



Page 15



Amir leads welcome for Lebanese president



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stands alongside Lebanese President Joseph Aoun during an official welcome ceremony marking the latter's arrival in Kuwait.

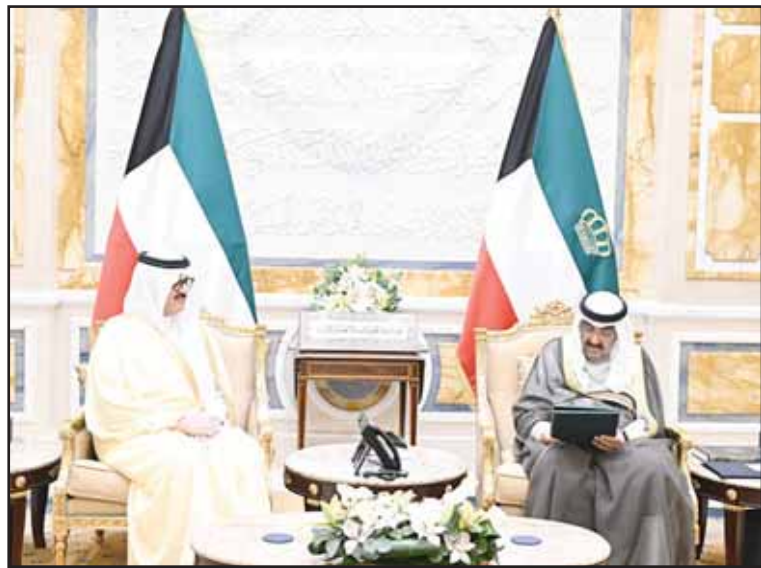
KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): President of Lebanon Joseph Aoun and his accompanying delegation arrived on Sunday in Kuwait on an official visit to the country.

He was received at the airport by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

National Guard Chief Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sherida Al-Maousherji, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and senior state officials were also among those who welcomed the Lebanese president.

The honor mission accompanying the president was formed from the Amiri Diwan headed by Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abu Al-Hassan.

Continued on Page 5



Amiri Diwan photo
HH the Amir receives a letter from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, inviting him to attend the Gulf-US Summit.

Saudi King invites Amir to Riyadh summit

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday a written letter from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, inviting him to attend the Gulf-US Summit to be held in Riyadh this month.

Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan Al-Saud delivered the letter to His Highness the Amir during the reception.

Also on Sunday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received at Bayan Palace Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Most Zakat funds spent on administrators

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ZAKAT in Islam is governed by specific criteria and guidelines. The distribution of zakat to beneficiaries follows a specific order of priority, which includes: poor relatives, the needy, those employed to collect it (administrators), new Muslims, the emancipation of slaves, individuals in debt, those striving in the cause of Allah, and stranded travelers.

Over time, this system has seen changes in response to societal changes, national development, and evolving individual circumstances. Nevertheless, certain core principles remain unchanged, such as prioritizing zakat for relatives, which in Kuwait's context includes needy families and individuals imprisoned for financial, civil, or misdemeanor cases.

However, over the past four decades, the emergence of political Islamist groups and the misuse of donations for purposes beyond their intended goals have led to growing chaos.

Financial aid has increasingly been directed to other countries by certain groups seeking to promote their ideologies and attract followers to extremist movements. Meanwhile, those in need closer to home, who should be prioritized, are often deprived of assistance.

This situation has distorted the image of Kuwaiti charitable efforts in the eyes of the world. At the same time, there are approximately 120,000 citizens facing arrest warrants, travel bans, or criminal court cases,

Continued on Page 5

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PACI now lets expats update address online

KD 100 fine looms for address lapses

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has announced the launching of a new service on the unified government application – Sahel, which allows non-Kuwaitis to change their address.

This service is part of the ongoing efforts of the authority

to develop its digital services and streamline procedures, contributing to enhanced operational efficiency.

In another development, the authority announced the deletion of the residential addresses of 478 individuals from its records based on the homeowners' approval or due to the demolition of the buildings.

In its announcement published in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum), the authority stressed the need for these individuals to register their new address and submit the required documents within 30 days to avoid the penalty stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 2/1982 -- a fine of KD100 multiplied by the number of persons.

Kuwait's CSC rolls out 5-day Eid holiday

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): The Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced Sunday that work will be suspended in all ministries, government agencies, and public institutions from Thursday, June 5, to Monday, June 9, in observance of Arafat Day and Eid Al-Adha for the year 1446 AH.

In a statement posted on its official account on platform X, the CSC clarified that June 5 to 8 (Thursday to Sunday) will be official holidays, while Monday, June 9, will be considered a day of rest.

Normal working hours are set to resume on Tuesday, June 10. The statement added that agencies with special operational requirements will determine their holiday schedules in coordination with relevant authorities to ensure public interest is maintained.

The Kuwaiti Cabinet announced on April 29 the suspension of work across all ministries, government agencies, authorities, and public institutions on the occasion of the Arafat Day and Eid Al-Adha holidays for the year 1446 AH.

According to a Cabinet statement issued during its weekly session and chaired by Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, public sector holidays will span four days – from Thursday, June 5 to Sunday, June 8, 2025. Monday, June 9, has been designated as a day of rest. Work in the public sector will resume on Tuesday, June 10.

The Cabinet noted that entities with special operational requirements will have their holiday schedules set by the relevant authorities in line with public interest.

Kuwait closes legal gaps in criminal code

Legal hammer drops on manslaughter, debt fraud

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Decree-Law No. 65/2025, amending provisions of the Penal Code relating to manslaughter and the evasion of financial obligations by debtors, has been published in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum).

It can be recalled that the Cabinet approved the

Decree-Law on April 22.

The explanatory memorandum of the decree states that criminal penalty mandated by law serves as a fundamental element in criminal theory. This penalty is legislated and adjudicated, as well as accepted by both citizens and expatriates. Without such a penalty, legal statutes could merely amount to moral exhortations, subject to individual discretion.

For a penalty to effectively establish societal security and tranquility while satisfying the imperative for justice in the pursuit of rights; it must achieve a level of deterrence, compelling individuals to think long and hard before committing illegal acts or neglecting legally prescribed obligations.

The amendments to the Penal Code aim to counteract the diminishing level of individual prudence

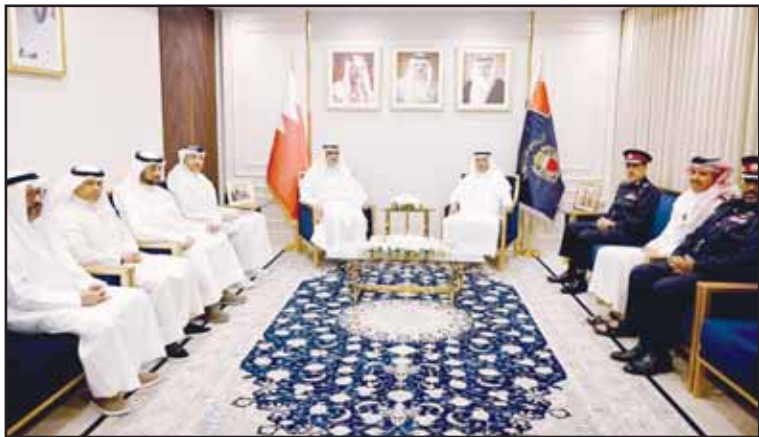
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Kuwait's Mol delegation visits Bahrain to boost security ties

MANAMA, May 11, (KUNA): Bahrain Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA) Sheikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al-Khalifa received Kuwait Ministry of Interior (MoI) delegation to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. Bahrain News Agency (BNA) said in a statement that the delegation, led by

Director of the Airport Security General Department at Kuwait International Airport, Brigadier Bader Al Shaya and Director General of the MoI's General Department of Information Systems Engineer Osama Al-Wuhaib along with other officials.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
Bahrain's NPRA Undersecretary Sheikh Hisham Al-Khalifa meets Kuwait MoI delegation to enhance border security and digital cooperation.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives Kuwait's National Cyber Security Center delegation.

Kuwait cyber team applauded for excellence in GCC exercise

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah received on Sunday Kuwait's National Cyber Security Center delegation who participated in the fourth GCC Cyber Security Exercise hosted by Riyadh on April 22.

National Cyber Security Center said in a statement that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef congratulated the participating delegation on their achievement, which

reflected tier efficiency and readiness in dealing with cyberattacks.

The statement added that the exercise is based on the decisions of the third meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Cybersecurity, aimed at enhancing Gulf cooperation in the fields of cyber defense and exchange of experience.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait, DCO tackle digital growth

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Finance and State Minister for Economic Affairs and Investment Noora Al-Fassam and Secretary-General of Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Deemah Al-Yahya discussed cooperation in digital economy and financial inclusion.

During the meeting, held in Kuwait on Sunday, both sides tackled the DCO's efforts to create an attractive investment atmosphere for

digital economy and explore opportunities of cooperation with Kuwait to promote investment in digital startups in Kuwait and member states, the Ministry of Finance said in a press release.

The minister said Kuwait and the DCO share the same vision of bolstering digital inclusion and developing innovation-based economy on the basis that Kuwait, which is a DCO co-founder, is committed to

Continued on Page 5



2 'Digital media pivotal player in changing world'



8 NBK and KOC sign MoU for employee development

9 Zain shares expertise on leveraging AI & cybersecurity

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:30	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:59	Maghrib ..	18:30
Zohr	11:44	Isha	19:56

Local

Weather		
Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to southwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for rising dust.		
By Night: Rather hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind changing to northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.		
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	42	26
Kuwait Airport	42	25
Abdaly	43	22
Bubyan	45	24
Jahra	44	26
Failaka Islana	39	28
Salmiyah	38	30

Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince, Prime Minister congratulate newly-elected Pope Leo XIV



HH the Amir



HH Crown Prince



HH the Premier

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the newly-elected Pope of the Vatican and Bishop of Rome Leo XIV.

In the cable, His Highness expressed his sincere congratulations to the Pope on the great confidence placed in him by the cardinals through his election as head of the Catholic Church, succeeding Pope Francis I.

His Highness expressed his heart-

felt wishes to Pope Leo XIV for continued success in spreading the values of tolerance and justice among peoples, praising the strong relations between Kuwait and the Vatican.

His Highness wished him good health and the Vatican further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to the newly-elected Pope of the Vatican and Bishop of Rome Leo XIV.

In the cable, His Highness ex-

pressed his sincere congratulations to the Pope on the great confidence placed in him by the cardinals through his election as head of the Catholic Church, succeeding Pope Francis I.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a similar cable to the newly-elected Pope.

His Highness expressed his sincere congratulations to the Pope on the great confidence placed in him by the cardinals through his election as head of the Catholic Church.



Pope Leo XIV



Amiri Diwan photo

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) executive board, led by its honorary president Thomas Bach.

Kuwait Amir lauds IOC support for sports and athletes in Gulf region

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah recieved on Sunday the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) executive board, led by its honorary president Thomas Bach.

Addressing the visiting IOC executive board members, who are in Kuwait to convene the international Olympic body's 45th General Assembly session, His Highness the Amir acknowledged the IOC's support for athletes in the region and beyond.

The gathering in Kuwait, home to the headquarters of the Olympic Council of Asia, is a testament to the "unity" of Asian

nations, particularly in the field of sports, His Highness the Amir said, underlining such meetings as instrumental in ratcheting up the amity between them.

His Highness the Amir went on to say that sports go beyond the competitive nature of victories and defeats, rather, such activities help promote virtues including peace and forgiveness, pointing out that athletes represent a pillar of a national 2035 development vision.

Wishing the Olympic body the best of luck in its mission, His Highness the Amir called on national Olympic councils to cooperate over research and knowledge exchange, saying

it was imperative to keep the sporting sector on an upward trajectory.

In his speech, the IOC's honorary president thanked His Highness the Amir for his sage words, saying that the Olympic Council of Asia was an integral part of the international Olympic movement, citing "decisions" made by His Highness the Amir as the catalyst towards greater Asian unity.

The IOC official spoke of the tremendous benefits that sporting activities have to offer, which are not limited to health and wellbeing, but are also a platform to bring societies closer together, he emphasized, praising Kuwaiti-led

initiatives that have helped bolster the body's works.

He mentioned the emergence of Artificial Intelligence technology that has reshaped the landscape of sports, saying that such tools should be used with caution given the possible adverse effects it may have on human decision making.

In a gesture of appreciation towards His Highness the Amir's "immense" contributions towards the Olympic body, the OIC honorary chief bestowed upon him a distinguished medal reserved for world leaders who have left an indelible mark on the international Olympic movement.

'Digital media pivotal player in changing world'

Information Minister inaugurates 20th Arab Media forum



Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi presents an award.



Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi opens the forum.



Photos by Rizk Taufiq
Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers at the media forum.

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The 20th edition of the Arab Media Forum kicked off Sunday under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, with the theme, "Media Challenges in Light of Advancing Technology and Digital Transformation."

Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi inaugurated the forum with a number of diplomats and media professionals from Kuwait, Arab countries and the Gulf in attendance.

In a speech delivered on behalf of the His Highness the Prime Minister -- the sponsor of the event, Al-Mutairi pointed out that the world is experiencing exceptional times, profound changes and rapid transformations in the media landscape.

He said "the communications and information revolution has become the primary driver of societal trends and an effective tool for shaping public opinion, formulating awareness, and changing patterns of interaction between individuals and institutions."

He asserted that in light of this new reality, digital media -- in all its forms and platforms -- has become a pivotal player in influencing the course of events. "This requires us to face challenges with a strategic vision, professional competence, a full understanding of transformations, and preparation for a more complex and advanced future; equipped with renewed capabilities and a solid foundation of values and responsibility," he asserted.

Beacon

He added that Kuwait has been, and continues to be, a beacon of Arab media, an incubator for thought and creativity, and a platform for dialogue and openness. "The wise political leadership has given media a special status as a pillar of development and a means of enlightenment. They have supported national media institutions, ensured responsible freedom of expression, and kept pace with digital transformations to provide a renewed and influential national media. This has been possible due to the unwavering support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and His Highness the Prime Minister.

He went on to say that in this context, Kuwait has been keen on launching a number of pioneering media and cultural initiatives, organizing conferences and forums, and

developing the technical infrastructure for the media. He disclosed that among the most important of these initiatives is the recent launch of the '51' electronic platform, which documented Kuwait's artistic and media heritage and made it available to present and future generations in a blend of authenticity and modernity.

Media

He pointed out that the selection of Kuwait as the Arab Capital of Culture and Media for 2025 is the culmination of its ongoing role and well-deserved Arab recognition of its contributions to supporting media freedoms, strengthening cultural identity, and consolidating professional values.

He said "this selection coincides with the current edition of the forum, giving it a special character and additional impetus to continue our media mission with an advanced vision and collective responsibility."

He then expressed his deep pride in the selection of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the forum's guest of honor this year.

"This is a well-deserved choice for a country with a clear footprint in the field of Arab media and its pioneering approach in supporting media initiatives, adopting modern technologies, and producing distinguished content. This reflects its leadership in this vital sector and enhances its active presence in regional and international forums," he added.

He stressed that the Arab Media Forum has become an important platform for raising media issues and exchanging experiences. "The current session discusses the challenges of artificial intelligence and digital platforms, as well as ways to formulate professional and legislative frameworks that keep pace with these changes in a professional manner," he stated.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the National Media Office and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Emirates Media Council Sheikh Abdullah Al-Hamed -- representative of the UAE and guest of honor at the forum -- asserted that the relationship between the UAE and Kuwait is considered a unique fraternal model, one that has grown deeper and more solid over time thanks to the wise vision and sound guidance of UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed and his brother, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad.

He affirmed that this relationship is flourishing day by day and it is steadily moving toward broader horizons of cooperation and integration in various fields, particularly the media sector. "This reflects the depth of historical ties and embodies the aspirations of the two peoples for a brighter and more prosperous future under the leadership that resolutely drives progress," he added.

He said the UAE firmly believes that the media is a key partner in the process of development and progress, and that it is the mirror reflecting the achievements of the present and anticipates the prospects of the future.

He pointed out that the UAE seeks to develop an advanced media system that keeps

pace with the latest global developments and provides distinguished media content which expresses its deep-rooted Islamic and Arab identity and reflects its noble human values; ensuring that the media serves as a bridge connecting the past, present and future.

He added "the magnitude of the challenges that the media is facing is not a secret. While the rapid development of social media offers tremendous opportunities for human communication and the dissemination of knowledge, we cannot ignore the challenges posed by some people's transformation of these platforms into tools for sowing division and hatred, spreading rumors and misleading news, and targeting the stability and cohesion of societies."

He called for the creation of a joint Arab legislative system that prevents the misuse of these platforms, establishes the values of social responsibility, and protects freedom of expression from vulgarity and absurdity.

He added the Arab region is undergoing a pivotal phase characterized by rapid changes and intertwined challenges affecting various sectors. He said the biggest of these challenges is the unprecedented openness of the digital space, which has imposed a new reality that requires media institutions to review their tools and discourse.

He explained that the ability to persuade is no longer measured by the abundance of content; but rather by its depth, authenticity and relevance to the pulse of the public, especially in light of the fact that electronic platforms are attracting a wide segment of followers due to their ease of access and smooth presentation.

He emphasized that this phase requires a renewed media discourse combining professionalism and flexibility, balancing openness to modern technologies with the preservation of authentic values, and enabling the media to regain its position as a reliable source, a creator of awareness, and an influencer of public opinion, rather than a mere transmitter of events.

Challenges

He asserted that rebuilding a responsible media capable of communicating and competing is no longer an option, but an urgent necessity imposed by the challenges and changes of the times.

Moreover, Secretary General of the forum Madi Al Khamis disclosed that "since the inception of the forum in 2003, we have sought to create an independent media entity capable of shouldering the burdens of Arab media at present and in the future. Through the forum's status as an observer member of the Permanent Committee for Media and the Council of Arab Information Ministers at the League of Arab States, and through a strong strategic partnership with the Media and Communications Sector at the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States, we have had many accomplishments and organized numerous activities and events."

He expressed his happiness that the UAE and its distinguished media are the guests of honor at the forum this year, as well as in cooperating with the UAE-based Arab Thought and Culture Forum.

LOCAL

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Khor Abdullah ... a done deal; Iraqi 'khawsats' don't matter

"AS I watch the images of the 'haw-sats' (traditional tribal chants) that Iraqis, especially those from the southern tribes, perform during special occasions in Iraq, which is a land of prosperity, oil, rivers, seas, smart people, and fertile soil, I recall the words of their great poet, Mohammad Mahdi Al-Jawahiri, who described Iraq as: 'I greeted your slope from afar, so greet me ... O Tigris of goodness, O mother of gardens.' This is the Iraq that has borne and endured all kinds of calamities over thousands of years, afflicted by ignorant, criminal, and selfish rulers. The latest of these criminals was Saddam Hussein from Al-Awja, along with his sons Uday and Qusay, and his brothers Hassan al-Majid, Ibrahim, and Watban. Thank God, others who harmed Iraq have been removed from existence", Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Hassan Ali Karam

"To this day, Iraq's people continue to pay the price for rulers who had no regard for their citizens. While the country is in what should be its best era, with a civilizational constitution, a parliament, a constitutional government, and a strong economy, five million Iraqis remain refugees due to their lack of trust in their government.

"Meanwhile, Kuwait has always stood as a brother to Iraq, shouldering far more than the Iraqis themselves have endured under a despotic, tyrannical, ignorant ruler when Saddam invaded Kuwait. The consequences of his foolishness affected not just himself and his family, but the entire region.

"The Iraqis and Kuwaitis have paid the price for the foolishness of a tyrannical, ignorant, and criminal ruler, a fugitive and outcast from prisons.

"Despite the fall of the Ba'athist dictatorship, there are still some who hope for its return, despite its unforgivable crimes. There are still remnants of Baathists and Saddam's orphans, like Amer Abdul-Jabbar, Wael Abdul-Latif, and others - former lackeys and followers of the Ba'ath Party - who incite the Iraqi street, not against Kuwait, which they see as a golden card that could help them secure a parliamentary seat. Of course, not to serve Iraq or Iraqis, but to fill their bellies with billions stolen from the pockets and mouths of the poor and deprived.

"In my opinion, Iraq and its neighbors will never find peace as long as even one Ba'athist still breathes. The so-called Wael Abdul-Latif, a judge during Saddam's era, continues to speak ignorantly, and in his ignorance, he claims that Kuwait was once a small village and that Iraq's borders stretched to Al-Mutlaa, where passports were stamped at the Al-Mutlaa border crossing. Is this the level of knowledge from a judge who decides people's fates? Oh, Your Honor, and the one who claims to deliver justice, Al-Mutlaa is Kuwaiti land, and an inseparable part of Kuwaiti territory. However, when an ignorant person takes the podium, then the people are doomed.

"Before Kuwait's independence, there were two areas that separated Kuwait from Iraq and Saudi Arabia. These areas, shaped like a triangle, were known as the neutral zone, which separated Kuwait from both Iraq and Saudi Arabia. After independence, Kuwait's borders were redrawn in 1964 with Saudi Arabia and in 1963 with Iraq, dividing the neutral border zone between Kuwait, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Therefore, Kuwait returned to its legal borders, which remain in place today.

"Iraq is heading toward parliamentary elections scheduled for November, and Kuwait remains a card for some ignorant and illiterate people to bet on in hopes of winning a parliamentary seat, filling their bellies with dollars, purchasing palaces and luxury cars, and enjoying European vacations at the expense of Iraq's poor.

"The President of Iraq and Prime Minister Mohammad Shia' al-Sudani recently took action by sending two memos to the Constitutional Court, challenging its ruling on the issue of Khor Abdullah. However, the head of the court said in a press interview, 'The rejection is not about the division of the Khor between Kuwait and Iraq, but about the number of parliamentary votes, as two-thirds of the council's members should have voted.'

"However, the question remains: 'Why did the appeal come so late, with the parliamentary elections just around the corner?'

"As for Khor Abdullah, for Kuwait, it is a settled case with an international decision from the highest authority in the world. What is happening on the streets of Iraq, with the 'haw-sats', is just noise, motivated by the value of the dollars that have made their way into the pockets of the poor.

"Kuwait feels pride and honor in seeing young Iraqi visitors wandering through Kuwait's markets, malls, and tourist sites, and interacting with their Kuwaiti brothers and sisters with kindness and respect. How beautiful it is when a person keeps their mind intact and does not indulge in ignorance and

foolishness. These young people from both countries represent a pure, clean foundation for the future generation of both nations.

"It is easy to buy some people, but it is impossible to buy everyone. Kuwait and Iraq remain brothers despite the noise of the foolish, the remnants of the Baathists, and Saddam's orphans."

