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End of legal shield for kidnappers, infanticide in Kuwait's penal code

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Decree-Law No. 70/2025 repealing Articles 159 and 182 of the Penal Code (Law No. 16 of 1960) was published in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) on Sunday

In the explanatory memorandum of the decree-law, the Ministry of Justice -- headed by Justice Minister Nasser Al-Sumait -- stated that the decision to repeal the abovementioned articles is based on the constitutional principles safeguarding motherhood and childhood, as well as the commitment of Kuwait to the international agreements on the protection of children's rights.

The ministry pointed out that the provisions of Article 159, which grants a mitigating legal excuse to a mother



Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

who kills her newborn to avoid shame, are incompatible with the values enshrined in the Constitution and the international conventions.

It clarified that Article 159 contradicts articles Nine and 10 of the Constitution. Article Nine affirms that the family is the foundation of society and it should be protected based on religion, morality and love of the homeland; while Article 10 obligates the State to care for the young, protect them from exploitation, and shield them from all forms of neglect.

It added that the right to life is the foundation upon which all other rights are built and this principle is strongly affirmed in the Islamic Sharia. It cited Surat At-Takwir (verses 8-9): "And when the female infant buried alive is

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Amir receives Prime Minister, First Deputy PM



KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday at Al-Seif Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received on Sunday at Al-Seif Palace, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir receives His Highness the Prime Minister.

Kuwait Amir Representative leaves for Malaysia



Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, is seen off at the airport by HH the PM.

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, accompanied by an official delegation, departed the country on Sunday flying to Malaysia.

His Highness the Amir's Representative and Crown Prince is scheduled to head the State of Kuwait's delegation partaking in the Second GCC-ASEAN Summit and the GCC-ASEAN-China Summit, due in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled and his entourage were seen off at the airport by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sherida Abdullah Al-Mousherji

Continued on Page 5

Dear Minister of Commerce, you have much to do and quickly IN countries around the world, governments enproviding public sector employment, while the pricourage investors and entrepreneurs by offering vate sector remains largely overlooked. various facilitations aimed at enhancing economic According to reliable reports, the reason is the security. In some cases, they may even overlook absence of a clear and strategic vision for the lo-

minor violations in the hope that this can help stimulate economic growth and boost GDP. These nations employ a range of strategies to attract and retain investment.

This is the fundamental basis of a productive and resilient economy, one that reduces dependence on imported goods and food products.

In contrast, Kuwait continues to rely heavily by up to 90 percent on imported commodities and on cal economy, due to a lack of sound government planning.

> **Continued on Page 5** 回路回







By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Enforcement General Department at the Ministry of Justice has specified three categories of individuals exempted from the provisions of the Debtors Imprisonment Law.

These categories are student stipends, rent allowances paid by the gov-

Power grid gets a break

Brace for blaze as Kuwait temperatures to hit 51°C

By Mohammad Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Meteorological Department expects the weather to be hot on Monday, with moderate to active northwesterly winds of up to 45 kilometers per hour; causing dust in open areas and residential areas are relatively affected by this dust.

Director of the department Dirar Al-Ali revealed that the weather maps indicate the country is affected by India's seasonal depression, which is accompanied by a very hot air mass.

He added that the maximum temperature monitored by the stations at the beginning of the summer season reached 51 degrees Celsius in some areas; while moderate to brisk northwesterly winds were detected at times, causing dust in some areas, especially the open areas.

He disclosed it is also expected that the maximum temperature will reach between 45 and 48 degrees Celsius in most land areas, then the depression will gradually deepen and the maximum temperature will rise to reach between 48 and 51 degrees Celsius with light to moderate northwesterly winds from Tuesday until Thursday.

Earlier on Sunday, temperatures dropped to 45 degrees Celsius; prompting the Ministry of Electricity, Water

Continued on Page 5

ernment to some citizens, and social assistance disbursed by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The department emphasized that these benefits granted by the State to some individuals will not be seized if those receiving them are in debt.

Meanwhile, sources confirmed to the newspaper that the department continues to hold meetings to develop mechanisms for implementing arrest and summons against debtors, taking into account the humanitarian and social aspects of some categories of debtors.

Sources said the department's meetings concluded that the law will be imple-

mented in the best possible manner; "without prejudice to the rights of creditors," while taking into account the humanitarian and living conditions of some categories of debtors.

They pointed out that the legal amendments aim to prevent defaults on debt and fines; given the large percentage of people who, despite their financial ability, delay paying their children's monthly expenses after separation from their mothers without justification.

The new law aims to rectify these conditions and oblige debtors to fulfill their financial obligations, not evade them.

Sheikh Jaber's legacy remembered on bloc's anniversary

Kuwait congratulates GCC on 44 years of unity

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs congratulated the leaders and people of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) countries, Sunday, on

the 44th anniversary of its foundation. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry affirmed Kuwait's continued joint work in the name of solidarity and collective responsibility towards a more integrated and influential future regionally and internationally.

It added that the GCC countries are celebrating the 44th anniversary of its foundation, with the council's journey beginning in 1981, reflecting a unified Gulf political drive and a long-term strategic vision to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and integration among its countries and reinforce security and stability in the region.

Kuwait, who is chairing the current session of the council, was the first to propose the idea of its foundation by the late Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, out of his belief in the significant and pivotal role of the council in enhancing cooperation.

The Ministry recalled the important role and decision taken by the leaders of the GCC countries in establishing the Council, which demonstrates wisdom and a true awareness of the magnitude of the challenges and risks,

where they laid solid foundations for constructive cooperation and joint coordination, and achieved strategic accomplishments during this journey

GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohammad Al-Budaiwi said that the Gulf Cooperation Council's journey was "an example to be followed in unity, effective integration, and constructive cooperation, making it a pioneering model regionally and internationally."

During the Celebration of the 44th Anniversary of the GCC Establishment, held at the Secretariat in Riyadh late Saturday, Al-Budaiwi expressed pride in continuing the journey of the council, which began on May 25, 1981.

He underscored appreciation for the achievements made in the journey of joint Gulf cooperation and integration across various fields.

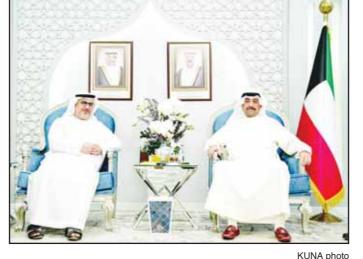
He said, "During our celebration today of the 44th anniversary of the launch of the blessed journey of the GCC, we recall with pride and loyalty the insightful vision of the founding leaders who laid the solid foundation for this great institution, relying on deep fraternal ties, shared destiny, and common history among their peoples.

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Address cleanup hits 643 persons

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Kuwait Al-Youm today published the names of 643 individuals whose addresses were removed by Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), either based on a declaration by the property owner or due to the demolition of the building, reports Al-Seyassah daily

PACI affirmed the need for the affected individuals to visit the authority to register a new address with the necessary supporting documents within 30 days from the date their names are published in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm". Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to KD 100 per person, in accordance with Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982.



Kuwait's Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah meets with UAE Ambassador Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi to discuss key military and defense cooperation issues.

Government greenlights KIA, Central Bank of Kuwait to execute loan deals

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Noora Al-Fassam issued on Sunday a decree authorizing the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) to carry out external loan operations and the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) to conduct domestic loan operations on behalf of the ministry.

The decree, published in the official gazette (Kuwait Alyoum), is based on the Amiri Decree-Law concerning financing, liquidity, public debt strategy, and the approved financing plan for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

The first article of the decree stipulates that the CBK is authorized, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and in coordination with it, to conduct loan operations in Kuwaiti Dinar or major convertible foreign currencies within

the country, in accordance with internationally recognized financial tools and practices.

The second article stipulates that the KIA is authorized, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and in coordination with it, to conduct loan operations in major convertible foreign currencies from the global market, in accordance with internationally recognized financial tools and practices.

According to the third article, concerned officials shall implement this decision within their respective jurisdictions and submit periodic reports to the Minister of Finance regarding the actions taken within this decree. The decision takes effect from the date of issuance and will be published in the official gazette.

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Al-Jarallah meets Kyrgyz envoy, ex-army officials, Kuwaiti lawyer Dalal Al-Mullah



Birzeit University awards Kuwaiti Business Leader Kutayba Alghanim with Doctorate for lifelong contributions to education & social impact



ABK Capital establishes subsidiary at DIFC after receiving DFSA approval

Prayer Timings Fajr 03:19 15:20 Asr... Sunrise .. 04:51 Maghrib .. 18:39 Zohr 11:45 Isha 20:08



Expected weather for next 24 hours:

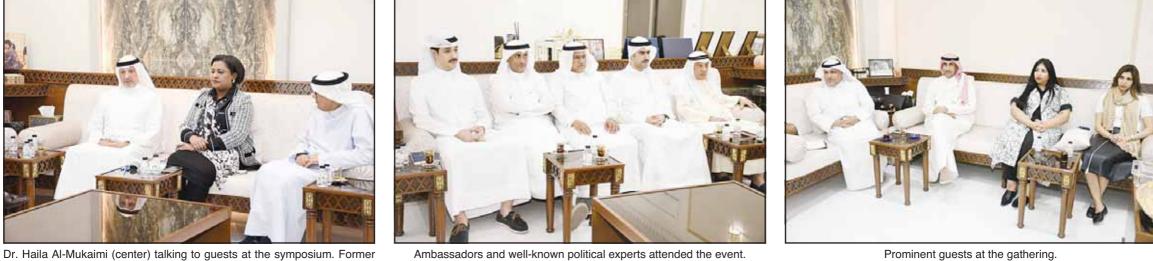
By Day: Hot with light to mod-erate freshening at times north-westerly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

Weather

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'Trump tour major gain for Gulf diplomacy'

Political, strategic, economic goals achieved: Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber



Dr. Haila Al-Mukaimi (center) talking to guests at the symposium. Former Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber (extreme left).

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Dr. Haila Al-Mukaimi received former Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber at her Diwan in Shamiya for a symposium titled "Reading US President Donald Trump's Visit to the Gulf Region."

According to a press release, the event was attended by several ambassadors, including Abdullah Bishara, Khaled Al-Duwaisan, and Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh, along with a group of experts specializing in regional and international affairs.

Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber described the visit as historic and a major achievement for Gulf diplomacy, highlighting that it was President Trump's first foreign trip since the start of his second term.

He affirmed that the Gulf states accomplished a range of political, strategic, economic, and technological goals

through this visit.

Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber highlighted the emergence of a multipolar international system, evident in the intense competition among major global powers.

He stressed the importance of strengthening Gulf and regional cooperation to deal with future challenges.

Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber also affirmed the strength of the deep strategic relationship between Kuwait and the United States.

Prominent guests at the gathering.

At the conclusion of the symposium, Dr. Al-Mukaimi expressed her pride in hosting Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber, commending his significant contributions to enhancing Kuwaiti-American relations, both through his long tenure as Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington and his distinguished service as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

She highlighted her commitment to continuing such symposiums, which enrich Kuwaiti civil society and help raise awareness of important regional and international issues.

Amir congratulates Argentina President on the National Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable to the President of Argentina Javier Milei, congratulating him on the country's National Day

In the cable, His Highness the Amir conveyed his best wishes for Milei's health and wellbeing, along with hopes for Argentina's continued success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to the President of Argentina Javier Milei, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed his best wishes for Milei's health and wellbeing

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a similar cable to the President of Argentina Javier Milei, congratulating him on the country's National Day.

Security, scientific bodies integration lauded

'Gov't support for project step in right direction'

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): The Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences (IOMS) has affirmed that the ideal integration of the security and scientific institutions in Kuwait constitute an honorable example for emulation.

Such incorporation mirrors state-level awareness of the necessity to support scientific activities of legal and moral nature, particularly in the shadow of the emerging genetic and artificial intelligence development, said Dr. Mohammad Al-Jarallah, the organization's chairperson.

Dr. Al-Jarallah was speaking, on Sunday, as he emerged from a meeting with the First Dep-

uty Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah during which he presented the minister with a memorial shield to express appreciation of the substantial support for the recently-held international conference, themed, "Genetic Imprinting and Gene Editing in the Age of Artifi-

cial Intelligence: An Islamic Perspective." He highly valued the Ministry of Interior's



crucial role in ensuring success of the IOMSorganized conference. Elite cadets and officers from Saad Al-Abdullah Academy had taken part in the convention and engaged in serious debates during the event.

The IOMS chairman indicated that senior officers from several departments of the Ministry of Interior had also participated in valuable debates and speeches during the conference. The conferees, he added, had discussed more

than 50 scientific topics and prospects of using the AI in the DNA applications.

Several scholars from prominent universities including Al-Azhar had taken part in the activity





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Dean of Kuwaiti journalism Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Kyrgyz envoy to Kuwait Dr. Nurlan Tokob-aev, Secretary of the Kyrgyz Embassy Tilek Esen Uulu and Managing Editor of the Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao.



Photos by Rizk Tawfiq Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Major General Mohammad Al-Mubarak, accompanied by media personality Dr. Hamid Abdullah and retired Major General Faisal Al-Jazzaf.



Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Kuwaiti lawyer Dalal Al-Mullah and Director of Legal Affairs Hamada Al-Amir.

Al-Jarallah meets Kyrgyz envoy, ex-army officials, Kuwaiti lawyer Dalal Al-Mullah

KUWAIT CITY, May 26: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah held several meetings at his office in Dar Al-Seyassah on Sunday.

He first met with Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Kuwait Dr. Nurlan Tokobaev. Their discussion focused on strengthening cooperation between the two nations in media, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian fields with the aim of enhancing friendly relations.

Tokobaev commended the collaboration between his embassy and the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers, acknowledging the vital role of Kuwaiti media in fostering international understanding.

Al-Jarallah welcomed the ambassador, high-

lighting the strong ties between Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan. He affirmed the dedication of the Kuwaiti media in supporting international cooperation through ethical and responsible reporting.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of the Kyrgyz Embassy Tilek Esen Uulu and Managing Editor of the Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao.

Subsequently, Al-Jarallah received retired Major General Mohammad Al-Mubarak, accompanied by media personality Dr. Hamid Abdullah and retired Major General Faisal Al-Jazzaf.

Their conversation centered on Al-Mubarak's distinguished career; specifically his heroic acts and capture during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Al-Jarallah lauded Al-Mubarak's bravery

and patriotism, stressing the importance of

documenting the achievements of national heroes for the future generations.

Al-Mubarak expressed his gratitude for the visit and recognized the role of the Kuwaiti press in recording national heroism. Later, Al-Jarallah met with Kuwaiti lawyer Dalal Al-Mullah to discuss legal and public matters.

He stressed the significance of upholding justice and promoting legal awareness in society. He praised the contributions of Kuwaiti women in the legal profession, acknowledging Al-Mullah's efforts in defending rights and advancing legal literacy. Director of Legal Affairs Hamada Al-Amir also attended the meeting. He contributed to the discussion regarding the legal framework for media and its function in serving in the interest of the public.

Other Voices

Way to end terrorism: Equip youth with tools to resist hate and choose hope

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

n recent times, the world has been reminded again and again of the devastating toll terrorism takes on innocent lives. Images of grief and destruction following violent attacks serve as a sobering call for renewed commitment to global counter-terrorism efforts. While such tragedies often prompt immediate security responses, it is vital to remember that the deeper battle lies in preventing these acts before they begin, by addressing the pathways that lead individuals, particularly young people, into the grip of extremism.

Âround the world, extremist groups continue to prey on the frustrations and vulnerabilities of youth. Whether through digital propaganda or community level indoctrination, they exploit gaps in education, opportunity, and identity to lure young people with the false promise of meaning and power.

The profile of those recruited is often disturbingly similar: disenfran-



Al-Hajeri

chised, disillusioned, and disconnected.

To prevent future violence, more attention must be placed on holistic approaches that go beyond force. Education remains a powerful tool, not just academic education but one that fosters critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and emotional resilience.

Programs that encourage youth dialogue, community service, and exposure to diverse perspectives can help build a sense of purpose grounded in peace and mutual respect.

Digital spaces also demand urgent action. Extremist networks often operate freely online,

spreading hate, glorifying violence, and targeting the vulnerable. But these same platforms can also be used to counter such narratives. Youth driven campaigns, mentorship programs, and authentic storytelling can provide a strong antidote to recruitment propaganda.

Equally important is the role of community. Families, schools, religious institutions, and local organizations are often the first line of defense. By creating supportive environments and ensuring access to mental health resources and social inclusion, societies can interrupt the cycle of alienation that extremists thrive on.

Global collaboration is essential. No country is immune and no nation can face this alone. The international community must work together, sharing strategies, supporting youth engagement, and investing in long term peace-building initiatives.

Recent attacks serve as painful reminders of the stakes. If the world is to move toward lasting security, it must start by safeguarding its most impressionable generation. Only by equipping youth with the tools to resist hate and choose hope can we begin to close the door on terrorism.

LOCAL

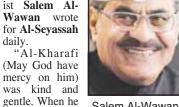
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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Al-Kharafi: Pillar who was sturdy over his principles

"TEN years have passed since the passing of former National Assembly Speaker Jassem Al-Kharafi, a man known for his good character, humility, and wisdom. From the time he assumed the position of National Assembly Speaker, I maintained close contact with him as a journalist and accompanied him on all parliamentary missions abroad. It is difficult to fully capture in a few words how he interacted with delegations, as well as his deep patri-

otism and love for Kuwait and its people", Kuwaiti journal-ist Salem Al-Wawan wrote for Al-Seyassah daily. "Al-Kharafi



Salem Al-Wawan needed to offer

criticism, he did so with tact and discretion, avoiding public embarrassment. For this reason, he was loved by all. including both his opponents and supporters.

"Jassem Al-Kharafi was regarded as a safety valve who skillfully handled disputes in both the Parliament and the Council of Ministers. He was deliberate in his decisions and never blindly sided with the government on issues affecting citizens

"Al-Kharafi was a man of unyielding principles. He supported whoever was right, regardless of affiliation.

"It is difficult to find a political fig-ure who embodies Jassem Al-Kharafi's character. Even in the darkest political moments, he knew how to resolve conflicts peacefully. When tensions rose and arguments threatened to escalate, Al-Kharafi was like a standby firefighter, calmly and wisely dealing with problems to bring about solutions. This ability earned him the deep respect of others.

"Al-Kharafi has passed on to the mercy of God, but his good deeds will remain throughout history.

"Reflecting on his management of the National Assembly sessions during his tenure as Speaker, the minutes of those sessions and the testimonies of former MPs stand as a testament to this great man.

"Jassem Al-Kharafi was a unique individual who will not come again, and the parliamentary institution is unlikely to produce another steadfast pillar like him, one who never compromised on solid principles.'

Also:

"The decision to abolish cultural offices in overseas diplomatic missions did not provide an explanation for its issuance", columnist Dr. Kazem Bou Abbas wrote for Al-Seyassah daily

"The head of the cultural mission should be well-qualified to engage with cultural institutions and academics, and introduce them to Kuwait's cultural heritage and values, as well as to conduct cultural dialogue sessions with academic elites in the host country.

"Unfortunately, some heads of cul-tural offices or cultural attachés have failed to fulfill their responsibilities due to poor selection processes and nepo-

tism. "It is important to issue a clear statement explaining the reasons behind the decision to close cultural offices at this time, especially as we prepare to welcome a new batch of our students who have just completed their secondary education. To my knowledge, cultural offices in neighboring countries are still open and active despite limited resources.

"We must carefully consider the consequences of this decision and its impact at all levels. The Ministry of Higher Education will face huge challenges in solving students' problems remotely.

"I have experienced sports both as a player and as an administrator, and later had the honor of assuming leadership responsibilities, during which I witnessed major transformations in our sports environment. With each stage, I became increasingly convinced that sports are not merely a hobby or a luxury, despite the large sums of money allocated to them. Rather, they are a national and societal necessity, and an industry capable of building human capital and strengthening patriotism", Major General Engineer Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Today, sports face real challenges, including a weak administrative and institutional structure, a disconnect between school and community sports, and insufficient investment in the potential of young people, even though they make up more than 70 percent of Kuwait's population.

"Sports needs to be reconsidered as a development priority, as a vital partner in health, education, and national identity, rather than remaining a marginal sector lacking clear vision and specific



KFF rescues 23 as boat malfunctions near Qaruh isle



The house on fire.

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The fire and marine rescue teams from Al-Mahaleb Fire Station dealt with a boat breakdown incident near Qaruh Island on Saturday afternoon.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the boat, carrying 23 passengers, experienced mechanical failure, prompting an immediate rescue operation.

Authorities confirmed that all passengers were safely secured with no injuries reported,

Cars in accident, fire extinguished.

KFF photos

3

and they were promptly transported to a secure location.

Rescue teams carried out the necessary procedures to manage and recover the disabled boat

Meanwhile, fire engulfed three vehicles in Jahra on Saturday morning, but no casualties were reported.

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

And, in the early hours of Friday, fire engulfed a house in Ali Sabah Al-Salem, but no injuries were reported.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), firefighting teams from the Umm Al-Hayman and Mina Abdullah fire stations rushed to the location and successfully contained the blaze.

32 persons held, 36 cars seized, 16,209 tickets in GTD campaign

Beware fake sites, warns MoCI

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry continued its traffic campaigns in all governorates.

The recent campaigns resulted in the issuance of 16,209 traffic tickets, seizure of 36 vehicles, detention of 32 individuals and referral of 36 juveniles to the Public Prosecu-

tion

The weekly statistics of the department revealed the arrest of 38 wanted individuals with a record of absconding and seizure of 142 vehicles wanted by law for being used in crimes, including six stolen vehicles.

In addition, 76 individuals with expired residency permits were arrested, three were found to be in an abnormal condition, two were referred to the Drug Control General Department and one was proven to have violated the Residency Law.

'Beware fake sites': The Ministry of Commerce and Industry confirmed that it has detected websites and social media accounts that impersonate its official identity, publish false information and attempt to collect users' personal or financial data, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry affirmed its commitment to protecting the data of citizens and residents, and clarified that its services are only provided through official channels, including the Sahel app, Sahel Business app, the ministry's official website, and its official social media accounts.

