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Amir to honor PAAET's brightest minds

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize and attend on Wednesday, the 2023-24 graduation ceremony and honoring of excelling students of

the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).
The ceremony will be held at the new auditorium of the PAAET in Shuwaikh area.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Thank you Housing Minister ... This is how camels are watered

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

THE announcement by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdullatif Al-Mishari, to activate the real estate developer is a step in the right direction for resolving the housing crisis that has been escalating for decades.

The role of the real estate developer should have been implemented 10 or even 20 years ago, but as the saying goes, "Better late than never". This decision signals a potential revival in all Kuwaiti markets.

The "plot and loan" policy has long proven ineffective in tackling the housing challenges.

This policy was implemented to satisfy parliamentary and governmental interests aimed at achieving private interests, rather than serving the public good.

As a result, the responsibility for construction was left to the citizens, leading to most residential areas becoming filled with unattractive concrete blocks.

The goal of housing welfare beneficiaries shifted from simply acquiring housing to dealing with the debts they incurred in building unnecessarily large spaces, either to keep up with their neighbors or to generate income by renting out unused floors and apartments.

In countries that prioritize housing support for their citizens, there is a focus on ensuring that new residential areas are compatible with both the so-

cial and natural environment, while also easing the financial burden on citizens.

These countries allocate undeveloped land to real estate developers, who are required to adhere to a set of three or four standard building models, each offered at a different price point. Beneficiaries can select the option that best suits their needs and financial capabilities. Random construction is prohibited, thus preventing the issues of excessive borrowing and failure to repay installments, as seen in Kuwait.

In exchange, governments commit to covering the loan interest, or a portion of it. The state also guarantees the beneficiary's regular loan payments, with homeownership being fully transferred only after the final loan installment is paid, which is typically after 10 to 20 years.

These countries also ensure that residential cities are self-sufficient in all basic services, including electricity, water, sanitation, and hygiene. Committees are assigned to manage each residential city, which has resolved many issues.

Also, some countries have adopted the principle of administrative decentralization, making each residential city independent in terms of services.

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A captivating musical performance lights up the stage during the launch of the 'Emirati Cultural Nights in Kuwait', organized by the UAE Embassy in collaboration with Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

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Kuwait pulls plug on school charity drives

Illegal fundraising risks legal action

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities at the Ministry of Education Maryam Al-Enezi has banned the collection of all types of charitable donations in schools -- whether from students, parents or staff.

In an official circular to the educational districts, private, religious education and special education

schools; Al-Enezi pointed out that "this step is in compliance with the directive of the Ministry of Social Affairs on the temporary suspension of fundraising activities and in ensuring that schools are not exploited for activities outside their educational scope."

Al-Enezi said the charitable work in the country is one of the most important components of national identity and has a rich history reflecting the values of solidarity and giving. "However, the current phase requires regulating the mechanisms of charitable work in all facilities, including schools," she explained.

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PM Diwan photo
Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Charity ban lifted, new rules set

208 Kuwaitis and expats face prosecution over co-op graft

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: According to informed sources, Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, since taking office, has referred 208 individuals to the Public Prosecution for corruption and financial and administrative violations in cooperative societies.

They explained that these individuals comprise 96 Kuwaitis and 112 expatriates and include board members and employees of cooperative societies. This affirms that accountability is not based on nationality or position, and that the law applies equally to all without exception.

The minister's actions also extended to oversight bodies, as dozens of financial and administrative auditors were referred for administrative investigation due to negligence in performing their duties.

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Day by Day

I LIKED the opinion of the economic expert Jassim Al-Saadoun when he said, "True and sophisticated patriotism has nothing to do with how long a person has lived in a country, but rather with their deep understanding and high intellectual capabilities."

This view is supported by the fact that many countries grant citizenship to individuals based on academic and professional merit, regardless of their origin or ancestry.

The United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar have naturalized individuals with exceptional intellectual abilities, regardless of how long they had resided in those countries. Some countries have even granted citizenship to those who have provided outstanding services or contributed valuable expertise.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait breaks ground on housing mega-plan

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Concurrently with the kickoff of the "Kuwait Building Summit 2025," informed sources revealed that the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) is currently undertaking unprecedented efforts to implement large-scale housing projects with the aim of resolving Kuwait's housing crisis. These projects target the completion of over 210,000 housing units, which is the largest of its kind in PAHW's history.

The sources explained that the plans include the South Saad Al-Abdullah and South Sabah Al-Ahmad projects, which together will deliver approximately 44,000 housing units by 2028.

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Kuwait reaffirms call for nuke-free Mideast

NEW YORK, May 6, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait is keen on having a Middle East region free of nuclear arsenals and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), said a Kuwaiti diplomat to UN meeting late Monday.

This affirmation came during a speech delivered by Diplomatic at the Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York Abdulaziz Al-Seidi to the preparatory committee for the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Kuwait's stance on the issue is based on the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, which is considered as a cornerstone for legal and ethical stances on the issue and also a binding document nuclear powers and the three depositary countries of the US, the UK, and Russia, he said.

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DGCA, Bahrain explore joint aviation advancements



DGCA photo
Head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah with Bahraini Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa.

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): Head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah met Monday with Bahraini Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa on how to enhance cooperation in civil aviation.

In a press statement, the DGCA said the meeting addressed mechanisms for exchanging technical and operational expertise, coordinating joint efforts to advance the civil aviation sector in line with global developments, and reflecting the deep-rooted relations between the two countries.

The two sides emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships and integration in air transport,

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Coast Guard chiefs meet to boost Kuwait-US naval ties

NEW YORK, May 6, (KUNA): A delegation from the Kuwait General Department for Coast Guard visited the United States Coast Guard Headquarters on Monday and discussed with their American peers strengthening bilateral cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the field of maritime security.

Ministry of Interior said in a statement that Kuwait's Coast Guard chief Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah, held a series of meetings with US counterparts.

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KUNA photo
Kuwait's Coast Guard chief Commodore Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Sabah with his US counterpart.

Kuwait prosecution zaps 116 over power misuse for crypto

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Public Prosecution has started investigating 31 reports on the illegal use of electricity to mine cryptocurrencies in 59 residences, and interrogated 116 suspects in these cases.

In a press statement, the prosecution emphasized that electricity is a strategic resource for the State and must be used exclusively for its designated purposes.

It has been proven that some individuals exploited the electricity allocated to homes for cryptocurrency mining

operations with the aim of generating immediate profits, causing damage to the public electricity grid and negatively impacting public interest.

The prosecution then clarified that based on its duty to protect State resources; it stressed the need for everyone to adhere to the proper use of these resources. It affirmed that, in cooperation with the concerned State authorities, it will not hesitate to take deterrent legal action against anyone proven to be involved in such illegal practices.

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8 NBK outmatches MENA Banks with seven prestigious awards at MEED's MENA Banking Excellence Awards

9 Gulf Bank hosts Q1 2025 earnings webcast

9 Burgan Bank reports strong earnings for Q1 '25



10 National Investments Company kicks off 2025 with strong financial results

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:36	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	05:02	Maghrib ..	18:27
Zohr	11:45	Isha	19:52

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 15-45 km/h.			
By Night: Rather hot with			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait Airport	37	27	
Abdaly	37	24	
Bubyan	36	25	
Jahra	37	26	
Failaka Island	36	29	
Salmiyah	36	27	
Ahmadi	37	25	
Jal Aliyah	39	24	
Nuwaisib	36	29	
Wafra	37	27	



UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Matar Al-Neyadi, Sheikh Khaled Al-Bader at the event.



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah (extreme left), UAE ambassador to Kuwait and other guests at the ceremony.



UAE Ambassador Dr Matar Al-Neyadi, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, NCCAL Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Khaled Al-Jassar attended the event.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi
Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah and Sheikhha Suhaila Al-Sabah at the event.

Embassy launches ‘Emirati Cultural Nights in Kuwait’

Culture bridges gaps between people, promotes peace : Dr Al-Neyadi

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kuwait, Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi has stressed that culture is a bridge connecting peoples and a platform that expresses the identity and spirit of nations. In his speech at the Sheikh Jaber Cultural Center during the launching of the ‘Emirati Cultural Nights in Kuwait’, organized by the UAE Embassy in Kuwait in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL); Al-Neyadi affirmed the vision of the UAE that culture is a permanent bridge for dialogue, rapprochement and understanding, and a tool for promoting peace, building conscious societies, and consolidating identities.

Undersecretary of the UAE Ministry of Culture Mubarak Al-Nakhi attended the event, with the theme, “Immortalizing the Legacy... and Leading the Future”.

Al-Neyadi said the ‘Emirati Cultural Nights in Kuwait’ take on a special dimension, as they coincide with the selection of the sisterly State of Kuwait as the Capital of Arab Culture for 2025. “This well-deserved selection reflects the country’s distinguished position on the Arab cultural map; considering its literary, theatrical and artistic achievements, and its pioneering role in establishing the cultural movement in the Gulf and the Arab world,” he stressed.

He added the ‘Emirati Cultural Nights in Kuwait’ is an open invitation to discover the spirit of the UAE and learn about its cultural components that pulsate with generosity, tolerance, coexistence, love and affection -- a manifestation of the creative convergence of heritage and modernity.

He disclosed that the event will continue for three days at three locations: Sheikh Jaber Cultural Center, The Avenues Mall and Dasma Theater. He also praised the efforts of NCCAL in organizing the event, which is being held for the first

time in Kuwait.

He stated that the event is a celebration of the shared roots between the two sisterly countries -- the UAE and Kuwait, “by reviving ancient heritage and drawing inspiration from the authenticity of the past, the distinction of the present, and the ambition of the future.”

Meanwhile, NCCAL Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Khaled Al-Jassar pointed out “Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have long been linked by strong fraternal relations, strengthened by kinship ties, a shared language and religion, and common interests. These relations are not limited to the political aspect; but extend to various social, economic and cultural fields, making them a model to be emulated in terms of Gulf and Arab cooperation.”

He considers the ‘Emirati Cultural Nights in Kuwait’ activities a celebration of the Emirati cultural heritage in Kuwait and a shared success story in supporting the cultural movement, exchanging expertise, and enriching the literary

and artistic scenes in both countries. He confirmed that the past years witnessed continuous cooperation between cultural institutions in Kuwait and the UAE through the organization of cultural weeks, exchanging artistic and theatrical group performances, and holding joint exhibitions and intellectual forums.

He said the ‘Emirati Cultural Nights in Kuwait’ are a new addition to a series of fruitful partnerships aimed at enhancing cultural exchange and transferring experiences and creativity among the youths and intellectuals. “These events also provide the Kuwaiti public with the opportunity to learn about the rich Emirati heritage, its values and artistic and creative practices that reflect the Arab and Gulf identity,” he asserted.

He thanked the Emirati delegation and all the organizers and supporters of the event wishing everyone has a time rich in communication, knowledge and enjoyment of the arts and culture on display.

Determined Austria looks to up Kuwaiti investment

Ties based on mutual trust: Sheikh Abdullah

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 6 : Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Ulrich Frank has lauded the strong and solid Kuwaiti-Austrian relations which he described as “excellent and advanced” at all levels and in various areas of cooperation, indicating these are historical relations spanning 60 years.

In a statement to reporters on the sidelines of a reception he hosted at his residence on the occasion of the visit of the Austrian trade delegation, Frank revealed this is the second time he was appointed as his country’s ambassador to Kuwait -- the first was in 2012.

He stated that when he was offered the appointment again to Kuwait, he did not hesitate to accept it. He affirmed that he is exerting tremendous efforts to support, strengthen and develop bilateral relations with Kuwait.

He said Kuwait hosted the first round of political consultations between the two countries, which strengthened the consensus between them. He looks forward to Vienna hosting the next round of consultations.

He confirmed that the Austrian trade delegation’s visit to Kuwait reflects the strength of bilateral relations between the two countries and the shared desire to enhance economic cooperation, whether in the fields of trade, investment, science, technology or innovation.

He added “we believe there is great potential to expand cooperation between Austria and Kuwait. While precise figures are not available regarding the size of Kuwaiti investments in Austria due to the confidential nature of most of them, we believe they are significant and influential investments.”

He went on to affirm that the Austrian Embassy is working hard to encourage Kuwaiti investments in his country by enhancing communication between businesspersons and facilitating access to available investment opportunities. “We are working hard to build a sustainable and fruitful economic partnership that benefits both countries. We look forward to a bright future of constructive cooperation with Kuwait,” he stressed.

On the other hand, Chairman of the Kuwaiti-Austrian Business Friendship Association (KABFA) Sheikh Abdul-



Ulrich Frank

lah Al-Mubarak asserted that relations between Kuwait and Austria are characterized by mutual trust, which constitutes a solid foundation for strengthening economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

In a press statement on the sidelines of his participation as the guest of honor at the event, Sheikh Abdullah pointed out that “as chairman of the association, I am elated to participate in this important meeting organized by the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC), with the attendance of a select group of multidisciplinary Austrian companies.”

He said this high-level trade visit is the first in more than five years, making it a valuable opportunity to enhance trade exchange and explore new areas of cooperation. He clarified that “personal and business communication are no less important than economic figures; indeed, they are the foundation upon which sustainable success is built. Although Austria is small, it possesses high-quality and advanced technologies in sectors like construction and renewable energy. Kuwait and the region can benefit from such sectors, especially in light of the development vision of Kuwait.”

On Kuwaiti investments in Austria, Sheikh Abdullah confirmed the existing investments; indicating that “the Austrian market is smaller than traditional European markets such as Germany and France, but it is stable and safe. It has an encouraging legal environment, which enhances confidence among Kuwaiti investors.”

Moreover, former Austrian Defense Minister and AACC President Dr. Werner Fasslabend emphasized that his visit to Kuwait, which was organized in cooperation with Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), aims to strengthen bilateral relations; particularly in the area of economic cooperation between the two countries.

He disclosed “we are here today accompanied by a delegation of 22 Austrian companies, in addition to prominent figures, including the President of the Austrian Industry Federation -- one of the most prominent economic figures in Austria, along with representatives of leading global companies such as Rosenbauer and ANSERS.”

He said the goal of the visit is not limited to exchanging documents or signing agreements, as it rather extends to building trust through direct personal communication. He believes that personal trust is the foundation for building successful business relationships. “Through this visit, we want to learn about the country and its economy, and most importantly, to communicate directly with the individuals and stakeholders.

Other Voices

Charitable bodies and the fact of restrictions

By Ahmad alsarraf

AS soon as efforts began to tackle decades-long corruption within charitable activities, some religious associations mobilized their members to attack the government’s decision. They repeated false accusations, except for one undeniable truth: the decision was deeply bitter for them.

It inflicted enormous financial losses and was nothing short of a disaster in their view. Their protests followed the government’s measures, which included suspending donation via bank links, halting overseas money transfers, and shutting down charity associations operating in residential areas.

One of them claimed that three individuals were behind the decision, describing them in ways I cannot repeat as they constitute clear accusations that violate the law . I do not know exactly who he is referring to. The aforementioned decisions were issued by the government, and these accusations seem to insult it . Perhaps the government will inquire what they mean by these allegations.

What many may not know is that these decisions were not only justified, but their issuance had been delayed for decades, during which many charitable officials amassed wealth illegally.

I support all the measures taken, even though I am the founder and president of a charitable organization. If our charity or those who rely on our assistance were among the victims, I would have been the first to complain.

Over the past thirty years, I have written more than 100 articles highlighting the mistakes made by some charitable organizations. As a result of these articles, I have been referred to the judiciary multiple times, solely for advocating stricter oversight of charitable organizations, including the publication of their budgets and monitoring the destination of donations sent abroad.

I opposed the unrestricted powers granted to some officials of one of the largest and most widespread charitable organizations. These officials were allowed to manage hundreds of millions of dinars without any oversight for 45 years, particularly after appointing the undersecretary of the ministry responsible for their supervision as a member of the organization’s board of directors. Instead of taking the initiative to amend their illegal status, they turned to the judiciary, which ultimately acquitted me.

I have written extensively about the complete lack



alsarraf

of oversight over the costs of projects that charities claim to establish abroad. I often wonder how a charity can repeatedly raise one million dinars to buy an injection for a sick child without providing basic details such as the name of the medicine, the manufacturer, a copy of the purchase offer, and the name and recommendation of the doctor in its social media campaigns. After all, we are talking about one million dinars, not the small amount needed to buy a bag of onions.

Over the past 30 years, I have written hundreds of articles criticizing the actions of dozens of charitable organizations.

None of the hundreds of officials from the charities I directly accused ever wrote a single response or contacted me to point out where I might have gone wrong . The reason was often their reluctance to raise the issue, as it would threaten the continued siphoning of donations.

A newspaper’s pages are not enough to fully cover the stories of corruption, but the sheer number of charities, their widespread branches, and the similarity of their goals have always been a source of suspicion.

During Ramadan, the government requested that charities contribute to raising funds to pay off the debts of insolvent debtors.

However, the donations were quite modest, even though the same charities succeeded, during the same period, in raising many times that amount for their projects in 75 countries, including initiatives like digging water wells and purchasing mattresses.

The reason for the weakness of the first national campaign and the great success of the second lies in the fact that, in the first campaign, the ministry prohibited the charities from deducting any portion of the donations as a bonus . As a result, they were reluctant to collect. In contrast, they were active in the second campaign because 12.5 percent of the donations were deducted for the benefit of charity workers.

If I were an official, I would demand that the boards of directors of all charities, without exception, be referred to the Public Prosecution to investigate the fate of the funds they have collected over the past ten years . Shocking facts have been uncovered.

Charity work is still thriving, and we continue our efforts. However, what has changed is that charity work has become significantly less corrupt after charitable activities were confined within Kuwait’s borders.

The more the merrier ... traders and insatiable want for money

"IN an interview on Kuwait TV, the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Qabas daily Walid Al-Nusf recounted the story behind the establishment of the first cinema in Kuwait", Kuwaiti Journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"He shared that the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, upon returning from a trip to Bombay, invited a group of merchants to his office and told them he had seen a cinema in Bombay and was impressed by the experience. He then encouraged them to establish a cinema in Kuwait.

"However, the merchants were initially hesitant, fearing financial losses and potential competition. Despite their concerns, the first cinema proved to be a success, paving the way for others such as Al-Firdous Cinema, Hassan Ali Karam Al-Hamra Cinema, Al-Andalous Cinema, Hawally Summer Cinema, and more throughout the country.

"The project was innovative, profitable, and entertaining, and the public needed it. Today, modern malls and shopping complexes have cinemas, and they are consistently full. This implies that Kuwaitis have a deep appreciation for art, entertainment, and leisure. Beyond entertainment, cinema serves as both a cultural asset and a profitable business opportunity.

"Cinema owners are not low-income individuals, but rather wealthy merchants. The dominance of major businessmen in the cinema industry did not deter them or their children from pursuing artistic ventures as additional, successful, and profitable business opportunities, such as organizing concerts and theater performances.

"These activities are not subject to losses; on the contrary, they generate substantial, 100 percent guaranteed profits for several reasons, including government incentives like land grants at exceptionally low rents.

"Kuwaiti artists who pioneered successful theater and dramatic works were not merchants or the children of wealthy merchants. Most of them came from humble backgrounds, such as Abdulhusain Abdulredha, Saad Al-Faraj, Ibrahim Al-Sallal, and other figures in theater, fine arts, and cinema. The only exception was Khaled Al-Nafisi, whose father was a businessman.

"The dominance of traders, their children, and grandchildren over professions originally founded by the children of the poor raises an important question: What is left for the sons of the poor and those with modest incomes if merchants control all major ventures, including shopping centers, car dealerships, restaurants, and more? Would it be wrong to say that traders have taken over?

"Art is not simply a way to make money, but it is an exceptional taste and sensibility not possessed by everyone. Merchants, please allow the poor to keep their humble, dinar-earning crafts and leave the billion-dollar businesses to yourselves."

Also:

"A school principal married the sister of the school janitor he worked with. Due to their relationship, he began prioritizing the janitor's interests over the public interest. Whenever a teacher was absent, the principal would instruct the janitor to step in and teach the class instead. Gradually, with no oversight or accountability, the principal promoted the janitor to a teaching position at the school", columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"As time went on, the principal rose in rank, eventually becoming the director of education, while the janitor was promoted to school principal.

"Years later, the former janitor's cousin was appointed Minister of Education, and the former janitor was promoted to the position of Director General of Education. Now in a luxurious office, surrounded by cars, servants, inspectors, and teachers, he enjoyed a position of power. Coffee was always served, and newspapers were neatly arranged on his desk, which he leisurely flicked through every day.

"One day, while flipping through a newspaper, his eyes landed on a headline: "Minister of Education decides to form committees to evaluate employees' credentials and review their academic qualifications."

"Panic swept over him. He was once

a janitor, and he lacked the qualifications for the high-ranking position he now held. Fearing his secret would be exposed, he called the Minister of Education, and said, "You know I don't have the credentials for this job. If they review my certificates, everything will come out."

"The minister chuckled and replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Director. I have appointed you as the head of the evaluation committees."

"I don't know whether this story is true or not. The source who shared it simply said, "This is how things are handled, gentlemen. This is how corruption cases are investigated."

"The Kuwaiti newspaper "Al Shahid" published on March 15, 2022, that parachute appointments have played a major role in undermining job performance in government departments.

"A study revealed that certain political movements, economic groups, and influential individuals have begun shielding hundreds of officials in ministries and government institutions, and appointing them to sensitive positions to expand their influence and advance personal agendas, all at the expense of the nation and its citizens. These practices have contributed to the decline in performance in various ministries and public agencies."



"Chivalry or honor is the embodiment of virtuous morals and noble, manly conduct that motivates an Arab or Muslim man to avoid anything that lowers his stature or tarnishes his reputation", Kuwaiti writer **Khaled Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"In today's volatile world, there are several behaviors that a man of honor must consciously avoid. They are:

1. Stinginess - This is the refusal to spend money to help those in need. A man who is miserly with his wealth is often miserly in spirit as well, and both qualities stand in direct opposition to the essence of true manhood.

