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Opinion

Two forums scheduled in Geneva next month to present a positive global image of Kuwait

Judicial reform under the guidance of the highest leadership

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE burden of reform is heavy, and requires effort, perseverance, and careful deliberation to avoid mistakes that could create loopholes criminals might exploit to evade punishment.

In light of this, the highest authorities have stressed the importance of completing the process quickly, but without haste.

Informed sources highlighted the current focus of the judiciary and the Minister of Justice on amending laws related to the judicial system, the Penal Code, and penalties.

The sources said, “Amiri speeches have urged updating these laws to keep pace with global developments,” as there are over 900 outdated laws requiring revision.

Higher instructions have been given to the Minister of Justice and his carefully selected team to update approximately 46 laws related to the Ministry of Justice, ensuring that the amendments take into consideration humanitarian aspects.

Around 15 laws have already been amended, while others are still under study and development or have been referred to the Fatwa and Legislation Department. In addition, 12 laws are now being implemented following the ratification of their amendments.

The ultimate goal of the political leadership is to create a society with modern legislation that preserves human dignity, prevents injustice, and limits inconsistencies in judicial rulings. All of this is being carried out under the close supervision and follow-up of the highest leadership, especially regarding amendments re-

lated to human rights, to align with Kuwait’s global image.”

These sources further revealed that international conferences, including one in Geneva next month will hold discussions on issues related to terrorism, money laundering, and national rights. They said the conference will provide an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of the Ministry of Justice and its Minister Nasser Al-Sumait.

The sources indicated that Kuwait has unfortunately fallen behind in amending these laws, and that Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait, along with some of his advisors, will participate in two international forums scheduled for June.

They said the Ministry of Justice has completed the required task after a long struggle to meet the international community’s demands regarding human rights issues, adding that the strictness of certain laws concerning financial and civil matters, under the guise of protecting rights, has placed Kuwait under increased international scrutiny.

The judicial sources explained that there is a misunderstanding regarding the term “payment tool,” which has been used as a justification for harsh treatment and imprisonment of individuals who issue checks without sufficient funds. This misunderstanding extends to credit cards, gold cards, and other similar instruments, which, despite being “payment tools,” are not subject to legal punishment. Certain violations, such as exam leaks, lack a clear legal definition, leading to judicial rulings that contradict the reality of the situation.

The sources emphasized the importance of some ministries, such as the

Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice, in distancing themselves from the responsibility of collecting debts on behalf of usurers and money lenders who charge exorbitant interest rates. They confirmed that the primary mission of these ministries is to ensure public security and administer justice.

They said creditors are responsible for safeguarding their assets by thoroughly investigating a borrower’s financial situation, to prevent individuals from facing imprisonment for issuing bounced checks.

In confirmation of a report published by the daily a few days ago about the unjustified harshness faced by debtors, judicial sources stated, “The primary mission of the Council of Ministers, in its legislative capacity, is to work towards achieving justice for all, particularly for insolvent debtors who are being unjustly treated.”

They highlighted the importance of the first step in this direction: the cancellation of salary garnishments for debtors, adding that further actions are required to ensure Kuwait does not become the subject of international criticism during the conferences scheduled in June.

In conclusion, the sources emphasized that no loopholes will be left that could harm Kuwait’s reputation internationally, adding, “The orders from the highest leadership are clear regarding preserving human dignity and providing a suitable environment for citizens to work without undue stress or disruption”.

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Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait

■ Preserving human dignity and protecting human rights is the mission of the political leadership.

■ Classifying bounced checks as a payment instrument is inconsistent with reality.

■ Credit cards and gold should not be considered criminalized payment methods.

■ Certain violations are being described in a manner that does not reflect their legal reality.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, shares insights during a special interview with Shahad Al-Khamis.

Press freedom key to progress: Al-Jarallah

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the television program “Munasabat” (Occasions) hosted the dean of Kuwaiti journalism, Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, in a special interview conducted by Shahad Al-Khamis, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It is worth highlighting that Al-Jarallah is widely regarded as one of the most prominent media figures in Kuwait, the Gulf region, and the Arab world at large.

During the interview, Al-Jarallah spoke openly about his long and extensive career in journalism. Perhaps the most striking and revealing moment came when he admitted that he initially entered the field in search of fame but quickly became one of the foundational pillars of Kuwaiti journalism.

Al-Jarallah said he believes press freedom is a cornerstone of any advanced society.

He reviewed the evolution of press laws in Kuwait and called for their continual development to keep pace with the fast-moving changes of today’s world.

The interview with Ahmed Al-Jarallah offers a compelling, thoughtful, and engaging look into his journey, and is especially valuable for fellow journalists and media professionals.

Kabad sweep nets 21

Guns, illegal structures fall in major crackdown

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: The Ministry of Interior continued its intensive security campaigns throughout the country.

The recent security campaign, in collaboration with Kuwait Municipality, led to

the arrest of 21 individuals proven to have violated the Residency and Labor laws; confiscation of six firearms and 100 rounds of ammunition; and demolition of illegal structures on State-owned land in Kabad.

The ministry explained that these efforts are part of the strategic initiatives to uphold legal mandates, strengthen security measures and maintain public order.

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Motorists urged to stay alert as visibility to drop below 1,000 meters

Storms, dust and winds to linger until Wednesday

KUWAIT CITY, May 3, (KUNA): The acting Director of the Meteorological Department Dharar Al-Ali says the chances of thunderstorms and strong winds are expected in some areas, accompanied by periods of reduced visibility due to dust cover until Wednesday.

In a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Ali explained that this period, locally known as “Sarayat” is a transitional season often marked by rapid weather changes and atmospheric instability.

The rainfall will be accompanied by active winds, which may reduce horizontal visibility in some areas to less than 1,000 meters. Weather maps indicate the country is under the influence of a surface low-pressure system, accompanied by a relatively hot and humid air mass. This is expected to result in increasing amounts of low- and mid-level clouds, occasionally interspersed with cumulonimbus clouds, bringing chances of scattered showers and strong winds.

Al-Ali advised motorists, particularly those traveling on highways and desert roads, to exercise caution due to poor visibility. He also warned sea-goers of wave heights exceeding six feet.



Photo by Samer Shiqer

Shrouded in a veil of dust, the iconic Liberation Tower slices through Kuwait’s storm-darkened sky – a defiant symbol of resilience on a turbulent Saturday.

No coin zone

Kuwait unplugs watts for wealth

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: The State has intensified its efforts to combat cryptocurrencies, particularly Bitcoin, due to their negative impact on the economy, the rising number of citizens who have fallen victim to the use of this currency, and the exorbitant amount of electricity used in Bitcoin mining.

A number of economists, technology and legal experts have called for the continued blocking of websites that facilitate cryptocurrency trading and for anyone found to be involved in the trade to be held accountable.

They stressed the need for parental supervision over adolescents, as a study showed that 60 percent of Bitcoin traders in the country are adolescents.

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:39	Asr	15:21
Sunrise ..	05:05	Maghrib ..	18:25
Zohr	11:45	Isha	19:49

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot, partly cloudy and relatively humid with light to moderate freshening at times northeasterly wind to southeasterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain.
By Night: Rather hot and cloudy to partly cloudy with light

Weather			
to moderate freshening at times southwesterly wind to northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-55 km/h with a chance for rising dust and a chance for scattered rain.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait Airport	41	30	
Abdaly	43	30	

Bubyan	39	29
Jahra	43	32
Failaka Island	40	30
Salmiyah	32	27
Ahmadi	33	25
Jal Aliyah	41	29
Nuwaisib	42	26
Wafra	44	31

HH Amir congratulates Poland on Nat'l Day



HH the Amir

KUWAIT CITY, May 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Saturday a congratulatory cable to Polish President Andrzej Duda on the occasion of his country's National Day, wishing him good health and Poland and



HH the Crown Prince

its friendly people further progress and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent Saturday a congratulatory cable to Polish President Andrzej Duda on the occasion of his country's National Day,



HH the Prime Minister

wishing him good health. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a congratulatory cable to Polish President Andrzej Duda on the occasion of his country's Constitution Day.

Al-Kashti stays in post for 4 years

Kuwait picked Arab Cooperative Union VC

CAIRO, May 3, (KUNA): Vice Chairman of Kuwait Cooperative Societies' Union Talal Al-Kashti has been elected as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Cooperative Union for a four-year term. In a press statement received by KUNA on Saturday, Al-Kashti said that Kuwait's achievement came during the union's elections, with the participation of several representatives of prominent cooperative organizations in Arab countries. During the meeting, Dr. Ahmad Abdulzاهر was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors and Minister Plenipotentiary Hamdi Ahmad was elected Secretary-General. They also selected the Union's Support Office, which included Chairman of the Boards of Saudi Cooperative Societies, Dr. Abdul-

malik Al-Tuwaijri, the Vice Chairman of the Kuwaiti Arab Cooperative Union, Talal Al-Kashti, and the Director General of the Arab Cooperative Union in Jordan, Abdulfattah Al-Khattab. Kuwait's victory would reflect the country's pioneering role in supporting Arab cooperative action and promoting economic and social integration among member states, Al-Kashti said. He added that it would also be a responsibility towards unifying efforts and strengthening economic and social cooperation among member states, pointing to the importance of coordination with the Council of Arab Economic Unity. Al-Kashti pointed to the strategic digital transformation the cooperative sector in Kuwait is witnessing, redefining its role in supporting

the national economy and enhancing food security through a unified digital infrastructure that enhances efficiency, reduces costs, and improves the consumer experience. The Arab Cooperative Union, established in Baghdad in 1981, is one of the specialized Arab unions emerging from the Council of Arab Economic Unity, affiliated with the League of Arab States, and currently headquartered in Cairo. Its membership includes Arab organizations, unions, associations, and bodies working in the field of cooperation from Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.



KUNA photo
Diplomatic Attaché of the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegation at the UN Bandar Al-Enezi speaking at the meeting.

NPT requires nations to get rid of nuclear arms: Kuwait

NEW YORK, May 3, (KUNA): State of Kuwait underlined nuclear disarmament as the ultimate goal and basic principle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), considering it a main pillar of international stability and NPT credibility. The call was made by the Diplomatic Attaché of the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegation at the UN Bandar Al-Enezi before the Third Preparatory Committee of the NPT late Thursday. He said that though the treaty came into force more than 50 years ago, its main goal of nuclear disarmament has not been attained, a worrying thing that requires some urgent international action.

He added that policies of nuclear deterrence and continued modernization of nuclear arsenals have fueled the arms race and increased regional and international tensions in a clear-cut breach of relevant international commitments. The Kuwaiti diplomat regarded that the complete and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons as part of an internationally verifiable framework is deemed the only guarantee to avert their future use. Calling on all countries, especially nuclear ones, to comply with relevant treaties and international resolutions, Al-Enezi echoed his country's support for all initiatives aiming at criminalizing the use of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Row erupts over reinstatement of many expat judicial officials

Why Kuwaitis are marginalized: Al-Jassar

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Former Director of the Legal Research and Grievances Department at the Ministry of Education and incumbent Human Resources Supervisor Saud Al-Jassar has submitted a formal complaint to Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chairman Dr. Essam Al-Rubai'an on the alleged contravention of governmental mandates on the nationalization of legal jobs. This complaint arises from the decision of the ministry to reinstate several expatriate legal researchers one year after their dismissal as per the Kuwaitization policy. Al-Jassar pointed out that the initial terminations were in accordance with the directives of the Council of Ministers and the CSC to prioritize citizens, particularly in

legal positions. He said these terminations achieved legal inviolability after the expiration of the specified appeal period. He alleged the CSC violated these mandates by authorizing the reassignment of Kuwaiti legal professionals to general administrative roles, concurrently sanctioning the reinstatement of expatriates into legal positions. He argued "this action is deemed a reversal of the established replacement policy, undermining the government's intention to Kuwaitize legal positions." According to Al-Jassar, this measure not only challenges high-level State directives, but also constitutes a clear breach of CSC Resolution No. 11/2017 and contradicts the statements published by CSC in local media on Feb 3, 2025. He said "these prior statements affirmed the termination of numerous expatriate contracts and indicated that contracts for expatriates in non-essential govern-

ment roles would not be extended beyond March 31." He also affirmed the availability of more than 370 Kuwaiti legal researchers in educational districts and additional qualified Kuwaiti applicants seeking legal sector employment; hence, questioning the rationale behind the expatriate reinstatements. He also criticized the involuntary transfer of Kuwaiti legal professionals to administrative roles, which is inconsistent with their academic qualifications and experience. He wondered why national expertise is marginalized while expatriate personnel are re-engaged in legal capacities. He said the official correspondence of the CSC typically precludes reinstatement of Kuwaiti personnel following termination and the lapse of the legal appeal period. "However, the long-expired termination of expatriates is being reversed, raising questions on equality and legal consistency. CSC Circular No. 15/2000 prohibits the revocation of valid termination decisions after the legal appeal period. The CSC chairman must take legal measures to rectify such a violation of legal and national directives," he asserted.

7,250 employees to benefit: report

MPW minister nods excellent job performance bonus

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Public Works Minister Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan has approved a ministerial decision on the disbursement of excellent job performance bonus to eligible employees for the year 2024. Article One of the decision stipulates that employees on the excellent job performance list will be granted a bonus based on the categories, subject to the financial allocations in the budget of the ministry for fiscal 2024/2025.

Reliable sources informed the newspaper that around 7,250 employees will benefit from the excellent job performance bonus; indicating the total amount allocated for this purpose is about KD6 million and the disbursement is scheduled for next week. In another development, the ministry announced the availability of 102 supervisory positions -- department director and section head levels -- in various sectors; stressing the need to comply with the requirements of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and ministerial decisions regulating the filling of leadership posi-

tions. The ministry confirmed that qualified applicants will undergo tests in administrative skills, English language, and technical specialization in cooperation with Kuwait University. It added that a passing rate of at least 50 percent on each test is a prerequisite for consideration of the application. It stated that the results will be submitted to the Personnel Affairs Committee to prepare for the selection of candidates for final interviews, which will complete the appointment procedures for the announced supervisory positions.

Other Voices

People with diabetes, high BP prone to get 'shingles' disease

By Ahmad alsarraf

Recently, there has been a noticeable rise in shingles cases. This painful condition can cause prolonged discomfort, often preventing sufferers from moving, sleeping, or even leaving their homes. No one seems to know the reason for the recent increase in cases. Studies have shown that people with diabetes are particularly vulnerable to shingles, especially in severe cases. This is due to the weakened immune system commonly associated with diabetes, making them more susceptible to infections. According to several medical experts, one of the viruses responsible for shingles belongs to the same family as the chickenpox virus, which many people contract in childhood. After recovery, the virus remains dormant in the body entirely, residing in the dorsal root ganglia of the nervous system. Most people who had chickenpox earlier in life are at risk of developing shingles as they grow older and their immune system weakens. According to Dr. Yasser Ghazanfar, a consultant in internal medicine, rheumatology, allergy, and immunology, there are two types of viruses that can cause shingles: herpes simplex, which is transmitted through oral contact such as kissing and saliva, and herpes zoster, which is typically spread through sexual intercourse. Symptoms of shingles include blisters or watery sores that appear in a pink or red band across the skin, along with a burning pain in the affected



alsarraf

area. The condition most commonly affects the area around the trunk, especially the back, forming a band or belt, usually on one side of the body. In rare cases, shingles may appear near the eyes, ears, or brain, which increases the risk of facial paralysis or permanent damage to the eyes and vision. If left untreated, it may lead to nerve damage, causing persistent bouts of burning nerve pain in the affected area for months or even years. Individuals who are more susceptible to shingles include those over 50, people with diabetes, high blood pressure, or high cholesterol, those on immunosuppressive drugs, as well as those taking cortisone medications or suffering from chronic respiratory diseases like chronic bronchitis. While shingles viruses are difficult to prevent due to lifestyle factors, the nature of the virus, and its contagious nature, treatment can help control the symptoms. These symptoms may persist for a time but will eventually subside. A percentage of those infected with shingles continue to experience severe symptoms and develop complications, such as nerve or eye damage, which may require long-term treatment. Nerve damage, often in areas like the hand, leg, or face, can cause severe pain and symptoms that may need treatment for years. For these reasons, vaccination is crucial to avoid complications from shingles. Thanks to advancements in medical science, vaccines are available that can inhibit the activity of the virus that causes shingles. Medical guidelines recommend that individuals at risk of developing this disease receive the vaccination to reduce the likelihood of complications.



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Strategy mulled to reduce fish prices: KFU Chairman

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen Union (KFU) Abdullah Al-Sarheed expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), specifically Chairman Salem Al-Hai and Director of the Licensing Department Marzouq Al-Habi, in warmly welcoming the delegation from the newly formed Board of Directors of the union led by Chairman Abdullah Al-Sarheed, along with Vice Chairman Jaber Al-Ali and Secretary Barak Al-Subaie. Al-Sarheed affirmed that the new Board of Directors is keen on implementing a strategy aimed at reducing fish prices and ensuring seafood affordability for consumers. He described their meeting as productive and strategically focused. He said the primary objective of the meeting is to establish a cooperative framework with PAAAFR to address the challenges that fishermen are facing and to present the revised vision of the union for the fishing sector. "This vision includes sector development and the realization of aspirations for marine food security at reasonable prices for both fishermen and the public," he disclosed. He also confirmed that the union is managing a significant portion of its stalls, and that it has laid down a plan to import and sell fish at cost price with a minimal profit margin in order to decrease the prices of imported and local fish. He said the PAAAFR officials responded positively to the developmental vision of the union, which aims to contribute to price reductions and ensure stable marine food security. Moreover, the PAAAFR officials vowed to thoroughly examine the proposals submitted by the union and to resolve issues affecting fishing license holders. Al-Sarheed expressed optimism over the collaborative new phase being established between the union and PAAAFR.



Al-Sarheed



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives Sheikhha Suhaila Al-Sabah in his office.

Governor lauds support for disabled

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received the "Friends of the Disabled" team, led by Sheikhha Suhaila Al-Sabah, in his office last Thursday. According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the meeting was attended by several team members, including Dr. Anoud Al-Tayyar, Dr. Mohammad Al-Ramzi, Wael Al-Huwaidar, Wael Al-Mutawa, and a number of children from the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA). The governor welcomed the attendees and praised the team's humanitar-

ian efforts in supporting and empowering people with disabilities. He listened to a detailed presentation on the team's initiatives and their needs within the Farwaniya Governorate. Governor Sheikh Athbi affirmed his strong commitment to supporting individuals with special needs, highlighting his interest in removing obstacles and enhancing services that improve their quality of life. At the end of the meeting, the team members expressed their gratitude to the governor for his warm reception and genuine concern.

‘Oil-dependent’ Arabs need to diversify in changing scenario

“The fragility of the global economic system represents a major crisis that cannot be ignored or underestimated. Should this system weaken further, it could lead to catastrophic consequences that can destroy governments, and leave ordinary people as victims”, Kuwaiti writer **Salman Al-Onaizan** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Amid the ongoing global economic shifts, a set of emerging challenges threatens Kuwait’s economic stability on multiple fronts. What is particularly concerning is that these challenges are not limited to major powers, but they also pose serious risks to the economies of small and medium-sized countries, which may find themselves ill-equipped to manage the repercussions of such crises.



Salman Al-Onaizan

“Recently, we witnessed a series of economic fluctuations that have directly affected both individuals and businesses. Rising inflation, increasing living costs, and higher unemployment rates all highlight the fragility of the global economic system, and pose a serious threat to the stability of countries that depend heavily on oil markets or traditional economic sectors.

“With the global shift toward digital transformation and increasing reliance on modern technology, concerns are mounting over the potential loss of traditional jobs due to automation. This presents a major challenge for governments, which must create new employment opportunities that are in line with these technological changes, which further increases financial pressures.

“In the context of Arab countries, there are many factors that heighten vulnerability to this risk, including political instability, fluctuations in oil markets, and shifts in commodity prices. The lack of economic diversification in some countries makes them especially sensitive to global economic crises.

“While significant efforts are underway to diversify economies and attract investment, ongoing global economic changes indicate that the threat is unavoidable unless serious steps are taken to adapt to the emerging reality.

“We must be prepared to face anticipated economic crises by promoting economic diversification, investing in modern sectors such as technology, green industries, and education, and creating a flexible work environment that encourages innovation.

“Economic risk is not merely a long-term threat, but it is a present reality with far-reaching implications. Without urgent and decisive measures, we may find ourselves confronting a severe economic crisis that could carry huge social and political consequences. Dealing with this challenge requires coordinated efforts among the government, private sector, and civil society organizations to ensure sustainable and long-term economic stability.”

Also:

“For many years, the Fourth Ring Road has been known for major traffic problems, with heavy congestion occurring most of the day and night”, columnist **Hamoud Al-Hattab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The road is notably narrow, with a limited number of lanes, and much of its asphalt is in poor condition in both directions.

“It is the longest ring road in Kuwait, stretching from Salmiya to Jahra, and passing through important areas such as Al-Rai, the Friday Market, central markets, major shopping malls, as well as the largest car showrooms and garages. The numerous exits and entrances along the stretch from Al-Riggae to Salmiya further contribute to the traffic congestion.

“A few years ago, I proposed the permanent closure of several entrances and exits along the Fourth Ring Road, so that the road would lead into adjacent streets without allowing those streets to feed back into the Fourth Ring Road. I am reiterating this proposal again for further clarification.