Also:

"Kuwait Airways, our national carrier that represents us at airports around the world, does not seem to be reaching the level of success we had hoped for. For decades, Kuwait Airways has struggled, constantly overcoming one issue only to face another, particularly with recent challenges regarding its administration", columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Despite the generous subsidies provided by the government, Kuwait Airways continues to lag behind its counterparts in the Gulf. We had hoped that the privatization law for Kuwait Airways would bring about change, but it has been met with obstacles and delays. Similarly, we were optimistic that expanding the passenger terminals would enhance Kuwait's air transport capabilities, but that has not materialized. In fact, several international airlines have withdrawn from the Kuwaiti market, adding insult to injury, while continuing to operate in neighboring countries.

"If such withdrawals continue, what will become of the long-awaited new airport? The truth is, we don't know how long Kuwait Airways can remain in its current state without making any significant progress, especially with the intense competition in global air transport and the substantial developments taking place in organization, management, policies, and fleet in the industry. This situation demands a bold decision. 'Undoubtedly, the issue extends beyond the limited capacity of our national carrier to include other critical factors. Do we possess the economic, investment, and tourism appeal needed to boost air traffic and stimulate activity at our international airport?'

"Unfortunately, we find no positive answer to this question, especially when considering that Kuwait Airways currently ranks 62nd on the Resilience Index (shock resilience).

"This low ranking reflects our limited ability to address the deteriorating infrastructure and service facilities, particularly issues like poor roads, limited electricity supply, environmental pollution, and other factors. These shortcomings undermine the attractiveness we need to push for growth.

"Therefore, the issue extends beyond the chronic problems facing our national carrier, as it expands to weak appeal and reduced flexibility. Solving one part of the problem must be viewed as part of a broader solution. The main reasons for airlines withdrawing from the local market stem from a loss of attractiveness and decreased flexibility."

□ □ □

"It is unreasonable for Kuwait to go a single day without a local print newspaper. I disagree with those who claim that online newspapers and social media platforms are a sufficient alternative for the print versions. There will always be loyal readers who enjoy the experience of a physical newspaper and the variety of local content it offers. For this reason, we urge the owners of local newspapers to reconsider their decision and resume publishing at least one or two print editions every Saturday", columnist Sheikh **Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"On another note, every hospital has a reception desk that is responsible for guiding visitors to different departments and helping them locate patients, including floor, ward, or room number. Unfortunately, some hospital receptionists lack this basic knowledge and are unable to



Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber

confirm whether a patient is even admitted to their facility.

"Cooperative societies typically have several cashier counters, including one designated for customers with no more than eight or nine items. The purpose of this express lane is to speed up the checkout process, allowing quick purchases without waiting behind customers with full carts.

"Unfortunately, this system is often ignored. Shoppers with overloaded carts frequently use the express counters, and the cashiers fail to enforce the item limit. Responsible officials are nowhere to be found, and this leads to ongoing disorder.

"It is ironic that many citizens who disregard rules at home in Kuwait strictly follow them when abroad.

"If someone belittles you, don't give them your attention or seek their approval. Simply walk away and leave them to God.

"Some people disappear in good times and only show up when times are tough - that's life in a nutshell.

"May God protect Kuwait and its people from all evil and harm."

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



KFF photo
Kuwait's Director of the Training Department Brigadier Hamad Mohammad Abdullah is presented a shield by the Director General of the National Civil Protection Office in Tunisia Major General Abdessamad Ben Jeddou.

KFF takes part in civil protection Tunisia ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) participated in the graduation ceremony of the 9th Applied Course for Civil Protection Officers and the 5th Course for Civil Protection Sergeants, held in the Republic of Tunisia and named in honor of Martyr Warrant Officer Ali Al-Riyahi.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the Kuwaiti delegation was led by Director of the Training Department Brigadier Hamad Mohammad Abdullah.

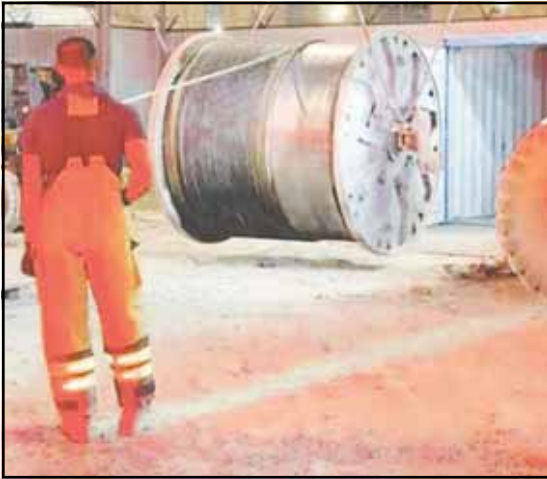
During the visit, the delegation met with Director General of the National Civil Protection Office in Tunisia Major General Abdessamad Ben Jeddou.

The two sides discussed areas of mutual interest in firefighting, rescue operations, and fire prevention.

The Kuwaiti delegation also delivered to Major General Ben Jeddou a written message from Head of KFF Lieutenant General Talal Mohammed Al-Roumi.

Customs seizes 3,591 liquor bottles hidden in container

Suspect detained for probe



Liquor hidden in cable roles



Al-Seyassah photos
The liquor confiscated

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: General Administration for Customs announced the thwarting of an attempt to smuggle into the country a total of 3,591 bottles of liquor that were hidden inside a 20-foot container that arrived from another country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the administration explained that the container, which was declared to contain spools of steel cables, was thoroughly inspected in coordination with the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF). Upon removing the cable rolls, inspectors uncovered the concealed liquor bottles.



Damage caused by the fire.

KFF rescues 8 persons as fire engulfs house

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: A total of eight individuals were rescued from a house in Mishref that was engulfed in flames on Sunday.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from Qurain and Mishref fire stations rushed to the location promptly, extinguished the fire, and rescued the eight individuals without any reported injuries.

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Fire in printing press: Fire broke out Saturday morning in the basement of a printing press in Shuwaikh Industrial Area. No casualties were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighters from Shuwaikh Industrial Area and Al-Shaheed fire stations quickly arrived at the location and extinguished the fire within a short time.

Fire leads to power cuts in Salwa, Al-Bidaa areas

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy spokesperson Fatima Hayat announced that a fire broke out at 11:28 pm on Saturday in several low-voltage feeder cells at the Salwa (D) main transformer station, causing the station to go out of service and resulting in an estimated 36-megawatt power loss, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She explained that the incident led to power cuts in parts of Salwa and Al-Bidaa. Emergency response teams from the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the Ministry of Interior, and emergency teams from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy responded immediately and took the necessary steps to contain the fire. There were no casualties, with damage limited to material losses. The fire was fully extinguished by 1:03 am on Sunday.

Efforts are currently underway to inspect the station's equipment, restore operations, and connect mobile generators to fully resume power supply to affected customers.

Kuwaiti, expat held with drugs

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: A 40-year-old citizen was arrested for the possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia, as well as an expatriate for the possession of a used cigarette containing marijuana, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Farwaniya Governorate support patrols, acting on the instruction of Farwaniya Security Directorate Director General Brigadier General Mohammad Mutlaq to arrest anyone involved in drug use or trafficking, nabbed the citizen who had drugs and drug paraphernalia in his possession.

A security source disclosed that officers from the Public Security Support Sector in Farwaniya Governorate got suspicious of the citizen due to the erratic movement of his vehicle. When they signaled for him stop, they noticed his confused demeanor. While scrutinizing his identification card, the officers found a small bag that turned out to be containing cocaine. He was referred to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) in the Interior Ministry, along with the confiscated items.

The officers also arrested an expatriate for the possession of a used marijuana cigarette. He was referred to the DCGD, pending deportation.

Police arrest cable thieves

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Acting Director General of the Ahmadi Security Directorate Brigadier General Hassanein Dashti has ordered the referral of four expatriates to the Anti-Money Laundering Crimes Department as they were found to be in possession of stolen electrical cables and equipment, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, a patrol unit from the directorate, while conducting a routine tour in Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area, got suspicious of a half-lorry with two expatriates visible in the front cabin. The patrol officers signaled for the driver to stop due to suspected signs of intoxication.

Upon stopping and inspecting the vehicle, officers discovered two expatriates hiding in the cabin, along with a quantity of stolen electrical cables, equipment and a transformer. During initial questioning, all four individuals confessed to stealing the items found in their possession.

In a related development, the deputy public prosecutor ordered the registration of a felony theft case -- classified under 'theft by severance' -- by the Ministry of Electricity. The case, filed as No. 30/2025 under Al-Mutlaa Felonies, was filed in response to the report of a citizen acting on behalf of the ministry.

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Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets the Malta ambassador.



Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives the South Korean ambassador.

Farwaniya Gov. hosts S. Korean, Malta ambassadors in his office

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received recently the Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Kuwait Prof. Dr. George Saeed Zammit for a friendly meeting aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the two parties exchanged cordial discussions and highlighted several topics of mutual interest during the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Zammit expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the governor for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, and wished continued progress and

prosperity for Kuwait.

Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah also received the Ambassador of South Korea to Kuwait Park Chung-suk.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the two officials exchanged friendly discussions during the meeting and explored ways to further develop their bilateral relations.

Sheikh Athbi praised the strong ties between Kuwait and South Korea, and Ambassador Park expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality he received. He also wished for continued security and stability for Kuwait.

‘Declare Dasman Palace historic site’

Municipal Council Monday session agenda loaded

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Muhri, will hold its 18th regular session for the third term on Monday.

The council will discuss several items on its agenda as follows:

- Expropriation of the Dasman Palace site, described as Plot No. 15, located in Block Two in Dasman area, and its registration as an archaeological site and historic building in the National Register of Historic Buildings in the State of Kuwait.
- Allocation of a 10,000-square-meter portion of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy site in the central area -- North Subhan -- for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry building.
- Request of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate a 625-square-meter mosque site and 1,100-square-meter parking space in Messilah, Block Seven.
- Request of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) to amend the schedule of requirements and specifications for the establishment of public radio stations.
- Amendment of the decision that the council issued on July 10, 2023; approving the donation of Al-Shaah National Real Estate Company for the construction of a multi-storey parking building and beautification of the adjacent public spaces in Sharq, Block Seven.
- Request of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate a 400-square-meter mosque site and 700-square-meter parking space in Abdally Agricultural Area, Block Six.
- Request of the Ministry of Justice to renew the allocation of land for the Family Court building in Granada, Capital Governorate.
- Request of the Ministry of Interior to deduct a 3,000-square-meter portion of its site in Block G1 and reallocate it for the main transformer station of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.
- Request of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to cancel the decision on allocating the site of the old Shuwaikh Police Station in the Third Shuwaikh Area to the authority.
- Proposal of council member Waleed Al-Dagher to create an entrance to Mutlaa City.

Number of disability cases has reached almost 69,000 – PADA

18,000 suffer from mental disorders: report

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The latest statistics of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) revealed that the number of disability cases of various categories registered at the authority has reached 68,739, reports Al-Anba daily.

The authority gave a breakdown of the cases per category as follows: 17,939 mental disabilities (the largest number); 15,228 mobility disabilities; 11,978 physical disabilities; 7,778 learning disabilities; 5,505 hearing disabilities; 5,390 visual disabilities; 2,534

psychological disabilities; 1,897 developmental disabilities and 495 unspecified cases.

A source from the authority disclosed that the requirements for opening a file for different disability cases include the following:

- Latest medical report from a government hospital;
- Valid civil identification card of the applicant;
- Civil identification cards and birth certificates of parents if the applicant is below 21 years old;
- If the applicant is a Bedoun, copy of a valid security card showing the civil identification number and birth certificate if the applicant is a Bedoun child;

- If the applicant is a non-Kuwaiti with a Kuwaiti mother; birth certificate, civil identification and nationality cards of the mother, and the latest medical report in Arabic or English (should not more than one year old) from a government hospital;
- For hearing impairment cases, latest hearing test (not older than three to six months), attending physician's comments and signature on the OAE & ABR-TEST - Diagnosis and Speech Test;
- For hearing and visual impairment cases; medical report, hearing impairment diagnosis and a completed hearing committee form;
- For those with learning and psychological disabilities; medical report from a government hospital or from a center

accredited by PADA, a psychological report, an intelligence test and reports sent by schools to the Education Department;

- For those with developmental disabilities aged five to six years: latest medical report and Stanford Test;
- For those with developmental disabilities aged three to 12: latest medical report or a developmental medicine report not more than one year old and valid civil identification card.

The source added that the service for opening a medical file for the first time is available year-round, indicating all documents should be submitted to the headquarters of PADA, along with a telephone number for communication and for sending messages regarding committee appointments.



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KUNA photo
Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Secretary General of the GCC Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

GCC unity stressed

Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday Secretary General of the GCC Jassem Al-Budaiwi. A statement by the KNG said that Sheikh Mubarak Al-Humoud stressed the importance of coordinating efforts with the GCC to achieve more unity amongst Gulf countries and coordinate efforts.

He stressed that such cooperation would reinforce regional security and enable Kuwait and Gulf countries to fend off dangers. (KUNA)

News in Brief

KD 400 bonus for exam-helpers

Raids conducted in Bneider, Julai'a

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: The Ahmadi Security Directorate recently launched a large-scale security campaign in Bneider and Julai'a.

This campaign resulted in the arrest of 16 persons wanted by law, including individuals found to be in an abnormal condition, those who violated the Residency Law and those who were reported absconding by their employers. All the arrested individuals were referred to the concerned authorities.

According to a security source, security personnel assigned in Bneider and Julai'a set up checkpoints that led to the arrest of the abovementioned individuals; as well as the impoundment of two vehicles -- one was used in a theft case and another in a breach of trust case.

The source said the campaign included the removal of nine food trucks and eight unlicensed camping sites in coordination with Kuwait Municipality.

The source affirmed that these security campaigns are ongoing throughout the country in order to track down those who violated the laws of the country.

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Bonus for school staff: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved a one-time bonus of KD400 for employees who participated in preparing for the 2024/2025 school year, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an official letter to the Ministry of Education, the CSC confirmed the approval of the bonus in response to the ministry's request. The bonus will be granted to ministry employees who were part of the school year preparation and resumption teams in public, private and specialized schools.

The bonus will be paid to staff at 969 schools -- three employees per school -- along with 100 employees at the head office tasked with overseeing preparations for the academic year. These employees began their work on Aug 11, 2024; continuing until the start of the new school year.

The CSC reviewed the list of beneficiaries and approved the bonus in recognition of the employees' efforts during their assignment.

Sources revealed that about 3,007 employees are eligible for the bonus, with the total cost estimated at KD1,202,800. Sources affirmed that the concerned teams exerted tremendous efforts to ensure the successful resumption of the academic year.

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Transfer, reshuffle: Coinciding with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's cancellation of several recent transfer and reshuffling decisions due to the Civil Service Commission's refusal to approve them for legal violations, Acting Undersecretary Marwa Al-Jaidan issued a ministerial decision to transfer Faisal Al-Ansari to the Control and Inspection Department and Fahd Al-Hajri to the Consumer Protection Department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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CSC services automation: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) recently announced the automation of six services on its integrated system in order to ease procedures and move toward the realization of its vision to conduct 'paperless' transactions, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, the CSC disclosed that the recently automated services include the amendment of employment status, appointment, external transfer, calculation of work experience, changing job titles and settling end-of-service benefits.

Innovation showcased at exhibition

Kuwait sets 2050 target for 50% renewable energy use

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Resources Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem said on Sunday that Kuwait has set priority in renewable energy, eyeing a 50 percent of electricity usage by 2050.

This came in the minister’s speech to the Kuwait Sustainable Energy Conference and Accompanying Exhibition, which kicked off today and will conclude on May 13.

Kuwait’s organizing of the conference coincided with its hosting of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), which reflects trust in Kuwait’s renewable energy capabilities, said the minister.

He added that the environmental and economic challenges facing the world required investment in renewable energy, affirming that such venture was a must and a necessity.

He affirmed that Kuwait continued developing eco-friendly projects using clean energy, saying that his country sought regional and international partnerships within this frame.

Minister Al-Mukhaizeem called on the world to adopt a unified strategy based on cooperation and exchange of expertise to find practical and innovative solutions for cleaner energy resources.

For his part, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the RCREEE Ahmad Al-Dosari affirmed that the current conference was an important stop for discussions on renewable energy resources.

Kuwait’s hosting of the event reflected its stature within this domain, he added, commending the Gulf country for its efforts within renewable energy, which was part of Kuwait Vision 2035 for development.

Meanwhile, representative of the Arab League Secretary General and head of its energy department Dr. Bahjat Abul-Nasr said that the conference was a chance for regional and international partners to exchange views and ideas on renewable energy usage.

He affirmed that the Arab League would provide its support to make this conference a success, saying that such support would be reflected in the adjacent workshops and training courses held on the sideline of the event.

For his part, Dr. Grammenos Mastrojeni, Senior Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, said renewable energy was not only a measure reflecting respect to the environment it was a way to help sustain the world and protect it from climate change.

Continued from Page 1

Most Zakat

some of whom are in prison, including mothers and housewives who were deceived. I have repeatedly stressed that these individuals are the most deserving of donations, as they are our closest in terms of kinship, neighborliness, citizenship, and other social considerations.

Debtors are indeed entitled to benefit from zakat funds. I commend the campaign launched by the Minister of Social Affairs to support debtors; however, the campaign is insufficient, as it is seasonal and lacks permanence.

Meanwhile, the Zakat House oversees projects that invest the enormous sums donated annually by individuals and companies. The problem lies in how these funds are distributed. Rather than directing them toward transnational charitable projects, it would be better to allocate them within Kuwait.

There are tens of thousands of citizens who wish to pay zakat sincerely, seeking reward from God, and not wanting their donations to end up serving specific political agendas.

Many charitable societies, committees, and friendship organizations in Kuwait continue to direct donation funds abroad, while debtors and the needy within the country are excluded from support.

The growing number of individuals who have had their Kuwaiti citizenship revoked, including mothers and widows of Kuwaiti citizens, stresses the urgent need to prioritize the distribution of zakat funds within Kuwait. Many of these individuals are in desperate need of assistance to sustain their lives.

What is striking is the misuse of zakat funds, as a large portion is being spent on the comfort and privileges of the officials tasked with collecting and managing the funds. Lavish office furnishings and travel expenses often take priority, despite regulations stating that no more than 20 percent of zakat funds should be allocated for administrative purposes.

Meanwhile, many truly needy individuals receive only minimal assistance after navigating a difficult and often humiliating process. In stark contrast, the Zakat House grants large sums, ranging from KD 3,000 to KD 5,000, to individuals with connections. This imbalance is akin to offering a starving person a mere morsel while laying out full platters of food for someone already well-fed.

Laws and legislation enacted under pressure from wealthy and influential individuals seeking to keep citizens under the hammer of poverty have only worsened the situation.

Official state institutions have become some kind of agents collecting money on behalf of usurers and financial tycoons, something unheard of anywhere else in the world but in Kuwait.

The Minister of Social Affairs made a commendable decision by halting the collection of donations through charitable committees, as directing these funds to support those in need within Kuwait is now more effective.

However, this does not absolve the state of its responsibility to solve the issues of debtors and the needy. A permanent campaign must be activated to end this crisis and protect many segments of society from disintegration. Achieving this goal is possible with strong will and genuine commitment.

Kuwait’s Mol

Sheikh Hisham highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Bahrain and Kuwait, and underscored the Ministry’s commitment to strengthening and expanding cooperation, particularly in security and administrative matters related to border control, in line with shared strategic priorities.

He also stressed the importance of sharing expertise experiences to support digital transformation, improve institutional performance, and enhance services for citizens and residents.

The Kuwaiti delegation made a field visit to Khalifa bin Salman Port, Bahrain International Airport, and the King Fahd Causeway, where they were briefed on operations and the modern technologies used in border management.

This visit comes as part of ongoing cooperation between the interior ministries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, to advance regional security integration, supporting joint Gulf efforts, and reinforcing effective partnerships, particularly in areas related to border security and the facilitation of associated procedures.

Legal hammer

and the resulting harm, including injuries and fatalities.

The amendments also seek to protect the credit industry against debtors who manipulate their financial standing in order to falsely portray themselves as insolvent.

Manslaughter and unintentional injury offenses have not been amended since the enactment of the Penal Code in 1960, which lacks monetary penalties or the introduction of aggravating factors.

This is notable considering the failure of individuals to exercise due diligence and foresee the consequences of their actions, particularly those resulting in multiple fatalities or permanent disabilities.

The current legal framework does not adequately differentiate between varying degrees of culpability.

Therefore, the proposed legislation aims to increase the maximum fine stipulated in articles 154 and 164, and to include the violation of legal statutes as an additional form of negligence in articles 154, 164 and 44 (Paragraph One); thereby, resolving ambiguity regarding its omission.

Furthermore, the draft law incorporates two new articles -- 154bis and 164bis, addressing aggravated circumstances for manslaughter and unintentional injury.

These circumstances are classified into three categories: first, those related to the severity of the negligence; second, those related to the severity of the resulting harm; and third, those involving a combination of factors related to the severity of the negligence and severity of harm.

Following are the circumstances attributable to the seriousness of the error:

1. The perpetrator is using an intoxicating, narcotic, psychotropic substance or any other substance that affects a person’s natural faculties, and is under its influence and commits the act described as a mistake. The reason for considering it serious is that intoxication, anesthesia or influencing the mind or any other faculties involved in directing the will reduces awareness and weakens a person’s control over his will; thereby, diminishing the ability of the accused to take precautionary measures that, had they been followed, would not have led to his act. It goes without saying that the text does not apply to someone who uses these substances by force or without knowledge, as this would constitute one of the reasons preventing liability stipulated in Article 23 of the Penal Code.
2. The aggravating circumstance is present if the accused, at the time of committing the crime, refrains or neglects to assist the victim in any way, including requesting assistance. This circumstance assumes that the accused was able to prevent the criminal outcome, either by his own means or by seeking assistance from others, but failed to do so, showed disregard for the criminal outcome or neglected to take the necessary action to assist. The aggravating circumstance is justified by the fact that the accused added a second error to his first mistake -- his failure to prevent the harmful effects of his sinful conduct.

Circumstances related to the seriousness of the criminal outcome: These are either multiple victims in the crime of unintentional murder, or if the action of the accused resulted in injury or permanent disability to two or more people. Although multiple victims in the crime of unintentional murder or accidental injury are likely to lead to multiple crimes committed by the perpetrator, the draft law deemed the addition of multiple victims as an aggravating circumstance, which prevents multiple crimes in this case, and thus, dealing with a single crime with multiple victims.

Circumstances that result from the combination of more than one aggravating situation: This is the case if two or more of the circumstances mentioned in Articles 154bis and 164 bis are present.

On the crimes of debtors evading payment, the draft introduced a new clause in Chapter Three (Crimes against Property, Book Three, Crimes against Individuals) of the Penal Code, entitled “Debtor Evasion of Payment.” It added four new articles -- from 283 to 286 -- relating to a debtor who manipulates his financial position and presents himself as insolvent, with the intent to evade payment of his debts established by executive instruments, or to dispose of them at less than the market value, by a significant and unforgivable margin.

