



Kuwait set to host Syrian President

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa, accompanied by an official delegation, is due to arrive in Kuwait on Sunday starting an official visit to the country.

The Syrian President is scheduled to hold official discussions with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the visit.



Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Welcome the man of Syria who knows how to govern

HIS Excellency Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa, welcome to Kuwait.

We welcome this extraordinary political figure who – from the first moment – has known how to draw a roadmap for the renaissance of Syria, this great country whose people have always been known for their professionalism and honest pursuit of livelihood throughout the world.

Everyone knows that Syria has no debts. When you came to power, you did not raise flimsy slogans that could tempt some and of no consequence, especially those raised by the previous regime such as “Free Jerusalem” or “Free World.” You did not say “we would throw Israel into the sea or unite the Arab world.”

From the beginning, you rather focused on the establishment of healthy and smooth relations with the whole world, because you

practice ‘realpolitik’. This is why we have witnessed the entire world’s acceptance of the new Syrian government.

Moreover, you intelligently and shrewdly dealt with Israel’s aggressive practices. You put Tel Aviv in your ‘box’, because of your desire for just peace.

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Too hot to toil

Kuwait enforces midday outdoor labor ban

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: In accordance with Decision No. 535/2015 issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), the ban on employing workers in open outdoor areas during midday hours, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, will take effect starting Sunday and remain in place until the end of August 2025.

Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Marzouq Al-Otaibi explained that inspection teams will monitor the en-

forcement of the decision through surprise visits to worksites, document violations and take legal action against offenders. The purpose of the midday work ban is to regulate working conditions, not to reduce working hours.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that ongoing projects are not adversely affected.

Al-Otaibi emphasized that the implementation of this decision over the past years has been widely accepted and well-received by many companies in various sectors.

He stressed that the ban serves the public interest and is in line with Kuwait’s commitment to upholding international labor standards during midday hours.

Al-Otaibi also urged the public to report any violations of the midday work ban by calling the number 24936192, so that appropriate action can be taken.



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Pilgrims gather at Kuwait International Airport, ready to begin their spiritual journey amid smooth and well-organized departure procedures.

High praise for airport efficiency

1st Hajj flights take off from Kuwait

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The first flights transporting the first group of pilgrims from Kuwait to the Holy Land departed on Friday, as Kuwait International Airport is fully prepared to facilitate procedures for the pilgrims at Terminals One and Four.

The newspaper’s staff visited the airport to personally witness the preparations of the agencies operating there,

where task forces were deployed to guide the pilgrims and smooth traffic flow in the airport corridors.

The departure hall had a spiritual atmosphere, as pilgrims were accompanied by their families and members of the Hajj pilgrimage team. The staff noticed the high level of organization and assistance provided by the relevant authorities to ease travel procedures, making everything smooth and seamless for the pilgrims.

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Diplomatic community applauds Crown Prince’s leadership on anniversary

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The State of Kuwait is celebrating the first anniversary of the appointment of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

This anniversary is laden with connotations of loyalty and honor for His Highness’ distinguished services and achievements in the national journey, and an expression of the precious trust His Highness the Amir bestowed on him.

This event is an exceptional milestone that confirms the depth of the constitutional path pursued by the country and highlights the cohesion of the Kuwaiti family – both its leadership and people.

This was reflected in the outpouring of congratulatory messages for His Highness the Crown Prince from the ambassadors of various countries; expressing their pride on this occasion, and their sincere wishes for continued

security and prosperity for the State of Kuwait.

A number of ambassadors expressed their feelings on this precious anniversary, emphasizing the depth of the relations that bind their countries to Kuwait

and praising His Highness the Crown Prince’s distinguished career, both locally and internationally.

Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi said “I extend my warmest congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad and to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on the anniversary of the latter’s assumption of office. In celebration of this occasion, we recall His Highness the Crown Prince’s political acumen and wise vision, demonstrated in his career that



Al-Neyadi



Shaltout



Tahboub



Koistinen



Gauvin



Kenichiro



Hysa

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HH the Crown Prince departs Osaka, warmly seen off by Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Kuwait Ambassador to Japan Sami Al-Zamanan, and Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mukai Kenichiro.



Crown Prince Diwan photos

HH the Crown Prince visits the Kuwait Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, praising its display of national heritage and innovation. – See Page 5

Stronger Kuwait-Japan ties sealed

Crown Prince concludes landmark visit to Japan

TOKYO, May 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah departed early on Saturday the Japanese city of Osaka following an official visit.

His Highness the Crown Prince was seen off at the airport by the Minister of Information, Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, the State of Kuwait Ambassador to Japan Sami Al-Zamanan and the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mukai Kenichiro.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Saturday a thank you message to the Japanese Emperor Naruhito.

His Highness Crown Prince expressed his gratitude for the warm reception during his official visit to Japan, thanking Emperor Naruhito on behalf of himself and his delegation.

He highlighted that this warm welcome reflects the strong historic ties between the two countries, nurtured by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also appreciated the positive Kuwaiti-Japanese discussions on mutual interests and emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation to elevate bilateral relations, benefiting both nations and addressing global challenges.

In conclusion, he wished Emperor Naruhito continued good health and success, and further progress and prosperity for Japan and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also addressed a message of identical sentiments to the Japanese Crown Prince Fumihito, noting that he was deeply moved by the warm hospitality that mirrored the close and historic relations between the State of Kuwait and Japan.

He noted that the visit to Japan was a significant step for bolstering the bilateral ties, the strategic partnerships, affirming the resolve to expand this partnership and promote it at various levels.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished him utmost good health and success and for his people more progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, upon conclusion of his official visit to Japan, sent on Saturday a message to Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, expressing deep gratitude for the well-organized reception for him and his entourage.

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New school canteen rules get green light

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: In confirmation of the report published by the daily last month regarding the imminent approval of school canteen regulations, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi has officially approved the regulations prepared by the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) and endorsed by the Fatwa and Legislation Department.

The decision will take effect upon its publication in the official gazette “Kuwait Al-Youm”.

The ministry explained that the adoption of these regulations is part of national efforts to protect students from unhealthy eating habits and to improve the quality of food offered in schools.

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Cabinet panel exceeds legislative review target: Minister of Justice

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Minister of Justice, Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait, announced that the Cabinet’s Legal Affairs Committee has reviewed 70 draft decree-laws related to social and economic security, as well as human rights, during 21 meetings, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a video statement shared by the Center

for Government Communication on its official X account, the minister explained that this number exceeds the committee’s current target. The National Plan for Legislative Review aims to assess ten percent of the 983 laws currently in force in Kuwait.

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‘No new rules’ in US visa policy, embassy confirms

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): The US Embassy in Kuwait affirmed that the US visa policy is not new and explained that security screening procedures for visa applicants to the United States remain part of the established approach to protecting American citizens.

In a press release on Thursday, the Embassy stated that, like all sovereign countries, the United States is committed to verifying the identities of applicants, their reasons for travel, and their plans for stay.

It noted that the US Department of State began requiring the disclosure of social media handles on visa application forms in 2019 and emphasized the importance of this verification process. The Embassy also mentioned that visa interview dates are adjusted periodically to provide consular officers with adequate time to review applications in accordance with US laws.

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8 Boursa Kuwait liquidity hits KD 10.5 bln in first 5 months



8 ALSAYER Group supports ‘Google Summit’ through CSR, promoting tech in education



9 NBK sponsors KALD’s Persevering Student Award 2024/2025

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	03:16	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:49	Maghrib ..	18:42
Zohr	11:46	Isha	20:13

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-45 km/h causing rising dust and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather			
light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	43	29	
Kuwait Airport	43	30	

Bubyan	45	24
Jahra	43	29
Failaka Island	40	30
Salmiyah	37	29
Ahmadi	35	27
Nuwaisib	41	29
Wafra	42	26
Salmiya	41	25

Transfers window from June 2 to June 4

KU opens 63 new depts, courses for summer semester

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait University announced the opening of 63 new departments and courses for the summer semester as part of its efforts to provide additional study opportunities to help students complete their academic requirements during the summer vacation.

The new departments and courses include various specializations in several colleges. New courses have been made available in the colleges of Education, Administrative Sciences and Arts; in addition to the opening of new departments in the colleges of Science, Law, Social Sciences, Sharia and Islamic Studies, and Life Sciences.

This will help reduce the academic burden on students in the coming semesters and give them greater flexibility in preparing their study schedule.

In a related development, the Deanship of Admissions and Registration at the university announced the start of accepting transfer requests between colleges and majors electronically through the university's official registration website (<http://portal.ku.edu.kw/sis>) starting at noon on June 2 and ending at midnight on June 4.

The deanship confirmed that this year's transfer system includes transfers between colleges

for those who meet the general and special requirements. Students who have completed 45 credits or less will be able to receive their transfer results immediately, while applications for students who have completed more than 45 credits will be submitted to the Student Affairs Committee for appropriate decisions.

Electronic transfer is permitted for students in the 2021 and later batches through the Student Information System. Students in the 2020 and earlier batches are required to visit the deanship during official working hours.

The deanship also confirmed that students in the 2015 and later batches are not eligible to transfer after completing 78 credits. Students enrolled in the colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry are excluded from the electronic transfer system.

The university also announced the opening of internal transfers between majors in the colleges within the same period, in accordance with approved the regulations. Students not covered by the electronic transfer must visit the Guidance and Counseling offices.

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KU Council meeting: Kuwait University President Dr. Dina Al-Mailem chaired the second meeting of the University Council, which was

held in the meeting room of the council at Sabah Al-Salem University City, with the attendance of the members.

Acting Secretary General of the university Dr. Bader Al-Rajhi stated that the council approved the proposed amendment of the financial regulations for scholarship teaching assistants at Kuwait University, similar to their counterparts at Abdullah Al-Salem University.

He added the council approved Kuwait University's admission policy for the 2025/2026 academic year and the academic calendar for all university colleges for the three academic years 2025/2026, 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.

He indicated that the council approved the College of Pharmacy's proposal to include the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences qualification in the graduation certificates for students of the College of Pharmacy, proposal of the College of Allied Medical Sciences to establish radiotherapy and prosthetic technology programs, and the proposed academic accreditation for all College of Education programs.

He said the council approved the accreditation proposal for four academic programs in the College of Life Sciences, promoting 19 faculty members to the rank of professor and associate professor in the practical and humanities colleges.



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Amir congratulates Croatian President on Statehood Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to the President of Croatia Zoran Milanovic expressing his sincere congratulations on the Statehood Day anniversary.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir conveyed his best wishes for the Croatian President's health and wellbeing and expressed hopes for further success and prosperity for the friendly people of Croatia.

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to the President of Croatia Zoran Milanovic expressing his sincere congratulations on the Statehood Day anniversary.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Croatian President lasting good health and wellbeing.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a similar cable to the President of Croatia Zoran Milanovic expressing congratulations on Croatia's Statehood Day anniversary.

Eid soon ... CBK supplies banks with new banknotes

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait has supplied the local banks with new edition of the Kuwaiti currencies of all banknotes to meet clients' needs with the approach of Eid Al-Adha.

The CBK said in a press release on Saturday that the new banknotes can be obtained at the banks and their branches during the official work hours.

'Massive quantity oil used to produce power eats wealth'

Poor, rich pay same for consumption: expert

By Mohammad Ghanem/Inaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Oil expert Kamel Al-Harami disclosed that power plants consume around 400,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day and this rate increases annually, thereby, depleting the country's primary source of wealth.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Harami stressed the need to adopt and implement a fair consumption tier system; especially since the cost of a kilowatt for the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is estimated at 10 fils, while it is sold for only two fils to private residential customers.

He pointed out that implementing the tier system will reduce the State's burden of building power plants and consuming oil to operate power plants, which require huge

budgets.

He emphasized that forming a government committee to review electricity tariffs and adopt a tier system at this particular time, when the country is facing an electricity crisis, is a step in the right direction. "Therefore, the recommendations and results of this committee must be implemented by preparing and approving a draft law on this matter," he suggested.

He explained that consumption patterns in Kuwait are illogical as long as electricity tariffs are low and subsidized for all segments of society. "It is unreasonable to treat people with limited income, those who own one home, and those who own multiple homes equally," he asserted.

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MC rejects proposal: The Municipal Council said the Kuwait Municipality has rejected the proposal of council member Fahad Musaed Al-Abduljader on the allocation of parking

areas for cars, trucks and buses in Block Four, South Khaitan.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the Municipality's statement, approved by its acting Director General Manal Al-Asfour, stating that the proposed area is used for investment housing and consists of eight schools -- five public schools and three private schools.

The Municipality cited the applicable building code, stipulating that parking spaces are provided within the boundaries of investment housing plots and private schools. It added that public schools have regulatory service parking spaces outside their boundaries, and there are no parking areas within that block of land sufficient for the use of buses and trucks.

It added that such use will cause traffic congestion on Abu Dhabi Street that separates the new housing project in South Khaitan, Block Two.

MEW launches energy saving drive

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy will launch the national energy-saving campaign "Waffar" starting Sunday.

The campaign aims to promote energy conservation in all residential sectors, in coordination with various government entities and civil society organizations, in order to address electricity overload challenges expected during the summer months this year.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality revealed that a campaign carried out by inspection teams from the Audit and Services Follow-up departments in Mubarak

Al-Kabeer Municipality led to the administrative closure of four shops, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Also, two cafés in Abu Al-Hasaniya were shut down for causing noise disturbances. Two car rental shops in West Abu Futaira Industrial were also closed for using public property without the necessary licenses.

In another development, the Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality announced that a recent campaign by the Safety Department's inspection team in Ahmadi Governorate resulted in the issuance of 193 warnings for non-compliance with safety regulations in the Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



KFF personnel checking a tyre store in Shuwaikh shop.

Several citations issued in KFF Shuwaikh Industrial Area raid

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) carried out an inspection campaign in Shuwaikh Industrial Area recently in cooperation with several government agencies, including the Ministry of Interior, the Public Authority for Industry, the Environment Public Authority, and Kuwait Municipality.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the campaign aimed to identify build-

ings and facilities that were in violation of the fire safety and prevention regulations.

Led by the Director of Prevention for the Capital Governorate Brigadier General Mohammad Yousuf Ahmad, the campaign resulted in the issuance of several citations for various violations and the administrative closure of a number of facilities for failing to meet the requirements of KFF and other regulatory authorities.

'Avoid overfishing'

'Presence of sharks in Kuwait waters normal'

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwaiti Diving Team Head Waleed Al-Fadhel has dispelled the fear of the presence of a large number of sharks in Bneider coastal area; while warning about the dangers of overfishing, considering them threatened by extinction, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Fadhel told the daily that "some fishermen catch these creatures for their fins, which are used in making the world's most expensive soup." He explained that "sharks are not alien to our marine environment, as they are rather an integral part of the ecological balance," calling for dealing with them with scientific awareness and responsibility. He added "sharks contribute to cleaning the sea of dead fish and carcasses and are considered natural sea scavengers. They are not found in the sea for nothing, because they play a vital environmental role."

He pointed out that "the presence of sharks in Kuwaiti waters is not new, especially in Bneider coastal area -- one of the most prominent marine sites for divers and those interested in marine life. Photos and video clips confirmed the increased activity of sharks in that area, which requires a reconsideration of the way we deal with these creatures."

He said "studies have proven that sharks are not limited to distant oceans; such as Australia and America, as they have a natural presence in the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea, with frequent sightings in Kuwaiti waters."

He called for adopting a scientific and environmental approach to understand the nature and behavior of sharks, and to avoid media hype. He clarified that "sharks are a balanced ecological entity. Scaring people without relying on scientific facts serves no one."

He asserted that "Kuwait's history has witnessed only a very limited number of shark incidents and most of them were not dangerous; except the danger posed by the white shark, known for its elongated tail."

He believes that the appearance of large sharks could be a sign of the recovery of the Kuwaiti marine environment.

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Drug addict held: Ahmadi security patrol officers arrested a 29-year-old man with a criminal record for drug use, reports Al-Anba daily.

The man was found in possession of a bag containing chemicals and drug paraphernalia in Mangaf.

In another incident, support patrol officers from Farwaniya Security Directorate apprehended an expatriate who was driving under the influence and in possession of a marijuana cigarette. The arrest took place at a security checkpoint at the entrance to Ardiya Industrial Area.



Al-Fadhel

Other Voices

Calhoun and the rodent trial

By Ahmad alsarraf

American ecologist and animal behaviorist John Calhoun conducted a series of experiments on rodents to explore the effects of population density on social behavior, even when all essential resources were available.

His most famous experiment, known as

"Universe 25", was carried out around 60 years ago. Calhoun created a utopian environment for a colony of mice, one that was free from disease and predators, with unlimited access to food, water, nesting materials, and more than enough space to support a population far larger than the initial group.

The experiment unfolded in several phases:

1. Strive period: The mice adapted to their new environment, began reproducing, and making use of the resources.

2. Exploit period: Lasting from approximately day 105 to day 315, the population grew rapidly, doubling approximately every 55 days.

3. Stagnation phase and the emergence of the Behavioral Sink: This phase lasts about 240 days, during which population growth slows dramatically despite the continued availability of resources. During this time, strange and destructive social behaviors begin to surface. Male behavior deteriorates, and they stop defending their territories and females. Some males become aggressive, attacking females and young, and exhibit abnormal sexual behaviors. Cannibalism has also been observed among the mice, despite the ample food supply.

4. Social Isolation phase: Mice become unable to form normal social bonds or engage in complex behaviors such as courtship, mating, and raising their young.

Another group of mice becomes completely isolated, refusing all social and sexual interaction, spending

their time solely eating, drinking, sleeping, and excessively grooming their fur.

This is followed by females growing more aggressive, abandoning or even attacking their young. Some females fail to carry pregnancies to term, and mortality rates among the young rise sharply.

The natural social structures collapse as social roles become unclear, and essential behaviors like mating and raising offspring cease to function effectively.

5. Death phase: This phase begins around day 600. Although some individuals remain physically capable of reproduction, the few surviving females stop bearing offspring. The last mouse died less than five years after the experiment began, in 1973.

Calhoun concluded that despite abundant material resources, excessive population density and overcrowding lead to the collapse of social structures and the emergence of a series of destructive and abnormal behaviors, which he termed the Behavioral Sink.

This "behavioral degeneration," as Calhoun called it, eventually led to the extinction of the entire population. He believed the experiment offered important lessons for humans, warning of the dangers of overpopulation and its potential effects on social behavior and psychological well-being, even in a world of material abundance.

The Universe 25 experiment sparked much controversy and debate, with some questioning how applicable its findings are to complex human societies. Nonetheless, it remains one of the most notable studies in animal behavior and the impact of environment and population density.

The primary goal was to examine how overcrowding affects social behavior in rodents living in an ideal environment, free from predators and disease, with unlimited food, water, and nesting materials, in order to understand how overcrowding alone could trigger social collapse, even in the absence of other environmental pressures.

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ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Time great healer ... situations shape personality of person

“WHEN Nelson Mandela was studying law at university, one of his professors, Peter, harbored a deep dislike for him,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“One day, while Prof. Peter was having lunch in the university cafeteria, Mandela approached with his tray and sat down beside him. The professor said, “You don’t seem to understand, Mr. Mandela ... pigs and birds don’t sit together to eat.”

“Mandela calmly looked at him and replied, “Don’t worry, Professor. I’ll fly away.” Then he stood up and moved to another table.

“Unable to tolerate Mandela’s response, the professor became determined to take revenge.

“The next day, Prof. Peter asked Mandela in class, “Mr. Mandela, if you were walking down the street and found a box containing two bags, one filled with money and the other with wisdom. Which bag would you choose?”

“Without hesitation, Mandela replied, “Of course, I’d take the bag of money.”

“The professor smiled sarcastically and said, “If I were you, I’d take the bag of wisdom.”

“Mandela responded calmly, “Everyone takes what they lack.”

“Enraged and resentful, Prof. Peter wrote “stupid” on Mandela’s exam paper and handed it back to him. Mandela took the paper and remained composed at his desk.

“After a few minutes, he stood up, approached the professor, and politely said, “Prof. Peter, you signed the paper, but you didn’t give me a grade!”

“A diplomat once worked under a courteous ambassador who never hurt anyone’s feelings. Motivated by energy and enthusiasm, the diplomat gave his best and was eventually promoted. This experience was much like a capitalist system, where individuals can work without undue pressure and, as a result, innovate and thrive.

“Later, the diplomat served under a second ambassador who was suspicious of others’ intentions. Then came a third ambassador — rude and disrespectful — who repeatedly hurt the employee’s feelings and dignity. Over the years, many complained about this ambassador’s behavior.

“Unable to endure the cruelty and insults any longer, the diplomat requested a transfer. When he was finally reassigned, despite losing half his salary, he felt an immense sense of relief, as if escaping a cage, breathing fresh air, and reclaiming his freedom. His social and cultural standing improved, yet more than 30 years later, he continues to wonder: How did he allow someone to wound his dignity so deeply?

“In any case, there is no doubt that difficult circumstances shape a person’s character.

“Throughout life, we move from one experience to another. I often wish I had the wisdom I possess now when I was 25 in 1975, as I would have handled life’s challenges much better. But that is the way of life; time must pass for it to refine us and shape our feelings.

“Never allow anyone to hurt your feelings . Wounded feelings can linger for years, a pain in the heart that never fully heals. The strange thing is, the person who caused the hurt rarely ever apologizes.

“There is a story about a man who tried to embarrass the great poet Al-Mutanabbi by saying, “I saw you from afar and thought you were a woman.” Al-Mutanabbi calmly replied, “I saw you from afar and thought you were a man.”

“It is said that the best measure of good manners is how well you can tolerate the rudeness of others.”

Also:

“Life often surprises us by suddenly taking away one of our closest friends. Death is an inevitable fate from which no one can escape. Yet life goes on, and the memories of deep friendships remain the true embodiment of love and loyalty. These memories stay etched in our hearts as long as loyalty continues to define those bonds, serving as a rich record of shared moments, whether in the neighborhood, at work, or during the various stages of academic life.” Kuwaiti writer **Tareq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Recently, death claimed a friend of rare and precious character. His kindness, morals, gentleness, and ever-present smile will forever remain in my memory. His smile greeted everyone morning and evening, in good times and in the darkest moments, both at work and beyond.