“In a previous article, I also recommended raising the speed limit on the Fourth Ring Road to around 120 km/h, once the necessary maintenance work is completed. The current speed limit of 80 km/h may be contributing to increased congestion, especially during holidays and after midnight when traffic volume is low.

“I urge the Ministry of Interior to consider this proposal by conducting practical tests on the road.

“I propose banning trucks from using the Fourth Ring Road from midnight until just before dawn. Several years ago, I also recommended closing the traffic light on the Fourth Ring Road from Riggae toward Jahra, as well as for vehicles coming from Salmiya toward Riggae and Ardiya. The decision to close these traffic lights proved highly effective in easing severe congestion.

“The Ministry of Interior remains one of the most responsive government bodies when it comes to public complaints and suggestions.”

□ □ □

“In 1966, when I was 16 years old, I developed a passion for photography. I would buy chemical powder from Ashraf’s shop on Fahd Al-Salem Street to develop black-and-white film and print photos using a special machine”, columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Another hobby of mine was meteorology and learning about different types of clouds. During the summer in Kuwait, the only clouds that typically appear are “Cirrus” clouds, known in Arabic as “Cirrus”. These clouds resemble a horse’s tail and usually signal the

approach of humidity or rain.

“Back then, the concept of artificial rain fascinated me. It is a relatively simple technique that involves using smoke from fire. In Kuwait, we refer to this as “Sunun”, which is the smoke that comes from burning coal or wood.

“Take a small amount of the substance, board a propeller plane or two, and fly to an altitude of about five kilometers or slightly higher. Once at the desired height, scatter the powder into the sky. After a short wait, you’ll see smoke appear, followed by clouds. This happens because the chemical in the “Sunun” consists of fine particles that interact with gases in the atmosphere, causing cloud formation and, eventually, rain. Even if rain doesn’t fall, the clouds will block the sun’s rays, helping to reduce high temperatures. Many countries today use similar chemicals to induce this process in the sky.

“Fifty years later, on July 20, 2021, the UAE applied this method on July 20, 2021. Rain indeed fell, and the British newspaper Daily Mail reported the event under the headline, “Dubai Drops Its Own Rain.”

“Saudi Arabia also began cloud seeding in September 2023. The Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Meteorology Engineer Abdulrahman bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadhli signed an agreement to acquire five cloud-seeding aircraft.

“It is well known that northwesterly winds dominate Kuwait’s weather for most of the year. These winds traverse the vast desert landscape that stretches hundreds of kilometers into the Syrian Desert, bringing with them intense heat.

“However, if Kuwait were to implement artificial rain, the weather could be significantly cooled. This method should be combined with the planting of trees in the northern and northwestern regions of the country. The trees would help reduce the intensity of the northerly winds as they pass through Kuwait during the summer.

“In areas like Kaifan and Shuwaikha, some willow trees have remained lush and green for over fifty years. These trees require no water, no labor, and no irrigation. They stay permanently green, offering shade to people, unlike palm trees, which often die on the streets or demand significant water and labor but fail to provide adequate shade. Unfortunately, the government has continued to plant palm trees along the streets!

“So, what do the Environment Public Authority and the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources think about the ideas we have proposed: artificial rain and afforestation? Perhaps this approach could help lower temperatures in Kuwait. The question is: when will we invest in cloud-seeding planes to mitigate the heat and increase green space in our land?”

□ □ □

“O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumptions are sins.” (Al-Hujurat 12)”, Kuwaiti writer **Dr. Khaled Al-Jenfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“A person with a sound and balanced nature tends to have positive expectations of their Lord Almighty and His servants, particularly when expecting the best from most people, unless proven otherwise.

“Among the benefits of embracing the principle of good expectations towards others are the following:

■ Consideration and deliberation: Consideration involves deep thought before making personal decisions, especially important or life-altering ones. This is one of the fruits of having good expectations of oneself and others.

Those who have good faith in others take their time to form personal opinions and positions about them, waiting until all the facts are clear. It is rare for good faith not to contribute to positive, constructive, and rewarding relationships for everyone involved. A wise person does not rush to judge another individual unless they truly understand them, with clarity and certainty.

■ Curbing the evil-commanding soul: Those with good faith are able to control their evil-commanding soul, understanding that it is a vehicle often used by the devil. They recognize its natural inclination toward temptations such as excessive self-admiration, arrogance, jealousy, intolerance of differences, and unhealthy selfishness.

■ Strengthening individual, family, and social relationships: Having good faith in others leads to the building of meaningful and fruitful relationships. Just ask anyone with many social connections about the secret to their success in building strong bonds.

■ Purification and purity of intention: A person’s intentions are purified and cleansed from the impurities of sin when they adopt behaviors that promote good faith, both in their private lives and in their interactions with others. When intentions are purified, a person becomes pure both inwardly and outwardly.

■ Blessings in provision: One of the inevitable results of having good faith is blessed livelihood, continuous blessings, increased wealth, and a genuine sense of exceptional happiness. The more a person is grateful to their Lord, the Almighty, for His blessings and favors, the stronger their faith will be in Him and in His creation. And God Almighty knows best.”

— **Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty**

KFF, Algeria seek boost in ties, expertise exchange

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As part of its efforts to enhance joint cooperation and exchange expertise in civil protection, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) participated in the graduation ceremony of the 2025 Civil Protection batch in Algeria.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the Kuwaiti delegation was led by the acting Vice President of the Fire Sector at KFF Brigadier General Ahmed Hayef Hamoud.

On the sidelines of the event, the delegation held several meetings, most notably with Minister of Interior, Local Communities, and Urban Planning Ibrahim Murad, as well as with the Director of Algerian Civil Protection Colonel Bu Alam Bu Ghalaf. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in common areas, exchanging expertise in fire-fighting, rescue operations, and fire prevention, and developing joint field training programs.

This participation confirms KFF’s commitment to expanding international cooperation and developing its capabilities through partnerships with counterparts in sisterly countries.



KFF delegation with Algerian officials.

KFF photo

Asian man kills wife, himself in Abbasiya

Nurses’ squabble ends in tragedy

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: An Asian man reportedly killed his wife by stabbing her with a knife inside their apartment in Abbasiya on Thursday morning before killing himself.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information from an Asian resident about a crime that occurred in an apartment in Abbasiya, security and medical personnel quickly rushed to the location where they discovered two bodies: a 37-year-old woman and a 40-year-old man, both of the same nationality. Initial investigations suggest the husband murdered his wife before killing himself.

The bodies have been transferred to the forensic medicine department, and an investigation is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

According to a report from the Onmanorama news website, the deceased have been identified as Suraj Kuzhiyath John and his wife Bincy. The couple, married for 11 years, leaves behind two children: their 9-year-old daughter Evelyn and 6-year-old son Edwin.

Suraj worked as a nurse at the government-run Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Health Center, while Bincy was employed as a nurse with the Ministry of Defense. The couple had just returned to Kuwait on April 29, after spending Easter with their families in India, where their children remained, as they were in the process of migrating to Australia.

A close family friend of the couple explained that an argument broke out between them after their night shift. In a moment of distress, it is believed that Suraj acted impulsively, and the incident was likely not premeditated, as he sounded devastated when he called his friends following the incident. He had informed them that his wife had passed and expressed his own distress. Shortly afterward, he removed his WhatsApp profile photo and deleted his status updates.

The report also revealed that Bincy had

a stab wound to her chest, and Suraj had a wound on his neck.

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Fake accounts quelled: The recent action of the government against fake social media accounts is a significant step in a battle that has persisted for years at various fronts -- governmental, media and societal, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

This crackdown is not new, as it is a continuation of an open war on digital deception that has long threatened national unity and social stability.

Some days ago, the Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of a Kuwaiti accused of managing 16 fake accounts. These accounts were allegedly used to spread rumors, insult citizens and incite division -- all in exchange for money. This arrest signals the tangible results of the firm and methodical efforts exerted by the government to address the dangers posed by such platforms.

Fake accounts have caused harm; as their effects have been felt in the political, social and security domains. Their divisive rhetoric has undermined trust in State institutions and fueled hostility among Kuwaitis, eroding the sense of unity that defines the Kuwaiti society.

The leadership has consistently warned about the dangers of these accounts. Their destructive influence is regularly highlighted in public statements as a threat to the values of respect, cohesion and love embedded in the national fabric.

For years, the daily and other media institutions have taken a leading role in confronting this phenomenon. Through reporting, investigations and editorials; the daily has consistently exposed the misuse of social media and the anonymity used to spread falsehoods and incite unrest. What some once labeled as ‘extreme’ positions have since proven to be grounded in a genuine defense of Kuwait’s interests. The continued efforts of the ministry to pursue those managing these accounts confirm that the media’s stance is neither excessive nor misplaced -- it is essential.

The collaborative effort between the government and responsible media outlets reflects a commitment to reinforce stability, respect freedom of expression, and uphold the rule of law. It is part of a wider campaign against all forms of corruption, aimed at rebuilding trust in State institutions and promoting national reform.



KFF personnel trying to extinguish the fire.

KFF photo

No injuries as fire engulfs 3 cars in Farwaniya region

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Fire engulfed three vehicles in Farwaniya on Thursday afternoon but no casualties were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from Farwaniya Fire Station rushed to the location and extinguished the fire before it spread further.

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Food lab nod sought: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has urged regulatory authorities to expedite the approval process for the tender related to the operation and maintenance of engineering services for its main laboratory project, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

This strategic project aims to regulate food sampling and conduct risk assessments in line with the latest international standards.

According to informed sources, regulatory authorities have already approved the signing of four contracts, worth a total of KD 103,000, to supply the laboratory with necessary supplies for food sample testing.

The remaining project contracts are currently under review by regulatory agencies, with plans to float them in order to complete the work framework for the main food testing laboratory, which plays an effective role in food security.

The laboratory will include several specialized units specialized in biology and biochemistry, designed to test for bacteria, viruses, and fungi in food products. These labs will be equipped with the latest technology for food testing, including analysis of genetically modified products.

The sources said the project will be implemented in phases, beginning with the testing of vegetables, fruits, and eggs, followed by the testing of meat, fish, and dairy.

They affirmed the importance of coordination and collaboration among all relevant government agencies throughout the process.



The KFF boat off to the rescue.

KFF photo

KFF rescues kid drowning at sea off the chalets area

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: A child was rescued from drowning at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea Chalets on Thursday afternoon, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters and marine rescue officers rushed to the location after receiving information about the incident and pulled the child from the water. The child was then handed over to the relevant authorities.

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Four hurt in fire: Fire engulfed a house in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, resulting in injuries to four individuals.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from Istiqlal and Kabad fire stations rushed to the location and extinguished the fire within a short time. The four casualties were handed over to the paramedics.

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Stables fire tackled: Fire broke out in a plot located in the Jahra Stables area on Friday evening. No casualties have been reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from the Jahra Industrial and Tahrir fire stations rushed to the location and controlled the fire before it spread further.

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Woman steals Rolex: Hawally detectives referred a woman, in her 30s, to the Public Prosecution for stealing a Rolex watch worth KD7,200, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source revealed that a citizen, born in 1989, reported to Hawally Police Station that he forgot a Rolex watch worth KD7,200 that his friend gifted him in a shoe box at his apartment. He was surprised to find that the watch was stolen. The security cameras at the apartment showed a woman stealing the watch. The complainant provided police with the security camera footage showing the details of the theft and the accused was arrested.

The suspect, born in 1990, was summoned for interrogation. When asked about the theft, she admitted to stealing the watch and sold it for KD5,000 to a friend. She confirmed that she is aware that the value of the luxury watch is about KD10,000.



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Ahmadi Gov honors artist Obaid in ‘The Fragrance of the Past’ event held by school



Some photos from the event.

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Under the patronage and in the presence of Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Latifa Al-Fares High School for Girls in Fahaheel organized a celebration titled “The Fragrance of the Past” on Thursday to honor distinguished artist Khaled Obaid.

According to a press release issued by Ahmadi Governorate, the event was attended by High School Supervisor and Acting Director of Educational Affairs in the Ahmadi Educational Zone Dr. Musaed Al-Shammari, Acting Educational Stage Supervisor and First Supervisor of Social Studies Adel Al-Mayas, as well as several supervisors, principals, and assistant principals from

various schools.

The celebration was held under the supervision of school principal Noura Al-Azmi, senior music education supervisor Muhammad Al-Yassin, and supervisor Dr. Duaa Al-Qallaf.

The governor highlighted the excellence of Ahmadi Governorate schools, and recognized Latifa Al-Fares High School for Girls’ dedication to nurture, support, and motivate talented students.

During the celebration, several distinguished artists including Jassim Al-Nabhan, Muhammad Al-Mansour, Abdulrahman Al-Aql, Muhammad Jaber,

Hussein Al-Mufidi, and Salman Abdullah Al-Habil, were honored.

Teachers and students from 16 different schools participated in the artistic segments of the event, and presented traditional musical performances inspired by classic Kuwaiti TV series such as “The Broken Jug”, “Aladdin and the Magic Lamp”, “Badr Al-Zaman”, “City of the Winds”, “The Greedy”, “The Journey of Wonders”, and “Sinbad the Sailor”.

School principal Noura Al-Azmi expressed her gratitude for the governor’s patronage and attendance, as well as his encouragement of the talented students.

Solution for Kaifan power glitch

Comply with Mol, GTD orders: Municipality

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Kuwait Municipality has approved the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate a site for the secondary transformer station, measuring 12.5 meters by 16.5 meters with a total of 206.25 square meters in Kaifan, Block Six -- near the main transformer station and the Kuwait

University campus.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the official statement regarding the transaction approved by acting Director General of the Municipality Manal Al-Asfour in which the Municipality has mandated strict adherence to the requirements outlined in the responses of the members of the Subcommittee for Public Facilities and Services in their meeting on Dec 17, 2024. This is in addition to



Eng. Al-Asfour

the need for coordination with the sub-committee prior to implementation.

Key requirements include compliance with the condition of the General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry that the station maintains a minimum distance of 10 meters from the curbstone, ensuring there is no obstruction to visibility or traffic signs. It is also necessary to fully abide by security and safety protocols and to obtain the permits from the General Traffic Department.

Furthermore, the competent departments are authorized to adjust the dimensions and area of the site within the designated boundaries if conflicts arise with existing infrastructure services or for regulatory reasons.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria Talal Al-Fassam with Arab President of the Austrian Economic Chamber and Secretary General of the Chamber.

Austrian trade delegation to visit Kuwait from May 5 to 7

VIENNA, May 3, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ambassador to Austria Talal Al-Fassam announced that a high-level Austrian trade delegation will visit Kuwait May 5-7, to explore economic and commercial cooperation opportunities.

In a statement to KUNA, Ambassador Al-Fassam said that the delegation includes representatives from 22 Austrian companies active in key sectors such as healthcare, investment, renewable energy, firefighting technologies, construction, oil and gas, and tourism.

The visit is the result of coordinated efforts between Kuwait’s Embassy in Vienna, the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC), the Austrian Economic Chambers, and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and

Industry, aiming to broaden prospects of cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Fassam stated that this visit is an important step toward expanding cooperation and attracting quality investments aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035, and stressed the visit’s significance in advancing Kuwait-Austria economic ties.

Kuwait and Austria share longstanding economic relations, including cooperation in investments, technology, equipment supply, and partnerships in the energy and environmental sectors.

Austria is also an active European supporter of sustainable development projects, while Kuwait is working under its 2035 vision to diversify its economy and engage with new markets and international partners.

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MPW hunts for young talent

‘Kuwaitis need to operate stations’

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As part of the efforts of the Ministry of Public Works to enhance reliance on national workforce, the ministry held a coordination meeting with the Higher Institute of Energy to discuss mechanisms for the graduation of qualified national technicians to operate pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants.

Deputy Director General for Training at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Khaled Al-Rasheed and Assistant Undersecretary for Sanitary Engineering Sector at the ministry Ahmed Al-Saleh chaired the meeting.

A clear implementation plan was developed to qualify new technical workforce, in addition to discussing training programs for engineers and technicians who are currently working at the ministry, with the aim of raising their operational efficiency.

The program includes field visits of a team from institute to a number of stations and laboratories.

The ministry stated that these steps are in compliance with the directives of Al-Mashaan to empower national workforce and guarantee their technical readiness to maintain the safe and sustainable operation of stations.

This confirms that the next phase will witness more reliance on young national talent in various fields of engineering and operational work.

9,522 citizens ring charities to help pay off their cash debts

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: The Charitable Societies and Charities Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs -- through the Central Aid Automated Platform -- received 9,522 requests from citizens wishing to benefit from the third national campaign to collect donations for the payment of debts that ended on April 14, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources from the ministry.

Sources revealed the ministry formed six Sharia committees whose members are from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Zakat House, Secretariat General of Awqaf, and the Federation of Charitable Societies and Charitable Foundations.

Sources said these committees will specify the Sharia criteria for eligibility, while ensuring that the requirements of the campaign are met to ensure the fair distribution of donations, prevent duplication or misuse of donations, and ensure that donations are distributed to the rightful beneficiaries.

Sources disclosed the conditions for disbursement state that the beneficiary should be a Kuwaiti who could not afford to fulfill non-criminal financial obligations and he

must provide official documentation proving inability to pay.

Sources explained the donations have been handed over to the concerned authorities for the settlement of debts -- the Civil Enforcement Department at the Ministry of Justice for those subject to travel ban, vehicle and salary seizures; or the Implementation of Criminal Judgments General Department at the Ministry of Interior for those detained in correctional institutions due to non-payment of debts. Sources said this step was taken to make sure that legal procedures are implemented with the highest level of transparency.

Sources added the disbursements will not include debts arising from illegal or prohibited transactions or debts from telecommunications companies or informal financing entities (subcontract financing), as they are not considered humanitarian priorities.

Sources emphasized that citizens, who benefited from the two previous campaigns, are no longer eligible; indicating the donations collected in the month-long campaign reached KD 13.727 million from 21,851 donors.



Photos during the tree plantation drive under ‘Plant for Mother’ campaign.

Diplomats, community unite to plant roots of love and sustainability

Indian Embassy’s ‘Plant for Mother’ campaign blossoms in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Embassy of India, Kuwait in association with UN Habitat, Kuwait organized a tree plantation drive under ‘Plant for Mother’ campaign at Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Natural Reserve in Kuwait on 3 May 2025.

On this occasion, Governor of Jahra H.E Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi, Head of UN Habitat and IOM in Kuwait, Ambassadors of several countries, friends from media and a cross-section of Indian community in Kuwait joined the initiative of the Embassy by planting local saplings to

promote environmental protection and sustainability. During the event, all participants planted local saplings (Rhanterium epapposum, Calligonum comosum, Acacia gerrardii) and put a placard with the name of their mother on it.

On World Environment Day 2024, Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the ‘Plant for Mother (Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam)’ campaign, urging individuals to plant trees in tribute to their mothers. This

initiative has gained widespread support and participation with over 1.4 billion saplings planted so far. Many leaders from across the world have joined this initiative by planting trees along-with Hon’ble Prime Minister of India or separately.

The ‘Plant for Mother campaign continues to galvanize action across the world and underscores the collective responsibility for protecting our environment.



Participants plant local saplings (Rhanterium epapposum, Calligonum comosum, Acacia gerrardii) and put a placard with the name of their mother on it.

Continued from Page 1

Kabad sweep

The Public Security Sector under the Jahra Governorate Security Directorate, in coordination with the Municipality, carried out a large-scale security campaign in Kabad as per the directive of Director General of Jahra Governorate Security Directorate Brigadier General Ziad Al-Khatib, targeting unauthorized and non-compliant storage facilities.

This campaign resulted in the detention of 21 individuals who violated the Residency and Labor laws. These individuals were referred to the concerned judicial bodies for legal action. Six firearms, 100 rounds of ammunition and alcoholic beverages were also confiscated during the campaign.

Meanwhile, the Municipality teams demolished several illegal vendor stalls and encroachments on State properties.

The Ministry of Interior has reaffirmed its commitment to continue such joint security initiatives to combat all forms of violations and maintain national security and stability.

Kuwait unplugs

This is in addition to calls for the opening of State-recognized platforms for trading cryptocurrencies, similar to those in other Gulf countries.

Financial expert Salah Al-Jimaz pointed out that Bitcoin mining is a complex algorithmic process whereby a customer who is proficient in mining obtains a Bitcoin or a portion of that currency. “However, it is an extremely arduous process requiring extensive effort. Trading in Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies is available on some global exchanges, but it is criminalized in Kuwait because the Central Bank prohibits it,” he revealed.

He suggested allowing licensed digital platforms in Kuwait to trade digital currencies, as they could generate billions for the country by establishing mechanisms and conditions for approving licenses for these digital platforms.

He explained that the State could impose taxes on these platforms and on traders’ profits to discourage some from trading in these virtual currencies in neighboring countries, especially since the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) permit trading in encrypted digital currencies.

Lawyer and economic expert Salem Al-Kandari supported the government’s efforts to dry up the sources of cryptocurrencies in the country, as he believes they are being exploited for money laundering operations. He said the money mafia is highly skilled in using technology, enabling them to easily launder money through cryptocurrencies.

