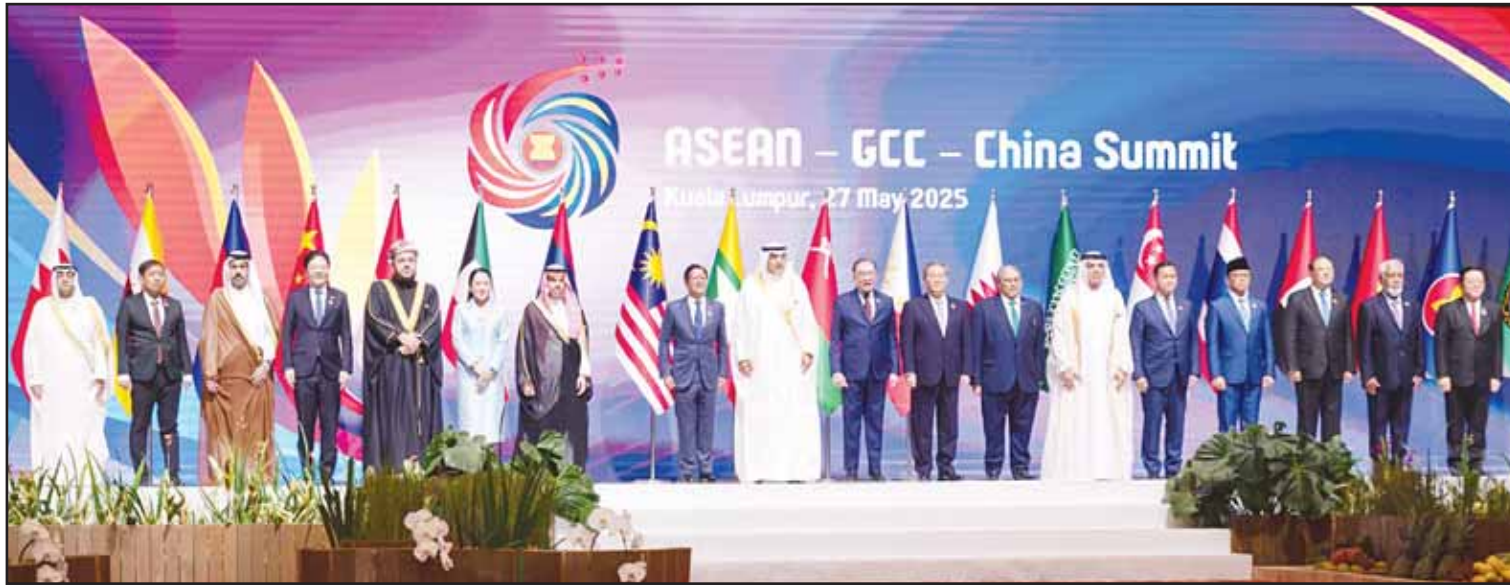




# Kuwait ignites GCC-ASEAN-China synergy



Left: ASEAN-GCC-China Summit participants pose for a group photo. Right: Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, delivers the opening speech at the historic trilateral summit between the GCC, ASEAN, and China, held in Kuala Lumpur.



## Opinion

**Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

### H.E. the First Deputy Prime Minister, the crack is wide but this is not the solution

ONE of the important objectives of feasibility studies is to examine the consequences and impacts of decisions and actions that may affect the relevant institution, the environment, or the state. This includes analyzing potential risks, both short-term and long-term, and estimating associated costs, benefits, and losses.

Thus, feasibility studies form the basis for project success and cost efficiency. This is a practice widely adopted by countries that are committed to solving their chronic problems.

For instance, the United States was able to transform the problem of tens of thousands of illegal immigrants into an advantage by offering American citizenship to those who enlisted in the US Army. This policy aligned with the US's increased need for military personnel to enhance its military strength, especially during the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

As a result of this decision, approximately 120,000 illegal immigrants joined the US military, some of whom participated in the liberation of Kuwait as part of the international coalition. America utilized these soldiers through military service, and many rose to hold high ranks.

Today, Kuwait faces the issue of illegal (Bedoun) residents who make up a significant portion of those who fought along with the Kuwaiti army in the wars supporting Arab states against

Israel and in the efforts to liberate Kuwait. Many of these Bedoun residents spent their lives on this land, knowing nothing but Kuwait as their homeland, and some were martyred defending it. Some even accompanied the convoy of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad (May God have mercy on him) during the assassination attempt in 1985.

The number of Bedoun residents in Kuwait is estimated at around 90,000, not including those registered with the Central Agency for the Remedy of the Situations of Illegal Residents. The Ministry of Interior holds the exact figures.

After the revocation of citizenship, the Bedoun population increased by several thousand, including many experienced individuals who provide valuable services to Kuwait but whom other countries seek to attract by offering benefits such as citizenship.

Another problem stems from the revocation of citizenship from individuals who acquired it by proxy. This issue is quite complex.

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### Unity key amid global shifts: Amir Representative

- Call to fast-track GCC-China free trade
- Focus on clean energy, food security
- Kuwait supports ASEAN-China's backing of Palestine
- GCC boosts AI, digital economy and health ties
- GCC welcomes Syrian progress, stresses peace
- Kuwait demands action on summit results

**KUALA LUMPUR, May 27, (KUNA):** In a historic gathering marked by shared ambition and expanding ties, leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and China convened, Tuesday, in Kuala Lumpur for a trilateral summit aimed at strengthening strategic cooperation

across key sectors. The summit was co-chaired by 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, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Premier of China Li Qiang.

Continued on Page 5

### Visit unique opportunity to enhance ties: Ambassador Mukai

## Kuwait Crown Prince to meet Japanese Emperor, PM

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (KUNA):** The upcoming official visit by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Japan on Wednesday will be a "unique opportunity" to enhance ties, said Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mukai Kenichiro on Tuesday. In a statement by the Japanese Embassy, obtained by KUNA, Ambassador Mukai commented on the official visit to Japan, saying "I am honored that Japan has been chosen as the destination for the first bilateral visit by His Highness Crown Prince."

the Japanese Imperial Family and the ruling family of the State of Kuwait," said the Ambassador. There will be also a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues, Mukai indicated. He stated, "I am confident that this visit will be a unique opportunity for the dramatic development of Kuwait-Japan relations." His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation are expected to depart Malaysia and heading to Japan, Wednesday, on an official visit to the Japanese capital Tokyo and the city of Osaka.



### 2 Al-Jarallah meets Pakistan ambassador, Kuwait Fire Force delegation

## Kuwait closes 5 clinics, refers 23

**By Marwa Al-Bahrawi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
**KUWAIT CITY, May 27:** Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi issued a decision Monday, referring 23 private healthcare facilities — including hospitals, medical centers, clinics and laboratories — to the Medical Liability Authority; in addition to the closure of five healthcare facilities, for violating rules and regulations on advertising and medical practice. This decision was taken after the specialized inspection teams uncovered violations

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## Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The State of Kuwait strongly condemned and denounced the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by members of the Israeli occupation government and some extremists and settlers, in a flagrant violation of international law and a provocation of the feelings of Muslims. In a statement Tuesday, Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned against the continuation of such escalatory practices, which constitute a violation of the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem. The Ministry affirmed Kuwait's categorical rejection of the occupation's attempts to impose a new fait accompli at Al-Aqsa Mosque, as this poses a threat to security and stability, fuels the cycle of violence in the occupied territories, and undermines prospects for peace. (KUNA)

## Day by Day

AL-HASAN Al-Basri was once asked, "What is the secret behind your asceticism?" He replied, "I knew that my provision would not be taken by anyone else, so my heart was at peace. I knew that no one would perform my deeds for me, so I devoted myself to them. I knew that God is always watching me, so I felt ashamed to meet Him while committing a sin. And I knew that death awaits me, so I prepared righteous deeds for my meeting with God." O God, make us among those who are content with Your provision, who strive to earn Your obedience, who feel shame in disobeying You, and who prepare to meet You with piety and righteous deeds. ... Yet tomorrow is another day. **Zahed Matar**



PM Diwan photo His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

## 'Kuwait-India share common vision for peace and security'

**By Fares Ghaleb**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
**KUWAIT CITY, May 27:** Head of the Indian parliamentary delegation MP Baijayant Panda praised the stance of Kuwait and its tremendous efforts in resolving conflicts and consolidating the foundations of peace; describing it as "a model that should be

emulated in the pursuit of a better world." In a press conference held with the media on Tuesday, Panda affirmed that Kuwait plays a notable, effective and influential role; and enjoys high credibility in its efforts to promote peace regionally and internationally.

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi Indian parliamentary delegation headed by MP Baijayant Panda during a press conference held with the media on Tuesday.

### Kuwait Embassy participates in Memorial Day observance

## US Embassy highlights enduring Kuwait alliance

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (KUNA):** The United States Embassy in Kuwait affirmed, Tuesday, the strong strategic ties between the two countries and their shared commitment to regional security and stability. In a statement, the embassy said it hosted a Memorial Day event late Monday in collaboration with the American Business Council-Kuwait (ABCK). The event featured remarks by US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara and US Air Force Colonel Matthew John-

son, who both highlighted the symbolic significance of this occasion, and reaffirming the joint Kuwaiti-American dedication to regional peace. A documentary screening on the Liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation was also featured in the event, as well as displaying firsthand accounts from American, coalition nations, and Kuwaiti participants reflecting three decades of cooperation and military sacrifice in and around Kuwait.

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Left: US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara delivers a keynote address. Right: A delegation from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Washington participates in the Memorial Day commemorations. KUNA photos

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	03:18	Asr .....	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:50	Maghrib ..	18:40
Zohr .....	11:45	Isha .....	20:10

# Local

## Weather

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate northeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h..

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		
Kuwait City	48	35	Jahra	46
Kuwait Airport	45	27	Falaka Island	45
Bubyan	47	25	Salmyah	42
			Ahmadi	45
			Nuwaisib	47
			Wafra	45
			Salmiyah	45

Media's role focus of talks

## Al-Jarallah meets Pakistan ambassador, Kuwait Fire Force delegation



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Pakistani Ambassador Dr Zafar Iqbal, Managing Editor of Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao and Director of Legal Affairs at Dar Al-Seyassah Hamada Al-Amir.



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah and Pakistani Ambassador Dr Zafar Iqbal.



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Saud Al-Farhan and Munif Naif with the visiting KFF delegation.



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah Suleiman Al-Jarallah receive the KFF delegation.

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Dean of Kuwaiti journalism and Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah met with Ambassador of the Republic of Pakistan to Kuwait Dr. Zafar Iqbal at his office in Dar Al-Seyassah on Tuesday.

They discussed ways to strengthen media cooperation, a number of current regional and international issues, and ways to address the media developments.

During the meeting, Al-Jarallah emphasized the importance of the media's role in building bridges of communication between peoples. He affirmed the commitment of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah to continue as a platform for constructive dialogue and media diplomacy, reflecting the strength of Kuwaiti-Pakistani relations.

On the other hand, Iqbal praised the pioneering role of the two newspapers, the wise editorial management headed by Al-Jarallah, and their effective role in supporting humanitarian issues and promoting positive dialogue. He said the embassy is keen on strengthening cooperation with Kuwaiti media outlets.

Director of Legal Affairs at Dar Al-Seyassah Hamada Al-Amir and Managing Editor of the Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao were also present at the meeting.

Furthermore, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, in the presence of Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah Suleiman Al-Jarallah, received a delegation from Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) headed by Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at KFF Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Gharib, who was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonels Nasser Al-Khader, Abdullah Al-Hajji, Mohammad Al-Fadala and Mohammad Al-Yassin, Captain Abdullah Sami and Sergeant Rashid Al-Rashidan.

The Editor-in-Chief and his Deputy discussed with the visiting firefighting delegation ways to strengthen cooperation between the Public Relations and Media Department at KFF and the two newspapers, as well as the role played by firefighting teams and the department in raising community awareness on the dangers of fires and methods of combating and preventing them.

The meeting also addressed the importance of awareness campaigns aimed at promoting community safety concepts and spreading awareness on best practices for fire prevention in homes and facilities, especially with the onset of summer.

Ahmed Al-Jarallah affirmed the commitment of the two newspapers to support the efforts of KFF and to highlight its vital role in protecting lives and properties. He underscored the importance of effective partnerships between media institutions and government agencies in instilling a culture of community safety.

## Decision to end donation collection sparks debate

'Charitable reputation of country at stake'

By **Mohammad Al-Enezi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The recent decision of the Ministry of Social Affairs to suspend donation collections by charitable societies and foundations until further notice is a regulatory step that has sparked widespread debate among those active in the charitable sector.**

This move is part of a general trend to reassess the mechanisms for charitable work -- a field in which Kuwait has long played a prominent role, both domestically and internationally.

While some view the decision as a necessary measure to introduce stronger oversight, others argue that it risks disrupting a vital pillar of the soft power and humanitarian outreach of the country.

Critics of the suspension emphasized the longstanding reputation of the country as a global leader in charitable and humanitarian efforts. They stressed that oversight must be part of a continuous development process -- ensuring transparency and accountability -- without hindering the sector's ability to support beneficiaries or undermining public trust in philanthropy.

Former MP Dr. Mohammad Al-Dallal told the newspaper that charitable work is central to the soft power of Kuwait, reinforcing the country's humanitarian image at both official and grassroots levels. He highlighted the historic role of Kuwaiti charities in bolstering the nation's international standing and noted their pivotal contributions during national crises, especially during the Iraqi invasion.

Al-Dallal called for balanced reforms, stressing the need for responsible governance without im-

posing undue restrictions. He urged the ministry to issue a clear regulatory framework that empowers charities while ensuring proper oversight.

In contrast, writer Ahmed Al-Sarraf expressed support for the decision, arguing that the charitable sector has operated for decades with insufficient oversight. He warned that some associations have been misused to fund illicit activities, serving partisan or personal interests.

Speaking to the newspaper, Al-Sarraf revealed that a temporary committee has been formed to draft a comprehensive law regulating charitable activities. "The committee recently discussed a key provision concerning the disproportionate allocation of funds to foreign efforts over domestic needs," he added.

He recommended banning all external charitable activity unless conducted under direct government supervision through a unified platform. He also called for strict rules prohibiting political involvement by charitable organizations, demanding transparency in financial reporting and restrictions on receiving funds from government or foreign sources. He proposed that annual budgets be publicly disclosed in at least two daily newspapers.

Meanwhile, preacher Faisal bin Qazzaz Al-Jassem voiced concern over the suspension through the 'X' platform; warning that even a temporary freeze could severely impact Muslims and philanthropists reliant on these organizations. He affirmed that the charitable and relief associations in Kuwait are unparalleled in the Islamic world, often filling gaps where other nations fall short.

He asserted that "tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of people are affected by the decision -- orphans, families, preachers, imams, orators, teachers, educators, doctors, nurses and directors of centers, institutes and universities -- have no source of support other than Allah and the charities. Therefore, freezing the accounts means halting all of these activities and rendering all of them unable to continue their work; especially for the orphans, widows, families, patients and health centers."



Al-Dallal



Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, prominent Kuwaiti figures and Indian team members.



Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah in talks with a member of the Indian delegation.



Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Arab Times Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah listening to the dialogue.

### Prominent Kuwaitis attend dialogue

## Reconnaissance Center hosts 'high-level' Indian delegation

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Reconnaissance Center for Research and Studies recently held a closed-door discussion panel hosting a high-level Indian delegation. This was part of the center's international outreach efforts to promote dialogue and exchange expertise with institutions and individuals worldwide.

According to a press release, the meeting happened a few months after the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark official visit to Kuwait, which was the first of its kind in over four decades.

The meeting at the Reconnaissance Center serves as a natural continuation of the positive momentum witnessed in the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The visiting Indian delegation included a diverse group of senior politicians and diplomats, led by Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Baijayant Jai Panda, along with several prominent figures from parliament, government, and civil society organizations.

The panel discussion was attended by a large

number of prominent Kuwaiti figures, including Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, Ambassador Abdullah Bishara, Ahmed Al-Saqr, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Mohammed Al-Aiban, Abdullah Al-Jouan, Dr. Haila Al-Mukaimi, Alia Al-Khaled, and Dr. Mohammed Al-Feely.

Commenting on the visit, Founder and CEO of the Reconnaissance Center Abdulaziz Al-Anjari stated that since its establishment six years ago as an independent institution, the center has been dedicated to serving as a platform for dialogue and a bridge of communication between Kuwait and the world.

He expressed his pleasure in welcoming Kuwait's guests and providing a space for the exchange of views in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Al-Anjari stressed that this visit exemplifies the role the Reconnaissance Center aims to play in the coming period as an active contributor to building strategic relationships through culture and thought, reflecting Kuwait's image as a confident, open country that recognizes the importance of soft power in shaping its international relations.

## Sheikh Fahad lauds contributions, efforts of Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf praised the national contributions and sincere efforts of Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf in supporting the progress of security work and enhancing the efficiency of the security system in the country.**

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf made the statement on the sidelines of a dinner he hosted in honor of Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf on the occasion of the approaching end of his tenure. A number of senior security officials attended the event.

"The achievements of Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf will remain a source of pride and honor due to his dedicated performance and strategic vision, which have



Sheikh Fahad



Sheikh Salem

had a positive impact on the development of security work in the ministry that relies on dedicated national competencies."

He affirmed that Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf is a role model in discipline, leadership and responsibility; wishing him continued success in his future endeavors and continuous dedication in serving the nation in other positions.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf expressed his deep gratitude to Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf for such a generous gesture; confirming that he is proud of his tenure at the ministry and he is honored to have worked alongside an elite group of security officials and professionals who always strive to maintain national security and stability.

He asserted "we are soldiers of this generous nation. No matter how hard we work, we cannot do justice to this country."



## 'Zionist cause, not Palestinian cause perpetuates aggression'

"I WAS not surprised by Republican U.S. Congressman Randy Fine's outrageous call to drop a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip, brazenly invoking the atomic bombings of Japan during World War II. Nor was I surprised by similar calls from some in the West and the United States advocating for the annihilation of Gaza's population, or by the continued portrayal of the Palestinian cause as an 'evil cause.' Such rhetoric is, sadly, expected from those who deny truth and justice, and those who preach human rights while practicing their opposite. This blatant hypocrisy has long been evident," columnist Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Adel Al-Kharafi

"What matters now is that we, as Arabs, particularly Palestinians, draw lessons from the painful history we have endured, from the time of the Sykes-Picot Agreement to the present day. One lesson is the importance of establishing effective lobbies and pressure groups in the capitals of global decision-making. Alliances and treaties, while useful, are often toothless. Without real leverage, they fall short, and this is a strategic weakness we must no longer ignore.

"For decades, Arabs have placed their eggs in the baskets of the very countries that once colonized them. Others turned to so-called friendly countries that, while occasionally supportive, always prioritized their own interests and acted with calculated caution. As a result, the Arab voice has often been reduced to an echo - reactive rather than proactive.

"This dynamic is clearly reflected when 147 countries recognize the State of Palestine, yet that recognition remains merely symbolic, without tangible implementation. Such recognition holds little weight unless it is backed by real pressure, first on the United States, and second on Israel. This pressure must go beyond simply demanding an end to the war... It must aim to empower the Palestinian state to function and thrive.

"That means, first, granting its official institutions the freedom to operate; second, enabling them to truly represent their people; and third, allowing them to exercise their authority without Israeli interference.

"While it is true that global public outrage over Israel's actions has intensified in recent months, that anger has done little to alleviate the suffering of the starving population in Gaza. Aid has trickled in, but nowhere near enough, largely because Tel Aviv continues to rely on the unwavering political and military support of the United States. Even former President Trump's remarks about withdrawing support unless Israel accepts his plan to allow aid into the Strip have gone unheeded.

"Tel Aviv also depends on a vocal and organized base of popular support which, though limited in number, remains effective. Just days ago, I came across footage from a demonstration in London where a small group of pro-Israel supporters openly chanted slogans against "all Palestinians." They were protected by police. In stark contrast, thousands of demonstrators rallying for Palestinian rights were met with suspicion, scrutiny, and accusations of anti-Semitism.

"Because the Western eye often sees only in black and white, advocates for the legitimate rights of Palestine and its people are frequently accused of anti-Semitism, which is a false and misleading refrain used to discredit their cause. This narrative is supported by powerful Western financial, economic, and political lobbies capable of obscuring justice, defending the oppressor, and denying the rights of the oppressed.

"Therefore, the U.S. congressman's recent statements are not merely a reaction to an isolated incident; they reflect a wide pattern of political behavior, due to the absence of any meaningful counter-response to challenge or correct such rhetoric and perceptions.

"In light of this, Arabs today must focus on building real international pressure groups. A clear-eyed view of 77 years of Palestinian suffering shows that this oppressed people has an undeniable right to a dignified life. It is time to reverse the narrative and expose the reality: it is the Zionist cause, not the Palestinian cause, that perpetuates injustice and aggression."

### Also:

"As we roam the streets at night, we wonder why all the lights are on? Sixty thousand bulbs on a government building, and ten thousand on another," columnist Ahmad Al-Dawas wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"At the start of summer, just when people rely most on air conditioning, the government expresses concern over high electricity consumption. We then see official announcements in newspapers warning that power will be cut for hours in certain areas, according to a set schedule.

"The government could have instructed its employees to turn off office lights at the end of the workday and requested all social, charitable, and other organizations to do the same after working hours.

"As I mentioned earlier, I once entered a library in a cooperative society and found nearly 100 ceiling lights switched on. Wouldn't it have been more sensible to use just ten, for example?"

"I know exactly what a single light bulb means to me ... I consider it a source of wealth.

"I began a difficult professional journey when I was transferred to work at

the Kuwaiti Embassy in Sudan. Upon arriving at Khartoum Airport on August 31, 1974, a colleague welcomed me and took me to my residence. I was shocked to discover that the electricity was out, and remained so for long hours each day. Naturally, this also meant the water supply to homes was cut off, as the generators weren't functioning. When the generators stopped, people couldn't fuel their cars, and I couldn't even read the two official newspapers "Al-Ayyam" and "Al-Sahafa".

"It was a difficult experience. I would read "Newsweek" by candlelight, along with Sam Wilson's book on economics, despite the stifling heat. When the situation became unbearable, I would head to a hotel to read, only to find half the building lit and the other half in darkness.

"That is why I consider even a single light bulb a great blessing. That period of hardship taught me that people often only recognize the true value of something when it is lost.

"Here in Kuwait, we live in great comfort, thanks be to God. However, we often fail to appreciate it or take steps to preserve it. So why do we waste electricity by keeping unnecessary lights on?"

"Kuwait could learn from Scotland's example, where wind turbines were installed along the coast to generate electricity. Why not install similar wind turbines in the northern region of Kuwait to help meet our energy needs?"

□ □ □

"With the rise of a fast-paced consumer lifestyle, personal finance has become a matter of critical importance for every individual in Kuwaiti society. Debts and personal loans are no longer rare exceptions, they have become a reality for many who rely on them to meet various needs," Kuwaiti Lawyer Abdul Rahman Al-Houti wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"However, managing and legally regulating these debts presents a real challenge, especially when financial obligations begin to accumulate or when defaults occur.

"Looking at the legal framework that governs personal debt, we find a set of regulations designed to regulate the relationship between borrowers and financial institutions. These rules guarantee the rights of both parties by enforcing strict conditions on the issuance of loans. This protects the economy as well as shields individuals from falling into excessive debt.

"Accordingly, personal loans are strictly regulated under the guidelines issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait, particularly concerning salary deduction rates, repayment periods, and interest calculations. One of the most notable regulations in place is that the deduction from a borrower's income must not exceed 40 percent for employees and 30 percent for retirees. The repayment period is capped at five years for consumer loans and 15 years for housing loans.