“My dear friend “Abu Khalifa” - Jassim Khalifa Al-Batti Bou Taiban (May God have mercy on him and grant him a peaceful resting place) - will always stand as a symbol of the sincere friendship that united us in the halls and offices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, specifically at the Al-Daiya Youth Center, from January 1975 to July 1976.

“Yes, though our time together was brief, over the years it has remained a deep spiritual and moral bond, and a strong and genuine friendship, only broken by the news of his passing. This loss brings me great pain, for I have lost one of the finest men I ever worked with. Our collaboration was seamless and marked by true cooperation, aimed at successfully managing all the artistic, cultural, sports, and administrative tasks entrusted to us.

“Because our work focused on youth, and because we were close in age, mindset, spirit, and dedication, we were like twins in achievement and precision.

“He was meticulous in his work, having graduated from a commercial high school, and had a strong aptitude for numbers and accounting. Some of my fondest memories of him are when he personally went to the ministry to collect our financial allocations, whether salaries or bonuses for summer activities, festivals, social and national occasions, and other events. He used to call these bonuses “Bandabqasha Al-Yaqat” (the squirrel’s trumpet) with his cheerful smile and playful spirit.

“May God have mercy on him and grant him a blessed abode in the Gardens of Bliss. May He forgive all his past and future sins. May God shower him with His vast mercy, as he was a friend to all who worked alongside him, those who studied with him, the people of Al-Daiya, and everyone who knew this dear soul for his genuine character, humanity, and cheerful spirit, which endeared him to all who knew our late brother Jassim Al-Batti Bou Taiban.

“O Allah, make his grave a garden from the gardens of Paradise. Illuminate the darkness of his resting place, and wash him with cold water, snow, and hail. Amen. Grant patience and comfort to his family, relatives, and loved ones in their loss. May Allah have mercy on him and grant him the best of dwellings.

“To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return. Praise be to Allah.”

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“While browsing social media, I came across a video of a fashionista complaining about the heat and the intense “uncivilized” brightness of the sun’s rays. Curious, I checked the temperature, and it was 41°C. I offered a prayer to Allah Almighty, thanking Him for the blessing of the sun and its warmth, and I asked His forgiveness for myself, for her, and for many others like us,” Kuwaiti writer, PhD in Botany **Dr. Reem Ahmed Al-Hazeem** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“I write this article knowing fully well that this fashionista may never read it, but others will. And perhaps they will take heed, learn a lesson, and fear God for the sake of our beloved country.

“Does this fashionista, whether Kuwaiti or not, realize that temperatures are only going to rise in the coming months, reaching 50 or even 60 degrees Celsius in the peak of summer? Has she truly experienced Kuwaiti summers before, or is she unfamiliar with our climate?

“The people of Sheba, after God had blessed them with safety, prosperity, and ease of travel, no longer had to toil or journey far in search of food or wealth. Yet over time, they grew weary of comfort and began longing for hardship, for struggle like that of other nations. As a result, God punished them, scattered them, and made them an example for others.

“To this fashionista and others who complain about God’s blessings, I say - do not corrupt the minds of our youth. Keep your resentment to yourselves. Sunlight is one of God’s great blessings. Kuwait lies within the thermal belt, with average sunshine exceeding 200 hours per month, far more than many European countries, which average only around 90 hours per month.

“Kuwait is richer in sunshine than it is in oil, and the world is inevitably moving toward clean energy. This is a tremendous blessing that calls for gratitude to God. Kuwait has both solar and wind energy, which we should harness and put to good use, and not complain about.

“We should take a lesson from countries that have turned these blessings into opportunities for the growth and development of their countries. I am not here to teach a first-grade science class listing the sun’s benefits but it is worth remembering that it dries our laundry, kills harmful insects, sterilizes the soil, ripens fruits, and gives us essential vitamin D.

“So let us endure the heat with patience, not complaint. Thank God that we are dealing with the sun’s warmth, and not the heat of bombs or erupting volcanoes. I pray that God does not punish us for the ingratitude or foolishness of some among us. Let us always remember that it is sins that lead to the loss of blessings.”

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

KFF training boosts National Guard rescue skills

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Training Department of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) concluded its Technical Rescue Foundation Course recently with the participation of 16 non-commissioned officers from the National Guard.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the course focused on developing technical rescue skills, including working at heights and using ropes in rescue operations. It aimed to enhance participants’ capabilities in performing rescue operations in various environments.

Certificates were awarded to the graduates at the closing ceremony, which was attended by Director of the Training Department Brigadier General Hamad Muhammad Abdullah.

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing collaboration between the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) and public benefit organizations, and under the directives of KFF Chief Major General Talal Mohammed Al-Roumi, the Public Relations and Media Department at KFF organized an awareness lecture on Wednesday at the headquarters of the Kuwait Association for the Blind.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the event was attended by Director of the Public Relations and Media Department Brigadier General Muhammad Badr Al-Gharib, Director of the Hawally Governor’s Office Adel Al-Aslawi, and Chair of the association’s Public Relations Committee Fahad Al-Enezi.

The lecture, delivered by Lieutenant Colonel Hamed Wahid Al-Marshad, aimed to raise awareness among the blind and visually impaired, as well as the association’s staff, about the dangers of fires and accidents and ways to prevent them. It also covered proper emergency response techniques, including safe evacuation procedures.



KFF photo
Kuwait National Guard officers being presented certificates by KFF personnel.

The Public Relations and Media Department had previously provided the association with specialized fire prevention materials printed in Braille, which were distributed to beneficiaries. These efforts contributed to enhancing preventive awareness and delivering safety messages tailored to the needs of this group.

Shootout leads to arrest of proclaimed drug trafficker

Foreign link seen as Indian held with 10 kg heroin, ‘shabu’

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: In a unique security operation, the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) in the Ministry of Interior dealt a severe blow to a wanted person with a drug record in Al-Qurain.

Anti-Narcotics officers arrested the accused at his home, with three firearms and an undisclosed quantity of bullets in his possession; following a confrontation that included an exchange of gunfire between the accused and detectives.

A security source told the newspaper that DCGD received information that a citizen with a drug record possessed firearms at his home in Al-Qurain. “A security team was formed to carry out the operation. Upon the arrival at the home of the accused, the officers cordoned off the house in preparation for his arrest.

The security personnel were surprised when the suspect fired at them, necessitating an immediate response to control the situation and protect the lives of the officers. The exchange of fire continued for some time, until the officers completely controlled the situation and apprehended the suspect,” the source narrated.

During the operation, the officers found three firearms and an undisclosed quantity of bullets. The suspect is considered a dangerous individual, as he was previously arrested in cases related to the possession and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic pills. He was released from prison recently, but continued his criminal activities. It was discovered that the suspect owns a farm in Wafra and he had been using his home in Al-Qurain as a safe haven.

This successful security operation was carried out under the direct supervision of Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Major General Hamed Al-Dawas; and with close follow-up by Director General of the DCGD Brigadier General Mohammad Qabazard and his deputy, Brigadier General

Sheikh Hamad Al-Yousef.

A large number of Public Security and Emergency personnel also participated in the operation.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior announced that the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) has arrested an Indian national following a security operation that led to the seizure of quantities of drugs and intoxicants intended for distribution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry stated that the arrest followed field investigations and continuous monitoring of the suspect’s movements, which culminated in his capture in Salwa.

Authorities found approximately eight kilograms of heroin and two kilograms of shabu in his possession, along with two precision scales used for drug preparation and distribution.

The suspect reportedly confessed to receiving instructions from partners abroad to distribute the drugs in Kuwait.

He has been referred to the Drug Prosecution, along with the seized items, for further legal action.

Trial of man in premeditated kill of wife on June 16

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Criminal Court, headed by Judge Nasser Al-Badr, will hold the first session of the trial of the man accused of the premeditated murder of his wife in Mutlaa desert on June 16.

The defendant appeared before the detention renewal judge, during which he was confronted with three charges -- premeditated murder by

deliberate running over, kidnapping the victim by deception, and possession of psychotropic substances for the purpose of consumption.

Lawyer of the victim’s heirs, Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, also appeared before the detention renewal judge; demanding a civil claim of KD5,001 against the defendant. He also requested for the continuation of the detention of the defendant.

Earlier, the Public Prosecution charged the

accused with deliberately killing his wife on March 30 (the first day of Eid Al-Fitr), within the jurisdiction of Mutlaa Police Station in Jahra Governorate, where he resolved and intended to kill her.

Once he found her, he forcibly took her into her vehicle and then he went to an unknown location where he ran her over with the intention of taking her life, causing the injuries that led to her death as described in the autopsy report.

‘Med care for illegals’

Police nab fake Indian woman doctor in Jleeb

By Munif Nayef

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh detectives under the Farwaniya police command arrested an Indian woman for practicing medicine without a license at an unlicensed clinic in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior disclosed this is part of its ongoing efforts to combat negative phenomena and preserve the health and safety of society.

It stated that the Farwaniya Investigations Department - Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Investigations Section in the Criminal Security Sector conducted the arrest operation.

The ministry added “it was found that the suspect was practicing medicine in violation of the law, and was arrested while examining a child, although her registered profession is ‘housewife’.

A thorough search of the clinic led to the discovery of an undisclosed quantity of various medications, a blood pressure monitor, a stethoscope and infant formula designated for distribution by the Ministry of Health. It was also found that she was preparing ‘folk remedies’ in the form of capsules and dispensing them to patients without any medical supervision.

During investigation, she admitted that she practiced medicine without obtaining a scientific qualification or a license from the relevant authorities and that she imported some of her medications and purchased the rest from local pharmacies.

She was referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

A security source told the newspaper that the fake doctor provides medical care to expatriates who violated Residency and Labor laws, because they cannot access government hospitals.

The source added she provided treatment to patients in exchange for a small amount of money.

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Sheikh Abdullah at forum

Kuwait & Singapore seek to boost military, security ties

SINGAPORE, May 31, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah has taken part in the Singapore-hosted 22nd edition of Shangri-La Dialogue that began on Friday and was scheduled to proceed for three days.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense said in a statement on Saturday that the first day of the event witnessed a series of meetings among the participating heads of state and governments, while the minister Sheikh Abdullah held meeting with the Singaporean Minister of Environment and Sustainability Zaqy Mohamad.

The two sides discussed boosting cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the military and security sectors, discussed various issues of joint interest and explored a host of regional and international affairs.

During the meeting, Sheikh Abdullah congratulated the Singaporean minister on the 60th anniversary of the Republic's independence, praising the historic and solid bilateral relations, necessity of boosting them further particularly at the defense and security levels.

The Kuwaiti minister, on sidelines of the gathering, held talks and exchanged pleasantries with a number of heads of state, senior officials and counterparts from diverse states, namely the French president, the president of East Timor, the Singaporean prime minister, the US secretary of defense, the minister of digital development in Singapore -- broaching various topics, strategic challenges on the regional and international arenas.

Agenda of the conference, grouping ranking officials from 47 states, address global challenges, namely the balance in a competitive globe, managing nuclear proliferation hazards, cyber security, defense innovation, maritime security and managing regional crises.

Sheikh Abdullah's meetings were attended by the State of Kuwait Ambassador to Singapore, Ahmad Al-Shraim, and the officials accompanying him in his visit to the Asian nation.



Sheikh Abdullah at the meeting.

KUNA photo



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Sabah hosts Kuwaiti governorate caretakers.

'Regular governors meetings promote welfare of citizens'

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Sabah hosted a coordination meeting recently at his office with fellow governors to discuss joint co-operation.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the attendees included Hawally Governor Ali Al-Asfar, Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Sheikh Sabah Badr Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi, Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Director General of the General Department of Administrative Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. The meeting was also attended

by Legal Advisor Mohammed Sidqi and Director of Governors' Affairs Muqaddam Khalifa Al-Yatama.

During the coordination meeting, the governors discussed plans and work mechanisms to develop public facilities and improve service levels, which will contribute to the implementation of the state's strategy.

They expressed appreciation for the full support of the political leadership and government, emphasizing that ongoing coordination aims to unify efforts and work as a team to meet citizens' aspirations.

At the end of the meeting, Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser stressed that continuing these meetings strengthens integration and positively impacts development in all governorates to better serve Kuwait.

Jobs for principal interviews June 2

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs Mansour Al-Dhafiri issued a decision to set Monday, June 2 as the date for the postponed online exam for all candidates applying for the positions of school principal and assistant principal in kindergarten, primary, intermediate, and high school levels. This applies to all educational zones, the Special Education Department, the Religious Education Department, and the Private Education Department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The exam will be held at the Jabriya Training Center and will last for two hours and 15 minutes from 5:15 pm to 7:30 pm.

All candidates must arrive one hour before the exam and bring their civil ID card. Mobile phones and electronic watches are strictly prohibited in the test room. No entry will be allowed after 10 minutes past the exam start time.

Gearing up for emergencies

Kuwait eyes search, rescue expertise

ABU DHABI, May 31, (KUNA): An official Kuwaiti delegation has taken part in the four-day International COPAS-SARSAT Meeting on Search and Rescue. Kuwait Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a statement on Friday that the delegation has taken part in the event upon instructions by DGCA President Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for promoting cooperation with regional and international parties, swapping expertise in the spheres of search and rescue and upgrading national preparedness.

The Kuwaiti officials taking part in the event have affirmed Kuwait's keenness on upgrading the national network for search and rescue in harmony with recommendations of the International Civil

Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the COSPAS-SARSAT program to enhance the national readiness for rapid and effective response in emergencies in the skies, at sea or on land.

The Kuwaiti delegation has held several coordination meetings with counterparts from the engaged delegations of various countries.

The delegation included director of the technical office and director of air navigation at the DGCA, Daoud Al-Jarrah, and the head of radar, rescue and search division at the DGCA, Ahmad Bou-Taiban.

The International Cospas-Sarsat Programme is a satellite-based search and rescue (SAR) distress alert detection and information distribution system.

Privatizing desalting is top priority: MEW

Tackling water scarcity

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: A symposium on "Privatization Programs in the Water Desalination Sector: Opportunities, Challenges and Lessons Learned" was held on Thursday with the participation of delegations from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

During the symposium, acting Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Training at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Ali Shaaban pointed out "this important Gulf meeting represents a high-level platform for exchanging visions and enhancing cooperation in the water desalination sector in the GCC countries."

He stated that privatizing this vital sector is a national and regional priority in light of the growing challenges related to water security and resource sustainability. He added that "in Kuwait, we believe in the importance of integrating Gulf efforts in this field, through the exchange of successful experiences and discussion of common challenges. This contributes to developing the desalination system and achieving economic and environmental efficiency."

Meanwhile, Director of the Energy Department at the GCC Secretariat General Dr. Mohammad Al-Rashidi disclosed that



Eng. Ali Shaaban

the GCC countries realized early on the importance of addressing water challenges, especially in light of limited natural resources and increasing demand. "They have taken practical steps to enhance water management, develop infrastructure, and introduce modern financing and operational methods through public-private partnership models," he added.

He revealed "this symposium aims to highlight the advanced efforts exerted by the GCC countries in privatizing the water sector and the achievements made in this vital field through the adoption of flexible strategies and implementation of pioneering projects that contribute to achieving economic, environmental and social sustainability."

He said the Secretariat General is keen on supporting this trend by preparing and implementing the Unified Gulf Water Strategy, which is a common framework for enhancing integration among member states and encouraging the exchange of experiences and successful practices in the field of privatization and institutional transformation; as well as supporting regional initiatives that enhance local content, attract quality investments, and promote the use of modern technologies in the operation and management of the water sector.

He added the Secretariat is working with its partners to launch advanced initiatives in the areas of water demand management, improving operational efficiency, and developing water desalination and treatment technologies, in order to build an integrated and safe water system in the GCC countries.

He explained that collective action and regional integration in the water sector are no longer an option, but rather a strategic necessity imposed by environmental and economic conditions, and by the ambition of the GCC countries to achieve water security for future generations.



Al-Seyassah photo

Road repairs underway in a Kuwaiti locality.

Jahra now ... MPW announces start of all out road repairs

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan announced the launch of comprehensive road maintenance work in Jahra Governorate as part of a series of new contracts dedicated to maintaining highways and internal roads.

Dr. Al-Mashaan affirmed the ministry's commitment to executing projects on schedule while upholding the highest standards of quality and engineering supervision.

She stressed that the extensive main-

tenance efforts aim to enhance the efficiency and long-term sustainability of the road network.

Meanwhile, Project Supervisor of Contract 14 in Jahra Governorate Eng. Mazid Al-Enezi affirmed that work teams are continuing to carry out comprehensive road maintenance in line with the directives of the Minister of Public Works.

He revealed that he was on-site recently in Al-Qasr Block 1, based on Minister Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan's instructions, to monitor the latest developments and progress related to the newly signed maintenance contracts.

Al-Oraifan new Kuwait-Armenia envoy

ANKARA, May 31, (KUNA): Mohammad Al-Oraifan presented to President Vahagn Khachaturyan his credentials as Kuwait's newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to Armenia.

During a function hosted at the Presidential Palace in Yerevan on Friday, Ambassador Al-Oraifan conveyed to the Armenian leader the greetings of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

On his part, President Khachaturyan

asked the Kuwaiti diplomat to convey his best wishes to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

He wished Ambassador Al-Oraifan success in his mission to strengthen the bilateral relations in all areas, according to a statement from Kuwait Embassy in Yerevan.

Both sides commended the distinguished relations between the two nations that kept growing over the past 31 years since the establishment of the diplomatic ties.

They highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation in various fields to serve the interests of the two sisterly peoples.

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Continued from Page 1

Welcome the

All Arabs who love Syria will never forget that Ahmed Al-Sharaa cleansed Syria of groups seeking to change its cultural and social ideology. He also freed it from Iranian influence, which alienated the beating heart of Arabism from its surroundings. Dirty hands worked to divide its people into sectarian clans and denominational states. If we say that Syria was liberated from this, it was thanks to a man who viewed its people solely through a national lens, who did not favor any group, despise or marginalize another. Instead, he sought to unite his people on a common opinion, despite some of the frustrations caused by the remnants of the former ruling gangs. These remnants sabotaged the healthy relationships that existed before the previous regime rose to power, while spreading corruption until it became rampant and eroded the State's strength.

Welcome to Kuwait. Kuwaiti people have known Syria throughout history and they love it deeply. They did not distance themselves from Syria, but the gangs of the former regime tried their best to isolate Syria from its Arab nation.

Today, Syria reoccupied its rightful place among the Arab world, thanks to a man who knows how to govern and deal with various components of his people, without any fuss or creating crises; like those the former regime used to cover up conspiracies against Syrians, aimed at achieving personal interests or diverting attention from the corruption and problems that led to the impoverishment of the people.

Undoubtedly, Syria will return to its former glory, thanks to its brave people who will not fail to reconstruct and develop their country armed by determination and strong will.

1st Hajj

A number of pilgrims confirmed to the newspaper that preparations were carried out according to the highest standards; thereby, ensuring smooth procedures.

They praised the high level of organization and the significant role played by the agencies operating at the airport; particularly the timely receipt of boarding passes and 'Nusuk' cards, which helped them quickly enter the departure hall without delay.

Pilgrims described the Hajj caravans as "pioneering" in their organization; indicating that they collected their luggage well in advance of their departure time and transported them directly to their accommodations in the Holy Land, helping them move easily and smoothly from the airport to their accommodations.

Meanwhile, sources told the newspaper that the total number of flights transporting 8,000 pilgrims for this year's Hajj season reached 55 -- 27 departures and 28 arrivals in Terminals One and Four. Sources confirmed this is part of an integrated plan to ensure smooth traffic flow and facilitate travel procedures for pilgrims.

Sources disclosed that Flynas and Saudi Airlines will operate 31 flights -- 15 departures and 16 arrivals, and Kuwait Airways will operate 24 round-trip flights -- 12 departures and 12 arrivals.

On the facilities provided, sources confirmed that special counters were designated for pilgrims at the airport buildings, with fast-track procedures to guarantee the speedy issuance of boarding passes even before the pilgrims arrive at the terminal.

Sources added that authorities have also allocated a direct route for pilgrims from the moment they enter the parking lot until they board the plane, as well as upon their return to the country, with the aim of reducing waiting times and alleviating congestion.

Sources affirmed that all relevant authorities continue to coordinate their efforts to ensure the success of the Hajj season and provide the best experience for pilgrims departing and returning from the Holy Land.

Cabinet panel

The Ministerial Legal Affairs Committee consists of six ministers, along with representatives from the Fatwa and Legislation Department, the Cabinet's legal advisory team, and the Cabinet's General Secretariat.

The committee's primary role is to review all draft laws submitted by government entities, ensuring they align with the Constitution, existing laws, and international agreements and treaties.

The committee invites all relevant parties to thoroughly discuss each draft decree-law and examine the necessary measures for implementation.

'No new

It encouraged applicants to continue submitting their applications and to apply well in advance of their expected travel dates to avoid potential delays.

For accurate and up-to-date information on visa procedures, the embassy advised those wishing to travel to the United States to visit the official website of the relevant US embassy or consulate in their country.

New school

The school canteen regulations serve as a comprehensive framework governing the operation of cafeterias in both public and private schools. These regulations outline specific requirements related to facilities, staff qualifications, and food standards, along with oversight and inspection mechanisms, as well as a licensing and accountability system to ensure the provision of safe and nutritious food

within the school environment. The regulations classify school canteens into three main categories based on the type of service provided: canteens that sell only packaged foods, those that offer ready-to-eat meals, and those equipped with kitchens for preparing hot meals. The regulations require adherence to Gulf standard specifications and technical regulations, particularly the ban on transfats. They also outline guidelines for organizing daily meals based on basic food groups and determining appropriate calorie intake for each educational level. In addition, the regulations ban foods that are high in fat, sugar, and sodium, especially in breakfast and lunch meals served in private schools. Violations of these regulations may result in fines ranging from KD 500 to KD 3,000, with the possibility of canteen closure in cases of repeated offenses.

Diplomatic community

is full of achievements various fields of national and diplomatic work; making him a fundamental pillar in the development and modern renaissance of the State of Kuwait."

Al-Neyadi continued "we also express our pride in the deep-rooted fraternal relations between the United Arab Emirates and the State of Kuwait, as well as the shared history and unified vision that bind the two brotherly countries on various issues. We ask Almighty Allah to protect the State of Kuwait and its generous people and to perpetuate the blessings of security and safety under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and to guide their steps on the path of righteousness."

