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# KUWAIT'S CROWN PRINCE MEETS JAPANESE EMPEROR NARUHITO, PM



Crown Prince Diwan photo  
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah shakes hands with Japanese Emperor Naruhito.

## New bilateral pacts fortify Kuwait-Japan partnership

Agreements deepen 60-year bond

**TOKYO, May 29, (KUNA):** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met in Tokyo, Thursday morning, with Japanese Emperor Naruhito.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings and best wishes of welfare from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Emperor Naruhito and the Japanese people.

The meeting focused on the close historic relations between the two countries in the past six decades, which saw great leaps in various fields, reflecting the aspirations of people in both countries.

Later, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held an official round of talks Thursday with Japanese Prime Minister, Shigeru Ishiba, in Tokyo.

The talks were preceded by an official reception ceremony for His Highness the Crown Prince by the Japanese Prime Minister, included a military parade and the playing of the national anthems of the countries.

During the reception, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, and conveyed the best greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to Japan and its friendly people.

His Highness affirmed Kuwait's desire to enhance the bilateral ties between the two countries to reach the level of strategic partnership.



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with an official ceremony in Tokyo, featuring a military parade and national anthems.



Exchange of signed agreements between Kuwait and Japan, witnessed by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Tokyo.



Crown Prince Diwan photos

### 2,530 undocumented residents granted driving licenses in '24

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA):** The Central System for the Remedy of Situations of Illegal Residents announced on Thursday that 2,530 new driving licenses were issued (for the first time) for undocumented residents during 2024, in cooperation with the General Department of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior.

The Director of the Information Department Abdullah Al-Farhan said to KUNA that 29,256 driving licenses were renewed from January 1 to the end of December last year.

Al-Farhan added that Al-Jahra Governorate ranked first with 1,516 licenses issued, followed by Al-Asimah with 325 licenses, then Al-Farwaniya with 314 li-

censes, then Al-Ahmadi with 269 licenses, Mubarak Al-Kabeer with 59 licenses, and Hawalli with 46 licenses, and only one license for the new electronic traffic services was issued.

He noted that 'obtaining licenses is accessible for those holding valid cards and over the age of 18,' adding that 'the process of issuing driver's licenses comes in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. (409/2011) related to providing a number of advantages and services for residents living illegally.'

Al-Farhan praised the ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Interior regarding the issuance and renewal of driving licenses for resident living illegally.

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Green landscapes, budget options reshape travel season

## Kuwaitis shift to scenic summer getaways

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29:** As temperatures continue to rise, Kuwaitis are packing their bags and booking their tickets in preparation for the new season of international tourism: adding new countries to their list of favorite destinations and those known to welcome them such as London, Lebanon, Beirut, New York and Asian countries.

With the start of the new season, some subtle changes are evident from each season. Tourism experts believe that this year's season is characterized by destinations with green nature and lower costs, as new countries have appeared on the map of Kuwaiti tourists, such as the Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, among others.

Tourism expert and travel company owner Mohammed Al-Omar told the newspaper that Kuwaitis love traveling in the summer to escape the heat. "Their travel destinations vary -- from England to Germany and other European countries. However,

these people are from the affluent segment and own real estate in these countries. Meanwhile, the middle class tends to head to East Asian countries, Türkiye and Arab countries. Most citizens book their tickets in May each year, and the percentage of family travel abroad reaches more than 85 percent, while the percentage of those traveling without their families is about 15 percent," he revealed.

He expects the stability of the situation in Lebanon to contribute to the remarkable increase in the number of Kuwaitis traveling to Beirut, especially since many families own apartments and homes there.

He believes that the choice of destinations does not come randomly from citizens, as they prefer more stable countries, far from natural disasters. "A group of middle-income earners prefer lower costs for accommodation and tickets. Airline offers play a significant role in directing citizens to travel to a specific country. According to official statistics, Kuwaitis spent approximately KD2.97 billion in the first nine months of 2024, compared to KD3.35 billion in the first nine months of 2023. The decline

in spending is attributed to a percentage of citizens' preference for countries that combine low costs with beautiful natural surroundings," he explained.

He said that there are other factors leading to a decrease in citizens' travel costs, such as the focus on less expensive and more stable destinations, especially since the emergence of many tourist destinations where citizens can spend quality time with their families at an affordable cost.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Shukri, Director General of the Gulf Information and Documentation Center, pointed out that Kuwaitis have been traveling since the founding of the State of Kuwait, and the purpose used to be commercial. "Meanwhile, citizens in the era of luxury and oil inherited the love of travel from the first generation, but their destinations today differ from one country to another. People recently preferred to travel to Türkiye due to the calm life and low cost, while the financially well-off goes to European countries," he added.

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Photo by Rezk Tawfiq  
A thick dust haze engulfs Kuwait's skyline, cloaking buildings in a dense, eerie veil on Thursday.

## Extreme heat, dust to grip Kuwait through weekend

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA):** The Meteorological Department has forecasted that the country will experience extremely hot weather during the day and warm to mildly hot conditions at night throughout the weekend.

Acting Director Dhirar Al-Ali told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the country is under the influence of the Indian monsoon low-pressure system, bringing a hot and dry air mass along with northwesterly winds that are light to moderate in speed, occasionally intensifying and stirring up dust and sand,

particularly in open areas.

He explained that the weather on Friday will be hot during daytime, with northwesterly winds that are light to moderate and occasionally active, with speeds ranging between 15 and 45 kilometers per hour and causing dust in open areas. Some scattered clouds will be visible, with expected high temperatures between 42°C and 44°C. The sea will be light to moderate, with waves occasionally reaching heights of two to six feet.

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## Kuwait supports sustainable oil production and market balance

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA):** Minister of Oil Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi reaffirmed Wednesday Kuwait's steadfast support for all efforts aimed at enhancing the stability of the oil market.

He also reiterated Kuwait's commitment to supporting a policy of cooperation to ensure the sustainability of market balance and secure energy supplies, according to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Oil.

The Ministry said that Minister Al-Roumi made these remarks during his participation in three virtual meetings held today: the 60th OPEC + Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, the 39th OPEC + Ministerial Meeting and the

191st OPEC Ministerial Conference.

The Minister of Oil stated that the meetings are being held at a critical time for global markets amid increasing challenges.

"This necessitates enhanced joint coordination among countries within the framework of the OPEC+ Declaration of Cooperation and the adoption of well-considered decisions that support the stability of global oil markets," he argued.

He pointed out to the OPEC Secretariat's assignment to develop a mechanism for assessing the sustainable production capacity of member countries

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## Kuwait tops 17 countries to win 'Sharjah Public Finance Award'

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA):** The Ministry of Finance said it won the third edition of the Sharjah Award for Public Finance (2024-2025) in recognition of its outstanding role in providing financial services.

Representatives of 17 countries vied for the award, the Ministry noted in a press release on Wednesday.

Minister of Finance Noura Al-Fassam stated that winning this award reflects the ministry's efforts in improving the efficiency of financial performance and enhancing the quality of

services provided.

The ministry confirmed that it is continuing to develop financial services in accordance with directives from the Council of Ministers towards digitizing services.

The statement added that Al-Fassam received the award on behalf of the ministry, which participated in the digital payment project for government services that enables government entities to purchase online, pay government fees, and meet various needs to fulfill their financial obligations.



KUNA photo  
Kuwait's Minister of Finance Noura Al-Fassam in a group photo.

### Newswatch

#### 8 lose citizenship

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29:** The official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youn" has published two decisions issued by the Supreme Committee for Investigating Kuwaiti Nationality concerning the revocation of citizenship for two men and six women, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decision No. 94/11-2 stipulated the loss of citizenship for three individuals in accordance with Article 10 of Decree No. 15/1959 on the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its subsequent amendments.

Decision No. 95/11-2 stipulated the revocation of citizenship for five individuals under Article 11 of the same decree.

□ □ □

**KUWAIT CITY:** The State of Kuwait strongly condemned and denounced the terrorist attack that targeted a military site in the Republic of Mali, killing dozens of soldiers.

In a statement Thursday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Kuwait's firm position and its absolute rejection of all forms of violence and terrorist acts, emphasizing the importance of the international community joining forces to combat the roots of terrorism and enhance regional and international security and stability. (KUNA)



8  
NBK hosts strategic thinking lecture by IE Business School professor



9  
Gulf Bank launches 'Start Smart' campaign for Kuwaitis



12  
Eco-tourism in Oman: Shaped by natural wonders, location



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:17	Asr .....	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:50	Maghrib ..	18:41
Zohr .....	11:45	Isha .....	20:11

# Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-42 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot with			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	47	35	
Kuwait Airport	47	29	

Abdaly	48	—
Bubyan	42	28
Jahra	49	32
Failaka Island	41	31
Salmiyah	39	32
Ahmadi	41	31
Nuwaib	45	30
Wafra	46	26



KUNA photo  
The sea level measurement station launched by KISR.

Bid to tackle growing impact of climate change

## Kuwait's KISR launches station to gauge sea levels

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Environment and Life Sciences Research Center at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has announced the establishment of the Kuwait Sea Level Height Measurement Station.

This strategic step aims to support sustainable coastal planning efforts and develop the country's ability to address the growing impact of climate change, particularly sea level rise.

The station is the first and only one of its kind in the Arabian Gulf region cur-

rently transmitting its data in real time, making it a pivotal tool in monitoring coastal climate changes.

Project Leader Dana Al-Houti explained that the primary goal of establishing the station is to accurately and efficiently monitor and measure sea level, thereby, enhancing the country's capabilities in planning and managing coastal areas and facilities in a sustainable manner, based on scientific principles that take into account the effects of climate change.

She disclosed that the station is located in the northwestern part of the Arabian Gulf, specifically at the Sci-

entific Center headquarters. She pointed out that this strategic location -- in the middle of Kuwait's coastal strip -- was carefully selected to ensure reliable, high-quality data reflecting actual changes in sea level, one of the most prominent phenomena associated with climate change.

She said the station's presence within the Scientific Center also contributes to raising community awareness by receiving visitors and students as part of awareness programs and field visits.

She added the station is equipped with two sensors to measure sea level, one above the water surface and the

other below. "Readings are recorded in real time and sent to a central database at the institute.

This data is shared within a global scientific network that contributes to monitoring and tracking changes in sea level at the international level and enhances international efforts to understand the effects of climate change on coastal areas," she explained.

Researchers from the Environmental and Life Sciences Research Center participated in this project, including Dr. Yousef Al-Asiri, Dr. Al-Anoud Al-Raqam, Ali Hammad, Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalidi and Fares Al-Amer.

# Co-ops, gov't must work to end flaws: Dr Al-Huwaila

'Sector guarantees Kuwait food security'

By Fares Ghaleb  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila has emphasized the importance of carrying out oversight work to the best possible extent, as well as the importance of the cooperative sector for food and economic security in the State of Kuwait.

Speaking at the open meeting with the Control and Inspection Department at the Cooperative Sector in the Ministry of Social Affairs held Thursday at the Community Development Center in Zahraa, Al-Huwaila said "we are pointing our finger at the flaws. No work is free of human error, so we must assess how to address these errors, as responsibility is always shared."

She added "this is our second meeting with you. You are the people in the field, and you know better than any other sectors far removed from the field. We will speak with complete transparency, because our goal is the same: to develop this work and enhance the overall reputation of the cooperative sector, which is one of the most important sectors in food and economic security. Cooperative societies play a major role in Kuwait."

She explained that "the cooperative sector's experience is unique. The Gulf and Arab countries consider it a successful and fruitful model, because it provides community services and includes direct contributions from citizens. We are all partners in these cooperative societies."



Photo by Mohammad Morsi  
Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila at the press conference.

She pointed out the ministry's efforts to introduce models such as the 'Sahel' application and electronic applications that serve the financial and administrative aspects, stressing that the services provided will keep pace with the best offered by international companies and serve all members of society.

She continued "any employee who performs his work professionally and honestly will enhance the service. The flaws sometimes emanate from our failure to play our role properly. There are many cooperative societies against which action

has been taken due to serious financial and administrative violations."

She stressed that the role of observers is sensitive and essential; adding that "you are our eyes on the cooperative societies, and your reports are subject to interpretation and implementation. I know some of you are under pressure, but we are meeting to chart a roadmap that identifies the negatives and positives."

On the other hand, Assistant Undersecretary for the Cooperative Sector Ahmed Al-Enezi affirmed that Al-Huwailah is keen on communicating with the inspectors with the aim of evaluating and developing the cooperative oversight staff.

He revealed that the meeting resulted in recommendations; specifically the implementation of the new Integrity Law, submission of financial disclosures, disclosing any conflicts of interest, and submitting the inspectors' recommendations to be formed through a ministerial decision that serves everyone.

He said the inspectors' most prominent observations centered on administrative expenses, supplier payments, and social service expenses. He added "we asked them to submit proposals for amendments. We are also considering opening the recruitment door for the position of administrative and financial inspector, and the decision will be announced soon."

He indicated that the ministry is working on two parallel tracks to develop the sector -- first is to develop the inspectors' skills through legal, administrative and financial courses; and second is technical, including preparing electronic reports, linking checks, and communicating electronically with cooperatives and inspectors.

He added the ministry is currently experimenting with linking some associations to a central control room as a pilot model to be evaluated and rolled out later. He stated that "the minister holds cooperative societies accountable, but she will also hold the auditor accountable if any negligence is proven, as oversight encompasses all aspects."



KUNA photo  
Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah

## Defense Minister leaves for summit in Singapore

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation departed to Singapore to take part in the 22nd Asian Security Summit of the Shangri-La Dialogue.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Defense said on Thursday that the forum will be held tomorrow, Friday, and will continue until June 1, 2025.



Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah

## Kuwait starts working on 'war memorial' in the US

WASHINGTON, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah announced Wednesday that construction has begun on a Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm memorial at a prominent Washington, DC site, set to open in fall 2026.

Unveiled during Kuwait's participation in US Memorial Day events, the monument is a gift from Kuwait to the American people, honoring the shared sacrifices of US and Kuwaiti forces during the 1991 liberation of Kuwait, Al-Sabah told KUNA.

The memorial will stand as a lasting symbol of the two nations' unique partnership and Kuwait's gratitude for America's historic support, Al-Sabah mentioned.

Annual embassy involvement in Memorial Day, she added, reflects the enduring friendship and shared values that define Kuwaiti-US ties.

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, honors US service members who died in the nation's wars; the first ceremony was held on 30 May 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery.

# Bulgarian envoy hosts delegation from NATO

## ICI establishment in region was milestone: Al-Amiri

By Fares Ghaleb  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Organizational Affairs, Minister Plenipotentiary Mohammad Al-Amiri affirmed that Kuwait was among the first countries to join the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative in 2004; along with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Qatar.

Al-Amiri made the statement at a reception hosted by Bulgarian Ambassador to Kuwait Dimitar Dimitrov in honor of a delegation from the NATO Center of Excellence for Crisis Management and Disaster Response, based in Sofia, led by Colonel Orlin Nikolov.

Ministry of Defense Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Sabah and a number of ambassadors and diplomats attended the event.

Al-Amiri pointed out that the establishment of the initiative's regional center in Kuwait in 2017 was a milestone, as it is the first center of its kind hosted by a country outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

He stressed that since its inception, the center has been organizing activities, events and training courses targeting not only Kuwait but all member states of the initiative and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

He disclosed that the current course, conducted by the Bulgarian-Hungarian team, is the first joint cooperation in the field of crisis management.



Dimitar Dimitrov

Thirty trainees from various ministries and institutions are participating, including the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, National Guard and Kuwait Fire Force; in addition to participants from Saudi Arabia, Oman and the Secretariat General of the GCC.

On the other hand, Dimitrov praised the role played by Kuwait in supporting regional security and stability; particularly its hosting of the regional center and continued support for enhancing dialogue and cooperation between NATO and the Gulf states.

He affirmed that the current course is the result of preparations that began last year -- the same year that Bulgaria celebrated the 20th anniversary of its accession to NATO and Kuwait celebrated the 20th anniversary of its participation in the initiative.

Head of the NATO Office at the Regional Center Nora Elise Beck confirmed that the center has so far launched eight weekly training courses this year, indicating that topics such as 'crisis management' remain among the most requested programs by partner countries.

Colonel Orlin Nikolov, representative of the Center of Excellence for Crisis Management, underscored the importance of building capacity to address crises that transcend borders and pose unconventional challenges.

He said the center, accredited by NATO, enables countries and organizations to efficiently deal with sudden and rapidly evolving crises; asserting that resilience is no longer a national option but a regional necessity.

He expressed the center's appreciation for the role of Kuwait in humanitarian diplomacy and the protection of civilians, describing it as a "natural partner."



The Bulgarian ambassador, Ministry of Defense Undersecretary Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Sabah and prominent personalities.



Photos by Rizk Tawfiq  
British Ambassador Belinda Lewis and other diplomats at the event.

## MoE sacks 60 expat teachers, admin staff at end of service

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has suspended the appointment of non-Kuwaiti teachers at the Ministry of Education; as the school year draws to a close, reports Al-Rai daily.

The commission stated that "this suspension will remain in place until the Civil Service Council approves the job requirements plan and nominates Kuwaitis registered in the central recruitment system who are eligible to fill the position of 'teacher' according to the manpower needs of the ministry."

In a related development, the ministry will terminate 60 expatriate employees, including teachers and administrators, who have reached the maximum legal length of service.

Sources informed the daily that the Administrative Sector in the ministry has prepared a com-

prehensive list of non-Kuwaiti employees who have been in service for more than 34 years in various educational districts and educational levels, in addition to the head office. Sources said the list includes 55 teachers in elementary, intermediate and secondary schools as well as five administrators.

Sources confirmed that the ministry decided to terminate non-Kuwaiti teaching staff by the end of the academic year 2024/2025; while the administrative staff will be terminated by the end of the calendar year; that is, end of December 2025.

Sources added these decisions are in line with the replacement plan of the government; which aims to localize jobs and provide job opportunities to nationals in the educational sector, particularly in specializations that are now self-sufficient.

## Asian expatriate held with narcotics

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Security personnel arrested an Asian man wanted by law for absconding with an undisclosed amount of narcotics in his possession.

According to a security source, the officers noticed the Asian at a checkpoint in Mubarak Al-Kabeer as he appeared to be in an abnormal condition, and was later found to be wanted by law for absconding.

Upon investigation, narcotics were found in his possession. He was immediately arrested and referred to the Drug Control General Department

in the Interior Ministry, along with the confiscated drugs.

Meanwhile, the General Directorate of Coast Guards thwarted a large number of attempts to smuggle drugs into Kuwait, including the seizure of approximately 125 kilograms of hashish worth half a million dinars, and the arrest of three Iranian smugglers in March, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The General Directorate of Coast Guards affirmed that its personnel serve as a strong security shield against any attempts to breach territorial waters or smuggle contraband into the country.



KFF boat to the rescue.  
KFF photo

## Drowning maid rescued, critical

By Munif Nayef  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Stafft

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Officers from Al-Muhallab Marine Rescue and Emergency Fire Center saved a domestic worker who almost drowned at a beach in Khairan coastal area.

A security source revealed that the Operations Unit in the center received information about a woman who was drowning at a beach in Khairan. Officers from the center rushed to the scene and rescued the woman who was later identified as a domestic worker.

Meanwhile, in a press statement, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) affirmed that the officers from the center dealt with the incident efficiently and rescued the woman, who was taken to the nearest hospital and is said to be in critical condition. A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances that led to the incident.



## The ‘Blue Bird’ needs to soar again with proper oversight

“FIRST, congratulations to the ‘Blue Bird’ on adding a new aircraft to its fleet of thirty. The newly acquired plane has just been delivered from the Airbus factory, which is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of commercial aircraft,” Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This addition marks a significant step forward for the national carrier, especially when compared to its sister airlines in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. One Gulf airline operates a fleet of 177 aircraft, while another has 120.

“This is where we come to realize just how far behind we are or perhaps how stingy we have become. Foreign airlines have pulled out of the Kuwaiti market, finding it commercially unviable in a country where, nearly a century after the advent of aviation, our airports still suffer from outdated infrastructure, inadequate security and logistics, and a lack of essential services. Whenever a citizen raises a complaint about poor service, officials at Kuwait Airways show little concern.

“The core issue is not the absence of a government, but the absence of effective management. Competent employees are stripped of authority, and if they dare to speak out about problems or propose solutions, they are often pushed into early retirement as punishment. How can this be happening in Kuwait, which is governed by a constitution and the rule of law?

“Due to poor management and a lack of regard for Kuwait’s national interests, Kuwait Airways has entered into agreements with other airlines to transport its passengers to destinations it no longer serves, for reasons that remain unclear. When passengers voice concerns or offer criticism, officials at the ‘Blue Bird’ often respond with mockery, vague or illogical explanations, or simply show no interest at all.

“Meanwhile, senior officials earn salaries two to three times higher than the average employee. I choose to fly with Kuwait Airways because I prefer it for several reasons. But when the airline partners with carriers that provide lower-quality service at a higher cost, what benefit is left for the passenger? It is true that I have grown older and now travel less frequently, but that doesn’t stop me from offering comments and criticism to our national carrier, the airline whose planes we once proudly flew in our youth.

“Sadly, Kuwait Airways has also “aged,” not in years, but due to mismanagement and incompetence. There are those who seem to conspire against it, intent on turning this national asset into little more than scrap. Our Blue Bird will soar again when it is led by dedicated, capable officials who are willing to stand firm against anyone seeking to undermine or exploit it. Kuwait Airways is more than just an airline; it is a national icon, a proud landmark, etched into the hearts of every loyal citizen.”

### Also:

“Clearly, in a world with an accelerating pace and intertwined events and narratives, documentation has become an indispensable cultural act. It is not merely a recording of events or storage of information, but rather a conscious practice of preserving memory, safeguarding identity, and consolidating knowledge,” Major General Eng. **Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Nations that preserve their archives and narrate their stories well ensure a cohesive presence in the consciousness of their people and in the annals of humanity. In the Kuwaiti context, documentation still suffers from clear gaps, both at the institutional and individual levels.

“How many pioneering initiatives, volunteer experiences, sporting achievements, and historical events have been lost or distorted due to the absence of accurate narration or professional documentation? Worse still, when preservation is left to oral memory or personal judgment, opening the door to distortion, forgetfulness or selective exploitation. The importance of documentation is evident in its moral and cognitive value. It grants recognition to those who have achieved it, enables researchers to analyze it, and provides society with a mirror to evaluate its progress.

“Its impact on future generations is invaluable, as it connects them to their roots, provides them with a mature national narrative, and prevents their alienation from their context. However, documentation is not without challenges, including the absence of a documentation culture in institutions, shortage of specialized competencies, lack of methodology, and conflicting narratives.

“Here emerges the need to establish national standards for documentation, encourage digital archiving initiatives, and include documentation in institutional work plans, especially in areas that suffer from a decline in documentation, such as sports and civil society. We need a national vision that makes documentation a priority, not a luxury, and a tool for building, not an archive shelf.

“Just as nations are measured by their achievements, the sustainability of these achievements begins with their preservation, and documentation is the first step in this direction.

“We ask Allah to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, may Allah

protect them. May Allah have mercy on our righteous martyrs.”



“When crises strike organizations, the true role of leadership becomes clear, and the distinction between proactive action and reactive response becomes evident,” sustainability expert **Dr. Sami Al-Adwani** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Crisis management is no longer merely a temporary rescue mechanism but it has evolved into a cornerstone of good governance, especially for institutions that are deeply connected to the daily lives and shifting needs of communities.