"In addition, the law sets a maximum limit for consumer loans at KD 25,000, with clearly defined terms for interest and its calculation method. It also obligates banks and financing companies to maintain full transparency when issuing loans. This includes clearly explaining the loan terms, disclosing the total cost, and clarifying the borrower's future financial obligations.

"When it comes to regulating debt, it is important to understand that it is not merely a financial issue but also a legal matter. The law offers multiple tools to protect your rights as a borrower, but you must be aware of them and use them wisely. Legal awareness, combined with sound financial planning, is necessary for maintaining financial stability and avoiding default, and the costly legal consequences that can follow.

"Lending laws grant you the right to fully understand the terms of any debt before committing to it. You should exercise this right by carefully verifying everything you sign with the lender and seeking clarification for any terms that are unclear or ambiguous.

"In the event of default, you also have the right to request that the lender reschedule your debt, either by extending the repayment period or reducing the monthly installments. This is a legal option available in cases such as job loss, reduced income, or other compelling circumstances, provided you can present official evidence.

"This procedure is designed to support borrowers who are dealing with real repayment difficulties by offering legal mechanisms to manage their situation. These include direct negotiation with the lender, ensuring that any new agreement is properly documented, or seeking assistance from the Arbitration Center or the Complaints Department at the Central Bank of Kuwait in cases of lender misconduct. As a last resort, you may turn to the judiciary to present your legal defenses in response to any unlawful practices by the lender, or to request an extension of repayment under the protection of the legal framework.

"One of the most common issues that confuses many people is the requirement to sign checks or promissory notes as a condition for obtaining a loan, often without clear justification. We therefore strongly advise against signing any document without first seeking legal advice. Signing such documents without fully understanding their implications could expose you to legal liability and potential prosecution."

— Compiled by Mahmoud At-tiyeh/Simi K. Kutty



KFF personnel who took part in the Sahel awareness program.

KFF photo

## KFF hosts workshop on Sahel app awareness

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) organized an awareness workshop for its employees about the Sahel unified government application for electronic services.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the workshop hosted the official spokesperson of the

Sahel application, who provided an overview of its inception and the range of services it offers to both citizens and residents, in collaboration with various government institutions.

The workshop highlighted the electronic services provided by KFF via the application, specifically for business owners and companies,

with the aim of facilitating processes and improving the efficiency of government transactions.

The workshop also discussed upcoming features and services that will be added to the application, with the aim of meeting users' demands and improving access to government services.

## Court acquits expat woman of forging docus, fraud 16 yrs on

Bid to acquire social allowance fraudulently

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Criminal Section in the Court of First Instance acquitted an expatriate woman of forging official documents and embezzlement of public funds (social allowances) that occurred 16 years ago.

The woman and her former husband were accused of forging official documents with the intention of fraudulently presenting them as genuine. They allegedly concealed their true marital status, provided false informa-

tion to officials, and signed declarations affirming the accuracy of this false information.

The Public Prosecution contended that they took advantage of the trust of employees responsible for processing such transactions by dictating fabricated details. They presented a divorce certificate and an official notification certificate, misleading officials into believing the ex-husband still had legal standing; thereby, enabling them to obtain social assistance using the altered documents.

Furthermore, the prosecution argued that the de-

fendants used official documents that were no longer legally valid; specifically, the divorce contract and the official notification certificate.

The woman allegedly submitted these expired documents to misrepresent her marital status, as their validity lapsed due to her remarriage and her failure to disclose this to continue receiving benefits from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The ex-husband purportedly knowingly participated, intending to give the false impression that the documents were still legally in force.

Attorney Enaam Haider, lawyer for the defendant, argued that the essential elements of forgery and the use of legally invalid documents were not present. She asserted that the investigations were superficial, inconsistent and without merit and that the documents lacked definitive proof of any crime.



Haider



KUNA photo

Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan is briefed on the progress of work at the bridge.

## Minister visits bridge to inspect 'work progress'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inspected the Sabah Al-Nasser Bridge project on Monday to review the latest developments.

During the inspection tour, Al-Mashaan listened to the detailed explanation of the engineering teams supervising the project about the potential technical obstacles and mechanisms for overcoming them to ensure that work proceeds as planned. She also reviewed the measures taken to implement the highest standards of quality and construction safety.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the inspection tour, Al-Mashaan stressed that this visit is in line with the commitment of the ministry to follow up vital infrastructure projects. She underscored the importance of the Sabah Al-Nasser Bridge project in alleviating traffic congestion and strengthening the road network in the country.

She concluded her tour by affirming the continuation of her field visits to project sites in various areas to personally look into the developments and make sure that work proceeds according to the highest technical standards.

Total hits 482

## Licenses of 16 domestic labor offices suspended

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Domestic Labor Recruitment and Regulation Department at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) revealed that the total number of domestic labor recruitment offices registered with the authority has reached 482, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the latest statistics from the authority, the department received 462 complaints from domestic workers, employers and recruitment offices. As a result, 16 office licenses were suspended, while suspensions were lifted for 18 others. Three new professional licenses were issued and 10 licenses were renewed.

In another development, the authority confirmed the launching of a training program for Kuwaiti youths -- aged 18 to 24, in collaboration with Kuwaiti Injaz Association. The program features a guidance session titled, "My Path to Professionalism," from May 26-28 at the PAM theater in Al-Riqqa.

The session aims to equip participants with essential workplace skills; including written and verbal communication, time management, leadership fundamentals and job interview techniques.

## Man wanted in several crimes arrested after hot police chase

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Officers from the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Police Station referred a man, in his 30s, to the Criminal Security Sector at the Interior Ministry for investigation; following his arrest for the possession of pepper spray and an electric stun gun, reports Al-Anba daily.


Authorities are probing whether his possession of these items was intended for use in robbery or theft.

After the initial investigation, the suspect will be referred to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) to determine the source of the narcotics found in his possession, and whether they were intended for personal use or trafficking. He will also be transferred to two police stations where he is wanted

in connection with cases of making death threats and breach of trust.

According to a security source, a patrol from West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Police Station noticed a vehicle whose driver violated traffic regulations. When instructed to pull over, the driver refused and fled at high speed. Backup units were deployed and a perimeter was established. The suspect eventually abandoned the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot, but was apprehended after a brief chase.


A background check revealed that the man is wanted for two criminal cases. A subsequent search of the vehicle led to the discovery of a pepper spray, an electric stun gun, various narcotic substances and drug paraphernalia.




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# 'AI can help produce more fascinating media content'

8,000 media persons attending Dubai media summit

**DUBAI, May 27, (KUNA):** A pan-Arab media summit in Dubai is tantamount to a creative "platform" aiming to ratchet up the quality of the industry's content across the region, Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said on Tuesday.

Serving as the representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to the summit, the Kuwaiti minister, who doubles as minister of state for youth affairs, spoke of how cutting-edge technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be employed as a tool to create more riveting media content, resulting in more "efficient and timely" productions, he said.

He went on to cite a long-term strategy his ministry has assembled that revolves around digital infrastructure and investment in AI tools, which he said can be useful in gauging "public trends", in addition to the recently-launched "Platform 51"



KUNA photo  
Kuwait's Information, Culture and Youth Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi leaves for Dubai to attend the media summit.

which defies conventional broadcasting methods by delivering content through wireless waves.

The minister spoke of the challenge in delivering news with both "speed and accuracy," at a time where social media has emerged as the first source through which people access news, which behooves outlets to operate with more transparency and efficiency, he underlined.

On the recent transformation the role

of media outlets has seen, the Kuwaiti information minister said the industry has morphed into a "content creator" rather than a news provider, a change that has become necessary in keeping up with the latest social trends, he said.

Accelerating a digital drive has now become the perennial goal of media bodies across the wider Arab region, a strategy that has seen rapid progress across public and private sectors alike over the course of the

last five years, the minister said.

Kuwait's Information, Culture and Youth Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi – representing His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah – left Kuwait on Tuesday for Dubai to attend the Arab Media Summit 2025, held under the sponsorship of UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

The Arab Media Summit (AMS) 2025, the largest media gathering in the Arab world, kicked off on Monday in Dubai with the participation of around 8,000 media professionals from the UAE and across the Arab world.

Kuwait is participating in the summit by the representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

Running until 28th May at the Dubai World Trade Centre, the summit opened with the sessions of the Youth Media Forum. As it brings together ministers, prominent personalities, editors-in-chief, heads of media organizations, content creators, influencers, media technology experts, and academics from across the Arab world.



KUNA photo  
Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Nayef Al-Mudhaf presents a memento to Ghana's Chief Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Ramses Cleland.

## Kuwait, Ghana seek boost in cooperation in various fields

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (KUNA):** Kuwait and Ghana concluded their political consultations on Monday, discussing ways to strengthen cooperation across various fields of mutual interest.

According to Kuwait's Foreign Ministry, the talks covered youth empowerment, energy, aviation, labor, migration, maritime transport, public-private partnerships, trade, food security, humanitarian efforts, and counterterrorism.

Both sides stressed the importance of fi-

nalizing pending agreements and enhancing coordination in international forums.

The Kuwaiti side expressed optimism regarding the future of bilateral relations and reaffirmed its commitment to deeper cooperation for the benefit of both nations.

The Kuwaiti delegation was led by Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Nayef Al-Mudhaf, while Ghana's delegation was headed by Chief Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Ramses Cleland.



Al-Seyassah photo  
Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah expresses the leadership's and his condolences on the demise of former Vietnamese leader.

## 'Leadership conveys condolences on demise of ex-Vietnamese Prez'

**By Fares Ghaleb**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27:** Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah visited the Vietnamese Embassy in Kuwait on Monday to convey the condolences of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, the government and people of Kuwait on the passing of former Politburo member and former President of the Republic of Vietnam Tran Duc Luong.

The Vietnamese Embassy opened a condolence book on the passing of Luong in the presence of all the embassy staff. A number of ambassadors offered their condolences during the opening ceremony.

In his condolence message, Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait Nguyen Duc Thang expressed his deep respect and appreciation for the late President; commending his significant contributions to the country's renewal process, particularly in expanding foreign relations and promoting Vietnam's international integration.

Meanwhile, Thang stated that his country and Kuwait have tremendous potential to expand cooperation in several promising economic areas; including free trade, green energy, food security, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, infrastructure development, halal tourism and regional aviation despite the challenges posed by geographical distance, global economic fluctuations, international conflicts and climate change.

He affirmed that many halal Vietnamese products are available in supermarket chains in Kuwait; indicating that Vietnam is a ma-

major importer of Kuwaiti crude oil, which accounts for 95 percent of total imports from Kuwait. "This enhances Vietnam's energy security and serves the economic interests of both countries," he asserted.

On the investment front, Thang revealed that Kuwait is currently the largest investor among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in Vietnam, particularly through its partnership in the Nghi Son Refining and Petrochemical Complex project, being implemented by Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI).

He touched on expectations of further investment flowing from the Middle East, specifically from Kuwait, into the Vietnamese market in the coming period. He said Kuwait is currently Vietnam's largest trading partner in the Gulf region and ranks 19th among its trading partners globally, while Vietnam is a prominent trading partner of Kuwait in Southeast Asia.

The ambassador disclosed trade figures, which increased from \$350 million in 2005 to \$6 billion in 2023, while in 2024 it reached approximately \$7.33 billion. Imports from Kuwait accounted for more than \$7.2 billion, while Vietnamese exports remained at only \$75 million. He considers this disparity a promising opportunity to expand exports of Vietnamese products to the Kuwaiti market in the future.

On the other hand, Abdul Mohsen Al-Attar, Director of the International Organizations Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said "the trade agreement between the two countries represented a milestone on the path of economic cooperation, as it established a solid legal foundation for the free flow of goods and services and supported mutual investments based on the principles of the World Trade Organization."



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with his guests.

## Farwaniya Gov. audiences

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office at Farwaniya Governorate on Monday the Director of the Inspection Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Dr. Nawaf Abdul Karim Al-Enezi, in the presence of Head of the Violations Auditing Department Radan Al-Mutairi, Abdullah Al-Basman, and Faisal Al-Haifi.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, Dr. Al-Enezi provided an overview of PAFN's efforts to enforce food control in the region, and explained the inspection processes, storage methods, and transportation procedures.

He affirmed PAFN's commitment to ensuring the safety of food products circulating in Farwaniya Governorate.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Athbi received the Advisor to the General Secretariat of Awqaf Dr. Fahid Mohsen Al-Daihani, who presented the governor with a copy of his book, "A Brief Explanation of the Provisions of the Curfew in Kuwaiti Legislation and Its Judicial Applications."

In addition, the governor received Salem Hamoud Al-Musailem as part of efforts to strengthen community engagement.

Al-Musailem extended his appreciation to the governor, and wished him continued success in his endeavors.

## Hajj approval for persons with revoked citizenship

**By Mohammad Al-Enezi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27:** Hajj caravans have been informed about the approval of competent authorities to issue Hajj permits to those whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked in accordance with Article Eight of the Nationality Law, after fulfilling the specified conditions.

Sources told the newspaper that those who meet

the conditions will be issued passports and their names will be removed from the banned list, paving the way for them to be assigned to the caravans.

Sources added those who do not meet the conditions – those with a travel ban, a security restriction or an expired passport – are excluded from the aforementioned procedures.

Sattam Al-Muzain, head of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs team in the Kuwaiti Hajj expedition, has announced the arrival of the expedition mem-

bers to the Holy Land in preparation for receiving the pilgrims from Kuwait.

This is a confirmation of the report about the arrival of Kuwaiti Hajj expedition teams to the Holy Land that the newspaper published recently.

Al-Muzain said the teams and committees began their duties immediately upon their arrival at the expedition's headquarters in Makkah, affirming that they have completed preparations to provide the best services to the guests of Almighty Allah from Kuwait.



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Continued from Page 1

## H.E. the

If a grandfather obtained Kuwaiti citizenship through manipulation or forgery, what fault do his children and grandchildren bear, especially as they were born, raised, educated, and employed in Kuwait? Many of these individuals are children of Kuwaiti mothers, of pure Kuwaiti descent, and have contributed to numerous events and served Kuwait with dedication and patriotism.

Many of these people, along with the Bedouin residents who have lived in Kuwait for over 50, sometimes 60 years, are entitled to Kuwaiti citizenship under the Nationality Law. Some of the original forgers have passed away, leaving behind families who are unaware of the forgery and are not at fault.

God Almighty says in the Holy Quran, "No soul shall bear the burden of another."

The Constitution also states that punishment is personal, meaning no one shall be held accountable for a crime committed by another.

From what I know of His Excellency the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, who is deeply committed to humanitarian concerns and interested in resolving this issue, I hope he will clarify to citizens the principles that must be followed to prevent new crises that worsen the original problem.

Yes, His Excellency the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the crack is wide, but this is not the solution.

## Kuwait closes

of Ministerial Resolution No. 87/2023, which regulates advertising in the private medical sector. It was found that some advertisements contradict the principles of the medical profession, promote practices that are not scientifically approved, or have a commercial nature that is inconsistent with professional ethics.

The violations also included transgressions in medical practices as per the provisions of Law No. 70/2020 regulating the practice of medicine and allied professions, the rights of patients, and health facilities; hence, the need to take legal action against the violating facilities.

The Ministry of Health confirmed that close field monitoring of health facilities in the private sector is ongoing, with the aim of raising performance efficiency and ensuring everyone's compliance with professional standards and approved health legislation. It emphasized that patient safety and the quality of health services are priorities without compromise, and that it is continuing to strictly implement the laws to protect public health and promote a safe, high-quality health environment.

## US Embassy

Attendees included senior Kuwaiti officials, members of the US diplomatic mission, and representatives from ABCK, underscoring the bilateral ties across defense, education, commerce, and cultural exchange.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Washington on Monday participated in the Memorial Day, an annual occasion to honor American service members who died on duty.

"The sacrifice that they made was not merely for a single battle, a long-ago victory, or a fleeting triumph decades or centuries past. Their sacrifice was for today, tomorrow, and every morning thereafter," US President Donald Trump said during the ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington D.C.

"In every hour of peril and every moment of crisis, American warriors have left behind the blessings of home and family to answer their nation's call ... This morning, we pay tribute to their immortal deeds."

Memorial Day is an annual occasion to honor fallen soldiers "who sacrificed their lives for the nation" in various American wars. It is held every year on the last Monday in May.

The US President and senior political and military figures attend the ceremonies held at Arlington National Cemetery, where thousands of American soldiers are buried.

At the same time, military parades are held on Constitution Avenue, which passes by the White House. Among those attending these parades, which are attended by a delegation from the Kuwaiti Embassy, are the retired secretary of the Army, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior military and political figures.

## 'Kuwait-India

He expressed his satisfaction with the results of the visit and the fruitful meetings held by the delegation, confirming the deep historical relations between Kuwait and India in various fields.

He pointed out that the two countries enjoy extensive cooperation, particularly in the trade and economic sectors, which are witnessing rapid growth. He expressed his pride in this cooperation and in the large Indian community in Kuwait.

He said the Indian community -- the largest in the country -- receives major support, care and attention from the Kuwaiti authorities. He praised its diversity, productivity and effective contribution to the Kuwaiti economy; stressing it is a peaceful community that does not espouse any political orientations.

He cited commonalities between the two countries; specifically the suffering from terrorism and a shared commitment to combating it, as per the agreement reached during the Dushanbe Conference on Combating Terror-

ism, chaired by Kuwait.

He added "we discussed with the Kuwaiti side a number of initiatives to enhance security cooperation in the field of counterterrorism. We witnessed the enthusiasm of our brothers in Kuwait, as reflected in the discussions that took place during the Joint Committee meeting, co-chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers last year."

He lauded Kuwait's clear position in condemning the attack on the Kashmir region through official statements issued at a high level, stressing that his country harbors no hostility toward the Pakistani people.

He stated "we are ready to build positive relations with Pakistan, provided that it changes its strategy and adopts an approach of peace and mutual respect."

He indicated that India recently adopted a new strategy to confront terrorist threats as direct response rather than waiting; and includes imposing economic sanctions on trade, shipping, water and visas.

He emphasized the importance of time-bound dialogue as a means of reaching final solutions to outstanding issues.

He said the challenges associated with combating terrorism exist in India, Kuwait and other countries around the world. "However, the difference lies in the objectives for which terrorism is used. India is firm in its position of zero tolerance for any form of terrorism," he asserted.

On the Palestinian issue, he reiterated his country's firm position in support of the two-state solution as the primary option for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that India has allocated a budget to support economic aid for Gaza and the West Bank.

## Kuwait ignites

In his opening address, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and expressed hope that the summit would mark a pivotal step in building a deeper, more resilient trilateral partnership.

He extended sincere gratitude to the Malaysian government for its hospitality and excellent summit arrangements.

"This is more than a diplomatic engagement, it is a clear expression of our collective recognition that today's world demands multilateral cooperation grounded in integration, sustainable development, and mutual respect," His Highness stated.

He noted that the summit comes at a time of profound global shifts, economic uncertainty, and urgent environmental and geopolitical challenges.

In this context, GCC-ASEAN and GCC-China relations have matured into robust partnerships rooted in mutual benefit, institutional collaboration, and long-term planning.

His Highness highlighted previous milestones such as the first GCC-China Summit in Riyadh in 2022 and the inaugural GCC-ASEAN Summit in 2023, which laid the groundwork for today's trilateral cooperation.

"This summit is a natural evolution of those efforts, a gateway to a new dynamic phase of collaboration between three of the world's most vibrant and economically vital regions," he said.

He emphasized the importance of ongoing frameworks, including the Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue with China (2023-2027) and the Strategic Cooperation Framework with ASEAN (2024-2028).

These documents, he noted, provide comprehensive roadmaps for deepening cooperation in renewable energy, advanced technology, education, healthcare, artificial intelligence, and scientific research.

His Highness pointed to strong economic indicators underscoring the vitality of these relationships, saying that in 2023 trade between the GCC and China reached approximately USD 298 billion. While foreign direct investment (FDI) flows between the two amounted to USD 19 billion and trade with ASEAN also exceeded USD 122 billion, he added that these figures reflect a "genuine momentum that deserves further expansion."

He urged renewed efforts to finalize the Free Trade Agreement between the GCC and China, ease trade barriers, and expand investment flows.

He also advocated for the strengthening of the ASEAN-GCC-China Economic Forum as a platform for innovation and joint ventures in areas such as infrastructure, green energy, and the digital economy.

"Our central place in the global economy, combined with our human and natural capital, places a shared responsibility on us to craft integrative policies that ensure food and water security, drive clean energy development, and support innovation and sustainability," he remarked.

His Highness laid out five key pillars for deepened trilateral cooperation, including trade and investment integration, energy and food security, advanced technology and digital transformation, cultural, educational, and health cooperation, and a unified international stance.

Turning to regional crises, His Highness addressed the "ongoing humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories.

He reaffirmed the GCC's support for the Palestinian cause and called for an end to the aggression, the protection of civilians, and the resumption of a genuine peace process based on international law and the Arab Peace Initiative.

"We deeply appreciate the positions taken by our friends in ASEAN and China in support of the Palestinian people," he said.

On Syria, he welcomed recent positive developments and reiterated GCC support for efforts that uphold Syria's

sovereignty and unity, aiming to restore stability and dignity to its people.

Concluding his remarks, His Highness called for effective follow-up mechanisms to translate summit outcomes into concrete programs that benefit people and economies of all participating nations.

"Let us ensure this summit is not merely a statement of intent, but a launchpad for tangible progress. Our partnership deserves nothing less than success and prosperity," he concluded.

The trilateral summit was widely hailed as a landmark event with far-reaching implications for regional cooperation, economic growth, and political coordination across Asia and the Gulf.

Earlier, Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah underscored the urgent need for deeper regional and international collaboration to address pressing global challenges.

The call was made during the opening of the second GCC-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, under the joint leadership of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Malaysian Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim.

His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is the current chair of GCC, and Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is the current Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah delivered the summit's opening address, expressing warm greetings on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and extended sincere wishes for the summit's success in strengthening the growing partnership between the two regional blocs.

In his remarks, the Crown Prince emphasized the global importance of the GCC and ASEAN, highlighting their combined economic strength, vast populations, and strategic locations, saying that the two regions account for a gross domestic product of nearly USD six trillion and a combined population of approximately 740 million.

Recalling the inaugural GCC-ASEAN Summit held in Riyadh in October 2023, the Crown Prince described it as a pivotal moment for shaping a comprehensive partnership, and affirmed the commitment of the GCC to building upon this momentum through the "2024-2028 Strategic Cooperation Framework," which outlines practical steps to establish cooperation and achieve tangible progress.

The Crown Prince stressed that economic cooperation remains a top priority, and noted that in 2023, the GCC was ASEAN's seventh-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching USD 130.7 billion, and projected growth of 30 percent over the next decade to an expected USD 180 billion by 2032.

He highlighted the opportunities for expanding trade, investments, and partnerships across sectors, including energy, technology, and sustainable development.

On energy security and climate action, the Crown Prince lauded ASEAN's progress in renewable energy and reiterated the GCC's readiness to share expertise in clean energy, green hydrogen, and low-carbon technologies to support global climate goals, particularly the Paris Agreement.

The Crown Prince also called for enhanced cooperation in food security, digital transformation, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence, and proposed establishing mechanisms for knowledge exchange and joint projects, including infrastructure development and innovation in agriculture and supply chain resilience.

In cultural and human exchange, the Crown Prince proposed designating 2026 as the "Year of Cultural Convergence" between the GCC and ASEAN, including cultural festivals, exhibitions, and reciprocal events such as an ASEAN Day in a GCC country and a GCC Cultural Day in an ASEAN member state.

He also advocated for initiatives empowering youth and women through training programs and entrepreneurship support.

