from the inside to the outside, and appear to float above the base of the seat thanks to their layer design. Indented vertical lines follow the outer contour, widening out towards the top.

When it comes to spaciousness, the E-Class is one of the favorites in its segment. The driver enjoys five millimeters more headroom than in the preceding model. The rear passengers particularly benefit from the two-centimeter longer wheelbase: Kneeroom and maximum legroom are increased by 10 and 17 millimeters, respectively. The increase in elbow width in the rear is even greater: it is now 1519 millimeters. This is an increase by 25 millimeters, and almost S-class level. The luggage capacity is up to 540 liters.

AIRMATIC and rear-axle steering are optionally available.

The agile handling of the new E-Class is due in large part to precise guidance of the front wheels by four control arms each. At the rear axle, an optimized multi-link independent rear suspension with five links ensures excellent wheel control and excellent straight-line stability. At both axes, the springs and dampers are combined in a single strut and are not involved in wheel guidance tasks, therefore the suspension responds with corresponding sensitivity. The front subframe and rear axle carrier decouple the sus-

pension and body from vibrations and noise.

The new E-Class is especially agile and stable with the optional rear-axle steering and the accompanying, more direct steering ratio at the front axle. The steering angle at the rear axle is 4.5 degrees. This reduces the turning circle by up to 90 centimeters.

Impressive, immersive entertainment experience.

Music, games and streaming content can be experienced with almost all the senses in the E-Class. Thanks to digital innovations in the interior, the E-Class is now more intelligent, achieving a new dimension of personalization and interaction. At the same time, the electronic architecture is more software-driven and less hardware-driven.

The computing functions of previously separate domains take place in a single processor. Screens and the MBUX infotainment system thus share a new, very powerful central onboard computer. This form of networking improves the performance and speed of the data streams.

The Entertainment package (MBUX Entertainment Plus) will be available for the new E-Class. It includes Mercedes me connect services and a data package from a third-party provider. Depending on the market, a communication module with 5G as the transmission technology is used. The mobile phone standard 5G makes much faster data rates possible than LTE/UMTS.

Digital Vehicle Key is now available for iPhone and Apple Watch.

With the Digital Vehicle Key, the E-Class can be started and locked simply by the driver carrying a com-

patible iPhone or Apple Watch with them. Key sharing is also possible: various digital channels can be used to invite family members or friends to use the E-Class. In doing so, the main user of the Mercedes me account can assign different rights, granting only access to the vehicle or also allowing it to be driven. The vehicle can recognize several users at once, and the Digital Vehicle Key can be shared with up to 16 people. In those markets where Mercedes me connect services are available, the pre-installation for the Digital Vehicle Key forms part of the KEYLESS-GO Comfort Package. This equipment combination is available in the new E-Class from the Premium Package onwards.

Music becomes visible: Sound Visualization.

With the new Active Ambient Lighting with Sound Visualization, occupants in the new E-Class can experience music with three senses: pieces of music and sounds from films or apps can be heard (with Dolby Atmos® technology if desired), felt (by means of sound resonating transducers in the optional Burmester® 4D surround sound system) and now also "seen". Visualization takes place on the light strip of the Active Ambient Lighting (optional extra). For the first time, this applies throughout in the E-Class. For example, fast sequences of beats can cause rapid light changes, while flowing rhythms can create softly merging lighting moods.

The entertainment experience for the front passenger is always impressive. On their optional screen, the front passenger can watch dynamic content such as TV or video streaming even when the driver at the wheel is looking over at them. This is be-

cause the display is switchable. The advanced camera-based privacy function reduces its brightness and therefore the risk of driver distraction.

Added day-to-day convenience: the routines.

Mercedes-Benz is working on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) so that the car learns which comfort systems vehicle occupants use repeatedly. Given the same circumstances, the aim is for AI to automate such functions. The result is personalized automation. Mercedes-Benz uses the term "routine" for this innovation, the development of which is already well advanced.

On the launch of the new E-Class, customers will be able to use templates for standard routines. They also have the option of creating routines themselves. In doing so, the occupants can link several functions and conditions. For example, "Switch on the seat heating and set the ambient lighting to warm orange if the interior temperature is below twelve degrees Celsius".

For enhanced well-being: ENERGIZING COMFORT and THERMOTRONIC with Digital Vent Control (both optional).

Soothing sounds, mobilizing massage, activating light - Mercedes-Benz offers a comprehensive wellness programmer with the variously configured ENERGIZING COMFORT programmers and the individual recommendations of the ENERGIZING COACH. The new E-Class generation marks the debut of two innovations: The anti-travel sickness program of ENERGIZING COMFORT can help affected passengers to alleviate the symptoms. A bio-feedback function is planned for the ENERGIZING

COACH in the medium term. This can reduce the feeling of stress with breathing exercises.

With THERMOTRONIC automatic climate control (optional extra), Digital Vent Control enhances the comfort experience. It automatically adjusts the front air vents to a desired ventilation scenario. This can be done for each seat via the user profile, for example. However, the nozzles can also be aligned by hand as usual.

Numerous driving assistance systems, some of which have been developed further.

The standard equipment of the E-Class with driving assistance systems includes Active Distance Assist DISTRONIC, ATTENTION ASSIST, Active Brake Assist, Active Lane Keeping Assist, Parking Package with reversing camera and Speed Limit Assist. The status and activity of the driving assistance systems are shown as a full-screen view in the Assistance mode of the driver's display.

The Driving Assistance Plus package is also offered as an optional extra, for example as part of the Premium package. Components include Active Steering Assist, which assists with lane-keeping. As already on motorways, the E-Class can now also restart automatically in city traffic and on country roads after a longer standstill. Another new feature: If Active Steering Assist is no longer available because the lane markings are not clearly visible, it signals this to the driver by vibrations in the steering wheel.

Sophisticated body concept and coordinated restraint systems.

The safety concept of the E-Class is based on a body with a particularly rigid passenger cell and specifically deformable crash structures. The restraint systems, e.g. seat belts and airbags, are specifically adapted to this. In the event of an accident, they can be activated in such a way that their protective effect for the occupants is adapted to the situation.

In addition to driver and front passenger airbags, a knee airbag on the driver's side is also standard. It can protect the legs from contact with the steering column or instrument panel in a severe frontal crash. The standard windowbags can reduce the risk of head injuries. In the event of a serious side-on collision, the window airbag on the side of the impact extends from the A- to the C-pillar like a curtain over the front and rear side windows. If a rollover is detected, the window airbags can be activated on both sides. In addition to the head protection system, side airbags can also cover the thorax area in the event of a severe side impact - including on the outer rear seats (optional).

In addition, the vehicles are equipped with a center airbag, depending on the country. Pyrotechnic belt tensioners and belt force limiters are standard on all outer seats, as is belt height adjustment.

The E-Class as a long-standing success story.


Mercedes-Benz has produced more than 16 million upper mid-range vehicles since 1946. The heritage of the E-Class goes back to the very early days of the brand. At the beginning of the 20th century, the preceding companies from which Mercedes-Benz emerged brought corresponding vehicles to market.

The new Mercedes-Benz E-Class will be available for test drives and displayed in the Mercedes-Benz Flagship Showroom in Al Rai as well as the Mercedes-Benz Boutique in the Avenues. For more information and queries related to the new E-Class, please visit Al Mulla Automobiles Mercedes-Benz showroom in Al Rai, Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues, WhatsApp or call the customer center at 1887888 and follow the account on Instagram @MercedesBenzKuwait, or visit the website at www.mercedes-benz-mena.com/kuwait/en

New store serves a population of more than 92 thousand people

Sultan bolsters Kuwait presence with opening of 49th store in Mishref

DAI Storytime is back with Mash-Up Madness!



2 Books; 1 Play; many playwrights and actors (ages 3 - 12)!

DAI Storytime
Saturday, 13 January at 3:30 - 4:30, maybe 5
Amricani Cultural Centre

No registration is necessary, only a good attitude and a creative mind.

DAI Storytime poster.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Sultan Center Food Products Company (Sultan), announced today the opening of its 49th store in Kuwait. The new store, adjacent to the Yarmouk Sports Club in Mishref, is part of Sultan's 2025 vision to have a store within a ten-minute drive from any point in Kuwait's inhabited areas.