The draft also provides criminal protection for the debtor’s assets that are transferred or delivered to other parties, with knowledge of the debt established by the executive instrument and take enforcement measures to recover it, with the intent of enabling the debtor to fail to pay his debts, even if these parties are his spouse, ascendants or descendants, except the persons under the debtor’s guardianship or trusteeship, as liability does not extend to them; given that the management of their assets is entrusted to the debtor.

It stipulates the effect of debt settlement on criminal proceedings, reconciliation procedures and pardons issued by the creditor.

It mandates the Public Prosecution to investigate, dispose of and prosecute in these cases.

It affirms the protection of individuals’ lives and credit operations in the country, clearly defines the crimes associated with the accompanying draft law to reprimand those who dare to violate its provisions, and to achieve a balance between protecting the interests of society and guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of individuals.

The draft law will be implemented one month after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette, in accordance with the Article 178 of the Constitution.

Amir leads

President Aoun is accompanied by an official delegation that includes Minister

of Foreign Affairs Youssef Rajji and a number of senior officials of Lebanon.

Lebanon’s President Joseph Aoun on Sunday extolled Beirut’s “deep-rooted” relations with Kuwait, saying these ties are based on mutual respect and cooperation across various fields.

Expressing his “pleasure” to answer His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah’s invitation, the Lebanese president told KUNA that his official visit to Kuwait typified the “historic and brotherly” relations that Kuwait and Beirut share.

He went on to say that the Lebanese people were immensely grateful for Kuwait’s persistent support, particularly at a time where Beirut was in the throes of adversity, citing that his visit should give impetus to a raft of fresh bilateral agreements.

On what issues he plans on discussing with His Highness the Amir, the Lebanese president said that existential challenges amid “trying circumstances” and matters of mutual concern were on top of the agenda.

The Lebanese president’s visit to Kuwait should be instrumental in ushering in new growth in bilateral relations, while paving the way for broader cooperation between the two nations, he added.

When one mentions the relations between the State of Kuwait and the Lebanese Republic, they could visualize ties that bind the two peoples historically on multifaceted levels.

The two Arab countries had solidified their ties since the 1920s and 40s and through a number of high-level meetings and visits, which began in the early 1960s when Lebanon established a non-resident embassy in Kuwait in December of 1962 and officially opened its embassy in 1964.

Kuwait had opened its first embassy in 1962 and had its first Ambassador, Mohammad Al-Ghanim, supervise Kuwaiti diplomatic connections with the Lebanese government.

Perhaps the true test of ties was in 1990 during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait when Lebanon took a firm stance against the heinous act, calling for an immediate withdrawal of the invading troops.

Prior to that, Kuwait stood in solidarity with Lebanon during its darkest hours of the civil war, with the former country heading in 1988 a six-party Arab League Committee that paved the way for the national reconciliation document and the end of the war via the Taif agreement.

On high state visits, in 1993, late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited Lebanon on August 24, 1993, the first GCC leader to visit Lebanon since the civil war began there in 1975.

This visit also displayed Kuwait’s gratitude to the Lebanese people who stood in support of Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion. In 1996 also, the Crown

Prince and later father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah visited to display similar sentiments.

In May of 2010, late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah went to Lebanon on an official visit, signing six agreements to expand cooperation on various levels.

In 2018, former President Michael Aoun came to Kuwait, holding talks with then Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and a number of Kuwaiti officials.

Economically, Kuwait and Lebanon have distinct levels of relations, signing a variety of accords throughout the decades.

In 2018, the Kuwaiti-Lebanese business personnel economic committee was established to promote business and commerce, and also the Lebanese business council in Kuwait was establish, hosting a number of key investors and businessmen.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) contributed to the development of Lebanon, providing grants and loans to develop agriculture and infrastructural projects.

Kuwait had also provided support to Lebanon through numerous conferences including the CEDRE conference to support the Lebanese economy, hosted in Paris in April 2018 in which Kuwait offered a grant of USD 500 million.

Kuwait, DCO

backing digital transformation in line with Kuwait’s 2035 development vision.

She added that the meeting reflects Kuwait’s status as a regional hub for digital investments and developed technological infrastructure, stressing that it is essential to have continued cooperation with the DCO, given that Kuwait is now its current chair.

The Kuwaiti minister noted that this strategic partnership would contribute to bolstering financial innovation and creating an attractive investment atmosphere for member states’ entrepreneurs and digital startups.

Kuwait cyber

He pointed out that the exercise focuses on countering virtual cyberattacks targeting technical operating systems (OT) and information technology systems, simulating real threat scenarios to enhance the readiness of cybersecurity teams in the GCC countries.

He added that the number of participants in the exercise amounted to about 30 specialists from various cybersecurity bodies and institutions in the GCC.

Excellence highlights Kuwait’s leading position in robotics, programming

Education minister lauds students’ global robotics success

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei expressed great pride on Sunday in the outstanding achievements recently made by the Ministry of Education students in an international robotics award.

In a press release, Al-Tabtabaei extended his congratulations to the Faltech Robotics team for winning the Judges’ Award at the 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship after delivering an exceptional performance, and to the students of Umm Kalthum Bint Mohammad Middle School for winning the Best Theatrical Idea Award.

He noted that the team’s excellence at the VEX Championship, despite intense competition from over 1,200 teams representing 60 countries, demonstrates Kuwait’s leading position in robotics and programming.

Al-Tabtabaei also praised the educational staff who trained and guided the students.

Kuwait’s Faltech team, affiliated with the Women’s Cultural and Social Association, won on Friday the judges’ award for the High School category of the 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship, held annually in Texas, USA.

The success of the Kuwaiti team came as a result of cooperation between Kuwait University (KU), the Public Authority for Youth, and the Ministry of Education, alongside strategic support from private sector partners Zain and Al-Sayer Group, said a joint statement by KU and the Public Authority for Youth.

The statement pointed out that the judges’ Award is granted in recognition to teams that have demonstrated exceptional team spirit, ability to overcome challenges, and excellence in oral presentation or engineering ability.

A similar robotics competition for elementary school students is expected to take place next week in Texas, with a Kuwaiti team participating for the first time.

KU and the Public Authority for Youth congratulated the team on their well-deserved victory and expressed pride in how they represented Kuwaiti youth on a global scale.

Approximately 1,200 teams from 60 countries around the world will compete in the 2025 competition.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Faltech Robotics team proudly holds the Kuwait flag after winning the Judges' Award at the 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship.

egory for the 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship, held annually in Texas, USA.

The success of the Kuwaiti team came as a result

Kuwait’s Dr Al-Hlaili shines in US with honorary medal

KUWAIT CITY, May 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced on Thursday that the Kuwaiti researcher Dr. Badria Al-Hlaili was granted the honorary medal from the US State of Louisiana.

The medal was accorded to Dr. Al-Hlaili by the State Mayor-President Monique Blanco Boulet in appreciation of her effective role and distinguished humanitarian and scientific contributions as a member of the jurists committee at the 50th annual convention of the American-Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences (ARA) -- organized in collaboration with the university in Lafayette region.

KISR said in a press release on Thursday that Dr. Hlaili’s honoring depicted the high-esteem status of the Kuwaiti researcher who has also earned the ARA award of excellence.

This accomplishment adds to the achievements of the skilled Kuwaiti cadres who have been closely looked after by the political leadership.

The convention, held in Louisiana on April 28-29 that had drawn elite researchers, academics of various specialties, aimed at boosting expertise swap among scientists from various corners of the globe.



Dr Al-Hlaili

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Move would be aimed at migrants

WH mulls suspending constitutional right of habeas corpus to speed deportations

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP): White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller says US President Donald Trump is looking for ways to expand its legal power to deport migrants who are in the United States illegally. To achieve that, he says the administration is “actively looking at” suspending habeas corpus, the constitutional right for people to legally challenge their detention by the government.

Such a move would be aimed at migrants as part of the Republican president’s broader crackdown at the US-Mexico border.

“The Constitution is clear, and that of course is the supreme law of the land, that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus can be suspended in a time of invasion,” Miller told reporters outside the White House on Friday.

“So, I would say that’s an option we’re actively looking at,” Miller said. “Look, a lot of it depends on whether the courts do the right thing or not.”

The Latin term means “that you have the body.” Federal courts use a writ of habeas corpus to bring a prisoner before a neutral judge to determine if imprisonment is legal. Habeas corpus was included in the Constitution as an import from English common law. Parliament enacted the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, which was meant to ensure that the king released prisoners when the law did not justify confining them.

The Constitution’s Suspension Clause, the second clause of Section 9 of Article I, states that habeas corpus “shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.”

Yes. The United States has suspended habeas corpus under four distinct circumstances during its history. Those usually involved authorization from Congress, something that would be nearly impossible today - even at Trump’s urging - given the narrow Republican majorities in the House and Senate.

President Abraham Lincoln suspended habeas corpus multiple times amid the Civil War, beginning in 1861 to detain suspected spies and Confederate sympathizers. He ignored a ruling from Roger Taney, who was the Supreme Court chief justice but was acting in the case as a circuit judge. Congress then authorized suspending it in 1863, which allowed Lincoln to do so again.

Congress acted similarly under President Ulysses S. Grant, suspending habeas



Terrell County Sheriff Thaddeus Cleveland, (right), speaks to a recently detained migrant from Mexico, as Sgt. Manuel Jimenez looks on, at the Terrell County Sheriff's Office, March 21, 2024, in Sanderson, Texas. (AP)

corpus in parts of South Carolina under the Civil Rights Act of 1871. Also known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, it was meant to counter violence and intimidation of groups opposing Reconstruction in the South.

Habeas corpus was suspended in two provinces of the Philippines in 1905, when it was a US territory and authorities were worried about the threat of an insurrection, and in Hawaii after the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, but before it became a state in 1959.

Writing before becoming a Supreme Court justice, Amy Coney Barrett co-authored a piece stating that the Suspension Clause “does not specify which branch of government has the authority to suspend the privilege of the writ, but most agree that only Congress can do it.”

It can try. Miller suggested that the U.S. is facing “an invasion” of migrants. That term was used deliberately, though any effort to suspend habeas corpus would spark legal challenges questioning whether the country was facing an invasion, let alone presenting extraordinary threats to public safety.

Federal judges have so far been skeptical of the Trump administration’s past efforts to use extraordinary powers to make deportations easier, and that could make suspending habeas corpus even tougher.

Trump argued in March that the U.S. was facing an “invasion” of Venezuelan gang members and evoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, a wartime authority he has tried to use to speed up mass deportations.

His administration acted to swiftly deport alleged members of Tren de Aragua to a notorious prison in El Salvador, leading to a series of legal fights.

Federal courts around the country, including in New York, Colorado, Texas and Pennsylvania, have since blocked the administration’s uses of the Alien Enemies Act for many reasons, including amid questions about whether the country is truly facing an invasion.

Miller, who has been fiercely critical of judges ruling against the administration, advanced the argument that the judicial branch may not get to decide.

“Congress passed a body of law known as the Immigration Nationality Act which stripped Article III courts, that’s the judicial branch, of jurisdiction over immigration cases,” he said Friday.

That statute was approved by Congress in 1952 and there were important amendments in 1996 and 2005. Legal scholars note that it does contain language that could funnel certain cases to immigration courts, which are overseen by the executive branch. Still, most appeals in those cases would largely be handled by the judicial branch, and they could run into the same issues as Trump’s attempts to use the Alien Enemies Act.



The gold dome of the Georgia Capitol gleams in the sun on Aug 27, 2022, in front of the skyline of downtown Atlanta. (AP)

Tennessee earthquake rattles homes as far away as Atlanta

A 4.1-magnitude earthquake in Tennessee woke up families and rattled homes as far away as Atlanta as it spread tremors across portions of the southern US on Saturday morning. No injuries or major damage were immediately reported.

The website for USGS said the earthquake originated shortly after 9 am EDT about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from Greenback, Tennessee, which is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Knoxville.

More than 23,000 reports from the public were received by USGS in the first hour after the earthquake, USGS spokeswoman Ayesha Davis told The Associat-

ed Press in an email. Meteorologists at television news stations serving Georgia and North Carolina reported feeling the tremors as well.

There is a 5% chance of a magnitude 4 or larger aftershock in the next week, according to USGS.

Gabriela Reilly was making waffles with her husband when they felt their entire home shake in Braselton, Georgia, which is northeast of Atlanta.

“Our ceiling fan started shaking for about 10 seconds,” she said. “I thought a giant aircraft had flown low right over the neighborhood, but my husband said, ‘No, that was definitely an earthquake!’” (AP)



A toxic cloud caused by a fire in a chemical products company is photographed in Vilanova i la Geltrú, near Barcelona on May 10. (AP)

Fire at chemical plant in northeastern Spain keeps thousands indoors

A fire at a chemical factory in northeastern Spain forced emergency services to issue health warnings to 150,000 local residents and stay-indoors orders for five nearby towns, authorities said Saturday.

Health services said that medics attended to four people who had reported breathing problems.

The fire broke out early on Saturday inside a warehouse at the plant near the town of Vilanova i la Geltrú.

The warehouse housed 70 tons of chlorine for use in swimming pools, firefighters said.

The stay-indoors order stayed in effect for seven hours for the nearest municipalities in the area between Barcelona and Tarragona on the Mediterranean coast.

Firefighters said that by Saturday afternoon that the fire was under control. (AP)

Full EU accession possible by 2030: Rama

Albania election sees old rivals, new parties

TIRANA, Albania, May 11, (AP): Prime Minister Edi Rama is seeking a fourth term as Albania’s prime minister in a general election on Sunday, after taking on his political nemesis in a boisterous campaign dominated by the country’s uphill effort to join the European Union.

Rama’s Socialist Party says it can deliver EU membership in five years, sticking to an ambitious pledge while battling conservative opponents with public recriminations and competing promises of pay hikes.

Opening up the election to voters abroad for the first time has added to the volatility, along with the appearance of new parties, a shift in campaigning to social media and a recent TikTok ban. And Rama’s opponents have hired a heavy hitter from the United States to steer their campaign.

The country of 2.8 million people, with 3.7 million eligible voters including the diaspora casting ballots for the first time by mail, will elect 140 lawmakers to four-year terms, choosing from 2,046 candidates representing 11 political groupings, including three coalitions.

Turnout until 10 am (0800 GMT), three hours after polls opened, was



A woman casts her ballot as others wait to vote during a general election where Socialist Edi Rama is seeking a fourth term as Albania's prime minister in Tirana, Albania on May 11. (AP)

13.15%, according to the Central Election Commission, slightly less than four years ago. Polls close at 7 p.m. (1700 GMT). Results are expected in the next 48 hours, according to the election law.

Rama, 60, secured the start of EU membership negotiations last October and is relying heavily on that momentum. His campaign also highlighted

achievements in infrastructure and justice reform.

Under the party slogan “Albania 2030 in EU, Only with Edi and SP,” Rama insists that full EU accession is possible by 2030 with annual funding of 1 billion euros (\$1.13 billion) upon joining. “Today is the people’s words. Let’s wait for the people to speak,” said Rama after casting his ballot.

Louisiana gov pushes Trump to weigh primary challenger to Senator Cassidy

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP): US President Donald Trump and Louisiana Gov Jeff Landry have discussed US Rep Julia Letlow challenging US Sen Bill Cassidy in next year’s Republican primary, according to multiple people familiar with the matter.

The Republican governor’s promotion of a new challenger to Cassidy reflects unease within Trump’s base about the two-term senator. Cassidy voted to convict Trump in Trump’s 2021 impeachment trial over the riot at the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021. And Cassidy, who is a medical doctor, expressed doubts about Trump’s pick of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the nation’s health secretary before voting to confirm Kennedy.

Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate and have a favorable electoral map in the 2026 midterms to help them keep control. But Cassidy is among several GOP senators up for reelection next year who are facing challenging primaries over past moves to distance themselves from Trump.

For the senator, “the biggest hurdle is going to be the impeachment vote. That’s what he has to overcome. And I don’t think he has the mindset to say, ‘I made a mistake,’” said Eddie Rispone, the Republican nominee for Louisiana governor in 2019 and a Cassidy support-



US Sen Bill Cassidy, R-La., votes in the final moment as the Senate Finance Committee holds a roll call vote to approve the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy Jr to lead the Health and Human Services Department, at the Capitol in Washington on Feb 4. (AP)

er. “And Louisiana is a big Trump state.”

Landry, a close Trump ally, spoke last month with the president about Letlow as a potential Senate candidate, according to two people with knowledge of the conversation. They were granted anonymity to share contents of a conversation they were not authorized to discuss publicly.

A spokesperson for Letlow declined to comment on a potential campaign for Senate or the discussion between Landry and Trump. Landry’s office declined to comment. Landry, elected in 2023, has been advocating for Letlow to consider a run, according to the people who confirmed their April conversation about Letlow.

‘Ceasefire must come before peace talks’

Ukraine prez welcomes Russian overtures

KYIV, Ukraine, May 11, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday welcomed Russia’s offer for direct peace talks, but insisted there must be a full, temporary ceasefire in place before negotiations can start.

Zelenskyy, writing on X, called Russian President Vladimir Putin’s counter-offer to start talks without a ceasefire a “positive sign,” and said that “the entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time.”

He added, however, that “the very first step in truly ending any war is a ceasefire.”

Meanwhile, Russia resumed mass drone attacks in Ukraine early on Sunday, after its self-declared 3-day pause expired.

Russia launched 108 attack drones and simulator drones from six different directions, Ukraine’s Air Force said on Sunday. It said 60 drones were shot down and another 41 simulator drones failed to reach targets due to Ukrainian counter-measures.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Sunday accused Ukraine of “violating” Moscow’s three-day ceasefire more than 14,000 times. Ukraine has also accused Russia of violating its own truce, with the Ukrainian foreign minister calling it a farce.

Ukraine did not agree to the May 8-10 ceasefire Russia unilaterally declared and accused Russia of repeatedly violating it.



Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures as he speaks to journalists in the Grand Palace at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on May 11 after celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany during World War II. (AP)

The Ukrainian president appeared to insist on his proposal to start a 30-day unconditional ceasefire on Monday. “There is no point in continuing the killing even for a single day. We expect Russia to confirm a ceasefire - full, lasting, and reliable - starting tomorrow, May 12th, and Ukraine is ready to meet,” Zelenskyy said.

Putin in remarks to the media overnight effectively rejected that ceasefire offer and proposed restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on Thursday instead “with-

out preconditions.” He said a ceasefire might be agreed on during the negotiations.

Putin’s counteroffer came after leaders from four major European countries threatened to ratchet up pressure on Moscow if it does not accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine that they offered on Saturday in a strong show of unity with Kyiv. In a social media post several hours after Putin’s remarks, US President Donald Trump said it was “a potentially great day for Russia and Ukraine!”

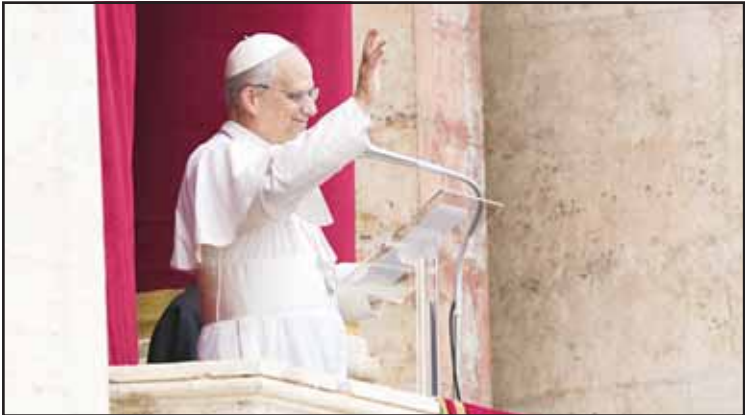
‘Never again war’

Pope Leo XIV calls for peace in Ukraine and Gaza

VATICAN CITY, May 11, (AP): Pope Leo XIV called for a genuine and just peace in Ukraine and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, in his first Sunday noon blessing as pontiff that featured some symbolic gestures suggesting a message of unity in a polarized Catholic Church.

“I, too, address the world’s great powers by repeating the ever-present call ‘never again war,’” Leo said from the loggia of St Peter’s Basilica to an estimated 100,000 people below. It was the first time that Leo had returned to the loggia since he first appeared to the world on Thursday evening following his remarkable election as pope, the first from the United States. Then, too, he delivered a message of peace.

Leo was picking up the papal tradition of offering a Sunday blessing at noon, but with some twists. Whereas his predecessors delivered the greeting from the studio window of the Apostolic Palace, off to the side of the



Pope Leo XIV appears at the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica for his first Sunday blessing after his election, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on May 11. (AP)

piazza, Leo went to the very center of the square and the heart of the church.

He also offered a novelty by singing

the Regina Caeli prayer, a Latin prayer said during the Easter season which recent popes would usually just recite.

South Korean PPP’s fails in bid to switch presidential candidates

SEOUL, South Korea, May 11, (AP): South Korea’s embattled conservative party canceled then reinstated the presidential candidacy of Kim Moon Soo within hours as internal turmoil escalated ahead of the June 3 election.

Saturday’s chaotic U-turn, after a failed attempt to replace Kim with former prime minister Han Duck-soo, underscored the People Power Party’s leadership crisis following the ouster of former president Yoon Suk Yeol over his martial law imposition in December, which possibly doomed the conservatives’ chances of winning another term in government.

Kim, a staunch conservative and former labor minister under Yoon, was named the PPP’s presidential candidate on May 3 after winning 56.3% of the primary vote, defeating a reformist rival who had criticized Yoon’s martial law. But the PPP’s leadership, dominated by Yoon loyalists, had spent the past week desperately pressuring Kim to step aside and back Han, whom they believed stood a stronger chance against liberal Democratic Party frontrunner Lee Jae-myung.

After talks between Han and Kim failed to unify their candidacies, the PPP’s emergency committee took the unprecedented step early Saturday of nullifying its primary, canceling Kim’s nomination and registering Han as both a party member and its new presidential candidate. However, the replacement required approval through an all-party vote conducted through an automated phone survey, which ultimately rejected the switch on Saturday night.

“While we cannot disclose the figures, the vote on switching the candidate was rejected by a narrow margin,” party spokesman and lawmaker Shin Dong-wook said. Kim, who had denounced the party’s attempt to replace him as an “overnight political coup,” was immediately reinstated as the candidate and plans to officially register with election authorities on Sunday, according to the party.

“Now everything will return to its rightful place,” Kim said in a statement.

Kim, 73, was a prominent labor activist in the 1970s and ‘80s, but joined a conservative party in the 1990s, say-

ing he gave up his dream of becoming a “revolutionist” after witnessing the collapse of communist states. Since then, he has served eight years as governor of South Korea’s Gyeonggi province and completed three terms in the National Assembly.