“In an era of growing global fragility, marked by natural disasters, financial shocks, and political crises, the importance of a sustainable approach to crisis management becomes increasingly clear. It is no longer sufficient to simply survive a crisis but we must learn to convert these challenges into advantages, options, and opportunities for rebuilding in smarter, more resilient, and more sustainable ways, as one thinker aptly noted.

“At its core, a crisis is a test of an organization’s resilience. According to reports from the Business Continuity Institute (BCI), over 70 percent of organizations now rely on digital tools for crisis management, with a notable shift toward cloud-based (SaaS) solutions. These platforms offer the flexibility and speed needed to activate emergency plans, particularly in hybrid or remote work environments.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, educational institutions that linked their responses with sustainability plans, such as implementing comprehensive digital solutions and supporting vulnerable populations, were better equipped to continue operations and adapt effectively. However, technology alone is not enough. The human factor remains a critical vulnerability in any crisis response.

“Challenges like updating and integrating data persist. From the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a crisis is not merely an urgent threat, it is a catalyst that compels organizations to rethink systems and structures, and raise fundamental questions about justice, equity, governance, and collaboration.

“Effective crisis management upholds human dignity, conserves resources, considers the local context, and builds on continuous learning. It is increasingly evident that sustainable development is an essential lens for modern crisis management.

“This highlights the importance of integrating crisis management into institutions’ sustainable development strategies—so that every crisis becomes an opportunity for assessment and reorientation, rather than merely a temporary burden.

“Along with many of my colleagues, experts, and researchers, I ask: Do our institutions in Kuwait have comprehensive risk maps? Are we leveraging digital tools while simultaneously building resilient human capacities? Are our senior leaders viewing crises as gateways to reform, rather than just threats to be contained?

“Crises will always exist. What matters is how we respond. Today, our institutions must do more than just close gaps, they must build systems capable of anticipating challenges and rebuilding stronger, beyond the immediate emergency.

“In this context, investing in training, capacity building, the documentation of lessons learned, and the adoption of transparency and accountability practices is not a luxury; rather it is a necessity and an assurance that the role of development remains active, resilient, and effective.”



“Abdullah Ja’ed Surour Al-Shawi, a man who embodied chivalry, loyalty, generosity, military discipline, and unwavering devotion to his country and its people, has passed away,” member of the British Institute of Historians **Ahmed bin Burjes** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“During the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Al-Shawi was entrusted with assisting Kuwaiti citizens arriving in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His office in Umm Al-Hamam operated under the Kuwaiti Embassy in Riyadh.

“I met Al-Shawi on several occasions, both at his office and at the embassy. I still remember the warm smile on his face as he helped an elderly person or a woman in need. I wasn’t surprised, as this was simply who Al Shawi was, even back in Kuwait. Though he held the rank of an officer, he was deeply humble, loved his work and his colleagues, and was always cheerful and approachable to anyone who needed him.

“I can’t recall a single person who spoke of Abdullah Al-Shawi without offering praise.

“Abdullah Ja’ed Al Shawi (Abu Mishaal) has passed away. He was a man known for his patience, self-confidence, love of doing good, and commitment to reconciliation among people.

“Al-Shawi was generous with his guests and kind-hearted toward all, carrying a spirit of tolerance and sincerity. Abu Mishaal leaves behind a rich legacy of noble deeds and honorable conduct.”

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



Hassan Ali Karam



KFF photo

Representatives from KFF and Police Sports Federation signing the cooperation protocol.

## KFF, sports federations ink strategic relations protocol

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Fire Force Sports Federation and the Police Sports Federation have signed a strategic cooperation protocol aimed at strengthening institutional integration, developing the capabilities of their members, and promoting the role of sports within the security services.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the signing took place in the presence of Chair of the Fire Force Sports Federation Colonel Dr. Fayez Abdulaziz Ahmed, Chair of the Police Sports Federation Major General Walid Ahmed Al-Shehab, and Vice Chair of the Police Sports Federation Brigadier General Bahri Mubarak Ali Yousef.

This cooperation is expected to pave the way for joint programs and activities that support physical fitness, enhance a spirit of healthy competition, and reinforce the values of teamwork among members of both institutions.

# Mr 10 % seeking bribe jailed

## Case of adulterous wife forbidden to see her girls

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

**KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Criminal Court on Wednesday sentenced the chairman of the Board of Directors of a cooperative society and the director of the purchasing committee to two years in prison for requesting bribe from a vegetable company in the amount of 10 percent of monthly sales.**

The Public Prosecution previously decided to detain the cooperative’s chairman and purchasing manager for 21 days in the Central Prison, after they were caught in a bribery case involving a vegetable company.

This happened after detectives set up an entrapment for the chairman and purchasing manager of the cooperative, located in South Surra; so they were caught while they were accepting the bribe on the street from an expatriate vegetable merchant. However, the defendants fled, but the police chased and arrested them.



**Girls ... adulterous wife:** The Misdemeanor Court acquitted a citizen of preventing his ex-wife, who was convicted of adultery, from seeing her minor daughters and the court declared her guilty of endangering their lives, causing them psychological harm and neglecting them.

Attorney Zaid Al-Khabbaz, who appeared with the citizen in court, requested his client’s acquittal. His client denied the accusation, clar-

ifying that his client prevented the complainant from seeing his children because she was accused of adultery, which she had admitted. He also stated that he feared for his daughters’ safety due to the behavior of the complainant.

The court confirmed in its reasoning that the citizen did not prevent his daughters from seeing their mother due to his own whims, but rather out of fear that they would follow their mother’s shameful and ugly behavior.

The court stated that the Child Protection Office report included numerous expressions from which the court inferred the girls’ hatred and loathing for their mother who was setting a bad example for her daughters.

The court feared that if the accused was punished, the complainant would be able to see the girls; something that should not happen in light of her shameful and ugly behavior, from which the girls should be kept safe.



**Dividend rights with firm:** The Commercial Court of Cassation (First Circuit) confirmed in a final judicial ruling that the decision to distribute dividends falls within the discretionary authority of a company’s board of directors.

This is in relation to the lawsuit filed by a group of shareholders in a company, demanding the disbursement of accumulated financial dividends from previous years amounting to more than KD15 million.

However, the court dismissed the lawsuit as there was no decision to distribute dividends and the company provided financial justification for not doing so.

The court stated that the respondent com-

## Disguise fails to prevent arrest of crafty swindler

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Detectives assigned in Kabad ended the fraudulent activities of a retired man, who was arrested inside a stable where he had been hiding, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In an attempt to evade recognition, the suspect altered his appearance by growing a beard and wearing glasses.

According to a security source, several citizens in different areas filed complaints; disclosing that they encountered a man, in his 50s, who deceived them into undertaking complex government-related transactions. The suspect claimed he has influential connections and accompanied victims to a government institution, where he was seen shaking hands with staff members, making the victims believe he had legitimate ties within the agency.

Complainants reported that the suspect defrauded them of individual sums ranging from KD20,000 to KD30,000; with total losses estimated at KD90,000. After initially promising to facilitate their requests, the suspect repeatedly delayed results and eventually became unreachable by switching off his phone.

The security source added that Kabad detectives traced the suspect through a location he frequented, discovering that he retired from the same government institution about 18 months ago. Further investigation revealed that he had been hiding inside a stable in the area. A warrant was issued and he was arrested immediately.

During interrogation, the suspect confessed to orchestrating a scheme in which he would take victims to his former workplace, leave them in a secluded area, and then enter the building to greet former colleagues. Upon returning, he would assure the victims that their transactions were progressing, often telling them to “rejoice,” before collecting large sums of money under false pretenses.

Authorities continue to investigate the full scope of the suspect’s activities and urged any additional victims to come forward.



**All courts open in July:** Vice President of the Court of First Instance, Counselor Khaled Al-Othman, announced that all First Instance Courts will continue to operate throughout the month of July, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

He explained that, during August, work will be limited to administrative, urgent, and family courts to hear urgent cases. Some criminal circuits will also handle cases involving detainees, while afternoon sessions will be postponed until October.

Counselor Al-Othman addressed the Court of First Instance’s advisors and judges on the occasion of the end of the judicial season, commending their efforts in delivering justice.

He urged judges and advisors to adhere strictly to session schedules and avoid issuing conflicting rulings in similar cases.



KFF photo

KFF personnel seal one of the warehouses violating safety rules.

## KFF shuts down multiple safety violating facilities

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign in South Amghara, Jahra Governorate on Tuesday, in collaboration with several government agencies, including the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the Public Authority for Industry, the Environment Public Authority, Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, and the Public Authority for Manpower.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the campaign was aimed at monitoring buildings and facilities for violations of safety and fire prevention regulations. As a result, several citations were issued, and multiple facilities were administratively closed for failing to comply with KFF standards as well as the requirements of other authorities.



**House on fire:** Fire broke out in a house in Sabahiya on Tuesday evening. No casualties were reported.

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



**KFF awareness lecture:** Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) organized an awareness lecture titled, “Cybersecurity and Ways to Protect against Digital Threats”, at its theater on Tuesday.

The lecture focused on the importance of cybersecurity in the workplace, methods for preventing cyber attacks, and best practices for protecting vital data and information.

This is part of a series of awareness activities implemented by KFF to raise digital awareness among its members and keep pace with rapid technological developments, while ensuring a safe and stable work environment.



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# ‘Kuwait backs UN bid to protect women, up role in peace moves’

NATO-ICI role vital in regional developments: Sasahara

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikhah Jawaher Al-Sabah, affirmed that her country made headway in implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

Sheikhah Jawaher said, in statements to KUNA on Wednesday, that Kuwait backed the efforts aiming to enhance women’s participation in peacebuilding and protect them during armed conflicts.

She made the comments on the sidelines of a panel discussion organized by the NATO Istanbul Cooperation Initiative Regional Centre (NATO-ICI) in cooperation with the US Embassy in Kuwait.

The discussion, which gathered a number of diplomats and international organizations, marked the 25th anniversary of the Resolution.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador expressed pride in the significant gains achieved by Kuwaiti women, including the abolition of Articles 153 and 182 of Kuwaiti law and the continued support of the political leadership to empower women to reach decision-making positions.



KUNA photos  
Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikhah Jawaher Al-Sabah with officials.

She noted that Kuwaiti women currently hold three ministerial positions and represent 28 percent of Kuwaiti diplomats, 10 percent of leadership positions in the Interior Ministry, and 48 percent of military leadership, reflecting the progress made in empowering women.

In 2023, the Foreign Ministry formed a national committee comprising representatives from the Ministries of Information, Interior, Defense, and Justice, along with the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and the Supreme Council for Planning and Development.

The committee aims to implement Resolution 1325 and

develop national policies and plans that support women’s participation in peacekeeping and peace building efforts, in coordination with civil society, and enhance cooperation with countries.

For her part, the UN Secretary-General’s Representative and Resident Coordinator to Kuwait, Ghada Al-Tajer, delivered a speech in which she reviewed global achievements.

Women still constitute only 10 percent of UN peacekeeping forces, 9 percent of UN military personnel, 21 percent of police officers, while the percentage of women in senior positions at the rank of general or equivalent

does not exceed 3 percent.

Al-Tajer added that women’s participation in UN negotiating processes in 2024 did not exceed 17 percent, despite their participation in 7 out of 9 negotiations.

Women’s participation increases the chances of success of peace agreements by 20 percent during the first two years and by 35 percent over 15 years, confirming that the presence of women is not only a legal requirement, but also a necessity for achieving sustainable and comprehensive peace.

For her part, in a statement to KUNA, US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara stressed the importance of NATO-ICI’s role in shedding light on current issues in the region and hosting effective activities that enhance the exchange of expertise and cooperation between diplomats and military personnel in NATO member states and their partners in the region.

The panel discussion saw the active participation of Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez and Canadian Ambassador Alia Mawani, who reviewed their countries’ efforts in supporting the UN resolution and related national action plans.

They emphasized that political and institutional commitment in their countries has led to a significant increase in women’s participation in security and diplomatic sectors and decision-making positions, reflecting the positive impact of the resolution’s implementation.



Photos by Rizk Tawfiq  
The press conference in progress.

## Bid to promote charity, volunteer work

### Al-Baghli launches award for Foundation of the Pious Son

By Fares Ghaleb  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ibrahim Al-Baghli Foundation for the Pious Son and Al-Baghli Award sponsor Ibrahim Al-Baghli has announced the launching of the 19th edition of the award for the year 2025, affirming the continuous work to consolidate the values of piety and benevolence in Kuwaiti society.

Al-Baghli praised the vital role played by the Ministry of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs -- represented by Minister Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah who sponsors and supports the award annually, as part of the State’s commitment to promote charitable and volunteer activities.

He explained that the award embodies a long experience spanning 19 years of hard and fruitful work. He pointed out this award is no longer a mere celebration, as it has become a comprehensive community project.

He revealed the foundation has laid down a



Ibrahim Al-Baghli

strategic plan for the period starting from January 2025 until the end of 2029, in a bid to deepen the social impact of the award.

He said the foundation had a qualitative accomplishment last year by winning first place in the Khaled Al-Essa Al-Saleh Award for Excellence in Charitable Work.

He then announced the creation of a new award this year titled ‘Al-Baghli Award for the Art of Arabic Calligraphy’, in collaboration with the Art and Heritage Team at Salsabil Association.

He stated that the award will serve as an artistic tool conveying a moral message that con-

tributes to the aesthetic expression of the value of piety and highlights the human dimension of this concept through art-work, which combines moral depth with visual beauty.

He affirmed that the award will continue to organize its renowned competitions in the fields of classical and popular poetry, short stories, photography, fine arts, caricature, heritage and handicrafts; in addition to awards for those who care for the elderly and parents, volunteer work, and family care for orphans.

He added that the 2025 award activities will begin on June 1 and continue until Dec 10; including student activities in coordination with the Ministry of Education and honorary celebrations.

He urged citizens and expatriates to participate in the competitions and contribute to spreading the culture of charity, indicating that registration is open from June 1 until the end of October.

## Nobody above law: minister

### Gov’t acts to cut deep-rooted corruption in ‘co-ops’ sector

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: A new decisive strike against corruption is being personally overseen by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, who is closely monitoring the ongoing investigation, reports Al-Rai daily.

This move aims to deal a significant blow to the deep-rooted corruption in the co-operative societies sector.

A security source confirmed to the daily that two board members of the Cooperative Societies Union were arrested several days ago and are now undergoing intensive interrogation by the Criminal Investigation Department. Authorities are confronting them with compelling evidence linked to major corruption cases in such a vital public sector.

The source revealed that several companies are also implicated in the case and will be subject to thorough investigation. “No party will be spared,” the source stressed.



Sheikh Fahad

When asked about corporate accountability in these cases, the source stated emphatically: “The briber and the bribed will both be brought to justice. The fire of reform will consume every corrupt actor in all sectors.”

He added “we are only at the beginning; the investigation is far from over.” The ongoing probe is expected to unravel more details and expose all individuals and entities involved. Those found guilty will be referred to the Public Prosecution.

Preliminary findings have already uncovered serious violations and strong indications of large-scale corruption, allegedly involving senior officials in the Cooperative Societies Union in collusion with private companies.

According to the source, the arrests followed an in-depth investigation that identified suspicious practices within the cooperative sector. Authorities implemented a strategic plan to apprehend the suspects, including two members of union and several corporate executives accused of engaging in illegal activities. The source underscored the importance of the cooperative societies sector, highlighting its central role in supporting citizens and safeguarding national food security.

## Flights begin from Friday-Monday

### Hajj permits and ‘Nusuk’ cards distributed to Kuwaiti pilgrims

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: On the eve of the first Hajj season flight -- departure of the first group of pilgrims to the Holy Land on Friday, Head of the Kuwaiti Hajj Caravans Union Ahmad Al-Dhuwaili announced the completion of preparations for the Hajj season this year.

In a statement to the newspaper on Thursday, Al-Dhuwaili confirmed the distribution of permits and ‘Nusuk’ cards issued by the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to all Kuwaiti pilgrims. He explained that a ‘Nusuk’ card is a comprehensive document, containing all pilgrim data and official permits; indicating it is a prerequisite for movement in the Holy Sites in Makkah and Madinah. He said the boarding pass must include a Hajj permit, indicating that pilgrims can use their civil identification cards or passports for travel.



Al-Dhuwaili

ling. He praised the fruitful cooperation between the relevant Kuwaiti authorities, led by the Kuwaiti Hajj Mission and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs; along with the Saudi authorities, which contributed to ensuring that all procedures are smooth and flexible.

He added the first flight will depart on Friday and will continue until Monday, reiterating that the Hajj caravans are fully prepared. He affirmed that all of them are keen on providing the highest level of organization and services to Kuwaiti pilgrims. “We are fully prepared to serve the guests of Allah and provide them with the best facilities to ensure a safe and smooth Hajj season,” he asserted.

He revealed that the Hajj caravans formed administrative and field teams to accompany the pilgrims and monitor their conditions from the moment of departure until their return to their homeland. He pointed out this will ensure the pilgrims’ safety and comfort.

He stated that all the comments or inquiries of the pilgrims are addressed and followed up immediately -- a manifestation of the commitment to improve the Hajj services this season.

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Left: HH the Crown Prince receives Member of the Japanese House of Representatives and President of the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship Association. Center: HH the Crown Prince receives Tokyo Governor. Right: HH the Crown Prince receives Chairman of the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.



HH the Crown Prince receives Representative Director and COO of Hakuodo Japan.



# Crown Prince meets top Japanese officials, business leaders in Tokyo

TOKYO, May 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Thursday a number of senior Japanese officials and business leaders at his residence in the Japanese capital.

Among those received were Member of the Japanese House of Representatives and President of the Japan-Kuwait Parliamentary Friendship Association Mori Eisuke; Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike; Chairman of the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Shunichi Miyana; and Representative Director and COO of Hakuodo Japan Yasuo Nishiyama.

The meetings underscored the strength of Kuwait-Japan relations and explored avenues for enhanced cooperation across various sectors.

Present at the meetings were Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Mazen Al-Essa, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Bader Al-Taneeb, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Samih Hayat, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Sami Al-Zamanan.



Kuwait's Finance Minister Noura Al-Fassam with Google Cloud's Vice President of Customer Engineering for the Middle East, Africa and Europe Chris Lindsay in a group photo.

# Kuwait taps Google for smart finance overhaul

Cloud tools at core of reform

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Finance Minister Noura Al-Fassam held talks on Wednesday with Google Cloud's Vice President of Customer Engineering for the Middle East, Africa and Europe Chris Lindsay, focusing on efforts to push forward a national digital drive.

The digital transformation, including a transition into a cloud-based financial system that guarantees more "flexibility and transparency," represents the focal point of economic reforms in Kuwait, according to a finance ministry statement.

Kuwait's finance ministry will be among the first state bodies to make the transition into a digital system, which is a testament to its "commitment" to employ cutting-edge technology, such as Artificial Intelligence tools, in a bid to improve the quality of its services, the statement underlined.

The talks come as part of the "strategic partnership" agreement between Kuwait and the US tech giant, which aims to develop advanced digital infrastructure across all state bodies, added the statement.

It went on to espouse the merits of a full-fledged digital transformation, citing streamlined processes, data-driven decision-making and greater efficiency as chief among those benefits.

## Strategy targets energy, health, tech gaps

## KFAS unveils 2025-2029 innovation plan

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) announced on Wednesday its new strategy for the period (2025-2029), aimed at advancing Kuwait's scientific research, and utilizing technology to tackle national challenges and achieve sustainable development.

The strategy, titled "A Solid Legacy and an Innovative Future," reflects the foundation's commitment to preserving its historical achievements spanning over 45 years, while proactively positioning Kuwait as a global knowledge hub through innovation and technology transfer, according to a KFAS statement.

The strategy seeks to build an integrated research system that supports practical and applied innovation and develops national human capabilities, enhancing the efficiency of scientific research and expanding the scope of multidisciplinary research.

The Foundation emphasized that the new strategy would focus on stimulating technology transfer and finding innovative solutions to key challenges facing Kuwait, including energy and water security, public health, digital economy, and education development.

KFAS also affirmed its dedication to empowering youth, researchers, and entrepreneurs by providing comprehensive opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), strengthening local and international partnerships, and developing training programs and pioneering research initiatives.

The strategy represents a renewed commitment to investing in advanced technologies and knowledge transfer to support an innovation-driven economy and international competitiveness, achieved through close collaboration between academia, public and private sectors,

and civil society organizations, the statement noted.

The strategy encompasses ambitious goals aimed at enhancing research efficiency, expanding multidisciplinary research, accelerating technology transfer, and creating a supportive environment for innovation through training programs to build national capacities capable of addressing both local and global challenges.

The strategy embodies KFAS vision of building a prosperous knowledge-based society capable of global competitiveness, it added.



Photos during the unveiling of KFAS new strategy.

## New bilateral

Further, His Highness lauded Japan's supportive stance for Kuwaiti rights during the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, recalling the historical relations that have bound the two friendly countries since 1958.

In turn, the Japanese Premier welcomed the official visit of His Highness the Crown Prince, praising the depth of the historical relations that bind the two friendly countries and peoples.

The latest regional and global developments were touched on during the talks.

The talks were attended by the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Crown Prince.

A signing ceremony was held during the visit, where Kuwait and Japan formalized several agreements and Memorandums of Cooperation (MoCs), overseen by His Highness the Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

The ceremony reflected the two countries' keenness to strengthen and develop the existing bilateral cooperation between them in various vital fields.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and members of the official delegation attended the event.

The State of Kuwait and Japan agreed to upgrade their bilateral relations to a "comprehensive strategic partnership," which reflects the depth of the relationship and opens new horizons for cooperation.

The agreement is a fruit of the official visit by His Highness the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Japan on May 28-31, a press release from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Thursday.

His Highness the Crown Prince has held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on ways to strengthen the relations in various vital areas and serve the mutual interests of both nations amid regional and international changes.

They agreed that upgrading the bilateral relations in the political, economic and humanitarian fields materializes both nations' shared commitment to enhancing security, stability and prosperity on regional and international scales, the statement noted.

To conclude the day's engagements, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba held a banquet in honor of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation, in Tokyo.

Kuwait and Japan are tied with historical bonds that started with the economic field in the fifties when the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah agreed in 1958 to grant Japan's Arabian Oil Company Ltd the concession to explore oil at the Submerged Area or the Neutral Zone.

Three years later, Japan was in the forefront of those countries that had recognized Kuwait's independence through a cabinet decree on December 8, 1961, in spite of Iraqi economic sanctions on Japanese exports.

The Japanese move was based on balanced interests with Kuwait, particularly after Japan had obtained the concession to use Kuwait's oil share in the divided zone with Saudi Arabia.

The concession came to an end in September 2001 under a memo of understanding. The Kuwait Gulf Oil Company then started operating in the joint offshore oil fields.

Bilateral diplomatic ties were forged in February 1962, when the first Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan, Sulaiman Mohammad Al-Sanea, arrived in Tokyo, and the Japanese embassy was inaugurated in Kuwait in March, 1963.

Japanese commercial missions had been present in Kuwaiti markets since 1961 to study markets of Gulf States.

Afterwards, both sides commenced cooperative relations in several areas, including cooperation between Kuwait Gulf Oil Company and Arabian Oil Company by signing agreements for providing Japan with part of the production of the divided area and helping Kuwaiti companies make use of the Arabian Oil Company's expertise and a Japanese financing agreement.