He added “the money laundering network exploits a person with a clean reputation and transfers cryptocurrencies under his name. After depositing them in banks, paper currencies are used to purchase cryptocurrencies. The money laundering mafia also uses the

internet to facilitate the sale of drugs, unlicensed firearms, stolen data and hacking tools through cryptocurrencies. Global terrorist groups can exploit the internet to raise funds in the form of donations to carry out terrorist operations. After the money laundering operations, the cleaned funds are withdrawn and converted into a base currency.”

He stated that the main risk posed by cryptocurrencies is the anonymity of users by enabling untraceable transactions between parties. “The absence of names, bank details and identity verification raises concerns and suspicions due to the lack of regulatory scrutiny,” he elaborated.

Computer Science Professor at Kuwait University and Kuwait Society for Information Security Chairperson Dr. Safaa Zaman disclosed that some people confuse Bitcoin mining with money laundering. She clarified that money laundering occurs only through trading Bitcoin on platforms, but mining involves creating currency using algorithms.

She stated that Kuwait criminalizes Bitcoin mining due to the excessive consumption of electricity, indicating these operations are unlicensed here and the State does not impose taxes on them.

She pointed out that the impact of cryptocurrencies on the global or local economy is extremely weak, as virtual cryptocurrencies are not valued in gold like paper currencies and other reserves.

“As the first to expose the case of a developer who defrauded Kuwaiti investors of \$40 million through ‘Bitcoin Kuwait’ and then fled, the government has started closely monitoring Bitcoin mining activity and it is working hard to prevent its trading in the country. The Central Bank of Kuwait does not recognize virtual currencies, and the Ministry of Commerce refused to license Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. The government affirmed that official authorities have the right to do so, due to the fraudulent activities on unofficial digital trading platforms,” she narrated.

She warned against the deception of teenagers and others into trading in Bitcoin or mining it, calling for increased awareness, especially since some educated people have lost enormous hopes as a result of trading in cryptocurrencies run by unknown gangs.

She urged parents to monitor their children, especially the teenagers, to avoid being scammed. “A study conducted by the Ministry of Communications revealed that 60 percent of Bitcoin traders in Kuwait are teenagers,” she disclosed.

She asked the official authorities to block websites dealing with cryptocurrencies and hold accountable anyone -- Kuwaiti, expatriate or media professional -- who promotes digital trading through their social media accounts, considering fraud methods evolve over time and scammers employ new technologies. “Therefore, the chain of electronic fraud continues through fake links and accounts, in addition to the use of advertisements through

hacking, the use of celebrity accounts and photos, and their exploitation in fraudulent operations, among other new methods,” she added.

She pointed out that the failure of some to report cases of electronic fraud to which they are exposed increases the incidence of electronic fraud and the fraudulent purchase of cryptocurrencies.

She stressed the need to revise some laws to keep pace with technological changes; such as the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority Law, Electronic Media Law and Anti-Cybercrime Law. She believes this will prevent some users from creating loopholes and innovative methods to manage fake accounts, spread fake news and hate speech without deterrence or accountability.

Financial management expert Khaled Mohammed said Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are volatile and can incur losses within minutes. “They pose a risk to many traders, as there are no governments or regulatory bodies to help Bitcoin maintain its value,” he warned.

On issues affecting cryptocurrency trading, he cited the spread of news around the world, even if it is a baseless rumor that has a negative impact on Bitcoin, especially since most digital currency projects are misleading and illogical. He was quick to point out that some digital currencies offer certain security and some succeeded in recent years.

He said one of the most important tools for digital currencies is flash memory, which can contain enormous profits estimated in traditional currencies at hundreds of millions of dollars.

Regarding the extent to which the global economy will be affected in the future by the expansion of digital currency trading, he stated “it will have a positive or negative impact, but in any case, the crypto economy will not eliminate its traditional counterpart.”

He went on to explain that “what contributes to the expansion of the digital economy is the digital trading platforms available to everyone who owns a smartphone, regardless of nationality, race or socioeconomic class; but the biggest problem is the existence of the digital fraud mafia. The number of cryptocurrency users is constantly increasing, reaching more than 800 million by the end of 2024.

He added a United Nations study revealed that Bitcoin mining systems consume more electricity than many countries; indicating that in 2023, Bitcoin mining consumed 135 million terawatts globally.

Economic expert and lawyer Salem Al-Kandari explained how to mine Bitcoin; stating that it initially requires obtaining a Bitcoin wallet through a laptop, computer or smartphone. “After installing the mining software, the user immediately joins the mining pool. This process requires solving highly complex mathematical equations and that mathematical geniuses earn a lot of Bitcoin due to their deep understanding of mathematical problems.

Kuwait, Peru reaffirm strong bilateral ties in various fields

New agreements on horizon

KUWAIT CITY, May 3, (KUNA): Kuwait and Peru reaffirmed their bilateral commitment to deepening relations in various economic, political, cultural, and educational fields in a joint statement Thursday, on the occasion of Peru’s Foreign Minister’s official visit to Kuwait.

Peru’s Foreign Minister Elmer Schialer visited Kuwait on April 29, as part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries.

During Minister Schialer’s visit, he delivered a message addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, from the President of Peru, Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra, regarding the historical friendship between the two countries and efforts to develop them.

The message was received by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, during a meeting he had with the Peruvian Foreign Minister.

Kuwait’s Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received Minister Schialer, where they exchanged



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya receives Peru's Foreign Minister Elmer Schialer.

views on regional and international issues, stressing the importance of achieving a lasting and fair peace in the Middle East.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the understanding achieved in bilateral relations, affirmed their readiness to move forward with existing agreements, and pledged to advance efforts aimed at signing several agreements and memorandums of understanding between the two countries in the economic, cultural, educational, and

other important fields.

The two ministers also expressed their awareness of the importance of cooperation for sustainable development as a strategy to address the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security, agreeing on continuing negotiations related to investment and food security.

They also reiterated their commitment to maintain ongoing dialogue, with Minister Schialer extending an invitation to Minister Al-Yahya to visit Peru.

Marine captain licenses is now just a click away

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: The Maritime Transport Department of the General Department of Coast Guard announced that the marine captain license can now be obtained online through the electronic ID app, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This measure is part of the Ministry of Interior’s efforts to promote digital transformation, integrate government services, reduce paper-based transactions, and save time and effort for beneficiaries.

The department encouraged all concerned individuals to use the Kuwait Mobile ID app to view the details of obtaining the license and complete the necessary steps easily.

The Maritime Transport Department affirmed its commitment to develop maritime services and enhance operational efficiency, in line with Kuwait’s vision for a smart and advanced government.

In other news, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced the completion of its automated, paperless process for modifying employment status through an integrated system linking the employer and relevant departments at CSC, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

CSC explained that the process begins with the employer institution submitting the application to the system, which is then reviewed and approved by the appropriate department.



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‘End woke programs’

White House seeks sharp spending cuts in President Trump’s ’26 budget plan

WASHINGTON, May 3, (AP): The White House released President Donald Trump’s 2026 budget proposal Friday, hoping to slash, if not zero out, spending on many government programs. It seeks a sweeping restructuring of the nation’s domestic priorities, reflective of the president’s first 100 days in office and sudden firing of federal workers.

Trump’s plan aims for steep cuts to child care, disease research, renewable energy and peacekeeping abroad, many already underway through Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency, all while pumping up billions for the administration’s mass deportation agenda.

The budget drafters echo Trump’s promises to end “woke programs,” including preschool grants to states with diversity programs. And they reflect his vow to stop the “weaponization of government” by slashing the Internal Revenue Service, even as critics accuse him of using the levers of power to punish people and institutions he disfavors.

Overall, it’s a sizable reduction in domestic accounts - some \$163 billion, or 22.6% below current year spending, the White House said.

At the same time, the White House said it is relying on Congress to unleash \$375 billion in new money for the Homeland Security and Defense departments as part of Trump’s

“big, beautiful bill” of tax cuts and spending reductions. His goal is to repel when he calls a “foreign invasion,” though migrant arrivals to the US are at all-time lows.

House Speaker Mike Johnson welcomed the proposal as “a bold blueprint that reflects the values of hardworking Americans and the commitment to American strength and prosperity.”

Budgets do not become law, but serve as a touchstone for the coming fiscal year debates. Often considered a statement of values, this first budget since Trump’s return to the White House carries the added weight of defining the Republican president’s second-term pursuits, alongside his party in Congress.

It comes as Trump has unilaterally imposed what could be hundreds of billions of dollars in tax increases in the form of tariffs, setting off a trade war that has consumers, CEOs and foreign leaders worried about a possible economic downturn.

Trump, in an interview with NBC News’ “Meet the Press” taped Friday, pushed back against recession talk.

Asked by Meet the Press host Kristen Welker about Wall Street analysts who have expressed concerns that the chances of a recession are increasing, Trump insisted the economy will do “fantastically.”

“Well, you know, you say, some



US President Donald Trump gives a commencement address at the University of Alabama on May 1, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. (AP)

people on Wall Street say,” Trump said. “Well, I tell you something else. Some people on Wall Street say that we’re going to have the greatest economy in history.”

Democrats assailed the budget as a devastating foreshadowing of Trump’s vision for the country.

“President Trump has made his priorities clear as day: he wants to outright defund programs that help working Americans,” said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the top Democrat on the Appropriations Commit-

tee. This, she said, “while he shovels massive tax breaks at billionaires like himself and raises taxes on middle-class Americans with his reckless tariffs.”

The White House Office of Management and Budget, headed by Russell Vought, a chief architect of Project 2025 from the conservative Heritage Foundation, provided contours of a so-called skinny version of topline numbers only.

It covers only the federal government’s discretionary spending, now

about \$1.83 trillion a year on defense and nondefense accounts. Trump’s team drops that spending by \$163 billion, to \$1.69 trillion, a portion of the nation’s nearly \$7 trillion budget that includes far more programs and services.

Federal budgets have been climbing steadily, as have annual deficits that are fast approaching \$2 trillion, with annual interest payments on the debt almost \$1 trillion. That’s thanks mostly to the spike in emergency COVID-19 pandemic spending, changes in the tax code that reduced revenues and the climbing costs of Medicare, Medicaid and other programs, largely to cover health needs as people age. The nation’s debt load, at \$36 trillion, is ballooning.

“We need a budget that tells the full story, and it should control spending, reduce borrowing, bring deficits down,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a fiscal watchdog group.

Among some of the White House’s proposed highlights:

The State Department and international programs would lose 84% of their money and receive \$9.6 billion, reflecting deep cuts already underway, including to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Health and Human Services Department would be cut by \$33.3 billion and the Education Depart-

ment’s spending would be reduced by \$12 billion. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health would all face steep reductions.

The Defense Department would get an additional \$113.3 billion and Homeland Security would receive \$42.3 billion more. Much of that is contingent on Congress approving Trump’s big bill. That approach drew criticism from leading defense hawks, among them the former GOP Leader, Sen Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

McConnell called the proposed boost in defense money in the president’s budget a “gimmick.”

“America cannot expect our allies to heed calls for greater annual defense spending if we are unwilling to lead by example,” McConnell said in a blistering statement. “Fortunately, Presidential budget requests are just that: requests. Congress will soon have an opportunity to ensure that American power - and the credibility of our commitments - are appropriately resourced.”

It’s Congress, under its constitutional powers, that decides the spending plans, approves the bills that authorize federal programs and funds them through the appropriations process. Often, that system breaks down, forcing lawmakers to pass stopgap spending bills to keep the government funded and avoid federal shutdowns.

Vance’s global travels mix of diplomacy, dealmaking, soft power and family time

WASHINGTON, May 3, (AP): When JD Vance was running for vice president, he walked across an airport tarmac in Wisconsin one August day when his campaign travels happened to intersect those of Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and approached Air Force Two. Besides wanting to take a poke at Republican Donald Trump’s rival for avoiding the press, Vance said, “I just wanted to check out my future plane.”

It’s an aircraft he now knows well.

In the opening months of Trump’s term, Vice President Vance has traveled all over the globe - family in tow - to conduct top-level diplomacy for the administration, in addition to taking a number of domestic trips. His international forays have featured a mix of meetings with world leaders, sharply crafted speeches advancing US policy, “soft power” appearances to build goodwill and family time at tourist sites along the way.

Vance’s trips have included a five-day trip to Europe in February, a hast-

ily reorganized trek to Greenland in March and a tour of Italy and India in April that was notable for the vice president’s brief meeting with Pope Francis the day before the pontiff died.

In his first big moment on the world stage in February, Vance pressed Trump’s “America first” message at an artificial intelligence summit in Paris and spoke of maintaining US dominance in the surging industry. From there, he attended a security conference in Munich, where the vice president left his audience stunned with his lecturing remarks about democracy and scant focus on Russia’s war against Ukraine.

In March, Vance delivered pointed remarks while in Greenland, scolding Denmark for not investing more in the security of its territory and demanding a new approach. Trump has upset many Greenlanders with his aggressive claims that the US needs to take control of the island away from Denmark.

There’s been dealmaking, too.

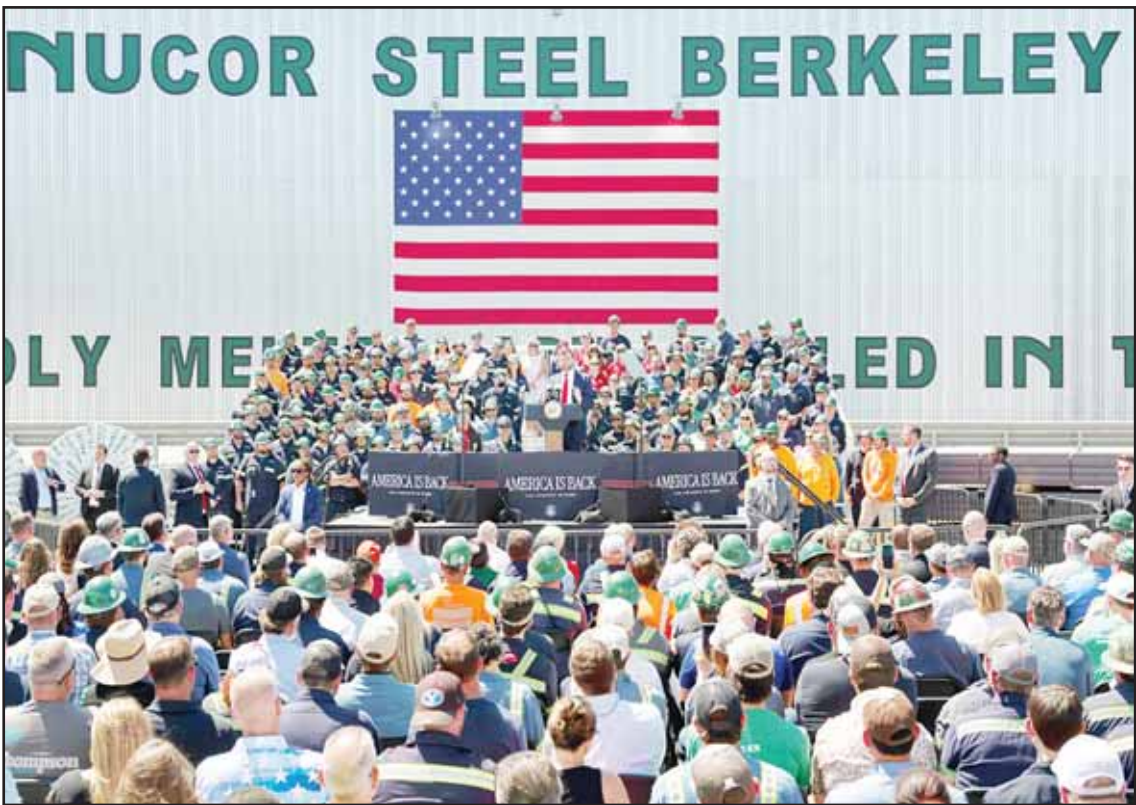
In India last month, Vance announced after meeting with Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi that they had agreed on a negotiating framework for a US-India trade deal. In Italy, he held talks with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, in addition to his separate audiences with the pope and a top Vatican official.

Vance has been accompanied on his overseas trips by his wife, Usha, and their 7- and 5-year-old sons and 3-year-old daughter. The kids are usually in pajamas as they board Air Force Two for the overnight flights.

The Vances have gazed aloft at the newly restored Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City and been photographed, with the children in traditional Indian dress, in front of the Taj Mahal in Agra. Without their children, the Vances also visited Dachau in Germany.

Brad Blakeman, a former senior official in George W. Bush’s administration who has provided planning advice to Vance’s office for some of his foreign travel, said that, while some personal time is woven in, these are not vacations.



US Vice President JD Vance speaks during a tour at Nucor Steel Berkeley in Huger, SC on May 1. (AP)



George Simion, (center), presidential candidate for the Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR) stands during a protest calling for the resignation of the country’s Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu in Bucharest, Romania on March 1. (AP)

Romania set to vote in critical presidential rerun

As Romanians vote Sunday in one of the European Union member’s most important elections in decades, MAGA-style hard-right nationalist George Simion says it’s his duty to restore democracy and the will of the people after the previous vote was annulled.

Romania’s political landscape was upended last year when a top court voided the previous election after the far-right outsider Calin Georgescu topped first-round polls. The decision followed allegations of

electoral violations and a Russian campaign promoting Georgescu, who is now under investigation and barred from Sunday’s redo. Moscow has denied it meddled.

“We didn’t go from communism to democracy in 1989,” Simion, the 38-year-old leader of the hard-right nationalist Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, told The Associated Press. “The Romanian people lived the lie that we are a democratic country.”

Eleven candidates are vying for

the presidency in Sunday’s vote, which is expected to go to a May 18 runoff. The presidential role carries a five-year term and significant decision-making powers in national security and foreign policy.

A communist state until the end of the Cold War, Romania has spent decades trying to build strong democratic institutions. But last year’s failed election plunged the EU and NATO member country into unprecedented political turmoil. (AP)

Bomb blast kills woman in Greece

THESSALONIKI, Greece, May 3, (AP): A woman was killed early Saturday in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki when a bomb she was carrying exploded in her hands, police said.

The 38-year-old woman apparently was carrying the bomb to place outside a nearby bank around 5 a.m., police said.

Several storefronts and vehicles were damaged by the explosion.

Police said the woman, whom they did not publicly identify, had a criminal record related to drugs and prostitution and had been involved in at least one robbery and thefts in the past. The Greek police’s division for organized crime was investigating the incident, while authorities were also investigating whether the woman might have had ties to extreme leftist groups.



Greek police forensic experts search the spot where a 38-year-old woman was killed early Saturday when a bomb she was carrying exploded in her hands, local police said, in Thessaloniki, northern Greece on May 3. (AP)

Residential buildings damaged

Russia drone attack injures 47 in Kharkiv

KYIV, Ukraine, May 3, (AP): A Russian drone strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, wounded 47 people, officials said, and prompted another appeal from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for more decisive support from the country’s allies.

Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said drones hit 12 locations across the city late Friday. Residential buildings, civilian infrastructure and vehicles were damaged in the assault, according to Kharkiv regional Gov Oleh Synyehubov.

The Kharkiv Prosecutor’s Office said Saturday that Russian forces used drones with thermobaric warheads. In a statement on Telegram, it said thermobaric weapons create a powerful blast wave and a hot cloud of smoke, causing large-scale destruction. The prosecutor said its use may indicate a deliberate violation of international humanitarian law.

“While the world hesitates with decisions, nearly every night in Ukraine turns into a nightmare, costing lives. Ukraine needs strengthened air defense. Strong and real decisions are needed from our partners - the United States, Europe, all our partners who seek peace,” Zelenskyy wrote on X in the early hours of Saturday.

Russia fired a total of 183 exploding drones and decoys overnight, Ukraine’s air force said. Of those, 77 were intercepted and a further 73



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire following a Russian attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine on May 3. (AP)

lost, likely having been electronically jammed. Russia also launched two ballistic missiles.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Defense Ministry said its air defenses shot down 170 Ukrainian drones overnight. The ministry said eight cruise missiles and three guided missiles were also intercepted.

In southern Russia, five people, including two children, were injured in a drone strike on the Black Sea port city

of Novorossiysk overnight, according to Mayor Andrey Kravchenko.

The latest wave of attacks comes after the US and Ukraine on Wednesday signed an agreement granting American access to Ukraine’s vast mineral resources. It finalizes a deal months in the making that could enable continued military aid to Kyiv amid concerns that President Donald Trump might scale back support in ongoing peace negotiations with Russia.

US gives initial approval for \$3.5b missile sale to Saudi before Trump’s planned visit

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, May 3, (AP): The United States has given initial approval to sell \$3.5 billion worth of air-to-air missiles for Saudi Arabia’s fighter jets, the latest proposed arms deal for the region ahead of President Donald Trump’s planned trip to the region later this month.

The sale, announced early Saturday, likely will be one of several heralded by Trump on his visit to the kingdom. Saudi Arabia has already said it wants to invest \$600 billion in the United States over the next four years, likely as a way to woo Trump to again pick the kingdom for his first formal trip as president. Trump traveled to Italy briefly for Pope Francis’ funeral.

Trump’s 2017 trip to Saudi Arabia upended a tradition of modern U.S. presidents typically first heading to Canada, Mexico or the United Kingdom for their first trip abroad. It also underscored his administration’s close ties to the rulers of the oil-rich Gulf states as his eponymous real estate



In this handout photo from the US Navy, sailors load an AIM-120C missile into an F/A-18E Super Hornet aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz in the Arabian Gulf on Aug 8, 2017. (AP)

company has pursued deals across the region.