Han served as acting president after Yoon was impeached by the legislature in December and officially removed by the Constitutional Court in April. He resigned from office May 2 to pursue a presidential bid, arguing his long public service career qualifies him to lead the country amid growing geopolitical uncertainty and trade challenges intensified by the policies of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Han, who had called for unity after being promoted as the candidate, said in a statement that he “humbly accepts” the voice of party members.

Han and Kim have lagged well behind Lee in recent opinion polls. Lee, who spearheaded the Democrats’ efforts to oust Yoon, ridiculed the PPP efforts to switch candidacies, telling reporters Thursday, “I have heard of forced marriages but never heard of forced unity.”



South Korea’s People Power Party’s presidential election candidate Kim Moon Soo, (center), arrives to submit documents to register as a candidate to run in the June 3 presidential election, at the National Election Commission, Gwacheon, South Korea on May 11. The letter read ‘The 21st Presidential election candidate registration application, Kim Moon Soo’. (AP)



Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reviews an honor guard during a welcome ceremony at the government house in Bangkok, Thailand on April 26, 2024. (AP)

Bangladesh ex-ruling party slams govt decision to ban all activities

DHAKA, Bangladesh, May 11, (AP): Bangladesh’s former ruling party accused Sunday the interim government of “stoking division” and trampling on “democratic norms” by banning all party activities.

The government, headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted following a deadly mass uprising, announced late Saturday the Awami League party can no longer be active online and elsewhere in the South Asian country under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The law affairs adviser, Asif Nazrul, said the ban would remain until a special tribunal completes a trial of the party and its leaders over the deaths of hundreds of students and other protesters during an anti-government uprising in July and August last year.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, the country’s other main political party that is headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, had previously opposed the proposal to ban the Awami League party.

The ban is expected to formally come into effect on Monday.



This government handout photo shows five shipwrecked fishermen wearing lifejackets, who were rescued by an Ecuadorian tuna fishing boat after being adrift for more than 50 days, at the San Cristobal Naval Base, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador on May 10. (AP)

Panama’s former president Martinelli leaves Nicaraguan embassy for asylum in Colombia

PANAMA CITY, Panama, May 11, (AP): Former Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli left the Nicaraguan embassy in Panama City where he had sought refuge more than a year ago after the courts upheld a money laundering sentence against him and headed to Colombia where he has received political asylum, the government said late Saturday.

Panama’s foreign ministry said in a statement that Colombian President Gustavo Petro sent Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino a formal note saying that he had granted Martinelli asylum and that Panama had granted the former president safe passage to Colombia.

“The Republic of Colombia is a State that has historically recognized with the utmost respect, compliance, and promotion the institutions of International Law, including the asylum system within the Inter-American system,” the statement said.

Martinelli, 73, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for money laundering in July 2023 in connection with the purchase of a publishing group. Following the confirmation of that sentence, the former president sought refuge in the Nicaraguan diplomatic mission in Panama after President Daniel Ortega’s



Panama’s former president Ricardo Martinelli waves to supporters during a campaign rally, in Panama City on Feb 3, 2024. (AP)

government granted him asylum. He had remained inside the embassy for more than a year.

Martinelli is a businessman and supermarket magnate who governed Panama from 2009 to 2014, a period of rapid economic growth driven by the construction of major projects such as the first metro in Central America and

Rescued fishermen arrive in Galapagos

QUITO, Ecuador, May 11, (AP): Five fishermen who spent 55 days adrift at sea arrived Saturday at a port in the Galapagos Islands after being rescued by a tuna boat, the Ecuadorian navy said on X.

The three Peruvians and two Colombians had been missing since mid-March and were found on May 7 by an Ecuadorian boat called Aldo.

The fishermen had reported damage to the boat’s alternator two days after setting sail from Pucusana Bay, to the south of Peru’s capital Lima, the navy said in a separate post on Friday.

The failure caused communication and navigation tools to malfunction, Ecuadorian navy Frigate Capt. Maria Fares told The Associated Press, adding that they had no power on the boat.

“They had no starter, lights and everything that a battery generates,” she said. To survive, they had to “take rusted water out of the engine (and) when a fish passed by, they caught it and par-boiled it to eat.” Fares added that they also drank rain and sea water to survive.

‘Strikes earlier this week killed more than 100 militants’

India, Pakistan ceasefire shaken by overnight clashes in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, May 11, (AP): India’s military strikes into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and Pakistan earlier this week killed more than 100 militants including their prominent leadership, India’s director general of military operations said on Sunday.

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said India’s armed forces stuck nine militant infrastructure and training facilities, including sites of the Lashkar-e-Taiba group that India blames for carrying out major militant strikes in India and the disputed region of Kashmir.

There was no way to independently verify these claims.

“We achieved total surprise,” Ghai said at a news conference in New Delhi, adding Pakistan’s response was “erratic and rattled.”

The two countries agreed to a truce a day earlier after talks to defuse the most serious military confrontation between them in decades. But the ceasefire was shaken just hours later by overnight fighting in disputed Kashmir, and both sides accused each other of repeatedly violating the deal. Drones were also spotted Saturday night over Indian-controlled Kashmir and the western state of Gujarat, according to Indian officials.

The escalation in violence began last week after a gun massacre of tourists in Indian-controlled Kashmir. India blamed the attack on Pakistan, which denied any involvement.

As part of the ceasefire, the nuclear-armed neighbors agreed to immediately stop all military action on land, in



Left to right: Air Marshal AK Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Vice Admiral AN Pramod address a press conference in New Delhi on May 11. (AP)

the air and at sea.

People on both sides of the Line of Control, which divides the territory, reported heavy exchanges of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops. The fighting subsided by Sunday morning.

In the Poonch area of Indian-controlled Kashmir, people said the intense shelling from the past few days had traumatized them.

“Most people ran as shells were being fired,” said college student Sosan Zehra, who returned home Sunday. “It was completely chaotic.”

In Pakistan-controlled Kashmir’s

Neelum Valley, which is 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the Line of Control, residents said there were exchanges of fire and heavy shelling after the ceasefire began.

“We were happy about the announcement but, once again, the situation feels uncertain,” said Mohammad Zahid.

US President Donald Trump was the first to post about the ceasefire deal, announcing it on his Truth Social platform. Indian and Pakistani officials confirmed the news shortly after.

Pakistan has thanked the US, and

especially Trump, several times for facilitating the ceasefire.

India has not said anything about Trump or the US since the deal was announced. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting on Sunday with top government and military officials.

A UN spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, said on Sunday that Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed the deal as a positive step toward easing tensions. “He hopes the agreement will contribute to lasting peace and foster an environment conducive to addressing broader, longstanding issues between the two countries,” Dujarric said.

India and Pakistan’s top military officials are scheduled to speak on Monday.

India and Pakistan have fought daily since Wednesday along the rugged and mountainous Line of Control, which is marked by razor wire coils, watchtowers and bunkers that snake across foothills populated by villages, tangled bushes and forests.

They have routinely blamed the other for starting the skirmishes, while insisting they themselves were only retaliating.

Kashmir is split between the two countries and claimed by both in its entirety.

They have fought two of their three wars over the region and their ties have been shaped by conflict, aggressive diplomacy and mutual suspicion, mostly due to their competing claims.



Onlookers watch as rescue workers search the debris at the site of a bus crash near the town of Kotmale, Sri Lanka on May 11. (AP)

Passenger bus skids off cliff in Sri Lanka, killing 21 people

A passenger bus skidded off a cliff in Sri Lanka’s tea-growing hill country on Sunday, killing 21 people and injuring at least 35 others, an official said.

The accident occurred in the early hours of Sunday near the town of Kotmale, about 140 kilometers (86 miles) east of Colombo, the capital, in a mountainous area of central Sri Lanka, police said.

Deputy Minister of Transport and Highways Prasanna Gunasena told the media that 21 people died in the accident and 14 others are being treated in hospitals.

Local television showed the bus lying overturned at the bottom of a precipice while workers and others helped remove injured people from the rubble.

The driver was injured and

among those admitted to the hospital for treatment. At the time of the accident, nearly 50 people were traveling on the bus.

The bus was operated by a state-run bus company, police said.

Deadly bus accidents are common in Sri Lanka, especially in the mountainous regions, often due to reckless driving and poorly maintained and narrow roads. (AP)

Mexico sues Google for labeling Gulf of Mexico as ‘Gulf of America’

MEXICO CITY, May 11, (AP): Mexico has sued tech giant Google over its labelling of the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America, a change made by US President Donald Trump via executive order, Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum said Friday.

Sheinbaum did not provide details of the lawsuit during her daily press briefing, but said that Google had been sued.

Mexico’s Foreign Relations ministry had previously sent letters to Google asking it to not label Mexican territorial waters as the Gulf of America.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The body of water has shared borders between the United States and Mexico. Trump’s order only carries authority within the US. Mexico, as



US President Trump gestures toward a poster that says ‘Gulf of America’ as Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr, (left), and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick watch in the Oval Office on Feb 25. (AP)

well as other countries and international bodies, do not have to recognize the name change.

Mexico argues that Gulf of America should only apply to the part of the gulf over the United States continental shelf.

Business



NBK, KOC partner on training and knowledge exchange.

Under their strategic partnership

NBK and KOC sign MoU for employee development

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Under the strategic partnership between the two institutions, the National Bank of Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at sharing knowledge and developing and upskilling employees by organizing different workshops and programs specializing in various fields that can serve a wide range of employees from both institutions on different administrative levels.

The signing ceremony was held at Kuwait Oil Company’s Headquarters in the presence of Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, and Mr. Bashar Al-Khashti, Manager Training & Career Development at KOC, along with executives from both parties.

According to the MoU, the two institutions will collaborate to exchange knowledge and experiences in fields of training and employee development to raise the level of training provided by both institutions. KOC will conduct field visits for some NBK employees to different Company locations and provide specialized trainers in fields of environmental safety and security. On the other hand, NBK will present its latest techniques for developing and preparing professionals and the best methodologies to enhance employees’ behavior, in addition to promoting teamwork, productivity, comprehensive quality, and optimal digital solutions.

This MoU is a remarkable opportunity to develop skills, as it provides the latest learning tools that follow international standards of competency de-

velopment. It has been meticulously crafted to support and enhance operational excellence, by providing access to a diverse learning curriculum that aims to convey the necessary knowledge and experiences and ensure long-term growth, which is expected to boost innovation and enhance sustainable growth.

Moreover, this initiative targets knowledge sharing and tapping further into creativity to enhance sustainable growth, hence rendering the process of strategic decision-making easier and more scientifically based.

Most notably, this initiative reflects KOC’s strong commitment to investing in human capital and sustaining its growth by building a visionary and flexible team of leaders. It also aligns with KOC’s aim to maintain and benefit from experiences within the institution, which further supports its strategic goals and enhances its market competitiveness.

In this light, NBK is providing two developmental programs in a workshop titled “Transferring Knowledge” covering various topics such as vision, cooperation, strategic leadership, creativity, and innovation. The aim of this workshop is to enable leaders to make enlightened decisions and achieve a unified understanding among decision-makers to guarantee a cohesive and successful team of leaders in the long term.

The second program, on the other hand, is designed to help develop the technical skills of employees, enhance their competencies, and transfer their

knowledge and experiences through online learning. The program also aims to enable employees to make informed decisions and execute solutions independently. Another aim of the program is to guarantee sustainability by building and enhancing internal capabilities so that they align with the institution’s strategic goals and operational priorities, as well as to strengthen knowledge exchange, teamwork, innovation, and competency enhancement.

On this occasion, Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Group Chief Human Resources Officer, stated: “We take pride in our enduring and deeply rooted relations with oil sector institutions, and we are keen to organize numerous visits, events, and panel discussions that aim to develop human resources in public entities.”

As the public sector’s leading banking partner, NBK stressed that it will continue to pioneer in supporting oil sector institutions, stating that its dedication to developing the latter’s human resources mirrors its commitment to align its own economic sustainability objectives with those of the State, which heavily rely on developing a human element that adheres to the best international standards.

NBK’s strong vision on human capital investment and the major role it has been playing in this field for decades are echoed in those training initiatives, as they bring together the best banking experts to share their knowledge with the emerging workforce and run annually in line with the bank’s commitment towards social responsibility and serving the community.

Other Voices

Market impact on US corporation

By Hassan F. Beidas

Many S&P 500 companies reporting so far have beat first quarterly earnings consensus by 5.7%. However, investor attention remains firmly fixed on the economic outlook for the remainder of 2025. Major US indices reflected this positive earnings momentum, with the S&P 500 rising by 2.8%, the Nasdaq climbing 3.6%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average gaining 2.6%. This upward trajectory was largely fueled by robust earnings reports from the big technology companies.



Hassan Beidas

The past week, 115 S&P 500 firms has released the first quarterly earnings and another 176 anticipated in the coming weeks. Among the “Magnificent Seven,” Tesla, Google, Meta, Apple, and Amazon have all unveiled their first-quarter performance. Notably, Apple’s shares experienced a 3.5% surge despite strong earnings and the announcement of a substantial \$110 billion share buyback program, although concerns surrounding trade tensions with China persist. Microsoft also saw its shares rise by 8% on the back of strong earnings, while Amazon briefly rallied following its positive first-quarter results. Meta Platforms reported extraordinary earnings of 35%, leading to a 5% increase in its share price.

However, analysts are increasingly emphasizing key cyclical trends within the industrials, technology, and consumer sectors, which are perceived to be most vulnerable to the earnings risks stemming from escalating tariffs and US fiscal uncertainty. Top-down strategists are already factoring in the potential impact of tariff uncertainty on revenue and profit growth for the year, even before formal corporate guidance is issued.

A recent Bloomberg poll of 21 sell-side equity strategists reveals a growing caution regarding future earnings. Roughly half of these strategists have reduced their 2025 earnings estimates within the past month. The median top-down earnings per share forecast now stands at a 4% growth rate, contrasting with the more optimistic bottom-up estimate of +7.5%.

The major US banks largely surpassed first-quarter estimates, benefiting from strong trading revenues in a volatile market environment that offset a softer per-

formance in investment banking and wealth management businesses. Consumer-facing product companies also demonstrated resilience during the quarter, while provisions for loan losses were lower than anticipated by some pessimistic analysts.

Despite these solid results, the banking sector is not necessarily out of the woods. With tariff negotiations actively underway, corporate executives appear to be navigating the current disruption effectively. However, if economic growth deteriorates in the mid-year, bank analysts may not have sufficiently adjusted their estimates to reflect this potential downturn.

A significant shift is also occurring in the technology sector. For the past two years, since the emergence of ChatGPT, AI-related chipmakers had been considered a defensive play within technology as major data center operators continually increased their capital expenditure plans. However, this “safe haven” trade has largely broken down amid growing concerns about potential cuts in AI-related capital expenditures.

Adding to the semiconductor sector’s woes, leading GPU manufacturers have anticipated lower international sales due to increased US government restrictions on shipments of advanced chipmaking technology to China. The world’s leading semiconductor equipment player also missed its first-quarter targets amidst the prevailing tariff uncertainty, while a major global player signaled that operating its new US facilities would be more expensive due to tariffs on its components. Consequently, the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index ended the week down by 4%.

In contrast, the big pharmaceutical industry has announced substantial investments, totaling roughly \$100 billion in additional US manufacturing capacity throughout the remainder of President Trump’s term. Assuming the continuation of tax incentives for domestic investment this year, a dual manufacturing strategy appears to be forming, where drugs intended for US consumption will be manufactured domestically, while foreign factories will supply the rest of the world.

In conclusion, while the first-quarter earnings season has provided a positive boost to the market, the overarching focus remains on the unfolding economic landscape for 2025. The potential impact of trade tensions, particularly tariffs, and the resulting uncertainty are prompting analysts to revise their outlooks, highlighting a cautious sentiment despite the initial earnings strength.

Global central banks navigate inflation risks and trade tensions

Fed holds rates at 4.25%-4.50%, Powell adopts cautious stance

By National Bank of Kuwait

The U.S. services sector expanded in April with the ISM PMI coming in at 51.6, lifted by new orders and inventories, though employment contracted, and tariff-driven price pressures hit a 27-month high. The Federal Reserve held rates steady at 4.25%-4.50%, citing trade uncertainty as aggressive tariffs risk stagflationary pressures, while unemployment claims dipped to 228,000. A preliminary U.S. and UK trade deal eased auto/agricultural tariffs, signaling cautious de-escalation, though existing China tariffs remain. The Bank of England cut rates to 4.25% to counter slow growth, while China’s services sector came in at 50.7 amid weak exports and rising costs. Japan’s services PMI rose to 52.4 on stronger demand, but input costs surged and optimism declined. Globally, central banks tread carefully as trade tensions inflame inflation risks while suppressing growth, leaving markets balancing fragile optimism against looming stagflation threats.

United States

ISM Services PMI

The ISM Services PMI in the U.S. rose to 51.6 in April 2025, up from 50.8 in March and beating expectations of 50.2, signaling a stronger expansion in the services sector. Growth was driven by faster increases in new orders and inventories, while business activity remained positive despite a slight slowdown. Employment continued to shrink, though at a slower rate, and supplier delivery times lengthened. Price pressures surged to their highest level since February 2023. Concerns over tariff-related price impacts and federal budget cuts persist, but overall conditions are improving, according to ISM’s Steve Miller.

Federal Funds Rate

In its latest policy meeting last Wednesday, the Federal Reserve opted to keep interest rates unchanged at 4.25% to 4.50%, emphasizing a cautious “wait-and-see” approach as trade tensions cloud the economic outlook. Chair Jerome Powell highlighted that while the economy and labor market remain broadly solid, the Fed will refrain from adjusting rates until it gathers more clarity on the evolving impact of recent tariff policies. The decision comes amid a surge in imports aimed at beating new tariffs, a trend that may have distorted Q1 GDP figures. Powell pointed to the Trump administration’s aggressive trade measures as a major source of economic uncertainty, warning that rising tariffs risks pushing inflation higher while simultaneously slowing growth, an unfavorable scenario that could leave the Fed’s dual mandate out of reach. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump hinted that there will be a deal with a “big” country announced on Thursday, adding that he would not lower tariffs on China as a condition to begin negotiations. Markets reacted positively on Wednesday with the Dow Jones, S&P 500, and Nasdaq indices ending the trading day with positive gains.

Unemployment Claims

U.S. jobless claims decreased by 13,000 to a seasonally adjusted 228,000 for the week ending May

Previous Week Levels					This Week’s Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1287	1.1195	1.1381	1.1247	1.1150	1.1330	1.1315
GBP	1.3232	1.3209	1.3402	1.3304	1.3220	1.3375	1.3310
JPY	144.71	142.33	146.18	145.34	144.10	146.30	143.86
CHF	0.8046	0.8032	0.8341	0.8311	0.8235	0.8400	0.8219

3rd, following a prior week surge partly due to a 15,089 jump in unadjusted claims in New York. This previous increase was linked to layoffs across transportation, warehousing, hospitality, public administration, and education sectors. President Trump’s tariffs include a significant hike to 145% on some Chinese imports. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell noted that these “significantly larger than anticipated” tariff increases could lead to a rise in inflation, a slowdown in economic growth, and an increase in unemployment, with the current Fed benchmark interest rate remaining in the 4.25%-4.50% range.

President Trump Speaks

President Trump announced a trade agreement framework with the UK, seen as a potential model for easing U.S. tariffs. While details are still being finalized, the deal includes reduced tariffs on UK cars and agricultural products, and a joint tariff on steel and aluminum, with pharmaceutical exemptions. However, it’s more of a “letter” of understanding than a comprehensive deal, and existing universal tariffs remain. The announcement, which surprised some UK officials, was met with positive market reactions, though analysts note the limited scope and potential for only small economic gains for the UK. Trump emphasized that this is the first of many upcoming trade deals. Simultaneously, the U.S. is engaging with China, with upcoming meetings aimed at de-escalating trade tensions, despite Trump’s refusal to lower existing tariffs beforehand. These developments are viewed as potential signs of de-escalation in Trump’s broader trade policies, which have drawn criticism from economists and global institutions concerned about their negative impact on the global economy and potential for a U.S. recession.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 100.339

United Kingdom

United Kingdom Official Bank Rate

Amidst a sluggish economy and concerns over President Trump’s trade policies, the Bank of England (BOE) lowered its main interest rate from 4.5% to 4.25% on Thursday. This decision, anticipated due to easing inflation (down to 2.6% in March), aims to ease financial pressures for borrowers, businesses, and consumers. While five of the nine policymakers supported the 0.25% cut, some favored a larger re-

duction, and others preferred no change. The BOE highlighted the increasing uncertainty in global trade due to tariffs, noting a weakened outlook for global growth, though expecting a smaller impact on the UK. This rate cut is expected to stimulate investment, spending, and housing activity, benefiting those with loans but potentially disadvantaging savers.

The GBP/USD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.3304

Asia-Pacific

China Caixin Services PMI

China’s Caixin Services PMI fell to 50.7 in April 2025 from 51.9 in March, missing expectations and marking the weakest growth since September. New orders rose at the slowest pace in over two years, hindered by U.S. tariffs affecting goods trade. Export growth was minimal, while employment fell for the second month amid rising cost pressures. Input costs rose sharply due to higher wages and materials, but output prices declined for the third straight month as firms tried to stay competitive. Business confidence dropped to its second-lowest level since records began in 2005, reflecting concerns over trade policy shifts.

The USD/CNY currency pair was last seen trading at 7.2364

Japan Services PMI

The au Jibun Bank Japan Services PMI for April 2025 was revised up to 52.4 from 52.2, indicating continued expansion for the sixth straight month and improving from March’s neutral 50.0. New orders rose at the fastest rate in nearly a year, supported by ongoing, though slower, overseas demand. Hiring accelerated to its quickest pace since January, while backlogs increased modestly. Input costs surged at the fastest rate since February 2023, and output prices rose as firms passed on some costs. Despite this growth, business optimism dropped to its lowest since January 2021 due to concerns over global trade, labor shortages, and inflation.

The USD/JPY currency pair was last seen trading at 145.34

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30645

Aramco Q1 profits drop 4.6% amid falling oil prices

DUBAI, May 11, (AP): Saudi Arabia’s state-owned oil giant Aramco posted first-quarter profits of \$26 billion on Sunday, down 4.6% from the prior year as falling global oil prices undermine the kingdom’s multi-trillion-dollar development plans.

Aramco, formally known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., had revenues of \$108.1 billion over the quarter, the company reported in a filing on Riyadh’s Tadawul stock exchange. The company saw \$107.2 billion in revenues and profits of \$27.2 billion the same quarter last year. Saudi Arabia has promised to invest \$600 billion in the U.S. over the course of President Donald Trump’s term. Trump, who is set to touch down in Riyadh Tuesday on his first official foreign trip since he retook the Oval Office, said

in January that he wants that number to be even higher, at around \$1 trillion.