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout asserted "the precious trust that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad bestowed on him embodies His Highness' high level of competence, vast experience and distinguished record in serving the sisterly State of Kuwait, both nationally and internationally."

He stressed that "the Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its deep pride in the strong fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries, which were clearly embodied during the state visit of President Abdul-Fattah El-Sisi to the sisterly State of Kuwait last April."

He added "on this dear occasion, we look forward to more fruitful cooperation under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and the sound vision of His Highness the Crown Prince. We reiterate our sincere congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince, with best wishes for continued success and prosperity, and more progress and prosperity for the State of Kuwait and its brotherly people."

Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub congratulated His Highness the Crown Prince on behalf of the Palestinian community residing in Kuwait. He stressed that "this great occasion makes me proudly recall that I met His Highness when he was Minister of Foreign Affairs. I was honored to present a copy of the credentials of the first Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait, where I was warmly welcomed by His Highness, who was and continues to be the epitome of humility and cheerfulness."

He went on to disclose that "I was honored to arrange His Highness' official visit in September 2014, which was the first by a Kuwaiti official to the occupied State of Palestine since 1976. I also had the honor of accompanying him to occupied Jerusalem to pray at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque."

He said "Palestine and its cause have been, since his time as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister, and now as Crown Prince, at the forefront of his priorities. He has championed it with all sincerity and loyalty in all international forums, believing in the justness of the cause and defending it despite all the complex political circumstances. Nothing can deter him from this belief."

"I witnessed His Highness when he was appointed Prime Minister, as he led the government of the State of Kuwait with complete sincerity and competence on more than one occasion. His tenure as Crown Prince has increased His Highness' humility beyond description. He is present at almost all social occasions, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. I had the honor of meeting him and greeting him at a large number of Kuwaiti diwanias he visited to offer Ramadan greetings. As usual, he greeted everyone with a smile on his face, reflecting his personality that is loved by everyone who knows him," he narrated.

European Union Ambassador to Kuwait Anne Koistinen indicated that "the past year witnessed His Highness' exemplary leadership and his dedication to serving the people of Kuwait, under the wise guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad. The European Union and Kuwait share a solid friendship based on shared values of peace, mutual respect, support for the United Nations, the multilateral system and prosperity for all. As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we also look forward with optimism to further strengthening our partnership in various fields, including trade and investment, regional security and stability, research and education, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, as well as energy security and the green transition."

French Ambassador to Kuwait Olivier Gauvin said "on behalf of the French Republic, I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and to the generous people of Kuwait. This anniversary marks an important milestone in the journey of institutional continuity for the State of Kuwait, and reflects His Highness' wise vision and deep commitment to the country's stability and development. France expresses its pleasure at the excellent relations that

bind it to the State of Kuwait within the framework of friendship and cooperation.

He affirmed that the President of the French Republic extended an official invitation to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince to visit France. He stated that "these high-level contacts and this invitation reflect the shared will to continue strengthening the partnership between our countries."

Japanese Ambassador Mukai Ken-ichiro stated that "on behalf of the government and people of Japan, I am pleased to extend my sincere congratulations on the first anniversary of the appointment of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as Crown Prince of the friendly State of Kuwait. We have witnessed widespread welcome and optimism regarding the news of His Highness' appointment; given his experience, wisdom and distinguished record of political work in many senior positions. We hope to continue working with His Highness and the government of the State of Kuwait to strengthen and advance relations between our two countries in all fields and at all levels. I am also pleased to express our pride in His Highness' successful visit to Japan from May 28-31, during which he met with Emperor Naruhito, Crown Prince Akishino and Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. The two countries agreed to elevate our bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership."

Kenichiro concluded "we are hopeful that this visit and its outcomes will contribute to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our countries, as Japan and Kuwait enjoy strong relations based on mutual values and interests."

Albanian Ambassador to Kuwait Ilir Hysa pointed out that "this occasion is a milestone in the country's political journey and reflects the insightful vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in selecting His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled, who has a proven track record in various positions of responsibility, both in diplomacy and as Prime Minister."

He affirmed that "in the Republic of Albania, we cherish our strong relations with the State of Kuwait. We express our deep appreciation for the positive role Kuwait plays in promoting regional and international stability, as well as for its recognized positions in the areas of humanitarian work and preventive diplomacy."

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince thanked the prime minister for the well-organized and warm reception during his presence in Japan, noting that the visit depicted depth of the distinguished and solid bonds that date back to 60 years ago.

These close relations are of prior concern for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he said to the premier. This visit was an opportunity to discuss regional and international issues of common concern, expand the bilateral partnership in various sectors, promote it to a more comprehensive level, he added.

The freshly concluded visit by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Japan (May 28-31) has successfully pushed for the constructive development of the historic ties, said Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mukai Ken-ichiro on Saturday.

In a statement, obtained by KUNA, following the end of His Highness the Crown Princes visit, Ambassador Mukai said "I am also pleased to express our pride in His Highness's successful visit to Japan "where he met with His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito, the Crown Prince (Murihito of) Akishino, and the Prime Minister Ishiba, and the two countries have concurred to upgrade our bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

During His Highness' visit, five memoranda of understanding were signed, the Ambassador added.

"Through the MoC (Memorandum of Cooperation) on Training of Diplomats between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, "I hope the cooperation between the two Ministries will be further strengthened," he said.

"The two countries have agreed on the comprehensive cooperation in the field of electricity, water, and renewable energy through signing the MOC between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy of the State of Kuwait," said the Ambassador.

Ambassador Mukai said, "the MoC on Direct Investment between the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Kuwait Foreign Direct Investment Agency was also signed, which I hope will facilitate the further expansion of the investment from Japanese companies into Kuwait in the future."

"We are optimistic that this visit and its outcomes will serve to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation, building upon the strong and enduring relationship between Japan and Kuwait, founded on shared values and mutual interests," he affirmed.

Earlier today (Saturday), His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled concluded his visit to Japan, departing from the city of Osaka and addressing messages to the emperor and the crown prince, expressing sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality and affirming that the visit constituted a substantial push the bilateral relations.

On Friday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled, during his official visit to Japan, visited Expo 2025 Osaka. Accompanied by senior Kuwaiti official, he started his tour of the expo with a visit to the pavilion of the hosts where the Japanese officials briefed him on the exhibits that reflect their history, culture and civilization.



Crown Prince Diwan photos
Photos during the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Kuwaiti Pavilion at Expo Osaka 2025 on Friday.

'Visionary Lighthouse' captivates visitors

Crown Prince visit to Kuwait Pavilion at Expo Osaka '25 celebrates culture and innovation

OSAKA, May 31, (KUNA): Minister of Information, Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi expressed pride and honor for the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Kuwaiti Pavilion at Expo Osaka 2025 on Friday.

It is a significant acknowledgment of the importance of culture in building bridges between peoples, the minister noted, adding that this visit underscores Kuwait's commitment to cultural development under its wise leadership, serving as motivation for those involved in the pavilion to represent Kuwait in the international stage.

Al-Mutairi highlighted that the pavilion features rich content showcasing Kuwait's heritage while looking towards the future, designed to reflect creativity and innovation.

He emphasized that the Ministry of Information cultural and media strategy for 2021-2026 aims to strengthen Kuwait's identity and promote its values globally.

He concluded by expressing gratitude to His Highness the Crown Prince for his support and asked for continued blessings of security and prosperity for Kuwait under its leadership.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti pavilion at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka draws many visitors, with people forming a long queue to enter the pavilion whole days since its opening last month.

The Kuwaiti pavilion, "Visionary Lighthouse," displays a vibrant fusion of heritage and modernity, symbolizing Kuwait's balance of tradition and progress while promoting culture as a bridge for global dialogue and mutual understanding.

"We decided to come to the Kuwait Pavilion after watching a video on social media of visitors touching sand in the pavilion, we want to experience this, as it seems fun," two women in their 20s, who were queuing up in front of the Kuwaiti pavilion, told KUNA on Saturday.

"The planetarium was great, as we enjoyed it as if we were lying down in the desert. We hope to come visit here again," young parents with a son said.

The two-floor pavilion guides visitors through Kuwait's past, present, and future across four exhibition



KUNA photos
Crowds flock to the Kuwait Pavilion at Expo Osaka 2025, drawn by its rich showcase of heritage, innovation, and interactive exhibits.



A tourist takes his dogs out for a quick break under billowing wildfire smoke off Highway 97 north of Buckinghorse River, British Columbia on May 30. (AP)

Winds push smoke from Canadian wildfires south into US

Air quality in some parts of the United States is worsening as smoke from dozens of wildfires in Canada travels south, pushed by winds high in the atmosphere. Through parts of Minnesota and into Wisconsin, the air quality is deemed unhealthy for people and animals sensitive to pollution and other airborne particles, according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s AirNow page. As of Friday afternoon, the interactive air quality map showed a strip of

orange moving northwest to south-east across Wisconsin. Most of the state showed moderate air quality as did all of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Eastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois also showed moderate air quality on the AirNow map. (AP)



Debris and heavy damage are seen from severe weather on May 30, in Springfield, Ky. (AP)

Storm hits Kentucky, one dead and several injured

The National Weather Service issued tornado warnings for parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia on Friday, hours after a harsh storm hit a remote area of central Kentucky, killing one person and injuring seven others. In Kentucky, Washington County Judge-executive Timothy Graves said two or three houses were destroyed and downed trees temporarily blocked roads. Gov. Andy Beshear canceled a visit planned for Friday to Pulaski

and Laurel counties, which were hit by a tornado earlier this month. That storm left 19 dead in the state. Officials were responding to reports of a possible tornado in Washington County, he said in a social media post. (AP)

Biden says ‘feeling good’ after cancer diagnosis announced

NEW CASTLE, Del., May 31, (AP): Former US president Joe Biden delivered the first remarks since he announced he had an aggressive form of prostate cancer Friday, speaking in a steady voice during a somber Memorial Day gathering and later smiling and saying he’s “feeling good.” Biden spoke at an annual gathering marking Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial Park in his home state of Delaware, not far from his home in Wilmington. The event coincided with the 10th anniversary of his son Beau’s death. It also comes amid renewed questions about Biden’s mental and physical health after the recent publication of a book about his fitness for office. Speaking to reporters after the Memorial Day event, he said he was already undergoing treatment for cancer,



Biden

which entailed taking a pill, he said. “The expectation is we’re gonna be able to beat this,” he said. “I’m feeling good.” Biden dropped his reelection bid in July 2024 after a disastrous debate against Donald Trump, after which those in his party questioned whether he could continue as the party’s nominee. Questions about his decline and how the White House staff reacted to it are at the center of a recent book by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson, which has renewed the debate. Asked Friday if he had a response to recent questions about his mental and physical health, he smiled and engaged with the reporter. “You can see I’m mentally incompetent and I can walk and I can beat the hell out of both of them,” he said. In response to Democrats who question whether he should have initially run for reelection at all, he said: “Why didn’t they run against me then? Because I’d have beaten them.” During his formal remarks, he called upon the group to remember the sacrifices of those lost in battle, whose echoes he said can still be heard.

WASHINGTON, May 31, (AP): US President Donald Trump bid farewell to Elon Musk in the Oval Office on Friday, providing a cordial conclusion to a tumultuous tenure for the billionaire entrepreneur. Musk is leaving his position spearheading the Department of Government Efficiency, and he’ll be rededicating himself to running his businesses, including electric automaker Tesla, rocket company SpaceX and social media platform X. Trump credited Musk with “a colossal change in the old ways of doing business in Washington” and said some of his staff would remain in the administration. Musk, who wore all black, including a T-shirt that said “The Dogefather,” nodded along as the president listed contracts that had been cut under his watch. “I think the DOGE team is doing an incredible job,” Musk said after accepting a ceremonial key from the president. “They’re going to continue to be doing an incredible job.” He left a searing mark on the federal bureaucracy, including thousands of employees who were fired or pushed out. Some government functions were eviscerated, such as the U.S. Agency

Musk credited with ‘colossal change’

US President Trump gives ‘The Dogefather’ Oval Office sendoff



Elon Musk speaks during a news conference with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House, on May 30, in Washington. (AP)

for International Development, which had provided a lifeline for impoverished people around the world. Boston University researchers estimate that hundreds of thousands of people have already died as a result of the cuts. The State Department responded by saying most of USAID’s programs on HIV, known as PEPFAR, remained operational. However, the statement did not address any of the other cuts while calling on “other nations to dramatically increase their humanitarian efforts.” Despite the upheaval, Musk also fell

far short of his goals. After promising to cut \$1 trillion or even \$2 trillion in federal spending, he lowered expectations to only \$150 billion in the current fiscal year. It’s unclear whether that target has been hit. The DOGE website tallies \$175 billion in savings, but its information has been riddled with errors and embellishments. Musk had a bruise next to his right eye in the Oval Office, which he explained by saying he had been “horsing around” with his young son. “I said, go ahead punch me in the face,” he said. “And he did.” Trump said Musk had led the “most sweeping and consequential government reform effort in generations.” He suggested that Musk is “really not leaving” and “he’s going to be back and forth” to keep tabs on what’s happening in the administration. There were signs, however, that attention was already shifting away from Musk, who once appeared omnipresent in Washington. He often stood quietly next to Trump as reporters peppered him with questions about the French president (he’s great), Joe Biden’s autopen (it’s bad) and the potential for pardoning Sean “Diddy” Combs (he’ll look at the facts).

Federal officials to vet social media accounts of visa applicants heading to Harvard

WASHINGTON, May 31, (AP): Federal officials are set to start reviewing the social media accounts of visa applicants who plan to attend, work at or visit Harvard University for any signs of antisemitism, marking the latest development in a clash between the Trump administration and the Ivy League school. A cable sent Friday signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and obtained by The Associated Press accused the university of failing to keep violence and antisemitism off campus. It said the vetting measure will help consular officers identify applicants with a history of those offenses “and to duly consider their visa eligibility under US immigration law.” The measure was sent to all US embassies and consulates, and it takes effect immediately. It will serve as a pilot program that could be expanded more broadly, according to the cable. Harvard did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment. The university was the first to openly defy White House demands for changes at elite schools the administration has criticized as hotbeds of liberalism and antisemitism. Since then, the federal govern-



People walk between buildings on Dec 17, 2024, on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. (AP)

ment has stripped the nation’s oldest and wealthiest university of \$2.6 billion in federal grants, forcing it to self-fund much of its research operation. President Donald Trump has said he wants to revoke the university of its tax-exempt status. Last week, Harvard sued the federal government after Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem revoked its ability to host foreign students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A federal judge has since blocked the

move. More than a quarter of Harvard’s student body at its Cambridge campus are foreign students. Most are graduate students, coming from more than 100 countries. Earlier this week, the State Department paused the scheduling of new visa interviews for foreign students looking to study in the U.S., saying it was preparing to expand the screening of their activity on social media. It’s unclear whether that pause has been lifted.

Prospects for talks remain uncertain

2 killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, May 31, (AP): Russia’s drone and missile attacks on Ukraine on Saturday killed at least two people, including a 9-year-old girl, officials said, as uncertainty remains whether Kyiv diplomats will attend a new round of peace talks proposed by Moscow for early next week in Istanbul. Russian troops launched some 109 drones and five missiles across Ukraine overnight and into Saturday, the Ukrainian air force said. Three of the missiles and 42 drones were destroyed and another 30 drones failed to reach their targets without causing damage, it said. A 9-year-old girl was killed in a strike on the front-line village of Dolyinka in the Zaporizhzhia region, and a 16-year-old was injured, Zaporizhzhia’s Gov. Ivan Fedorov said. “One house was destroyed. The shockwave from the blast also damaged several other houses, cars, and outbuildings,” Fedorov wrote on Telegram. Another man was killed by Russian shelling in Ukraine’s Kherson region, Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin wrote on Telegram. Moscow did not comment on either attack. Russia’s Ministry of Defense said Saturday that it had gained control of the Ukrainian village of Novopil in the Donetsk region, and took the village of Vodolahy in the northern Sumy region. Ukrainian authorities in Sumy ordered



People clear the rubble of residential houses destroyed by a Russian strike in Korostyshiv, Zhytomyr region, Ukraine on May 25. (AP)

mandatory evacuations in 11 more settlements as Russian forces make steady gains in the area. The new additions bring the total number of settlements under evacuation orders in Sumy, which borders Russia’s Kursk region, to 213. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said some 50,000 Russian troops had amassed in the area with the intention of launching an offensive to carve out a buffer zone inside Ukrainian territory. Elsewhere, 14 people were injured

including four children after Ukrainian drones struck apartment buildings Saturday in the Russian town of Rylysk and the village of Artakovo in the western Kursk region, local acting Gov. Alexander Khinshstein said. Andrii Yermak, a top adviser to Zelenskyy, said Friday that Kyiv was ready to resume direct peace talks with Russia in Istanbul on Monday but that the Kremlin should first provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the more than three-year war.

Europe

Georgia detains second opposition leader: Georgian police on Friday detained a second opposition leader within days as protests continue in the South Caucasus country against the ruling Georgian Dream party. Lawyers for Nika Melia, one of the figureheads for Georgia’s pro-Western Coalition for Change, said his car was stopped by police on Thursday. Soon after, he was bundled away by a large group of people in civilian clothing. According to Georgia’s interior ministry, Melia has been detained on charges of verbally insulting a law enforcement officer. The arrest came a week after that of Zurab Japaridze, another leader of the pro-Western, liberal coalition of parties that support European Union integration and want a restoration of democratic standards. Japaridze, who heads the Girchi - More Freedom party, was detained on May 22 after refusing to appear before a parliamentary commission investigating alleged wrongdoings by the government of ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili. (AP)



Melia

Tougher new migration policy in Greece: Greece will end mass legalization programs for migrants and jail those awaiting deportation under tougher policies set to

take effect this summer, Migration Minister Makis Voridis said Friday. Migrants with rejected asylum claims will face a minimum of two years in jail, with sentences commuted upon deportation, he said. The plans, outlined by Greece’s conservative government - and closely watched by other European Union member states - were discussed at a Cabinet meeting this week. The European Union has pledged to make deportations a priority in 2025 and finalize common rules across the 27-nation bloc. According to the European Commission, about 80% of deportation orders across member states are not carried out. Voridis said the rate is even higher in Greece and urged the EU to set clearer criteria for legal residence. “We can agree that someone’s economic necessity alone cannot be grounds for legal migration. If we did accept that, (Europe) should prepare to receive hundreds of millions,” Voridis told private broadcaster Antenna. (AP)

Germany small plane crash kills 2: A small plane crashed into the terrace of a residential building in western Germany on Saturday and two people were killed, police said. The crash happened in Korschenbroich, near the city of Mönchengladbach and not far from the Dutch border. The plane hit the terrace of the building and a fire broke out. Police said two people died and one of them was probably the plane’s pilot, German news agency dpa reported. It wasn’t immediately clear whether the other person had been on the plane or on the ground. Officials had no immediate information on the cause of the crash. (AP)

Swiss president pledges aid for Alpine villagers

GENEVA, May 31, (AP): Switzerland’s president on Friday said evacuees from an Alpine village whose homes and businesses were destroyed by a landslide caused by a glacier collapse were “not alone,” and the government was calculating ways to help. Karin Keller-Sutter spoke after a helicopter flight to see for herself the damage to the village of Blatten that was largely destroyed on Wednesday as an estimated 10 millions of tons of mud, ice and rock thundered down from the Birch glacier overhead. “The force with which the mountain here wiped out an entire village is indescribable,” Keller-Sutter said. “I’d like to tell you all that you’re not alone. The whole of Switzerland is with you, and not just (people) in Switzerland.” Officials limited access to the area and warned that waters from the Lonza River, which has been dammed up by deposits stacked tens of meters high over a 2-kilometer (1.2-mile) swath of valley, had pooled into a lake. The future course of those waters could not yet be predicted precisely. “Unfortunately, the danger has not yet been averted,” Keller-Sutter said. While the authorities were not able to prevent the natural disaster, the country has the “expertise and financial resources” to cope with such events, she added. Blatten had been evacuated about 10 days earlier after experts determined a growing threat from the loosening glacier. However, a 64-year-old man remains missing and authorities have called off a search for him. Stephane Ganzer, an elected official who runs security in the Valais, said no evacuations were as-yet planned for vil-



Swiss federal president Karin Keller-Sutter observes from a helicopter the damage caused by the catastrophic landslide destroying the village of Blatten, Switzerland, on May 30. (AP)

lages downstream from Blatten that could face flooding if the Lonza’s welled-up waters break through the pileup of mud. “We don’t want anybody else to go missing,” he said. “We will put no person in danger on the ground: No police officer, no soldier, no specialist, no member of civil security or fire squads.” He added: “Someone asked me before: ‘Who’s the chief in charge here?’ And I replied, there’s only one chief: nature.”



In this handout photo released by the Indonesian National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS), rescuers search for victims at the site of a collapsed natural stones quarry in Cirebon district, West Java province, Indonesia on May 30. (AP)

Indonesia quarry collapse kills 17

The death toll from the collapse of a stone quarry in Indonesia's West Java province has risen to at least 17, with eight people still missing, officials said Saturday.

The victims were trapped in the rubble when the Gunung Kuda quarry in Cirebon district collapsed on Friday. A dozen survivors were found by rescuers.

By Saturday afternoon, rescuers had retrieved 16 bodies, while one of the survivors died in the hospital, said local police chief Sumarni. She said rescuers are searching for eight people still believed to be

trapped

"The search operation has been hampered by bad weather, unstable soil and rugged terrain," said Sumarni who goes by a single name like many Indonesians.

She said the cause of the collapse is still under investigation, and police have been questioning six people, including the owner of the quarry.

Local television reports showed emergency personnel, along with police, soldiers and volunteers, digging desperately in the quarry in a steep limestone cliff, supported by five excavators, early Saturday. (AP)

'Organization could begin work as early as end of this year'

China forms new global mediation group with dozens of countries

HONG KONG, May 31, (AP): Dozens of countries joined China on Friday in establishing an international mediation-based dispute resolution group.

Representatives of more than 30 other countries, from Pakistan and Indonesia to Belarus and Cuba, signed the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong to become founding members of the global organization, following Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The support of developing countries signaled Beijing's rising influence in the global south amid heightened geopolitical tensions, partly exacerbated by US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs.