The arms sale involves 1,000 AIM-120C-8 advanced medium range air-

to-air missiles, guidance sections and other technical support. The missiles will be built by RTX Corp of Tucson, Ariz.

South Korea’s main conservative party nominates Kim as presidential candidate

SEOUL, South Korea, May 3, (AP): Former Labor Minister and staunch conservative Kim Moon Soo won the presidential nomination of South Korea’s main conservative party, facing an uphill battle against liberal front-runner Lee Jae-myung for the June 3 election.

Observers say Kim will likely try to align with other conservative forces, such as former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, to prevent a split in conservative votes and boost prospects for a conservative win against Lee.

In a party primary that ended Saturday, Kim won 56.5% of the votes cast, beating his sole competitor, Han Dong-hun, the party said in a televised announcement. Other contenders have been eliminated in earlier rounds.

“I’ll form a strong alliance with anyone to prevent a rule by Lee Jae-myung and his Democratic Party forces. I’ll push for that in a procedure and method that our people and party members accept, and I’ll ultimately win,” Kim said in his victory speech.

The June 3 election is meant to find a successor to conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, a People Power Party member who was impeached by the opposition-controlled National Assembly in mid-December and dis-



South Korea’s former Labor Minister Kim Moon Soo, (center), celebrates after winning the nomination as the presidential election candidate during the People Power Party’s convention in Goyang, South Korea on May 3. (AP)

missed by the Constitutional Court in early April over his ill-fated imposition of martial law.

Yoon’s impeachment is a major source of feuding at the PPP and a hot topic at the party’s primary.

Kim, who served as labor minister under Yoon, has opposed parliament’s impeachment of Yoon, though he said

he disagreed with Yoon’s decision to declare martial law on Dec. 3. Kim gained popularity among hardline PPP supporters after he solely defied a demand on Dec 11 by an opposition lawmaker that all Cabinet members stand up and bow in a gesture of apology for Yoon’s martial law enactment at the National Assembly.

Voting closes in Singapore as its long-ruling party seeks bigger win

SINGAPORE, May 3, (AP): Voting closed Saturday in Singapore in a general election that is seen as the first key test of support for Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, who took office last year.

His People’s Action Party is widely expected to comfortably extend its 66-year dominance in the city-state. But the election is being closely watched for whether the opposition can make further gains as people express unhappiness over tight government control and a high cost of living.

Wong, a US-trained economist who is also finance minister, has appealed for a resounding mandate to steer trade-reliant Singapore through economic turbulence following US President Donald Trump’s tariff hikes. The government has lowered its trade forecast and warned of a possible recession.

“This election is couched as a test of the support for the leadership of PM Lawrence Wong but it also will reflect how politics in Singapore are changing, namely an embrace of alternative voices



President of Singapore, Tharman Shanmugaratnam and his wife Jane Yumiko Ittogi leave the polling station after casting their votes during the general election in Singapore on May 3. (AP)

and a younger generation seeing the PAP” under a younger leader, Southeast Asia political expert Bridget Welsh said.

Wong, 52, succeeded Lee Hsien Loong to become the city-state’s fourth leader. Lee stepped down in May 2024 after two decades at the

helm but remained in the Cabinet as a senior minister. His retirement as premier ended a family dynasty started by his father, Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore’s first leader, who built the former colonial backwater into one of the world’s richest nations during 31 years in office.

Opposition leader Dutton concedes defeat

Australia’s Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wins second three-year term

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 3, (AP): Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has become the first Australian prime minister to win a second consecutive three-year term in 21 years.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton conceded defeat in Saturday’s election, saying, “We didn’t do well enough during this campaign, that much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility for that.”

“Earlier on, I called the prime minister to congratulate him on his success tonight. It’s an historic occasion for the Labor Party and we recognise that,” he added.

The Australian Electoral Commission’s projections gave Albanese’s ruling center-left Labor Party 70 seats and the conservative opposition coalition 24 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, the lower chamber where parties need a majority to form governments. Unaligned minor parties and independent candidates appeared likely to win 13 seats.

Australian Broadcasting Corp. respected election analyst Antony Green predicted Labor would win 76 seats, the coalition 36 and unaligned lawmakers 13. Green said Labor would form a majority or minority government and that the coalition had no hope of forming even a minority government.

Energy policy and inflation have been major issues in the campaign, with both sides agreeing the country faces a cost of living crisis.

Dutton’s conservative Liberal Party blames government waste for fueling inflation and increasing interest rates, and has pledged to ax more than one in five public service jobs to reduce government spending.

While both say the country should reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, Dutton argues that relying on more nuclear power instead of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind turbines would deliver less expensive electricity.



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese waves as he prepares to address the party faithful after winning a second term following the general election in Sydney on May 3. (AP)

The ruling center-left Labor Party has branded the opposition leader “DOGE-y Dutton” and accused his party of mimicking US President Donald Trump and his

Department of Government Efficiency.

Labor argues Dutton’s administration would slash services to pay for its nuclear ambitions.

“We’ve seen the attempt to run American-style politics here of division and pitting Australians against each other and I think that’s not the Australian way,” Albanese said.

Albanese also noted that his government had improved relations with China, which removed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers that had cost Australian exporters 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13 billion) a year since Labor came to power in 2022.

The election is taking place against a backdrop of what both sides of politics describe as a cost of living crisis.

Foodbank Australia, the nation’s largest food relief charity, reported 3.4 million households in the country of 27 million people experienced food insecurity last year.

That meant Australians were skipping meals, eating less or worrying about running out of food before they could afford to buy more.

The central bank reduced its benchmark cash interest rate by a quarter percentage point in February to 4.1% in an indication that the worst of the financial hardship had passed. The rate is widely expected to be cut again at the bank’s next board meeting on May 20, this time to encourage investment amid the international economic uncertainty generated by Trump’s tariff policies.

Both campaigns have focused on Australia’s changing demographics. The election is the first in Australia in which Baby Boomers, born between born between the end of World War II and 1964, are outnumbered by younger voters.



M23 rebels patrol the streets of Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo on Jan 29. (AP)

South Africa says peacekeeping troops withdrawing from rebel-held e.Congo

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, May 3, (AP): The South African armed forces said Thursday they had begun withdrawing their peacekeeping troops from rebel-controlled eastern Congo.

The South African National Defense Force said the troops began moving out earlier this week and would travel through neighboring Rwanda to Tanzania and fly home from there.

Peacekeeping troops from Malawi and Tanzania have also started withdrawing from Congo. The three countries contributed soldiers to a southern African peacekeeping force but they had been left trapped in eastern Congo after Rwanda-backed M23 rebels launched an offensive in late January and took control of the strategic city of Goma.

Fourteen South African and three Malawian soldiers were killed in fighting with M23 in January. The southern African regional body decided in

March to end its peacekeeping mission early and bring the troops home.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhurgirehe said on X that his country was providing safe passage and an escort for the peacekeepers and their equipment.

On Wednesday, hundreds of stranded Congolese government soldiers and police officers, along with their families, were also starting to be transferred from Goma back to the Congolese capital, Kinshasa, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was escorting them.

M23 controls Goma and a second major city in eastern Congo and is supported by around 4,000 troops from Rwanda, according to experts from the United Nations.

Congo and Rwanda have held talks mediated by Qatar and supported by the United States and say they are

working toward a peace agreement.

Also:

DAKAR, Senegal: Authorities in Congo have asked the country’s Senate to lift the immunity of former President **Joseph Kabila** so that he can face trial on charges of supporting a rebel insurgency in the country’s east, the justice minister said.

Justice Minister **Constant Mutamba** told reporters in the capital **Kinshasa** on Wednesday evening that Congo has amassed clear evidence implicating the former president in “war crimes, crimes against humanity and massacres of peaceful civilians and military personnel” in the country’s east.

Mutamba said the attorney general of Congo’s army has asked the Senate to revoke the lifetime immunity from prosecution that Kabila enjoys as an ex-president and senator.

India temple stampede kills 6

Pakistan test fires ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, May 3, (AP): Pakistan test-fired a ballistic missile Saturday as tensions with India spiked over last month’s deadly attack on tourists in the disputed Kashmir region.

The surface-to-surface missile has a range of 450 kilometers (about 280 miles), the Pakistani military said. There was no immediate comment about the launch from India, which blames Pakistan for the April 22 gun massacre in the resort town of Pahalgam, a charge Pakistan denies.

Pakistan’s military said the launch of the Abdali Weapon System was aimed at ensuring the “operational readiness of troops and validating key technical parameters,” including the missile’s advanced navigation system and enhanced maneuverability features.

Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated those behind the successful test. Missiles are not fired toward the border area with India; they are normally fired into the Arabian Sea or the deserts of southwest Balochistan province.

Islamabad-based security analyst Syed Muhammad Ali said Saturday’s missile was named after a prominent Muslim conqueror of India, underlining its symbolic significance.

“The timing of this launch is critical in the current geopolitical context,” Ali told The Associated Press. He said the test was intended as a strategic signal to India after it had threatened to suspend a crucial water-sharing treaty.



Indian security officers inspect the site a day after where militants indiscriminately opened fire at tourists in Pahalgam, Indian-controlled Kashmir on April 23. (AP)

India’s navy said on April 27 that its vessels had successfully undertaken anti-ship firings to “revalidate and demonstrate readiness of platforms, systems and crew for long-range precision offensive strike.”

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said days before that Pakistan had “credible intelligence” of India planning to attack it within days.

Also:

NEW DELHI: At least six people are dead and dozens injured after a stampede at a

gathering in the western Indian state of **Goa** early Saturday, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The stampede broke out as thousands of devotees thronged narrow lanes leading to a temple in **Shirgao** village, some 40 kilometers from the state capital of **Panaji**, the agency quoted police as saying.

Tens of thousands of devotees from Goa and neighboring states of **Maharashtra** and **Karnataka** attended the annual Hindu festival at Sree Lairai Devi temple.

US designates Haiti gangs as foreign terror organization

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, May 3, (AP): The US on Friday officially designated a powerful gang coalition in Haiti as a foreign terrorist organization, raising concerns the move could deepen the country’s humanitarian crisis at a critical time.

The Viv Ansanm coalition, which means “Living Together,” joins a list of eight Latin American criminal organizations under that category. Gran Grif, the biggest gang to operate in Haiti’s central Artibonite region, also was added to the list, as reported by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

“The age of impunity for those supporting violence in Haiti is over,” US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement Friday.

The US Department of State warned that “persons, including American citizens, that engage in certain transactions or activities with these entities, or these individuals may expose themselves to sanctions risk.”

But it’s nearly impossible for aid groups and others to avoid dealing with gangs in Haiti.

The Viv Ansanm coalition controls at least 85% of the capital, Port-au-Prince. This forces nonprofits and other groups



A woman sweeps debris next to a blazing barricade set up by demonstrators during a protest against insecurity in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on April 2. (AP)

to negotiate with gangs so they can gain access to communities to provide food, water and other critical supplies.

“The first consequences (of the designation) will be on the humanitarian and international cooperation, which is basi-

cally the only thing preventing the people in Haiti from starving,” said Romain Le Cour, with Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

The designation comes as Haiti faces record hunger, with more than half of its nearly 12 million inhabitants expected to experience severe hunger through June, and another 8,400 people living in makeshift shelters projected to starve.

Those who do business in Haiti also could be affected by the new designation. Gangs control the areas surrounding a key fuel depot and the country’s biggest and most important port, as well as the main roads that lead in and out of the capital, where they charge tolls.

“It could function as a de facto embargo,” said Jake Johnston, international research director at the Washington-based Center for Economic and Policy Research.

“The gangs exercise tremendous control over the commerce of the country,” he said. “Doing any kind of business with Haiti or in Haiti is going to carry much greater risk.”

The designation comes as gang violence surges in Haiti.

Thousands rally in Bangladesh against proposed rights changes

DHAKA, Bangladesh, May 3, (AP): Thousands of supporters of an Islamist group rallied in Bangladesh’s capital on Saturday to denounce proposed recommendations for ensuring equal rights, including ones related to property, for mainly Muslim women.

Leaders of the Hefazat-e-Islam group said the proposed legal reforms are contradictory to the Sharia law. More than 20,000 followers of the group rallied near the Dhaka University, some carrying banners and placards reading “Say no to Western laws on our women, rise up Bangladesh.”

The group threatened to organize rallies on May 23 across the country if the government didn’t meet their demands.



Thousands of activists of Islamist group Hefazat-e-Islam denounce proposed recommendations for equal rights for Muslim women, at a protest rally in Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 3. (AP)

Kuwaiti crude oil drops to \$62.41 pb

KUWAIT CITY, May 3, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti crude oil price fell USD 2.41 during Friday's trading to reach USD 62.41 per barrel (pb), compared with USD 64.82 pb the day before, Kuwait

Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Saturday. Brent futures also fell 84 cents to USD 61.29 pb and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) lost 95 cents to USD 58.29 pb.

Business

Boursa Kuwait increases its net profit by 69.48% in the first quarter of 2025 to reach KD 7.94 mln

Total operating revenues increased by 45.34%, while operating profit increased by 69.38%

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: In a meeting of its Board of Directors on Thursday, May 1, 2025, Boursa Kuwait announced that it has recorded a net profit of KD 7.94 million for the first quarter of 2025, a 69.48% increase from its total for the corresponding period in 2024, when the company recorded profits of KD 4.68 million.

The company's impressive improvement in net profit was largely driven by strong growth in total operating revenues. For the quarter ended March 31, 2025, total operating revenues reached KD 12.17 million – a 45.34% increase from KD 8.37 million in the same period of 2024. Operating profit also saw a significant boost, rising 69.38% from KD 5.58 million to KD 9.45 million, while earnings per share increased 69.48% from 23.33 fils in the first quarter of 2024 to 39.54 fils for the quarter ended March 31, 2025.

Additionally, the Group's total assets came in at KD 139.47 million as of March 31, 2025, which is a 12.86% increase versus the KD 123.57 million total recorded in the first quarter of 2024, while shareholders' equity attributable to equity holders of the parent company increased from KD 54.06 million as of March 31, 2024, to KD 59.03 million as of March 31, 2025, an increase of 9.20%.

Boursa Kuwait Chairman Mr. **Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi** praised the exchange's strong financial performance in the first quarter of 2025, affirming that the results reflect the robustness of its financial solvency, the efficiency of its governance, and the executive team's commitment to creating sustainable value for shareholders.

Commenting on the broader market environment, he said, "Despite the prevailing global uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, Boursa Kuwait achieved notable growth across all performance indicators. Net profit increased by 69.48%, demonstrating the resilience of our strategy and the adaptability of our operating model."

"The strong performance in the first quarter represents a key milestone for Boursa Kuwait, fueling our commitment to accelerate market development and solidify our position as a vital engine for national economic growth and a pivotal contributor to Kuwait's vision of transforming into a leading regional financial and investment hub," added Mr. Al-Kharafi.

The Chairman also reiterated the company's commitment to supporting Kuwait's ambitious vision by enhancing the capital market environment to be more dynamic, transparent and efficient; able to attract foreign investments; and introducing products and tools that serve all market participants while aligning with international best practices.

He stressed that this is being pursued through a clear strategic roadmap, full confidence in Boursa Kuwait's talent and systems' capabilities, and strong partnerships within the capital market ecosystem – all aimed at advancing the Kuwaiti capital market and contributing meaningfully to its sustainable growth.

Mr. Al-Kharafi concluded his remarks by extending his thanks, stating, "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our shareholders for their continued trust in Boursa Kuwait, to our executive management and dedicated employees for their unwavering commitment to excellence. I would also like to thank the Capital Markets Authority and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for their steadfast support in promoting market stability and elevating its standards of transparency."

"Finally, I would like to thank our valued investors and traders for their trust in Kuwait's capital market. We reaffirm our ongoing commitment to providing them with the best possible investment experience, working hand-in-hand with the market ecosystem to achieve even greater success in the future," he added.

The Kuwaiti capital market continued on an upward trajectory, with the value traded soaring by 89.60% from KD 3.54 billion in the first quarter of 2024 to KD 6.72 billion in the corresponding period in 2025, while its volume of shares traded rose by 69.07% from 14.36 billion to 24.29 billion in the first quarter of 2025. Meanwhile, average daily traded value increased by 106.53% from KD 58.06 million during the period ended March 31, 2024, to KD 119.91 million in the period ended March 31, 2025. Additionally, market capitalization reached KD 47.79 billion, marking a 10.85% increase from the March 31, 2024, total of KD 43.11 billion.

The "Premier" Market was a key driver of market activity, with approximately 9.28 billion shares traded in the first quarter of 2025, an increase of 20.91% over the 7.67 billion shares traded in the period ended March 31, 2024. Traded value in



Bader Al-Kharafi



Mohammad Al-Osaimi

Al-Kharafi:

- The strong performance in the first quarter represents a key milestone for Boursa Kuwait, fueling our commitment to accelerate market development and solidify our position as a vital engine for Kuwait's economic growth

Al-Osaimi:

- The Kuwaiti capital market continued to enhance its attractiveness as an investment environment through the first quarter of 2025

Boursa Kuwait's flagship market also increased by 28.93% from KD 2.56 billion to KD 3.30 billion in the first quarter of 2025, while its market capitalization rose 9.50% from KD 36.01 billion to KD 39.44 billion.

Meanwhile, the "Main" Market played a significant role in enhancing overall market liquidity, with its market capitalization rising 17.69% from KD 7.10 billion to KD 8.35 billion in the period ended March 31, 2025. Traded value in the "Main" Market increased 247.10% from KD 0.98 billion to KD 3.42 billion in the three months ended March 31, 2025, while trading volume increased from 6.69 billion shares in the first quarter of 2024 to 14.99 billion shares in the first quarter of 2025, an increase of 123.97%.

Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Mr. **Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi** commented on the market's performance, stating, "The Kuwaiti capital market continued to enhance its attractiveness as an investment environment during the first quarter of 2025, propelled by significant increases in trading activity and liquidity. This performance signals growing confidence in Kuwait's investment landscape and reflects Boursa Kuwait's ongoing commitment to boosting market efficiency and expanding the investor pool, furthering our strategic vision for the company as a key catalyst for sustainable economic development."

Mr. Al-Osaimi praised the strong performance of both the "Premier" and "Main" markets, emphasizing that these achievements demonstrate the success of Boursa Kuwait's market segmentation model in boosting liquidity, expanding the investor base and aligning the market's infrastructure with international best practices.

"Market segmentation has created a more balanced, transparent, and inclusive marketplace for all stakeholders, enabling Boursa Kuwait to strengthen the efficiency of its infrastructure and better meet the needs of both issuers and investors," he noted.

The CEO further explained that the traded value attributed to market makers grew by approximately 25.53% year-on-year, underscoring their effectiveness in enhancing liquidity levels and improving price discovery mechanisms within the market.

"The Kuwaiti capital market also continues to consolidate its position as a preferred investment destination, with institutional investors accounting for 66% of total market participants – a key factor in reinforcing the market's



Boursa Kuwait Q1 results.

strength and stability," he said.

Mr. Al-Osaimi added that Boursa Kuwait remains committed to attracting international investors through promotional roadshows and institutional days in key global investment hubs, as well as through open engagement with international investment banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and leading asset management firms.

"These efforts support the State's vision of positioning Kuwait as a prominent regional financial and investment hub," he affirmed.

Mr. Al-Osaimi concluded his remarks by highlighting the positive outlook for Boursa Kuwait, saying, "We are committed to building on these achievements to drive sustainable growth and positively contribute to Kuwait's national economy. In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our partners and investors for their continued trust and support. Their confidence in Boursa Kuwait and in its vital role in advancing the country's economic development inspires us to aim even higher as we move forward."

Other Voices

'KPC's new venture is on the right track'

By **Kamel Al-Harami**
Independent Oil Analyst

THE recent announcement by Kuwait Petrochemical Industries Company (KPIC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), for its acquisition of a 25 percent stake in China's Wanhua Chemical Group has sparked both interest and questions regarding the benefits for KPC, and the rationale behind such an investment.



Kamel Al-Harami

Is the purpose of the venture merely to secure a market for selling naphtha? If so, does this imply that KPC's marketing capabilities are no longer capable of selling naphtha on the international market, despite having done so since 1966 from its Shuaiba Refinery? In fact, KPC was the first national oil company in the world to export naphtha.

Another miscalculation by KPC is the decision to rent and store Kuwaiti crude oil in South Korea, without clear rationale, advantages, or tangible benefits. This comes at a time when the global oil market is already oversupplied, with OPEC+ itself increasing output and pushing prices downward.

Can anyone at KPC clearly explain the strategic or financial justification for storing Kuwaiti crude in Korea? Beyond the added costs of shipping and storage, there is also the missed opportunity of selling the crude promptly on the open market, unless the crude is being sold directly to domestic Korean refineries, likely at discounted prices.

Furthermore, investing over \$640

million in a venture in China, which is KPC's first direct investment in that market, solely to market one product, naphtha, raises several concerns. Naphtha is not a competitive feedstock compared to natural gas, which is widely recognized as cheaper, cleaner, and more economical for petrochemical production. This casts doubt on the main purpose of the investment.

If the purpose is not limited to using or selling naphtha, then the investment appears to be more financial in nature than operational. However, KPC is not lacking in experience or capability when it comes to marketing millions of tons of naphtha globally.