2. Miserliness - A man reveals his miserliness when he refuses to spend his wealth to aid those in need. A stingy hand reflects a stingy heart, and both qualities starkly contradict the core values of masculinity and generosity. Miserliness remains one of the most damaging traits to a man, regardless of time or place.

3. Disclosing private matters - Some individuals who lack discretion and sound judgment reveal matters that no honorable man should ever share, especially personal or sensitive details about their household and family life. This behavior is unmanly and stands in clear violation of the principles of honor. A man of integrity must avoid it at all times.

4. Submissiveness - While humility is a virtue, a man of honor must never allow it to slip into humiliating submission or self-degradation before others. Such behavior inevitably erodes a man's dignity in the eyes of those around him. As the saying goes: "He who belittles himself will be belittled by others."

5. Panic, fear, and anxiety - A man experiences panic when gripped by sudden fear; that fear becomes terror when it evolves into a persistent phobia, and it turns into anxiety when it grows into ongoing, chronic distress. A man of honor must rise above prolonged fear or excessive worry and strive to remain composed and steady, even if doing so requires deliberate effort.

6. Baseness of character - A person displays baseness when his words or actions are vulgar or dishonorable, when others regard him with disdain due to his lowly conduct, and when his behavior becomes so disgraceful that it invites contempt. Such moral decline not only shatters chivalry but also strips a man of the essential qualities of true manhood.

7. Looking at what God has forbidden - A man of honor is expected to lower his gaze from what God has prohibited, as indulging in such behavior directly contradicts the values and principles of Arab and Islamic masculine virtue. Refraining from forbidden glances is a sign of deeply rooted ethics, self-restraint, and moral integrity, and these are hallmarks of a truly honorable man."

— Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



Hassan Ali Karam



Al-Janfawi



KUNA photo

Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Refaeie received the Saudi Military Attache Brigadier General Farhan Al-Shathri and the accompanying delegation.

Kuwait and Saudi seek to enhance military bonds

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Refaeie met on Tuesday with the Saudi Military Attache Brigadier General Farhan Al-Shathri, to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation between the KNG and military institutions in Saudi Arabia.

According to a statement by Kuwait National Guard, the meeting was

attended by senior commanders, and Al-Refaeie conveyed greetings from KNG Chief Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and KNG Deputy Chief Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Sabah, emphasizing the deep-rooted historical ties and strong relations between the two countries.

The talks focused on enhancing military cooperation and addressing key issues of mutual interest between the two countries, it added.



KFF photos

Garages are sealed by the KFF personnel.

Garages in Al-Naeem shut for violating fire rules

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) carried out an inspection campaign on Tuesday morning in Naeem in Jahra Governorate to identify the buildings and facilities that were in violation of the fire safety and prevention regulations.

According to a press release issued by KFF, citations were issued during the campaign against a number of establishments, which were administratively shut down for failing to meet KFF's safety requirements.

Doctor, physical trainer, customs officers jailed, fined in cash fraud

Court acquits dept head of 'negligence'

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti doctor to five years in prison, fined him KD 345,000 and ordered his dismissal for embezzling KD115,000 -- the total amount of salary he received even if he did not report for work.

Meanwhile, the court acquitted a depart-

ment head doctor of negligence, causing serious damage to the Ministry of Health funds, and failing to report the incident.

In another case, the Criminal Court sentenced a well-known bodybuilding trainer to seven years in prison and fined him KD 40,000 for selling hormones and engaging in pharmaceutical activity without a license.

The court also sentenced his two accomplices to one year in prison after State security investigations revealed that they were earning money illegally by selling hormones.

It ordered the confiscation of three vehicles belonging to the trainer, as he purchased them to conceal funds from the sale of hormones.

Moreover, the Criminal Court, headed by Judge Nayef Al-Dahoum, sentenced three customs inspectors and their accomplice to five years in prison and ordered their dismissal for embezzling confiscated tobacco. They were fined KD 19,530 -- twice the value of the merchandise, following coordination with the Drug Control General Department and Customs investigations.



KFF photo

Traces of smoke on the building.

Asian dies in fall from 6th floor escaping fire, smoke

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Fire broke out in an apartment in Salmiya, resulting in the death of an Asian man who jumped from the sixth floor to escape the flames and smoke that trapped him in the apartment.

Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) confirmed that firefighting teams from the Salmiya and Al-Bidaa fire stations rushed to the location after receiving information on the fire incident. They extinguished the fire in record time.

A case was registered and investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire.

Meanwhile, fire broke out in an apartment in Salmiya on Tuesday morning. No casualties were reported.

MoH transfers put on hold

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Ministry of Health has officially closed the window for job transfers for its employees after the grace period set by Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi's decision, which limits transfers to only two periods per year in April and October, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to informed sources, the ministry received a huge number of transfer requests during the designated period, from various specialties. These requests were thoroughly reviewed based on the work needs and the nature of the health facilities involved to ensure balance and fairness in personnel distribution.

The ministry affirmed the importance of submitting transfer requests using the approved form, along with written approval from both the relevant authorities (the exporting and importing entities), as well as the approval of the pertinent assistant undersecretary. Applications must be submitted during the first 15 days of April and the first 15 days of October. Any applications submitted outside these periods will not be accepted, unless for justified health reasons.

Union demands paid heed: Al-Sarheed

Coast Guard win KFU head praise

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Chairman of the Kuwait Fishermen Union Abdullah Al-Sarheed lauded the dedication of the Coast Guard in protecting the territorial waters and fishermen.

In a press statement, he expressed appreciation for Director General of the Coast Guard Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef Al-Sabah for his receptiveness to the demands of the union.

He acknowledged Sheikh Mubarak Al-Yousef's understanding of the demands of the union and his commitment to review them, while recognizing the tremendous efforts exerted by the Coast Guard in protecting Kuwaiti maritime regions.

He also affirmed that the union is keen on complying with the relevant regulations and the directives of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Yousef, along with the continuous efforts to raise awareness on maritime and environ-

mental laws among fishermen.

He then unveiled the plan to hold meetings with the concerned authorities in the fishing sector in order to realize the aspirations of fishermen and ensure the preservation of the traditional fishing occupation.



Maid robs sponsor: A retired citizen filed a theft case against his Asian housemaid who allegedly stole cash and gold jewelry from his bedroom in his home in Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

The complainant stated that the housemaid, who has been working for him for several months, escaped from his house while he was out; that is, after allegedly breaking into his bedroom and taking the valuables.

Authorities registered a case and referred it to the Criminal Investigation Department at the Interior Ministry, which has launched a search to apprehend the suspect.

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‘28 pilots qualitative addition to Kuwait Air Force’

Defense Minister attends graduation ceremony



Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah at the graduation ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah on Monday attended the graduation ceremony of a new batch of 28 pilots.

In a speech delivered after distributing certificates to the graduates, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah stressed that this batch of young Kuwaitis are a qualitative addition to the air forces, the Ministry of Defense said in a press statement.

The minister noted that what was achieved today is the result of intensive

training and continuous efforts within a modern system established by the ministry, to qualify national cadres with the highest technical and professional standards to face the increasing security challenges and keep pace with rapid developments in the aviation field.

He stressed the importance of keeping developing these air systems to enhance the capabilities of the armed forces and enable them to carry out their missions efficiently and professionally under various circumstances.

The minister urged the graduates to be dedicated, disciplined, and to continue learning and developing their capabilities.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah made a field tour that included both Salem Al-

Sabah Air Base and Ali Al-Salem Air Base, during which he was briefed on a number of operational and technical facilities, including the flight simulation wing, the training building, and aircraft hangars.

He listened to a detailed briefing on the operational capabilities of these facilities and their role in supporting the air system, in addition to an explanation of the nature of the missions carried out by these aircraft, praising the high readiness and advanced technical efficiency.

Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Air Vice Marshal Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Commander of the Air Force Air Commodore Pilot Mohammad Al-Hamdan, and a number of senior Air Force officers attended the graduation ceremony.

Units reactivated, power taken from GCC grid

Electricity index remains stable despite surge in use

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The electricity index remains stable despite the surge in consumption; which reached 13,310 megawatts recently, reports Al-Anba daily.

This stability is attributed to a strong reserve margin, supported by the reactivation of numerous units that were under maintenance over the past week and the import of 600 megawatts from the Gulf power grid.

In a statement to the press, sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy confirmed the completion of about 75

percent of maintenance works on power generation units; indicating that the remaining works are expected to conclude by the end of May.

Sources stated that a large portion of the annual maintenance program for power generation units and water distillation plants has been finalized in preparation for the summer season. "All units are scheduled to be operational except for two that will be reintroduced later," sources revealed.

Sources pointed out that once all units are operation, the national power grid capacity is projected to exceed 18,000 megawatts; supplemented by

1,000 megawatts purchased from the interconnection network. "This is expected to cover peak demand during the summer months," sources added.

Regarding the water sector, sources affirmed that 75 percent of maintenance works in water distillation plants has been completed as well and full completion is anticipated by the end of May. "The return of all units to service is expected to restore the strategic water reserve to its previous levels, following a temporary decline caused by maintenance-related disruptions earlier," sources concluded.



Top and above: Pictures taken at the conference.

Teachers support vowed

Scientific Center, MoE & KU organize educational confab

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Scientific Center, which is affiliated to Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), organized an educational conference titled, "Innovations and New Visions in Biology," in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and with the participation of Kuwait University.

The conference was held at the IMAX Hall with around 200 participants -- officials, educators and teachers from various educational districts.

In a press statement, Deputy Director General for Visitor Experience at the Scientific Center Mohammad Al-Sanousi asserted "at the Scientific Center, we believe that education is the foundation of development and that supporting teachers is an investment in Kuwait's future . The organization of this conference reflects our strong commitment to support the educational system by providing interactive scientific platforms that encourage creativity and innovation . We are proud to partner with the Ministry of Education and Kuwait University on this unique initiative."

The conference is under the patronage of Education Minister Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei; with Undersecretary of the ministry Mansour Al-Dhafiri and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Scientific Center Dr. Redha Al-Hassan in attendance.

This is an affirmation of the support of educational and scientific leaders for initiatives that contribute to the development of education and the competence of teachers.

During the opening of the conference, Sarah Al-Yaqout delivered a speech on behalf of the Scientific Center; expressing the center's pride in its partnership with the ministry in organizing the event.

She confirmed that supporting education is a national responsibility, which requires the concerted efforts of scientific and educational entities.

She stressed that "the teacher is the cornerstone in building an aware and creative generation. Our role is not

limited to conveying information, as it includes presenting information in an interactive manner that engages children in the experience and inspires them to love Science."

She also commended the minister's generous sponsorship of the conference and the decision of the ministry to select the Scientific Center as a partner in this distinguished initiative.

Meanwhile, General Technical Supervisor for Science Dalal Al-Masoud stated in her speech that the conference aims to develop Biology teaching methods and encourage teachers to adopt innovative teaching methods that contribute to the development of the research and exploration skills of students.

She revealed the conference includes interactive workshops on:

- Developing the skills in teaching Biology,
- Using modern technologies in education,
- Integrating scientific research into the curriculum.

The conference includes a scientific exhibition showcasing the students' Biology projects; the launching of the 'My Environment, My Responsibility' initiative; honoring the outstanding teachers; and an exhibition featuring educational institutions and environmental initiatives.

It witnessed the participation of faculty members and students from Kuwait University; thereby, reflecting the importance of integration between academic, scientific and educational institutions in supporting education and promoting scientific research.

The organization of this conference is part of the Scientific Center's efforts to support the educational process in the country, and strengthen partnerships between scientific and educational institutions to mold a creative and scientifically capable generation.

The Scientific Center affirmed it is always ready to strengthen this cooperation on the development of the educational environment in the country.



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KUNA photo
Chairwoman of Alnowair institution Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Sabah speaks during the closing ceremony of the initiative.

Project cultivates courage

Alnowair forges future female leaders with training, theater

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): Alnowair initiative seeks to empower females to be leaders in the future and face their personal challenges, Chairwoman of Alnowair institution Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Sabah said on Monday.

Speaking to KUNA at the closing ceremony of the initiative of Alnowair's team in its second edition, Sheikhha Intisar added the trainees headed to purposeful theater to show their daily challenges.

She noted the initiative stressed joint collaboration and action with educational, national and societal institutions, referring that females had 36 training sessions totaling 97 hours over a whole year on boosting self-

confidence.

The move featured 30 females aged 14-25 from nine schools and universities, in collaboration with some other institutions, Sheikhha Intisar pointed out.

Meanwhile, Sheikhha Bibi Al-Sabah, chairwoman of the United Real Estate Company which took part in the step, said supporting the team is part of the firm's unwavering belief in the key role of theater in developing skills and building an aware generation able to partake effectively in societal contribution.

Also Rayan Al-Makimi, a team's member, said participation has helped her change concepts about life and face her problems.



KUNA photos
Top: Sheikhha Intisar honors the participants. Above: Part of the theatrical presentation.

Anti-corruption drive hits 89% implementation mark

Transparency push gains momentum in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): The Higher Committee for Leading and Coordinating Kuwait's National Strategy to Promote Integrity and Combat Corruption (2019-2025) confirmed progress in implementing the strategy, and discussed ways to accelerate execution and enhance institutional and developmental impact.

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim stated during the committee's sixth meeting held at Nazaha headquarters on Tuesday that the meeting was part of ongoing monitoring efforts

to track implementation and review key accomplishments of 2024.

He also discussed ways to speed up the remaining initiatives and address related challenges, noting that the national strategy has achieved tangible results due to joint efforts between Nazaha, implementing entities, and stakeholders.

He revealed that 89 percent of the initiatives reached advanced stages of execution and final evaluation, reflecting a growing national commitment to combating corruption and enhancing transparency.

The meeting highlighted major achievements, including the implementation of transparency-related laws such as the Right to Access Information Law and the Conflict of Interest Law.

It also covered the launch of "Ada'a" project to strengthen professional ethics in government agencies and the expansion of digital government services through "Sahel" app.

The meeting concluded with a call to continue joint efforts in line with Kuwait's Vision 2035 and international commitments.

Future scientists honored at Kuwait science competition

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser hails young innovators

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): A number of officials affirmed late Monday that the 11th Kuwait Science and Engineering Competition, held with the support from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), was a distinctive event that reflected keen support for the youth as future leaders.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the closing ceremony, Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah -- former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs -- said that Kuwaiti youth demonstrated exceptional creative capabilities through their participation.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser, who represented the sponsor of the competition His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, praised the students' scientific projects, noting their spirit of innovation and positive scientific competition.

"Today, all our youth are winners through their participation in this national scientific event," he said, wishing them continued success in serving Kuwait under the wise leadership of Kuwait.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser also expressed sincere appreciation to Chairman of Kuwait Science Club Talal Jassem Al-Kharafi and the club's board members for their significant efforts in making the competition a success.

He commended the jury committee for their professionalism in objectively and proficiently evaluating the students' projects.

He further conveyed deep gratitude to all volunteers, including administrators, academics, and organizers, highlighting their organizational and administrative efforts in ensuring the competition's success.

He extended special acknowledgment to the participating students and their parents for their continuous support and encouragement.

For his part, Chairman of Kuwait Science Club Talal Al-Kharafi described the competition as a platform that brings together creative minds and unleashes students' innovative ideas and technological



KUNA photos
Photos during the closing ceremony of the 11th Kuwait Science and Engineering Competition.

potential.

"This competition has become more than a display of scientific and engineering projects; it represents tangible proof that creativity knows no boundaries, and that the future is shaped by the thoughts and efforts of our promising youth," Al-Kharafi stated.

Seeing students transform ideas into tangible projects is a source of pride, he continued, as they are not just future builders but change-makers who will define progress in our communities through their innovative thinking and ambitious achievements.

He praised the critical role played by the jury committee, composed of distinguished Kuwaiti academics voluntarily evaluating and judging the scientific projects from the

competition's inception until now.

Al-Kharafi congratulated the winners, wishing them continued success in their academic and professional journeys.

He extended deep gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah for his continued patronage, which significantly contributed to the competition's success, and thanked Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Al-Nasser for representing the sponsor at both the opening and closing ceremonies.

He also thanked the competition's strategic partners and supporting entities, particularly KFAS, Kuwait University, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), and EQUATE

Petrochemical Company.

Results of the competition announced student Khaled Al-Jumaa and Mohammad Al-Dhubayan from Ahmad Mishari Al-Adwani Secondary School for Boys as winners of first place for the Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Award for Scientific Research 2025, the competition's "Grand Prize," for their project titled "Farewell to Oil Well Explosions."

Students Adnan Al-Ateeqi and Mohammad Al-Monther Wael Al-Hassawi from the Joint Talent Academy for Boys secured second place with their project "Smart Farm," while students Wahsh Salam Waleed Al-Rujaib and Nawal Malallah from Mishref Secondary School for Girls claimed third place with their project "Neu."

Justice minister to present Kuwait's rights record at UN

Kuwait stands firm on rights commitments

GENEVA, May 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN and International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen affirmed on Monday Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait's participation in reviewing the comprehensive report on human rights before the UN Human Rights Council shows Kuwait's firm commitments to relevant international charters.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, Al-Hayen said this high-level participation mirrors Kuwait's absolute belief in the council's role and its key mechanism in boosting and protecting human rights globally.

Kuwait is fully committed to continuing positive and constructive collaboration with all UN organization and agencies, he stressed. Reviewing the report is a funda-

mental opportunity to Kuwait to review its national efforts and tangible progress in enhancing human rights, in accordance with international standards, and its voluntary commitments in this field, he stated.

Kuwait's collaboration with international organizations comes as recognition of their pivotal role amid challenges facing the international community, mainly in light of critical conditions caused by the war on Gaza and humanitarian crises in the world that require urgent international coordination, he elaborated.

Kuwait is set to review its national report before the council on Wednesday, as part of the inclusive report for the fourth time; the country previously submitted it in 2010, 2015, 2020.

Continued from Page 1

Thank you

This has helped reduce the burden on the state's public budget.

With the activation of real estate development projects, there is potential to launch major initiatives involving Kuwaiti commercial banks, which currently hold over 100 billion dinars that are underutilized. These funds need to be deployed in a way that commensurate with the local market's capacity and the capabilities of real estate developers, as well as emerging sub-projects and startups.

In the past, all solutions were ineffective. Housing decision-makers failed to consider realistic solutions due to interference from parliamentary, governmental, and influential entities, as I have previously stated.

Now, every citizen can access housing assistance without incurring additional burdens or exhausting loans. Moreover, the government will not face any financial strain.

On this occasion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdul Latif Al-Mishari, for taking the initiative to resolve this long standing crisis by following the right path.

There is no doubt that this step will require the implementation of building models similar to those used in neighboring countries, so that homes are

harmonious and aligned with the surrounding environment. The involvement of real estate developers will also push banks forward, as these institutions rely on generating profit from capital.

Kuwait prosecution

It also decided to release a number of homeowners in the case of using electricity for cryptocurrency mining on varying bails.

DGCA, Bahrain

applying best practices in airport operations, and ensuring the safety and security of air navigation.

Discussions also covered the need to improve the efficiency of national workforce, expand specialized training programs, and exchange information on aviation safety, security, and navigation systems - all aimed at building a sustainable aviation ecosystem that supports the national economy and aligns with international standards.

208 Kuwaitis

The sources said anyone found to have colluded in or concealed acts of corruption will be held accountable in accordance with the Civil Service Commission Law.

Kuwait breaks

In addition, PAHW is preparing to offer more than 170,000 residential plots in three new cities: Khairan Residential City, Nawaf Al-Ahmad Residential City, and Al-Sabriya Residential City.

The implementation phase has begun after the publication of tender announcements in the official gazette.

On the other hand, the sources stressed that involving the private sector, particularly real estate developers, represents a strategic move that will improve citizens' access to housing, provided it is in line with government agencies' plans and approved timelines.

The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullahif Al-Mishari affirmed that Kuwait is committed to advancing urban and sustainable development, and working on opening new opportunities for real estate developers and investors in the construction and property development sectors.

In his speech at the opening of the "Kuwait Build Summit 2025" yesterday, Al-Mishari stated that the directives of the political leadership serve as a roadmap for supporting and implementing housing projects with the highest standards of quality.

He highlighted the government's efforts to strengthen partnerships between the public and private sec-

tors, and promote the use of modern technologies and advanced methods in the construction and development sector.

Al-Mishari emphasized that real estate development is a vital and important component for achieving sustainable housing.

Kuwait reaffirms

He underlined that the NPT's extended nature was a safeguard for the world, stressing that all parties to the treaty must implement it and disarm nuclear weapons and WMDs.

The Kuwaiti diplomat commended the increasing dynamic trajectory of the NPT, which mirrored UNGA decision 73/546 on the conference to establish a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Kuwait had chaired the second session of the said Middle East conference in addition to Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, and Morocco, which chaired previous sessions.

Al-Seidi affirmed Kuwait's transparent stance on the issue of denuclearization, calling on depositary countries of the NPT to enforce the treaty in the Middle East and avoiding selective policies, allowing some to obtain such horrific weapons.

The Israeli occupation continues to threaten the region, especially Palestinians, with nuclear weapons, the Kuwaiti diplomat said, stressing that such behavior should not be left unchecked.

Allowing the Israeli occupation to

threaten the Middle East is one of the main obstacles to achieve Non-Proliferation and also is solidifies a sense of injustice and favoritism when it comes to international disarmament, added Al-Seidi.

He called on the international community to exact its responsibility and force the Israeli occupation to allow the IAEA to inspect of its nuclear facilities.