At a ceremony, Wang said China has long advocated for handling differences with a spirit of mutual understanding and consensus-building through dialogue, while aiming to provide "Chinese wisdom" for resolving conflicts between nations.

"The establishment of the International Organization for Mediation helps to move beyond the zero-sum mindset of 'you lose and I win,'" he said.

The body, headquartered in Hong Kong, aims to help promote the amicable resolution of international disputes and build more harmonious global relations, he said.

Beijing has touted the organization as the world's first intergovernmental legal organization for resolving disputes through mediation, saying it will be an



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, (center) attends the signing ceremony of "the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation", in Hong Kong on May 30. (AP)

important mechanism in safeguarding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It also positioned Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services center in Asia.

Wang said the city's rule of law is highly developed, with the advantages of both common law and mainland Chinese law systems, asserting that it possesses uniquely favorable conditions for international mediation.

Hong Kong leader John Lee said the

organization could begin its work as early as the end of this year.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from some 50 other countries and about 20 organizations, including the United Nations.

Yueming Yan, a law professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said the new organization is a complementary mechanism to existing institutions such as the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague.

"While the ICJ and PCA focus on adjudication and arbitration, IOMed introduces a structured, institutionalized form of alternative dispute resolution - namely, mediation - on a global scale," she said. Although many details about the new body are yet to be clarified, it could open the door for greater synergy between formal litigation or arbitration and more flexible methods like mediation, she said.

'Myriad unlawful activities'

US and allies accuse N.Korea, Russia of violating UN sanctions in military deals

UNITED NATIONS, May 31, (AP): The United States and 10 allies said the military cooperation between Russia and North Korea flagrantly violates UN sanctions and has helped Moscow increase its missile strikes on Ukrainian cities.

They made the accusations in their first report since joining forces to monitor sanctions against North Korea after Russia vetoed a resolution in March 2024 to continue the monitoring by a UN Security Council panel of experts. It had been issuing reports of Pyongyang's sanctions violations since 2010.

The 29-page report produced by the Multilateral Sanctions Monitoring Team - comprised of the US, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea and the United Kingdom - said the evidence it gathered demonstrates that North Korea and Russia have engaged in "myriad unlawful activities" explicitly prohibited by UN sanctions resolutions.

It said North Korea has transferred arms and related materiel by sea, air and rail, including artillery, ballistic missiles and combat vehicles, for Russia's use in the war in Ukraine.

Russia has transferred air defense systems to North Korea, and its forces trained the North's troops deployed to support Russia's war, the team said. And Moscow also has supplied refined petroleum products to Pyongyang in far excess of the yearly cap under UN sanctions, and has maintained corresponding banking relations with the North in violation of sanctions.

The 11 countries said this unlawful cooperation has "contributed to Moscow's ability to increase its missile attacks against Ukrainian cities including targeted strikes against critical civilian infrastructure."

The cooperation also has provided resources for North Korea to fund its mili-



North Korean Public Security Minister Pang Tu Sop, (right), meets with Russian Vice Interior Minister Vitaly Shulika at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang, North Korea on May 28. (AP)

tary and banned ballistic missile programs., and it allowed the more than 11,000 troops Pyongyang has deployed to Russia since October 2024 to gain first-hand military experience, the team said.

There was no immediate response from the Russian Mission to the United Nations to a request for comment on the report.

The report covers the period between Jan. 1, 2024, and April 30, 2025, and points to evidence that Russia and North Korea intend to further deepen their military cooperation for at least the foreseeable future.

It cites an unnamed country in the team reporting that Russian-flagged cargo vessels delivered as many as 9 million rounds of ammunition for artillery and multiple rocket launchers from North Korea to Russia in 2024.

The report includes images of containers, which the team says were from North Korean and Russian ports and an ammunition dump in Russia.

Citing an unnamed team member, the report says North Korea last year transferred at least 100 ballistic missiles to Russia, which were launched into Ukraine "to destroy civilian infrastructure and terrorize populated areas such as Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia." It also transferred "elements of three brigade sets of heavy artillery," the report said.

It includes images of a North Korean 170mm self-propelled gun that it said was being transported through Russia, and North Korean multiple rocket launcher ammunition and an anti-tank missile it said were found in Ukraine.

The team said in a joint statement that it will continue to monitor implementation of UN resolutions "and raise awareness of ongoing attempts to violate and evade U.N. sanctions." It urged North Korea "to engage in meaningful diplomacy."



People search in flooded area following a downpour in Mokwa, Nigeria on May 30. (AP)

151 killed in north-central Nigeria town submerged in floods

At least 151 people have now been confirmed dead after heavy rainfall unleashed flooding in a market town in north-central Nigeria, the local emergency services told The Associated Press on Saturday.

More than 3,000 people were displaced in the flooding in the town of Mokwa in Niger state, more than 180 miles (300 kilometers) west of Abuja, the capital of Africa's most populous nation, Niger state emergency agency spokesman Ibrahim Audu Hussein said.

At least 500 households across three communities were affected in the predawn rain Friday, leaving roofs barely visible and residents waist-deep in water, Hussein added.

Communities in northern Nigeria have been ex-

periencing prolonged dry spells worsened by climate change and excessive rainfall that leads to severe flooding during the brief wet season.

In videos and photos on social media, floodwaters covered neighborhoods and homes were submerged, with their roofs barely visible above the brown colored waters. Waist-deep in water, residents tried to salvage what they could, or rescue others.

"We lost many lives, and the properties, our farm produce. Those that have their storage have lost it," Kazeem Muhammed, a Mokwa resident, said.

Mokwa, nearly 380 kilometers (236 miles) west of Abuja, is a major meeting point where traders from the south buy beans, onions and other food from farmers in the north. (AP)

'More heavy rains in coming days'

India monsoon floods kill at least 22 people

GUWAHATI, India, May 31, (AP): Landslides and flash flooding triggered by days of torrential monsoon rains in India's northeast have killed at least 22 people, officials said Saturday.

Five people, including three from a single family, were killed on Saturday when their homes were buried in a mudslide in Assam state's Guwahati city, an official flood bulletin said. In neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh state, which borders China, seven people were killed on Friday when their vehicle was swept away by floodwaters. Two others drowned in a separate incident in the state.

Eight people were killed in the states of Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya in the last 24 hours due to floods and mudslides brought on by the rains, according to official figures.

Meanwhile in Assam, authorities disconnected the electricity in several areas to reduce the risk of electrocution, state Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. Heavy rains also led to flooding in many urban areas



Residents cross a flooded street on a cycle rickshaw after heavy rains in Guwahati, India on May 31. (AP)

of Assam's capital city of Guwahati, leading to long power outages Friday night and prompting authorities to shut schools and colleges on Satur-

day.

India's weather agency has forecast more heavy rains in the region in the coming days.

Pope Leo XIV updates Peruvian citizen registration with new Vatican address

LIMA, Peru, May 31, (AP): Pope Leo XIV hasn't forgotten his responsibilities as a Peruvian citizen: He updated his national registration information Friday with his new Vatican address and a headshot.

Peru's national registry agency said in a statement that the pope updated his information as part of the South American country's efforts to keep track of Peruvian citizens around the world. Leo was born in the United States but received Peruvian citizenship a decade ago.

Four Peruvian officials met the pope at the Vatican headquarters and collected his fingerprints and signature, according to the statement from the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status.

Miguel Stigler, a public information officer with the registry, told The Associated Press that Leo indicated that he wished to pick up his updated identity document during a future trip to Peru.

The pope's travel plans to Peru are unknown.

Leo was granted Peruvian citizenship in August 2015, the month before Pope Francis, his predecessor, appointed him bishop of Chiclayo, a city in the country's north. To qualify, he had to live in Peru for at least two years and pass a civics test.

All adult Peruvians, including natu-



People celebrate waving flyers of newly-elected Pope Leo XIV during a mass in his honor in Chiclayo, Peru on May 10. (AP)

alized citizens, are required to vote in elections through age 69. Voting in Peru's presidential election next April won't be mandatory for Leo. He turns 70 in September.

Puerto Rico's governor pledges to improve island's power grid after repeated outages

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, May 31, (AP): Puerto Rico's governor pledged to improve the island's crumbling electric grid and boost the economy in her first address after being elected last year as anger intensifies over chronic power outages and an increase in cost-of-living expenses.

Gov. Jenniffer González Colón, of the pro-statehood New Progressive Party, spoke for nearly two hours as she listed her accomplishments since taking office in January and announced multimillion-dollar investments to improve Puerto Rico's health, education and public safety.

"Without a doubt, the road has been difficult and full of lessons that we must ensure we don't repeat," she said.

González Colón said the upcoming budget includes funds to hire 800 new police officers, \$12 million to hire new firefighters and \$24 million to recruit resident doctors as health professionals continue to move to the U.S. mainland, leaving Puerto Rico with few or no specialists in certain areas.

She noted that more than 60%, or roughly \$8 billion, of the upcoming general fund budget is slated for health, education and public safety. The budget has not yet been approved.

María de Lourdes Santiago, vice president of Puerto Rico's Independence Party, said after the governor's



Jenniffer Gonzalez speaks after she was sworn in as governor outside the Capitol in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Jan 2. (AP)

address that the numbers announced are not sufficient given that thousands of certain government employees, including police officers, are needed.

González Colón, a supporter of US President Donald Trump, decried federal bureaucracy during her address, noting her administration would keep pushing to free some \$18 billion in federal funds set aside to improve Puerto Rico's power grid, which Hur-

ricane Maria razed in September 2017 as a Category 4 storm.

She also renewed her pledge to cancel the government's contract with Luma Energy, a private company that oversees the transmission and distribution of power in Puerto Rico.

"The termination of this contract will be a reality," she said as supporters stood up and applauded.

González Colón said reliable power is essential to attract investment as she promised to keep attracting more manufacturing to Puerto Rico. In upcoming months, she said she would announce the expansion of five industries on the island. The length of her address and the speed at which she sometimes delivered it surprised some.

Political analyst and university professor Jorge Schmidt Nieto said it seemed like a ploy to distract those who have criticized her administration of inaction and the government of so far not approving many laws.

"She tried to bring an optimistic tone because she knows she has received a lot of criticism," Schmidt Nieto said.

Another who criticized González was Pablo José Hernández, Puerto Rico's representative in Congress and president of the opposition Popular Democratic Party: "If one word describes the start of this government, that word is disorder."

Kuwait oil price drops to \$63.61 pb

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): Kuwait oil price dropped by USD 1.40 to USD 63.61 per barrel on Friday vis a vis USD 65.01 on Thursday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Saturday.

In international markets, the Brent crude forwards dropped by 25 cents to USD 63.90 pb while those of the West Texas crude fell by 15 cents to USD 60.79 pb.

Other Voices

\$1 trillion oil reserve at stake

Guyana poised for energy boom amid legal dispute

By Kamel Al-Harami

Independent Oil Analyst

TWO of the biggest American oil companies, ExxonMobil and Chevron, are locked in a legal battle over an oilfield in Guyana. Both companies are industry giants and pioneers with a presence in oil fields worldwide.

They have their hands in every oil field, regardless of location. Oil is their bread and butter. They are the biggest in the field with unmatched expertise.

Today, however, they find themselves in a legal battle in a London court over the ownership of a massive oil project, estimated to hold over \$1 trillion in reserves. The outcome of this case carries huge implications for the global oil industry.

The two U.S. oil supermajors are battling over a 30 percent stake in a major oil field in Guyana, which is currently owned by Hess Corporation, a U.S. energy company that agreed to a \$54 billion takeover by Chevron in 2023. ExxonMobil, which already owns approximately 45 percent of the same field, claims it holds a "first right of refusal" under its existing agreement.

This is likely to be a long legal battle over a valuable oil reserve, which is what every oil company wants. The fight between the

world's two biggest oil firms could shape the future of the industry. Whoever wins will strengthen their position in the global market. For ExxonMobil, the most valuable American oil company, winning could help it stay on top.

The two oil companies are no match for national oil companies in terms of oil reserves, nor do they possess as much oil as those state-owned companies. However, they do have the know-how, the experience, and the technology to operate in almost any oil field in the world. They are always in desperate need of more oil reserves and will go anywhere, to any place, in search of a few barrels of black gold. It is their bread and butter.

For Guyana, with its small population and clean environment, there is no real need for the polluting effects of black oil to disrupt its natural surroundings. However, the financial rewards are too great to ignore, offering the country a chance to place itself on the global energy map. With oil reserves exceeding 12 billion barrels, and more expansion on the horizon, Guyana stands to gain immensely.

The current legal battle between the two oil giants is over a prize worth more than \$1 trillion. In the end, Chevron has more at stake and a greater need to win, as it aims to boost its oil reserves to better compete with the world's leading oil company, ExxonMobil.

It is a matter of competition and narrowing the gap with its top rival. Without a doubt, this is a case well worth fighting for.

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Al-Harami

Company focus on northern fields

KOC plans to boost onshore and offshore oil exploration

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has laid down a plan to increase oil exploration in its onshore and offshore sectors; particularly the northern fields, which contain large quantities of heavy oil.

This is in line with the 2040 plan of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to raise the production capacity of the country to four million barrels per day.

Sources indicated that KOC intends to introduce the latest specialized and precise digital technologies to facilitate exploration operations, in addition to the precise exploration methods it currently uses.

Sources also confirmed that KOC will witness a batch of appointments and promotions in some middle and senior positions in the near future; indicating that the company is continuously developing its national staff, especially the young ones, to qualify them for higher positions.

In a related development, sources said Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KOC Ahmed Al-Aidan has formed the main committee tasked to follow up the implementation of the employee attendance system.

Sources disclosed that the committee is headed by the deputy CEO for Administrative and Financial Affairs, with the director of the Human Resources Group as his assistant. The members include the director of the Joint Information Technology Group, director of the Human Resources Group (Assets and Support Services), director of the Shared Services Group, director of the Marine Operations Group, director of the Operations Group (South Kuwait Sector), director of the Drilling Group in North and West Kuwait, head of the Human Resources Studies and Payroll Management Team, head of the Employee Relations Team, head of the Employee Accounts Team, and head

of the Administrative and Support Affairs Team. The head of the human resources studies analysts, the strategic partner, and the human resources analyst in the Employee Affairs Team are the rapporteurs.

Sources stated that Al-Aidan previously signed the rules and regulations for official working hours based on several aspects; such as the decision of the Board of Directors of KPC regarding the attendance system for employees in the corporation's subsidiaries, the Labor Affairs System and the Administrative Regulations of KOC, Law No. 28/1969 regarding work in the oil business sector, and the Private Sector Labor Law.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the rules regulating work at KOC, stipulating that the scope of the committee's work and responsibilities includes supervising and following up the implementation of the project to record the attendance of employees and proposing the best mechanism and electronic means for its implementation in the company for approval by the CEO.

On the working hours, it is stated that the daytime system consists of eight working hours per day and the company determines the work hours as it deems appropriate. The normal work week is five days, followed by a weekly rest day on Friday and a paid rest day on Saturday.

Regarding the irregular work schedule, the working hours are continuous in the afternoon or in the morning -- any time between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm.

On shifts, the company operates a different number of shifts, but the average working hours for each shift do not exceed 40 hours per week.

Regarding the grace period, which is the period permitted to register attendance at the workplace for daytime work; it should not exceed 30 minutes or as per the instruction of the company.



KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait witnessed a landmark moment in education as the Kuwait English School, under the umbrella of Sama Educational Company, hosted the first-ever Google Summit 2025 in the country. This pioneering event united tech leaders, innovators & educators from across the Middle East and beyond, all with a shared mission: to champion the integration of cutting-edge technology into the educational landscape.

The summit featured dynamic contributions from Google Education experts, Google Champions, GEG Leaders, and international EdTech ambassadors, who demonstrated how Google for Education tools are reshaping learning environments and equipping educators with the tools to inspire tomorrow's thinkers and leaders.

Over twenty leading schools from Kuwait participated in hands-on sessions that delved into AI in education, digital transformation & the innovative use of Google tools in classrooms. These workshops aimed to empower educators to meet the expectations of today's tech-savvy students who are already engaging with AI, Augmented Reality, Robotics & immersive digital platforms.



Photos during the event.

Through a variety of practical and forward-thinking discussions, participants explored how technology can drive more engaging, personalized & adaptive learning experiences. From reading development and study skill enhancement to one-on-one instructional support, digital tools are making learning more dynamic and enjoyable. As part of its ongoing commitment to education and digital inclusion, ALSAYER Group proudly supported this summit through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.

Eng. Nehad Al-Haj Ali, Group Manager of Corporate Excellence at ALSAYER Group, emphasized: "Our involvement in the Google Summit 2025 reflects ALSAYER's vision of creating meaningful impact in education through technology. We believe in empowering teachers with the skills and tools necessary to inspire the next generation of innovators. This initiative brings long-term value to ALSAYER Group and reaffirms our role as a partner in national development and community growth, fostering a culture of continuous learning, digital literacy & technological readiness for all."

ALSAYER has consistently supported STEM

initiatives, coding programs, robotics competitions & career-readiness workshops to ensure students are well-prepared for the demands of a fast-evolving digital economy.

In a parallel effort, ALSAYER Car Rental joined the summit to promote advanced mobility solutions for educators and institutions, highlighting how smart transportation plays a role in supporting educational infrastructure.

Mr. Scott Paul McNicol, General Manager of Car Rental and Leasing at ALSAYER Group, shared his perspective: "Sponsoring and participating in events like the Google Summit allows us to engage directly with the education community and support their mobility and operational needs. It's not just about transportation, it's about enabling access, convenience & support for those who shape future generations."

ALSAYER Group reaffirms its commitment to innovation, social responsibility & the comprehensive advancement of Kuwait's knowledge driven economy fully aligned with Kuwait's national vision and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Business

Boursa Kuwait liquidity hits KD 10.5 bln in first 5 months

Daily trading value rises 87.5% y-o-y

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): Volume of liquidity at Boursa Kuwait in the first five months of 2025 amounted to KD 10.5 billion (USD 32.2 billion) while daily rate of the trading value reached KD 107.6 million (USD 330.3 million) rising by 87.5 percent compared to the corresponding period of 2024 where it had reached KD 57.4 million (USD 176.2 million).

Al-Shall Consultancy indicated in a report issued on Saturday at drop of

the bourse liquidity in May as compared to that recorded in April, reaching KD 1.8 billion (USD 5.5 billion) vis a vis KD two billion (USD 6.14 billion), dropping by 9.1 percent.

The bourse performance in May was divergent in contrast to April, with the value of the daily trading standing at KD 86.9 million (USD 266.7 million), falling by 9.1 percent compared to April where it stood at KD 95.5 million (USD 293.18 million).

Al-Shall said the stock exchange liquidity, since start of the year, showed that half of the listed companies garnered only 3.7 percent of the whole liquidity.

The premier market index climbed 2.9 percent, the main index-50 1.6 percent, the all shares market index 1.9 percent and main market index dropped by 2.6 percent.

Highlighting STEM, robotics, and career-readiness initiatives

ALSAYER Group supports 'Google Summit' through CSR, promoting tech in education

Ultra-slim design meets cutting-edge AI, now available on the nation's fastest network

The all-new Galaxy S25 Edge ... exclusively at Zain

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Zain announces its exclusive partnership with Samsung to bring the revolutionary Galaxy S25 Edge to customers across the country. As the sole operator offering this device in Kuwait, Zain continues to lead the market by delivering cutting-edge technology and unmatched connectivity experiences on the nation's fastest network.

The Samsung Galaxy S25 Edge is an engineering marvel, combining ultra-slim design with powerful performance. Measuring just 5.8mm in thickness and weighing 163g, it features a durable titanium frame and Corning® Gorilla® Glass Ceramic 2 for enhanced resilience.

The device represents the pinnacle of smartphone innovation, combining a remarkably slim titanium design that is only 5.8mm thick with a 6.7-inch QHD+ AMOLED 2X display, a groundbreaking 200MP camera, and Galaxy AI features such as Pro-Visual Engine and Drawing Assist.

The all-new Galaxy S25 Edge is now available through all of Zain's channels, including the Zain App, official website (kw.zain.com), and the largest network of retail branches in Kuwait.

Saud Al-Rayes, Device Management Manager, Operational Marketing at Zain Kuwait, commented: "Our exclusive launch of the Galaxy S25 Edge underscores Zain's unwavering commitment to bringing the most advanced technologies to our customers. This milestone is a testament to our long-standing partnership with Samsung and our dedication to providing unparalleled digital experiences to Kuwait's largest customer base."

He added: "Over the years, our collaboration with global tech leaders like Samsung has enabled us to introduce groundbreaking innovations to the Kuwaiti market. The Galaxy S25 Edge, with its sleek design and powerful features, exemplifies our shared vision of pushing the boundaries of what's possible in mobile technology."

Al-Rayes concluded "This launch also comes on the heels of Zain being recognized with five prestigious awards from Ookla Speedtest, the global leader in network intelligence and connectivity insights.

These accolades reinforce our leadership in delivering the fastest, most reliable network experience in Kuwait, providing the perfect foundation

for next-generation devices like the S25 Edge to truly shine."

Powered by the Snapdragon® 8 Gen 3 Mobile Platform for Galaxy, the S25 Edge ensures top-tier performance. Its 3,900mAh battery supports 25W wired and 15W wireless charging, keeping users connected throughout the day.

With Galaxy AI at its core, the S25 Edge unlocks a new era of intelligent mobile experiences. From real-time language translation and enhanced productivity tools to next-level photo and video editing with ProVisual Engine, Galaxy AI empowers users to do more with less effort.

Paired with Zain's ultra-fast and reliable network, these AI-driven features come to life with seamless speed, making everyday tasks smarter, faster, and more intuitive than ever before.

Available in Titanium Silver, Titanium Jet Black, and Titanium Icy Blue, the Galaxy S25 Edge is a testament to Samsung's commitment to innovation and design excellence, now fully unlocked by the power of Zain's award-winning network, ensuring an unmatched mobile experience across Kuwait.



Galaxy S25 Edge Launch.

As Kuwait’s leading institution in social responsibility

NBK sponsors KALD’s Persevering Student Award 2024/2025



Shaikha Al-Bahar, Amaal Al-Sayer, and officials at KALD with a group of honored students.