Meanwhile, the Saudi de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has his sights set on a \$500 billion project to build Neom, a vast, futuristic city in the desert along the Red Sea. The kingdom will also need new stadiums and infrastructure costing tens of billions of dollars by 2034, when Saudi Arabia will host the World Cup. The announcement of Aramco’s first-quarter results comes as the OPEC+ alliance has ramped up oil production. The oil cartel has agreed to boost output by 411,000 barrels per day next month, as uncertainty driven by U.S. tariffs has rippled through Middle Eastern markets.

Company continues strategic partnership with Arab Media Forum in its 20th edition

Zain shares expertise on leveraging AI & cybersecurity

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Zain continued its long-standing strategic partnership with the Arab Media Forum, the region’s most prominent media gathering, which returned for its landmark 20th edition under the theme Media Challenges in Light of Technological Development and Digital Transformation. The event was held at the Four Seasons Hotel under the patronage of H.H. the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and witnessed the attendance of leading media figures from across the Arab world.

Zain participated in the opening ceremony, which was attended by the representative of the Forum’s patron, H.E. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, alongside Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait, Madhi Al-Khamis, Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum, and a distinguished audience of ministers, ambassadors, diplomats, media professionals, and senior officials.

On the sidelines of the forum, Faisal Al-Ali, Enterprise Risk Management Department Manager at Zain Kuwait, joined a thought-pro-



Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, joined by Madhi Al-Khamis, honors Waleed Al-Khashti.

voking panel discussion titled Credibility and Information Verification in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, held in collaboration with the Arab Forum for Thought and Culture.

The panel also featured H.E. Nabil Yaqub Al-Hamar, Advisor to His Majesty the King of Bahrain, Dr. Mohammed Huwidan, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences from the UAE, and Dr. Mohammed Rabie Al-Enezi, Professor at the College of Basic Education

in Kuwait.

During the session, Al-Ali highlighted Zain’s experience in utilizing modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity solutions in enterprise risk management. He discussed how these digital tools play a key role in ensuring business continuity, anticipating future challenges, and enhancing the quality of strategic decision-making within private sector institutions. Al-Ali emphasized the importance



Faisal Al-Ali participating in the panel discussion.

of integrating such technologies within the operational frameworks of both corporations and governments. He explained how Zain’s expertise in developing intelligent systems has contributed to proactively identifying and managing cyber threats, while also using data analytics models to assess risks and mitigate their potential impact on operations.

Zain’s strategic partnership with the Arab Media Forum – now in its 12th consecutive year – stems from

its belief in the power of media and its societal impact, and reflects the company’s ongoing support of the media sector at both the local and regional levels.

The forum’s panel discussions explored a range of topics, including the influence of artificial intelligence on the media industry, the critical role of cybersecurity in protecting digital content, and the role of media in raising public awareness and keeping pace with technological

advancements. Several media professionals and content creators were also honored for their contributions to the advancement of the Arab media landscape.

The 20th edition of the Arab Media Forum welcomed a wide array of media and academic figures, as well as content creators from across the Arab world, who engaged in rich discussions about the future of Arab media in an era of rapid digital transformation.

‘Avolon deepens Middle East ties’

Warba Bank arranges \$1 bln aviation financing for Avolon

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Warba Bank announced its participation as Initial Mandated Lead Arranger and Bookrunner,talongside Emirates NBD and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, in successfully closing a landmark USD 1 billion 4-year financing for Avolon Holdings Limited, one of the world’s largest aviation finance companies.

Avolon ranks as the second-largest aircraft leasing company globally, with a strong operational footprint in the Middle East.

Avolon, the second largest global aviation leasing company, has a sizeable operational presence in the Middle East regional aviation sector, working with 141 airlines in 60 countries, and has an owned, managed, and committed fleet of 1,096 aircraft. This landmark transaction marks Avolon’s largest financing deal in the Middle East and its first structured in accordance with Sharia principles

This transaction provides an additional pool of liquidity to support its growth strategy. The transaction was well received and saw participation from new banks including Gulf Bank from Kuwait, Dubai Islamic Bank and First Abu Dhabi Bank from UAE.

Commenting on the milestone, Thuwaini Al Thuwaini, Chief Investment Banking Officer at Warba Bank, said:“We are proud to lead this landmark USD 1 billion financing for Avolon, a testament to Warba Bank’s growing expertise in the global aviation sector. This transaction not only strengthens our presence in the Middle East but also highlights our commitment to foster strong partnerships with leading global companies like Avolon. We look forward to further collaborations that drive value and innovation in the aviation financing space.”

Warba Bank has a strong track record in arranging syndicated financing across key industries regionally and globally. Over the past few years, the bank has established itself as a reliable player in aviation finance by executing strategic deals with major sector players—affirming its leadership in investment banking services compliant with Islamic principles.

Ross O’Connor, Chief Financial Officer at Avolon, stated:“This facility further expands our banking relationships in the Middle East consistent with our strategy of diversifying our sources of capital. It demonstrates



Thuwaini Al Thuwaini, Chief Investment Banking Officer at Warba Bank

Al Thuwaini:

- Proud to lead this landmark transaction that reinforces Warba’s position as a trusted partner in the global aviation finance sector
- This deal reflects Warba Bank’s commitment to expanding its presence across regional and international capital markets
- The largest-ever financing by Avolon in the Middle East and its first structured under Islamic finance principles
- We aim to build strategic partnerships that drive growth and innovation in aviation financing

the strong appetite in the region for high quality aviation lending opportunities, with Avolon’s positive financial trajectory and successful growth strategy ensuring the transaction was well supported.”

Warba Bank is one of Kuwait’s fastest-growing Islamic banks, recognized for its leadership in digital innovation and commitment to social responsibility. The bank continues to solidify its position as a trusted financial partner, delivering value to customers and contributing to Kuwait’s economic progress.

Infrastructure projects targeted

AFESD eyes development boost for Lebanon amid stabilization

BEIRUT, May 11, (KUNA): Director General and Chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) Bader Al-Saad on Thursday stated that Lebanon’s new government and improved stability provide a chance to resume development projects.

Following a meeting with Lebanese Energy and Water Minister Joseph Saddi, Al-Saad told KUNA the Arab Fund is assessing Lebanon’s infrastructure needs, especially in water and electricity. While it plans to complete existing projects, it also awaits new priority proposals from the government.

He announced a streamlined approach where the Arab Fund will conduct feasibility studies and provide financing directly - cutting delays caused by previous procedures requiring preliminary studies from borrowing countries.

Al-Saad stressed Lebanon’s urgent need for development following years of conflict and economic crisis and expressed confidence that other Arab and international donors would also return.

Meanwhile, Al-Saddi commended the Arab Fund’s quick response and

support, noting priority projects include upgrading the power transmission network and wastewater treatment.

On his side, Dr. Merza Hasan, senior advisor at the Arab Fund, said Lebanon is entering a new phase with capable leadership and clear priorities.

He emphasized the Fund’s speed and cost-efficiency compared to other donors and outlined its new model: conducting studies, securing funding, and delivering completed projects to the state.

Given Lebanon’s financial constraints, Hasan said the Arab Fund aims to attract private investors by providing feasibility studies and mitigating risks.

During its visit, the delegation met with several ministers and the central bank governor.

The Fund has previously supported major infrastructure, education, and social projects in Lebanon, including the Litani River project and Lebanese University campus.

Headquartered in Kuwait, the Arab Fund supports regional development through public and private investments, grants, and expertise.

MANAMA, May 11, (KUNA): Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that the agreement on the promotion and protection of investments, signed between the governments of the two countries, has entered into force as of Thursday, May 8, according to the official Bahrain News Agency (BNA).

This follows the completion of the necessary legal procedures by both sides, following the provisions of the agreement.

This development reflects the deep-rooted ties and growing economic partnership between the two nations, and their joint aim to boost investment in line with both countries’ development goals, BNA said.

The agreement establishes a comprehensive legal framework that guarantees full protection for investments and develops confidence among investors by ensuring fair and equitable treatment and providing clear mechanisms for dispute resolution.

Given rapid developments in the digital economy, the agreement also underscores the importance of enhancing cooperation in digital trade. This includes data protection, privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property rights, and the use of electronic signatures and authentication.

It also promotes the exchange of best practices and technical capacity-building, representing a qualitative step towards creating a modern, advanced investment environment that aligns with both countries’ ambitions for digital transformation and economic competitiveness.

Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahraini Minister of Finance and National Economy, emphasized that the Kingdom of Bahrain attaches great importance to enhancing cooperation with the UAE.

He highlighted the role of bilateral agreements in advancing cooperation in line with the visions of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, whose leadership reflects longstanding ties grounded in shared history and established foundations.

He added that the Kingdom remains committed to strengthening investment cooperation at both regional and international levels, having signed nearly 40 agreements to promote and protect investments, thereby contributing to economic growth and the creation of promising new opportunities.

Mohammad bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs of the UAE, highlighted that the entry into force of the agreement

reflects a shared commitment to strengthening bilateral economic relations. He noted that it represents a further step in advancing Gulf economic integration and provides a considered response to evolving regional and global economic conditions, particularly given current global challenges requiring enhanced efforts to maintain a stable and competitive investment environment.

He emphasized the importance of continued coordination between the relevant authorities in both countries to implement and follow up on the agreement’s provisions, ensuring its intended objectives are achieved. This, he noted, will contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of both economies and unlocking new opportunities for high-value investments, especially in priority economic sectors.

Minister Al Hussaini also noted that the agreement serves as a launchpad for expanding strategic partnership between the two countries by encouraging reciprocal investment, facilitating capital flows, and providing an investment environment founded on transparency, fairness, and institutional integration. The agreement, he added, stands as one of the pillars underpinning both nations’ vision for a diverse and competitive economy driven by innovation.

KIBS showcases career programs for graduates at AUM Career Fair

Scholarships, certifications offered at fair

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: As part of its continued support for recent Kuwaiti graduates, the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) participated in the Career Fair organized by the American University of the Middle East (AUM) in Kuwait on May 5 and 6, 2025.

The goal of this participation was to engage with new Kuwaiti graduates, introduce them to the services offered by KIBS, and contribute to providing job opportunities to help launch their professional careers.

KIBS has once again prioritized this important event by presenting its various programs and services, including professional certifications, training programs, and research studies, aimed at supporting young graduates in building successful careers. Some of the key initiatives showcased include a comprehensive graduate development program tailored for Kuwaiti professionals, a specialized leadership training course in the growing field of cybersecurity, and a scholarship opportunity designed to support Kuwaiti students in advancing their education through master’s degree programs. KIBS is committed to preparing young Kuwaiti talent for the banking and financial sectors, recognizing that Kuwaiti youth represent the true wealth of the nation, which must be nurtured and developed to meet the needs of the labor market in banks, financial institutions, and other sectors within Kuwait.

Ms.AINibari, Director General of KIBS, emphasized the importance of supporting Kuwaiti youth, investing in their capabilities, and working to develop and guide them. She stressed that youth development is a cornerstone for achieving progress and prosperity for the country.

Ms. Al Nibari also noted that some members of KIBS’ team are



KIBS supports Kuwaiti graduates at AUM Career Fair 2025.



alumni of the American University of the Middle East, affirming the KIBS’ belief in leveraging young talent and recognizing the competence of the university’s graduates, who quickly adapt to the work environment and are capable of taking on leadership roles.

Visitors of the exhibition showed great interest in the programs offered by KIBS, particularly those tar-

geting recent graduates, which provide opportunities to train young talent and equip them with the necessary skills to play a vital role in supporting the national economy.

For over five decades, KIBS has played a pivotal role in the development of the banking and financial sectors in Kuwait, drawing on its extensive experience to facilitate knowledge transfer

and innovation. Its offerings have evolved to include a wide range of programs and services such as professional certifications, executive development, training, assessments, English language courses, e-learning, and business and financial research publications.

For more information on KIBS programs, please visit the website: www.kibs.edu.kw

New bilateral deal advances Gulf economic integration

Bahrain-UAE investment protection agreement takes effect

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Program that empowers students through hands-on entrepreneurial experiences

AAW participates in INJAZ Kuwait Annual Company Program Competition for third consecutive year



Some photos taken from INJAZ Kuwait Annual Company Program Competition.

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) today announced its participation in the 2025 edition of INJAZ Kuwait's Annual Company Program Competition, a nationwide annual program that empowers students through hands-on entrepreneurial experiences, helping them grow their financial literacy and business skills before entering the workforce.

The four-month program culminated in a final event held on April 25–26 at the American University of the Middle East (AUM). It brought together more than 250 students from Kuwait's high schools and universities, who participated in workshops, rehearsals, and presented their final projects before a distinguished panel of judges. Representing AAW on the panel was Mr. Samer Karime, Medical Affairs Manager at AAW's Pharmacy and Medical Supplies Division, who evaluated the students' innovative business ideas alongside other esteemed judges. The event concluded with an award ceremony where 15 participating companies were announced across both the university and school categories.

Demonstrating their commitment to youth development and education, AAW also supported the competition through a range of contributions. These included setting up a podcast area featuring JYSK furniture, sponsoring on-site refreshments and healthy snacks through Joe & The Juice, and providing branded t-shirts from INTERSPORT, printed with the

students' own designs. Additionally, AAW distributed giveaway items and vouchers from The Athlete's Foot, INTERSPORT, ASICS, and Reebok, enhancing the experience for all participating students and mentors.

INJAZ Kuwait is a non-profit organization and a member of Junior Achievement Worldwide, dedicated to empowering youth by enhancing their

entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, and workforce readiness. AAW remains committed to sustainable investment in the potential and talents of young people, supporting national initiatives that contribute to developing youth skills and empowering them to participate actively across various economic and commercial sectors.

US, China begin second day of tariff talks ... No breakthroughs

Trump touts 'great progress'

GENEVA, May 11, (AP): The U.S. and China on Sunday resumed crucial tariff talks that have put the global economy on edge, but appeared to have diverging views of where the negotiations presently stand.

U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on social media that "great progress" was being made and even suggested a "total reset" was a possibility as the sides took their seats for the second and final scheduled day of discussions in Geneva.

Beijing has yet to comment directly, but its official news agency took a tough approach, saying China will "firmly reject any proposal that compromises core principles or undermines the broader cause of global equity."

Still, Trump wrote Sunday on social media that "great progress" was being made.

He gave no further details, and officials at the White House also offered little information during and after the opening day of discussions.

Two officials speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter confirmed that the talks had resumed on Sunday morning.

The discussions could help stabilize world markets roiled by the U.S.-China standoff that has ships in port with goods from China unwilling to unload until they get final word on tariffs. The discussions have been shrouded in secrecy, and neither side made comments to reporters as they left Saturday.

In its editorial, Xinhua said, "Talks should never be a pretext for continued coercion or extortion, and China will firmly reject any proposal that compromises core principles or undermines the broader cause of global equity."

Several convoys of black vehicles have been seen coming and going from the residence of the Swiss



Reporters stand outside the residence of the Swiss ambassador to the United Nations where talks between U.S. Treasury Secretary, America's top trade negotiator, and high-ranking Chinese officials are believed to be taking place, in Geneva, Switzerland, Saturday, May 10, 2025. (AP)

ambassador to the U.N. delegation in Geneva, which hosted the talks aimed at de-escalating trade tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump last month raised U.S. tariffs on China to a combined 145%, and China retaliated by hitting American imports with a 125% levy. Tariffs that high essentially amount to the countries' boycotting each other's products, disrupting trade that last year topped \$660 billion.

Even before talks got underway, Trump suggested Friday that the U.S. could lower its tariffs on China, saying in a Truth Social post that "80% Tariff seems right! Up

to Scott!" - referring to lead negotiator and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

The talks mark the first time the sides have met face-to-face to discuss the issues. And though prospects for a breakthrough are slight, even a small drop in tariffs, particularly if taken simultaneously, would help restore some confidence.

"Negotiations to begin de-escalating the growing US-China trade war are badly needed and it's a positive sign that both sides were able to gracefully move beyond their bickering over who had to call first," Jake Werner, director of the East Asia Program at the Quincy Institute for

Responsible Statecraft, said in an email.

The tariff fight with China has been the most intense. Trump's tariffs on China include a 20% charge meant to pressure Beijing into doing more to stop the flow of the synthetic opioid fentanyl into the United States.

The remaining 125% involve a dispute that dates back to Trump's first term and comes atop tariffs he levied on China back then, which means the total tariffs on some Chinese goods can exceed 145%.

China's trade deficit, which came to a record \$263 billion last year, has also been a major target of Trump's complaints.

Event kicks off today

Kuwait to host UFM forum on energy, climate change

MADRID, May 11, (KUNA): Kuwait will host the Fifth Business Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) on energy and climate tomorrow, Monday, as part of the "Kuwait Sustainable Energy Week", with the participation of more than 13 Arab and European countries.

The Union for the Mediterranean stated that the forum cooperates with Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE).

The forum aims to bring together stakeholders from the Arab Gulf and Mediterranean regions to explore regional opportunities in energy transformation and enhance resilience and adaptation to climate change.

In remarks to KUNA, UFM Climate and Energy Projects Analyst, Hatem Aznak, said that Kuwait's forum hosting is a positive step supporting the Union's work and objectives to open up new horizons for sustainable business and facilitate investments.

He added that this forum was the first initiative by the Union held outside the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The forum will include a new feature this year - a youth engagement event to discuss their role in advancing energy and climate solutions. The event is expected to attract participants from both the Arab Gulf and Mediterranean regions and will highlight the potential of Mediterranean youth to deliver innovative ideas and solutions.

The Union emphasized its commitment to empowering young people and women and enabling them as stakeholders and contributors.

Private sector participation, particularly companies with joint interests between Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Gulf, is also expected to play a key role in launching new regional cooperation initiatives.

The forum is considered another opportunity to enhance cooperation between Kuwait, the Arab Gulf countries, and the European Union, especially in energy and climate transition.

It also supports the exchange of expertise and best practices to boost green investment and stimulate innovation, ensuring that the transition to sustainable energy becomes part of more inclusive regional dialogue.

Kuwait is an ideal stop to foster closer relations between the Arab Gulf region, the Mediterranean, and Europe. It hosts the forum as part of "Kuwait Sustainable Energy Week," which aims to promote cooperation



KUNA photo
UFM Climate and Energy Projects Analyst, Hatem Aznak.

among Arab countries and Mediterranean nations in research, development, and renewable energy technologies.

Aznak noted that the UFM thanks Kuwait's leadership and institutions for hosting the forum and their positive support for the region's energy and climate matters.

The forum will also feature a Kuwait International Exhibition, panel discussions, and workshops aimed at developing sustainable energy markets in local, regional, and international contexts.

Discussions will focus on climate change adaptation, unlocking business opportunities, and facilitating investments.

The forum will display the Mediterranean's potential as a hub for clean energy and sustainable business, and as a model for climate and energy collaboration.

It will also highlight the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in developing joint initiatives to tackle regional energy and climate challenges.

The fourth Energy and Climate Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean was held in Cairo, Egypt, last October.

The UFM is an intergovernmental organization comprising EU member states and 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean shores. It forms a platform to enhance regional cooperation, promote inclusive and sustainable development, and ensure stability and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

China's exports rose a higher than expected 8 pct in April as new US tariffs took effect

BEIJING, May 11, (AP): China's exports rose 8.1% in April from the year before, the government said Friday, faster than economists were expecting, though exports to the United States sank more than 20%.

Economists had forecast that China's global exports would grow about 2% in April, down from a whopping 12.4% year-on-year increase in March. Imports fell 0.2% in April from the year before.

The data were released a day before U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and other top U.S. officials were due to meet with Beijing's lead trade envoy, He Lifeng. The plans for talks in Geneva, Switzerland, could bring a shift in the stalemate over President Donald Trump's hikes in tariffs on Chinese goods to as much as 145%.

But the world's two biggest economies are at odds over a raft of issues, including colliding strategic interests that will likely impede progress in the talks.

Some of the punitive tariffs, including Beijing's retaliatory 125% tariffs on U.S. exports, could be rolled back, but a full reversal is unlikely, Zichun Huang of Capital Economics said in a report.

"This means China's exports to the U.S. are set for further declines over the coming months, not all of which will be offset by increased trade with other countries. We still expect export growth to turn negative later this year," Huang said.

China's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States was nearly \$20.5 billion in April, down from about \$27.2 billion a year earlier. In the first four months of the year, China's exports to the United States fell 2.5% from a year earlier, while imports from the U.S. fell 4.7%.

Preliminary data also show that U.S. imports from other countries not subject to U.S. President Donald Trump's 145% tariff on Chinese products have been rising quickly.

Exports to the United States form just a part of China's trade, and exports to the rest of the world have helped offset that weakness.

Exports to Southeast Asian countries were up 11.5% from a year earlier in the first four months of this year. Exports to Latin America also climbed 11.5%. Shipments to India jumped nearly 16% by value, and exports to Africa surged 15%.

Some of the fastest growth was in Asia, reflecting moves by Chinese and other manufacturers to diversify their supply chains outside of the Chinese mainland.

Exports to Vietnam jumped 18% year-on-year, while exports to Thailand were up 20%.

Measured on a monthly basis, China's total exports rose just 0.6% in April, while imports increased by nearly 4% from March.

Warning part of 'Let's Be Aware' financial awareness

ABK warns against cryptocurrency trading campaign

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) continues to play a pivotal role in promoting financial inclusion and raising awareness among customers in Kuwait about their rights and responsibilities when dealing with banks. This is in line with its ongoing collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association, and its strong support of the financial awareness campaign, 'Let's Be Aware.'

As part of its contribution, ABK shares valuable content across all its social media platforms, encouraging customers to rely on officially approved methods of saving and investment. The Bank also warns against investing in cryptocurrencies, emphasizing that they are not licensed by the Central Bank of Kuwait or other relevant authorities in the country. Such investments may result in the loss of customers' savings and expose them to fraud.

ABK stressed that it offers a variety of saving and investment solutions that help customers grow and protect their wealth, including options for open-



ABK logo



Diraya logo

ing fixed deposits. Through its social media platforms, the Bank also shares regular advice on the best investment practices and cautions against suspicious advertisements from unregulated

entities that promise high returns, posing significant financial risks – particularly in the context of cryptocurrency investments.

The Bank further noted that its team is always ready to respond to customer inquiries and actively participates in events where it promotes its wide range of products and raises awareness about the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign. ABK maintains ongoing engagement with the public across Kuwait, affirming its role as a responsible financial institution.

Lastly, ABK confirmed its commitment to continually enhance its services and solutions in the local market to support financial inclusion. The Bank urges customers to rely on licensed financial solutions and avoid the risks associated with cryptocurrency trading, which can lead to fraud, theft of personal data and funds, and total loss of savings. ABK remains fully dedicated to supporting the success of the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign and achieving its objectives in the most effective way possible.

British rock band announces farewell tour

The Who says goodbye to North America this summer

LONDON, May 11, (AP): British rock band The Who are to say their final goodbye to North America this summer.

Singer Roger Daltrey and guitarist Pete Townshend confirmed Thursday that they will perform hits from six-decade career during “The Song Is Over North America Farewell Tour,” named after the band’s 1971 hit.

