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# EPA chief says climate change behind rain that deluged Kuwait

### Finance ministry denies limiting compensation to KD 1,000 for rain-hit car owners

## Constitutional court to review Tabtabaei objection next week

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The constitutional court set next Monday to review an objection filed by MP Walced Al-Tabtabaei regarding the implementation of a ruling by the court declaring a key article of the National Assembly's internal charter as unconstitutional. The court last month ruled that article 16 of the Assembly charter was unconstitutional, which means that the memberships of Tabtabaei and MP Jamaan Al-Harbash are scrapped.

The National Assembly in October voted on the basis of article 16 to retain the membership of the two opposition

lawmakers after they received a final jail term for storming the Assembly. Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem had delayed a parliamentary debate on the court ruling last week until after the court issues an opinion regarding the objection. Some opposition MPs have charged that the court ruling represents an interference in the Assembly's affairs and called for legislation to curtail such interference.

On another issue, Ghanem said yesterday that the Assembly's priority issues committee has not been abolished and continues to carry out its work despite appointing a new panel to accelerate the

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KUWAIT: Climate change has become a "serious" issue in Kuwait given the bursts of heavy rain that soaked the state recently, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. The international community is working to meet the objectives of a landmark 2015 global deal to tackle climate change, Director General of Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said. During a ceremony to promulgate Kuwait's rulebook for implementing the Paris climate agreement, he said the environmental body is currently studying the new rules agreed upon by nearly 200 countries during talks in Poland last month.

The effects of climate change have begun to spill over into Kuwait, he explained, citing rising sea levels and record precipitation as factors that could impede future development projects. Kuwait has coped well with the effects of climate change, according to the UN Environment's West Asia Office develop-

ment coordinator Dr Abdulmonem Mohammad, who said necessary measures should be taken to keep climate change in check. The 2015 Paris agreement aims to limit a rise in average world temperatures to "well below" two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times.

Meanwhile, Finance Ministry Undersecretary Saleh Al-Saraawi yesterday denied media reports that the compensation body will allocate a maximum of KD 1,000 (\$3,300) in compensation for owners of vehicles affected by the recent downpours. The compensation committee is still studying requests submitted by people in this regard to compensate those entitled in three categories - real estate, personal damage and cars, Saraawi told KUNA.

Compensations will be given to eligible persons after studying all cases carefully so as to achieve justice for all people, he noted. The Cabinet assigned in November a team to follow up and address the repercussions of



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

the rains and receive requests for compensations. The team was divided into four groups to achieve the task. — KUNA

## News in brief

### \$1.5m aid for Syrians in Lebanon

KUWAIT: On directives from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, urgent aid worth \$1.5 million is on its way to Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced yesterday. The aid is to ease the suffering of Syrian refugees in Lebanese camps, especially Al-Rukban refugee camp, which witnessed massive destruction due to harsh cold and blizzards, said KRCS chief Dr Hilal Al-Sayer. He told KUNA that this generous donation stemmed from HH the Amir's humanitarian empathy towards the tens of thousands of refugees there. — KUNA

### Pompeo to visit Kuwait soon

KUWAIT: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday he was looking forward to visit Kuwait "in the coming days" to hold the 3rd strategic dialogue session with Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Pompeo, in a phone call with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, said he was compelled to postpone his visit to Kuwait due to the passing away of a family member. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed deepest condolences to Pompeo and his family. The two ministers reiterated deep relations at all levels, and expressed mutual desire to promoting ties to new heights. — KUNA



Mike Pompeo

### Iqama renewals to go online

KUWAIT: An informed security source said the residency affairs department will soon introduce residency renewals online, and the process will start with article 20 (domestic help) residencies. The source said citizens will be able to renew residency permits of their helpers online after the department implements procedures to speed up the process. Meanwhile, the Farwaniya residency affairs department officially resumed its activities in Rigga following a trial of over 350 transactions. — Al-Anbaa