Case of 3 Syrian siblings ... forged Kuwaiti nationality

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Three brothers – of Syrian origin – are involved in a citizenship forgery case — one obtained Kuwaiti citizenship fraudulently as per Article One of the Nationality Law, the second under the 'great deeds' clause and the third is stateless, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources said the first brother was registered as being born in the 1940s, but in reality, he was born in the 1950s. Sources said he lied about his age, because he submitted his citizenship application to the Naturalization Committee in 1965 and he was not eligible at the time due to his age.

Investigations revealed that the forger worked in the oil sector and detectives were able to track vrian cousins. He fled the country November last year with his wife and one of his sons. It was discovered that he sold his house and liquidated all his assets. During investigation of the Syrian cousins, they stated "we did not know he is our cousin until 1986, as his Kuwaiti name is different from his Syrian name.'

cousins, and it was found that they and the fugitive's children carried the same Y chromosome, meaning, they all traced their lineage back to the same ancestor.

Sources indicated that such test results were not previously accepted. They said a letter from the State Security Department to the Nationality Investigations Department confirmed the same results as the Nationality Investigations Department, providing additional evidence of the citizenship forgery.

Further investigation and inquiry revealed that the fugitive has a brother who obtained Kuwaiti citizenship under the 'good deeds' clause in 1976, and that he also worked in the oil sector.

discovered in Kuwait. He applied for citizenship in 1976 along with his brother, but he did not get approval from the citizenship committee. Instead, he applied to a different committee, so he remained stateless.

Sources disclosed that the forgery was proven after evidence-based investigations and the results of DNA tests. They also found a statement written by the person who obtained citizenship under the 'good deeds' clause, confirming that they are brothers, while their third brother remained stateless.

Sources said the first forger, who fled with his wife and son, had around 50 affiliations, while the second brother who is deceased, had 77 af-Sources also disclosed that the son of the first Syrian, who obtained Kuwaiti citizenship fraudulently according to Article One of the Nationality Law, was found to be an officer in a military institution. "When the case was exposed, he submitted a retirement request, but the request was suspended. He is currently residing in the United Kingdom," sources added.

goals. "I call for the creation of a fair inclusive sports environpeople

ment that supdisabilities celebrates victories achieve-

Al-Jazzaf

ments, as our po-

has commend **By Munif Naif**

Cultural offices serve as a vital link between students, their universities, and the Ministry of Higher Education. They are responsible for supervising students studying abroad. Their role should extend beyond routine followup and administrative tasks to actively overcoming challenges that may affect students' studies overseas, including housing problems, textbook expenses, and facilitating interaction with foreign students and the social and cultural environment.

"The cultural office must facilitate students in successfully completing their studies in their chosen fields. The head of the cultural office and their assistants should meet with students each semester to get to know them and listen to their concerns. There must be no favoritism or neglect towards students.

"Furthermore, anyone appointed as head of the office or as a cultural attaché must be fluent in the language of the host country. It is not necessary to have a cultural office in every country with a Kuwaiti embassy; one office covering multiple countries is sufficient.

"We believe that the role of the head of the office and their assistants should extend beyond student affairs to include organizing scientific and academic seminars that highlight Kuwait's cultural presence on all significant occasions.

ably honored them.

"Talented individuals must be given equal opportunities. We must also recognize the important role of professional sports media, which should aim to educate and raise awareness rather than promote a culture of consumerism. "Technology has become an indis-

pensable partner in the sports world, from smart training to digital marketing.

"It is important for our sports institutions to embrace this trend by forming genuine partnerships with the private sector to build a sports industry that creates job opportunities and strengthens Kuwait's regional presence.

"I believe sports begin in the neighborhood, the school, the club, and youth centers. If we want outstanding results, we must establish an integrated system that instills values before chasing meaningless titles and shapes distinguished character rather than just producing champions.

"For me, sports represent a commitment and a responsibility, serving as a form of soft power that influences society, elevates the state's standing, strengthens its leadership, unifies diverse segments of society, and opens broad horizons for our youth.'

> - Compiled by Mahmoud Attiyeh/Simi K.Kutty

Nazaha trains gov't sector staff

Bid to boost transparency, integrity

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has com-pleted the training of 23 employees from eight government agencies — Financial Investigation Unit, Central Agency for Public Tenders, Ministry of Public Works, Secretariat General of Awqaf, Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Public Authority for Minors Affairs, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Kuwait Ports Authority, reports Al-Rai daily.

This training is part of the Nazaha National Integrated Anti-Corruption Program for government employees, conducted by the authority. The program aims to enhance integrity and transparency in the public sector by familiarizing employees with the concept, causes and effects of corruption; as well as applying the international and local legal frameworks for combating corruption.

The training focused on the international legal framework for combating corruption, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, international cooperation in combating corruption, local legal framework and anti-corruption laws, role of oversight bodies and competent authorities, governance principles and

tools, and enhancing transparency and efficiency in government work. It also addressed corruption and financial crimes, such as money laundering, bribery and illicit accumulation of wealth; in addition to mechanisms for combating financial crimes, while conflicts of interest were defined, whistle blower protection was provided, and a safe reporting environment was promoted.

Director of the Administrative Development and Training Department at the authority Nadine Adel Al-Badr told the daily that the program was launched in line with the Kuwait Strategy for Promoting Integrity and Combating Corruption (2019-2025), which included an initiative to develop training programs for oversight bodies and their roles in promoting integrity and combating corruption.

Nadine added "this program is part of Nazaha's efforts to raise awareness on the dangers of corruption and ways to prevent it. Since its establishment, the authority has been keen on providing specialized and diverse training courses for Nazaha members and government employees. The programs are conducted by a group of specialized lecturers from the authority.'

DNA samples were taken from the fugitive's

Citizen wins rights

KBA disbars 26 lawyers for not following rules

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Kuwait Bar Association disbarred 26 lawyers for failing to meet one of the registration and continuity requirements stipulated in the law regulating the legal profession.

At the same time, the association ordered the suspension of the files of three law firms, as it was proven that they were managed by individuals unauthorized to practice the profession.

It also referred a number of complaints to the Disciplinary Department for proven serious professional violations.

The association previously disbarred several lawyers who violated the terms and conditions of practicing the profession and harmed it by repeatedly causing problems or having final judgments issued against them.

Attorney Khaled Al-Suwaifan, a member of the association's Board of Directors and the Admissions Com-

mittee, told the newspaper that the association constantly reviews the files of its members to ensure their compliance with the admission and registration requirements in order to preserve the prestige of the profession and uphold its mission.

Citizen wins rights: The Court of Cassation ruled that a citizen is entitled to take the necessary measures to issue a title deed for the disputed plot, equally with her ex-husband, and overturned the courts of First Instance and Appeals rulings

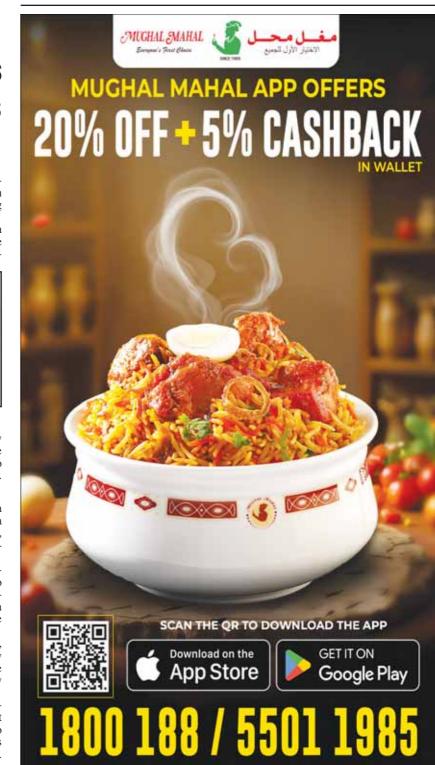
In its ruling, the Court of Cassation affirmed that the documents established that the disputed plot was delivered to the appellant and the first respondent in 2003. The letter addressed to the third respondent, in his capacity, included a request to issue the title deed for the plot in the name of the appellant and the first respondent, as spouses.

The court added "this information may not be amended, regardless of the changes that have occurred in the family as a result of the appellant's divorce. The fact that the title deed was not actually issued does not change this, as it is, by nature, intended to prove the latter's acquired legal status.'

Attorney Hawra Al-Habib appeared in court for the plaintiff's defense and asserted before the Court of Cassation that the respondent's failure to take the necessary measures to obtain the ownership document constituted an abuse of his right and that the appealed judgment contravened this view. Al-Habib requested that the appeal be overturned.

Sources revealed that after examining the brother's file in the National Archives, it was discovered that someone wrote a letter to a director of the oil department and a director of social security, in his capacity as a philanthropist. He stated that this person and his brother are Syrians from the village of Al-Hasrat, in the town of Albu Kamal in Deir ez-Zor Governorate.

Sources indicated that the third brother was





Al-Suwaifan

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

LOCAL

Kuwait plays leading role in promoting culture, arts: Bulgarian envoy



Bulgarian ambassador with Sheikha Dr. Al-Anoud Al-Sabah and European Union (EU) Ambassador Anne Koistinen



Schoolchildren singing at the event.

'We believe in power of cultural diplomacy'



Bulgarian ambassador with Kuwaiti dignitaries.

By Fares Ghaleb Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: "Kuwait has a prominent position in consolidating the role of culture and the arts in the Arab world and beyond. Its openness to the cultures of the peoples of the world is remarkable and deserves everyone's appreciation," says Bulgarian Ambassador to Kuwait Dimitar Dimitrov.

Dimitrov made the statement during the celebration of the 'Day of the Bulgarian Alphabet, Enlightenment and Culture' -- one of the activities of Europe Month in Kuwait.

Present at the event were Assistant Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Sheikha Dr. Al-Anoud Al-Sabah, European Union (EU) Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Kuwait Anne Koistinen, a number of EU ambassadors and members of the Bulgarian community.

Dimitrov said the selection of Kuwait as the Capital of Arab Culture and Media is due to the prestigious role it plays in the field of culture and media -- both Arab and inter-



Senior students performing a traditional dance.

national. He affirmed that the two countries enjoy a rich history of international cultural activities and cooperation in multilateral forums.

He stated "we must explore opportunities for cooperation in the fields of studying and preserving historical heritage, and exchanging exhibitions and museums. Prospects for cooperation in education and Science must remain at the core of our attention, guided by the successes we have achieved over more than six decades of bilateral diplomatic relations."

He also praised the role of the Language Center at Kuwait University for its valuable support in teaching Arabic to specialists. "As diplomats, we express our appreciation for Kuwait's achievements in the field of culture, and for the efforts of Kuwaiti entities working in the field of culture and the arts; particularly the Ministry of Information and NCCAL. They sup-

port international cultural exchange.

Another dance sequence by students.

They enable those interested in culture and the arts, and the Kuwaiti society in general, to learn about the cultures, traditions and achievements of countries around the world in the fields of Literature, Fine Arts, Music and other cultural activities,' he added

Photos by Rizk Taufiq

He expressed his deep apprecia-

tion for the Ministry of Information and NCCAL for their efforts in this field, and for their support in organizing an impressive cultural event in Kuwait with the participation of prominent artists from Bulgaria, European countries and other countries around the world.

He also thanked the House of Islamic Antiquities "for the longstanding, fruitful cooperation that enabled us to organize a series of influential concerts featuring talented Bulgarian artists in Kuwait.'

He reiterated his country's commitment to further strengthen cooperation with Kuwait in the field of cultural diplomacy, emphasizing the importance of culture in building bridges between peoples. He said "we believe in the power of cultural diplomacy.'

Regarding the occasion, he disclosed "the Day of the Bulgarian Alphabet, Enlightenment and Culture is one of the most important occasions in my country; as our letters, literature and cultural traditions have enabled the Bulgarian people to preserve their national identity among the peoples of Europe through centuries of historical change.'



Kuwait backs joint GCC education bid

Proud to host meeting: Dr Al-Jalal

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Minister of Higher Education and

in line with the best international standards. He affirmed that Kuwait remains committed to supporting Gulf educational integration efforts, enhancing research and academic cooperation, and expand-ing strategic partnerships between higher education institutions in the GCC countries; thus, contributing to building a sustainable knowledge society and achieving common development goals. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Omar bin Rawas commended the efforts of Kuwait in supporting the progress of the university; while deeply appreciating the support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He praised the efforts of the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait, welcoming the new members from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia -- Dr. Mohammad Al-Sudairv and Dr. Mohammad Al-Muqbil. He also thanked Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Asimi and Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem for their work in the previous session of the Board of Trustees. On the other hand, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and member of the Board of Trustees Dr. Lamia Al-Mulhim stressed that she is proud of Kuwait hosting the meeting. He emphasized the importance of this meeting in strengthening joint work and exchanging expertise among member states. She added "our presence today at this academic forum is a confirmation of our commitment to support the university as a leading educational institution that is working hard to prepare generations of Gulf citizens capable of leading the future with knowledge and competence.'

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Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jallal affirmed that the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) is a joint academic edifice, reflecting the spirit of cooperation and integration among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

In his speech at the opening of the 97th meeting of the university's Board of Trustees recently, Al-Jallal expressed Kuwait's pride in this shining

model that embodies a common goal and shared destiny, as well as his great pleasure at hosting this meeting in their second home, Kuwait.

He praised the vital role played by the Board of Trustees in formulating the university's general poli-

cies and approving educational plans and programs, which have had a significant impact on advancing the journey of the university towards excellence in higher education.

Dr. Al-Jallal

He commended the dedication and efforts of the presidency of the university and its academic and administrative staff in developing academic performance and improving the quality of educational outputs



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin.

Kuwait, France ties boost eyed

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin at the governorate's headquarters on Sunday.

According to a press release issued by Ahmadi Governorate, the governor welcomed Ambassador Gauvin, and the two exchanged cordial conversations on the

strong bilateral relations between Kuwait and France and ways to enhance cooperation across various fields.

Ambassador Gauvin expressed his appreciation for the warm reception, and highlighted his gratitude for the continued support and attention given to the French diplomatic mission and community in Kuwait, both at the official and public levels.

Continued from Page 1

Dear Minister

There is no doubt that a structural crisis exists, yet the government agencies' response remains limited to reactive measures, such as imposing blanket bans over minor violations not only on the actual violator but also many others who are not involved. In some cases, such measures are taken based merely on rumors circulated on the X platform.

Such measures only deepen the recession and stall the economic cycle. This raises a pressing question:

How can Kuwait aspire to become a global commercial and financial hub while pressuring entrepreneurs and driving away investors and capital?

There are many indicators of this crisis, most notably the withdrawal of agricultural and industrial plots from beneficiaries. The revocation of agricultural plots promotes reliance on imported food at the expense of national agricultural production, which poses a serious threat to Kuwait's food security.

The withdrawal of industrial plots raises even greater concerns, as it often stems from short-sighted decisions based on unverified or malicious complaints, or from mismanagement by executive officials within the relevant institutions. In some cases, these decisions appear to serve the interests of individuals who are willing to pay more.

Kuwait has struggled with an inverted administrative pyramid for decades. Kuwait continues to rely heavily on importing its most vital commodity - food.

While there have been some cautious and limited efforts in the past to boost local food production, these initiatives were often derailed by the interference of influential figures, including former MPs and even ministers, out of envy

Strategic security extends far beyond military and security capabilities. Food security forms its very foundation, closely followed by industrial security. For this reason, countries make every effort to strengthen both sectors as much as possible

Dear Minister of Commerce and Industry, you have much to do ... quickly.

On this basis, US President Donald Trump adopted a project to encourage manufacturing in the United States. He started by imposing trade tariffs on many countries, and then recently issuing an executive order placing high tariffs on cell phones manufactured outside the US. Trump then urged American businesses to bring their manufacturing back

Ministry of Housing and

Urban Planning

home

In China, deserts have been transformed into fertile land through the use of treated water, which is recycled multiple times via advanced purification processes. This ambitious project is known as the "Great Green Wall.'

Similarly, Saudi Arabia has launched similar projects for turning vast desert areas into lush, productive fields.

Kuwait needs to encourage everyone. Impose heavy penalties on beneficiaries who violate regulations on agricultural plots. Actively encourage and support those who comply and strive to develop agriculture by offering additional facilities.

The government should not hinder investors working on industrial plots. They should be given assistance and allowed to add additional outlets to their industries when necessary.

It is time to abolish the outdated Certificate of Description, which has increasingly become a tool used to deliberately obstruct investors.

As highlighted in the Al-Shall report: "If Kuwait wants to ensure sustainable stability in a turbulent world, it must reduce its reliance on oil and the future generations reserve fund. The government must establish new foundational pillars along with the aforementioned two bases.

The main pillars in this regard are agriculture, industry, and transforming the country into a logistics hub like Dubai, rather than persecuting farmers and industrialists or withdrawing their plots.

The government should focus on developing non-oil sectors by boosting local production, developing industry, and investing in logistics, technology, and tourism, instead of insisting on viewing things from a narrow perspective.

Agriculture, food security, light industry, and manufacturing form the backbone of any nation. Therefore, these sectors must be actively encouraged through numerous incentives.

End of

asked, for what sin was she killed?" as well as Surat Al-Isra (verse 31): "And do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for you and for them.'

It also referenced Kuwait's international obligations, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), ratified under Law No. 104/1991, in which Article Six stipulates: "States or parties recognize that every child has the inherent right

to life ... and shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child."

The Arab Charter on the Rights of the Child (1983), ratified by Law No. 36/1993, was also cited for its emphasis on maximum legal protection for children against violence and neglect.

The ministry argued that continu-ing to apply Article 159 constitutes an unjustified legal exception, which contradicts constitutional principles and international obligations by effectively minimizing the gravity of crimes against the life of a child.

On repealing Article 182, the ministry stressed that this is also based on constitutional principles; which guarantee justice, equality and the protection of individual rights and freedoms. It pointed out that this article allows the kidnapper of a woman to evade punishment by marrying the victim with the consent of her guard-

According to the ministry, this provision contradicts Article 29 of the Constitution; which states that all people are equal in human dignity and before the law, without discrimination based on gender, origin, language or religion.

"By permitting a perpetrator to escape accountability through marriage, Article 182 introduced unjustified legal discrimination and violated the victim's rights. It also perpetuated a culture of impunity and failed to meet Kuwait's obligations under international conventions on combating violence against women," the ministry elaborated.

It asserted that repealing this article is essential to align national legislation with constitutional values. international standards, and the principles of criminal justice.

Following the issuance of the Amiri Decree on Oct 5, 2024 stipulating that laws shall be issued through decree-laws; Decree-Law No. 70/2025 was drafted.

Article One of the decree repeals Articles 159 and 182 of the Penal Code (Law No. 16/1960).

Article Two obligates the concerned ministers to implement the law, which takes effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette

For reference, following are the repealed articles:

Article 159: "Any woman who intentionally kills her newborn immediately after birth to avoid shame shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding 5,000 rupees or by one of these two penalties.

Article 182: "If a kidnapper mar-

ries the woman he kidnapped in a legal marriage with the permission of her guardian, and the guardian requests that the kidnapper not be punished, he shall not be subjected to any punishment.'

Kuwait Amir

and Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

His accompanying delegation in-cludes the minister of foreign affairs and senior officials from the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince.

Brace for

and Renewable Energy to refrain from implementing the scheduled power outages in all residential sectors

The load indicator remained in the green zone; recording 16,000 megawatts, in contrast to the consumption recorded in recent days, when the indicator touched the 17,000-megawatt barrier.

Sources from the ministry pointed out that the drop in temperatures naturally leads to lower load rates, as it happened on Sunday. They said the ministry is forced to implement scheduled power outages to relieve the grid during peak hours as one of the solutions to the low productivity crisis it is currently facing, in addition to the consumption rationalization campaigns and importing from the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority whenever necessary.

Government

In March, an Amiri Decree-Law No. (60) of 2025 was issued on financing and liquidity, setting the limit for public debt at a maximum of KD 30 billion or its equivalent in major convertible foreign currencies.

The decree allows for the issuance of financial mechanisms with maturities of up to 50 years and will remain in effect from its date of enforcement, thereby establishing a long-term legal framework for regulating public debt.

Kuwait congratulates

"Despite all regional and international challenges and changes, the Council's journey remains a model of unity, effective integration, and constructive cooperation, becoming a leading example at both the regional

and international levels across various fields," he affirmed.

"The member states have become a model for collective action and a reliable partner regionally and internationally. They have garnered the world's attention thanks to their strategic vision and balanced policies, which emphasize the values of security and peace and enhance pathways for sustainable development and prosperity," Al-Budaiwi stressed.

He added "A notable scene reflecting the Council's growing influence is the recent Gulf-European summit, followed shortly by the Gulf-American summit, with upcoming summits anticipated with ASEAN and China."

"This clearly affirms the Council's status and pivotal role in shaping international relations," He affirmed.

These high-level summits of Their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the member states alongside their counterparts in these countries, as well as 15 ministerial meetings with other nations, highlight the Council's ability to build bridges of cooperation with both East and West, fostering balanced partnerships that achieve mutual interests.

"They also reflect the global appreciation and respect for the GCC countries and the sincere desire from various nations to deepen relations based on mutual trust and strategic interests.'

Al-Budaiwi also pointed out that what the GCC countries have achieved in terms of a qualitative leap in their economic performance, as a result of economic diversification, optimal utilization of resources, and strengthening their economic position regionally and internationally.

He added that some of the economic achievements made during the past period, where the GCC countries ranked 11th as the largest economy in the world with a total GDP of USD 2.1 trillion, and the average per cap-ita GDP reached about USD 36,800, which is more than three times the world average.

"This mirrors the high level of income and improved quality of life for the Gulf citizen. The economic growth of the GCC countries is expected to continue at a higher pace in 2025 to reach 4.5 percent.

With growth in the non-oil sector approaching 3.3 percent in the same year, the GCC countries have collectively become among the top seven global financial regions. The total market value of the GCC financial markets are now exceeding 4.3 percent of the total global market value. In the field of sustainable development, the GCC countries have

witnessed great growth in their pro-

ductive capacity from clean energy sources, as the electricity production capacity from renewable sources in the GCC countries reached 30 percent of the total production of the Middle East, and amounted to 54.5 percent of wind energy production, which is 30 percent of global production.

The intra-trade between the GCC countries has witnessed remarkable growth, with the volume of intra-exports reaching USD 131.6 billion with a growth rate of 67 percent, which reflects the depth of economic integration and facilitating the movement of goods between member states.