Sultan Vice Chairman Mr. Essam Al-Rifai said, "We're very excited to announce that starting today over 92,000 residents in Mishref and surrounding areas are now closer than ever to a Sultan shopping experience and the diverse choices of high-quality food and consumer goods we bring and become the preferred destination in the retail sector."

Mr. Al-Rifai added, "We pledged to open 20 new branches between 2020 and 2025. With the opening of this store in Mishref today, we have successfully launched 15 branches so far, and we are fully committed to achieving our plan to be closer to our customers."

Sultan CEO Ms. Khadija Oubala said, "Earlier this year, we celebrated the unveiling of Sultan's new identity coinciding with the launch of our Adailiya store."

Today, the new store in Mishref embodies our new identity and provides a wide range of in-demand local and international food products.

We are also excited to announce that the next phase of the Sultan Mishref project will feature an additional area of 4,000 square meters, including a variety of retail spaces, facilities, essential amenities, and support programs. This is designed to further enhance the shop-



Sultan Mishref Store

ping experience of Mishref's community, and create a dynamic hub for social interaction and economic growth. We look forward to revealing these new aspects and the ongoing development of Sultan."

Sultan Center Food Products Company is the largest independent retailer on the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

It owns and operates a network of over 70 stores in the Middle East. This includes 12

branches in Jordan, three branches in Bahrain, and eight branches in Oman. In Kuwait alone, Sultan operates 49 branches, spanning from Jahra to Nwaiseeb, through three distinct store formats.

These include 8 flagship stores, which cater to daily needs in every neighborhood; 11 Sultan Market stores; and 30 Sultan Express stores, which offer quick and convenient shopping options.

Obama, Mulaney and Burnett among the Emmy winners

LOS ANGELES, Jan 8, (AP): Barack Obama won his second Emmy, John Mulaney won his third, and Carol Burnett took her seventh Sunday on night two of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards.

Obama won the Emmy for best narrator for his Netflix documentary series, "Working: What We Do All Day," repeating in a category he previously won for narrating a Netflix series on national parks. He also has two Grammys for his voice work on the audiobooks of his two memoirs.

The former president, who was not at the ceremony at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, beat fellow nominees Morgan Freeman, Angela Bassett, Mahershala Ali and Pedro Pascal in what was by far the most star-studded category at the Creative Arts Emmys, a two-night award-show marathon that mostly honors less-than-famous artists, crew members and crafts people in television.

Mulaney won his Emmy for writing on his Netflix standup special, "Baby J," in which his work took a darker turn and dealt with his drug addiction and recovery.

"I can't wait to show this award to our son for a special he will never, ever be allowed to watch," Mulaney told wife Olivia Munn, with whom he has a 2-year-old, as he accepted the award.

He previously won Emmys for another standup special and for his writing on "Saturday Night Live."

The 90-year-old Burnett took the stage to accept the last award of the weekend when NBC's "Carol Burnett: 90 Years of Laughter + Love," won best prerecorded variety special.

The comic legend won the first of her seven Emmys in 1961 and took her most recent one in 1997.

The Creative Arts Emmys, which began Saturday and ended Sunday, are a precursor to the main Emmy ceremony that will air 8 p.m. Jan. 15 on Fox, with "black-ish" star Anthony Anderson as host. Just like the main telecast, the Creative Arts Emmys arrive after a four-month delay because of Hollywood's writers and actors strikes.

Sunday's night two, which focused largely on reality shows and

other unscripted TV, was largely overshadowed by the Golden Globe Awards, taking place simultaneously about 10 miles (16 kilometers) away in Beverly Hills.

Other winners included Keke Palmer, who took best game show host for "Password." "I Think You Should Leave with Tim Robinson" was named best short form comedy, drama or variety series; "Queer Eye" was named best structured reality show; and "Welcome to Wrexham" won for best unstructured reality show.

Saturday night's winners included Ed Sheeran, who won his first Emmy for co-writing the song "A Beautiful Game" for "Ted Lasso" on Apple TV+.

TV veterans Judith Light and Nick Offerman each won their first Emmy on Saturday for guest roles. Offerman won his for an episode of "The Last of Us," which took eight Creative Arts Emmys and is a favorite to win several more at the Jan. 15 main ceremony.

An edited version of the two-night ceremony airs Jan. 13 on cable channel FXX.

Emmys

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Cillian Murphy in a scene from 'Oppenheimer.' (AP)

Globes

'Poor Things' upsets 'Barbie' in comedy

'Oppenheimer' sweeps Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., Jan 8, (AP): Christopher Nolan's blockbuster biopic "Oppenheimer" dominated the 81st Golden Globes, winning five awards including best drama, while Yorgos Lanthimos' "Poor Things" pulled off an upset victor over "Barbie" to triumph in the best comedy or musical category.

If awards season has been building toward a second match-up of Barbenheimer, this round went to "Oppenheimer." The film also won best director for Nolan, best drama actor for Cillian Murphy, best supporting actor for Robert Downey Jr. and for Ludwig Göransson's score.

"I don't think it was a no-brainer by any stretch of the imagination to make a three-hour talky movie - R-rated by the way - about one of the darkest developments in our history," said producer Emma Thomas accepting the night's final award and thanking Universal chief Donna Langley.

Along with best comedy or musical, "Poor Things" also won for Emma Stone's performance as Bella, a Victorian-era woman experiencing a surreal sexual awakening.

"I see this as a rom-com," said Stone. "But in the sense that Bella falls in love with life itself, rather than a person. She accepts the good and the bad in equal measure, and that really made me look at life differently."

Lily Gladstone won best actress in a dramatic film for Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon." Gladstone, who began her speech speaking the language of her native tribe, Blackfoot Nation, is the first Indigenous winner in the category.

"This is a historic win," said Gladstone. "It doesn't just belong to me."

The Globes were in their ninth decade but facing a new and uncertain chapter. After a tumultuous few years of scandal, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association was dissolved, leaving a new Globes, on a new network (CBS), to try to regain its perch as the third biggest award show of the year, after the Oscars and Grammys. Even the menu (sushi from Nobu) was remade.

"Golden Globes journalists, thank you for changing your game, therefore changing your name," said Downey in his acceptance speech.

It got off to a rocky start. Host Jo Koy took the stage at the Beverly Hilton International Ballroom in Beverly Hills, California. The Filipino American stand-up hit on some expected topics: Ozempic, Meryl Streep's knack for winning awards and the long-running "Op-

penheimer." ("I needed another hour.")

After one joke flubbed, Koy, who was named host after some bigger names reportedly passed, also noted how fast he was thrust into the job.

"Yo, I got the gig 10 days ago. You want a perfect monologue?" said Koy. "I wrote some of these and they're the ones you're laughing at."

Downey's win, his third Globe, denied one to "Kenergy." Ryan Gosling had been seen as his stiffest competition, just one of the many head-to-head contests between "Oppenheimer" and Greta Gerwig's "Barbie." The filmmakers faced each other in the best director category, where Nolan triumphed.

It was two hours before "Barbie," the year's biggest hit with more than \$1.4 billion in ticket sales, won an award Sunday. Billie Eilish's "What Was I Made For?" took best song, and swiftly after, "Barbie" took the Globes' new honor for "cinematic and box office achievement." Some thought that award might go to Taylor Swift, whose "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" also set box-office records. Swift, though, remains winless in five Globe nods.

Sensations

Margot Robbie, star and producer of "Barbie," accepted the award in a pink gown modeled after 1977's Superstar Barbie.

"We'd like to dedicate this to every single person on the planet who dressed up and went to the greatest place on Earth: the movie theaters," said Robbie.

"Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," two blockbusters brought together by a common release date, also faced off in the best screenplay category. But in an upset, Justine Triet and Arthur Harari won for the script to the French courtroom drama "Anatomy of a Fall." Later, Triet's film picked up best international film, too.

Though the Globes have no direct correlation with the Academy Awards, they can boost campaigns at a crucial juncture. Oscar nomination voting starts Thursday, and the twin sensations of Barbenheimer remain frontrunners.

