

## Local

# Al-Wasem season, rainy days delayed in Kuwait

## Veteran meteorologist expects 'especially cold winter'

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The rainy season has been delayed for a couple of days or even weeks, which is yet another sign of Kuwait's ever unpredictable weather, according to a veteran Kuwaiti meteorologist. "We expected this kind of weather from the end of October to early November, but Al-Wasem season was delayed," said Adel Saadoun, meteorologist at Al-Fintas Observatory. While Kuwait has witnessed some drizzles of rain over the past couple of days, this 'rainy weather' is a far cry from heavy rains the country has seen in the past few years. According to Saadoun, the delay in rain could be an indication of an especially cold winter. "There are some thunderstorms and lightning in the morning these days, which isn't unexpected at this time of the year," he said, commenting on yesterday's rain. "Delays for the entry of Al-Wasem season are normal, but it could be an indication that we could have a very cold winter," he added.

The winter season officially begins December 6 and lasts through February, but according to Saadoun, we can still expect the weather to continue being unpredictable. "You may predict and show some data, but you cannot be perfectly correct. No one in the world; not even the greatest weather expert could predict the weather with full accuracy," he said. "There could be more rain in the coming weeks. Maybe we'll witness another cold weather this year," he added.

The period between December 5 and January 15 is normally cold and dry with strong westerly wind. Maximum temperature reaches around 13 degrees centigrade, and the minimum may reach 3.3 degrees centigrade, except for warm intervals resulting from the blowing of south easterly wind, in which maximum temperature could reach 23 degrees centigrade. "Normally we experience foggy mornings with zero visibility sometimes," Saadoun said. "From January 16 to February 15, we can also experience rainy days especially if south easterly winds affect the whole country. This period sometimes brings dust storms. Watch out for January as temperature could record subzero levels," he warned. The record minimum temperature during the season reached -4° centigrade on January 20, 1964 at Kuwait International Airport.



**KUWAIT:** A picture taken yesterday showing rain clouds over Kuwait. — KUNA

## Human Rights Diwan holds seminar against domestic violence

**KUWAIT:** The National Diwan for Human Rights, represented by the Family Rights Committee, organized yesterday a seminar themed "renouncing domestic violence" with participation of officials representing government departments, the National Assembly and public welfare societies. The participants in the gathering, held on the International Day

for Elimination of Violence against Women, which falls on November 25, said that violence constitutes an explicit breach of human rights, noting domestic violence affects not only women but also all members of the family and the whole society as well. Hoda Al-Shayji, member of the Diwan and Chairperson of the committee, said in a statement to the press that the seminar was organized out of keenness on attaining objectives related to boosting and protecting human rights and respecting public liberties. The Diwan, represented by the women commission, invited several experts, she said, noting the Diwan role in boosting awareness of women rights and protecting them against all forms of violence. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Members of the Family Rights Committee of the National Diwan for Human Rights attend the seminar. — KUNA

## COVID damaged 'fabric of...'

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by restrictions like tourism. The report also highlighted how lockdowns had created greater social isolation, leaving more women exposed to domestic violence.

Almost all national societies said they had seen a need to increase protection services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, the report said. It pointed for instance to the Philippines, where the

UN estimated 114,000 additional women experienced physical and sexual violence in 2020 due to quarantine measures. Migrants, refugees and people displaced within their countries, who already figured among the world's most vulnerable people, were also among those disproportionately impacted, it said.

A survey of the national societies showed that having a migrant background was the second biggest vulnerability in terms of socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic after homelessness. The main impact was on employment, with 80 percent of Syrian refugee households surveyed in Turkey saying at least one family member had lost their job. Job loss is often made worse for migrants and the displaced since they often lack access to government protection systems, the report pointed out. — AFP

## 12-year-old girl's marriage causes...

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told AFP the case had been postponed until November 28. The legal age for marriage in Iraq is 18 but can be lowered to 15 in cases of parental or judicial consent, according to charity Save the Children. "Religious marriages are not permitted outside civil

or religious courts but these types of marriages still happen regularly and can be formalized on the payment of a small fine," it said in a recent report.