Kuwait pulls

She stated that in order to regulate school activities and prevent the use of the educational environment for activities outside the educational framework, the ministry emphasized the need to comply with the following instructions: "It is strictly prohibited to collect charitable donations in any form within schools. It is also prohibited to organize charitable events or exhibitions aimed at collecting financial or in-kind donations, unless approval is obtained from the concerned authorities, in accordance with Ministry of Education Circular No. 59 issued on Nov 2, 2023."

She stressed that any violation of these instructions will expose the school to legal accountability, as per the regulations and systems in force in the Ministry of Education. She urged the school administrations to fully abide by the regulations and instructions in order to preserve the neutrality of the educational environment and its reputation.

We need a superman!': Cardinal Goh

Cardinals wrap up pre-conclave meets, still uncertain about who should follow Pope Francis

VATICAN CITY, May 6, (AP): Cardinals wrapped up their pre-conclave meetings Tuesday, trying to identify a possible new pope who could follow Pope Francis and make the 2,000-year-old Catholic Church credible and relevant today, especially to young people.

Although they come from 70 different countries, the 133 cardinal electors seem fundamentally united in insisting that the question before them isn't so much whether the church gets its first Asian or African pontiff, or a conservative or progressive. Rather, they say the primary task facing them when the conclave opens Wednesday is to find a pope who can be both a pastor and a teacher, a bridge who can unite the church and preach peace.

"We need a superman!" said Cardinal William Seng Chye Goh, the 67-year-old archbishop of Singapore.

It indeed a tall task, given the abuse and financials scandals that have harmed the church's reputation and the secularizing trends in many parts of the world that are turning people away from organized religion. Add to that the Holy See's dire financial state and often dysfunctional bureaucracy, and the job of being pope in the 21st century seems almost impossible.

Francis named 108 of the 133 electors and selected cardinals in his image. But there is an element of uncertainty about the election since many of them didn't know one another before last week, meaning they haven't had much time to suss out who among them is best suited to lead the 1.4-billion-strong church.

The cardinals held their last day of pre-conclave meetings Tuesday morning, during which Francis' fisherman's ring and his official seal were destroyed in one of the final formal rites of the transition of his pontificate to the next.

The cardinals will begin trying to find the new pope Wednesday afternoon, when those "princes of the church" walk solemnly into the Sistine Chapel to the meditative chant of the "Litany of the Saints." They'll



A Vatican employee annulls the papal seal on the pope's seal, at the Vatican on May 6. (AP)

take their oaths of secrecy under the daunting vision of heaven and hell in Michelangelo's "Last Judgment," hear a meditation from a senior cardinal, and then cast their first ballot. Assuming no candidate secures the necessary two-thirds majority, or 89 votes, the cardinals will retire for the day and return on Thursday. They will have two ballots in the morning and then two in the afternoon, until a winner is found.

Church is growing in Africa and Asia, both in numbers of baptized faithful and vocations to the priesthood and women's religious orders. It is shrinking in traditionally Catholic bastions of Europe, with empty churches and the faithful formally leaving the church in places like Germany, many citing the abuse scandals.

"Asia is ripe for evangelization and the harvest of vocations," said the Rev. Robert Reyes, who studied in the seminary with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the Filipino prelate considered a contender to be the first Asian pope.

But should the pope necessarily reflect the new face of the Catholic Church, and inspire the faithful especially in the parts of the world where the momentum of growth is already underway? Does it even matter?

Pope Francis was the first Latin American pope, and the region still counts the majority of the world's Catholics.

Indian Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the retired archbishop of Mumbai, said the church needs to become more Asian, culturally and spiritually.

The "center of gravity of the world is shifting toward Asia," he said. "The Asian church has much to give to the world." At 80, Gracias won't be participating in the conclave, but India has four cardinal-electors, and overall Asia counts 23, making it the second-biggest voting bloc after Europe, which has 53 (or likely 52, given that one is not expected to participate for health reasons). One of the big geopolitical issues facing the cardinals is China and the plight of the estimated 12 million Chinese Catholics there.

Under Francis, the Vatican in 2018 inked a controversial agreement with Beijing governing the appointment of bishops, which many conservatives decried as a sellout of the underground Chinese Catholics who had remained loyal to Rome during decades of communist persecution. The Vatican has defended the accord as the best deal it could get, but it remains to be seen if Francis' successor will keep the policy.



A Del Mar lifeguard looks over a capsized boat on the beach on May 5, in at Torrey Pines State beach in San Diego, Calif. (AP)

Boat believed to be carrying migrants capsizes off Calif coast, leaving 3 dead

SAN DIEGO, May 6, (AP): A small boat believed to be carrying migrants capsized early Monday off San Diego's coast and left three people dead and four injured, while U.S. Coast Guard crews were searching for seven others, officials said.

Initially nine people were reported missing but later two were found and detained, US Coast Guard Petty Officer Hunter Schnabel said. He did not know which agency detained the individuals or why. The U.S. Border Patrol did not immediately respond to an email asking if they were involved.

US Coast Guard Petty Officer Chris Sappey said it was unclear where the boat was coming from before it flipped shortly after sunrise about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of the Mexico border. He described the vessel as a pan-

ga, single or twin-engine open fishing boats commonly used by smugglers. "They were not tourists," Sappey said. "They are believed to be migrants."

Migrants are increasingly turning to the risky alternative offered by smugglers to travel by sea to avoid heavily guarded land borders, including off California's coast. Pangas leave the Mexican coast in the dead of night, sometimes charting hundreds of miles north.

The four injured people were taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, the hospital said in an email. All were being treated for respiratory related issues after arriving by ambulance. Three were in their 30s and one was a teen. No other details were provided. The Coast Guard deployed a helicopter and boat to search for the missing.

'Costly, resource-intensive endeavor'

WH to pay immigrants in US illegally \$1,000 to leave country

WASHINGTON, May 6, (AP): Pushing forward with its mass deportation agenda, President Donald Trump's administration said Monday that it would pay \$1,000 to immigrants who are in the United States illegally and return to their home country voluntarily.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a news release that it would also pay for travel assistance - and that people who use an app called CBP Home to tell the government they plan to return home will be "deprioritized" for detention and removal by immigration enforcement.

"If you are here illegally, self-deportation is the best, safest and most cost-effective way to leave the United States to avoid arrest," Secretary Kristi Noem said. "DHS is now offering illegal aliens financial travel assistance and a stipend to return to their home country through the CBP Home App."

The department said it had already paid for a plane ticket for one migrant to return home to Honduras from Chicago and said more tickets have been booked for this week and next.

Trump made immigration enforcement and the mass deportation of immigrants in the United States illegally a centerpiece of his campaign, and he is following through during the first months of his administration. But it is a costly, resource-intensive endeavor.

While the Republican administration is asking Congress for a massive increase in resources for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement department responsible for removing people



Migrants walk into Mexico after being deported from the US, at El Chaparral pedestrian border bridge in Tijuana, Mexico, Jan 21. (AP)

from the country, it's also pushing people in the country illegally to "self-deport."

It has coupled this self-deportation push with television ads threatening action against people in the U.S. illegally and social media images showing immigration enforcement arrests and migrants being sent to a prison in El Salvador.

The Trump administration has often portrayed self-deportation as a way for migrants to preserve their ability to return to the U.S. someday.

But Aaron Reichlen-Melnick, a senior fellow at the American Immigration Council, which advocates for immigrants, said there's a lot for migrants

to be cautious about in the latest offer from Homeland Security.

He said it's often worse for people to leave the country and not fight their case in immigration court, especially if they're already in removal proceedings. He said if migrants are in removal proceedings and don't show up in court they can automatically get a deportation order and leaving the country usually counts as abandoning many applications for relief including asylum applications.

And Homeland Security is not indicating that it is closely coordinating with the immigration courts so that there are no repercussions for people in immigration court if they leave, he

said.

"People's immigration status is not as simple as this makes it out to be," Reichlen-Melnick said.

He questioned where Homeland Security would get the money and the authorization to make the payments - and he suggested they are necessary because the administration can't arrest and remove as many people as it has promised so it has to encourage people to do it on their own. "They're not getting their numbers," he said.

As part of its self-deportation effort, the Trump administration has transformed an app that had been used by the Biden administration to allow nearly 1 million migrants to schedule appointments to enter the country into a tool to help migrants return home. Under the Biden administration, it was called CBP One; now it's dubbed CBP Home.

Homeland Security said "thousands" of migrants have used the app to self-deport.

But Mark Krikorian, who heads the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for less immigration, said he doesn't see the offer of paying people to go home as an admission that something in the Trump administration's immigration enforcement agenda isn't working. Considering the millions of people who are in the country illegally, he said, it's impossible to deport all of them so the administration has to combine its own enforcement efforts with encouraging people to go home voluntarily.



In this photo provided by Ukraine's 65th Mechanized Brigade press service, a Ukrainian soldier passes by an armoured Hummer vehicle equipped with an anti-drone net on the frontline in the Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine on May 5. (AP)

Moscow airports closed

All four international airports around Moscow temporarily suspended flights Tuesday as Russian forces intercepted more than 100 Ukrainian drones fired at almost a dozen Russian regions, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said. Nine other regional Russian airports also temporarily stopped operating as drones struck areas along the border with Ukraine and deeper inside Russia, according to Russia's civil aviation agency, Rosaviatsia, and the Defense Ministry. It was the second straight night that the Moscow region reportedly was targeted. (AP)

Romania appoints interim premier

BUCHAREST, Romania, May 6, (AP): Romania's interim president appointed a new prime minister on Tuesday, a day after Marcel Ciolacu stepped down following the failure of his coalition's candidate to make the runoff in a rerun of the presidential election.

Ilie Bolojan signed a decree to appoint the serving interior minister, Catalin Predoiu of the National Liberal Party, to helm the government until a new one can be formed. The interim post can be held for a maximum of 45 days, during which they have limited executive powers.

The shake-up comes after the coalition's candidate, Crin Antonescu, came third in Sunday's first round presidential vote, far behind top finisher hard-right nationalist George Simion and pro-Western reformist Bucharest Mayor Nicusor Dan.

After casting his ballot on Sunday, the 56-year-old veteran politician Predoiu said he voted for a presidency that "will ensure balance, cooperation and dialogue in political life" and called it an "important moment for the whole country."



Lawmakers wait for the beginning of a session were Friedrich Merz is supposed to be elected new chancellor at the parliament Bundestag in Berlin on May 6. (AP)

Merz bid to become Germany's chancellor fails in parliament in stunning defeat

BERLIN, May 6, (AP): In a historic first, conservative leader Friedrich Merz's bid to become Germany's 10th chancellor since World War II failed by six votes in parliament on Tuesday, a stunning defeat as he had been widely expected to win smoothly.

A candidate for chancellor has never failed to win on the first ballot since the end of the war. The loss triggered a stock market slide: the DAX, the index of major German companies, was down 1.8% following the vote.

Merz needed a majority of 316 out of 630 votes. He only received 310 votes - well short of the 328 seats held by his coalition, which is also one of the slimmest postwar majorities. Because the vote was held by secret ballot, it was not immediately clear - and might never be known - who had defected from Merz's camp.

Merz's coalition is led by his center-right Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. They are joined by the center-left Social Democrats, outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz's party. The parties were now to regroup to discuss the next step but it was also unclear how long the process could take.



Friedrich Merz, (center), reacts after he fell short of votes needed to be chancellor in first round vote at the parliament Bundestag in Berlin on May 6. (AP)

Merz is seeking to take the helm of the 27-nation European Union's most populous member after Scholz's government collapsed last year and a national election was held in February. Scholz, despite his official farewell on Monday, remains in a caretaker role until a new chancellor takes over.

Germany has the continent's biggest economy and serves as a diplomatic heavyweight. The new chancellor's portfolio would include the war in Ukraine and the Trump administration's trade policy on top of domestic issues, such as Germany's stagnant economy and the rise of a far-right, anti-immigrant party.

"The world is in turmoil. Europe needs a strong Germany," Carsten Linnemann, the secretary-general of the Christian Democrats, told reporters after Merz's loss. He said a second vote should come soon. "We can't wait for days now, we need clarity quickly."

The lower house of parliament - called the Bundestag - has 14 days to elect a candidate with an absolute majority. Merz can run again, but other lawmakers can also throw their hat in the ring. There is no limit to the number of votes that can be held within the two-week period.

If Merz or any other candidate fails to get that majority within the 14 days, the constitution allows for the president to appoint the candidate who wins the most votes as chancellor, or to dissolve the Bundestag and hold a new national election.

Canada's PM arrives in Washington for high-stakes meeting with Trump

WASHINGTON, May 6, (AP): Canada's new prime minister, Mark Carney, won the job with a promise to confront the increased aggression shown by President Donald Trump - and he'll have the opportunity to do that in a face-to-face Oval Office meeting on Tuesday.

Trump has shattered a decades-old alliance by saying he wants to make Canada the 51st US state and levying steep tariffs against an essential partner in the manufacturing of autos and the supply of oil, electricity and other goods. The outrage provoked by Trump enabled Carney's Liberal Party to score a stunning comeback victory last month as the ongoing trade war and attacks on Canadian sovereignty have outraged voters.

The Republican president has repeatedly threatened that he intends to make Canada the "51st state." He said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" that aired Sunday that the border is an "artificial line" that prevents the two territories from forming a "beautiful country."

Trump's openly adversarial approach has raised questions for Carney and other world leaders on how to manage relations with the U.S. Some world leaders, such as the United Kingdom's prime minister, Keir Starmer, engaged in a charm offensive. Others, such as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, were met by Trump with anger for not being sufficiently deferential.



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney, (right), is greeted by Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman, (second left), U.S. Acting Chief of Protocol Abby Jones, and US Col Randall J. Heusser after he disembarks a government plane Monday, May 5, 2025, as he arrives in Washington. (AP)

Asia

12 dead in Indonesia bus crash: A bus carrying 34 passengers sped out of control on a downhill road and overturned in Indonesia’s West Sumatra province on Tuesday, killing at least 12 people and leaving others injured, police said.

The inter-province bus was on its way to Indonesia’s capital, Jakarta, from Medan in North Sumatra province when its brakes apparently malfunctioned near a bus terminal in West Sumatra’s Padang city, said Reza Chairul Akbar Sidiq, the director of West Sumatra traffic police.

He said police were still investigating the cause of the accident, but survivors told authorities that the driver lost control of the vehicle in an area with a number of steep hills in Padang after the brakes malfunctioned.

The 12 bodies, including those of two children, were mostly pinned under the overturned bus, Sidiq said. All the victims, including 23 injured people, were taken to two nearby hospitals, he said. (AP)

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3 Uyghurs resettled in Canada: Three Uyghur men who spent over a decade in Thai detention were resettled in Canada in April, Thai lawmakers and activists confirmed, months after Thailand drew international condemnation for sending 40 other Uyghurs back to China, where they feared further detention, torture and even death.

The three made their way to Canada during Thailand’s Songkran festival weekend in April, said Kannavee Suebsang, a lawmaker who has advocated on behalf of the Uyghurs, and Chalida Tajaroensuk, president of the People’s Empowerment Foundation, a Thai human rights group that

works closely with migrants and refugees.

The Uyghurs are a Turkic, majority Muslim ethnicity from China’s northwestern Xinjiang region. After decades of conflict over suppression of their cultural identity, Beijing launched a brutal crackdown on the Uyghurs that some Western governments have called a genocide. China has accused the Uyghurs held in Thailand of being terrorists without providing evidence.

The men had been in detention since 2014 as part of a group of 300 Uyghurs who were caught near Thailand’s border with Malaysia after having fled China. For more than a decade, the fate of this group kept Thailand in a tense push-and-pull between China and the US. (AP)

□ □ □

Prosecutors won’t pursue case: State prosecutors in Thailand announced that they don’t intend to press charges against an American academic arrested for royal defamation, an offense punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The arrest last month of Paul Chambers, a political science lecturer at Naresuan University in the northern province of Phitsanulok, had drawn concern from the academic community, especially from Asian studies scholars around the world, as well as the U.S. government

The decision not to prosecute the 58-year-old Oklahoma native doesn’t immediately clear him of the charge of insulting the monarchy- also known as “lèse majesté” - or a related charge of violating the Computer Crime Act, which covers online activities.

The announcement said that the Phitsanulok provincial prosecutor will request the provincial court to drop the charges and forward the case file and nonprosecution order to the commissioner of Provincial Police Region 6, covering Phitsanulok, who may review and contest the decision. (AP)



People inspect the wreckage of a passenger bus after it sped out of control on a downhill road and overturned in Padang Panjang, West Sumatra province, Indonesia on May 6. (AP)

Rwanda confirms early talks to host deported US migrants

Congo and Rwanda submit draft peace proposal, says United States official

GOMA, Congo, May 6, (AP): Congo and Rwanda have submitted a draft peace proposal as part of a US-led process that could end fighting in resource-rich eastern Congo, a US official said Monday.

US President Donald Trump’s senior adviser for Africa and the Middle East, Massad Boulos, said on social media that he welcomed the draft text “received from both (Congo) and Rwanda,” calling it “an important step.”

Details of the draft were not immediately clear, including whether it offers to ease US access to the region’s critical minerals - something Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi has mentioned in return for US help in calming the hostilities.

The decades-long conflict in eastern Congo escalated in January, when the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels seized the strategic city of Goma, followed by the city of Bukavu in February. The fighting has killed some 3,000 people and raised the fears of a wider regional war.

Eastern Congo has been in and out of crisis for decades. Dozens of armed groups are vying for territory in the mining region near the border with Rwanda. The conflict has created one of the world’s largest humani-

tarian crises with more than 7 million people displaced, including 100,000 who fled homes this year.

Congo is the world’s largest producer of cobalt, a mineral used to make lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and smartphones. The country also has substantial gold, diamond and copper reserves.

Monday’s draft peace proposal comes after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio last month oversaw the signing by Congo and Rwanda of a pledge to work toward a peace deal.

Rwanda’s foreign minister, Olivier J.P. Nduhungirehe, told the Rwanda Broadcasting Agency on Monday that he would meet Congo’s foreign minister in the third week of May to negotiate a final peace agreement.

He said he hoped the presidents of Rwanda and Congo would sign the agreement by mid-June at the White House in the presence of Trump and heads of state from the region.

“We hope that if all goes well, we are going to have a peace agreement which will allow us to achieve lasting peace in the region,” Nduhungirehe said.

There was no immediate comment from Congo’s authorities.

The M23 rebels are supported by about 4,000 troops from neighboring



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosts a signing ceremony in which Congo’s Foreign Minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner, (left), and Rwanda’s Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe, (right), pledge to work toward a peace deal on April 25 at the State Department in Washington. (AP)

Rwanda, according to UNexperts, and at times have vowed to march as far as Congo’s capital, Kinshasa, about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) to the west.

Congo and Rwanda hope the involvement of the US - and the incentive of major investment if there’s

enough security for US companies to work safely in eastern Congo - will calm the violence that has defied international peacekeeping and negotiation since the mid-1990s.

“A durable peace ... will open the door for greater USand broader Western investment, which will bring

about economic opportunities and prosperity,” Rubio said, adding that it would “advance President Trump’s prosperity agenda for the world.”

Some analysts have warned that the US could become involved in, or worsen, the militia violence, corruption, exploitation and rights abuses surrounding the mining of eastern Congo’s riches.

Also:

KIGALI, Rwanda: Rwanda confirmed on Monday that discussions were “underway” with the United States regarding a potential agreement to host deported migrants.

Rwanda’s Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe on Sunday told state media that the talks were in the “early stage.” When asked by The Associated Press on Monday, he confirmed the talks.

Nduhungirehe did not disclose the specifics of the potential deal for Rwanda, but previous local media reports suggest that the US would likely fund a program to have migrants integrated into the society through stipends and job assistance initiatives.

The US State Department declined to comment on a potential deal with Rwanda, but said that engagement

with foreign governments is an important part of the US government’s policy to deter illegal migration.

This wouldn’t be Rwanda’s first time hosting deported migrants. The East African nation previously had an agreement with the UK to host migrants. Plans for the initiative, including prepared accommodations, were in the final stages but the deal collapsed after the Labour Party took office in 2024.

Rwanda has faced allegations of human rights abuses and is currently in the process of brokering a peace deal with the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo where Rwanda-backed M23 rebels have been behind attacks in the mineral rich eastern Congo region.

Nduhungirehe told state media on Sunday that Rwanda and Congo had already submitted their respective draft proposals, which will form the basis of a final peace agreement document expected to be signed in the US next month.

The minister said the migrant deal between Rwanda and the US was consistent with Rwanda’s long-standing commitment to humanitarian cooperation and the pursuit of migration solutions.



Smoke billows after drone strikes by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) targeted the northern port in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan, Sudan on May 6. (AP)

Sudan’s paramilitary unleashes drones on key targets in Port Sudan, officials say

CAIRO, May 6, (AP): Sudan’s paramilitary unleashed drones on the Red Sea city of Port Sudan early Tuesday, hitting key targets there, including the airport, the port and a hotel, military officials said. The barrage was the second such attack this week on a city that had been a hub for people fleeing Sudan’s two-year war.

There was no immediate word on casualties or the extent of damage. Local media reported loud sound of explosions and fires at the port and the airport. Footage circulating online showed thick smoke rising over the area.

The attack on Port Sudan, which also serves as an interim seat for Sudan’s military-allied government, underscores that after two years of fighting, the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces are still capable of threatening each other’s territory.

The RSF drones struck early in the morning, said two Sudanese military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Information Minister Khalid Aleiser visited the southern part of the port where he said fuel tanks were hit in the attack. He slammed the United Arab Emirates, saying it was arming the paramilitary RSF.

“We will continue our legitimate battle,” he said as flames and thick smoke billowed behind him.

Abdel-Rahman al-Nour, a Port Sudan resident, said he woke up to strong explosions, and saw fires and plumes of black smoke rising over the port. Msha’ashir Ahmed, a local journalist living in Port Sudan, said fires were still burning late Tuesday morning in the southern vicinity of the maritime port.