Other contenders loom, though, like "Poor Things" and "The Holdovers."

Paul Giamatti and Da'Vine Joy Randolph both won for Alexander Payne's "The Holdovers." Giamatti, reuniting with Payne two decades after "Sideways," won best actor and Randolph won for her supporting performance as a grieving woman in the 1970s-set boarding

school drama.

"Oh, Mary you have changed my life," Randolph said of her character. "You have made me feel seen in so many ways that I have never imagined."

Hayao Miyazaki's "The Boy and the Heron" won best animated film, an upset over "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse."

The final season of "Succession" cleaned up on the television side. It won best drama series for the third time, a mark that ties a record set by "Mad Men" and "The X-Files." Three stars from the HBO series also won: Matt Macfadyen, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin.

"It is bittersweet, but things like this make it rather sweeter," said "Succession" creator Jesse Armstrong. Hulu's "The Bear" also came away with a trio of awards, including best comedy series. Jeremy Allen White won for the second time, but this time he had company. Ayo Edebiri won her first Globe for her leading performance in the Hulu show's second season. She thanked the assistants of her agents and managers.

"To the people who answer my emails, you're the real ones," said Edebiri.

"Beef" won three awards: best limited series as well as acting awards for Ali Wong and Steven Yeun.

The Globes also added a new stand-up special award. That went, surprisingly, to Ricky Gervais, who didn't attend the show he so often hosted. Some expected Chris Rock to win for "Selective Outrage," his stand-up response to the Will Smith slap.

A few years ago, the Golden Globes were on the cusp of collapse. After The Los Angeles Times reported that the HFPA had no Black members, Hollywood boycotted the organization. The 2022 Globes were all but canceled and taken off TV. After reforms, the Globes returned to NBC last year in a one-year deal, but the show was bootlegged to Tuesday evening. With Jerrod Carmichael hosting, the telecast attracted 6.3 million viewers, a new low on NBC and a far cry from the 20 million that once tuned in.

The Golden Globes were acquired by Eldridge Industries and Dick Clark Productions, which Penske Media owns, and turned into a for-profit venture. The HFPA (which typically numbered around 90 voters) was dissolved and a group of some 300 entertainment journalists from around the world now vote for the awards.

Questions still remain about the Globes' long-term future, but their value to Hollywood studios remains providing a marketing boost to awards contenders. (The Oscars won't be held until March 10.)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

LOS ANGELES: Timothée Chalamet and "Wonka" topped the box office charts for the third time in its four weekends in theaters. Warner Bros.' family-oriented musical added \$14.4 million in ticket sales according to studio estimates Sunday, bringing its total domestic grosses to \$164.7 million.

"Wonka" is following in the tradition of a film like "The Greatest Showman," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. That Hugh Jackman musical opened under \$9 million in December 2017 and went on to gross \$435 million globally.

"Wonka" is a perfect crowd pleaser released at the perfect time and it's going to ride that wave into January," Dergarabedian said. "It's an opportune time for it to be in the marketplace."

After finishing 2023 on a high note, 2024 is getting off to a slower start than last year, down around 16%, with the Universal/Blumhouse horror "Night Swim" as the only major new offering in theaters. The movie stars Wyatt Russell and Kerry Condon as a couple with a sinister, supernatural swimming pool.

"Night Swim" drew in an estimated \$12 million in its first weekend in 3,250 theaters in North America against a reported \$15 million production budget. Including international showings in 36 markets, "Night Swim" is heading towards a \$17.7 million global debut.

"Not only did it perform really well at the box office, but it's going to make us look at every swimming pool with a little more trepidation," said Jim Orr, Universal's head of domestic distribution.

Horror movies are largely critic-proof, but with fairly negative reviews and a C CinemaScore rating, it's unlikely to repeat the viral success of last year's demon doll movie "M3GAN."

"We don't have 'Avatar: The Way of Water,' which totally dominated the box office a year ago, or 'M3GAN,' which made that a bigger weekend," said Dergarabedian. "But it's a bit early to call it in terms of how the year is going to turn out." (AP)

NEW YORK: A reporter who was fired for his standup comedy has been reinstated to his job at a

Philadelphia-based public radio station through an arbitrator, who agreed that his jokes were, in some part, funny.

Jad Sleiman, 34, is to be fully reinstated to his position with WHY?Y, a Philadelphia-based NPR station, after an arbitrator determined that, while the bits posted to social media could be



Chalamet



Jackman

interpreted as "inflammatory," the organization "rushed to judgment" in its decision to terminate him.

In a phone call Friday, Sleiman said he felt vindicated by the decision and plans to return to work.

"When a news organization says you're a racist, bigot, whatever, people believe them," he said.

"So it was a lot of abuse from a lot of people who have never met me, who've never seen my stand-up just saw what WHY?Y said about me, which is not great."

A message seeking comment emailed to WHY?Y was not immediately returned. Sleiman said he was considering further legal action for statements made by

WHYY about his character.

Sleiman had been working as a reporter on The Pulse, a nationally syndicated health and science program, since 2018 when he was terminated a year ago after executives found his social media account - under Jad S. or @jadslay - that posted clips of his standup comedy. (AP)

People & Places



Paul Giamatti poses with best actor award in a musical or comedy for 'The Holdovers'. (AP)



Christopher Nolan, (left), and Emma Thomas pose with the award for best motion picture, drama for 'Oppenheimer.' (AP)



Cillian Murphy, (left), best actor award winner and Robert Downey Jr., winner of best actor in a supporting role award pose with their awards. (AP)



Lily Gladstone poses with best actress award for 'Killers of the Flower Moon.' (AP)



Yorgos Lanthimos, (from left), Emma Stone, Willem Dafoe, Mark Ruffalo, and Ramy Youssef pose with the award for best motion picture, musical or comedy for 'Poor Things.' (AP)



Lee Sung Jin poses with the award for best television limited series or motion picture for 'Beef.' (AP)

List of Golden Globe winners

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., Jan 8, (AP): Winners at Sunday's Golden Globe Awards.

- Best Movie Drama: "Oppenheimer"
- Best Movie Musical Or Comedy: "Poor Things"
- Television Comedy Series: "The Bear"
- Television Drama Series: "Succession"
- Limited Series, Anthology Series Or Motion Picture Made For Television: "Beef"
- Cinematic And Box Office Achievement: "Barbie"
- Male Actor In A Movie Musical Or Comedy: Paul Giamatti, "The Holdovers"
- Female Actor In A Movie Musical Or Comedy: Emma Stone, "Poor Things"
- Actor In A Movie Drama: Cillian Murphy, "Oppenheimer"
- Female Actor In A Movie Drama: Lily Gladstone, "Killers of the Flower Moon"
- Female Actor In A Supporting Movie Role: Da'Vine Joy Randolph, "The Holdovers"
- Male Actor In A Supporting Movie Role: Robert Downey Jr., "Oppenheimer"
- Female Actor In A Limited Series, Anthology Series, Or A Motion Picture Made For Television: Ali Wong, "Beef"
- Actor In A Limited Series,

- Anthology Series, Or A Motion Picture Made For Television: Steven Yeun, "Beef"
- Supporting Female Actor In A Television Series: Elizabeth Debicki, "The Crown"
- Supporting Male Actor In A Television Series: Matthew Macfadyen, "Succession"
- Best Screenplay: "Anatomy of a Fall," Justine Triet and Arthur Harari
- Female Actor In A Television Drama: Sarah Snook, "Succession"
- Male Actor In A Television Comedy: Jeremy Allen White, "The Bear"
- Stand-Up Comedy Television Special: Ricky Gervais, "Armageddon"
- Best Motion Picture, Non-English: "Anatomy of a Fall" (France)
- Female Actor In A Television Comedy: Ayo Edebiri, "The Bear"
- Male Actor In A Television Drama: Kieran Culkin, "Succession"
- Animated Film: "The Boy and the Heron"
- Director: Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer"
- Score: "Oppenheimer," Ludwig Göransson
- Original Song: "What Was I Made For?" from "Barbie," music and lyrics by Billie Eilish O'Connell and Finneas O'Connell