The mother, who refuses to be identified, said her daughter Israa had been "raped" and that the girl's father kidnapped her. But a department of the interior ministry dealing with violence against women said in a statement that it had met with Israa, her father and husband, seen the religious contract, and said she had assured them she had not been coerced. Child marriage is not uncommon in conservative and rural areas of Iraq, as well as in other Arab countries. — AFP



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of India to Kuwait met with Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday. The two sides discussed bilateral ties and ways of further strengthening them in all fields, diaspora matters, and other subjects of mutual interest, the Indian embassy said in a statement.

## Kuwait participates in manufacturing summit in Dubai

**DUBAI:** The fourth edition of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) kicked off yesterday with the participation of over 250 speakers worldwide, including Kuwait. The activities of the session, which will continue until November 27, will be held at the Dubai Exhibition Centre at Expo 2020. GMIS will host UN leaders, heads of state, ministers and CEOs of major global industrial companies to discuss the latest technological and industrial trends, as well as identify strategies that will achieve the UN sustainable development goals.

The summit, a joint initiative between the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), will be held over six days under the theme, Rewiring Societies: Repurposing Digitalization for Prosperity. The days of the summit will host over 70 sessions regarding the role of technology in shaping the future of the indus-

trial sector, green manufacturing, sustainable energy, climate change, decision-making, investments, artificial intelligence and other topics. GMIS contains the participation of 25 ministers, senior government officials and representatives of major international academic institutions from Imperial College London, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Tokyo, University of Trieste and University of Cambridge.

In this context, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Dr Sultan Al-Jaber, co-chair of GMIS, said that he was pleased to host the fourth edition of the summit. This summit is gaining special importance through its focus on the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which provide great opportunities to make a positive difference, support industrial and economic progress, as well as accelerate solutions to ensure sustainable development, Jaber added in a press statement.

GMIS provides a distinguished platform that brings together leaders of countries, heads of industrial companies, academics and entrepreneurs to shape the future of the industrial sector, he said. He hopes that the outcomes of the summit will contribute to strengthening partnerships across sectors, exchanging experiences and knowledge, also enhancing cooperation to support growth and progress. — KUNA

## 5 killed as SUV plows through...

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Police said a "person of interest" was taken into custody, the vehicle recovered, and that there were no other threats to the community.

Citing law enforcement officials, NBC identified the man as Darrell Brooks, a 39-year-old from Wisconsin, saying he was being questioned but had not yet been charged with a crime, nor named as a suspect. Corey Montiho, a school district board member in the Milwaukee suburb, was near a restaurant when he heard that his daughter's youth dance team had been struck. "There were pom-poms and shoes and spilled hot chocolate everywhere," he was quoted as saying by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

"I had to go from one crumpled body to the other to find my daughter. My wife and two daughters were almost hit." Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly called it a "horrible and senseless" act, while Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers ordered flags across the state lowered to half-staff. "We continue to pray for the Waukesha community and the kids, loved ones, and neighbors whose lives were forever changed by an unthinkable tragedy last night," Evers tweeted yesterday.

President Joe Biden has been briefed and the White House was closely monitoring the situation in Waukesha, an administration official said. "Our hearts go out to everyone who has been impacted by this terrible incident," the official said. While police confirmed five deaths and at least 40 injured, there were fears the toll may yet rise, and the community was left in shock.

Witnesses described an appalling scene on Main Street, where school bands and other groups were marching before bundled up spectators lining the road. Sandra Peterson, a spokeswoman for the Milwaukee Catholic church, said one of its priests was injured, "as well as multiple parishioners and Waukesha Catholic school children." Witness Angela O'Boyle, whose apartment overlooked the parade in the Milwaukee suburb, told CNN: "All I heard was screaming and then people yelling out their children's names."

A total of 11 adults and 12 children were taken to six area hospitals, Fire Chief Steven Howard said. During the incident an officer fired at the SUV in an attempt to stop it, authorities added. Schools and city hall remained closed yesterday, as did some roads while the investigation continued. Angelito Tenorio, running for Wisconsin state treasurer, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that he "saw an SUV cross over, just put the pedal to the metal and just zooming full speed along the parade route." "And then we heard a loud bang, and just deafening cries and screams." — AFP