The band, which by the 1970s had become one of the world’s biggest touring bands, easily filling the largest US stadiums, will play their first gig in Florida on Aug. 16, with further dates in cities including New York, Toronto, Los Angeles and Vancouver, before a final date in Las Vegas on Sept. 28.

“Every musician’s dream in the early ‘60s was to make it big in the US charts,” Daltrey said. “For The Who, that dream came true in 1967 and our lives were changed forever.”

The band went from performing club shows to headlining the Woodstock festival in the US and

becoming one of the biggest box-office draw in the world. The band were inducted into the Rock n’ Roll Hall Of Fame in 1990.

Daltrey, 81, and Townshend, two years his junior, have been one of rock’s most prolific double acts, surviving the deaths of drummer Keith Moon in 1978 and bass guitarist John Entwistle in 2002.

Banner

“Today, Roger and I still carry the banner for the late Keith Moon and John Entwistle, and, of course, all of our long-time Who fans,” Townshend said. “I must say that although the road has not always been enjoyable for me, it is usually easy: the best job I could ever have had. I keep coming back.”

Though Daltrey didn’t write songs, he was able to channel Townshend’s many and complicated moods - defiance and rage, vulnerability and desperation.

Together, they forged some of rock’s most defining

sounds: the stuttering, sneering delivery of “My Generation,” the anguished cry of “They’re all wasted!” from “Baba O’Reilly,” and the all-time scream from “Won’t Get Fooled Again.” Two albums - “Tommy” and “Quadrophenia” - were also adapted into successful films in 1975 and 1979, respectively.

Ticket pre-sales will run from May 13 ahead of the general sale beginning May 16.

“Well, all good things must come to an end. It is a poignant time,” Townshend said. “For me, playing to American audiences and those in Canada has always been incredible.”

Daltrey, who said a throat specialist has told him he should have a “day off” after every gig he performs, and Townshend also revealed there are no plans at the moment for a farewell tour of the UK.

“Let’s see if we survive this one,” Daltrey said. “I don’t want to say that there won’t be (a UK farewell tour), but equally I’m not confident in saying there will be.”



Pete Townshend poses for portrait photographs after the announcement of ‘The Who: The Song Is Over North America Farewell Tour’ on Thursday, May 8, in London. (AP)

Music

Top nominee

Lamar earns 10 BET nods

LOS ANGELES, May 11, (AP): Kendrick Lamar extends his dominant musical reign, entering next month’s BET Awards as the leading nominee.

The rap megastar earned 10 nominations Thursday, including an album of the year for his highly-acclaimed project “GNX,” the network announced. His ubiquitous diss track “Not Like Us,” emanating from the Drake feud, received nominations for video of the year and viewer’s choice award.

Lamar made waves with his Grammy triumph, winning song and record of the year for “Not Like Us.” He followed up with a groundbreaking halftime show, becoming the first solo hip-hop performer to headline the coveted slot. He is currently on the Grand National Tour with SZA.

Doechii, Drake, Future and GloRilla tied for the second-most nominations with six. Metro Boomin pulled in five nods, while SZA and The Weeknd each scored four.

Kevin Hart is expected to bring the funny as host of the awards show, celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The comedian-actor, who hosted the BET Awards in 2011, called this year’s ceremony a “black-tie affair.”

“It’s a chance to reflect, cherish and honor life’s unforgettable moments,” Hart said in a statement. He has a history with the network, hosting “Comic View: One Night Stand” in 2008. He was an executive producer and one of the stars of “Real Husbands of Hollywood” and launched adult animated comedy “Lil Kev” on BET+.

Tributes

The BET Awards will offer tributes to former popular hosts and performances, including the network’s once-flagship program “106 & Park.”

“‘106 & Park’ was more than just a music countdown show; it was the heartbeat of Black youth culture and one of the highest-rated BET programs for over a decade,” said Scott Mills, BET’s president and CEO. The weekday show launched in 2000 and lasted for more than a decade.

The show thrived with a video countdown, interviews and performances.

“From Freestyle Friday to unforgettable live performances, it launched careers, influenced fashion, and became a platform where voices, style, and sound converged,” Mills said. “‘106 & Park’ both celebrated and fueled many of the most important musical and culture evolutions that occurred during its two-and-a-half-decade tenure.”

The show will reunite past hosts A.J. Calloway, Free, Julissa Bermudez, Keshia Chanté, Roci Diaz and Terrence J. The tribute will feature performers such as Bow Wow, Amerie, B2K, Jim Jones, Mya, T.I. and Mr. 106 & Park.

The awards will air live on June 9 from the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles at 8 p.m. EDT. There’s a competitive list of top-notch actors looking to take home the top award in their category.

For best actor, the category includes: Aaron Pierre, Aldis Hodge, Anthony Mackie, Colman Domingo, Denzel Washington, Jamie Foxx, Joey Bada\$\$, Kevin Hart, Sterling K. Brown and Will Smith.

For best actress, the nominees include: Andra Day, Angela Bassett, Coco Jones, Cynthia Erivo, Keke Palmer, Kerry Washington, Quinta Brunson, Viola Davis and Zendaya.



Kendrick Lamar performs during half-time of the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, Feb. 9, 2025, in New Orleans. (AP)

Film



This image released by Paramount Pictures and Skydance shows Tom Cruise in a scene from ‘Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning.’ (AP)

A cinematic clash of art and geopolitics

Cannes returns amid new challenges

CANNES, May 11, (AP): Nowhere is the border-crossing nature of cinema more evident than the Cannes Film Festival, which kicks off Tuesday in the wake of US President Donald Trump’s vow to enact tariffs on international films.

Cannes, where filmmakers, sales agents and journalists gather from around the world, is the Olympics of the big screen, with its own golden prize, the Palme d’Or, to give out at the end. Filmmakers come from nearly every corner of the globe to showcase their films while dealmakers work through the night to sell finished films or packaged productions to various territories.

“You release a film into that Colosseum-like situation,” says Brazilian director Kleber Mendonça Filho, who’s returning to Cannes with “The Secret Agent,” a thriller set during Brazil’s dictatorship. “You’ve got to really prepare for the whole experience because it’s quite intense - not very far from the feeling of approaching a roller coaster as you go up the steps at the Palais.”

Perhaps as much as ever, all eyes in the movie world will be on the 78th Cannes Film Festival when it gets underway this week. That’s not just because of the long list of anticipated films set to premiere at the Cote d’Azur festival (including films from Spike Lee, Wes Anderson, Lynne Ramsay, Richard Linklater and Ari Aster) and the extensive coterie of stars set to walk the fabled red carpet (Jennifer Lawrence, Denzel Washington, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart among them).

As the movies, and the Oscar race, have grown more international, the global launchpad of Cannes has become only more central to the larger film ecosystem - even with the ongoing absence of Netflix. Recent editions of Cannes have produced a string of Academy Awards contenders, including this year’s best-picture winner, “Anora.”

At the same time, geopolitics course through Cannes unlike any other festival. The Cannes red carpet can be as much a platform for political protest as it is for glamour. This year’s festival will include a dissident Iranian filmmaker (Jafar Panahi), a Ukrainian filmmaker (Sergei Loznitsa) and the first Nigerian production in the official selection (Akinola Davies Jr.’s “My Father’s Shadow”).

In the run-up to the festival, three filmmakers from different corners of the world spoke about their roads to the Cannes competition lineup. For many directors, reaching the Cannes competition - this year, that’s 22 movies vying for the Palme d’Or - is career milestone.

“It’s meaningful for me. It’s meaningful for the country,” says Oliver Hermanus, speaking from outside Cape Town. Hermanus, the South African filmmaker of “Moffie” and “Living,” is in competition for the first time with “The History of Sound,” a period love story starring Paul Mescal and Josh O’Connor.

“I was born here and made movies here for most of my career, so I still see myself as a South African filmmaker who’s interested in the South African perspective on things and South African representation,” adds Hermanus. “The competition is something I’ve always wanted to be part of.”

Competition

Chie Hayakawa, the Japanese filmmaker of 2022’s “Plan 75,” is also in competition for the first time. She first came to Cannes with a student film that she never expected to make it into the festival’s shorts program. This week, she’ll debut “Renoir,” a semi-autobiographical tale about an 11-year-old girl with a father who has terminal cancer.

“It gives me a huge encouragement and keeps me motivated to making films,” Hayakawa said from Tokyo. “I don’t feel like I’m going to compete with other films. But it meaningful. I know how prestigious and meaningful it is to be in competition.”

“Film is global and easily crosses the borders of any country or culture,” she adds. “That’s what special about Cannes.”

Cannes’ global approach is part of what makes this year more complicated than usual. Trump sent shock waves through Hollywood and the international film community when he announced on May 4 that all movies “produced in Foreign Lands” will face 100% tariffs.

The White House has said no final decisions have been made. Options being explored include federal incentives for US-based productions, rather than tariffs. But the announcement was a re-

minder of how international tensions can destabilize even the oldest cultural institutions.

Filho first attended Cannes as a critic. Once he began making movies, the allure of the festival remained. To him, participating in Cannes means joining a timeline of cinema history. “The Secret Agent” marks his third time in competition.

“I have always felt that there was a seriousness that I appreciated,” Filho says. “For example, I will be attending a 2 a.m. test for sound and picture. This is done with scientist types who will take care of the projection and how everything will go.”

As to the threat of tariffs? He shrugs.

“I have been trained by Brazil, because we had a very strange and weird historic moment under (former president Jair) Bolsonaro,” Filho said. “I used my training to say: This is probably some bad idea or misunderstanding that will be corrected in the coming days or weeks. Even for leaders like them, Bolsonaro and Trump, it makes no sense whatsoever.”

The Cannes Film Festival originally emerged in the World War II years, when the rise of fascism in Italy led to the founding of an alternative to the then-government controlled Venice Film Festival. In the time since, Cannes’ resolute commitment to cinema has made it a beacon to filmmakers. Countless directors have come to make their name.

This year is no different, though some of the first-time filmmakers at Cannes are already particularly well-known. Stewart (“The Chronology of Water”), Scarlett Johansson (“Eleanor the Great”) and Harris Dickinson (“Urchin”) will all be unveiling their feature directorial debuts in Cannes’ Un Certain Regard sidebar section.

Many Cannes veterans will be back, too, including Tom Cruise (“Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning”), Robert De Niro (who’s to receive an honorary Palme d’Or 49 years after “Taxi Driver” premiered in Cannes) and Quentin Tarantino (to pay tribute to low-budget Western director George Sherman).

Hermanus first came to Cannes with his 2011 film “Beauty.” He went naively optimistic before realizing, he laughs, that a Cannes selection is “a potential invitation to a beheading.”

Variety

SAN ANTONIO: Country music star Johnny Rodriguez, a popular Mexican American singer best known for chart-topping hits in the 1970s such as “I Just Can’t Get Her Out of My Mind,” “Ridin’ My Thumb to Mexico” and “That’s the Way Love Goes,” has died. He was 73.

Rodriguez died Friday in San Antonio from health complications, according to his daughter, Aubry Rodriguez. She also shared a statement on social media saying he went peacefully and was surrounded by family.

“Dad was not only a legendary musician whose artistry touched millions around the world, but also a deeply loved husband, father, uncle, and brother whose warmth, humor, and

compassion shaped the lives of all who knew him,” she wrote.



Rodriguez

after he began to use drugs and alcohol excessively. (AP)



ROME: Koyo Kouoh, the curator of the 2026 Venice Art Biennale, has died at age 58, her home institution in South Africa said in an Instagram post Saturday.

The Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa in Cape Town in South Africa confirmed her passing overnight but gave no cause of death. The Biennale said Saturday it was “deeply saddened and dismayed” to learn of her death.

Kouoh was the first African woman tapped to helm the Venice Biennale. Born in Cameroon in 1967, she was tapped to curate the 2026 edition of the Biennale in December. A leading figure in promoting Pan-Africanism throughout the art world, Kouoh had been executive director and chief curator at Zeitz since 2019.

Appointed in December 2024 by the board

of directors of La Biennale, Kouoh worked “with passion, intellectual rigor and vision on the conception and development of the Biennale Arte 2026,” the Venice arts institution said.

The presentation of the exhibition’s title and theme was due to take place in Venice on May 20.

“Her passing leaves an immense void in the world of contemporary art and in the international community of artists, curators, and scholars who had the privilege of knowing and admiring her extraordinary human and intellectual commitment,” the Biennale said.

It extended “its deepest sympathies and affection” to Kouoh’s family and friends, and “all those who shared with her a journey of research and critical thought on contemporary art.” (AP)

Kids author’s new book resonates with all ages

Willems and The Pigeon tackle the future in new book

NEW YORK, May 11, (AP): Author Mo Willems has sold millions of books and won many awards, but the accolade that means most to him is when a parent says their child read aloud for the first time from one of his books.

The author, illustrator and animator, 57, is best known for his best-selling picture books like the Caldecott Award-winning “Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!” and “Knuffle Bunny.” His latest book, “Will the Pigeon Graduate?” may look like it’s aimed at children, but the titular Pigeon’s fear of failure and an uncertain future are sure to resonate with people of all ages, especially during graduation season.

Willems and his trusty friend The Pigeon (charmingly represented by puppeteer Bradley Freeman Jr.) recently sat down with The Associated Press for an interview about graduating, “Sesame Street,” and the purpose of life. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How did graduation come to

mind for a book topic?

Willems: As I am getting older, which I am, I’m getting into a new part of my life. And I’m wondering, am I equipped to be living in this part of life? And as I ask that question and I don’t have the answers, then I think, well, what is that metaphor that kids are going through? And graduation seemed like the perfect thing. I’m graduating to a new stage in my life, and kids do this all the time. You graduate to tying your shoe. You graduate the first time you read.

The Pigeon: Like driving a bus.

Willems: Yeah, well, except for driving a bus. That is something you cannot graduate to, if you’re a pigeon, but thank you for contributing to the conversation.

The Pigeon: Of course.

AP: People may think this is just for graduates, but could it be about any transition?

Willems: I think it’s about asking yourself, “Am I equipped for something that scares me?” The real



Author Mo Willems poses with The Pigeon, a character in his children's books, on April 22, 2025, in New York. (AP)

world is scary. We’re always asking ourselves those questions. And often the answer is ... I don’t know. And that’s something that might feel uncomfortable to sit with, but it’s also something that’s very, very exciting. So like right now, I’m doing an interview with you and a giant pigeon. Is this gonna work out? If I’m going to get a little bit philosophical, I would say often we’re trying to give the answers, and I think kids get exhausted from it. I want to give them the questions. I want them to have a chance to live with these questions themselves and work their way into an answer rather than telling them, “Oh, you’ll be fine.”

AP: Mr. Pigeon, what is your favorite part about collaborating on this book?

The Pigeon: I really like how all of the books are about me. I like how I’m on, like, almost every page. You know, all of these books go through an approval process, and I get sent advanced - I call them screeners, nobody likes when I call them that! - but I get to look at them. And if I’m not on the first page and the last page, it does not get approved.

AP (to Willems): Can you reflect on your nine seasons as a writer and animator on “Sesame Street,” winning six Emmys and helping to develop “Elmo’s World”?

Willems: My love of puppets, my love of sketch comedy, my love of counting to 40 - all these things that I really, really love - came from “Sesame Street”! And when it came time for me to make books, one of the things that I got to do that we didn’t get to do on “Sesame Street” at the time was write about failure. Write about not driving the bus rather than driving the bus. So on one level, it was like going to grad school. I loved it. I learned so much. I met all of these great puppets and puppeteers. On the other, the restrictions of the show allowed me to find my own voice.

AP: Obviously, one of the book’s messages is you have to believe in yourself.

Willems: I don’t know. I’m glad that you think that that’s one of the messages because you brought

something to that book. I only write 49% of the book. You put the meaning in the book; if the book is meaningful, that is because you are putting yourself within it. I try not to have messages as much as I can. I really try to live in the question.

AP: Mr. Pigeon, do you think your participation in this makes you a little bit of a philosopher?

The Pigeon: Yeah, I think there’s a lot of very powerful things going on up here in this little bird brain. There’s a lot of really deep questions, like, I don’t know, can I drive the bus, maybe? You know, wondering maybe if I can stay up late? That would be really great.

Willems: These are all fundamental Greek philosophical questions.

The Pigeon: And what is the purpose of life?

Willems: What is the purpose of life? Why are we here? Why are people mean? Why are people nice? Can I drive the bus?

The Pigeon: Can I have a hot dog?

Gaming

Class of 2025

4 games enter ‘Hall of Fame’

ROCHESTER, N.Y., May 11, (AP): The World Video Game Hall of Fame on Thursday inducted four honorees, paying tribute to games that challenged players and changed the industry.

Making up the Class of 2025 are: Defender, the 1981 arcade game that raised the bar on difficulty; Tamagotchi, the digital pets that bridged toys and video games; GoldenEye 007, whose four-person mode influenced multiplayer games that followed; and Quake, which debuted in 1996 with a 3D engine that became the new standard for the industry.

The winners emerged from a field of 12 finalists that included Age of Empires, Angry Birds, Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare, Frogger, Golden Tee, Harvest Moon, Mattel Football, and NBA 2K.

The Hall of Fame each year recognizes arcade, console, computer, handheld, and mobile games that have had staying power and influenced the video game industry or pop culture.

Id Software’s 1996 Quake was recognized for its lasting influence, with a game code that “is a literal legacy” and continues to be used in some games after nearly 30 years, electronic games curator Lindsey Kurano said.

Quake co-creator John Romeo, on hand to see his game enshrined, said he and the other developers worked on the game for an exceptionally long time, a year and a half, playing it constantly.

Doom

“We knew that what we were building into the game was going to make people who had played our previous game, Doom, even happier with the addition of a programming language built into the game,” he said in remarks aired on RochesterFirst.com. “We’re just really happy with the impact that Quake made on the world,” he said.

The best-selling Defender, released by Williams Electronics, proved that players would embrace complex and challenging games in the arcade, the experts said. It combined intense gameplay and a complicated control scheme with a horizontally scrolling shooter.

“Defender’s punishing gameplay raised the level of competition in arcades, and it was among the first games to truly separate dedicated players from more casual ones,” Jeremy Saucier, assistant vice president for interpretation and electronic games, said.

The 1996 launch of Tamagotchi is credited with sparking the popularity of pet simulation video games. The handheld egg-shaped electronic game allowed owners to care for a virtual pet from birth through death, feeding, playing with and cleaning up after it by pressing buttons. Collections manager Kristy Hisert said Tamagotchi offered something different than the popular video game electronics of the time.

“It provided players with feelings of connection, caring, and customization, a respite from competition and fighting games,” she said. Neopets, Nintendogs and other social media and app-based versions of pet simulation games would follow.

GoldenEye 007 was based on the 1995 James Bond spy film “GoldenEye” and was the third best-selling game for the Nintendo 64, behind Super Mario 64 and Mario Kart 64. The result of a 1997 partnership between Nintendo and Rare, the first-person shooter game was known for its four-person multiplayer mode, which Hall of Fame experts said influenced many multiplayer games that followed.

Music



Mexican singer Lupita D'Alessio performs a free Mother's Day concert at the Zocalo in Mexico City, Saturday, May 10. (AP)

Singer crafts a musical remedy for herself, fans

Uchis pours her heart into ‘Sincerely’

LOS ANGELES, May 11, (AP): Kali Uchis wrote the album she knew her future self would need to listen to. The Grammy-winning artist unknowingly was crafting her own audible remedy.

“I really did make the music that I needed for my grieving process, for just the place that I’m at in my life right now,” she says of the album out Friday.

“Sincerely,” (yes, the title includes the comma) began as a collection of letters to herself, friends and loved ones but took on a deeper meaning as the Colombian American songwriter gave birth to her first child and processed her mother’s recent death. The first single, “Sunshine & Rain...,” includes a clip of Uchis’ mother saying, “Good morning, sunshine.”

“I wanted to immortalize her in the project,” said Uchis. “I thought it was just a beautiful way to open the album.”

The 14-track album finds Uchis proudly wearing her heart on her sleeve with songs like “Daggers!,” where Uchis encourages a close friend to lean into self-love, or “ILYSMIH,” which includes baby coos at the beginning and was written as she lay in her hospital bed with her newborn.

Uchis hopes that after listening to her fifth full album, fans will feel more connected to themselves and more in touch with their emotions: “I hope it will give them some type of solace.”

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

AP: When you decided to step into this album and encompass that world of tenderness and strength, what was your thought process of the themes that you wanted to follow?

Uchis: I’m a very deep feeler. I’m very empathetic. I feel a lot. And I wanted to make a body of work that fully showed that vulnerability and that actually really dug deep into my heart in a way that none of my other albums ever had.

I felt like I was ready to do that because I’ve been making music long enough that I felt that it was that time for me, and then it just so happened that, shortly after working on the al-

bum, I became pregnant, which was such a big part of being able to feel even deeper than I ever have.

AP: How was working on this album healing for you?

Uchis: It’s crazy because a lot of times I feel, and especially with this album in particular, I felt that I really made music that my future self would need, that I didn’t realize I was going to need at that time.

The album is actually dedicated to my mom. My mom later ended up getting diagnosed, and she’s no longer here. ... And so pretty much all of the songs ended up taking on a deeper meaning to me because of that and because of it being dedicated to her. ... At the time, I might not have even realized subconsciously that I was making all of this to heal myself.

AP: Is that how you got to the title “Sincerely,”?

Uchis: At one point, I was like, “I’m gonna make sure each of these songs is like, this is my letter to the world, this is my letter to this person, this my letter to that, this one to myself.” I tried to really conceptualize in a different way that I never have when making any other album. And then ... when my mom passed, a lot of what I had left from her is letters that she wrote to me, and so it ended up, like

I said, just more and more reasons for me to realize that it was the correct title for the project.

AP: When you are in that studio space by yourself, what comes first? Is it the melody? Is it the lyrics? How did you specifically craft this album?

Uchis: I never stick to one process, but one particular process that stuck out to me on a lot of the songs was that most of them were written with no music, just songs that came to me.

For instance, “ILYSMIH” - that one literally I was just recovering from labor, my son was sleeping next to me; I was still in my hospital bed when I got this idea for this song and started it, started recording it on my phone, started writing some lyrics down. ... There’s one called “All I Can Say.” I wrote that whole song in the car on the way to the studio. ... I try to just make beauty out of all of my experiences.

AP: Fans online were saying “Sunshine and Rain” is the answer to “After the Storm.” Do you agree with that and if so how does it feel to now, five albums later, do you agree with the correlation?

Uchis: Thematically, nature is kind of a reoccurring theme in my music because I am so inspired by nature

and I feel nature is where God exists and nature is where a lot of my creativity just thrives.

I feel like it just happened. Afterwards, I even thought, “Is this too similar to what I’ve already done?” But ... I just love the things that I love, and I just returned back to those nostalgic elements. I may branch out and try what people think is different sounds. Like on “Orquídeas,” I did a lot of different genre-bending on “Sin Miedo (del Amor y Otros Demonios)” as well, but to me, that’s still nostalgic because it’s still music I grew up listening to.