The attack apparently disrupted air traffic at the airport, with Cairo airport data in neighboring Egypt showing that three Port Sudan-bound flights were canceled on Tuesday.

The RSF did not release any statements on the attack. On Sunday, the paramilitary force struck Port Sudan for the first time in the war, disrupting air traffic in the city’s airport, which has been the main entry point for the county in the last two years.

A military ammunition warehouse in the Othman Daqna airbase in the city was also hit, setting off a fire that burned for two days.

When the fighting in Sudan broke out, the focus of the battles initially was the country’s capital, Khartoum, which turned into a war zone. Withing weeks, Port Sudan, about 800 kilometers (500 miles) to the east of Khartoum, turned into a safe haven for the displaced and those fleeing the war. Many aid missions and UN agencies moved their offices there.

The attacks on Port Sudan are also seen as retaliation after the Sudanese military earlier this month struck the Nyala airport in South Darfur, which the paramilitary RSF has turned into a base and where it gets shipments of arms, including drones.

The RSF is allied with the United Arab Emirates, which UN experts say has provided weapons, including drones to the paramilitary. The UAE denies the claim. Sudan’s miliary is backed by Egypt.

Sudan plunged into chaos in April 2023, when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open warfare in Khartoum. From there, the fighting spread to other parts of the country.

Since then, at least 24,000 people have been killed, though the number is likely far higher. The war has driven about 13 million people from their homes, including four million crossed into neighboring countries. It also pushed parts of the country into famine.

The fighting has been marked by atrocities including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, especially in the western Darfur region, according to the United Nations and international rights groups.

Meanwhile, the top United Nations court on Monday dismissed a case brought by Sudan accusing the United Arab Emirates of breaching the genocide convention by arming and funding the rebel paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in the deadly Sudanese civil war.

Bangladesh’s ex-premier Khaleda Zia returns, adding pressure for elections

DHAKA, Bangladesh, May 6, (AP): Bangladesh’s ailing former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returned to the country from London on Tuesday after four months of medical treatment, adding to pressure for its interim leaders to hold elections.

The South Asian country has been under a government led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus since former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted in a student-led mass uprising in August last year.

Zia, Hasina’s archrival, and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party have been pushing Yunus’ government to hold a national election in December to return the country to democratic rule.

Under Hasina, many opposition political parties including Zia’s BNP had either boycotted the polls or accused the authorities of rigging them. Many welcomed Hasina’s overthrow as a chance to return to democratic elections, but suspicion and uncertainty have surfaced in recent months about the new government’s commitment to hold elections soon. It has said the next election will be held in either December or by June next year, depending on the extent of reforms in various sectors.

Her elder son, Tarique Rahman, leads the party as acting chief from exile in London.

After Zia landed at 10:43 am, she was greeted by senior party leaders at Dhaka’s main airport. Zia, sitting in a wheelchair, smiled as she repeatedly raised her right hand to receive greetings.

Crowds gathered outside Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to welcome the returning leader, amid tight security. Thousands of supporters, many carrying Bangladesh and BNP flags, waited along about a 9-kilometer stretch of road leading to her house in Dhaka’s upscale Gulshan area.

Accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, Zia arrived on a special air ambulance arranged by Qatar’s Amir Sheikh



Bangladesh’s former prime minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Khaleda Zia, center, leaves after a court appearance in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Dec 28, 2017. (AP)

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who also arranged her transport to London in January. Zia suffers from various serious health conditions and she has not attended any public gatherings.

Zia’s physical presence in the country has huge symbolic value for her party while Hasina is in exile in India.

Ahead of her arrival, BNP secretary-general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Tuesday her return will help Bangladesh restore the democratic process.

“This is a joyous moment for us and the nation. At this crucial time for democracy, her presence marks a significant day for the country. We believe that Khaleda Zia’s return will facilitate the path to democratic transition,” Fakhrul told reporters.

Bukele orders arrest of five heads of bus companies for defying free transport order

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, May 6, (AP): El Salvador President Nayib Bukele ordered police via social media on Monday to arrest five heads of bus companies in the Central American country after they defied his order to offer free transport for a week following a major highway closure.

The order was another example of Bukele’s heavy-handed tactics. The second-term leader has been accused of undermining democratic institutions, punishing dissenters and denying access to due process under a “state of emergency” that he declared in 2022 to battle the country’s powerful street gangs. Despite the crackdown, the government has denied the country is a police state.

On Sunday, Bukele had announced via X that all bus fares for a week would be completely free due to construction the government was carrying out on one of the main highways running through San Salvador.

The order resulted in widespread chaos on Monday, fueling long bus lines in the Salvadoran capital and overcrowded buses that skipped stops on a number of routes.

In response, Bukele ordered the capture of five heads of bus companies Monday, accusing them of “sabotaging the country.” He claimed that the government was covering “100% of the income they normally receive per day,” but The Associated Press was not immediately able to verify the information with bus drivers.

“The National Civil Police should proceed with the arrest of the owners of the routes involved,” Bukele wrote on a social media post. “No one is above the law.”

Later Monday, the country’s federal police department



El Salvador’s President Nayib Bukele gives a speech during the inauguration of an industrial data center in Ciudad Arce, El Salvador on July 16, 2024. (AP)

posted photos of the handcuffed men surrounded by heavily armed officers, saying they had been detained for “breach of duty, denial of assistance, and extortion,” providing few details on their arrests.

The National Transportation Committee, which represents the companies involved, said in a statement that they were surprised by the arrests. They blamed confusion on some routes on the fact that the free rides had been announced just a day earlier and they weren’t able to notify everyone.

Boursa Kuwait ends higher

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday’s trading session on a positive note, with the General Market Index gaining 15.79 points, or 0.20%, to settle at 7,990.36. Trading activity saw 394.2 million shares exchanged in 21,807 transactions, with a to-

tal value of KD 94.7 million (approximately \$289.7 million). The Premier Market Index advanced 23.50 points, or 0.27%, ending at 8,634.96. A total of 129 million shares were traded through 9,586 deals worth KD 55.18 million (\$168.8 million).

Business

As part of its Annual Awards for the year 2025

NBK outmatches MENA Banks with seven prestigious awards at MEED’s MENA Banking Excellence Awards

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: National Bank of Kuwait continues to record more wins in 2025 as it excels in providing the best and most innovative solutions. In this light, the bank took the lead at MEED International Magazine’s MENA Banking Excellence Retail, Digital & SME Awards for the year 2025, receiving 7 prestigious awards for its efforts in providing exceptional banking services and enriching the customer banking experience with innovative solutions.

The awards won by NBK during the annual ceremony organized by MEED in Dubai included Best Retail Bank and Best Bank for SMEs in Kuwait, and 5 MENA awards for Best Loan Offering, Best Contactless Payment Experience, Best Payment Solution for SMEs. In addition, Weyay Bank has been recognized as the winner of MENA Most Innovative Product/Service award for Weyay Jeel’s groundbreaking approach to digital banking for children, and finally, Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman, CEO of Consumer and Digital Banking Group at NBK, has been named MENA Retail Banker of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.

These awards are a testament to NBK’s leadership locally and regionally and its pioneering innovative digital achievements and catering to customers’ banking needs by introducing top-notch banking services and advanced payment solutions, making the name “NBK” associated with everything new in digital banking products and services in Kuwait and across the MENA region.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Winning the awards for Best MENA Payment Solutions for SMEs and Best Bankin Kuwait for SMEs reflects the remarkable efforts of NBK in supporting Small and Medium Enterprises, and its local and regional leadership in providing banking services and products as well as diverse payment solutions that are quick, flexible and support the development and needs of its SMEs clients.

Al-Othman MENA Retail Banker of the Year

Naming Al-Othman as MENA Retail Banker of the Year for the fourth consecutive year reaffirms his pivotal role, and his remarkable leadership of the Consumer and Digital Banking Group team in attaining these achievements and providing a comprehensive digital banking experience that not only meets customers’ needs but exceeds their expectations.

This award also recognizes Al-Othman’s dedication to setting ambitious goals and implementing innovative strategies that have not only had a significant impact on NBK customers, but also on the Kuwaiti and regional banking landscape, rendering him a role model for banking leaders who are driving regional progress and innovation in the industry.

NBK holds a record filled with achievements and global awards that emphasize its excellence in digital transformation and echo its commitment to being innovative and providing exceptional customer service, in addition to its commitment to making long-term relationships with customers.

Founded in 1957, MEED is a leading magazine fo-



The Awards NBK received from MEED:

- Best retail bank - Kuwait.
- Best bank for SMEs - Kuwait.
- Best Loan Offering - MENA
- Best Contactless Payment Experience - MENA.
- Best Payment Solution for SMEs – MENA.
- Weyay Bank has been recognized as the winner for: Most Innovative Product/Service for Weyay Jeel's groundbreaking approach to digital banking for children - MENA
- Mr. Mohammed Al-Othman as MENA Retail Banker of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.

digital advancements the bank champions to elevate customer experience and deliver inventive solutions catering to all age segments. This accolade also reflects WeyayBank’s steadfast dedication to leading the digital transformation within the Kuwaiti banking sector and meeting the evolving needs of the rising digital generation. Since its inception in 2021, Weyay Bank has rapidly established itself as a frontrunner in digital banking innovation, setting new standards for a seamless and round-the-clock banking experience, free from traditional processes and tailored to customer aspirations.

The “Jeel” app, meticulously crafted to empower young individuals, foster their financial independence, and cultivate financial literacy from an early age. By integrating a simplified user interface designed for “Jeel” customers with comprehensive parental control tools accessible through the parent’s Weyay application, “Jeel” establishes new benchmarks for personalized banking services tailored to this demographic’s specific needs. The “Jeel” card embodies simplicity and ease of use across all its digital services and features, contributing to building a sense of responsibility and financial awareness from a young age through a personalized bank card and dedicated application, also enabling the use of e-wallets like Apple Pay.

This new recognition reflects Weyay Bank’s continuous commitment to providing a comprehensive digital banking experience centered around users from all segments of society, empowering them to manage their finances with ease. Weyay Bank will continue its unwavering dedication to fostering innovation and delivering the highest levels of excellence in digital banking services.

MEED, a highly respected global publication established in 1957 specializing in the analysis of economic activities in the Middle East, underscores Weyay’s leading position in digital banking innovation and reinforces its valuable contributions to the development of the banking sector in Kuwait. Amidst the rapid evolution of financial services, Weyay Bank remains dedicated to its mission of redefining the concept of banking in the digital age and empowering the community to achieve growth and success in an increasingly digital world.

cused on economic and business news and intelligence related to the Middle East.

In partnership with leading financial services publications Retail Banker International and Private Banker International, both issued by GlobalData, MEED introduces MENA Banking Excellence Awards to celebrate the best-in-class banking and financial services institutions and individuals for their innovative offering and commitment to customer excellence.

Weyay Bank Wins “Most Innovative Product” Award for Jeel, Banking App and Card

Weyay Bank, Kuwait’s pioneering fully digital bank, continues its streak of excellence and leadership in the

digital banking sector, announcing its latest award; the “Most Innovative Product” award at the MEED Banking Excellence Awards in the Middle East and North Africa 2025. This prestigious recognition celebrates “Jeel”, the Weyay’s banking card and application specifically designed for the 8-14 year age group. This achievement underscores the bank’s ongoing commitment to digital innovation, building upon its previous success in being named “Best Digital Bank in Kuwait” by MEED in 2024.

Acknowledging Weyay Bank’s role in setting new benchmarks within the banking industry, the “Most Innovative Product” award for “Jeel” highlights the

Commercial property sales plunge 47%, few high-value deals seen

Kuwait: Sales dip in Q1 25 following a strong end to last year

By National Bank of Kuwait

Real estate sales fell back in Q1 2025, albeit from strong levels at the end of last year and potentially affected by seasonal factors including the month of Ramadan and Al-Fitr holiday. Still, sales remained well above their levels in Q1 2024, supported by a solid performance in the investment segment. Meanwhile, the yearly decline in residential real estate prices slowed to its smallest since Q4 2023 hinting at signs of market stabilization, while investment segment prices edged higher. The overall market outlook for 2025 remains broadly positive, helped by the anticipated approval of the housing finance law, possible interest rate cuts, and with non-oil economic growth sustained at reasonable levels despite global economic headwinds.

Real estate sales dip in Q1 2025 amid a seasonal lull

Property sales witnessed a broad-based quarterly slowdown in Q1 2025, softening from the strong levels recorded in Q4 2024 to KD795 million. (Chart 1.) The decline came across all segments, reflecting partly a normalization in activity from end-2024 levels and potentially the impact of seasonal factors, including the month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr holiday, which traditionally see slower sales. The residential sector saw a marked drop in quarterly sales and transaction volumes, while investment (i.e. apartment) segment sales remained historically elevated. Still, despite the short-term moderation, overall sales remained higher on a yearly basis, underpinned especially by resilient performance in the investment sector.

Residential sales growth declined by 24% q/q, marking the weakest growth since Q2 2024, to reach KD346 million, dropping from the two-year high seen in Q4 2024. However, on a yearly basis, residential sales dipped by only 2.0% despite the 11.7% rise in transactions,

Chart 1: Real estate sales



which could indicate a possible shift toward smaller or lower-value units in outer areas. Geographically, more than half of residential transactions were in the governorates of Ahmadi and Al-Farwaniya, while activity in Kuwait City and Hawalli lagged behind, comprising just a third of total transactions. (Chart 2.)

Investment sales have also echoed this decline, falling 20% q/q to KD345 million after surging to a six-year high in Q4 2024. Nonetheless, the yearly growth metric paints a more optimistic picture, with investment sales rising 49%, buoyed by a near-30% surge in transactions. Sales in this segment remained above the quarterly average for the past three years, underscoring a sustained appetite for income-generating assets.

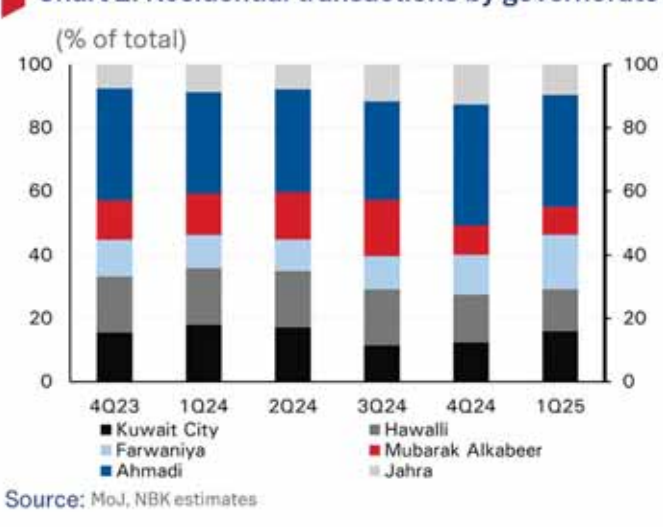
Around 68% of investment sales were concentrated in the Al-Ahmadi and Hawalli governorates. Meanwhile, commer-

cial property sales saw their sharpest drop since Q1 2023, plummeting by 47% q/q to KD103 million. On a yearly basis, commercial sales contracted by 8.4%, even as transactions more than doubled, surging by 164% y/y. The discrepancy suggests a lower prevalence of large-scale deals, with fewer high-value transactions—such as two buildings in Al-Qibla totaling KD21.6 million and one in Hawalli valued at KD10.9 million—in the market. More generally however, we note the recent strong growth in bank credit to the real estate sector (up to 6.4% y/y in March), which may be a sign of a return in confidence across the property sector overall.

Property prices show signs of stabilization

Our real estate price index rose for the second consecutive quarter, by 0.7% q/q, though easing from the 3.8% increase recorded in Q4 2024, on a slower rise in the residential and investment segments. On a

Chart 2: Residential transactions by governorate



yearly basis, the index saw a marginal decline of 0.2% y/y, signaling a broad stabilization following three consecutive quarters of steeper contractions in 2024. This softening marks an easing in a market correction that began in early 2023.

The residential price index, however, remained in negative territory, falling by 1.7% y/y—its eighth straight quarterly decline—though at a slower pace than the -8.1% witnessed in Q3 2024. This suggests that the sharp downward pressure may be abating, potentially in anticipation of housing finance law reforms and potential interest rate cuts ahead. In contrast, investment prices rose by 1.6% y/y following a 2.8% increase in Q4 2024 and underscoring the relative resilience of this segment.

Government presses ahead with supply initiatives

Plot distributions under the government’s housing program have been on hold since July 2024, amid pending legislative re-

forms, including the anticipated housing finance law and a comprehensive strategy to restructure plot and unit allocations. Despite this impasse, the government continues its efforts to address the rising number of housing applications, which reached 98.8k in October 2024, by accelerating residential units’ delivery and removing development bottlenecks.

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has signed four contracts to construct 6,455 homes under the affordable housing scheme, while work commenced in January 2025 on two previously signed contracts covering 3,345 units.

Additionally, the PAHW has launched the “Real Estate Developer” model through a consultancy agreement to design three residential areas with a total of more than 5,000 units. In a parallel move, the Municipal Council has approved the reallocation of several labor city sites—about 2.4 million sqm each—in Al-Jahra, Al-Sabahiya, Al-Khiran, and Al-Mutlaa, transferring them to PAHW and the Ministry of Finance for future residential development.

The authorities also announced the imminent resumption of plot distributions in South Saad Al-Abdullah, supported by KD262 million in infrastructure contracts awarded during Q1 2025, with project completion targeted between 2027-28. Moreover, large-scale plans are underway to launch three new residential zones in Nawaf Al-Ahmad, Khiran, and Al-Sabriyah, which together could accommodate up to 150,000 housing units.

On the financing front, activity slowed with Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) approved housing loans totaling KD37.3 million in Q1 2025, down sharply from KD110.6 million in Q4 2024. The decline is likely linked to the ongoing halt in plot distributions. Correspondingly, disbursed government plot loans fell 8.5% q/q, reversing the 14.6% increase recorded in Q4 2024.

2.8% loan growth in Q1, doubling market rate

Gulf Bank hosts Q1 2025 earnings webcast



Waleed Khaled Mandani



David Challinor



Dalal AlDousari

Waleed Khaled Mandani:

- Despite the headwinds, Gulf Bank’s underlying fundamentals remain strong, supported by a resilient balance sheet, sound risk management, and a clear strategic direction.
- As we progress through 2025, Gulf Bank remains focused on executing its strategic priorities with discipline and resilience.
- We have initiated the groundwork for the potential conversion to a Sharia-compliant institution, subject to obtaining relevant regulatory approvals.

David Challinor:

- We managed to reduce operating costs by 2.1 million or 8% when compared to Q4 2024.
- We had loan growth in Q1 of 2.8% year to date or almost 160 million which was a strong start to the year.
- The credit costs for the corporate loan book is in excellent shape and we are very comfortable with its overall asset quality.

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Gulf Bank held its first quarter 2025 earnings webcast on Monday 5th May 2025, to present and discuss the Bank’s financial performance. The webcast was organized by EFG Hermes and presented by Waleed Khaled Mandani, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, and David Challinor, Chief Financial Officer of Gulf Bank. The discussion was moderated by Dalal AlDousari, Head of Investor Relations at Gulf Bank.

Operating Environment

Mr. Waleed Khaled Mandani, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank, commenced the webcast with key updates regarding Gulf Bank’s operating environment during first quarter 2025. Mandani stated: “Gulf Bank’s financial performance in the first quarter of 2025 reflects the ongoing challenges facing the financial sector. Despite the headwinds, Gulf Bank’s underlying fundamentals remain strong, supported by a resilient balance sheet, sound risk management, and a clear strategic direction”

Mr. Mandani added “As we reflect on our performance in the first quarter of 2025, we remain focused on delivering long-term value, despite the pressures of the macroeconomic landscape. While our financial performance was impacted by sector-wide factors, we made meaningful progress on several strategic fronts that reinforce the Bank’s underlying strength and long-term direction.”

He added: “As we progress through 2025, Gulf Bank remains focused on executing its strategic priorities with discipline and resilience. In line with our long-term vision for sustainable growth, we have initiated the groundwork for the potential conversion to a Sharia-compliant institution (subject to obtaining relevant regulatory approvals), an important step aligned with our long-term vision for sustainable

growth.”

Margins

When questioned about on the drivers of the decline in net interest margins and the outlook for Q2-2025, Mr. David Challinor, Chief Financial Officer of Gulf Bank remarked: “In Q1 we did see downward pressure in the Bank’s net interest margin. There’s obviously a lot of dynamics at play but I’ll start with the main driver which was the drop in income yields. Now, these were significantly impacted by asset repricing in both the Corporate and Treasury books due to the rate cuts we saw throughout the September to December period. Benchmark rates fell 25 basis points for KD and 100 basis points for USD. And over the past year we’ve been growing in corporate, as opposed to retail, so the asset mix has moved away from the higher margin retail business due to muted market growth in retail.” He added: “Going into Q2, and as long as there’s no reduction in benchmark rates, we’d expect an increase in net interest margin which will obviously have a positive impact on top line income and work to restore overall profitability.”

Operating Expenses

In terms of operating expenses Mr. Challinor mentioned: “Total operating expenses were up 7% or 1.5 million year-on-year. And the biggest driver of the increase was in the “other expense” category. However, we managed to reduce costs by 2.1 million or 8% when compared to Q4 2024. And that was after booking various consulting costs relating to the potential merger with Boubyan, which was cancelled early in the quarter.” He added: “Now clearly the cost-to-income ratio has stepped up in Q1, but this was primarily due to the drop in margin. And as I said earlier, I’d expect the margin to increase in Q2 so combined with relatively stable costs we should expect an improvement in the cost to income ratio from cur-

rent levels.”