This brings us to another notable development in the oil industry: Shell Oil International has decided against fully acquiring another major oil company, BP.

Despite BP's underperformance compared to its industry peers and its urgent need for restructuring to regain its position among the "Seven Sisters," Shell chose to walk away from the idea.

Such an acquisition would have taken more than two years to properly integrate into Shell's overall system, requiring a complete reorganization, significant time and effort, and a strong focus on manpower reduction and cost-cutting in all areas. Instead, Shell chose to focus inward by streamlining its own operations to be more closely in line with the structure and efficiency of its American oil industry peers.

Investing in petrochemicals is, in principle, a good strategy. However, what are the overall benefits and strategic advantages for KPC? We hope that selling a few hundred thousand tons of naphtha is not the main purpose behind such an acquisition, especially at such a high cost.

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A group photo of the graduates.

In line with the bank's human capital strategy and ESG commitment

Bursan Bank honors 15 employees for KIBS program completion

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As part of its ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of continuous learning and advancing Kuwait's professional caliber, Bursan Bank recently celebrated 15 of its most aspiring employees for completing the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies' (KIBS) certification programs. The graduation ceremony, held at the Regency Hotel, was attended by Bursan Bank and KIBS management, confirming their commitment to their longstanding partnership, which continues to prepare the best national talents for competing and leading in the Kuwaiti banking sector – in line with the New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the highest standards of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) in the global banking industry.

"We are proud to celebrate our graduates' achievements, whose dedication and hard work exemplify Bursan Bank's commitment to professional excellence," commented Mr. **Bashar Al-Qattan**, Executive Manager – Learning and Talent Development at Bursan Bank. "As a primary pillar of our institutional success and a driving force behind our steady progress, our employees' continuous development remain central to our sustainable growth and development strategy. Through



Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Executive Manager – Learning and Talent Development at Bursan Bank.

our valuable partnerships with leading educational institutions, such as KIBS, we aim to reinforce our employees' individual capabilities as well as fortify Bursan's business future, guaranteeing our institutional readiness to meet the industry's evolving demands with knowledge, skill, and leadership."

The 15 graduates completed different specialized certification pro-

grams, depending on their fields of experience and chosen professional tracks, including Credit Management, Advanced Credit Management, Risk Management, Assistant Bank Branch Management, and Bank Wealth Management.

It is worth noting that, as a certified Great Place to Work® and a recipient of the esteemed Brandon Hall Group Human Capital Management (HCM) Gold Award of Excellence, Bursan Bank continues to deliver one of the most robust learning and development programs, which caters to employees' varied interests, needs, and learning preferences, offering them multiple opportunities throughout the year. Some of the Bank's most notable programs include Entelaqah, designed for new hires and fresh graduates; Ro'ya, which fast-tracks the growth of Bursan's future leaders; and Bursan Cares, which paves the path for the Bank's employees to resume their academic endeavors in pursuit of earning their bachelor's or MBA degrees.

About Bursan Bank
Established in 1977, Bursan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days,

the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Bursan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Bursan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), and Bursan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Bursan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Bursan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Bursan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of "Driven by You" is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

Supporting the SME ecosystem through strategic partnerships and programs

stc sponsors the ‘Mubadr Plus’ Forum organized for SMEs by The National Fund

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, sponsored and participated in the ‘Mubadr Plus’ Forum launched by The National Fund to empower SMEs in Kuwait. The forum was held under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, His Excellency Khalifa Alajeel Alaskar, and aligns with Kuwait’s 2035 vision. stc’s participation in the forum falls under its extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework, with supporting the entrepreneurial community in Kuwait serving as one of its key pillars.

Mubadr Plus was held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center on April 22nd, featuring several panel discussions focused on SMEs in Kuwait. The first panel discussion covered the challenges and opportunities facing SMEs in the market, whereas the second panel discussion highlighted some of the success stories that benefited from government support and digital transformation initiatives in Kuwait. The discussions brought together industry professionals and innovators to explore various dynamics of the SME ecosystem in Kuwait.

Ahmed Al Nowaibet, Director of Public Relations and Social Media at stc, participated as a panelist in the second discussion of the forum, covering various initiatives that stc has implemented to create opportunities for SMEs. He highlighted stc’s ‘weyak’ initiative which was launched by the Company with a strategic focus on empowering both SMEs and entrepreneurs through various programs.

Al Nowaibet also mentioned stc’s ‘inspireU’ business accelerator, a program initially launched by stc Group to assist entrepreneurs in bringing their projects to life through a comprehensive program offering workshops and mentorship to guide ambitious entrepreneurs. Al Nowaibet emphasized stc’s role as an enabler of digital transformation that provides SMEs with access to various platforms and programs that assist them throughout their unique journeys.



The company was honored by the organizers in appreciation of STC’s clear efforts.

Al Nowaibet, said, “stc is proud to have participated in another initiative that aims to support and empower the SME ecosystem in Kuwait. The forum served as an important platform to highlight stc’s role in supporting entrepreneurs by offering tailored initiatives that address their evolving needs. Programs like weyak and inspire reflect stc’s belief in the potential of local business owners and our ongoing efforts to provide the right environment for growth and innovation.”

He added, “From a strategic perspective, supporting SMEs falls in line with stc’s broader vision to drive digital transformation and contribute to the national development agenda outlined in Kuwait Vision 2035. Through our role, stc is shaping a more inclusive economy by integrating SMEs into the digital ecosystem by fostering innovation through strategic partnerships and platforms.”



Ahmed Al Nowaibet’s participating in the discussion panel.

Jasser Al-Najdi, General Manager of United Development Company, expressed that the objective behind the Mubadr Plus Forum was to create a national program that focused on supporting and developing the skills of SME owners. The program was launched in November 2024 and implemented over several months through an effective partnership with The National Fund, targeting funded entrepreneurs officially registered in the national registry as well as existing business owners.

He said, “The Mubadr Plus Forum is an extension of the program and serves as an integral part of the philosophy that we follow. It provides SME owners with direct engagement opportunities with representatives from both the public and private sectors, while also discussing the future of SMEs in Kuwait, the current challenges they face, and the policies needed to support their growth.”

Al-Najdi expressed his appreciation to stc, noting that the sponsorship is a reflection of the private sector’s role in supporting initiatives that aim to evolve and empower the SME ecosystem. He emphasized that stc’s participation in the forum displays a deep understanding of the importance of supporting entrepreneurs and enhancing their capabilities, particularly in areas related to digital transformation and technological empowerment, both of which are fundamental pillars for any business in this era.

He concluded, “At United Development, we believe that national programs should not be measured solely by the number of beneficiaries, but by the value of the impact and the transformation they create in awareness and practice. Through this forum, we aim to turn knowledge into practice and training into real empowerment.”

KNRC teams represent Kuwait

ALSAYER supports 50 talented students for ‘global robotics competition’ in Dallas, USA

DALLAS, May 3: 2024-2025 Kuwait National Robotic Competition (KNRC) is getting to an interesting level, and eight (8) competing teams from Kuwait are highly charged to show their expertise in the largest global robotics competition – VEX World Championship 2025, Dallas, USA. In this proud moment, ALSAYER Group has taken the opportunity to invite and honor 50 talented students qualified from the schools and university to attend this international level competition. The Department of Computer Science at the College of Science (Kuwait University) in strategic partnership with ALSAYER Group, and by collaborating Ministry of Education and the Youth Public Authority has announced the successful journey of qualified team to this world competition where 1800 teams from 40 countries to scale up their abilities for this highly skilled competition. Currently, a rise in team participation shows a wider acceptance of this innovation and excellence in science and technology by additional institutions, educators, and parents in Kuwait.

This year’s qualified team includes: Kuwait Technical College (KTECH),

Salah Al-Din Al-Ayoubi High School, Faltech (Women Cultural Society), Kuwait International English School (KIES Middle and High School), The American Baccalaureate Middle School, Al Adailiya Elementary School-Girls, Al Ahmadi – Kuwait Juniors Club, who are undergoing intensive training and advisory sessions by the expert coaches from the KNRC and the Computer Science Department at educational institutions.

Nehad Al Hajj Ali , Group Manager of Excellence Department at ALSAYER Group, highlighted that the “ALSAYER Group believes in investing in young minds. That’s why we are deeply committed to support innovation, robotics technology, and digital learning. We have seen through KNRC programs youngsters are continuously developing their potential and gaining experience, and time by time, they become deeply committed to inspiring others to pursue their passion for robotics, fostering a strong culture of mentorship and innovation. He continued, as long as students are passionate about robotics and eager to continue, ALSAYER is here to support and encourage them.”

Mona Al Salem, General Director of the Computers Learning at the Ministry of Education, expressed her profound satisfaction with the winners, educational institutes, and teachers because this success is not only a personal accomplishment, but also a sign of a promising future for Kuwait in the fields of science, technology, and innovation through great teamwork and dedication of many involved.

Noura Al-Jeri, Chairman of the KNRC informed, “The true goal of the program is to stretch students beyond the curriculum, expanding their knowledge and skills in computing, artificial intelligence, and smart designing. It is great to see we are succeeding this with the support of public & private partnerships in terms of funding, awareness, time, and encouragement has been invaluable in enabling the program to achieve its goals.”

This gathering honored the outstanding performance of the Kuwait Winners and reflected their achievements with pride and joy. Once again, we congratulate all and wishing very best for your international journey, and look forward to seeing more achievements in the future.



Shaikha Al-Bahar, Omar Bouhadiba, Emad Al-Ablani and Zaid Al-Sager in a group photo on the sidelines of the conference.



Workshop on the sidelines of the conference.



Executive Management during a special tribute to the Head of Human Resources in Singapore.

HR leaders from 13 countries unite at NBK event

National Bank of Kuwait organizes major HR conference to align global strategies

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen integration and alignment across international markets, the Group Human Resources Division at the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) hosted a major HR conference at its Head Office in Kuwait. The three-day event brought together HR leaders from NBK’s international branches and subsidiaries across 13 countries and 4 continents.

Held from April 28 to 30, the conference served as a platform for sharing best practices, aligning future strategies, and reinforcing cooperation among HR teams within the NBK Group.

The conference opened with welcoming remarks from NBK’s executive leadership, followed by a comprehensive presentation of the Group’s overall HR strategy. Each international HR head also delivered presentations outlining their respective local strategies and initiatives.

A key component of the event was a specialized workshop titled ‘Change Management’, part of NBK’s Career Leap project. The program also included advanced training on job design and evaluation, emphasizing alignment with global HR best practices in attracting, retaining, and developing top talent – solidifying NBK’s position as an employer of choice in the banking sector.

As part of the Career Leap initiative, attendees participated in a full-day training session delivered by a leading global firm on ‘Strategic Change Leadership Workshop’. The session explored dynamic change leadership practices, highlighting strategies for managing transformation in fast-evolving economic environments. It also provided tools and frameworks for adapting to organizational change, fostering agility, and navigating uncertainty through global case studies.

The conference further addressed ways to enhance the effectiveness of HR services and operations across the Group. Discussions included developing core competencies, grooming future leaders, promoting a unified organizational culture, and leveraging innovative ideas from diverse markets to drive performance. Cross-border collaboration was

underscored as a critical strategy for addressing common challenges.

In a heartfelt moment, the conference honored the Head of HR at NBK Singapore on her retirement, marking 41 years of dedicated service. The recognition demonstrated the Bank’s deep appreciation for employee commitment and exemplified the values of professionalism and respect that define NBK’s corporate culture.

On this occasion, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer, stated: “We are proud to host this important conference aimed at strengthening strategic alignment and global collaboration among HR teams across all NBK international branches and subsidiaries. This event reaffirms our commitment to supporting the Group’s operational goals and long-term growth.”

He added: “The conference reflects the strength of our Group HR function and our collective dedication to building a high-performing, future-ready workforce that aligns with NBK’s global vision to meet the evolving demands of our business and clients.”

Al-Ablani emphasized that the event reasserts NBK’s leadership in attracting, developing, and retaining top talent while reinforcing a unified corporate culture across all operational markets.

He concluded by affirming that NBK’s HR Division will continue to play a vital role in enabling the Group’s strategic ambitions by focusing on human capital development, preparing professional talent to lead the Bank into the future, and cultivating an innovative, engaging, and empowering work environment. He noted that cooperation among HR teams across all geographies remains a cornerstone of NBK’s continued excellence and leadership in both regional and global arenas.

NBK is recognized for its exceptional workplace culture and invests heavily in employee development. The Bank actively fosters creativity and innovation within its workforce – key drivers that contribute to its distinguished standing in the local and regional banking sector.



KNRC teams represent Kuwait at global robotics competition.



Union of Investment Companies signs MoU with Oxford Business Group.

UIC and Oxford Business Group Partner on Kuwait 2025 Report

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oxford Business Group (OBG), marking the start of a strategic collaboration to support the development of The Report: Kuwait 2025. Under the terms of the agreement, UIC will serve as the publication’s principal financial partner, contributing to the production of a comprehensive analysis of Kuwait’s investment landscape.

The partnership reflects Kuwait’s broader efforts to increase international awareness of the country’s evolving financial and investment ecosystem. Through this initiative, UIC will play an active role in providing analytical insights and facilitating access to key stakeholders, contributing to the report’s in-depth research process.

UIC’s support will enable Oxford Business Group to conduct interviews and gather research across

strategic sectors, while members of UIC will benefit from year-long access to OBG’s global intelligence platform, which provides data and analysis on over 35 markets worldwide.

Abdullah Hamad Al-Terkait, Chairman of UIC, said the collaboration aligns with their commitment to advancing Kuwait’s role as a leading investment destination.

“Our partnership with Oxford Business Group underscores UIC’s strategy to strengthen the local investment environment and increase Kuwait’s visibility among global investors. By collaborating with an internationally recognized research platform, we aim to provide high-quality, transparent information that supports both domestic and international decision-makers,” he said.

Cristina Gabriela Mirica, OBG’s Country Director for Kuwait, highlighted the importance of engaging

with key financial institutions to ensure robust coverage of Kuwait’s economic priorities.

“UIC brings deep insight into Kuwait’s financial and investment sectors. Their participation will help shape a forward-looking analysis of market dynamics, regulatory changes, and investment opportunities as the country advances its economic diversification goals,” she said.

The Report: Kuwait 2025 will examine developments across sectors including financial services, real estate, energy, and technology. The publication comes at a time when Kuwait is intensifying efforts to support sustainable growth and private sector participation under the framework of New Kuwait Vision 2035. The report will feature interviews with high-profile public and private sector leaders and provide a data-driven overview of the investment climate and business outlook.



His Excellency the Capital Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah



Board of Directors and Staff of the Shamiya branch.

Ceremony graced by His Excellency the Capital Governor

Warba Bank inaugurates 21st branch in Shamiya Area

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As part of its expansion strategy aimed at strengthening its presence across Kuwait to be closer to customers and offer them innovative Sharia-compliant services, Warba Bank inaugurated today its 21st branch in the Shamiya area.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency the Capital Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, along with Warba Bank Chairman Mr. Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Shaheen Hamad AlGhanem, Chief Retail Banking Officer Mr. Ahmad Faisal Al-Qatami, as well as distinguished guests and bank employees.

His Excellency the Capital Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, stated: "It is a pleasure to take part today in the opening of the newest branch of Warba Bank, a Kuwaiti banking institution that has, in a short period, earned a distinguished position in the financial sector thanks to its ambitious vision and advanced services. The opening of this branch reflects the community's trust in Warba Bank and reaffirms its active role in supporting the national economy and promoting innovation and quality in banking practices. I congratulate those behind this achievement and wish the Bank continued progress and success in serving our nation and its citizens."

- Attended by H.E. the Capital Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah
- **Al-Sayer:** The opening reinforces our commitment to serving our clients and fulfilling their aspirations, in line with our slogan "Let's Own Tomorrow"

On his part, Warba Bank Chairman Mr. Hamad Musaed Al-Sayerspoke of the occasion and said: "We are proud to inaugurate this new branch, a valuable addition to our expanding network and a clear to our commitment to providing a comprehensive banking experience in Shamiya and neighboring areas. This milestone marks another step forward in realizing our vision of being closer to our customers and delivering a service that meets the highest standards of quality and innovation."

He added: "At Warba Bank, we have prioritized a strategic expansion plan that ensures coverage of key residential areas, making our valuable services and financial products more accessible. These are supported by advanced digital solutions and personalized services that strengthen customer trust and align with our slogan: "Let's



CEO Shaheen Hamad AlGhanem and former CEO Jassim Al Jassar

Own Tomorrow".

Al-Sayer emphasized that Warba aims to provide a modern and convenient banking experience that complies with Islamic principles and integrates smart digital services, an experience that meets customer expectations and reinforces the bank's position as a trusted partner for both individuals and businesses.

He extended his gratitude and appreciation to the Capital Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-

Sabah, for his presence and patronage of the inauguration. He also praised the Governorate's ongoing role in supporting Kuwaiti institutions and facilitating their efforts to serve the community and contribute to the economic development.

In his turn, Warba Bank CEO Mr. Shaheen Hamad AlGhanem delivered a speech on the occasion of the opening and said: "We are proud today to inaugurate our 21st branch in the Shamiya area, marking a new milestone in our

commitment to serving our customers and being closer to them. This expansion is not a goal in itself, but rather a means through which we bring our slogan, 'Let's Own Tomorrow', to life by offering a comprehensive, innovative, smart and Sharia-compliant banking experience designed to provide our customers with easy access to our services and products. Warba Bank today combines Islamic values with smart digital services, offering customers an experience that meets their aspirations and strengthens their trust in us as a reliable partner."

Customer-Centered Banking Services

Warba Bank offers a full suite of banking solutions tailored to meet the needs of individuals throughout their financial journey, as well as entrepreneurs and companies of all sizes. These solutions aim to provide a seamless banking experience rooted in innovation and Sharia compliance, offering customers added value through easy and flexible services that suit their lifestyle and aspirations.

The bank's services include a variety of account types, such as the current account for daily transactions and the savings account which encourages a culture of saving with Sharia-compliant returns. These are supported by a suite of integrated digital services available through Warba's mobile app,

website and call center. Additionally, Warba offers exclusive banking packages such as Royal Banking for premium clients, delivering exceptional service and benefits, as well as the Gold Account, which merges digital innovation with personalized attention and advanced financial tools.

Building a Brighter Tomorrow

Guided by its slogan We Hear You, Let's Own Tomorrow, Warba Bank remains focused on setting new standards for future Islamic banking. It redefines customer experience and works toward building a sustainable and inclusive financial system. With one of the largest local shareholder bases and as one of the fastest-growing Islamic banks in Kuwait, Warba Bank continues to be driven by excellence, sustainability and innovation, strengthening its standing as a trusted banking partner for individuals and businesses alike.

Warba Bank has achieved significant success in a short time, earning a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking. It is also among the local banks with the highest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement further reinforces the bank's reputation as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility to deliver best-in-class financial products and services.

Employers added 177,000 jobs as job market shows resilience

Unemployment stays at 4.2%

WASHINGTON, May 3, (AP): American employers added a surprising 177,000 jobs in April as the job market showed resilience in the face of President Donald Trump's trade wars.

Hiring fell slightly from a revised 185,000 in March, but that is above economist projections of 135,000 jobs. The unemployment rate remained at a low 4.2%, the Labor Department reported Friday.

Trump's aggressive and unpredictable policies - including massive import taxes - have clouded the outlook for the economy and the job market and raised fears that the American economy is headed toward recession.

Friday's report showed employment, one of the strongest aspects of the U.S. economy, remains solid, yet many economists anticipate that a negative impact from trade wars will materialize this year for American workers and potentially, President Trump.

"Politicians can count their lucky stars that companies are holding on to their workers despite the storm clouds forming that could slow the economy further in the second half of the year," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at fwbonds, a financial markets research firm.

Transportation and warehousing companies added 29,000 jobs last month, suggesting companies have built up inventory before imported goods are hit with new tariffs. Healthcare companies added nearly 51,000



Vehicle assembly technician Kevin Zepernick works on a 2025 Ford Expedition during a media tour to launch the 2025 Ford Expedition at the Ford Motor Company Kentucky Truck Plant, Wednesday, April 30, 2025, in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

jobs and bars, restaurants almost 17,000 and construction firms 11,000. Factories lost 1,000 jobs.

Labor Department revisions shaved 58,000 jobs from February and March payrolls.

Average hourly earnings ticked up 0.2% from March and 3.8% from a year

ago, nearing the 3.5% that economists view as consistent with the 2% inflation the Federal Reserve wants to see.

Trump's massive taxes on imports to the U.S. are likely to raise costs for Americans and American businesses that depend on supplies from overseas. They also threaten to slow economic

growth. His immigration crackdown threatens to make it more difficult for hotels, restaurants and construction firms to fill job openings. By purging federal workers and cancelling federal contracts, Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency risks wiping out jobs inside the government and out.

Tariffs remain an obstacle

China says it's evaluating US overtures for trade talks, but

BEIJING, May 3, (AP): China's Commerce Ministry said Friday that Beijing is evaluating multiple approaches by the Trump administration for trade talks, but steep tariffs imposed by Washington must go.

A ministry statement reiterated China's stance that is open to talks, but also that Beijing is determined to fight if it must. It said one-sided tariffs of up to 145% remain an obstacle, undermining trust.