I return a lot to things that are core memories for me. It’s soothing to my nervous system. I’m the person who watches the same episodes of my favorite TV shows over and over again, ... I think that’s what makes it beautiful too, is to see the evolution and know that it’s still true to me. It’s still true to my roots in music and where I started, but an evolved version.

AP: What does that mean to you to have your mother’s voice be a part of the album?

Uchis: After she passed, one of the first things I did was go through all of the audio messages that she had ever sent me and I was just listening to all her messages over and over, wanting to hear her voice. When I heard that one I just thought of, “Oh how perfect is this that the song is called ‘Sunshine & Rain...’ and she had said, ‘Good morning, sunshine.’” It was for my son that she sent that message. I thought it was just a beautiful way to open the album, considering that it’s dedicated to her.

I struggled a lot with whether or not I wanted to share because I’m a very, very private person. So I struggled a lot with if I even wanted to share that my mom was no longer here, but I felt I just had to not be afraid of that vulnerability and not pretend like it didn’t affect me or didn’t have some type of impact on me and still does. And I wanted to also honor her and honor her life in a way through art that I know that she would have loved and that she would have been proud of.



Kali Uchis arrives at the 67th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Outgoing US poet laureate Ada Limón and her two immediate predecessors, Joy Harjo and Tracy K. Smith, are condemning President Donald Trump’s firing of Librarian of Congress **Carla Hayden**, who had appointed each of them to their positions.

“Dr. Carla Hayden is the kindest, brightest, most generous Librarian of Congress we could have hoped for as a nation,” Limón, who last month completed a three-year run as poet laureate, said in a statement on Friday.

“She promoted books, libraries, and curiosity while dedicating herself to serving both sides of the aisle with genuine grace. I am heartbroken as the cruelty of this administration continues with seemingly no end in sight. She is the best of us and deserves the utmost respect. I hope people are paying attention. What we once feared is already happening.”

The library, an outgrowth of Thomas Jefferson’s personal book collection, holds a vast archive of the nation’s books and history.

Hayden, whose 10-year term was scheduled to end next year, was notified late Thursday that she had been fired, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. (AP)



Hayden

LONDON: An art expert who appeared on the BBC’s Bargain Hunt show pleaded guilty Friday to failing to report that he sold pricey works to a suspected financier of Lebanon’s militant Hezbollah group.

Oghenochuko Ojiri, 53, was charged with failing to disclose art sales between October 2020 and December 2021. He pleaded guilty in Westminster Magistrates’ Court to eight offences under a section of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Ojiri sold about 140,000 pounds (\$185,000) of artworks to Nazem Ahmad, a diamond and art dealer sanctioned by the UK and US as a Hezbollah financier. The sanctions were designed to prevent anyone in the UK or US from doing business with Ahmad or his businesses.

US prosecutors said Ahmad acquired more than \$160 million (120 million pounds) in artwork and diamond services by using a complex web of companies to evade sanctions.

Prosecutor Lyndon Harris said Ojiri knew about the sanctions against Ahmad because he had searched for news reports about his status and discussed it with others. (AP)

PALMER, Alaska: It is one of Alaska’s favorite Mother’s Day traditions, getting up close and personal with animals that have survived the ice age.

All moms get a daisy and free admission Sunday at the Musk Ox Farm in Palmer, about an hour’s drive north of Anchorage. Once inside they will have the chance to view 75 members of the musk ox herd, including three young calves just getting their feet under them. Also a draw is an old bull named Trebek, named after the late “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek, a benefactor of the facility.

“Who doesn’t want to celebrate Mother’s Day with a musk ox mom and the most adorable calf you’re ever going to find in your life?” said Mark Austin, the farm’s executive director.

Mother’s Day is the traditional start of the summer season for the farm, which traces its roots back to 1964 and at several locations before moving in 1986 to Palmer.

That move put it on Alaska’s limited road system, provided easier access to grazing land than in tundra communities and it to incorporate educational opportunities at the farm facility, which is dwarfed by the the Talkeetna and Chugach mountain ranges. (AP)

16,000 pregnant women, new mothers face acute malnutrition

Israel’s blockade leaves Gaza hospitals unable to feed patients

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, May 11, (AP): It cost a fortune, she said, but Asmaa Fayeze managed to buy a few zucchinis in a Gaza market. She cooked them with rice and brought it to her 4-year-old son, who has been in the hospital for the past week. The soup was his only meal of the day, and he asked for more.

“It’s all finished, darling,” Fayeze replied softly. Still, it was an improvement from the canned beans and tuna she brings on other days, she said.

Hospital patients are among the most vulnerable as Palestinians across Gaza struggle to feed themselves, with Israel’s blockade on food and other supplies entering the territory now in its third month.

With hospitals unable to provide food, families must bring whatever they can find for loved ones.

“Most, if not all, wounded patients have lost weight, especially in the past two months,” Dr. Khaled Alserr, a general surgeon at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, told The Associated Press. Nutritional supplements for intensive care unit pa-



Asmaa Faraj, who was injured by shrapnel in an Israeli army strike, covers her face as her sister, Salwa, holds out cookies brought from home at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, May 6. (AP)

tients are lacking, he said.

“Our hands are tied when it comes to making the best choice for patients. Choices are limited,” he said.

Malnutrition is on the rise across Gaza, aid groups say. Thousands of children have been found with acute malnutrition in the past month, but

adults as well are not getting proper nutrients, according to the UN. It estimates that 16,000 pregnant women and new mothers this year face acute malnutrition.

Since Israel’s blockade began on March 2, food sources have been drying up. Aid groups have stopped food distribution. Bakeries have closed. Charity kitchens handing out bowls of pasta or lentils remain the last lifeline for most of the population, but they are rapidly closing for lack of supplies, the UN says.

Markets are empty of almost everything but canned goods and small amounts of vegetables, and prices have been rising. Local production of vegetables has plummeted because Israeli forces have damaged 80% of Gaza’s farmlands, the U.N. says, and much of the rest is inaccessible inside newly declared military zones.

Fayeze’s son, Ali al-Dbari, was admitted to Nasser Hospital because of a blocked intestine, suffering from severe cramps and unable to use the bathroom. Fayeze believes it’s because he has been eating little but canned

goods. She splurged on the zucchini, which now costs around \$10 a kilogram (2.2 pounds). Before the war it was less than a dollar.

Doctors said the hospital doesn’t have a functioning scanner to diagnose her son and decide whether he needs surgery.

Israel says it imposed the blockade and resumed its military campaign in March to pressure Hamas to release its remaining hostages and disarm.

Hamas ignited the war with its Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, in which militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 hostage, most of whom have been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israel’s offensive has killed over 52,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants.

Israeli officials have asserted that enough food entered Gaza during a two-month ceasefire earlier this year. Rights groups have disputed that and called the blockade a “starvation tactic” and a potential war crime.

Now Israeli plans to control aid distribution in Gaza, using private contractors to distribute supplies. The UN and aid groups have rejected the idea, saying it could restrict who is eligible to give and receive aid and could force large numbers of Palestinians to move - which would violate international law.

Those under care at hospitals, and their families who scrounge to feed them, would face further challenges under Israel’s proposal. Moving to reach aid could be out of the question.

Another patient at Nasser Hospital, 19-year-old Asmaa Faraj, had shrapnel in her chest from an airstrike that hit close to her tent and a nearby charity kitchen in camps for displaced people outside Khan Younis.

When the AP visited, the only food she had was a small bag of dates, a date cookie and some water bottles. Her sister brought her some pickles.

“People used to bring fruits as a gift when they visited sick people in hospitals,” said the sister, Salwa Faraj. “Today, we have bottles of water.”

Mom-daughter duo graduate nursing school together

Daughter thanks mother for giving her ‘life twice’ with kidney donation

BATON ROUGE, La., May 11, (AP): For years, Ambreae Brown was forced to put her dreams of becoming a nurse on hold due to a life-threatening kidney disease that left her temporarily incapacitated.

Amid inner doubts about whether she would ever return to living a normal life, Brown’s mother stepped in and offered to donate her kidney. Doctors performed Louisiana’s first robotic kidney transplant, giving Brown a renewed chance at life and Nija Butler the opportunity to see her daughter thrive.

Nearly two years after the successful transplant, the Louisiana mother and daughter shared another journey. Donning white caps and gowns, they walked across the stage together in Baton Rouge and graduated from nursing school.

“As parents, we always tell our children, we would die for you, and kids don’t always understand that kind of love,” Butler, 48, said. “I would have given anything for her to live. I mean that from the bottom of my heart, without a second thought.”

During an interview with The Associated Press last month, the two women reflected on their journey together and the challenges they have overcome.

The Louisiana mother-daughter duo has always been close. Butler gave birth to her daughter when she was in high school, and as a result, they grew



Kidney donor Nija Butler and kidney recipient Ambreae Brown are photographed the day before graduating from Baton Rouge General's School of Nursing on April 28, 2025 in central Louisiana. (AP)

up together. Butler poured herself into raising her daughter and son, and Brown planned to become a nurse.

But in 2016, when Brown was diagnosed with Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), a rare kidney

disease that can cause kidney failure, everything changed. Her prognosis quickly worsened. One day, Brown, who was taking prerequisite courses for nursing school, felt her legs tighten to the point that she could not move.

Shortly after, Brown’s doctor delivered detrimental news: Brown would either need to start dialysis or have a kidney transplant to survive. The average wait for a kidney transplant in the U.S. can vary from two to five years, or longer, depending on certain factors, based on data from the National Kidney Foundation.

Brown desperately hoped for a new kidney. But as she awaited news of a transplant, she was forced to turn to dialysis - a treatment that lasted nine to 13 hours, every single day. Brown’s daily life was limited, and she had to stop school.

After years of dialysis, Butler said she saw a shift in her daughter, who was typically optimistic.

“It was like she wanted to give up,” Butler recalled about a phone call with her daughter. “She was tired of just being connected to a tube that her life revolved around.”

Although doctors had previously told Butler she likely wasn’t a match to be a kidney donor for her daughter, she still scheduled an appointment to get tested the next day.

‘Preventable disease’ claim sparks criticism

Kennedy’s unrealistic autism plan slammed

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AP): For many experts, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s promise for “pulling back the curtain” to find autism’s causes in a few months is jarring - and unrealistic.

That’s because it appears to ignore decades of science linking about 200 genes that play a role - and the quest to understand differences inside the brain that can be present at birth.

“Virtually all the evidence in the field suggests whatever the causes of autism - and there’s going to be multiple causes, it’s not going to be a single cause - they all affect how the fetal brain develops,” said longtime autism researcher David Amaral of the UC Davis MIND Institute.

“Even though we may not see the behaviors associated with autism until a child is 2 or 3 years old, the biological changes have already taken place,” he said.

Kennedy on Wednesday announced the National Institutes of Health would create a new database “to uncover the root causes of autism and other chronic diseases” by merg-

ing Medicaid and Medicare insurance claims with electronic medical records and other data. He has cited rising autism rates as evidence of an epidemic of a “preventable disease” caused by some sort of environmental exposure and has promised “some of the answers by September.”

Autism isn’t considered a disease. It’s a complex brain disorder better known as autism spectrum disorder, to reflect that it affects different people in different ways.

Symptoms vary widely. For some people, profound autism means being nonverbal and having significant intellectual disabilities. Others have far milder effects, such as difficulty with social and emotional skills.

Autism rates are rising - not among profound cases but milder ones, said autism expert Helen Tager-Flusberg of Boston University.

That’s because doctors gradually learned that milder symptoms were part of autism’s spectrum, leading to changes in the late 1990s and early 2000s in diagnosis guidelines and qualifications for educational services, she said.

Health workers confront vaccine skepticism

‘Vaccine teams’ in Mexico race to contain rapid spread of measles

CUAUHTEMOC, Mexico, May 11, (AP): In a rickety white Nissan, nurse Sandra Aguirre and her vaccination team drive past apple orchards and cornfields stretching to the desert horizon. Aguirre goes door to door with a cooler of measles vaccines. In one of Latin America’s biggest Mennonite communities, she knows many will decline to be vaccinated or even open their doors. But some will ask questions, and a handful might even agree to get shots on the spot.

“We’re out here every single day,” said Aguirre, pausing to call out to an empty farm, checking for residents. “To gain trust of the Mennonites - because they’re reserved and closed-off people - you have to meet them where they’re at, show a friendly face.”

Aguirre’s work is part of an effort by health authorities across the country to contain Mexico’s biggest measles outbreak in decades, as cases climb not only here but in the US and Canada. In Mexico, cases have been concentrated in the Mennonite community - long skeptical of vaccines and distrustful of authorities - in the northern border state of Chihuahua.

Officials say results of their campaign alongside Mennonite leaders have been mixed - they cite tens of thousands of new vaccinations in Chihuahua, but infections have ballooned and spread past the community to Indigenous and other populations.

Federal officials have documented 922 cases and one death in Chihuahua. Officials, health workers and local leaders say the numbers are likely underestimated, and misinformation about vaccines and endemic distrust of authorities are their biggest obstacles.



Maria de Lourdes Vasquez holds her 4-year-old son Nathan Valencia as a nurse gives him a measles vaccine at a clinic in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico, April 30, 2025. (AP)

Pressed against the fringes of the small northern city of Cuauhtemoc, the Mennonite settlement here spans about 40 kilometers (25 miles). With 23,000 residents, it’s one of Cuauhtemoc’s primary economic engines, but it’s an isolated place where families keep to themselves. Some have turned to social media and anti-vaccine websites for research. Others use little technology but visit family in the United States, where they also hear misinformation - which then spreads through word of mouth.

Chihuahua is a particularly worrisome place, officials say - as a border state, the risk that the preventable disease will continue spreading internationally and affect the most vulnerable

is high.

Mexico considered measles eliminated in 1998. But its vaccination rate against the virus was around 76% as of 2023, according to the World Health Organization - a dip from previous years and well below the 95% rate experts say is needed to prevent outbreaks.

Mexico’s current outbreak began in March. Officials traced it to an 8-year-old unvaccinated Mennonite boy who visited relatives in Seminole, Texas - at the center of the U.S. outbreak.

Cases rapidly spread through Chihuahua’s 46,000-strong Mennonite community via schools and churches, according to religious and health leaders. From there, they said, it spread to workers in orchards and cheese plants.

RSV shots help reduce US infant mortality

NEW YORK, May 11, (AP): The nation’s infant mortality rate dropped last year after two years of hovering at a late-pandemic plateau. Some experts think one reason for the drop could be a vaccination campaign against RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, which is a common cause of cold-like symptoms that can be dangerous for infants.

The infant mortality national rate dropped to about 5.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2024, according to

provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted Thursday. That’s down from about 5.6 per 1,000 live births, where it had been the previous two years. CDC officials believe the findings will not change much when the final numbers come out later this year.

Infant mortality is the measure of how many babies die before they reach their first birthday. Because the number of babies born in the US varies from year to year, researchers instead

calculate rates to better compare infant mortality over time.

U.S. infant deaths fell to about 19,900 last year, according to CDC data, compared with about 20,150 in 2023. The U.S. infant mortality rate has been worse than other high-income countries, which experts have attributed to poverty, inadequate prenatal care and other things. Even so, the U.S. rate generally has improved over the decades because of medical advances and public health efforts.

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Decision unanimous

Maddalena wrests welterweight championship from Muhammad

MONTREAL, May 11, (AP): Jack Della Maddalena beat Belal Muhammad via unanimous decision to wrest away the welterweight championship in the main event at UFC 315.

Della Maddalena (18-2-0) extended his fight win streak to 18 in a row with a 48-47, 48-47, 49-46 decision.

The loss ended Muhammad’s 11-fight streak dating to January 2019.

“He brings the pressure, you know, I knew I had to be smart,” the Australian said.

In the co-main event, two-time UFC flyweight champion Valentina Shevchenko (25-4-1) defended her belt against No. 2 ranked contender Manon Fiorot (12-2) of France.

All three judges scored it 48-47.

“I was expecting a hard fight, she’s a good fighter,” said the 37-year-old from Kyrgyzstan. “I’m going to keep going. Numbers is nothing. What is more important is how you feel physically, mentally, how you perform.”

Aiemann Zahabi shocked UFC Hall of Famer Jose Aldo in a featherweight main card fight, after which

Aldo announced his retirement.

Zahabi (13-2) won by unanimous decision (29-28, 29-28, 29-28) and the Canadian has now won six straight fights.

The fight was originally scheduled to be disputed at the bantamweight division, but was changed to featherweight on Friday after both fighters checked in above the weight limit.

Aldo (32-10), of Brazil, announced his retirement from MMA fighting after a 21-year career.

“I don’t think I have it in me anymore,” Aldo said through a translator.

Saturday’s card was the first in Canada since Donald Trump was re-elected U.S. president in November. It comes amid growing political tensions between Canada and the United States, as Trump has repeatedly suggested that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state, and some of that tension spilled over.

Canadian Mike Malott (12-2-1) won his fight with American Charles Radtke (10-5) by knockout 26 seconds into the second round of their welterweight bout. Malott took down Radtke with a clean left hook

and would not let up, striking his opponent with repeated followup blows to seal the knockout.

Radtke was met with jeers and curses from fans throughout the fight in response to comments he made to Canadian fans at a pre-fight news conference on Wednesday and the booing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” at Canadian sporting events in recent months.

Radtke said “when you all boo the national anthem, somebody’s gonna have to pay for that.”

In the women’s flyweight division, Canadian Jasmine Jasudavicius (14-3) took down Brazilian Jessica Andrade (26-14) by submission just over halfway through the first round.

“When I was preparing for this fight, I kept on thinking about it being a quick finish,” said Jasudavicius. “I kept on telling myself to be ready for 15 hard minutes and everything.”

Marc-Andre Barriault (17-9) also knocked out opponent Bruno Silva (23-13) 1:27 into the opening round of their middleweight bout with an elbow struck to the side of Silva’s head. Silva left the octagon on a stretcher.



Belal Muhammad, left, lands a kick to Jack Della Maddalena during their UFC 315 mixed martial arts welterweight title bout in Montreal. (AP)

Bayern celebrates league title with last home win for Müller



Bayern’s Thomas Mueller, centre left, celebrates with the championship shield after the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Borussia Moenchengladbach in Munich, Germany. (AP)

Hamburger finally returns to Bundesliga

BERLIN, May 11, (AP): Thomas Müller led Bayern Munich’s Bundesliga title celebrations after helping the team beat Borussia Mönchengladbach 2-0 in his last home game for the club.

After being presented with the trophy, Bayern captain Manuel Neuer gave it to Müller to hoist toward the Munich sky and start the confetti-filled revelry.

There was another outpouring of emotion when Harry Kane got his chance to lift the “salad bowl” - it’s the England captain’s first team trophy after a career of near-misses.

Kane was still holding onto the trophy even as Neuer got the customary beer showers underway by dousing Müller after a speech to the crowd. But soon Kane was soaked, too, and he let the trophy out of his grip.

Bayern won its record-extending 34th German championship title last weekend.

Michael Olise made sure of Saturday’s win by scoring one goal and setting up the other for Kane’s league-leading 25th of the season to get the party underway in Munich.

Bochum and Holstein Kiel were relegated while Leipzig’s hopes of Champions League qualification ended after drawing at Werder Bremen 0-0.

Last-placed Bochum lost at home to Mainz 4-1, and Kiel lost at home 2-1 to Freiburg, which consolidated fourth place and was poised for Champions League qualification. After seven years away, Hamburger SV clinched its return to the Bundesliga by routing Ulm 6-1 in Germany’s second division.

Leipzig’s scoreless draw in Bremen left it four points behind Freiburg with one round remaining, meaning it can no longer qualify for Europe’s lucrative premier competition.

Neither Bochum nor Kiel have any possibility of catching third-from-bottom Heidenheim following



Bayern’s Raphael Guerreiro, left, challenges for the ball with Moenchengladbach’s Franck Honorat during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Borussia Moenchengladbach in Munich, Germany. (AP)

the latter’s 3-0 win at Union Berlin. Heidenheim made sure of at least a relegation playoff place.

With one game left to play, Bochum had 22 points, Kiel 25, and Heidenheim 29.

It’s Bochum’s seventh demotion from the top division. The club was promoted to the Bundesliga as the second division champion in 2021, ending an 11-year absence from the top division.

Bochum defeated Bayern 3-2 away in March, but it was Dieter Hecking’s team’s only win in its last

11 games.

“I’ve been relegated before, it’s anything but nice. You could see it with the lads, tears were flowing,” Bochum captain Maximilian Wittek said. “It’s among the worst things that can happen in football.”

Kiel was promoted for the first time only last season and coach Marcel Rapp’s team has quickly returned to the second division.

Kiel scored first but Johan Manzambi equalized before the break and Lucas Höler headed Freiburg toward the Champions League.

Sorloth scores 4 goals and fastest La Liga hat trick in Atletico’s rout of Sociedad

BARCELONA, Spain, May 11, (AP): Atletico Madrid striker Alexander Sorloth scored four goals in the first half hour and set a record for the fastest hat trick in La Liga history to fuel a 4-0 rout of Real Sociedad.

The Norway striker had a hat trick from scoring in the seventh, 10th and 11th minutes to the delight of the fans at Metropolitan Stadium in Madrid.

His treble was the fastest ever in La Liga, according to Opta Statistics, which said the previous best was in 1941 of three goals in the first 15 minutes by Edmundo Suárez de Trabanco.

“I just had one of those days the ball just seemed to drop at my feet,” Sorloth said. “Everything went in and they were good balls from my teammates.”

Looking back on his first season with Diego Simeone’s club, Sorloth said he was satisfied that

he was getting more starts after mostly being a substitute for Julián Álvarez earlier.

“My teammates know I am going to be in the box,” he said. “They don’t even have to look, just cross it.”

Sorloth got going when he volleyed in a cross from Pablo Barrios. He made it two with an angled shot just inside the far post, and Sociedad was left groggy when Jon Martin’s clearance hit teammate Aritz Elustondo and fell for Sorloth to smash home.

Sorloth waited until the half-hour mark before he used one touch to control a pass by Samuel Lino before beating goalkeeper Alex Remiro to make it four goals. He went close to a fifth goal in the second half when he fired a volley off the woodwork.

Sorloth, who played for Sociedad from 2021-

23, also scored four goals while playing for Villarreal last season in a 4-4 draw with Real Madrid.

“It’s a relief to have days like this,” he said. “I had one last year with Villarreal. You just feel so good inside when everything goes in.”

Sorloth joined Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez as the only players to have more than one game of four goals in the Spanish league this century.

Atletico looks like certain to finish in third place. Sociedad was in 12th place and struggling to finish in positions for at least a Conference League bid in the final season of coach Imanol Alguacil.

“This is a day to take complete responsibility, say it is not the players’ fault and feel proud of what we have done for the past six and a half years together,” Alguacil said.