Based on this cooperation, the Arabian Oil Company Ltd had helped in establishing Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in 1967.

In the following decades, relations between the two countries were based on mutual benefit, especially in commercial aspects, where Kuwait was one of the main sources of crude oil and its derivatives for Japan, while Kuwaiti markets saw an abundance of Japanese products.

Japan's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 was so supportive that it stood by Kuwaiti rights and supported international conventions condemning occupation, calling for return of sovereignty. Japan also contributed USD 13 billion for the liberation of Kuwait.

In January 1995, the then Heir to the Emperor's Throne, Naruhito, and Princess Masako, visited Kuwait, where the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah granted him the Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer in appreciation of Japan's support for Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion.

In return, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah paid an official visit to Tokyo in October of the same year in order to voice gratitude to Japan for having supported Kuwait during the liberation from the Iraqi invasion.

In March 2012, the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited Japan, where he had met with Emperor Akihito, Crown Prince Naruhito and Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda on ways of promoting relations between both countries in a bid to serve their mutual interest.

In August 2013, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Kuwait in order to bolster his country's partnership with Kuwait, mainly in economic and scientific matters and promote bilateral dialogue to ensure joint stability and prosperity.

On December 23, 2024, Kuwait and Japan held the fourth round of political consultations, with both sides having voiced willingness to further expand their economic partnership covering food security, cybersecurity, renewable energy, oil and petrochemicals.

The Kuwaiti-Japanese business-

men's committee, formed in 1995, held its first meeting in Kuwait in November of the same year.

In 2011, Kuwait granted Japan five million barrels of crude oil worth roughly USD 500 million, in addition to USD five million in the aftermath of a powerful earthquake that hit its eastern coasts.

will appear, and expected low temperatures will range between 28°C and 30°C. The sea will be moderate to rough, with wave heights between three and six feet.

He stated that there are some other less expensive countries preferred by a fair number of Kuwaitis like Thailand and some coastal tourist cities.

CEO of a tourism and travel company, Walid Abu Sharoud, thinks that Kuwaiti travel destinations can be divided into two segments -- first is that there is a large segment prefers to travel to Istanbul, Baku, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, London and Egypt; while a new segment has been active over the past three years in Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and Poland. He added that travel indicators for the year 2025 show a segment of Kuwaitis who prefer to travel to Sochi, Russia and the Czech Republic.

At night, the weather will be mildly warm to hot, with northwesterly winds that are light to moderate speeds and occasionally active along coastal areas, and with speeds ranging from 12 to 42 kilometers per hour. Some scattered clouds will appear, and the expected low temperatures will range between 27°C and 29°C. The sea will remain light to moderate, with waves occasionally rising between two and six feet.

On Saturday, the weather during the day will be hot and partly cloudy, with northwesterly winds that are light to moderate and occasionally active, with speeds ranging between 15 and 50 kilometers per hour, and with a chance of dust. Expected high temperatures will range between 42°C and 44°C. The sea will be light to moderate, with waves occasionally reaching heights of two to six feet.

On Saturday night, the weather will be mildly warm to hot, with northwesterly winds that are light to moderate and occasionally active along coastal areas, and with speeds ranging between 15 and 40 kilometers per hour. Some high clouds

and civil society organizations, the statement noted.

The strategy encompasses ambitious goals aimed at enhancing research efficiency, expanding multidisciplinary research, accelerating technology transfer, and creating a supportive environment for innovation through training programs to build national capacities capable of addressing both local and global challenges.

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## Kuwaitis shift

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## Kuwait supports

participating in OPEC+, to be used as a reference basis for determining production quota levels in 2027.

In addition to the Minister of Oil Al-Roumi, the Kuwaiti delegation which participated in the meetings included Kuwait's Governor to OPEC, Mohammad Khudr Al-Shattari, and Kuwait's National Representative to OPEC, Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah.

Continued from Page 1



North America

**Manitoba declares state of emergency:** The Canadian province of Manitoba has declared a state of emergency over a series of wildfires, and Prime Minister Mark Carney has agreed to send in the military to help.

“This is the largest evacuation Manitoba will have seen in most peoples’ living memory,” Manitoba Premier **Wab Kinew** said.

He said the fires have forced 17,000 people across several communities to flee.

“The military is being called for help here because of the sheer scale of the 17,000 folks that we move relatively quickly,” Kinew said. “I’m happy to say that Prime Minister Mark Carney agreed with the request.”

The emergency declaration helps officials to safely transport evacuees and provide shelter.

The Manitoba city of Flin Flon earlier ordered all 5,000 residents to leave due to an approaching wildfire. Residents were told they should flee south with their essentials and aim to be out by midnight. It had already begun sending out high-needs hospital patients. (AP)



**Head of human smuggling plot gets 10 yrs:** More than three years after a family of four from India froze to death while trying to enter the U.S. along a remote stretch of the Canadian border in a blizzard, the convicted ringleader of an international human smuggling plot was sentenced in Minnesota on Wednesday to 10 years in prison.

Federal prosecutors had recommended nearly 20 years for Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel, and nearly 11 years for the driver who was supposed to pick them up, Steve Anthony Shand, who got 6 1/2 years Wednesday with two years’ su-



Kinew

pervised release. “The crime in many respects is extraordinary because it did result in the unimaginable death of four individuals, including two children,” US District Judge John Tunheim said. “These were deaths that were clearly avoidable.”

Patel’s attorney, Thomas Leinenweber, told the court before sentencing that Patel maintains his innocence and argued he was no more than a “low man on the totem pole.” He asked for time served, 18 months.

But the acting US attorney for Minnesota, Lisa Kirkpatrick, said Patel exploited the migrants’ hopes for a better life in America, out of his own greed.

Patel, in an orange uniform and handcuffed, declined to address the court. He showed no visible emotion as the sentence was issued. The judge noted that he is likely to be deported to his native India after completing his sentence. He cooperated as marshals handcuffed him and led him from the courtroom. (AP)



**Harvard holds commencement:** Harvard University is holding its commencement Thursday at a pivotal moment, when its place as one of the world’s leading higher education institutions is under what increasingly seems like existential threats from the Trump administration.

Other schools face the loss of federal funding and their ability to enroll international students if they don’t agree to the Trump administration’s shifting demands. But Harvard, which was founded in 1636, a century and a half before the nation itself, is taking the lead on defying the White House in federal court - and paying a significant price.

The Trump administration’s latest salvos include asking federal agencies to cancel about \$100 million in contracts with the Ivy League school. The government already canceled more than \$2.6 billion in federal research grants, moved to cut off Harvard’s enrollment of international students and threatened its tax-exempt status.

Visa interviews for international students admitted to schools nationwide were halted on Tuesday, and Trump said Wednesday that Harvard should reduce its international enrollment from 25% to about 15%. (AP)

US Sen Graham gets 2026 challenge from S.Carolina Democrat Andrews

COLUMBIA, SC, May 29, (AP): Dr Annie Andrews, the South Carolina Democrat who unsuccessfully challenged Rep. Nancy Mace in 2022, says she’s running against Republican Sen Lindsey Graham in 2026, challenging the four-term incumbent in part due to what she characterized as his waffling positions over the course of his political career.

“He’s changed his position on nearly every issue over that time and that’s because, in my view, he doesn’t stand for anything or believe in anything other than what it takes to get reelected,” Andrews, a pediatrician in Charleston, told The Associated Press before a campaign rollout Thursday.

In her launch video, Andrews says it’s “embarrassing” to see how politicians like Graham - at the moment one of President Donald Trump’s top Senate allies - have swung from criticizing Trump to working to gain his favor. The video features archival video of Graham bemoaning critics who called Trump a “kook” and then, a year earlier, using the same term to describe his former GOP primary foe in the 2016 presidential contest.

Also:

**SANTA FE, NM:** Competition for the Democratic nomination for governor in **New Mexico** is heating up as for-



US Sen Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House on Feb 28, in Washington. (AP)

mer four-term **Las Cruces** mayor **Ken Miyagishima** launched a campaign with a centrist focus on public safety, affordable housing and efforts to shore up the state’s health care workforce.

Miyagishima hopes to succeed Democratic Gov. **Michelle Lujan Grisham** as she terms out of office at the end of 2026 amid public frustration with crime, homelessness and public education.

The Democratic nomination also is

being sought by former congresswoman and U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a tribal member of Laguna Pueblo, as well as Albuquerque-based District Attorney Sam Bregman, the father of Major League Baseball star Alex Bregman of the Boston Red Sox. Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull says he will begin campaigning for governor next month. The primary election takes place in June 2026.

I sympathize with Elon being discouraged: Johnson

Musk leaves Trump administration after leading effort to slash federal government

WASHINGTON, May 29, (AP): Elon Musk is leaving his government role as a top adviser to President Donald Trump after spearheading efforts to reduce and overhaul the federal bureaucracy.

His departure, announced Wednesday evening, marks the end of a turbulent chapter that included thousands of layoffs, the evisceration of government agencies and reams of litigation. Despite the upheaval, the billionaire entrepreneur struggled in the unfamiliar environment of Washington, and he accomplished far less than he hoped.

He dramatically reduced his target for cutting spending - from \$2 trillion to \$1 trillion to \$150 billion - and increasingly expressed frustration about resistance to his goals. Sometimes he clashed with other top members of Trump’s administration, who chafed at the newcomer’s efforts to reshape their departments, and he faced fierce political blowback for his efforts.

Musk’s role working for Trump was always intended to be temporary, and he had recently signaled that he would be shifting his attention back to running his businesses, such as the electric automaker Tesla and the rocket company SpaceX.

But administration officials were often vague about when Musk would step back from his position spearheading the Department of Government

Efficiency, known as DOGE, and he abruptly revealed that he was leaving in a post on X, his social media website.

“As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President @realDonaldTrump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending,” he wrote. “The @DOGE mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government.”

A White House official, who requested anonymity to talk about the change, confirmed Musk’s departure.

Musk announced his decision one day after CBS released part of an interview in which he criticized the centerpiece of Trump’s legislative agenda by saying he was “disappointed” by what the president calls his “big beautiful bill.”

The legislation includes a mix of tax cuts and enhanced immigration enforcement. Musk described it as a “massive spending bill” that increases the federal deficit and “undermines the work” of his Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE.

“I think a bill can be big or it could be beautiful,” Musk said. “But I don’t know if it could be both.”

Trump, speaking in the Oval Office on Wednesday, defended his agenda by talking about the delicate politics



Elon Musk (left), shakes hands with President Donald Trump at the finals for the NCAA wrestling championship, March 22, in Philadelphia. (AP)

involved with negotiating the legislation.

“I’m not happy about certain aspects of it, but I’m thrilled by other aspects of it,” he said.

Trump also suggested that more changes could be made.

“We’re going to see what happens,” he said. “It’s got a way to go.”

Republicans recently pushed the measure through the House and are debating it in the Senate.

Musk’s concerns are shared by

some Republican lawmakers. “I sympathize with Elon being discouraged,” said Wisconsin Sen Ron Johnson.

Speaking at a Milwaukee Press Club event on Wednesday, Johnson added that he was “pretty confident” there was enough opposition “to slow this process down until the president, our leadership, gets serious” about reducing spending. He said there was no amount of pressure Trump could put on him to change his position.

Speaker Mike Johnson has asked

senators to make as few changes to the legislation as possible, saying that House Republicans reached a “very delicate balance” that could be upended with major changes. The narrowly divided House will have to vote again on final passage once the Senate alters the bill.

On Wednesday, Johnson thanked Musk for his work and promised to pursue more spending cuts in the future, saying “the House is eager and ready to act on DOGE’s findings.”

The White House is sending some proposed rescissions, a mechanism used to cancel previously authorized spending, to Capitol Hill to solidify some of DOGE’s cuts. A spokesperson for the Office of Management and Budget said the package will include \$1.1 billion from the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, which funds NPR and PBS, and \$8.3 billion in foreign assistance.

Musk occasionally seemed chastened by his experience working in government.

“The federal bureaucracy situation is much worse than I realized,” he told The Washington Post. “I thought there were problems, but it sure is an uphill battle trying to improve things in D.C., to say the least.”

He also recently said that he’ll reduce his political spending, because “I think I’ve done enough.”

Musk had previously been energized by the opportunity to reshape Washington. After putting at least \$250 million behind Trump’s candidacy, he wore campaign hats in the White House, held his own campaign rallies, and talked about excessive spending as an existential crisis. He often tended to be effusive in his praise of Trump.

“The more I’ve gotten to know President Trump, the more I like the guy,” Musk said in February. “Frankly, I love him.”

Trump repaid the favor, describing Musk as “a truly great American.” When Tesla faced declining sales, he turned the White House driveway into a makeshift showroom to illustrate his support.

It’s unclear what, if any, impact that Musk’s comments about the bill would have on the legislative debate, especially given his departure from the administration. During the transition period, when his influence was on the rise, he helped whip up opposition to a spending measure as the country stood on the brink of a federal government shutdown.

His latest criticism could embolden Republicans who want bigger spending cuts. Republican Utah Sen. Mike Lee reposted a Fox News story about Musk’s interview while also adding his own take on the measure, saying there was “still time to fix it.”



A massive debris avalanche, with the village of Kippel in the foreground, is seen on May 29, one day after the collapse of the Birch Glacier causing the demolishing of the village of Blatten in Switzerland. (AP)

One missing as Alpine village destroyed by Swiss glacier collapse

A 64-year-old man remained missing Thursday after a huge mass of rock and ice from a glacier crashed down a Swiss mountainside the day before.

The landslide sent plumes of dust skyward and coated with mud nearly all of an Alpine village that authorities had evacuated earlier

this month as a precaution. State Councilor Stéphane Ganzer told Radio Télévision Suisse that 90% of the village was destroyed.

The Cantonal Police of Valais said that a search and rescue operation was underway for the man, whose name wasn’t made public, and it involved a drone with a thermal camera.

The regional government said in a statement that a large chunk of the Birch Glacier above the village had broken off, causing the landslide, which also buried the nearby Lonza River bed, raising the possibility of dammed water flows. (AP)

Risk of sabotage and war rises

Nordic nations embrace total defense

KONGSBERG, Norway, May 29, (AP): In 1944, Norwegian resistance fighters in the town of Kongsberg blew up a factory making cannons for occupying Nazi German forces during World War II.

More than 80 years later, the municipality could once again be a target for sabotage and is preparing for war.

The local authorities have dusted off Cold War-era bomb shelters, installed a new satellite communications system and are working with the military on plans to help a deployment of Western forces in case of conflict.

“The lesson we learned from Ukraine is that everybody pitched in,” said Odd John Resser, Kongsberg’s Emergency Planning Officer, noting breweries that pivoted to making Molotov cocktails, local authorities that built schools in shelters and weapons factories which ramped up production.

Across the Nordic nations, governments are boosting defense spending, reassessing security and pushing the concept of total defense. It’s an approach which mobilizes the whole of society to defend against military and non-military threats.

As Moscow wages war in Ukraine, Western officials are accusing Russia of being behind a campaign of sabotage, arson and cyberattacks and there are jitters across the continent about



The town of Kongsberg, which is the headquarters of a defense company which makes missiles for Ukraine and is seen as a potential target for sabotage, is seen in Norway on May 7. (AP)

whether Europe can rely on the U.S. as a partner.

The Norwegian government published its first national security strategy in May, saying the country is facing its most serious security situation since World War Two.

“After decades of peace,” it warned, “a new era has begun for Norway and for Europe.”

“What is now happening in Ukraine has to be a wake-up call for all and we must strengthen our defense to prevent anything like that from happening to us,” Norway’s Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre told The Associated Press. Norway announced in January that it plans to start building bomb shelters in new buildings after halting the practice in 1998.

Von der Leyen honored with award for contributions to European unity

BERLIN, May 29, (AP): European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen received the International Charlemagne Prize, an annual award for contributions to European unity, on Thursday as the 27-nation bloc confronts Russia’s war against Ukraine, the Trump administration’s trade war and security issues across the continent.

The European Union’s most high-profile political figure, von der Leyen was called “the embodiment of the European spirit” by King Felipe VI of Spain during Thursday’s ceremony in Aachen, Germany.

Last year, European Parliament lawmakers reelected her to a second five-year term as president of the EU’s powerful executive arm.

Even if the European Commission’s makeup has hardly become the talk of bar rooms or barber shops across the vast EU of 450 million people, it has enthralled the upper echelons of politics and bureaucracy, as they sought to boost one candidate or undermine another.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, center, receives the Charlemagne Prize in Aachen, Germany on May 29. (AP)

The commission proposes legislation for the EU’s 27 member countries and ensures that the rules governing the world’s biggest trading bloc are respected. It’s made up of a College

of Commissioners with a range of portfolios similar to those of government ministers, including agriculture, economic, competition, security and migration policy.

LONDON, May 29, (AP): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer took aim at political rival Nigel Farage on Thursday, saying the hard-right politician would trash the UK economy through reckless spending.

In a sign of how Britain’s two-party-dominated political system is changing, the prime minister devoted a speech at a glass factory in north-west England to attacking Farage, an ally of President Donald Trump whose Reform UK party holds just five of the 650 seats in the House of Commons. Starmer’s Labour Party, elected last year in a landslide, has 403 seats, and the center-right Conservatives 121.

In a shift from Labour’s long-standing policy of ignoring Farage as much as possible, Starmer said the Conservative Party “is faltering” and voters might face a choice between Labour and Reform. The next national election is due by 2029.

Starmer branded Farage’s economic plans “Liz Truss 2.0,” evoking the Conservative former prime minister who



Nigel Farage, leader of the Reform UK party, speaks at an event in London on May 27. (AP)

rocked financial markets and sent borrowing costs soaring by announcing billions in tax cuts without saying how they would be funded. She resigned after six weeks in office in 2022.

“It’s Liz Truss all over again,” Starmer said. “The same bet in the same casino. ... Using your family finances, your mortgages, the bills, as the gambling chip on his mad experiment.”

Reform got about 14% of the vote in last year’s national election, but it has surged to the top of many opinion polls. Reform made big gains in local elections this month, winning several mayoralties and control of 10 local councils.

Farage’s party is targeting working class voters who once backed Labour. Starmer’s popularity has plunged as his government struggles to kick-start a sluggish economy. The government has raised the minimum wage, strengthened workers’ rights and pumped money into the state-funded health system - but also hiked employer taxes and cut welfare benefits.

Farage announced a slew of worker-friendly - and costly - policies this week, saying a Reform government would cut income tax for millions of people.



East Timor deports ex-Filipino congressman accused of masterminding gov’s murder

Philippine President Marcos Cabinet revamp retains defense chief: senior official

MANILA, Philippines, May 29, (Agencies): Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr will retain Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr, who is among the most vocal critics of China in Asia, as Marcos presses on with a midterm overhaul of his Cabinet, a senior official said Thursday.

Teodoro, who has strongly echoed Marcos’ criticisms of China’s increasingly assertive actions in the South China Sea, will remain in his post, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin told a news conference.

Maj Gen Nicolas Torre III will be the next chief of the 232,000-member national police. Torre led the arrest of former President Rodrigo Duterte in March and his turnover to International Criminal Court detention in The Netherlands for his deadly anti-drug crack-downs, Bersamin said.

Last year, Torre oversaw the arrest of Philippine religious leader Apollo Quiboloy, a key Duterte supporter who was placed on the FBI’s most-wanted list after being indicted for sexual

abuses and trafficking in the US Torre would take over his retiring predecessor, Gen. Rommel Marbil.

Marcos asked all of his Cabinet secretaries last week to submit resignations in what the government said was a “bold reset” of his administration following the May 12 midterm elections, which saw more opposition candidates win crucial Senate seats.

Marcos, the 67-year-old son of a late Philippine dictator overthrown in 1986, won the presidency in the deeply divided Southeast Asian country by a landslide in 2022 in a stunning political comeback as he made a steadfast call for national unity. But his equally popular vice-presidential running mate, Sara Duterte, later had a falling out with him that has sparked intense political discord.

With support from friendly countries including the U.S., a treaty ally, Marcos emerged as the most vocal critic of China’s actions in the disputed South China Sea while contending with an array of longstanding domestic issues including inflation, delayed fulfillment



A former Filipino congressman charged with multiple murders in the Philippines, Arnolfo Teves Jr, center, is escorted by police officers in Dili, East Timor, on May 25. (AP)

of a campaign promise to bring down the price of rice and many reports of kidnappings and other crimes.

considered the greatest threat to the Philippines’ national security and should also be regarded as a global threat because it could choke a trade route that is crucial for global supply chains.

Also:

TOKYO: Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and his Philippine counterpart Enrique Manalo on Wednesday agreed to hold maritime consultations and vice-ministerial strategic dialogue this year to share strategic perceptions and further advance cooperation in the field of security, including the maritime domain.

The agreement came as Iwaya and Manalo held in-depth discussions on further strengthening the foundation for security and defense cooperation, based on last month’s summit talks between their leaders, Japan’s Foreign Ministry said.

DILI, East Timor: East Timor on Thursday deported a former Filipino congressman charged with multiple murders in the Philippines, saying that he was a national security threat whose presence could damage the country’s image before its entry to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Ex-Rep. Arnolfo Teves Jr. was arrested in East Timor’s capital of Dili on Wednesday by immigration authorities and would immediately be deported to the Philippines for staying without a visa and after his passport was cancelled by Manila’s Department of Foreign Affairs, the East Timor government said in a statement.

Teves has been sought by the Philippine government in connection with the March 2023 killings of Negros Oriental Gov Roel Degamo and several other people, including impoverished villagers seeking medical aid from him, by men in military camouflage and body armor who barged into his central Philippine home with assault rifles. At least 17 others were wounded in the brazen attack, which was captured on security cameras.



South Korean firefighters and military officers work at the scene of a South Korean navy plane’s crash in Pohang, South Korea on May 29. (AP)

S.Korean navy patrol plane crashes in country’s south, killing 4

A South Korean navy plane crashed during a training flight on Thursday, killing all four crew members on board, the navy said.

The P-3 patrol plane took off from its base in the southeastern city of Pohang at 1:43 p.m. and crashed due to unknown reasons, the navy said in a statement. It said it had identified the bodies of the four crew members and was in the process of recovering them.

There were no immediate reports of civilian casualties on the ground. The navy set up a task force to investigate the crash and temporarily grounded its P-3s.

An emergency office in Pohang said that rescuers and fire trucks were dispatched to the site after receiving reports from residents that an aircraft crashed on a hill near an apartment complex and caused a fire. (AP)

Will Mexico’s judicial elections hurt democracy or make courts accountable?

MEXICO CITY, May 29, (AP): Mexicans will vote in the country’s first judicial elections Sunday. The fiercely debated question is whether electing judges will deepen democratic decay or purge courts of rampant corruption and impunity.

The vote comes as power in Mexico has been increasingly concentrated in the popular president’s office, and as organized crime yields significant political influence in many parts of the country. Critics worry that electing judges will weaken checks and balances on government and stack the courts in favor of the ruling party.

Judges and court staff previously earned their positions through merit and experience. Now the election has more than 7,700 candidates vying for more than 2,600 judicial positions, including on Mexico’s Supreme Court. Hundreds more positions will be elected in 2027.

“We’ve never seen something like this before. What Mexico is doing is like an experiment, and we don’t know what the outcome of it will be,” said Carin Zissis, director of the Council of the Americas’ Washington office.