The total capital of publicly traded companies allowed for trading by citizens of other member states reached 520.4 billion USD, showing a growth rate of 226.9 percent, indicating the smooth flow of Gulf capital and ease of access to markets.

In higher education, the number of Gulf students enrolled in higher education institutions outside their home countries within the Council reached approximately 12,800, promoting the exchange of competencies and reinforcing the principle of shared economic and educational citizenship.

Additionally, the member states are among the most prepared in the world to implement the digital economy, with the government readiness index for artificial intelligence exceeding the global average. It is expected that AI will contribute 34 percent to the GDP of the member states by 2030.

In the same context, and in line with the digital and technological transformation, the Ministers of Information in the GCC countries launched this year the joint application of the news agencies of the GCC countries.

The General Secretariat, via the GCC Statistical Center, has launched a smartphone application for the statistics of the GCC, providing a reliable window into the realities of the member states through numbers and facts.

This application offers accurate indicators on development, economy, society, and the environment, reflecting the scale of ambitious achievements and the comprehensive renaissance experienced by the member states, he explained.

The first was for Gulf women, titled "Inspiring Gulf Woman" held in celebration of International Women's Day, to spotlight the achievements of Gulf women and the efforts of the Council in empowering them.

The second event was Gulf Youth Day, aimed at supporting and moti-vating youth and displaying their creativity and accomplishments in various fields, he said.



The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning

would like to announce the tender for the following works:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Tender Bond	Documentation Fee	Closing Da	ate & Time
Contract Management & Site Supervision for Landscape Construction Works at Madinat Salman Island 14 West & Island 12 in Kingdom of Bahrain funded through the Kuwait Grant under the GCC Development Program to the Kingdom of Bahrain	HP / 05 / 22	BD 5,000/-	BD 100/-	Wednesday, 6 th August, 2025	1:30 PM (Bahrain local time)

- Suitably eligible and qualified consultants are invited to participate in the Tender. Eligibility to participate shall be given to Kuwaiti Category «A» Consultants registered with the Kuwaiti Central Tender Committee; and Consultants registered in Bahrain should be licensed as Category A with the Council for Regulating the Practice of Engineering Professions (CRPEP), Kingdom of Bahrain in a Joint Venture with any Kuwaiti Eligible Consultant. Full details of the tenderer's eligibility and qualification criteria are provided in the Invitation for Qualification document.
- This is a public tender whereby the qualification of tenderers is combined with the submission of their technical and financial proposals. Full details are provided in the Invitation for Qualification Document no. QD/MS/S-HP/2022 attached to the tender package. This tender is a two-envelope tender and the qualification & technical bids will be opened first and the financial bid of technically qualified tenderers only will be opened later.
- This tender is advertised through the Bahrain Tender Board E-Tendering System and eligible consultants who wish to participate for above mentioned Project shall have to purchase and download the Documents online through the Bahrain Tender Board's portal https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh. The tender documents shall be available for purchase and download beginning from from Wednesday, 21st May 2025 up to Wednesday, 23rd July 2025.
- Consultants who are not yet registered in the Bahrain Tender Board's e-tendering system shall be required to register through the below-mentioned link. Details of registration are provided online at the Bahrain Tender Board website. For technical assistance please contact the Tender Board through email address helpdesk@tenderboard.gov.bh or call on Tel No. +973 - 17566666.

https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh/Tenders/registerUser

- The completed Tender which comprise of the Application for Qualification, Technical and Financial Proposal documents shall be submitted online in accordance with the Instruction to Tender and the E-Tendering Guidelines of the Bahrain Tender Board. The Tenderer should include and enclose in his offer the Tender Bond for the amount specified above. The Tender Bond should be in the form and manner as prescribed in the tender document valid for 180 days from the closing date.
- This Tender is in accordance with the provision of the Kingdom of Bahrain's Law Regulating Government Tenders & Purchases No. (36) of 2002 and Its Implementing Regulations issued by Decree No. (37) of 2002; and is subjected to the Unified Rules for Giving Priority to National Products and Products of a National Origin (Article 8, Prime Ministerial Edict No. 21 of 1987).

For any query regarding the invitation, please contact: Cost Engineering Section, Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, P.O. Box 5802, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, Tel. No.: +973 - 17533000 - ext.519, Email: Chandramohanan.Krishnapilla@housing.gov.bh.

This advertisement shall be a supplementary to the Tender Documents.

would like to announce the tender for the following works:

Tender Title	Tender No.	Tender Bond	Documentation Fee	Closing Da	ate & Time
Landscaping Works for Coastal Areas & Open Spaces at Madinat Salman Island 14 West & Island 12 (part) in the Kingdom of Bahrain funded through the Kuwait Grant under the GCC Development Program to the Kingdom of Bahrain.	HP / 04 / 22	BD 10,000/-	BD 100/-	Wednesday, 6 th August, 2025	1:30 PM (Bahrain local time)

- Suitably eligible and qualified contractors are invited to participate in the above-mentioned Tender Package. Eligibility to participate shall be given to Kuwaiti Grade «A» Contractor registered with the Kuwaiti Central Tender Committee; and Contractors registered in Bahrain either an Infrastructure or a Landscaping Contractor in a Joint Venture with any Kuwaiti Eligible Contractor. Full details of the tenderer's eligibility and qualification criteria are provided in the Invitation for Qualification document.
- This is a public tender whereby the qualification of tenderers is combined with the submission of their technical and financial proposals. Full details are provided in the Invitation for Qualification Document no. QD-HP-04- 2022 attached to the tender package. This tender is a two-envelope tender and the gualification & technical bids will be opened first and the financial bid of technically qualified tenderers only will be opened later.
- This tender is advertised through the Bahrain Tender Board E-Tendering System and eligible contractors who wish to participate for above mentioned Project shall have to purchase and download the Documents online through the Bahrain Tender Board's portal https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.bh. The tender documents shall be available for purchase and download beginning from from Wednesday, 21st May 2025 up to Wednesday, 23rd July 2025.
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INTERNATIONAL



In this image from video, the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant, (foreground), is seen after an explosion on a boat carrying raw sewage near the plant on the Hudson River in New York on May 24. (AP)

1 dead in New York sewage-boat explosion on Hudson River

An explosion on a boat carrying raw sewage that was docked on the Hudson River in New York City killed a longtime city employee Saturday, authorities said.

Another worker on the city-owned Hunts Point vessel was injured and taken to the hospital after the blast around 10:30 a.m. near the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant, according to city Fire Department Deputy Assistant Chief David Simms. A third worker refused medical treatment. The cause of the explosion was

under investigation, but New York City Mayor Eric Adams said in statement that criminal intent was not suspected. The men on the boat, which

takes raw sewage from the city to be treated, were doing work involving a flame or sparks when the explosion occurred, the US Coast Guard said on social media.

First responders found a 59-yearold man unconscious in the river. New York police said, and he was declared dead at the scene. (AP)

Democrats' path back to power might start in places like Appalachian town

PAINTSVILLE, Ky., May 25, (AP): Janet Lynn Stumbo leaned on her cane and surveyed the two dozen or so voters who had convened in a small Appalachian town to meet with the chair of the Kentucky Democratic Party.

A former Kentucky Supreme Court justice, the 70-year-old Stumbo said the event was "the biggest Democratic gathering I have ever seen in Johnson County," an enclave where Republican Donald Trump got 85% of the presidential vote last November.

Paintsville, the county seat, was the latest stop on the state party's "Rural Listening Tour," a periodic effort to visit overwhelmingly white, culturally conservative towns of the kind where Democrats once competed and Republicans now dominate nationally

Democrats' path back to power may start here, one small meeting at a time, because it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the party to regain US Senate control or win the presidency without competing harder for rural and small-town voters.

The party recently lost senators from states with significant rural populations: Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Also, Democratic-led states are losing population to Sun Belt states led by Republicans, with some projections suggesting Democrats would lose 12 seats in the Electoral College in the



Kentucky Democratic Party Chairman Colmon Elridge addresses a 'Rural Listening Tour' gathering in Paintsville, Ky. on May 16. (AP)

2030 census.

"The gut check is we'd stopped having these conversations" in white rural America, said Colmon Elridge, the Kentucky Democratic chair. "Folks didn't give up on the Democratic Party. We stopped doing the things that we knew we needed to do.

It's not that Democrats must carry most white rural precincts outright to win more elections. More realistically, it's a matter of consistently chipping away at Republican margins in the way Trump narrowed Democrats' usual advantages among Black and Latino men in 2024 and not unlike what Kentucky's Democratic governor, Andy Beshear, did in two statewide victories

Nationally, Trump won 60% of small town and rural voters in 2020, according to AP VoteCast data, and 63% in 2024. That's a far cry from a generation ago, when Democrat Bill Clinton won pluralities in Johnson County on his way to capturing Kentucky's electoral votes in the 1992 and 1996 White House races.

"We have to be intentional about how we build something sustainable,? Elridge said. "It's not like we haven't won here before.

'We need patriots with guts and vision and backbone'

Trump's speech to West Point graduates mixes praise, politics and grievances

WEST POINT, NY, May 25, (AP): US President Donald Trump used the first service academy commencement address of his second term Saturday to laud graduating West Point cadets for their accomplishments and career choice while also veering sharply into a campaign-style recitation of political boasts and long-held grievances

"In a few moments, you'll become graduates of the most elite and storied military academy in human history,' Trump said at the ceremony at Michie Stadium. "And you will become officers of the greatest and most powerful army the world has ever known. And I know, because I rebuilt that army, and I rebuilt the military. And we rebuilt it like nobody has ever rebuilt it before in my first term.'

Wearing a red "Make America Great Again" hat, the Republican president told the 1,002 members of the class of 2025 at the US Military Academy that the United States is the "hottest country in the world" and underscored an "America First" ethos for the military.

"We're getting rid of distractions and we're focusing our military on its core mission: crushing America's adversaries, killing America's enemies and defending our great American flag like it has never been defended before," Trump said. He later said that "the job of the US armed forces is not to host drag shows or transform foreign cultures," a reference to drag shows on military bases that Democratic President Joe Biden's administration halted after Republican criticism.

Trump said the cadets were graduating at a "defining moment" in Army history as he accused political leaders in the past of sending soldiers into "nation-building crusades to nations that wanted nothing to do with us." He said he was clearing the military of transgender ideas, "critical race theory" and types of training he called divisive and political. Past administrations, he said, "sub-



US President Donald Trump salutes alongside Lieutenant General Steven W. Gilland during the U.S. Military Academy commencement ceremonies in West Point, NY, on May 24. (AP)

jected the armed forces to all manner of social projects and political causes while leaving our borders undefended

and depleting our arsenals to fight other countries' wars. At times, his remarks were indistin-

guishable from those heard in a political speech, from his assessment of the country when he left office in January 2021 to his review of last November's victory over Democrat Kamala Harris, arguing that voters gave him a "great mandate" and "it gives us the right to do what we want to do."

Frequently turning the focus on himself, he reprised some of his campaign rally one-liners, including the claim that he has faced more investigations than mobster Al Capone.

At one point the crowd listened as Trump, known for his off-message digressions, referred to "trophy wives" and yachts during an anecdote about the late real estate developer William Levitt, a billionaire friend who Trump said lost momentum.

But the president also took time to acknowledge the achievements of individual graduates.

He summoned Chris Verdugo to the stage and noted that he completed an 18.5-mile march on a freezing night in January in just two hours and 30 minutes. Trump had the nationally ranked men's lacrosse team, which held the No. 1 spot for a time in the 2024 season, stand and be recognized. Trump also brought Army's star quarterback, Bryson Daily, to the lectern, where the president praised Daily's "steel"like shoulder. Trump later used Daily as an example to make a case against transgender women participating in women's athletics.

In a nod to presidential tradition, Trump also pardoned about half a dozen cadets who had faced disciplinary infractions.

He told graduates that "you could have done anything you wanted, you could have gone anywhere." and that "writing your own ticket to top jobs on Wall Street or Silicon Valley wouldn't be bad. But I think what you're doing is better.

"This is a time of incredible change and we do not need an officer corps of careerists and yes men," Trump said. 'We need patriots with guts and vision and backbone.

Poles rally behind competing candidates and visions as presidential runoff nears

'Largest aerial assault' Russian attack kills 12 in Ukraine

6

WARSAW, Poland, May 25, (AP): Poles traveled from across the country to join dueling patriotic marches in Warsaw on Sunday, led by the two men vying for the presidency in a June 1 runoff election expected to be both close and consequential for the nation's future.

At the head of one march is Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, a liberal urbanite who supports abortion rights. A close political ally of Prime Minister Donald Tusk, he is backed by Tusk's pro-European Civic Coalition, which has led a centrist coalition government since late 2023.

Trzaskowski previously ran for president in 2020, narrowly losing to incumbent Andrzej Duda, whose second and final five-year term ends this summer.

Opposite him is Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian backed by the national conservative Law and Justice party, which governed Poland from 2015 to 2023. He heads the statebacked Institute of National Remembrance, which under Law and Justice became a vehicle for nationalist historical narratives.

Earlier this month, the White House released photos of Nawrocki and U.S. President Donald Trump meeting in the Oval Office - a tacit but unmistakable show of Trump's support.

Recently, allegations surfaced that Nawrocki swindled an elderly man out of an apartment - but his supporters in Warsaw on Sunday said they didn't believe the allegations.

Many of those who joined Sunday's marches had traveled from across Poland, a country of nearly 38 million, not just to support a candidate but to rally behind sharply divergent visions for the nation's future.

"It's high time for honesty to win. It's high time for integrity to win. It's high time for justice to win," Trzaskowski



This combination of photos shows Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, (left), in Warsaw, Poland, on March 14, 2022 and Karol Nawrocki in Szeligi near Warsaw, Poland, on March 2, 2025. (AP)

told his supporters at the start of his march. "This is what these elections are about. We have literally the last few days ahead of us. We need full determination, every vote is needed.

The runoff follows a first-round vote on May 18 that narrowed the initial field of 13 candidates to Trzaskowski and Nawrocki. Recent polls show them running neck-and-neck, within the margin of error, making the outcome impossible to predict.

Both men are now courting voters who backed the hard-right libertarian Sławomir Mentzen, who won nearly 15% in the first round. Known for his nationalist rhetoric and pro-market views. Mentzen had a strong presence on TikTok and received 35% of the vote among 18- to 29-year-olds, according to an Ipsos exit poll.

Nawrocki supporters told The Associated Press ahead of the march that they saw him as the embodiment of the conservative, patriotic values they grew up with. They voiced opposition to abortion, and said Nawrocki - like Trump - would restore what many called "normality."

Trzaskowski supporters countered that their candidate would better protect the country's interests by strengthening ties with European partners such as France and Germany. In their view, those alliances are vital to Poland's security, especially in the face of Russia's war in Ukraine and fears that a victorious Russia could seek to reassert control over parts of Central and Eastern Europe.

During its eight years in power, Law and Justice was accused by the European Union of undermining democratic norms, particularly judicial independence and press freedom. Trzaskowski has pledged to support Tusk's efforts to restore the independence of Poland's judiciary - something that the conservative President Duda has stymied.

KYIV, Ukraine, May 25, (AP): Russia and Ukraine swapped hundreds more prisoners on Sunday, the third and last part of a major exchange that reflected a rare moment of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to reach a ceasefire in the more than three years of war.

Just hours earlier, Ukrainian capital, Kyiv and other regions came under a massive Russian drone-andmissile attack that killed at least 12 people and injured dozens. Ukrainian officials described it as the largest aerial assault since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia's Defense Ministry said each side brought home 303 more soldiers, after each released a total of 307 combatants and civilians on Saturday, and 390 on Friday - the biggest swap of the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed the exchange, saying on X on Sunday that "303 Ukrainian defenders are home.' He noted that the troops returning to Ukraine were members of the "Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service, and the State Special Transport Service."

In talks held in Istanbul earlier this month - the first time the two sides met face to face for peace talks since - Kyiv and Moscow agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners of war and civilian detainees each.

The scale of onslaught was stunning - Russia hit Ukraine with 367 drones and missiles, the largest single aerial attack of the more than three-years-long war, according to Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for



Rescue workers extinguish a fire of a house destroyed by a Russian strike in Markhalivka village, Kyiv region, Ukraine on May 25. (AP)

Ukraine's Air Force.

In all, Russia used 69 missiles of various types and 298 drones, including Iranian-designed Shahed drones, he told The Associated Press.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the strikes.

For Kyiv, the day was particularly somber as the city observed Kyiv Day, a national holiday that falls on the last Sunday in May, commemorating its founding in the 5th century,

Zelenskyy said Russian missiles and drones hit more than 30 cities and villages and urged Western partners to ramp up sanctions on Russia - a longstanding demand of the Ukrainian leader but one that despite warnings to Moscow by the United States and Europe has not materialized in ways to deter Russia.

"These were deliberate strikes on ordinary cities," Zelenskyy wrote on X, adding that Sunday's targets included Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odesa, Poltava, Dnipro, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions.

"Without truly strong pressure on the Russian leadership, this brutality cannot be stopped. Sanctions will certainly help," Zelenskyy said. "Determination matters now - the determination of the United States, of European countries, and of all those around the world who seek peace.'

The prisoner swap was the only tangible outcome from peace talks in Istanbul earlier this month that have so far failed to produce a ceasefire and a rare moment of cooperation between the warring sides.

Council of Europe defends human rights court against criticism over expulsions

ROME, May 25, (AP): The Council of Europe on Saturday defended the independence of the European Court of Human Rights, after nine member states said its interpretation of rights obligations prevented them from expelling migrants who commit crimes.

The leaders of Denmark, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in a joint letter made public Thursday called for a "new and open-minded conversation" about how the court interprets the European Convention on Human Rights.

Their concern centres on rulings in the field of migration," Council of Europe Secretary-General Alain Berset said in a statement. "These are complex challenges, and democracies must always remain open to reflec-



Europe, and is "bound by a Convention that all 46 members have freely signed and ratified."

through

"It exists to protect the rights and values they committed to defend," he said. "Upholding the independence and impartiality of the Court is our bedrock."

He warned against politicizing the court.

The nine European leaders said the court's interpretation of the convention in cases concerning the expulsion of "criminal foreign nationals" has protected the "wrong people" and placed too many limits on deciding who can be expelled.

The Council of Europe is not an EU institution and was set up in the wake of the Second World War to promote peace and democracy.

UN envoy for Cyprus pushes for trust-building measures

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 25, (AP): A newly appointed UN envoy for Cyprus said Saturday she'll work hard to ensure concrete progress in measures to build trust between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in hopes of reviving moribund talks to heal the island nation's half-century ethnic division.

Maria Angela Holguin said her weeklong stay in Cyprus aims to generate tangible results ahead of a July meeting in Geneva that will bring together UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, along with top diplomats from Greece, Turkey and the UK.

Trust-building measures include talks on opening new crossing points along a 180-kilometer (120-mile) UN control buffer zone that divides a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north from a Greek Cypriot south, where the internationallyrecognized government is seated.



UN chief's personal envoy for Cyprus, Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar, (left), and Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides talk during their meeting at the Presidential Palace in the divided capital Nicosia, Cyprus, on May 24. (AP)

7

INTERNATIONAL

Global economic slowdown is likely to happen: Mohamad

ASEAN must deepen integration, stay united to tackle US tariffs: Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 25, (Agencies): Southeast Asian nations must accelerate regional economic integration, diversify their markets and stay united to tackle the fallout from global trade disruptions resulting from sweeping US tariffs, Malaysian foreign minister said Sunday.

Mohamad Hasan, at a meeting of foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, also reiterated the bloc's call for an end to Myanmar's civil war and downplayed plans of Myanmar's ruling military to hold elections later this year as a "whitewash."

"ASEAN nations are among those most heavily affected by the USimposed tariffs. The US-China trade war is dramatically disrupting production and trade patterns worldwide. A global economic slowdown is likely to happen," Mohamad said. "We must seize this moment to deepen regional economic integration, so that we can better shield our region from external shocks

ASEAN countries, many of which rely on exports to the US, are reeling from tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump's administration rang-ing from 10% to 49%. Six of the bloc's 10 members are among the worst-hit, likely affecting ASEAN's targeted growth forecast of 4.7% this year, trade officials said.

When Trump last month announced a 90-day pause on the tariffs, countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam swiftly began trade negotiations with Washington.

Mohamad said that Malaysia, ASE-AN's current chair, has requested a special summit with the U.S. as a bloc to discuss tariffs and is hopeful it could happen later this year. He said ASEAN is also exploring making Ukraine its dialogue partner while accelerating the process of admitting East Timor as its 11th member.

ASEAN leaders meet Monday in an annual summit that will be followed by a joint meeting Tuesday with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

ASEAN's unity is crucial as the region grapples with climate change and



ASEAN Foreign Ministers line up for a photo call at the start of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting open-ing ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 25. They are from left to right: Lao Foreign Minister Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Myanmar Per-manent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aung Kyaw Moe, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Thailand's Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa, Vietnam's Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son, Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, Philippine Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo, Bruneian Foreign Minister Erywan Pehin Yusof, Cambo-dian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Sugiono, East Timor's Foreign Minister Bendito Freitas, and ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn. (AP)

disruption from the malevolent use of artificial intelligence and other unregulated technologies, Mohamad said, adding that the bloc will be tested by external pressure, including a superpower rivalry

Mohamad said the conflict in Myanmar, where the military seized power in 2021, had spilled over its borders with a growing number of refugees fleeing to neighboring nations and rising transborder and cybercrimes, making it now "an ASEAN issue." He said AŠEAN does not prefer any foreign intervention as the bloc should resolve its own internal affairs.

Myanmar's military leaders are barred from ASEAN meetings after refusing to comply with the bloc's peace plan, which includes negotiations and delivery of humanitarian aid.

Mohamad said the March earthquake that left more than 3,700 dead had opened up opportunity for ASE-AN to reach out to warring parties with the aim of creating a dialogue toward

Mohamad said the bloc plans to appoint a permanent envoy to Myanmar with a three-year term to bolster the

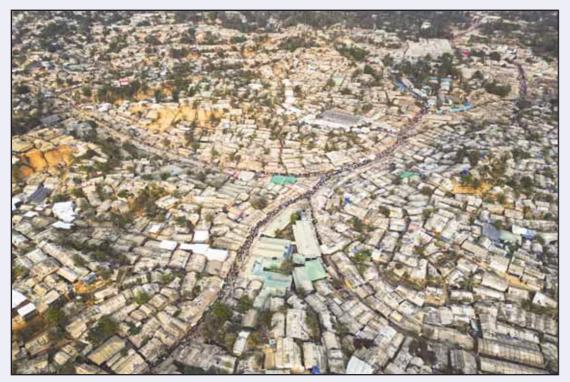
process, and that he would visit Myanmar in June. Currently an envoy is appointed each year from the country holding the bloc's rotating chair.