Turning to pressing regional and global issues, the Crown Prince reaffirmed the GCC's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state along the June 4, 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He called on the international community to uphold its legal and moral responsibilities by ensuring the protection of civilians in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories and supporting a credible peace process based on international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, and also welcomed ASEAN's solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Regarding Syria, the Crown Prince welcomed positive developments on the ground and reiterated the GCC's support for efforts to maintain Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, with the aim of restoring stability and opening pathways for development and prosperity.

The Crown Prince also stressed that the success of the summit lies not only in the adoption of recommendations but in translating shared ambitions into actionable initiatives, and proposed establishing a high-level follow-up mechanism, co-managed by the GCC and ASEAN Secretariats, to monitor progress and ensure continued engagement.

The Crown Prince extended an invitation to ASEAN nations to participate in Expo 2030, which will be hosted in Riyadh, as a global platform for showcasing sustainable partnerships, innovative technologies, and economic and cultural exchange.

# Kuwait Amir Representative meets Philippine President, Cambodian PM on ASEAN sidelines

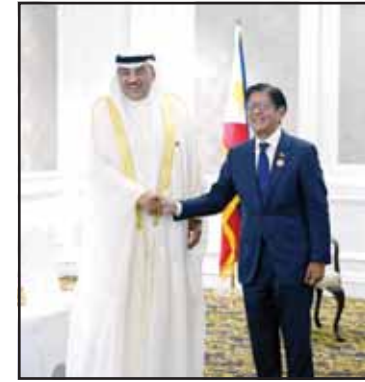
KUALA LAMPUR, May 27, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met on Tuesday with President of Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on the sidelines of GCC-ASEAN and GCC-ASEAN-China Summits.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait to the Filipino President.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as ways to boost ties, in addition to latest regional and international developments.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also met with the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Dr. Hun Manet, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-GCC and ASEAN-GCC-China summits.

During the meeting, they reviewed the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Cambodia, and ways to support and strengthen them for the benefit of the two



Crown Prince Diwan photos Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince shakes hands with President of the Philippines (left) and Prime Minister of Cambodia (right).

friendly countries and peoples, they also discussed the most prominent developments regionally and internationally.

Attending both meetings were Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Issa Al-



Crown Prince Diwan photos Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince shakes hands with President of the Philippines (left) and Prime Minister of Cambodia (right).

Essa, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Bader Saleh Al-Tunaib, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Rashed Mohammad Al-Saleh.

# Virtual conference charts future in AI, clean energy

GCC experts push tech, smart cities agenda

KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (KUNA): Chairwoman of the 6th Gulf Virtual Conference for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Dr. Hanadi Mubarak Al-Mubarak, announced Tuesday that the conference concluded with four main recommendations aimed at strengthening economic diversification through innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship.



Dr. Al-Mubarak

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Mubarak said that the conference, held virtually under the patronage of Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi from May 26 to 27, featured distinguished participation from sheikhs, ministers, diplomats, inventors, entrepreneurs, researchers, and experts across various sectors, exceeding 100 participants.

Al-Mubarak noted that the four recommendations focused on key themes, namely economic diversification through innovation and technological entrepreneurship, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, advancement

in financial, health, and educational technologies, as well as building smart cities and clean energy.

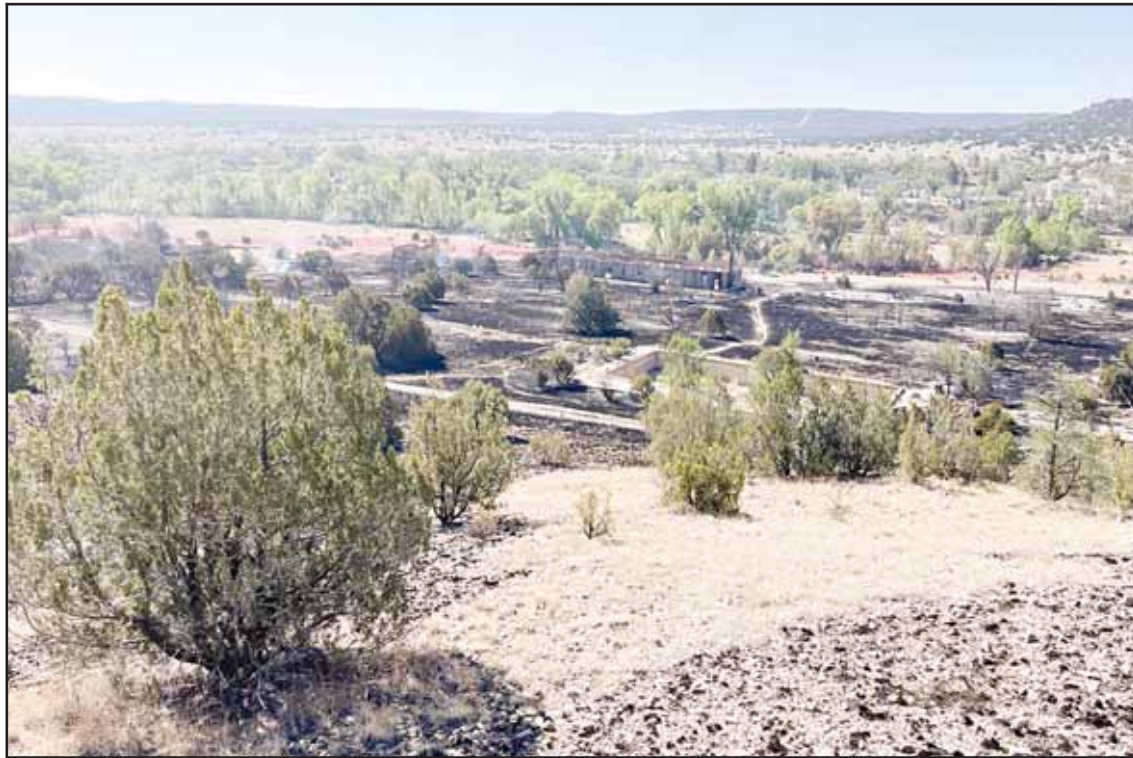
She pointed out that the first recommendation emphasized the necessity of long-term investment in innovative and sustainable projects, the establishment of an Arab investment fund to support innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer, the creation of a GCC center for institutional innovation and technological entrepreneurship, and strengthening partnerships among governmental and private sectors, academia, and financial institutions to raise innovation and AI indicators.

She mentioned that the second recommendation called for developing digital infrastructure to support AI applications and cybersecurity, encouraging startups and SMEs in the AI sector, designing specialized AI algorithms in Arabic, enabling digital commerce, and establishing clear data protection and privacy policies.

She indicated that the third recommendation emphasized enhancing the use of technology, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing in vital sectors such as health, education, and finance, developing innovative fintech tools, and supporting digital regional integration among Gulf and Arab countries.

Al-Mubarak added that the fourth and final recommendation highlighted the importance of investing in smart cities infrastructure, communication networks, renewable energy technologies, enhancing technological innovation in clean energy, promoting sustainable marketing through technology to reduce harmful emissions, and raising community awareness about sustainability.

## INTERNATIONAL



In this photo provided by the Fort Stanton Historic Site, destruction from the camp fire, which damaged several historic buildings at Fort Stanton, a historic site managed by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, is seen on May 26 in Fort Stanton, NM. (AP)

### Wildfire damages Civil War-era historical site in New Mexico

A wildfire swept through portions of a Civil War-era fort and historical site in southern New Mexico, forcing the evacuations of camp-

grounds and a horse ranch, authorities said Monday.

The fire damaged structures at Fort Stanton Historical Site built by

the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and a gym erected by Germans interned at the site during World War II after their ship sank. (AP)

## US president targets Democrats over questionable online fundraising

WASHINGTON, May 27, (AP): When US President Donald Trump directed his attorney general last month to investigate online fundraising, he cited concerns that foreigners and fraudsters were using elaborate "schemes" and "dummy accounts" to funnel illegal contributions to politicians and causes.

Instead of calling for an expansive probe, however, the president identified just one potential target: ActBlue, the Democrats' online fundraising juggernaut, which has acknowledged receiving over 200 potentially illicit contributions last year from foreign internet addresses.

Trump's announcement contained a glaring omission - his political committees also received scores of potentially problematic contributions.

An Associated Press review of donations to Trump over the past five years found 1,600 contributions from donors who live abroad, have close ties to foreign interests or failed to disclose basic information, often making it difficult, if not impossible, to identify them and verify the legality of their donations. Among those was \$5,000 linked to a derelict building, and \$5,000 from a Chinese businessman who listed a La Quinta Inn as his address. Another sizable donation - \$1 million - was made by the wife of an African oil and mining magnate.

It's against the law for US can-



A La Quinta Inn is photographed May 2, 2025, in Hawaiian Gardens, Calif. (AP)

didates and political committees to accept contributions from foreign nationals. Laws also place strict limits on donation amounts and prohibit the laundering of contributions to get around legal caps. For the most part, such donations have been policed by campaigns and the Federal Election Commission, with only the most egregious examples being targeted by federal law enforcement.

But after reclaiming the White House,

Trump embarked on a campaign of retribution against his perceived enemies, launching broadsides against universities, law firms and his own former officials. If the Justice Department were to investigate ActBlue, it could imperil a key fundraising tool for Trump's political rivals before the 2026 midterm elections, when Republicans' threadbare House majority - and the president's ability to pass an agenda through Congress - will be on the line.

'We just revere their incredible legacy'

## Trump honors fallen soldiers on Memorial Day, while attacking Biden and judges

ARLINGTON, Va., May 27, (AP): US President Donald Trump paid tribute to fallen service members during a Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, in an address that honored the "great, great warriors" yet also briefly veered into politics as he boasted of a nation he is "fixing after a long and hard four years."

Though the holiday is one that US presidents typically treat with pure solemnity, Trump began it with an all-caps Memorial Day social media post that attacked his predecessor and called federal judges who have blocked his deportation initiatives "monsters who want our country to go to hell."

Yet at Arlington National Cemetery, where more than 400,000 have been laid to rest, Trump commemorated the sacrifice of US service members and singled out several Gold Star families to tell the stories of their fallen relatives.

"We just revere their incredible legacy," Trump said. "We salute them in their eternal and everlasting glory. And we continue our relentless pursuit of America's destiny as we make our nation stronger, prouder, freer and greater than ever before."

"Their valor," he said, "gave us the freest, greatest and most noble republic ever to exist on the face of the earth. A republic that I am fixing after a long and hard four years."

During his remarks, Trump told the story of Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, killed along with three other Americans by a suicide bomber in 2019 in Syria, leaving behind her husband, 3-year-old son and 18-month-old son.

The Pine Plains, New York, native was on her fifth combat deployment, he said, embedded with a team hunting Islamic State group militants in Syria, serving as linguist, translator and cryptologic technician working alongside special forces.

"She was among the first women ever to do it, and she did it better than anyone," Trump said, calling out Kent's family for applause at the ceremony.

The crowd also heard of Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Elroy Harworth from Erhard, Minnesota, whose plane went down in enemy territory during the Vietnam War, dying while his wife was seven months pregnant. His son, who was cheered in the audience, followed his father's path and has been in



US President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Major General Trevor Breidenkamp, commanding general of the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region and the US Army Military District of Washington, right, attend a Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va. on May 26. (AP)

the Army for 20 years.

There was also the story of Army Cpl. Ryan McGhee of Fredericksburg, Virginia, who enlisted after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and whose mother

was in the audience.

Trump said McGhee knew he wanted to be an Army Ranger since he saw the towers fall on that day, did three tours in Afghanistan, then deployed to Iraq.

Sixteen years ago this month, the president said, McGhee died in a firefight, and "gave his life at 21 years old."

Vice President JD Vance, who spoke before Trump, said the lesson of all the gravestones is: "We must be cautious in sending our people to war." He urged the crowd to push political leaders to treat the lives of soldiers as the "most precious resource."

Later in his remarks, Trump pointed to a "big, big celebration" coming next year as the U.S. celebrates its 250th birthday, joking that "in some ways, I'm glad I missed that second term" when he lost to Joe Biden.

"Because I wouldn't be president for that," Trump said, as the crowd laughed. "In addition, we have the World Cup and we have the Olympics. Can you imagine? I missed that four years. And now look what I have, I have everything. Amazing the way things work out."

Prior to speaking, Trump placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a somber tradition for U.S. presidents. The president paused after placing the wreath, then stepped back and saluted during the playing of taps. Vance and Defense Secretary Pete

Hegseth joined him.

The president began the day with a decidedly different tone.

In a social media message in all capital letters, Trump ranted at Biden, calling him the "scum" who spent the last four years trying to destroy the country with radical leftism and who, he said, left behind an open border.

That was after he posted a separate message proclaiming "HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!!" Wishing people a happy Memorial Day is regarded as verboten because the day is considered a somber one to honor soldiers killed in service.

Vance emphasized as much when he spoke to US Naval Academy graduates in Annapolis on Friday, when he said that he and Trump would "lead the most solemn occasion in our nation, Memorial Day at Arlington Cemetery."

"You will learn as I have that when people say things like 'Happy Memorial Day,' you appreciate the sentiment behind it but know that it's wrong because Memorial Day is not a happy day," Vance said last week. "Memorial Day is not for those who served and came home, it is for those who served that didn't."



Police and emergency personnel deal with a road traffic accident on Water Street near the Liver Building in Liverpool after a car collided with pedestrians during the Premier League winners parade in Liverpool, England on May 26. (AP)

Driver suspected of attempted murder

### 65 people injured after Liverpool car ramming

LIVERPOOL, England, May 27, (AP): A 53-year-old British man who injured 65 people when he plowed his vehicle into a crowd of Liverpool soccer fans celebrating their team's Premier League championship has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, police said Tuesday.

The driver was also being held on suspicion of dangerous driving and driving on drugs, said Detective Chief Superintendent Karen Jaundrill.

Some 50 people were treated at hospitals and 11 remained hospitalized in stable condition, police said.

The driver had managed to get around police road blocks by following an ambulance that was rushing to treat a person having a heart attack.

Merseyside Police said they were

not treating the incident as terrorism and are not looking for other suspects. The force has not identified the arrested driver. Police in Britain usually do not name suspects until they are charged.

Detectives were still working to piece together why the minivan plowed into crowds packing a narrow street on Monday, just after the players of Liverpool Football Club had celebrated its championship with an open-topped bus parade.

The incident cast a shadow over a city that has suffered twin tragedies linked to the soccer team and led to widespread expressions of shock, sadness and support.

"It is truly devastating to see that what should have been a joyous cele-

bration for many could end in such distressing circumstances," King Charles III said in a statement while on a visit to Canada. "I know that the strength of community spirit for which your city is renowned will be a comfort and support to those in need."

Water Street, near the River Mersey in the heart of the city, was cordoned off by police tape, and a blue tent had been erected on the road strewn with the detritus of celebration, including bottles, cans and Liverpool flags.

Four of the injured are children, said ambulance service spokesman Dave Kitchin.

A child was among four victims trapped under the van that was lifted by firefighters to free them.

### America

**Former US rep Rangel dies:** Former US rep Charles Rangel of New York, an outspoken, gravel-voiced Harlem Democrat who spent nearly five decades on Capitol Hill and was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, died Monday at age 94.

His family confirmed the death in a statement provided by City College of New York spokesperson Michelle Stent. He died at a hospital in New York, Stent said.

A veteran of the Korean War, he defeated legendary Harlem politician Adam Clayton Powell in 1970 to start his congressional career. During the next 40-plus years, he became a legend himself as dean of the New York congressional delegation and, in 2007, the first African American to



Rangel

chair the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

He stepped down from that committee amid an ethics cloud, and the House censured him in 2010. But he continued to serve in Congress until his retirement in 2017.

Rangel was the last surviving member of the Gang of Four - African American political figures who wielded great power in New York City and state politics. The others were David Dinkins, New York City's first Black mayor; Percy Sutton, who was Manhattan Borough president; and Basil Paterson, a deputy mayor and New York secretary of state. (AP)

**Philadelphia park mass shooting kills 2:** A mass shooting occurred in a park in the US city of Philadelphia on Monday night, killing at least two people, local WPVI-TV reported. At least eight others were wounded in the gunfire in the Fairmount Park, reported the TV channel, which is affiliated with the ABC News. The report said the shooting happened on Lemon Hill Drive at Poplar Drive in the city. Among the people shot were at least two juveniles, it said, citing the police. (Xinhua)

## Russia seizes Ukrainian border villages as massive bombing campaign slows

KYIV, Ukraine, May 27, (AP): Russian forces have taken four border villages in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region, a local official said Tuesday, days after Russian President Vladimir Putin said he had issued an order to establish a buffer zone along the border.

Sumy borders Russia's Kursk region, where a surprise Ukrainian incursion last year captured a pocket of land in the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II. Creating a buffer zone could help Russia prevent further Ukrainian cross-border attacks there.

Meanwhile, a Russian bombing campaign that had escalated in recent days slowed overnight as far fewer Russian drones targeted Ukrainian towns and cities.

Moscow's invasion has shown no signs of stopping despite months of intense US-led efforts to secure a ceasefire and get traction for peace talks. Since Russian and Ukrainian delegations met in Turkey earlier this month for their first direct talks in three years, a large prisoner exchange has been the only tangible outcome, but negotiations have brought no significant breakthrough.

Between Friday and Sunday, Russia launched around 900 drones at Ukraine, officials said, amid a spate of large-scale bombardments. On Sun-



In this photo provided by Ukraine's 65th Mechanized Brigade press service, Ukrainian servicemen attend a military training in Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine on May 26. (AP)

day night, Russia launched its biggest drone attack of the 3-year war against Ukraine, firing 355 drones.

From Monday to Tuesday, Russia fired 60 drones at Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said Tuesday. Russia's Ministry of Defense claimed its air defenses downed 99 Ukrainian drones overnight over seven Russian regions.

The weekend surge in Russia's bombardments of Ukraine drew a rebuke

from US President Donald Trump, who said Putin had gone "crazy." That comment prompted a sharp Kremlin reaction Monday, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov criticizing "emotional reactions" to events.

Peskov adopted a milder tone Tuesday, hailing US peace efforts and saying that "the Americans and President Trump have taken a quite balanced approach."

## Canada facing unprecedented challenges: King Charles

OTTAWA, Ontario, May 27, (AP): King Charles III said Canada is facing unprecedented challenges in a world that's never been more dangerous as he opened the Canadian Parliament on Tuesday with a speech widely viewed as a show of support in the face of annexation threats by US President Donald Trump.

Trump's repeated suggestion that the US annex Canada prompted Prime Minister Mark Carney to invite Charles to give the speech from the throne outlining his governments priorities for the new session of Parliament. The king is the head of state in Canada, which is a member of the British Commonwealth of former colonies.

"We must face reality: since the Second World War, our world has never been more dangerous and unstable. Canada is facing challenges that, in our lifetimes, are unprecedented," Charles said in French.

He added that "many Canadians are feeling anxious and worried about the drastically changing world around them."

It's rare for the monarch to deliver what's called the speech from the throne in Canada. Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, did it twice before in 1957 and 1977.



Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney, (left), and King Charles look on ahead of the King delivering the speech from the throne in the Senate in Ottawa, Canada, on May 27. (AP)

"I have always had the greatest admiration for Canada's unique identity, which is recognized across the world for bravery and sacrifice in defense of national values, and for the diversity and kindness of Canadians," he said.

Charles, on his 20th visit to Canada, noted that it has been nearly 70 years since his mother first opened Parlia-

ment. "In the time since, Canada has dramatically changed: repatriating its constitution, achieving full independence, and witnessing immense growth. Canada has embraced its British, French, and Indigenous roots, and become a bold, ambitious, innovative country that is bilingual, truly multicultural," the monarch said.

Presidential frontrunner vows to restore communication channels with DPRK

## S.Korea police ban ex-PM, ex-deputy PM from leaving country for alleged insurrection

SEOUL, May 27. (Agencies): South Korea's police banned former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, and Choi Sang-mok, former deputy prime minister for economic affairs, for alleged insurrection charges, multiple media outlets said on Tuesday. Han and Choi have been under investigation as suspects of insurrection and prevented from leaving the country in the middle of this month. The police special investigative unit summoned Han and Choi as well as Lee Sang-min, former interior minister who was prohibited from leaving the country last December, for questioning on Monday. The three former government officials were suspected of being involved in the botched martial law bid by former President Yoon Suk-yeol, who was removed from office in April.

Meanwhile, Lee Jae-myung, presidential candidate of South Korea's majority liberal Democratic Party, vowed on Monday to restore communication channels with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Lee announced his foreign security

policy, saying that he would push for the restoration of inter-Korean communication channels, including military hotlines, mutually stop acts causing tensions, and manage situations in a stable manner. The presidential frontrunner pledged to promote dialogue, exchange and cooperation with the DPRK while pursuing the Korean Peninsula where the two Koreas can coexist with the de-escalated tensions and denuclearized peace. The presidential by-election, caused by the removal of former conservative President Yoon Suk-yeol from office over his botched martial law bid, is scheduled for June 3.

Lee led a poll for the snap presidential election on June 3, Flower Research survey showed Monday. Lee won a support rate of 48.9 percent, taking a big lead over Kim Moon-soo, presidential candidate of the second-biggest conservative People Power Party who garnered 30.8 percent of support. The civil rights lawyer-turned-politician maintained his position as presidential



Kim Moon-soo (center), presidential candidate of People Power Party, speaks during an election campaign in Seoul, South Korea on May 19. (Xinhua)

frontrunner in the election, triggered by the removal of former President Yoon Suk-yeol from office over

his botched martial law imposition last December. Lee lost the 2022 presidential election to Yoon by the

country's narrowest margin of 0.73 percentage points. Lee Jun-seok of the minor conservative New Reform Party took 9.6 percent of support. The Democratic Party won an approval score of 49.2 percent, while 31.1 percent supported the People Power Party, the survey showed. The result was based on a poll of 2,004 voters conducted between Friday and Saturday. It had a plus and minus 2.2 percentage points in margin of error with a 95 percent confidence level.

### Also:

**TOKYO:** US Forces Korea (USFK) on Friday denied media reports that Washington is considering withdrawing thousands of its troops from South Korea.

Reports that the US Defense Department will reduce American troops in South Korea are not true, South Korea's public broadcaster KBS reported, citing a USFK statement.

"The US remains firmly committed to the defense of South Korea and we are looking forward to working with

the incoming government officials to maintain and strengthen the iron clad alliance with South Korea," according to the statement.

Quoting defense officials familiar with the discussions, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday that the Pentagon is looking at plans to pull approximately 4,500 of the 28,500 US troops out of South Korea and redeploy them elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region, including Guam.

Seoul's Defense Ministry said Friday that there have been no discussions at all between South Korea and the US regarding the withdrawal.

"The USFK, a key asset of the South Korea-US alliance, has contributed to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region by maintaining a strong combined defense posture with the South Korean military and deterring a North Korean invasion and provocations," the ministry said.

It added that South Korea will continue to cooperate with the US in that regard.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, firefighters extinguish fires at the explosion site of a chemical plant in Gaomi, in east China's Shandong Province, on May 27. (AP)

### 5 dead, 19 injured in China chemical plant explosion: CCTV

A huge explosion rocked a chemical plant in China's eastern Shandong province around noon Tuesday, killing at least five people and injuring 19, according to state broadcaster CCTV. An additional six people remain missing.

The blast was powerful enough to knock out the windows at a storage warehouse more than two miles (three kilometers) away from the factory, according to a video shared by a local resident, who declined to give his name out of concern for retaliation.

His home shook from the blast, he said. As he went

to the window to see what was wrong, he saw a tall column of smoke from the site, more than seven kilometers (4.3 miles) away.