Credit Cost

When asked about the credit cost and the outlook for the remainder of the year, Mr. Challinor said: “The credit costs for Q1 came in at 10.1 million which represented a year-on-year decrease of 1.3 million or 11%. Now I’ve said several times before that the retail credit costs have been elevated, and we saw a continuation of this during Q1, as almost all the credit costs in Q1 related to retail. In terms of corporate, we’re in excellent shape after the significant cleanup of legacy accounts we undertook in 2024 and we’re very comfortable with the overall asset quality of our corporate book.” He added: “In terms of the outlook, our full year 2025 guidance for credit costs was in the 60 to 70 basis point range and Q1 came in around the top end of that range. So, even though we think that retail credit costs could be elevated for some time, we still think the full year guidance is appropriate.”

Loan Growth

When questioned about the loan growth during the first quarter 2025, Mr. Challinor noted: “We had loan growth in Q1 of 2.8% year to date or almost 160 million which was a strong start to the year. Although, most of the growth was booked late in the quarter which impacted margin. Like we’ve seen in recent quarters, all the growth was in the corporate space. And we saw more local deals being booked, which is a focus area for the Bank.” He added: “According to the CBK data the total system grew 1.4% for the first quarter versus our growth of 2.8%. So in Q1 we’ve managed to double the system growth. Now, in terms of the outlook for the full year 2025 we’d guided mid-single digit loan growth, and we continue to see that as being achievable but with the potential scope to exceed it.”

‘Austria positioned as industrial and tech hub’

KCCI hosts Austrian delegation to discuss Kuwaiti investments

KUWAIT CITY, May 6, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) held talks on Monday with a visiting Austrian business delegation, in which opportunities to ramp up Kuwaiti investments in Vienna was the core matter discussed.

The talks with the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC), led by its president Dr. Werner Fasslabend, highlighted the growing opportunities for investment in Austria, a KCCI statement underlined, citing Vienna as the “ideal destination” for investment.

It went on to highlight the rapid progress seen in Kuwait’s relations with Austria, where a spate of recent

high-profile visits exchanged between both sides had helped propel ties to greater levels, it added.

The statement mentioned the meteoric advancements Kuwait has witnessed across a plethora of fields, running the gamut from healthcare and education to finance technology, all of which are integral components of Kuwait’s 2035 development vision, it said.

On bilateral ties, the AACC chief agreed that relations have grown in proximity as of late, saying that Austria’s “strategic location” has allowed it to morph into a technological and industrial hub, added the statement.

Posting a net income of KD 10.7 million

Burgan Bank reports strong earnings for Q1 ’25

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Burgan Bank (“Burgan” or “the Bank”) announced its financial results for the first quarter ending March 31, 2025 (Q1’25).

The Bank delivered robust financial results for Q1’25, reporting revenues of KD 57.9 million – a remarkable 8% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase. This performance was primarily driven by a rise in Net Interest Income to KD 44.2 million, reflecting a 30% y-o-y increase, supported by a substantial 50 bps improvement in Net Interest Margins and sustained growth in the loan portfolio. The Bank’s Net Interest Margin improved to 2.5% in Q1’25 from 2.0% in Q1’24, primarily driven by a broad-based improvement in spreads across the Group.

Operating profit for the quarter reached KD 24.4 million, representing an increase from KD 23.8 million in Q1’24. As a result, Net Income for Q1’25 rose to KD 10.7 million, marking a 5% year-on-year increase compared to KD 10.1 million in Q1’24.

As of the end of Q1’25, total assets reached KD 8.6 billion, demonstrating Burgan Bank’s strong asset growth of 11% y-o-y. The Bank’s loan portfolio remained resilient, standing at KD 4.7 billion (+8% y-o-y), primarily supported by strong growth in its Kuwait portfolio, which grew by 6% y-o-y. The deposit base also expanded by 7% y-o-y, reaching KD 5.4 billion.

Burgan’s asset quality remained solid in Q1’25, with the Non-Performing Loan (NPL) ratio improving to 1.8%, down from 2.6% in Q1’24 – reflecting a significant y-o-y reduction of 80bps. The Provision Coverage Ratio also remained strong at 170%.

The Bank’s capital position was robust, with a Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio of 11.7% and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 17.5%, both well above the regulatory minimum requirements of 10.5% and 14.0%, respectively. Additionally, Burgan’s liquidity position remained exceptionally strong, with a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of 181% and a Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) of 113%, both significantly exceeding the regulatory minimum of 100%.

Commenting on Burgan’s financial results, the Bank’s Chairman, Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, said: “We have started this year with considerably positive momentum, grounded by solid foundations and a sharply-focused strategy; as we continue to focus on enhancing our financial stability and bolstering our operational infrastructure to drive further growth, provide substantial value to our shareholders and deliver personalized banking excellence to our customers. Following consistent growth over the years, we are proud to continue playing a significant role in shaping the banking landscape in Kuwait and the region. With a promising year ahead, we maintain an optimistic outlook as we foresee major forward motion in our growth and success.”

Burgan Strengthens its Regional Presence with Acquisition of United Gulf Bank, Bahrain

Burgan Bank successfully completed the acquisition of a 100% stake in United Gulf Bank B.S.C. (UGB) during the quarter, further strengthening its geographic footprint and expanding its range of offerings. This strategic acquisition provides Burgan Bank with access to high-growth opportunities in Islamic finance through UGB’s license in Bahrain, as well as investment capabilities via Kamco Invest. It also unlocks significant potential for cross-selling, up-selling, and operational integration across the Bank’s regional network.

It is worthwhile to note that UGB’s balance sheet has been consolidated into our Q1’25 financial statements, while the profit and loss contribution from its operations will be reflected in our results from Q2’25 onwards.

Burgan Leads the Way with Kuwait’s First Certificates of Deposit Issuance

In February 2025, Burgan Bank announced the establishment of a strategic USD 500 million Certificates of Deposit (CDs) program in Kuwait. The program has been assigned a short-term rating of ‘F1’ by Fitch Ratings, equivalent to an ‘A’ rating, reflecting the Bank’s strong credit quality. Developed under the



Sheikh Abdullah Nasser Al-Sabah, Chairman

leadership of the Bank’s Treasury team, this short-term debt instrument serves as a key initiative to broaden the Bank’s funding base, strengthen balance sheet efficiency, and ensure sustained access to diversified sources of liquidity.

The program was structured in collaboration with Mizuho Bank, acting as Lead Arranger, while MUFG Bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Korea Development Bank (KDB), Development Bank of Singapore (DBS), and Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) have been appointed as Dealers.

This initiative is fully aligned with the Group’s strategic funding framework, which emphasizes diversification of funding sources to enhance liquidity resilience and mitigate exposure to market volatility. Furthermore, the program is expected to contribute meaningfully to the Bank’s ongoing compliance with key Basel III liquidity requirements, including the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), Loan-to-Deposit Ratio (LDR), and Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR).

Burgan’s Strategic Partnerships Driving Sustained Market Leadership

As Burgan advances with resolve toward realizing its vision to be the most modern and progressive bank in Kuwait, it continues to expand and reinforce its network of trusted partners who share the Bank’s commitment to innovation-driven excellence.

Among the long-standing, valuable partnerships that Burgan renewed at the turn of 2025 was that with Visa, the global leader in digital payments. The partnership agreement renewal comes in line with Burgan’s unwavering commitment to elevating the banking experience it offers customers through a suite of advanced digital payment solutions that leverage the Bank’s leading digital infrastructure and technological tools.

To emphasize its role as a thought-leader and trend-shaper within the domestic and regional investments market, Burgan Bank, in collaboration with Kamco Invest, co-hosted the second edition of their joint investment conference under the theme “Exploring Trends: Ideas That Move Markets”. The conference was attended by thought leaders and industry experts in addition to institutional and high-net-worth investors from Kuwait and the region, who discussed crucial topics spanning the global

economy, geopolitics, and various asset classes.

Strengthening Burgan’s ESG Commitment and Sustainable Impact

Burgan announced the launch of a waste management and recycling initiative at its head office in collaboration with Tadwire, the first recycling facility of its kind in Kuwait, confirming its dedication to upholding the highest environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards in the banking sector and reducing its carbon footprint across all operations. As per this partnership, Burgan Bank is set to adopt the best practices in responsible waste management across multiple areas, such as collecting, recycling, upcycling, and repurposing different materials and types of waste, including cardboard, paper, plastic, and wood, as well as electronic waste.

In March 2024, Burgan Bank published its sixth annual Sustainability Report, representing a significant milestone in the Bank’s ongoing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) journey and reaffirming its leadership in sustainable banking practices. As the first financial institution in Kuwait to release the 2024 Sustainability Report, Burgan Bank continues to demonstrate its steadfast commitment to transparency, accountability, and long-term value creation through responsible business conduct. The report details the Bank’s key ESG achievements, underscoring the integration of sustainability into its operations, corporate culture, and stakeholder engagement. The full 2024 Sustainability Report is available on the Bank’s website.

Burgan’s International Recognition for Excellence

As a testament to Burgan’s continued efforts to maintain excellence across all fronts of its operations, the services it delivers, as well as the professional experience it offers to employees, the Bank was recognized by international organizations, including the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

In recognition of its forward-thinking risk management and mitigation strategies, Burgan received the Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS) certification, ISO 22301:2019, confirming the Bank’s ability to uphold sound operations during times of disruption as per the best international practices. The certification further cements Burgan’s position as a reliable financial partner for its customers and stakeholders, validating the Bank’s robust frameworks, continuous investment in technology, and skilled workforce to ensure seamless banking operations.

On another note, Burgan revealed that 89% of its staff participated in its GPTW employee engagement survey, which marks an impressive rate by international standards. The survey showcases the Bank’s numerous efforts to foster effective communication with its employees, recognize their crucial role in achieving strategic goals, and cultivate a work environment that promotes creativity and innovation to align with the aspirations of both employees and the Bank.



Burgan Bank headquarters.

The bank celebrated the 16th batch of the CBK’s ‘Kafa’a’ graduates

KFH tops Kuwaiti Banks in Harvard Executive Development Program

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: In line with its ongoing leadership in empowering national talent and its commitment to investing in future banking leaders, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) celebrated the graduation of a new cohort of employees who successfully completed the Harvard Executive Leadership Development Program, part of the “Kafa’a” initiative – a collaboration between the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Kuwaiti banks.

KFH topped the banking sector with the highest number of participants (10 employees), underscoring its dedication to human capital development and enrolling them in advanced and internationally recognized programs. The Harvard program, launched in 2010 in collaboration with Harvard Business School, is the first of its kind in the Gulf region.

This year’s session, titled “Strategic Leadership in the Age of Financial Sustainability”, covered two primary themes: “Financial Strategy” and “Leadership”. The edition also focused on the crucial role of leadership and management in forming and implementing financial and technical strategies to navigate challenges.

Spanning six intensive days, the program addressed the evolving demands of digital transformation in



Ahmad Alhammad and officials from the Central Bank of Kuwait with employees of Kuwait Finance House.

the financial sector. Distinguished faculty members from Harvard Business School delivered sessions that

equipped participants with leadership and managerial skills to navigate rapid developments in this field.

During the trainees’ honoring ceremony, Acting Group Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer Ahmad Alhammad emphasized that KFH’s participation in the program’s 16th session, with the largest employee representation, underscores its commitment to fostering national leaders and upholding Islamic banking excellence on both local and global fronts.

He congratulated the graduates on their dedication to self-development and honing their skills. He added that KFH remains focused on investing in banking leaders and empowering its workforce with the best global practices to maintain KFH’s leadership in the Islamic finance globally.

Alhammad pointed out the positive impact of this program and other training initiatives on participants, their teams, and the Bank overall. He added, “Exchanging the experience gained from this program is important as it helps improve the workplace environment, motivates employees, and boosts their productivity levels.”

He reaffirmed KFH’s commitment to offering training and development programs across the Group, in collaboration with top-tier universities and global training institutions.



Khaled Waleed Al Falah

Khaled Waleed Al Falah:

- Solid Q1 performance driven by sustained positive momentum from 2024
- Strategic investments continue to pay off, contributing to a well-diversified investment portfolio

The Board of Directors of National Investments Company (NIC) has approved the consolidated financial statements for the first quarter ending March 31, 2025, reflecting robust financial performance and underscoring the company's strong financial position. These results further confirm the continued success of its well-considered investment strategy and its ability to generate sustainable growth in profits and returns. The company reported a net profit of KD 6 million, or 7.5 fils per share, for the first quarter of the current year, representing a 45.3% increase compared to the same period in 2024, when the company posted a net profit of KD 4.1 million, or 5.1 fils per share.

In a press statement, NIC announced that the total shareholders' equity of the parent company grew by 8.5%, reaching KD 214.1 million by the end of Q1 2025, up from KD 197.4 million at the close of 2024. The company also reported a 9.5% increase in total assets, which rose to KD 310.5 million by the end of March 2025, compared to KD 283.6 million at the end of the previous year.

Additionally, the company highlighted significant growth in its total assets under management (AUM), which reached KD 1.126 billion by the end of Q1 2025, reflecting a 5.0% increase compared to KD 1.077 billion at the end of 2024. This sustained growth in AUM underscores the strength of the company's client base, investor confidence, and its ability to provide comprehensive investment solutions and effective asset management strategies, reinforcing its position as one of the leading players in the local and regional investment sector.

A Powerful Start

In this regard, Mr. Khaled Waleed AlFalalah, Chairman of the Board at National Investments Company (NIC), highlighted that the results for the first quarter of the 2025 fiscal year mark a powerful start, reflecting the continued positive momentum from 2024. He emphasized that the com-

pany's strategic focus on strengthening key business sectors, along with improving operational efficiency, has directly contributed to solidifying its leadership position in the market and enhancing its competitiveness in a dynamic investment environment.

He further stated that these results demonstrate NIC's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional investment services, with a focus on maximizing asset value and achieving optimal returns for shareholders. AlFalalah also underscored that institutional collaboration and sustainable innovation are key pillars of the company's ongoing success and growth. These factors, he noted, are clear indicators of investor confidence in the company's expertise and capabilities, reinforcing its role as a major driver of growth within Kuwait's financial and investment sectors.

AlFalalah concluded by noting that NIC continues to reap the benefits of its strategic investments made over the past years, which have significantly contributed to diversifying and strengthening its investment portfolio, thereby improving its overall financial performance.

An Ambitious Strategy

Mr. Khaled Waleed AlFalalah, Chairman of the Board at National Investments Company (NIC), confirmed that the company is progressing with the implementation of its ambitious investment strategy, which has consistently delivered positive results. He emphasized that NIC remains focused on establishing strong foundations for corporate sustainability by adhering to the highest standards of corporate governance and transparency. Additionally, the company continues to enhance its risk management systems to protect shareholder rights and improve its resilience in the face of market fluctuations.

AlFalalah also highlighted NIC's commitment to boosting operational efficiency and internal performance, while maintaining a balance between sustainable growth and full compli-

AI Falah

Total assets under management (AUM) rose to KD 1.126 billion by end of Q1, reflecting a 5.0% increase

ance with regulatory requirements. These efforts are essential in supporting the company's strong position in the financial market. He further noted that NIC boasts a robust capital base, which serves as a critical foundation for executing its expansion plans and positioning the company to seize promising investment opportunities both locally and regionally. This, he

Khaled Waleed Al Falah: National Investments Company kicks off 2025 with strong financial results

The company reports a KD 6 million net profit and 7.5 fils in earnings per share for Q1, with a growth rate of 45.3%

Setting a strong pace for the year ahead with a KD 10.8 million in comprehensive income

AI Falah

National Investments Company remains committed to delivering high-quality investment services focused on maximizing asset value and achieving superior shareholder returns

said, will contribute to generating long-term value for shareholders. In addition, Al-Falah pointed out that NIC embodies its commitment to social responsibility through active participation in various humanitarian, social, and charitable initiatives. The company's ongoing support for charitable organizations has helped reinforce its role as a leader in promoting the impact of community engagement and corporate responsibility.

In closing, Mr. Khaled Waleed Al-Falah expressed his pride in the unwavering support from the Board of Directors across all company sectors. He commended the professionalism of the executive management and recognized the tireless efforts of all NIC employees, whose dedication has been instrumental in achieving the company's positive results and ambitious objectives.

Notable Excellence

In this regard, Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman AlMukhaizim, Board Member and CEO of National Investments Company (NIC), commended the company's performance during the first quarter of 2025, which was characterized by notable excellence and exceptional activity across various investment sectors. This remarkable performance included a range of advisory services, particularly the evaluation of an energy asset portfolio in Southeast Asia for a company listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. Additionally, the company conducted evaluations of several real estate investments in the Middle East for a Kuwaiti joint-stock company and assessed a regional real estate company on behalf of another listed entity.

AlMukhaizim noted that NIC's Financial Advisory Services Division continues to expand its operations by executing a distinguished array of value-added investment deals. These include capital raising efforts, carefully structured initial public offerings (IPOs), and strategic mergers and acquisitions in vital sectors such as consumer goods, education, and real estate. This approach is in line with the company's strategy to diversify its service portfolio and strengthen its position as a leading investment advisor in both local and regional markets. NIC's mission is to offer innovative solutions that foster sustainable growth while enhancing returns for its clients and

shareholders.

Furthermore, AlMukhaizim highlighted that the Alternative Investments Division successfully completed two new mezzanine investments—one in the logistics and storage sector in Germany and another in the residential sector in New Jersey, USA. These investments further solidify the company's presence in the global mezzanine investment market. The division is also building a strong foundation of credit opportunities that are currently undergoing rigorous analysis. He added that ongoing projects continue to perform well despite the challenges posed by market conditions. Additionally, the division is collaborating with subsidiary companies to restructure certain operations and enhance their overall efficiency.

In regard to the Asset Management sector, Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman AlMukhaizim, CEO of National Investments Company (NIC), commended the robust performance of the company's local investment funds. He highlighted that these funds successfully capitalized on the positive momentum of Boursa Kuwait during the first quarter of 2025, despite the challenges posed by global trade tensions, market volatility, and the significant drop in oil prices. He noted that this performance is a testament to

AIMukhaizim

The company was awarded the "Best in Generational Wealth Transfer Planning – Kuwait 2025" by Euromoney, recognizing its exceptional performance and achievements

the skill and adaptability of NIC's asset management team, which has proven its ability to swiftly respond to market fluctuations and deliver optimal returns for investors.

Al-Mukhaizem further emphasized that the company's financial instruments team recently achieved a key milestone with the inclusion of new companies in the Market Maker service. This expansion highlights NIC's crucial role in enhancing market liquidity and efficiency, cementing its status as a top-tier service provider at Boursa Kuwait. This initiative plays a vital part in the overall development of the investment landscape, boosting investor confidence and strengthening NIC's reputation as a strategic partner in the growth of the Kuwaiti financial market.

Mr. Fahad AlMukhaizim also reviewed the performance of the Wealth Management sector during the first quarter of 2025, noting that the division continued to deliver comprehensive solutions and tailored investment strategies designed to meet the needs

of a broad base of clients. This comes in light of rapid developments in both global and regional markets, aligned with the evolving economic landscape. He emphasized that these efforts have significantly strengthened client trust and loyalty. These achievements were further underscored by National Investments Company being awarded the "Best in Generational Wealth Transfer Planning – Kuwait 2025" by the prestigious global financial publication Euro money. This recognition reaffirms NIC's leadership and excellence among the region's top investment firms. Notably, this marks the third consecutive year the company has received this award, underscoring its consistent performance and trusted position in the wealth management sector.

AlMukhaizim also highlighted the continued success of the Real Estate Investments sector in Q1 2025, noting that the properties managed by NIC maintained high occupancy rates, further demonstrating the effectiveness of the company's real estate asset management strategies. He added that NIC recently launched an advanced electronic real estate platform, enabling tenants to easily manage all aspects of their rental experience, from submitting maintenance requests to making electronic payments. The system also allows property owners to track their assets and financial performance in real-time. AlMukhaizim concluded by mentioning that the sector is actively working on development plans for several properties, aimed at increasing their market value and upgrading their facilities to meet evolving market demands.

Future Business Development

As part of its forward-looking vision for sustainable growth, Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman AlMukhaizim, CEO of National Investments Company (NIC), announced the launch of the company's revamped corporate strategy, developed in partnership with a leading global management consulting firm. This comprehensive strategy is centered on driving long-term value creation through sustainable growth, reinforcing institutional governance, and accelerating operational transformation. By aligning with internationally recognized best practices, NIC is positioning itself to proactively navigate

AIMukhaizim

Expansion of the Market Maker service with the addition of new companies, reinforcing the company's pivotal role in boosting market liquidity and efficiency



Fahad Abdulrahman Al Mukhaizim

Fahad Abdulrahman AlMukhaizim:

- The company's local investment funds delivered robust performance in Q1 2025, supported by the ongoing positive momentum in Boursa Kuwait
- Continued focus on providing bespoke investment strategies and tailored solutions for clients navigating dynamic local and regional markets

evolving market dynamics and fulfill its strategic ambitions for the future.

AlMukhaizim explained that the strategic evaluation has led to the identification of four key goals that will form the foundation of NIC's updated strategy and guide its next phase. These objectives include: pursuing mergers, acquisitions, and strategic partnerships to broaden the company's business scope and diversify its product offerings; creating a targeted investment portfolio that aligns with client needs and expectations; developing an expanding regional distribution network to provide seamless access to global investment opportunities; and implementing an operational model that leverages flexibility and advanced technology to ensure operational excellence and accelerate execution.

He emphasized that NIC's Strategy Division is fully committed to staying ahead of the curve, continuously integrating global best practices in planning and execution. This reflects the company's ambition to reinforce its position as a leading investment institution that embraces innovation and sustainable growth at its core.