Mohamad said that violence must cease before any elections in Myanmar, which he said would be futile if there was just partial participation. Opposition parties are mostly either banned from contesting or are boycotting elections. It is also unclear how the polls can be carried out as the military has reportedly lost control of a large part of Myanmar. "What is the point if it's just a

whitewash to cover up in the eyes of the international community?" Mohamad said.

Syahirah Asman, a researcher at the Asia-Middle East Centre for Research and Dialogue in Malaysia, told KUNA that ASEAN-GCC-CHINA relations have seen some considerable leaps in recent decades as commercial exchange and strategic dialogue flourished.

ASEAN is the number one commercial partner for China, while GCC countries provide vital energy supplies to the members of the association, she added.



An aerial view of the vast Rohingya refugee camp is pictured in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on March 13. The UN refugee agency said on May 23, it fears that 427 Rohingya fleeing Myanmar and a refugee camp in Bangladesh may have died at sea this month. (AP)

Asia

N.Korea detains 3 shipyard officials: North Korea authorities have detained three shipyard officials over the recent failed launch of a naval destroyer, an incident that leader Kim Jong Un said was caused by criminal negligence, state media said Sunday. The 5,000-ton-class destroyer was damaged Wednes-

day when a transport cradle on the ship's stern detached early during a launch ceremony attended by Kim at the northeastern port of Chongjin. Satellite imagery on the site showed the vessel lying on its side and draped in blue covers, with parts of the ship submerged.

The vessel is North Korea's second known destroyer. The failed launch was subsequently an embarrassment to Kim, who is eager to build greater naval forces to deal with what he calls U.S.-led military threats.

North Korea launched its first destroyer, also a 5,000-ton-class ship, with massive fanfare last month. The ship is North Korea's largest and most advanced warship and state media reported it is designed to carry various weapons including nuclear missiles. (AP)

1 hospitalized, 2 arrested in Melbourne mall fight: One man was hospitalized and two others were arrested after a fight that forced a Melbourne shopping center into lockdown on Sunday afternoon. Police in the Australian state of Victoria said in a statement that emergency services were called to reports of a fight involving around 10 people, some of whom were armed with knives, shortly after 2:30 p.m. at the Northland Shopping Center, 10 kilometers northeast of central Melbourne. One man, who Ambulance Victoria said was aged in his 20s, was taken to hospital in a serious but stable condition

with upper body injuries. Victoria Police said that two males who were arrested at the scene were being interviewed. "The center was locked down as the incident took place and remains closed while police investigate," the police statement said. "The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are being investigated but it is believed the incident was targeted and parties are believed to be known to each other." Footage captured by local television news crews showed a large police and ambulance presence responding to the incident. Nine Entertainment newspapers reported that members of the public took shelter inside stores and that two other people were assessed at the scene by ambulance paramedics but were not taken to hospital. (Xinhua)

Memorial service held for Duc Luong: A memorial service for former Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong was held on Sunday morning at the National Funeral Hall in capital Hanoi, Vietnam News Agency reported.

The ceremony was attended by top Vietnamese leaders, including General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee To Lam, President Luong Cuong and National Assembly Chairman Tran Thanh Man. Foreign state and party leaders from Laos and Cambodia also paid their respects

Parallel services were held in Ho Chi Minh City and the late president's hometown in central Quang Ngai province. In his funeral oration, Luong Cuong praised Tran Duc Luong's lifelong dedication to the revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation, describing him as a highly respected leader and a shining example of learning and following President Ho Chi Minh's ideology, ethics and style. Following the ceremony, a hearse carrying the national flag-draped coffin departed the National Funeral Hall, passing through the streets of Hanoi before heading to Noi Bai International Airport. (Xinhua)

Venezuelans vote for lawmakers, govs as opposition calls for election boycott

CARACAS, Venezuela, May 25, (AP): Voters in Venezuela are choosing lawmakers, governors and other officials Sunday in polling being held against a backdrop of heightened government repression and opposition



they would vote for contenders associated with two opposition leaders who are not boycotting the elections.

Villalobos was elections division chief for opposition leader Maria Corina Machado when he and five other



calls to boycott the election.

The election is the first to allow broad voter participation since last year's presidential contest, which President Nicolás Maduro claimed to have won despite credible evidence to the contrary. It is taking place two days after the government detained dozens of people, including a prominent opposition leader, and linked them to an alleged plot to hinder the

About an hour after polls opened, around a dozen voters were outside the country's largest voting center, located in the capital - a stark contrast with the hundreds who were already in line around the same time for the July 28 presidential election. An increased police presence was noticeable across Caracas, where squad cars with lights on dotted quiet neighborhoods.

Voter participation, in the eyes of the opposition, legitimizes Maduro's claim to power and his government's repressive apparatus, which after the July presidential election detained more than 2,000 people including protesters, poll workers, political activists and minors, to quash dissent. MeanA woman casts a mock vote during a rehearsal for the upcoming regional election, in Caracas, Venezuela on May 10. (AP)

while, the ruling party is already touting overwhelming victory across the country, just as it has done in previous regional elections regardless of opposition participation.

A nationwide poll conducted between April 29 and May 4 by the Venezuela-based research firm Delphos showed that only 15.9% of voters expressed a high probability of voting Sunday. Of those, 74.2% said they would vote for the candidates of the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela and its allies, while 13.8% said

overnment opponents sought refuge in March 2024 at a diplomatic compound in Venezuela's capital to avoid arrest. He spent more than a year there and on Saturday, along with four of the others, spoke publicly for the first time since they left the compound and arrived in the United States earlier this month

Also:

CARACAS: Five Venezuelan opposition figures who had taken refuge in the Argentine embassy in Caracas for over a year appeared in public Saturday for the first time since leaving the diplomatic compound. Now in the United States, they described their flight from Venezuela as part of an "unprecedented" and ongoing rescue operation.

The Venezuelan government denies it was a rescue, claiming instead that it was part of a negotiation.

"Our rescue, our escape, was an unprecedented operation," said Magalli Meda during a press conference in Washington. Meda is a member of the opposition group Vente Venezuela, led by opposition leader María Corina Machado.

Immunity lifted in treason probe

Congo's ex-prez Kabila denounces 'dictatorship'

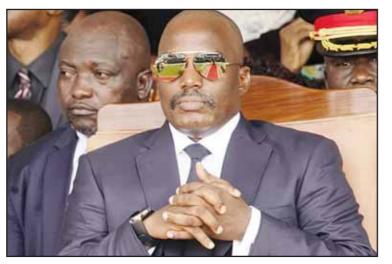
KINSHASA, Congo, May 25, (AP): Congo's former president Joseph Kabila on Friday accused the government of turning into a dictatorship with the backing of the parliament a day after the Senate voted to lift his immunity to pave the way for his prosecution for alleged treason and war crimes.

Kabila, who led Congo from 2001 to 2019, is accused by the government of supporting the Rwanda-backed rebels that have seized two major cities in the country's conflict-battered east. He had been in self-imposed exile since 2023 until April when he arrived in the key city of Goma in the east.

His arrival, his associates had said, was to help resolve the decades-long conflict in the region which escalated in January when the M23 rebels made an unprecedented advance into the region.

At a hearing on Thursday, Congo's Senate voted overwhelmingly to grant the government's request and lift the lifetime immunity Kabila had enjoyed because of his honorific title as senator for life.

Among Kabila's alleged crimes include "treason, war crimes, crimes against humanity and participation in an insurrectional movement" in the country's east, Justice Minister Con-



Outgoing president Joseph Kabila sits during the inauguration ceremony for Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on Jan 24, 2019. (AP)

stant Mutamba said.

However, in his first public speech since leaving power, Kabila criticized the government's move, accusing Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi of turning the country into a "dictatorship". The country's parliament has become the "rubber stamp for the will of a single person," he said.

Kabila also said he remains committed to Congo's future, adding: "Better than anyone, you know that, for me, Congo is the absolute priority; that its sovereignty and territorial integrity are non-negotiable; that my commitment to democracy, national cohesion, peace and stability is not an empty slogan.

Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa (center right), flanked by his wife Lavinia Valbonesi and their two children, and National Assembly President Niels Olsen, arrives at the National Assembly for his swearing-in ceremony for a second term, in Quito on May 24. (AP)

Ecuador's Noboa vows to tackle violence, boost economy, create jobs in second term

QUITO, May 25, (AP): Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa was officially sworn in on Saturday following his reelection for another four-year term early this year.

Noboa, 37, who wore a presidential sash over his chest, was sworn in alongside his Vice President María José Pinto and their terms will run until May 2029.

The young president, who has become known for his fight against a surge of armed group violence in the South American country, pledged in his inauguration speech to continue to tackle corruption, drug trafficking and violent crime. He also swore to implement reforms and said he would lay "a solid foundation for job creation and investment" by working with Ecuador's private sector.

"We are at the doorstep of four years of progress," he said.

Subcontinent

2 top Naxal commanders killed in India: The Indian police on Saturday killed two top Naxal commanders in a fierce gunfight in the eastern state of Jharkhand. officials said. A police official was also wounded while fighting these Naxals.

The gunfight broke out in the forests of Latehar district, about 108 km northwest of Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand. "During the stand-off, two top Naxal commanders were gunned down. A third suspected Naxal was nabbed in an injured condition at the spot," said a senior police official. The police said both the slain Naxals were wanted in many cases and carried a bounty on their heads.

According to the police, the search operation was carried out by the police contingents on specific intel-ligence information suggesting the presence of Naxals in the area. New Delhi has deployed several companies of its paramilitary forces to take on Naxals in their strong-

The ceremony in the capital, Quito, was attended by US Health Secretary Robert Kennedy, Colombia's President Gustavo Petro, Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, and many other international guests and delegates.

Noboa was first elected as president in November 2023 aged 35, with little political experience. He unexpectedly entered the race and was elected to complete the term of his predecessor, Guillermo Lasso, who had dissolved the Assembly and stepped down to avoid impeachment.

Noboa was re-elected on April 13 in a run-off against left-wing candidate Luisa González, who has made repeated allegations of electoral fraud. Her Citizen Revolution party, lead by for-mer president Rafael Correa, boycotted Saturday's ceremony, even though González claims were rejected by Ecuador's electoral authority and both national and international observers.

Violence and high unemployment levels remain the biggest challenges facing the president and his National Democratic Action (ADN) party, which also was able to hold the majority in the country's congress through a number of political alliances.

Maintaining that majority will be crucial for Noboa in pushing through his agenda, including a crime-fighting bill marked as "urgent" for its economic implications. The proposal has already drawn criticism from the opposition.

Juan Francisco Camino, a professor at the Equinoctial Technological University, said Noboa's tight majority could easily shift the balance.

"Just one lost vote from his allies could paralyze his plans," Camino said in an interview.

holds. The insurgency reportedly has claimed hundreds of lives besides rendering thousands of poor inhabitants homeless. (Xinhua)

Afghanistan detains 2 drug smugglers: Police have arrested two drug smugglers and discovered 12 kg of opium poppy from their possessions in the northern Afghanistan Badakhshan province, provincial police spokesman Ehsanullah Kamgar said Sunday.

The alleged drug smugglers, both Afghans, were at-tempting to take the contraband from Badakhshan to the western Badghis province on Saturday, but police identified and arrested them for investigation. Police have also discovered an instrument that could check the quality of illicit drug during the investigation, the official further said.

In similar operations against illegal drug and drug smugglers, police arrested four outlaws and discovered 30,000 stimulant tablets locally known as "tablet K" in Afghanistan capital city Kabul a couple of days ago. (Xinhua)

Business

Program part of CBK's 'Kafa'a' initiative for talent development

Warba Bank leaders join Harvard's Executive Program on strategic leadership

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: As part of its ongoing commitment to developing local professionals and strengthening its human capital, Warba Bank announced the participation of several of its leaders in the 16th edition of Harvard Business School's Executive Leadership Development Program which was mentored them on "Strategic Leadership in the Age of Financial Sustainability". The program is part of the "Kafa'a" initiative launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks and managed by the Institute of Banking Studies.

This initiative reaffirms Warba Bank's dedication to equipping its leadership with in-depth knowledge and global best practices in management, financeand sustainability, affirming the Bank's role in preparing its professionals to take on influential leadership positions within the local and regional banking sector.

Commenting on the program, Ms. Maali Abdullah AlRasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officerat Warba Bank, stated:"At Warba Bank, we believe that true investment lies in empowering our people. That's why we are committed to providing our staff with advanced training and professional development opportunities aligned with the latest sectoral advancements, while fostering a work environment that supports their growth and learning. Our participation in this prestigious program with Harvard reflects our long-term commitment to developing capable leaders who are prepared to navigate sustainability challenges and shape a brighter future."

She added that talent development is an integral pillar of Warba's growth strategy. The Bank continuously invests in advanced educational programs that expand its employees' horizons and strengthen leadership and decision-making skills grounded in vision and professional excellence.

AlRasheed emphasized that Warba Bank is fostering a culture of continuous learning and creating a supportive, empowering environment where every





Warba Bank leaders join Harvard Executive Leadership Program on financial sustainability.

employee is seen as a leader of tomorrow. "This is why we take part in strategic programs in collaboration with the world's most renowned institutions; to ultimately serve the people of Kuwait." She also extended her gratitude to the Central Bank of Kuwait for its instrumental role in advancing the local banking sector and fostering an environment of growth, innovation, and sustainability. The Bank's leadership in launching initiatives like Kafa'a and facilitating specialized training programs has become a vital enabler of national talent competitiveness and long-term economic progress in Kuwait.

Warba Bank places great emphasis on human capital development, as reflected in the number of graduates who completed accredited training programs from the Institute of Banking Studies over the past two years. A total of 19 employees have successfully earned certifications in areas such as risk management, wealth management, branch operations and credit management, contributing to institutional performance and service excellence.

These initiatives form part of Warba Bank's broader vision to build a comprehensive work environment that strengthens individual capabilities and elevates the banking ecosystem in line with Kuwait's national development objectives.

Building a Better Tomorrow

Guided by its slogan "Let's Own Tomorrow," Warba Bank remains committed to setting new benchmarks for the future of Islamic banking by redefining customer experience and building a sustainable and inclusive financial system. As one of the fastest-growing Islamic banks in Kuwait, Warba is firmly anchored in excellence, innovation, and sustainability, solidifying its position as a trusted financial partner for both individuals and businesses.

Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short time, becoming a pioneer in Islamic digital banking. It also ranks among the banks with the largest shareholder base in Kuwait, which brings it closer to all segments of society. This continued success underscores Warba Bank's reputation as a socially responsible financial institution committed to delivering innovative and inclusive services of the highest quality.

Boursa Kuwait wins 'Best for Sustaining Communities – Middle East' award 2025

Over 25 global sustainability awards received since 2018

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Boursa Kuwait was awarded the "Best for Sustaining Communities –Middle East" award for 2025 by Global Finance as part of the magazine's Sustainable Finance and Investment Banking Awards ceremony in London, United Kingdom, on May 13, 2025.

Global Finance's recognition of Boursa Kuwait reaffirms the compa-



Naser Al-Sanousi



Sharia-compliant financing offered

KFH launches first goldbacked financing product

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched the first financing product of its kind in Kuwait, offering financing against gold account collateral. By allowing customers to access the value of their gold holdings without selling them, this new financing solution enhances the customer experience and accommodates their needs.

KFH Deputy General Manager Products, Nehal Al-Musallam said: "This new product enables customers to obtain quick financing using the gold held in their KFH Gold Account, regardless of whether they have an existing account or open a new one. This service provides liquidity while preserving their assets."

She stated that the new product simplifies financing for retail customers by allowing them to easily pledge their gold as collateral at any KFH branch.



Nehal Al-Musallam



ny's unwavering commitment to the highest standards of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) implementation and reporting and adopting them within its operational framework. It also reflects Boursa Kuwait's strategic vision of embedding a culture of corporate sustainability through impactful initiatives that drive lasting, positive change in the community and support the development of a more transparent and efficient capital market.

Adopting a comprehensive approach, Boursa Kuwait has supported social, educational, and environmental programs to empower various segments of the population and expand access to financial literacy. These initiatives are in full alignment with the objectives of Kuwait's National Development Plan, reinforcing the company's position as a key driver of sustainable development in the country.

In 2024, Boursa Kuwait continued its commitment to supporting social and environmental programs in collaboration with local and international organizations. Throughout the year, the bourse sponsored 38 initiatives aimed at creating a lasting, positive impact on the community it serves, including numerous environmental programs and initiatives designed to empower women. Additionally,the company launched the inaugural edition of the "Bell" initiative to raise financial literacy and awareness. This initiative aims to position financial education as a cornerstone for achieving financial stability, economic development, and social prosperity, in partnership with several distinguished local organizations.

Commenting on the award, Boursa Kuwait's Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi stated, "This international award stands as another testament to Boursa Kuwait's continued leadership in corporate sustainability and social responsibility. The company is proud to see its efforts recognized by a prestigious publication like Global Finance, a reflection of the international business community's confidence in our business model and our commitment to transparency and positive impact. Boursa Kuwait remains focused on strengthening strategic partnerships and advancing sustainable practices across Kuwait's financial sector."

"Boursa Kuwait firmly believes that sustainability is a shared responsibility across all segments of society, and a unique opportunity to build a prosperous future for generations to come. On behalf of Boursa Kuwait, I would



community support, resource manage-

ment, transparency and reporting, as

well as their overall commitment to

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustain-

ability (CS)strategy stipulates ensuring

initiatives apply and fall in line with

the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) pillars, industry best

practice standards and investor expec-

tations, creating strong and sustainable

partnerships that ultimately achieve

success and allow Boursa Kuwait to

leverage the capabilities and strengths

of other companies or organizations

that have experience in different fields,

and integrating sustainability efforts

with the company culture, to achieve

longevity and an ongoing impact that

is carried on and instilled in the day-to-

day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Boursa Ku-

wait has launched many initiatives

in partnership with local and interna-

tional organizations, focusing on sup-

port for nongovernmental organiza-

tions and charity programs, financial

literacy and capital market awareness,

the empowerment of women as well as

environmental protection.

sustainable financing.

'Best for Sustaining Communities - Middle East' award.

like to extend my sincere gratitude to Global Finance for this recognition, which serves as a strong motivator to continue innovating across our initiatives and delivering added value to the Kuwaiti community and the national economy," he added.

This marks the second time Boursa Kuwait has received this prestigious honor from Global Finance, following its initial win in 2023. The company was also named "Best in Sustainability Transparency" for both 2023 and 2024, further underscoring its leadership in ESG disclosure and sustainable business practices. Since 2018, the company has won over 25 awards in sustainability from several internationally renowned institutions and publications.

The Global Finance Sustainable Finance Awards recognize global, regional and local leadership in sustainable finance, commending the efforts of financial institutions that support and adopt initiatives aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of climate change and building a more sustainable future for humanity.Award recipients are selected based on their contributions to comprehensive sustainable finance, gold as collateral at any KFH branch. This provides Sharia-compliant financing at competitive rates, without maximum installment restrictions or extensive documentation.

Highlighting the advantages for customers, Al-Musallam noted that this financing product offers a streamlined process with minimal paperwork and adaptable repayment plans, providing the necessary funds with ease. She added, "This new offering underscores KFH's dedication to expanding its range of financing solutions and introducing options with attractive rates."

She noted that KFH offers its customers a Gold Account featuring premium 24-carat Turkish and Swiss gold with a purity of up to 999.9, positioning it among the finest gold available. This aligns with the Bank's efforts to provide high-quality investment products that meet customer aspirations.

Customers can open a Gold Account through the KFHOnline app, at KFH ATMs, or by visiting KFH branches. Furthermore, customers can purchase and sell gold biscuits in Kuwaiti Dinars, with weights ranging from 5 to 100 grams. This account also allows customers to directly trade gold biscuits at daily announced prices via KFHOnline. Additionally, KFH offers a complimentary safe deposit box service, enabling customers to securely store their gold and make partial or full withdrawals as

KFH offers financing against gold account collateral.

needed.

Al-Musallam also highlighted the launch of KFH's Gold Gift service via KFHOnline. This feature allows Gold Account holders to conveniently send gold as a gift, accompanied by a personalized congratulatory message chosen from the KFHOnline app's selection. Recipients can easily claim their gold gift through a link provided by the sender. She mentioned that KFH offers a gold delivery service to Gold Account customers. The service, which can be accessed through KFHOnline, provides the delivery option of gold biscuits at customers' request and to a prespecified location.

Al-Musallam said that KFH is a pioneer in rolling out banking solutions and products. "The Bank was the first in Kuwait to introduce the Gold Account for its customers in an attempt to enhance its role in providing innovative products and diversify investment opportunities for customers," added Al-Musallam.

'The largest sporting event in the heart of Kuwait City'

Early registration now open for the 11th Gulf Bank 642 Marathon scheduled for Nov 29, 2025

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: In line with its continued support for community sustainability initiatives, Gulf Bank has officially announced the opening of early registration for the 11th edition of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon – Kuwait's only internationally accredited marathon. The much-anticipated event is set to take place on November 29, 2025.

Reaffirming its yearly commitment, Gulf Bank invites athletes, beginners, and individuals from all segments of society – locally and internationally – to take part in this major sporting event, now recognized as one of Kuwait's most anticipated athletic gatherings. Registration is open through the official website:www.gulfbank-642marathon.com.

The 10th edition of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon saw a record-breaking turnout, with over 10,000 participants across different race categories. Kuwaitis made up the largest group, with 5,293 runners, followed by participants from India, the Philippines, Egypt, and Lebanon.

Egypt, and Lebanon. Celebrated for its diversity and in-

clusivity, the marathon saw a strong female turnout, with women making up 44% of all participants, while men accounted for 56%. Seniors aged 65 and above represented 0.5% of runners, and those between 55 and 64 made up 3%.