The explosion happened at the Gaomi Youdao Chemical Co., which is located in an industrial park in the city of Weifang. It manufactures pesticides as well as chemicals for medical use, and has more than 500 employees, according to corporate registration records.

Local fire officials sent more than 230 personnel to the scene, according to CCTV. (AP)

### Additional support for flood-hit regions: PM

## Australia's youngest senator elected at 21

SYDNEY, May 27. (AP): A woman who turned 21 on the day of Australia's federal election in May has been declared the nation's youngest ever senator.

And like many female candidates who run for election in Australia, Charlotte Walker wasn't expected to win.

The former union official won the governing center-left Labor Party's third Senate seat for South Australia state in a complicated rank order voting system. A party's third choice rarely wins.

She had the lowest vote count of the six newly elected senators for the state. The Australian Electoral Commission officially declared the poll Tuesday.

The new job will be a "big adjustment," said Walker, who starts her six-year term July 1. A federal lawmaker's base salary is more than 205,000 Australian dollars (\$133,000) annually.

"There's a few feelings. Obviously, there's a lot of pressure," Walker told Australian Broadcasting Corp. after the results were announced late Monday.

### Also:

**SYDNEY:** Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday committed expanded financial assistance



In this image made from video, newly elected Australian Senator Charlotte Walker speaks during an interview with Australian Broadcasting Corp., in Adelaide, Australia on May 26. (AP)

for regions affected by flooding on the east coast as authorities confirmed almost 800 homes and businesses have been destroyed. Albanese toured flood-hit regions in the east coast state of New South Wales (NSW) for the second time since the flooding crisis, which has caused five deaths, began

earlier in May following record-breaking rainfall.

Speaking at a press conference in the town of Taree, 250 km northeast of Sydney in the hardest-hit Mid North Coast region, Albanese announced expanded federal financial assistance for affected areas.

### Nation hosts confab for Everest climbers

## Nepal vows to keep Himalayas safe, clean

KATHMANDU, Nepal, May 27. (AP): Nepal's government said on Tuesday it has a "duty to protect" the Himalayas from the risks presented by climate change and the growing numbers of climbers attempting to scale the region's summits, especially Everest.

"The government is strongly committed to support mountaineering in every possible way by keeping climbers safe, by protecting the natural beauty of our peaks and by helping local communities grow alongside the spirit of adventure," Nepal's tourism minister Badri Prasad Pandey said.

He was speaking in Kathmandu at a gathering of about 100 climbers from around the world who have successfully tackled Mount Everest. The one-day conference, dubbed the Everest Summiters Summit, involved discussions on how to protect climbers and the environment.

Attendees expressed concern on the rising numbers of people who crowd Everest to try to scale the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak. Veterans have complained how the mountain is becoming crowded and dirty.

Climbers normally spend weeks at base camp to acclimatize to the higher altitude. They make practice runs to the lower camps on Everest before beginning their final attempt on the peak.

Nepal's government last year funded a team of soldiers and Sherpas to remove 11 tons (24,000 pounds) of garbage, four dead bodies and a skeleton from Everest during the climbing season.



Xu Zhu Oyuan, the youngest Chinese climber to summit Mount Everest, receives an honorary certificate from Badri Prasad Pandey, Nepal's Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, during the Everest Summiters Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal, on May 27. (AP)

"Today, climate change and global warming are putting this future at risk. That is why we must act with care, with wisdom and with a deep sense of respect," Pandey said. "These mountains are sacred, and it is our duty to protect them for the generations yet to come."

Nepal doesn't have rules on how many days climbers must spend acclimatizing or making practice climbs. The permits to climb Everest, which cost \$11,000 each, are valid for 90 days. Climbing season normally wraps up by the end of May, when the weather

deteriorates and monsoon season begins.

Mount Everest was conquered in 1953 by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay. Since then it has been climbed thousands of times and every year hundreds more attempt to reach the summit.

The popularity of the challenge means climbers face increased risks as queues form on the routes to the summit during the short windows of good weather. crowding the narrow and dangerous path to the summit though icy ridges and steep slopes.

## Rwanda-backed rebels committed possible war crimes in eastern Congo: rights group

DAKAR, Senegal, May 27. (AP): Human rights group Amnesty International accused the M23 rebels in eastern Congo of killing, torturing and forcibly disappearing civilian detainees in two rebel-controlled cities on Tuesday.

"These acts violate international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes," Amnesty said in a statement.

The decades-long conflict in eastern Congo escalated in January, when the Rwanda-backed M23 advanced and seized the strategic city of Goma in North Kivu province, followed by Bukavu in February.

Amnesty said that between February and April, it interviewed 18 civilians who had been detained by M23 in Goma and Bukavu, after they were accused of supporting the Congolese army or government. The former detainees said that the rebels produced no evidence of these accusations and several weren't informed of the reasons for their detention.

They were held in overcrowded, unsanitary cells without sufficient food, water, sanitation facilities or health care, according to the rights group. Several said that they saw fellow detainees die from the harsh conditions, and torture.

Some described how they witnessed M23 fighters kill two detainees with hammers and shoot another who died



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

on the spot.

All of the former detainees interviewed by Amnesty said that they were either tortured or witnessed M23 fighters torture others in detention, describing severe beatings with wooden rods, electric cables or engine belts.

The rights group said that relatives looked for their loved ones at the detention sites, but M23 fighters often

refused to grant them access or denied that their relatives were there, which Amnesty said amounts to enforced disappearances.

M23 is one of about 100 armed groups that have been vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern Congo near the border with Rwanda, in a conflict that has created one of the world's most significant humanitarian crises.

### Opponents reject budget

## Samoa prime minister seeks early election

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, May 27. (AP): Samoa's Prime Minister said she would seek to dissolve Parliament, prompting an early election, after a vote on her government's budget for the next year failed Tuesday.

Fiam Naomi Mata'afa's admission of defeat followed months of political havoc in the South Pacific island nation, during which the leader survived two votes of no confidence and struggled on with a minority government. Her budget was rejected during a swift vote in the capital Apia, with 34 lawmakers against it, 16 in favor and two abstaining.

An election must be held within 90 days. Samoa, a country of about 200,000 people, was due to go to the polls next April.

Fiam has led Samoa since 2021, when she ousted her predecessor of 22 years. She is the country's first woman prime minister and in 1991 was the first woman appointed to Samoa's Cabinet.

The daughter of a former prime minister, Fiam is one of the region's longest-serving politicians. She came to power after splitting with the previous leader's party over constitutional changes that she said would undermine the rule of law.



Samoa's Prime Minister Fiam Naomi Mata'afa, left, and CHOGM Secretary General Patricia Scotland attend the Foreign Ministers meeting at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Apia, Samoa on Oct 24, 2024. (AP)

Fiam holds a chiefly rank as a village leader, rare for women in Samoa. She remains an outlier, too, in Pacific island politics, where only 8% of parliamentarians are women, according to January figures from the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Tuesday's budget defeat capped months of political turmoil after Fiam in January sacked a Cabinet member who faced a raft of criminal charges and is also her party's chairman. He in turn expelled Fiam from the FAST party and forced her into a minority government.

### Brazil Prez Lula hospitalized with inner ear ailment, then released

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 27. (Agencies): Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was diagnosed with labyrinthitis Monday after suffering from vertigo, hospital officials said. The 79-year-old leftist leader has already returned to the country's presidential residence, where he is resting.

The Sirio-Libanes Hospital said in a statement that Lula underwent imaging and blood tests, and its results came within normal limits. Labyrinthitis is an inflammation of the labyrinth in the inner ear, which is responsible for hearing and balance. Physicians advised him to observe strict rest at his official residence, resulting in the cancellation of his official agenda.

The health scare adds to Lula's recent medical worries, which are also part of his allies' concerns ahead of his likely bid for reelection next year.

The most serious is a fall he had in the bathroom of the presidential residence in Brasilia on Oct. 19. Almost two months later, he was transferred to São Paulo for surgery after suffering headaches caused by new a bleeding in his head. He was discharged Dec. 15.



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva attends a joint press conference with Chinese President Xi Jinping (not pictured) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on May 13. (AP)

## Kuwaiti oil price rises to \$64.02 pb

KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 44 cents to USD 64.02 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 63.58 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on

Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate globally had differed with the former decreasing by four cents to USD 64.74 per barrel, the latter stabilizing at USD 61.53 pb.

# Business

## Markaz hosts exclusive investor session on private credit trends & portfolio strategies

Sharing investor insights into private markets and private credit

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently hosted an exclusive event for clients to hear insights into private markets and private credit from BlackRock, one of the world's largest investment management firms. Tailored for qualified and professional investors, the session formed part of Markaz's ongoing efforts to equip clients with timely market updates and access to global investment strategies.

The event reflects Markaz's longstanding commitment to offering innovative, best-in-class investment solutions, while reinforcing the growing importance of private credit as a potentially resilient and strategic asset class in today's dynamic market environment.

The session saw strong interest and participation from attendees, reflecting the rising demand among regional investors for differentiated and income-generating investment opportunities. The interactive dialogue helped address specific portfolio needs and reinforced the relevance of private credit in today's high-rate, uncertain environment.

Commenting on the event, Mr. Kashish Tandon, Executive Vice President, Investment Advisory at Markaz, said: "We are proud to offer our clients, not just access to international markets, but also insights into new and alternative investment avenues that are shaping the global financial landscape. Events like these reflect our dedication to innovation and diversification, and we look forward to introducing more tailored solutions in the near future."

Sheikh Humoud S. Al Sabah, Senior Vice President, Investment Advisory at Markaz, stated: "What makes this moment particularly significant is the timing, investors are rethinking their portfolio construction as traditional asset classes experience turbulence. Private credit stands out for its ability to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns with built-in structural protections. Over the past year, we've seen growing client appetite for strategies that combine yield, resilience, and diversification. Engagements with our partners, one of which is BlackRock, align with



Group photo - Markaz and BlackRock team

our focus on delivering intelligent exposure to global private markets, and it demonstrate how our 50-year legacy continues to evolve to meet the needs of today's investors."

Mr. Jean Christophe Rey, Managing Director, Head of EMEA Private Debt at BlackRock, shared his insights during the session, stating: "We believe structural shifts in capital markets, driven by regulation, investor demand, and innovation, are accelerating the move toward more allocations to private markets. Private credit sits at the heart of this evolution. Its yield, duration, and downside protection make it a natural fit for long-term capital. BlackRock expects the global private debt market to exceed \$4.5 trillion by 2030, supported by rising demand for bespoke financing and resilient income."

The discussion highlighted the continued strength and growing relevance of private credit in today's investment landscape. The talk pointed to record-low defaults and improved payment-in-kind (PIK) dynamics as indicators of strong borrower performance and disciplined underwriting. Despite ongoing volatility in public markets, private credit strategies have maintained relatively stable Net Asset Values (NAVs), underscoring the asset class's defensive nature. The ability to generate consistent, attractive yields, supported by strong structural protections and active portfolio management, positions private credit as a key component in modern diversified portfolios, offering resilience, income stability, and



Event segment

potentially downside protection amid economic uncertainty.

With a 50-year legacy in asset management and investment banking, Markaz has consistently demonstrated its ability to adapt and innovate in response to evolving market dynamics. Its private credit portfolio, launched in 2024, reinforces Markaz's commitment to creating innovative investment solutions that offer access to international markets, diversification across asset classes, and risk-adjusted returns. By strengthening strategic relationships with global partners, Markaz enables its clients to access a wealth of knowledge and high-quality investment products.

About Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz"

Established in 1974, Kuwait Financial Centre K.P.S.C "Markaz" is one

of the leading asset management and investment banking institutions in the MENA region with total assets under management of over KD 1.44 billion (USD 4.67 billion) as of 31 March 2025. Markaz was listed on the Boursa Kuwait in 1997. Over the years, Markaz has pioneered innovation through the creation of new investment channels. These channels enjoy unique characteristics and helped Markaz widen investors' horizons. Examples include Muntaz (the first domestic mutual fund), MREF (the first real estate investment fund in Kuwait), Forsa Financial Fund (the first options market maker in the GCC since 2005), and the GCC Momentum Fund (the first passive fund of its kind in Kuwait and across GCC that follows the momentum methodology), all conceptualized, established, and managed by Markaz.

### CEO Samer Alabed highlights HSBC's global reach and local expertise

## HSBC named Best Investment Bank for M&A in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: HSBC has been named the Best Investment Bank for M&A in Kuwait at the Euromoney Middle East Awards for Excellence, 2025.

HSBC Middle East received three coveted awards for the Middle East's Best Investment Bank, Middle East's Best Bank for Sustainable Finance and Middle East's Best Bank for Equity Capital Markets. Other country awards included Qatar's Best Bank of Corporates, Saudi Arabia's Best Investment Bank and the UAE's Best International Bank and Best Investment Bank.

Samer Alabed, CEO of HSBC Kuwait, said: "These awards are reflective of our ability to offer unique solutions and services to clients in Kuwait while we fulfill our purpose of opening up a world of opportunity. Our global footprint combined

with a long-lasting heritage in the country and the region give us the ability to connect clients across the world to opportunities for growth."

HSBC continues to leverage sectoral knowledge and its position as a trusted partner in complex, high impact deals. Recently, HSBC played a pivotal role as a financial advisor in a very significant transaction for the aviation sector in Kuwait. HSBC also provides thought leadership in areas of sustainability and finance with engagements across government, corporates and institutions to support execution of their transition plans.

Taken together, this series of significant awards demonstrate the breadth of HSBC's network, the depth of its expertise, and its access to deep pools of finance.



Samer Alabed, CEO of HSBC Kuwait

### Assembly approves 70% cash dividend

## NAPESCO reports 56% surge in net profits to KD 13.4 million

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Oilfield Services Company (NAPESCO) Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah confirmed that the company had several qualitative accomplishments last year; most notably reaping the benefits of its investment in the Oil Projects Company, the effects of which were reflected in the company's financial results.

In his speech at the company's general assembly on Monday, he highlighted the strategic direction toward regional expansion; indicating the board approved the establishment of subsidiaries in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), particularly the development of oil services technology in the Oil Services Department of the company to enhance operational efficiency and contribute to establishing a more sustainable business environment.

He affirmed that the general assembly was held with a 90.09 percent attendance rate; and that the company witnessed significant developments last year, driving innovation to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable future.

He cited the signing of contracts worth KD79 million last year and reviewed the 2024 achievements of the company. He said "we focused on strengthening governance and delivering sustainable value. Our combined efforts have yielded outstanding results, strengthening the company's leadership position in the energy sector."

He added that 2024 marked a milestone in the company's journey, as it witnessed qualitative achievements, specifically reaping the benefits of the acquisition of the National Oil Projects Company, the effects of which were reflected in the company's financial results in 2024.

"Amid a dynamic landscape filled with unprecedented global economic challenges, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical complexities; NAPESCO remains committed to its unwavering commitment to

the highest ethical standards and principles of good governance. Its dynamic and proactive governance framework promotes transparency, accountability and ethical behavior at all levels. The Board of Directors, in collaboration with the executive management team, puts great importance on aligning strategic decisions with NAPESCO's human values; thereby, serving the interests of its shareholders," he narrated.

He presented the most important features of the financial statements, revealing that the net profits reached KD13.4 million in 2024, compared to KD 8.5 million in 2023 -- an increase of 56.18 percent. He said total operating revenues increased to more than KD 41 million in 2024, while the net operating profits witnessed a significant increase, reaching KD13.1 million -- a growth rate of 21.25 percent.

He stressed that the company continues its journey towards the future, emphasizing his commitment to shared values and a collective sense of purpose as a fundamental pillar that drives the company forward, and to work diligently to diversify revenues in order to reduce risk levels according to a governance framework and a sustainable strategy.

The assembly approved all items on the agenda, including the distribution of cash dividends of 70 percent for the year 2024 and authorizing the Board of Directors to distribute interim dividends (quarterly or semi-annually) for the fiscal year ending Dec 31, 2025; provided they are real dividends in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, that the distribution does not affect the company's paid-up capital, and that this is done according to the same standards followed for approving annual distributions (cash dividends) and determining their amount and percentage, taking all measures and obtaining approval from regulatory and other authorities, and approving the authorization of the Board of Directors to also determine the timetable and amend it if necessary for share entitlements (cash dividends).

### Efforts underway to remove obstacles

## Min. Al-Ajeel assures sufficient cement supply in local market

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel confirmed that cement is available in the local market in quantities sufficient to meet demand and consumer needs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement following his meeting with owners of ready-mix concrete factories, Al-Ajeel said the issue is being closely monitored by the relevant ministry sectors due to

its importance.

He affirmed the ministry's commitment to ensuring the availability of goods and services in the local market and maintaining stable cement prices.

Al-Ajeel reassured ready-mix concrete company owners that the ministry is aware of their concerns regarding the application of anti-dumping tariffs and is working to remove obstacles to meet current and future market demands.

Bringing Space-Age Connectivity to Earth: Seamless streaming, video calls, remote work, education, and innovation now possible

## Alghanim Industries brings Starlink's groundbreaking satellite internet to global markets

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: What happens when one of the Middle East's most dynamic companies joins forces with a global space-tech pioneer? The future gets a fast-forward.

Alghanim Industries (Kutayba Alghanim Group), one of the largest privately-owned companies in the MENA region, has inked a landmark agreement with SpaceX's Starlink, the world's most advanced satellite internet provider.

Through this game-changing agreement, Alghanim Industries becomes an official global channel for Starlink's advanced low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation – the most sophisticated internet system ever deployed. This technology aims to shatter connectivity barriers, delivering high-speed, low-latency internet anywhere, to even the world's most isolated communities – whether you're in a bustling city, a desert camp, or sailing through open waters.

To drive this innovation, Alghanim Industries is unveiling Sama X, a bold new tech venture and authorized Starlink global reseller that brings Starlink technology to life for millions of potential users across the Middle East, North Africa, India, Turkey, Pakistan – and beyond.

"Our agreement with Starlink marks more than a milestone for connectivity – it's a leap toward a borderless digital future where education, innovation, and opportunity know no limits. We are committed to provide internet from space to unlock opportunities on Earth" said Kutayba Y. Alghanim, Executive Chairman of Alghanim Industries.

### A Quantum Leap in Global Connectivity

Starlink isn't your typical internet provider. It's a space-powered constellation of over 7,000 low-Earth orbit satellites (LEO), delivering blazing-fast internet to over 5 million users in 118+ countries. Since 2020, SpaceX has launched more LEO satellites than all other providers combined, building an unparalleled infrastructure that delivers fiber-like speeds without the con-



Kutayba Y. Alghanim, Executive Chairman of Alghanim Industries



Mahmoud Samara, CEO of Alghanim Industries

straints of traditional ground-based networks.

Unlike traditional satellite systems orbiting thousands of kilometers above Earth, Starlink's LEO network operates much closer to the surface – dramatically reducing latency and delivering real-time internet experiences: crystal-clear video calls, immersive online gaming, uninterrupted streaming, and mission-critical business communications, all possible from anywhere.

### A Universe of Possibilities

Starlink's technology is already transforming industries:

- Healthcare: Powering telemedicine for rural clinics
- Manufacturing: Enabling real-time data and diagnostics across global supply chains

■ Telecommunications: Cost-effectively extend their networks into underserved areas, using satellite connectivity as a high-reliability backhaul

■ Education & Employment: Allowing students and professionals in remote areas to engage in a digital economy

■ Maritime: Delivering high-speed, low-latency internet to vessels worldwide, revolutionizing navigation, operations, and crew welfare at sea

### Introducing Sama X: A Bridge to the Future

Born from Alghanim's legacy of innovation, Sama X is designed to be the region's trusted partner in next-generation connectivity. As a Starlink reseller, Sama X combines cutting-edge space technology with local market expertise, delivering not just the technology but a turnkey digital transformation solution – from customer onboarding, installation and activation to implementation and local support.

"With Sama X, we're not just connecting people – we're enabling a digitally prosperous future. We're building bridges to education, remote jobs, global markets, and innovation ecosystems," said Mahmoud Samara, CEO of Alghanim Industries. "From remote learning and telemedicine to remote work and cloud-based businesses, we're helping create a more connected, inclusive, and empowered world – starting now."

### A New Era from MENA to South Asia

The vision is already taking root. Starlink services have received regulatory approvals in Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Yemen, while Saudi Arabia has authorized Starlink for use in the aviation and maritime sectors – ushering in a new age of mobility and smart infrastructure.

For more information, visit [www.samax.com](http://www.samax.com)



## As part of 'Let's Be Aware' campaign

## KIB enhances cybersecurity awareness for 'Eid Al-Adha'



KIB's Basil Al-Suwaidan



Diraya logo

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: As part of its ongoing commitment to the 'Let's Be Aware' (Diraya) campaign, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is continuing, for the fifth consecutive year, its efforts to enhance banking security for its customers. The Bank is sharing a series of precautionary tips and guidelines across various communication channels to raise public awareness about financial security and fraud prevention – especially during the Eid Al-Adha holiday period.

Commenting on KIB's efforts to support the campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with local banks, Basil Al-Suwaidan, General Manager of the Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department at KIB, said: "The holiday period typically brings a surge in shopping, travel, and online activity, which is often accompanied by a sharp rise in fraud targeting bank cards and electronic transactions. That's why KIB is intensifying its efforts to raise customer awareness about the risks of cyber fraud and how to use bank cards safely, in order to safeguard their assets and personal data from theft, breaches, and other threats."

To safeguard banking transactions, Al-Suwaidan recommended that customers download the "KIB Mobile" app and enable instant notifications or SMS alerts to stay updated on any activity related to their accounts and immediately report suspicious transactions. He also highlighted the importance of securely storing banking information, such as card numbers and OTPs, and never sharing them with anyone. In addition, he advised against the use of public Wi-Fi networks when accessing online banking services.

He also emphasized that KIB never requests personal or confidential information from customers via email, text message, WhatsApp, or phone call. If such a request is received, he advised, it should be ignored and reported immediately.

Al-Suwaidan explained that during holiday periods, common fraud tactics tend to surge, such as sending suspicious links via email or SMS that lead users to fake websites designed to steal personal and financial information. He also noted an increase in false advertisements and misleading offers related to chalet rentals. He emphasized the importance of carefully inspecting links received through unsolicited messages, verifying the sender's identity and website URLs, using secure payment methods, and avoiding the sharing of sensitive information over unsecured networks.

KIB recognizes the importance of providing its customers with the knowledge and tools needed to protect them-

selves from fraudulent activities. As part of the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign, the Bank encourages customers to stay cautious and vigilant when conducting online transactions. KIB is also committed to equipping individuals with the awareness and skills necessary to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

Al-Suwaidan encouraged all customers to explore the resources offered through the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, available on the Central Bank of Kuwait's website and across the communication channels of Kuwaiti banks. By staying informed and adopting safe online practices, individuals can effectively protect themselves from financial fraud and enjoy their holidays with confidence.

It's worth noting that customers can reach KIB representatives 24/7 through multiple channels. These include the phone service available via the Customer Service Center at 1866866, the international number at +96522957300, and KIB's digital banking platforms – such as the "Live Chat" and "KIB Online" services on the website www.kib.com.kw. Customers can also connect through the video call feature on the "KIB Mobile" app for smartphones or via WhatsApp on KIB's registered local number (1866866). All of these channels are designated for general inquiries related to the Bank's products and services throughout the year.

**About KIB**  
Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life". Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

## Reducing air freight emissions using Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

## Zain first telecom operator in Kuwait to adopt DHL's GoGreen Plus service

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Zain announced the signing of a strategic partnership agreement with global logistics leader DHL to adopt the eco-friendly GoGreen Plus service, becoming the first telecom operator in Kuwait to implement this solution aimed at reducing carbon emissions from air freight through the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

The signing took place at the Zain Innovation Center (ZINC) at the company's headquarters in Shuwaikh, joined by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer at Zain Kuwait; Makram Raad, Country Manager of DHL Kuwait; and senior executives from both partners.