In conclusion, AlMukhaizim reaffirmed NIC's unwavering commitment to excellence and continuous development throughout 2025. He highlighted the company's focus on achieving accelerated sustainable growth, enhancing its digital infrastructure to keep pace with market trends, and fulfilling the expectations of clients and shareholders. He also reiterated NIC's role in supporting the country's economic development through comprehensive investment solutions that reflect its expertise, reputation, and leadership in the market.

Promoting delivery riders' safety

talabat collaborates with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, and the National Diwan for Human Rights

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting delivery riders and enhancing their safety, talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering and delivery platform in the MENA region, took part in the "Awareness Workshop on Occupational Safety Rights". The event was held in collaboration with National Diwan for Human Rights, the Ministry of Health – Occupational Health Section, and the Ministry of Interior – General Department of Traffic, with the aim of raising awareness among delivery riders about their health and safety, particularly during the summer months.

The full-day workshop kicked off with free health screenings, including blood pressure checks, eyesight, and color vision tests. A specialist team from the Ministry of Health led an educational session on managing common health concerns during the hotter months, including issues related to high blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and heat exposure. The workshop concluded with a physical fitness session on flexibility training to help mitigate stiffness and discomfort caused by long hours behind the wheel and on the road.

Training sessions were conducted in multiple languages throughout the workshop, including Arabic, English, and Hindi, in line with talabat's culture of inclusion and respect for the cultural diversity of its rider team.

Dr. Al-Anoud Al-Otaiq, Head of Shuaiba Industrial Medical Center, commented: "Our participation in this awareness workshop reflects the Ministry of Health's continued role in protecting frontline workers – particularly delivery riders during the summer season. We made it a priority to provide health screenings and guidance in multiple languages, reaffirming our commitment to delivering inclusive healthcare to everyone living in Kuwait".

Following that, the National Diwan



Top and above: Some photos of the event.

for Human Rights highlighted the fundamental rights of delivery riders in Kuwait, including the protection of the relationship between drivers and employers, as well as the assurance of a safe and fair working environment that upholds their dignity. "At the National Diwan for Human Rights, we believe that the safety and dignity of all workers – including delivery riders – are fundamental to a fair working environment. We aim to reinforce a culture of rights and responsibilities among

all stakeholders, ensuring that every worker is treated with humanity and that their efforts are respected," said Mr. Fahad Abdullah Al-Harbi from the National Diwan for Human Rights.

The closing session was led by the Ministry of Interior, which presented the latest updates to traffic laws and regulations, including guidelines for vehicle operation. The session placed special emphasis on driving restrictions during peak summer hours to preserve riders' well-being and mini-

mize risks associated with hot weather. Discussions also covered traffic violations and best practices for safe driving.

From his side, Major Abdullah Al-Tattan, representative of the Traffic Week Events Committee from the Ministry of Interior commented: "The Ministry of Interior is committed to raising traffic awareness among all road users, and delivery riders represent a vital and essential segment in this context. We wanted to highlight

the latest traffic laws and safety regulations, in order to protect lives and create a safer road environment for everyone".

Commenting on the initiative, Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, said: "Delivery riders play an essential role in our daily lives. That's why ensuring their safety and well-being isn't just a responsibility, it's a priority. Our collaboration with all of these entities helps us take meaningful steps toward

that goal, especially through accessible, multilingual workshops that reach riders directly on the ground".

While riders are contracted through logistics partners, talabat sees their well-being as a shared responsibility. The company continues to invest in humanitarian and awareness initiatives that make a meaningful difference in riders' daily lives, and this workshop is one of several planned this summer to support the rider community further.

A night of pinstripes, power suits and baby news

Met Gala pays tribute to Black style

NEW YORK, May 6, (AP): Rihanna shut down a rainy Met Gala on Monday in a pinstripe look and a huge hat, her newly announced baby bump on display after announcing her pregnancy with baby No. 3 earlier in the day.

Her Marc Jacobs look included tied sleeves of a men's suit that served as a bustle behind her as she posed for the cameras, the last to walk the carpet as usual. Her hair hung long in a mermaid twist behind her.

Men's suiting and tailoring was the evening's theme. It came complete with a tuxedoed choir and lots of women rocking pinstripes and other men's detailing. Emma Chamberlain, Zendaya, Teyana Taylor and many other women went with traditional men's detailing.

Chamberlain and Zuri Hall were among those who wore sleek, sexy gowns that play on men's suiting in pinstripes as they walked up the grand steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Zendaya, a co-host last year, wore a perfectly tailored white trouser suit with a matching wide-brim hat from Louis Vuitton.

Janelle Monáe epitomized the night's theme, the Black dandy, in exaggerated pinstripes by Thom Browne. Lauryn Hill honored menswear in a butter yellow suit with exaggerated tailoring that screamed Black power.

The menswear vibe for women was frequent and expected, "women wanting to maintain a traditionally feminine dress silhouette while still respecting the theme," said William Dingle, director of style for blackmenswear.com, a cultural impact agency that focuses on uplifting Black men.

Alicia Keys and her husband, Swizz Beatz, leaned WAY in on the pinstripes in red. She rocked a head of bejeweled braids. He rocked a do-rag.

Doja Cat, always fearless when it comes to fashion, donned a Marc Jacobs bodysuit look with orange and black wildcat detailing and broad-shouldered pinstripes. Taylor went for a stunning Zoot Suit look with a red, feather-adorned top hat and a huge matching cape dripping with flowers and bling. She collaborated with famed costumer designer Ruth E. Carter.

The Zoot was popularized in Harlem in the 1940s.

Madonna, "no stranger to gender-bending fashion," Dingle said, showed up in a monochrome taupe tuxedo clutching a cigar. It was Tom Ford by Haider Ackermann, the designer who took over when Ford stepped aside.

Kylie Jenner, in Ferragamo, mimicked men's tailoring in a gray and black corseted look, while sister Kim Kardashian went embossed black leather dandy, vamping under a tall black hat. Her custom look was by Chrome Hearts. It was low slung and open at the hip with broad straps at the back.

Sister Kendall Jenner was in an elegant skirt and jacket, the most subdued of the three. The designer was the British-Nigerian-Brazilian designer Torishéju Dumi.

Megan Thee Stallion in Michael Kors and Dua Lipa in black Chanel included. Megan's look had a high side slit and floral lace embellishment. Lipa was giving elevated flapper in feathers and an "S" curl style for her hair. And Miley Cyrus oozed womanhood in a custom cropped black crocodile jacket and long black taffeta skirt by Alaïa.

Diana Ross, meanwhile, swallowed the carpet in a huge white train, escorted by her son, Evan Ross.

Lizzo debuted blonde hair to go with her pink and black Christian Siriano gown with a plunge at the front. It was so tight at the legs she struggled to walk.

Cardi B, who always goes big at the Met Gala, stunned in a low-cut Burberry pantsuit. She showed off a new hairstyle and eye color, appearing to wear green contacts to match her ivy-colored look.

As for the men, co-host ASAP Rocky told The Associated Press that Anna Wintour suggested he wear a Black designer.

"So I wore myself," the musician said of his custom suit designed by his creative agency, AWGE, complete with a black parka and diamond-crested umbrella. "Everything is designed by yours truly."

Rocky, Rihanna's partner and dad to their two kids, confirmed to reporters that baby No. 3 is on the way. He spoke about it after Rihanna was photographed walking in the rain with her baby bump out in a blue crop top and skirt.

"It feels amazing, you know," Rocky said. "It's time that we show the people what we was cooking up. And I'm glad everybody's happy for us cause we definitely happy, you know."

He added: "Honestly, it's a blessing nonetheless. Because you know how like some people in other situations at times can be envious of other people. But we've been seeing love for the most part. And we real receptive to that and appreciate that, you know what I mean? That's love. Love is love."

What, exactly, was the suggested dress code of the night, "Tailored for You," is inspired by Black dandyism. And what, exactly, is the Met Gala for? To raise money for the Met's Costume Institute. The gala raised a record \$31 million before it began.

Marie Claire, editor in chief of Marie Claire, noted a few trends done well.

"Top trends from the night: Black and white (Zoe Saldana, Whoopi Goldberg, Gabrielle Union), pinstripes (Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz), suiting (Lupita Nyong'o, Ego Nwodim), hats (Lupita Nyong'o, Whoopi Goldberg and Teyana Taylor)."

Colman Domingo, one of the evening's hosts, wore a pleated, gold adorned cape over a gray and black suit, his jacket a pearled windowpane design with a huge dotted black flower. His look, including his cape and a dotted black



Zendaya at the Met Gala. (AP)



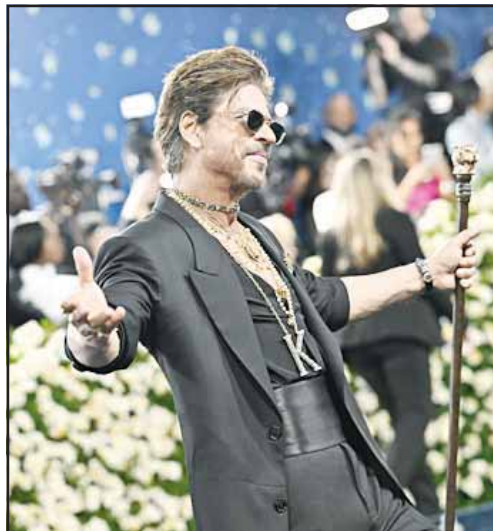
Jennie attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala. (AP)



Claire attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala.



Monica Barbaro attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style' exhibition on Monday, May 5, in New York. (AP)



Shah Rukh Khan attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala. (AP)



Nick Jonas, (left), and Priyanka Chopra at the Met Gala. (AP)



Rihanna at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala. (AP)



Teyana Taylor attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala. (AP)



Kylie Jenner attends the Met Gala. (AP)



Rose attends The Met Gala. (AP)

Wintour, dressed in a pastel blue coat over a shimmering white gown by Louis Vuitton, a gala sponsor. Fellow co-chair Lewis Hamilton donned a jaunty ivory tuxedo with a cropped jacket, a matching beret and cowrie shell embellishment.

Hamilton's look carried deep meaning.

"The color of ivory denotes purity and status; cowries pass from hand to

embellishment.

"Coco Jones absolutely leaned in," Dingle said. "I love the pearl and gem embellishments here, as well as the long coat, and even the necklace. Because she's taller, the long coat even further elongates her legs. This is a fantastic look."

Her look was by Indian designer Manish Malhotra. She said she wanted to honor Black excellence by going all out.

Gigi Hadid, on the other hand, went all woman. She pulled up the spirit of Josephine Baker in a shimmering velvet gold halter gown by Miu Miu that hugged her hips, hip hugging being a big trend of the night for the women.

Bad Bunny, ever a fashion rebel, wore a custom black Prada suit. The best detail: his woven hat, which appeared to be a reference to the pava, a straw hat associated with the Puerto Rican jíbaro.



Anne Hathaway attends The Met Gala. (AP)



Gigi Hadid attends the Met Gala. (AP)



Lauren Santo Domingo attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala. (AP)

hand, the regal sash turns shamanic," he wrote on Instagram.

Claire Stern, Elle digital director added: "Known for championing Black designers, the F1 star once again used his platform to celebrate heritage and creativity on one of fashion's biggest stages."

Domingo has epitomized contemporary dandyism in a variety of looks over the years.

Pharrell Williams, another co-host, was demure in a double-breasted, beaded evening jacket and dark trousers. He kept his dark shades on while posing for the cameras. Williams walked with his wife, Helen Lasichanh, in a black bodysuit and matching jacket.

Williams, the Louis Vuitton menswear creative director, said his 15,000 pearls were arranged in a pinstripe design and the jacket took 400 hours to construct.

Walton Goggins, a guest this year with others from "The White Lotus," wore a deconstructed suit look with seams out and a pleated skirt he twirled for the cameras.

LeBron James, the NBA superstar, was named honorary chair of the evening but bowed out at the last minute due to a knee injury.

Monica L. Miller, whose book inspired the evening, wore a bejeweled cropped cape over a dress adorned with cowrie shells by Grace Wales Bonner. It's a direct connection to a piece in the gala's companion Metropolitan Museum of Art spring exhibit that Miller guest curated.

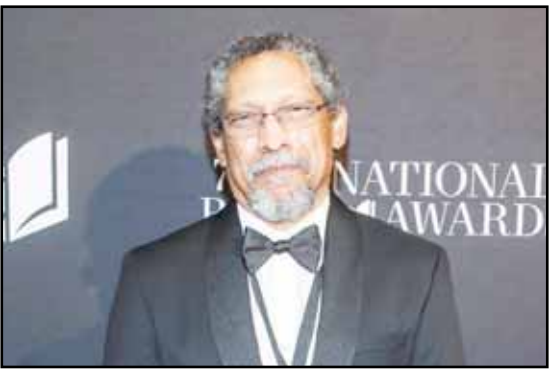
What other women killed the menswear game? Coco Jones in an ivory tuxedo coat with a train over matching trousers, both covered in chunky

Race, legacy and identity dominate winning works

Everett and Jacobs-Jenkins among Pulitzer winners in arts

NEW YORK, May 6, (AP): Percival Everett’s novel “James,” his radical reimagining of “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” from the perspective of the enslaved title character, has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. “Purpose,” Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ drawing-room drama about an accomplished Black family destroying itself from within, won for drama. It also earned six Tony Award nominations last week.

Everett’s Pulitzer confirmed the million-selling “James” as the most celebrated and popular US literary novel of 2024, and accelerated the 68-year-old author’s remarkable rise after decades of being little known to the general public. Since 2021, he has won the PEN/ Jean Stein Award for “Dr. No,” was a Pulitzer finalist for “Telephone” and on the Booker shortlist for “The Trees.” Before Monday, “James” had already won the National Book Award, the Kirkus Prize and the Carnegie Medal for fiction. His racial and publishing satire “Erasure,” released in 2001, was adapted into the Oscar-nominated 2023 film “American Fiction.”



Author Percival Everett attends the 75th National Book Awards ceremony at Cipriani Wall Street on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, in New York. (AP)

The Pulitzer citation called “James” an “accomplished reconsideration” that illustrates “the absurdity of racial

supremacy and provide a new take on the search for family and freedom.” Everett said in a statement that he was “shocked and pleased, but mostly shocked. This is a wonderful honor.”

“Purpose” was praised in its citation as “a skillful blend of drama and comedy that probes how different generations define heritage.” Jacobs-Jenkins had been twice nominated for a drama Pulitzer, for “Everybody” in 2018 and “Gloria” in 2016. He won the Tony Award for best play revival last year for “Appropriate,” a work centered on a family reunion in Arkansas where everyone has competing motivations and grievances. He is on the host committee of this year’s Met Gala.

Also Monday, Pulitzer officials announced that Jason Roberts won the biography award for “Every Living Thing: The Great and Deadly Race to Know All Life” and Benjamin Nathans’ “To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause: The Many Lives of the Soviet Dissident Movement” had been cited for general nonfiction.

Two books were announced as history winners, both of them, like “James” and “Purpose,” explorations of race in U.S. history and culture: Edda L. Fields-Black’s “Combee: Harriet Tubman, The Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom During the Civil War” and Kathleen DuVal’s “Native Nations: A Millennium in North America.”

Marie Howe’s “New and Selected Poems” won for poetry, and composer-percussionist Susie Ibarra’s “Sky Islands,” an eight-piece ensemble inspired by the rainforest habitats of Luzon, Philippines, was awarded the Pulitzer for music. The Pulitzer for autobiography went to Tessa Hulls’ multigenerational “Feeding Ghosts: A Graphic Memoir,” her first book.

The Pulitzers were announced at a time when the National Endowment for the Arts, which has provided support for thousands of writers and literary organizations, was cutting back funding and pushing staff members to leave. Howe and Everett are both past recipients of NEA creative writing fellowships.

Trial starts

Combs says he’s nervous

NEW YORK, May 6, (AP): The federal sex trafficking trial of **Sean “Diddy” Combs**, whose wildly successful career has been dotted by allegations of violence, began on Monday in New York City with jury selection that was briefly paused when the hip-hop entrepreneur said he was “a little nervous” and needed a bathroom break.

Three dozen potential jurors were questioned by Judge Arun Subramanian about their answers on a questionnaire designed to assess whether they could remain fair and impartial during a trial that will feature violent and graphic content. Opening statements and the start of testimony are scheduled for next week.



Combs

The judge gave the would-be jurors a brief description of the sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges against Combs, telling them he’d pleaded not guilty and was presumed innocent.

By day’s end, the jury pool was half its size as some were excluded for personal reasons such as inability to economically endure a trial projected to last two months or because their opinions or past experiences would endanger their objectivity.

Another three dozen prospective jurors were expected to be questioned on Tuesday. A jury was not likely before Wednesday.

Throughout Monday, Combs, 55, sat with his lawyers in a sweater over a white collared shirt and gray slacks, which the judge had allowed rather than jail clothing. He’s been held in a grim federal lockup in Brooklyn since his arrest last September. His hair and goatee were almost fully gray because dye isn’t allowed in jail.

Unlike other recent high-profile celebrity trials, Combs’ court case won’t be broadcast live because federal courtrooms don’t allow electronic recordings inside - meaning courtroom sketch artists serve as the public’s eyes in the courtroom.

If convicted of all charges, he could face a maximum of life in prison.

Jurors

Several prospective jurors indicated they’d seen news reports featuring a key piece of evidence in the case: a video of the hip-hop mogul hitting and kicking one of his accusers in a Los Angeles hotel hallway in 2016. One prospective juror described a still image she saw from the video as “damning evidence.” That woman was rejected from consideration.

After another juror was dismissed, Combs asked for a bathroom break, telling the judge, “I’m sorry your honor, I’m a little nervous today.”

One prospective juror said she had posted a “like” to a video on social media by a comedian who joked about large amounts of baby oil found by law enforcement in one of Combs’ homes. She was not dismissed.

The 17-page indictment against Combs - which reads like a charging document filed against a Mafia leader or the head of a drug gang - alleges that Combs engaged in a two-decade racketeering pattern of abusive behavior against women and others, with the help of people in his entourage and employees from his network of businesses.

Combs and his lawyers say he’s innocent and any group sex was consensual. They say there was no effort to coerce people into things they didn’t want to do, and nothing that happened amounted to a criminal racket.

Prosecutors say women were manipulated into drug-fueled sexual performances with male sex workers that Combs called “Freak Offs.” To keep women in line, prosecutors say Combs used a mix of influence and violence: He offered to boost their entertainment careers if they did what he asked - or cut them off if they didn’t.

Pulitzers

Washington Post wins for Trump shooting coverage

New York Times leads 2024 Pulitzer wins with 4 awards, New Yorker 3

NEW YORK, May 6, (AP): The New York Times won four Pulitzer Prizes and the New Yorker three on Monday for journalism in 2024 that touched on topics like the fentanyl crisis, the US military and last summer’s assassination attempt on President Donald Trump.

The Pulitzers’ prestigious public service medal went to ProPublica for the second straight year. Kavitha Surana, Lizzie Presser, Cassandra Jaramillo and Stacy Kranitz were honored for reporting on pregnant women who died after doctors delayed urgent care in states with strict abortion laws.

The Washington Post won for “urgent and illuminating” breaking news coverage of the Trump assassination attempt. The Pulitzers honored Ann Telnaes, who quit the Post in January after the news outlet refused to run her editorial cartoon lampooning tech chiefs - including Post owner Jeff Bezos - coying up to Trump. The Pulitzers praised her “fearlessness.”

The Pulitzers honored the best in journalism from 2024 in 15 categories, along with eight arts categories including books, music and theater. The public service winner receives a gold medal. All other winners receive \$15,000.

The New York Times showed its breadth with awards honoring reporting from Afghanistan, Sudan, Baltimore and Butler, Pennsylvania. Doug Mills won in breaking news photography for his pictures of the Trump assassination attempt, including one that captured a bullet in the air near the GOP candidate.

Conflict

The Times’ Azam Ahmed and Christina Goldbaum and contributing writer Matthieu Aikins won an explanatory reporting prize for examining US policy failures in Afghanistan. Declan Walsh and the Times’ staff won for an investigation into the Sudan conflict.

The Times was also part of a collaboration with The Baltimore Banner, whose reporters Alissa Zhu, Nick Thieme and Jessica Gallagher won in local reporting for stories on that city’s fentanyl crisis and its disproportionate effect on Black men. The Banner was created three years ago, with several staffers who had left the Baltimore Sun.

“This is a huge milestone for us,” editor in chief Kimi Yoshino said in an interview. “I told the newsroom today that never in my wildest dreams did I think we would be here at this moment. It is a testament to the power of local news, the need for local news and what journalists can do when they focus on important stories in our community.”

The Banner created a statistical model that it shared with journalists in cities like Boston, Chicago and San Francisco for stories there, she said.

Reuters won for its own investigative series on fentanyl, showing how lax regulation both inside and outside the United States makes the drug inexpensive and widely available. inews-ource.org in San Diego was a finalist in the illustrated reporting and commentary category for its stories on fentanyl.

The New Yorker’s Mosab Abu Toha won for his commentaries on Gaza. The magazine also won for its “In the Dark” podcast about the killing of Iraqi civilians by the US military and in feature photography for Moises Saman’s pictures of the Sednaya prison in Syria.

The Wall Street Journal won a Pulitzer for its reporting on Elon Musk, “including his turn to conservative politics, his use of legal and illegal drugs and his private conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin,” the Pulitzer board said. The Journal was also a finalist for its “cool-headed”



The New York Times’ Christina Goldbaum, (center), speaks alongside Matthieu Aikins, (left), and Azam Ahmed, who won the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting, during a gathering in the newsroom in New York, Monday, May 5. (AP)



The New York Times photojournalist Doug Mills acknowledges applause after winning the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography during a gathering in the newsroom in New York, Monday, May 5. (AP)



Washington Post climate reporter Brady Dennis speaks in The Washington Post newsroom after the Pulitzer Prize announcements Monday, May 5, in Washington, after the Post staff was recognized as a finalist in National Reporting for coverage of the human and environmental toll of Hurricane Helene. (AP)

reporting on the plight of Evan Gershkovich, who was imprisoned in Russia.