Young adults formed the majority, with 44.4% of participants aged between 21 and 34, and 27.9% between 35 and 44. Runners under the age of 21 made up 12.6% of the total turnout.

Gulf Bank's continued sponsorship of the marathon reflects its commitment to supporting national efforts to promote a culture of fitness and wellness as a foundation of sustainable development. The Bank emphasizes the importance of investing in human capital and enhancing individual capabilities to create a healthier society.

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is considered one of the region's leading initiatives aimed at encouraging healthy lifestyles and making physical activity a regular part of daily life, especially in light of the increasing rates of diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases.



Ahmed Al-Majed honors Najla Aleisa.

Gulf Bank leverages this event to promote youth and national initiatives by collaborating with the organizing team and enabling the participation of small and medium enterprises. It also serves as a platform to support local athletes and professional Kuwaiti runners, helping them gain exposure and represent Kuwait in marathons around the world.

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is the largest local sporting event held in the heart of Kuwait City, with runners passing several iconic landmarks

Gulf Bank banner.

such as the Kuwait Towers, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, the Grand Mosque, Souq Al-Mubarakiya, and Gulf Bank's Head Office, among others. Winners in each category will receive medals and valuable prizes.

The marathon features four race cat-

egories suitable for all fitness levels: a 5-kilometer walk or run for participants aged 11 and older; a 10-kilometer run for those aged 16 and above; and both the 21-kilometer half marathon and the full 42-kilometer marathon, open to participants aged 18 and above.

BUSINESS

Birzeit University awards Kuwaiti Business Leader Kutayba Alghanim with Doctorate for lifelong contributions to education & social impact





Kutayba Alghanim speaking during the ceremony. sity, speaking during the ceremony.

BIRZEIT, May 25: Birzeit University has awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D) to Mr. Kutayba Alghanim, Executive Chairman of Alghanim Industries, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education, humanitarian efforts, community development, and private sector leadership. The ceremony took place in Kuwait on May 20, 2025, and was attended by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Chair of Birzeit University's Board of Trustees; Dr. Talal Shahwan, University President; members of the university Board, H. E. Ambassador Rami Tahboub, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait, and distinguished figures from the academic and business communities.

In her remarks, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi said: "This recognition honors a man who has championed education as a foundation for building stronger, more just societies. Through his unwavering commitment to educational, economic, and social progress, Mr. Alghanim has set a powerful example of ethical leadership. Today, as we celebrate his achievements, we are reminded of our shared responsibility to defend and advance the values of justice and equity - particularly in light of the grave humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people. With the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the forced displacement of families across Gaza and the West Bank, we are witnessing systematic violations that threaten the fundamental rights



Kutayba Alghanim holding his honorary doctorate, flanked by Dr. Talal Shahwan, President of Birzeit University, and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

to life and education. These atrocities demand an even stronger commitment to upholding the principles of freedom, dignity, and learning - not as abstract ideals, but as concrete responsibilities to the next generation."

Commenting on this, Kutayba Alghanim said: "I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from a university that continues to stand as a beacon of knowledge and perseverance. Birzeit has always recognized that education goes beyond academic pursuit - it's a symbol of resilience and hope during the hardest of times. I have long believed that the greatest battle we face in our region is the battle against ignorance – and education is our most powerful tool. Birzeit's role in this fight is not just admirable, it is essential. I believe that investing in knowledge and education is one of the most meaningful ways to shape a more just and balanced future. To be recognized by such an institution, here in Kuwait, a country grounded in humanitarian values and a long-standing commitment to the dignity of the Palestinian people - gives this honor even greater meaning.

Dr. Talal Shahwan, President of Birzeit University, added: "Mr. Kutayba Alghanim is not only a business leader of great distinction, but also a visionary committed to building more inclusive, equitable communities where education is prioritized and justice is non-negotiable. His consistent support for education and humanitarian causes across Palestine, the Arab



Kutayba Alghanim with H.E. Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub. Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, and Dr. Talal Shahwan.

world, and beyond is a continuation of the legacy of his late father, Mr. Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim, who believed deeply in the power of knowledge and the dignity of work.'

Kutayba Alghanim serves as Executive Chairman of Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately held companies in the Middle East. Under his leadership, the company has embraced a culture of innovation, operational excellence, and forward-looking business practices.

Beyond his corporate achievements, Mr. Alghanim has remained a committed advocate for education and social development. His philanthropic support enabled the construction of the Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim Library at Birzeit University in 1985, and he continues to fund scholarships for deserving students at Birzeit, Arab students at the University of California, Berkeley – his alma mater – and the Lebanese American University, as well as in Kuwait through partnerships with the Arab Open University and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

In 2003, he founded the Dar Ilham and Yusuf Alghanim Center in Lebanon, a family-style residential home for orphaned children, and he supports a range of other humanitarian and educational initiatives across the region, including the Children's Home project in Kuwait.

The honorary doctorate is among Birzeit University's highest honors,

Visitors enjoy giveaways, interactive activities, and exclusive offers

Weyay Bank's pop-up at The Avenues showcases digital banking

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Weyay Bank's pop-up at The Avenues, running until May 31st, is drawing significant attention. The Bank is showcasing its digital services and cards, which enrich customer experience and meet their needs, especially during shopping.

Visitors will have the opportunity to discover the exclusive benefits of the "Weyay Aura" card, a recently launched digital prepaid card designed to elevate customers' digital experiences and fulfill their purchasing requirements in relation to Alshaya Group's Aura loyalty program. Visitors will also receive giveaways, participate in interactive activities, and access exclusive offers tailored specifically for Weyay Bank customers.

The "Weyay Aura" card is a prepaid digital card that can be obtained in minutes via the Weyay app, allowing users to earn up to 30 Aura points for every 1 Kuwaiti Dinar spent, effectively multiplying their rewards. As a

fully digital card, it can be easily added to digital wallets like Apple Pay for quick and secure payments, both online and in-store, anywhere inside or outside Kuwait. Once created in the Weyay app, the "Weyay Aura" card is seamlessly linked with the Aura app, ensuring points are added directly to the customer's Aura account with every purchase.

Nasser Al-Duwaisan, Product Owner at Weyay Bank, stated: "Our presence in a vital location

like The Avenues allows us to directly connect with all age groups and introduce them to our digital banking solutions tailored specifically to their needs. The 'Weyay Aura'card is a testament to our commitment to innovation and delivering valuable experiences that meet and exceed our customers' expectations. We are excited to show visitors how this card enhances their diverse purchasing experiences both inside and outside Kuwait.'



Weyay Bank's pop-up at The Avenues runs until May 31.

S&P 500 and Stoxx Europe 600 drop 2.61% and 0.75%, triggered by tariff threats

Global markets in flux: Growth, inflation, trade tensions, policy decisions, and economic data

By National Bank of Kuwait

BOARD BRANCH FOR STREET

This Week's Expected Z Month

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) reduced its benchmark one-year Loan Prime Rate (LPR) by 100p

This week, global markets navigated heightened I volatility, persistent trade tensions, and fiscal concerns amidst ongoing uncertainty, central bank policy decisions, and a flurry of economic data releases. In the United States, initial jobless claims edged down to 227K whilst the Flash Composite PMI rose to 52.1, reflecting an uptick in business activity. However, the 30-year Treasury yield surged to a high of 5.14%, following a weak bond auction and rising concerns over fiscal deficits and future tax policies.

The USD Dollar Index (DXY) depreciated 1.96% against major currencies, closing the week at 99.112. In Canada, headline inflation slowed to 1.7% in April, but core inflation remained sticky at 3.2%, reducing expectations of a June rate cut. In Europe, the Euro Area Composite PMI slipped to 49.5, driven by services weakness in Germany and France, whilst the United Kingdom saw inflation accelerate to 3.5% and a contractionary composite PMI reading of 49.4. EUR/USD and GBP/USD rose almost 2% on the week. The Swiss National Bank flagged potential deflation this year following zero inflation in April, citing CHF strength and tariff risk.

In Asia-Pacific, China's April industrial output exceeded expectations at 6.1% ŶoY, although retail sales lagged; the People's Bank of China cut loan prime rates by 10bps to counter weak credit demand. USD/CNY rose 0.45% on the week to 7.1810.

Japan saw export growth slow to 2% YoY in April, a trade deficit, and JPY strengthening to the 142.56 mark, whilst the Reserve Bank of Australia cut rates to 3.85% citing cooling inflation and global uncertainty. Equity markets fell over the week with the S&P 500 and Stoxx Europe 600 down 2.61%, and 0.75% respectively, with sharp drops on Friday after President Trump threatened new tariffs against the European Union and Apple. The US yield curve bear steepened on the week over fiscal concerns, with the 2s10s spread widening from 47 to 52bps, as July Brent futures fell 0.96% to USD 64.78 a barrel as OPEC+ considered boosting output.

United States and Canada

Trump Threatens 50% Tariff on EU Goods and 25% Levy on Apple iPhones Amidst Rising Protectionist Rhetoric

President Donald Trump announced plans to impose a 50% tariff on goods from the European Union starting June 1, citing stalled negotiations, and separately threatened a 25% tariff on Apple unless iPhone manufacturing is relocated to the US. The announcements triggered sharp market reactions: S&P 500 futures fell 1.1% and Nasdaq 100 futures dropped 1.3% on the news

Market participants fear the proposed tariffs would target key transatlantic trade sectors, including automobiles and luxury goods. The EU has previously prepared countermeasures covering EUR 95B (USD 107B) in US exports, pending the outcome of ongoing trade talks. Amidst such uncertainty, swap markets currently discount an only 6% probability of a June Fed rate cut. DXY was last seen at 99.112.

30Y US Treasury Yields Rise to 5.14% Following Weak 20Y Auction; Bear-Steepening Deepens **Amidst Fiscal Fears**

Yields on US Treasuries bear-steepened significantly on Wednesday and Thursday, with the 30-year yield rising to 5.14% - the highest since October 2023 - following a weak USD 16B 20-year bond auction that tailed 1.2bps versus the 5.035% when-issued yield with below average demand. After the auction, yields across the curve closed

	Previous Week Levels				Range		3-Month	
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward	
EUR	1.1163	1.1157	1.1375	1.1364	1.1280	1.1420	1.1432	
GBP	1.3283	1.3245	1.3543	1.3539	1.3415	1.3650	1.3544	
JPY	145.70	142.42	145.55	142.56	141.00	143.00	141.08	
CHF	0.8376	0.8205	0.8376	0.8210	0.8120	0.8280	0.8117	

4 to 12bps cheaper, with the 2s10s and 5s30s spreads steepening by 6.5bps and 4bps respectively. Dollar swap spreads continued their recent streak of compression, led by the long end of the curve. Investor concerns over the expanding budget deficit and President Trump's proposed tax bill have heightened risk aversion. Options markets reflected caution as risk sentiment deteriorated across fixed income and broader asset classes

US Initial Jobless Claims Fall to 227K; May Flash Composite PMI Rises to 52.1 Amidst Stronger Business Activity

Initial jobless claims in the United States declined by 2K to 227K in the week ending May 17, marking the lowest level in four weeks, according to the Department of Labor. Continuing claims rose to 1.9M in the prior week, whilst the four-week moving average increased to 231.5K - the highest since October 2024. Despite multiple announced corporate layoffs and fiscal tightening, the data signals a broadly stable labour market. Meanwhile, the S&P Global Flash Composite PMI rose to 52.1 in May from 50.6 in April, indicating renewed business expansion. Manufacturing and services PMIs both improved to 52.3. Price pressures intensified to the highest level since August 2022.

Canadian Headline Inflation Falls to 1.7% YoY in April Whilst Core Inflation Accelerates to 3.2%; Retail Sales Rise 0.5%

Canada's headline inflation decelerated to 1.7% YoY in April 2025, its lowest since September 2024, largely driven by the removal of the consumer carbon tax and an 18.1% decline in gasoline prices. However, core inflation - averaged across the Bank of Canada's (BoC) two preferred metrics - accelerated to 3.2%, up from 2.9% in March, with the three-month moving average rising to 3.4%. Retail activity remained resilient, with preliminary data indicating a 0.5% increase in retail sales in April, extending a 0.8% rise in March. Governor Tiff Macklem cautioned that escalating US-Canada trade tensions may weaken second-quarter GDP, stressing the need to balance growth and inflation risks associated with tariffs. Markets currently assign a 28% probability of a rate cut in the next BoC meeting on 4 June. USD/CAD was last seen at 1.3731.

Europe and the United Kingdom

Euro Area Composite PMI Falls to 49.5 in May as Services Weaken Across Germany and France

Private-sector activity in the euro area unexpectedly contracted in May, with the S&P Global Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) falling to 49.5 from 50.4 in April - marking the first sub-50 reading this year and missing consensus expectations of 50.6. The decline was driven by broad-based weakness in services, which recorded their softest performance in 16 months. Germany's composite PMI dropped to a five-month low of 48.6 (April: 50.1), as services output saw its worst result in two and a half years, offsetting modest manufacturing gains. France's composite PMI remained in contraction for a ninth consecutive month, rising slightly to 48.0 from 47.8. Germany's German IFO Business Climate Index, however, improved to 87.5 (April: 86.9), indicating modest sentiment recovery. Markets are currently assigning a 97.5% probability of a rate cut in the ECB's next meeting on 5 June. EUR/USD was last seen at 1.1364.

UK CPI Rises to 3.5% YoY in April; PMI Remains Contractionary at 49.4; Retail Sales Jump 1.2% MoM

UK headline inflation accelerated to 3.5% in April 2025, up from 2.6% in March, exceeding both the Bank of England's forecast of 3.4% and market expectations of 3.3%. Services inflation, a key gauge for underlying pressures, rose to 5.4% from 4.7%. The S&P Global UK Composite PMI remained in contractionary territory at 49.4 in May, up slightly from 48.5 in April, as US tariffs weighed on export demand and private sector activity. Despite weaker external demand, retail sales volumes rose by 1.2% MoM in April, marking the fourth consecutive monthly increase. Rising input costs and global trade frictions continue to cloud the outlook, though consumer resilience remains notable. Swap markets are presently discounting an only 3% chance of a BoE rate cut in June. GBP/USD was last seen at 1.3539.

Swiss Inflation Hits 0%; SNB Signals Possible Deflation in 2025 Amidst Currency Strength and Tariff Uncertainty

Swiss National Bank Chair Martin Schlegel indicated that inflation may turn negative in some months during 2025, following a slowdown in annual consumer price inflation to 0% in April. Whilst domestic services continue to exert upward price pressure, imported goods are increasingly deflationary due to CHF appreciation. The SNB maintains a medium-term focus but acknowledged heightened inflation uncertainty, notably driven by global tariff developments. Schlegel reiterated the SNB's readiness to adjust its policy rate - including returning to negative territory if necessary - and to intervene in FX markets where appropriate. Swap markets are discounting 35bps of easing on June 19. USD/CHF was last seen at 0.8210.

Asia-Pacific

China Cuts Loan Prime Rates by 10bps as PBOC Advances Easing Measures to Counter Weak Demand and Tariffs

to 3.00%, and five-year LPR to 3.50% from 3.60%, marking the first adjustment in seven months. The move aligns with earlier policy guidance and follows a cut to the seven-day reverse repo rate and a reduction in the reserve requirement ratio. These coordinated easing measures aim to lower borrowing costs amidst subdued consumer sentiment, deflationary pressure, and tariffrelated uncertainty. China also lowered ceilings on deposit rates in a move aimed at protecting bank interest margins. New loan issuance in April declined 61% YoY, highlighting weak credit demand amidst the protracted US trade war. USD/CNY was last seen at 7.1810.

China's April Industrial Output Rises 6.1% YoY, **Outpacing Expectations Amidst Retail Sales Slow**down to 5.1% YoY

China's industrial production expanded by 6.1% YoY in April 2025, significantly exceeding the consensus forecasts, despite a moderation from March's pace. Conversely, retail sales growth slowed to 5.1% from the prior month, undershooting market expectations and underscoring persistent consumer caution.

Fixed-asset investment rose 4.0% in the January-April period, whilst the urban unemployment rate edged down to 5.1%. New home prices declined at an accelerated rate, and property sector investment weakened further. Manufacturing investment decelerated, partly reflecting trade-related uncertainty. The yield on China's 10-year government bonds declined marginally to approximately 1.70%. April's data reflect a bifurcated recovery trajectory amidst deflationary and employment concerns.

RBA Cuts Policy Rate to 3.85%, Signals Caution Amidst Global Uncertainty and Easing Inflation

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) reduced its benchmark interest rate by 25bps to 3.85% - a two-year low and the second cut in 2025 - bringing total easing this cycle to 50bps. The Australian dollar weakened to 64.30 US cents whilst policy-sensitive 3-year yields fell to 3.58% following the announcement. Despite recent inflationary pressures, wage acceleration, and strong labour data, the RBA forecasts underlying inflation to remain within the 2-3% target range and assumes 85bps of total easing by mid-2026. Whilst economists expect two more cuts this year, the RBA remains cautious, citing global risks including US tariffs and fiscal expansion following domestic elections. AUD/USD was last seen at 0.6488

Japan Posts JPY 115.8B Trade Deficit, Export Growth Slows to 2%; Long-End JGB Yields Ease from Record Highs

Japan recorded a JPY 115.8B (USD 797M) trade deficit in April 2025 as export growth decelerated to 2% YoY, missing the expected 2.5% amidst yen appreciation and escalating US tariffs. Imports fell 2.2%, versus a projected 4.2% drop. The yen averaged 147.7 per USD in April, 2.6% stronger than a year earlier, suppressing nominal trade values. Exports to the US, China, and Europe declined by 1.8%, 0.6%, and 5.2% respectively.

Concurrently, yields on long-dated 30- and 40-year Japanese Government Bonds, which rose to record highs this week amidst global fiscal concerns, a scaleback in Bank of Japan bond purchases as inflation rises, and reduced demand from insurers, eased late Friday dropping 11.5bps to 3.1% and 13.5bps to 3.5% - on central bank intervention and a drop in US Treasury yields. USD/JPY was last seen at 142.56.

Kuwait

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30665.

BUSINESS

First international expansion since its founding in 2006 to strengthen its regional and global presence

ABK Capital establishes subsidiary at DIFC after receiving DFSA approval

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: ABK Capital, the investment arm of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Group, has established its subsidiary at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) after obtaining approval from the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), marking a strategic step to expand its regional and international footprint.

This move represents the company's first overseas expansion since its inception in 2006 and underscores its commitment to executing its ambitious strategy. DIFC is one of the world's leading financial centers, hosting over 6,000 registered companies, including more than 370 asset and wealth management firms and over USD 700 billion in assets.

Once all regulatory requirements for the new license are fulfilled, the company will offer a range of investment services and solutions, including asset and wealth management, investment advisory, and capital increase underwriting. It also plans to introduce new offerings such as M&A advisory services, capital market services, and more. This expansion will allow the company to directly serve its clients more effectively through a team of highly experienced professionals.

Commenting on the occasion, Abdulaziz Jawad, Chairman of ABK Capital, stated, "ABK Capital has successfully earned trust



Abdulaziz Jawad, Chairman of ABK Capital

through its achievements over the past 19 years, as reflected in the granting of this new license. The company enjoys a strong reputation grounded in its conservative investment philosophy and commitment to transparency and innovation in its solutions and services. Our regional expansion will help us attract and serve more clients by offering diversified investment services tailored to their various needs."

Jawad added, "Our presence in DIFC enhances our competitiveness and builds trust with our clients and strategic relationships, with firms like BlackRock and Blackstone. It positions us to seize promising opportunities in line with our mission to maximize shareholder returns and continuously deliver added value. Being



Dr. Husayan Shahrur, CEO of ABK Capital

based in DIFC enables us to tap into vast potential and serve top regional and global clients in line with the highest international standards. This strategic expansion confirms our ongoing commitment to delivering advanced investment solutions that meet the expectations of both individual and institutional clients."

Dr. Husayn Shahrur, CEO of ABK Capital, stated that the move comes as a result of DIFC's growing status as a key player in global markets, making it an ideal launchpad for ABK Capital into the wider region. He highlighted DIFC's advanced infrastructure and responsiveness to market developments, as well as its integration with other major financial centers worldwide.

Dr. Shahrur added that the company



has focused on strengthening its team, repositioning itself in the local market, and launching a leading investment platformespecially in private market asset solutions. With the DFSA license now in hand, ABK Capital aims to expand regionally and attract a broader client base.

He also emphasized the company's unique asset management offerings and its role in further connecting regional markets to global opportunities. This will be achieved through ABK Capital's various products including the online trading platform which provide clients with a wide range of investment solutions.

Dr. Shahrur concluded by saying that establishing a subsidiary in DIFC is a continuation of ABK Capital's broader expansion strategy. This began with strategic relationships with major global asset managers such as Blackstone and BlackRock, and will be followed by further strategic steps to enhance the company's competitive position in the market.

New Board of Directors elected for the next three-year term

NREC shareholders approve distribution of 5% bonus shares

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: National Real Estate Company (NREC) held its Annual Ordinary General Assembly Meeting (AGM) today for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, with a quorum of 69.3%. The meeting was

projects in Jordan and Libya continued to show resilience despite regional geopolitical challenges. South Aqaba Investment Park in Jordan maintained full occupancy across its warehouses

AGM also elected a new Board of

hancing shareholder value through a focused strategy. This includes the divestment of non-core assets, exploration of new investment opportunities in local and regional markets, and re-

for the next three-year term, which includes

ity Public Warehousing. Agility Global manages a portfolio of prominent entities that includes Menzies Aviation, Tristar, and Agility Logistics Parks. **Key Projects Milestones**





conducted electronically.

The Company's shareholders approved all agenda items, including the Board's recommendation to distribute 5% bonus shares, equivalent to 5 shares for every 100 shares held. Shareholders registered in the Company's shareholder records on the settlement date of 25 June 2025 will be entitled to these bonus shares, with the distribution date set for 6 July 2025.

Financial and Operational Performance Overview

In 2024, NREC recorded a net profit of KD 9.3 million and earnings per share of 4.91 fils, compared to a net loss of KD 35.2 million in 2023. Operating revenue stood at KD 5.8 million, down from KD 12.4 million the previous year. Total assets increased to KD 574 million, while shareholders' equity rose to KD 374 million.