A section of the attendees at the ceremony, led by Shaikha Al-Bahar, Amaal Al-Sayer, Faisal Al Ayyar, Adel Al-Yousifi, and officials from the association.



Honoring Dr. Adel Al-Yousifi



Amaal Al-Sayer honors Shaikha Al-Bahar in appreciation of the National Bank of Kuwait's sponsorship and support of the award.



Shaikha Al-Bahar, Amaal Al-Sayer, Faisal Al Ayyar, and Dr. Adel Al-Yousifi were among the attendees.

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: As part of its longstanding strategic partnership with the Kuwait Association for Learning Differences (KALD) and as Kuwait’s number one supporter of social responsibility initiatives, National Bank of Kuwait sponsored KALD’s Persevering Student Award for the academic year 2024/2025.

The awarding ceremony was hosted by NBK at its headquarters in the presence of Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO of NBK, and Mrs. Amaal Al-Sayer, Founder and Chair of KALD, along with several executives from NBK and KALD. During the event, the awards were presented to the winners of the 4th edition of the Persevering Student Award from the students with specific learning difficulties.

The aim of KALD’s Persevering Student Award isto encourage students with learning difficulties to persevere and work hard in their studies

and promote a culture of excellence among students by honoring the outstanding ones among them. In addition, it aims to develop positive attitudes towards learning and enhance the students’ confidence and abilities so they can overcome any challenges throughout their educational journey.

During the ceremony, the students’ distinguished achievements were honored, in celebration of their perseverance and persistence to overcome their learning challenges as they pave the way towards a bright future.

In her speech during the ceremony, Al-Bahar stated, “We, at NBK, are pleased to celebrate a new group of persevering students who won the KALD’s Award for the academic year 2024-2025, and we are keen on providing all our support and encouragement to our children and youth with learning difficulties and motivate them to unleash their skills and talents.”

Al-Bahar added: “We strongly

Shaikha Al-Bahar:

■ Our leadership in the field of social responsibility is a commitment we take very seriously.

■ NBK will continue to sponsor social programs and launch initiatives that contribute to the development of society.

Amaal Al-Sayer:

■ Our strategic partnership with NBK contributed to making many successful initiatives.

believe in the importance of investing in people, and so we are proud of our longstanding strategic partnership with the Kuwait Association for Learning Differences (KALD) whose efforts in enabling our students with learning difficulties have been remarkable and aligned with our sustainability strategy, which integrates education as a key factor.”

On NBK’s leadership in the field

of social responsibility, Al-Bahar noted that: “Social responsibility is a commitment we take very seriously at the bank, through which we strive to support all society segments and sectors, notably charities and childcare institutions, and will continue to support purposeful social programs in the fields of healthcare, childcare, social, environmental, sports and awareness development.”

Moreover, Al-Bahar indicated that NBK will continue to stand out among private sector institutions in the field of social responsibility through programs and initiatives, notably in fields such as education, healthcare, and national recruitment and training.

Al-Bahar also emphasized NBK’s role in supporting all society, including children with learning difficulties, further noting that the bank will continue to support educational initiatives and programs that contribute to developing a strong generation capable of facing future challenges.

NBK is proud to have a big record of sponsoring educational, social, and cultural activities that align with its social responsibility values, and it’s proud of its strategic partnerships with several institutions and associations whose objectives correspond to its social aim of supporting all society segments and sectors.

On her part, Mrs. Amaal Al-Sayer,

Founder and Chair of KALD, praised the fruitful strategic partnership with NBK and its continuous contributions over the years in supporting KALD’s activities, which had a substantial impact in achieving the desired goals.

Al-Sayer noted that KALD’s Persevering Student Award comes as part of the Social Support under the Integrated Educational Program launched by KALD, which consists of 3 parts including academic, psychological and social support.

Al-Sayer also stated that KALD is a non-profit organization that helps all individuals, especially students in private schools and special education in Kuwait with learning difficulties. The Association aims to identify and develop the capabilities of these students and to provide them with awareness programs, training courses, and recreational activities for the students and their families.

Available through KFHOnline app

KFH, Western Union offer fast local & international transfers

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers local and international money transfer services via the KFHOnline mobile application, in cooperation with Western Union. The service offers numerous advantages to its users, most notably saving time and effort and enabling money transfers in cash or to bank accounts to specified beneficiaries in the desired locations.

Within the scope of the Western Union network around the world, customers can easily and securely use the KFHOnline application, and conduct transfers according to specific and quick steps, debiting their bank accounts abroad via Western Union, which is one of the largest money transfer networks approved in most countries of the world, and has a retail network in more than 200 countries and regions for cash collection. Customers can also make payments to billions of bank accounts and millions of digital wallets and cards globally.

This service contributes to providing reliable and fast transfers that meet the expectations of thousands of customers. It gives customers access to the full scope of the Western Union network for local and international transfers. It also expands the capabilities of digital applications to meet needs and ensures access to financial services for all. This has led to significant customer

demand for its many advantages.

KFH’s e-banking services are also highly efficient, as evidenced by the number of e-banking transactions customers perform via KFHOnline on the mobile app, or the website.

Electronic banking operations include online opening an additional bank account online for citizens and residents without visiting a branch, local and international money transfers, the WAMD service, creating deposits, adding beneficiaries, balance inquiries, requesting a checkbook, opening a gold account, and conducting sales, purchases, and trading transactions.

Gold, financing requests, Al Khair Card requests, viewing the PIN for credit and debit cards, activating new bank cards, reporting a lost credit or debit card, knowing financial obligations and the number of installments, reviewing investment plans, obtaining a summary of account balances and deposits, managing children’s accounts through the “My Children” service, and many other electronic banking services.

KFH also offers Live FX Pricing, instant transfers to KFH Turkey using RippleNet, and digital wallets via mobile phones and smartwatches, offering the latest smart digital payment methods with the highest advanced security standards in collaboration with Garmin, Fitbit, and Samsung.

Use KFHOnline App and transfer via Western Union

24/7

Western Union

KFHOnline

As part of the ‘Weyak’ initiatives to empower entrepreneurs

stc hosts ‘Future of Food and Beverage Marketing’ workshop in partnership with ordable, Snapchat, & Optimize



A group photo of the lecturers from Snapchat at various workshops.



A large turnout of interested entrepreneurs.

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait Telecommunications Company — stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, sponsored an event titled “The Future of F&B Marketing” as part of its strategic partnership with ordable, optimize and Snapchat to empower entrepreneurs operating within the F&B sector. The initiative included an interactive workshop delivered by Snapchat and comes under stc’s ‘weyak’ program, which aims to support SMEs in their unique journeys to enhance and grow their operations.

The two-hour workshop was held at the Chairman’s Club in KIPCO Tower and welcomed over 50 entrepreneurs. The session was delivered by Snapchat’s MENA region account managers, who introduced attendees to a range of the platform’s marketing tools and features. Participants were given a hands-on walkthrough of how to effectively reach and engage audiences on Snapchat, with a focus on content strategy, Ad creation, and performance measurement tailored for businesses in the F&B space.

Through this initiative, as well as other programs launched under the ‘weyak’ umbrella, stc aims to showcase its ongoing support to both SMEs and entrepreneurs in Kuwait. The Company focuses on introducing opportunities that enable SMEs to grow their operations and enhance their exposure in the market through leading platforms. The ‘weyak’ ini-

AI Nowaibet:

■ Supporting entrepreneurs through various programs is key to building a more digitally capable and empowered SME sector

tiative was launched by stc with the primary focus of guiding SMEs in navigating today’s competitive landscape, while introducing a range of platforms that can assist them in successfully reaching their diverse audience segments.

Ahmed Al Nowaibet, Director of Public Relations and Social Media at stc, “As part of our ongoing efforts to empower the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kuwait, we were proud to collaborate with ordable,optimize, and Snapchat to deliver this insightful and practical session for SMEs in Kuwait. The workshop aligns with the core objectives of our ‘weyak’ initiative, which was designed to offer tailored programs that meet the real needs of local business owners and startups. Given the role of social media today, providing insights into how platforms like Snapchat can be strategically utilized for business growth is essential to helping entrepreneurs elevate their marketing efforts and scale their operations in a digitally driven environment.”

He added, “Supporting entrepreneurs

through various programs is key to building a more digitally capable and empowered SME sector. At stc, we believe in the importance of introducing platforms for collaboration, where innovation and growth are encouraged and enabled. Having said that, supporting SMEs falls in line with stc’s broader vision to drive digital transformation and contribute to the national development agenda. Through our role, stc is shaping a more inclusive economy by integrating SMEs into the digital ecosystem by fostering innovation through strategic partnerships and platforms.”

About stc

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2008. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Bursa Kuwait in December 2014.

stc Kuwait is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and solutions to customers, both for individuals and enterprises, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc Kuwait has expanded its portfolio by acquiring companies such as Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait, and e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries.

Event attended by key business leaders

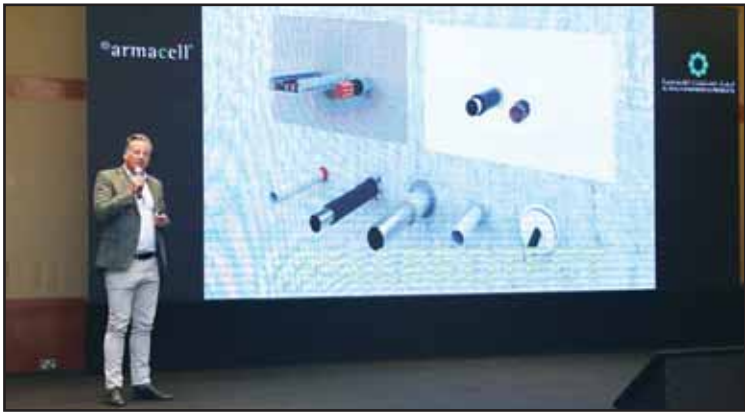
Al Mulla Engineering Products & Armacell launch ArmaProtect™ in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Al Mulla Engineering Products – an integral vertical and subsidiary of Al Mulla Engineering within Al Mulla Group, and Armacell, a worldwide leading manufacturer of flexible insulation materials for equipment insulation and engineered foams and passive fire protection, held a special seminar to announce the launch of ArmaProtect Firestop in Kuwait. The product launch was announced at an official gathering held recently at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel in Kuwait in the presence of the Managing Director of Al Mulla Engineering Eng. Anfal Nabeel Al Mulla and Mr. Rene van den Bosch, Director, Global Passive Fire Protection, at Armacell. The event was attended by key business leaders, architects, planners, contractors and applicators in the industry.

- An innovative firestop range of products with fire rating up to 240 minutes.
- Certified to EN1366-3, EN13501-2 and UL 1479 (ASTM E 84), the highest global standards for fire safety.
- Approved by the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF).
- Forms a vital part of fire safety strategies for any project in the built environment.
- Provides asset protection and help save lives in the event of fire.

The alliance between the two business solutions providers, introduces ArmaProtect Firestop systems that keep fire and smoke contained in a limited area for up to 240 minutes. This passive fire protection method, known as compartmentation, limits the spread of fire and smoke, allowing for the safe evacuation of the premises by building users and securing a safe working environment for emergency response teams.

Commenting on the exclusive product launch and the strategic partnership with Armacell, the Managing Director at Al Mulla Engineering Eng. Anfal Al Mulla said: “We are very proud to announce the launch ArmaProtect™ Firestop by Armacell - our strategic partner for the past more than 8 years, which underscores our shared vision and unaverred commitment to provide top-line engineering and business solutions that caters to the safety and protection of lives, people and properties in the country.” Adding, “That is why we are pleased to present to you today this innovative line of products from Armacell, a leading



global company that offers stock and support for both firestop solutions and a complete pipe insulation system from a single reputable source, which are also approved by the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), and are designed to meet the highest standards of protection in modern construction – be it residential, commercial or Industrial. This reflects our shared commitment to Society, quality and most importantly safety.”

On his part, the Director of Global Passive Fire Protection at Armacell GMBH, Germany, Rene Van Den Bosch said: “We are thrilled to introduce the Armacell ArmaProtect Firestop range to the Kuwait market.” Adding, “This product range embodies our commitment to innovation and excellence in fire safety, and we believe it will set a new stan-



Top and above: photos from the event.

dard in the industry.” It has been documented that far more people lose their lives due to smoke inhalation than severe burns. The key role of firestop systems is to safeguard people and limit the damage that fire and smoke can cause to a building. In addition to helping



save lives, firestop systems provide mechanical protection of essential services, such as cables and pipework. Passive fire protection also ensures that fire brigades and other emergency responders can conduct their challenging jobs in a safe working environment for an extended pe-



etrations, which can be applied with mixed fire seals in walls and floors. ArmaProtect Firestop mortar is designed as a stand-alone product as well as for use in combination with the ArmaProtect Firestop wraps and is suitable for cables and cable trays, cable bundles and cable conduits, as well as pipework.

The ArmaProtect Firestop range also include a Firestop cable tube and an intumescent firestop sealant for small fire seals in walls and floors. Endless firestop collars with intumescent inlay are available for applications in flexible and rigid walls or concrete floors. There are products designed for combustible and for non-combustible pipes. The online ArmaProtect Firestop solutions selector will always help planners and applicators to find the right product for the right application to ensure compliance on site.

The new ArmaProtect Firestop-system reliably seals off penetrations in walls, floors or service shafts and keep escape routes free of smoke and toxic gases. This gives occupants valuable time to leave the building and rescue teams unhindered access for evacuation. Besides promoting increased personal safety in buildings, the products are easy to install, inspect and maintain, facilitating the work of appropriate persons and ensuring the long-term performance of buildings.

Move aligns with growing regional momentum to reconnect with Syria

Jazeera Airways gears up to resume direct flights to Damascus

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, is all set to resume direct flights between Kuwait and Damascus, Syria. Regional carriers across the GCC have already re-established air links with Syria, and Jazeera will also commence flying once it receives the regulatory clearance.

The planned resumption of flights comes in response to a strong demand from the large 200,000 strong Syrian expatriate community in Kuwait – one of the largest Middle Eastern communities in the country – as well as increasing interest in re-establishing business, cultural, and familial ties between the two nations. Jazeera Airways previously operated flights to Damascus, Aleppo, and Deir Ez Zoor, and is now well positioned to restore this vital connectivity.

Marwan Boodai, Chairman, Jazeera Airways stated, “We are excited to start operating to Syria after a 12-year hiatus. Restoring direct flights to Da-



Jazeera Airways Chairman Marwan Boodai



Jazeera Airways plane soars in the skies.

mascus will provide a critical bridge for thousands of Syrians living and working in Kuwait, while also supporting broader regional efforts to re-engage with Syria. In line with the wider momentum across the region, we are completely set up and ready to start flying as soon as we receive the required regulatory approvals.”

Several GCC nations, including Qatar, UAE and others in the Middle East region such as Jordan and Turkey have already resumed or announced their intentions to resume air connectivity with Syria, recognizing the growing need for regional integration and the normalization of civil aviation ties.

Jazeera Airways is committed to upholding the highest operational and safety standards in line with international aviation protocols. Upon approval, the airline plans to operate direct daily services to Damascus, with further expansions to other Syrian cities also under consideration.

Warba Bank provides ‘Eidiya’ service across all branches

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: As part of its ongoing commitment to celebrating Eid with its customers and delivering a complete banking experience, Warba Bank announced the availability of the “Eidiya” service in various denominations of KD 1, 5, 10 and 20 across its branches throughout Kuwait. The service is also accessible at selected ATMs located in shopping malls, cooperative societies and exchange companies, making it easier for customers to obtain Eidiya cash ahead of Eid Al-Adha.

This initiative reflects Warba Bank's dedication to strengthening community bonds and sharing in meaningful moments with its customers through practical services that bring joy and convenience, aligned with its mission to deliver services that are close to people and meet their everyday needs.

Commenting on the initiative, Senior Director of Branches and Private Banking Group of Warba Bank, Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail, stated: “At Warba Bank, our customers are at the heart of every initiative. We are proud to offer the Eidiya service again this year to help complete the joy of Eid in a simple and accessible way, whether customers are traveling or spending Eid at home in Kuwait. We are committed to ensuring their banking experience is smooth, smart and secure.”

Al-Shuail added that the Eidiya service is available during official working hours at branches and 24/7 through selected ATMs, which have been equipped to dispense fresh banknotes in response to the increased demand during Eid season.

Warba Bank's branch network includes: Jaber Al-Ahmad, Jaber Al-Ali, Abu Fatira, Adan, Fahaeel, Farwaniya, West Mishref, Mangaf, Salmiya, Hawalli, Arraya, Ministries Complex, Egaila, Kuwait Airport T4, Adailiya, Kaifan, Al Shuhada, Avenues Mall and Jahra.

ATMs offering the Eidiya service are located strategically in: Arraya Mall, Abdullah Al-Mubarak Coop (Block 5), AlSadeeq Coop, Bahrain Exchange in Jahra (Block 5), Al Ansari Exchange in Hawalli (Block 7), Abu Hulaifa Coop, AlShamiya & Shuwaikh Coop located in AlShamiya area and Sabah Al-Salem Coop (Block 9).

Warba Bank is participating in this initiative as part of the “Eidity”



Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail

campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association, which aims to facilitate the public's access to Eidiya in a secure and advanced banking environment.

This initiative also demonstrates Warba Bank's commitment to delivering banking services that align with national and social occasions, reinforcing its position as a modern bank that combines innovation, technology and a sincere focus on customer experience.

Banking Services to Fit Your Lifestyle

Warba Bank continues to provide smart, innovative banking solutions that touch all aspects of customers' daily lives, making every interaction easier and more convenient. The Eidiya service is a reflection of the Bank's philosophy of being close to customers anytime, anywhere.

Warba Bank is one of the fastest-growing Islamic banks in Kuwait, known for combining leadership in digital innovation with a strong sense of social responsibility. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank remains close to every segment of society.

Building a Better Tomorrow

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

Trump tells US steelworkers he’s going to double tariffs on foreign steel to 50%

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa., May 31, (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday told Pennsylvania steelworkers he’s doubling the tariff on steel imports to 50% to protect their industry, a dramatic increase that could further push up prices for a metal used to make housing, autos and other goods.

In a post later on his Truth Social platform, he added that aluminum tariffs would also be doubled to 50%. He said both tariff hikes would go into effect Wednesday.

Trump spoke at U.S. Steel’s Mon Valley Works-Irvin Plant in suburban Pittsburgh, where he also discussed a details-to-come deal under which Japan’s Nippon Steel will invest in the iconic American steelmaker.

Trump told reporters after he arrived back in Washington that he still has to approve the deal.

“I have to approve the final deal with Nippon and we haven’t seen that final deal yet, but they’ve made a very big commitment and it’s a very big investment,” he said.

Though Trump initially vowed to block the Japanese steelmaker’s bid to buy Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel, he reversed course and announced an agreement last week for “partial ownership” by Nippon.

It’s unclear, though, if the deal his administration helped broker has been finalized or how ownership would be structured. Nippon Steel has never said it is backing off its bid to outright buy and control U.S. Steel as a wholly owned subsidiary, even as it increased the amount of money it promised to invest in U.S. Steel plants and gave guarantees that it wouldn’t lay off workers or close plants as it sought federal approval of the acquisition.

“We’re here today to celebrate a blockbuster agreement that will ensure this sto-

ried American company stays an American company,” Trump said as he opened an event at one of U.S. Steel’s warehouses. “You’re going to stay an American company, you know that, right?”



US President Donald Trump dances after speaking at U.S. Steel Corporation’s Mon Valley Works-Irvin Plant, Friday, May 30, 2025, in West Mifflin, Pa. (AP)

Singer buys back first six albums

Taylor Swift has regained control of her music

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): Taylor Swift has regained control over her entire body of work.

In a lengthy note posted to her official website on Friday, Swift announced: "All of the music I've ever made now belongs to me."

The pop star said she purchased her catalog of recordings - originally released through Big Machine Records - from their most recent owner, the private equity firm Shamrock Capital. She did not disclose the amount.

In recent years, Swift has been rerecording and releasing her first six albums in an attempt to regain control of her music.

"I can't thank you enough for helping to reunite me with this art that I have dedicated my life to, but have never owned until now," Swift addressed fans in the post. "The best things that have ever been mine ... finally actually are."

"We are thrilled with this outcome and are so happy for Taylor," Shamrock Capital said in a statement.

Swift's rerecordings were instigated by Hybe America CEO Scooter Braun's purchase and sale of her early catalog and represents Swift's effort to control her own songs and how they're used. Previous "Taylor's Version" releases have been more than conventional re-recordings, arriving with new "from the vault" music, Easter eggs and visuals that deepen understanding of her work.

"I am happy for her," Braun said Friday.

She has also released new music, including last year's "The Tortured Poets Department," announced during the 2024 Grammys and released during her record-breaking tour.

So far, there have been four rerecorded albums, beginning with "Fearless (Taylor's Version)" and "Red (Taylor's Version)" in 2021. All four have been massive commercial and cultural successes, each one debuting at No. 1 on the Billboard 200.

Swift's last rerecording, "1989 (Taylor's Ver-

sion)," arrived in October 2023, just four months after the release of "Speak Now (Taylor's Version)." That was the same year Swift claimed the record for the woman with the most No. 1 albums in history.

Fans have theorized that "Reputation (Taylor's Version)" would be next: On May 19, "Look What You Made Me Do (Taylor's Version)" aired nearly in full during the opening scene of a Season 6 episode of "The Handmaid's Tale." Prior to that, the song was teased in 2023's Prime Video limited-series thriller "Wilderness" and in Apple TV+'s "The Dynasty: New England Patriots" in 2024. Also in 2023, she contributed "Delicate (Taylor's Version)" to Prime Video's "The Summer I Turned Pretty."

But according to the note shared Friday, Swift says she hasn't "even rerecorded a quarter of it."

She did say, however, that she has completely rerecorded her self-titled debut album "and I really love how it sounds now."



Taylor Swift performs at Wembley Stadium as part of her Eras Tour June 21, 2024, in London. (AP)

Television

'He's the GOAT'

Faizan Zaki overcomes flub to win Spelling Bee

OXON HILL, Md., May 31, (AP): Faizan Zaki's enthusiasm for spelling nearly got the better of him. Ultimately, his joyful approach made him the Scripps National Spelling Bee champion.