"The tariff and trade wars were unilaterally initiated by the U.S., if the U.S. side wants to talk, it should show its sincerity, and be ready to take action on issues such as correcting wrong practices and canceling the unilateral imposition of tariffs," it said.

An unnamed ministry spokesperson was cited as saying that Beijing had taken note of various statements by senior U.S. officials indicating a willingness to negotiate over tariffs.

"At the same time, the U.S. has recently taken the initiative to convey information to the Chinese side on a number of occasions through relevant parties, hoping to talk with the Chinese side. In this regard, the Chinese side is making an assessment," it said.

But it emphasized that China would regard overtures without a change in President Donald Trump's sharp tariff hikes as insincere.

"Saying one thing but doing another, or even attempting to engage in coercion and blackmail under the guise of talks, will not work on the Chinese side," it said.

China is in the midst of a public holiday, with government offices and markets closed. But share prices in Hong Kong jumped 1.7% early Friday, while Taiwan's benchmark index was up 2.2%. U.S. futures also advanced.

As of Friday, the Trump administration is ending a duty-free exemption on low-value imports from China. That will mean higher prices and delivery delays when the government starts collecting tariffs on every single shipment.

Beijing has responded to Trump's tariff hikes by raising its own duties on imports of U.S. products to as high as 125%. It has also tightened restrictions on exports to the U.S. of certain strategically important minerals and stopped importing a wide range of U.S. farm products.

At the same time, China has sought to join with other countries to build a united front against Trump, while ramping up its own countermeasures to the impact of Trump's tariffs.

Trump has slapped a global 10% import tax, or tariff, to try to compel manufacturers to shift factories back to the U.S. He ordered double-digit "reciprocal" tariffs for many countries but then postponed their implementation for 90 days to allow time for negotiations. He has also hit foreign steel, aluminum and autos.

The toughest measures were reserved for China, the world's biggest exporter and second largest economy.

His announcements of higher tariffs, suspensions, and then more tariffs have left companies, investors and consumers stymied over what comes next, hitting consumer confidence.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who is leading the administration's approach to China, has said he expects Beijing to call because the tariffs are not sustainable.

In an interview Thursday with Fox Business, Bessent said the main issue with Beijing was not high tariffs but other barriers.

"There's a whole range of bad behavior by the Chinese," Bessent said, mentioning theft of intellectual property like trademarks and cyberhacking."

Japan's finance minister calls US Treasury holdings 'a card' in tariff talks with Trump

TOKYO, May 3, (AP): Japan's massive holdings of U.S. Treasuries can be "a card on the table" in negotiations over tariffs with the Trump administration, Finance Minister Katsumobu Kato said Friday.

"It does exist as a card, but I think whether we choose to use it or not would be a separate decision," Kato said during a news show on national broadcaster TV Tokyo.

Kato did not elaborate and he did not say Japan would step up sales of its holdings of U.S. government bonds as part of its talks over President Donald Trump's tariffs on exports from Japan.

Earlier, Japanese officials including Kato had ruled out such an option.

Japan is the largest foreign holder of U.S. government debt, at \$1.13 trillion as of late February. China, also at odds with the Trump administration over trade and tariffs, is the second largest foreign investor in Treasuries.

Kato stressed that various factors would be on the negotiating table with Trump, implying that a promise not to sell Treasuries could help coax Washington into an agreement favorable for Japan.

Trump has disrupted decades of American trade policies, including with key security allies like Japan, by imposing big import taxes, or tariffs, on a wide range of products.

A team of Japanese officials was in Washington this week



Finance Minister Katsumobu Kato arrives at the prime minister's office Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, in Tokyo. (AP)

for talks on the tariffs.

The U.S. is due to soon begin imposing a 25% tariff on imported vehicles and auto parts, as well as an overall 10% baseline tariff. The bigger tariffs will hurt at a time when Japanese economic growth is weakening.

Rising prices, high mortgage rates widen affordability gap

Homeownership further out of reach

LOS ANGELES, May 3, (AP): Homeownership is receding further out of reach for most Americans as elevated mortgage rates and rising prices stretch the limits of what buyers can afford.

A homebuyer now needs to earn at least \$114,000 a year to afford a \$431,250 home -- the national median listing price in April, according to data released Thursday by Realtor.com

The analysis assumes that a homebuyer will make a 20% down payment, finance the rest of the purchase with a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, and that the buyer's housing costs won't exceed 30% of their gross monthly income - an often-used barometer of housing affordability.

Based off the latest U.S. median home listing price, homebuyers need to earn \$47,000 more a year to afford a home than they would have just six years ago.



A housing development in Cranberry Township, Pa., is shown on March 29, 2024. (AP)



Photos from the event.

Tropical feast promises culinary delights, exclusive offers

LuLu Hypermarket launches ‘Mango Mania’ with over 70 global varieties

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: LuLu Hypermarkets in Kuwait are awash with the enticing aroma of mangoes as the hypermarket launched its much-anticipated Mango Mania 2025 promotion, offering more than 70 varieties of mangoes from nearly a dozen countries.

The week-long promotion, which was inaugurated on May 1 at the Al-Qurain outlet of the hypermarket by renowned Kuwaiti culinary personality and leading Arabic food influencer, Mr. Abdullah Almatrood along with top LuLu Kuwait management, promises an immersive tropical experience for shoppers of all ages.

Designed to showcase the diversity and richness of one of the world’s most loved fruits, Mango Mania 2025 promotion, which runs until May 7, combines exotic mangoes, special offers, culinary creativity, and community engagement.

One of the standout highlights of this year’s Mango Mania is the debut of

the Miyazaki India mango. Known globally as one of the richest and rarest mangoes, the Miyazaki is originally from Japan but is now increasingly grown in India. This premium variety will be available at LuLu Qurain outlet in Kuwait throughout the promotion.

Shoppers can also expect attractive discounts on all mangoes, including renowned types such as Alphonso, Badami, Mallika, Totapuri, Rajapuri, and the lesser-known, but nonetheless superb Yemen Galpatur. Mango Mania extends far beyond the produce section.

A wide range of mango-based products and dishes will be on offer, including juices, smoothies, halwa, payasam, salads, curries, pickles, and desserts such as mango mousse cakes, trifles, tarts, pastries, muffins, and even Mango Swiss rolls. These additions not only cater to mango lovers but also offer an opportunity to explore the fruit in diverse creative, culinary forms

Adding to the festive atmosphere of the promotion are interactive displays, including mango-themed cut-outs, a selfie booth, and specially curated decor installations. The event will also feature a series of engaging activities, such as live cooking demonstrations by chefs preparing mango-infused dishes, free sampling stations, and mango-themed games and puzzles.

Families visiting the stores can look forward to children’s competitions, including a mango-themed painting contest, encouraging young participants to celebrate the season’s star fruit through art and imagination.

With Mango Mania 2025, LuLu Hypermarket reaffirms its commitment to bringing international foods and products at attractive prices, while also providing an exciting and interactive shopping experience for shoppers in Kuwait. As summer approaches, the mango-luscious celebration offers a refreshing reminder of the fruit’s global appeal and cultural significance.

Firm encourages employee participation in life-saving drive

NIC organizes blood donation campaign to support community health, CSR efforts

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As part of its ongoing commitment to social responsibility and in alignment with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, the National Investments Company (NIC) has organized a blood donation campaign in collaboration with Kuwait Central Blood Bank. The campaign, held at the company’s headquarters, reflects NIC’s firm belief in the importance of blood donation as a vital contribution, which plays a critical role in saving the lives.

This humanitarian and awareness-driven campaign is part of NIC’s broader efforts to support Kuwait Central Blood Bank’s reserves and raise awareness about the importance of regular blood donation. The initiative saw wide participation and enthusiastic engagement from the company’s employees, showcasing their commitment to making a meaningful impact on society. Commenting on the campaign, the National Investments Company affirmed that this initiative reflects its deep commitment and responsibility towards the community. It embodies NIC’s humanitarian role and promotes a culture of social engagement, while also enhancing employee

awareness on the importance of blood donation and reinforcing the company’s partnership with national institutions, including Kuwait Central Blood Bank.

NIC further emphasized its dedication to instilling a spirit of volunteerism among its staff by encouraging participation in various humanitarian and charitable events, including blood donation drives and other initiatives, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.

In conclusion, NIC extends its sincere gratitude to all employees who participated in the campaign and generously donated blood, praising their noble contributions and the values they represent. The company also expressed heartfelt thanks to Kuwait Central Blood Bank team for their continuous efforts and steadfast support in making the campaign a success.

In support of Kuwait Vision 2035, NIC remains committed to driving progress in sustainability across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions through strategically selected initiatives both within and beyond the company.



NIC employees volunteer to donate blood during the blood donation campaign.

Group celebrates friendship, community spirit by the beach

‘It’s about the whole life’

IWG hosts a joyful summer gathering

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As part of its ongoing commitment to social responsibility and in alignment with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, the National Investments Company (NIC) has organized a blood donation campaign in collaboration with Kuwait Central Blood Bank.

The campaign, held at the company’s headquarters, reflects NIC’s firm belief in the importance of blood donation as a vital contribution, which plays a critical role in saving the lives.

This humanitarian and awareness-driven campaign is part of NIC’s broader efforts to support Kuwait Central Blood Bank’s reserves and raise awareness about the importance of regular blood donation.

The initiative saw wide participation and enthusiastic engagement from the company’s employees, showcasing their commitment to making a meaningful impact on society.

Commenting on the campaign, the National Investments Company affirmed that this initiative reflects its deep commitment and responsibility towards the community. It embodies NIC’s humanitarian role and promotes a culture of social engagement, while also enhancing employee awareness on the importance of blood donation and reinforcing the company’s partnership with national institutions, including Kuwait Central Blood Bank.

NIC further emphasized its dedication to instilling a spirit of volunteerism among its staff by encouraging participation in various humanitarian and charitable events, includ-



International Women's Group members enjoy a fun-filled summer gathering at a beach-side venue.

ing blood donation drives and other initiatives, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.

In conclusion, NIC extends its sincere gratitude to all employees who participated in the campaign and generously donated blood, praising their noble contributions and the values they represent. The company also expressed heartfelt thanks to Kuwait Central

Blood Bank team for their continuous efforts and steadfast support in making the campaign a success.

In support of Kuwait Vision 2035, NIC remains committed to driving progress in sustainability across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions through strategically selected initiatives both within and beyond the company.



IWG members socialize and participate in fun activities.

What makes people flourish? Global survey offers insights

By Victor Counted, Regent University; **Byron R. Johnson**, Baylor University, and **Tyler J. VanderWeele**, Harvard University

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

What does it mean to live a good life? For centuries, philosophers, scientists and people of different cultures have tried to answer this question. Each tradition has a different take, but all agree: The good life is more than just feeling good – it’s about becoming whole.

More recently, researchers have focused on the idea of flourishing, not simply as happiness or success, but as a multidimensional state of well-being that involves positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishment – an idea that traces back to Aristotle’s concept of “eudaimonia” but has been redefined within the well-being science literature.

Flourishing is not just well-being and how you feel on the inside. It’s about your whole life being good, including the people around you and where you live. Things such as your home, your neighborhood, your school or workplace, and your friends all matter.

We are a group of psychological scientists, social scientists and epidemiologists who are all contributors to an international collaboration called the Global Flourishing Study. The goal of the project is simple: to find patterns of human flourishing across cultures.

Do people in some countries thrive more than others? What makes the biggest difference in a person’s well-being? Are there things people can do to improve their own lives? Understanding these trends over time can help shape policies and programs that improve global human flourishing.

The Global Flourishing Study is a five-year annual survey of over 200,000 participants from 22 countries, using nationally representative sampling to understand health and well-being. Our team includes more than 40 researchers across different disciplines, cultures and institutions.

With help from Gallup Inc., we asked people about their lives, their happiness, their health, their childhood experiences, and how they feel about their financial situation.

The study looks at six dimensions of a flourishing life:

- Happiness and life satisfaction: how content and fulfilled people feel with their lives.
- Physical and mental health: how healthy

people feel, in both body and mind.

- Meaning and purpose: whether people feel their lives are significant and moving in a clear direction.
- Character and virtue: how people act to promote good, even in tough situations.
- Close social relationships: how satisfied people are with their friendships and family ties.

Financial and material stability: whether people feel secure about their basic needs, including food, housing and money.

We tried to quantify how participants are doing on each of these dimensions using a scale from 0 to 10. In addition to using the Secure Flourish measure from Harvard’s Human Flourishing Program, we included additional questions to probe other factors that influence how much someone is flourishing.

For example, we assessed well-being through questions about optimism, peace and balance in life. We measured health by asking about pain, depression and exercise. We measured relationships through questions about trust, loneliness and support.

Our first wave of results reveals that some countries and groups of people are doing better than others.

We were surprised that in many countries young people are not doing as well as older adults. Earlier studies had suggested well-being follows a U-shape over the course of a lifespan, with the lowest point in middle age. Our new results imply that younger adults today face growing mental health challenges, financial insecurity and a loss of meaning that are disrupting the traditional U-shaped curve of well-being.

Married people usually reported more support, better relationships and more meaning in life.

People who were working – either for themselves or someone else – also tended to feel more secure and happy than people who were seeking jobs.

People who go to religious services once a week or more typically reported higher scores in all areas of flourishing – particularly happiness, meaning and relationships. This finding was true in almost every country, even very secular ones such as Sweden.

It seems that religious communities offer what psychologists of religion call the four B’s: belonging, in the form of social support; bonding, in the form of spiritual connection; behaving, in the cultivation of character and virtue through the practices and norms taught within religious communities; and believing, in the form of embracing hope, forgiveness and shared spiritual convictions. But some people who attend religious services also report more pain or suffering. (AP)

‘May the force be with you’

Why May 4 celebrated as Star Wars Day worldwide

LOS ANGELES, May 3, (AP): It didn’t begin a long time ago or in a galaxy far far away, but every May 4 it feels like images, memes and promotional deals involving “Star Wars” have an inescapable gravity.

May 4 - or May the 4th, as fans say - has evolved over the years into Star Wars Day, an informal holiday celebrating the space epic and its surrounding franchise.

Star Wars Day was created by fans as a sly nod to one of the films’ most popular catchphrases, “May the force be with you.” Get it? Good, now May the 4th be with you too.

It’s not an official holiday but has become so well-known that even former President Joe Biden marked it last year when “Star Wars” actor Mark Hamill dropped by the White House a day before-hand.

“I think it’s a very clever way for fans to celebrate their passion and love for ‘Star Wars’ once a year,” said Steve Sansweet, founder and executive chairman of Rancho Obi-Wan, a nonprofit museum in California that has the world’s largest collection of “Star Wars” memorabilia.

The phrase “May the 4th be with you” was used by fans in the years after the first film was released in 1977, and even appeared in a British political ad in 1979 celebrating Margaret Thatcher’s victory as prime minister on May 4 that year.

For some fans, the official Star Wars Day comes

on May 25, the date of the first film’s release. The Los Angeles City Council even declared the date to be Star Wars Day in 2007, although the California Legislature voted in 2019 to designate May 4 as Star Wars Day.

May the 4th caught on informally among fans through inside jokes shared on social media and viewings of the films to mark the occasion. Businesses eventually joined in on the fun, with brands ranging from Nissan to Jameson Whiskey running ads or posting on social media about it.

Merchandise

Disney, which acquired Lucasfilm in 2012, embraced the day as a way to further promote the franchise with merchandise, special screenings and other events surrounding the brand.

Not all “Star Wars” fans are enthused about how ubiquitous the once-underground joke has become. Chris Taylor, a senior editor at Mashable and author of “How Star Wars Conquered the Universe,” labels himself a “May the 4th grinch” in part because of its commercialization.

“I love a good dad joke as much as anyone, but my God you can take it too far,” Taylor said.

The day is being celebrated on a large and small scale this year. Disney+ is launching the new series “Star Wars: Tales of the Underworld” on the date, and it comes as the second season gets underway for an-

other franchise series, “Andor.”

It also follows the announcement that a new stand-alone “Star Wars” film installment starring Ryan Gosling will be released in 2027.

Disney marks the day with the launch of new “Star Wars” merchandise, ranging from lightsaber sets to jewelry.

Most Major League Baseball teams have marked the day in recent years with special events incorporating “Star Wars” characters. For example, the San Francisco Giants sold special tickets for Saturday’s game that included a bobblehead portraying pitcher Logan Webb as “Obi-Webb Kenobi.”

It’s hard to find a place where May the 4th celebrations aren’t occurring, from bakeries serving cookies with a “Star Wars” theme to concerts featuring the memorable scores of the films.

It’s a town-wide celebration in New Hope, Pennsylvania, which shares its name with the subtitle of the first “Star Wars” film. The town of about 2,600 people, located 30 miles (50 kilometers) northeast of Philadelphia, plans to have costumed characters throughout town with restaurants serving themed items like a “YodaRita.”

“I would always joke around and wish people ‘May the 4th’ - but taking it to this level, I’ve definitely upped my ‘Star Wars’ nerdiness,” said Michael Sklar, president of the Greater New Hope Chamber of Commerce.



Pediatric patient Journee Clark, 3, and mother, Shanice Clark, visit a ‘Star Wars’ BB-8 droid at Corewell Health Children’s Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., May 2. (AP)

Obits

Jill Sobule has died

‘Laugh-In’s’ iconic star Ruth Buzzi dies at 88

LOS ANGELES, May 3, (AP): **Ruth Buzzi**, who rose to fame as the frumpy and bitter Gladys Ormphby on the groundbreaking sketch comedy series “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In” and made over 200 television appearances during a 45-year career, has died at age 88.

Buzzi died Thursday at her home in Texas, her agent Mike Eisenstadt said. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and was in hospice care. Shortly before her death, her husband Kent Perkins, had posted a statement on Buzzi’s Facebook page, thanking her many fans and telling them:



Buzzi

“She wants you to know she probably had more fun doing those shows than you had watching them.”

Buzzi won a Golden Globe and was a two-time Emmy nominee for the NBC show that ran from 1968 to 1973. She was the only regular to appear in all six seasons, including the pilot.

She was first spotted by “Laugh-In” creator and producer George Schlatter playing various characters on “The Steve Allen Comedy Hour.” Schlatter was holding auditions for “Laugh-In” when he received a picture in the mail of Buzzi in her Ormphby costume, sitting in a wire mesh trash barrel. The character was clad in drab brown with her bun covered by a hairnet knotted in the middle of her forehead.

“I think I hired her because of my passion for Gladys Ormphby,” he wrote in his 2023 memoir “Still Laughing A Life in Comedy.” “I must admit that the hairnet and the rolled-down stockings did light my fire. My favorite Gladys line was when she announced that the day of the office Christmas party, they sent her home early.”

The Gladys character used her purse as a weapon against anyone who bothered her, striking people over the head. On “Laugh-In,” her most frequent target was Arte Johnson’s dirty old man character Tyrone F. Homeigh.

“Gladys embodies the overlooked, the downtrodden, the taken for granted, the struggler,” Buzzi told The Connecticut Post in 2018. “So when she fights back, she speaks for everyone who’s been marginalized, reduced to a sex object or otherwise abused. And that’s almost everyone at some time or other.”

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Jill Sobule, the award-winning singer-songwriter whose witty and poignant writing first attracted widespread attention with the song “I Kissed a Girl,” died in a house fire Thursday. She was 66.

Her death was confirmed by her publicist, David Elkin, in an email Thursday afternoon. It was not immediately clear how the fire in Woodbury, Minnesota, started.

“Jill Sobule was a force of nature and human rights advocate whose music is woven into our culture,” John Porter, her manager, said in a statement. “I was having so much fun working with her. I lost a client & a friend today. I hope her music, memory, & legacy continue to live on and inspire others.”

During her more than three decades of recording, Sobule released 12 albums that addressed such complex topics as the death penalty, anorexia nervosa, and reproduction issues.

Her first album, “Things Here Are Different,” was released in 1990. Five years later, she received widespread attention for her hit singles, “Supermodel,” from the movie “Clueless,” and “I Kissed A Girl,” which, despite being banned on several southern radio stations, made it into the Billboard Top 20.

She also starred in an autobiographical off-Broadway musical that initially premiered at the Wild Project in New York in 2022 and includes songs and stories about her life.

Film



This image released by Roadside Attractions shows Nicolas Cage in a scene from ‘The Surfer.’ (AP)

A beach becomes a battleground

‘Surfer’ brings Cage to a boil

LOS ANGELES, May 3, (AP): For a long, sun-addled stretch, Lorcan Finnegan’s beach-set “The Surfer” simmers as a deliciously punishing nightmare, driving Nicolas Cage into his most natural state: a boil.

“Don’t live here, don’t surf here,” is the slogan at a pristine stretch of beach along Luna Bay on the Australian coast where our unnamed protagonist (Cage) has come to surf with his teenage son (Finn Little). The “locals only” signs, though, don’t deter him. He was born there, and has come back to surf the break and show his son the million-dollar house on the hills nearby he plans to buy.

But the situation rapidly disintegrates. He’s roughed up by the pushy local surfers, his son takes off, and one issue after another keeps him stuck there on a hillside overlooking the ocean. Anyone who comes to “The Surfer” expecting glamorous photography of perfectly tubular waves will be disappointed. This is a movie that gets a remarkable amount of mileage out of a parking lot.

It also belongs to that small niche of films where things get so unbearably terrible for the protagonist that the psychodrama becomes more a matter of endurance than pure entertainment. I’m thinking of movies like “U-turn” or “Affliction” - films where a character’s inability to reckon with their reality spirals miserably.