Mexico’s judicial elections will pick judges across every level of government, an unprecedented situation globally.

Former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador led the push for the overhaul. The highly popular lead-

ally and successor, President Claudia Sheinbaum, has continued to champion it.

The overhaul notably put limits on the Supreme Court’s power to widely block presidential actions and laws, and set up a disciplinary tribunal for judges.

“The way I see it, the Supreme Court is going to once again become irrelevant, just like it was in the old days of authoritarian rule ... when its ability to monitor constitutionality was basically null,” said Rafael Estada, a constitutional historian.

Sheinbaum and López Obrador have asserted that by popularly electing judges, they can root out corruption in the judiciary and bring the branch closer to the people.

“Who is going to choose the judges on the court now? The Mexican people. That’s the big difference between what once was and what now is,” Sheinbaum said Monday as she called on Mexicans to vote.

“And that,” she added, “is democracy.”

Many on the ballot won a lottery after being screened by committees made up of people from the three branches of government - two of which are controlled by the president’s party. To qualify, candidates need a law degree, five years of professional experience, an essay and letters of recommendation from friends and colleagues.



Yasmin Esquivel, who is running for election for the Mexican Supreme Court, speaks to supporters at her closing campaign rally in Mexico City on May 28. (AP)

er was long at odds with Mexican courts, which regularly struck down reform proposals and halted projects they called an overreach of executive power. López Obrador went as far as publicly criticizing judges in his press briefings.

Last September, after dominating presidential and legislative elections, his Morena party jammed the constitutional reform through congress. His

China condemns United States ‘discriminatory’ decision over revoking Chinese student visas

BEIJING, May 29, (Xinhua): The discriminatory practice by the United States to revoke the visas for Chinese students exposes its lies of so-called “freedom and openness,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said here on Thursday.

Mao made the remarks at a daily press briefing when answering a related query.

The US side unreasonably revoking the visas for Chinese students, under the pretext of ideology and national security, severely infringes upon the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese students and disrupts normal people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, Mao said.

“China firmly opposes this and has lodged representations with the US side,” Mao said.

This politically motivated and discriminatory practice by the United States exposes its lies of self-proclaimed freedom and openness, and will only further damage the country’s international image and credibility, Mao noted.



American flags are displayed together with Chinese flags on top of a trishaw on Sept 16, 2018, in Beijing. (AP)

good outcome.”

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army maintains a high state of readiness, intensifies combat training, and stands firm in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, said spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang at a regular press conference.

Also:

BEIJING: A Chinese defense ministry spokesperson on Thursday warned Taiwan’s Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities that pursuing “Taiwan independence” will “bring no

NANNING: Eight residents missing in the mountain torrent on Friday were



Indian Army personnel take part in a training session at Everest Base Camp before beginning their ascent to Mount Everest in Nepal, April 26, 2025. (AP)

Nepal mountaineers mark 72nd ’versary of Everest conquest

Nepal’s mountaineering community celebrated the conquest of the world’s highest mountain with a rally of climbers, guides and others who gathered for International Everest Day.

The event Thursday marked the 72nd anniversary of the first summit climb of Mount Everest on May 29, 1953, by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay.

Nepal’s minister for culture and tourism led the celebration in the capital, Kathmandu, that included a walk around the city and a gathering at the old palace.

“We are celebrating May 29 as the international Sagarmatha (Everest) day because the world needs to continue to recognize the achievement and contribution of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay,” said Ang Tshering, who runs Kathmandu-based Asian Trekking. (AP)

New coalition challenges Suriname’s president after close election

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, May 29, (AP): Suriname could soon have its first female president after a party led by a medical doctor formed a coalition aimed at ousting the South American country’s current leader following a weekend election with no clear winner.

Dr. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, of the National Democratic Party, formed a coalition with five other parties late Tuesday as workers still tallied votes from Sunday’s National Assembly election. The chamber chooses the president by a two-thirds vote.

The coalition was formed as the troubled country prepares for an influx of wealth following the discovery of major offshore oil deposits, with the first production expected by 2028.

The National Democratic Party has so far secured 18 seats in the 51-member National Assembly, while the Progressive Reform Party of President Chandrikapersad Santokhi clinched 17, losing three seats in the election.

However, votes at some polling stations were still being counted, and

Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, of the National Democratic Party, walks with children to a voting center to cast her ballot during the National Assembly election in Paramaribo, Suriname on May 25. (AP)

recounts in some places were already underway in the Dutch-speaking country of more than 646,000 people.

Once preliminary results are confirmed, the National Assembly would

then meet to choose a president. The coalition headed by Geerlings-Simons so far appears to hold 34 seats, which would be just enough to muster a two-thirds majority.



Brazil-US ties not unconditional: FM

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 28, (Xinhua): Brazil’s relationship with the United States is not unconditional, Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira told a committee under the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday, amid concerns that new US restrictions could affect Brazilian citizens.

Vieira voiced concern over the US government’s recent decision to suspend new visas for international students.

“It’s a worrying situation. We have a large number of Brazilian students at US universities, and we’ll have to monitor how this unfolds,” he said.



Vieira

Subcontinent

Pakistan kills 4 terrorists: Four terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan’s southwestern Balochistan province, officials have said. The operation was conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Rarasham area of Musakhel district following reports of terrorist presence, a local police official told Xinhua.

“A fierce exchange of fire took place during the operation, resulting in the deaths of four terrorists,” the official said, adding that the suspects were intercepted while attempting to plant explosives along a key highway in the area.

The terrorists were affiliated with a proscribed organization and were involved in multiple deadly attacks on passenger buses in Rarasham and nearby areas, he said. Security forces recovered a cache of weapons, explosives, and other materials from the scene. He said security had been tightened in the area and that investigations were ongoing. (Xinhua)

10 held in Afghanistan: Police have discovered arms and ammunition during a series of operations in Afghanistan’s northern Balkh province and arrested 10 individuals on charges of keeping and carrying arms illegally, a local media outlet Ariana News reported Thursday.

The weaponry, which includes 19 pieces of assault rifles including AK-47, pistols and bullets, has been rounded up from illegal armed persons over the past two months, the private media outlet reported, citing police sources.

After a preliminary investigation, police referred the cases of arrested individuals to the judiciary, police said, according to the media outlet. The Afghan interim government, as part of efforts to ensure sustainable peace and security in the post-war country, has vowed to collect arms and ammunition from anyone living outside the security organs. (Xinhua)



Kuwait crude oil down 17 cents to \$64.09 pb

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti crude oil fell 17 cents during Wednesday’s trading to hit USD 64.09 per barrel (pb), compared with USD 64.26 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Thursday. Brent futures rose by 81 cents to USD 64.90 pb and West Texas Intermediate went up by 95 cents to USD 61.84 pb.

Business

Emile Strunc shares insights on stakeholder alignment in complex environments

NBK hosts strategic thinking lecture by IE Business School professor

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: In line with its strong belief in human capital investment and competency enhancement, National Bank of Kuwait organized a lecture titled “Strategic Clarity & Stakeholder Alignment in Complex Environments” presented by Emile Strunc, professor at IE University–Business School in Madrid, specializing in negotiation and strategy formulation, and attended by employees from different departments at the bank.

This lecture is part of a group of specialized training programs that NBK provides for employees to enhance their professional capabilities and develop their leadership skills. The lecture followed a strategic thinking approach linking organizational goals with actionable plans. During the lecture, participants explored proven techniques for identifying key stakeholders, managing diverse interests, and building consensus across departments and external partners.

In the backdrop of a fast-paced financial landscape, it has become very important for financial institutions to formulate clear and adaptable strategies that ensure stakeholder alignment. Therefore, this lecture’s goal is to supplement employees with the necessary tools to lead strategic initiatives confidently and achieve sustainable impact.

It should be noted that such lectures reflect NBK’s commitment to



Maryam Al-Nasrallah

developing its employees’ skills and ultimately enhancing institutional performance, in addition to establishing a positive work environment that encourages innovation.

On this occasion, Maryam Al-Nasrallah, Talent Management Manager, Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, said:

“We believe that human capital investment is an integral part of NBK’s strategy that aims to achieve sustainable growth and guarantee its excellence and leadership, which is why we strive to provide the best and most innovative training opportunities that factor in the changing market dynamics in order to ensure building a resilient workforce capable of fac-



Part of the lecture.

ing future challenges.”

Al-Nasrallah added: “We are committed to enhancing our employees’ competency and developing their personal, professional, and leadership skills, as we believe that professional competency ensures excellent banking service quality. Our training and development strategy is continuous, inclusive, and follows the highest international standards, so that employees can deal with future challenges in a technologically advancing landscape, further contributing to achieving the bank’s long-term

goals.”

Al-Nasrallah emphasized that employees at NBK enjoy a unique work environment, as it provides training and development programs that ensure a bright professional future for them. The bank also utilizes all its efforts to develop its employees’ innovative capabilities and skills, which impacts their performance positively, and strengthens the bank’s position as a leading institution both locally and regionally.

All NBK’s training programs are

Al-Nasrallah:

- Al-Nasrallah: Investing in our employees is one of our central strategies aimed at achieving sustainable development as well as bank excellence and leadership.
- We strive to provide top innovative training solutions to guarantee building a workforce capable of facing future challenges.
- We believe that professional competency ensures excellent banking service quality.

exceptional, as they have been tailored in accordance with methodological and scientific standards and in collaboration with distinguished international training experts to meet the needs of different departments and career levels.

Professor Strunc, who has wide experience in international trade, banking, consultancy, and executive training in world institutions, is an expert in strategic negotiation. He spent more than two decades building broad experiences in these fields and became the consultant of choice for several multi-national companies and financial institutions.

Professor Strunc’s approach combines advanced academic theories and practical applications drawn from his in-field experience, which supplements the participants with a profound understanding of the strategic challenges in complex work

environments.

Furthermore, Professor Strunc has led several high-risk negotiations that resulted in successful strategic partnerships between grand international institutions, and he developed specialized training programs for executives in Europe, North America and the Middle East, focusing on strategic thinking skills and multi-stakeholder alignment, in addition to his exceptional ability to simplify complex concepts and present them in a practical and applicable way.

Established in 1973, the IE University –Business School in Madrid is considered as one of the top business schools in the world, as it is constantly at the top of international ratings by world magazines like Forbes, The Economist, Financial Times, and Bloomberg.

Campaign covers anti-fraud, investment risks

NBK hosts ‘Let’s Be Aware’ session to educate students on fraud prevention

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: In line with its support to its objectives, National Bank of Kuwait organized a session for the English Academy students to discuss “Let’s Be Aware” campaign to raise awareness about different popular fraud methods as well as ways to avoid them and stay secure online.

During this interactive session, NBK’s team presented many examples and case studies, and asked the students several questions to test their understanding, for not only did this session aim to raise awareness but also teach students to be vigilant and one step ahead to protect their social media personal information.

The team also gave a lot of useful advice to the students to help them avoid fraudulent actions, including not sharing any banking information or sensitive data with any person or entity, and not responding to any alleged bank-related messages or phone calls as NBK affirmed that it will never ask customers for personal information via e-mail, SMS or phone calls. The team warned students against responding to such messages that are fraud attempts aiming to steal banking or sensitive information.

Moreover, the students were reminded by the team about ways to differentiate between real and fake websites, mainly by not clicking on suspicious links whether on fake accounts on social media or e-mails that use famous logos of banks and telecommunication companies for the purpose of stealing personal information.

Many other fraudulent methods were also discussed with the students, such as how some fake accounts build trust with targeted victims by giving them fake offers and appealing rewards. The team warned students against falling for such traps.

On this occasion, Adnan Al-Tamimi, Digital Communications Specialist at NBK said: “We recognize the importance of raising awareness to fight fraud, which is why we are always keen on raising financial awareness and spreading financial knowledge among society members including school and university students as well



Adnan Al-Tamimi stands among the students of the English Academy.

Al-Tamimi:

- NBK’s efforts in fighting fraudulent actions and raising customer awareness is part and parcel of its strategy.
- We strive to intensify our content so that the objectives of the campaign reach the widest segments possible.

as elders. We also strive to bring up new ways that contribute to educating people on how to protect their financial data and accounts.”

Al-Tamimi also added that: “NBK employs all its efforts to communicate with customers through its digital channels that are followed the most among local banks to guarantee that the objectives of “Let’s Be Aware” campaign reach the widest segments of society.”

Al-Tamimi emphasized NBK’s continued commitment to providing support to significant strategic campaigns that focus on benefiting society and national economy, further noting that the bank’s efforts to fight fraud and educate customers is an integral part of its strategy.

Introduced by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), in cooperation with

Kuwaiti banks and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), the “Let’s Be Aware” campaign is the largest across the GCC region focusing on raising banking and financial awareness among banks’ customers. The campaign covers a variety of crucial topics, including anti-fraud tips, raising awareness on high-risk investments, maximizing benefits from banking services, promoting savings and investment culture, as well as other related topics.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key supporter and partner in all CBK’s campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different sectors. As the leading financial institution in Kuwait, the bank frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector.

Kuwait second in deal proceeds with \$2.3 bln

MENA region recorded 225 M&A deals with a value of \$46 bln during Q1 2025

DUBAI, May 29: According to the latest EY MENA M&A Insights 2024 report, the MENA region witnessed 225 M&A deals in Q1 2025, up from the 172 deals recorded in Q1 2024, reflecting a 31% increase in deal volume when compared year-on-year. Total deal value rose by 66% to US\$46.0b in Q1 2025, when compared to US\$27.6b in Q1 2024.

Cross-border deals were the primary driver of M&A activity in the MENA region, contributing 52% of total deal volume with 117 deals and 81% of total deal value at US\$37.3b. The first quarter of 2025 recorded the highest cross-border deal activity both in volume and value when compared to the same period in the past five years, as companies increasingly pursued growth and diversification beyond domestic markets.

Brad Watson, MENA EY-Parthenon Leader, says:

“In 2024 we saw a steady flow of M&A deals and the MENA region continues to exhibit a robust influx of M&A transactions in 2025. This is supported by regulatory reforms, policy shifts, and a favorable macroeconomic outlook, including easing interest rates and improved investor sentiment.”

“This growth is also reflected in the steady increase of domestic M&A activity, which contributed 48% of total deal volume in Q1 2025. The rise in domestic M&A transactions aligns with the IMF projection that MENA GDP will grow by 3.6% this year and is further supported by the strong global M&A momentum. Companies are realigning their strategies to better accommodate the need for diversification, digital transformation, and the integration of emerging technologies.”

In the MENA region, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) remained the top target country with 63 deals totaling US\$20.3b in Q1 2025. Kuwait ranked second in terms of deal proceeds, reaching US\$2.3b, driven by two major transactions in the Diversified Industrial Products and Power & Utilities sectors.

During the first three months of 2025, Canada attracted the highest outbound deal value from MENA investors at US\$6.4b, while the USA remained the preferred target destination in terms of deal volume.

Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) like ADIA, PIF, and Mubadala, along with other government-related entities (GREs), remained key M&A drivers in Q1 2025, aligning with national economic strategies and diversification goals.

Domestic M&A activity continues to rise from previous years

In the first quarter of 2025, M&A activity in the MENA region witnessed a 20% increase in deal volume while deal value rose significantly reaching US\$8.7b as compared to US\$1.69b recorded in Q1 2024.

The technology sector led domestic M&A activity in MENA in Q1 2025, contributing 37% of total domestic deal value and 27% of total domestic deal volume. The largest domestic deal during the first quarter of the year was a US\$2.2b acquisition where Group 42, an Abu Dhabi based AI and cloud computing firm, agreed to acquire a 40% stake in Khazna Data Centres, a digital infrastructure provider.

Intraregional deals involving the UAE, Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) accounted for 83% of total domestic deal value and 56% of total domestic deal volume, highlighting strong intraregional M&A activity, particularly in the technology, industrials, and real estate sectors.

MENA region remains an attractive destination for foreign direct investment

The MENA region continues to emerge as one of the most attractive destinations for foreign direct investment during the first few months of 2025, with inbound deal volume surging by 21% and deal value reaching US\$17.6b, when compared to US\$2.5b in Q1 2024.

The UAE remains the leading destination for foreign di-



Anil Menon, MENA EY-Parthenon M&A and Equity Capital Markets Leader.

- Both deal value and deal volume in Q1 2025 increased when compared to Q1 2024
- Cross-border deals where the primary driver of M&A activity in the MENA region with 117 deals valued at US\$37.3b
- The UAE remains the top target country in Q1 2025 with 63 deals totaling US\$20.3b

rect investment in the MENA region in Q1 2025, capturing 53% of total inbound deal volume and 99% of the total inbound deal value. Austria was the top investor country, accounting for 94% of total inbound deal value, largely driven by a major transaction in the chemicals sector.

Outbound M&A activity highlights diversification efforts

During the first three months of 2025, outbound deal volume increased by 63% when compared to Q1 2024, with a total deal value of US\$19.7b, contributing 43% of overall deal value. The UAE and KSA led the outbound investment from the MENA region, accounting for 77% of total deal volume and 94% of total outbound value.

Though chemicals and oil & gas dominated in outbound deal value, outbound deal volume was primarily focused on technology, diversified industrial products, and professional services. This trend reflects the region’s broader diversification strategy into high-growth global sectors.

The UK was the leading destination for outbound M&A deals from MENA by volume, recording 13 transactions in Q1 2025. Canada and Peru together contributed 50% of total outbound deal value driven primarily by a major transaction in Canada’s chemical sector. ADNOC and Austria’s OMV AG has agreed to acquire Canada’s Nova chemicals for US\$6.3b by holding 46.94% each in the newly formed Borouge International Group.

Anil Menon, MENA EY-Parthenon Head of M&A and Equity Capital Markets Leader, says:

“The MENA deal markets remained resilient despite lack of clarity on two fronts: the impact of monetary policy on cost of capital and the ongoing tariff and trade discussions. The MENA deal book for the remainder of 2025 is promising and we can expect to see increased activity in consumer, technology, and energy sectors. In addition, with AI expected to drive material shifts in fundamental value, we can expect to see significant capital allocation in technology.”

Boursa Kuwait general index slightly down

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Thursday’s trading session with its general index slipping 6.81 points, or 0.08%, to close at 8,112.49. A total of 385.2 million shares were traded in 20,603 transactions, valued at KD 127.2 million (approx. \$390.5 million).

The Main Market Index edged up 0.69 points (0.01%) to 6,967.01, with 169.5 million shares changing hands in 8,670 deals worth KD 23.4 million (\$71.8 million).

Meanwhile, the Premier Market Index dropped 9.01 points (0.10%) to 8,799.09, with 215.6 million shares traded through 11,933 transactions totaling KD 103.8 million (\$318.6 million).

The Main 50 Index also declined, losing 44.01 points (0.61%) to settle at 7,207.34, as 135.3 million shares were traded via 6,263 transactions worth KD 18 million (\$55.2 million).

To enhance youth experience and encourage a healthy lifestyle

‘tam’ partners with Li3ib to provide exclusive offers to customers

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: As part of its efforts to provide customers the best offers and benefits, “tam” Bank, Kuwait’s first sharia-compliant digital bank, has signed a strategic partnership with Li3ib, a leading app for booking sports facilities.

Through this partnership, “tam” will offer customers exclusive deals on facilities booking for various sporting activities. It will also grant gifts and valuable prizes in addition to sponsoring tournaments and events.

On the sporting and health front, “tam” will broadcast awareness messages and tips on health, fitness and nutrition through its official social media channels (@tam\_bank).

Senior Manager Tam Platforms, Mohammad Alwahaibi said that the agreement reflects the Bank’s continuous commitment to elevate customer experience, aligning with its efforts to collaborate with e-platforms and websites that provide digital ser-

vices in areas of great relevance to a wide customer base and youth, which are a key target segment for “tam”.

He noted that this partnership allows “tam” customers to benefit from exclusive offers and prizes through Li3ib’s app which provides a nationwide access to facility bookings across all types of sports.

Deputy General Manager at Suffix Events Management Company, Khaled Abdulkader, said that the partnership with “tam” Digital Bank will provide customers with invaluable deals and a wide range of options through the app.

He added: “At Suffix, we’re dedicated to creating integrated sports experiences that foster greater community participation in fitness through innovative, interactive methods that encourage individuals and families to embrace a healthier lifestyle.”



Li3ib photo



GCC earnings grow despite drop in energy sector profits

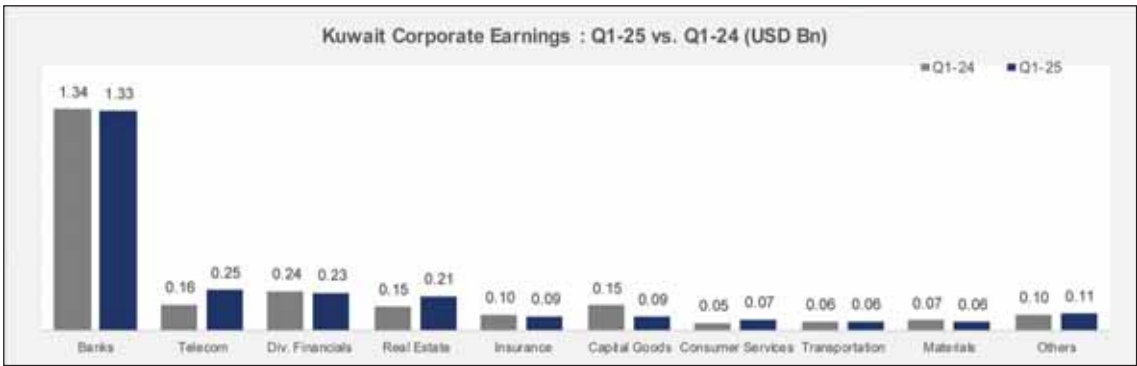
Kuwait corporate profits edge up 3.3% in Q1-2025, telecom sector leads growth

**By KAMCO Invest**

Aggregate net profits reported by companies listed on GCC exchanges increased by 2.0% y-o-y during Q1-2025 to reach USD 58.6 Bn as compared to USD 57.4 bn in Q1-2024. The marginal improvement in profitability was mainly led by a y-o-y increase in profits for Banks, Telecom and Real Estate sectors that more than offset a decline in profits for the Energy, Materials and F&B sectors. The sequential growth in profits was slightly better with a growth of 2.3% also led by higher profits for Banks, Telecom and the Real Estate sectors. The Capital Goods sector also showed a healthy y-o-y growth in profits with an increase of 51.9%, although there was a steep decline in profits by 42.9% as compared to Q4-2024.

The Energy sector continued to remain a drag on overall profitability growth in Q1-2025 with a decline of 5.7% when compared to Q1-2024, although a majority of the companies in the sector reported higher y-o-y net profits during the quarter. Moreover, the sector showed significant improvement as compared to the previous quarter. The y-o-y decline in profits for the sector was led by fall in oil prices with average Brent crude prices down by 8.5% during Q1-2025 at USD 75.9 per barrel as compared to the average for Q1-2024. Net profits reported by Saudi Aramco dropped by 7.5% y-o-y during the quarter, accounting for bulk of the decline in profits at the GCC level. Excluding Aramco's results, total GCC corporate profits showed an increase of 10.7% y-o-y during Q1-2025.