The favorite entering the bee after his runner-up finish last year - during which he never misspelled a word in a conventional spelling round, only to lose a lightning-round tiebreaker that he didn't practice for - the shaggy-haired Faizan wore the burden of expectations lightly, sauntering to the microphone in a black hoodie and spelling his words with casual glee.

Throughout Thursday night's finals, the 13-year-old from Allen, Texas, looked like a champion in waiting. Then he nearly threw it away. But even a shocking moment of overconfidence couldn't prevent him from seizing the title of best speller in the English language.

With the bee down to three spellers, Sarvadnya Kadam and Sarv Dhara-vane missed their words back-to-back, putting Faizan two words away from victory. The first was "commelina," but instead of asking the requisite questions - definition, language of origin - to make sure he knew it, Faizan let his showman's instincts take over.

"K-A-M," he said, then stopped himself. "OK, let me do this. Oh, shoot!"

"Just ring the bell," he told head judge Mary Brooks, who obliged. "So now you know what happens," Brooks said, and the other two spellers returned to the stage.

Later, standing next to the trophy with confetti at his feet, Faizan said: "I'm definitely going to be having nightmares about that tonight."

Even pronouncer Jacques Bailly tried to slow Faizan down before his winning word, "eclaircissement," but Faizan didn't ask a single question before spelling it correctly, and he pumped his fists and collapsed to the stage after saying the final letter.

The bee celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, and Faizan may be the first champion who's remembered more for a word he got wrong than one he got right.

"I think he cared too much about his aura," said Bruhat Soma, Faizan's buddy who beat him in the "spell-off" tiebreaker last year.

Faizan had a more nuanced explanation: After not preparing for the spell-off last year, he overcorrected, emphasizing speed during his study sessions.

Metronomically

Although Bruhat was fast last year when he needed to be, he followed the familiar playbook for champion spellers: asking thorough questions, spelling slowly and metronomically, showing little emotion. Those are among the hallmarks of well-coached spellers, and Faizan had three coaches: Scott Remer, Sam Evans and Sohumi Sukhantankar.

None of them could turn Faizan into a robot on stage. "He's crazy. He's having a good time, and he's doing what he loves, which is spelling," Evans said.

Said Zaki Anwar, Faizan's father: "He's the GOAT. I actually believe that. He's really good, man. He's been doing it for so long, and he knows the dictionary in and out."

After last year's bee had little drama before an abrupt move to the spell-off, Scripps tweaked the competition rules, giving judges more leeway to let the competition play out before going to the tiebreaker. The nine finalists delivered.

During one stretch, six spellers got 26 consecutive words right, and there were three perfect rounds during the finals. The last time there was a single perfect round was the infamous 2019 bee, which ended in an eight-way tie.

Sarv, an 11-year-old fifth-grader from Dunwoody, Georgia, who ultimately finished third, would have been the youngest champion since Nihar Janga in 2016. He has three years of eligibility remaining.

The most poised and mature of the final three, Sarvadnya - who's from Visalia, California - ends his career as the runner-up. He's 14 and in the eighth grade, which means he has aged out of the competition. It's not a bad way to go out, considering that Faizan became just the fifth runner-up in a century to come back and win, and the first since Sean Conley in 2001.

Including Faizan, whose parents emigrated from southern India, 30 of the past 36 champions have been Indian American, a run that began with Nupur Lala's victory in 1999, which was later featured in the documentary "Spellbound." In honor of the centennial, dozens of past champions attended this year and signed autographs for spellers, families and bee fans.

With the winner's haul of \$52,500 added to his second-place prize of \$25,000, Faizan increased his bee earnings to \$77,500. His big splurge with his winnings last year? A \$1,500 Rubik's cube with 21 squares on each side. This time, he said he'd donate a large portion of his winnings to charity.

The bee began in 1925 when the Louisville Courier-Journal invited other newspapers to host spelling bees and send their champions to Washington. For the past 14 years, Scripps has hosted the competition at a convention center just outside the nation's capital, but the bee returns downtown next year to Constitution Hall, a nearly century-old concert venue near the White House.

Faizan has been spelling for more than half his life. He competed in the 2019 bee as a 7-year-old, getting in through a wild-card program that has since been discontinued. He qualified again in 2023 and made the semifinals before last year's second-place finish.

"One thing that differentiates him is he really has a passion for this. In his free time, when he's not studying for the bee, he's literally looking up archaic, obsolete words that have no chance of being asked," Bruhat said. "I don't think he cares as much about the title as his passion for language and words."



Faizan Zaki, 13, of Dallas, holds the trophy after winning the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center Thursday, May 29, in Oxon Hill, Md. (AP)

Film



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Ben Wang in a scene from 'Karate Kid: Legends.' (AP)

Meet first Asian American new 'Kid' on the block

Wang rewrites 'Karate Kid' history

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): It didn't occur to Ben Wang right away that in taking on "Karate Kid: Legends," he'd be the franchise's first Asian American "Kid." And that gives him a lot of optimism.

"At first I didn't even think about that," Wang told The Associated Press. "That feels like a very cool and actually privileged position that I get to be in."

His casting happened, he said, in "a world where that's normal enough."

"Karate Kid: Legends," which opened Friday, unites OG Ralph Macchio's Daniel and Jackie Chan's Mr. Han from the 2010 movie to help Wang's Li Fong win a New York City karate competition.

In the original "Karate Kid" movie, which came out more than 40 years ago, Pat Morita was the only main Asian American cast member even though it takes place in California's San Fernando Valley. His beloved Mr. Miyagi helped underdog Daniel wax on and wax off against white karate bullies. That arc has been replicated and flipped in sequels and offshoots ever since. The overall lack of Asian and Asian American representation all these years has been a lingering point of contention for some.

Jeff Yang, author of "The Golden Screen: The Movies That Made Asian America," said he knows plenty of Asian Americans who find most of the Miyagi-verse entertaining. At the same time, even the recent Netflix "Cobra Kai" series hardly had any young Asian American main characters. That lost opportunity felt like a "loose, nagging tooth," he said.

"It's always been a situation where the ancient or legendary martial arts master is transferring his skills not just to another generation, but into another community," Jeff Yang said. "In a way, that feels like for me as an Asian American, it turns it into a guilty pleasure."

The Asians who were there were "either sidekicks or villains," he added.

In Asia, there's a long cinematic history of elite martial artists-turned-actors ranging from icon Bruce Lee to Chan and Jet Li. But in Hollywood, Asian characters who did perform karate or kung-fu often weren't written three-dimensionally. Most of the stars who could shine for acting and on-screen fight-

ing weren't Asian.

"In a way that's understandable," Yang said. "Martial arts is one of the things that was brought to the United States by soldiers who had been stationed in Asia, learned the practice, embraced the lifestyle and the discipline."

By the 1970s and '80s, karate dojos were becoming popular all over the U.S. in cities and suburbs. So "The Karate Kid" debuted at just the right time.

Ken Nagayama, a martial arts grand master who runs a school in the Valley, was an instructor at a North Hollywood dojo used for scenes in the original film. He recalls meeting Pat Morita. But, he wasn't thinking about casting. He was impressed by how much interest in karate shot up because of one movie.

"When that came out, so many people were interested in taking class, especially younger kids," said Nagayama, who plans to watch "Legends" with some of his students. He had "a whole mix" of students of all races signing up.

Competed

Steven Ho, a stunt coordinator and martial artist who lives in Los Angeles and has appeared multiple times on Conan O'Brien's talk shows, remembers Morita, Macchio and William Zabka watching tournaments he competed in to prepare for the first movie. He was such a fan of Morita that he never thought about how there were no other Asian actors.

"Pat Morita, to me, he was the lead," Ho said. "Also, if that were the only martial arts film out there, then yeah, it would be odd and I would be disappointed. But you gotta remember the '80s and '90s we were living in the golden age of Jet Li, Jackie Chan, films that featured ... more authentic martial artists."

It's a full-circle moment that Chan is one of the mentors in this new flick. Wang is still in disbelief he got to do combat choreography with the superstar.

"He's the guy you think he is," Wang said with a grin. "He doesn't turn it off when he's not on set."

Ho happily points out that "Karate Kid: Legends" is reinforcing how his 12-year-old twin sons are growing up without negative Asian stereotypes like

he did. He'd rather a story have no Asians if the characters are going to be the butt of the joke. That history of stereotyping of Asian men is why he initially declined appearing on O'Brien's show.

"I thought 'Oh, he's a tall guy. I'm a short, Asian guy. They're just going to goof on me. They're going to go off on me,' so I said, 'You know, I'm gonna be out of town,'" Ho said.

Luckily, the segments, which have earned millions of YouTube views, were crafted so Ho was the straight-man to O'Brien's buffoonery.

Twins Jonny and Ollie, in fact, are real-life karate kids. The boys, known as the "Twinjas," know karate, mixed martial arts and other disciplines. They count Bruce Lee's daughter, Shannon, as a friend. They've appeared on "America's Got Talent," "Obi-Wan Kenobi" and taught Kevin Hart and Snoo Dogg moves. They love "Cobra Kai" for the drama and want to see "Legends" for Chan. They have since been introduced to the movie that started it all.

For Ollie, Miyagi was his favorite character.

"I think that in the first Karate Kids, how the teacher was Asian, I think being a teacher is better than being a student," he said.

Jonny says not every show or movie in this genre has to have an Asian lead, but when there is one, he takes note.

"I think that there's definitely a lot of other movies and shows that have Asian leads, like Simu Liu, the first Asian superhero," Jonny said, referring to Marvel's "Shang-Chi." "It's very significant."

The Twinjas, who are working on a children's fiction book that's part mystery and part action, are not shy about voicing their own desire for "any opportunities that come our way, we'd love to take, especially for acting and using our martial arts skills," Ollie said.

Perhaps they'll get some inspiration from seeing Wang in "Legends." Wang considers it a "point of pride" if young Asian American children view him as a benchmark so they can see themselves as the hero.

"The word I keep going back to is it's a privilege," Wang said. "What I love about this series is ... there's this idea anyone can be the 'Karate Kid.'"

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Authorities investigated a previous sexual assault allegation against **Smoke Robinson** in 2015, but no charges were filed because of insufficient evidence, prosecutors said Friday.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office confirmed the decade-old investigation and its decision to decline charges in a statement on Friday. The office said no details could be provided because of the current investigation of Robinson.

Four former housekeepers of the singer-songwriter and Motown music luminary have alleged that he raped and sexually assaulted them between 2007 and 2024. The women filed a lawsuit on May 6, then the following week the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department revealed that its Special Victims Bureau was "actively investigating criminal allegations" against Robinson.

Robinson's attorney Christopher Frost said in a statement Friday that they are "pleased" that the district attorney



Robinson

Robinson looks forward to the conclusion of the current investigation, and has no doubt that a similar determination will be reached here." (AP)

MEXICO CITY: The popular Mexican regional music band Grupo Firme announced on Friday that it was canceling a performance in a music festival in California over the weekend after

the United States government suspended the musicians' visas.

It comes after the US State Department has revoked visas of a number of Mexican musicians for playing a genre of music that it says glorifies cartel violence.

The group, which has soared to international fame playing Mexican regional music, said in a statement posted on its Instagram account that the visas of them and their team are currently under "administrative review by the US Embassy" and that it would make it "impossible" for them to perform in the La Onda Fest to be held in the city of Napa Valley, California on June 1. But the post didn't detail what it would mean in the long term for the musical group. (AP)

WASHINGTON: PBS filed suit Friday against President Donald Trump and other administration officials to block his order stripping federal funding from the 330-station public television system, three days after NPR did the

same for its radio network.

In its lawsuit, PBS relies on similar arguments, saying Trump was overstepping his authority and engaging in "viewpoint discrimination" because of his claim that PBS' news coverage is biased against conservatives.

"PBS disputes those charged assertions in the strongest possible terms," lawyer Z.W. Julius Chen wrote in the suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington. "But regardless of any policy disagreements over the role of public television, our Constitution and laws forbid the President from serving as the arbiter of the content of PBS's programming, including by attempting to defund PBS."

It was the latest of many legal actions taken against the administration for its moves, including several by media organizations impacted by Trump's orders.

PBS was joined as a plaintiff by one of its stations, Lakeland PBS, which serves rural areas in northern and central Minnesota. Trump's order is an "existential threat" to the station, the lawsuit said. (AP)

Group uses tech to redefine music and performance

Big Ocean makes history as K-pop’s 1st deaf group

SEOUL, South Korea, May 31, (AP) — Big Ocean, a three-member K-pop group composed entirely of artists with hearing disabilities, is redefining the limits of music and performance — one beat at a time.

When Big Ocean takes the stage, they seamlessly incorporate sign language into their performances. But their polished shows are built on extensive preparation using high-tech tools born from necessity — vibrating smartwatches that pulse with musical beats and LED visual metronomes that flash timing cues during practice sessions. This technological approach represents significant progress in South Korea’s entertainment industry, where career opportunities for people with disabilities have historically been limited.

The trio, PJ, Jiseok and Chanyeon, made their debut in April 2024 and recently wrapped a solo European tour marking their first anniversary. The band performed in four countries, including France and the UK, while promoting their second mini-album, “Underwater,” which dropped on April 20.

PJ rose to prominence as a YouTuber who educated viewers about hearing disabilities. Chanyeon previously



Members of K-pop band Big Ocean, Jiseok, PJ and Chanyeon, (from left to right), participate in an interview with The Associated Press in Seoul, South Korea, April 15, 2025. (AP)

worked as an audiologist. Jiseok was a professional ski racer.

To achieve the precision crucial in K-pop’s demanding choreography and music, Big Ocean relies on technologies rarely seen in the genre. Members wear modified vibrating

smartwatches that deliver rhythmic cues to their wrists and practice with visual metronomes — flashing light guides displayed on monitors — to help stay in sync when audio alone isn’t enough.

Chanyeon uses a hybrid hearing de-

vice with Bluetooth that streams music directly from mobile devices. The group also uses a pitch-checking app and AI voice conversion technology to support vocal training and enhance audio output after recordings.

“We each felt rhythm differently when dancing,” PJ told The Associated Press. “So when we’d play the same song and dance in front of the mirror, one of us would move faster while another would move slower. To solve this timing issue, we decided to memorize everything together and create our own cues with each other.”

This precision becomes critical during live performances, where unexpected disruptions can derail even experienced performers. “When we performed in France, our fans were cheering so loudly we lost the beat,” said Jiseok. “But we looked at each other and quickly handled the situation — just like we practiced.”

Stage effects and certain musical styles create additional obstacles. “When a lot of smoke comes up, sometimes we momentarily can’t see the stage movements in front of us,” PJ said. “Our concentration gets disrupted instantly in those moments.”

Obituaries



Loretta Swit presents a tribute to Mr. Rogersp at the 45th annual Daytime Emmy Awards on April 29, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif. (AP)

Composer Clausen dead

Loretta Swit, iconic star of ‘M.A.S.H.,’ dies at 87

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP) — Loretta Swit, who won two Emmy Awards playing Maj. Margaret Houlihan, the demanding head nurse of a behind-the-lines surgical unit during the Korean War on the pioneering hit TV series “M.A.S.H.,” has died. She was 87.

Publicist Harlan Boll said Swit died Friday at her home in New York City, likely from natural causes.

Swit and Alan Alda were the longest-serving cast members on “M.A.S.H.,” which was based on Robert Altman’s 1970 film, which was itself based on a novel by Richard Hooker, the pseudonym of H. Richard Hornberger.

The CBS show aired for 11 years from 1972 to 1983, revolving around life at the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, which gave the show its name. The two-and-a-half-hour finale on Feb. 28, 1983, lured over 100 million viewers, the most-watched episode of any scripted series ever.

Rolling Stone magazine put “M.A.S.H.” at No. 25 of the best TV shows of all time, while Time Out put it at No. 34. It won the Impact Award at the 2009 TV Land annual awards. It won a Peabody Award in 1975 “for the depth of its humor and the manner in which comedy is used to lift the spirit and, as well, to offer a profound statement on the nature of war.”

In Altman’s 1970 film, Houlihan was a one-dimensional character — a prickly, rules-bound head nurse who was regularly tormented by male colleagues, who gave her the nickname “Hot Lips.” Her intimate moments were broadcast to the entire camp after somebody planted a microphone under her bed.

Character

Sally Kellerman played Houlihan in the movie version and Swit took it over for TV, eventually deepening and creating her into a much fuller character. Her sexuality was played down and she wasn’t even called “Hot Lips” in the later years.

The growing awareness of feminism in the ’70s spurred Houlihan’s transformation from caricature to real person, but a lot of the change was due to Swit’s influence on the scriptwriters.

“Around the second or third year I decided to try to play her as a real person, in an intelligent fashion, even if it meant hurting the jokes,” Swit told Suzy Kalter, author of “The Complete Book of ‘M.A.S.H.’”

“To oversimplify it, I took each traumatic change that happened in her life and kept it. I didn’t go into the next episode as if it were a different character in a different play. She was a character in constant flux; she never stopped developing.”

Alda praised Swit as a “supremely talented actor” in a post on X. “She worked hard in showing the writing staff how they could turn the character from a one joke sexist stereotype into a real person — with real feelings and ambitions. We celebrated the day the script came out listing her character not as Hot Lips, but as Margaret. Loretta made the most of her time here.”

“M.A.S.H.” wasn’t an instant hit. It finished its first season in 46th place, out of 75 network TV series, but it nabbed nine Emmy nominations. It was rewarded with a better time slot for its sophomore season, paired on Saturday nights with “All in the Family,” then TV’s highest-rated show. At the 1974 Emmys, it was crowned best comedy, with Alda winning as best comedy actor.

The series also survived despite cast churn. In addition to Swit and Alda, the first season featured Wayne Rogers, McLean Stevenson, Larry Linville and Gary Burghoff. Harry Morgan, Mike Farrell and David Ogden Stiers would later be added, while Jamie Farr and William Christopher had expanded roles.

Versatility

“Loretta Swit’s portrayal of Margaret ‘Hot Lips’ Houlihan was groundbreaking — bringing heart, humor, and strength to one of television comedy’s most enduring roles. Her talent extended well beyond that iconic character, with acclaimed work on both stage and screen that showcased her intelligence, versatility, and passion,” National Comedy Center Executive Director Journey Gunderson said in a statement.

Swit appeared in all but 11 episodes of the series, nearly four times longer than the Korean War itself, exploring issues like PTSD, sexism and racism. Swit pushed for a better representation for women.

“One of the things I liked, with Loretta’s prodding, was every time I had a chance to write for her character, we’d get away from the Hot Lips angle and find out more about who Margaret was. She became more of a real person,” Alda told The Hollywood Reporter in 2018.

The series ended on a happy note for Houlihan, who spends much of the finale debating whether she wants to head to Tokyo or Belgium for her next overseas post. Ultimately she opts to return to America and work at a hospital, citing her father — a career Army man.

Swit didn’t personally agree that was the correct decision for a military-minded official: “I didn’t think that was correct for my Margaret,” she told Yahoo Entertainment in 2023. “I think her next move was Vietnam. So I didn’t agree with that, but that’s what they wanted her to do.”

But the actor did get to write the speech that Houlihan delivers to her fellow nurses on their final night together, in which she says: “It’s been an honor and privilege to have worked with you. And I’m very, very proud to have known you.”

“I was consumed with writing that. And I still get letters from women all over the world who became nurses because of Margaret Houlihan. To have contributed to someone’s life like that is remarkable,” she told Yahoo Entertainment.

During her run, Houlihan had an affair with Hawkeye’s foil, the bumbling Frank Burns, played by Linville in the TV version, and in Season 5, Houlihan returns from a stay in Tokyo engaged to a handsome lieutenant colonel, a storyline that Swit says she advocated for with the writers.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Alf Clausen, the Emmy-winning composer whose music provided essential accompaniment for the animated antics of “The Simpsons” for 27 years, has died.

His daughter Kaarin Clausen told The Associated Press that Alf Clausen died Thursday at his home in Los Angeles after struggling with Parkinson’s Disease for about a decade. He was 84.

Clausen, who also scored TV series including “Moonlighting” and “Alf” (“no relation,” he used to joke) was nominated for 30 Emmy Awards, 21 of them for “The Simpsons,” winning twice.

Al Jean, an early “Simpsons” writer who was one of the key creative figures on the show in the 1990s, said in a post on X Friday that “Clausen was an incredibly talented man who did so much for The Simpsons.”

While Danny Elfman wrote the show’s theme song, Clausen joined the Fox animated series created by Matt Groening in 1990 and provided essentially all of its music until 2017, composing nearly 600 scores and conducting the 35-piece orchestra that played it in the studio.

His colleagues said his music was a key component of the show’s comedy, but Clausen believed the best way to back up the gags of Homer, Marge Bart and Lisa was by making the music as straight as possible.

Variety

NEW YORK: Sean “Diddy” Combs’ lawyers confronted his rape-alleging former personal assistant on Friday with her social media posts praising the hip-hop mogul as a mentor, “my brother” and “friend for life” for years after she says he assaulted her.

Defense attorney Brian Steel quizzed the woman about some of the dozens of posts she made about Combs in the wake of the alleged rape, portraying the warm messages as contradictory to her claims that working for him was often toxic and terrifying.

The woman, testifying under the pseudonym “Mia” for a second day at Combs’ federal sex trafficking trial, read some of the messages aloud as they were displayed for jurors. (AP)

BATON ROUGE, La.: A third person has been charged in connection to the death of a television reporter who had traveled to New Orleans to cover the Super Bowl earlier this year.

Christian Anderson, 33, of New Orleans, was arrested for his alleged role in a recurring scheme that police say involved targeting victims, drugging them and robbing them.

Among those alleged victims was Adan Manzano, a 27-year-old reporter and anchor for Telemundo based in Kansas City, Missouri. Manzano was found dead Feb. 5 in his hotel room in the New Orleans suburb of Kenner.

Manzano’s death came a year after his wife died in a car accident. The couple leaves behind a toddler daughter. (AP)

LONDON: Actor and comedian Russell Brand pleaded not guilty in a London court Friday to rape and sexual assault charges involving four women dating back more than 25 years.

Brand, who turns 50 next week, denied two counts of rape, two counts of sexual assault and one count of indecent assault. He said “not guilty” after each charge was read in Southwark Crown Court.

His trial was scheduled for June 3, 2026 and is expected to last four to five weeks.