### Istanbul real estate fraud claims

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti citizens affected by an Istanbul tower project real estate fraud case are urged to file their financial claims within two working days in order to preserve their rights, the foreign ministry said yesterday. Claims must be filed as soon as possible through one of the accredited law firms in Kuwait, said the consular department of the ministry in a statement yesterday. It added that Turkish authorities had set a time limit till the end of this month (January) to enlist claimers. The number 22225555 ext 7021 is available for any inquiry on the matter, it pointed out. — KUNA

## IS attack kills US forces in northern Syria

QAMISHLI, Syria: A suicide attack killed US servicemen in northern Syria yesterday, causing the United States to suffer its worst combat losses in the war-torn country since 2014 as it prepares to withdraw. The bombing claimed by the Islamic State group comes after US President Donald Trump's shock announcement last month that he was ordering a full troop withdrawal from Syria because the militants had been "largely defeated". The US-led coalition fighting IS said "US service members were killed during an explosion while conducting a routine patrol in Syria" yesterday, without giving a death toll.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said 20 people were killed in the bomb attack in the northern city of Manbij near the Turkish border, including five US troops.

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MANBIJ, Syria: An image grab taken from a video shows US armored vehicles at the scene of a suicide attack in this northern Syrian town yesterday. — AFP

## Kenya says all five gunmen killed; Amir condemns attack

NAIROBI: Kenya said its forces yesterday ended a terror attack on a luxury hotel complex that claimed 14 lives, after a 20-hour operation that rescued hundreds of people and left all five assailants dead. The attack was claimed by the Al-Qaeda-linked Somali group Al-Shabaab, which has targeted Kenya since it sent its army into Somalia in Oct 2011 to fight the group. At least one suicide bomber

blew himself up and others traded gunfire with security forces as the assault on DusitD2, a complex which includes a 101-room hotel, spa, restaurant and offices, unfolded on Tuesday.

"There were five terrorists and all of them are no more," Kenyan police chief Joseph Boinnet told AFP. "It is a clearing exercise now going on there." For many Kenyans, news of the attack revived traumatic memories of a 2013 Shabaab raid on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall that left 67 dead - a siege played out over four days that led to sharp criticism of the authorities' response. But this time, local media heaped praise on the security forces for their intervention, which Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said entailed the evacuation of some 700 civilians.

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NAIROBI: Relatives and mourners bury the body of Faisal Ahmed Rashid, who was killed the previous day in an attack on a Nairobi luxury hotel complex, during his funeral service at the Langata Muslim cemetery yesterday. — AFP

## Crocodile mauls woman to death in Indonesia

MINAHASA, Indonesia: An Indonesian woman has been mauled to death by a huge pet crocodile on the island of Sulawesi, officials said yesterday. Deasy Tuwo, the head of a laboratory at a pearl farm in Minahasa in North Sulawesi, was killed by the 4.4-m reptile last Thursday, authorities said. The 44-year old's badly mauled body was found by colleagues the following morning, Hendrik Rundengan, from the local conservation agency, told AFP. "The indication is that she fell into the crocodile's enclosure," he said, adding

the incident was still being investigated by police.

The crocodile, named Merry, had eaten one of the woman's hands and most of her abdomen was missing, Rundengan said. "These parts may still be inside the crocodile now," he added. The giant reptile was sedated and removed from its enclosure Monday in a three-hour operation that involved dozens of people, including conservation officials, the army and police. The reptile, which was owned illegally, will be transferred to a conservation area, Rundengan said.

The Indonesian archipelago is home to a vast array of exotic wildlife, including several species of crocodile that regularly attack and kill humans. In April 2016, a Russian tourist was killed by a crocodile in the Raja Ampat islands, a popular diving site in the east of the archipelago. — AFP



MINAHASA, Indonesia: A 4.4-m-long crocodile named Merry is secured before being taken out of its enclosure in North Sulawesi on Jan 14, 2019, after a woman was mauled to death in the reptile's enclosure. — AFP