On the other hand, a healthy growth in profits for the GCC banking sector helped to partially offset the bulk of the decline in earnings. Aggregate earnings for the GCC banking sector surged 10.0% y-o-



y or by USD 1.5 Bn to reach USD 16.0 Bn in Q1-2025. The q-o-q growth was also strong at 11.9% vs. Q4-2024. The y-o-y growth reflected growth in earnings for five out of seven markets while the remaining two reported marginal declines. Earnings for banks in Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain showed double-digit growth during Q1-2025 as compared to Q1-2024.

Within the energy sector, net profits for seventeen out of the twenty-seven listed companies showed improvements while ten companies reported y-o-y declines. Among the prominent gainers, net profit for Adnoc Gas increased by 6.9% during the quarter to reach USD 1.3 Bn led by higher demand for domestic gas as well as reduction in plant idle days during Q1-2025. Net profits for Adnoc Drilling also improved by almost a quarter to reach USD 340.9 Mn mainly led by 32.1% increase in total revenues backed by revenues from new onshore rigs as well as contribution from unconventional business. On the other hand, Rabigh Refining lowered its losses by USD 179.7 Mn to USD 184.2 Mn in Q1-2025 from USD 363.9 Mn in Q1-2024 led by 44% increase in revenues that was supported by higher sales volume on both refined and petrochemical products during the

quarter.

Net profits for the GCC telecom sector showed a strong y-o-y growth of 45.3% to reach USD 3.5 Bn during Q1-2025. The increase was led by a broadbased double-digit growth in y-o-y profits across most countries in the GCC. Net profits for E& (Emirates Telecom) surged almost 130% to reach USD 1.46 Bn during Q1-2025 mainly led by higher revenues that increased by 18.7% during the quarter. STC also reported higher profits with an increase of 11.0% to reach USD 972.4 Mn during Q1-2025. The Telco reported 1.6% y-o-y increase in revenues during the quarter led by 9.7% increase in business unit revenues while commercial unit revenues increased by 1.7%. Net profits for Zain Group increase by two-thirds to reach USD 158.7 Mn during Q1-2025 led by 15% increase in revenues with strong performance across major countries of operations.

Net profits for the GCC Real Estate sector increased by 55.5% y-o-y during Q1-2025 to reach USD 2.9 Bn. The increase was led by strong double-digit gain in profits in most countries in the GCC. Net profits for Real Estate companies in the UAE increased by 38.0% during the quarter to reach USD 2.1 Bn while

companies in Saudi Arabia showed multi-fold y-o-y increase to register total net profit of USD 472.7 Mn in Q1-2025.

**Kuwait**

Corporate earnings reported by companies listed on Boursa Kuwait increased by 3.3% y-o-y during Q1-2025 to reach USD 2.5 Bn as compared to USD 2.4 Bn in Q1-2024. The biggest impact on aggregate earnings came from the Telecom sector, which showed a 51.3% jump in profits during Q1-2025. Real Estate, Consumer Services and Energy sectors also contributed to earnings growth during the quarter. Large-cap sectors like Banks reported a decline of 1.4%. In terms of sequential performance, the aggregate growth in profits stood at 11.1% as compared to Q4-2024.

Profits for the Banking sector declined marginally by 1.4% y-o-y to USD 1.33 Mn in Q1-2025 compared to USD 1.34 Mn in Q12024. Three out of nine banks reported y-o-y net profit declines during Q1-2025. NBK reported a net profit of USD 439.0 Mn during Q1-2025 as compared to a profit of USD 476.4 Mn during Q1-2024, down by 8.5%. The decrease was primarily attributed to the increase in higher operating expenses and higher taxes. Gulf Bank posted a profit decline of 27.3% that

reached USD 30.6 Mn for Q1-2025 compared to USD 41.8 in Q1-2024 mainly due to the decline in the operating income. On the other hand, KFH reported a net profit of USD 550.4 Mn for Q1-2025 up by 3.2% vs. USD 529.3 Mn in Q1-2024 due to the strong growth in net finance income which increased by 21.1% to reach USD 1.04 Bn in addition to the net gain obtained by the sale of the associate company – Ahli Bank of Oman. Net profits for Boubayan Bank reached USD 86.7 Mn for Q1-2025 up by 6.0% compared to USD 81.2 Mn from Q1-2024 mainly due to the increase in the net financing income by USD 8.5 Mn in addition to the increase in net fees and commission income and decrease in impairments.

The Telecom sector outperformed other sectors as the biggest contributor to net profits during the period by recording a net profit of USD 248.2 Mn in Q1-2025 vs. USD 162.3 Mn in Q1-2024, registering a growth of 51.3%. All the constituent stocks reported net profit gains with Zain Group leading with a gain of 65.9%. Zain Group reported a net profit of USD 158.7 Mn during Q1-2025 as compared to a profit of USD 95.0 Mn during Q1-2024 led by higher revenue which grew by 15% y-o-y, driven by strong performance across main operations including Sudan (+112%), Iraq (+13%), Bahrain (+8%), Jordan (+7%), and KSA (+6%). Group customer base soared 20% to reach 50.7 Mn, mainly due to continual network restoration in Sudan, improved market access in Iraq as well as strong growth in other markets. Additionally, new business verticals contributed to the revenue growth. Ooredoo also registered strong net profit growth during Q1-2025 that reached USD 59.8 Mn compared to USD 38.7 Mn in Q1-2024, up by 53.5%. The

telecom operator recorded revenues of USD 210.4 Mn up by 1%, driven by an increase in service revenue mainly from higher voice, data and digital revenue. EBITDA expanded significantly by 51% y-o-y to USD 71.1 Mn with an improvement in the EBITDA margin of 11pp to 34%. Higher service revenue and lower operating expenses contributed to the improvement in EBITDA. The customer base increased by 2% y-o-y to end Q1-2025 with 2.9 Mn customers. Similarly, STC Kuwait posted a net profit of USD 29.7 Mn for Q1-2025 against a profit of USD 28.7 Mn, up by 2.8%, driven by a 5.5% increase in revenues amounting to USD 285.02 Mn.

Profits for the Real Estate sector reached USD 248.2 Mn in Q1-2025 compared to a net profit of USD 162.3 Mn in Q1-2024. Mabanee Co. posted a net profit of USD 109.4 Mn for Q1-2025 against a profit of USD 52.9 Mn mainly led by a sale of freehold land in Kuwait. Meanwhile, National Real Estate Co. posted a net profit of USD 4.0 Mn during Q1-2025 compared to a net profit in Q1-2024 of USD 9.4 Mn in net profit mainly due to the decrease in sales of inventory properties.

The Diversified Financials sector recorded a net profit of USD 233.9 Mn for Q1-2025 against USD 242.8 Mn for Q1-2024. Net profits for A'yana Leasing & Investment Co. came in at USD 38.9 Mn for Q1-2025 compared to a profit of USD 11.2 Mn for Q12024 up by 245.9% supported by the gain on bargain purchase and gain from the revaluation of previously held interests in associates upon acquiring control. On the other hand, Asiya Capital Investment Co. reported a net loss of USD 25.3 Mn in Q12025 against a net profit of USD 19.2 Mn in Q1-2024.

Cash gift of up to KD 1,200 and exclusive benefits for salary transfers

Gulf Bank launches ‘Start Smart’ campaign for Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Gulf Bank has rolled out an exclusive offer for Kuwaiti citizens under the slogan “Start Smart.” As part of this campaign, customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank can receive a cash gift of up to KD 1,200, along with a variety of benefits aimed at unlocking new opportunities and supporting them in achieving their goals, step by step.

Gulf Bank salary account holders will enjoy a comprehensive suite of benefits, including automatic enrollment in Kuwait's fastest rewards program, which allows them to redeem points for cash, book flights, hotels, and car rentals, as well as shop through one of the region's pioneering bank-exclusive e-commerce platforms.

The offer also features exclusive discounts at leading car dealerships, including 0% interest on select vehicles. Eligible customers can apply for a personal loan of up to KD 25,000 repayable over five years, as well as a housing loan of up to KD 70,000 with a repayment period of up to 15 years. Additionally, the offer features a one-year safe deposit box rental and a lifetime credit card.

This offer is available to Kuwaiti employees in the government, semi-government, and oil sectors, as well as newly hired Kuwaitis or those transferring their salaries to



Sales team at Gulf Bank booth in Al Kout Mall.

Gulf Bank, provided their monthly salary exceeds KD600. Additionally, the bank offers customized packages tailored specifically for employees of select government and semi-government institutions.

Gulf Bank is committed to meeting the expectations of its salary account customers by understanding their needs and offering the most competitive benefits in the banking sector. This reflects the Bank's continuous dedication to rewarding its customers and supporting them in achieving their goals.

To assist individuals interested in transferring their salaries, Gulf Bank will have a booth at Al-Kout

Mall in Fahaheel from Thursday through Saturday, running until May 31, 2025. Bank representatives will be available on-site to answer questions and showcase the wide range of benefits offered to Kuwaiti salary account holders through this campaign.

Customers can also open a salary account or transfer their salary in just minutes via the Gulf Bank mobile app, which ensures a seamless banking experience with straightforward processes and transparent, innovative solutions. Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional

- Opportunity to apply for a housing loan of up to KD 70,000 and a personal loan of up to KD 25,000.
- Enjoy a lifetime credit card with instant enrollment in Kuwait's fastest rewards program.
- Exclusive discounts at leading car dealerships, with select vehicles offered at 0% interest financing.
- Tailored offers designed specifically for employees of select government and semi-government institutions.

customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the Bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The Bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

CBK launches the fifth edition of ‘Cybersecurity Leaders Program’

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: As part of the CBK's strategy to develop qualified national cadres in the banking sector and national economy, and to build technical capacities in the field of cybersecurity and strengthen the resilience of the financial and banking sector against the risks associated with the rapid advancement of modern technologies used in the sector's information systems, CBK is keen to adopt the latest technologies while minimizing their risks.

And as part of Kafa's initiative launched by CBK in collaboration with Kuwaiti banks managed by the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS), the CBK Governor and Chairman of KIBS Board of Directors, Basel Al-Haroon, announced the launch of the fifth edition of “the Cybersecurity Leaders Program”.

This high-level program is addressed to Kuwaitis specialized in information and network security, providing them the opportunity to refine their skills and enhance their capabilities. The goal is to establish a generation of professional leaders and technicians capable of developing appropriate programs to protect information systems in Kuwait's banking and financial sector, in line with best practices in the field of information security.

The Governor indicated that this program crowns the fruitful cooperation between CBK, local banks, and the Institute of Banking Studies within a comprehensive set of initiatives aimed at developing and qualifying national cadres.



Flyer of the program.

The Governor added that “the Cybersecurity Leaders Program” will be implemented in collaboration with SANS Cyber Institute, one of the world's top cybersecurity training organizations, specializing in professional training and certification in this field. The program will last for three months and will conclude with a training workshop in collaboration with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

As for the admission criteria and requirements, the Governor stated that applicants will be selected based on objective standards and must pass the required tests and personal interviews. Those interested in applying can review the program details and submit their applications as of Thursday, 29 May until Monday, 30 June 2025, through the Kafa's initiative website: Kafaakw.org.

Shares, US dollar and oil gain

Markets welcome court ruling against Trump's tariffs

NEW YORK, May 29, (AP): Financial markets welcomed a U.S. court ruling that blocks President Donald Trump from imposing sweeping tariffs on imports under an emergency-powers law.

U.S. futures jumped early Thursday and oil prices rose more than \$1. The U.S. dollar rose against the yen and euro. The court found the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which Trump has cited as his basis for ordering massive increases in import duties, does not authorize the use of tariffs.

The White House immediately appealed and it was unclear if Trump would abide by the ruling in the interim. The long term outcome of legal disputes over tariffs remains uncertain. But investors appeared to take heart after the months of turmoil brought on by Trump's trade war.

The future for the S&P 500 was up 1.7% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.4%.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.9% to 38,442.10. American's largest ally in Asia has been appealing to Trump to cancel the tariffs he has ordered on imports from Japan and to also stop 25% tariffs on steel, aluminum and autos.

The ruling also pushed the dollar sharply higher against the Japanese yen. It was trading at 145.98 yen early Thursday, up from 144.87 yen late Wednesday.

A three-judge panel ruled on several lawsuits arguing Trump exceeded his authority, casting doubt on trade policies that have jolted global financial markets, frustrated trade partners and

raised uncertainty over the outlook for inflation and the global economy.

Many of Trump's double-digit tariff hikes are paused for up to 90 days to allow time for trade negotiations, but the uncertainty they cast over global commerce has stymied businesses and left consumers wary about what lies ahead.

“Just when traders thought they'd seen every twist in the tariff saga, the gavel dropped like a lightning bolt over the Pacific,” Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

The ruling was, at the least, “a brief respite before the next thunderclap,” he said.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong's

Hang Seng added 1% to 23,482.81, while the Shanghai Composite index gained 0.8% to 3,365.40.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.1% to 8,409.70.

In South Korea, which Japan relies heavily on exports to the U.S., the Kospi surged 1.8% to 2,709.42. Shares also were helped by the Bank of Korea's decision to cut its key interest rate to 2.5% from 2.75%, to ease pressure on the economy.

Taiwan's Taiex edged 0.1% lower, and India's Sensex was also down 0.1%.

On Wednesday, U.S. stocks cooled, with the S&P 500 down 0.6% but still within 4.2% of its record after charging higher amid hopes that the worst of the

turmoil caused by Trump's trade war may have passed. It had been roughly 20% below the mark last month.

The Dow industrials lost 0.6% and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.5%.

Trading was relatively quiet ahead of a quarterly earnings release for Nvidia, which came after markets closed.

The bellwether for artificial intelligence overcame a wave of tariff-driven turbulence to deliver another quarter of robust growth thanks to feverish demand for its high-powered chips that are making computers seem more human. Nvidia's shares jumped 6.6% in afterhours trading.

Like Nvidia, Macy's stock also swung up and down through much of the day, even though it reported milder drops in revenue and profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Its stock ended the day down 0.3%.

The bond market showed relatively little reaction after the Federal Reserve released the minutes from its latest meeting earlier this month, when it left its benchmark lending rate alone for the third straight time. The central bank has been holding off on cuts to interest rates, which would give the economy a boost, amid worries about inflation staying higher than hoped because of Trump's sweeping tariffs.

In other dealings early Thursday, the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.52% from 4.47% late Wednesday.

U.S. benchmark crude oil gained \$1.06 to \$62.90 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added \$1.01 to \$65.33 per barrel. The euro slipped to \$1.1242 from \$1.1292.



People stand in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei index at a securities firm in Tokyo. (AP)



Flat 50% off across groceries, gadgets, fashion & more

# Lulu marks 24 years with massive anniversary sale in Kuwait



Photos during the event.

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Lulu Hypermarket, the region's leading retail chain, marks the 24th anniversary with a spectacular anniversary sale across all its stores in Kuwait with 50% off and unbeatable discounts on top brands and categories. The celebration kicked off on Wednesday, May 28, with Lulu's top management officially inaugurating the event with a ceremonial cake-cutting, drawing huge crowds of loyal customers and well-wishers.

As part of this milestone celebration, Lulu is offering flat 50% discounts on a wide selection of items across groceries (food and non-food), fresh fruits and vegetables, fish, meat, health and beauty products, mobiles, gadgets, wearables, and much more. The anniversary highlights include unbeatable offers across a wide range of products including mobiles, gadgets, wearables, and much more.

Shoppers can enjoy a flat 50% off on selected brands and categories, along with daily deals on 24 exclusive products at unbelievable prices. The event also features a special Fish Fiesta and Meat Festival, perfect for food lovers.

For footwear enthusiasts, the Big Brand Footwear Sale offers discounts ranging from 50% to 60%; Fashion shoppers can take advantage of a garment offer – spend 10 dinars on garments and get 50% off instantly. In addition, there are massive discounts of up to 70% on a variety of items, including electronics, IT accessories, home appliances, home linen, household items, luggage, toys, ladies' bags, eyewear, and much more.

Don't miss this limited-time shopping extravaganza packed with savings and surprises! The anniversary event not only highlights Lulu's retail strength but

also reaffirms its commitment to providing high-value shopping experiences to its customers. The Management extends heartfelt thanks to the community for their ongoing support throughout the past two and a half decades.

"We are humbled and grateful for the trust our customers have placed in us over the years. This anniversary celebration is our tribute to them. We look forward to serving the community with even more dedication and innovation in the years ahead," said a senior Lulu official.

With its wide-ranging discounts and festive atmosphere, Lulu's 24th anniversary sale is expected to draw even larger crowds in the coming days. The offers are available for a limited time only at all Lulu Hypermarket branches across Kuwait.

## Winning team awarded KD 50 vouchers, certificates, and trophy

# FAIPS wins national title in British Council video contest



Photos taken during the event.



KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Students of FAIPS-DPS, Cambridge Wing, were felicitated for their outstanding performances at the award ceremony for the Your World Video Competition and English Literature Week, organized by the British Council Kuwait hosted at SIS, Jleeb Al Shuyoukh.

FAIPS was declared the National Winner of the Your World Video Competition, emerging victorious among several participating schools across Kuwait. This prestigious global-level competition, held annually by the British Council, challenges students to work collaboratively and demonstrate a blend of creativity and teamwork by producing a compelling three-minute video on a given theme. This year's topic, "Skills for Sustainability – Equipping All Youth for the Future," encouraged students to explore how young minds can contribute to a more sustainable and responsible future.

The winning team comprised IGCSE Year 3 and Year 2 students -Syeda Saleha, Neha Sujith, Amina Shajal, Aiman Rafiq, and Matylda Sobocinska whose impactful video showcased thoughtful insights on sustainability and youth empowerment. In recognition of their achievement, each student received a 50 KD Xcite voucher, along with certificates and a school trophy presented by the British Council.

FAIPS students brought glory to the school by winning the English Literature

Week events. The IGCSE Year 1 team - Radhika Srinivasan, Samaa Ashraf, and Lojain Adel– secured the coveted first place in the Role Play competition, while Ms. Dahlia Zaman of IGCSE Year 2 clinched second place in the Poetry Recitation competition.

Ms. Suchitra Sen, Head of Exams and Business Development at British Council Kuwait, presented certificates and trophies to all the winners and their mentors from various schools across Kuwait. In her address, she shared that the core aim of such initiatives is to enable children to connect, express, and collaborate meaningfully. She also urged partner schools under the British Council to visit each other to observe and learn from new implementations and best practices, thereby fostering a culture of shared growth and innovation.

On behalf of the FAIPS management, the Principal, Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, appreciated the British Council Kuwait for organizing the English Literature Week in the MENA region. "This year's focus on sustainability was especially relevant and inspiring," he added.

The event was a proud celebration of student creativity, collaboration, and commitment to global themes, reflecting FAIPS's dedication to holistic and future-focused education.

## Four-week camp promotes fitness, teamwork, and skills

# IDAK and ISA host successful 2025 Football Camp

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), in proud partnership with the Indian Sports Association (ISA), successfully conducted the IDAK Football Camp 2025, a dynamic four-week program designed to inspire fitness, teamwork, and football skills among the children of IDAK members.

Hosted at Salmiya Ibn Al-Nafees school football ground from May 2 to May 23, the camp was expertly conducted by ISA and coordinated by the IDAK Sports Committee, ensuring a smooth and enriching experience for all participants. The event was officially inaugurated by IDAK President Dr. George P. Alex, who emphasized the crucial role of sports in shaping well-rounded individuals.

With professional coaching and mentorship provided by ISA, the camp delivered a robust training curriculum focused on football techniques, strategic gameplay, and overall physical conditioning. A heartfelt appreciation goes out to Dr. Mahesh, Mr.

Rajeev, Mr. Aneesh, and coaches Mr. Sudeesh, Mr. Shane, Mr. Ragesh, and Mr. Rajesh, whose dedication and enthusiasm elevated the camp to new heights.

More than just a football camp, the initiative cultivated a spirit of camaraderie, discipline, and community engagement which are values that resonate deeply with IDAK's broader mission of holistic development.

The camp concluded on a festive note, celebrating the participants' growth and achievements. Feedback from parents and attendees reflected strong enthusiasm for future programs that unite healthcare and sports to benefit the younger generation.

The IDAK Football Camp 2025 stands as a shining testament to what can be accomplished when passion for wellness and athletics come together in the service of youth development in Kuwait.



Photos of the Football Camp

## The Conversation

# Social media influencing: A new route to kid fame

By Matthew Pittman  
University of Tennessee

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

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

How does a person become famous when they're just a kid? - Anushka, age 9, St. Augustine, Florida

First, consider what kind of fame you want. Some kids, such as Blue Ivy Carter or Suri Cruise, are known for having famous parents - in their cases, singer Beyoncé and actors Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise. That's something you can't really control.

Maybe you want to be a star athlete, like basketball player Caitlin Clark or skateboarder Sky Brown. If you're good at a sport, practicing a lot will make you even better, and you might get famous.

Or maybe you want to be a famous musician. Singer LeAnn Rimes won her first Grammy Award at age 14. Justin Bieber was discovered on YouTube when he was 12. If you work hard at playing an instrument or singing, you increase your chances of getting noticed.

A newer way to become famous is to be a social media influencer - a person who gets paid, either with money or with stuff, to help sell things on social media. A 2023 survey of 1,000 Gen Zers - people in their early teens to mid-20s - found that 57% wanted to become influencers.

I study social media and teach a social media class at the University of Tennessee. I also have a side gig as an influencer. My posts have gone viral and been seen hundreds of millions of times all around the world. I post silly and serious things about my life on Instagram and TikTok.

Here are some things to know about fame at a young age.

Before modern times, people didn't pay much attention to children in the way that we do now. There were a few exceptions, such as composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who played music as a child for kings and queens in the 1700s, but they were rare.

Things changed a lot as the U.S. population boomed after World War II. Businesses realized that young people were a big market, and a new, youth-focused culture developed. Movies, TV shows and songs were increasingly made for young people, featuring young people.

Now, thanks to social media and the internet, kids can get famous without being star athletes or actors. If you can make videos, sing songs, tell jokes or share art from your phone or computer and people like what you post, they might share it with others. Some kids be-

come famous just by being really good at explaining things or showing their everyday lives.

For example, Anastasia Radzinskaya, an 11-year-old Russian American girl who shares content about children's songs and games, has 1.5 million followers on Instagram. Ethan Gamer, a video game influencer, started appearing on YouTube in 2013 at age 7.

Being a famous kid can offer a lot of benefits. You might get to appear on TV or in movies, wear cool clothes, or hang out with famous athletes or celebrities. You might also get to make money that you could use to support your family, pay for a high-quality education or fund causes that you care about, such as protecting nature or feeding hungry people.

But there are also downsides. Famous kids often have to work a lot and don't have much time to hang out with friends. Also, people may say hurtful things about you on social media, which is something you can't control.

Being famous can pressure people to act or dress in certain ways. Handling attention and criticism from strangers can be stressful for any young person, and fame makes the challenge much harder.

For me, influencing can be fun and creative. It's cool to make a video and know that lots of people around the world are enjoying it.

Another plus is that the skills you need to be an influencer - communicating clearly, producing digital content and helping other people find cool new products - can be valuable as you grow up, no matter what job you have.

However, most influencers don't make enough money to do it full time - they do it as a side gig while working a real job. If you are a kid, school should be your full-time job.

You also should expect to get rejected a lot before you start developing an audience. This can make you emotionally strong in the long run, but it still hurts when you share your work and no one seems to notice. Most influencers put in years of effort to learn the skills that help make them successful.