This step aligns with Zain's corporate sustainability strategy and marks a new milestone in the company's journey toward decarbonizing its operations and supply chain. It also supports the company's commitment to the Paris Agreement and Zain's plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Commenting on the partnership, Waleed Al-Khashti said: "At Zain, we believe the transition to a green economy starts not only internally but also across our partner ecosystem and supply chain. That's why our partnership with DHL to adopt the GoGreen Plus service reflects a model that embodies this direction."

He added: "This step enables us to reduce carbon emissions from our air freight shipments and enhances our ability to meet our environmental commitments under our corporate sustainability strategy. We are proud to lead the local telecom market toward achieving sustainable development goals and to continue reinforcing our role as a regionally responsible and environmentally conscious organization."



Waleed Al-Khashti and Makram Raad sign the partnership agreement.

■ Waleed Al-Khashti: "We are proud to lead the local telecom market toward achieving sustainable development goals"

■ Makram Raad: "We welcome a distinguished leader in the tech market to join us in working together toward a better and more sustainable future"

Makram Raad, Country Manager of DHL Kuwait, commented: "Through this agreement between Zain and DHL, both parties reaffirm their commitment to the local Kuwaiti community by continuing to decarbonize supply chains in pursuit of cleaner operations and better climate protection. It also strengthens both sides' positions in promoting awareness and embracing the responsibilities that all key players must uphold to achieve sustainability strategy goals."

DHL's GoGreen Plus service provides a sustainable alternative by using SAF produced from renewable sources such as used cooking oil or plant waste. SAF can reduce carbon emissions by up to 80% compared to conventional jet fuel.

The service is based on the Book & Claim methodology, which allows DHL to separate the environmental benefit from the actual shipping location, enabling companies to benefit from SAF use anywhere in the world.

Through this partnership, Zain will be able to reduce its Scope 3 carbon footprint associated with air freight emissions, further supporting the company's ability to accurately report its carbon emissions and meet its environmental goals.

This initiative builds on several recent actions by Zain to increase the use of clean energy, including installing solar panels at its headquarters to replace conventional car park shading, implementing the region's first comprehensive Scope 3 supply chain monitoring system, and

deploying artificial intelligence solutions to optimize network energy efficiency.

In its 14th Annual Sustainability Report, Zain Group reaffirmed its deep commitment to environmental protection and climate action as a core pillar of its five-year strategy. In 2024, the Group secured approval from the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) for its climate goals.

Zain also adopted the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol to calculate emissions and aligned its emission factors with the International Energy Agency (IEA) standards to ensure consistency across its markets. It implemented a market-specific water management plan, achieving a 5.89% reduction in water consumption compared to the previous year, and maintained its commitment to voluntary disclosures under global standards such as GRI, SASB, and TCFD.

Zain further reinforced its commitment to nature and biodiversity conservation through its ongoing participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and by expanding sustainability across its value chain, including supplier training in ethical business practices and environmental compliance.

The company has also adopted a rigorous supply chain governance approach to ensure its partners align with Zain's values and are assessed against sustainability criteria. These initiatives reflect Zain's roadmap toward achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and reaffirm its leadership in climate action and environmental responsibility within the regional telecom sector.

This partnership also aligns with DHL's roadmap to use 30% SAF in its air network by 2030, as part of its broader strategy to transition to clean operations for climate protection, which includes electric fleets and green logistics services.



Al-Khashti and Raad with Zain and DHL teams.

## IILM's outstanding short-term Sukuk hits record \$5.7 billion

KUALA LUMPUR, May 27: The International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM), an international organisation that develops and issues short-term Shari'ah-compliant financial instruments, is pleased to announce that its outstanding short-term Sukuk portfolio has reached a new record-high of USD 5.7 billion following the successful addition of a USD 500 million highly rated Sukuk asset by a sovereign-owned entity in the GCC.

This significant development reflects the IILM's continued commitment to providing high-quality, Shari'ah-compliant liquidity management instruments for the global Islamic finance market. The increase in underlying assets enhances the organisation's capacity to issue short-term Sukuk to meet the growing demand from a broad base of global investors.

Mohamad Safri Shahul Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of the IILM, said: "Today's auction marks another historic and significant milestone in the IILM's growth trajectory with the inclusion of a new highly rated USD 500 million Sukuk asset. This addition not only bolsters our issuance capacity but also enhances the diversification of our asset pool across the GCC region. It represents a huge strategic step forward in expanding our geographical footprint as well as strengthening the credit quality and resilience of the IILM Sukuk programme."

"Reaching an all-time high of

USD 5.7 billion in outstanding short-term Sukuk is a testament to the robustness of our unique business model and continued the trust placed in the IILM by our investors and network of highly rated asset obligors. This milestone underscores the growing demand for reliable, Shari'ah-compliant liquidity instruments and highlights the IILM's evolving role as a key player in the global Islamic finance ecosystem."

"We are pleased to collaborate with an expanding network of globally respected institutions as we continue to support the development of robust, Shari'ah-compliant liquidity management tools for the Islamic financial market. This latest development reaffirms the IILM's commitment to delivering transparent, consistent, creditworthy, and liquidity solutions to Islamic financial institutions worldwide."

With the inclusion of the new asset today, the IILM successfully concluded the reissuance and issuance of an aggregate USD 1.28 billion across three different tenors of one, three, and six-month respectively.

The three series were priced competitively at:

- 4.55% for USD 540 million for 1-month tenor;
- 4.55% for USD 400 million for 3-month tenor; and,
- 4.55% for USD 340 million for 6-month tenor.

This marks the IILM's ninth auction year-to-date and the sec-

ond for the month of May. Year-to-date, cumulative issuances have reached USD 9.49 billion across 27 Sukuk series of varying tenors. The auction attracted strong demand from the IILM's network of Primary Dealers and global investors, resulting in a healthy orderbook of USD 2.58 billion and a robust average bid-to-cover ratio of 202%, reflecting continued confidence in the IILM's short-term Sukuk programme.

The issuance forms part of the IILM's "A-1" (S&P) and "F1" (Fitch Ratings) rated USD 6 billion short-term Sukuk issuance programme.

The IILM's short-term Sukuk is distributed by a diversified and growing network of primary dealers globally, namely Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Al Baraka Turk, Af-fin Islamic Bank, Boubyan Bank, CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad, Dukhan Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Golden Global Investment Bank, Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait International Bank, Maybank Islamic Berhad, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat, Qatar Islamic Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank.

The IILM is a regular issuer of short-term Sukuk across varying tenors and amounts to cater to the liquidity needs of institutions offering Islamic financial services. The IILM will continue to reissue its short-term liquidity instruments monthly as scheduled in its issuance calendar.

## Over 60 students trained

## Kuwait Finance House participates in career fairs hosted by four universities

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in 4 different career fairs; at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Kuwait Technical College (Ktech) under the title "With You Along the Road 4," American International University (AIU) titled "Join Us in Creating the Future," and at the College of Business Administration in Kuwait University. These participations underscore the Bank's efforts to recruit young national talent and invest in their skills to prepare them for the job market.

KFH Executive Manager Talent Acquisition, Abdullah Al-Khamis, emphasized the bank's commitment to participating in career fairs held by Kuwaiti colleges and universities. This participation reflects KFH's dedication to attracting and developing young Kuwaiti talent to the highest standards, while also offering job opportunities and fostering their skills.

**Talent Development**  
At KFH's pavilion during the career fairs, Al-Khamis mentioned that a dedicated team from KFH's HR department presented available job opportunities at the bank. The team also answered students' inquiries and informed them about the bank's operations, its various departments, and the banking sector's role in developing and refining young talents' skills. Furthermore, KFH team highlighted the Bank's efforts to support and encourage these talents to enter diverse economic sectors within



Abdullah Al-Khamis



KFH team at the career fair.

the job market.

Al-Khamis explained that the career fairs at the universities hosted major local companies from the private and government sectors. These companies are known for their valuable contributions in providing job and training opportunities for young Kuwaiti graduates entering the labor market. The event saw a significant turnout from various groups, including recent and experienced Ktech College students, as well as senior students seeking job or training prospects.

**Job Interviews**  
KFH, through its acquisition team, conducted training workshops at the College of Business Administration, Kuwait University, for over 60 senior students to prepare them for future job interviews.

According to Al-Khamis, students participating in the workshops benefited from a realistic CV preparation simulation and formal interviews conducted by KFH professionals. To further assist them, a visual presentation highlighting common errors in their

submitted job applications was created to prevent these mistakes in future formal interview settings.

Recognizing the value of hands-on experience, KFH is eager to offer workshops and practical application opportunities in diverse areas. These will greatly enhance students' comprehension of theoretical knowledge.

**Recognition**  
KFH's valuable contributions to career fairs earned it recognition for its robust support of universities and students through diverse initiatives.

KFH stands out for its commitment to providing opportunities for newly graduated Kuwaiti youth. It invests in their training and development to build proficient banking teams, leveraging its extensive expertise across various sectors. With a broad scope encompassing retail and corporate banking, investment, Treasury, and IT, KFH offers diverse employment avenues. This dedication to nationalization has been repeatedly acknowledged by prestigious awards.

Benefiting more than 32,000 students and 7,200 teachers

## NBK celebrates the conclusion of Bankee program for the 2024/2025 academic year



A section of those who attended the honoring ceremony.



NBK team

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: National Bank of Kuwait held the closing ceremony of "Bankee" program for the 2024/2025 academic year, celebrating the achievements made over the year in several public and private schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), and Creative Confidence.

The festive ceremony, which was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, featured a special honoring of the 630 teachers who trained Bankee students in more than 60 public and private schools in Kuwait during the academic year, in recognition of their pivotal role in achieving the program's goal of increasing financial awareness and literacy among students.

During the ceremony, several success stories and achievements of schools participating in the program were showcased, reflecting its positive impact on students and the school community.

In its third edition, Bankee saw the participation of more than 60 schools, benefiting more than 32,000 students and 7,200 teachers.

On this occasion, Manal Al-Matar, EVP - Head of Group Corporate Communications said: "We are pleased with the remarkable success achieved by Bankee for the third consecutive year, especially as it effectively contributed to enhancing the students' financial awareness with its distinctive classroom design and instilling core values such as honesty, integrity, responsibility, and cooperation, positively impacting their behavior and as witnessed by parents and teachers."

Al-Matar added: "This remarkable success is the result of our fruitful collaboration with our strategic partners, the Ministry of Education and the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha). We strongly believe in the importance of private-government collaborations that aim to provide the youth with the knowledge and skills they need, which are the foundation for the prosperity of individuals and Kuwaiti society."

For their exceptional efforts, Al-Matar commended the teachers and emphasized that their unwavering commitment to implementing the

program's content in classrooms has contributed to its success. The teachers excelled in guiding the students to set their financial goals, monitoring their progress, and providing the necessary support to ensure the successful implementation of the classroom economy model.

Moreover, Al-Matar emphasized NBK's leadership in the field of social responsibility and its long-standing relationship with society. She also noted that the continuous support and supervision of the program's implementation by NBK's executive management is a remarkable indication of its significance, as they have made several visits that were also attended by parents who expressed great pleasure with the positive changes they saw in their children's behavior and financial literacy.

It should be noted that NBK is deeply committed to society and human resources development, which is the cornerstone of growth and prosperity, particularly in the field of education.

More on Bankee program, the Bankee digital

platform acts as a virtual bank inside the school, where students receive their financial allocations, such as salaries and bonuses, and pay fines through account deductions. Students also use their accounts to pay their financial obligations, such as rent, water and electricity bills, and make purchases from the Bankee store on school campus, simulating real-life financial transactions.

Bankee truly embodies private-government collaborations that build an informed and responsible generation capable of facing financial challenges efficiently and transparently, which is a concept strongly supported and promoted by the bank as part of its social responsibility efforts.

NBK will continue to support all national initiatives that enable Kuwaiti youth to contribute to Kuwait's prosperity, as it believes that investing in students from a young age and providing them with educational support as per international standards will build a generation capable of elevating Kuwait's reputation in all fields.

### Al-Matar:

- Bankee contributed to enhancing the students' financial awareness due to its distinctive in-class design.
- The program's remarkable success is the result of a fruitful collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Nazaha.
- We appreciate the teachers' exceptional efforts in supervising the implementation of the program.
- We will continue to work with all government institutions to build an aware generation capable of dealing with future financial challenges.
- We are committed to developing human resources, which represent the cornerstone of growth and prosperity, especially in the field of education.

# US futures, European markets rise on temporary US-EU truce

S&P 500 climbs 1.5% before the bell

NEW YORK, May 27, (AP): European markets and U.S. futures jumped early Tuesday following a weekend trade truce between the E.U. and U.S. after Trump's threat late last week to tack on 50% imports from the trading bloc.

Futures for the S&P 500 climbed 1.5% before the bell, while futures for the Nasdaq rose 1.6%. Futures for the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.4%. Those premarket gains were enough to wipe out all the losses from Friday when Trump went on his E.U. trade tirade.

Markets went into a tailspin early Friday after Trump posted on social media that trade talks with the European Union "were going nowhere" and that "straight 50%" tariffs could go into effect on June 1.

Trump on Sunday said he would delay a threatened 50% tariff on goods from the E.U. until July 9 to give the trading partners time to negotiate.

The EU's chief trade negotiator



Currency traders work near a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won, right, at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, May 27, 2025. (AP)

said Monday he had "good calls" with Trump administration officials and that the bloc was "fully committed" to reaching a trade deal by the July deadline.

In Europe at midday, London's

FTSE 100 gained 0.8%, reopening after a British holiday on Monday.

Germany's DAX added 0.7% while the CAC 40 in Paris picked up 0.2%.

Tesla's sales in Europe plunged for the fourth consecutive month, even as

growth in the electric car market picked up pace, according to data released by an industry trade group there.

Sales of Tesla vehicles in 32 European countries tumbled 49% to 7,261 in April from 14,228 in the same month last year, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association. Sales of battery-electric vehicles by all manufacturers rose about 28%.

The numbers are the latest indication of how the Tesla brand is suffering because of the backlash against billionaire CEO Elon Musk over his far-right views.

Despite the grim sales figures, Tesla shares rose 2.1% before the bell Tuesday, perhaps propelled by optimism over an E.U.-U.S. trade deal.

Southwest Airlines rose close to 3% in premarket trading as the carrier prepares to implement its new policy on Wednesday that will charge most travelers for checked bags.

Southwest had built years of advertising campaigns around its policy of letting passengers check up to two bags for free, but the struggling airline has come under pressure from activist investors to boost profits and revenue.

Data on U.S. consumer confidence and housing prices are due later Tuesday.

### Backlash against Musk runs deep

## Tesla's monthly sales in Europe plunge by half

LONDON, May 27, (AP): Tesla sales across Europe plunged by half last month even as growth in the electric car market picked up pace, according to data released Tuesday.

The numbers are the latest indication of how much the Tesla brand is suffering because of the backlash against billionaire CEO Elon Musk over his far-right views.

Sales of Tesla vehicles in 32 European countries tumbled 49% to 7,261 in April from 14,228 in the same month the previous year, according to the figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, or ACEA.

At the same time, sales of battery-electric vehicles by all manufacturers rose about 28%. Meanwhile, sales of gasoline and diesel powered cars slumped.

The figures, which cover the European Union's 27 member countries and five other nations outside the bloc, back up early data from Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark released at the start of this month that had pointed to a sales collapse.

Tesla has been reeling from protests and boycotts over Musk wading into politics, but it also faces other factors including an aging model lineup and intensifying competition from rival electric vehicle brands, particularly from China.

U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war has also turned Europeans off buying American brands. In recent days, Trump threatened to impose a 50% tariff on EU goods, accusing the bloc of being "very difficult to deal with," before agreeing to delay the duties until July.

In one sign that Tesla appears to be losing ground to cut-price Chinese brands, sales at China's SAIC zoomed up 54% in April, according to the ACEA figures. SAIC owns a slew of auto brands including U.K.-based MG, known for its low-cost EV models.

Tesla is also suffering because it had to shut down factories for several weeks this year while upgrading its best selling Model Y sport utility vehicle, pinching supply.

For the first four months of the year, Tesla's European sales fell roughly 39% to 61,320 while the continent's auto market as a whole showed little change during the same period, according to the data.

For April, car sales in the EU edged up 1.3% from the previous year, "showing signs of recovery despite the ongoing unpredictable global economic environment," the group said in a press release.

## Al Mulla Automobiles highlights Mercedes-Benz's safety commitment at Kuwait's Mama and Baby Expo

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Al Mulla Automobiles, the authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, sponsored the 2025 edition of the Mama and Baby Expo, organized by Fouz Expos Company (FEC). The event brought together thousands of parents, healthcare professionals, and wellness experts for a three-day gathering focused on parenting, maternal health, and family life.

The sponsorship reflects Al Mulla Automobiles' ongoing commitment to supporting families beyond the showroom, by engaging with the community on issues that matter, especially around safety and everyday mobility.

At the event, Al Mulla Automobiles showcased how Mercedes-Benz vehicles meet the needs of modern families with their focus on safety, comfort, and thoughtful design. The team hosted live demonstrations on correct child seat installation and engaged parents directly on how the brand's features can help protect their loved ones, reinforcing the message that Mercedes-Benz is built with families in mind.



Products being promoted at the Expo.



Al Mulla Automobiles experts with some families who attended the Expo.

Models on display offered practical solutions for different lifestyles, from spacious SUVs to vans, all equipped with Mercedes-Benz's advanced safety technologies. These included the GLE 450 Coupe, E 200 and V 250.

Partnering with the Mama and Baby Expo gave Al Mulla Automobiles the chance to connect with parents in a meaningful way while reinforcing the values that matter most to families: safety, reliability, and trust.

Through this sponsorship, Al Mulla Automobiles continues to invest in partnerships that align with its values and its role as a supportive, long-term presence in the lives of Kuwaiti families.

To learn more about Mercedes-Benz and stay updated on the latest models, visit Al Mulla Automobiles Mercedes-Benz showroom in Al Rai, the Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues, or call the customer centre at 1887888. For the latest updates, follow @MercedesBenzKuwait on Instagram or visit <https://www.mercedes-benz-mena.com/kuwait/en>.

### Trump extends tariff deadline

## EU trade negotiator says calls with US officials were 'good'

FRANKFURT, May 27, (AP): The European Union's chief trade negotiator said he had "good calls" with Trump administration officials and the EU was "fully committed" to reaching a trade deal by a July 9 deadline, after Trump agreed to delay his threatened 50% tariff - or import tax - on European goods.

Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic said on X that the EU's executive commission was pushing "at pace" towards an EU-U.S. deal and the two sides were in constant contact.

Sefcovic's calls with U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer came a day after Trump said he would delay implementation of the 50% tariff from June 1 until July 9 to buy time for negotiations with the 27-country EU.

That announcement came after Trump's call with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who told Trump that she "wants to get down to serious negotiations," according to the U.S. president on Sunday.

In a social media post Friday, Trump had threatened to impose the 50% tariff on EU goods, asserting that the bloc had been "very difficult to deal with" on trade and that negotiations were "going nowhere."

The stakes are high given the size of the U.S.-EU trading relationship. Although the trade partners don't have a free trade agreement like the one the U.S. has with Mexico and Canada, some \$1.8 trillion in goods and services cross the Atlantic in both directions each year.

EU Commission spokeswoman Paula Pinho told a news conference that von der Leyen and Trump agreed to "fast-track" the negotiations. The result of the call means that "there is a new impetus for these negotiations, and we will take it from there ... from our side, we always said we were ready to make a deal."

The EU has offered Trump a "zero for zero" deal in which tariffs would be removed on industrial goods including automobiles, but the U.S. administration has said it will not lower tariffs below a 10% baseline imposed on almost all its trading partners. Trump has also announced tariffs of 25% on steel and automobiles.

# What's On

Forum explores AI's impact on higher education

## AU hosts 6th Teaching & Learning Excellence Forum

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) at the Australian University (AU) held its sixth annual Teaching and Learning Excellence Forum titled "The Future of Higher Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" under the patronage of the Private Universities Council in Kuwait.

The forum was attended by various distinguished guests from universities, schools, training centers, international and local companies' leaders as well as representatives of ministry of education in Kuwait. This year's forum aimed to explore the evolving role of artificial intelligence in higher education, and its theme reflected AU's commitment to exploring emerging technologies and their implications on the educational landscape in alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035 and global sustainable development goals.

The insightful forum included a series of keynote speeches by distinguished members of academia and industry that tackled various aspects of artificial intelligence and its growing influence on the academic world. Speakers presented diverse perspectives, including how AI can redefine institutional priorities, unlock new possibilities in education, and offer innovative solutions to current challenges. Contributions also addressed AI's role in transforming the student learning experience and the responsibilities of educational institutions in adapting to technological change. The forum further included a panel discussion on the role of AI in shaping the future of higher education, along with a workshop on AI Applications.

Commenting on the role of AI in education, keynote speaker Eng. Khalid Al Zanki, Founder and CEO of ETLAQ Consulting firm, said: "AI

has changed a lot of sectors, including the educational sector. This is why today at the forum we are discussing about how the educational sector can benefit from AI. We are exploring how we can use practical applications of AI in the education and how we can get students to familiarize themselves with the technology and use it in a positive way that can change their future for the better."

From her end, Ms. Rola Ismail, Manager of the Teaching and Learning Center at AU, said: "Education plays a pivotal role in the development of nations, but the question is will education be the education we knew and know currently. This forum aimed to discuss and contribute to shaping the future of higher education in the age of AI for Malcom X said: 'Education is the passport to the Future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.'"



A photo from the Australian University's sixth annual Teaching and Learning Excellence Forum.



A group photo from the event.

Event highlights Bangladeshi engineers' role in Kuwait

## IEB Kuwait marks Engineers Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Kuwait Chapter celebrated the 77th Engineers Day in Kuwait. The organization's role in achieving the country's reputation and professional development of Bangladeshi engineers in the international arena was emphasized. Their contribution to Kuwait was highlighted in the seminar. The Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) is one of the most prestigious national professional organizations in Bangladesh. Its glorious founding anniversary was celebrated in Kuwait beyond the borders of the country. On Thursday night, a documentary, seminar, discussion, and cultural program were organized on the work of Bangladeshi engineers in Kuwait at the Kuwait City Tower Hotel. Engineer Md. Abudus Salam presented a detailed project of Kuwait's oil refinery in the seminar. He illustrated how various fuels including petrol, fuel, diesel, LPG, bitumen are produced from minerals through oil refineries. At that time, he also answered various questions. The chairman of the organization, Engineer Abdul Quddus Mallick, said that through IEB, they are not only creating a professional network, but also strengthening the relationship between Bangladesh and the country. In addition to highlighting the history, future goals and the role of the organization in professional development of IEB, he also emphasized on showcasing the skills of Bangladeshi engineers in the international arena under the leadership of IEB. The participation of expatriate Bangladeshi engineers in the program was remarkable.

Present were Bangladesh Embassy Minister of Labor Md. Abul Hossain, Lieutenant Colonel SK Abu Faruk Md. Rawnak Salehin Deputy Commander BMC, Engineer M.I. Alam, Engineer Md. Tofazal H. Faruk.

Engineer Humayun Soleman Kabir, Engineer Md. Nazrul Islam, Engineer Mohammad Atahar Ali, Engineer Atiqur Rahman, Engineer Md. Zulfikar Ali Khan, Engineer Md. Shahed Faruk Sinha, Engineer Md. Mizanur Rahman, Engineer Md. Rafiqul Islam, Engineer Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa, Engineer Md. Abdul Halim, President of Bangladesh Press Club Kuwait, journalist Moin Uddin Sarkar Sumon, and engineers working in various sectors including oil, electricity, water, and technology in Kuwait.