Elizabeth Debicki with her award for best supporting actor in a television series for 'The Crown.' (AP)



Edwin Lee Gibson, (from left), Matty Matheson, Jeremy Allen White, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Liza Colon-Zayas, Ayo Edebiri, Lionel Boyce, and Abby Elliott, winners of the award for 'The Bear.' (AP)



Da'Vine Joy Randolph poses with best actress award in supporting role for 'The Holdovers.' (AP)



Finneas, (left), and Billie Eilish pose with award for best original song for 'What Was I Made For?' (AP)

Fashion



Dua Lipa



Margot Robbie



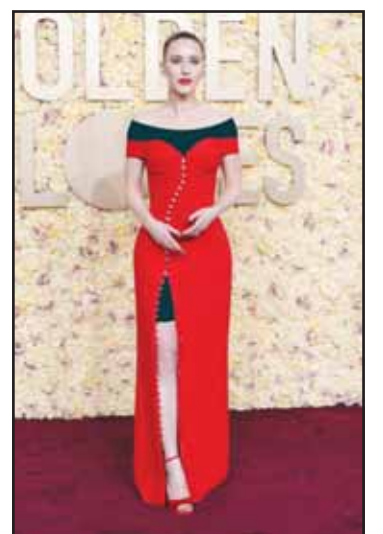
Taylor Swift



Jennifer Lopez



Greta Gerwig



Rachel Brosnahan

Celebrities shine in Gucci, Armani, and Valentino on Globes red carpet

Swift stuns in shimmery green and Robbie goes full Barbie

NEW YORK, Jan 8, (AP): Taylor Swift stunned in shimmery acid green custom Gucci at the newfangled Golden Globes. Sandra Hüller swept onto the red carpet in goddess green and Margot Robbie went full Barbie in pink custom Armani Privé at Sunday's start of the rush-rush awards season.

Colman Domingo honored the man he portrays in "Rustin" - activist Bayard Rustin - in a Nehru tuxedo adorned with pins, while Lily Gladstone, a star of "Killers of the Flower Moon" and a red carpet newcomer, wore Valentino, a white gown with a black overcoat. She had a Bulgari diamond choker around her neck, later winning a Globe for best actress in a dramatic film.

Fashion risk-taker Timothée Chalamet, the latest "Wonka," donned a bedazzled black jacket with black skinny trousers and a low-buttoned black shirt. His designer: Celine Homme.

Swift's stunner by Gucci's Sabato De Sarno included three straps at the back. Robbie, the star and a producer of the blockbuster and heavily nominated "Barbie" film, wore a hot pink sequined gown with a pink tulle boa. Her look was modeled on Superstar Barbie from 1977.

sparkle, but with its bright color and slinky silhouette, it was definitely one of her more interesting looks in recent memory.

Hüller, the "Anatomy of a Fall" star, chose a color from Louis Vuitton somewhere between emerald and sea green in Beverly Hills, California. Her bodice was fitted with skinny straps paired with a skirt of gentle pleats that fell to a train.

Jewels

Show host Jo Koy, Christian Friedel, Matty Matheson, Daniel Pemberton and Justin Hartley all went wide on the lapels of their tuxedos. Colman Domingo went in a different direction in a custom black look by Louis Vuitton's new men's creative director, Pharrell Williams. He accessorized with pins of pearl and red jewels, and a single pearl earring.

"(Jawaharlal) Nehru was actually, you know, the first prime minister of India, and he was a colleague of Bayard Rustin, who I am representing tonight as a leading actor in a film. So it all tells the story. So for me, I was like, oh, Nehru. He represented peace and strength and love," Domingo told The Associated Press.

As for his earring, he smiled: "Pearl. Why not? Because why not?" The buttons of his jacket were also pearl.

Dua Lipa showed up in custom Schiaparelli with a Tiffany & Co. necklace from 1962. Helen Mirren went for two hues of purple, including a coat, from Dolce & Gabbana. Julia Schläpfer, meanwhile, walked in a

white Old Hollywood gown from Danielle Frankel with a flawless drape at the high neck and no back.

Jennifer Lopez also went Old Hollywood in strapless light pink with huge floral sleeves by Nicole + Felicia Couture. Greta Gerwig, the "Barbie" director, wore custom Fendi couture in black, including long black gloves to go with the sculptural silk duchesse look. Jennifer Aniston also went for black, her dress a strapless look with a scallop-pattern skirt. It was Dolce & Gabbana. She rocked her iconic "Rachel" haircut from her "Friends" days.

"It may sound cheesy but it really

is true that Old Hollywood glamour is making a comeback on the post-writer strike red carpet," said Brooke Bobb, fashion news director for Harper's Bazaar.

Gillian Anderson won the night when it came to motifs. The "Sex Education" star was dressed in an ivory strapless gown by Gabriela Hearst embroidered with vaginas.

Why? She told Deadline there were many reasons, the top one this: "It's brand appropriate."

Quinta Brunson, often a fashion standout, wore a sparkly Balmain gown in champagne that fell to her

ankles with a crossover neck and an understated sparkle.

"If the Golden Globes were any indication, we're in the midst of a new Hollywood Gilded Age when it comes to fashion," Hirsch said. "Everyone from Emma Stone to Quinta Brunson glimmered and glittered in shimmering gowns that caught the light. Even Taylor Swift got in on the action wearing a very reputation-coded green sequin gown."

A gaggle of stars made a statement in red: Da'Vine Joy Randolph with a broad peplum at the waist and ruffles at her low-cut neckline from Rodarte,

and Alma Pöysti in a shiny off-shoulder number and a full ballgown skirt. Heidi Klum also represented the red crew in a strapless look with a huge, high-slit skirt. Selena Gomez, also in red, wore a fun gown with an asymmetrical hemline that began above the knee.

Standout

Rachel Brosnahan (Sergio Hudson), Julianne Moore (Bottega Veneta), Florence Pugh (Valentino), Danielle Brooks (Moschino) and Ayo Edebiri (Prada) also wore red. So did a couple of standout men, including Barry Keoghan of "Saltburn" in Louis Vuitton and John Krasinski, who paired his shiny red jacket with purple trousers.

"I love how every carpet, one color sort of pops. We've had a lot of yellow and pink but red is such a classic red carpet color," said Andrea Lavinthal, editorial director for style and beauty at People.

Pugh debuted a brand new mohawk on the carpet.

"She always delivers an interesting hair look, and this night was no exception. The cool blonde color and 80s-rockstar styling were punk perfection, and paired with her sheer Valentino gown, all eyes were on her this evening," Hirsch said.

Others sparkled in silver, including Julia Garner in a risqué look with chunky embellishment and cut-out sides by Gucci. Issa Rae went for metallic orange from Pamella Roland's spring/summer 2024 collection. It had a geometric tile sequin design.



Selena Gomez



Julia Garner



Jennifer Aniston

The Conversation

Experts aim to enhance precision, efficacy of radiation therapy

Personalized radiotherapy takes center stage in cancer battle

By Behzad Ebrahimi and Mark Korpics
University of Chicago

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

Nearly half of all cancer patients undergo radiation therapy as part of their care. Ionizing radiation, or the emission of high-energy waves or particles, works as a therapy by damaging a cancer cell's DNA. It's an effective tool for killing cancer cells because they are generally much less adept at DNA repair compared to healthy cells. Damaging specific parts of DNA prevents cancer cells from reproducing, effectively killing them.

A major limitation of radiation therapy is the damage it may cause as it passes through healthy organs to get to tumors located deep in the body. The need to protect healthy organs limits the dose of radiation that can be delivered to cancerous tissue, thereby reducing the chance of successful treatment.

Overcoming this challenge has long been a mission for medical physicists and radiation oncologists like us. Improvements to radiotherapy will enable clinicians to not only better control tumors overall, but also open the door for more favorable outcomes in patients with cancers that are more resistant to radiation.

At the heart of radiation therapy lies the fundamental principle that cancer cells are more susceptible to radiation than healthy cells. However, there are exceptions. Sometimes resistance to radiation in cancer cells may be comparable or even greater than that of their neighboring cells.