You're likely to get negative responses that can hurt your feelings. You will need your parents' help to manage online feedback and know how to react to all kinds of responses, positive and negative.

It's definitely possible for kids to be famous today, but that doesn't mean that every kid should try. What's important is to do things that you enjoy, even if the whole world isn't watching.

Hello, curious kids! Do you have a question you'd like an expert to answer? Ask an adult to send your question to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com. Please tell us your name, age and the city where you live.

And since curiosity has no age limit - adults, let us know what you're wondering, too. We won't be able to answer every question, but we will do our best. (AP)



Singer reflects on life without her husband

## Dolly Parton leans on ‘faith’ as she grieves husband

NEW YORK, May 29, (AP): Dolly Parton’s angelic voice floated throughout her first gospel album in 1971 with songs like “I Believe,” “Lord Hold My Hand” and the album’s title track, “Golden Streets of Glory.” The entertainment icon says the same steadfast faith that inspired those hymns have anchored her throughout her grief following the death her husband, Carl Dean.

“I am a person of faith, and I truly believe that I’m going to see him again someday. And I see him every day in my memories and in my heart, and in all the things that we used to do and all the things that we’ve built together,” said Parton. “You just kind of have to learn to kind of make new plans - but that’s the hardest part.”

The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame honoree reflected on her marriage of nearly 60 years while promoting her new single-serve Southern-inspired frozen meals, following her popular Duncan Hines baking mixes via a collaboration with US-based Conagra Brands. Dean, who avoided the spotlight and inspired her timeless hit “Jolene,” as well as her 2023 “Rockstar” album, died in March at 82.

“I really feel his presence,” said the 10-time Grammy winner. “I just try to go on, because I know I have to. And he was ill for quite a while, and part of me was at peace that he was at peace and not suffering anymore. But that still doesn’t make up for the loss and the loneliness of it.”

The 79-year-old recording artist spoke with The Associated Press about her perspective on life without her husband, her entrepreneurial spirit and on why she’s never embraced the title “superstar.” The conversation has been

edited for brevity and clarity.

**AP:** It seems like the entire world was thinking of you following your loss. Has your perspective changed of what you hope to accomplish after losing your husband?

**Parton:** No, I just think that I’ve always had dreams and I’m always working. My husband understood that. Carl knew that better than anybody and he was all about it. He was very proud of me. ... So when I did lose him, I just thought, well, I’m going to take all of that energy, and I’m just going to put that back into other things, and I’ll keep him ever-present in everything that I do.

**AP:** You have so many business ventures and philanthropic work. Where did your entrepreneurial acumen begin?

**Parton:** I just think that if you’re successful, if you are lucky enough to see your dreams come true, you need to make new dreams out of your other dreams. Because it’s like a tree with lots of limbs and leaves, so every dream, you can kind of branch off - if you’ll pardon the expression - and do other things. And I like the business end of things. I like seeing things happen, and I love making things happen. So, my mind just naturally works that way.

**AP:** You have your popular Duncan Hines cake mixes and now, your single-serve frozen meals. What other projects are you working on?

**Parton:** I have a new book coming out ... this one is called ‘Star of the Show,’ which is actually a song I wrote years ago. But it’s about my life on the road and my life on stage - all the behind the scenes and all the people that



Dolly Parton poses at the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Ceremony in New York, on Oct. 13, 2022. (AP)

I’ve met, and all of the things that happen when you’re traveling like that as I have for all of these years. So, that, and then I have my life story as a musical. It’s called ‘Dolly: An Original Musical.’ And I’ve written a lot of original songs for it. Of course, it’ll have the big hits that are woven into the story. And it’s just about my life, from

the time I was little until up through now.

It’s going to be at the Fisher Center of Performing Arts at Belmont University (in Nashville). Then, once that has its run through the end of August, then we take it to New York to open on Broadway next year.

**AP:** How are you celebrating the 40th anniversary of your Dollywood theme park?

**Parton:** One of the things they did for the 40th anniversary was put a big sign up on the hill there above Dollywood that says “Dollywood” like the Hollywood sign. ... Years ago, when I thought, ‘Well, someday I’m going to have my own theme park and I’m gonna change that H to a D and have Dollywood.’ So, they finally, after 40 years, put that sign up, even though I’ve talked about it for years. So, we’ve got a lot of wonderful things planned for the whole season that’s celebrating the 40th anniversary. It seems just like a few years back, but it’s like everything else: I was with Carl for 60 years, and Dollywood’s 40 years old. And that’s just hard to believe because I’m only 27. (laughs)

**AP:** Have you accepted that you’re the Dolly Parton, global superstar?

**Parton:** I don’t think about my life in terms of ‘superstar.’ I’m just a workin’ girl. I always say - and it’s the truth - that I am a workhorse that looks like a show horse. But I gotta keep it all up and I enjoy all of it. ... My husband always said, ‘If anybody was ever born to be a star, it’s you.’ Because he sees me loving to do all the things and playing and stuff - it’s play time for me. But I take it very serious.

### Variety

**MELBOURNE, Australia:** Australian comedian and actor **Magda Szubanski**, best known for roles in the television sitcom “Kath and Kim” and the movie “Babe,” announced on Thursday she had been diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of blood cancer.

The 64-year-old Melbourne resident posted on social media that she had started treatment for stage four mantle cell lymphoma, which she described as a “rare and fast-moving blood cancer.”

“It’s serious, but I’ve started one of the best treatments available (the Nordic protocol), and I’m lucky to be getting absolutely world-class care here in Melbourne,” Szubanski posted.

“I won’t sugar-coat it: it’s rough. But I’m hopeful. I’m being lovingly cared for by friends and family, my medical team is brilliant, and I’ve never felt more held by the people around me,” she added.

Szubanski said that she had shaved her head before appearing in a video “in anticipation of it all falling out in a couple of weeks.” That was an apparent reference to undergoing chemotherapy. Szubanski received international acclaim for her role as the farmer’s wife Esme Hoggett in the 1995 movie “Babe.” The movie that tells the story of a pig that wants the job of a sheepdog was nominated for seven Academy Awards. (AP)

**WASHINGTON:** Louisiana rap artist NBA YoungBoy, who was sentenced to just under two years in prison on gun-related charges, was pardoned by President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

The rapper is among a number of high-profile people Trump pardoned this week, including a former New York congressman, a labor union leader and a reality TV star couple. “I want to thank President Trump for granting me a pardon and giving me the opportunity to keep building - as a man, as a father, and as an artist,” NBA YoungBoy, whose real name is Kentrell Gauden, said in a statement posted online.

Gauden’s pardon was confirmed Wednesday evening by two White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to detail actions that had not yet been formally made public. (AP)

**PENSACOLA, Fla.:** President Donald Trump signed pardons Wednesday for reality TV stars Julie and Todd Chrisley, who were serving federal prison sentences after being convicted three years ago of bank fraud and tax evasion.

The pardons paved the way for the couple, best known for the TV series “Chrisley Knows Best,” to be freed hours later. Todd Chrisley was released from a minimum-security prison camp in Pensacola in the evening, and Julie Chrisley left a facility in Lexington, Kentucky, according to Shannen Sharpe, a spokesperson for the couple’s attorney.

“We just want to get home. We want to be reunited,” the couple’s daughter, Savannah Chrisley, told reporters outside the Florida prison where she awaited her father. She said her brother Grayson was meeting their mother in Kentucky.

“My parents have not spoken to each other, heard each others’ voices or seen each other in the past 2 ½ years,” said Savannah Chrisley, who wore a bubble gum pink MAGA hat and matching “Women for Trump” jacket.

The Chrisleys’ TV show portrayed them as a tight-knit family with an extravagant lifestyle. Prosecutors at the couple’s 2022 trial said they spent lavishly on expensive cars, designer clothes, real estate and travel after taking out fraudulent bank loans worth millions of dollars and hiding their earnings from tax authorities. (AP)

### Film



This image released by Focus Features shows, (from left), Benicio Del Toro, Michael Cera and Mia Threapleton in a scene from ‘The Phoenician Scheme.’ (AP)

Threapleton shines in ‘Phoenician Scheme’

## Anderson gets even Wes-er in his latest

LOS ANGELES, May 29, (AP): “They say you murdered my mother,” the young would-be nun tells the shady tycoon. “I feel the need to address this.”

There’s something about the deadpan delivery and the clear-eyed manner that makes you sit up and take notice of Liesl, and even more of Mia Threapleton, who plays her in “The Phoenician Scheme.” (And there’s another thing, too obvious to ignore: Boy, does she ever resemble her mom, Kate Winslet.)

A vivid presence despite her dry-as-dust tone, Threapleton makes a splendid Andersonian debut here as half the father-daughter duo, along with Benicio Del Toro, that drives the director’s latest creation. Their emerging relationship is what stands out amid the familiar Andersonian details: the picture-book aesthetic. The meticulous production design (down to those fascinating closing credits). The chapter cards. The “who’s who” of Hollywood cameos. And most of all the intricate - nay, elaborate; nay, labyrinthine - plot.

Indeed, Anderson seems to be leaning into some of these characteristics here, giving the impression of becoming even more, well, Wes Anderson than before. He will likely delight his most ardent fans but perhaps lose a few others with the plot, which becomes a bit exhausting to follow as we reach the midpoint of this tale.

But what is the Phoenician scheme, anyway?

It’s a sweeping, ambitious, somewhat corrupt dream of one Anatole “Zsa-zsa” Korda (Del Toro), one of the richest industrialists in Europe, to exploit a vast region of the world. We begin in 1950, with yet another assassination attempt on Korda’s life - his sixth plane crash, to be exact, which occurs as he sits smoking a cigar and reading about botany.

Suddenly, in a hugely entertaining pre-credits sequence, Korda’s in the cockpit, ejecting his useless pilot and directing his own rescue, asking ground control whether he should crash into a corn or soybean field. The media mourns his passing - and then he turns up, one eye mangled, biting into a husk of corn. As usual, reports of his death have been ... you know.

Recovering at his estate, with some truly fabulous, tiled bathroom floors, Korda summons Liesl from the convent where he sent her at age 5. He wants her to be his sole heir - and avenger, should his plentiful enemies get him.

His plans are contained in a series of shoeboxes. But Liesl isn’t very interested in the Korda Land and Sea Phoenician Infrastructure Scheme. What she wants to know is who killed her mother. She also mentions they haven’t seen each other in six years. (“I apologize,” he says.) And she wonders why none of his nine sons, young boys



Mia Threapleton, (left), and Scarlett Johansson attend the premiere of ‘The Phoenician Scheme’ at Jazz at Lincoln Center on Wednesday, May 28, in New York. (AP)

he keeps in a dormitory, will be heirs. But Korda wants her.

They agree to a trial period. We do get the creeping feeling Liesl will never make it back to the convent - maybe it’s the red lipstick,

or the affinity she’s developing for jewels? But we digress.

We should have mentioned by now the tutor and insect expert, Björn. In his first Anderson film but likely not the last, Michael Cera inhabits this character with just the right mix of commitment and self-awareness. “I could eat a horse,” he muses in a silly quasi-Norwegian accent before lunch, “and easily a pigeon!”

Now it’s on the road they go, to secure investments in the scheme. We won’t get into the financial niceties - we writers have word-length limits, and you readers have patience limits. But the voyage involves - obviously! - a long line of characters only Anderson could bring to life.

Among them: the Sacramento consortium, aka Tom Hanks and Bryan Cranston, two American guys who hinge their financial commitment on the outcome of a game of HORSE.

Next it’s to Marseille Bob (Mathieu Amalric), and then to Marty (Jeffrey Wright), leader of the Newark Syndicate (we’re not talking Jersey here, but Upper Eastern Independent Phoenicia), who offers a blood transfusion to Korda because, oh yes, he was shot by terrorists at the previous meeting. (Don’t worry, the guy’s indestructible.)

Then there’s Cousin Hilda (Scarlett Johansson, continuing the cameo parade), whom Korda seeks to marry to get her participation in the investment.

And then back on the plane, the group is strafed by a fighter jet. Soon, it’ll be revealed that one of them is a mole. We won’t tell you who, although it’s hard to tell if anything is really a spoiler here - like the part when Benedict Cumberbatch appears with a very fake beard as Uncle Nubar, who may be someone’s father or may have killed someone, and engages in a slapstick fight with Korda, complete with vase-smashing.

We also shouldn’t tell you what happens with the big ol’ scheme - it was all about the journey, anyway. And about Korda and Liesl, who by the end have discovered things about each other but, even more, about themselves.

As for Liesl, at the end, she’s clad stylishly in black and white - but definitely not in a habit. As someone famously said about Maria in “The Sound of Music,” “somewhere out there is a lady who I think will never be a nun.” “The Phoenician Scheme,” a Focus Features release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association “for violent content, bloody images, some sexual material, nude images, and smoking throughout.” Running time: 101 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.





A view of the Louvre Museum.



Some of the items displayed by the museum from the Mamluk exhibition.



Another view of the Louvre Museum.

KUNA photos

### Louvre’s summer project to foster past, present legacies

From rare Mamluk treasures to open-air event, the Louvre Museum is welcoming the summer season with a rich cultural program that transforms its iconic spaces into a living celebration of art and history.

Among this season’s standout offerings is a major to Mamluk sultanate, showcasing the golden era of Islamic history in ancient Egypt and the Levant.

The exhibition features, rare manuscripts, artworks, and historical objects celebrating the richness of Mamluk architecture.

This initiative reflects the Louvre’s strategic commit-

ment to showcasing diverse cultural legacy and fostering intercultural dialogue.

In July, the museum invites visitors to explore its vast courtyards and garden through a rich lineup performances, as half of these events will be free and open to the public, offering an opportunity to enjoy art beyond traditional museum walls in a remarkable setting.

The Louvre’s vibrant summer reflect a broader vision for the future, during a recent visit, French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled plans to renovate the museum as part of so-called “New Renaissance” project,

to address the growing issues of overcrowding.

The proposal includes the construction of a new grand entrance to reduce crowding at the glass pyramid, as well as the development of new underground visitor areas, proposing an international architectural competition for the new design, where its expected to raise the museum’s annual capacity to around 12 million visitors, up from nine million in 2024.

With a projected cost of EUR 700-800 million (USD 796-896 million), the 10-year plan will be primarily funded by the museum’s own revenues and private partnerships,

with only minimal state support, according to Macron.

Louvre Director Laurence des Cars echoed the president’s vision, emphasizing the importance to offer personal and inspiring experiences to the visitors.

Established in the 12th century as a fortress before becoming a public museum in the late 18th century, the Louvre remains a beacon of culture and creativity, housing world-renowned works like the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo, it continues to bridge the past and present, offering a dynamic platform for art, heritage, and global exchange. (KUNA)

Tourism



A view of eco-tourism in the Sultanate of Oman.



KUNA photos  
Various types of unique plants and animals in diverse environments.

### Preserving beauty, promoting growth

## Eco-tourism in Oman: Shaped by natural wonders, location

MUSCAT, May 29, (KUNA): Oman is stepping up its efforts to carve out a prominent place on the global tourism map — particularly in the realm of eco-tourism — by capitalizing on its diverse natural landscapes and strategic location at the crossroads of land and sea.

With a unique blend of deserts, mountains, valleys, coastal islands, and a rich marine ecosystem, the Sultanate is home to a remarkable variety of flora and fauna. This natural wealth has become central to Oman’s broader vision for sustainable development and economic diversification.

Under the Oman Tourism Strategy 2040, the government has outlined a clear commitment to accelerating tourism growth through sustainable practices and maximizing the country’s natural and cultural assets.

Tourism contributed 2.4 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023 and recorded a sharp 36.7 percent increase in incoming tourists. Authorities expect this momentum to continue, driven by targeted promotional campaigns.

Eco-tourism has become a central focus in the national strategy -- not only to elevate Oman’s status as a regional and global tourism hub but also to reduce dependence on oil revenues and boost government income through diversified sources.

Oman is investing in the preservation of its nature reserves, educating the pub-

lic on conservation, and encouraging responsible tourism. These goals are closely aligned with the country’s environmental policy framework, which seeks to balance economic growth with the protection of resources for future generations.

So far, the Sultanate has designated 26 sites as official nature reserves, ranging from the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary and Al-Saleel National Park to the Daymaniyat Islands and the rocky landscapes of Jebel Samhan. Dozens more are under review, with nine sites nearing official recognition.

In a major step forward, Oman announced in May the signing of nine environmental investment agreements across seven nature reserves. These projects aim to strengthen sustainable tourism, protect biodiversity, and support environmental education—all within the framework of a long-term green economic vision that targets net-zero emissions by 2050.

Oman’s natural offerings are as varied as they are breathtaking. From the fjords of Musandam, a top diving destination, to the coastal beauty of Muscat’s beaches, the mountain springs of the Green Mountain, and the ancient water channels of the interior region.

Meanwhile, Southern Dhofar stands out with its white-sand beaches, mountains, expansive valleys, desert landscapes, freshwater springs, and intricate cave systems--making it a top choice for eco-tourism enthusiasts.

Obituary

Revered Kenyan man of letters and voice of dissent

## Ngugi wa Thiong’o, literary giant, dies at 87

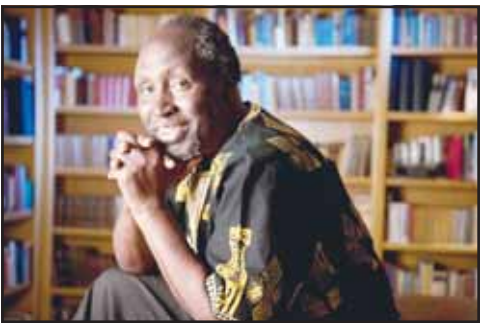
NEW YORK, May 29, (AP): Ngugi wa Thiong’o, the revered Kenyan man of letters and voice of dissent who in dozens of fiction and nonfiction books traced his country’s history from British imperialism to home-ruled tyranny and challenged not only the stories told but the language used to tell them, died Wednesday at 87.

Derek Warker, publicist for Ngugi’s US publisher The New Press, confirmed the death to The Associated Press. Ngugi’s son Nduku wa Ngugi said he died in Bedford, Georgia. Further details were not immediately available, though Ngugi was receiving kidney dialysis treatments.

Whether through novels such as “The Wizard of the Crow” and “Petals of Blood,” memoirs such as “Birth of a Dream Weaver” or the landmark critique “Decolonizing the Mind,” Ngugi embodied the very heights of the artist’s calling - as a truth teller and explorer of myth, as a breaker of rules and steward of culture. He was a perennial candidate for the Nobel literature prize and a long-term artist in exile, imprisoned for a year in the 1970s and harassed for decades after.

“Resistance is the best way of keeping alive,” he told the Guardian in 2018. “It can take even the smallest form of saying no to injustice. If you really think you’re right, you stick to your beliefs, and they help you to survive.”

He was admired worldwide, by authors ranging from John Updike to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and by former President Barack Obama, who once praised Ngugi’s ability to tell “a compelling story of how the transformative events of history weigh on individual lives and relationships.” Ngugi was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2009, was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle prize in 2012 and, four years later, was the winner of the



This 2010 image released by UC Irvine shows Kenyan author Ngugi wa Thiong’o. (AP)

Pak Kyong-ni Literature Award.

Through Ngugi’s life, you could dramatize the history of modern Kenya. He grew up on land stolen from his family by British colonists. He was a teenager when the Mau Mau uprising for independence began, in his mid-20s when Britain ceded control in 1963 and in his late 30s when his disillusion with Kenyan authorities led to his arrest and eventual departure. Beyond his own troubles, his mother was held in solitary confinement by the British, one brother was killed and another brother, deaf and mute, was shot dead when he didn’t respond to British soldiers’ demands that he stop moving.

In a given book, Ngugi might summon anything from ancient fables to contemporary popular culture. His widely translated picture story, “The Upright Revolution,” updates Kenyan folklore in explaining why humans walk on two legs. The short story “The Ghost of Michael Jackson” features a priest possessed by the spirit of the late entertainer. Ngugi’s tone was often satirical, and he mocked the buffoon-

ery and corruption of government leaders in “The Wizard of the Crow,” in which aides to the tyrant of fictional Aburiria indulge his most tedious fantasies.

“Rumor has it that the Ruler talked nonstop for seven nights and days, seven hours, seven minutes, and seven seconds. By then the ministers had clapped so hard, they felt numb and drowsy,” he wrote. “When they became too tired to stand, they started kneeling down before the ruler, until the whole scene looked like an assembly in prayer before the eyes of the Lord. But soon they found that even holding their bodies erect while on their knees was equally tiring, and some assumed the cross-legged posture of the Buddhist.”

Ngugi sided with the oppressed, but his imagination extended to all sides of his country’s divides - a British officer who justifies the suffering he inflicts on local activists, or a young Kenyan idealist willing to lose all for his country’s liberation. He parsed the conflicts between oral and written culture, between the city and the village, the educated and the illiterate, the foreigner and the native.

One of five children born to the third of his father’s four wives, Ngugi grew up north of Nairobi, in Kamiriithu village. He received an elite, colonial education and his name at the time was James Thiong’o. A gifted listener, he once shaped the stories he heard from family members and neighbors into a class assignment about an imagined elder council meeting, so impressing one of his teachers that the work was read before a school assembly.

His formal writing career began through an act of invention. While a student at Makerere University College in Kampala, Uganda, he encountered the editor of a campus magazine and told him he had some stories to contribute, even though he had not yet written a word.

### Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** A stunt performer has sued **Kevin Costner**, alleging she was subjected to an unscripted rape scene without proper warning, consent or protocols while shooting his film “Horizon: An American Saga: Chapter 2.”

Devyn LaBella filed the lawsuit Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. It names Costner — the director, star and cowriter of the “Horizon” series of Westerns — and its production companies as defendants.

“The impact of this impromptu work demand on Ms. LaBella has been profound, not only upending a career Ms. LaBella spent years building but leaving her with permanent trauma that she will be required to address for years to come,” the lawsuit says.

Costner’s attorney said the lawsuit has no merit, and LaBella’s assertions are contradicted by both the facts and her behavior. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Casandra Ventura, the R&B singer and actor known simply as Cassie, has welcomed her third child, a son.

The news arrived Wednesday in the midst of the ongoing Sean “Diddy” Combs sex trafficking trial, at which Cassie is an essential witness. She finished testifying earlier this month while visibly pregnant over four emotional days on the stand, during which she described being beaten and raped by a man she once



Costner

loved.

Reports from multiple media outlets said Cassie gave birth in a New York hospital Tuesday. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** The singer Cassie was content celebrating her 29th birthday with drinks, drugs and karaoke with friends, but her boyfriend, Sean “Diddy” Combs, had a different idea.

The hip-hop mogul insisted on taking Cassie, his R&B protégé, to a Los Angeles hotel for another of his party marathons, her friend and former stylist testified Wednesday at Combs’ federal sex trafficking trial.

Deonte Nash told jurors that he saw the temperamental Combs berating Cassie as she pleaded for him to let her enjoy her birthday on her own terms. Later that night, Nash said, Cassie told the stylist, “I don’t want to freak-off,” but that she had to because Combs was making her.

Nash testified that the 2015 conversation was one of several times Cassie, whose real name is Casandra Ventura, confided to him that she didn’t want to engage in Combs’ drug-fueled hotel encounters. (AP)

**LONDON:** Influencer brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate have been charged in Britain with rape and other crimes, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The charges were authorized in January last year but not publicized, though news media at the time reported on a UK arrest warrant issued against the Tates, dual US and British citizens who moved to Romania in 2016. The Crown Prosecution Service said this was the first time it confirmed the two had been criminally charged in Britain.