PSG thrashes Montpellier

Marseille, Monaco seal Champs League spots

PARIS, May 11, (AP): Marseille and Monaco sealed spots in next season’s Champions League while Ligue 1 champion Paris Saint-Germain beat last-placed Montpellier 4-1 with a Goncalo Ramos hat trick.

On the penultimate matchday of the season, Mason Greenwood’s 19th league goal in the 85th minute put second-placed Marseille back in the lead at struggling Le Havre. Amine Gouiri scored twice and Marseille won away 3-1.

Lagging one point behind Marseille, Monaco sealed its 18th win with goals from Takumi Minamino and Denis Zakaria and was also guaranteed to finish among the three best teams. The top three qualify for the group stage of the Champions League, and the fourth team grabs a spot in the qualifying rounds.

Gouiri scored Marseille’s opener after halftime and the match was stopped soon after because of crowd trouble. Pressing to remain in the top flight next season, Le Havre pushed hard for an equalizer and got it when Issa Soumaré beat goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli from Josue Casimir’s assist.

Greenwood’s superb curled strike from outside the box put the visitors back on track and Gouiri gave more luster to the win in added time on the break.

After getting past Arsenal midweek to reach the Champions League final, PSG coach Luis Enrique rested seven players: Gianluigi Donnarumma, Achraf Hakimi, Marquinhos, Nuno Mendes, Willian Pacho, Fabian Ruiz and Vitinha.

Senny Mayulu, an 18-year-old midfielder, was given a start and did not disappoint to put PSG ahead before halftime with a powerful strike. Ramos made it 2-0 off a deflection, and added another goal from the spot.

Having won the league with six games to spare, PSG is hoping for its first ever treble. In addition to the Champions League final against Inter Milan on May 31, Enrique’s team will have another shot at more silverware against Reims the week before in the French Cup final.

Behind Marseille and Monaco, three teams wre level on points; Nice, Lille and Strasbourg.

At the bottom of the standings, last-placed Montpellier was already demoted. There was still a glimmer of hope for Saint-Etienne, which won at Reims 2-0. Saint-Etienne remained in the relegation zone but just one point behind 16th-placed Le Havre, which was in the relegation playoffs spot.

Flight tied to military conflict

Foreign cricketers head home from India and Pakistan

NEW DELHI, May 11, (AP): The military tension between India and Pakistan has put the biggest Twenty20 cricket league in the world on hold while another one has been suspended for indefinite period.

The lucrative Indian Premier League was suspended for one week Friday while the Pakistan Super League was postponed less than 24 hours after the Pakistan Cricket Board had announced it would try to move the remaining eight games of the league to Dubai.

Leading foreign cricketers on both sides of the border have already started leaving for their respective countries and the Board of Control for Cricket in India is yet to announce the revised schedule.

There were reports in Indian media that IPL organizers have shortlisted three southern cities - Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad - to host the remaining 16 games, provided it gets Indian government approval to resume.

The packed international cricket schedule could see some of the leading foreign players miss the remaining IPL games if the league extends beyond its scheduled May 25 final.

The IPL is the most popular cricket tournament in the world and runs between March and May. This year it has featured 65 international cricketers from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, England and Afghanistan.

Several dozen foreign cricketers who weren’t picked in the IPL auction were drafted into the PSL, which was due to end May 18.

The decision to postpone IPL on Friday came after a night of artillery exchanges between Indian and Pakistani soldiers across their frontier in Kashmir, amid a growing military standoff that erupted following an attack on tourists in the India-controlled portion of the disputed region.

On Friday night and Saturday, overseas cricketers and broadcast staff were given permission to fly out to their respective home countries, reducing the chance that the tournament would be resumed. There about 70 overseas players in the IPL this season.

The BCCI said the decision to suspend the tournament was made “in the collective interest of all stakeholders.”

“While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country,” the BCCI statement said.

The suspension came after the match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala in northern India was abandoned Thursday evening when the power went out during a government-mandated blackout. Players from both teams returned by train late Friday to New Delhi.

Punjab’s next game against Mumbai Indians had already been moved from Dharamsala to Mumbai because of the closure of several airports in the Indian northwestern corridor.

In Pakistan, foreign players were flown out of Islamabad in a special chartered flight hours before both countries were engaged in missile and drone attacks on each other’s military bases in the most serious confrontation between the nuclear-armed rivals in decades.

On Thursday, an Indian drone fell inside the complex of the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium hours before the start of a PSL game in which several cricketers from New Zealand, Australia, West Indies, South Africa and England were due to compete.

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also interior minister in the Pakistan government, held meetings with foreign cricketers and six franchise owners of the PSL before initially saying the tournament was being moved to Dubai before suspending it.

“Cricket, while being a unifying force and a source of joy, must take a respectful pause,” the PCB said in a statement.

The PCB said it acted on advice from Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The PCB had earlier confirmed the relocation of eight remaining PSL matches to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, citing growing concerns among overseas players and the need to prioritize their safety. But the latest announcement said the PSL was being postponed and gave no indication whether this year’s edition would resume at some point.

England cricketer Sam Billings, New Zealand’s Colin Munro, South African Rilee Rossouw and Jason Holder of West Indies were among 43 foreign cricketers competing in the PSL.

“We have sincere regard for the mental well-being of participating players and the sentiments of our foreign players, and we respect the concerns of their families who want to see them back home,” the PCB said.

Owusu leads Montreal to first win of MLS season

LA Galaxy's struggles continue with 7-0 loss to Red Bulls

HARRISON, N.J., May 11, (AP): Emil Forsberg had two goals and two assists, Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting also scored two goals and the New York Red Bulls beat the LA Galaxy 7-0 to extend the defending MLS Cup champions' winless skid.

The Galaxy (0-9-3) have gone an MLS-record 12 consecutive games without a win to start the season. Their last MLS win was a 2-1 victory over the Red Bulls on Dec. 7 to claim the 2024 MLS Cup title.

New York tied the club mark for goals in a game, set in 2016 against New York City FC.

Forsberg joined Antony De Avila (July 13, 1997) as the only players in Red Bulls history with multiple goals and assists in an MLS game.

Choupo-Moting opened the scoring in the seventh minute with a rolling shot from the right-center of the area that slipped inside the back post into the side-net.

The 36-year-old in his first MLS season put away a feed from Forsberg to make it 3-0 in the 31st minute, his first multi-goal game for New York (5-4-3). Prince Owusu scored the game's only goal and CF Montreal defeated New York City 1-0 for Montreal's first win of the MLS season.

Montreal's Jonathan Sirois made two stops for the clean sheet and Matt Freese made seven saves for NYCFC.

In the third minute of the second half, Owusu scored with a difficult left-footed shot from the right side of the box to the top left corner. Victor Loturi assisted.

NYCFC had 60.5% possession but was outshot 22-9 overall and 8-2



New York City FC's Andres Perea, right, fights for the ball with CF Montreal's Dawid Bugaj, left, during an MLS soccer match in New York. (AP)

on goal.

The victory ended Montreal's 11-match winless streak.

Lorenzo Insigne scored early in the second half and played a role in DC

United's own goal as Toronto defeated United.

Toronto's Sean Johnson had five saves for the clean sheet.

Toronto had 13 shots in the first half, five of them on goal but did not break through against DC United's Luis Barraza.

Evander Da Silva Ferreira - known simply as "Evander" - had a goal and an assist, Gerardo Valenzuela scored the go-ahead goal in the 76th minute and FC Cincinnati beat Austin FC 2-1.

Cincinnati (8-3-1) had its string of five consecutive wins, and six straight games without a loss, snapped with a 1-0 loss at New York City FC last time out.

Albert Rusnak scored two goals, Danny Musovski scored a goal for the fifth consecutive game and the Seattle Sounders beat the Houston Dynamo 3-1 on Saturday night.

Rusnak put away a feed from Pedro de la Vega with a one-touch side-footer from the center of the area to give the Sounders the lead for good in the 46th minute and slammed home a low cross played by Ryan Kent to cap the scoring in the 58th.

Hany Mukhtar tied it and Jacob Shaffelburg scored the go-ahead goal, lifting Nashville SC to a 2-1 victory over Charlotte FC in a match that took a back seat to immigration issues.

Thousands of Nashville supporters did not attend the game and many of those in attendance held signs that said "We are not all here" in English and "No estamos todo aqui" in Spanish in response to increased ICE activity in Tennessee.

Timberwolves 'outduel' Warriors for series lead



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards, right, drives to the basket while defended by Golden State Warriors center Trayce Jackson-Davis during the second half of Game 3 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series in San Francisco. (AP)

Celtics crush Knicks to cut deficit

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11, (AP): Even with Stephen Curry sidelined and Draymond Green in foul trouble, the Golden State Warriors were ahead by five points in the fourth quarter and felt they had every chance to grab a series lead against the Minnesota Timberwolves at home.

Until Anthony Edwards and Julius Randle took over for the Timberwolves in crunch time.

Edwards hit a baseline 3-pointer with 1:19 remaining and scored 36 points, Randle had 24 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, and the Wolves beat the Warriors 102-97 on Saturday night for a 2-1 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Jimmy Butler had 33 points, seven assists and seven rebounds and Jonathan Kuminga scored 30 off the bench, but the Warriors still lacked the kind of rhythm they have with Curry on the floor.

Kuminga shot 11 for 18 as the Warriors again mixed and matched while playing without Curry as he nurses a strained left hamstring

that he injured early in Game 1 on Tuesday. Game 4 is Monday night at Chase Center.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr stressed his team had to win with defense - and his team couldn't make the key stops down the stretch.

Edwards, who showed no signs of being hampered after spraining his left ankle in the second quarter of Game 2, knocked down a go-ahead 3-pointer with 6:16 remaining, while Jaden McDaniels made another key 3 with 3:20 to play.

Randle began 1 for 6 and missed his initial four 3-point tries before connecting 6:30 before halftime to put Minnesota up 39-29 and force a Warriors timeout. He shot 10 for 23.

Buddy Hield's 3-pointer with 1:56 left pulled Golden State within 93-89 then McDaniels threw the ball away moments later but the Warriors were sloppy. Golden State missed all five of its 3-point tries in the first half but still led 42-40, then Hield found some rhythm and scored 14 second-half points.



New York Knicks' Cameron Payne, left, and Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown, right, battle for the ball during the first half of Game 3 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series in New York. (AP)

Draymond Green fouled out with 4:38 to play, whistled for his sixth personal trying to block a shot by McDaniels that appeared questionable on several replay reviews. Green sprinted down the floor to the Warriors bench in frustration then pulled on his warmup jacket and stood with hands on hips.

Trayce Jackson-Davis moved into the Warriors' starting lineup after he made all six of his field goals and had 15 points and six rebounds in Game 2 but played just 11 minutes.

Celtics 115, Knicks 93

In New York, the Celtics' 3-point touch came back in Game 3, so the Knicks didn't.

Jayson Tatum had 22 points, nine rebounds, and seven assists. Payton Pritchard scored 23 points, and Boston easily got its first win in the Eastern Conference semifinals by routing New York 115-93.

The Celtics went 20 for 40 from 3-point range after going just 25 for 100 in their two losses in Boston, when they blew 20-point leads in the second half of both games. The defending NBA champions went ahead by 31 in this one, and there was never anything resembling a comeback for the Knicks.

Tatum, an All-Star who shot just 12 for 42 overall in Boston, and Pritchard, the NBA Sixth Man of the Year, both made five 3s.

Empoli records first win of 2025

Lazio snatches draw against 10-man Juventus in Serie A

MILAN, May 11, (AP): The race for fourth place in Serie A keeps getting tighter and if Juventus fails to qualify for next season's Champions League, defender Pierre Kalulu might shoulder significant blame.

Lazio snatched a 1-1 draw against Juventus, one of its direct rivals for fourth spot. The match changed on the hour mark when Kalulu was sent off for hitting an opponent while his team led 1-0.

Fourth-placed Juventus remained level on points with Lazio, above the capital team thanks to a better head-to-head record.

Roma is only a point behind and visits third-placed Atalanta on Monday. Bologna was a point further back following Friday's loss to AC Milan and could be joined on points if Fiorentina wins at Venezia on Monday.

There are two rounds remaining.

Juventus broke the deadlock six minutes after the break when Weston McKennie floated in a cross from the left for an unmarked Randal Kolo Muani to head in from close range.

However, just nine minutes later, Kalulu was sent off after video review. He hit Taty Castellanos on the back of the shoulder, although the Lazio forward fell clutching his face.

Lazio leveled in the sixth minute of stoppage time. Juventus goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio pulled off another fine save to keep out Castellanos' header but he couldn't stop Matias Vecino's follow-up from point-blank range. Lazio and the Stadio Olimpico celebrated wildly.

Empoli recorded its first win of 2025 and it could prove to be the most crucial, as it beat 10-man Parma 2-1 in a relegation battle to move out of the bottom three.

Jacopo Fazzini swept a corner kick into the roof of the net in the 11th minute and matters appeared to be going the Tuscan team's way even more when Parma was reduced to 10 men in the 31st.

Defender Lautaro Valenti, who needlessly earned himself a yellow card nine minutes earlier for slap-



Lazio's Boulaye Dia and Juventus's Renato Veiga, right, in action during the Serie A soccer match between Lazio and Juventus at Rome's Olympic stadium. (AP)

ping an opponent on the leg after being tripped, was even more foolish in receiving a second booking for dragging back another player by the jersey.

Milan Duric managed to bundle in a surprise equalizer for the 10 men of Parma in the 73rd but Tino Anjorin curled into the top right corner four minutes from time to secure Empoli's first win in five months.

Como recovered from from a huge mistake from its goalkeeper to beat Cagliari 3-1.

It was a sixth straight win for Cesc Fabregas' team, which had already secured Serie A safety. Cagliari will have to wait a little longer as it was six points above the relegation zone, with most of the teams below it still to play this weekend.

Cagliari took the lead in the 20th when Pepe Reina allowed Michel Adopo's shot to squirm under his body.

Como's Maxence Caqueret leveled in the 40th and Gabriel Strefezza fired the hosts in front in stoppages. Patrick Cutrone sealed the result on his 100th appearance for Como.

Sinner wins in return from doping ban

ROME, May 11, (AP): After a wait of more than 100 days, Jannik Sinner still knows how to win a tennis match. The top-ranked player made a solid return from his three-month doping ban by beating 99th-ranked Mariano Navone 6-3, 6-4 before an adoring home crowd at the Italian Open on Saturday.

It was Sinner's first match since he won his third Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January. He said it took him all of three games to get his competitive focus back.

"Amazing feeling. I have waited quite long for this moment," Sinner said. "I am very happy to be back."

There weren't too many signs of rust and it didn't take long for Sinner to start crushing his groundstrokes on or near the lines. When the Italian broke for 3-1 in the first set, the crowd



Italy's Jannik Sinner returns a shot to Argentina's Mariano Navone during a second round match at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome. (AP)

inside Campo Centrale sang "Ole, ole, ole, Sin-ner, Sin-ner." But Sinner acknowledged that he had doubts over

whether he would regain the form that he had before his ban.

"It's normal to have doubts. Would be strange to don't have any doubts. Would sound very arrogant, no?" Sinner said. "I had doubts before going on court today. I have doubts now what's going to happen in the next match. But we have to live with doubts because it means that you really care, that you want to improve, that you want to show yourself, that you want to do something special."

Many fans in the soldout crowd of 10,500 were dressed in orange, Sinner's theme color. And there were plenty of signs that said "Bentornato Jannik" ("Welcome back Jannik").

The victory extended Sinner's winning streak to 22 matches, dating to October.

In February, Sinner agreed to the three-month ban in a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency that raised some questions, since it conveniently allowed him not to miss any Grand Slams and come back at his home tournament.

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.

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka fought back from a set down against Sofia Kenin to advance.

Kenin, the No. 31-seeded American, won the first set of the third round match in Rome 6-3, but Sabalenka powered back to take the next two sets by the same score.

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NEWS



Leverkusen's head coach Xabi Alonso waves to the fans before the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer 04 Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund in Leverkusen, Germany. Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso's last home game in charge ended in a 4-2 drubbing by Borussia Dortmund that boosted the visitors' chances of Champions League qualification. (AP)

Sports

Council approves Kuwait Olympic Committee's request to host the second Gulf Youth Games

Gulf Olympic Committees adopt unified platform to boost women's sports

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, chaired the 37th meeting of Presidents of the Olympic Committees of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states in Kuwait.

At the opening of the session, Sheikh Fahad extended his gratitude to the State of Qatar – its leadership and people – for the generous and successful hosting of the 36th Council meeting. He also commended the continuous efforts of the National Olympic Committees across the GCC for their pivotal role in advancing the Olympic and sports movement in the region.

The meeting reviewed several key topics, including recommendations from the Executive Office and a memorandum by the General Secretariat focused on the development and strengthening of the Gulf sports system. The memorandum detailed steps taken by member states to support the capabilities of National Olympic Committees, aiming to foster an environment conducive to creativity, athletic development, and excellence among Gulf athletes in 2026.

The Council approved Kuwait Olympic Committee's request to host the second Gulf Youth Games in 2028, while Qatar was granted hosting rights for the fourth Gulf Games in 2026. Additionally, the United Arab Emirates received approval to organize the inaugural Sports Law and Management Conference in 2026.

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to advancing women's sports by approving full support for the Unified Platform for Gulf Women's Sports and establishing the Gulf Women's Sports Hackathon as a recurring event, under the oversight of the Advisory Committee for Women's Sports.

A new Planning, Coordination, and Follow-up Committee was formed, composed of experienced representatives from member states. The committee will oversee the execution and progress of sports initiatives, with the Executive Office responsible for monitoring and approving its outcomes, along with those of other affiliated committees and working groups.

The Council also approved the Executive Office's recommendation and the General Secretariat's report concerning the working group reviewing the regulations for Gulf Sports Games. The updated framework, now titled "Regulations for Organizing Sports Games in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries", will cover the four main Gulf tournaments ratified at the 92nd Executive Office meeting (Bahrain, 2021), in addition to any future events established under the GCC sports framework.

The 38th meeting of the Council of GCC Olympic Committee Presidents is scheduled for May 5, 2026, preceded by a preparatory Executive Office meeting on May 4, 2026. The UAE, which will assume the Council chairmanship, will coordinate with the General Secretariat to finalize arrangements for the upcoming sessions.



Heads of the Olympic Committees of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Barcelona extends dominance over Madrid



Barcelona's Pedri tackles Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe during the La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Real Madrid in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)



Real Madrid's Raul Asencio blocks Barcelona's Ferran Torres during the La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Real Madrid in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Mbappé hat trick in vain as Catalans close in on title

MADRID, May 11, (AP): Barcelona took a huge step Sunday to securing the Spanish league title with a 4-3 win over Real Madrid - despite Kylian Mbappé's hat trick in a mesmerizing 'clasico' - and

opened a seven-point lead over its second-placed rival with three matches remaining.

Raphinha scored twice, and Lamine Yamal and Eric García added a goal each for Barcelona, which trailed 2-0 after Mbappé scored in the fifth and 14th min-

utes at Montjuic stadium. The hosts evened the match just over the half-hour mark, and went on to lead 4-2 at halftime in a sensational recovery. Mbappé completed his hat trick in the 70th but Madrid wasn't able to come back in a likely fatal blow to its hopes of successfully defending its title.

Mbappé became the league's leading scorer with 27 goals, two more than Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski, who did not start on Sunday.

It was another thrilling match involving Barcelona, which on Tuesday was eliminated by Inter Milan in extra time in the semifinals of the Champions League. Barcelona lost to the Ital-

ians 7-6 on aggregate.

The Catalan club has won every match against Madrid this season. It had already won 4-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in the first league match in October, 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final in January, and 3-2 in the Copa del Rey final last month.

A large group of Sevilla fans forced

their way onto the premises of the club's training grounds on Saturday after their anger at the team's bad season boiled over following another loss.

The club confirmed its players were spending the night at the team's facilities for security concerns and to focus on regrouping after the 3-2 loss at 10-man Celta Vigo.

Man United and Tottenham lose yet again

Newcastle takes advantage in CL race

LONDON, May 11, (AP): Advantage Newcastle in the race for the Champions League.

A 2-0 win against top-five rival Chelsea in the Premier League on Sunday moved Newcastle closer to a return to European club soccer's top competition next term. With just two rounds of the season to go, Eddie Howe's team leapfrogged Manchester City and is up to third in the standings. Meanwhile, Nottingham Forest's chances of a top-five finish were hit by a 2-2 draw against relegated Leicester.

The top five will qualify for the Champions League after England's top flight was handed a bonus spot for its teams' performances in Europe this season.

Newcastle has second place in its sights after victory against 10-man Chelsea at St James' Park.

Sandro Tonali fired the home team ahead from close range in the second minute and Nicolas Jackson was sent off for Chelsea in the 35th, following a VAR review, for a foul on Sven Botman.

Chelsea pushed for an equalizer after the break, but Bruno Guimarães' dipping shot from distance in the 90th killed off the visitors' hopes of a comeback.

Newcastle moved a point above City which was held 0-0 by last-placed Southampton on Saturday. It plays second-place Arsenal next week.

"We still have two games to go and lots of twists and turns that could be around the corner," said Howe. "We have to drive forward, reflect on our next game and make sure we're ready for Arsenal because that is a very, very tough match.



Newcastle United's Alexander Isak, left and Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah vie for the ball, during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and Chelsea at St James' Park, in Newcastle, England. (AP)

We know how tight it is with the teams around us, so we're not taking anything for granted."

As well as the top five, England will be represented by a sixth team in the Champions League next season after Manchester United and Tottenham advanced to an all-English Europa League final, with the winner also qualifying.

Based on domestic form, neither United nor Spurs look like Champions League material, with both losing again on Sunday.

Kuwait and Canada celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties with friendly match

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: In celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Canada, the Embassy of Canada in Kuwait and the Kuwait Winter Sports Club jointly organized a friendly ice hockey match. The game featured the Canadian Mooseheads facing off against the Kuwaiti Stars at the club's indoor ice rink, drawing a notable turnout of officials, diplomats, and enthusiastic spectators.

Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait, Aliya Mawani, highlighted the significance of the event, noting that ice hockey – Canada's most beloved sport – was chosen to represent the enduring friendship and cooperation between the two nations. She added that this sporting event is part of a series of commemorations that have included art, music, business, technology, and education to mark the anniversary.

President of the Kuwait Winter Sports Club, Fahad Al-Ajmi, expressed his pride in hosting the



Aliya Mawani and Fahad Al-Ajmi

match, describing it as a symbol of the strong ties and mutual respect shared between Kuwaiti and Canadian athletes. He praised the spirit of camaraderie and cultural exchange that the event fostered.

Al-Ajmi further stressed the im-

portance of such sporting events in building bridges between nations, stating that the club remains committed to enhancing its relationships with international partners to benefit the development of Kuwaiti youth involved in winter sports.