When tumors lie close to vital organs that are highly sensitive to radiation, such as the brain or the bowels, it significantly limits the amount of radiation that can be delivered. In cases where tumors are significantly less sensitive to radiation than the organs surrounding it, radiotherapy may not be the best choice.

Toxicity

Patient immobilization is another key aspect to reducing toxicity from radiation. Patients need to be completely motionless during treatments to ensure that the beam of radiation mainly targets tumors and not the healthy tissues surrounding them. If a patient moves during treatment, it can mean the radiation beam is partly or even entirely missing the cancer target. This scenario both underdoses the cancer and increases the risk of harming healthy tissue.

There are a few common types of radiotherapy that deliver radiation in different ways:

External beam radiation involves directing radiation from an outside source to a single part of the body.

Linear accelerators, commonly referred to as LINACs, are currently the most common technology used in radiation treatments. These machines generate beams of high-energy electrons and X-rays that can be aimed at cancer tissue with precision. The high energy of these beams allows in-depth penetration into the body to reach tumors.

Another form of radiotherapy is proton beam therapy, or PBT, which directs protons instead of X-rays at tumors. Currently, PBT is only available at a limited number of locations. It is typically recommended for specific populations such as pediatric patients because, unlike X-rays, it has an adjustable range that minimizes the effects of radiation on organs beyond the target area, potentially reducing toxicity.

In the early 2000s, researchers incorporated CT scanners into LINACs. This enabled real-time imaging of the patient's anatomy just before or during treatment. By acting as the eyes of the care team, imaging reduced uncertainty about the location of tumors and improved the precision and accuracy of radiation therapy.

Newer linear accelerators are now incorporating MRIs, which significantly improve visualization of patient anatomy and tumors, further advancing treatment precision and accuracy.

Researchers are also adding positron emission tomography, or PET, scanners that provide information about the metabolic function of tumors. This advance makes it possible to increase the radiation dose specifically at the most active areas of tumors.

An emerging approach to radiation therapy called adaptive therapy uses imaging to dynamically adjust treatment as the tumor or its positioning changes each day.

Adaptive

In conventional radiation therapy, patients receive the same treatment plan across multiple treatment sessions. However, adaptive therapy may apply several adjustments or lead to a completely new treatment plan in order to address changes to the tumor's condition over the course of treatment.

Historically, the concept of adaptive therapy was more theoretical than practical. It faced many challenges, including a lack of suitable imaging technologies. Additionally, creating a treatment plan involves heavy computational work and collaboration among various specialties within a care team. The fact that the process needs to be repeated multiple times renders adaptive therapy particularly resource-intensive and time-consuming. However, researchers are looking into ways to use artificial intelligence to automate some of these steps to make this approach more practical.

Brachytherapy — stemming from the Greek word "brachys," meaning "short" — is another widely used method in radiation therapy. It involves placing a radioactive source called a seed near or directly inside a tumor or affected area, reducing the distance from the radiation source to its target.

In contrast to external beam radiation therapy, where radiation often must pass through healthy tissue to reach cancer cells, brachytherapy applies radiation directly to the tumor. This technique is particularly advantageous for certain cancer types that are accessible through noninvasive or minimally invasive procedures, such as skin cancers, gynecological tumors and genitourinary tumors.

The conventional approach to brachytherapy involved using needles to place or inject radioactive seeds inside or adjacent to the cancerous tissue. These seeds would remain in the body either temporarily or permanently, with the goal of irradiating the area at a low dose over a long period of time.

An increasingly popular form of brachytherapy called high-dose rate brachytherapy involves using a tube to guide a more highly radioactive seed directly to the affected tissue before removing it after a few minutes. The seed emits a high dose of radiation in a short period of time, which enables clinicians to treat patients quickly in an outpatient setting.

Radiation therapy is continually evolving to more effectively and precisely treat cancer. (AP)

Researchers work out a few remaining kinks

Drugs of the future will be easier and faster to make, thanks to mRNA tech

By Li Li

UMass Chan Medical School



Sir Roy Calne, of Cambridge University, delivers an acceptance speech after receiving the 2012 Lasker DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for developing liver transplantation, an intervention that has restored normal life to thousands of patients with end-stage liver disease, Sept. 21, 2012 in New York. (AP)

Remembering a medical giant

Pioneering 'transplant' surgeon Prof Calne dies

LONDON, Jan 8, (AP) — Roy Calne, a pioneer of organ transplantation who led Europe's first liver transplant operation in 1968, has died aged 93.

Calne's family said he died late Saturday in Cambridge, England, where he was professor emeritus of surgery at Cambridge University.

Born in 1930, Calne trained as a doctor at Guy's Hospital in London and developed an interest in organ transplantation in the 1950s - partly inspired, he later said, by his father's work as a car mechanic. At the time he was told the procedure would be impossible.

He is considered one of the fathers of organ transplantation, alongside American scientist Dr. Thomas Starzl. Their work on the surgical procedure and treatment to prevent organ rejection was done initially on dogs. In 1960, Calne's dog experiments demonstrated for the first time that a drug could fend off organ rejection. Starzl attempted the first human liver transplant in 1963. That patient died during the procedure.

The next several patients also died within weeks of their transplants, but the surgeries showed that transplanted livers could function.

"It was terrible at the beginning. We had so many dreadful complications," Calne said in 1999.

In May 1968, Calne led a transplant operation on a 46-year-old woman with liver cancer, at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. The patient died two months later of an infection resulting from the immunosuppressive drugs given to prevent rejection.

Calne focused on finding better ways to stop patients' bodies rejecting donor organs. He helped develop the breakthrough anti-rejection drug cyclosporine and was the first physician to administer it to transplant patients.

Anti-rejection drugs transformed patients' survival chances, and liver transplants have saved thousands of lives since they gained wide acceptance in the 1980s.

Calne also helped carry out the world's first triple liver, lung and heart transplant in 1986 and in 1994 led a six-organ transplant of liver, kidney, stomach, duodenum, small intestine and pancreas.

In 1974, Calne was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society, the British national academy of science, and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1986.

In 2012, Calne and Starzl shared the prestigious Lasker Award for their research. In 2021, Addenbrooke's Hospital named its transplant unit, one of Britain's largest, after Calne.

Vaccines have been reliably and affordably protecting people from diseases worldwide for centuries. Until the COVID-19 pandemic, however, vaccine development was still a long and idiosyncratic process. Traditionally, researchers had to tailor manufacturing processes and facilities for each vaccine candidate, and the scientific knowledge gained from one vaccine was often not directly transferable to another.

But the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines brought a new approach to vaccine development that has far-reaching implications for how researchers make drugs to treat many other diseases.

I am a biochemist, and my lab at UMass Chan Medical School focuses on developing better ways to use mRNA as a drug. Although there are many possibilities for what researchers can use mRNA to treat, some important limitations remain. Better understanding how mRNA-based drugs interact with the immune system and how they are degraded in human cells can help lead to safe, durable and effective treatments for a wide range of diseases.

Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is made of four building blocks denoted by the letters A, C, G and U. The sequence of letters in an mRNA molecule conveys genetic information that directs how a protein is made.

An mRNA drug comprises two essential components: mRNA molecules, which code for desired proteins, and the lipid molecules - such as phospholipids and cholesterol - that encapsulate them. These mRNA-lipid nanoparticles, or LNPs, are tiny spheres about 100 nanometers in diameter that protect mRNA from degradation and facilitate its delivery into target cells.

Once inside cells, mRNA molecules instruct the cell's machinery to produce the target protein required for a desired therapeutic effect. For example, the mRNA in the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines directs cells to produce a harmless version of the virus' spike protein that trains the immune system to recognize and better prepare for potential infection.

From a drug development perspective, mRNA drugs offer significant advantages over traditional drugs because they are easily programmable. Hundreds of pounds of mRNA can be made from readily available DNA templates, such that producing a different mRNA drug is as simple as changing the corresponding DNA templates.

Properties

More importantly, different mRNA drugs produced by the same set of methods will have similar properties. They will be delivered to the same tissues, trigger similar levels of immune responses and degrade in similar ways. This predictability significantly reduces the development risks and financial costs of developing mRNA drugs.