Prosecutors said that the offenses took place between 1999 and 2005 — one in the English seaside town of Bournemouth and the other three in London. (AP)

AUSTIN, Texas: A push in Texas to ban social media accounts for children under 18 has failed after lawmakers did not take a key vote on creating one of the nation’s toughest restrictions aimed at keeping minors off platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram.

The bill, which already passed the GOP-controlled state House, sought to go further than a Florida social media ban for minors under 14. Australia banned social media accounts for anyone under 16.

The legislative session ends Monday and early momentum behind the Texas measure slowed at the eleventh hour in the state Senate as lawmakers face a weekend deadline to send bills to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott. (AP)

Television



Sarah Jessica Parker attends the premiere of ‘And Just Like That...’ Season 3 at the Crane Club on Wednesday, May 21, in New York. (AP)

Carrie’s voice is back... so is show’s soul

‘And Just Like That ...’ grows up

PARIS, May 31, (AP) — “She’s messy. It can be messy. But it’s real.”

So says Cynthia Nixon — not just of Miranda Hobbes, the character she’s embodied for almost three decades, but of the show itself. “And Just Like That...,” HBO’s “... and the City” revival, has come into its own in Season 3: less preoccupied with pleasing everyone, and more interested in telling the truth.

Truth, in this case, looks like complexity. Women in their 50s with evolving identities. Not frozen in time, but changing, reckoning, reliving. Oddness that’s joyful but not polished. Grief without melodrama. A pirate shirt with a bleach hole that somehow becomes a talisman of power.

At its glittering European premiere this week, Nixon and co-star Sarah Jessica Parker, flanked by Kristin Davis and Sarita Choudhury, spoke candidly with The Associated Press about how the show has evolved into something deeper, rawer and more reflective of who they are now.

Season 3 marks the return of Carrie Bradshaw’s iconic internal monologue that once defined “... and the City.” The series has always followed Carrie’s rhythm, but now it brings back something deeper: her voice. Literally.

“We’ve always loved the voiceover,” Parker said. “It’s a rhythm — it’s part of the DNA.”

The decision to restore it, producers say, was deliberate. The voiceovers return just as Carrie rediscovers her direction — offering viewers a renewed sense of intimacy and connection.

That growth is echoed in her rekindled relationship with Aidan and her acceptance to step back for him to focus on his troubled son.

The character who in 1998 first stopped a cab in Manolo Blahniks — and once floated through Manhattan chasing shoes and column deadlines — is now grounded in reinvention, the wounds of loss and cautious hope. The word is: grown up.

“She doesn’t burst into tears or stomp out of the room anymore,” Parker said. “She asks smart, patient questions. That’s not effort — that’s just her nature now.”

“People seem surprised that she is mature,” Parker added. “But that’s just basic developmental stuff — hopefully,

simply by living, we get better at things. It’s not surprising. It’s just real.”

If Carrie is the compass, Miranda is the seismic shift.

Miranda’s arc — which now includes a late-in-life queer awakening — may be the show’s most radical contribution to television. And for Nixon, who publicly came out as queer while still playing straight in the original “... and the City,” that evolution is deeply personal.

“There’s never a ‘too late’ moment. Miranda comes to oddness at 55,” Nixon said. “That doesn’t mean everything that came before was wrong. It just means this is her now. And it’s messy. It can be messy. But it’s real.”

That embrace of imperfection lies at the core of Nixon’s philosophy — and the show’s power. On television, where characters linger in our lives for years, there’s a unique intimacy and empathy that develops.

“Television puts someone in your living room, week after week. They’re imperfect, they make you laugh, and eventually you say, ‘I know that person. They’re my friend.’” she said. “That’s more powerful than one mythic, perfect film. That’s where the change happens.”

That change includes how queerness is portrayed. Nixon recalled how earlier generations of different characters were forced to be flawless, or two-dimensional, to justify their screen time.

“There was a time when gay people on screen had to be saints or martyrs,” she said. “Now, we can be characters like Miranda — who’ve had rich, fulfilling heterosexual lives and now stumble upon queerness, and not in a tidy way. There’s collateral damage. That’s important.”

That depth, Nixon said, comes not just from character, but from the format. Unlike film, which requires resolution in two hours, television lets people grow — and falter — in real time.

And Miranda’s transformation isn’t just personal. It’s political.

In Season 3, she’s seen retraining in human rights law, joining protest movements, and wrestling with systemic questions — mirroring Nixon’s own off-screen life. In 2018, the actor ran for governor of New York on a progressive platform, bringing her activism directly into the public arena. That convergence isn’t accidental, she says.



A man poses by an artwork by street artist Banksy, Friday, May 30, in Marseille, southern France. (AP)

A shadow becomes art in Banksy’s new street mural

MARSEILLE, France, May 31, (AP) — The lighthouse appeared overnight. Painted on a wall tucked away in a quiet Marseille street, its beam aligned perfectly with the real-life shadow of a metal post on the pavement. At its center, stenciled in crisp white, are the words: “I want to be what you saw in me.”

Banksy had struck again.

On Friday, the elusive British street artist confirmed the work by posting two images on his official Instagram account — without caption or coordinates. Fans quickly identified the location as 1 Rue Félix Frégier, in the Catalans district of Marseille’s 7th arrondissement, near the sea.

Since then, crowds had gathered at the site. Tourists snap photos. Children point. Locals who usually walk past the building stop to take a closer look.

There is no official explanation for the phrase. But its emotional pull is unmistakable — a quiet plea for recognition, love or redemption. Some speculate it references a country ballad by Lonestar. Others call it a love letter. Or a lament. Or both.

Al-Awda Hospital in North Gaza is out of service: WHO

Gaza’s food crisis: What is a famine and who declares one?

GENEVA, May 31, (Agencies): For months, UN officials, aid groups and experts have warned that Palestinians in Gaza are on the brink of famine.

Earlier this month, Israel eased a weekslong blockade on the territory as a result of international criticism, but the UN humanitarian aid office said Friday that deliveries into Gaza remain severely restricted, describing the current flow of food as a trickle into an area facing catastrophic levels of hunger.

Gaza’s population of more than 2 million people relies almost entirely on outside aid to survive because Israel’s 19-month-old military offensive has wiped out most capacity to produce food inside the territory.

Israel said it imposed the blockade to pressure Hamas into releasing the hostages it holds and because it accuses Hamas of siphoning off aid, without providing evidence. The U.N. says there are mechanisms in place that prevent any significant diversion of aid, though aid trucks have been robbed and hungry crowds have broken into aid warehouses a few times.

No famine has been formally declared in Gaza.

Here’s a look at what famine means and how the world finds out when one



Palestinian children get food at a food distribution kitchen in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, Friday, May 30. (AP)

Last year, experts said a famine was ongoing in parts of North Darfur in Sudan, Somalia, in 2011, and South Sudan, in 2017, also saw famines in which tens of thousands of people were affected.

Gaza poses a particular complication for experts since access is severely limited, making gathering data difficult if not impossible in some cases.

Last year, the IPC said an area can be classified as in “famine with reasonable evidence” if two of the three thresholds have been reached and crossing the third appears likely to have happened.

The IPC unites experts from more than 20 organizations like the U.N.’s health, development, and food aid agencies; charity CARE International; the Famine Early Warning Systems Network; and the European Union and the World Bank.

The short answer is, there’s no set rule.

While the IPC says it is the “primary mechanism” used by the international community to analyze data and conclude whether a famine is happening or projected, it typically doesn’t make such a declaration itself.

Often, UN officials or governments will make a formal statement, based on

an analysis from the IPC.

“There’s a widespread misunderstanding that someone has to declare a famine before it is a famine. That is not the case,” said Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. “When IPC shows the data that hits the threshold for a famine, then it’s a famine.”

Theoretically, governments and the international aid community, including the United Nations, unlock aid and funding to help feed people en masse.

A small amount of food is entering Gaza again following the 2 1/2-month Israeli blockade. But aid groups say it is a fraction of what is needed - and gunfire and chaos have plagued food distribution in recent days.

The Israeli military says it has facilitated the entry of nearly 1,000 trucks the past 12 days, far below the rate even at the highest times during the war when several hundred trucks a day would enter.

In general, international preparation and effective deployment in response to famines can be lacking.

“There is not a big, huge bank account” to draw on, said OCHA’s Laerke. “The fundamental problem is that we

Heat-related deaths unreported: experts

Climate change added extra month of extreme heat for half the world

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): Scientists say 4 billion people, about half the world’s population, experienced at least one extra month of extreme heat because of human-caused climate change from May 2024 to May 2025.

The extreme heat caused illness, death, crop losses, and strained energy and health care systems, according to the analysis from World Weather Attribution, Climate Central and the Red Cross.

“Although floods and cyclones often dominate headlines, heat is arguably the deadliest extreme event,” the report said. Many heat-related deaths are unreported or are mislabeled by other conditions like heart disease or kidney failure.

The scientists used peer-reviewed methods to study how much climate change boosted temperatures in an extreme heat event and calculated how much more likely its occurrence was because of climate change. In almost all countries in the world, the number of extreme heat days has at least doubled compared with a world without climate change.

Caribbean islands were among the hardest hit by additional extreme heat days. Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States, endured 161 days of extreme heat. Without climate change, only 48 would have occurred.

“It makes it feel impossible to be outside,” said Charlotte Gossett Navarro, chief director for Puerto Rico at Hispanic Federation, a nonprofit focused on social and environmental issues in Latino communities, who lives in the San Juan area and was not involved in the report.

“Even something as simple as trying to have a day outdoors with family, we weren’t able to do it because the heat was too high,” she said, reporting feeling dizzy and sick last summer.

Cucumbers recalled

Dozens sickened in salmonella outbreak

NEW YORK, May 31, (AP): Nearly four dozen people in 18 states have been sickened in an expanding outbreak of salmonella food poisoning tied to recalled cucumbers sent to restaurants, hospitals, cruise ships and grocery stores, including Target stores, federal health officials said Friday.

At least 16 people have been hospitalized after eating cucumbers produced by Florida-based Bedner Growers and distributed by Fresh Start Produce Sales, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. The cucumbers were sold from April 29 through May 19.

The outbreak includes reports of illness from people aboard six different cruise ships that departed from U.S. ports between late March and mid-April, the CDC said. The true number of sick people is likely much higher and the outbreak could affect additional states, officials said.

Several companies have issued recalls for whole cucumbers and cucumbers used in a range of sandwiches, salsas and other foods linked to the outbreak. Target recalled dozens of products, including whole cucumbers, salads and vegetable rolls.

The outbreak was detected during a follow-up inspection in April to a 2024 outbreak that sickened 551 people and led to 155 hospitalizations in 34 states and Washington, D.C. In that outbreak, investigators found salmonella bacteria linked to many of the illnesses in untreated canal water used at farms operated by Bedner Growers and Thomas Produce Company.

As part of the new investigation, FDA officials found salmonella in a sample of Bedner Growers cucumbers at a distribution center in Pennsylvania. That sample matched the strain of salmonella that made people sick. In addition, “multiple other strains” of salmonella were detected that “match samples in a government database. CDC officials are working to determine whether additional illnesses in people match those strains.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning include diarrhea, fever, severe vomiting, dehydration and stomach cramps. Most people who get sick recover within a week. Infections can be severe in young children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems, who may require hospitalization.



Kuwait Health Minister opens an exhibition accompanying the conference.

Blood disorders summit

Kuwait performs over 40 stem cell implants on ill kids: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, May 31, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi announced on Friday that stem cells implants had been conducted on more than 40 children suffering from thalassemia and sickle cell disease in the country.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the first Arab conference on promoting awareness of thalassemia and the sickle cell disease, the minister noted that Kuwait adopted the pre-marriage medical tests program in 2009. Number of such tests had exceeded 400,000 as part of the program, he said, also indicating that the MoH employed several techniques for diagnosis of blood disorders, including the NGS technology.

The program had proven successful and a scientific study published in 2019 showed noticeable drop in cases of hereditary blood transfer disorders -- 50 percent of those seeking marriage.

This has led to noticeable drop in new thalassemia cases among the newly born and babies, as well adults in Kuwait, he said, adding that residents of Kuwait would also be subject to pre-marriage tests according to a newly enacted law.

Health checks

Sudan receives 3m cholera jabs

KHARTOUM, May 31, (Xinhua): The Sudanese Ministry of Health announced on Friday that it has received over 2.9 million doses of the cholera vaccine amid a surge in cases, especially in the capital Khartoum.

“A total of 2,905,400 cholera vaccine doses have been received as part of efforts to combat the cholera outbreak currently affecting Sudan, particularly in Khartoum State,” the ministry said in a statement.

It noted that the vaccines were donated by the International Coordinating Group (ICG) on Vaccine Provision, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The vaccines, received in the eastern city of Port Sudan, will be transported to Khartoum State, where a large-scale vaccination campaign is set to begin in the coming days, targeting all residents aged one and above, the statement said.

Since October 2023, Sudan has received more than 16.9 million doses of the cholera vaccine through a partnership between the Sudanese health authorities and the ICG, according to the ministry.

Mpox: The Ethiopian Ministry of Health announced Wednesday that coordinated health monitoring and inspection measures are being implemented to prevent a potential mpox outbreak.

On Sunday, the East African country reported its first mpox case when a 21-day-old infant tested positive for the virus in the Moyale town near the Kenyan border.

At a news briefing on Wednesday, Minister of Health Mekdes Daba said subsequent testing had confirmed both of the child’s parents were also infected with the virus, bringing the total number of cases to three.

The minister said that coordinated contact tracing activities are currently underway, with dedicated rapid response teams deployed across various regions.

She said mpox screening and testing have begun at all entry and exit checkpoints, including the country’s border-crossing points and major international gateways.

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Farhan scores 103 runs off 54 balls

Pakistan thumps Bangladesh by 57 runs to clinch T20 series

LAHORE, Pakistan, May 31, (AP): Pakistan clinched the Twenty20 series against Bangladesh after winning the second match by a comfortable 57 runs.

The Pakistan top order set up a 201 total for the second straight time and seven of the eight bowlers took wickets to dismiss Bangladesh for 144 in 19 overs.

Pakistan won the first match by 37 runs on Wednesday and will look for a clean sweep in the final game at the same Lahore venue on Sunday.

Tanzid Hasan scored all 32 runs in the first two overs of the chase but was out for 33 to a stunning reflex catch at short fine leg by Abrar Ahmed.

By the end of the powerplay, Bangladesh was 54-3 and reeling from some splendid catches.

Abrar trapped Towhid Hridoy and Jaker Ali leg before wicket off successive sharp goog-

lies.

At the halfway mark, Bangladesh was 78-7 and the inevitable was delayed only by No. 9 batter Tanzim Hasan Sakib, whose 50 off 31 was his maiden T20 half-century. He was the last man out as fast bowler Shoriful Islam couldn't bat after pulling up with a groin injury in his first over.

Sahibzada Farhan starred with the bat in only his 10th T20 since his debut six years ago. He smashed 74 off 41 balls.

Farhan lost the selectors' favor after four consecutive single-digit scores against Australia last year in the T20 series. But he forced his way back by topping the batting chart in the recent Pakistan Super League.

He got an opportunity after first-choice opener Fakhar Zaman was rested for Friday's game. Luck favored Farhan when he was dropped off the third ball of the match before he scored.

Saim Ayub was run out in the second over after Farhan refused the third run.

Farhan then added 103 runs off 54 balls with Mohammad Haris (41) as both batted with a new licence to be aggressive under new coach Mike Hesson. Farhan got a second life after his half-century when Mehidy Hasan Miraz could not hold onto a sharp catch in the covers.

Haris was caught at backward point in the 11th over, and Farhan was caught in the next over by Bangladesh captain Litton Das behind the stumps.

Pakistan's middle order didn't hold back, and its latest T20 batting sensation, Hasan Nawaz, blistered 51 off 25 balls with three sixes and two fours.

But Pakistan scored only 40 runs in the final five overs with an excellent comeback by fast bowler Hasan Mahmud, 2-47.



Pakistan's Hasan Nawaz plays a shot during the second Twenty20 cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

Sun snaps 5-game skid

Hiedeman makes game-winning 3-pointer & Lynx edges Mercury

PHOENIX, May 31, (AP): Natisha Hiedeman made a 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds remaining to lift the undefeated Minnesota Lynx to a 74-71 victory over the Phoenix Mercury.

Hiedeman's clutch shot gave Minnesota the lead for just the second time in the fourth quarter. After a timeout, Sami Whitcomb missed a 25-footer for Phoenix.

Minnesota trailed 71-68 with a minute to go but Courtney Williams hit a 3-pointer to tie it with 53 seconds remaining.

Kayla McBride scored 20 points and Alanna Smith had 19 for the Lynx (6-0). Williams had 11 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

Satou Sabally had 26 points and 11 rebounds for Phoenix (4-2). Kalani Brown had 15 points on 7-for-8 shooting, and Whitcomb added 13 points.

McBride scored 10 points in the first quarter, including 7-for-7 shooting from the free-throw line, and the Lynx led 20-17 heading to the second quarter.

Whitcomb's pullup 3-pointer gave Phoenix a 29-26 lead with four minutes left in the second quarter. The Mercury led by four points in the final minute of the half before McBride hit a 3-pointer with 1.1 seconds left as Phoenix led 39-38 at halftime.

McBride scored 17 points in the first half and Sabally led Phoenix with 12.

Sun 85, Fever 83

In Indianapolis, Marina Mabrey scored 15 of her 26 points in the third quarter, Tina Charles added 18 points and the Connecticut Sun snapped a five-game, season-opening losing streak with an 85-83 victory over the short-handed Indiana Fever.

Indiana was without star Caitlin Clark, who missed her second game due to a strained left quad. Clark was injured while playing against New York on Saturday.

Connecticut led 74-59 early in the fourth quarter before the Fever stormed back and scored 16 straight points to take the lead.

Indiana, which hit only three of its first 12 3-point attempts, used a 19-2 run that was highlighted by three straight 3s for a 78-76 lead with 2:46 left.

Dream 94, Storm 87

In Seattle, Rhyn Howard scored a season-high 33 point, Allisha Gray added a career-best 28 and the Atlanta Dream overcame a 17-point deficit to beat the Seattle Storm for its fourth victory in a row.

Seattle led by 17 points early in the third quarter but the Dream (5-2) scored 14 of the next 20 and Gray hit a 3-pointer to cap an 11-0 run that cut it to 61-59 with 2:48 left in the period. Gray made 2 of 3 from the free-throw line to give Atlanta its first lead since 3-2 and followed with a 3-pointer than made it 75-70 about 2 1/2 minutes into the fourth.

Howard and Gray, who had seven points on 2-of-6 shooting at halftime, combined to scored 40 second-half points. Brionna Jones finished with 15 points and Naz Hillmon added 11 points and six rebounds, five offensive.

Aces 96, Sparks 81

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson had 35 points and 13 rebounds and the Las Vegas Aces bounced back from a 20-point loss five days earlier to beat the Los Angeles Sparks.

This was the highest-scoring game for Wilson, who also had six assists, since her 41-point performance Sept. 1 at Phoenix. Jackie Young added 26 points for the Aces (3-2) and Chelsea Gray had 15.

Kelsey Plum led the Sparks (2-5) with 17 points, Odyssey Sims scored 15 points and former Dearica Hamby had 14. Plum and coach Lynne Roberts were hit with technical fouls for arguing with officials on separate occasions.

The Aces, expected to be WNBA title contenders, entered this game off a slow start to the season that included a 102-82 loss at Seattle on Sunday.

Las Vegas won on a 23-2 run before the Sparks closed the first quarter with a 15-5 spurt of their own to draw to within 28-21. But the Aces add 15-3 run in the second period to go up 54-36, and the outcome was not seriously in doubt after that.

Los Angeles made a late push, getting as close as eight points with 4:07 left.

This was Plum's first game in Las Vegas since she was part of the three-team trade in January in which the Aces acquired Loyd from Seattle.

The Sparks were without Rickea Jackson, who did not play because of personal reasons. Jackson averages 7.0 points per game.

Milwaukee Bucks star Damian Lillard and Hall of Famer Tina Thompson sat courtside.

Liberty 85, Mystics 63

In Washington, Sabrina Ionescu hit four 3-pointers and finished with 28 points, Jonquel Jones had 14 points and 18 rebounds, and the unbeaten New York Liberty beat the Washington Mystics.

The defending WNBA champion Liberty (6-0) are off to the best start in franchise history.

Brittney Sykes hit two free throws to cut Washington's deficit to four about three minutes into the second half but Ionescu was fouled as she hit a runner and made the free throw 12 seconds later to spark a 16-0 run that made it 63-43 with 1:54 left in the third quarter.

Sykes led Washington with 20 points. Kiki Iriafen scored 12 and Sonia Citron 10.

The Mystics had scoring droughts of six-plus minutes in the third quarter and four-plus minutes in the fourth. Washington shot 28% (21 of 74) from the field, 4 of 16 from 3-point range.



Los Angeles Sparks guard Odyssey Sims (0) drives against Las Vegas Aces guard Jewell Loyd (24) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

Indians advance in IPL playoffs



Mumbai Indians' Suryakumar Yadav plays a shot during the Indian Premier League eliminator cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium in Mohali, India. (AP)

Mumbai beats Gujarat by 20 runs

NEW CHANDIGARH, India, May 31, (AP): Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah provided the turning point as Mumbai Indians beat Gujarat Titans by 20 runs to advance in the Indian Premier League knockouts.

Bumrah took a miserly 1-27 in four overs, the one wicket being Washington Sundar in the 14th over to end his and Sai Sudharsan's 84-run, 44-ball partnership. Sundar scored 48 off 24.

Sudharsan led Gujarat's chase of 229 with 80 off 49 balls but he was bowled by Richard Gleeson in the 16th over and the pressure was too much.

Gujarat finished at 208-6 in reply to Mumbai's 228-5, highlighted by Rohit Sharma's 81 off 50 balls.

Record five-time champion Mumbai will play Punjab Kings on Sunday in Ahmedabad to decide who will face Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the final.

Opting to bat, Mumbai set an attacking tempo in the powerplay and the openers benefitted from sloppy Gujarat fielding.



Mumbai Indians' Richard Gleeson celebrates the dismissal of Gujarat Titans' Sai Sudharsan during the Indian Premier League eliminator cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium in Mohali, India. (AP)

Sharma was dropped twice and Jonny Bairstow also enjoyed a life. They shared 84 off 44. Bairstow was finally caught in the eighth over - the dismissal took a relay catch - on 44 off 27 but there was no respite.