Minister of Labor Md. Abul Hossain said in his speech that Bangladeshi engineers are bringing the country's reputation to the international arena in the world of engineering and technology.

ogy. The way our engineers are constantly strengthening their position in Kuwait is truly a matter of pride. Their contribution to achieving the reputation of Bangladesh is unparalleled. He also sought their cooperation in investing more engineers and technically skilled manpower from Bangladesh in Kuwait. IEB Kuwait Chapter is working towards professional excellence and international cooperation. After the exchange of views in a cordial atmosphere among the engineers, Dasina Laboni, Doctor Nazma, Engineer MI Alam, Engineer Abudus Salam performed songs in the cultural program. This arrangement by Kuwait is a shining example of the relentless work that IEB is doing to showcase the country's engineers on the world stage. According to information, engineers in Bangladesh celebrate Engineers Day on May 7 every year. This day is basically the founding anniversary of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB). The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) is the national organization of engineering professionals in Bangladesh. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) is one of the most prestigious national professional organizations in Bangladesh. IEB currently includes all engineering departments. After the fall of the British Empire in the Indian subcontinent and the independence of Pakistan, some senior engineers took the initiative to establish a professional forum for engineers. As a result, the Engineers Institution, Pakistan was established in 1948, with its headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh. On 7 May 1948, the Governor General of Pakistan inaugurated the Engineers Institution in Dhaka and laid its foundation stone.

After the 1971 Great War of Independence, the Engineers Institution, Pakistan was renamed the Engineers Institution, Bangladesh. On 25 November 2009, UNESCO declared 4 March as UNESCO World Engineers Day for Sustainable Development on the recommendation of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), but Engineers Day is celebrated on different days in different countries of the world. In Argentina, Engineering Day is celebrated on 16 June to commemorate Luis Augusto Hargo, who became the first engineer in Argentina in 1870.

In Colombia, Engineering Day is celebrated on 9 August. In India, Engineering Day is celebrated on 15 September, and in Iran, Engineering Day is celebrated on 24 February. In Mexico, Engineering Day is celebrated on July 1, in Venezuela, Engineering Day is celebrated on October 28.

BCAK hosts awards and cultural night

## Cricket fans unite to bring a slice of Bangladesh to desert in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Bangladesh Cricket Association Kuwait (BCAK), one of the largest sports organizations of expatriate Bangladeshis in Kuwait, organized the prize distribution and cultural evening and honors among the winners of the great Independence Cup Cricket Tournament 2025.

On Friday evening, at a resort in the desert region of Hijil, Kuwait. The entire program was divided into various ways. First, the program began with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

After this, the national anthems of the two countries. Under the direction of the organization's advisor, journalist Moin Uddin Sarkar Sumon and with the cooperation of General Secretary Moazzem Hossain, a documentary was shown on the activities of the organization from its inception to the present. In the desert country, the welcome dance of child artist Das Srija on the field surrounded by date palm trees drew the attention of all the spectators present towards the stage.

The presenter's voice called out through the microphone for the organization's newly held new committee election commissioner Moin Uddin Sarkar Sumon. Coming on stage, he gave the responsibility to the acting president of the committee, Suhrawardy (Sarwar), by putting on a badge. Later, in his welcome speech, Suhrawardy (Sarwar) expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the invited guests, advertisers, colleagues, members of the organization and volunteers who worked tirelessly to organize this event.

After this, the awards ceremony for the man of the match, runner-up, champions began, and the sponsors and Sudhi Jan were honored. In between, the dance and songs of the expatriate artists continued. The country's pictures flashed on the huge TV screen behind the table to the rhythm of the dance and songs.

Channel I's best singer, Fatima, sang a captivating song, Raktim Biswas



A photo from the event.

and Tusi danced. The expatriate artists proved with their talent and love that no one can be separated from the pull of culture even after leaving the soil of the country. It seems that a piece of the desert has turned into Bangladesh. Roni, Subaj, Al Amin, Ripon, Robi, Sabir, Shahid, Sagar won the Man of the Match award. And the runner-up was Jelib Proshahi and the champion title was won by Keraniganj Challengers. The awards were presented to the winners in a festive atmosphere. The representatives of the embassy and guests presented trophies and medals at the event. Speaking as a special guest, the embassy's Minister of Labor Mohammad Abul Hossain said that the embassy's counselor and head of the embassy Mohammad Moniruzzaman appreciated such an arrangement for cricket lovers in the desert.

Third Secretary Abdul Latif Fakir. To inspire the players, the event was also attended by Dr. Mohammad Hafizur Rahman, Research Scientist of the Ministry of Education of the Government of Kuwait, Engineer Mohammad Abudus Salam, working at the Kuwait National Petroleum Company KNPC, Dr. SM Moniruzzaman, Engineer Mohammad Nazrul Islam, working at Kuwait Air-

ways, Wireless Civil Division Manager of Altebah Telecom Company, Engineer Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Captain Aftab Ahmed, Al Zor North Power and Water Plant Manager Engineer Atiqur Rahman, KOC Geologist Dr. Shamima, working at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Bushra Habib, working at the Ministry of Power and Water, Engineer Zulfikar, working at the Ministry of Power and Water, Pharmaceutical Lab Expert Mohammad Saleh Uzzaman, working at the Ministry of Health, Engineers of the Institution of Engineers of Bangladesh (IEB) Kuwait Chapter, General Secretary of Bangladesh Press Club, Kuwait Correspondent of Bangla TV Ah Jubed, Vice President Al Amin Rana, Kuwait correspondent of O My TV, Joint Editor and Kuwait correspondent of Jamuna TV, Hebju Mia, International Affairs Editor and Kuwait correspondent of SA TV, Selim Howlader, Kuwait correspondent of Channel 24 TV, Jisan Mahmud, Kuwait correspondent of Channel 5 TV, Jasim Uddin, Women's Editor Nasrin Akhter Mousumi, Kuwait correspondent of Gazi TV, Alal Ahmed, Kuwait correspondent of ATN Bangla TV, Ambia Khokon, Kuwait correspondent of Daily Kalbela, Abu Bakr Pavel, and leaders of various social, cultural, and sports organizations.

Sporty meets sophisticated

## Rado Captain Cook High-Tech Ceramic Chronograph: Rugged, athletic, stylish

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Outdoorsy and metropolitan? Sporty yet sophisticated? The new Rado Captain Cook High-Tech Ceramic Chronograph attains the unattainable...

For one, that's because it might just be the most dynamic example of the entire Captain Cook family of timepieces, already well known for its rugged good looks and utilitarian functionality, thanks to its chronograph. For anyone that needs precision timing on or under the water, on the slopes or at the racetrack, we got you.

But it's also undeniably stylish, presented here in two contemporary colour ways that help it flex from the great outdoors to life in the big city. For 2025, choose from black and rose gold, like the urban skyline at night, or plasma and dark green – a first for the Captain Cook series – that captures the look and feel of the concrete jungle.

And that's the point of the Rado Captain Cook High-Tech Ceramic Chronograph – a performance watch that can be relied upon in the wildest of locations, yet which also looks great with work wear, in social situations and even during more fashion-oriented occasions, because it doesn't look overly sporty. Almost impossibly, it effortlessly bridges different worlds. Its athletic credentials emerge



A photo from the launch.

through the choice of materials. Both watches represent the first time a high-tech ceramic monobloc case has been deployed for Captain Cook chronographs. And with high-tech ceramic across bezel insert and bracelet, it's unbelievably lightweight-wearing it feels like second nature – as well as being incredibly scratch resistant. Its box-shaped sapphire crystal is similarly impervious to scratches and the case is water resistant to 30 bar, featuring a screw-down crown and two screw-down chronograph pushers to prevent

water ingress. So it's great in the field, capable in almost any scenario.

Beyond its sporting kudos, discover fashionable aesthetics. The black and rose gold-coloured Rado Captain Cook High-Tech Ceramic Chronograph boasts 'two-tone' black ceramics: a polished high-tech ceramic bezel insert and polished middle bracelet links contrast with a matt high-tech ceramic case and matt outer bracelet links. Along with a black dial, it's all beautifully shadowy. Rose gold-coloured embellishments – across bezel, hands, indexes, pushers and crown – bring contemporary style.

## The Conversation

'Empathy builds knowledge, courage'

## Empathy can be draining – but it's still a strength, say philosophers

By Emad H. Atiq, Cornell University and Colin Marshall, University of Washington

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. The Conversation is wholly responsible for the content.

In an interview with podcaster Joe Rogan, billionaire and Trump mega-donor Elon Musk offered his thoughts about what motivates political progressives to support immigration. In his view, the culprit was empathy, which he called "the fundamental weakness of Western civilization."

As shocking as Musk's views are, however, they are far from unique. On the one hand, there is the familiar and widespread conservative critique of "bleeding heart" liberals as naive or overly emotional. But there is also a broader philosophical critique that raises worries about empathy on quite different and less political grounds, including findings in social science.

Empathy can make people weaker – both physically and practically, according to social scientists. Consider the phenomenon known as "empathy fatigue," a major source of burnout among counselors, nurses and even neurosurgeons. These professionals devote their lives to helping others, yet the empathy they feel for their clients and patients wears them down, making it harder to do their jobs.

As philosophers, we agree that empathy can take a toll on both individuals and society. However, we believe that, at its core, empathy is a form of mental strength that enables

us to better understand the impact of our actions on others, and to make informed choices.

The term "empathy" only entered the English language in the 1890s. But the general idea of being moved by others' suffering has been a subject of philosophical attention for millennia, under labels such as "pity," "sympathy" and "compassion."

One of the earliest warnings about pity in Western philosophy comes from the Greek Stoic philosopher Epictetus. In his "Discourses," he offers general advice about how to live a good life, centered on inner tranquility and freedom. When it comes to emotions and feelings, he writes: "He is free who lives as he wishes to live ... And who chooses to live in sorrow, fear, envy, pity, desiring and failing in his desires, attempting to avoid something and falling into it? Not one."

### Compromises

Feeling sorry for another person or feeling pity for them compromises our freedom, in Epictetus's view. Those negative feelings are unpleasant, and nobody would choose them for themselves. Empathy would clearly fall into this same category, keeping us from living the good life.

A similar objection emerged much later from the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Nietzsche framed his discussion in terms of "Mitleid" – a German term that can be translated as either "pity" or "compassion." Like Epictetus, Nietzsche worried that pity or compassion was a burden on the individual, preventing them from living the good life. In his book "Daybreak," Nietzsche warns that such feelings could impair the very people who try to help others.



Elon Musk flashes his T-shirt that reads 'DOGE' to the media as he walks on the South Lawn of the White House, in Washington, March 9, 2025. (AP)

Epictetus's and Nietzsche's worries about pity or compassion carry over to empathy.

Recall, the phenomenon of empathy fatigue. One psychological explanation for why empathic people experience fatigue and even burnout is that empathy involves a kind of mirroring of other people's mental life, a mirroring that can be physically unpleasant. When someone you love is in pain, you don't just believe that they are in pain; you may feel it as if it is actually happening to you.

Results from neuroscience and cognitive psychology research indicate that there are different brain mechanisms involved in merely observing another's pain versus empathizing with it. The latter involves unpleasant sensations of the type we experience when we are in pain. Empathy is thus difficult to bear precisely because being in pain is difficult to bear. And this sharpens the Stoic and Nietzschean worries: Why bother empathizing when it is unpleasant and, perhaps, not even necessary for helping others?

The answer for why one should see empathy as a strength starts with a key insight from 20th century philosophy about the nature of knowledge.

That insight is based on a famous thought experiment by the Australian philosopher Frank Jackson. Jackson invites us to imagine a scientist named Mary who has studied colors despite having lived her entire life in a black and white room. She knows all the facts about the spectrum distribution of light sources and vision science. She's read descriptions of the redness of roses and azaleas. But she's never seen color herself. Does Mary know everything about redness? Many epistemologists – people who study the nature of knowledge – argue that she does not.

What Mary learns when she sees red for the first time is elusive. If she returns to her black and white room, never to see any colored objects again, her knowledge of the colors will likely diminish over time. To have a full, rich understanding of colors, one needs to experience them.

Thoughts like these led the philosopher and logician Bertrand Russell to argue that experience delivers a special kind of knowledge of things that can't be reduced to knowledge of facts. Seeing, hearing, tasting and even feeling delivers what he called "knowledge by acquaintance." (AP)

## HBO docu honors the man behind the legend

### 'Pee-wee as Himself' un.masks Paul Reubens

LOS ANGELES, May 27. (AP): Some bio documentaries are carried mostly by the reflective, archival footage that send you back to the subject's heyday.

But in Matt Wolf's "Pee-wee as Himself" - as wonderful as much of the archival stuff is - nothing is more compelling than when Paul Reubens is simply himself.

Before his death from cancer in 2023, Reubens sat for 40 hours of interviews with Wolf. His cooperation is clearly uncertain and sometimes strained in the film - he stopped participating for a year before talking about his infamous 2001 arrest - and his doubts on the project linger throughout.

Reubens would rather be directing it, himself, he says more than once. The man many know as Pee-wee Herman is used to controlling his own image, and he has good reason for being skeptical of others doing so. But beyond that tension over authorship of his story, Reubens is also delightfully resistant to playing the part of documentary cliché.

"I was born in 1938 in a little house on the edge of the Mississippi River," he begins. "My father worked on a steamboat."

Talking heads have gotten a bad rap in documentaries in recent years, but in "Pee-wee as Himself," nothing is more compelling than Paul Reubens simply sitting before the camera, looking back at us.

Pee-wee may be iconic, but Paul Reubens is hysterical.

And Wolf's film, with that winking title, makes for a revealing portrait of a performer who so often put persona in front of personhood. In that way, "Pee-wee as Himself," a two-part documentary premiering Friday on HBO and HBO Max, is moving as the posthumous unmasking of a man you can't help but wish we had known better.

Reubens was a product of TV. He grew up transformed by shows like "Howdy Doody," "The Mickey Mouse Club" and, later, "I Love Lucy."

"I wanted to jump into my TV and live in that world," he says.

#### Delight

Part of the delight of the first half of Wolf's film is watching the wide range of inspirations - the circus culture of Sarasota, Florida, where his family moved to; Andy Warhol; performance art - coalesce into a singular creation like Pee-wee. That name, he says, came from a tiny harmonica that said "Pee-wee" on it, and a kid named Herman he knew growing up.

"It was a whole bunch of things that had never really connected connecting," says Reubens.

Wolf carefully traces the birth of Reubens' alter-ego through the Groundlings in Los Angeles, on stage at the Roxy and then out into the world, on "The Gong Show," on Letterman, in the 1985 Tim Burton-directed "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" and, ultimately, on "Pee-wee's

Playhouse."

"I felt in a way I was bringing the character out into the wild," he recalls. "I just stayed in character all day."

That came with obvious sacrifices, too. For the sake of his career, Reubens stayed closeted as a gay man. He grew intensely private and seldom appeared in public not in character. Reubens also jettisoned some of his close collaborators, like Phil Hartman, as his fame grew. There's tragedy, both self-inflicted and not, in Reubens' increasing isolation.

When Reubens was arrested in 1991 and charged with indecent exposure, Reubens' carefully guarded persona came crashing down. The scandal was worse because people knew only Pee-wee and not Reubens. There was also injustice in the whole affair, particularly the 2002 arrest that followed on charges of child pornography that were later dropped. In both cases, homophobia played a role.

When Reubens does get around to talking about it, he's most resistant to painting himself as a victim, or offering any, as he says, "tears of a clown."

Wolf, the director of films like "Recorder," about Marion Stokes, who recorded television all day long for 30 years, and "Spaceship Earth," about the quirky 1991 Biosphere 2 experiment, is better known as a talented documentarian of visual archives than as an compelling interviewer of celebrities.



This image released by HBO Max shows Gary Panter, left, and Paul Reubens in a scene from the documentary 'Pee-wee As Himself.' (AP)

## People

### Heart tribute

#### Lovato marries songwriter Lutes

LOS ANGELES, May 27. (AP): She's more than just cool for the summer - **Demi Lovato** is officially married.

The musician-actor, 32, tied the knot with Canadian singer-songwriter Jordan "Jutes" Lutes, 34, on Sunday in California, as first exclusively reported by Vogue.

The couple met while working on Lovato's last album, 2022's "Holy Fvck," and dated for nearly two years before Lutes proposed in December 2023. Lutes co-wrote a few of the songs that made "Holy Fvck," including "Happy Ending," "City of Angels," and the pop-punk single, "Substance."

Lovato wore a white Vivienne Westwood dress and Lutes wore a Saint Laurent suit.

Messages seeking comment were sent to Lovato's representatives.

Lovato, a former child star, began her entertainment career on "Barney & Friends" before becoming a staple of the Disney Channel in the 2000s for her role in the "Camp Rock" films and as the star of "Sonny with a Chance." Beyond her acting, Lovato has long been celebrated for her gifted soprano and has released eight albums.

Lutes, an independent artist whose hybridist music marries elements of emo, pop-punk and trap, was previously signed to Capitol Records.

Prior to her relationship with Lutes, Lovato was engaged to the actor Max Ehrlich in 2020. They called off their engagement after two months.

**Scott Pollard** was standing in Gasoline Alley at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and trying not to cry.

The NBA champion and "Survivor" contestant was talking about meeting the family of **Casey Angell**, whose heart was now beating inside Pollard's chest. Angell's sister brought a stethoscope.

"She touched my chest. She listened and she started crying. She said, 'Hey, Bubba,' because that's what she used to call him," Pollard said. "And we all lost it. And I'm losing it right now."

A first-round draft pick who took Kansas to the NCAA Sweet 16 four years in a row and won it all with the 2008 Boston Celtics, Pollard was virtually bedridden by 2024, unable to walk around the block or even conduct an interview without needing a rest because of a virus that had weakened his heart.

Since receiving the life-saving transplant last winter, he has dedicated himself to raising awareness of organ donation, a mission that earned him the honor of serving as the Grand Marshal for the Indy 500 Festival Parade on Saturday. Angell's family rode along on the float with him.

"Any time we get to see them and be around them is a great moment," Pollard said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "But also just to be able to share this experience of being grand marshal with them, and be part of their lives."

At 6-foot-11 and a playing weight of 260 pounds, Pollard inherited his size from his father along with a genetic heart condition that doctors say was triggered by a virus that left him no other choice but a transplant. The problem would be finding a donor organ big enough to pump blood throughout his NBA center-sized body.

## Film



Director Scarlett Johansson poses for a portrait photograph for the film 'Eleanor the Great' at the 78th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, May 21. (AP)

### At 95, June Squibb shines in 'Eleanor the Great'

## Johansson crafts a witty, tender story of grief

CANNES, France, May 27. (AP): Scarlett Johansson's directorial debut, "Eleanor the Great," stars June Squibb as a 94-year-old woman who, out of grief and loneliness, does a terrible thing.

After her best friend (Rita Zohar) dies, Eleanor (Squibb) moves to New York and, after accidentally joining the wrong meeting at the Community Center, adopts her friend's story of survival. The film builds toward a moment where Eleanor could be harshly condemned in a public forum, or not.

For Johansson, her movie speaks to the moment.

"There's a lack of empathy in the zeitgeist. It's obviously a reaction to a lot of things," says Johansson. "It feels to me like forgiveness feels less possible in the environment we're in."

Johansson brought "Eleanor the Great" to the Un Certain Regard sidebar of the Cannes Film Festival last week, unveiling a funny and tender, character-driven, New York-set indie that launches her as a filmmaker. For the 40-year-old star, it's the humble culmination of a dream that's always bounced around in her mind.

"It has been for most of my career," Johansson says, meeting at a hotel on the Croisette after a day of junket interviews. "Whether it was reading something and thinking, 'I can envision this in my mind,' or even being on a production and thinking, 'I am directing some elements of this out of necessity.'"

Johansson came to Cannes just days after hosting the season finale of "Saturday Night Live," making for a fairly head-spinning week. "It's adding to the surrealistic element of the experience," Johansson says with a smile.

In just over a month's time, she'll be back in a big summer movie, "Jurassic World Rebirth." But even that gig is a product of

her own interests. Johansson had been a fan of the "Jurassic Park" movies for years, and simply wanted to be a part of it.

Following her own instincts, and her willingness to fight for them, has been a regular feature of her career recently. She confronted The Walt Disney Co. over pay during the pandemic release of "Black Widow," and won a settlement. When OpenAI launched a voice system called "Sky" for ChatGPT 4.0 that sounded eerily similar to her own, she got the company to take it down.

#### Increasingly

She's increasingly produced films, including "Eleanor the Great," "Black Widow" and "Fly Me to the Moon." After working with an enviable string of directors such as Jonathan Glazer ("Under the Skin"), Spike Jonze ("Her"), the Coen brothers ("Hail, Caesar!") and Noah Baumbach ("Marriage Story"), she's become a part of Wes Anderson's troupe. After a standout performance in "Asteroid City," she appears in "The Phoenician Scheme," which premiered shortly before "Eleanor the Great" in Cannes.

"At some point, I worked enough that I stopped worrying about not working, or not being relevant - which is very liberating," Johansson says. "I think it's something all actors feel for a long time until they don't. I would not have had the confidence to direct this film 10 years ago."

"Which isn't to say that I don't often think many times: What the hell am I doing?" she adds. "I have that feeling, still. Certainly doing 'Jurassic.' I had many moments where I was like: Am I the right person for this? Is this working? But I just recently saw it and the movie works."

So does "Eleanor the Great," which Sony Pictures Classics will release at some future date. That's owed significantly to the performance of Squibb, who, at 95, experienced a Cannes standing ovation alongside Johansson.

"Something I'll never forget is holding June in that moment," says Johansson. "The pureness of her joy and her presence in that moment was very touching, I think for everyone in theater. Maybe my way of processing it, too, is through June. It makes it less personal because it's hard for me to absorb it all."

Some parts of "Eleanor the Great" have personal touches, though. After one character says he lives in Staten Island, Squibb's character retorts, "My condolences."

"Yeah, I had to apologize to my in-laws for that," Johansson, who is married to Staten Island native Colin Jost, said laughing. "I was like: Believe it not, I didn't write that line."

A poster for the 1999 documentary about underground cartoonist R. Crumb, "Crumb," also hangs on the wall in one scene, a vague reference, Johansson acknowledges, to her loosely connected 2001 breakthrough film "Ghost World."

"I was very young when I made that movie. I think I was 15, and the character is supposed to be 18 or 19. When I was a teenager, I often played characters who were a bit older than myself," Johansson says. "Even doing 'Lost in Translation,' I think I was 17 when I made it. I think I was playing someone in their mid-20s."

"It's a funny thing," she says. "I wonder sometimes if it then feels like I've been around so long, that people expect me to be in my 70s now."

## Variety

**NEW YORK:** Two giants of the women's rights movement, **Gloria Steinem** and Nobel laureate **Leymah Gbowee**, have teamed up for a picture book with the mission of inspiring young people to change the world.

"Rise, Girl, Rise: Our Sister-Friend Journey. Together for All" will be published next February, Scholastic Inc. announced Wednesday. Illustrated by Kah Yangni, it draws upon the close bond between Steinem and Gbowee, the Nobel Peace Prize winner from Libya.

"I am so proud to collaborate with my longtime friend and sister activist Leymah Gbowee," Steinem said in a statement. "Rise, Girl, Rise" is for anyone who cares deeply about being part of a promising future."