In addition to being easy to program, mRNA drugs have several other unique properties. For example, just like the mRNAs your body naturally produces, therapeutic mRNAs have a short half-life in cells: about one day. As a result, current mRNA technology is ideal for treatments that aren't meant to last long in the body.

This is why vaccines are popular candidates for mRNA technology: They provide long-term protection against disease after brief exposure to the drug with few side effects. There are currently more than 30 mRNA vac-

cine candidates, not including vaccines for COVID-19, in clinical trials.

Another critical feature of mRNA drugs is their intrinsic ability to stimulate the immune system. This may sound paradoxical - after all, your cells already contain large amounts of mRNAs. Why would other mRNAs activate your immune system? How does your immune system distinguish between self and nonself mRNAs?

The first reason involves location. Therapeutic mRNAs enter cells using endosomes - sacs made of the cell's membrane that take in materials from the cell's environment. Your immune system can detect mRNA in endosomes because this is usually a sign of an RNA virus infection - cellular mRNAs normally don't enter endosomes. When your immune system labels therapeutic mRNAs as viral material, it triggers a strong inflammatory response that can lead to severe side effects.

Chemical

One solution to this problem is to modify mRNA's building blocks - specifically, changing the U, or uridine, to its chemical cousins, pseudouridine and N1-methylpseudouridine. This subtle chemical change prevents the unwanted immune response while allowing the therapeutic mRNA to direct the cell to make the protein it encodes. The 2023 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine was awarded to the scientists who made this breakthrough discovery. Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 mRNA vaccines use this technique.

The second source of unwanted immune response is impurities from mRNA production. To prepare mRNA from a DNA template, scientists use a protein called RNA polymerase that tends to make a small amount of side product called double-stranded RNA. Unlike mRNA, which is single-stranded, double-stranded RNA has two chains that form a double helix. RNA viruses also form double-stranded RNA when they replicate, and exposing cells to double-stranded RNA can lead to a strong immune response.

Removing double-stranded RNA is challenging, especially at the industrial scale. Fortunately, for mRNA vaccines, the residual amount of double-stranded RNA can stimulate the immune system to enhance antibody responses. However, for applications other than vaccines, a cleaner RNA product is necessary to reduce side effects.

Although mRNA has the potential to transform drug development for various medical purposes, careful consideration is required to identify targets that align with the technology's strengths.

For example, because there is currently a limit to how long mRNA can last in the body, treatments that need a protein to be present for only a short period of time to achieve a lasting therapeutic effect are ideal. One promising example in development is using mRNA that encodes CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing proteins to knock out genes that cause specific diseases.

Researchers are exploring this strategy to develop a single-dose treatment for hereditary transthyretin amyloidosis, a rare genetic disease caused by the accumulation of misfolded proteins in the heart and nerves. This disease is an ideal target for mRNA-based CRISPR gene therapy because the target protein is produced by the liver. Because most drugs pass through the liver, this makes it easier to deliver CRISPR-Cas9 mRNA to its target. In the next few years, a new generation of more precise mRNA-based genome editing therapies will enter clinical trials. (AP)

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SPORTS

League takes a hiatus until next Feb

Al-Salmiya look to end 6-game drought

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Today marks the conclusion of the fourteenth round matches, featuring a pivotal encounter between Salmiya and Al-Jahra at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 5:35 pm.

Following this, the league competition will take a hiatus until next February, due to the involvement of certain professionals in the Asian Cup of Nations and the African Cup of Nations. The Amir's Cup is scheduled to commence on January 26.

Al-Jahra, currently positioned tenth

with a mere two points, must secure victory in this crucial face-off to sustain its hopes of remaining in the competition and securing a spot among the Premier League clubs for the upcoming season.

SOCCER

A draw or loss would significantly diminish its chances, especially considering Khaithan in ninth place with 7 points, Al-Shabab in eighth with 11 points, and Al-Fahaheel in seventh with 15 points.

Conversely, Al-Salmiya, boasting

17 points, aims to replicate its earlier triumph over Al-Jahra, having defeated them 2-1 in the first division.

The team is eager to reignite its winning streak, having been absent from victories in the last six rounds, accumulating 5 draws and one defeat.

In another hard-fought match of the same round, Al-Qadisiya secured a challenging victory against Al-Nasr with a lone goal scored by Eid Al-Rashidi in stoppage time during the first half.

This win propels the "Yellow" team to second place in the Premier League standings with 32 points,

trailing leaders Kuwait by just one point. Al-Nasr, on the other hand, remains in fourth place with a score of 21 points.

The victory did not come easily for Al-Qadisiya, as it faced significant challenges throughout the match. Despite periods of less convincing play, it managed to secure three crucial points. Al-Nasr exhibited offensive boldness, with a goal by Colombian Hansel Zapata being disallowed due to offside in the first half.

Additionally, Zapata missed a penalty in the second half, shooting it high over the goal in a moment lacking concentration.



Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Football Association.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef extends congratulations to Sheikh Hamad

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Football Association, warmly congratulated Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani on his recent appointment as the Minister of Youth and Sports in Qatar. Sheikh Al-Yousef expressed his sincere felicitations and commended Sheikh Hamad's selection, highlighting it as a testament to the trust bestowed upon him by the political leadership in Qatar.

Emphasizing the significance

of choosing Sheikh Hamad for the role, Sheikh Al-Yousef underscored that this decision reflects a commitment to the principle of placing the right individual in the right position. He further lauded Sheikh Hamad's wealth of experience in the sports arena, citing a friendship that spans over two decades. Sheikh Al-Yousef acknowledged Sheikh Hamad's remarkable track record of success and his substantial contributions to sports, noting the significant achievements he has brought to both Qatar and Gulf sports over the years.

Team seeks input from 'General' for new coach

Al-Qadisiya Board of Directors target external training camp

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: The Al-Qadisiya Board of Directors has decided to organize an external training camp for the team, a move initiated immediately after the appointment of the new coach, who will be taking over from the team's former coach, Muhammad Ibrahim.

SOCCER

Board member Muhammad Reda Marafi emphasized that the Al-Qadisiya administration is actively seeking the input of the "General" to select the new coach. He expressed gratitude to the support staff, led by Saleh Al-Sheikh and Hassan Fadel, for their leadership during the previous period.

Regarding the contract renewal of player Eid Al-Rashidi, Marafi clarified that the player remains under contract until the end of the season. He indicated that discussions on this matter would be facilitated with the club's management and the incoming technical staff.

Al-Qadisiya has initiated negotiations with multiple coaches as potential successors to the departing coach. Among the contenders are Serbian Dragan Talajic, Croatians Dalibor Starkevich and Ante Misha, as well as Spaniard Pablo Franco.

In other team news, player Abdulaziz Wadi has been discharged from the hospital following tests that confirmed his well-being. Wadi had experienced a collision



Algeria's Sofiane Bouchard controls the ball.

with teammate Abdullah Mutawa, resulting in a loss of consciousness and prompting the need for medical assessments.

On the other hand, Algerian Al Arabi professional Sofiane Bouchard left for his country yesterday, after ending his association with the team for family reasons.

Al-Akhdar contracted with Bouchard last summer, but the death of his father last October forced him to terminate his contract with Al-Arabi due to the necessity of being with his family.

Reports indicate that his former club, Chabab Belouizdad of Algeria, wants to restore Bouchard's services during the winter transfer period.

Lakers hold off Clippers to halt 4-game 'losing' streak



Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray (27) drives to the rim as Detroit Pistons center Jalen Duren (0) defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game. (AP)

Green back on the practice floor with Warriors

LOS ANGELES, Jan 8, (AP): LeBron James had 25 points, eight rebounds and seven assists and the Los Angeles Lakers snapped a four-game losing streak with a 106-103 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday night.

Anthony Davis had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who beat the Clippers for the second straight time after losing 11 straight to their hallway rivals.

Norman Powell's 3-point attempt rattled in and out at the buzzer as the Lakers hung on to beat one of the NBA's hottest teams. The Lakers also won for only the fourth time in 14 games since winning the NBA's Inaugural In-Season Tournament.

BASKETBALL

Paul George scored 22 points and Ivica Zubac had 22 points and 19 rebounds for the Clippers, whose five-game winning streak ended.