Andrew Tate, 38, faces 10 charges related to three women that include rape, actual bodily harm, human trafficking and controlling prostitution for gain. (AP)



US cancels \$766m Moderna contract to fight pandemic flu

New COVID-19 variant may be fueling global case surge: WHO

NEW YORK, May 29, (AP): COVID-19 cases are rising again as a new variant begins to circulate in some parts of the world. The World Health Organization said Wednesday the rise in cases is primarily in the eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and western Pacific regions.

Airport screening in the United States has detected the new variant in travelers arriving from those regions to destinations in California, Washington state, Virginia and New York.

The new variant is called NB.1.8.1. It arrives as the United States' official stance on COVID-19 vaccination is changing. On Tuesday, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced that COVID-19 shots are no longer recommended for healthy children and pregnant women - a move immediately questioned by several public health experts.

The new variant, increasing globally, had by mid-May

reached nearly 11% of sequenced samples reported. The WHO has designated it a "variant under monitoring" and considers the public health risk low at the global level with current vaccines expected to remain effective.

The WHO said some western Pacific countries have reported increases in COVID cases and hospitalizations, but there's nothing so far to suggest that the disease associated with the new variant is more severe compared to other variants.

The variant called LP.8.1 is currently the dominant version in the U.S. and globally.

The Trump administration has canceled \$766 million awarded to drugmaker Moderna Inc. to develop a vaccine against potential pandemic influenza viruses, including the H5N1 bird flu.

The company said it was notified Wednesday that the Health and Human Services Department had withdrawn funds awarded in July 2024 and in January to pay for development and purchase of its investigational vaccine.

The funds were awarded through the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, or BARDA, a program that focuses on medical treatments for potential pandemics.

The new vaccine, called mRNA-1018, used the same technology that allowed development and rollout of vaccines to fight Covid-19 in record time.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has expressed deep skepticism regarding mRNA vaccines, despite real-world evidence that the vaccines are safe and saved millions of lives.

The cancellation came as Moderna announced positive interim results from an early-stage trial of the vaccine that

targeted H5 bird flu virus, tested in 300 healthy adults.

"While the termination of funding from HHS adds uncertainty, we are pleased by the robust immune response and safety profile observed in this interim analysis," the company said in a statement.

H5N1 bird flu viruses spilled from wild bird into cattle in the US last year, infecting hundreds of animals in several states. At least 70 people in the US have been sickened by bird flu infections, mostly mild. One person died. Scientists fear that continued mutation of the virus could allow it to become more virulent or more easily spread in people, with the possibility that it could trigger a pandemic.

Moderna received \$176 million in July 2024 and \$590 million in January. The January award would have supported a late-stage clinical trial that could have determined the vaccine's efficacy against pandemic viruses, including bird flu, a company spokesman said.

Experts explain how to protect your brain

Chronic stress linked to cognitive decline and dementia risk: study

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

By Jennifer E. Graham-Engeland and Martin J. Sliwinski Penn State

The probability of any American having dementia in their lifetime may be far greater than previously thought. For instance, a 2025 study that tracked a large sample of American adults across more than three decades found that their average likelihood of developing dementia between ages 55 to 95 was 42%, and that figure was even higher among women, Black adults and those with genetic risk.

Now, a great deal of attention is being paid to how to stave off cognitive decline in the aging American population. But what is often missing from this conversation is the role that chronic stress can play in how well people age from a cognitive standpoint, as well as everybody's risk for dementia.

We are professors at Penn State in the Center for Healthy Aging, with expertise in health psychology and neuropsychology. We study the pathways by which chronic psychological stress influences the risk of dementia and how it influences the ability to stay healthy as people age.

Recent research shows that Americans who are currently middle-aged or older report experiencing more frequent stressful events than previous generations. A key driver behind this increase appears to be rising economic and job insecurity, especially in the wake of the 2007-2009 Great Recession and ongoing shifts in the labor market. Many people stay in the workforce longer due to financial necessity, as Americans are living longer and face greater challenges covering basic expenses in later life.

Therefore, it may be more important than ever to understand the pathways by which stress influences cognitive aging.

Although everyone experiences some stress in daily life, some people experience stress that is more intense, persistent or prolonged. It is this relatively chronic stress that is most consistently linked with poorer health.

In a recent review paper, our team summarized how chronic stress is a hidden but powerful factor underlying cognitive aging, or the speed at which your cognitive performance slows down with age.

It is hard to overstate the impact of stress on your cognitive health as you age. This is in part because your psychological, behavioral and biological responses to everyday stressful events are closely intertwined, and each can amplify and interact with the other.

Lifestyle

For instance, living alone can be stressful - particularly for older adults - and being isolated makes it more difficult to live a healthy lifestyle, as well as to detect and get help for signs of cognitive decline.

Moreover, stressful experiences - and your reactions to them - can make it harder to sleep well and to engage in other healthy behaviors, like getting enough exercise and maintaining a healthy diet. In turn, insufficient sleep and a lack of physical activity can make it harder to cope with stressful experiences.

A robust body of research highlights the importance of at least 14 different factors that relate to your risk of Alzheimer's disease, a common and devastating form of dementia and other forms of dementia. Although some of these factors may be outside of your control, such as diabetes or depression, many of these factors involve things that people do, such as physical activity, healthy eating and social engagement.

What is less well-recognized is that chronic stress is intimately interwoven with all of these factors that relate to dementia risk. Our work and research by others that we

viewed in our recent paper demonstrate that chronic stress can affect brain function and physiology, influence mood and make it harder to maintain healthy habits. Yet, dementia prevention efforts rarely address stress.

Avoiding stressful events and difficult life circumstances is typically not an option.

Where and how you live and work plays a major role in how much stress you experience. For example, people with lower incomes, less education or those living in disadvantaged neighborhoods often face more frequent stress and have fewer forms of support - such as nearby clinics, access to healthy food, reliable transportation or safe places to exercise or socialize - to help them manage the challenges of aging.

As shown in recent work on brain health in rural and underserved communities, these conditions can shape whether people have the chance to stay healthy as they age.

Over time, the effects of stress tend to build up, wearing down the body's systems and shaping long-term emotional and social habits.

The good news is that there are multiple things that can be done to slow or prevent dementia, and our review suggests that these can be enhanced if the role of stress is better understood.

Implications

Whether you are a young, midlife or an older adult, it is not too early or too late to address the implications of stress on brain health and aging. Here are a few ways you can take direct actions to help manage your level of stress:

- Follow lifestyle behaviors that can improve healthy aging. These include: following a healthy diet, engaging in physical activity and getting enough sleep. Even small changes in these domains can make a big difference.
- Prioritize your mental health and well-being to the extent you can. Things as simple as talking about your worries, asking for support from friends and family and going outside regularly can be immensely valuable.
- If your doctor says that you or someone you care about should follow a new health care regimen, or suggests there are signs of cognitive impairment, ask them what support or advice they have for managing related stress.
- If you or a loved one feel socially isolated, consider how small shifts could make a difference. For instance, research suggests that adding just one extra interaction a day - even if it's a text message or a brief phone call - can be helpful, and that even interactions with people you don't know well, such as at a coffee shop or doctor's office, can have meaningful benefits.

A 2025 study identified stress as one of 17 overlapping factors that affect the odds of developing any brain disease, including stroke, late-life depression and dementia. This work suggests that addressing stress and overlapping issues such as loneliness may have additional health benefits as well.

However, not all individuals or families are able to make big changes on their own. Research suggests that community-level and workplace interventions can reduce the risk of dementia. For example, safe and walkable neighborhoods and opportunities for social connection and lifelong learning - such as through community classes and events - have the potential to reduce stress and promote brain health.

Importantly, researchers have estimated that even a modest delay in disease onset of Alzheimer's would save hundreds of thousands of dollars for every American affected. Thus, providing incentives to companies who offer stress management resources could ultimately save money as well as help people age more healthfully.

In addition, stress related to the stigma around mental health and aging can discourage people from seeking support that would benefit them. Even just thinking about your risk of dementia can be stressful in itself. Things can be done about this, too. (AP)



This China National Space Administration (CNSA) handout image released by Xinhua News Agency, shows the lander-ascender combination of Chang'e-6 probe taken by a mini rover after it landed on the moon surface, June 4, 2024. (AP)

New space object found

China launches spacecraft to collect asteroid samples

TAIPEI, Taiwan, May 29, (AP): China launched a spacecraft that promises to return samples from an asteroid near Mars and yield "groundbreaking discoveries and expand humanity's knowledge of the cosmos," the country's space agency said.

The Tianwen-2 probe launched early Thursday from southern China aboard the workhorse Long March 3-B rocket. The probe will collect samples from the asteroid 2016HO3 and explore the main-belt comet 311P, which lies even further from the Earth than Mars, according to the China National Space Administration.

Shan Zhongde, head of the CNSA, was quoted as saying the Tianwen-2 mission represents a "significant step in China's new journey of interplanetary exploration" and over its decade-long mission will "yield groundbreaking discoveries and expand humanity's knowledge of the cosmos."

Samples from 2016HO3 are due to be returned in about two years. The asteroids, chosen for their relatively stable orbits, hopefully will offer clues into the formation of earth, such as the origins of water.

China earlier returned rock samples from the moon's far side back to Earth in a historic mission and has welcomed international cooperation. However, any cooperation with the US hinges on removing an American law banning direct bilateral cooperation with NASA.

The near side of the moon is seen from Earth and the far side faces outer space. The far side also is known to have mountains and impact craters and is much more difficult to reach.

China also operates the three person-crewed Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," space station, making the country a major player in a new era of space exploration and the use of permanent

stations to conduct experiments in space, especially since the station was entirely Chinese-built after the country was excluded from the International Space Station over US national security concerns.

China's space program is controlled by the People's Liberation Army, the military branch of the ruling Communist Party.

Also:

**NEW YORK:** Astronomers have discovered a strange new object in our Milky Way galaxy.

An international team reported Wednesday that this celestial object - perhaps a star, pair of stars or something else entirely - is emitting X-rays around the same time it's shooting out radio waves. What's more, the cycle repeats every 44 minutes, at least during periods of extreme activity.

Located 15,000 light-years away in a region of the Milky Way brimming with stars, gas and dust, this object could be a highly magnetized dead star like a neutron or white dwarf, Curtin University's Ziteng Andy Wang said in an email from Australia.

Or it could be "something exotic" and unknown, said Wang, lead author of the study published in the journal Nature.

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory spotted the X-ray emissions by chance last year while focusing on a supernova remnant, or the remains of an exploded star. Wang said it was the first time X-rays had been seen coming from a so-called long-period radio transient, a rare object that cycles through radio signals over tens of minutes.

Given the uncertain distance, astronomers can't tell if the weird object is associated with the supernova remnant or not. A single light-year is 5.8 trillion miles.

Infection alert

AI device cuts cancer deaths

SCHENECTADY, N.Y., May 29, (AP): AION Biosystems has announced a major breakthrough in cancer care: TempShield, an AI-powered wearable thermometer, has been shown to reduce mortality by 90% and inpatient days by 79% in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. These results - announced in association with the 2025 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting - mark the first time long-term temperature tracking has been undertaken and validated in outpatient oncology.

Infections remain one of the deadliest yet most preventable complications of cancer treatment, accounting for up to 60% of deaths in patients with hematologic cancers and nearly 50% of those with solid tumors. Up to 40% of patients discontinue chemotherapy early due to infection-related complications - creating a vicious "infection-treatment interruption" cycle that undermines survival. Yet the current standard of care still relies on patients taking their temperature only when they start to feel sick - by which point it's often too late to intervene effectively.

The study was conducted at Roswell Park Cancer Care Network at Ellis Medicine and funded through the State of New York as part of the City of Schenectady's Stay Well Program, championed by Mayor Gary McCarthy. The study focused on patients receiving active chemotherapy, with approximately 70% having solid tumors and 30% hematologic malignancies. Patients wore TempShield for an average of 120 days, making it the longest continuous temperature monitoring initiative ever recorded in outpatient cancer care. TempShield provides continuous, 24/7 temperature surveillance, triggering real-time alerts to clinicians often 72 hours or more before symptoms appear - allowing for early intervention and reduced hospital burden.

Key outcomes among chemotherapy patients:

- 90% reduction in mortality
- 79% reduction in inpatient days
- 52% shorter inpatient stays
- Fevers detected often 72 hours or more before symptoms
- 120-day average wear time per patient

"TempShield gave us a critical head start in detecting infections - allowing timely intervention, avoiding serious complications, and saving lives," said Dr. Talfat Mahmood, Medical Director at Roswell Park Cancer Center at Ellis Medicine. "This study shows that long-term temperature monitoring benefits not just high-risk patients, but all chemotherapy patients."

This study also challenges the prevailing clinical focus on fever detection only in patients considered at highest risk - such as those with neutropenia or cytokine release syndrome (CRS).

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‘It allows us to have a built-in bye...’

Big 12 men’s basketball decision to drop to 18 conference games goes beyond injury prevention

ORLANDO, Fla., May 29, (AP): Another college basketball season in the books means another off season to reset, recruit and reassess the growing needs of the game.

Following a yearlong experiment with a 20-game conference schedule, the Big 12 announced its intention to return to 18 games for the upcoming season.

Vice President of Big 12 Men’s Basketball Brian Thornton said Wednesday there were multiple reasons for the change.

“The schedule got very compressed and when you’re planning in a league as challenging as ours, understandably our coaches wanted a little bit of an opportunity during the course of conference play to take a deep breath, and going to 18 games allows that,” Thornton told The Associated Press at the Big 12 spring meetings. “It allows us to have a built-in bye, and it’s something that we feel is important for the time being.”

The transition to 18 games accommodates the requests of college coaches after complaints during the season. But the reason behind the shift goes beyond rest time and injury prevention.

“We want to maximize bids, we want to maximize seeds,” Thornton said. “The non-conference schedule is a huge component of that. We’re moving from 20 conference games to 18 conference games, and so we spent considerable time talking about the importance of replacing those games with quality games that allows our conference to continue to thrive.”

The Atlantic Coast Conference made the same move in early May after earning just four NCAA Tournament bids, its lowest total since 2013.

The Big 12 had seven bids in the tournament, the third-most behind the Big Ten (8) and SEC (14). Houston coach Kelvin Sampson, whose Cougars reached the national championship game, took notice.

“One of the great things but also great challenges of coaching in the Big 12 is that you’ve got to keep up,” Sampson said. “It’s competitive, you know. The SEC got 14 teams in the NCAA Tournament this year, we only had seven.”

Both the ACC and Big 12 hope the increased strength of schedule and strategic non-conference games lead to higher seeding, increased bids and more national attention.

“What our conference does during the non-conference schedule is really what sets the stage for how strong our conference is going to be overall,” Thornton said. “The ball games that we schedule, the success that we have during that time, will set the stage for if we’re viewed as the No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 conference in the country as we go down the stretch and head into March Madness.”

Hasan and Agha lead Pakistan to 37-run win over Bangladesh in T20



Pakistan’s Mohammad Haris plays a shot during the first Twenty20 cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

LAHORE, Pakistan, May 29, (AP): Fast bowler Hasan Ali grabbed a 5-30 and led a new-look Pakistan T20 cricket team to a thumping 37-run win over Bangladesh in the opening game of their three-match series.

Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha made a career-best 56 as Pakistan posted a competitive 201-7 after Agha won the toss and elected to bat in Mike Hesson’s first assignment as Pakistan’s new white-ball head coach.

Hasan, playing only his second Twenty20 international in more than 2-1/2 years, dismissed both openers with the new ball and claimed three more wickets in the death overs to bowl out Bangladesh for 164 in 19.2 overs.

Pakistan dropped seasoned batters Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan in a bid to look for youngsters, who could bat aggressively - especially in the power play.

The selectors also overlooked fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi for the home series despite the left-arm fast bowler leading Lahore Qalandars to their third Pakistan Super League title in four years last Sunday.

In the absence of Afridi, Hasan provided Pakistan early breakthroughs despite Tanzid Hasan smashing three



Pakistan’s Salman Ali Agha celebrates after scoring fifty during the first Twenty20 cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

sixes and two fours in his brisk 31-run knock off 17 balls.

Parvez Hossain Emon, who scored a century against United Arab Emirates in a T20 last week, could score only four as he mistimed a pull shot against Hasan and was caught on the edge of the circle.

Tanzid’s aggression was also cut short by Hasan’s knuckle ball as the left-hander got deceived by slowness of the delivery and was clean bowled in the fourth over.

Skipper Litton Das (48) and Towhid Hridoy (17) combined in a 63-run

stand off 48 balls but the asking rate always kept creeping as Shadab Khan bowled a tidy four-over spell of 2-26.

Das was smartly caught at point by Fakhar Zaman as he tried to square cut Shadab in the 12th over and Hridoy was out plumb leg before wicket when he tried to play across the line against left-arm spinner Khushdil Shah in the next over.

Jaker Ali countercharged briefly with 36 off 20 balls that included three sixes and a boundary but was caught at short fine leg as he tried to play Hasan’s short ball but top-edged to

Abrar Ahmed.

Hasan also took a brilliant running catch to dismiss Tanzim Hasan Sakib before he finished off Bangladesh innings when No. 11 Shoriful Islam was caught at long-off.

Pakistan had a bumpy start when Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman, both returning to international cricket after injuries, fell inside the first eight balls.

Saim offered a tame return catch off the first ball he faced against Mahedi Hasan and Zaman played Shoriful across the line and was adjudged leg before wicket.

But Mohammad Haris, replacing wicket-keeper batter Rizwan, didn’t hold back and counterpunched in the power play with a brisk 31 off 18 balls.

Fast bowler Tanzim intelligently varied his pace and dismissed Haris soon after the powerplay before Agha and Pakistan’s new T20 batting sensation Hasan Nawaz took charge.

Agha smashed eight fours and a six while Nawaz, who was adjudged PSL player of the tournament, smashed four sixes and a two fours in his belligerent 44 runs off just 22 balls.

Agha fell to a soft dismissal when he chipped an easy catch to extra cover of Mahmud’s high full toss while Nawaz smashed Rishad Hossain for two fours and a six before offering a straightforward catch to the spinner in the 14th over.

But Shadab took charge in the final four overs as Pakistan scored 51 off the last 23 balls before Shadab holed out at mid-on off the penultimate ball.

Austin scores 13 points

Mystics top Fever with Clark watching from the bench

BALTIMORE, May 29, (AP): Brittney Sykes had 21 points and nine rebounds, Kiki Iriafen added 16 points, and the Washington Mystics beat the short-handed Indiana Fever 83-77 at CFG Bank Arena in Baltimore.

Reigning Rookie of the Year Caitlin Clark did not play for Indiana due to a strained left quad. She was injured while playing against New York on Saturday.

It was the first time in Clark’s career she missed a regular-season game after playing in all 40 games and both playoff games last season and the first four games this year.

Sykes blocked a layup attempt by Kelsey Mitchell with 1:06 left in the fourth quarter and she made 3 of 4 free throws in the final minute to keep Washington in front by mul-

tiples possessions.

Shakira Austin scored all 13 of her points in the first half to help the Mystics take a 44-40 lead at the break. Sonia Citron also finished with 13 points for Washington (3-3), which snapped a three-game losing streak.

DeWanna Bonner scored 21 points, including a long 3-pointer just before the final buzzer, to lead Indiana (2-3). Bonner became the first player in WNBA history to reach 7,500 points, 3,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists.

Mitchell added 14 points, Natasha Howard scored 11 and Aliyah Boston had 10 for Indiana. Sydney Colson started in place of Clark and scored four points in 31 minutes.

The Fever host the Sun on Friday. The Mystics host the Liberty the same night.

Munich strengthens its defense

Bayern signs Tah from league rival Leverkusen

MUNICH, May 29, (AP): Bayern Munich strengthened its defense ahead of the Club World Cup by signing Germany center back Jonathan Tah from its Bundesliga rival Bayer Leverkusen.

Tah arrives on a free transfer with a contract until June 2029.

“It’s a very special feeling,” Tah said. “It felt very big, seeing the shirt with my number and name on it. I’m just really looking forward to being able to wear the shirt properly for the first time in a match. I want to take on responsibility here and work hard every day so that we’re successful as a team and win lots of trophies together.”

Bayern pursued Tah for more than a year after failing to sign him last summer, when Tah refused to extend his contract beyond the 2024-25 season.

“It’s no secret that we’ve had Jonathan Tah on our radar for a long time,” Bayern board member for sport Max Eberl said. “Jonathan had a lot of offers but chose Bayern, which pleases us very much.”

He was Leverkusen’s longest-serving outfield player after spending a decade at the club and was a key part of the team which won the Bundesliga and German Cup unbeaten in 2023-24.

How Leverkusen replaces Tah is a key question in the rebuild the club must pursue with new coach Erik ten Hag after Xabi Alonso left for Real Madrid.

Bayern was expected for months to sign Tah as a free agent but the Club World Cup complicates matters.

The German champion has three group games before Tah’s Leverkus-

sen contract was due to expire June 30, starting with Auckland City in Cincinnati on June 15. That meant Leverkusen had the right to demand a fee if Bayern wanted to sign Tah earlier, in the extra transfer window running June 1-10.

Getting Tah sooner is important for Bayern because its first-choice central defense pairing has faced a demanding schedule this season and struggled with injuries.

Dayot Upamecano has been out since a knee injury in March, while Kim Min-jae played much of the season with an Achilles tendon problem. Backup central defender Eric Dier is leaving for Monaco, while injuries limited Hiroki Ito to a handful of games.

“In Jonathan Tah we’ve acquired a player with international experience and quality, who won’t need much time to establish himself in our defense,” Bayern sporting director Christoph Freund said. “He’ll be a good and important addition for us with his technical qualities as well as his manner and the way he leads.”

Tah was an up-and-coming talent when he joined Leverkusen from Hamburger SV in 2015 but it still took years for him to establish himself as one of Germany’s best.

After making his international debut at the age of 20 in a friendly against England in 2016, Tah had to wait until Julian Nagelsmann’s arrival as coach in 2023 to become a regular starter for his country.

Germany’s run to the quarterfinals of Euro 2024 on home soil was Tah’s first major tournament. Of his 35 international appearances, 19 have come in the last two seasons.

New Nuggets coach Adelman wants his team in top condition and open to ideas

DENVER, May 29, (AP): Jamal Murray was located in the back of the room and so he heard the message first-hand from new Denver Nuggets coach David Adelman. Same with Julian Strawther, who took a seat in the front row.

For the players not in attendance at Adelman’s introductory news conference , a quick recap: Adelman wants everyone in even better condition and open to new ideas come training camp.

Because the Western Conference won’t be getting any easier, Adelman insisted. It’s up to the Nuggets to adjust behind a roster that revolves around three-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic. Adelman wants his players to have a big voice, too, just like they did after he took over following the firing of coach Michael Malone and general manager Calvin Booth with three games left in the regular season.

“New ideas are good ideas,” Adelman said. “I have to give them something to come back to that excites them.”

Adelman earned the promotion from interim to full-time head coach after a postseason run that saw the Nuggets get to a Game 7 against Oklahoma City in the second round before being knocked out of the playoffs. This with a thin bench

and an injury-hampered starting five.