As time wears on, Cage’s character gets bloodied, sunburned and incredibly thirsty, and the film grows hallucinatory and surreal. There are snakes, rats and bird eggs. The Lexus he arrives in is towed. His suit gets dusty and ripped. Small nuisances - a dead cellphone battery

- accumulate. The sun seems to be melting his brain, so much so that he’s no longer sure of who he is, and we start to doubt what’s real, too.

What’s happening here? The Surfer, as he’s credited, is hell-bent on reclaiming something. He envisions reuniting with his family at the new house, but his separated wife, on the phone, tells him she wants a divorce. Is “The Surfer,” penned by Thomas Martin, a metaphor for knowing when to cut bait? Cage’s character won’t accept his losses, and so he ultimately comes to risk much more.

When Finnegan begins to answer these questions in a third act that brings us closer to the surfer bros on the beach, “The Surfer” becomes more tolerable to watch and yet less transfixing. The beach gang, led by a man named Scally (Julian McMahon), are something of a cult for reviving an old-fashioned idea of masculinity. With this turn, the strong undertow of “The Surfer” dissipates.

But if there was ever an actor to elevate pulpy, not-fully formed genre material, it’s Cage. His performance of a man brought to near-disintegration can be neatly filed alongside Cage’s many other head trips to the brink. All he needs is a bluff above a beach to make “The Surfer” churn with the currents of a man tenuously close to being swept out to sea.

“The Surfer,” a Roadside Attractions released that’s in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language, suicide, some violence, drug content and sexual material. Running time: 103 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Variety

WASHINGTON: A federal judge agreed to temporarily block the Trump administration from taking any more steps to dismantle an agency that funds and promotes libraries across the US.

US District Judge Richard Leon ruled Thursday that plaintiffs who sued to preserve the Institute of Museum and Library Services are likely to show that the Republican administration doesn’t have the legal authority to unilaterally shutter the agency, which Congress created.

The American Library Association and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees filed a lawsuit last month to stop the administration from gutting the institute after President Donald

Trump signed a March 14 executive order that refers to it and several other federal agencies as “unnecessary.”



Trump

and Library Services Board. (AP)

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NEW YORK: The rock band R.E.M. is put-

ting out a special rerelease of its first single, “Radio Free Europe,” to benefit - wait for it - the actual Radio Free Europe.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is among the US government-funded media services that deliver news in overseas markets. President Donald Trump’s administration, claiming they are wasteful and promote a liberal point of view, is trying to choke off their funding.

A federal judge this week ordered the Republican administration to restore \$12 million to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that was appropriated by Congress. Lawyers for the service, which has been operating for 75 years, said it would be forced to shut down in June without the money.

In the first line of its song “Radio Free Europe,” R.E.M.’s Michael Stipe sings: “Decide yourself if radio’s gonna stay.” (AP)

People

Brand granted bail

Combs trial to expose rap’s ‘bad boy’ secrets

NEW YORK, May 3, (AP): Hip-hop impresario **Sean “Diddy” Combs** once presided like a prince over his White Parties in the Hamptons, attracting A-list celebrities, gossip columnists and photographers. But at a trial starting Monday, prosecutors will cast the entertainer as a criminal sexual deviant who exploited his fame to abuse women at gatherings held far out of public view.

For over two decades, prosecutors allege, the Bad Boy Records founder used the power and prestige he’d gained in building a hip-hop empire to destroy young lives.

He faces an indictment that includes descriptions of “Freak Offs,” drugged-up orgies in which women were forced to have sex with male sex workers while Combs filmed them.

Numerous witnesses have come forward to accuse Combs of terrorizing people into silence by choking, hitting, kicking and dragging them, often by the hair, prosecutors say. Once, the indictment alleges, he even dangled someone from a balcony.

Combs’ lawyers contend prosecutors are trying to police consensual activity.

And while Combs, 55, has acknowledged one episode of violence - the caught-on-camera beating of his former girlfriend, R&B singer Cassie - his lawyers say other allegations are false.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Monday at a federal courthouse in Manhattan. Testimony will likely start the following week.

If convicted on all charges, which include racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking, and transporting people across state lines to engage in prostitution, Combs faces a possible sentence of decades in prison.

Although dozens of men and women have alleged in lawsuits that Combs abused them, this trial will highlight the claims of four women.

One of them is Cassie, who filed a lawsuit in late 2023 saying Combs had subjected her to years of abuse, including beatings and rape after they met in 2005.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, did.

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Russell Brand got out of a sleek black Mercedes on Friday and took his first steps toward a court where he faces charges of rape and assault in a scene far removed from a walk down a Hollywood red carpet.

The actor-comedian, wearing a black collared shirt open to his midsection and sporting a gold cross, was quickly mobbed by cameras. He stood bolt upright and paced slowly forward through a crush of media and onlookers, protected by a ring of bodyguards and uniformed police officers.

The comedian, author and “Get Him To The Greek” actor gave a thumbs-up motion as he entered Westminster Magistrates’ Court in central London. His wavy locks flowed to his shoulders, his beard was peppered with gray and he wore a pair of gold-framed sunglasses, black jeans and brown boots.

Inside a packed courtroom, Brand stood in the dock and confirmed his name, birth date and address during the brief hearing and was granted conditional bail after a prosecutor read a summary of complaints made by four women that date back a quarter century.

Brand, 49, was charged last month with two counts of rape, two counts of assault and one count of indecent assault. He didn’t enter a plea, and has previously denied the allegations made against him.

The alleged offenses took place between 1999 and 2005 - one in the English seaside town of Bournemouth and the other three in London. The Associated Press doesn’t name victims of alleged sexual violence, and the British law grants them lifelong anonymity in the media.



Combs



KUNA photo
The 31st Annual Meeting of the European Surgical Association held in the Swiss city of Geneva.

Dr. Al-Refaie expresses pride in ESA recognition

ASA selects Kuwaiti doctor as 1st Arab surgeon to join ESA

GENEVA, May 3, (KUNA): The American Surgical Association (ASA) announced Friday the selection of **Dr. Waddah Al-Refaie** to participate in the 2025 scientific exchange program with the European Surgical Association (ESA).

In a statement to KUNA, Dr. Al-Refaie expressed his deep pride and honor at the recognition he received during the 31st Annual ESA Meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 2 to 3, 2025.

Dr. Al-Refaie, Head of Surgery Department at Creighton University and the American College of Surgeons (ACS), became the first Kuwaiti, Gulf, and Arab surgeon to receive this prestigious honor.

He said that this achievement was the fruit of the continuous generous support that the medical sector received from Kuwait's political leadership.

He added that this selection represents the culmination of the efforts of national competencies in international forums and reflects the prestigious position Kuwait enjoys in the medical field globally.

He also highlighted the importance of enhancing scientific cooperation and exchanging expertise with international medical institutions, thus contributing to the development of Kuwait's health sector.



Dr. Al-Refaie

The American Surgical Association, founded in 1880, is the oldest and most prestigious surgical organization in the United States.

It includes a group of distinguished surgeons, among the most prominent medical academic institutions in the country, aiming to promote excellence and leadership in the fields of science, education, and patient care, with a focus on diversity, integrity, and innovation.

Contactless health tracking

AI giving a boost to efforts to monitor health via radar

By **Chandler Bauder**, US Naval Research Laboratory and **Aly Fathy**, University of Tennessee

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

If you wanted to check someone's pulse from across the room, for example to remotely monitor an elderly relative, how could you do it? You might think it's impossible, because common health-monitoring devices such as fingertip pulse oximeters and smartwatches have to be in contact with the body.

However, researchers are developing technologies that can monitor a person's vital signs at a distance. One of those technologies is radar.

We are electrical engineers who study radar systems. We have combined advances in radar technology and artificial intelligence to reliably monitor breathing and heart rate without contacting the body.

Noncontact health monitoring has the potential to be more comfortable and easier to use than traditional methods, particularly for people looking to monitor their vital signs at home.

Radar is commonly known for measuring the speed of cars, making weather forecasts and detecting obstacles at sea and in the air. It works by sending out electromagnetic waves that travel at the speed of light, waiting for them to bounce off objects in their path, and sensing them when they return to the device.

Shape

Radar can tell how far away things are, how fast they're moving, and even their shape by analyzing the properties of the reflected waves.

Radar can also be used to monitor vital signs such as breathing and heart rate. Each breath or heartbeat causes your chest to move ever so slightly - movement that's hard for people to see or feel. However, today's radars are sensitive enough to detect these tiny movements, even from across a room.

There are other technologies that can be used to measure health remotely. Camera-based techniques can use infrared light to monitor changes in the surface of the skin in the same manner as pulse oximeters, revealing information about your heart's activity. Computer vision systems can also monitor breathing and other activities, such as sleep, and they can detect when someone falls.

However, cameras often fail in cases where the body is obstructed by blankets or clothes, or when lighting is inadequate. There are also concerns that different skin tones reflect infrared light differently, causing inaccurate readings for people with darker skin. Additionally, depending on high-resolution cameras for long-term health monitoring brings up serious concerns about patient privacy.

Radar, on the other hand, solves many of these problems. The wavelengths of the transmitted waves are much longer than those of visible or infrared light, allowing the waves to pass through blankets, clothing and even walls. The measurements aren't affected by lighting or skin tone, making them more reliable in different conditions.

Resolution

Radar imagery is also extremely low resolution - think old Game Boy graphics versus a modern 4K TV - so it doesn't capture enough detail to be used to identify someone, but it can still monitor important activities. While it does project energy, the amount does not pose a health hazard. The health-monitoring radars operate at frequencies and power levels similar to the phone in your pocket.

Radar is powerful, but it has a big challenge: It picks up everything that moves. Since it can detect tiny chest movements from the heart beating, it also picks up larger movements from the head, limbs or other people nearby. This makes it difficult for traditional processing techniques to extract vital signs clearly.

To address this problem we created a kind of "brain" to make the radar smarter. This brain, which we named mm-MuRe, is a neural network - a type of artificial intelligence - that learns directly from raw radar signals and estimates chest movements. This approach is called end-to-end learning. It means that, unlike other radar plus AI techniques, the network figures out on its own how to ignore the noise and focus only on the important signals.

We found that this AI enhancement not only gives more accurate results, it also works faster than traditional methods. It handles multiple people at once, for example an elderly couple, and adapts to new situations, even those it didn't see during training - such as when people are sitting at different heights, riding in a car or standing close together. (AP)

Declining vaccination rates blamed

US reports 216 child deaths this flu season, the most in 15 years

NEW YORK, May 3, (AP): More US children have died this flu season than at any time since the swine flu pandemic 15 years ago, according to a federal report released Friday.

The 216 pediatric deaths reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eclipse the 207 reported last year. It's the most since the 2009-2010 H1N1 global flu pandemic.

It's a startlingly high number, given that the flu season is still going on. The final pediatric death tally for the 2023-2024 flu season wasn't counted until autumn.

"This number that we have now is almost certainly an undercount, and one that - when the season is declared over, and they compile all the data - it's almost certain to go up," said Dr. Sean O'Leary, of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

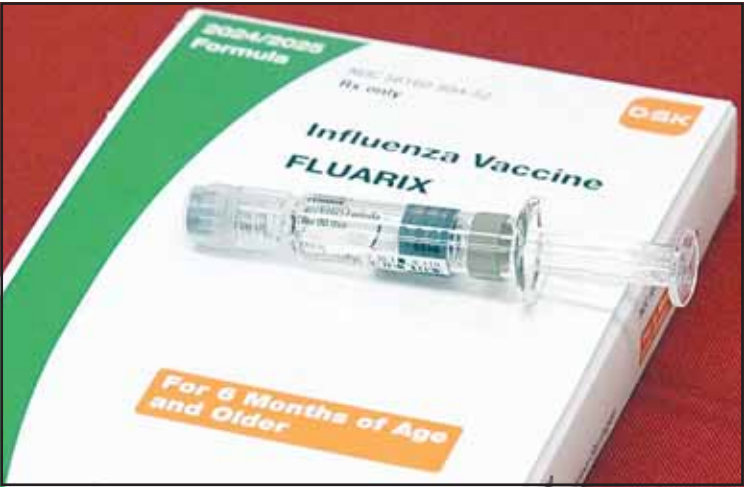
There are likely several contributors to this season's severity, but a big one is that fewer children are getting flu shots, added O'Leary, a University of Colorado pediatric infectious diseases specialist.

The flu vaccination rate for US children has plummeted from about 64% five years ago to 49% this season.

Flu vaccinations may not prevent people from coming down with symptoms, but research shows they are highly effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths, O'Leary said.

The season has not only been hard on children. CDC officials have described it as "highly severe," and estimate that so far there have been at least 47 million illnesses, 610,000 hospitalizations and 26,000 deaths this season.

CDC officials have information about



A flu vaccine is displayed at a pharmacy in New York, on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024. (AP)

underlying conditions on nearly 5,200 adults who were hospitalized with flu this season, and 95% had at least one existing health problem. But among 2,000 hospitalized children with more detailed health information, only about 53% had an underlying condition - including asthma and obesity.

The CDC report did not say how many of the children who died were vaccinated. The agency did not make an expert available to talk about the flu season.

The good news is that flu indicators have been waning since February, and last week all 50 states were reporting low or minimal flu activity.

The season has seen more of a mix of flu strain circulating than in many

other years, with two different Type A strains - H1N1 and H3N2 - causing a lot of infections. But CDC data released earlier this year suggested flu shots were doing a pretty good job at preventing deaths and hospitalizations.

The CDC continues to recommend that everyone ages 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine.

Childhood vaccinations in general have been declining, driven by online misinformation and the political schism that emerged around COVID-19 vaccines. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has also echoed some of the rhetoric of anti-vaccine activists since taking over as the nation's health secretary. But there may be other reasons fewer children got flu shots this year, O'Leary said.

WHO warns

'Gaza health crisis grave'

GENEVA, May 3, (Agencies): World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** warned Thursday the world is witnessing "the greatest disruption to global health financing in modern times" as sudden cuts in official funding particularly from the United States threaten to undermine decades of progress in fighting diseases worldwide.

Speaking at a press conference in Geneva, Ghebreyesus said WHO will implement "difficult internal reforms" in the coming weeks to strengthen its ability to respond to global health challenges.

He emphasized that the organization has needed a "radical reform for years", announcing a comprehensive restructuring plan that includes the closure of several offices and the "relocation of many staff members to African countries involving a fairer and more efficient redistribution of resources especially in high-need areas".

He added that WHO has halved its budget amid the ongoing financial crisis and is now focusing on streamlining expenditures and prioritizing high-risk regions.

Speaking about Gaza, Ghebreyesus described the health situation as "catastrophically bad", noting that hospitals are operating far below capacity due to severe shortages of medicines and medical supplies as bombardments, famine and continuous evacuation orders increase the number of wounded.



Tedros

Eta Aquarids meteor shower peaks this week

NEW YORK, May 3, (AP): Halley's comet swings near Earth every 75 years. But debris left by the comet leads to two major meteor showers

every year including the Eta Aquarids. When this meteor shower lights up the night sky, "you'll know that Earth is crossing the path of the most famous



A meteor streaks through the sky in Southern California's Mojave Desert, Nov. 17, 1998. Stars moving through the sky as the Earth rotates are seen as a series of short lines across the frame. (AP)

comet," said Shauna Edson of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

The Eta Aquarids are "pretty fast meteors" said NASA's Bill Cooke.

During Tuesday morning's peak, expect to see 10 to 15 meteors per hour in ideal viewing conditions, said Cooke.

However, the moon will be nearly two-thirds full, which will likely reduce visibility.

Viewing lasts until May 28. Here's what to know about the Eta Aquarids and other meteor showers.

As the Earth orbits the sun, several times a year it passes through debris left by passing comets and sometimes asteroids. The source of the Eta Aquarids is debris from Halley's comet.

When these fast-moving space rocks enter Earth's atmosphere, the debris encounters new resistance from the air and becomes very hot, eventually burning up.

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‘I’m just happy to be back to see all the fans...’

Reese has rousing return to Baton Rouge in exhibition for Chicago vs Brazil

BATON ROUGE, La., May 3, (AP): Former LSU star Angel Reese’s homecoming in the Chicago Sky’s WNBA exhibition opener was a smashing success.

Reese had 15 points and 10 rebounds, helping the Sky to a rousing 89-62 victory over the Brazilian national team on Friday night at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

Reese was smiling the moment she entered the arena where her college career took off after transferring from Maryland. She earned All-America honors twice and led LSU to the national title in 2023.

“I’m just happy to be back to see all the fans, even down to the security guards, because I know how much was put into this program,” said Reese, who’s entering her second season with the Sky after earning WNBA All-Rookie honors last year, when

she set a league single season rebounding record.

A crowd of 6,373, many of whom wore Sky T-shirts and Reese No. 5 jerseys, cheered her and rookie teammate Hailey Van Lith’s every move. Van Lith was an LSU teammate of Reese in 2023-24 before playing her final collegiate season at TCU.

Van Lith entered the game to a loud ovation with 5:43 left in the third quarter and finished with seven points, five assists and three rebounds.

Reese and Van Lith were honored before the game with video highlights of their time at LSU. Tigers coach Kim Mulkey gave the duo bouquets and hugs.

Kia Nurse added 11 points for the Sky. Chicago’s Kamilla Cardoso, playing against her Brazilian countrywomen, had six points and

eight rebounds.

Manu Alves led Brazil with nine points.

Friday’s game was the first for new Sky coach Tyler Marsh.

The Sky also debuted a revamped starting lineup, with veteran free agent signees Nurse and Courtney Vandersloot and trade acquisition Ariel Atkins joining Reese and Cardoso.

The result was a smooth offense guided by Vandersloot, a four-time all-league guard in her first 12 WNBA seasons with the Sky. She spent the last two years with the New York Liberty.

Brazil’s next stop in its U.S. tour will be an exhibition against Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever on Sunday at the University of Iowa’s arena in Iowa City, where Clark starred in college.



Brazil forward Emanuely de Oliveira (11) drives to the basket against Chicago Sky forward Rebecca Allen (9) in the first half of a WNBA exhibition basketball game in Baton Rouge, La. (AP)

Gill and Buttler bat Gujarat up to 2nd after big win over Hyderabad



Gujarat Titans' Jos Buttler plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

Siraj, 2-33, stalled Hyderabad’s chase

AHMEDABAD, India, May 3, (AP): Captain Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler lashed half-centuries as Gujarat Titans defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by 38 runs in the Indian Premier League.

Gujarat racked up 224-6 thanks to Gill’s 76 off 38 balls, Buttler’s 64 off 37 and Sai Sudharsan’s 48 off 23, and Hyderabad never look threatening as it was restricted to 186-6.

Fast bowlers Prasidh Krishna, 2-19, and Mohammed Siraj, 2-33, stalled Hyderabad’s chase.

Hyderabad top-scorer Abhishek Sharma, with 74, got little support from the other end.

The win lifted Gujarat to second on the 10-team table, while Hyderabad, a finalist last year, lay at ninth and on the brink of elimina-

tion from playoffs contention.

The 225 target was steep, and



Gujarat Titans' Mohammed Siraj catches out Sunrisers Hyderabad's Abhishek Sharma during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

only steeper after Krishna removed opener Travis Head for 20 to Rashid Khan’s stunning diving catch and No. 4 Klaasen for 23.

Ishan Kishan continued to struggle since his century in the opening game as he labored for 17 balls to 13 runs, and Gerald Coetzee, playing his first match of the season, found a leading edge and gave Krishna a regulation catch at deep third man.

Sharma did the bulk of the scoring and hit six sixes and four boundaries before Gujarat sealed the game with four wickets for six runs within 12 balls.

Siraj took out Aniket Verma and Kamindu Mendis for a combined three runs and was on a hat trick but captain Pat Cummins defended it.

Hyderabad, apart from Sharma though, struggled to pose a threat.

Openers Gill and Sudharsan set the platform for Gujarat.

Their electrifying 82 runs to-

gether off 41 balls in the power-play, including 13 boundaries, was Gujarat’s best ever.

The left-handed Sudharsan, who smashed five boundaries in one over off Mohammed Shami, became the leading run-scorer in this IPL.

He’s also the second fastest batter in Twenty20s to complete 2,000 runs, in 54 matches.

Sudharsan was out in the seventh over, caught behind, but Buttler joined Gill and upped the ante with smart, powerful hitting.

Gill reached his fifty in 25 balls, and was run out at 149-2 on a single he called, by Harshal Patel’s throw deflected by wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaasen. Gill hit 10 fours and two sixes.

Buttler, dropped on 22 by Cummins, reached his fifty in 31 balls. He eventually fell to a catch on the boundary off a Cummins delivery in the penultimate over.

Decision by mutual consent

Jesus leaves position as head coach of Al-Hilal

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 3, (AP): Jorge Jesus has left his position as Al-Hilal head coach by mutual consent, the Saudi Arabian soccer team announced Saturday.

The departure of the 70-year-old veteran coach comes just four days after Al-Hilal lost the semifinal of the AFC Champions League Elite to Saudi Arabian rival Al-Ahli.