Operationally, the Company's key

Name	Classification
Mr. Hassan Bassam Al-Houry	Independent
Mr. Faisal Jamil Sultan Al Essa	Executive
Mr. Bader Abdulmohsen El Jeaan	Non-Executive
Agility Investment Holding Limited, represented by Mr. Mohamed Hamad Abdulaziz Al Mutawaa	Non-Executive
The Sultan Center Food Products Co., represented by Mr. Tarek Abdul-Aziz Sultan Al Essa	Non-Executive
Mr. Christopher Michael Gordon	Independent

and industrial buildings, while Palm City Residences in Libya improved occupancy to 61% by year-end, up from 58% in 2023

Investments

Strategic Focus and Value-Driven NREC Vice Chairman and CEO

Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa reaffirmed the Company's commitment to en-

structuring initiatives to support sustainable long-term growth. Sultan also emphasized the strategic

importance of NREC's 22.3% stake in Agility Public Warehousing, highlighting confidence in its global leadership in supply chain innovation. In addition, NREC maintains investments in Agility Global, both directly and through Agil-

By the end of 2024, NREC marked major progress across its key projects. Reem Mall in Abu Dhabi officially opened in May, with over 197 retail units operational by year-end, highlighting strong leasing momentum. The \$1.3 billion destination, co-invested by NREC, features more than 400 stores, 80 F&B outlets, and Snow Abu

Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa

Dhabi, positioning it as a premier retail and leisure hub.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, NREC's subsidiary KUWADICO had sold 83% of units in the Grand Heights project near Cairo as of year-end. The 3.8 million sqm development continued to progress steadily, offering a blend of residential, commercial, and recreational spaces designed to support a modern and sustainable community lifestyle.

Commitment to Sustainability

Sultan underscored NREC's focus on sustainability and responsible business practices:"Sustainability is central to our operations and future growth. We are embedding responsible practices across our portfolio, with a focus on reducing environmental impact, fostering social inclusion, and upholding strong governance. Through our ESG initiatives, we aim to create lasting value for the communities we serve and support resilient, long-term growth for all stakeholders.'

Closing Note

Sultan concluded: "I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our shareholders for their continued support of the Company's strategic direction. I also wish to thank all our stakeholders for their continued trust and confidence in the Management team.'

DC preparing to pile onto its spiraling mountain of debt

Bond market is shaking Wall Street again, this time because of worries about tax cuts

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP): Wall Street's quiet corner is making noise again.

While the bond market is typically seen as sedate and respectful, it can pack a heavy punch when it's alarmed. And right now, it's getting worried about how much more Washington is preparing to pile onto its spiraling mountain of debt because of its desire to cut taxes.

The House of Representatives approved a bill of tax breaks early Thursday that could add trillions of dollars to the federal government's debt, and it's heading to the Senate next. Worries about the U.S. debt have sent yields jumping in the bond market, which in turn has shaken the stock market. The S&P 500 is potentially heading toward its worst week in seven.

In the past, angry reactions from the bond market have been so strong that they've forced governments to backtrack on policies and even led to the ouster of some political leaders. To be sure, many veteran investors say it would be overblown or at least premature to say "bond-market vigilantes" are rounding up this time around, because yields have not jumped high enough to indicate a crisis. But the higher yields will nevertheless have wide-reaching effects.

"I wouldn't look at this from an apocalyptical dynamic, but there are real ramifications," said Nate Thooft, a senior portfolio manager at Manulife Investment Management. "Look at mortgage rates."

Here's a look at what's going on:

The centerpiece of the U.S. bond market is the 10-year Treasury, and its yield has climbed to 4.54% from 4.43% at the end of last week and just 4.01% early last month. That's a notable move for the bond market, which measures things in hundredths of percentage points.

That yield shows roughly how much in interest the

U.S. government needs to pay investors to get them to lend it cash for 10 years. Washington needs that cash because it consistently spends more than it takes in through tax revenue. And when bond investors are more wary of lending to the U.S. government, yields for Treasurys rise.

The moves have been sharpest for the longest-term bonds. The yield on a 30-year Treasury has topped 5% and is getting close to where it was before the 2008 financial crisis wiped out interest rates.

Bond investors hate inflation because it means the future payments that bonds will give them won't be able to buy as much stuff.

Worries are rising about the potential for higher inflation for a couple reasons. On one hand are President Donald Trump's tariffs, which could push up prices for all kinds of products. A bigger, more longterm concern is how much debt the U.S. government is building up.

Those debt concerns gained momentum at the end of last week after Moody's Ratings became the last of the three major rating agencies to say the U.S. government no longer deserves a top-tier credit rating because of its troubles keeping its debt in check. The worries then built through this week as the House moved forward on its tax-cut bill that it approved early Thursday.

Other factors have also been pushing yields up recently, including increasing hopes that the U.S. economy will not fall into a recession after Trump delayed many of his stiff tariffs, particularly against China.

In the past, the bond market has recoiled at policies that it's found distasteful. Sometimes, the reaction is violent enough to scare politicians.

Trump himself said that the bond market may have played a role in his decision earlier this year to delay many of his tariffs, saying that he noticed investors "were getting a little queasy.

The bond market also helped make Liz Truss the United Kingdom's shortest-serving prime minister in 2022, when it revolted against her plan to cut taxes and raise spending without a way to pay for them. James Carville, adviser to former U.S. President Bill Clinton, also famously said he'd like to be reincarnated as the bond market because of how much power it wields.

While there is some element of vigilantism that's keeping Treasury yields higher than they would be otherwise, the reaction so far by the bond market likely isn't enough to get Trump or Congress to back off their efforts to cut taxes.

"I don't really expect it to snowball or last," said Brian Rehling, head of global fixed income strategy at Wells Fargo Investment Institute. "I don't think this is going to rise to a level of a crisis.

Treasury yields calmed on Thursday, for example. And the United States isn't the only country seeing yields for its bonds rise. That's happening for other developed economies around the world, particularly Japan.

Plus, all of the issues about the U.S. government's debt are well known, and critics have been warning for years that it's heading on an unsustainable path. It still might be years away that the U.S. government's rising debt load triggers a panic button in financial markets, Rehling said.

When Treasury yields rise, it means more of taxpayers' dollars are going just to repay the national

debt rather than to keep the government running. Higher yields can also filter into the rest of the economy and make it tougher for U.S. households and businesses to get their own loans. Mortgage rates track 10-year Treasury yields, for example, and the average rate on a 30-year mortgage just hit its highest level since mid-February.

Home sales decline in April amid mortgage rate surge

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP): Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes fell in April, as elevated mortgage rates and rising prices discouraged prospective homebuyers during what's traditionally the busiest time of the year for the housing market.

Existing home sales dropped 0.5% last month, from March, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4 million units, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday. The sales decline marks the slowest sales pace for the month of April going back to 2009 in the wake of the U.S. housing crisis. March's sales pace was also the slowest for that month going back to 2009.

Sales fell 2% compared with April last year. The latest home sales fell slightly short of the 4.10 million pace economists were expecting, according to FactSet.

Home prices increased on an annual basis for the 22nd consecutive month, although at the slowest rate since July 2023. The national median sales price rose 1.8% in April from a year earlier to \$414,000, an all-time high for the month of April.

"The affordability condition is clearly hurting the market, particularly higher mortgage rates," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist.

For the past three years, sales of previously occupied U.S. homes have been at about 75% of what they were before the pandemic. The market slump began in early 2022, when mortgage rates began to climb from pandemic-era lows. Homes sales fell last year to their lowest level in nearly 30 years.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage has remained relatively close to its high so far this year of just above 7%, which it set in mid-January, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. The average rate's low point so far was five weeks ago, when it briefly dropped to 6.62%. This week, it averaged 6.86%, its highest level since mid-February.

Homes purchased last month likely went under contract in March and April, when the average rate on a 30-year mortgage ranged from 6.62% to 6.83%. High mortgage rates, which can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for

borrowers, have frozen out many would-be homebuyers struggling to find a home they can afford

Homeownership is out of reach for many Americans after years of surging home prices. The median U.S. home sales price has jumped 53% over the past six years.

Home shoppers who can afford to buy at current mortgage rates are benefiting from more homes on the market when compared with recent years.

There were 1.45 million unsold homes at the end of last month, a 9% increase from March, and 20.8% higher than April last year, NAR said. That's the most homes on the market since September 2020, but it's still well below the roughly 2 million homes for sale that was typical before the pandemic.

The latest unsold inventory snapshot translates to a 4.4-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 3.5-month pace at the end of April last year. Traditionally, a 5- to 6-month supply is considered a balanced market between buyers and sellers.

ECATURES ARABETINES MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025



Cannes

'It Was Just an Accident' inspired by Panahi's time behind bars

Iranian revenge drama wins Cannes Palme d'Or

CANNES, France, May 25, (AP): Ira-nian dissident filmmaker Jafar Panahi won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday for his revenge thriller "It Was Just an Accident," handing the festival's top prize to a director who had been banned from leaving Iran for more than 15 years

Cate Blanchett presented the award to Panahi, who three years ago was imprisoned in Iran before going on a hunger strike. For a decade and a half, he has made films clandestinely in his native country, including one film ("This Is Not a Film") made in his living room, and another ("Taxi") set in a car.

The crowd rose in a thunderous standing ovation for the filmmaker, who immediately threw up his arms and leaned back in his seat in disbelief before applauding his collaborators and the audience around him. On stage, Panahi was cheered by Cannes jury president Juliette Binoche, who in 2010 in Cannes held up Panahi's name to honor the director when he was under house arrest.

On stage, Panahi said what mat-tered most was freedom in his coun-

try. "Let us join forces," said Panahi. "No one should dare tell us what kind of clothes we should wear, what we should do or what we should not do. The cinema is a society. Nobody is entitled to tell what we should or re-

frain from doing." The win for "It Was Just an Accident" extended an unprecedented streak: The indie distributor Neon has now backed the last six Palme d'Or winners. The latest triumph for Neon, which acquired "It Was Just an Accident" for North American distribution after its premiere in Cannes, follows its Palmes for "Parasite," "Titane," "Triangle of Sadness," "Anatomy of a Fall" and "Anora."

All those films were Oscar contenders and two, "Parasite" and "Anora," won best picture.

Last year, filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof fled Iran to attend the premiere of his film in Cannes and resettle in Germany. Panahi, though, has said that unlike his friend Rasoulof, life in exile isn't for him. He planned to fly home to Tehran on Sunday.

Inspired

"It Was Just an Accident" was inspired by Panahi's experience in prison. In the film, a group of former prisoners encounter the man who terrorized them in jail, and weigh whether or not to kill him.

Panahi was jailed in Tehran's Evin Prison after going there to inquire



Director Joachim Trier, poses with the grand prix for the film 'Sentimental Value.' (AP)



Director Kleber Mendonca Filho poses with his award for best director for the film 'The Secret Agent' as well as the best actor award received on behalf of Wagner Moura. (AP)





Director Jafar Panahi, accepts the Palme d'Or for the film 'It Was Just an Accident', during the awards ceremony of the 78th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 24. (AP)



Hasan Hadi, (left), winner of the Camera d'Or for 'The President's Cake' and Camera d'Or jury president Alice Rohrwacher, pose for photographers. (AP)





Nadia Melliti, accepts the award for best actress for the film 'The Little Sister.' (AP)



about the then-jailed Rasoulof. Panahi was released in 2023 after going on a hunger strike.

In 2009, he was banned from traveling out of Iran after attending the funeral of a student killed in the Green Movement protests. Through those years, Panahi continued to make films illegally in Iran, without a permit, and had his films smuggled to festivals on USB drives. His travel ban was lifted after his release in 2023.

"The film springs from a feeling of resistance, survival, which is absolutely necessary today," Binoche told reporters after the ceremony. "Art will always win. What is human will always win."

The Cannes closing ceremony followed a major power outage that struck southeastern France on Saturday in what police suspected was arson. Only a few hours before stars began streaming down the red carpet, power was restored in Cannes. "A day without electricity," sighed

John C. Reilly, who sang an Englishlanguage "La Vie En Rose" at the ceremony. The festival's films, he said, supplied "all the needed electricity."

The Grand Prix, or second prize, was awarded to Joachim Trier's Norwegian family drama "Sentimental Value," his lauded follow-up to "The Worst Person in the World." Some had expected "Sentimental Value" to win the Palme, but Trier - whose film reunites him with actor Renate Reinsve - still took a major prize.

"We live in a time of tremendous excess and saturation of images. Moving images are being thrown at

Mascha Schilinski, winner of the jury prize for the film 'Sound of Falling' poses with award. (AP)

us all the time," said Trier. "And I want to give homage to the Cannes Film Festival for being a place where the big cinematic image, which is the foundation of the moving image, the free image, the image that we take time to look at, the image where we can identify with each other in contemplation and empathy, to be cherished in this place in such a way is very important in this moment."

Kleber Mendonça Filho's Brazilian political thriller "The Secret Agent" won two big awards: best director for Filho and best actor for Wagner Moura. Though Cannes juries are generally urged to spread awards around, the two for "The Secret Agent" showed the jury's strong feelings for it. Asked about the two prizes, juror Jeremy Strong explained, simply, "That was our wish.

The wins, which followed the international film Oscar victory for Walter Salles' "I'm Still Here" in March, gave Brazil more to celebrate. On X, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, said the awards "show that our country's cinema is second to

none."

The jury prize was split between two films: Oliver Laxe's desert road trip "Sirât " and Mascha Schilinski's German, generation-spanning drama Sound of Falling." Best actress went to Nadia Melliti for "The Little Sister," Hafsia Herzi's French comingof-age drama.

The Belgian brothers Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, who are twotime Palme d'Or winners, won best screenplay for their latest drama, "Young Mothers." Its their ninth prize in Cannes. The festival's award for best first film, the Camera d'Or, went to Hasan Hadi for "The President's Cake," making it the first Iraqi film to win an award at the festival.

Saturday's ceremony brought to a close a 78th Cannes Film Festival where geopolitics cast a long shadow, both on screen and off. Shortly before the French Riviera extravaganza, which is also the world's largest movie market, US President Donald Trump floated the idea of a 100% tariff on movies made overseas.

Most filmmakers responded with a

Directors Luc Dardenne, (left), and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, (right), winners of award for best screenplay for 'Jeunes Meres,' pose for photographers. (AP)

Director Oliver Laxe, winner of the jury prize for the film 'Sirat', poses with his award. (AP)



Director Bi Gan, winner of the jury prize for the film 'Resurrection.' (AP)

shrug, calling the plan illogical. "Can you hold up the movie in customs? It doesn't ship that way," said Wes

Anderson, who premiered his latest, "The Phoenician Scheme" at the festival. At the opening ceremony, hon-



Jury member Halle Berry poses for photographers



Jury member Alba Rohrwacher poses. (AP)

Cate Blanchett poses during the awards ceremony. (AP)



Elle Fanning poses during the awards cer-emony. (AP)



Tawfeek Barhom accepts the award for best short film for 'I'm Glad You're Dead Now.' (AP)

orary Palme d'Or recipient Robert De Niro called Trump "America's philistine president."

Other top American films in Cannes included Spike Lee's "Highest 2 Lowest" (which pulled Lee away from his New York Knicks but not out of their blue and orange color), the Christopher McQuarrie-Tom Cruise actioner "Mission: Impossible - Final Reckoning," and Ari Aster's "Eddington," which found a divisive reaction.

Panahi's win put him in rare company. He's now won Cannes' Palme d'Or, Venice's Golden Lion (for "The Circle") and Berlin's Golden Bear (for "Taxi"). Only three other filmmakers have done that: Henri-Georges Clouzot, Michelangelo Antonioni and Robert Altman.

Addressing reporters after his win, Panahi spoke about filmmakers and artists always being able to find a way, "even in complicated situations.

"They must realize that no powers that be can halt such people in their tracks," said Panahi. "You have this power.'

NEWS/FEATURES

Endangered Maronite Arabic language at a crossroads

Just 900 speak Sanna ... Cyprus Maronites rally to revive it

KORMAKITIS, Cyprus, May 25, (AP): Ash dangled precariously from Iosif Skordis' cigarette as he reminisced with fellow villagers in a language on the edge of extinction, one that partly traces its roots to the language Jesus Christ once spoke.

The 97-year-old Skordis is one of only 900 people in the world who speak Cypriot Maronite Arabic, or Sanna. Today, his village of Kormakitis is the last bastion of a language once spoken by tens of thousands of people across dozens of villages.

The tongue, an offshoot of Syrian Arabic that has absorbed some Greek, has been passed from generation to generation in this windswept community in Cyprus. Until less than two decades ago, there was no written script, or even an alphabet, since parents transmitted it to children in conversation. Only a handful of people are trained to teach it.

Sanna is at risk of disappearing, according to the Council of Europe's minority language experts. One Indigenous language dies every two weeks. the United Nations estimates, diminishing the tapestry of human knowledge one strand at a time.

But the 7,500-strong Maronite community in Cyprus is pushing back. With help from the Cypriot government and the European Union, it has built schools, created a Sanna alphabet to publish textbooks and begun classes to keep the language alive and thriving.

"Sanna ... is undoubtedly one of the most distinguishing features of our cultural identity," said Yiannakis Moussas, the Maronite community's representative in the Cypriot legislature. He spoke in the Kormakitis coffeehouse adorned with soccer trophies and banners emblazoned with a Lebanese cedar.

"And it's striking evidence of our heritage. The fact that we speak a kind of Arabic over so many centuries makes it clear that we descend from areas of Syria and Lebanon."

The language was brought to Cyprus by waves of Arab Christians fleeing persecution by invading Arab Muslim fighters in what is now Syria, Lebanon and Israel, starting as early as the 8th century.

Populations

Sanna at its root is a semitic language that, unlike other Arabic dialects, contains traces of the Aramaic that was spoken by populations prior to the Arab invasion of the Levant, according to University of Cyprus linguistics professor Marilena Kariolemou, who leads the team responsible for the language's revitalization.

That's because the Maronite community in Cyprus was isolated from other Arabic-speaking populations.

But as Maronites increasingly interacted with the island's majority Greek-speaking population and became bilingual, Sanna evolved to incorporate several Greek words, adding to its uniqueness among the many



Maronite Catholic nuns recite hymns during a service in outside St. George Church in the Maronite village of Kormakitis in the breakaway north of the ethnically divided Cyprus on April 23, 2025. (AP)

the south.

split Cyprus into a breakaway Turk-

ish Cypriot north and a Greek Cyp-

riot south, where the internationally

recognized government is based, saw

most Maronites dispersed throughout

Asomatos and Ayia Marina are

Moussas, the community repre-

sentative, said the consequences of

1974 were "catastrophic" for the

Maronites as they gravitated toward

the island's major cities, putting

their culture and language at risk

empty of Maronite inhabitants and are

now Turkish army camps.

Arabic dialects.

According to Kariolemou, Sanna contains five vowels similar to Greek and another three similar to Aramaic, while consonants whose sounds are formed in the back of the throat have diminished, likely because of the Greek influence. Sanna also adopted Greek syntax, she said.

Until the mid-1970s, the Maronite community was largely centered around four villages: Asomatos, Ayia Marina, Karpasia and Kormakitis as the cultural center.

But the 1974 Turkish invasion that

as children attended Greek-speaking schools and intermarriage with Greek Cypriots increased.

It's said that currently, only one in five Maronite marriages are between members of the community.

That left Kormakitis as the linguistic "hive" for Cypriot Maronite Arabic, only spoken by residents over 50, according to retired teacher Ilias Zonias. Born in Kormakitis, Zonias is the only native Sanna speaker qualified to teach the language.

Society

Kormakitis was a closed society in which residents spoke Sanna, while their kids went to school not knowing Greek. That's how the language was preserved, Zonias said.

Still, speakers after 1974 began to dwindle until around the turn of the millennium, when the Maronite community with the help of the Cypriot government increased efforts to save the language.

Cyprus' 2004 membership in the EU was a milestone for Sanna as the bloc poured resources into safeguarding Indigenous minority languages, a designation that Cypriot authorities had bestowed.

Kariolemou said her team in 2013 set up a recorded archive of spoken Sanna, some 280 hours long, for further study.

A 27-letter alphabet was created in mostly Latin characters, thanks mainly to the work of linguist Alexander Borg. Grammar was formulated and refined, enabling the publication of books for teaching Sanna.

Language courses are in their early stages, Skordis said, with about 100 children and adults in classes in Kormakitis and the Saint Maronas primary school in Lakatamia, a suburb of Nicosia, the country's capital. A summer language camp for children and adults in Kormakitis has also been created.

An initiative is underway for native-born speakers - primarily Ko-rmakitis residents - to learn how to teach Sanna.

At Ayios Maronas primary school, 20 kindergarten-age children are learning the language with books containing QR codes that can be scanned so students can follow an audio adaptation on school-provided tablets.

But for Sanna to have a real future, there is no substitute for young families returning in large numbers to Kormakitis, where the language can be taught in the newly built, EU-funded school, Moussas said.

Community leaders, however, aren't pleased with the low number of people expressing interest. Moussas said community leaders and the Cypriot government are looking into offering incentives, primarily to make it easier to find housing.

For Zonias, keeping the language alive for the ages would be the crowning achievement of his career.

"I don't want to be the last teacher of Sanna," he said.

Television

Travel



Bader Al-Shuaib poses with Kuwait flag atop Mount Kilimanjaro.



Bader Al-Shuaib performing a daring stunt.

'Eternaut' goes global

Argentine sci-fi drama hits a universal chord

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 25, (AP): A group of friends gather to play cards in their host's cozy home when the power cuts. Cellphones die. An eerie snow falls all over the city, killing everyone it touches. The friends struggle to survive, their panic replaced by a growing awareness that humanity itself is at stake.

This is the premise of "The Eternaut," a chilling dystopian drama out of Argentina that premiered its first season on Netflix on April 30. The six-episode, Spanish-language series with its mix of sci-fi elements and focus on humanity's resilience, has struck a universal nerve, rocketing to No. 1 among Netflix's most streamed non-English-language TV shows within days

Netflix already renewed the show for a second season, with filming scheduled to start next year.

But "The Eternaut" has touched on something deeper in Argentina, where legendary comic-strip writer Héctor Germán Oesterheld penned the original graphic novel in 1957 - two decades before he was "disappeared" by Argentina's military dictatorship, along with all four of his daughters.