Now, the work begins to put his own stamp on directing the Nuggets. He’s gathered a wealth of knowledge through an array of NBA coaching mentors such as his father Rick Adelman, Sam Mitchell, Frank Vogel, the late Flip Saunders and, of course, Malone.

“Very prepared,” Adelman said of his level of readiness. “When you’re around those people and you see how they run their business and their process, it’s kind of a cheat code.”

Fitness, Adelman maintained, will be a key to a fast start - and health come playoff time.

“Teams that get off to great starts usually at the end of the year have the best chance of being healthy in these big games,” explained Adelman, who’s working on rounding out his coaching staff. “But, yeah, that will be the expectation to come back in much better shape.”

One of the areas the Nuggets aim to address in the offseason is depth. The Nuggets ran out of steam in the Thunder series after beating the Los Angeles Clippers in seven games to advance out of the first round.

“Can they achieve that (championship goal) as currently constructed? I think the answer, as (Jokic) said after the

playoffs, and it was obviously no,” Kroenke Sports & Entertainment vice chairman Josh Kroenke said. “So we need to take a hard look at how we can raise our ceiling going forward, whether that’s internally or externally.”

“If you look at the teams still playing ... with a little bit of help, maybe a little bit of luck, maybe it could be us. But it’s not. We’re very conscious of that and how we need to go about improving.”

Kroenke shocked the league last month when he fired Malone, the winningest coach in franchise history, and Booth after they helped bring home the franchise’s first NBA title in 2023. It was Kroenke’s way to rejuvenate the team’s energy heading into the postseason.

Next up for Kroenke, hiring a new GM. For now, Ben Tenzer is overseeing the role on an interim basis.

The plan, Kroenke said, is to bring bring Adelman into the GM process at some point.

“The input will be relatively minimal,” Kroenke said, “because what I’ll be looking for is cohesion between those two.”

Added Adelman of the GM: “This business is about cohesion. It’s all about just moving forward and winning. That’s

it. It’s not about finding your best friend.”

The Nuggets don’t have a pick in the upcoming NBA draft. It may prove challenging to add depth without breaking up the core of Jokic, Murray, Aaron Gordon, Michael Porter Jr. and Christian Braun.

That’s where Denver’s youth factors in and improvement from the likes of Strawther, Peyton Watson, Jalen Pickett and DaRon Holmes II, a first-round selection last year who tore an Achilles tendon in NBA Summer League.

“We’re hungry to get better,” Strawther said. “It’s all fuel to the fire.”

As for the style of play, Adelman will add some wrinkles but defense will always be an important principle.

“We have to get back to being an execution-based team,” Adelman said. “If that takes away some of our pace numbers, or whatever the analytics want to say, I think that’s OK if it wins you a game in May, as opposed to playing a game in December.”

“The majority of the time, if you want to win big, you’ve got to play slow. You’ve got to be efficient. You’ve got to be clean. So that will be things we’ll talk about throughout the summer, going to training camp.”

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Manchester United’s woes continue on another continent

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, May 29, (AP): Manchester United began an offseason tour after its worst Premier League season in almost expected fashion, losing its first match against a Southeast Asian All-Star team 1-0 in Kuala Lumpur.

The reaction was swift on Thursday, and from one of the highest places in the land.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim suggested United could be relegated after watching the visitor lose, despite the fact it was probably affected by jet lag.

“Ouch. Man United failed to win another trophy,” Ibra-

him, one of 72,500 fans at Bukit Jalil Stadium in the Malaysian capital, wrote on social media in a post translated from Malay.

“Looks like you’re in for another tough season, hope you don’t drop to the Championship,” he added, referring to England’s second tier into which the bottom three teams in the 20-team Premier League drop into every season.

On Sunday, United finished 15th in the Premier League, its lowest ever ranking in the competition, just four days after a loss in the Europa League final to Tottenham Hotspur meant its European season ended without a trophy.

Myanmar’s Maung Maung Lwin scored the only goal after 72 minutes on Wednesday for a team made up of top players from around the southeast Asian region.

“To face one of the world’s top clubs and deliver such a performance, it was truly remarkable from the team,” All-Stars coach Kim Sang-sik said. “We only trained for two days but the players looked like they had been playing together for 20 years. The team were well-organized and cohesive.”

United continues its tour in Hong Kong on Friday before matches in Sweden and the United States.

Change Name

I, MOHAMMED (Current name in passport), am a present holder of Indian Passport No. B6036953 having permanent address Godrej Green Undari Pune, Maharashtra. Pin Code: 411048, India Residing in Kuwait at present, I hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Given Name: Mohammed Abbas. Surname: Makda



Quakes extend Galaxy’s record season-opening winless streak to 16

# Messi scores twice as Inter Miami breaks out of slump

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., May 29, (AP): Lionel Messi scored twice and had an assist, and Inter Miami broke out of its slump with a 4-2 rout of Montreal.

Messi scored in the 27th and 87th minutes and set up Luis Suárez’s goal with some nice dribbling in the 68th. Suárez added another in the 71st.

The win gave Messi’s slumping Inter Miami team just its second victory in its past eight matches. Miami last won on May 3, going 0-2-2 since then and dropping to sixth in the Eastern Conference.

It has been a surprising plunge for a team that went 22-4-8 during the regular season in 2024 to set MLS records for points (74) and winning percentage (.765) and captured the Supporters Shield.

In its last match, Miami rallied from a two-goal deficit to tie Philadelphia, and that momentum carried over against Montreal, which is last in the Eastern Conference with just one win this season.

Substitute Ousseni Bouda scored in the 74th minute, and the San Jose Earthquakes extended the LA Galaxy’s MLS record season-opening winless streak to 16 games with a 1-0 victory.

Bouda slipped between two defenders and got his third goal of the season on a precise pass from fellow substitute Preston Judd for the Quakes, who snapped a four-game losing streak in the California Clásico rivalry.

The defending MLS Cup champion Galaxy (0-12-4) are edging toward historic ignominy after drop-



Philadelphia Union’s Nathan Harriel, right, and Danley Jean Jacques, left, block out Toronto FC’s Kevin Long during the first half of a MLS soccer match in Toronto. (AP)

ping yet another match at the stadium where they went unbeaten in 2024 and won their league-record sixth title in December.

The MLS record is 19 straight winless matches in league play by the MetroStars in 1999. Real Salt Lake also played 18 straight without a win

from 2005-06.

Jesús Ferreira scored his first goal for the Seattle Sounders, and Stefan Frei made it stand up with seven saves in a 1-0 victory over expansion side San Diego FC.

Ferreira used assists from Paul Rothrock and defender Álex Roldán

to score in his 15th appearance with Seattle after scoring 53 times for FC Dallas from 2017-24. Rothrock’s assist was his third this season and the fifth of his career. Roldán notched his second. He had one assist in his first seven seasons.

Frei finished off his fifth clean sheet

of the season for Seattle (7-4-5). He has 111 shutouts in 367 career starts. Frei’s first six came in 28 starts with Toronto FC from 2011-13.

The Sounders improve to 6-0-3 at home through all competitions this season. Seattle and FC Cincinnati are the only two teams still unbeaten at home.

Gabriel Segal scored twice in the second half and Jonathan Bond posted his fourth clean sheet as the Houston Dynamo cruised to a 3-0 victory over New York City FC.

The Dynamo (5-6-5) took a 1-0 lead in the 26th minute on an own goal by NYCFC midfielder Justin Haak.

Houston grabbed a two-goal advantage five minutes into the second half when Segal scored unassisted. It was his first goal in his first start and fifth appearance this season. He matched his goal total in each of the past two seasons when he found the net four minutes into stoppage time.

Bond needed to make just one save for his 21st career shutout in his 97th start. Bond had 17 clean sheets in three seasons with the Los Angeles Galaxy prior to joining Houston.

Kai Wagner set up the tying goal and scored the winner as the Philadelphia Union rallied to beat Toronto FC 2-1.

Philadelphia (10-3-3) is unbeaten in eight matches (6-0-2) in MLS play and 10 in all competitions (8-0-2) dating to a 1-0 defeat at New York City FC on April 12.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Motin scored two penalty kicks and the New York Red Bulls never trailed in a 4-2 win

over Charlotte FC.

Choupo-Motin’s penalty kick at 70 minutes made it 3-1 and later in extra time sealed it. Choupo-Motin clinched it after Cameron Harper drew a yellow card on Adilson Malanda.

Charlotte reduced its deficit to 3-2 when Liel Abada scored from the middle box at 76 minutes.

At 70 minutes, Choupo-Moting drew yellow on Andrew Privett and converted the penalty for a 3-1 lead.

Set up out of a corner by Raheem Edwards, Mohammed Sofo gave the Red Bulls a 2-1 advantage at 29 minutes with a right-footed tap from Wikelman Carmona near the middle box. It was Sofo’s fifth goal in his last eight competitions.

Jamal Thiarié scored in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time after Bartosz Slisz scored the equalizer in the 83rd - six minutes after César Araújo received a red card - and Atlanta United rallied to end Orlando City’s club-record-tying 12-match unbeaten streak with a 3-2 victory.

Araújo, who scored early to give Orlando City the lead, was whistled for violent conduct in the 77th minute, leaving the club shorthanded.

Slisz used an assist from Alexey Miranchuk to score his second goal - doubling his total in 28 appearances last season.

Thiarié found the net for the third time this season - subbing in for Emmanuel Latte Lath in the 68th minute.

# OKC advances to NBA Finals



Oklahoma City Thunder players and coaches celebrate after Game 5 of the Western Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Oklahoma City. (AP)

## SGA scores 34 as Thunder tops Timberwolves

OKLAHOMA CITY, May 29, (AP): Shai Gilgeous-Alexander achieved his short-term goals on Wednesday night and positioned himself to achieve his long-term one.

He had 34 points, eight assists and seven rebounds to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 124-94 in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals for a 4-1 series win and a spot in the NBA Finals.

“I know I wanted two things,” he said. “I didn’t want to go back to Minnesota. And then I wanted the fans to be able to enjoy the moment with us. I wanted them to be able to see it unfold in front of their eyes. I wanted them to celebrate tonight in our building, go home, get drunk, do whatever they do to have fun with the moment.”

The league MVP and scoring champion did his part to make those things possible, and now he’s got a shot at an NBA title.

It was another example of how playoff basketball appears to have slowed down for him. He forced things at times in the first

round against Memphis and in the second round against Denver. Against Minnesota, he was back to making the game look easy. He made 14 of 25 shots and committed just two turnovers in Game 5.

“I think he does a great job of playing aggressive and then letting the game tell him what the right play is,” Thunder forward Chet Holmgren said. “Sometimes that’s score, sometimes that’s to pass. But you never really feel like watching him or playing with him - you never feel like he made

the wrong read.”

Gilgeous-Alexander had 12 points and five assists in the first quarter as Oklahoma City took a 26-9 lead. The Thunder led 65-32 at halftime and 88-62 heading into the fourth quarter.

“All we can do is come in at night and control our energy and our effort and our focus level, give these fans what they deserve and families what they deserve,” he said. “Everyone that’s sacrificed for us, they deserve this moment to celebrate at home. We

took care of business from the jump. We were focused. We were together. We were energetic, we were aggressive, and the game turned out the way it did.”

Gilgeous-Alexander’s big night went beyond measurables. Coach Mark Daigneault said his leadership helped the Thunder get off to the strong start.

“He just set an unbelievable tone,” Daigneault said. “I think he understood his role in our mentality. He was a participant in that and he was a leader in that. And he was ready to play from the jump.”

For the series, Gilgeous-Alexander averaged 31.4 points, 8.2 assists and 5.2 rebounds per game and received the Magic Johnson Trophy for MVP of the Western Conference Finals.

None of that will matter when the Thunder play either the Indiana Pacers or the New York Knicks in the Finals, starting June 5. The Pacers lead the Eastern Conference finals series 3-1 with Game 5 in New York City on Thursday night.

“We have to be the best version of ourselves for four nights to reach the ultimate goal,” Gilgeous-Alexander said. “We understand that, we know that, and that’s what we’re focused on.



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Jalen Williams (8), left, and Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) battle for possession of the ball during the first half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Oklahoma City. (AP)

# Gasquet ends 23-year career after loss to Sinner

PARIS, May 29, (AP): Richard Gasquet ended his 23-year professional career Thursday with a 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 loss to top-ranked Janik Sinner in the second round of the French Open.

The 38-year-old Frenchman received a standing ovation and an honorary trophy during a post-match ceremony on Court Philippe-Chatrier. Novak Djokovic and Jo-

Wilfried Tsonga appeared in a video tribute that was broadcast on the stadium’s screen.

Gasquet had announced earlier this year that Roland-Garros would be his final tournament.

“I couldn’t dream of a better ending than having my last match on this court,” Gasquet said after losing to Sinner. “I will keep loving tennis until the end of my life.”

Gasquet reached a career-high No. 7 ranking in 2007 and made three major semifinals - twice at Wimbledon and once at the U.S. Open - but never reached a Grand Slam final. He won 16 ATP titles and was part of the French team that lifted the Davis Cup in 2017. He played over 1,000 matches during a career that began in 2002. This was his 22nd participation at the French Open.

## Kuwait’s Al-Nasr women’s team makes history with two gold medals in Doha

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

DOHA, May 29: The Al-Nasr Women’s Weightlifting Team secured two gold medals at the inaugural Asian Masters Championships, currently taking place in Doha, Qatar, and concluding on Saturday.

Hadeel Al-Shammari clinched gold in the 45 kg weight category, while Sarah Al-Hawal earned top honors in the 55 kg division.

This marks a historic moment as the Al-Nasr Women’s Team is the first Kuwaiti team to compete in an Asian weightlifting championship.

The squad features a strong lineup of athletes: Amal Al-Sharifi, Abrar Al-Fahad, Nour Al-Abdullah, Haya Al-Mayas, Al-Zahraa Kamshad, Shahad Al-Otaibi, Maryam Abu Jabara, Arwa Al-Ateeqi, Sarah Al-Hawal, Hawra Al-Mousawi, and Hadeel Al-Shammari.



Al-Shammari and Al-Hawal crowned with two gold medals.

## Best of the Rest

**Bologna extends coach Italiano’s contract:** Bologna coach Vincenzo Italiano’s contract was extended by a year through 2027 after he led the squad to the Italian Cup title.

“We are really happy to prolong our relationship with Vincenzo Italiano,” Bologna CEO Claudio Fenucci said on Thursday. “As we previously stated on a number of occasions, this has always been our intention and we are ready to take on the challenges of next season together.” (AP)

**Grant-Foster heading to Gonzaga:** Former Grand Canyon guard Tyon Grant-Foster is headed to Gonzaga. Grant-Foster announced his decision on Instagram Wednesday.

A 6-foot-7 senior, Grant-Foster was the 2024 Western Athletic Conference player of the year after averaging 20.1 points and 6.1 rebounds in his first season with the Antelopes. He averaged 14.8 points and 5.9 rebounds last season. (AP)

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Italy's Jannik Sinner returns the ball to France's Richard Gasquet during their second round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris. Sinner won 6-3, 6-0, 6-4. (AP)

# Sports

Al-Salmiya looking to end bad run

## Al-Arabi hopes to end season on a high in Amir Cup semifinal

By Hassan Mosa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium will host the highly anticipated Amir Cup semifinal between Al-Arabi and Al-Salmiya tonight at 8:30.

The two sides have faced each other three times this season in the Zain Premier League, with Al-Arabi holding the edge – winning twice (3-1 and 3-2) and drawing once (1-1). Despite the familiarity between the teams, tonight's knockout encounter promises a fresh intensity with a spot in the final on the line.

Neither team had an easy journey to the semifinal stage, despite facing clubs from the Zain First Division League. Al-Arabi was pushed to the limit in the preliminary round by Al-Sulaibikhat, eventually advancing via penalty shootout (4-3) after a 2-2 draw in regular time. It then edged past Al-Jahra 2-1 in the quarterfinals.

Al-Salmiya also struggled early on, narrowly beating Sahel – the bottom team in the First Division – 2-1 in its opening match before overcoming Al-Nasr 3-1 to secure the semifinal berth.

Under head coach Nasser Al-Shatti, Al-Arabi enters the semifinal

determined to salvage its season after missing out on both the league title and the Crown Prince Cup. The Greens are eager to cap the campaign with silverware and see the Amir Cup as its final shot.

Al-Shatti will rely on a talented squad led by standout players such as Bahraini international Kamil Al-Aswad, Nigerian striker Emmanuel Iwala, and a strong supporting cast including Ali Khalaf, Hassan Hamdan, Jumaa Aboud, Soufiane Bouchar, Hamza Khaba, Bandar Al-Salama, Hamad Al-Qallaf, Ali Aziz, and Hussein Ashkanani.

Al-Salmiya, led by Croatian coach Ante Miša, is looking to reach the final after falling just short last season against Al-Qadisiya. Having been outperformed by Al-Arabi in their league meetings this year, the Sky Blues are motivated to turn the tables in the Amir Cup.

Miša will count on a balanced lineup featuring key players such as Fawaz Ayed, Alex Lima, Amr Midani, Mahdi Dashti, Mohammed Al-Huwaidi, Al-Sanousi Al-Hadi, Sang Pierre, Moaz Al-Aseema, Emad Al-Lawati, and Issa Walid.

With both teams hungry for success and redemption, fans can expect a fiercely contested battle as the Amir Cup nears its dramatic conclusion.



A file photo of players in an aerial battle for the ball.

Burgan secures historic 2nd

## Kuwait Club clinches handball league title

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Kuwait Club handball team secured the title of the 58th Premier Handball League after a commanding 39-28 victory over Sulaibikhat in the first round of the league's third and final stage. This triumph marked the club's 15th overall league title and 13th consecutive championship, sealing the title with four rounds remaining and bringing their total to 48 points.

Meanwhile, Burgan made history by finishing second in the league for the first time ever, following a 32-28 win over Al-Salmiya. With 39 points, Burgan stands eight points clear of third-place Kazma. Even if Kazma wins its remaining four matches and Burgan loses all of theirs, both would be tied on points – but Burgan would maintain the edge based on head-to-head performance.

The battle for third place continues, with Kazma (31 points) and Al-Salmiya (23 points) contending for the podium.

Reacting to the historic achievement, Burgan Sports Club Chairman Anwar Al-Otaibi praised the club's progress, saying:



Kuwait Club is tackled as he goes for a shot.

"This milestone didn't happen overnight. It is the result of the tremendous support from the club's board of directors, combined with the efforts of our technical, administrative, and medical staff, as well as the commitment of our players."

Al-Otaibi also confirmed that Burgan will participate in the Asian Club Championship this November, marking the team's first continental appearance. He expressed optimism, noting that the team will compete with four Asian professionals, and is aiming for a strong showing.

## Kuwait Olympic Committee honors gymnastics team for the West Asian Championship success



The gymnastics team poses with the Kuwait Olympic Committee officials.

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Kuwait Olympic Committee hosted a celebratory reception for the national artistic gymnastics team in recognition of their outstanding performance at the West Asian Championships for youth, juniors, and girls, recently held in Jordan. The Kuwaiti delegation brought home an impressive 32 medals, including 17 gold, 6 silver, and 9 bronze, setting a new milestone for the sport in the country.

The event was attended by Sheikh Mubarak

Faisal Al-Nawaf, Vice President of the Olympic Committee, who congratulated the athletes and commended their exceptional results. He reaffirmed the Committee's unwavering support for national teams and the Gymnastics Federation, pledging to continue facilitating their journey toward excellence.

Sheikh Mubarak also extended his gratitude to the families of the athletes for their encouragement and support, expressing his hope for the team's

continued success in representing Kuwait with pride on the international stage.

For his part, Fahad Al-Soula, President of the Gymnastics Federation, expressed appreciation to the Olympic Committee for its support. He emphasized the Federation's commitment to the development of gymnastics, noting ongoing efforts to build competitive national teams capable of achieving success at regional and global levels.

## Chelsea wins Conference League to complete set of all 4 UEFA trophies

Liftoff for American owners

WROCLAW, Poland, May 29, (AP): Chelsea finally has a trophy to show for the unprecedented levels of spending under its American owners, even if it's hardly one they'd have craved.

The English club produced an impressive second-half rally to beat Real Betis 4-1 in the final of the Conference League, becoming in the process the first team to have all four of UEFA's club competitions in its trophy collection.

Aside from the 1971 and 1998 titles in the now-defunct Cup Winners' Cup, Chelsea's other European silverware - the Champions League in 2012 and 2021 and the Europa League in 2013 and 2019 - came in the trophy-laden tenure of Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich.

The Abramovich era ended in 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and Chelsea was bought by a consortium fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly that has since spent around \$1.3 billion on new players in a high-risk move to remodel the squad with mostly young stars.

Some of them delivered in the turnaround against Betis, with Enzo Fernandez and Nicolas Jackson converting pinpoint crosses from Cole Palmer in the 65th and 70th minutes, respectively, before substitute Jadon Sancho and Moises Caicedo added more goals in Wroclaw, Poland.

Boehly went on the pitch after the final whistle to



Chelsea's Reece James holds the trophy as he celebrates with his teammates after winning the Europa Conference League final soccer match between Real Betis and Chelsea in Wroclaw, Poland. (AP)

congratulate Chelsea's players after club captain Reece James lifted the trophy to a backdrop of ticker tape and loud roars from teammates in the middle of the field.

"Coming into this competition, it was something we had to win," James said of the Conference League, Europe's oft-maligned third-tier competition. "Next season we're going again in the Champions League."

That elite competition is where Chelsea feels it belongs, and a fourth-place finish in the Premier League, secured on Sunday, sealed a return to the Champions League.

Not a bad few days, then, for the London team and

its Italian manager, Enzo Maresca, at the end of his first year in charge.

Playing in its first European final, Betis went ahead through Abdessamad Ezzalzouli's goal in the ninth minute and was the better team in a first half of few chances.

The Seville club faded in the second half, however, as Chelsea's strength off the bench showed. One of those influential substitutes was James, a 25-year-old right back who joined the club at the age of 6 and has suffered many long-term injuries in recent years. He said he was "devastated" not to be picked to start the final but had a big impact when he came on as a halftime replacement.

"In the first half, we were flat," James said. "The game didn't go our way early on, and it looked like it took a lot out of us. We needed a reaction in the second half, and we got it."

The result ended a remarkable run of successes for Spanish teams in European men's title matches. Before this game, all 23 continental finals featuring Spanish clubs since the start of the 2001-02 season had been won by a Spanish team. That included four all-Spanish matchups.

Betis couldn't maintain it in a bid to win a European title for the first time.

Palmer is one of the shining lights in Chelsea's team, and the England playmaker inspired the turnaround by setting up Fernandez's equalizer with an inviting, inswinging cross that the Argentina midfielder glanced past flat-footed Betis goalkeeper Adrian.

## Al-Mutairi returns home with youth championships bronze



Al-Azmi with Al-Mutairi and Hussein.

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Kuwaiti boxer Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi returned to the country after securing third place and winning the bronze medal in the 71 kg category at the Asian Youth Championships, held in Sri Lanka from May 10 to 24.

Al-Mutairi was welcomed upon arrival by the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Boxing Federation, Mutlaq Al-Azmi, and the Federation's Director, Abdullah Hussein. Vice Chairman of the Board of

Directors and Head of the Delegation, Bader Al-Faraj, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, and to the Acting Director-General of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah. He praised their ongoing support for Kuwaiti boxing and their commitment to removing obstacles to the success of Kuwait's athletes.