Gbowee said in a statement that "Gloria Steinem and I have

traveled many roads together, physically, and through our individual actions. This special book is our gift to the trailblazers of tomorrow, who are finding power and joy in their friendships today." (AP)

**WEST MONROE, La.:** Phil Robertson, who turned his small duck calling interest in the sportsman's paradise of northern Louisiana into a big business and conservative cultural phenomenon, died Sunday, according to his family. He was 79.

Robertson's family announced in December on their Unshamed With the Robertson Family podcast that the patriarch of the clan had Alzheimer's disease. The statement on social media from Robertson's daughter-in-law didn't mention how he died.

"Thank you for the love and prayers of so many whose lives have been impacted by his life saved by grace, his bold faith, and by his desire to tell everyone who would listen the Good News of Jesus. We are grateful for his life on earth and will continue the legacy of love for God and love for others until we see him again," Korie Robertson wrote.

Phil Robertson skyrocketed to fame in the early 2010s when the A&E network created a reality show, presented like a sitcom. It followed the adventures of Robertson, his three sons - including Willie, who runs the family's Duck Commander company, their wives and a host of other relatives and friends.

Phil Robertson and his boys were immediately recognizable by their long beards and their conservative, Christian and family-oriented beliefs.

At the time, Robertson's family called his comments coarse, but said his beliefs were grounded in the Bible and he "is a Godly man." They also said that "as a family, we cannot imagine the show going forward without our patriarch at the helm."

Robertson was born in north Louisiana and spent his life in the woods and lakes that make up the region called Sportsman's Paradise.

Robertson played football at Louisiana Tech and taught school. He also loved to hunt and created a duck call in the early 1970s that he said replicated the exact sound of a duck.

The calls were the centerpiece of the Duck Commander business Robertson would grow into a multimillion-dollar enterprise before A&E came calling. (AP)



Steinem

## Health centers overwhelmed as cases rise

## Cholera outbreak worsens in Sudan, experts warn

CAIRO, May 27, (AP) - A leading medical group warned on Tuesday of a rising number of cholera cases in war-torn Sudan as a new outbreak of the waterborne disease grips the country, and said its teams have treated hundreds of patients in the region of the capital, Khartoum.

Joyce Bakker, the Sudan coordinator for Doctors Without Borders - also known as Médecins Sans Frontières or MSF - said that the alarming spike began in mid-May, with Khartoum's twin city, Omdurman, as the epicenter.

She said MSF treated almost 2,000 suspected cholera cases in the past week alone. There were no immediate official figures of fatalities from cholera in this latest outbreak, though an aid worker said he was told on Monday of 12 people dying of cholera.

In March, MSF said that 92 people had died of cholera in Sudan's White Nile State, where 2,700 people had contracted the disease since late February.

Sudan plunged into war more than two years ago, when tensions between the Sudanese army and its rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces group, or RSF, exploded with battles in Khartoum and across the country.

Since then, at least 20,000 people have been killed, though the number is likely far higher, and the African nation has been engulfed by what the United Nations says is the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

More than 14 million people have been displaced and forced from their homes and disease outbreaks, famine and atrocities have mounted as the country entered its third year of war.

Sudan's Health Minister Haitham Ibrahim said on Saturday that the recent increase in cholera cases is estimated to average 600 to 700 per week, over the past four weeks.

He attributed the surge to the return of many Su-

danese to the Khartoum region - people who had fled their homes to escape the fighting and who are now coming back. Their returns have strained the city's dwindling water resources, he said.

Last week, the Sudanese military said it had regained control of the Greater Khartoum area from the paramilitary forces.

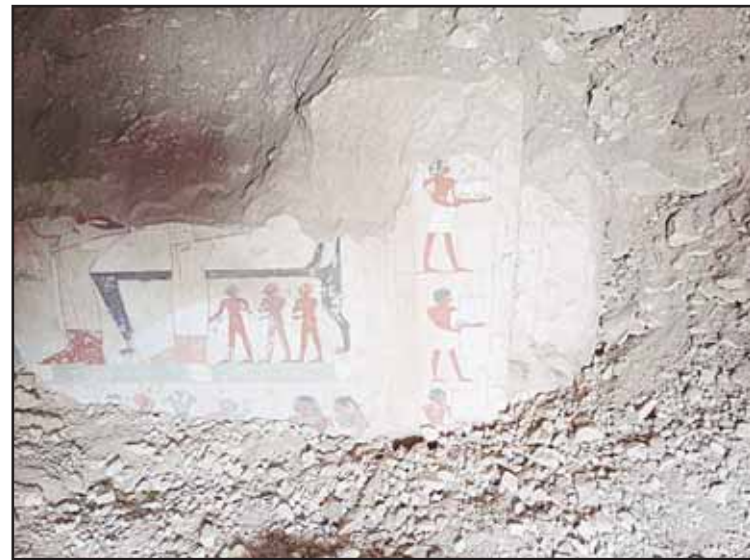
On Monday, Mohamad Elbalal, co-founder of the Khartoum Aid Kitchen, said he was told that 12 people had died of cholera in Omdurman, including a relative of one of his kitchen staff.

Bakker, the MSF coordinator, said Tuesday that the group's treatment centers in Omdurman are overwhelmed and that the "scenes are disturbing."

"Many patients are arriving too late to be saved," she said. "We don't know the true scale of the outbreak, and our teams can only see a fraction of the full picture."



Nader Louis, 1, suffering cholera symptoms, receives serum at the Fontaine Hospital Center in the Cite Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, May 20. (AP)



In this undated photo, hieroglyphs are revealed in the three new graves of senior statesmen found in the Dra' Abu al-Naga necropolis area in Luxor, Egypt. (AP)

## Tomb owners identified

## Egyptian archaeologists find three tombs in Luxor

CAIRO, May 27, (AP) - Egypt unveiled three new tombs of prominent statesmen in the Dra Abu al-Naga necropolis in Luxor, officials said Monday.

Egyptian archaeologists have discovered tombs dating back to the New Kingdom period (1550-1070 B.C.) and identified the names and titles of their owners through inscriptions found within, according to a statement by the tourism and antiquities ministry.

Mohamed Ismail Khaled, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said in the statement that further study of other tombs' inscriptions is needed to gain a deeper understanding of the tombs' owners.

The ministry released pictures of items discovered in the tombs, including artifacts and statues. The discovery comes in the lead-up to the highly anticipated full opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum, which is expected this summer, though a final official date is yet to be confirmed. The museum will showcase more than 100,000 artifacts from Egypt's rich ancient heritage.

One of the tombs discovered in Luxor on Monday belonged to Amum-em-Ipet, from the Rameside period, who worked in the estate of Amun. His tomb was mostly destroyed and what remained were depictions of the funeral furniture carriers and a banquet.

Amum-em-Ipet's tomb begins with a small courtyard leading to an entrance and then a square hall ending with a niche, whose western wall was destroyed.

The other tombs date back to the

18th Dynasty and include one belonging to a man named Baki, who served as a supervisor of the grain silo. Another tomb contains the burial of an individual named "S," who held multiple roles - he was a supervisor at the Temple of Amun in the oasis, a writer and the mayor of the northern oases.

Baki's tomb has a courtyard leading to the main entrance of the tomb as well as a long corridor-like courtyard. It also has a transverse hall leading to another longitudinal hall that leads up to an unfinished chamber that contains a burial well.

Meanwhile, the other tomb that belongs to "S" has a small courtyard with a well, the tomb's main entrance, and a transverse hall that leads to an incomplete longitudinal hall.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Sherif Fathi described the discovery as a significant scientific and archaeological achievement, noting that it is one of the areas poised to greatly boost cultural tourism and attract more visitors with an interest in Egypt's rich heritage.

In January, Egypt made several discoveries near the famed city of Luxor, including ancient rock-cut tombs and burial shafts dating back 3,600 years. They were unearthed at the causeway of Queen Hatshepsut's funerary temple at Deir al-Bahri on the Nile's West Bank.

Late last year, Egyptian and American archaeologists excavated an ancient tomb with 11 sealed burials near Luxor. The tomb, which dates to the Middle Kingdom, was found in the South Asasif necropolis, next to the Temple of Hatshepsut.

## Expert warns of chronic disease risk in children

## MAHA report reveals the dangers of ultraprocessed foods on kids' health

By Paul Dawson

Clemson University

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



On May 22, 2025, the White House released a new report highlighting what it claims are the causes of chronic disease in children.

The report fleshes out many of the themes that have emerged as priorities for the Make America Healthy Again, or MAHA, movement promoted by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

One major area of focus is the negative health effects of ultraprocessed foods. The report points to the prevalence of ultraprocessed foods in the American diet as a key contributor to chronic illness in children and cites research that finds that nearly 70% of children's diets and 50% of pregnant and postpartum women's diets in the U.S. consist of ultraprocessed foods.

The Conversation US asked Paul Dawson, a food scientist at Clemson University, to explain how the government's stance on the harms of ultraprocessed foods squares with the science.

Concerns that ingredients used by food manufacturers can contribute to chronic illness first emerged in the 1970s and 1980s, when research began linking processed food consumption to increasing rates of obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The term "ultraprocessed food" dates back to the 1980s and was used to describe convenience foods and snacks that contained high amounts of additives and had low nutritional value.

## Debated

As research on the health effects of ultraprocessed foods began to build, experts in public health and the food industry have debated the meaning of the term. Increasingly, researchers are settling on defining ultraprocessed foods based on a framework called the Nova Food Classification System, created in 2009 by nutrition researchers in Brazil. The framework assigns foods to one of four groups based on the level of processing they undergo:

Group 1: Unprocessed or minimally processed foods: This category includes raw fruits, vegetables and meats that may be cleaned, frozen or fermented but remain close to their natural state.

Group 2: Processed culinary ingredients: Think salt, sugar, oils and other ingredients extracted from nature and used to cook and flavor foods.

Group 3: Processed foods: Foods in this category are made by adding ingredients like salt or sugar to Group 1 items - for example, canned vegetables or cheese.

Group 4: Ultraprocessed foods: These are mostly foods that contain ingredients not found in a typical kitchen, such as hydrogenated oils, modified starches, flavor enhancers,

color additives and preservatives. Examples include chips, sodas, candy bars and many frozen meals, which are designed to be hyper-palatable and often nutrient-poor.

A growing body of research links ultraprocessed foods with many negative health outcomes, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and cognitive decline. One issue is that these products are typically high in added sugar, sodium, saturated fats and chemical additives, and low in fiber, vitamins and essential micronutrients.

But some studies also suggest that what makes these foods harmful isn't just the ingredients but also how they're made. That's because the industrial processing of fats and starches can produce harmful compounds. For example, a substance called acrolein, formed when oils are heated at high temperatures, has been linked to DNA damage. Studies are also finding that microparticles from packaging and plastics, now found in air, water and food, may disrupt the gut microbiome, a key player in immune and metabolic health.

## Drawback

One drawback of nutrition studies is that they often rely on self-reported dietary data, which can be inaccurate. They can also have confounding factors that are difficult to account for, such as lifestyle patterns. However, the consistency of the findings across diverse populations gives credence to the growing concerns about ultraprocessed foods.

An important caveat, however, is that not all ultraprocessed foods are created equal. They vary in how nutritious they are, and some ultraprocessed foods play an important role for vulnerable populations. For example, foods containing the slow-release carbohydrate sweetener sucralose help people with diabetes prevent blood sugar spikes, and hypoallergenic infant formula can be lifesaving for infants that cannot digest milk at a young age.

The report echoes key themes of the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, a document jointly published by the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services every five years.

Both the MAHA report and the federal guidelines encourage the consumption of nutrient-dense, whole foods.

One critical difference between them is that the 2020-2025 dietary guidelines make no mention of ultraprocessed foods. Some public health experts have noted that this omission may reflect food industry influence.

Kennedy has stated that a follow-up report outlining a strategy and potential policy reforms for addressing childhood chronic illness will be released in mid-August 2025.

However, change is unlikely to be straightforward. Ultraprocessed foods represent a significant industry, and policies that challenge their prominence may encounter resistance from influential commercial interests. For decades, US agricultural subsidies, food policy and consumers have supported the mass production and consumption of ultraprocessed foods. Reversing their overconsumption will require structural shifts in how food is produced, distributed and consumed in the US. (AP)

## Police guarding polio workers killed in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan, May 27, (AP) - Gunmen shot and killed a police officer assigned to protect polio workers in southwestern Pakistan on Tuesday before fleeing the scene, police and officials said.

The attack occurred in Noshki, a district in Balochistan province, local police official Mohammad Hassan said, adding that the polio workers escaped unharmed in the attack.

The female health workers were administering oral polio vaccine drops to children inside a house when the assailants opened fire on the officer, Abdul Waheed, who died on the way to the hospital, Hassan said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the assault, but suspicion is likely to fall on separatist

groups and Pakistani Taliban that have stepped up attacks on security forces and civilians in recent months.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in separate statements denounced the assault and vowed stern action against those behind the attack, which came a day after Pakistan launched the nationwide campaign to vaccinate 45 million children from polio.

Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan remain the only two countries where the spread of the wild polio virus hasn't been stopped, according to the World Health Organization. There are ongoing outbreaks of polio linked to the oral vaccine in 10 other countries, mostly in Africa.

## Bill debated

## France may OK assisted suicide

PARIS, May 27, (AP) - France's lower house of parliament, the National Assembly, was voting Tuesday on a bill to allow adults with incurable illness to take lethal medication, as public demands grow across Europe for legal end-of-life options.

Tuesday's vote, expected in the late afternoon, is a key legislative step on the contentious and long-debated issue. If approved by a majority of lawmakers, the bill will be sent to the Senate for further debate.

The proposed measure defines assisted dying as allowing people to use a lethal substance under certain conditions so that they may take it themselves. Only those whose physical condition doesn't allow them to do it alone would be able to get help from a doctor or a nurse.

To benefit from the newly proposed measure, patients would need to be over 18 and be French citizens or live in France.

A team of medical professionals would need to confirm that the patient has a grave and incurable illness "at an advanced or terminal stage," is suffering from intolerable and untreatable pain, and is seeking lethal medication of their own free will.

## Eligible

Patients with severe psychiatric conditions and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease won't be eligible.

The person would initiate the request for lethal medication and confirm the request after a period of reflection.

If approved, a doctor would then deliver a prescription for the lethal medication, which could be taken at home, at a nursing home or a health care facility.

In parallel, another bill on palliative care meant to reinforce measures to relieve pain and preserve patients' dignity will also be put to a vote Tuesday.

A 2023 report indicated that most French citizens back legalizing end-of-life options, and opinion polls show growing support over the past 20 years. Initial discussions in parliament last year were abruptly interrupted by President Emmanuel Macron's decision to dissolve the National Assembly, plunging France into a months-long political crisis.

A definitive vote on the measure could take months to be scheduled amid France's long and complex legislative process. The National Assembly has the final say over the Senate.

Earlier this month, Macron suggested he could ask for French voters to approve the measure via referendum if parliament discussions get off track.

Activists supporting the change have criticized the complexity and length of the parliamentary process that they say is penalizing patients waiting for end-of-life options.

Many French people have traveled to neighboring countries where medically assisted suicide or euthanasia are legal.

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## Al-Hilal reportedly trying to tempt Italian club's coach with a bumper offer

# Inter's last shot at glory: Can the Nerazzurri overcome PSG and keep Inzaghi?

MILAN, May 27, (AP): Inter Milan was gunning for the treble just over a month ago.

Then Inter lost in the Italian Cup semifinals to AC Milan, and lost its Serie A title by one point to Napoli.

The Nerazzurri's third and last shot at a trophy is on Saturday in the Champions League final against Paris Saint-Germain, and coach Simone Inzaghi doesn't want talk of it being his last match in charge becoming another distraction for his side.

Saudi Arabia club Al-Hilal is reportedly trying to tempt Inzaghi with a bumper offer of more than 20 million euros (\$23 million) a season.

"Fortunately, my club knows me well," Inzaghi said. "Every year, there are offers from Italy and abroad, from Saudi Arabia, but I think it would be crazy to think about that now."

Inzaghi was speaking at a media day ahead of the Champions League final - his and Inter's second in three seasons after they lost to Manchester City in 2023.

The Italian coach has been at Inter since 2021

and has one more year left on his contract.

"After the final, we'll sit down and talk with a single goal in mind, and this always applies: The good of Inter," Inzaghi said. "If all the components and conditions are there, we will move forward as we have always done in harmony these past few years."

"It would be crazy to talk now about something that doesn't exist. Look at what awaits us on Saturday."

Inter and Inzaghi have progressed in the coach's four years at the club.

At Inter, Inzaghi finally shrugged off his "King of Cups" nickname when he lifted his first league trophy last year.

Before that, with Lazio and then Inter, Inzaghi won three Italian Cups and five Italian Super Cups, earning him the title of "Re di Coppe" ("King of Cups") because he had never coached a league champion.

But winning the Champions League would be a crowning achievement, especially after the disappointment of two years ago.

It would also completely alter the perception of a season in which Inter missed out on trophies by small margins.

"That (Champions League win) would clearly make all the difference in the world," Inzaghi said. "The boys have been extraordinary this season because we played 59 games."

"We gave everything on the field, we didn't think, we didn't make choices, we tried to give everything we had... that was always our strength and we had an exciting journey in the Italian Cup, in Serie A and above all in the Champions League."

Indeed, it has been in the Champions League that Inter has especially thrived.

The Nerazzurri beat Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals and won an extraordinary semifinal against Barcelona that saw 13 goals scored across two legs.

"We've reached a wonderful milestone and played some incredible games," Inzaghi said, "but we know one final step remains to fulfill a dream and make history."



Inter Milan's goalkeeper Yann Sommer saves during a training session of the Champions League Media Day in view of the Saturday's Champions League final against PSG, at the Inter Milan training center, in Appiano Gentile, Italy. (AP)

## Union president takes dig at others

# Bundesliga rivals not paying their women's teams enough

BERLIN, May 27, (AP): Union Berlin president Dirk Zingler has criticized Bundesliga rivals of apathy toward women's soccer.

"Every football club that has a professional team is capable of paying its women's football team appropriately," Zingler said in comments reported by dpa news agency.

"When I see and hear that, even in the (women's) Bundesliga with 12 teams, there are only four or five who pay the women professionally, it's a pitiful disgrace in Germany," Zingler added on the day it was confirmed he will stay on for another term as president to 2029.

Union's own women's team was promoted to the Bundesliga for the first time this season after winning the second division. The Köpenick-based club has invested heavily in women's soccer, particularly since its men's team clinched promotion to the 18-team Bundesliga in 2019.

Zingler also criticized the media for not giving more attention to women's games. He said it was "simply not right to treat women's football as a disability sport and say we have to run special programs and play highlight games."

Zingler has been Union's president since 2004, when the men's team was playing at fourth-tier level. He said stability has been key to the club's success.

Union's men reached the Europa Conference League in 2021, the Europa League the following season, and the Champions League in 2023, though that was followed by a brush with relegation. This season, the team clinched Bundesliga survival with four rounds to spare.

Away from the field, Union refurbished its stadium in 2009, added a new main stand in 2013, and established a new training center for youth players last year. This year it plans to start construction on new training facilities for its men's and women's professional teams then turn attention to more stadium development to accommodate more fans.

# Roma accuses Zaniolo of punching 2 youth players

FLORENCE, Italy, May 27, (AP): Fiorentina winger Nicolò Zaniolo could be facing a lengthy ban after Roma accused him of punching two youth team players.

The incident allegedly happened after Fiorentina beat Roma in the Primavera youth league title playoff semifinal on Monday.

Zaniolo denied any wrongdoing after Roma issued a statement on the "regrettable incident" but the Italian soccer federation reportedly opened an investigation on Tuesday.

"According to initial reconstructions, the player allegedly entered the Primavera team's dressing room after the match and engaged in provocative behavior towards some of the Giallorossi youth players," Roma said. "During the confrontation, two players from the Primavera squad were reportedly physically struck."

Zaniolo is on loan at Fiorentina from Galatasaray. He joined the Turkish team from Roma after five years at the capital club, during

which he was named Serie A young player of the year in 2019.

The 25-year-old Zaniolo was in the stands at Viola Park to watch the match on Monday, and Fiorentina published his statement after Roma's accusations.

"At the end of the match I went down to the locker room to congratulate the Fiorentina boys and then I went to the Roma locker room to greet and congratulate them on their season too," Zaniolo said. "But at a certain point they started insulting me so, at that point, to prevent the situation from degenerating, I preferred to leave."

Zaniolo was considered one of Italy's most promising prospects and made his international debut as a teenager in 2019.

But injuries derailed his career. He has not featured for Italy since being ruled out of last year's European Championship after breaking his metatarsal while on loan at Aston Villa in the penultimate match of the season.

## Best of the Rest

**Earpis retires from int'l duty:** England goalkeeper Mary Earps surprisingly retired from international soccer on Tuesday, just five weeks before the Women's European Championship.

Earpis was in goal when the Lionesses won Euro 2022 and reached the Women's World Cup final in 2023. She was facing increased competition for her place from Chelsea's Hannah Hampton but was due to join England this week for Nations League group games against Portugal and Spain.

"I have taken the difficult decision to retire internationally," Earps said in a statement on X. "It has been the greatest honour and privilege of my life, to wear this badge, represent my country and play alongside such an incredible group of players."

"I've spent a long time making this decision and it's not one I've made lightly. For me, ultimately this is the right time for me to step aside and give the younger generation an opportunity to thrive."

"Winning the Euros in 2022 was the best day of my life and I'm rooting for the girls to do it again this summer." (AP)



Punjab Kings' Priyansh Arya plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, India. (AP)

# Punjab demolishes Mumbai to secure top-two spot in playoffs

## Kings to play qualifier 1 on Thursday

JAIPUR, India, May 27, (AP): Punjab Kings secured a top-two spot in the Indian Premier League playoffs after dominating five-time winners the Mumbai Indians by seven wickets.

Josh Inglis (73) and Priyansh Arya (62) smashed the Mumbai bowling and cruised Punjab to 187-3 in reply to Mumbai's below-par 184-7.

Punjab will play qualifier 1 on Thursday with the winner going directly to the June 3 final.

Mumbai will play eliminator 1 on Friday against Royal Challengers Bengaluru or Gujarat Titans.

Gujarat Titans are second in the table but could be overtaken by Bengaluru if it beats the already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday.

Arya and Inglis combined in for 109 runs off just 59 balls for Punjab after Prabhsimran Singh was dismissed by Jasprit Bumrah inside the batting powerplay.

Arya hit Trent Boult for three boundaries off the first four balls



Punjab Kings' Vijaykumar Vyshak celebrates the dismissal of Mumbai Indians' Tilak Verma during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, India. (AP)

he faced from the New Zealander. Arya raised his half-century from 27 balls when he hit Hardik Pandya for six over wide long-on and bashed Jasprit Bumrah for a six over fine leg.

Inglis shrugged off the spin threat

of Mitchell Santner, whose first two overs went for 23, while impact player Ashwani Kumar was dropped from the attack after being hammered for 16, in his only over.

Santner finished with 2-41 when he had Arya caught at long-off in

the 15th over, and Inglis was out lbw when he missed a paddle shot against the left-arm spinner in the 18th over with Punjab just 14 runs from victory. They won with nine balls to spare.

Suryakumar Yadav's 57, his 14th successive score of 25-plus in Twenty20s, was the cornerstone of Mumbai's total but he felt his team was 10, 15 runs short.

Ryan Rickelton, playing in his last IPL game before joining South Africa for the World Test Championship final, lashed a 20-ball 27, while Rohit Sharma struggled to 24 when he holed out to long-on against left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar.

Mumbai stuttered in the middle overs when it lost Tilak Varma and Will Jacks quickly.