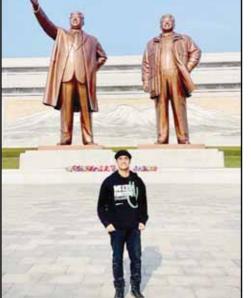
Abroad, publishers are scrambling to keep pace with renewed interest in the source material. The Seattle-based Fantagraphics Books said it would reissue an out-of-print English translation due to the surge in U.S. demand.

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Bader Al-Shuaib swimming with a humpback whale in Tonga in 2023.





Bader Al-Shuaib poses with Kuwait flag at the South Pole

Bader Al-Shuaib visits North Korea, 2025.

Kuwaiti solo traveler makes history with unique feat

Bader Al-Shuaib becomes the first Arab to travel the world and reach both poles

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Bader Al-Shuaib, a solo traveler from Kuwait, has become the first known Arab to visit every country in the world and reach both the North and South Geographic Poles. According to a press release, "NomadMania.

com", which is a global travel platform with over 50,000 registered travelers, stated that Al-Shuaib is a trailblazer in the Arab world for this extraordinary achievement.

His final stop was Pyongyang, North Korea, which he visited on April 3, 2025, as part of a foreign delegation participating in the city's annual marathon. It is worth highlighting that North Korea has remained closed to tourism since the COV-ID-19 outbreak in 2020, making this group the first foreign tourists to enter the country in five years.

Al-Shuaib's visit to North Korea marks the completion of a journey that began in 2020. Only about 400 travelers worldwide have been officially verified by NomadMania to have visited every country. Fewer than 100 people globally have reached both the North and South Geographic Poles, and Bader Al-Shuaib is among this elite category of explorers.



Bader Al-Shuaib poses with the Kuwaiti flag at the North Pole in 2024



Bader Al-Shuaib poses near a waterfall during his world travels.

At home, the TV adaptation has reopened historical wounds and found unexpected resonance at a moment of heightened anxiety about the state

of Argentine society under far-right President Javier Milei. "The boom of 'The Eternaut' has created a cultural and social event beyond the series," said Martín Oesterheld, the writer's grandson and a crea-

tive consultant and executive producer on the show. "It fills our hearts. It brings us pride. For years, the surviving Oesterhelds resisted offers from Hollywood to

adapt the cult classic, wary of the industry's seemingly irresistible urge to destroy New York City and other Western centers in apocalyptic dramas. To honor his grandfather's creation, Martín Oesterheld said the show

had to be filmed in Spanish, with an Argentine cast and set in Buenos Aires.

"What he did was to do away with the representations of science fiction that we know in Europe and the United States," Martín Oesterheld said of his grandfather. "He told it on our own terms, through things that we recognize.'

Netflix, pushing to expand beyond its saturated U.S. market into previously untapped regions like Latin America, was a natural fit, he said. The streaming giant wouldn't disclose its budget, but said the special effectladen show took four years of pre- and post-production, involved 2,900 people and pumped \$34 million into Argentina's economy.

In the show, aliens wreak predictable mayhem on an unpredictable cityscape - wide boulevards, neoclassical buildings, antique pizza halls and grimy suburbs - lending the show a shiver of curious power for Argentines who had never seen their city eviscerated on screen.

Modern

The protagonists don't play poker but truco, a popular Argentine trick card game. They sip from gourds of mate, the signature Argentine drink made from yerba leaves. The snowfall is uncanny, and not just because it kills on contact. Buenos Aires has only seen snow twice in the last century.

"From truco in scene one, which couldn't be more Argentine, we see that 'The Eternaut' is playing with these contrasts - life and death, light and darkness, the familiar versus the alien," said Martín Hadis, an Argentine researcher specializing in science fiction. "It's not just a sci-fi story. It's a modern myth. That's what makes it so universal.

In updating the story to present-day Argentina, the show brings the nation's disastrous 1982 war with Britain over Las Malvinas, or the Falkland Islands, into the backstory of its hero, Juan Salvo, played by renowned actor Ricardo Darín.

Salvo, a protective father and courageous ex-soldier who emerges to lead the group of survivors, is haunted by the rout of his comrades sent by Argentina's dictatorship to retake the South Atlantic islands. The defeat killed 649 Argentine soldiers, many of them untrained conscripts.



An advertisement for Netflix series 'The Eternaut' is partially covered by posters of sci-fi comic author Hector Oesterheld and his daughters, who were forcibly disappeared during Argentina's military dictatorship (1976-1983), in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tues-day, May 6. (AP)

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

HEALTH

Specialized aquatic therapy boosts safety, confidence

For kids with autism, swim classes can be lifesaving

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., May 25 (AP): In an airy indoor pool with fish cutouts on the walls, a group of small children bobbed, floated and tentatively flutter-kicked.

It was what it looked like, a starter swimming class. But here, instructors worked one-on-one or even two to a child. Some held cards to help kids communicate with teachers by pointing instead of speaking. No one blew whistles.

All the students in the class at the Small Fish Big Fish swim school had autism, a developmental disorder linked to a higher-than-average danger of drowning.

It has long worried autism experts and parents, but recent data make the stakes starkly clear. In Florida, a state where water abounds from beaches to backyards, over 100 children who had autism or were being evaluated for it have drowned since the start of 2021, according to the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County.

The numbers highlight an oft-overlooked dilemma: Autism makes swimming instruction all the more necessary



In this handout photo provided by Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, occupational therapist Angelina Price, from The Learning Center, guides a student in the water during an autism-specific swim class at Small Fish Big Fish, Tuesday, April 1, 2025 in West Palm Beach, Fla. (AP)

but, often, all the more difficult to get. "It's life-changing for kids with autism," said Lovely Chrisostome, who

was terrified this winter when her 6-year-old son slipped out of the family's home and wandered through their

lake-dotted neighborhood. She'd once tried enrolling him in swim classes at a public pool, but he had refused to go 1n

But her son was in the pool at the autism-specific class at Small Fish Big Fish. An instructor helped him float on his back. When he started showing discomfort - he doesn't like to get his head wet - she eased him onto his side, where he seemed content.

Autism affects an estimated 1 in 31 U.S. children. Their water safety has gotten occasional public attention after tragedies such as the death of Avonte Oquendo, an autistic teen who was found in a New York river in 2014 after disappearing from his school.

While academic research on the issue is limited, a pair of 2017 studies documented a substantially heightened risk of drowning among people with autism spectrum disorder. The risk stems in large part from their propensity to wander off and to underappreciate perils, according to co-author Dr. Guohua Li and other experts.

One Florida 5-year-old apparently

wriggled out a doggy door and got into his grandmother's pool. Another died in a canal after slipping through a fence hole at a playground specifically intended for autistic kids. A 6-year-old drowned in a lake after she evidently climbed a bookshelf positioned to block an apartment door, according to the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County. It's now building a national database

"Swimming lessons should be a first-line treatment for autism," said Li, a Columbia University epidemiology professor who isn't involved in the council's research. Li himself has a son with the condition.

Some autistic people excel at swimming, such as the New Jersey teens featured in the 2017 documentary "Swim Team." Many others are adept in water. Even some profoundly autistic children can master survival basics with as little as eight hours of aquatic occupational therapy, said Michele Alaniz, a practitioner who published research based on her work at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare in Pomona, California

But some families don't sign up for classes, fearing they'll overwhelm children who might have symptoms ranging from not speaking to repeatedly banging their heads to becoming distressed by noise. Other youngsters get kicked out of programs that can't handle them. Private sessions can be helpful, but pricey. "Having somebody that understands

a child on the spectrum - what the special needs are, how to communicate with a child, how to also mitigate a meltdown, particularly in a pool - is so vital," says Lindsey Corey. She said her 5-year-old son didn't absorb much from a general swim class or from private lessons at home in Lake Worth, Florida, but made progress in a program with instructors trained by the Autism Society.

As drowning risks have come into focus, advocates are trying to make swimming lessons more accessible. An Australian charity called Autism Swim says 1,400 swim teachers, physical therapists and others worldwide have taken its online training since 2016.

Movement after chest pain can cut death risk: study

Too much sitting raises future health risks for chest pain patients: experts

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

By Keith Diaz Columbia University

 \mathbf{F} or patients hospitalized with chest pain, the amount of time they spend sedentary afterward is linked to a greater risk for more heart problems and death within a year. That's the key finding of a new peer-reviewed study my colleagues and I published in the journal Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes.

We asked 609 emergency room patients experiencing chest pain - average age of 62 - to wear a physical activity monitor for 30 days after leaving the hospital. The monitor measured movements, sitting time and sleep throughout the day. We then followed patients for one year to track whether they had additional heart problems or died.

We found that patients who averaged more than 15 hours of sedentary behavior daily - which does not include sleep - were more than twice as likely to experience more heart problems or die in the year after discharge than patients who accrued a daily average of 12 hours of sedentary time.

But our goal wasn't just to document that sitting is harmful. It was also to figure out what patients should do instead to lower their risk.

We found that replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with moderate or vigorous movement, like brisk walking or running, was most beneficial. It was associated with a 62% lower risk of experiencing more heart problems or dying in the year after discharge. But we also found that replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with just light movement, such as slow walking or housework, lowered the risk of heart problems and death by 50%.

Sleep was also a healthier option. Replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with sleep lowered the risk of heart problems and death by 14%.

people in the US are admitted to the pital with chest pain suggestive of acute coronary syndrome, annually. This covers a range of conditions involving reduced blood flow to the heart, including angina and heart attack

Patients with acute coronary syndrome remain at high risk of having another heart problem even with optimal medical treatment

The risk also remains high for patients with chest pain who are discharged without a diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome, as their unexplained chest pain may be a precursor to more serious heart problems. Given this risk, there is a need to identify risk factors that can be modified to improve a patient's prognosis after hospitalization for chest pain.

In previous research, we found that patients with acute coronary syndrome had a fear of exercise and were sedentary, spending over 13 hours a day sitting.

Given that sedentary behavior has been linked to poor heart health in the general population, we were concerned that patients were unknowingly increasing their risk of having another heart problem.

Behavior

Our latest findings confirm that sedentary time is a harmful behavior for these patients. But beyond telling patients to stop sitting so much, our work provides important guidance: Any movement, regardless of how intense, can be beneficial after hospitalization. This is especially relevant for people recovering from heart problems who may find exercise difficult or scary.

While exercise provides the best "bang for your buck" in terms of health benefits, our findings are good news for patients who may not have the time, ability or desire to exercise. And for those unable to fit in more movement, just getting an extra half hour of sleep is a small, doable step that can make a meaningful difference for your health after hospitalization.

Researchers don't fully understand why sedentary time is harmful. Muscles help regulate blood sugar and lipid levels. It is thought that when muscles aren't used, such as when patients sit for hours, this can lead to harmful elevations in blood sugar and lipids.

In turn, this can cause inflammation, plaque buildup in the arteries and organ damage. More research is needed to understand the biological mechanisms so that we can determine just how much movement is needed in a day

While our study highlights the ential risks of sedentary

Big bellies once meant prosperity - now they signal peril in Africa

Obesity is killing Africans

NAIROBI, Kenya, May 25, (AP): In many African cultures, a big belly has long been seen as a sign of wealth. But this perception is proving deadly as deaths due to obesity-related illnesses

In Kenya, overweight politicians are often called Boss or Mkubwa - Swahili for "big man" - by constituents, with their girth symbolizing prosperity.

Younger politicians, including the governors of Nairobi and Mombasa, have begun speaking publicly about weight loss. Obesity contributes to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, which have become Kenya's leading cause of death. The health ministry says they are responsible for 39% of fatalities annually.

In a country where the government has said almost a third of the population is still unable to fulfill food needs, 13% adults are obese, according to the 2025 World Obesity Atlas. The contrast highlights the country's growing inequality and the popularity of fast and processed foods by those with rising incomes.

Perceptions

Perceptions about obesity can affect financial and other decisions. In neighboring Uganda, microfinance institutions vetted loan applicants based on their weight, and those overweight were considered more able to repay loans, according to a study published by the American Economic Review in



Women walk in the streets of Nairobi, Kenya, during World Obesity Day, March 4, 2025. (AP)

grams (304 pounds), he embarked on a non-solid diet for 90 days. Though he didn't disclose his current weight, before-and-after photos show him noticeably slimmer.

"My colleagues in parliament were mad that I left the 'club' after I lost weight," the 39-year-old has said.

Stephen Ogweno, who had childhood obesity and later became a public health advocate, said most Kenyan legislators don't see the issue as a problem.

"These discussions are held in parliament where most MPs have big belwe move away from lack of food, we are not going to the wrong food groups," said a Kampala-based doctor, Miriam Laker Oketta.

Public health campaigns will help demystify the perception that weight is an indication of wealth, said Caroline Kirui, the Africa director for Project ECHO, an information-sharing platform for healthcare workers.

Gyms, weight loss drugs and surgeries are being increasingly advertised in Kenya

But approaches such as the Ozempic

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behavior after being hospitalized for chest pain, it was an observational study. Clinical trials are needed to confirm that replacing sedentary time with activity or sleep can improve prognosis. (AP)

Lethal mutations cause pregnancy losses

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, May 25, (AP): In a study published in Nature "Sequence diversity lost in early pregnancy," scientists from deCODE genetics, a subsidiary of Amgen, estimate that around one in 136 pregnancies are lost due to new mutations in the fetus. In other words, millions of pregnancies worldwide are lost because of mutations every year.

The human genome varies between individuals, but there are some locations in the genome where there seems to be little or no sequence variation between individuals. This raises the question whether the sequences at these locations are essential for human development? It is known that mutations in essential genomic sequences are major contributors to neurodevelopmental disorders, the question remains, do they also contribute to pregnancy loss?

As part of a Nordic collaboration, scientists from deCODE genetics sought to answer these questions by sequencing 467 samples from pregnancy losses from a prospective study initiated by Henriette Svarre Nielsen and Eva R. Hoffmann.

Interestingly, by comparing the genomes of the fetuses from pregnancy losses to their parents the scientists found that the fetuses harbored a similar number of new mutations as adults.

2023

"Most people feel like when I start making money, I have to look like the money itself by being fat or obese,' said Kenyan nutritionist Felix Okoth. "They however don't realize that they are predisposing themselves to these lifestyle conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

The World Health Organization's Africa director has called the rising trend a "ticking time bomb" for the continent with the world's youngest and fastest growing population.

Some are trying to change the conversation around weight. A former senator in Kenya, Cleophas Malala, has described how a 15-hour flight to the US left him in pain and how doctors advised him to reduce.

From a starting weight of 138 kilo-

lies, and so admitting that it concerns them, too, would be a good place to start," he said,

Reassure

Kenyan President William Ruto has spoken publicly about the need to be fit for work. He had to reassure Kenyans in 2023 that he was okay after online speculation about his health following weight loss.

"I decided to cut it down because the task ahead was not easy," he told journalists

Increasing incomes, proliferation of fast-food outlets in urban areas, sedentary lifestyles and lack of infrastructure that promotes physical activity have been named as probable causes of

rising obesity in developing countries. "We need to make sure that when

like Caroline Havi dissatisfied. She said she turned to a one-meal-a-day diet instead and hopes to eventually reduce her weight from 105 kilograms to 70 "without spending so much."

In South Africa, obesity-related deaths due to non-communicable diseases have surpassed HIV-related deaths, according to the WHO. The 2025 World Obesity Atlas said 32% of South Africa's adults are obese.

The perception that weight is a symbol of wealth is slowly changing, said Rebone Ntsie, nutrition director at the National Department of Health.

"There are those who still see it like that, but people are also seeing the dangers and its no longer celebrated as a sign of dignity, beauty, respect, social status," she said.



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Madrid blanks Real Sociedad

Tears and cheers in emotional farewell by Ancelotti and Modric at Real Madrid

MADRID, May 25, (AP): Real Madrid fans bid an emotional farewell to coach Carlo Ancelotti and midfielder Luka Modric - the club's most decorated figures - in their La Liga finale.

The 65-year-old Ancelotti is taking the Brazil job after winning 15 titles in his two stints with the club. The 39-year-old Modric is not returning after winning 28 titles in 13 seasons.

Ancelotti and Modric shed tears at a packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, where Madrid beat Real Sociedad 2-0 with a pair from Kylian Mbappé

"When you win a Champions League, you don't feel this kind of emotion, this is a very strong emotion," Ancelotti said in a post-match ceremony. "I'm very happy and I leave very satisfied. It has been an honor and a pleasure to be part of this family and to enter the history of this club; this was the objective from day one and I have achieved it."

Even club president Florentino Pérez cried during the ceremony. The game stopped for a few minutes when Modric was substituted in the final minutes. Players from both sides gave a guard of honor for the veteran midfielder as he left the field. "The moment that I didn't want to arrive has ar-

rived," Modric said. "But it's been a long journey, a

wonderful journey." Modric received a standing ovation and the crowd chanted his name.

Modric was the team captain on Saturday and hugged his teammates and then his wife and kids who waited by the sideline. He also hugged Toni Kroos, who left Madrid last season after they formed one of the greatest midfields in the club's history.

A video was shown in the stadium with key moments by Modric. The midfielder will still play in the Club World Cup next month.

"It's a very emotional day for me," Modric said. "In the end, where I cried the least was on the pitch. It was very difficult on the way to the stadium and when I entered the dressing room. There are no words to describe this tribute they have given me and I couldn't even dream of it. I am very grateful and happy for

everything that has happened to me in these almost thirteen years at Real Madrid."

Modric helped Madrid win six European Cups, six Club World Cups, five European Super Cups, four Spanish leagues, two Copas del Rey and five Spanish Super Cups. He is one of only five players to have won six European Cups.

The Croatia international made 591 appearances for Madrid - eighth on the club's all-time list - and scored 43 goals. He had been playing fewer minutes in recent seasons under Ancelotti.

Ancelotti is leaving after four mostly successful seasons in this stint, which ended on a down note as the club lost the Spanish league title and was eliminated in the Champions League.

He also coached the club from 2013-15. In total, he was in charge of Madrid in more than 350 matches and helped it win three Champions Leagues, three Club World Cups, two Spanish leagues, two Copas del Rey, three UEFA Super Cups and two Spanish Super Cups. The victory on Saturday gave Ancelotti 250 triumphs.



Real Madrid's head coach Carlo Ancelotti and Luka Modric wave to the crowd after a Spanish La Liga soccer match against Real Sociedad at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. (AP)

Surridge leads Nashville past Toronto

Messi scores clutch free kick as Miami draws with Union

CHESTER, Pa., May 25, (AP): Lionel Messi got a rise out of the crowd when he scored on a free kick late in the second half to pull Inter Miami within one and Telasco Segovia tied the game in the final minutes, helping Inter Miami rally from a two-goal deficit to tie the Philadelphia Union

Messi, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and 2022 World Cup champion, scored a crucial goal in his first game since he challenged Inter Miami during a rare television interview to stick together after a loss against Orlando.

They stuck together down the stretch to stun the Union.

Messi finally solved 19-year-old Union goalie Andrew Rick late in front of a packed house that came to watch one of soccer's greats - and also to root on a Union team that came minutes away from its 11th win of the season.

Ouinn Sullivan scored the first goal and Tai Baribo added two more for the Union. Tadeo Allende scored in the second half to make it 2-1 Inter Miami.

Messi buried a free kick late in the game that made it 3-2 and seemed like it could spark Inter Miami out of its funk. Segovia took care of the rest

Messi brought out his share of fans in his second career MLS visit to Subaru Park, though the Messi Mania from his 2023 visit was tamped down to Messi Mildness this time.

The pregame scene outside the stadium saw fans in every beer, hot dog, bathroom line, in Messi jerseys and T-shirts, ready to root on the World Cup champion from Argentina.

Unlike his first visit, when tickets soared past \$1,000 on the secondary market and season-ticket holders gleefully sold their tickets to make money, good seats Saturday were still available on the secondary market for less than \$100 a pop moments before kickoff.

Sam Surridge scored twice in the second half and Nashville SC held on for a 2-1 win over Toronto FC, extending its unbeaten run to eight games in all competitions (6-0-2)

Nashville (8-4-3, 27 points) took a 1-0 lead in the 57th minute with Andy Najar sending a long ball to Hany Mukhtar behind the Toronto defense. The former MLS MVP deftly redirected the ball across the goal for Surridge to knock home for his seventh of the season.

Surridge made it 2-0 in the 89th minute before Toronto captain Jonathan Osorio, returning from injury, scored one minute into stoppage time.

Duncan McGuire's goal at the 39th minute proved more than enough and Orlando City SC beat the Portland Timbers 1-0.

When Portland failed to clear deep in its end, Eduard Atuesta took it, made a move to his left and set up McGuire whose right boot from the center of the box easily found the back of the net for his first MLS goal of the season.

Brian White scored two goals - his second multi-goal game in his last three and third this season - and Pedro Vite scored from just outside the area in the 90th minute to help the Vancouver Whitecaps rally and beat Real Salt Lake

Punjab fails to grab top-two spot after losing to Delhi by 6 wickets



Delhi Capitals' Sediqullah Atal plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at Sawai Mansingh

Stadium in Jaipur, India. (AP)

Game replayed after it was called off on May 8

have home advantage.

Rizvi and Karun Nair, who made 44, revived Delhi's chase after it lost seasoned pros Lokesh Rahul (35) and captain Faf du Plessis (23) inside the first seven overs.

Nair, who was recalled to the India test team after eight years on Saturday, took his time to settle before he smashed leg-spinner Praveen Dubey for four straight boundaries in the 11th over.

Nair added 62 runs with Rizvi until Nair's leg stump was knocked back by spinner Harpreet Brar just before the death overs. Delhi still needed 52 off the final five overs.

Rizvi continued to attack and got lucky when he edged an Azmatullah Omarzai yorker but it flew to the fine leg boundary.

Rizvi swept Marcus Stoinis for a huge six on the leg side to raise the victory with three balls to spare.

Punjab captain Shreyas Iyer made 53 and held the innings together in the middle overs before

Genoa wins 3-1 at Bologna

Stoinis' late flourish of an unbeaten 44 off 16 balls which included four sixes.

Delhi left-arm fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman bagged 3-33, but pacers Mukesh Kumar (1-49) and Mohit Sharma (0-47) conceded 25 and 22 runs respectively in their last overs to give Punjab a late surge.