The Pulitzers also gave a special citation to the late Chuck Stone for his work covering the civil rights movement. The pioneering journalist was the first Black columnist at the Philadelphia Daily News and founded the National Association of Black Journalists.

Mark Warren of Esquire won the feature writing prize for his portrait of a Baptist pastor and small-town mayor who died by suicide after his secret online life was exposed by a right-wing news site.

Alexandra Lange, a contributing writer for Bloomberg CityLab won an

award in criticism for “graceful and genre-expanding” writing about public spaces for families.

The Houston Chronicle Raj Mankad, Sharon Steinmann, Lisa Falkenberg and Leah Binkovitz won the Pulitzer in editorial writing for its series on dangerous train crossings.

The Associated Press was a finalist in breaking news reporting for its own coverage of the Trump assassination attempt, and in investigative reporting for its partnership with PBS’ “Frontline” in stories documenting more than 1,000 deaths at the hands of police using methods of subduing people that were supposed to be non-lethal.

Books

Honest memoir

Jeffrey Seller reflects on his Broadway journey

NEW YORK, May 6, (AP): Jeffrey Seller, the Broadway producer behind such landmark hits as “Rent,” “Avenue Q” and “Hamilton,” didn’t initially write a memoir for us. He wrote it for himself.

“I really felt a personal existential need to write my story. I had to make sense of where I came from myself,” he says in his memento-filled Times Square office. “I started doing it as an exercise for me and I ultimately did it for theater kids of all ages everywhere.”

Seller’s “Theater Kid” - which he wrote even before finding a publishing house - traces the rise of an unlikely theater force who was raised in a poor neighborhood far from Broadway, along the way giving readers a portrait of the Great White Way in the gritty 1970s and ‘80s. In it, he is brutally honest.

“I am a jealous person. I am an envious person,” he says. “I’m a kind person, I’m an honest person. Sometimes I am a mean person and a stubborn person and a joyous person. And as the book shows, I was particularly in that era, often a very lonely person.”

Seller, 60, who is candid about trysts, professional snubs, mistakes and his unorthodox family, says he wasn’t interested in writing a recipe book on how to make a producer.

“I was more interested in exploring, first and foremost, how a poor, gay, adopted Jewish kid from Cardboard Village in Oak Park, Michigan, gets to Broadway and produces ‘Rent’ at age 31.”

It is the story of an outsider who is captivated by theater as a child who acts in Purim plays, directed a musical by Andrew Lipka, becomes a booking agent in New York and then a producer. Then he tracks down his biological family.

“My life has been a process of finally creating groups that I feel part of and accepting where I do fit in,” he says. “I also wrote this book for anyone who’s ever felt out.”

Surprised

Jonathan Karp, president and CEO of Simon & Schuster, says he isn’t surprised that Seller delivered such a strong memoir because he believes the producer has an instinctive artistic sensibility.

“There aren’t that many producers you could say have literally changed the face of theater. And I think that’s what Jeffrey Seller has done,” says Karp. “It is the work of somebody who is much more than a producer, who is writer in his own right and who has a really interesting and emotional and dramatic story to tell.”

The book reaches a crescendo with a behind-the-scenes look at his friendship and collaboration with playwright and composer Jonathan Larson and the making of his “Rent.”

Seller writes about a torturous creative process in which Larson would take one step forward with the script over years only to take two backward. He also writes movingly about carrying on after Larson, who died from an aortic dissection the day before “Rent’s” first off-Broadway preview.

“‘Rent’ changed my life forever, but, more important, ‘Rent’ changed musical theater forever. There is no ‘In the Heights’ without



This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows ‘Theater Kid: A Broadway Memoir’ by Jeffrey Seller. (AP)

‘Rent.’” Seller says. “I don’t think there’s a ‘Next to Normal’ without ‘Rent.’ I don’t think there’s a ‘Dear Evan Hansen’ without ‘Rent.’”

So enamored was Seller with “Rent” that he initially ended his memoir there in the mid-’90s. It took some coaxing from Karp to get him to include stories about “Avenue Q,” “In the Heights” and “Hamilton.”

Change

“‘Hamilton’ becomes a cultural phenomenon. It’s the biggest hit of my career,” Seller says. “It’s one of the biggest hits in Broadway history. It’s much bigger hit than ‘Rent’ was. But that doesn’t change what ‘Rent’ did.”

In a sort of theater flex, the memoir’s audiobook has appearances by Anneleigh Ashford, Danny Burstein, Darren Criss, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Lindsay Mendez, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Andrew Rannells, Conrad Ricamora and Christopher Sieber. There’s original music composed by Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-winner Tom Kitt.

The portrait of Broadway Seller offers when he first arrives is one far different from today, where the theaters are bursting with new plays and musicals and the season’s box office easily blows past the \$1 billion mark.

In 1995, the year before “Rent” debuted off-Broadway, there was only one Tony Award-eligible candidate for best original musical score and the same for best book - “Sunset Boulevard.” This season, there were 14 new eligible musicals.

“I think that’s just such a great moment in Broadway history to say, ‘This is before ‘Rent,’ and then look what happens after. Not because ‘Rent’ brought in an era of rock musicals, but it opened the doors to more experimentation and more unexpected ideas, more variety.”

He is drawn to contemporary stories with modern issues and all four of his Tony wins for best musical are set in New York.

“For me, shows that were about people we might know, that were about our issues, about our dreams, about our shame, about things that embarrass us - that’s what touched me the most deeply,” he says. “I was looking to have the hair on my arms rise. I was looking to be emotionally moved.”



Producer Jeffrey Seller appears at the premiere of NBC’s ‘Rise’ on March 7, 2018, in New York. (AP)

AI developers must fight misinformation and protect fact-based news: global media

GENEVA, May 6, (AP): A global group of broadcasters and publishers is calling on artificial intelligence developers to make sure their technology serves the public by helping to counter misinformation and protect the value of fact-based news.

The Geneva-based European Broadcasting Union, an association of public broadcasters that’s also known for running the popular Eurovision Song Contest, says it and the World Association of News Publishers and other

partners want to cooperate with tech companies behind AI.

The group says thousands of public and private media in broadcast, print and online formats have joined the “News Integrity in the Age of AI” initiative, whose five core steps were announced Monday at the World News Media Congress in Krakow, Poland.

The initiative is calling for news content to only be used in generative AI models with the authorization of the content originator, and for clarity

about attribution and accuracy. It says the original news source behind AI-generated material must be “apparent and accessible.”

“Organizations and institutions that see truth and facts as the desirable core of a democracy and the foundation of an empowered society should now come together at one table to shape the next era,” said Ladina Heimgartner, president of the publishers association and CEO of Switzerland’s Ringier Media.

Tobacco use tied to more than 8m deaths annually

Kuwait hosts public awareness campaign on smoking risks

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health has launched a public awareness campaign on the dangers of smoking titled, "Exposing the Falseness of Temptations."

This is one of the activities and events included in the National Anti-Smoking Program that coincided with the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, which falls on May 1 every year.

Director of the department Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa confirmed that the steady decline in smoking rates around the world in recent years indicates an expected decline in tobacco use worldwide by the end of 2025 -- about 25

percent.

She revealed this falls short of the voluntary global target of reducing tobacco use by 30 percent from the 2020 baseline, indicating only 56 countries will achieve this goal.

She pointed out that the campaign aims inform the public about the methods used by the industry to manipulate the appearance and appeal of tobacco and nicotine products.

"It also calls for policy changes to ban flavors and additives that enhance the appeal of these products; as well as a total ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship including on digital platforms, and to regulate product design and packaging to make them less attractive. Another objective is to reduce demand for these

products and highlight the ways the industry markets addiction; thus, spurring efforts to reduce demand and support long-term public health," she added.

She warned that tobacco causes more than eight million deaths annually, including about 1.3 million non-smokers exposed to secondhand smoke.

She stressed the importance of imposing taxes to reduce tobacco use, asserting that it is the most effective way to reduce smoking, especially among youths and low-income groups.

She said a 10 percent increase in tobacco tax prices leads to a reduction in tobacco consumption of around four percent in high-income countries and five percent in low and middle-income countries. "Despite this, high tobacco taxes are rarely applied, and taxes

have been imposed in only 41 countries worldwide or around 12 percent of the world's population," she disclosed.

She cited the World Health Organization (WHO) statistics for 2024; indicating the number of young smokers (aged 13-15) reached 37 million worldwide, while about 80 percent of tobacco users live in low and middle-income countries. She added the WHO statistics for 2020 revealed that 22.3 percent of the world's population uses tobacco -- 36.7 percent men and 7.8 percent women.

She also revealed that recent studies proved the use of e-cigarettes increases the consumption of traditional cigarettes by about three times, particularly among the young non-smokers.

Bill stalls in Senate

Chilean woman with DMD pushes for euthanasia law

SANTIAGO, Chile, May 6, (AP): As a child, Susana Moreira didn't have the same energy as her siblings. Over time, her legs stopped walking and she lost the ability to bathe and take care of herself. Over the last two decades, the 41-year-old Chilean has spent her days bedridden, suffering from degenerative muscular dystrophy (DMD). When she finally loses her ability to speak or her lungs fail, she wants to be able to opt for euthanasia - which is currently prohibited in Chile.

Moreira has become the public face of Chile's decade-long debate over euthanasia and assisted dying, a bill that the left-wing government of President Gabriel Boric has pledged to address in his last year in power, a critical period for its approval ahead of November's presidential election.

"This disease will progress, and I will reach a point where I won't be able to communicate," Moreira told The Associated Press from the house where she lives with her husband in southern Santiago. "When the time comes, I need the euthanasia bill to be a law."

Approved

In April 2021, Chile's Chamber of Deputies approved a bill to allow euthanasia and assisted suicide for those over 18 who suffer from a terminal or "serious and incurable" illness. But it has since been stalled in the Senate.

The initiative seeks to regulate euthanasia, in which a doctor administers a drug that causes death, and assisted suicide, in which a doctor provides a lethal substance that the patients take themselves.

If the bill passes, Chile will join a select group of countries that allow both euthanasia and assisted suicide, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Spain and Australia.

It would also make Chile the third Latin American country to rule on the matter, following Colombia's established regulations and Ecuador's re-

cent decriminalization, which remains unimplemented due to a lack of regulation.

When she was 8 years old, Moreira was diagnosed with shoulder-girdle muscular dystrophy, a progressive genetic disease that affects all her muscles and causes difficulty breathing, swallowing and extreme weakness.

Confined to bed, she spends her days playing video games, reading and watching Harry Potter movies. Outings are rare and require preparation, as the intense pain only allows her three or four hours in the wheelchair. As the disease progressed, she said she felt the "urgency" to speak out in order to advance the discussion in Congress.

Ventilator

"I don't want to live plugged into machines, I don't want a tracheostomy, I don't want a feeding tube, I don't want a ventilator to breathe. I want to live as long as my body allows me," she said.

In a letter to President Boric last year, Moreira revealed her condition, detailed her daily struggles and asked him to authorize her euthanasia.

Boric made Moreira's letter public to Congress in June and announced that passing the euthanasia bill would be a priority in his final year in office. "Passing this law is an act of empathy, responsibility and respect," he said.

But hope soon gave way to uncertainty.

Almost a year after that announcement, multiple political upheavals have relegated Boric's promised social agenda to the background.

Chile, a country of roughly 19 million inhabitants at the southern tip of the southern hemisphere, began to debate euthanasia more than ten years ago. Despite a predominantly Catholic population and the strong influence of the Church at the time, Representative Vlado Mirosevic, from Chile's Liberal Party, first presented a bill for euthanasia and assisted dying in 2014.



Susana Moreira, 41, a degenerative muscular dystrophy patient, looks at her husband in her bedroom in Santiago, Chile, Thursday, April 10, 2025. (AP)

MoH modernizes drug registration process

Kuwait organises workshop on eCTD system to enhance drug registration

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Drug Control Sector in the Ministry of Health organized an introductory workshop on the electronic unified technical file (eCTD) system for drug registration.

Representatives of pharmaceutical companies and their agents in and outside Kuwait participated in the workshop.

This workshop is in accordance with the directives of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi to modernize regulatory systems and promote digital transformation in the health sector.

It is a continuation of the efforts of the ministry to improve performance, and achieve the highest standards of transparency and efficiency.

Assistant Undersecretary for Drug Control Affairs Dr. Ahmed Manawer Al-Saeed affirmed that the minister puts emphasis on the need to accelerate the digital transformation in the Department of Registration and Control of Medicinal and Herbal Medicines to improve its performance and keep pace with global developments.

He said the ministry has implemented the procedures for the electronic unified technical file system since March 2024, under the direct supervision and monitoring of the minister.

He stated that the eCTD system relies on unified electronic files containing data related to the quality, safety and efficacy of all medicines or pharmaceutical preparations, making it easier for ministry specialists to review



A photo from the workshop.

and evaluate these files accurately and efficiently.

He added the system has the ability to save all updates and amendments to medicine files even after marketing, allowing easy access to them whenever the need arises.

He confirmed that the system complies with international standards; as it is implemented by major international regulatory bodies such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), European Medicines Agency (EMA), British Medicines Regulatory Agency (MHRA), Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA), and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. He indicated this step puts Kuwait among the leading countries in

the field of drug control.

He pointed out that the workshop aims to raise the participants' awareness on the nature of the new electronic system and explain the mechanisms for its use in submitting drug registration files electronically, in accordance with approved international standards and in line with global best practices in this field.

It is worth noting that eCTD is an advanced global system used to electronically evaluate and archive drug and pharmaceutical registration files. It allows pharmaceutical companies to submit their files electronically to the Department of Registration and Control of Medicinal and Herbal Medicines at the Ministry of Health.

Health unit

Popemobile to serve in Gaza

VATICAN CITY, May 6, (AP): Before he died, Pope Francis donated one of his popemobiles to be converted into a mobile health unit to serve the children of Gaza, officials said Monday.

The Jerusalem and Sweden branch of the Vatican's Caritas charitable federation released photos of the repurposed vehicle on Monday. There is no word, though, on when it might be put to use. The donation was announced on the same day that Israel approved plans to seize the Gaza Strip and to stay in the Palestinian territory for an unspecified amount of time.

"When the humanitarian corridor to Gaza reopens, it (the popemobile) will be ready to give primary healthcare to children in Gaza," Caritas Jerusalem said in a statement.

The vehicle will be outfitted with equipment for diagnosis, examination, and treatment. Caritas said it would have testing equipment, suture kits, syringes and needles, oxygen supply, vaccines, and a refrigerator.

"This vehicle represents the love, care and closeness shown by His Holiness for the most vulnerable, which he expressed throughout the crisis," the secretary general of Caritas Jerusalem, Anton Asfar, said in a statement.

During Israel's war in Gaza, Francis became increasingly outspoken in his criticism of the Israeli military's harsh tactics while also demanding the return of hostages taken by Hamas on Oct. 7. Last year, he urged an investigation into whether Israel's war amounted to genocide -- a charge Israel vehemently denies.

He repeatedly spoke out about the plight of people in Gaza, and had a nightly ritual that he even maintained while he was in the hospital in February with pneumonia: he would call the lone Catholic church in the Gaza Strip to see how people huddled inside were coping.

Salmonella: A new salmonella outbreak linked to backyard poultry has sickened at least seven people in six states, health officials said Monday.

Two cases were identified in Missouri, and one each in Florida, Illinois, South Dakota, Utah and Wisconsin, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

People got sick in February and March of this year, the CDC said. They all had the same strain of salmonella - a version that has been traced to hatcheries in the past. The investigation is continuing, health officials said.

Salmonella bacteria cause about 1.35 million infections in the United States every year, and recent outbreaks have been tied to sources such as cucumbers, eggs, unpasteurized milk, fresh basil, geckos and pet bearded dragons.

But one concern is that chickens and other backyard poultry can carry salmonella bacteria even if they look healthy and clean. A backyard poultry-associated outbreak that ended last year was tied to 470 cases spread across 48 states, including one death.

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Both teams received one point each

Rain ends Hyderabad’s slim hope of qualifying for IPL playoffs

HYDERABAD, India, May 6, (AP): Rain washed out Sunrisers Hyderabad’s slim chance of qualifying for the Indian Premier League playoffs.

Captain Pat Cummins’ three-wicket burst with the new ball limited Delhi Capitals to 133-7 before heavy rain and the wet outfield denied further play.

Both teams received one point each but Hyderabad, last year’s finalist, became the third team to drop out of the playoffs race after Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals.

Delhi was lucky to get away with one point after more dismal batting from its top order, and was still in playoffs contention in fifth place.

Cummins perfectly read the tricky grassless pitch and ran Delhi into all sorts of trouble with three wickets off his first 13 balls after he won the toss and elected to field.

He had Karun Nair caught behind off the first ball of the match and Faf du Plessis was beaten by a short ball and edged behind to Ishan Kishan, who kept wickets for the first time this season in place of Heinrich Klaasen.

Cummins, who took the new ball after Mohammed Shami was left out, made it 15-3 when Kishan took a smart running catch at square leg after Abhishek Porel top-edged an attempted flick.

Cummins added a brilliant catch over his right shoulder when he back-pedalled from mid-off to dismiss Delhi captain Axar Patel.

Kishan’s fourth catch made it 29-5 when Lokesh Rahul edged Jaydev Unadkat.

Tristan Stubbs, 41 not out, and impact player Ashutosh Sharma, 41, helped Delhi cross 100 but all of Hyderabad’s sterling work in the field was washed away by the rain.



A groundsman works on the field as it rains during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad, India. (AP)

Zhao becomes Asia’s first world snooker champ after fixing ban



China's Zhao Xintong celebrates victory in the final match against Wales' Mark Williams following day seventeen of the World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England. (AP)

Chinese bags 500,000 pounds winning prize

LONDON, May 6, (AP): Zhao Xintong of China became Asia’s first world snooker champion after beating Mark Williams 18-12 in the final , completing a remarkable career turnaround following his involvement in the sport’s biggest match-fixing scandal.

Zhao captured the sport’s biggest prize - as well as a winner’s check of 500,000 pounds (\$670,000) - at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield just months after returning to competitive action following a 20-month ban.

The fixing scandal in 2023 involved 10 Chinese players in total and left snooker under a cloud, especially in China, the sport’s biggest market in the television landscape and a country that makes up more than 50% of snooker’s global audience.

Zhao is now the pride of China, winning the world championship while playing as an amateur - he’ll return to the professional ranks next season - and having come through four rounds of qualifiers just to get to the main draw at the Crucible.

“I think I had a dream,” Zhao said. “Maybe I’m not sure this is true.”

The 50-year-old Williams was bidding to become the oldest ever world champion as well as a four-time win-

ner, but never recovered from trailing 7-1 after the first of the final’s four sessions across Sunday and Monday.

Zhao, a fearless, attacking left-hander, showed few nerves in a match which World Snooker Tour officials estimated was being watched by a potential audience of 150-200 million live streams in China and a cumulative audience of 50-150 million on China’s CCTV5.

Even after Williams won the first four frames of the last session to go from 17-8 to 17-12, Zhao stayed composed to compile a break of 87 in what proved to be the last frame, after which he unfurled the flag of China and hung it over his shoulders to the backdrop of applause.

“There’s a new superstar in the game,” Williams said, looking at Zhao, “and he’s over there.”

When Zhao won the prestigious U.K. Championship - one of snooker’s majors - in 2021, he looked ready to join the elite of the game. Even as a teenager, he was marked out by some top players, including Williams, as a potential future star.

However, his career was brought to a shuddering halt when, as part of a sprawling match-fixing scandal that rocked snooker in 2023, he was banned after accepting charges of being a party to another player fixing two matches and betting on matches himself. Zhao was ranked No. 9 in the world at the time.

Zhao has been free to play since his suspension ex-

pired in September and, in January, secured a return to snooker’s main professional tour for next season.

Given his talent, he was seen as a dangerous wild card in world championship qualifying and he breezed through that - and then the main tournament itself, even thrashing seven-time champion Ronnie O’Sullivan 17-7 in the semifinals.

Now he has beaten another veteran - and member of snooker’s so-called “Class of 92” - in Williams, who himself had looked good in beating four-time champion John Higgins in the quarterfinals and then top-ranked Judd Trump in the semifinals.

It was only a matter of time before a Chinese player won the world.

Only one, Ding Junhui, had previously reached the final at the Crucible and he lost to Mark Selby 18-14 in 2016.

Ding emerged as a snooker star about 20 years ago, when the sport first tried to spread to China, and is the trailblazer for a raft of his countrymen to have burst through, making snooker huge in their homeland.

According to the World Snooker Tour, there are around 300,000 snooker clubs in China. Snooker is available to watch in every TV household in China on CCTV5.

There are three snooker academies for Chinese players in Britain, one of them being in Sheffield - where Zhao is based.

‘We went about a month without touching a racket’

Sinner details the loss, confusion he felt after accepting doping ban

ROME, May 6, (AP): Jannik Sinner has said he was lost and confused after receiving a three-month doping ban in a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency in February.

The top-ranked tennis player suddenly didn’t know what to do with himself away from the game he had dedicated almost his entire life to.

“At the start I was a bit confused because I didn’t

know exactly what I wanted to do,” Sinner said Monday - the day the ban expired - upon his arrival at the Italian Open. “Then I went home and stayed with my family. I tried to understand better what was really important to me.

“I know how many sacrifices I made and my daily routine was always practice, practice, practice,” Sinner added. “But at that moment I didn’t have any of that. I came to understand that what’s important to me are the people by your side. That they give you the strength to move forward and continue smiling.”

Besides his family in the German-speaking Alto Adige region of northern Italy, Sinner also spent more time with friends at home in Monaco, participated in other sports like cycling, and then only gradually came back to tennis.