Pandya grabbed two fours and two sixes in his 26 off 15 and was caught behind in Jansen's return spell.

Naman Dhir and Yadav counterpunched in the death overs and Vijaykumar Vyshak's penultimate over of the innings went for 23 runs. Arshdeep Singh bowled splendid yorkers in the final over and conceded just three runs for the wickets of Dhir and Yadav.

## 'It's just more accurate, saves time'

# 'French Open picking humans over technology is a bad call'

PARIS, May 27, (AP): For Novak Djokovic, this is a relatively easy call: He, like many players, thinks the French Open is making a mistake by eschewing the electronic line-calling used at most big tennis tournaments and instead remaining old school by letting line judges decide whether serves or other shots land in or out.

Plenty of sports, from soccer and baseball to the NFL, are replacing, or at least helping, officials with some form of high-tech replays or other technology. Tennis, too, is following that trend, except at Roland-Garros, where competition continues through June 8.

Even the longest-running and most tradition-bound of the majors, Wimbledon, is - gasp! - abandoning line judges and moving to an automatic

system this year. The WTA and ATP added machine-generated rulings this season for four events on red clay, the surface at the French Open. But Grand Slam hosts can do what they want, and the French tennis federation is keeping the human element.

Djokovic, the 24-time major champion, understands why folks might prefer the way to keep things the way they were for more than a century in his sport. He gets why there could be an inclination to shy away from too much change in a world now drowning in cell phones and streaming and social media.

"You don't want to give everything away to the technology, right? But if I have to choose between the two, I'm more of a proponent of technology. It's just more accurate, saves



The chair umpire checks a mark on the clay as France's Arthur Fils looks on, during his first round match of the French Tennis Open against Chile's Nicolas Jarry, at the Roland-Garros Stadium, in Paris. (AP)

time, and ... (means) less people on the court" said Djokovic, 38, who was disqualified from the 2020 U.S. Open for inadvertently hitting an official with a ball hit out of frustration between games.

That edition of the tournament in New York only placed line judges on its two largest courts, while others used an electronic setup, a nod to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australian Open got rid of all line judges in 2021, a first at a tennis major; the U.S. Open did the same later that year.

The French Open remains a hold-out, and that's not likely to change anytime soon.

"Unless the players are unanimous and come to us and say, 'We won't play if there isn't a machine' ... then

I think we've got a great future ahead of us to maintain this style of refereeing," French federation president Gilles Moretton said, while boasting of the quality of his country's officials.

Players don't sound that adamant, although they tend to echo the opinion of 2023 U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff, who is 21: "I mean, I don't know if it's like the 'Gen Z' in me, but I think if we have the technology, we should use it."

Still, there is some charm to be found in the choreography of players insisting a call was wrong and chair umpires climbing down for a closer look at a ball mark on the clay. Watch a day of TV coverage from Paris and odds are good that dance will take place - probably more than once.

Schmidt's 18-year reign continues

## Scienza's dramatic late goal saves Heidenheim's Bundesliga status

SPIESEN-ELVERSBERG, Germany, May 27, (AP) — The longest-serving coach in any major men's European soccer league has written another chapter in a remarkable career.

Now he just wants a rest. A last-minute goal on Monday gave Heidenheim and its coach Frank Schmidt, who's nearing 18 years in charge, a win which guaranteed survival in the Bundesliga for another season.

It was Schmidt's 709th game with a club he's taken from a regional league in southwestern Germany to the top division, beating Bayern Munich and facing the likes of Chelsea in the Europa Conference League.

"I've given all my energy to the team and it was very important, but now I'm empty," Schmidt told broadcaster Sky after Leo Scienza's added-time goal sealed a 4-3 aggregate win over Elversberg in the promotion-relegation playoff.

"No one needs to call me tomorrow, I won't be contactable, because I'm going away. I need the

energy to prepare for the new season."

The town of Heidenheim is home to 50,000 people and Schmidt's team is usually the underdog against clubs with more history, trophies and fans.

It was the other way round on Monday. Heidenheim's opponent was Elversberg, another team which has risen from regional leagues to the national stage in recent years. It comes from a town of just 13,000 people.

German fans dubbed the game "El Dorfico," a play on Barcelona and Real Madrid's El Clásico rivalry and the German word "Dorf," or village.

Heidenheim seemed to be tiring as the game entered stoppage time but Brazilian winger Scienza burst down the left flank to score the winner to start Heidenheim's celebrations.

It was a narrow escape for Heidenheim, which finished an impressive eighth in the Bundesliga last season to qualify for the Europa Conference League but struggled to cope with the extra

games this year.

The soccer world looked very different in September 2007 when Schmidt first coached Heidenheim in a regional cup game against Olympia Laupheim reserves.

David Beckham had just made his debut for the Los Angeles Galaxy after a shock move from Madrid, while Alex Ferguson's Manchester United was the team to beat in England.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi were successful young players at United and Barcelona, respectively, but neither had yet won the Ballon d'Or prize for best player in the world. They now have 13 Ballon d'Or awards between them.

Schmidt's tenure with Heidenheim makes Pep Guardiola's nine years at Manchester City or Diego Simeone's 13-year stint at Atletico Madrid look short by comparison. He's still some way short of historical greats like Ferguson (26 years at United) or Arsene Wenger (22 years at Arsenal).



Heidenheim's goalscorer Mathias Honsak, below, celebrates with his teammates after scoring a goal in a soccer match against Elversberg in the Bundesliga promotion-relegation playoff in Spiesen-Elversberg, Germany. (AP)

## OKC takes commanding lead



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Cason Wallace (22) drives to the basket against Minnesota Timberwolves center Naz Reid during the second half of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Minneapolis. (AP)

### SGA's 40-point gem fuels Thunder's game 4 win

MINNEAPOLIS, May 27, (AP) — Being blown out of the game before didn't sit well with Oklahoma City.

The young Thunder moved within one win of the NBA Finals with a championship response.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 40 points, 10 rebounds, and nine assists in a steely performance befitting the NBA MVP, and the Oklahoma City Thunder snapped back from a 42-point loss by beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 128-126 in Game 4 on Monday night to take a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"I tried not to worry too much about scoring or making plays or whatever it was," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I tried to just lose myself in the competition, be aggressive, pick my spots."

Jalen Williams scored 34 points on 13-for-24 shooting, including 6 of 9 from 3-point range, and Chet Holmgren added 21 points, seven rebounds, and three blocks in a statement game in his hometown that helped the Thunder stave off several pushes by the Wolves to tie the series.

Gilgeous-Alexander went 12 for

14 from the free-throw line, making a pair with 6.1 seconds left to stretch the lead back to three.

The Thunder fouled Anthony Edwards with 3.5 seconds to go, and his intentional miss of the second free throw to try to keep possession was tracked down in the corner by Gilgeous-Alexander and flung out of bounds to drain the clock.

The Wolves had one more des-

peration inbound pass from half-court with 0.3 seconds remaining that Williams grabbed to send the Thunder back to Oklahoma City for a close-out Game 5 on Wednesday.

"They outplayed us, outrebounded us, got more of the 50-50 balls," said Edwards, who was limited to 16 points. "Wanted it a little bit more."

Nickel Alexander-Walker (23



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) passes the ball in front of Minnesota Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels, left rear, and center Rudy Gobert (27) during the first half of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Minneapolis. (AP)

points) and Donte DiVincenzo (21 points) each went 5 for 8 from 3-point range to lead a second straight onslaught of bench offense to keep the Wolves close all night, but the Thunder always had an answer for the mini-runs they managed. They trailed for only 36 seconds, all stretches in the first quarter.

"Give their role guys credit," coach Mark Daigneault said. "The shot-making was ridiculous, so for us to overcome that on the road the way we did was a great team win."

Any intrigue about how the Thunder would respond from Game 3 quickly disappeared when Williams started hitting from deep to lead an 11-for-17 shooting start from the floor. The Thunder grabbed 11 offensive rebounds in the first half, too.

The Thunder, for all their dominance, have shown a hint of vulnerability away from Paycom Center, where they're 7-1 with a plus-191 scoring differential this postseason. But Luguentz Dort helped bottle up Edwards and Julius Randle (five points on 1-for-7 shooting), and the Thunder forced 23 turnovers to help offset those 64 bench points.

"Uphill battle," DiVincenzo said, "but everybody is sticking together, understanding that you try to look at this game and grab any sort of hope."

### Coach names preliminary squad of 20 players

### Kuwait volleyball team begins training for West Asian Champ'ship in Bahrain

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Kuwaiti national volleyball team has officially launched its training program today at the Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, located in Sabah Al-Salem. The training is part of the team's preparations for the inaugural West Asian Men's Volleyball Championship, which will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from July 10 to 20.

The technical staff, led by Argentine head coach Julian Alvarez and his assistant Zaid Al-Kazemi, has announced a preliminary squad of 20 players to take part in the training phase ahead of the regional tournament.

Speaking on the team's preparations, assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi stated that the staff has designed a comprehensive and intensive training program that begins immediately and will continue until the tournament begins. The program will be split into two phases — domestic training in Kuwait and an overseas training camp, the details of which (location and timing) will be finalized upon approval from the General Sports Authority.

Al-Kazemi emphasized that the training plan will focus on all techni-



Zaid Al-Kazemi

cal, physical, and tactical elements necessary for high-level competition. He also confirmed that the final squad will be trimmed from 20 to 14 players prior to departure for the external training camp.

He concluded by wishing the selected players the best of luck during this important period of preparation.

## Ancelotti turns down Neymar and predicts a 'better' Vinicius Júnior

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 27, (AP) — Carlo Ancelotti's first day as Brazil coach included saying "No" to Neymar and a promise to find more improvement from his former Real Madrid striker Vinicius Júnior.

Ancelotti was introduced on Monday at a packed press conference in a Rio de Janeiro hotel, and just to ensure he was under no illusions as to his primary task, he was welcomed by Brazil's last two World Cup-winning coaches, 1994's Carlos Alberto Parreira and 2002's Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Scolari gave Ancelotti a national team jacket and told the first foreigner in a century to coach Brazil full-time. "Just be you, the person you always were, and you will win with Brazil. We all wish you well with Brazil, we will always support you."

The Italian, contracted to the end of the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico, announced his first squad for World Cup qualifiers next week against Ecuador and Paraguay.

Neymar returned to Santos only last week from a muscular injury, and that was too late for the new coach.

"Unfortunately, we have a lot of players who suffered injuries and cannot be in the national team, like Neymar," Ancelotti

said. "Brazil has many talented players, and in Neymar's specific case we are counting on him. He came back to Brazil to play and prepare for the World Cup. I spoke to him this morning to explain that to him, and he is totally in agreement."

Ancelotti said Vinicius will grow as a Brazil striker under his management. Vinicius has been criticized by Brazil fans for not reproducing his sterling Real Madrid form in the national team.

### Brazil

**Goalkeepers:** Alisson (Liverpool), Benito (Al-Nassr), Hugo Souza (Corinthians)

**Defenders:** Alex Sandro, Danilo, Leo Ortiz, Wesley (all Flamengo), Alessandro (Lille), Lucas Beraldo (Paris Saint-Germain), Carlos Augusto (Inter Milan), Vanderson (Monaco)

**Midfielders:** Andreas Pereira (Fulham), Andrey Santos (Strasbourg), Bruno Guimaraes (Newcastle), Casemiro (Manchester United), Ederson (Atalanta), (Gerson)

**Forwards:** Antony (Real Betis), Estêvão (Palmeiras), Gabriel Martinelli (Arsenal), Matheus Cunha (Wolverhampton), Raphinha (Barcelona), Richarlison (Tottenham), Vinicius Júnior (Real Madrid)

## Berlin presents bid to re-host Olympics with 100th anniversary of 1936 Games looming

BERLIN, May 27, (AP) — Berlin formally presented its bid to re-host the Olympics on Tuesday in the same stadium where Jesse Owens starred during the 1936 Games under the Nazis.

Berlin sports minister Iris Spranger said the city wants to put on a sustainable Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2036, 2040 or 2044, making use of existing sports venues.

But her announced plans to include the former airport Tempelhof are likely to be resisted by locals who already opposed any development of the popular city park in a 2014 referendum.

Spranger envisaged beach volleyball at the Brandenburg Gate, and water sports in Grünau, a riverside locality which also staged water sports in 1936.

Otherwise, Spranger gave few details during the presentation, saying the bid was still at concept phase.

"You'll have to be patient," she told a journalist.

Berlin's bid - titled "Berlin+" with support from the states of Brandenburg, Saxony, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and Schleswig-Holstein - is to be presented to the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) before an end-of-month deadline.

It will be up to the DOSB to decide which Games to bid for. Los Angeles is hosting the 2028 Olympics and Brisbane the 2032 Olympics, so the next available edition will be 2036, the 100th

anniversary of the Berlin Games.

The DOSB previously said a German bid for 2040 was also possible.

"I believe that the 2036 Games, regardless of where they take place, will also focus on the Nazi Games of 1936. That's part of history and attention will be paid to it," Berlin Mayor Kai Wegner said. "I have to tell you, I'm proud to be the governing mayor of a city that has changed in the last 100 years, that we no longer stand for dictatorship, exclusion, and mass violence, but that Berlin is now a cosmopolitan, international metropolis, a colorful, diverse city."

Wegner said it was "important for Germany to make a bid. We're making an offer here today."

Wegner, Spranger, and the governors from the other four states made their presentation in the same battle-scarred stadium, Berlin's Olympiastadion, where Adolf Hitler watched Owens, the Black American athlete, win four gold medals in the 1936 Games, dealing a blow to Hitler's notions of racial superiority.

Hitler was personally involved in the design and construction of the 100,000-seat track-and-field stadium after the Nazis assumed power in 1933, two years after the Games were awarded to the city.

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Germany's Alexander Zverev reacts after defeating United States' Learner Tien during their first round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris, Tuesday. (AP)

# Sports

## Al-Arabi completes Amir Cup semifinal lineup

Dahilis announces departure from Al-Jahra

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, May 27: Al-Arabi secured the final spot in the Amir Cup semifinals with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Al-Jahra in the last quarterfinal match held at Thamer Stadium.**

With the win, Al-Arabi will now face Al-Salmiya in the first semifinal clash scheduled for Friday at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium. The other semifinal will see Al-Qadisiya take on Kuwait Club tomorrow at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.

Al-Arabi's path to qualification was far from straightforward. The team went ahead 2-0 thanks to goals from Nigerian forward Emmanuel Iwala in the 34th minute and Bahraini international Kamil Al-Aswad in the 52nd. Al-Jahra fought back, narrowing the margin with a goal by Abdulaziz Marwi in the 61st minute but couldn't find the equalizer.

This marks Al-Arabi's second challenge in the tournament after a tough preliminary round against First Division side Sulaibikhat, where it advanced on penalties (4-3) following a 2-2 draw after extra time.

Al-Jahra head coach Mohammed Dahilis announced he would step down at the end of the season, describing his experience with the team as "beautiful and convincing."

Under Dahilis' leadership, Al-Jahra earned promotion to the Zain Premier League by topping the Zain First Division League and made a commendable run in the Amir Cup, including a win over Kazma in the preliminary round. Reflecting on the loss to Al-Arabi, he said, "We conceded from two mistakes. Al-Arabi is a strong team and deserved to win."

Club President Yousef Karim revealed that Al-Jahra will begin preparations for the upcoming season soon.

"We will develop a comprehensive plan to avoid repeating past mistakes," he stated, praising the efforts of the club's technical, administrative, and medical teams, as well as the players.

Al-Arabi player Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi expressed gratitude to head coach Nasser Al-Shatti for trusting him in the starting lineup. "That trust gives me the confidence to give everything I have," he said.

Al-Awadhi, who previously played as a striker for Al-Yarmouk, emphasized his readiness to play any role needed for Al-Arabi. "I'm fully committed to the team and will give my utmost to help us compete for every title."



Al-Arabi players celebrate at the end of proceedings.

Ronaldo teases about future

## Al-Ittihad wins Saudi league title with historic 83 points

RIYADH, May 27, (Agencies): Al-Ittihad capped off a remarkable campaign by securing the 2024-2025 Roshen League title, finishing with a record-breaking 83 points – the highest in the club's history since the inception of the Saudi Professional League in 2008-2009.

This marks the club's third title in the professional era. The first came in the league's inaugural season (2008-2009), when Al-Ittihad claimed the championship with 55 points, finishing five points ahead of Al-Hilal.

After a long wait, the western giants returned to glory in the 2022-2023 season, lifting the title with 72 points – again five points clear of second-placed Al-Nassr.

Now, Al-Ittihad has raised the bar even higher. With an impressive 83 points this season, it surpassed its previous record and finished eight points ahead of its closest rivals, Al-Hilal, underlining its dominance and crowning an exceptional season.

Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo's time at Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr might be done.

The 40-year-old Portugal striker posted a message on social media hours after the final round of the Saudi Pro League late Monday sparking speculation over the future

of one of the most high-profile figures in sports.

"This chapter is over," Ronaldo told his 115 million followers on X, above a picture of him in an Al-Nassr jersey. "The story? Still being written. Grateful to all."

The five-time world player of the year joined Al-Nassr in late 2022 and his contract will expire at the end of June.

On Saturday, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Ronaldo could play at the new-look, expanded Club World Cup starting on June 14 because of a unique transfer window created for the tournament.

"There are discussions with some clubs," Infantino told online streamer IShowSpeed, whose YouTube channel has more than 39 million subscribers. "So if any club is watching and is interested in hiring Ronaldo for the Club World Cup, who knows. Still a few weeks time, will be fun."

Al-Nassr, which finished in third place in the Saudi league this season, did not qualify for the Club World Cup – where Lionel Messi, Ronaldo's great rival, will be playing with Inter Miami.

Ronaldo did not react on Saturday to Infantino's speculation on his social media channels.



Al-Ittihad captain Karim Benzema, raises the championship trophy.

Shelton reaches third round, opponent withdraws with injury

## Coco jokes about forgotten rackets after opening win

PARIS, May 27, (AP): Coco Gauff caused a brief and amusing delay at the French Open on Tuesday when she stepped onto Court Philippe-Chatrier without her rackets. Novak Djokovic Serbia, defeated Mackenzie McDonald in straight set, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Gauff looked confused before a ball boy ran out minutes later carrying her pack of mint-colored rackets.

"That's better," said the court announcer, drawing laughter, applause and smiles from the crowd in the tournament's main stadium.

Despite the mix-up, No. 2-seeded Gauff went on to defeat Australia's Olivia Gadecki 6-2, 6-2 in her opening match.

The American jokingly blamed her coach for the missing rackets.

"Honestly, as long as I've been on tour, my coach has always put the

rackets in the bag before the match because he's very superstitious," she said. "I'm blaming it on my coach. It's OK."

Gadecki also found humor in the incident.

"Now that I think about it, it seems like that was the only way I was going to win the match," she said about Gauff's empty-handed arrival. "It was a funny little incident."

Gauff was a 2022 finalist at Roland-Garros and is among the title contenders again.

Ben Shelton reached the third round at the French Open for the second year in a row – and this time, the American didn't even need to swing his racket, moving on Tuesday when Hugo Gaston withdrew from the tournament because of an abdominal injury.

The 13th-seeded Shelton's best

Grand Slam results were making it to the semifinals at the 2023 U.S. Open and the Australian Open this January.

He was supposed to face France's Gaston in the second round at Roland-Garros on Wednesday night. The tournament replaced that matchup in Court Philippe-Chatrier with No. 10 seed Holger Rune of Denmark against unseeded Emilio Nava of the United States.

Shelton advances to a meeting on Friday against two-time major finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas or Matteo Gigante. That means Shelton will have had four days without competition following his five-set victory over Lorenzo Sonego in the first round Sunday night.

Jannik Sinner stretched his Grand Slam winning streak to 15 matches by grabbing the last five games to complete a 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 victory over

Arthur Rinderknech of France in the French Open's first round.

The No. 1-ranked Sinner is playing in his second tournament since serving a three-month doping ban that was announced shortly after he won the Australian Open in January. His case came to light shortly before last year's U.S. Open, which Sinner also won.

The 23-year-old Italian has three Grand Slam titles in all, each trophy arriving on hard courts, and his best showing at Roland-Garros was making it to the semifinals a year ago before losing in five sets to eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz.

The result against the 75th-ranked Rinderknech in Court Philippe-Chatrier was Sinner's 62nd win in a row against opponents outside the top 20.

Sinner was pretty close to perfect over the initial two sets Monday, combining for 19 winners and just eight unforced errors in that span. His level dipped a bit in the third, with nine unforced errors off his racket contributing to deficits of 4-0 and 5-2.

But Sinner righted himself from there and was on his way to a matchup against another Frenchman, 38-year-old Richard Gasquet, who has said this tournament will be the last of his career.

"I know you will support him," Sinner told the fans with a smile, "but that's OK."

Rinderknech, whose best Slam appearance was reaching the third round at the 2023 U.S. Open, did his best to involve the partisan crowd, playing to the spectators and wildly celebrating his best points by sprinting around or waving his arms or shaking his head or reaching into the front row of the stands for a high-five or a handshake.

He has been known to rile up his supporters and get under an opponent's skin. During a loss against American Taylor Fritz at Roland-Garros two years ago, when Rinderknech was the last French man in the field, the crowd booed and whistled heartily at the end. Fritz put a finger to his lips, then spread his arms to egg on the crowd and yelled, "Come on! I want to hear it!"



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Mackenzie McDonald of the U.S. during their first round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris. (AP)

## Kuwait submits bid to host IIHF Division IV Championship

KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (KUNA): The Kuwait Winter Sports Club announced on Tuesday that it has officially submitted a bid to host the 2026 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division IV. The tournament features national teams from Armenia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran, Singapore, and Kuwait.

The announcement came during the club's participation in the ongoing International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) annual meetings currently taking place in Sweden.

Speaking to KUNA, Club President Fahed Al-Ajmi said that the IIHF will evaluate all submitted bids and is expected to name the host nation in the near future.

Al-Ajmi expressed hope that Kuwait will be granted the opportunity to host the prestigious championship, noting that doing so would significantly elevate the profile of Kuwaiti ice hockey on the global stage and further promote the sport domestically.

The Kuwaiti delegation to the meetings also included Development Director Mishal Al-Ajmi and board member Rashid Al-Failakawi.

According to Al-Ajmi, the meet-



Fahed Al-Ajmi

ings covered a wide range of topics focused on the development of ice hockey worldwide, particularly in Asia. Discussions emphasized the importance of strengthening tournaments and enhancing the sport through technical and administrative development.

The IIHF sessions also produced a number of key decisions aimed at improving officiating, coaching, and management by expanding training and development programs in these areas. Al-Ajmi praised the IIHF's efforts in supporting the growth of the sport at the international level.

Best of the Rest

**Roglic withdraws from Giro:** Pre-race favorite Primoz Roglic abandoned the Giro d'Italia after crashing during a wet 16th stage on Tuesday, one of several falls during the mountain leg.

Italian rider Alessio Martinelli was hospitalized after sliding into a ravine. The VG Group Bardiani-CSF Faizane team said Martinelli was "conscious and in stable condition."

He was carried up from the ravine on a stretcher by an Alpine rescue team.

Roglic, the 2023 champion, stood 10th overall after dropping five places on Sunday. His fall also involved Richard Carapaz, the 2019 champion. Carapaz continued racing.

Egan Bernal, the 2021 champion, also fell but continued.

British rider Josh Tarling of the Ineos Grenadiers team also abandoned following a fall.

The 203-kilometer (126-mile) leg from Piazzola Sul Brenta to San Valentino included four major climbs across the Dolomites – including an uphill finish – and was made more challenging due to rain early in the stage.

Mexican rider Isaac Del Toro leads the race. (AP)