Mustafizur dismissed Priyansh Arya in the second over but Josh Inglis kickstarted Punjab by smashing 32 off 12 balls. Inglis was stumped by Vipraj Nigam's wide ball down the leg side.

Iyer scored freely despite wickets falling around the Punjab captain. Iver reached his half-century off 33 balls and was caught at fine leg off Kuldeep Yadav in a three-run 18th over.

However, Stoinis smacked 32 runs off the final two overs, hitting Sharma for 6-4-4-6. Brar smacked six off the first ball he faced and took Punjab past 200 for the seventh time this season.

Vancouver (10-1-4) is unbeaten in nine consecutive games dating to a 3-1 loss to Chicago on March 22.

Vite bent a shot inside the back post to give the Whitecaps their first lead

Zavier Gozo scored his first career goal in the first minute. The 18-year-old in his third MLS season ran onto a ball played ahead by Diego Luna and, from the left side of the area, slipped a shot between the legs of defender Tristan Blackmon and inside the near post.

Hirving Lozano scored in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time to lift San Diego FC to a 2-1 victory over LA Galaxy.

Lozano scored with a header from the top center of the box following a well-placed pass by Anders Dreyer.

San Diego FC (8-4-3, 27 points), in its first MLS season, swept the twogame season series from the defending MLS Cup champions, having also defeated the Galaxy 2-0 in February.

The winless Galaxy (0-12-4, 4 points) scored first when Diego Fagúndez connected with a right-footed shot from the center of the box to the middle right zone in the 40th minute.

San Diego drew even a minute later with Luca de la Torre's right-footed shot from the center of the box to the central bottom zone.

Albert Rusnák converted a penalty kick in the 86th minute to give the Seattle Sounders a 1-0 win over FC Dallas.

The goal was set up when Alex Roldán drew a foul on Petar Musa. Rusnák dropped the free kick into the box, where Dallas was called for a hand ball. Rusnák pounded the ball down the middle as keeper Maarten Paes dove to his right.

It was the fifth goal in five games for Rusnák and his sixth of the season.

Griffin Dorsey scored in stoppage time for Houston and the Dynamo tied 3-3 with the San Jose Earthquakes.

Dorsey ran onto a ball played backward by Franco Escobar and ripped a one-touch shot that deflected off defender Dave Romney into the net to cap the scoring.

Ezequiel Ponce opened the scoring in the 31st minute, heading home a first-touch cross played by Dorsey and Felipe Andrade's header in the 50th gave Houston (4-6-5) a 2-0 lead. Ondrej Lingr entry pass from the right side was deflected by San Jose's Vítor Costa but Andrade pushed it inside the left post.

Žan Kolmani scored the game-tying goal at 27 minutes and Austin FC remained unbeaten its last four contests and salvaged a 1-1 tie against Minnesota United FC.

Austin keeper Brad Stuver thwarted seven of eight shots in his direction.

Kolmani's goal was set up at the other end when defender Jon Gallagher found a streaking Osman Bukari on the counterattack running the right sideline and put it on him in full stride.



Toronto FC goalkeeper Sean Johnson (1) battles for the ball with Nashville SC's Hany Mukhtar (10) after getting caught outside his area during first-half MLS soccer match action in Toronto. (AP)

AC Milan beats last-place Monza amid widespread protests over poor season

ROME, May 25, (AP): AC Milan beat last-placed Monza 2-0 in its final match in Serie A amid widespread protests.

JAIPUR, India, May 25, (AP):

Punjab Kings failed to clinch a

top-two spot in the Indian Premier

League after being thrashed by

Playoffs-bound Punjab made a strong

206-8 but Sameer Rizvi with a blistering

unbeaten 58 off 25 balls - his maiden IPL

half-century - led Delhi's winning chase to

The game was replayed after it was called off in Dharamsala on May 8 when the flood-

lights went off during air raid alerts in the

second innings. The IPL was later suspended

due to the military strikes between India and

Mumbai Indians, Gujarat Titans and Royal

Challengers Bengaluru are the others to have

filled out the playoff spots but their final po-

sitions are still to be determined. The top two

Delhi Capitals by six wickets.

208-4.

Pakistan

Matteo Gabbia scored with a second-half header at the San Siro then Joao Felix converted a free kick as Milan moved up to seventh place.

Earlier, thousands of fans protested outside the club headquarters over Milan failing to qualify for Europe and losing to Bologna in the Italian Cup final.

There were more protests inside the San Siro.

Fans on the upper level at one end positioned themselves to form the words, "Go home." Then they walked out during the early stages of the first half.

There were also chants aimed at Milan's American owner Gerry

Cardinale. "Cardinale, you have to sell. Get

out," the fans said. Milan began the season as a potential title contender but ended up 19 points behind champion Napoli. The seven-time European champion was eliminated by Feyenoord

in the Champions League playoffs in February Meanwhile, city rival Inter Milan will play Paris Saint-Germain

in the Champions League final next Saturday. Genoa won at Bologna 3-1 with

two goals from 18-year-old Lorenzo Venturino.

The defeat still didn't prevent Bologna fans from celebrating another strong season, which included an Italian Cup trophy and a Europa League berth.

Bologna was left in ninth place while Genoa was 13th.

Vitinha put Genoa ahead early and Venturino made the most of his first start with two first-half goals, the first of which included some fancy dribbling past several defenders.

Riccardo Orsolini pulled one back for Bologna in the second half.

Milan's Matteo Gabbia scores goal 1-0 during the Serie A soccer match between Milan and Monza at Stadio Giuseppe Meazza in Milan, Italy.

(AP)

SPORTS



Left-right: Photos taken from the tournament.

Golden Cup Hockey Tournament kicks off in style at KOC hockey ground

The Golden Cup Hockey Tournament began with great enthusiasm at the KOC Hockey Pitch, drawing a large crowd and prominent members of the Pakistani community for the opening ceremony. The inaugural match featured KOC Green Unity Hockey XI facing off

against Kuwait Hockey King XI, with KOC GUH XI securing a dominant

5-goal victory. Vice-captain and goalkeeper Owais Mirza was instrumental in the win, delivering a standout performance that helped set the tone for the tournament.

The event witnessed a strong turnout, as spectators gathered to support the teams and celebrate hockey-the national sport of Pakistan. The com-

munity expressed pride and excitement in witnessing the sport in action,

showing hearfelt appreciation and respect. The tournament will span two months, featuring intense matchups be-tween participating teams. The top two teams will advance to the grand finale, promising fans more thrilling hockey action ahead.

Edwards has 30 points in big win

French Cup glory for PSG, T-wolves strike back to cut Thunder lead in West finals

MINNEAPOLIS, May 25, (AP): Anthony Edwards was determined to keep Minnesota's spirits up, from the flight home after a frustrating trip to Oklahoma City into a crucial game in these Western Conference finals

Positive energy is never hard for him to find.

Edwards had 30 points, nine rebounds and six assists in just three quarters for the Timberwolves in a 143-101 victory on Saturday night in Game 3 that cut the Thunder's lead in the series to 2-1.

"Just ultimate pressure on the ball," Edwards said, "and shoot it as much as I can.

Julius Randle added 24 points and rookie Terrence Shannon Jr. had 15 points in 13 minutes to highlight a big boost from the bench for the Wolves, who caused all kinds of cracks in the Thunder's NBA -best defense after struggling to solve it in the two lopsided losses on the road.

"Their force on that end of the floor was better than our physicality and pressure, things that we typi-cally do well," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had just 4 points on 4-for-13 shooting with four turnovers, subbed out with a 38-point deficit and 4:25 to go in the third quarter as Daigneault conceded on a night when his team was never closer than 22 points after early in the second quarter.

"It felt like we just eased into the game, and they didn't," Gilgeous-Al-exander said. "They blitzed us pretty early, and then we were never able to get back because of it."

Game 4 is in Minneapolis on Monday night.

The travel north and venue shift triggered a sharp drop in shooting for the Thunder, who made exactly half of their attempts from the floor over the first two games and went just 12 for 40 in the first half on Saturday. Gilgeous-Alexander, the newly minted NBA MVP, went more than 13 minutes of game time between baskets while the Target Center crowd loudly booed him on every touch and taunted him at the line with the chant,



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards, center right, shoots against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort, center left, during the first half of Game 3 of the Western Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Min-neapolis. (AP)

"Free throw merchant!" in a nod to the popular notion he draws an inordinate amount of fouls.

Randle, who had his first off night of this postseason in a Game 2 performance so disjointed he was benched for the fourth quarter, had his fire back and his signature fadeaway.

Edwards rediscovered his 3-point shot, going 5 for 8 after shooting just 1 of 9 in Game 2. He gave the quickhanded, ball-pressuring Thunder a taste of what it's like to play against themselves with a couple of relentless pursuits of loose balls he turned into breakaway dunks.

Outscored 69-37 in the third quarter over the first two games, the Wolves made sure to avoid another post-halftime malaise. Edwards, tightly guarded by Isaiah Joe in the corner, found enough space to drive along the baseline and spin an up-and-under reverse layup off the glass for a 79-52 lead.

treble dream stays alive



PSG's Marquinhos rises the trophy after winning the French Cup soccer final between Paris Saint-Germain and Reims at the Stade de France stadium in

Saint-Denis, outside Paris. (AP)

League champ routs Reims

PARIS, May 25, (AP): Bradley Barcola scored two goals and set one up as Paris Saint-Germain beat Reims 3-0 in the French Cup final on Saturday and stayed on course for its first continental treble.

Barcola was assisted twice by Désiré Doué and created a goal for right back Achraf Hakimi late in the first half.

The victory gave PSG a record-extending 16th French Cup - six more than next-best Marseille - and completed a domestic double after a record-extending 13th Ligue 1 title was sealed dominantly.

The only trophy missing in the cabinet of the cashrich Qatari-backed club is the Champions League's.

That might change next Saturday.

Coach Luis Enrique's PSG will attempt to win the Champions League for the first time when it faces Inter Milan in Munich. PSG lost its only other final to Bayern Munich during the pandemic-shortened 2020 competition.

Reims was once France's top club and reached the Champions League final twice, when it was the European Cup, losing both times to Real Madrid in the 1950s

But Saturday's contest was a total mismatch ,with the first half almost resembling a training session for PSG.

Doué sent Barcola clean through in the 16th minute with a superb angled pass from midfield, and the France winger finished neatly into the bottom left corner.

Three minutes later, Doué found space on the

right, and his quick pass gave Barcola an easy finish from close range.

Doué was named in the starting team only shortly before the start after winger Khvitcha Kvaratskhelia

reportedly pulled out with headaches. With halftime approaching, Barcola whipped over a left-wing cross and Hakimi volleyed in neatly from close range

PSG dropped off in the second half and created little except for Ousmane Dembélé's effort hitting the crossbar.

Luis Enrique is within sight of his second continental treble in 10 years after achieving the first with Lionel Messi-led Barcelona.

PSG is clearly in form, but Inter may be the more match-fit side, having contested a tough Serie A title race all the way to Friday night, when Napoli sealed

That's what we need him to do, and when he does it, it takes us to another level," coach Chris Finch said.

Best of the Rest

lonescu sinks winning free throws: Jonquel Jones had 26 points and 12 rebounds and Sabrina Ionescu added 23 points, including the winning free throws with 2.9 seconds left, to lead the New York Liberty over the Indiana Fever 90-88 on Saturday.

Caitlin Clark, who ended a stretch of 12 missed 3-pointers with a four-point play followed by a 33-foot buzzer-beater to end the third quarter, had the ball stripped away by Natasha Cloud on the final play of the game. She finished with 18 points, 10 assists and 10 turnovers, shooting 2 for 11 from 3.

Breanna Stewart and Cloud had 16 points each for the Liberty (3-0).

Aliyah Boston led Indiana (2-2) with 27 points and 13 rebounds. Lexie Hull, starting in place of DeWanna Bonner, and Kelsey Mitchell added 15 points each. (AP)

Four mistakes, four goals

Stuttgart ends Bielefeld's dream run in Cup final

BERLIN, May 25, (AP): Four mistakes, four goals.

Stuttgart ruthlessly capitalized on errors in Arminia Bielefeld's defense to win the German Cup with a 4-2 victory in the final.

Enzo Millot scored twice and Germany forwards Nick Woltemade and Deniz Undav got the others as Stuttgart claimed its fourth German Cup win and the first since 1997.

"We've written history today. The guys can be proud of what they delivered," Stuttgart chairman Alexander Wehrle said. "There's no way we're going to bed tonight."

Bielefeld, the third-division champion, was playing in the final for the first time as only the fourth representative from that division to ever reach German soccer's end-ofseason showpiece.

But there was no fairytale ending for the team's American captain, Mael Corboz, after he helped it knock out defending champion Bayer Leverkusen in the semifinals and a host of Bundesliga clubs en route to the final.

Substitute Julian Kania scored a late consolation, and Stuttgart's Josha Vagnoman conceded an own goal a minute after that to get the

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VfB Stuttgart players celebrate after winning the trophy in the German soccer cup, DFB Pokal, final match between Arminia Bielefeld and VfB Stuttgart at Olympiastadion in Berlin, Germany. (AP)

Bielefeld fans singing again before the end. Both sets of supporters displayed huge choreographies before the match in front of 74,000 spectators at Berlin's Olympias-

tadion, where they repeatedly ignored appeals to stop setting off pyrotechnics. The Stuttgart players and coach Sebastian Hoeneß ran to their sup-

porters after the final whistle to be feted with more flares and fireworks in front of masked ultras. A long line of police and stewards stood just behind the players, keeping a careful watch.

The cup win comes after Hoeneß led Stuttgart to second place in the Bundesliga last season. This season was complicated by Champions League participation. The team lost a club-record six home Bundesliga games in a row, but finished the season strongly with three straight wins

Stuttgart was given a boost before the final when Germany midfielder Angelo Stiller returned after two weeks out with an ankle injury.

Stiller set up two goals as Stuttgart raced into a 3-0 lead inside the first half hour. All three goals came with Stuttgart pouncing on mistakes, with Stiller sending Woltemade on his way for the opener. The fourth also came after an error with Millot sealing the result with his second goal in the 66th minute.





Italy's Lorenzo Musetti returns the ball to Germany's Yannick Hanfmann during their first round match of the French Tennis Open at the Roland Garros Stadium, in Paris. Musetti won 7-5, 6-2, 6-0. (AP)









Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr Al Sabah

Sheikh Khaled poses with other officials.

Sheikh Khaled with an official.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr: 2025 marks new era for women's participation in water sports

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Chair of the Kuwaiti and Asian Aquatics Federation Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr says 2025 marked the beginning of a new era dedicated to supporting women, by removing all obstacles and creating an environment that encourages their expanded participation in water sports for

all age groups

In a press statement, Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr affirmed that achieving this goal requires close collaboration between the Kuwait Aquatics Federation, sports clubs, the Ministry of Education, sports academies, and parents.

He highlighted that women possess the capacity and energy to achieve outstanding accomplishments equal to those of men.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Badr concluded by stressing that supporting women's participation is a shared priority for everyone at present.

Arsenal wins Women's Champions League

Barcelona upset

LISBON, Portugal, May 25, (AP): Red-and-white streamers exploded into the air as Arsenal lifted its second Women's Champions League trophy after stunning defending champion Barcelona 1-0 in the final.

Tough defense and a goal by Stina Blackstenius in the 75th minute from a pass by fellow second-half substitute Beth Mead powered Arsenal to glory at Estádio José Alvalade.

Arsenal's title came 18 years after it became the first - and still the only English club to win the top club title in women's soccer.

Arsenal's players embraced on the whistle anu front of the corner of the stands where their supporters reveled in the shock result. "We had to be basically perfect to beat Barcelona," Arsenal captain Kim Little said. "Our players who came on today had an incredible impact." Little and Leah Williamson raised the trophy and streamers and glittering confetti shot over the podium. Meanwhile, Arsenal forward Mariona Caldentey, who played for Barcelona until this season, consoled Barcelona star



Arsenal players celebrate with their trophy after winning the women's Champions League final soccer match between Arsenal and FC Barcelona at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. (AP)

Russo was a rock for Arsenal, using her size to win balls and keep the attack going.

"We respect them but we can't give them too much respect either," McCabe told The Associated Press. "We needed to put pressure on them and we know we are a really good pressing team and our frontline and the midfield really worked their socks off today.'

The loss was a huge disappointment for the more than 15,000 Barcelona fans who filled the stadium that is home to Sporting Lisbon. Blue-and-burgundy shirts and flags outnumbered the red-and-white section, but their calls of "Yes we can!" in the final minutes weren't enough to inspire a comeback by the Catalan club.

The closest Barcelona came to a goal was a shot by Claudia Pina that hit the crossbar just after halftime when the Spanish team had its best period. Otherwise, the game was to Arsenal's liking

Bonmatí was the only Barcelona before halftime. Her dribble moves through the middle created a few threats and kept Arsenal on guard in defense. Leah Willamson blocked her best shot deep in the box in the 12th. "I feel sadness and frustration for our fans," Bonmatí said. "I love this club's colors as much as they do, and they travelled here in their thousands to support us. I'm sorry that we didn't give them what we all wanted. But we'll be back."

Aitana Bonmatí before she stepped up to collect her fourth Champions League winner's medal.

Barcelona was the heavy favorite. It was aiming for a fourth title in five years and to become the only team other than Lyon to win three consecutive titles. The team led by two-time Ballon d'Or winners Bonmatí and Alexia Putellas won nine straight in the competition and blew out Wolfsburg and English champion Chelsea in the knockout rounds.

But Arsenal locked down in defense except for early in the second half and created the best chances. Only two superb saves by Barcelona goalkeeper Cata Coll to deny Frida Maanum and Blackstenius kept it scoreless until Blackstenius finally beat her.

The victory marks an incredible finish to a rocky season for Arsenal, which included coach Jonas Eidevall resigning and being replaced by assistant Renée Seglers.

Since taking over, Seglers steered

the team through a spectacular European campaign. Arsenal built its confidence from come-from-behind wins over Real Madrid and eighttime champion Lyon in the knockout rounds before laying low the almighty Barcelona.

Seglers delivered a masterful coaching performance in the final, getting her substitutions right and devising a way to stop the highest scoring team in the tournament.

"What we did so well was using

all possible tools to speed the game up, to disrupt it, but to stay true to who we are. This was key to why we won today," Seglers said. "Barcelona are so good, but we tried to exploit weaknesses where we could. We said beforehand that the midfield of Barcelona was the engine. So we wanted to stop them."

Arsenal defender Katie McCabe said it was all about the work rate the entire side put in. That started up front, where England striker Alessia

Salwa Al-Sabah Club wins Squash Federation Cup

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Salwa Al-Sabah Club (A) team clinched the Girls' Federation Cup Squash Championship after a thrilling 2-1 victory over Al-Qurain Club in the final match. Salwa Al-Sabah Club (B) secured third place, marking a historic double for the club, having already claimed the league title for the 2024–2025 season.

The final was held at the late Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah Center in South Surra, the headquarters of the Squash Federation.

Federation President Walid Al-Sumaie presented the championship cup to standout player Reem Al-Sawagh, joined by teammates Sarah Al-Ali and Farida Hazem. Colored medals were awarded by Al-Qurain Club President

Abdulkarim Al-Shahoumi, Federation Vice President Khaled Al-Habib, Secretary General Hamed Al-Omran, and board member Adel Al-Gharib. Also present were Women's Committee Rapporteur Asma Al-Mugbil and Salwa Al-Sabah Club Treasurer Suad Sadiq.

Team administrator Omaima Al-Jamal attributed the club's success to the unwavering support of Board Chairwoman Sheikha Naima Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who ensured the team had top-level technical and financial resources – including contracts with professional coaches from Pakistan and performance-based incentives for players. "This achievement is a result of our

Chairwoman's continued backing, which motivated the players to earn this honor and place the club's name firmly in the sport's golden records," said Al-Jamal.

She also expressed hope that the Kuwait Squash Federation would coordinate with the Arab Federation to launch an Arab Clubs Championship, which she believes would raise the competitive level of players and positively impact the future of the national team.

Al-Jamal concluded by thanking the Federation and its Women's Committee - especially Chair Hamed Al-Omran, Rapporteur Asma Al-Muqbil, and member Mona Al-Qanai - for their ongoing support.



The winning teams

AI-Salmiya looks to extend dominance over Al-Nasr in Amir Cup quarterfinal

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Sevassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The quarterfinal stage of the Amir Cup wraps up this evening with two exciting matchups. Al-Salmiya will take on Al-Nasr at 7:15 pm at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, while Al-Arabi faces Al-Jahra at 8:15 pm at Thamer Stadium.

Al-Salmiya enters tonight's clash looking to revive its season after a disappointing campaign that saw it fall short in the Crown Prince Cup and settle for fourth place in the Zain Premier League. Its path to the quarterfinals was far from easy, edging past Al-Sahel 3-2 in the preliminary round.

Despite holding two league victories over Al-Nasr this season - winning 3-1 and 2-1 – Al-Salmiya is approaching the cup match with caution. The unpredictability of knockout football was evident in the previous round, where top-tier sides Al-Qadsiya and Al-Arabi struggled to dispatch First Division opponents. Al-Qadsiya narrowly defeated Burgan 3-2, while Al-Arabi needed penalties to overcome Al-Sulaibikhat after a 2-2 draw. Al-Nasr, for its part, is determined

to reach the semi-finals and make a strong impression in the tournament. Having battled to remain in the Premier League, finishing second in the relegation group, the team knows tonight's match demands both grit and quality



Players in action during the Amir Cup match.

In the second quarterfinal, Al-Arabi hopes to move past its shaky perfor-mance against Al-Sulaibikhat and claim a convincing win to keep its title hopes alive. The Greens are chasing the only remaining domestic trophy after narrowly missing out on the league title and falling to Kuwait Club in the Crown Prince Cup final.

Al-Arabi's players are aware that success tonight will require full focus and effort as they aim to cap a competitive season on a high note.

Meanwhile, Al-Jahra has emerged as a surprise contender. After eliminating Kazma with a 4-2 victory in the preliminary round, they now aim to extend their strong form. Fresh from topping the First Division and earning promotion to the Premier League, the "Sons of the Red Palace" are hungry for more success.

Coach Mohammed Dahilis will be counting on his players to deliver a standout performance as they face one of Kuwait's football heavyweights.



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