Mavericks 115, Timberwolves 108
In Dallas, Kyrie Irving made the tying and go-ahead 3-pointers, finishing with 35 points to lead Dallas over Minnesota.

Irving shot 14 of 27, including 6 of 8 from 3-point range. Luka Doncic added 34 points on 12-of-26 shooting, including 5 of 12 on 3s.

Irving's 3 tied it at 106 with 2:59 remaining. He then stole the ball from Rudy Gobert and made another 3 from the right corner with 2:05 to play.

Pelicans 133, Kings 100

In Sacramento, CJ McCollum scored 30 points, making seven 3-pointers, and New Orleans led by 50 points in a rout of Sacramento.

Jonas Valanciunas added 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans, who have won six straight on the road and all four matchups this season against the Kings, including a quarterfinal victory in Sacramento in the In-Season Tournament.

Brandon Ingram also scored 15 points.

Both teams, which are in the middle of the pack in the Western Conference playoff picture, entered the game having won four of five. The Pelicans had won four straight before losing by 16 to the Clippers at home on Friday.

Raptors 133, Warriors 118

In San Francisco, RJ Barrett scored a season-high 37 points in his fourth game since being traded to hometown Toronto, leading the Raptors past Golden State.

Stephen Curry had an especially

Olympic team off to Thailand

Kuwait delegation heads to Cairo for training camp

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: The Kuwaiti national soccer team embarks on a journey to the Egyptian capital, Cairo, where they will establish an external training camp lasting until January 22. During their stay in Egypt, Kuwait will engage in two friendly matches. The first is against

Libya next Friday, followed by a second encounter with Uganda on the 19th of the same month. The Kuwait opted out of the upcoming Asian Cup competitions, commencing next Friday in Doha, Qatar. Instead, their focus is on preparing for the forthcoming challenges, particularly

the double-header against Qatar in March for the joint qualifiers leading to the 2026 World Cup finals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, as well as the 2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia. Simultaneously, the Olympic team's delegation is also departing today for Thailand to establish an external training camp, spanning until January 22. Throughout this period, the team will participate in a series of friendly matches. This camp serves as a crucial component of the preparations for the AFC U-23 Championship, scheduled to take place in Qatar from April 13 to May 3.



Kuwait players hold training session.

off night, finishing 2 for 14 with nine points and missing all nine of his 3-pointers in his second-lowest scoring total this season.

Nuggets 131, Pistons 114

In Denver, Jamal Murray scored a season-high 37 points, Nikola Jokic had 16 assists and Denver handed Detroit its 18th straight road loss.

Jokic was more distributor and shot blocker than scorer, taking just three shots and finishing with four points.

The two-time NBA MVP tied a career high with five blocked shots in between setting teammates up for easy buckets around the rim.

Jalen Duren led Detroit with 20 points. The Pistons fell to 1-19 away from home, with their lone road win Oct. 27 at Charlotte.

Trail Blazers 134, Nets 127, OT

In New York, Anfernee Simons had 38 points and 11 assists, Malcolm Brogdon scored eight of his 18 points during Portland's nearly flawless overtime against Brooklyn.

Jerami Grant added 27 points and Shaedon Sharpe chipped in 21 off the bench for the Trail Blazers. They snapped a four-game losing streak and won for the first time in eight road games.

Mikal Bridges scored 42 points and made the tying jumper with 1.5 sec-

onds remaining in regulation. But Portland then shot 6 for 7 in overtime, with Brogdon hitting all three shots, including two 3-pointers.

Grizzlies 121, Suns 114

In Phoenix, Jaren Jackson Jr. had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Memphis, playing without Ja Morant, overcame an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Phoenix.

Marcus Smart added 25 points and Desmond Bane had 23, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:30 to play. Morant was sidelined because of soreness in his right shoulder.

Magic 117, Hawks 110, OT

In Orlando, Paolo Banchero scored eight of his 35 points in overtime and Orlando beat Atlanta.

Caleb Houstan added a career-high 25 points in his first start of the season. Trae Young had 31 points and nine assists for Atlanta. Dejounte Murray added 24 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic had 18 points.

Cavaliers 117, spurs 115

In Cleveland, Jarrett Allen had 29 points and 16 rebounds, Caris LeVert added 23 points and Cleveland beat San Antonio for its third straight victory.

Victor Wembanyama had 24 points, 10 rebounds and five blocked for San Antonio.

UAE wrap up preparatory camp ahead of Cup

ABU DHABI, Jan 8: UAE concluded its preparatory camp on Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi. The team, under the guidance of Portuguese coach Paulo Bento and his assistants, wrapped up their training at New York University Stadium. This preparation is in anticipation of the upcoming Asian Cup finals, scheduled to take place in the Qatari capital, Doha, from January 12 to February 10.

The national team delegation is set to depart for Doha today, comprising a squad of 26 players. The roster includes Khaled Issa, Ali Khasif, Khaled Tawhid, Khaled Al Hashimi, Khalifa Al Hammadi, Mohammed Al Attas, Ahmed Jameel, Khaled Al Dhanhani, Zayed Sultan, Abdul Rahman Saleh, Abdullah Idris, and Badr Nasser. Other players making the journey are Ali Salmin, Yahya Nader, Muhammad Abbas, Majed Rashid, Abdullah Ramadan, Tahnoon Al Zaabi, Abdullah Hamad, Yahya Al Ghassani, Hareb Abdul-

lah, Fabio de Lima, Ali Saleh, Sultan Adel, Ali Mabkhout, and Caio Canedo.

Throughout the camp, the national team engaged in two friendly matches. The first saw them secure victory against the Kyrgyz national team with a lone goal scored by Ali Mabkhout.

SOCCER

However, in the second friendly, they faced a defeat against the Omani team, with the opponent securing a single goal. The technical staff prioritized the involvement of a substantial number of players in both matches to assess their technical and physical readiness for the upcoming tournament.



UAE coach looks on as players intensify training for the Asian Cup.



Chris Kirk holds the champions trophy after the final round of The Sentry golf event at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii. (AP) - See Page 14

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

High hopes as Al-Adwani leads the delegation

Kuwait depart to Bahrain for Asian Handball Championship

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: Kuwait national handball team is set to embark on its journey to the Kingdom of Bahrain for the 21st Asian Handball Championship, scheduled from January 11-25. The championship also serves 2025 World Cup Qualifiers.

Leading the delegation is the Secretary General of the Handball Federation, Qayed Al-Adwani, accompanied by Treasurer Khaled Talib, Federation member Mubarak Al-Daihani, and administrative staff represented by the Director of National Teams, Faisal Siwan, Director of the First Team, Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, and the technical staff led by Algerian Saeed Hegazy and his compatriot, Mohammed Masoudan. The team is further supported by physical trainer Issam Al-Lahyani, physical therapist Muhammad Mahdi, goalkeeper coach Ayman Al-Sheikh, and national team worker Masoud Rana.

The squad comprises 20 players, including goalkeepers Mahdi Khan, Abdulaziz Al-Dhafiri, and Hassan Safar. Other members include Abdullah Al-Khamis, Saleh Al-Moussawi, Ahmed Al-Qattan, Haidar Dashti, Muhammad Al-Hindal, Muhammad Al-Erian, Youssef Daif, Muhammad Al-Sanea, Mishari Siwan, Hussein Karam, Saad Al-Haidari, Saif Al-Adwani, Muhammad Ali, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Fawaz Al-Shammari, Abdulaziz Salmeen, and Fawaz Abdulhadi.

Prior to their departure, the handball team concluded their last local

training session, with coach Saeed Hegazy refining the squad for their upcoming matches, starting with the opening fixture against the Omani team next Friday. The group stage also features matches against China, Taipei, and Qatar. The team recently participated in a training camp abroad, engaging in trial matches with the Slovenia Olympic team, as well as the Saudi and Georgian teams, during their stay in Croatia and Slovenia.