Suryakumar Yadav, dropped once as well, hit 33 off 20 with three sixes, adding 59 off 34 balls with Sharma.

The former India skipper, who recently retired from tests, scored his fifth half-century of the season. Overall, Sharma hit nine fours and four sixes.

He was out to a slower delivery from Prasidh Krishna in the 17th over - the pacer finished with 25 wickets in 15 matches, currently the

IPL leading wicket-taker.

Cameos from Tilak Varma (25 off 11 balls) and Hardik Pandya (22 not out off nine balls) helped Mumbai put on a par-plus total. Varma and Pandya hit six sixes between them.

In reply, Gujarat captain Shubman Gill was out early, bowled by Trent Boult for 1.

Sudharsan and Kusal Mendis counterattacked with 64 off 34 balls. Mendis scored 20 off 10 balls before he stepped onto the stumps.

Sudharsan reached his sixth half-century of the season, and moved up a gear in Sundar's company. Their whirlwind stand benefitted from a dewy outfield as Mumbai searched for answers as Gujarat took charge of a tall chase.

Sundar hit five fours and three sixes, while Sudharsan hit 10 boundaries and one six.

Mumbai struck back when Bumrah returned in the 14th over and bowled Sundar between his legs with a yorker.

Two overs later, Sudharsan was bowled trying to ramp Gleeson over short fine leg. The left-handed batter was the IPL leading run-scorer with 759 in 15 matches, but there won't be a 16th for the 2022 champions.

US group buys majority stake of Glasgow club Rangers

GLASGOW, Scotland, May 31, (AP): Scottish soccer club Rangers confirmed on Friday a U.S.-based consortium that includes an investment arm of the San Francisco 49ers has purchased a majority ownership stake.

Rangers said health insurance entrepreneur Andrew Cavenagh and 49ers Enterprises led the consortium of investors that was reported to have bought a 51% stake. The purchase price was not disclosed.

The club said the group has committed to invest 20

million pounds (\$27 million) right away, subject to shareholder approval in June.

In July 2023, 49ers Enterprises completed the takeover of Leeds, which will play in the Premier League next season after winning the second-tier title.

In Glasgow, takeover talks had been ongoing for months as Rangers finished a distant second to fierce rival Celtic in the Scottish Premiership this season. Celtic has won the league title for four straight years.

Cavenagh, co-founder of Philadelphia-based Pa-

reto Health, will serve as Rangers board chairman.

"This club's history and traditions speak for themselves, but history doesn't win matches," he said in Friday's announcement. "Our focus is simple: elevate performance, deliver results, and bring Rangers back to where it belongs - at the top."

Paraag Marathe, who will be the board's vice chairman, is the president of 49ers Enterprises - a sports investment entity also led by San Francisco 49ers chief executive Jed York.

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San Diego FC bans 33 from all matches after violent brawls in stadium stands

SAN DIEGO, May 31, (AP): San Diego FC has issued indefinite bans to 33 people who apparently participated in a violent brawl after the club's match against the LA Galaxy at Snapdragon Stadium last weekend.

The expansion San Diego club announced Friday that the fans are prohibited from attending home and away matches. The club will work with law enforcement and Major League Soccer to enforce the bans, and further action could be taken.

"The behavior exhibited by these individuals

is entirely unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as a club," San Diego FC said in a statement. "We seek to create matchdays that are safe, welcoming and respectful environments for all fans. Snapdragon Stadium officials have assured us that they will enhance security protocols to ensure safety at stadium events."

A prolonged, vicious brawl broke out in the stands following San Diego's dramatic 2-1 victory over the Galaxy on May 24. Much of the fighting was particularly dangerous because it occurred in the front row of the upper deck of

the Snapdragon stands, with some of the combatants coming perilously close to tumbling over the railing.

Even more fights occurred later in the stadium's parking lots, according to fans who posted video on social media.

"We want an atmosphere that is passionate, inclusive, and secure - where everyone in San Diego feels proud to come together as one community to celebrate the game we love," the club statement continued. "There is no place for violence in our sport."

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Kuwait Club denied in thriller

Kazma Club crowned Futsal League champion



Kazma players celebrate with the league trophy.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kazma Club clinched the Futsal League title for the 2024-2025 sports season after a thrilling 3-3 draw with Kuwait Club in the decisive match of the final series at Yousef Al-Shaheen Hall at Kazma Club.

The championship was decided in a best-of-three series. Kazma and Kuwait Club each secured a win in the first two matches – Kazma taking the opener 7-5, while Kuwait Club responded with a 6-5 victory in the second. With the series tied, Kazma claimed the title by virtue of topping the preliminary round standings, as the final match ended in

a draw. The Secretary-General of the Kuwait Football Association, Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub, presented the league trophy to Kazma Club, with Kuwait Club finishing as runners-up and Al-Tadamon securing third place. The award ceremony was attended by Kazma Club Chairman Asaad Al-Banwan.

Kuwaiti weightlifters win 11 medals at the Asian Masters Championships

Women showcase exceptional strength and consistency

DOHA, May 31, (KUNA): Kuwait's weightlifting team continued its impressive run at the Asian Masters Weightlifting Championships in Doha, collecting 11 medals including seven gold, as the tournament heads into its final day.

In the men's division, Mohammad Al-Nasser secured the gold medal in the under-45 age group, 96 kg category, while Musa Mubarak earned silver in the under-102 kg category. Kuwaiti women showcased exceptional strength and consistency across multiple weight classes:



Mohammad Al-Nasser displays his gold medal and trophy.

Hawra Al-Moussawi – Silver, der-55 kg
under-87 kg Maryam Bujbara – Gold, un-
Amal Al-Sharifi – Gold, un- der-64 kg

Al-Zahraa Kamshad – Gold, under-71 kg
Arwa Al-Ateeqi – Bronze, under-76 kg
Nour Al-Abdullah – Gold, under-76 kg
Abrar Al-Fahad – Gold, under-81 kg
Haya Al-Mayas – Silver, under-71 kg
Shahad Al-Otaibi – Gold, under-59 kg

Speaking to KUNA, Mohammad Al-Nasser expressed his pride in claiming the top podium spot, especially given the level of international participation. He emphasized the significance of the win for Kuwait and his determination to continue achieving success on the global stage.

Pegula eliminates Vondrousova

Sinner drops just three games to extend Grand Slam unbeaten run to 17 matches

PARIS, May 31, (AP): When Jannik Sinner's opponent in the French Open's third round finally won a single game Saturday, the Court Suzanne-Lenglen crowd responded with a standing ovation. Sinner was simply too good on this day, extending his Grand Slam winning streak to 17 matches and looking very much like the No. 1-ranked man.

Sinner dominated Jiri Lehecka 6-0, 6-1, 6-2 in just 1 hour, 34 minutes, the quickest men's match at Roland-Garros this year and, measured by games lost, the most lopsided victory at a major tournament of Sinner's career.

"We try to improve," Sinner said. "Today, I don't think there are many things I can improve."

Can say that again.

Check out some of the numbers: Sinner delivered 31 winners and made only nine unforced errors. He accumulated 18 break points, converting seven, and faced just one, which he saved.

The first 11 games went Sinner's way. When Sinner missed a return wide, making the score 6-0, 5-1 after 55 minutes of action, Lehecka raised his arm and pumped his fist in a bit of sarcastic celebration. The fans went wild, rising out of their seats and clapping and shouting, eliciting a smile from Lehecka.

Make no mistake, though. Lehecka is no also-ran. The 23-year-old from the Czech Republic is ranked 34th and has been a Grand Slam quarterfinalist.

But he was completely overmatched by Sinner, who has won the past two major championships - at the U.S. Open in September and the Australian Open in January - and is now the owner of an unbeaten run at the sport's most



Jessica Pegula of the U.S. returns the ball to Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic, during their first round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris. (AP)

important tournaments that's been surpassed this century only by a trio of guys by the names of Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Sinner's bid for a first French Open title, and fourth Slam trophy overall, will continue Monday, when he'll face No. 17 Andrey Rublev for a quarterfinal berth. Rublev advanced when his opponent, No. 14 Arthur Fils, withdrew from the tournament because a stress fracture in his lower back.

Jessica Pegula, the No. 3-seeded American who was the runner-up at the U.S. Open, came back to eliminate 2019 French Open finalist and 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 and reach the fourth round. No. 6 Mirra Andreeva, an 18-year-old Russian who reached the semi-finals a year ago, advanced to a fourth-round showdown against

No. 17 Daria Kasatkina. American qualifier Ethan Quinn, the 2023 NCAA champion for the University of Georgia, played his second consecutive five-setter and was beaten by Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-1, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-4. Griekspoor came into the day 0-4 in third-round matches at majors.

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz reached the fourth round of the French Open after laboring past Damir Dzumhur 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the Friday night session.

The second-seeded Spaniard had never before played Dzumhur, a 33-year-old Bosnian who had never been past the third round at any major tournament.

"I suffered quite a lot today," Alcaraz said. "The first two sets was under control, then he started to play more deeply and more aggressively. It was really difficult for me."

Dzumhur hurt his left knee in a fall in the second round, and had treatment on Friday on his right leg during the changeover at 3-2 down in the third set. He then laid down on the ground while the trainer worked on both legs for several minutes.

The crowd on Court Philippe-Chatrier did a Mexican wave and shouted "Ole" while it waited.

Then Dzumhur received cheers when he made an improbable smash despite being off balance, again when he won the third set, and once more when he broke Alcaraz in the opening game of the fourth set.

An improbable turnaround seemed to be happening as Alcaraz made clumsy unforced errors, hitting routine-looking winners long or forcing shots on his usually accurate forehand. At one point in the fourth set, Alcaraz even stared down at the clay in frustration after sending a booming forehand way out.

But the four-time Grand Slam singles champion broke back in the sixth and the eighth games to serve for the match.

Still, the resilient Dzumhur, whose face was red with effort and glistening with sweat, broke back to drag the suspense out a little longer.

"That's why it's difficult to win Grand Slams because you have to maintain your focus over three or four hours," Alcaraz said. "I didn't enjoy it too much."

Alcaraz finally clinched victory on his second match point and faces No. 13 Ben Shelton in the fourth round.

He leads 2-0 in career matches against Shelton, who is also 22, but they have never met each other on clay.

U-19 team heads to Slovenia for World Champ'ship preparations

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

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Kuwait under-19 handball team will begin a 21-day training camp in Slovenia on July 14 as part of its preparations for the 11th IHF Men's Youth World Championship, scheduled to take place from August 6 to 17 in Cairo, Egypt.

The tournament will feature 32 teams divided into eight groups. Kuwait has been drawn into Group A alongside Sweden, Portugal, and Austria.

Faisal Saywan, Director of National Handball Teams, confirmed the team's preparation schedule, stating: "The youth team will begin local training at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex in early July, followed by the overseas camp in Europe."

Meanwhile, Al-Qadisiyah and Al-Nasr have officially secured promotion to the 2025–2026 Premier Handball League. Al-Qadisiyah clinched the First Division League title this season, while Al-Nasr finished as runners-up.

According to league regulations, the top two teams from the First Division are promoted to the Premier League, which will feature eight teams next season.



Kuwait U-19 handball team goalkeeper training for the championship.

Next season's First Division is expected to include six or seven clubs, depending on which teams confirm participation. Al-Jahra and Al-Shabab are reportedly considering a return to the league after a three-year hiatus, while Solidarity is rumored to be planning a withdrawal from the General League.

Yarmouk to hold General Assembly, honor founders on 60th anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Yarmouk Club Chairman Ahmed Al-Jarki announced that the club's General Assembly will convene today at 6:30 p.m. in the main hall to approve the financial and administrative reports for the past sports season.

Al-Jarki also revealed that the Board of Directors will host a special honoring ceremony at 8:30 p.m. the same evening, celebrating the club's 60th anniversary. The event will pay tribute to the club's founders, former presidents, and players from the golden generation.

The ceremony will be held under the patronage of Bashar Abdullah, the Acting Director of the General Sports Authority.



Yarmouk Club Chairman Ahmed Al-Jarki

Timely transfer

Madrid pays fee to get Trent from Liverpool in time for Club World Cup

MADRID, May 31, (AP): Real Madrid's decision to pry defender Trent Alexander-Arnold out of his Liverpool contract one month before it expires could pay dividends at the Club World Cup.

The Spanish club will pay Liverpool a reported fee of up to 10 million euros (\$11 million) to get the England right back on June 1 - rather than for free at the end of the month.

That means the 26-year-old Alexander-Arnold - who has agreed on a six-year contract through June 2031 - will be able to play for Xabi Alonso's team at the Club World Cup in the United States starting in mid-June, Madrid announced Friday.

The prize for the Club World Cup champion? Up to \$125 million.

"Welcome @trentarnold66!" fellow England international Jude Bellingham wrote on Instagram about his new Madrid teammate, accompanied by a photo of the pair.

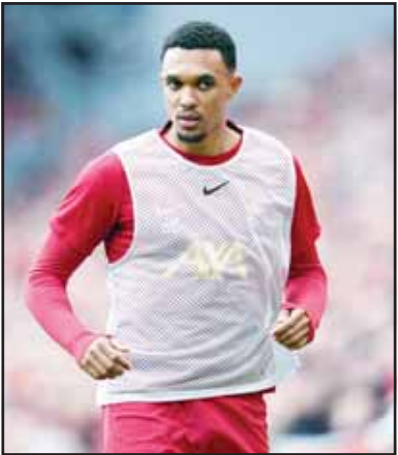
Madrid opens its Club World Cup group stage against Saudi club Al-Hilal on June 18 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

Alexander-Arnold had been criticized by some Liverpool fans for having let his contract run down - meaning he could leave as a free agent.

But since Alexander-Arnold was still under contract with the Premier League champions until the end of June, Liverpool was able to extract a fee for letting him go early.

Madrid and the other 31 teams playing in the Club World Cup can make early signings under FIFA-approved special trading windows from June 1-10 and again June 27-July 3.

Liverpool, which did not qualify for the



In this file photo, Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold warms up ahead of the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Crystal Palace at the Anfield stadium in Liverpool, England. (AP)

Club World Cup, confirmed it accepted Madrid's offer for Alexander-Arnold and that it "will receive a fee for his services, with the deal to be concluded once the window opens on June 1." Neither club specified the amount.

Alexander-Arnold had announced earlier this month that he'd be leaving his boyhood club - with Madrid the expected destination.

By its own high standards, Madrid had a disappointing season, finishing runner-up to rival Barcelona despite having signed France star Kylian Mbappe last summer.

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NEWS



Christopher Harper of Team Jayco Alula winner of the stage on the finish line during stage 20 of the Giro d'Italia from Verres to Sestriere (Via Lattea), Italy. (AP)

Sports

Al-Ittihad wins King’s Cup to complete double



Prince Mohammed bin Salman hands over the King’s Cup to Al-Ittihad skipper Karim Benzema.



Al-Ittihad players led by Benzema celebrate after the awarding ceremony.

KUNA photos

Benzema scores brace in 3-1 win over Al-Qadisiyah

JEDDAH, May 31: Al-Ittihad added the King’s Cup to its Saudi Pro League triumph, defeating Al-Qadisiyah 3-1 in front of 51,331 fans at Al-Enma Stadium, completing a historic domestic double.

Having secured the league title just days earlier, Al-Ittihad lifted the King’s Cup for the first time since 2018, when it also won 3-1 over Al-Faisaly at the same venue.

The victory was powered by French striker Karim Benzema, who scored twice (34’, 90+4’), while Algerian midfielder Houssem Aouar added a third in the 43rd

minute. Al-Qadisiyah’s lone goal came from a penalty by Gabonese striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (45+6). The team later went down to ten men after Argentine Ezequiel Fernandez received a second yellow card in the 81st minute.

The title marks Al-Ittihad’s 10th King’s Cup win and grants its international stars – Benzema, N’Golo Kanté, and Fabinho – a historic milestone in their club careers. According to Opta, Benzema secured the second domestic double of his career, the first being with Lyon in the 2007–08 season. Kanté and Fabinho, meanwhile, celebrated their first domestic double despite previous success in European and international competitions.

Dutch winger Steven Bergwijn also played a key role in the team’s successful season, contributing goals and assists. However, his achievements in Saudi Arabia

came amid ongoing tensions with Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman, who left him out of the national squad following his transfer to the Saudi league.

Bergwijn, excluded throughout the season, criticized Koeman’s handling of the situation, stating last September: “I don’t want to play under this coach again. He disrespected me and never gave me a chance to explain myself.”

Following the double triumph, Bergwijn further addressed the issue, telling TV reporters: “Playing for the Netherlands is an honor, but the support from Al-Ittihad fans means more to me right now. My focus is here.”

Although rumors persist about a possible return to the national team, Bergwijn’s strained relationship with Koeman and continued criticism of the coach may complicate any comeback.

Ashour rewards each player with 1,000 dinar bonus

Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi face off again in Amir Cup final

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi have once again secured their places in the Amir Cup final, scheduled for June 16, marking their third final encounter this season. The two teams previously faced off in the Crown Prince Cup final, where Kuwait Club edged out Al-Arabi 1-0. They also met in the decisive match of the Zain Premier League’s final round, with Kuwait Club winning 2-1 – secur-

ing both titles and denying Al-Arabi the chance for a double.

Kuwait Club aims to cap off the season by winning Amir Cup, having already claimed the Super Cup.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi is chasing its first title of the season and looks to reclaim the Amir Cup, which has eluded them for five consecutive seasons.

Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanim announced the signing of international goalkeeper Khaled Al-Rashidi on a three-season contract. Al-Rashidi, who

previously played for Al-Arabi and Al-Salmiya, joins the team ahead of the new season.

Following Kuwait Club’s 1-0 victory over Al-Qadisiya in the tournament’s semi-finals – achieved despite playing most of the match with ten men – Al-Ghanim praised the squad’s determination and performance, stating, “The players proved worthy of our trust.”

Al-Arabi Club Chairman Abdulaziz Ashour rewarded each player with a 1,000 dinar bonus after their 1-0 semi-final vic-

tory over Al-Salmiya, thanks to a goal by Bahraini forward Kamil Al-Aswad.

Ashour expressed gratitude for the players’ efforts, noting the win secured their place in the final.

He confirmed that the players are under long-term contracts, emphasizing the club’s commitment to their continued service.

Regarding the contract status of coach Nasser Al-Shatti, Ashour stated, “The board will convene soon to decide the best course of action.”



Al Arabi coach Nasser Al-Shatti



Players celebrate with officials.

KUNA photo

Kuwait Club celebrates league and Cup double

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: Kuwait Club clinched the Basketball Cup for the 17th time in its history after a dominant 126-92 victory over defending champion Qadsia in the final at the Basketball Association Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

Kazma secured third place with a 113-96 win over Sulaibikhat in the consolation match.

With this triumph, the “Whites” completed a remarkable domestic double – having also won the league title – further cementing their recent dominance across local basketball competitions.

Historically, Qadsia holds the record for the most Basketball Cup titles with 26, followed by Kuwait Club (17), Al-Arabi (9), Kazma (3), Al-Jahra (2), and Al-Sahel and Al-Nasr with one title each.

The final was attended by President of the Basketball Association Dhari Barjas, members of the Association’s Board of Directors, presidents and officials from both Kuwait and Qadsia Clubs, and President of the Qatar Basketball Association Mohammed Al-Mughaseeb, who took part in crowning Kuwait Club with the trophy.

Association Secretary-General Thamer Al-Shanfa expressed his gratitude to all the working committees for their contributions throughout the season, emphasizing that their collective efforts ensured the overall success of the competitions.

Al-Shanfa also congratulated all teams that captured titles across various age categories and the senior division, applauding the season’s high level of play. He added that the Association will begin preparations for the next season with a focus on addressing current shortcomings and continuing the organizational and technical advancement of Kuwaiti basketball.

Best of the Rest

Ajax hires Heitinga as new coach: Ajax hired John Heitinga as head coach on Saturday to replace Francesco Farioli nearly two weeks after the Italian resigned following the team’s late-season collapse.

Heitinga, who had a spell as Ajax’s interim manager in 2023, spent the past season as an assistant coach to Arne Slot at Liverpool, which won the Premier League title.

The 41-year-old former Ajax center-back came through the Dutch club’s youth program and made more than 150 appearances for the team. He also played 4 1/2 seasons at Everton.

The former Dutch international takes over a team that finished second to PSV Eindhoven after squandering a nine-point lead in the Eredivisie title race.

“I am incredibly excited to start,” said Heitinga, who was an assistant at West Ham two seasons ago. “The last years in England have done me a lot of good. I’ve been able to develop further alongside David Moyes and Arne Slot, while also getting a behind-the-scenes look at two major clubs.” (AP)

Ayed replaces injured Wadi in Blues squad

Kuwait begins training for crucial World Cup qualifiers

KUWAIT CITY, May 31: The Kuwait national football team will kick off its training camp at 7:30 pm today at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, in preparation for two critical 2026 World Cup qualifying matches against Palestine and South Korea, scheduled for June 5 and 10, respectively.

Head coach Juan Antonio Pizzi has called up Al-Salmiya’s Fawaz Ayed to replace injured Al-Qadisiya player Abdulaziz Wadi, who sustained an injury during the semi-final of His Highness the Amir’s Cup against Kuwait Club last Thursday. Pizzi has named a 26-man squad for the upcoming fixtures, which includes:

Saud Al-Hoshan, Mishari Ghannam, Fahad Al-Hajri, Mohammed Daham, Reda Hani, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri,



Fawaz Ayed controls the ball.

Ahmed Al-Zanki, Yousef Nasser, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Mubarak Al-Fenini, Jassim Al-Matar, Khaled Sabah, Rashid Al-Dosari, Suleiman Abdul-Ghafoor, Hassan Hamdan, Mohammed Khaled, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Hussein Ashkanani, Yousef Majed, Moaz Al-Asema, Mahdi Dashti, Hamad Harbi, and Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi.

Kuwait currently sits sixth in Group B with 5 points from eight matches – having drawn five. South Korea leads the group with 16 points, followed by Jordan (13), Iraq (12), Oman (10), and Palestine (6). To keep qualification hopes alive, Kuwait must win both upcoming matches and hope for Oman to drop points in the final two rounds.