“The Board of Directors of Al-Hilal Club Company has agreed with the Portuguese head coach of the first football team Jorge Jesus to terminate the contractual relationship between them,” the club posted on social media. Last season, Jesus, the former Benfica coach who was appointed in July 2023, led Al-Hilal on a world-record winning streak of 34 games as the Riyadh club won a record 19th Saudi Pro League title. This season, however, the club is six points behind leader Al-Ittihad with just five games remaining.

Mohammed Al-Shalhoub will take temporary control of the team but it has been reported in domestic



In this file photo, Benfica's coach Jorge Jesus gestures as he talks during a news conference at Benfica's Luz stadium in Lisbon. (AP)

Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi look to seal final berths in Volleyball League



Players challenging for the ball.

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: The second round of the Premier Volleyball League’s Golden Square will take place today at the Volleyball Association Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Al-Arabi is set to face Burgan at 5:00 pm, followed by a showdown between Kuwait Club and Kazma at 7:00 pm.

In the opening round, Kuwait Club defeated Kazma 3-1 (25-18, 25-19, 23-25, 25-22), while Al-Arabi overpowered Burgan in straight sets 3-0 (25-17, 25-16, 25-19).

The Golden Square is being played under a best-of-three playoff format. Teams must win two matches to advance to the championship final, which will also follow the same format. In the event of a 1-1 tie, a decisive third match will be held on May 6.

Historically, Qadsia leads the title count with 23 championships, followed by Kazma with 15, Kuwait Club with 14, Al-Arabi with 4, and Al-Jahra with one title. In the First Division Volleyball League, the second round of the second division also kicks off today. Al-Nasr will take on Al-Tadamon at 5:30 pm in Al-Tadamon’s hall, while Al-Yarmouk will clash with Al-Sahel at 6:30 pm in Abu Halifa.

Paris FC joins PSG in Ligue 1

Why did Paris wait for 35 yrs to have two top-tier soccer clubs?

PARIS, May 3, (AP): For the first time in 35 years, two Paris-based soccer clubs will be playing in France’s top division.

Paris FC, which was recently bought by France’s richest family, secured promotion to the topflight and will join Qatar-funded Paris Saint-Germain next season in the elite as the City of Light’s soccer scene undergoes a major facelift.

Paris FC’s promotion to Ligue 1 puts an end to the French anomaly of having only one major football team in the capital. The Associated Press takes a look at the reasons behind the lack of top clubs in Paris.

When fans visit some European cities, they are spoiled for choice about which match to watch. While there are seven London clubs in the Premier League this season, there is only one top side in Paris: PSG.

It’s a rarity in European soccer, where big cities such as Madrid,



In this file photo, the Paris FC soccer club banner is seen outside the Charlety stadium in Paris, France. (AP)

Rome, Barcelona, Milan, and even Manchester and Lisbon, generally have two high-level clubs.

“There’s a paradox. We have a very popular sport that produces great soccer players but for the moment has not produced great clubs

in Paris,” sports history researcher Paul Dietschy told The Associated Press. “The Seine Saint-Denis area (north of Paris) is one of the main scouting grounds for Europe’s top clubs. And at the same time, Paris has never produced clubs with the

same long-lasting impact as those in major European cities such as Madrid, London, Barcelona or Manchester.”

It is not the first time an ambitious billionaire has invested in a Paris club.

Before the Arnault family, the late French media baron Jean-Luc Lagardère tried to revive the fortunes of Paris’ former greatest team, Racing Club. In the 1980s, Lagardère launched Matra Racing, signing big players such as Uruguay star Enzo Francescoli, Germany’s dribbling ace Pierre Littbarski, France midfielder Luis Fernandez and spectacular goal-keeper Pascal Olmeta in an attempt to compete with PSG.

It threatened to work, but in the end Matra struggled to draw fans, did not achieve significant results and Lagardère opted out of the ill-fated adventure after just a few years.

Best of the Rest

Zhao thrashes O’Sullivan: Zhao Xintong will look to become the first Chinese player to win the world snooker championship after reaching the final by beating seven-time champion Ronnie O’Sullivan 17-7.

Zhao is playing as an amateur in the tournament at the Crucible Theatre, having only just returned to competitive action following a 20-month ban for his role in the sport’s biggest match-fixing scandal.

Zhao, who won the prestigious UK Championship in 2021, was ranked No. 9 in the world when his suspension began after accepting charges of being a party to another player fixing two matches and betting on matches himself.

He has been free to play since his ban expired in September and, in January, secured a return to snooker’s main professional tour for next season.

Zhao came through four qualifying rounds and eased through to the semis, where he thrashed O’Sullivan, himself only just back playing after three months out dealing with mental health issues. In the morning session on Friday, Zhao won all eight frames to move from 4-4 to 12-4 ahead. (AP)

□ □ □

Rayo back to winning ways: A first half header from Florian Lejeune gave Rayo Vallecano a 1-0 win over Getafe in the Madrid derby .

Lejeune headed home Isi Palazón’s corner in the seventh minute to lift Rayo into ninth place in La Liga.

It was only the home club’s second win and second clean sheet in its last 11 league games but the margin of victory could have been greater were it not for the heroics of David Soria in the Getafe goal.

Neither side showed much style in a scrappy game that reflected both teams’ inconsistent seasons. Getafe remained in 12th place. (AP)

□ □ □

Nice moves into CL spots: Another goal from in-form striker Morgan Sanson gave Nice its third victory in a row and a 1-0 win over Reims in Ligue 1.

A week after he scored twice in Nice’s shock 3-1 win at champion Paris Saint-Germain, Sanson was again on target.

With 15 minutes gone, a cross from the left was only partially cleared and fell perfectly for him to knock it into the empty net.

The former Aston Villa striker missed most of this season through injury but has returned in fine form. Friday’s goal was his third in his last two games. The win takes Nice above Lille and Monaco into third place. Reims remains 13th. (AP)

De Bruyne lifts Man City to third

Villa keeps Champions League bid alive by beating Fulham

LONDON, May 3, (AP): Aston Villa boosted its chances of Champions League qualification with a 1-0 victory over Fulham in the Premier League on Saturday.

Youri Tielemans' first-half header settled the game at Villa Park and moved seventh-place Villa level on points with Chelsea in fifth and Nottingham Forest in sixth.

The top five teams in the division will qualify for next season's Champions League, with just four points separating third-place Manchester City and Villa.

Tielemans headed in powerfully from a 12th minute corner, but Villa could not extend its lead.

Ollie Watkins was denied by Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno in the second half and substitute Donyell Malen hit the bar in stoppage time.

But the victory was enough to keep Villa in touch with Champions League rivals Chelsea and Forest, having played one game more.

Villa was a Champions League quarterfinalist this year after a 41-year absence from Europe's top club competition.

Kevin De Bruyne scored and gave Manchester City a crucial but barely deserved 1-0 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers and a lift into third place.

The Belgian is leaving City at the end of the season and still providing good memories thanks to his goal against a team that won its last six league encounters.

With three games left, City was a firm favourite to

take one of the Champions League places.

Slightly against the run of play, De Bruyne side-footed home a cut back from Jeremy Doku 10 minutes before halftime in his second-to-last appearance at Etihad Stadium.

Wolves will be aggrieved at not taking something from the game but were undone by poor finishing and the City goalposts.

In the 22nd, Jean-Ricner Bellegarde opted to pass when it looked easier to shoot but Marshall Munetsi at full stretch could not get on the end of his inviting cross.

Five minutes later, Rayan Ait-Nouri hit the post then saw his rebound cleared off the line by Josko Gvardiol.

The woodwork saved City again in the second half when a Matheus Cunha strike crashed off the post.

City coach Pep Guardiola, meanwhile, scotched rumors he's about to leave the club. He recently signed a contract extension until June 2027.

Guardiola said he will take a break from management when he leaves City but he told Sky Sports he did not know when that would be.

"I didn't say I'm leaving now, or the end of season, or the end of contract, I said when I finish my time here, be it one, two, three, four, five years," the Catalan said. "What I am saying is when I am finished here I will take a break."

Some Manchester City fans protested the club's season ticket pricing and policies before the game, taking their seats only after the match kicked off.



Fulham's Ryan Sessegnon, left, and Aston Villa's Ian Maatsen battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Aston Villa and Fulham at Villa Park, Birmingham, England. (AP)

Rockets force a decider



Houston Rockets center Alperen Sengun (28) and Golden State Warriors forward Jimmy Butler III (10) go for the loose ball in the fourth quarter of Game 6 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in San Francisco. (AP)

Warriors' offense stalls in crunch time

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3, (AP): Stephen Curry had just produced one of his fantastic flurries to get Golden State right back in the game when Fred VanVleet started the fourth quarter with a four-point play that stole the momentum right back.

VanVleet had 29 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, Alperen Sengun contributed 21 points and 14 rebounds, and the Houston Rockets kept their season alive by beating the Golden State Warriors 115-107 on Friday night and forcing a deciding Game 7 in their first-round playoff series.

Golden State went cold when it mattered most: The Warriors missed 13 straight shots between Draymond Green's basket with 10:12 left and a 3-pointer by Curry at the 3:35 mark.

Now, everybody will get back on an airplane and head to Houston for Game 7 on Sunday for a chance to meet well-rested Minnesota in the Western Conference semifinals. That's exactly

what the Warriors were hoping to avoid with a chance to clinch at home in Chase Center.

"I think we just know how important it is, they do too," Warriors forward Jimmy Butler said.

Curry scored 29 points but shot 9 of 23, going 6 for 16 from deep. Butler added 27 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Houston coach Ime Udoka improved to 5-1 when facing elimination. Golden State's Steve Kerr, meanwhile, is 7-0 in first-round playoff series.

VanVleet converted the four-point play after the Warriors had pulled within two with Curry's flurry to end the third. Jalen Green scored the next time down on a putback of his own miss. Then, VanVleet's 3 from the top with 6:47 remaining put Houston up 101-89.

"We can't give up a four-point play in a two-point game," Draymond Green said.

Curry's driving layup with 39 seconds left in the third made it a four-point game, firing up the home crowd in bright yellow playoff shirts with matching rally towels. He then made two free throws as the Warriors pulled within 86-84.

But the Warriors couldn't keep it going. With a balanced effort on both ends - including 17 points and hustle plays by big man Steven Adams off the bench - Houston had an answer nearly every

time Golden State threatened or made a big play.

The Warriors led 3-1 in the series but fell behind in a hurry in a 131-116 Game 5 loss Wednesday night as Houston's offense rolled after averaging 98 points through the first four games of the series.

VanVleet was brilliant again. He shot 7 for 13 from the floor after consecutive games going 8 for 13, and he converted all nine of his free throws - he's a perfect 22 of 22 at the line over the series. And from 3-point range the past three games, he's 18 for 27.

That's why Kerr went to defensive specialist Gary Payton II in the starting lineup in place of Brandin Podziemski.

Draymond Green picked up an offensive foul at the 8:53 mark of the first quarter for shoving Jalen Green. The play went to review and the foul was determined to be a flagrant-1. But after two straight games with dustups, both teams stayed poised.

"It was a mantra going into the series: Play through everything," Udoka said. "It's going to be a physical game. Don't ask for anything. We want to be physical. So if the refs allow it or that's how the style of game is played, that favors us more often than not."

Kuwait Football Association officials attend the AFC Club Leaders Summit

JEDDAH, May 3: Kuwait Football Association Vice Chairman Osama Hussein, Board Member Dr. Ahmed Ajab, Al Arabi Club Representative Ali H., and Kuwait Club Representative Mohammed Al-Otaibi participated in the AFC Club Leaders Summit for League and Cup

Champions, which took place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The AFC delegation is also scheduled to attend the AFC Elite Cup final, followed by meetings of the AFC committees to discuss the competition system for the upcoming 2025-2026 season.



The Kuwait Football Association officials.

Best of the Rest

Cruz Azul advances to final: Striker Angel Sepulveda scored on a penalty kick late in the match and Cruz Azul defeated the UANL Tigres 1-0 on Thursday to progress to the CONCACAF Champions Cup final where they will play the Vancouver Whitecaps.

The 34-year-old Sepulveda converted in the 81st minute for the Mexico City team. He leads the tournament with seven goals and two assists.

"I was able to help to get the win today and to qualify for the final long-awaited final for us," Sepulveda said. "We take pride in being back in the final, it is a big step, and we deserve to win it, we respect Vancouver, but we are going to try to win it."

The first leg of the series ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Whitecaps beat Lionel Messi's Inter Miami on the other side of the bracket.

Mexican teams have won nine of the last 10 finals of the tournament. Cruz Azul beat Club America in the previous round to progress to the semifinals for the first time since 2022 and now is aiming to equal its crosstown rival as the club in the region with seven titles.

La Máquina is seeking its first regional crown since 2013-14 when it beat Tijuana.

The Monterrey-based Tigres had advanced over MLS LA Galaxy and were trying to capture their first CONCACAF title since 2020. (AP)

Bayern's league title on hold after Leipzig's late equalizer

BERLIN, May 3, (AP): Harry Kane was about to start celebrating his first career title.

Then Yussuf Poulsen scored in the fourth minute of stoppage time for Leipzig to draw with Bayern Munich 3-3 and postpone the Bundesliga leader's party.

Bayern is all but certain to win the championship. Bayer Leverkusen can still mathematically catch the Bavarian powerhouse and defend its title by winning its remaining three games while making up a goal difference of 30 goals - if Bayern loses its final two matches.

Kane has been forced to wait for a first major trophy after a career of near-misses and disappointments. The 31-year-old Bayern star had to watch his teammates play without him as he was suspended against Leipzig because of an accumulation of yellow cards.

Leipzig made the better start and deservedly led at halftime thanks to goals from Benjamin Šeško and Lukas Klostermann, leaving the watching Kane sitting stone-faced in the stands.

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany evidently found the right words during the break.

Kane's compatriot Eric Dier pulled one back with a header to Olise's corner in the 62nd, and Olise equalized a minute later after the home team's sloppy play

from the restart.

Leipzig goalkeeper Maarten Vandevoordt denied Sané and Leon Goretzka, and Konrad Laimer headed over against his former side as Bayern created a host of chances as the rain streamed down.



Leipzig's Lukas Klostermann, center, scores his side's second goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between RB Leipzig and FC Bayern Munich at the Red Bull Arena in Leipzig, Germany. (AP)

Sané finally made one count with a fierce shot inside the far post in the 83rd.

Bayern fans set up fireworks as they celebrated and Kane was ready to run onto the field to join his teammates until Xavi sent Poulsen through for the final say.

Bochum and Heidenheim are both staring relegation in the face after the struggling teams drew 0-0 in a tense Bundesliga encounter.

A defeat would have condemned bottom club Bochum to the drop but a point means it survives at least one more week.

The Ruhr side remained last in the Bundesliga, equal on points with Kiel.

The result was equally frustrating for Heidenheim, which remained third from bottom, four points above Bochum and Kiel, but four behind Hoffenheim, which has a game in hand.

Heidenheim lost goalkeeper Kevin Müller to injury in the 50th minute, when he was taken off on a stretcher after a goalmouth clash with Ibrahim Sissoko.

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NEWS



Leeds United players celebrate with the trophy after being crowned champions following the English Football League Championship soccer match against Plymouth Argyle, at Home Park, in Plymouth, England. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Aquatics Federation General Assembly approves budget for 2025/2026 fiscal year

Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr commends PAS for unwavering support

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: In the presence of Board Chair of the Kuwait Aquatics Federation (KAF) Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah, Vice Chair Hamid Al-Gharib, and representatives from sports clubs and companies, the General Assembly of the Kuwait Aquatics Federation approved the financial and administrative reports for the period from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. The estimated budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year was also approved.

According to a press release, the General Assembly, which was held in the Olympic Committee's meeting room, endorsed the appointment of an auditor for the 2025/2026 fiscal year and discussed proposals submitted by sports clubs.

During the meeting, Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr expressed his gratitude to the attending club and company representatives, as well as the members of the General Assembly, for the trust they have placed in the KAF Board of Directors and for its outstanding role in driving progress and advancing the field of aquatics.

Sheikh Khaled also thanked the Public Authority for Sports for their support and for overcoming any challenges.

In addition, he commended the full cooperation and coordination between KAF and the parents/guardians of both male and female players.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah with board members after the Kuwait Aquatics Federation General Assembly.

Kuwait Club clings to league top spot after ‘crushing’ Al-Salmiya

Al-Arabi's derby dominance continues

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Kuwait Club maintained its lead at the top of the Zain Premier League standings with a dominant 5-0 win over Al-Salmiya in the third round of the group stage, played at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium. Al-Arabi continued its pursuit of the league leader, edging past traditional rival Al-Qadsiya 1-0 in the same round.

With just two rounds remaining, Kuwait Club sits on 54 points – two ahead of second-placed Al-Arabi. The decisive final rounds are fast approaching: Kuwait Club will meet Al-Qadsiya, while Al-Arabi faces Al-Tadamon in the fourth round this Tuesday. The much-anticipated clash between Kuwait Club (“the Whites”) and Al-Arabi (“the Greens”) will take



A Kuwait Club player runs with the ball while being harassed by an Al-Salmiya player during the Zain Premier League match.

place in the fifth and final round next Sunday.

Kuwait Club's Montenegrin head coach, Nebojsa Jovic, praised his players' seriousness and intensity from the first whistle, noting that their sharp performance was key to the

commanding win over Al-Salmiya.

“Although it wasn't an easy match, the players managed the game well from start to finish,” Jovic said. “We must now stay focused and finish the job in the remaining two matches.”

He emphasized that the final phase

of the league demands maximum concentration and consistent effort.

Al-Arabi coach Nasser Al-Shatti expressed his determination to push for the title with a short but powerful message on social media: “...until the end.” The message reflects his team's persistence and ambition following a crucial derby win.

Al-Arabi has now won four out of five recent matchups against Al-Qadsiya, including both home and away league fixtures (2-1 and 4-2) and a 1-0 win in the Crown Prince Cup semi-finals. Al-Qadsiya's only recent triumph was a 1-0 Super Cup victory.

Al-Qadsiya veteran Abdullah Al-Shamali cited his team's “lack of motivation and ambition” as a key reason for its poor showing against Al-Arabi. He acknowledged that several injuries and fatigue from tight scheduling also affected the team's performance.

“We didn't approach the match with the required passion, and that impacted us badly,” Al-Shamali admitted. “Our priority now is to finish the season strongly, especially in the Amir's Cup.”

He concluded with an apology to the fans: “We sincerely apologize to our loyal supporters. We promise to fight for positive results in every remaining match.”

Al-Qadsiya claims bronze after a marathon victory

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Al-Qadsiya secured third place in the Kuwaiti Basketball League after an intense showdown, defeating Al-Qurain 100-96 in the second playoff match for third place, clinching the bronze medal. The game extended into five overtimes after both teams were tied at 88 points at the end of regulation time.

This marked Al-Qadsiya's second consecutive victory over Al-Qurain, following their 90-76 win last Tuesday, thus sealing the best-of-three series 2-0.

Al-Qadsiya shone in the extended clash, with captain Abdulaziz Al-Humaidi scoring 21 points, Cedric Henry adding 20 points, and Mohammed Al-Dakhil delivering in the clutch moments. On the other side, Al-Qurain leaned heavily on its star import Jumaro Brown, who poured in a game-high 35 points, supported by Austin with 21 points and Adel Al-Saeed with 14.

Meanwhile, attention now shifts to the league final, where Kuwait Club will face Kazma tonight at 7:30 PM at the Basketball Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Kuwait Club already holds an edge in the series after defeating “Kazma” 80-61 in the first match last Wednesday. A second win today would put it one step closer to retaining the league title, as the championship is decided in a best-of-five playoff format.



Dhari Burjas congratulates Al-Qadsiya player.

Al-Balushi lauds commitment of Kuwait for discipline and dedication during internal training camp

Kuwait welcomes teams ahead of Arab Men's Handball Championship kickoff

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Kuwait Handball Federation President Fuad Al-Balushi officially welcomed the participating Arab national teams ahead of the 10th Arab Men's Handball Championship, which kicks off tomorrow, Monday, and runs through May 11 at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Al-Balushi emphasized that the tournament is a valuable opportunity to unite Arab youth in a competitive and spirited sporting event, returning to Kuwait – dubbed the “second home” of Arab athletes – after a 21-year absence. He encouraged sports fans and the Kuwaiti public to attend the matches and support the participating teams.

Al-Balushi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, as well as to Bashar Abdullah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, for their crucial support. Their backing, he noted, plays a key role in ensuring the championship's organizational and technical



Kuwait Handball Federation President Fuad Al-Balushi.

success.

He also praised the tireless efforts of the Supreme Organizing Committee for preparing to host this prestigious Arab event in the “land of friendship and peace.”

The Federation President lauded the

commitment of Kuwait's national team, for its discipline and dedication during the internal training camp. He urged the players to give their best and uphold Kuwait's reputation throughout the competition. Al-Balushi also commended the technical and administrative staff for their consistent efforts since Kuwait was announced as the tournament host.

The arrival of participating teams is underway. The UAE delegation landed on Friday, while the Moroccan and Saudi teams arrived on Saturday. Today, Sunday, teams from Qatar, Bahrain, Egypt, and Iraq are expected to arrive, with Tunisia completing the list of arrivals on Monday.

A total of nine teams are competing in the tournament, divided into three groups:

Group A: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq

Group B: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia

Group C: Kuwait, UAE, Morocco

According to the tournament format, the three group winners and the best second-placed team will advance to the semi-finals.



The UAE team arrives for the championship.