HANDBALL

Abdulaziz Al-Zaabi, the director of the handball team, expressed optimism about the team's potential to qualify for the World Cup finals despite facing formidable opponents such as the Qatari team, the host country Bahrain, Japan (already qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics), South Korea, and Iran. Al-Zaabi emphasized the team's commitment to presenting a performance befitting Kuwaiti handball and their determination to hoist the Kuwaiti flag high in this significant Asian forum.

Several players voiced their eagerness for the national team to make a strong showing in the Asian Championship and secure one of the four qualifying spots for the upcoming World Cup. Abdulaziz Al-Shammari highlighted the notable cooperation between players and the technical and administrative staff, showcasing everyone's commitment to seeing the team return to podium success.



Kuwaiti players hold their final training session.

Barca edge Barbastro to reach round of 16

Valencia avoid Copa upset against 10-man Cartagena

MADRID, Jan 8, (AP): Barcelona struggled more than expected in a 3-2 win over fourth-division club Barbastro in the third round of the Copa del Rey on Sunday.

It was another lackluster performance for Barcelona, but enough to send the Catalan club into the round of 16.

SOCCER

"We suffered more than necessary," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández said. "It's a game in which you can score several goals, but when you don't, you end up suffering more than expected."

Barcelona was coming off hard-fought wins against last-place Almeria and mid-table Las Palmas in the Spanish league. It hadn't won in three straight games before that in all competitions.

Fermin López opened the scoring for Barcelona with a low shot from near the penalty spot after a cross by Raphinha in the 18th minute, and the



Arsenal's Jakub Kiwior, (center top), hits the ball to score an own goal during the English FA Cup soccer match between Arsenal and Liverpool at Emirates stadium in London. Liverpool won 2-0. (AP)

Brazil forward added to the lead himself from close range in the 51st.

The hosts pulled closer with a goal by Adriá de Mesa off a corner in the 60th before Robert Lewandowski came off the bench to add Barcelona's

third by converting an 88th-minute penalty kick. Marc Prat Serrano scored for Barbastro again three minutes into stoppage time.

Barcelona forward João Félix had a goal disallowed for offside near halftime.

Xavi rested several of his regular starters ahead of the trip to Saudi Arabia to play in the Spanish Super Cup.

Barcelona defender Inigo Martínez had to be replaced about 10 minutes after he entered the game in the second half because of an injury. He was returning from another injury that had sidelined him for about a month.

Barbastro had eliminated Almeria in the previous round.

Valencia needed extra time to win 2-1 and escape an upset against 10-man Cartagena, the last-place team in Spain's second division.

Sergi Canós equalized in the 73rd after the hosts had taken the lead through Alfredo Ortuño four minutes into the match. José Luis Gayà netted the winner in the first half of extra time.

Cartagena played a man down after midfielder Iván Calero was sent off in first-half stoppage time.

Other topflight clubs to beat lower-division teams on Sunday included Athletic Bilbao, Celta Vigo, Mallorca, Sevilla, Real Sociedad and Osasuna.

Bilbao cruised past Eibar 3-0, Celta won 4-2 against Amorebieta, Mallorca beat Burgos 3-0, Sevilla won 2-1 at Racing Ferrol, Sociedad topped Malaga 1-0 and Osasuna defeated Castellón 1-0.

Spurs eye Werner

Mbappé among 'key' players set for possible EPL transfers

LONDON, Jan 8, (AP): It has been a slow start to the January transfer window in the Premier League.

Expect that to change pretty quickly.

Deals are being mooted, speculation is starting to fly, sought-after stars - like Kylian Mbappé and Ivan Toney - have chosen to talk about their future to the media.

Here's a look at the situation surrounding a number of key players and teams:

SOCCER

Timo Werner

Timo Werner might have won the Champions League during his time with Chelsea from 2020-22 but it was still an underwhelming stint in English soccer for the German forward.

It looks like he'll be returning to England - to London again, too - in a bid to ignite his career ahead of the European Championship.

Werner is widely reported to be close to joining Tottenham from Leipzig, initially on loan but with a view to a permanent move. In the short term, he would plug a gap left by the departure of captain Son Heung-min to the Asian Cup potentially until mid-February.

"It's right that Timo wants to go on loan," Leipzig coach Marco Rose said over the weekend, without name-checking Tottenham. "Timo would like to go to the European Championship."

Ivan Toney

Ivan Toney's eight-month suspension for breaching betting rules is almost over, with the Brentford striker available again from Jan. 17. It is interesting timing, with a number of top teams seemingly in need of a proven scorer for the second half of the season.

Toney would fit the bill - he was third in the Premier League's scoring charts last season, behind only Erling Haaland and Harry Kane - and he has been heavily linked with Arsenal, which is in the midst of a scoring slump that is perplexing manager Mikel Arteta.

Toney gave an interview to British broadcaster Sky Sports, published Monday, in which he said he owes Brentford for sticking by him during his long ban. Brentford manager Thomas Frank has said Toney won't be sold in January, and the team needs its star striker after plunging into relegation danger in recent weeks.

Money talks, though, and Toney's future could be a talking point right until the end of the window.

Jordan Henderson

Jordan Henderson took plenty of flak when he decided to join the exodus of players moving to Saudi Arabia



In this file photo, England's Jordan Henderson, (front), heads for the ball with France's Adrien Rabiot during the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between England and France, at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar. (AP)

on lucrative deals.

Six months later and it appears he wants out, with sections of the British media reporting he will consider a return to the Premier League this month after struggling to settle in the Middle East. Similarly, Roberto Firmino - another former Liverpool player - is reportedly willing to leave the Saudi league and Karim Benzema could yet be enticed back to Europe to return to playing at the highest level.

Tottenham and Chelsea could be options for Henderson as they have been light on central midfielders at times this season.

Kylian Mbappé

Something has to give soon in the ongoing transfer saga involving Kylian Mbappé, arguably the world's best player.

His contract at Paris Saint-Germain is up at the end of the season, when he can leave for nothing. PSG is saying the club will not let him go for free. Mbappé appears happy to stay until the summer, and scored a hat trick in PSG's 9-0 win over sixth-tier side Revel in the French Cup on Sunday.

The widespread belief is that Mbappé will end up at Real Madrid, though there is scope for a team from the lucrative Premier League to come in for him.

Liverpool has long seemed the most likely destination for the France international if he did move to England. The departure of Mohamed Salah, potentially to Saudi Arabia, would leave a gap in Liverpool's forward line but that won't happen before the summer, by which time it could be too late.

Kuwait prepares to host over 500 shooters

International Shotgun Referees Course kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 8: The Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Ranges Complex hosted the inauguration of the International Shotgun Referees Course. Qatari international referee Abdullah Al-Hammadi, serving as the technical representative of the International and Asian Federations, and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Mohammed Jassim Al-Fahd, Vice Chairman of the Shotgun Shooting Referees

Committee, are conducting lectures concurrently with Kuwait hosting the Kuwait Championship events. This aligns with the forthcoming Asian Shotgun Championship, commencing next Saturday and spanning until January 23, featuring the participation of over 500 shooters from 26 Asian countries, vying for qualification in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Speaking at the tournament, Abdul-

lah Al-Hammadi expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti Shooting Federation for their request to organize an international tournament aimed at accrediting new referees with international badging before the initiation of the Asian Championship, thereby bolstering support for this crucial continental event.

Al-Hammadi elucidated the referee selection process for Asian competitions, highlighting that the AFC con-

tacts its affiliated federations for referee nominations. The Continental Union then selects the best referees among them to oversee competitions. He emphasized the distinction between a referee and a referee level, with the first level referees eligible for lectures and participation in prestigious events like the World Open Championship and the Olympics. Al-Hammadi underscored the critical role of referees in ensuring fair play, stating that they hold the authority to validate or annul results.

SHOOTING

Emphasizing the elite status of referees from the Asian continent, especially the Gulf region, Al-Hammadi clarified that the ongoing course focuses on refining the arbitration element, offering theoretical insights, and providing practical participation.

Muhammad Jassim Al-Fahd, the Kuwaiti referee, detailed that the current session includes 11 participants, comprising eight from Kuwait, two from the Emirates, and one from the Sultanate of Oman. The course, running from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm, entails comprehensive training, tests, and a minimum score requirement of 85 percent for license acquisition.



The training course in progress.