“We went about a month without touching (a racket) and then we restarted really softly,” Sinner said. “When we started pushing more, blis-

ters developed on my hands. That was something I hadn’t experienced in a long time.”

The settlement was made after WADA appealed a decision last year by the International Tennis Integrity Agency to fully exonerate Sinner for what it deemed to be an accidental contamination by a banned anabolic steroid in March, 2024.

The settlement raised questions, since it conveniently allows Sinner to return at his home tournament and not miss any Grand Slams.

The Italian Open is the last big clay-court tournament before the French Open - the year’s second Grand Slam - starts on May 25.

“I didn’t want to do it in the beginning, and also it was a bit not easy for me to accept it, because I know what really happened,” Sinner said of the ban. “But sometimes we have to choose the best in a very bad moment, and that’s what we did. So it’s all over now. So I’m happy to play tennis again.”



Jannik Sinner attends a training ahead of the Italian Open in Rome. (AP)

ago. I haven’t seen so many (other players),” Sinner said. “It’s all fine at the moment, but I haven’t seen most of them.”

It will mark the first time that Italy has had a No. 1 player for its home tournament and every move that Sinner makes is attracting attention this week.

Sinner was scheduled to hold an open practice session later on Campo Centrale that is expected to attract a soldout crowd of 10,500 spectators. It will be broadcast live on Italian TV.

Before the practice session, Sinner was to be honored alongside his Davis Cup teammates and the Billie Jean King Cup players after Italy swept both of tennis’ biggest team titles last year.

Sinner hasn’t played a match since he won his second straight Australian Open title in January. After a first-round bye, he will be play his opening match Friday or Saturday against either No. 99 Mariano Navone or 18-year-old Italian wild card Federico Cina.

Englishman’s long wait ends

Kane feels ‘amazing’ after finally winning his first career title at 31

BERLIN, May 6, (AP): Harry Kane says he feels “amazing” after finally winning his first career title at the age of 31.

After Bayern Munich’s Bundesliga win on Sunday, Kane said in an Instagram post, “It just feels sweet to win the title and the first one of my career.”

Kane had to endure a long wait after a career of runner-up finishes and defeats in finals with Bayern, Tottenham and England. It seemed like an anomaly for a player considered among the world’s best forwards.

Bayern’s 11 Bundesliga wins in a row must have factored in Kane’s decision to join the German team from Tottenham in 2023, but his first season in Bavaria coincided with Bayern’s first trophyless year since 2012.

He was dismayed to be suspended from Bayern’s potentially title-clinching game at Leipzig on Saturday, but made his way to the touchline to celebrate with Bayern leading 3-2 in stoppage time.

Then Leipzig’s Yusef Poulsen equalized with the last kick of the game, postponing Bayern’s party.

But Bayer Leverkusen’s 2-2 draw in Freiburg on Sunday clinched the title for Bayern with two rounds remaining. Bayern could no longer be caught, and Kane could finally sing Queen’s hit “We Are The Champions” and Neil Diamond’s “Sweet Caroline” among other songs with teammates as the champagne flowed at a Munich restaurant.

“What a night last night. What a

celebration with the players, with the staff,” Kane said as he turned up for Monday’s training session. “I’m sure everyone’s feeling it a little bit this morning.”

Bayern is to be presented with the trophy after its next game against Borussia Mönchengladbach on Saturday, when the official celebrations doused by customary beer showers can begin.

Kane’s first chance of winning a title came in the 2015 English League Cup final but Tottenham lost to Chelsea 2-0. Tottenham lost another League Cup final in 2021 against Manchester City. Kane lost the Champions League final with Tottenham to Liverpool in 2019, and finished runner-up with Tottenham in the Premier League in 2017.

As England captain, Kane lost the European Championship final to Italy in 2020, then again in the 2024 final where Spain defeated his team 2-1.

“It’s been a long time coming,” Kane said of his first trophy. “I appreciate all the support as always, it never goes unnoticed, and I can’t wait to enjoy these next couple of weeks.”

Though Bayern was knocked out of the Champions League and German Cup this season, Kane will have another chance of a title when Bayern takes part in the revamped Club World Cup in the United States starting on June 14.

“As always we look forward to the next one and we go again and try and get number two,” he said.



This file photo shows Bayern Munich's Harry Kane celebrating after scoring a goal against Celtic Glasgow in Glasgow, Scotland. (AP)

South Africa pacer Rabada cleared to play after ban

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, May 6, (AP): Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada has been cleared to play cricket again after serving a one-month suspension for using a recreational drug, South Africa’s anti-doping agency said.

It means Rabada is eligible again to play for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League and for his country in the World Test Championship final against Australia at Lord’s next month.

Rabada tested positive for a recreational drug during a domestic Twenty20 competition in South Africa in January, the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport said. He was informed of the positive test on April 1.

The anti-doping agency said Rabada was eligible for a reduced one-month ban because he completed a substance abuse treatment program. It did not say which drug Rabada tested positive for.

Rabada left the IPL last month citing personal reasons and said in a statement on Saturday that he had been serving a suspension for using a recreational drug and was “deeply sorry.”

“Moving forward, this moment will not define me,” he said in



In this file photo, South Africa’s Kagiso Rabada celebrates during the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal cricket match against New Zealand at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

the statement. “I will keep doing what I have always done, continuously working hard and playing with passion and devotion to my craft.”

The 29-year-old Rabada is on course to be one of South Africa’s all-time greats and has taken 327 test wickets, putting him behind only Dale Steyn, Shaun Pollock, Makhaya Ntini and Allan Donald, who have all retired.

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IOC President Bach and President-elect Kirsty to attend

Kuwait to host 45th OCA General Assembly under the Theme ‘One Asia’

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: Kuwait is set to host the 45th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) next Sunday, under the theme “One Asia.” The two-day gathering will bring together delegates from 45 Asian nations and around 400 prominent sports figures.

OCA Director General Hussein Al-Musallam announced in a press statement that the assembly will be attended by officials from across Asia and the globe, including heads of National Olympic Committees. Notably, current International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Dr. Thomas Bach and newly elected IOC President-elect and former Olympic swimming champion Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe will also attend.

The event will also welcome a host of heads of Asian sports federations and influential international sports leaders.

As part of the assembly, a cultural celebration will be held at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, featuring folklore performances from China,

India, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Kuwait – symbolizing the unity and diversity of Asia through sport.

Al-Musallam emphasized that the assembly aims to strengthen the Olympic movement in Asia, promote sportsmanship, and uphold the values of friendship and mutual respect. He expressed hope that the meetings will produce impactful decisions to further advance Olympic sports across the continent.

He also noted the importance of continued cooperation between the OCA and National Olympic Committees to develop sports infrastructure and support athlete success across Asia.

Highlighting Asia’s growing prominence in the global sports arena, Al-Musallam pointed out that the continent has hosted seven Olympic Games and continues to produce world-class athletes who excel at the highest levels of international competition.



OCA Director General Hussein Al-Musallam



The 45th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia theme.

Kuwait beach volleyball team heads to Doha for the West Asian Championship



Kuwait beach volleyball delegation.

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The Kuwait beach volleyball team has departed for Doha to compete in the inaugural West Asian Championship, scheduled to take place from May 5 to 10.

The delegation is led by Issa Al-Saleem and includes women’s team administrator Amal Al-Faraj and national team coach Ahmed Abdul-Razzaq. Representing Kuwait in the men’s

competition are Team A, featuring Abdulwahab Talib and Jassim Al-Sabbagh, and Team B, comprised of Nawaf Talal and Ibrahim Diaa. The women’s Team A includes Al-Ghadeer Al-Sayegh and Dana Mansour, while Team B consists of Munira Yousef and Halima Abdullah.

Delegation head Issa Al-Saleem expressed confidence in the team’s potential, despite the limited preparation period, which featured in-

tensive daily training sessions on the Green Island courts. He praised the dedication of both the technical staff and the players in working to ensure the team is ready for this important regional event.

Al-Saleem also extended his gratitude to the Kuwait Volleyball Federation for its continued support of the national beach volleyball program.

Nuggets steal Game 1 from OKC

Celtics collapse late as Knicks take opener in East semis

OKLAHOMA CITY, May 6, (AP): Nikola Jokic showed why he’s a finalist for another MVP award with his historic stat line. But with Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals at stake, the ball again found Aaron Gordon’s hands.

Gordon hit a 3-point with 2.8 seconds remaining, supporting Jokic’s 42-point, 22-rebound effort and giving the Denver Nuggets a stunning 121-119 comeback win over the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder.

It was the kind of finish one might expect of a team that won the NBA title just two seasons ago.

It was Gordon’s second game-winner of the playoffs. His dunk on a Jokic miss as time expired lifted the Nuggets past the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 4 of their first-round series.

Gordon did much more than hit the deciding shot against the Thunder.

Jokic became just the fourth player to have at least 40 points, 20 rebounds and five assists in a playoff game.

Denver’s Russell Westbrook, who started his career with the Thunder, assisted on Gordon’s game-winner. It was his first play-off game in Oklahoma City as an opposing player.

Jamal Murray added 21 points for the fourth-seeded Nuggets, who stole the opener after closing out a seven-game series against the Clippers on Saturday.

Denver’s opportunity came after Oklahoma City’s Chet Holmgren missed two free throws with the Thunder leading by a point.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the other MVP finalist in the game, had 33 points, 10 rebounds, and eight assists for the Thunder, who hadn’t played in more than a week after sweeping the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round. Alex Caruso added 20 points, six assists, and five steals.

Knicks 108, Celtics 105, OT

In Bostyon, the Knicks grew accustomed to facing big deficits against the Celtics this season.

New York faced another one to



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives to the basket against New York Knicks guard Josh Hart (3) during the first half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series in Boston. (AP)

open its Eastern Conference semi-final matchup against the defending NBA champions. This time, the Knicks found a way to overcome it.

Jalen Brunson and OG Anunoby each scored 29 points before Mikal Bridges stole the ball from Jaylen Brown with a second left in overtime, and the Knicks stunned Boston 108-105 in Game 1 of their series.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 14 points and 13 rebounds for New York, which lost all four games against its longtime rival during the regular season and trailed by 20 points in the second half of this game.

Jayson Tatum and Brown both had 23 points for the Celtics, who had an NBA playoff-record 45 missed 3-pointers to blow a game they appeared to have in control.

Derrick White added 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Jrue Holiday returned to the starting lineup after a strained right hamstring caused him to miss the final three games of Boston’s first-round series against Orlando. He finished with 16 points in 39 minutes, but center Kristaps Porzingis played only 13 minutes and didn’t return after halftime because of an illness.

Game 2 is Wednesday night.

Boston coach Joe Mazzulla said missing Porzingis impacted the Celtics’ approach.

The Knicks struck first in overtime, taking a 106-100 edge via a three-point play by Anunoby and a three-pointer by Bridges.

Brown connected on a 3-pointer from the wing with just over a minute left - his only make in 10 attempts behind the arc - to cut it to 108-105.

It stayed that way when Josh Hart misfired on a deep 3. Tatum missed a jumper, but the Celtics were able to retrieve the rebound. After a foul on Towns, Boston called a timeout with 3 seconds showing on the clock.

But Bridges ripped the inbounds pass away from Brown to preserve the win.



Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon (32) makes a pass as Oklahoma City Thunder's Chet Holmgren, rear, and Isaiah Hartenstein (55) defend in the first half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series in Oklahoma City. (AP)

Milan keeps alive hopes

Forest draws at Crystal Palace, Champions League hopes fade

LONDON, May 6, (AP): Nottingham Forest drew with Crystal Palace 1-1 in the Premier League on Monday and saw its Champions League hopes fade.

Nuno Espirito Santo’s men have spent most of the year in the league top three but a run of one win in four has dropped them behind Chelsea, Newcastle and a resurgent Manchester City.

A win at Selhurst Park would have brought them equal with Chelsea and Newcastle but one point means it stays in sixth, with the top five qualifying for next season’s Champions League.

Neither team was able to take control of a sometimes scrappy match that saw eight names go in the referee’s book.

Palace took the lead with a penalty kick after an hour. After a video review, Matz Sels was adjudged to have felled Tyrick Mitchell and Eberechi Eze made no mistake from the spot.

Forest bounced right back within four minutes, Murillo doing enough to deflect a goal-bound shot from Neco Williams away from the keeper.

Eze hitting the woodwork in the dying seconds and Eddie Nketiah having a goal disallowed for offside in stoppage time meant FA Cup finalist Palace has not won any of its last five league games.

□ □ □



Genoa’s Honest Ahanor, right, jumps for the ball with AC Milan’s Santiago Gimenez, left, during a Serie A soccer match between Genoa and Milan at Luigi Ferraris Stadium in Genoa, Italy. (AP)

Genoa captain Morten Frendrup put one into his own net.

Although Milan remained in ninth place, it closed the gap on the top four to six points. Juventus was fourth, equal on points with Roma and Lazio below it. Three rounds remain.

□ □ □

Girona won for the first time in 12 league games, 1-0 against Mallorca and eased its La Liga relegation fears.

Veteran Uruguay striker Cristhian Stuani got the all-important goal in the 10th minute when he pounced on a rebound and lashed home.

It was the 38-year-old striker’s 139th goal for the club since joining from Middlesbrough in 2017.

Best of the Rest

Dembélé fit to face Arsenal: Paris Saint-Germain striker Ousmane Dembélé has recovered from a slight hamstring problem and will be in the squad taking on Arsenal in the second leg of their Champions League semifinal on Wednesday.

Coach Luis Enrique said Dembélé, who scored the winner in PSG’s 1-0 win in London last week, has been training with his teammates for two days.

“I have him at my disposal tomorrow,” Enrique said on Tuesday.

Dembélé was injured during the first leg and rested over the weekend when PSG lost to Strasbourg 2-1 in Ligue 1. Enrique heavily rotated his squad with the match against the Gunners in mind.

Dembélé’s goal against Arsenal was his eighth in nine Champions League appearances since the start of the year.

PSG defender Achraf Hakimi said he believes Dembélé has recovered well.

“He really wants to play,” Hakimi said.” (AP)

□ □ □

León loses appeal against FIFA: Mexican soccer club León finally lost its legal match against FIFA on Tuesday and is out of the Club World Cup. Los Angeles FC or another Mexican team, América, will be the late replacement in the United States next month.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said its judges rejected León’s attempt to overturn being removed by FIFA from the 32-team tournament for being in the same ownership group as another Club World Cup entry, Pachuca.

“The panel examined the evidence, including the Club León trust set up by the owners of the club, and concluded that this trust was insufficient to comply with the regulations,” the court said in a statement.

The urgent ruling one day after the appeal hearing will let FIFA organize a planned playoff game between LAFC and América to complete the lineup for the tournament that starts on June 14. (AP)

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Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli, left, Arsenal's Oleksandr Zinchenko, second left, Arsenal's Kieran Tierney, second right, and Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, right, laugh during a training session in London, England ahead of the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Arsenal on Wednesday. (AP)

Sports

Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr: Kuwait on track to reclaim sporting excellence

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: President of the Kuwaiti and Asian Aquatics Federations Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al-Sabah affirmed that Kuwait is steadily progressing towards reclaiming its position in continental and international sports under the guidance of the political leadership, which calls for continued efforts and dedication to restore the former glory of Kuwaiti sports.

In a press release, Sheikh Khaled extended a warm welcome to Their Excellencies, Highnesses, and the heads of the Gulf Olympic Committees, as well as the participating delegations in the upcoming Gulf Olympic Committees meeting to be hosted by Kuwait next Sunday.

The meeting aims to enhance integration, create consensus, and facilitate the exchange of expertise, all of which will contribute to the ongoing development of the Gulf sports system.

Sheikh Khaled also extended a warm welcome to the Kuwaiti guests, as well as the members of the Executive Office and the General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, who are in Kuwait to attend the upcoming meeting of the Executive Office and the General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia.

He stated that the presence of prominent Gulf, continental, and international sports figures in Kuwait during these events marks a distinguished sporting event that will play a major role in Kuwait's efforts to restore its sporting glory and achieve further successes.

He expressed his gratitude to the president and members of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia for their efforts in hosting the meetings, and wished all attendees a pleasant stay in their second homeland, Kuwait.



Sheikh Khaled Al Badr Al Sabah

Kuwait launches Arab Cup campaign with commanding win over Morocco



Players celebrate their opening win over Morocco.



Arab Cup leaders during the opening of the championship.

Successful championship start in Kuwait draws regional applause

KUWAIT CITY, May 6: The 10th Arab Handball Cup, currently underway in Kuwait and running through the 11th of this month, opened to widespread praise from Arab federation heads and officials from the Asian Handball Federation. All commended the Supreme Organizing Committee and tournament working groups for their professionalism, reaffirming Kuwait's reputation and experience in hosting major sporting events. The host nation got off to a winning start in the group stage, defeating Morocco 39-29 in their opening match. Kuwaiti goalkeeper Hassan Safar was named Man of the Match for his outstanding performance.

In other first-round results, Bahrain edged Iraq 28-26, while Qatar defeated Saudi Arabia 31-22.

Bader Al-Dhiyab, Vice President of the International Handball Federation, applauded Kuwait's long-standing excellence in organizing international tournaments. He expressed hope for a high level of play from all participating teams, who represent both Asia and Africa.

"The Asian Handball Federation fully supports Kuwait in hosting this Arab Championship," Al-Dhiyab said, voicing confidence in Kuwait's youth to ensure the tournament's success.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Obaidi, President of the Iraqi Handball Federation, said he was delighted to participate, especially since the event is being held in Kuwait – widely recognized for its top-tier event organization. He expressed hope for competitive matches that reflect the strength and unity of the Arab world.

Bahrain Handball Federation President Ali Issa thanked the Kuwait Handball Federation for its excellent hosting efforts. "This level of organization is no surprise from the people of Kuwait," Issa remarked. He added that Bahrain confirmed participation as soon as Kuwait was announced as host.

Qatar Handball Federation President Ahmed Al-Shaabi described the tournament as a "valuable Arab gathering," crediting Kuwait's hosting for the event's significance.

"Qatar's participation aims to contribute to the championship's success," Al-Shaabi said, thanking both the Arab and Kuwaiti Handball Federations for reviving the tournament after years of absence.

The championship officially opened two days ago at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex, with nine Arab teams participating.

Held under the patronage of the Minister of Informa-



Moroccans defend as Kuwaiti makes a goal attempt.

tion, Culture, and State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, the opening ceremony featured laser displays by local youth groups and a welcome performance by art-

ist Hamoud Al-Khadher.

Bashar Abdullah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports and representative of the tournament sponsor, emphasized the importance of bringing the Arab Championship back to Kuwait after a long hiatus.

"This event marks a milestone for Arab handball," he said, wishing the teams success in presenting competitive, high-level matches. He also praised the organizing committee for the event's excellent coordination, which aligns with the Authority's strategy to host major sports events in Kuwait.

President of the Saudi Handball Federation, Fadel Al-Nemer, extended his gratitude to Kuwait's political leadership, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for hosting the tournament – a return to Kuwait 46 years after it first hosted the event.

Al-Nemer commended Minister Al-Mutairi's support and the Kuwait Handball Federation's professional execution. He expressed joy at the tournament coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Arab Handball Federation's founding in 1975.

He also reaffirmed the Federation's continued mission to organize tournaments for all categories to promote and develop the sport across the Arab world.

Three decisive group stage matches are scheduled for today:

- 3:00 pm: Saudi Arabia vs. Tunisia
- 5:00 pm: Bahrain vs. Egypt
- 7:00 pm: Kuwait vs. UAE – a key match for the hosts.

Kuwaiti athletes dominate at Gulf Youth Athletics Championship



Mohammed Al-Duaij and Hamad Feirouz crowned champions at the Gulf Athletics Championship.

DOHA, May 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's youth athletics team continued to deliver impressive performances at the 18th Gulf Athletics Championship for Youth, currently taking place in Doha, Qatar.

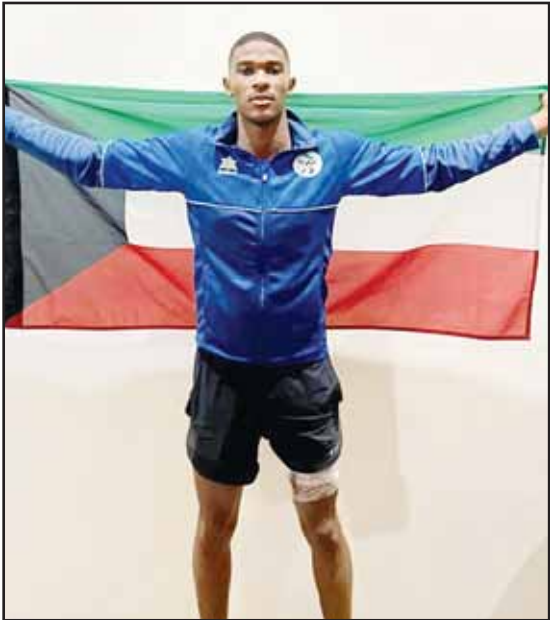


The Kuwaiti athletes share a moment of joy with Hussein Dashti, Secretary-General of the Kuwait Athletics Federation.

In the long jump event, Mohammed Al-Duaij clinched the gold medal with a jump of 2 meters. His compatriot Hamad Feirouz earned the silver medal with the same recorded distance, marking a strong Kuwaiti showing in the com-

petition.

Kuwait also dominated the 110-meter hurdles race. Mishari Al-Mutairi captured the gold medal with an outstanding time of 13.94 seconds, followed closely by teammate Jassem Al-Junaei,



Khaled Al-Yalous displays the national flag after winning bronze.

who secured the silver medal with a time of 14.02 seconds.

Additionally, athlete Khaled Al-Yalous added to Kuwait's medal tally by claiming the bronze medal in the decathlon event.